

DCA
Annual
Report
2019

6.1 Chairman Report –

Another year has gone by, its been a tough year for many of us including myself but we carry on regardless.

One of our long-standing officers is standing down this year after 45 years in various posts, from Access officer and more recently he has been legal and insurance officer, as well as being a trustee for the association. Pete M has a wealth of knowledge in relation to Peak District Caving, but I am sure he will be called upon for his wealth of information. If required.

Mike has done a sterling job in turning the DCA newsletter around, getting it to be a regular publication again, and with the batten being passed to another worthy officer, I am sure it will carry on going from strength to strength. Mike is staying with us and undertaking the duties of membership secretary.

Bob has decided to stay with us for another year to polish off some jobs but will hopefully pass the baton to a worthy replacement next year.

Jenny retired last year but acted secretary early in the year for the association but has been invaluable in offering advice on the secretary role to myself who is attempting to cover the main item, so we can effectively run. Jenny is covering publications sales for us now.

With officers retiring, its new blood that we need to take on roles within the association, just to help the current officers who are sinking under the weight of duties / jobs to do. We really need a secretary for meeting preparation and general correspondence but within the Peak District, it's not just us as there are secretary vacancies for DCRO and PDMHS. How long can these organisations run without new blood coming through just to do the administration duties or allow us to split the tasks up between volunteers. As many of you are aware, I am trying to undertake other duties / tasks for the good / future of Derbyshire caving but its those items that suffer.

Thanks to all officers who have helped this year in running the association.

Wayne Sheldon
21/01/2019

6.2. Secretary Report –

Jenny Potts was acting secretary through the early part of the year, producing the AGM and Council minutes from last February and June, thank you to her for that. Prior to the October council meeting, I told her to leave things and drop away from the role. I prepared all the paperwork for the October meeting and thanks to Alan Brentnall for taking the minutes and writing them up.

Myself and Angus are covering the DCA secretary email address, and dealing with items accordingly, as and when required. The following items have been emailed or posted to all members:

- DCA Council Minutes from October 2018 council meeting.
- DCA Agenda and Officers Report for the forthcoming general and council meeting.
- Sharing the above with Facebook on our page, linking them back to the DCA website.

In terms of membership, Mike Higgin's volunteered to do the role so he finalised the membership lists for 2018 and has made a start for 2019.

Wayne Sheldon
30/01/2019

6.2.1 – Membership Secretary –

Membership numbers for 2018:	Honorary – 2	Individual – 42
	Prospective – 1	Club – 32
	Associate - 8	

Although strictly speaking my duties don't start until the AGM I have of necessity started work on this as subscriptions fall due in January. Reminders have been sent out to all DCA Individual Members and the money is coming in.

As I have email groups set up for all classes of Membership, I have also taken on sending out information to Members, e.g. the change of procedure for access to Ashford Black Marble Mine, links to the Agenda for this meeting, etc.

I shall also be sending out shortly emails to all Members regarding the need for them to update their consent to DCA to hold their personal information.

Mike Higgins
30/01/2019

6.3. Treasurer Report –

Note: The accounts for 2017 have been restated to include accounts receivable for payment due from Natural England, and to break out the Natural England work from other C & A activity. This allows the true income from Natural England work to be seen.

Income

As in to 2017, income has included a significant amount from Natural England. Other income has remained stable, with a delay in receiving the BCA grant with the restatement of accounts as noted above. I am investigating any potential tax issues. Unexpected costs arose from the securing of Herne Hill Cave at the direction of the police.

Expenditure

2018 saw the final print first distribution of the newsletter, which has resulted in a significant reduction in printing and posting costs. The only other significant cost items are the purchase of a new drill, grinder and gas meters.

Banking

The Unity Trust accounts were closed early in 2018, and hope that the old RBS accounts will be closed in 2019. I intend to investigate savings accounts which may offer

Assets

I will be carrying out an inventory check with Pete Knight before the AGM, and will provide an updated inventory at a later date.

BCA Finance Committee

I have taken part in two BCA Finance Committee meetings, on behalf of the DCA this year, concerns raised by CNCC are currently under discussion and have been referred to the BCA Council.

I am willing to stand as Treasurer for the new year.

Angus Sawyer

25/01/2019

Derbyshire Caving Association – Annual Accounts (provisional)

Income and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31st December 2018

Income	2018	2017
Subscriptions & Entry Fees (ind. members)	374.00	335.00
Publication Sales		
Newsletter "The Derbyshire Caver"	201.60	171.60
Masson Conservation Audit	0.00	13.00
Jug Holes Conservation Audit	0.00	24.70
Cumberland/Wapping Conservation Audit	26.40	23.60
Manifold/Hamps Conservation Audit	0.00	0.00
Stoney Middleton Conservation Audit	0.00	0.00
Caves of the Peak District	823.60	531.20
	1,051.60	764.10
Donations		
(from members)		
to General Fund	42.05	192.76
to Cave Discovery Fund	0.00	0.00
to Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
(from non-members)		
to Youth Development Fund	0.00	0.00
	42.05	192.76
BCA Grants		
Core Funding (admin and C & A)	0.00	899.42
Training	450.00	0.00
Youth Development	0.00	0.00
	450.00	899.42
Awards and Grants from non-caving bodies		
Natural England SSSI 2017/18	0.00	2999.43
Natural England SSSI 2018/19	3896.38	0.00
Other	0.00	63.51
	3,896.38	3,062.94
Caver Training Course Fees	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	78.95
Total Income	5,814.03	5,333.17
Cash flow		
Total cash assets brought forward	21,908.41	20,146.68
Income	5,814.03	5,333.17
Expenditure	(4,608.46)	(3,581.53)
Interest in deposit accounts	1.66	10.09

Derbyshire Caving Association – Annual Accounts (provisional)

Income and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31st December 2018

Expenditure	2018	2017
General Administration		
Travel	0.00	0.00
Post	190.84	27.68
Phone / Email	0.00	0.00
Materials, printing, copying etc.	292.70	204.76
	483.54	232.44
Conservation and Access		
Travel	392.39	53.85
Post / phone / email / administration	0.00	3.63
Materials	2329.91 1	575.74
	2,722.30	633.22
Cave Conservation Plans / UCF		
Travel	0.00	0.00
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	0.00
Materials	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
Equipment, Anchor installation etc		
Travel	0.00	297.50
Post / phone / email / paperwork	0.00	0.00
Materials	0.00	0.00
	0.00	297.50
Publications		
Newsletter	503.23	1143.88
Conservation Audits	19.67	2.42
Caves of the Peak District	2.14	6.32
Other	0.00	0.00
Website expenses	0.00	19.19
	525.04	1,171.81
Training, PICA Liaison, Youth Development		
Travel	0.00	8.50
Post / phone / email / administration	10.00	0.00
Training Events, Instruction etc.	450.00	0.00
Youth Development: Cliffhanger etc.	0.00	0.00
	460.00	8.50
SSSI Conservation work for Natural England		
Projects funded in 2014/15	24.00	194.82
Projects funded in 2017/18	0.00	471.24
Projects funded in 2018/19	393.58	0.00
	417.58	666.06
Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
Cave Discovery Grants	0.00	0.00
Donations to other organisations, causes etc.	0.00	500.00
Bank Charges	0.00	72.00
Exceptional Items	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditure	4,608.46	3,581.53

Derbyshire Caving Association – Annual Accounts (provisional)

Balance Sheet for the financial year ending 31 December 2018

Assets	2018	2017
RBS current account	310.24	161.24
RBS deposit account	1.01	1.01
Unity Trust current account	0.00	332.71
Unity Trust deposit account	0.00	8,910.13
Lloyds current account	23,444.51	9,503.89
Cash	30.00	0.00
Accounts receivable	0.00	2,999.43
Total assets	23,785.76	21,908.41
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	(670.12)	0.00
Total cash assets less liabilities	23,115.64	21,908.41
Note that the balance carried forward includes:		
Cave Discovery Fund	313.29	313.29
Cave Conservation Emergency Fund	1,002.66	1,002.66
Publications (valued at nominal trade prices)		
Cave Conservation publications	84.00	82.00
Caves of the Peak District	7,662.00	8,684.00
	7,746.00	8,766.00
Total Assets at 31 December	30,861.64	30,674.41

- Notes**
1. Includes purchase of new gas meters, drill and angle grinder.
 2. Pending scrutinising of revised accounts.

6.4 Access Officer Report

No report for the meeting due to position being vacant, see project officer report.

6.5. Conservation Officer Report

Natural England funding and conservation work funded to date

Natural England provided a fund of £5000, for equipment hire an/or purchase and ‘payment in kind’ for labour, in projects linked to conservation and safe access in SSSI systems. Many thanks to Dan Abrahams from Natural England for securing this funding and those that did all the work! The table below shows how the funding was used:

Project	Item	Days (labour @£180/day	Cost £ including VAT	Cost £ excluding VAT
Son of Longcliffe	labour	1	180	180
	Raumer resin anchor		31.5	26.25
	Raumer resin staple		6	5
	Bold Products staple		84	70
	Fischer FIS V mortar		15	12.5
Longcliffe lid fitting	labour	3	720	720
	fixing bolts		49.42	41.18
Hillocks Mine Whalf Climbing Shaft	labour	7	1260	1260
	postcrete 20Kg		10.34	8.62
	buckets		1.94	1.62
	cutting discs		5.68	4.73
	stemples x 2		20	16.67
	steel grid		25	20.83
	warning sign		20	16.67
	threaded steel bar		2.5	2.08
Speedwell Bung ladder	labour	7	1260	1260
	ladder and fixings		25	20.83
			3716.38	3666.98
Money claimed by DCA from NE				3666.98
Invoice paid direct by Natural England:				
Longcliffe lid	lid fabricated by Elliot & Wragg		1086	

TSG Project work and the ‘Harold Sargent Award for Mines Preservation in the Peak District’

A 186kg (!) prefabricated lid to cap Longcliffe was miraculously and carefully ‘engineered’ up the hill to its final resting position by members of TSG in January, concluding an end to this particular chapter of Longcliffe work. A great piece of planning work and successful execution!

The last four years, spent in time and effort by members of TSG and the passion shown by Phil Wolstenholme to drive the Longcliffe project, has not gone on un-noticed! In December 2018 Richard Shaw, in the presence of John Barnett and John Hunter presented Phil Wolstenholme a certificate: This year's Harold Sargent Award for Mines Preservation in the Peak District' has been awarded to the TSG for its excavation, restoration and conservation work at Longcliffe. Well done folks!

Masson Hill quarry issues update

During November last year a request was sent out to the caving world, by various media means, to ask cavers to avoid visiting Masson Hill Quarry and its associated caves, Masson Cavern and Gentlewoman's. This was done in response to reports and sightings that the quarry was being newly 'worked' and Gentlewoman's shaft entrance blocked by boulders.

Since then I have been in communication with the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), Derbyshire Dales District Council and Derbyshire County Council to find out a few details and facts. I then wrote a letter to the owner of both the quarry and land in which gentlewoman's is found. To date I have had no response from the landowner. Until I have made contact I am requesting that cavers remain patient and continue to cooperate and avoid using this site. Many thanks!

Underground Conservation Forum notes from the October 2018 meeting

(next meeting due 24th April 2019, Anchor Inn Tideswell, 7.00pm)

Bats and caves

Steve Roe from the Derbyshire Bat group reported that not much swarming survey work was done this season (swarming occurs generally August to October) but the Derbyshire Group have jointly did a survey with the Staffordshire Group at the Brincliff Mines in the Manifold Valley: 34 bats were noted swarming in the wood-land around the mine levels. It was expected that the Via Gellia mines will be similar in terms of bat activity, and the Derbyshire Group looking at more survey work there next year. Steve mentioned as a consequence of the popularity of previous bat training sessions more they planned to run more.

Bones and caves

Several digs have been revealing bones. Tim Allen from Historic England has offered to help find funding necessary to date the bones found by the diggers in Bullpit. Prof Andrew Chamberlain (University of Manchester, archaeologist) is presently working with the diggers to identify and date the bones that the diggers continue to find. Tim also reported that the bones found in Eldon had some initial dating work done on them but 'work in progress' with this and he will continue to communicate with the Eldon diggers about the dig and its finds.

'Hole maintenance' for Natural England's National Nature Reserve team

A couple of holes that require attention in Cressbrook dale, for safety reasons, have been sized up and their plans drawn up. Adam Russel and Pete Knight and myself have been involved with this and it is hoped that the work will be carried out this spring.

Water Icicle

Water Icicle by nature and name it would seem! A recent visit by scientists have uncovered the possibility that some broken calcite found on the floor of the passage may have been as a result of ice action (cryogenic calcite) and not earth movement or human interference. This is being investigated further and could be a PhD project in the future. Gating the new parts seems to have worked well in

preserving the scientifically important sections and this particular find nicely demonstrates the advantages of gating some caves and their passages for preservation purposes!

Devonshire Cavern –‘Old Show Cave entrance’

The work on repairing/making good the old gate, has been completed by PICA members and funded via the DCA conservation fund.

Pooles cavern - British Cave Monitoring Centre

Funding has been obtained to set up full suite of monitoring equipment in the cave. BCRA intend this to be a long term (30 yrs.) project in a secure location which will provide a good consistent data set of underground conditions. This data is to be made easily accessible to researchers/students and should provide a good baseline against which data obtained from other sites can be compared, BCRA also want to encourage schools use of data.

Christine Wilson
22/02/2019

6.6. Project Officer Report -

Action Register:

- 022 Disassemble ASS in container for scrap wood. Scheduled for the 17th Feb 2019.
- 025 Charge abandoned due to issues with paid volunteers. Travel compensation increased. Discharged.
- 032 Stub Scrin Shaft cap. Long term project when time allows. I have now got access to a 1mx1m grid to make it safe. I just need to get it down from Longcliffe.
- 036 Funding Radon checks. On Hold. PICA and PHE are in discussion but no solid information yet.
- 038 Longcliffe. Ongoing. Lid has now been fitted and final preparations for anchor installation are being made.
- 040 Devonshire gate. New upper gate installed.
- 046 / 054 Ashford BMM card holders. Access system re-designed and implemented. All access can be sorted electronically now with no need for post or collection visits to the store in Ashford.

Myself, Christine and Roy visited Cressbrook Dale in the autumn in order to inspect some open holes for the reserve team. There is the potential for a lot of work in this area and DCA should give some thought to provision of equipment for inspections of shafts etc. I'd like to discuss the possibility of either DCA purchasing some shaft top access equipment, or whether DCA would be open to paying a hire fee for it when required for a project. I know that part of our appeal to bodies is that we are cavers and can access things with the speed, lack of fuff and inexpensiveness that 'industry' professionals can't. That does not mean that we should not look to do things more safely and more robustly wherever possible. If our volunteers cannot be financially compensated for their work, we should look to put some of the money raised from these jobs towards the purchase or hire of safety equipment like ground anchors and shaft pods. I would also suggest we consider a hire fee or further expense payment for ropes and technical kit, as it is always the case that volunteers use their own ropes and rigging gear for DCA projects.

Following the annual PICA mine inspection in November 2018, some remedial work was required in Mouldridge Mine. This was completed by PICA and DCA volunteers and the site has regained its approval for group use.

The new Devonshire top gate is in and a lock will be fitted before this meeting. The numeric code lock will be set to 4311 (DCA1) and distributed to PICA members and anyone who requests it via the DCA Access Officer. There should not be any restriction on the code as there is none on the lower entrance

either. We'll need to change it anytime it gets posted publicly online to stop access by the less desirable types or the local kids. I'll draft some details to be put on the DCA website reflecting this.

A couple of visits were made to Royal Mine in Matlock Bath on behalf of Gulliver's Kingdom. DCA and DCRO volunteers were assisting them in the initial process of checking for access points into their property with a view that they were hoping to re-open an old tour in part of the mine. This does not look like it is going ahead, but Gulliver's were very grateful for the help and we should have established a good relationship there for the future. It is my opinion that the mine complex comprising Royal Mine, New Speedwell, Tear Breaches and Fluor Spar Caverns are still sealed from entry from the surface except for 1 small shaft on unknown land that we could see up to daylight. The whole mine network is exceptionally dangerous and should remain sealed for public and caver safety. There was no evidence of any recent access by explorers. Should DCA ever be called on to investigate shafts in the area of Upperwood Road, we should bear in mind that they may drop into this system and should be made safe as a priority.

Pete Knight
31/01/2019

6.7. Legal and Insurance Officer -

Holme Chert Mine

With the situation remaining deadlocked over access via the Main or Lower Entrance, there has been little option but to accept that Holme Bank and Holme Hall are separate legal titles to parts of the interconnected complex of passages previously known to us simply as Holme Bank Mine. Thankfully Joe Oldfield has continued to deal with applications to visit the complex and DCA has continued to help out with jobs intended to keep the workings secure from casual entry. Damage to locks has been the most persistent problem during the year.

Lathkill Dale

In August I was made aware by John Gunn of a change of ownership affecting the north bank of the dale at Palmerston Wood and was asked to provide reassurance that DCA's Public Liability cover indemnified the new owner. Natural England's Senior Reserve Manager, Joe Alsop, confirmed that a company called Lathkill Dale Ltd had bought the land, but he assured me NE is still the leaseholder and its agreement with DCA for access underground in the dale remains unchanged.

Chatsworth Licences

These licences cover access to the Ashford Black Marble Mine and the two Lathkill sites of Upper Entrance and Garden Path and all three came up for renewal during the year. At the time of submitting this report I'd had an assurance from Chatsworth's Estate Surveyor that renewal was a formality, along with an apology for the delay in processing the paperwork, plus a promise the new licences would be ready for signing before the DCA AGM. I also informed Mr and Mrs Roberts at the shop in Ashford of changes to the access procedure for ABMM and assured them the changes would not involve them in extra work or increased liability.

Re-election

After more than 45 years of service to the Association I am happy to make way for someone else to take over and shall therefore not be seeking re-election.

Peter Mellors
08/02/2019

6.8.1 Equipment Officer –

Over the last year ten new BP anchors have been placed In Darfar Pot and Riverside Pot. Also in Darfar Pot four expansion anchors have been placed as deviations in the pitches which are not subject to flooding and two resin set Chinese Peco anchors were installed on the 3rd pitch which is underwater for the winter months. These will need to be checked during 2019 to assess any deterioration although obviously they are not structurally critical. In Masson Mine two BP anchors were placed on the Quarry Entrance Pitch and four over the traverse at the Sisal Rope Pitch. In Giants Hole one BP anchor was placed on the up pitch to the Crabwalk below Garlands Pot. In Water Icicle three Chinese Peco anchor were installed to protect the ladder climb into the new sections. These are not subject to anything greater than static loads.

One of the problems which has occurred over the last year has been that Nick Williams has resigned the convenorship of the BCA E&T Committee and the new recipient of the post is Mark Sims of CNCC. This makes supply of materials potentially more difficult although having had conversations with him has been productive in terms of accessibility to anchors and resin. So far I have managed to acquire 40BP anchors off Nick which were in his possession and five tubes of resin from Mark. These are now ready for installation in Longcliffe and Hungerhill and will be available with the rest of the kit to the Loncliffe team at this meeting.

As yet I've done nothing about the tackle bags and protection for the Hydrajaws authorised by DCA for transport of the bolting kit underground, I would rather let the installers decide which pieces of kit will be the most applicable.

When I initially wrote the IPTD with Les Sykes of CNCC for the BCA E&T Committee we specified that all installers must be re-validated every three years. On reflection much of this is unnecessary. If an installer has been involved in installation within the previous three years and the quality of installation has been up to standard why would we need to revalidate??? Accordingly, I have modified Section 10.5 to state "Following initial training all qualified installers who have not been involved in anchor placement over the last three years must attend a workshop and will be re-validated." I would appreciate comment on this change.

One other problem I have taken steps to remedy is that the IPTD is not readily available to installers at the moment it just sits on a computer file. Accordingly, I have produced six copies in hardback form for distribution to installers and the unique numbers on the files will be logged in the computer database appropriate to the individual installers. I will supply them to the installers in due course. When I have sorted out the installer database to see who is still active and prepared to continue others may be required. The IPTD will need to be modified to ensure that if an installer becomes inactive that the hard copy must be returned to the Equipment Officer for reuse.

As you will be aware I will be resigning my post as Equipment Officer at the 2020 AGM. In the mean time I will be training Scott Bradley to take over the position. We have already had a preliminary meeting and will be liaising extensively over the coming year. Having had a long productive chat I am of the opinion that he has the necessary skills and enthusiasm to continue the anchor installation programme and request that this meeting provisionally authorise his future appointment.

Bob Dearman
20/02/2019

6.8.2 Cave Atmosphere Monitoring Annual Report

1. Problems reported. There have been no reports of bad air, breathlessness or other symptoms of high levels of carbon dioxide in the Peak District venue during the 2018-2019 period. This is almost certainly due to the higher temperatures experienced being accompanied by high pressures.

2. Equipment. Early on in the year, DCA purchased a GMI GS500 5-gas monitor. This is capable of measuring levels of oxygen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide, as well as the amount of methane present, as a percentage of its lower explosive level (L.E.L.). The meter is identical to new kit purchased by Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation recently, and, in the spirit of our two organisations' aims of maintaining caver welfare, this will enable DCA to have regular calibration done on the 5-gas monitor free of charge.

In addition to the 5-gas monitor, DCA has also purchased a 2-year disposable oxygen monitor for use by DCA project workers. As this is an oxygen meter, it is easily self-calibrated in fresh air.

3. Measurements. Largely because of the total lack of foul air reports during the period, the amount of atmosphere sampling has been relatively low.

Sites which have been examined include Yatestoup Sough, Lathkill head Cave Upper Series, Cromford Sough, Silvereye Mine, Water Icicle Close Cavern, Robin's Shaft and Mouldridge.

4. Readings

Cave / Mine	Date	Surface O2	Cave O2	CO2	Location / Comment
Yatestoup Sough	07/06/2018	20.90	20.50	0.20	Similar figures throughout
Lathkill Upper	21/08/2018	20.90		0.00	Surface
Lathkill Upper	21/08/2018		20.90	0.00	Waiting Room
Lathkill Upper	21/08/2018		20.70	0.38	Lathkiller Hall
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018	20.90		0.00	Surface
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018		20.70	0.60	Just after pond junction
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018		20.30	0.16	First major shaft
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018		20.40	0.13	Branch inlet junction
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018		20.40	0.11	Shaft 2 after branch
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018		20.10	0.16	Shaft 3 after branch
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018		20.00	0.35	Before timbered section
Cromford Sough	11/09/2018		19.50	0.45	Low timbered section
Silvereye	09/10/2018	20.90		0.00	Surface
Silvereye	09/10/2018		20.70	0.04	Lower level end collapse
Silvereye	09/10/2018		20.40	0.08	Foot of raise to top level
Silvereye	09/10/2018		20.50	0.12	Top of raise to yop level

Silvereye	09/10/2018		20.50	0.06	Foot of first raise on left
Silvereye	09/10/2018		20.50	0.02	Junction with rift
Silvereye	09/10/2018		20.60	0.01	Foot of raise in far left psg
Silvereye	09/10/2018		20.50	0.05	Foot of climb in 1st RH psg
Water Icicle	15/10/2018	20.90		0.00	Surface
Water Icicle	15/10/2018		20.20	0.92	Main Junction & Urchin
Water Icicle	15/10/2018		20.40	0.60	End of Urchin
Water Icicle	15/10/2018		20.20	0.45	Leaning Tower of Pisa
Robins Shaft	27/11/2018	20.90			Surface
Robins Shaft	27/11/2018		20.20		Large balcony
Robins Shaft	27/11/2018		20.20		lower balcony
Robins Shaft	27/11/2018		20.00		top of last pitch
Robins Shaft	27/11/2018		19.80		foot of shaft
Robins Shaft	27/11/2018		20.10		Lords chamber area
Mouldridge	11/12/2018	20.90			Surface
Mouldridge	11/12/2018		20.80		Throughout

Alan Brentnall
10/02/2019

6.9. Cave Registry Secretary Report -

The Cave Registry is up-to-date and working fine, with some new data recently added. The new 'Hidden' flag is working fine, and I have added further important mine sites (with some natural features) that currently have no access agreement in place – there are plans to add several more venues in this way soon. There is now also a 'No Access' flag added to the back-end, enabling sites that are publicly listed but with definitely no access allowed to be clearly identified as such, to avoid any issues with DCA being seen to encourage visits.

The recent online request for entrance photos has been very successful, with many new sites being submitted by cavers, and these are being added to the Peak District Caving website.

The Peak-Speedwell online micro-guides, formerly on the original H&H Peak District Caving website, have now been re-edited and updated where necessary (with original credits remaining but references removed) and they could still do with reviewing by someone else - if anyone would like to volunteer, I can email them all over. Once cleared they will be uploaded to the site. Further related micro-guides will be updated as time allows. Martin Barnsdall has recently offered to help produce new content for the registry and writing new micro-guides may be a good way of bringing him on-board.

Phil Wolstenholme
08/02/2019

6.10. Training Officer Report –

As training officer, it falls in my duties to respond to demand of the clubs and individual cavers to help set up training in many aspects of caving. My main focus is to encourage and support clubs to run their own training to a high standard, as you know, I am a big believer that training should be provided by caving clubs for their members. This is achieved by either running a workshop directly for the club, setting up a workshop with a specialist trainer or training up their own training coaches. Training Officers Terms of Reference is included at the end of this report.

DCA Caver Workshops

DCA has for the last 29 years run lots of successful caver training workshops in various topics such as SRT training, SRT rigging, rescue and specialist subjects such as photography etc. Some of which have run at a loss if the numbers were short. If we make any money, the proceeds go back into the pot to cover any shortfalls. Sometimes, individual cavers are not able to attend organised club events or clubs themselves do not have anyone at the appropriate level to run training in certain topics. The DCA training workshops for these people provide valuable opportunities and I encourage everyone to support them in any way they can.

BCA Training Officer

In June last year, I was duly elected at the BCA training officer. It has taken some time to get clarification on what this role actually meant and I am to continue doing what I have been doing in DCA but at national level. The make up of the BCA training committee is the strongest I have known it for many years with input coming in from all of the regional councils and a couple of areas that don't have a regional council plus input from the university clubs, equipment and access committees. I get all sorts of questions regarding use of equipment and I am collating all the BCA statements from the past to up date them and introduce into the new BCA Coaching Guidelines for Cavers.

Coaching Guidelines for Cavers

BCA is in a very strong place for recreational caving and has increased its training grant this year. The training committee have been looking at the DCA scheme and have BCA's approval to create caver training coaching guidelines for recreational caving at national level. These will all be based on the DCA scheme that has been up and running for many years. Thanks to Kev West and Dave Elliot for their input with this.

BCA Caver Workshops

At the last council meeting, BCA put more money into recreational training with a plan to run National Caver Training workshops all over the UK for any individual BCA members to join in on. We are in the process of setting these up with the regional training officers and dates will go out as soon as they are confirmed.

REPORTS ON 2018 EVENTS

These are the workshops that were run last year:

SRT Introduction Workshops

SRT accreditations

We ran quite a couple of module 3a (personal SRT) accreditations last year, cavers feel more confident to move onto the more specialised workshops and training courses, SRT rigging & rescue etc. More accreditation days will be run in 2019. At the January 2018 accreditation, Bob Dearman kindly joined us to watch over the process and input his valuable experience. Thanks go to Bob for his help and support to the DCA scheme.

Specialist SRT Rigging and Rescue Workshop

There were 2 of these run for cavers who passed their module 3a.

Cave Leader Workshop

This practical workshop, ideal for cavers already or are thinking about leading others underground proved to be very rewarding for the people who attended. These specialist, low cost days look at the leadership skills and knowledge required for leading parties underground.

Digital Cave Photography Workshop.

Not run in 2018 but there is interest to run one this year.

Training for the Derbyshire Caving Association's Training Courses & Caving Workshops

The trainers on the technical workshops/courses are all CIC holders and members of the BCA Training committee to enable up to date information is passed on and that techniques are agreed best practice among UK cavers. Other workshops are run by carefully appointed experts in their field like Weather & Flooding (Dave Baines who has written the guidelines for the BCA) photography including Chris Howes (Descent magazine) Robbie Shone & Rob Eavis.

Funding for the Derbyshire Caving Association's Training Courses & Caving Workshops

Funding for the Derbyshire Caving Association Training Courses & Caving Workshops come from 2 sources. The BCA award us grants for training workshops for not only DCA members for any BCA

members too. This is about £25 per person. Extra funding for these and the more advanced courses are funded by an independent sponsor that has supported me for many years.

BCA Training Officer working with Petzl

I have had a practical meeting with Petzl UK and together with BCA E & T have done some testing on life lining techniques. Between us we will produce a BCA training statement on techniques.

BCA National Workshops

SRT Introduction workshop (Single Rope Techniques) - Derbyshire. BCA funded national event

Date - Saturday March 23rd 2019

If you have never done any SRT before, this workshop is the perfect introduction for you. If you want to get the best information on techniques and equipment then this day is essential to pick up modern techniques before you buy your ideal SRT set up. All SRT equipment is provided.

Caving Coach Workshop (formerly the Caving Club Training Officers Workshop)

Date - Saturday March 30th 2019

This is THE workshop for 'Training the Trainers', which we run every year. Many clubs already have a Club Training Officers to whom it usually falls to organise and supervise training for newly joined novice cavers. We have now opened this workshop up to allow anyone to attend who is involved with caver training.

SRT Rigging & Self Rescue workshop - Derbyshire. BCA funded national event

Date - Sunday April 14th 2019

The perfect workshop for those who are proficient using SRT and wish to improve their SRT rigging skills, pick up tips from qualified BCA instructors etc. Those attending will be expected to demonstrate full S.R.T to a high standard.

Weather and Flooding Workshop - Derbyshire. BCA funded national event

Date - Saturday April 27th 2019

Essential workshop for all cavers that run their own trips or those who are embarking on the BCA qualifications route.

DCA Coaching Scheme

Coaching Workshops

These workshops are designed to introduce the skills of coaching and look at the teaching of the Training Syllabus modules. These are essential workshops for experienced cavers considering registering for the Coaching Scheme. Please contact us for the criteria to attend this workshop.

Coaching Workshop - (Level 1 of the Coaching Scheme)

A practical workshop ideal for cavers already or are thinking about leading others underground. Taken directly from the LC/MLA scheme (LEVEL 1 MODULE 1 - CORE SKILLS) Candidates will have to demonstrate that their caving knowledge and experience is more than adequate to lead and give guidance to others in their charge. Candidates should however be able to move fluently and competently in the caves and mines in which they intend to lead novices. NB: Information on the 3 levels of the Caving Coaching scheme will be given during this workshop.

Vertical Cave Leader Workshop - Derbyshire (Level 2 of the Coaching Scheme)

A practical workshop ideal for cavers already or are thinking about taking others on simple vertical (Non SRT) caving trips.

SRT Coaching Workshop - Derbyshire (Level 3 of the Coaching Scheme)

A practical workshop ideal for cavers already or are thinking about teaching others SRT.

SRT Pitch Rigging Coaching Workshop - Derbyshire (Level 4 of the DCA Coaching Scheme)

A practical workshop ideal for cavers already or are thinking about teaching others SRT Pitch Rigging.

Training Officer Job Description

Terms of Reference

The post is a voluntary position.

The DCA Training Officer sits on the DCA Council and the BCA Training Committee.

The DCA Training Officer must attend the BCA Training Committee meetings (about 4 a year).

DCA Training Officer builds relationships with the sport side of caver training and support the work of the BCA training committee.

The DCA Training Officer organises and sets up training events for DCA members. DCA Training Officer does not necessarily deliver the training for these events.

Essential qualities

Must be completely open to all training needs and practices undertaken around the country and not impart personal preferences – This is a respected position in DCA, someone in this position with their own agenda will undermine the hard work that the DCA Training Officer and the BCA training committee has been doing in the past.

Must have interpersonal skills to the level of communicating in an open and friendly manner to all who contact them in their position.

Must have be able to communicate with all fellow BCA training committee members.

Must have be able to communicate with club training officers – this person must be able to discuss items with club training officers with an clear understanding of current training needs and issues.

Must have a proven track record of involvement in caver training – this position to have any weight within the club side of caving needs someone who has been involved at the top level of club training

Must have enough time to give to this position – this position is not to be taken lightly as a 'title' of DCA Training Officer. Work needs to be done in between the meetings

Should attend ALL DCA council meetings.

Ideal qualities

To be a current CIC holder – without this, where is the proof of technical ability in order to share and discuss technical issues with fellow cavers

To have been involved with DCA in the past

To be a current caving club training officer or have been one in the past

Have a clear understanding of training and practices undertaken around the country, standards and contacts – without this, the question arises why someone wants this position?

Good caving

Nigel Atkins

12/02/2019

6.11. Newsletter Editor / Publication Officers Report -

As I am stepping down at this AGM this will be my last report. Despite being unable to produce a Summer issue last year, things bucked up after that and I was able to produce an Autumn issue. The Winter 2018/19 issue should be out by the time you read this and in fact I had so much material that I am able to pass some on to my successor.

Free of duties as Editor I shall be able to make a start on scanning older issues of The Derbyshire Caver for the Webmaster to upload to the DCA website. Hopefully we can eventually have them all available for the public to download back to the very first Newsletter in April 1962.

I should also be able to resume work on the Index which has fallen by the wayside a little over the last 12 months.

“That’s all folks!” as they used to put at the end of the Bugs Bunny cartoons.

Mike Higgins

30/01/2019

6.12. Publication Sales –

Caves of the Peak District

During the course of 2018 DCA sold 62 copies of Caves of the Peak District, all bar one at Trade Price, producing an income of £813.00. We had just over 600 copies left at the end of 2018 and 20 of these have already been sold at Trade Price in 2019.

Conservation Audits

During 2018 we sold the last remaining copy of the Cumberland/Wapping publication. We also had a request for a copy of the Jugholes Interpretation Pack, which was out of print, and I was able to print this from the pdf using the supplies we had bought for the job but had to pay to have printed the two A1-sized surveys to accompany it, which I charged at cost.

We have left 3 copies of the Masson Audit and 2 copies of the Stoney Middleton Audit and in 2019 I sold the last copy of the Manifold/Hamps Audit.

I would propose that those 3 which are now out of print are placed on the DCA website as a downloadable pdf with a note that we are able to produce printed copies of these at cost if anyone wants one. We might also consider placing the other 2 on the web site as (as free downloads), as well - with a note that we still have some printed copies which we can sell at cost. It seems more useful to have the information on the public domain than to try to sell them since sales are so slow now.

The “Derbyshire Caver”

The printing bill for this was cut drastically as it seems most DCA members are content to have it as a free download from the website. We still have 15 paying subscribers plus 9 sent free to DCA clubs which have Libraries and also 5 copies to other public Libraries.

15 copies go out for sale to shops but these are on a sale-or-return basis so sales vary and the income isn't received until the next issue is taken to the shop for sale. Since the demise of Hitch 'n' Hike (which sold all 10 copies each time), our income has varied between £12.80 and £17.60 per issue - £43.00 in total for 2018.

I am happy to continue dealing with publications sales for DCA as I have the sales and printing contacts and the invoicing system sorted and can, if need be, print copies of the Conservation Audits.

Jenny Potts
12/02/2019

6.13. British Caving Association Update –

This has been a very busy and varied year. All Minutes of Council and Annual General Meetings are on the BCA website for those who want to see the details.

Main points at the AGM in June 2018 were been the departure of a number of senior officers and the election of new ones. Chairman for the past 9 years, Andy Eavis, stood down at the AGM in June 2018 - Les Williams was elected as Chairman and will hold the post for the next 3 years. On being elected Chairman, Les Williams stood down as Convenor of the Publications & Information Committee and his place was taken by Jane Allen. Nick Williams, who had been Acting Secretary since 2017 (and also the Insurance Manager for a number of years), stood down from BCA altogether due to personal reasons in October 2018 and his secretarial duties are being temporarily covered by Robin Weare, who is also Acting Treasurer. Robin has made it clear that he will definitely stand down as temporary acting secretary in June, but would prefer to relinquish the post earlier if possible. (Unfortunately the BCA Administrator became ill shortly after the 2018 AGM so the Minutes she had taken remained unfinished and had to be put together by other officers and, for the moment there is no paid Administrator and minutes are being taken by volunteers.) Nigel Atkins was elected as BCA Training Officer.

The post of Legal & Insurance Officer has been discontinued in favour of requesting advice from a professional solicitor if such is required. BCA now has an active and very knowledgeable Child Protection Officer, Chris Boardman, who has already posted a good deal of information on the website and is asking for comments.

The AGM in June set up various working parties to try to improve the way BCA interacts with its members: there is a Youth and Development Group, a Vision and Constitution Working Group, and various other working groups looking at how BCA operates. There is also a group looking at the possibility of electronic voting as a way of involving more people in decisions at the AGM.

There had been some issues in the regions over what, precisely, was eligible for BCA grant aid, and a meeting of the Regional Treasurers was held in the autumn to try to clarify this. (Angus will no doubt expand on this.)

January 2019 Council.

At the Council Meeting in January this year a new Acting Treasurer, Howard Jones, was elected (taking over from Robin Weare), and Howard is also the new Insurance Manager. (This will need to be confirmed at the AGM in June 2019.)

There were clearly some misunderstandings about which discussions should take place within the Working Groups or Standing Committees with a final recommendation being brought to Council for approval; as opposed to a full scale presentation to Council of a new scheme prior to any discussions in Committee. The issue of the BCA website seems to be particularly fraught and, following the Council Meeting, Jane Allen resigned as Publications & Information Officer; hence Les Williams has agreed to take on the duties of the Publications & Information Officer for the time being.

Jenny Potts
DCA Rep. to BCA
13/02/2019