

British Cave Rescue Council

Charity registration number: 1137252



Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018



Photo by Bartek Biela

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC) are to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons and animals endangered by accidents or natural hazards, by co-ordinating and providing support for member underground search and rescue organisations in the British Isles.

The BCRC is the co-ordinating body for 15 cave rescue member teams operating in the UK and Ireland. It represents and supports its members at national and international level and promotes the exchange of information between member rescue organisations, providing a common voice.

We support cave rescue teams in their objectives to rescue cavers, members of the public and animals in need, when requested by the emergency services. The trustees continue to have regard to the guidance on 'Public Benefit' to ensure that BCRC's activities are based on this fundamental principle for charities. Few organisations can provide trained and equipped personnel willing to venture underground, particularly in the numbers available in member teams. Although those needing rescuing are sometimes cave or mine explorers, it is also often members of the public or their pets or animals that stray or fall into less accessible places.

Volunteers

The BCRC and its member teams are entirely run by volunteers. Officers are all active members of teams. The incident statistics for 2017 show that there were 44 underground incidents. 1 surface incident was dealt with by a cave-only team. Dual-role (mountain and cave rescue) surface incidents are included in the Mountain Rescue England & Wales (MREW) statistics.

Officers and other volunteers often travel to meetings to represent cave rescue at their own expense and cave rescue team members normally fund their own PPE kit and travel costs.

Apart from the hours put in by volunteers for call-outs and training, the volunteers also manage the charities and rescue teams, attend meetings and represent cave rescue on various other bodies. Many other cavers, cave rescuers and their friends and families contribute to the work carried out.

The BCRC and its member teams in England and Wales are also members of MREW. BCRC officers represent cave rescue interests and support MREW work such as national fundraising, ICT (SARCALL) and equipment safety training.

Achievements and Performance

During the year ending 31 January 2018, BCRC applied to United Kingdom Search and Rescue (UKSAR) for training grants for teams, supported the BCRC conference with a loan, and co-ordinated delegates in preparation for the UKSAR conference in February 2018. As in previous years, we held a pre-AGM training day where most member teams were represented. A great opportunity for sharing best practice.

BCRC officers represented cave rescue at MREW, UKSAR and European Cave Rescue Association (ECRA) meetings, amongst others. Two officers also attended the Charity Tax Group's seminar in Manchester.

Fundraising can be a challenge. Being a co-ordinating body is not very exciting for potential donors. Two of the BCRC officers supported joint fundraising by sitting on the MREW National Fundraising (NFR) Committee. This gives the NFR Committee much-needed manpower and supports cave rescue along with its better-known mountain rescue colleagues. During the year, we made it easier for the public to donate to the BCRC by changing the 'Donate' button on our website to PayPal.

Financial Review

Financially, it has been a fairly quiet year. The unrestricted income for the year-ended 31 January 2018, on a receipts and payments basis, was £5,704 and the expenditure was £2,676, (2017 £9,691 income and £26,259 expenditure). Funding is mainly via a small levy of £100 per team.

The charity had two reserves at the beginning of the year. The main one is the general, unrestricted reserve. The Trustees aim to keep this over £10,000 for contingencies e.g. in case of an unexpectedly large rescue. The reserve has increased during the year.

A second, temporary reserve, accounted for the unspent restricted UKSAR training grant funds, which were repaid during the year.

The general reserve stands at £14,737 as at 31 January 2018, (2017 £12,381). However, we are showing a donation of £675 from 'Adventures Underground' separately to ensure that we can ensure that it is used to benefit teams directly.

Risks and Uncertainties

Being part of what is now MREW for 80 years has supported the continuance of underground rescue in the UK as a Public Benefit, and in turn, provided officers and support volunteers to MREW and a joint voice for volunteer rescue in remote places, to the benefit of both organisations.

MREW provides member teams with ad hoc and ongoing support. In recent years, ad hoc support has included gas monitors to save the unnecessary loss of lives of underground rescuers due to

'bad air'. Ongoing support includes fundamental services such as the medical insurance, a licence to administer prescription controlled drugs, and accident and vehicle insurance.

MREW is considering transferring to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This has raised queries in some quarters whether MREW members should go their separate ways, with the new MREW entity focusing on mountain rescue teams. However, it may go forward as the current diverse organisation, '*so much more than mountains*', including its cave, water and dog teams. This raises fundamental queries for BCRC and its member teams, as to whether and how, they can continue to provide underground rescue and effective casualty care if the support were to end.

As for many small charities, the lack of volunteer time and fundraising opportunities prove to be a continuing challenge.

Structure, Governance and Management

The BCRC is an unincorporated charity, governed by its constitution and charity law. It was originally formed as the Cave Rescue Council in 1967 and was reconstituted as the British Cave Rescue Council in 1981. It became a registered charity in April 2003 and the constitution was last updated in 2008.

Trustee selection

The members at the annual general meeting (AGM) elect the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer. They can also elect extra officers as President, Vice Chairman, Training Officer, Equipment Officer, Conference Secretary, Communications Officer, Medical Advisor, Diving Advisor and Legal Advisor, if they wish.

The Executive Committee can co-opt members as the extra officers if the positions remain vacant at the end of the AGM. The Executive Committee may in addition appoint not more than 3 further co-opted members to the limit of one third co-opted members on the committee.

The wider network

The BCRC and its member teams are members of MREW and the BCRC is a member of UKSAR. Internationally, the BCRC is a member of the European Cave Rescue Association.

Administrative details

British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC)

Registered charity number: 1137252

Principal address: Old Forge House
 Hampton Loade
 Bridgnorth
 WV15 6HD

Email: secretary@caverescue.org.uk

Website: www.caverescue.org.uk

The charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dany Bradshaw	Chair	Until 18/01/18	Members at the AGM
2	Richard (Bill) Whitehouse	Vice-Chair and Acting Chairman	From 18/01/18	Members at the AGM/Executive committee
3	Emma Porter	Secretary		Members at the AGM
4	Heather Simpson	Treasurer		Members at the AGM
5	Richard Marlow	Medical Officer	Until 09/04/18	Members at the AGM/Executive committee
6	Brendan Sloan	Medical officer	From 09/04/18	Members at the AGM/Executive committee
7	James Davis	Training Co-ordinator		Members at the AGM/Executive committee
8	Christopher Jewell	Diving Officer		Members at the AGM/Executive committee
9	Michael Clayton	Equipment Officer		Members at the AGM/Executive committee
10	Anthony Haigh	ICT Officer	From 09/04/18	Members at the AGM/Executive committee
10	Toby Hamnett	Legal Advisor		Members at the AGM/Executive committee
11	Roger King	Information Officer	From 09/04/18	



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The representative body for voluntary underground rescue in the British Isles

Charity number 1137252 - England & Wales

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2018

UNRESTRICTED RECEIPTS		2018	2017
		£	£
Levies received	(Note 2)	1,400	1,090
Late levies received		270	-
Donations to the Nicola fund		-	994
Adventures Underground donation	(Note 4)	675	-
Other donations		565	152
Mendip flood appeal funds		-	1,059
Conference loan returned		1,000	-
AGM lunch donations		125	145
Enamel badge sales		90	12
Hidden Earth raffle		320	-
UKSAR Training grants for teams		1,259	924
Extra Nicola sets purchased		-	5,315
		5,704	9,691
UNRESTRICTED PAYMENTS			
Travel - Peer reviews (2017 - 2 teams)		-	310
Travel - other meetings	(Note 3)	712	468
AGM lunch and training day lunch		101	165
Training grants for teams - Mendip (Derbyshire)		1,259	924
Net cost of UKSAR training - late donations		-146	64
Charity checkout subscription		-	239
Charity checkout fees		2	2
Mendip flood appeal funds repaid to MCR		-	1,059
Nicola III radios for teams		-	23,028
Conference loan out		1,000	-
Mountain & Cave Rescue Benevolent Fund		100	-
Charities Tax Group subscription		-	-
		3,028	26,259
Surplus/(Deficit)		2,676	(16,568)
RESTRICTED FUNDS		£	£
Larkin & communications training			
Balance b/fwd			2,541
Training expenses in year		-65	
BCRC 20% or donations cost		13	(52)
Repaid to UKSAR			(2,489)
Balance of grant as at 31 January 2018	Owed to UKSAR		(0)

Agreed to supporting documents

Name: C Dunphy (ICRO)

Date: 17/04/2018



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CASH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JANUARY 2018

			2018 £	2017 £
CASH ASSETS				
Lloyds current account			14,737	14,522
Cash	(Note 5)		320	-
Reclaimable VAT			-	400
			<u>15,057</u>	<u>14,922</u>
CASH LIABILITIES				
			-	-
			<u>15,057</u>	<u>14,922</u>
RESERVES				
General reserve	(Note 1)		14,382	12,381
Restricted reserve - UKSAR unspent grant			-	2,541
Adventures Underground donation	(Note 1)		675	-
			<u>15,057</u>	<u>14,922</u>



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NOTES

YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2018

1 Reserves		Adventures	UKSAR Grant	
	General reserve	Underground	Restricted Reserve	Total
B/fwd 01/02/2017	12,381	-	2,541	14,922
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	2,676	-	-	2,676
80% Training expenses repayment	-	-	(52)	(52)
Repaid to UKSAR	-	-	(2,489)	(2,489)
Transfer	(675)	675	-	-
	<u>14,382</u>	<u>675</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,057</u>
2 Other assets - Debtors				
Levy debtors				
2016 Levy	100	Paid 06/03/18		
	<u>100</u>			
3 Travel expenses				
Only some officer travel is claimed and paid. The expenses policy is to be updated.				
4 Adventures Underground donation				
John and Dave specifically want this to benefit teams, so it is shown separately so that it does not get lost.				
5 Hidden Earth Raffle				
Cash from the raffle at Hidden Earth was banked in March 2018.				