



University of Leeds Speleological Association  
Committee Meeting held in Headingley on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Attendees in person

Mike Butcher	President
John Holloway	Secretary, CNCC Representative
Chris Williams	Treasurer
Adam Aldridge	Librarian
Adam Baldock	Vice President
Adam Erskine-Jones	Training Coordinator

Attendees online

Ann Barber	
Dinny Davies	
Lyndon Easterbrook	Ordinary Committee Member, CNCC Representative
Brendan Hall	
Si Jepps	Meets Coordinator
Alice Smith	
Rachel Turnbull	Ordinary Committee Member
Bradley Tyson	
Nicola William	Conservation Officer, Distribution Officer

Meeting started 19:02



### Update on website

Brendan Hall: The rantbook is working again. Get in touch with me or Kai Trusson for an account. The website just needs a bit of content adding.

Mike Butcher: There are issues with the website not being mobile friendly.

Brendan Hall: I can't get the homepage to show anything but rants. I can't promise anything with sorting the homepage.

### Dinnermeet

Lyndon Easterbrook: It's all booked. So far there are six confirmed people.

Ann Barber: I'd like to come.

Lyndon Easterbrook: I'll put out a reminder to keep on top of people, to remind people how great the dinnermeet can be, and to pay Chris Williams. The band won't play this year, but hope to next year.

#### **Lyndon Easterbrook to put a reminder out for the dinnermeet**

Mike Butcher: Will there be another form of entertainment?

Lyndon Easterbrook: We'll have a raffle and other things. Last year's ended up with all manner of caving games.

Mike Butcher: Will the students have a separate invitation?

Lyndon Easterbrook: I put an email out on the IO group and keep on top of Facebook.

Chris Williams: In previous years it needed a bit more. We can make a weekend of it.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Camping is £7 per person per night.

### ULSA meets

Mike Butcher: Si, have you had any ideas?

Si Jepps: Would our insurance and setup allow family meets, for current members and their children?

Chris Williams: Others have signed their children up this year. BCA membership for under eighteens is free, so they only need to pay ULSA fees.



Si Jepps: It would be nice to have an easy to achieve trip, like a busmeet. People who haven't caved that recently might not be confident enough to attend a busmeet, but we could have a meet every quarter such as an adults meet, or a meet alongside the younger people, where non-student members wouldn't necessarily have to lead.

Mike Butcher: Is it worth setting some dates?

Si Jepps: Paul Pot is in the first quarter. We can have a second in the summer holidays, then an autumn meet around September, then one in October or November.

Mike Butcher: Do we have a permit for Paul Pot?

John Holloway: Not that I'm aware of.

Mike Butcher: Can you get a permit for a week on Saturday?

John Holloway: I'll do what I can.

Si Jepps: Is that the eleventh? I might be skiing. John, if you can get a permit for it, I can send an email out.

**John Holloway to obtain a permit, and Si Jepps to send an email out**

Mike Butcher: Do you have a date for the next one?

Si Jepps: I was thinking May.

Mike Butcher: There's a big project to install a new entrance at Malham Cove and they're asking for helpers.

Chris Williams: It would be good to avoid the student exam period.

Adam Baldock: Exams are 22<sup>nd</sup> May to the 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Mike Butcher: A bit earlier in May then. Let's go for the bank holiday weekend, 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Si Jepps: People coming from further afield can maybe extend their stays.

Mike Butcher: Can you book accommodation, et cetera, Si?

Si Jepps: I'll send dates out then book things.

**Si Jepps to send out dates then book accommodation etc**

ULSA holiday

Alice Smith: At new year we said it would be really good to do a Verna trip. A permit is valid all year. The hut is €7 per person per night. Is there anything else anyone wants investigating?



Si Jepps: What would the format be?

Alice Smith: I was thinking a week or two after exams.

Si Jepps: I can send you stuff for other activities from before. There's some really nice trips out there.

Alice Smith: I also have access to the topos and rigging guides that the club has. There's people in my current club who would be willing to act as tour guides as long as they have notice.

Mike Butcher: Are you thinking a week?

Alice Smith: Last year we did it over a three day weekend. It would probably be alright in a week.

Si Jepps: It can take a while to rig.

Alice Smith: They recommend having one day to rig, one day to traverse it and one day to derig.

Mike Butcher: Yaëlle is living in Switzerland now, so we have an option to extend there. I don't know what the plans are with the expedition. We should set some dates for the ULSA holiday to make sure it goes ahead.

Alice Smith: There will be a cave rescue practice on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June, so we shouldn't go then.

Mike Butcher: We could do the weekend after the exams finish. Lyndie, when is Glastonbury?

Lyndon Easterbrook: It's around the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. I'm not going to Glastonbury, but Ian is. Anyone going will be part of a different team.

Mike Butcher: Does the weekend after exams work? It's outside school holidays, so not family friendly, but is cheaper.

Si Jepps: It depends who we're targeting. It's fine to do it in non-school holiday time. Straddling a weekend would make it easier for people who have families. Maybe for this year, over a weekend would be ideal.

Mike Butcher: We could aim to leave the Verna rigged for 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. We could do 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

Si Jepps: Maybe 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>?

Mike Butcher: The people who have work might want to take a full week off, then get both weekends.

Alice Smith: A week and a half straddling a weekend could work.

Si Jepps: Pitch is as ten days, and decide based on the response.

Mike Butcher: Let's go for 10<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May and see what responses we get.

Alice Smith: Will we want the hut these days, or will those days include travel?

Mike Butcher: We can book it to the 20<sup>th</sup>. We can leave on the Saturday and start from the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Alice Smith: I could send them an email and book it now, then edit the booking nearer the time.



### **Alice Smith to book the hut.**

Lyndon Easterbrook: Is there camping at the hut?

Alice Smith: No.

Lyndon Easterbrook: That's Fathers' Day as well.

Alice Smith: Do we have an idea of numbers?

Mike Butcher: Not yet. We can find out over the next couple of weeks.

Si Jepps: I'll send out an email with what's going on, and include a Google poll to gauge interest for the holiday.

### **Si Jepps to send out email about holiday, including a Google poll**

#### Exploration and conservation projects

Nicola William: I was thinking of a few conservation projects in the UK. There is one next to Marble Steps. Last time we took out two car fulls of rubbish and there's still a lot left. The pothole is quite short. It's something that we could perhaps tackle. Rumbling Hole is another one, and there are some on Leck Fell. I have my eye on the one next to Marble Steps because it's such a huge undertaking. In terms of larger conservation works, the Berger still has a lot of stuff that needs taking out. That requires people with good SRT and caving skills. Maybe we should stick to the one in the UK, as a day trip.

Mike Butcher: Rob was talking about Langcliffe.

Nicola William: We could have both trips going.

Mike Butcher: Do the students have any Yorkshire weekend trips set yet?

Adam Baldock: No.

Mike Butcher: When is Northern CHECC?

Rachel Turnbull: The last weekend of March.

Mike Butcher: Do we want to coincide with or avoid that?

Nicola William: Where is Northern CHECC?

Mike Butcher: It's typically at Bull Pot Farm. Would the students rather do Northern CHECC stuff?

Adam Erskine-Jones: That depends on how we sell Northern CHECC.

Nicola William: It could be a hungover Sunday project.

Rachel Turnbull: Parking on Leck Fell might be an issue.



Nicola William: My one might be more convenient then.

**Nicola William to arrange a conservation trip for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Mike Butcher: The Langcliffe one would need to depend on when Rob is free. It will be a bit of an undertaking to clear the rest of it.

Nicola William: Do we do any seminars or anything for students who have just joined?

Mike Butcher: We haven't done any proper theory sessions. Thursday night talks could be quite good. It might be quite a nice thing to bring back.

Nicola William: UK Caving often advertises little prizes for conservation projects. We could advertise.

Mike Butcher: Would you be willing to give a Thursday talk?

Nicola William: I could do.

Mike Butcher: How about the 23<sup>rd</sup> February?

Nicola William: Yeah, sure! Rob could advertise help for his trip as well.

**Nicola William to give a talk on 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Mike Butcher: Rob is keep to continue surveying Fountains Fell. Dale Head Pot is next. We could have a spreadsheet in the members' area of the website to keep track of leads.

Brendan Hall: We could have a link to a Google sheet on the website.

Mike Butcher: I still want to do the climb in Mossdale. If anyone wants to help John Cordingley install a new gate at Malham, that's taking place on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. There is going to be a Wretched Rabbit thing. The Red Rose have purchased the stuff. I don't know if we want to get involved or leave the Red Rose to it.

Dinny Davies: The kit is at the Farm and will be moved over by the farmer. The work will be advertised by the CNCC.

Venue for AGM

Mike Butcher: It will be the Thursday before the Dinnermeet. I've heard back from Phil Murphy; we have a room at Earth and Environment. It will have to be a Teams meeting. We'll sort that out closer to the time.



## Watty archive

John Holloway: Does it all want sorting through?

Lyndon Easterbrook: I don't know what's in there. BCA library would be interested in taking it in.

Chris Williams: My stuff is mostly journals.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Watty had asked for it not to go to the University library.

Mike Butcher: Is anyone willing to do an inventory?

Chris Williams: That's probably something to ask Tonk.

Mike Butcher: Chris, are you happy to coordinate with Tonk?

Chris Williams: I'll message Tonk. What's at mine is what was at Chapel.

Mike Butcher: We could do an inventory of these and put it on the website.

Chris Williams: It was on the old ULSA website.

Mike Butcher: Can you do an up to date list and coordinate with Brendan?

Chris Williams: Yes.

### **Chris Williams to message Tonk, update list and coordinate with Brendan**

Lyndon Easterbrook: I have some Gingling surveys. Their cost has been covered by those sold already.

Mike Butcher: We should consider whether we make some surveys available online.

Chris Williams: There's a lot that don't sell. We make some money from ones sold to Tony Seddon.

Mike Butcher: Would anyone be against making surveys available on the website?

Chris Williams: We should see what we have first.

Si Jepps: A shedload of time and effort was made put into making them so that they would be used, so I would definitely support this.

Mike Butcher: We'll take it to the AGM. Chris and I will assess what potential revenue stream we could be losing, and catalogue everything.

### **Mike Butcher and Chris Williams to assess potential lost revenue stream**



### Paul Pot award

John Holloway: This is from the AGM. Alpine Caving Techniques may not be available. Is this for the student president to decide?

Mike Butcher: Me and Adam will talk this through.

Chris Williams: I have the labels with previous awardees.

Lyndon Easterbrook: I have the book for last year's. On Amazon, it seems to be on back order.

Mike Butcher: Not For The Faint Hearted is the next best thing.

Lyndon Easterbrook: The French Speleo Association guide is very in depth.

Mike Butcher: That's the rescue one, isn't it?

Lyndon Easterbrook: It's not all rescue related. Rachel has a copy.

Rachel Turnbull: It's a pretty good book. I prefer it to Alpine Caving Techniques.

Lyndon Easterbrook: The drawings and photographs are a lot clearer. It's about £10 cheaper. I think for some of the previous years' winners, Not For The Faint Hearted is not the best book.

Chris Williams: I agree, it depends on the person.

Mike Butcher: We can liaise separately.

**Mike Butcher and Adam Baldock to discuss Paul Pot award**

### Pennine Hut update

Adam Baldock: I got the new Chapel keys and we lost some training hours. We now have seven until nine on both days.

John Holloway: At the AGM, we discussed sending out an email about fireworks.

Adam Baldock: There was an email received from a nearby resident. We don't have the Pennine Hut until December next year.

Adam Erskine-Jones: Was there a firework pick up?



### Committee roles discussion

Mike Butcher: I wanted to go round and check that everybody is happy with the role they have. I'd like meeting organisation to go to the secretary. Does anybody else have anything they'd like to change or take on?

Rachel Turnbull: Next year I'd like to advertise for and collect membership in December.

Chris Williams: The BCA cut off is the end of January, but I agree, we need to get it done sooner.

Mike Butcher: People were confused about the £5/£10 fee, so that could do with being explained.

### Preferred committee communication method

Mike Butcher: Is it worth doing a Whatsapp chat or staying with emails? Should we set up a bespoke email list? Would people prefer Whatsapp?

Lyndon Easterbrook: You wouldn't get any chat from me on Whatsapp.

Mike Butcher: Do we prefer to stick to email? I was hoping Sniffer would be on the call, and that he would volunteer to set up an email group.

Rachel Turnbull: I can email Sniffer and ask him to set up a group.

Mike Butcher: That would be useful, and could be kept updated as people leave and join the committee. Let's put this as an action for Sniffer.

### **Sniffer to set up an email group for the committee**

Chris Williams: What's the situation with ULSA communication?

Mike Butcher: We have the IO group.

Chris Williams: How well advertised is it to students?

Mike Butcher: This can be an action for Adam B and Brad. Facebook has got worse over the past couple of years.

Lyndon Easterbrook: The Facebook group is public, which I find a bit concerning.

Mike Butcher: The group acts as the public face and helps new students joining. We have to be careful, and not put things like meeting links on it.

Lyndon Easterbrook: Somebody once put something political on it. I commented, and it was removed.

Mike Butcher: We get a lot of fake accounts trying to join.



Adam Baldock: A lot of people don't use Facebook. I only got it for uni.

Mike Butcher: Email is the main form of communication.

Adam Baldock: Insta is quite good as well.

Mike Butcher: Brad is doing a good job with it. The original Whatsapp group got corrupted, so now everyone is a mod. Put is down as an action for me and Adam.

### **Mike Butcher and Adam Baldock to sort out Whatsapp group**

Rachel Turnbull: I was going to add a link to the mailing list on the Google sign up form. Is that a good idea?

Mike Butcher: Are new people vetted?

Rachel Turnbull: I think so.

Chris Williams: We should look into it.

Mike Butcher: That might be something for the committee.

Chris Williams: Past members like to keep up with what we are doing.

Mike Butcher: We'll review the email list, but not start culling.

Chris Williams: Sniffer revised it a few years ago when he set it up.

### Any other business

Adam Baldock: Is anybody interested in the old University mine?

Mike Butcher: Phil Murphy would probably know about that. It's interesting geologically, but it's not like the slate mines in north Wales.

Rachel Turnbull: Is the ULSA calendar still used?

Mike Butcher: It should be. Brendan, is the calendar still on the website?

Brendan Hall: It is.

Rachel Turnbull: The website tells me I don't have permission to view it.

Brendan Hall: You should do. I think it was linking to somebody else's calendar rather than the university email account calendar

Dinny Davies: It's all blank for me.

Brendan Hall: I'll check on my mobile.



### Date of next committee meeting

Mike Butcher: The next meeting should be at least two weeks before the AGM.

Next committee meeting to be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Meeting ended 20:33

### Summary of specific action items

<b>Individual(s)</b>	<b>Action item</b>
Lyndon Easterbrook	Send reminder out for dinnermeet
John Holloway	Book permit for Paul Pot trip
Si Jepps	Send email about Paul Pot trip
Si Jepps	Send out dates for May trip, then book accommodation etc
Alice Smith	Book hut for Verna trip
Si Jepps	Send out email about holiday, including Google poll
Nicola William	Arrange a conservation trip for Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Nicola William	Give a talk on 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Chris Williams	Message Tonk about Watty archive and update inventory
Chris Williams Brendan Hall	Put updated inventory on ULSA website
Mike Butcher Chris Williams	Assess potential lost revenue stream if surveys were to be made available on the ULSA website
Mike Butcher Adam Baldock	Discuss Paul Pot award
Mike Fearn	Set up an email group for the committee
Mike Butcher Adam Baldock	Sort out Whatsapp group