

Brief Report on 28/11/04 Regional Treasurers / BCA officers meeting, Alvechurch

Compiled by Chris Whale. These are not official minutes and should be read in line with those minutes.

Introduction

This meeting was specifically call for the Treasurers of the Five regional caving council to discuss and agree the mechanism and method of funding for RCC's for the year 2005. The meeting was also to discuss the aspect of banded club subscription as the original £45 sub for all clubs had been felt as too harsh on small clubs.

The treasurers of the CCC, CNCC, DCA and CSCC were present. DCUC were not present but had recorded there general acceptance of the "OSS" system.

The "Post Prospectus" single pot deal

Four out of five of the regions agreed to the above whereby all clubs pay into the centre (BCA) and the BCA guarantees a payment to the RCC's. Based on our current forecast for the CSCC that would be £570. Which is equivalent to the clubs all paying £15 each as present. This figure is to be annually agreed with a RCC treasurers meeting. CSCC pay no BCA fee or insurance fee

Jonathan Roberts put forward an alternative scheme, although this did not get the support, however, this was based on a lump sum payment and therefore has some similarities with the single pot deal. The basis was the regional council pays the BCA a fee in line with the BCA costs.

Clearly the CSCC has stated that it wishes to set its own subscription and does not want to be centrally funded. Therefore this meeting progressed knowing that I could not agree with the above, only theoretically agreeing the amount we would receive should the CSCC meeting on 4/12/2004 agree to go with the other councils.

The above system will proceed with or without CSCC

The meeting discussed the relevant BCA costs on which the subscriptions have been based. These core costs were reduced and it was agreed that others could be looked at i.e. the website costs. The core cost is approximately £4000 excl publications. All at the meeting appeared to agree with these costs and that they were reasonable, although JR and CCC in particular made it plain that these costs should be open and up for scrutinee, presumably they can be reviewed annually. The BCA has a cash surplus and will absorb the loss if one occurs for 2005.

DISCUSSION

Despite some animosity between some prior to the meeting proceeded in a good manner and everyone present seemed to be moving in the same direction. At the present time clearly the CSCC stands outside the BCA until the meeting 4/12/04. It is my view that the CSCC should go forward with the 'post-prospectus system. It

probably is not perfect but our representations have been listened to and I'm sure will be in the future. I do not personally think that there are arguments that are significant enough to merit the CSCC making such a stance. At the very least the CSCC has the right to work with it for a couple of years and then escape should it wish. If the CSCC go forward I would look forward to making it work.

Caving in Britain has been put under pressure by the insurance industry under no fault of anyone's. There is no one that fully understands why we are not getting the same terms and treatment as other organisations of 'dangerous sport'. The CSCC standing aside can only be a disservice to putting forward a united caving front (for want of a better phrase). The BCA was borne from the requirement.

From a treasurer's point of view, we are guaranteed an income for next year, with the ability to raise surplus funds should we wish.

BANDED SUBSCRIPTION SCHEME

A Banded Club Subscription has been introduced. This has been based on all current available data as to whether the subscription should be weighted toward the smaller or larger clubs. There were representatives from a wide range of sized clubs at the meeting and there was general agreement that the figures were ok. They are as follows:

Clubs can also opt in or out of the glossy mag and therefore make a monetary saving.

Band Limit	Basic Sub	Basic Sub + Publication
4 – 10	£20	£25
11 – 20	£30	£35
21 – 30	£40	£45
31 – 40	£45	£50
>41	£55	£60

A bimonthly newsletter, equivalent to Speleoscene is included in the basic sub and there is no opting out on this aspect.

The above respects the fact that if the small club sub is too large they won't pay and also respect the fact that the larger clubs do a significant amount of the work. As shown by Jonathan, upping the larger club fee makes little affect to the over all income to the BCA, as most clubs appear to be in the 11-30 bracket

Chris Whale
(Treasurer CSCC 3rd December 2004)