THE MENDIP CAVILING GROUP

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NEWSLETTER NO. 5

AUGUST 1954

The August Meat

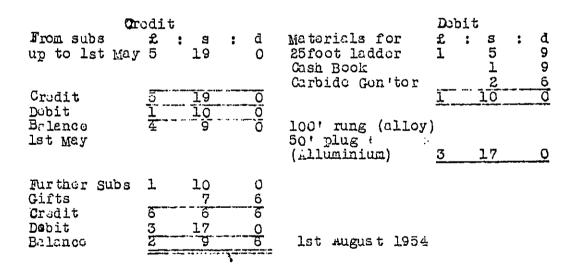
1. The August Camp was set partly on Piney Slout and then after a week of severe weather was forced into the shelter of Velvet Bottom. Luckily the weather hold fine for the main party over the bank holiday and we were able to do some important work in surveying and photographing the long hole, and Mr. Sayes Cave.

2. Those present were able to use the propotype "flectron" laddor made by Tony Crawford.

3. A general meeting was held on Sunday 1st August 1954, the findings and decisions will be found in the Appendix. Teckle fees were fixed at 1 shilling per meet per head. (The Hon. Treasurer would like to collect fees from these who have not yet peid).

Honorary Treesurer's Report

4. The Hon. Ercesurer - Gooff. Wingrove - told us that the Group Funds were low owing to the fact that a lot of new tackle had to be bought :-



The Dig

5. The dig is 20 feet doop and shows no signs of closing, and has a strong air current coming through the loose rocks at the lowest point. During the weeks provious to the bank holiday intermittent work was carried cut. These who have worked on a dig in wet weather will understand the extreme disconfort of working with liquid and flowing into ones hair and down ones neck.

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6. There is now strong evidence suggesting that the group has excevated to a greater extent then any provious party, and are therefore gotting even closer to the secret of what lies beyond. There is no doubt that in the past the dry swallet (which some members new refer to as Tember Hole) must have taken most of the water draining into velvet bettem. It is almost certain that there have been at least two periods of activity.

(e) When the wwellot was first formed almost cartainly before the ice age.

(b) During the mining period in velvet bottom when water was carried in heats for lead washing. Lead working has been carried on since Roman times, to about the last century, but it is doubtful if washing was carried on so far down the valley for some time after that. The mining could have two effects. Either cleaning old sediment, or depositing fresh.

Chalms Coonbc Cava

7. Two visits were mede to the nowly formed Cholms Coombo cave. Information and holp was first obtained from Major McNoard of Axbridg. Caving Group.

8. The cave was uncovered in Chelms Coembe quarry just before Whitsen this year by quarrymen during blesting operations. Entry is gained through a window some 20 feet up the quarry face. A railway line is the belay for the ladder and below is a broken gitch of about 27 feet. Even from outside some of the fine formations can be seen but once on the severe slope at the bettem with full daylight illumination coming through the entrance, the beautiful colouration and formation are a sight to be remembered.

9. At the lowest corner of the severe slope a low slide gave access to a low bedding chamber. There were not the profuse decorations of the previous chamber, long slender straws one of which had thickened at the end, following the development of a normal stalactive. The base of the enabler consisted of small boulders with washed and between, which on removel showed a tightly packed mass boneath.

10. Our party consisting of Tony Crawford, George Pope, Mike Gladstone and myself were unaward that there was yet enother chamber beyond, and when we spoke to the others we received various remarks directed towards our ability as cavers. The third chamber which was visited by Lereine Sendercock, Donnis Hommings, Geoff. Wingrove and Mike Burbridge, consisted of a high but narrow rift and its formation had not been affected by blesting and surpassed these in the entrance chamber.

Mr. Sayos Cavo

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11. On 31.7.54, a party consisting of Tony Crawford, Miko Gladstone, George Pope and Ayself received permission from Mr. Sayo of Cheddar to survey and photograph the cave in his back garden. Survey and photography proceeded without a hitch until we arrived at the water rift where we had to uncounter the last stratch. We cane across and stalegaitss, which are nost disconcerting when gripped for a handhold with deep water below!

12. The water at the far and of the rift showed turbulance in the light of a torch. Below the surface the arch of a subwarged passage could be seen.

Cave Diving

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13. Some members in the Group are interested in experimenting in cave diving. Tony Civilian Grawford would like all Service masks i.e. A.R.F. etc. and corregated tubing for convertion into diving apparatus. Tony Grawford has also consulted a leading firm on diving apparatus.

Group Badgu

14. Donnis Hearings has a stock of badges and ponnents at two shillings each. The noney will go to Group Funds.

Caving Expeditions

15. Meet at Friddy from 3.9.54 to 6.9.54 T. Knibbs and M. Cottor 14 - 21.9.54 18 - 25.9.54 (South Wales?)

New Milbers

16. On 1st August 1954 it was proposed and cerried that persons desiring membership shall be proposed by two members at or before a most and then be voted as members after having made one underground trip.

Cava Rossarch Group

17. Application to join the cave research group as a club denote has been made.

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APPENDIX TO NEWSLETTER NO. 5 DATED AUGUST 1954

SAFETY PR_CAUTIONS

Proposal

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1. That lifelines shall be used on all pitches.

Amendment

2. Lifelines shall be used on all pitches over fifteen feet unless the person climbing desires one on a shorter pitch. The depth of pitch and final arrangements are to be decided by the loader of the party.

Proposal

3. That when a whistle code is used for lifelining it shall be:-

l blast	:	Stop
2 blasts	1	Take in (slack)
3 blasts	:	Pag out
4 blasts	:	Have arrived, pitch clear for next man.
When on the surface;-		
6 blasts	:	S.0.S.
3 blasts	:	Reply

Knots

4. It is surprising how few members know how to tie the simple bowline. Mombers are reminded that a diagram of one can be found in the Appendix to Newsletter No. 4.

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