

Age demographic report of BCA membership to June 2017 Council Meeting.

It is of concern that there appear to be less active cavers about. It is noticeable in the once hotspot areas of the Yorkshire Dales for instance. BCA pointed to the relative consistency of annual membership renewals, so what could be happening here? Perhaps the membership is ageing and becoming less active. If older members leave and are not replaced by sufficient numbers of younger cavers this can have consequences for BCA in achieving less income and fewer 'human' resources to take on the roles of running the organisation. I suggested BCA collect 'date of birth' data at membership renewal to find the age demographic of the current membership. Council decided it could only ask for 'year of birth' (YOB) on a voluntary basis. That data has been passed on to me and with some input from a retired statistician I am able to offer the following report.

2270 members returned credible YOB data out of a total of 4942. A small number of entries were removed from the sample which gave ages over life expectancy or were not actually a YOB.

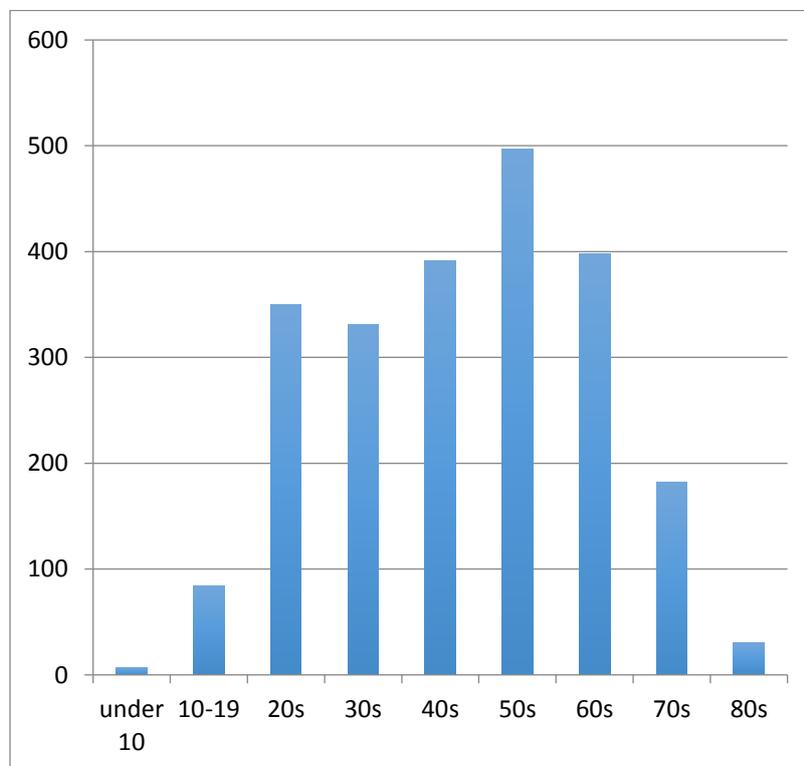
The sample size is adequate. The question is whether it is representative of the membership. There may be age bias in whether members chose to respond to the request for YOB. Never the less it is all we have to go on.

There are considerably more members in their 50s than in their 20s and 30s.

The median age is 49 – nearly half the membership is 50 or over.

18% of the membership is over 65.

The BCA has an 'old' population. Overall BCA membership numbers are likely to fall unless 20 and 30 year olds can be increased by around 40%.



Tim Allen

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