



COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS

A constituent member of the National Caving Association

NCA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT TO THE CSCC MEETING 7TH FEB.2004

The result of the ballot on the BCA Constitution was 44 votes in favour to 3 against (94%). Duly the British Caving Association (BCA) was officially brought into being on 31st. December 2003. Because the National Caving Association (NCA) and BCA are running in parallel for this year, it is proposed that club members of NCA will automatically be members of BCA for no extra fee, as will British Cave Research Association (BCRA) club members, in recognition of the support that both NCA and BCRA are offering to BCA. The BCA inaugural special general meeting will be on 20th March 2004.

After much effort a new national insurance scheme came into being on the 1st January and is being run by the BCA. Thanks should go to Nick Williams (BCRA Chairman) and others, who succeeded against the odds. Information about the scheme and application forms are available on the BCA website at www.british-caving.org.uk. Broadly speaking the cover is the same as the previous scheme but costs more and has a larger excess. Hopefully people will find it affordable because it's the only sensible scheme available to most clubs. The scheme is run by volunteer cavers for cavers. It is there to protect access to caves, club officers and individuals. Without it we will return to the chaos at the end of last year. So it is vital that the scheme succeeds and for it to succeed it needs as many members as possible. So by joining it you are helping the caving community as well as yourself.

The idea of developing training materials/documentation for recreational caving was floated. The NCA Training Committee could do more for recreational caving, but it is realised that there are risks here, with a possible slide into certification. The National Council felt that discussion was needed at regional level to identify training needs and support requirements.

The NCA Equipment Officer has resigned. The NCA/BCA also needs a Secretary and an Editor for SpeleoScene. Please contact the NCA Chairman if you are interested.

A response to the HSE's Working at Heights Directive (Double Rope Technique) has been submitted as part of the consultation process. The main thrust of the argument is that adventure activities are already well regulated and should not be covered by this directive since the natural environment is significantly different from the working environment.

The British Caving Association has made a commitment to achieving Equality of Opportunity in all aspects of its operation. As a consequence you are being invited to fill in an Equity Form. The form is voluntary but if filled in will help applications to Sport England and Sport UK for grant, some of which works its way into Conservation & Access work and the Ghar Parau Foundation.

David G Cooke

6th February 2004