

NB other officer reports are published in the November Newsletter.

IT Officer Report

Website Hosting. The CSCC website is hosted on the BCA Webserver. The BCA has been lacking volunteers to run their webserver for some time now. It is starting to show. I've noticed a significant increase in the number of times the server runs out of resources. Twice in recent times the server has been knocked completely offline for several hours. I don't see the situation improving.

I would like propose that the CSCC website is moved to a new provider. My provider of choice is Hetzner who can provide a respectable shared virtual server for less than £110/year. Personally I have used their services for a while now and have no complaints. The cost is reclaimable from BCA.

The domain registration can remain with BCA Webservices.

As a proposal: "It is proposed that the csc.org.uk website is move from BCA Webservices to the Internet services provider Hetzner. The annual cost of this will be no more than £110/year."

Zoom. In the past the BCA offered the use of its Zoom account for club meetings. The CSCC has occasionally made use of this useful service. Regrettably BCA have had to withdraw the service due to cost but are looking into other options.

David Cooke
Nov 2023

BCA Officer Report – Additional

BCA CHARITABLE AND SIMILAR PAYMENTS

There was a circumstance in 2020 where a charitable donation of several hundred pounds was paid for by BCA with only the approval of the BCA Executive rather than the full Council. Other ad-hoc appeals have come before BCA Council requesting many thousands of pounds. For example equipment for a new start-up club or repairing an existing club SRT facility. Whilst these requests are no doubt worthy it does raise the question of transparency, fairness and budgetary control. There currently don't seem to be any guidelines or process around these appeals.

The issue was raised with BCA via the Finance Committee in December 2021 but never progressed. CSCC would like to see a process and guidelines be put in place. Below are some initial ideas for BCA's consideration.

1. It would apply to expenditure that has not already been approved by BCA Council or been included in officer/working group budgets. These are donations where BCA doesn't receive services or goods in return.
2. That there be a formal proposal put to Council to approve the expenditure.
3. That the proposal with any supporting documentation be circulated to the Council members and any other interested parties in good time.
4. That the proposal with any supporting documentation is Minuted.
5. That an annual budget for such an appeals fund be set.
6. That the fund is well advertised and applications invited.
7. That funds be dispersed once or twice a year so that all applications can be considered together rather than paying out to the first applicant that comes along.

Reason for each point:

1. Definition of what payments the guidelines apply to.

2. Transparency. Council should approve these expenditures. It should be clear to the members that the expenditure has been approved.
3. Council members need good time to consider the appeals.
4. Transparency. The members need to see what has been approved.
5. Budgetary control.
6. Fairness. Access to the fund should be open to all.
7. Fairness. Funds shouldn't be on a first come first served basis.

David Cooke
Nov 2023

CSCC Communications Officer

Report for November 2023

I receive useful and relevant material for passing on to CSCC member organisations and more generally to cavers in general from a number of sources. In most cases I am able to oblige but there have been a few occasions when I have not been able to do so due to other unavoidable commitments. The November Newsletter has been distributed via Mailchimp, the CSCC website and on UKCaving. More urgent items of news or requests can go out as specific news items on the CSCC website, Facebook, UKCaving and DarknessBelow.

I have had no particular technical difficulties in achieving the above and I thank Cookie for his help, provided promptly when needed.

I will encourage more newsletter contributions along the same lines as those provided by Judi Durber on the Westminster SG and Mark Tringham on the Gloucester SS, for which I have expressed my thanks. I think they add an extra dimension to the comms and I hope they provide more insight into the activities of our numerous member bodies.

Peter Burgess
CSCC Comms
11th November 2023