

DCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 19 FEBRUARY 2005.
ITEM. 9 - AMENDMENTS TO THE DCA CONSTITUTION (2001)

Amendments to DCA's Constitution were considered at the DCA Council Meeting of 17 July 2004, Item 6.2, and the sections on voting/representation were agreed in principle. Following discussions within both DCA and BCA it has become evident that other amendments were necessary to bring DCA's Constitution in line with that of BCA. The following amendments have been drafted in line with these agreements and discussions. All amendments listed below are proposed by **J.E.Potts** as a DCA Individual Member and will require formally seconding by another DCA Individual or Club Member. (Note that, whilst amendments may be put to these proposals, no other new proposals relating to the Constitution may be made at the AGM of 19th February 2005.)

PROPOSALS

Section 2. Objects

Add new section 2.3

- 2.3 Derbyshire Caving Association is a Regional Caving Council in membership of the British Caving Association, hereinafter referred to as BCA.

Section 3. Membership

3.4 Delete existing section 3.4.

Replace with:

- 3.4 Clubs applying for full membership shall be sponsored by an existing Club Member of not less than 12 months standing within the Association or by the Council of BCA. Clubs not sponsored by BCA Council shall have provisional membership status until their membership of BCA is confirmed.

3.6 Delete existing section 3.6.

Replace with:

- 3.6 Applications for Individual Membership must be accompanied by the correct entry fee and subscription, which will be returned if the applicant is not elected. Club and Associate Member applicants shall have provisional membership status until their payment of subscription to BCA is confirmed.

Section 4. Subscriptions and Entrance Fees

4.1 Delete existing section 4.1.

Replace with:

- 4.1 Club and Associate Members shall not be required to pay a subscription direct to DCA. DCA will expect to receive from BCA a sum sufficient to cover the approved expenditure on services for these members.

4.4 Amend existing section 4.4 by addition of the word "Individual".

- 4.4 Any Individual Member joining the Association after 30th. September shall be deemed to have paid the subscription for the following year.

Section 5. Officers and Council:

5.1.a. Delete existing section 5.1.a.

Replace with:

- 5.1.a The following Officers shall be elected by nomination and majority vote at each Annual General Meeting: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Legal & Insurance Officer, Conservation & Access Officer, Access Officer, Conservation Officer, Training Officer, Equipment Officer, Publications Officer, Cave Registry Secretary, Assistant Secretary. Any elected Officer may co-opt an Assistant or Liaison Officer to assist in his work, provided that such appointments are made known to the Association. Any additional officers who may be deemed necessary for the efficient running of the Association may be co-opted at General Meetings to act for the remainder of the year.

Section 6. Procedure at Council Meetings:

6.1 Delete existing section 6.1

Replace with:

- 6.1 Each member club may send a voting representative to Council Meetings. Nominated representatives must present written authorisation from their Club at or before the beginning of each meeting. Individual Members may attend Council Meetings. Associate Members and observers are welcome at Council Meetings but may not vote.

6.3 Delete existing section 6.3.

Replace with:

6.3 In the event that a vote is taken at a Council Meeting, a simple majority of those entitled to vote shall be sufficient for a motion to be passed. Of those present: each Elected Officer (see 5.1.a) shall have one vote, each club representative shall have one vote and each Individual Member shall have one vote. No person shall represent more than one club. No person may vote both as an Individual Member and as an Elected Officer. A person holding more than one post as an Elected Officer shall have only one vote. The Chairman or presiding Officer shall have no vote except a casting vote.

Section 7. Procedure at General Meetings:

7.1.a/b Delete existing sections 7.1.a. and 7.1.b

Replace with:

7.1.a Each Member Club may send one voting representative to General Meetings. Nominated representatives must present written authorisation from their Club at or before the beginning of each meeting. Each Club representative and each Individual Member has one vote.

7.1.b Voting shall be conducted in two "Houses", one for the class of Club Representatives, the other for the class of Individual Members. A motion not affecting the Constitution shall be taken as succeeding if a simple majority of votes cast by those present and voting for the motion is obtained in each House, otherwise the motion shall fall.

7.3 Amend 7.3 by deleting the 2nd. sentence.

7.3 No one person may act as a representative of more than one club for the purposes of voting.

7.4. Delete existing section 7.4.

Replace with:

7.4 A quorum for General Meetings shall consist of two Club representatives and two Individual Members. The rules stated above (see 7.3) shall apply also for the purposes of establishing a quorum.

Section 8. Accounts:

8 Amend 8 by replacing the 2nd. sentence with:

8. The financial year of the Association shall run from 1st. January to 31st. December in any one calendar year.

Section 10. Constitutional Amendments

10.3 Delete existing section 10.3.

Replace with:

10.3 Voting shall be conducted in two "Houses" (see 7.1.b). A proposed Constitutional amendment shall be taken as succeeding if 70% of the votes cast by those present and voting in each House are in favour of the proposal, otherwise the motion shall fall.