

Cambrian Caving Council

NEWSLETTER FEB/MARCH 2002

NO. 6/ 2001-6

EDITORIAL NOTE

An apology that the Cambrian Newsletter for February/ March is that late that most recipients will not receive their copy until 2nd April. After returning from New Zealand I went back to full time work and this has severely limited my time available for Cambrian Caving Council business, my spare time has been filled with CCC AGM and NCA AGM related matters. Anyway, I hope every Club is now enjoying a full caving calendar following a year of restrictions due to Foot and Mouth Disease.

The second lecture to cavers and the local community held in Crickhowell went very successfully with approximately 80 attendees. Our thanks to Eric Hoole, the Training Officer, who organised the event and the two speakers Martin Farr and Charles Bailey. The success of these two events means we will probably organise some more lectures, anyone with ideas for topics or locations please contact Eric or myself.

SUMMARY OF CCC AGM 2002

There was a last minute change of venue to the Hobby Horse Pub, Brynmawr, who very kindly allowed us to use a corner of their lounge bar even though it was Mothering Sunday, as our original location denied all knowledge of the booking I made. We were made very welcome and a map left at the original location meant everyone made it to the AGM.

- The meeting was quorate, with 12 member clubs/organisation represented.
- Cardiff University Caving Club was voted in as a full member, and a welcome back to this Club. A new group, Llanelli Caving Club have also joined CCC currently as a provisional member.
- Bob Mehew (NCA treasurer) came to the meeting to provide information on the proposals to form a single organisation for cavers and those involved related underground activities, commonly referred to as the one stop shop. The working name is 'Underground Britain'. The AGM supported the proposals to be made to the NCA AGM to move forward with setting up 'Underground Britain' organisation.
- The CCC constitutional changes and additions to the CCC policies were accepted by the meeting. This means CCC has now taken responsibility for the Cambrian Cave Registry. The policies provide the guidelines on how it will be organised and function.
- There is one change to the committee, Martin Peck now joins us as Equipment Officer.
- We have a new representative for Sports Council for Wales Outdoor Pursuits Group, this is Bridget Hall.
- The CCC subscription remains unchanged at £9, the meeting supported the increase to NCA subscription from £15 but this is for **2003 not 2002**. This years NCA subs remain at £12.

Finally, the AGM minutes will be sent out with the next Newsletter, I am still typing the minutes and compiling electronic versions of the officers' reports. The Cambrian Caving Council Constitution and Policies are included with this Newsletter, to save postage cost for the next Newsletter.

CCC Web Page on the NCA Website

The NCA have had some problems maintaining their website in the last few months. A new Webmaster has been found but he has not yet gained access to the website to make changes. The NCA hope this matter will be resolved soon but could not give a definite date for resolution. The website currently lists my old e-mail address. The details for other committee members will also be out of date. If for any reason members of your Clubs need advice or support from Cambrian Caving Council please use the contact details at the end of this Newsletter.

SUMMARY OF NCA AGM

The NCA AGM was held on 23rd March 02 in Alvechurch. There are a few changes to the Council members and assistants, these are: -

Conservation and Access Convenor- Elsie Little, Elsie also continues to be the C&A Officer for CCC.

Training Convenor - Alan Butcher

National Cave Register Co-ordinator - Dave Cooke, CSCC

NCA Web Master – Les Williams, Wessex CC

The motions proposed and accepted were: -

Subscriptions:

Subscription to the NCA for 2003 will be £15 for clubs and £60 for Constituent Bodies

In addition to this, another proposal was brought to the meeting. This was (in outline) to agree that NCA would take on the role of providing insurance (BCRA are 'handing over') to caving clubs. The exact wording will be in the NCA AGM minutes to be circulated to member clubs.

National Body Structure:

1a accepts the principle of a "one stop shop"

1b accepts the document "UNDERGROUND BRITAIN" as the basis for detailed discussions with relevant parties for creating the "one stop shop"

2 instructs the secretary of the NCA to quickly initiate a postal ballot of all members in accordance with Clause 9.1 of the constitution, with the following question " Do you agree to NCA using the document "UNDERGROUND BRITAIN" as the basis for detailed negotiations with relevant parties to seek to create a "one stop shop" for all underground explorers;

3 instructs NCA Council to proceed on the basis of the results of that postal ballot: and

4 commends the document to all other relevant parties who need to come together to form the one stop shop as a basis for the discussion to achieve that aim.

Proposed by Wessex Caving Club

It is proposed that the NCA council should take such steps as necessary to introduce a form of individual membership to be voted upon at the 2003 AGM.

All the motions were accepted by the NCA AGM.



- Three cavers, Adrian Fawcett, Bob Hall, and Dave Appling attended an eco-anchor placement training in February. This means that we now have enough trained cavers to place anchors in the Cambrian region.
- It was agreed at the AGM, that Adrian with Bob Hall would complete eco-anchor placement in Pwll Dwfn.
- Martin Peck is the new Equipment Officer and will co-ordinate checks of the current P-hanger installations using the trained cavers. Any suggestions for placement of new P-hangers in Wales should be addressed to Martin. He will liase with interested parties to determine if P-hanger placement is appropriate. Placement of P-hangers in Forest of Dean is co-ordinated by FoDCCAG.

OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS

The expeditions presentation evening organised by Sports Council for Wales at Cardiff in January had a good representation of cavers, including a number that applied for grants this year. The presentation included a talk by cave diver Martyn Farr.

I was a member of SCW overseas expedition grants panel this year. Amongst the 10 applications, there were 4 applications from Caving Expeditions, a very good percentage considering the number of different outdoor pursuits and the number of cavers in Wales. The four caving expeditions were: -

- An expedition to Belize
- A cave diving expedition to the Burren, Ireland
- An expedition to China
- An expedition to Dachstein, Austria

The panel agreed to all four caving expeditions receiving expedition grants from SCW. Factors we considered when determining the level of funding were the enhancement to the sport, uniqueness of the trip, the benefit to the local community being visited, benefits cost to participants and number of qualifying participants.

All the above prove that information on overseas expedition grants available from SCW is getting through to the cavers in Wales. Therefore, my thanks goes to the secretaries of the caving clubs who must be passing this information to their club members. My thanks must also go to SCW who keep me informed of grant funding available to cavers and our sport. As an aside SCW also provide sport safety grants for which Welsh Cave Rescue Teams are eligible, two of our teams have applied for funding this year.

GHAR PARAU FUNDING for OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS

It was noted at the NCA AGM that there were only a small number of applications this year for Ghar Parau Awards.

It seems one of the reasons for lack of applications is the lack of knowledge about availability of funding. So if your Club is going on an overseas caving expedition don't forget there is funding available from Ghar Parau as well as for the Welsh Cavers funding available from Sports Council for Wales. To obtain details of Ghar Parau Funding contact D Judson (Secretary), Hurst Barn, Cutlers Lane, Castlemorton, Malvern, Worcs, WR13 6LF. Tel/Fax 01684 311057. E-m Judson@tesco.net.

Annual Subscriptions

The following CCC subscriptions apply for Mar 2002 to Mar 2003, renewal forms are enclosed: -

Club membership of Cambrian Caving Council (this includes Newsletter)	£9
Club Membership of National Caving Association	£12
Newsletter only	£4

Child Safe in Sport

The Sports Council for Wales in conjunction with the Police Authorities in Wales and other organisations have put together a Child Safe in Sport information pack, including video, booklets, standards letters. The Sports Council for Wales wishes that all Sports Clubs in Wales with young members (under 18) should receive one of these packs. The Sports Council for Wales have provided packs to Cambrian Caving Council. I requested packs for all those clubs I knew to be based in Wales and with membership under 18 or with membership that regularly worked with young people (e.g. Scouts and outdoor pursuit centre employees). These packs will be in the post to those clubs. If any other CCC Clubs are interested in using this information, please contact me as I hold a central copy for CCC.

CCC/NCA/BCRA Meetings and Events

14-16 th June 2002	Mendip Caving 2002, Priddy, Somerset
5-8 th July 2002	NAMHO 2002 Conference, University of Wales, Aberystwyth; full details in Speleo Scene, Jan-March 2002.
13-14 th July 2002	RESCON 2002, Derbyshire
7 th or 14 th Sept 2002	CCC General Meeting, Forest of Dean
27-29 th Sept 2002	Hidden Earth 2002 at Monmouth Leisure Centre and Community School.

Useful Website Addresses

- www.nca.org.uk - The National Caving Association Website with links to all regional councils and other NCA functions e.g. national cave registry.
- www.Hidden-Earth.org.uk - Details of conference to be held at Monmouth, Sept 2002.
- www.caving.org.uk - National website with various links and reports.

CAMBRIAN CAVING COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: -	Mr R O Clarke (Owen) Tel. 01495 773175 e-mail owen.clarke@welshcdg.org 11, Pentwyn Heights, Abersychan, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 7TN
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Treasurer :-	Mr C Owen (Clive) Tel. 01179 732433 e-mail cliveowen@tesco.net 17, Normanton Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2TY
Conservation & Access Officer	Mrs E Little (Elsie) Tel 01639 730331 e-mail elsie@abercrave.fsnet.co.uk Hennoyadd Villa, Hennoyadd Road, Abercraf, Swansea, SA9 1VR
Equipment Officer	Mr M Peck (Martin) Tel. 01495 763130 e-mail martin@mpeck.co.uk 116, Rutten Lane, Yarnton, Kidlington, Oxford, OX5 1LS
Training Officer	Mr E Hoole (Eric) Tel. 01497 847400 e-mail c/o Joyce@powys.gov.uk 3, Gwernyfed Ave, Three Cocks, Brecon, Powys, LD3 0RT

FINAL COMMENTS

YES, I still have Martyn Farr's new book 'Underground Wales' for review. As I am finding my time even more limited, is there a volunteer to read the book and produce a review ? The book looks at the many underground caverns of Wales including caves, iron mines, coalmines, slate mines, etc. Any volunteers phone Sue.

Again I am circulating the Newsletter by both mail and e-mail so that the Newsletter can be circulated to Caving Club members, if your Club is not receiving the Newsletter by e-mail then I either have no e-mail address for your Club or an out of date e-mail address. Phone me if you are not receiving the e-mail version of the Newsletter and wish to do so.

Sue Mabbett, 29th March '02.