



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

CAVE DISCOVERY FUND CONSTITUTION

Proposed amendments to the 1997 constitution

***Note that only those paragraphs where amendments are proposed are cited below.
Deletions indicated by ~~strikethrough~~, additions indicated in red***

1. AIMS

1.1 To encourage the discovery of new caves and cave passages in the Peak District and associated areas. **Mines which may be of interest to cavers shall qualify for grant in the same way and under the same conditions as caves.**

1.3 Under exceptional circumstances to offer formal ~~recognition~~ **endorsement of a project** to DCA Individual Members and Members Clubs where such recognition may aid the furtherance of **that** project in accordance with Aim 1.1

2. FUNDING

2.1 The Fund shall be financed ~~in the first instance by a levy on all the Association's members as part of their annual subscription; the amount of this levy to be agreed each year at the same time as the annual subscription rates are agreed~~ **annually by a figure calculated on the number of the Association's individual and club members multiplied by a fixed sum, the amount of this sum to be agreed each year at the same time as the annual subscription rates are agreed.** The full amount due shall be available from the Fund at the beginning of each calendar year without waiting for the collection of subscriptions.

3. ELIGIBILITY

~~3.4 Mines which may be of interest to cavers shall qualify for grant in the same way and under the same conditions as caves.~~

4. THE GRANTS PANEL

4.1 The Grants Panel shall consist of the Association's ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** (or his/**her** nominee), the Association's Conservation & Access Officer (or his/**her** nominee) and three Ordinary Members elected at the Association's Annual General Meeting. It is expected that the Ordinary Members will each have a special interest in a different area of the Peak District.

4.2 The Association's Treasurer (or his/**her** nominee) shall be ex-officio a member of the Grants Panel but shall have no vote.

4.3 In the event that any member of the Grants Panel wishes to apply for grant or recognition, **he/she** shall stand down from the Panel for that six month period. If any member of the Grants Panel is considered to have a financial interest in an application **he/she** shall stand down from the Panel for that six month period.

5. PROCEDURE

5.1 Application forms may be requested from the Association's Treasurer at any time **or downloaded from the Association's website at <https://thedca.org.uk>** .

5.2 In all cases, where documentation is required electronic copies and/or emails are acceptable.

5.3 The Grants Panel shall ~~meet twice a year~~ **convene as necessary** to consider applications. ~~Their recommendations shall be put to the earliest possible Council Meeting of the Association for ratification, after ratification the Grant shall be paid to the applicant and / or a letter of recommendation signed by the Chairman~~ **Chair** and Secretary of the Association shall be supplied **where the Grants Panel consider this appropriate. On completion of the grant-aided work the applicant shall submit receipts to the Association's Treasurer who will reimburse the applicant accordingly.**

5.4 For an application to be considered at a Panel Meeting it must be completed and returned, together with supporting ~~evidence~~ **estimate** of expenses **to be** incurred, to the Association's Treasurer by 1st March or 1st September.

6. CONDITIONS

6.2 In order for grant to be awarded or recognition given, the applicant must indicate how conservation of the new discovery may be achieved, having reference to the ~~National Cave Conservation Policy~~ **Minimal Impact Caving Guidelines** devised by BCA, BCRA and Natural England downloadable from <https://thedca.org.uk/images/dca/conservation/micc/pdf>.

6.3 A description of the discovery must be submitted to the Association's ~~Newsletter~~ Editor **of *The Derbyshire Caver*** and to the Derbyshire Cave Registry Secretary as soon as is practicable. (This does not preclude more detailed publication elsewhere.)

6.5 ~~Recognition~~ **Endorsement** will be awarded only for the specific project for which application has been received and may be revoked by Council at their discretion.