

MARCH 1955Honorary Members

Mr. Ball of the Lion Rock Hotel, Cheddar has accepted honorary membership. It is reminded that behind the Lion Rock Hotel is a small hut with electric lighting, the use of which has been given to us by Mr. Ball, and is now being used to keep our tackle.

Mr. Sage of Syccamore Cottage, Cheddar has also accepted honorary membership. Mr. Sage has given us access to the cave in his back garden (would any member wishing to visit this cave please see Mr. Sage first - the cave is locked). We have also been given valuable information on hydrology and neighbouring caves. We should also thank them for the help and indulgence which we have been shown by them on seeing a caving group active on their doorstep!

Subscriptions

The Hon. Treasurer, Geoff. Wingrove, would be pleased to receive annual subscriptions. Persons not having paid by April 1st will be considered as lapsed members. Twelve shillings per year full membership; six shillings per year junior membership; two shillings per year overseas membership.

NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS : 160, Bulstrede Avenue, Hounslow, Middlesex

Caving

Caving being the primary function of the M.C.G., two persons - Dennis Hemmings for London and District, and Michael Small for Bristol and District, have undertaken the task of Meet Organisers. Any member wishing to go caving should contact either of these two so that a snowball action may take place to give support.

Easter Meet

There will be a meet of the Group at Easter. Camp will be held on Piney Sleight. Would those members going please contact the Meet Secretaries so that accommodation may be worked out.

Printing Press

An Adana No. 2 printing press with approximately 1 cwt. of accessories and type has been purchased by the Group. We hope that this will enable us to produce at least a half yearly magazine. The quality and quantity of the articles will only be guaranteed if we all brush up our English a little and submit articles, even a paragraph on a particular subject will be of interest.

Previous Meets

Over the winter months trips have been made to various mines in the London area, to keep in contact with darkness.

Priddy Meet 14th - 16th January. A party of us braved the snows on this most inclement weekend and were disappointed to find that the entrance to Sweldons Hole was in flood condition so stopping us going down. A majority of this party now mentions to those who were not present how a march was made from the Rodney Stal in snowshoes! Those present were: Geoff Wingrove, Mike Gladstone, George Paps, Derrick Holmes, Leslie Games and Malcolm Cotter.

The following.....

The following weekend Derrick Holmes, Betty and Dennis Hommings were again at Priddy. The entrance of Sweldons was in milder condition although still taking a fair amount of water. The descent, incidentally the first this year, was made with some Wessex Cave Club members and it was observed with pleasure, that the winter floods had literally blasted out the wet squeeze below the 'letterbox' into an easy scramble.

Cheddar Meet

A party consisting of Malcolm Cotter, Dennis Hemmings, Michael Small, George Pope, John Russell, Steve Hunt, Bob Towler and Brian Stewart, spent a weekend at Cheddar caving. The first night in tents was severe for those who had arrived early so that we decided to sleep in a cave. Caving was continued with one ladder pitch.

Received

From:-	C.R.G.	Trans. Vol. III No. 2
	O.H.G.	Series 2 No. 1
	W.S.G.	Vol. II No. 2 42 in.
	S.W.C.C.	Newsletter No. 11

Armchair Meeting

A meeting at which lanterns slides were shown was held at the Unicorn and Duke Hotel, London. Conversation and a friendly working basis were discussed with the Westminster Speleological Group. Three clubs were represented : W.S.G., W.C.C. and M.C.G.

Surveying

Last year approximately 500 feet of Cave Survey was completed. This year we have a prismatic compass reading to one degree, the use of an alucy level with an assortment of tripods. Let us add another '0' upon last years total! Noel Dilly has prepared an article on surveying.

Membership List

This will be compiled after August 1st.

Tackle Situation

There is a marked improvement in the tackle situation. Please make sure that ladders and ropes are kept in the night bags at all times, but before packing make certain that they are dry, especially ropes other than nylon.

Club Hut

Our major problem at the moment is in obtaining a site and hut for sleeping in. This will be discussed at length at the Easter Meet. It has been generally agreed that the Cheddar area should take first consideration although if we found reasonable terms at Priddy, we should go there as well. One thing is guaranteed, that is full furnishing of the place when we get it.

Printing Press

Tony Davies, Derrick Holmes and I collected the press and accessories on Saturday 12th; we were very disappointed that the large party which should have been present left us with the work. Tony believes that Mr. Davies Senior will allow us to keep the press in his garage and do the printing at one end.

Equipment

George Pape has again been able to get an essential item of gear at a reduced price; this time, acetylene cap lamps at five and six pence.

It is believed that soon one of our members may be able to get helmets at low cost.

France

It is hoped that a number of the M.C.G. will hold a cave expedition in the Pyrenees this year. It is suggested that September would be a very suitable month. Any members wishing to go should please write to Derrick Holmes as soon as possible. Noel Dilly is acting as overseas correspondent.

NOTES ON SURVEY

The ideal team is three in number. Cave survey is a slow job so plenty of extra warm clothing should be worn.

A survey of a cave is very valuable and the Club will be delighted to receive copies. Remember a rough sketch in the cave is very useful and will be appreciated for club records as well as memory sketches.

Take some rags to wipe hands and something to eat.

Notes on Drawing Up Survey

Requirements : 1 T Square, 1 drawing board, 1 protractor, 1 ruler in 1/10ths or 1/20ths inch, 2 - 5 H pencils, 1 mapping pen and indian ink, 1 large sheet drawing paper. Draw an approximate plan of cave on scrap paper and note most convenient place for entrance on drawing paper. By means of a T Square mark a cross at this point. Using top of paper as 0°, mark off angle equivalent to the bearing A to B and draw A B equivalent to $24\frac{1}{4}$ feet. A scale of 1 inch = 20 feet is recommended. Mark off offset and LOSight distances etc. Proceed to draw outline as accurately as possible from sketch measurements etc. in light pencil. Then proceed from B to C and so on until complete. When all is complete colour in with Indian ink and put following details on map:-

Name of Cave: Survey Grade: Surveyors: Date: Scale and any special comments which may be needed in way of explanation.

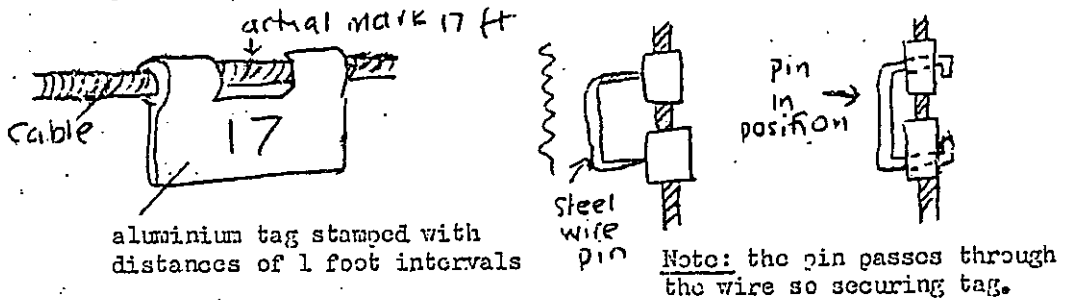
Include if known Grid Reference of Cave Entrance.

The above account is by no means complete, but anyone requiring further information has only to contact the writer who will do his utmost to clear up points or will ask his more experienced friends who will all gladly supply the necessary advice.

NOTES ON CAVE SURVEY TO C.R.G. GRADE IV by P. Noel Dilly

Tacks Required

Compass reading to 1 degree. Prismatic marching compass as possessed by Club. (This compass may be borrowed by members wishing to undertake survey on application to tackle manager). Metallic or cloth tape of length 25 - 100 feet or line marked off in 1 foot intervals, preferably use something such as telephone cable. The writer has an excellent cable make up thus:-

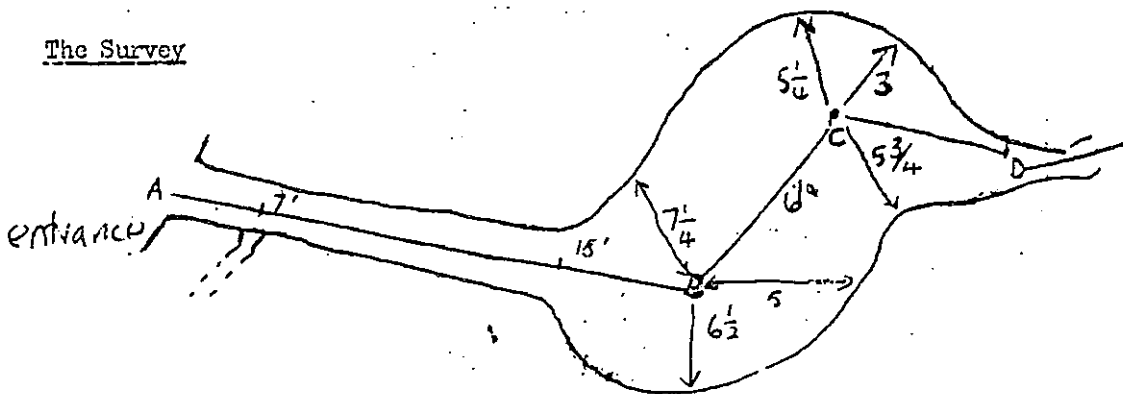


Also required is a 6 foot metallic collapsible rule. Several pencils and knife. Some sheets of good quality notepaper, and mark them:-

STATION	BEARING	DISTANCE	LEFT HAND WALL (L.H.W.)	R.H.W.	ROOF HEIGHTS	EXTRA DETAILS VIZ. OFFSETS, NATURE OF FLOOR, FORMATIC

An equal number of sheets should remain unrulled. Some form of writing surface and waterproof container combined is also required. An Ex. Govt. plastic map case make an excellent device.

The Survey



On arrival at entrance first man should take tape as far in as possible to remain in sight of the man at the entrance and should choose the second station so that it is a clear view both of the entrance and of the way on. Placing a light over the point he chooses he should take in the slack on the tape and holding it as level as possible measure the distance from station A to B. The surveyor at the entrance should then take the bearing of the light from station A as accurately as possible. These readings should be immediately noted. Then the width of the passage i.e. R.H.W. and L.H.W. should be noted together with the offsets and comments. Thus for leg A to B the survey sheet might read:-

/Station.....

STATION	BEARING	DISTANCE	L. H. WALL	R. H. WALL	R. HEIGHT	E. T. C.
A TO B	97°	24 ft.	2 ft.	2 ft.	9 ft.	at 7 ft. branch passage bearing 207° after 9 ft becomes too tight. At 18 ft. passage enters Chamber. Line of sight (i.e. B to Wall in direction AB produced) 5 ft. At 341° wall 7 ft. At 182° wall corner 6½ ft. Floor of passage Stal of chamber boulders
At Station B						
B to C in Chamber	28°	13½ ft.	Chamber see sketch		10	Floor boulders. Line of sight 3 ft. at 347° 5½ ft. at 166° 5½ ft to sharp corner. At 6 ft. large curtain on wall

The survey sheet should be set out thus and between each station sketches such as the above of the passage and cross-sections of the passage should be made on the blank sheets.

Before moving from one station to the next make sure EVERY column is full and no measurement has been omitted. Proceed as above until survey is completed.

STANDARD SYMBOLS USED IN CAVE SURVEY :

