

M.C.G. NEWSLETTER

No. 11.

EDITORS NOTES

Once more the newsletter makes its appearance, this time on the eve of our first A.G.M. which is being held on January 12th, together with an informal dinner.

This last year has probably been the most important one as yet since our beginning some three years ago.

We have been fortunate to overcome a lot of difficulties that inevitably have to be faced by any new clubs in this highly competitive pastime of caving.

This situation has come about by two means e.g. enthusiasm shown by present members and help and co-operation with a few older and bigger clubs. Let us hope that bigger and better things can be done in this coming year by the M.C.G.

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

We are pleased to welcome back three old members to the group, in the shape of George Pape, Tony Knibbs and Austin Sanders, who have just completed their service in H.M. Forces.

George Pape has now returned after settling down to married life and we hope to see him active again next season.

TACKLE NOTES

The tackle situation has improved well considering the cost of materials, etc.

We have now got 180 ft. of "electron" ladder, most of which has been tried in the "big 'uns" of Yorkshire and Derbyshire as well as our own happy hunting ground, and we are pleased to report that these ladders are 100% efficient. Will the tackle master, and his helpers please pat each others backs.

DERBYSHIRE - AUGUST MEET. By R. WOOLLACOTT

A meet was held in Derbyshire over the August Bank Holiday when ten members made our first major appearance in this area.

The journey started just before midnight from Euston Station in a certain van "borrowed" by a certain member, two of us followed up by motorcycle although it is sad to relate that one of the riders was forced to give up within 30 miles of the destination, and had to continue bike and all in the van. The destination Windy Knoll was reached at approx. 10 o'clock the next day (Saturday) the rest of which was spent in setting up camp etc.

On Sunday a saunter(?) was taken in the direction of both Windy Knoll & Suicide Caves. An attempt was made on Oxlow cavern, no one quite finished it, Malcolm getting to the bottom of 30 feet of electron, to find it about ten feet too short.

No.1 PARTY

Leslie James (Leader)
Steve Hunt
Erian Robertson
Richard Woollacott
Don Searle (End Man)

No.2 PARTY

Malcolm Cotter (Leader)
Brian Cheyney
Brian Hayward
David Harle (End Man)

After a late rising on Monday morning the van party left about midday for home, three members, M.Cotter, L.James and the writer having decided to stay on for another week. The camp was continued on Windy Knoll, except for three nights spent at Whitelea Farm. During this week the following caves were "done" Perryfoot, Gautries Hole (quite the muddiest cave ever attempted) and a conducted tour of the Peak Cavern (for which no tackle is required). On Saturday we were joined by another member Mike Gladstone making our party up to four.

Saturday evening a trip was made to Eldon Hole, a truly historic occasion for the club for two reasons, firstly it was the first time all the electron ladder had been used in one length, and secondly, the pitch was the longest ever attempted on a club meet. As one by one we reached the bottom quiet prayers of gratitude could be heard apparently to the tackle master. On the Sunday I was forced to leave for London and home having had my first big "bash" at caving.

NEW BRANCH HEADQUARTERS. - RICHARD WOOLLACOTT.

During the above mentioned trip the club managed to obtain the use of an old cottage in Castleton, which it is hoped will be put into use during the coming season, this will at least give us some sort of "home" whenever trips are made to Derbyshire.

After some considerable time we have at last got our own lock on the gate to our camp site at Velvet Bottom, it is hoped this will make things a great deal easier on our Mendip trips.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A new knot has been invented by one of our members. It is called a round turn and two half hitches. A demonstration will be given on any pitch over 100ft.

The Hon. Sec. Malcolm Cotter has announced that he is not standing for any position on the committee for the forthcoming year as his studies for an exam. must come first, we would like to thank him for everything he has done for the club so far, and hope to see him on plenty of trips this coming season.

We are pleased to say that one of the members, Noel Dilly has fortunately recovered from his accident viz. a fractured skull and leg obtained whilst climbing in Wales, and hope it will not restrict his activities in the forthcoming year.

Will any member who happens to change his address please inform the Hon. Secretary so that an up to date record may be kept.

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Hon. Editor