

MENDIP CAVING
GROUP.

NEWSLETTER.

NUMBER 16.

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JUNE, 1958

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING.

Held at the Round House, Leicester Square, London,
W.C.2. on the 31st January, 1958. Chairman Mr. R.
Woollacott.

MEMBERS PRESENT

T. Crawford.	D. Harle.
R. Woollacott.	M. Cotter.
R.G. Knott.	A. Davies.
J. Green.	R. Charnock.
P. Green.	B. Robinson.

Visitors. C.F. Reynolds.
Miss A. Leadbetter.

(1) Proposed amendments to Club Rules by R.
Woollacott and M. Cotter were carried. (Except
Part 1. Sec.(2)). Proposed M.Cotter, Seconded
D. Harle.

(2) Hon. Recorder was proposed as a separate
position on the Committee to record A.G.Ms., E.G.Ms.
Committee Meetings, Meets. This was carried.
Proposed T. Davies, Seconded T. Crawford.

(3) Reports followed by -
Hon.Tackle Master - T.Crawford (See
detailed Report)
Hon. Editor - D. Harle.

(4) Discussion on investing Club Monies. T.Davies proposed Post Office Account. Seconded - R.Charnock. Proposal passed.

(5) Trustee Members for Post Office Account were discussed, Members proposed were T.Crawford, R. Woollacott, R.Charnock. Motion proposed by D.Harle Seconded - M. Cotter. Motion passed.

INTERVAL. Ballot for Committee. Results announced.

(6) Proposed that the Committee may co-opt any Members to stand on Committee and have full Committee rights if necessary for a period of two months. (E.G.M. to be held after two months.) Proposed M. Cotter. Seconded - B. Robinson. Proposal passed.

(7) Proposed that Auditors shall check the Club's Account at the end of the financial year, or at any time they wish to. Proposed T. Davies. Seconded - Brian Robinson. Proposal carried.

(8) Discussion of Tackle float to be kept by Hon. Tackle Master; a sum of 10s.0d. suggested. Agreed that the Committee will look into the matter.

MEETING CLOSED.

RESULT OF BALLOT FOR COMMITTEE 1958.

Hon. Secretary	R. Woollacott.
Hon. Recorder	R. Charnock.
Hon. Tackle Master	T. Crawford.
Hon. Editor	D. Harle.
Hon. Meet Secretary	M. Cotter.
Hon. Treasurer	R. Charnock.

**TACKLE MASTER'S REPORT FOR 1957, AND PROGRAMME
FOR 1958.**

<u>1956</u>				<u>1957.</u>		
£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
6.	0.	0.	Rungs	7.	18.	4.
	5.	0.	Plugs		13.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
4.	10.	0.	Wire	8.	13.	6.
			Yacht & Com; Rig.		16.	0.
<hr/>				<hr/>		
10.	15.	0.		18.	1.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
<hr/>				<hr/>		

Ladders.

<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>		<u>1957</u>
65. Ft.	65	Cut up to	30
		-	20
		-	15
	30		30
	30		30
	20		20
	20	Damaged.Needs Clamps	-
	15		20
Total	<u>180</u>	Total	<u>160</u>

Tethers.

0	15
	35
Damaged.Needs Clamps	--
	26
Total	<u>50.</u>

OPEN LETTER TO THE CLUB.

Following Tackle Master's Statement.

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for not treading on the nylon ropes. They are all in perfect condition. The Tackle Master was the only offender reported by Bob Knott.

My job for the new year is to complete the assembly of our ladders. This is one of the things that almost any member with a motor cycle can help with, as it means coming over to Harefield for a day.

Some experiment has been made towards finding out how DR. JOLEY'S Monkeys are made. These are used to climb a thin rope with ease and are purely a mechanical gadget aid.

One other thing I wish to do is to complete my enquiries into the making of a maypole - a light one with a double cross tree and cables to stress it with.

TONY CRAWFORD.

Hon. Tackle Master.

REPORT ON CHRISTMAS MEET (27th - 29th December, 1957.)

Members Present

Reg. Johnston.
Richard Woollacott.

Guests

Jim McLan.
Ray Kenyon.

We set off from London on Friday night in a Dormobile type car and arrived at Axbridge about

midnight. The Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society kindly let us sleep in their museum over the holiday.

The next morning we went to Ochre Cave and spent an hour or two exploring it.

In the afternoon we went down Longwood with two members of Axbridge Club, David, Reg's Brother and John, a Policeman from Wells, whom it turned out I had known in Harrow some four years previously.

On Sunday while making our way to Burrington Coombe, we dropped into 'Silvesters' where I fitted a new part to the Grandfather Clock, much to the delight of Oliver Speed.

As time was getting short, we made a trip round Goatchurch before driving back to London.

Our thanks are due to the Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society for the use of their museum, as this made the trip much more pleasant at this time of the year.

R. WOOLLACOTT.

STOP PRESS

Editor's Note.

According to reports, the Editor is amazed to hear that Silvester's Grandfather Clock is still going.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor wishes to express his thanks to Mr. H.I. Marshall, the London Editor of The Melbourne Herald Cable Service and The Perth Daily News for kind permission to reproduce the following article.

"SCENIC WONDER IN CAVERN WATERWAY.

A 20th CENTURY cave man has discovered what he says could easily be WA's biggest tourist attraction - a huge underground waterway.

The cave man, Lloyd Robinson (30), of Wollongong, NSW, a member of the Wollongong Speleological (cave studying) Society, made the find while holidaying in Augusta.

He was told by local land agent William Ellis of a mysterious hole in the ground discovered in the bush outside Augusta 50 years ago.

More recent investigations by Moondyne cave guide Cliff Spackman had revealed that the hole (made by the tap root of an ancient tree) led to a big cavern, which in turn disappeared into a gloomy blackness.

Unable to go any further, Spackman returned to the surface and kept the cavern a secret until it could be explored properly.

DISCOVERY.

When Robinson arrived in Augusta to examine the Moondyne caves, he was told of the new discovery.

With second-year University geology student Lex Bastion, Robinson covered nearly 200,000 square yards

of bush before he found the hole.

The two explorers descended into the cavern, found it was only a halfway mark and went further down.

When they reached the bottom - 140 feet from ground level (checked with an altimeter) they found that they were on the shores of a vast underground watercourse bigger than the lake in the Lake Cave at Margaret River.

With no facilities for further exploration, Robinson and Bastion returned to the surface. They gathered the necessary equipment (including a collapsible boat) and made a second descent with Spackman.

They explored more than a mile of vast underground labyrinths of waterways and lakes and discovered along the shores skeletons of animals - believed to be huge water rats - and dingo tracks.

UNBELIEVABLE

Said Robinson today: "Some of the rock formations are unbelievable - there are certainly none better in WA, and they compare favourably with the famed Jenolan Caves in NSW.

"The colouring must be seen to be believed and the overall scene is magnificent.

"Our main problem now is to have the caves protected against souvenir hunting tourists and vandals."

Though the codiscoverers have spent many days in the caves, they are convinced that they have only scratched the surface and that there are still many more lakes and caverns to be discovered."

DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 1958.

REPORT ON WEEKEND, 7th, 8th and 9th MARCH 1958.

<u>Members Present</u>	Noel Dilly (Leader) Tony Crawford.
<u>And Later</u>	Bob Knott (Leader) Peter (New Member)

We arrived Friday evening and not wanting to unload twice, camped at velvet bottom that night, collecting the key first thing in the morning.

We started on the dig with the first bang at 0900. This in the small tunnel. After about our 5th bang, we heard a yell. Quite unexpectedly Bob Knott and his friend arrived ready to go down Longwood.

It turned out that Bob and his friend had intended to come down the week before, but the snowy weather had made them postpone it until the next week.

Apart from the Hon. Secretary, no one knew that we were going that particular weekend and as we were paying for the explosive ourselves we thought we would keep it private and that that was the best way to ensure everybody else's good health anyway!! But as things turned out we were presented with two able bodied slaves!!

Saturday, the slaves spent their time making camp and going down Longwood. From this place they emerged in an awful state. Cold, wet and looking horrid!!

Sunday, the slaves helped us to clear nearly a ton or rock, after which we had to clear camp.

Fifteen charges in all were set off in timber hole clearing the old shaft and opening the tunnel up completely.

Thank you all for a fine weekend especially our two slaves for their coffee and aspirin drinks.

I hope to see a lot more of Peter, our new Pal during the years to come. Thank you Peter for all your help.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

As all members who attended Mon.N. Casteret's lecture will know, at question time, our Tackle Master had several questions which he asked Mon. N.Casteret, who replied in fluent french, much to our Tackle Master's dismay as his French Degree had been mislaid. Still I am sure that all members will appreciate this.

The following article is the result of this lecture.

Dear Friends,

Parles vous Froonses.

I am the proud owner of Speleologie (Manuel Technique) by Henry P. Guerin.

I have written to N. Casteret so.

Cher Monsieur Casteret,

Aujourd'hui j'ai recue le livre Speleologie
(Manuel Technique) par Henry P, Guerin.

Peutetre vous rappelez, que quand vous etes a
Londres pour votre lecture a l'Institute vous m'avez
donner l'address.

Je veus vous donner mille remerciements pour
votre assistance.

Voudrez vous avoir la bonte d'excuser mon mau-
vais vocabulaire et grammaire.

Au revoir,
A la prochaire.
(Tony) Crawford.

While I was blowing the dust off my French Degree (?)
I typed the following translation out of the manuel.

Mat de Perroquet or Parrot Stick.

It is made up of a simple pole with transverse
bars fixed into it. The metal pole is made of pieces
which fit into each other or are adapted so that they
can be joined. This is so that they can be carried
from place to place and erected.

This is simple to use. A pulley or snap link is
attached to the top; this is to enable one to pull up
a flexible ladder when the pole is firmly placed.

To descend it is possible to slide down the pole
like a fireman.

The pole is made up of parts about one Metre or
one and a half at the most. It can be made of many

materials, but the most common is steel Tube 40-49mm (2 inches) about 3Kg per Metre (6 lbs. per yard)

Herre Chevalier used a lighter metal tube from special aircraft steel 40mm. Dia: 1 Kg. per Metre. In lengths of 1 Metre.

Twenty of these elements were joined by separate threaded sockets. The flexibility did not allow them to use lengths of over 10 Metres.

Side Struts - In order to overcome flexibility P. Chevalier in his explorations of the Trou du Glaz used side struts. In the middle of the pole he fixed four bars at right angles and at right angles to the pole .4 cables passed through the ends of the bars and joined to the extremities of the pole. This system gave the assembly some rigidity, but it was limited to 16 Metres when the cross bars were bent into 'S' shape.

The cross struts were also employed as Braces (stand-offs) but the distances did not exceed 7 Metres.

Now I feel that with the aid of this book we can improve the tackle position when the money is available.

TONY CRAWFORD.

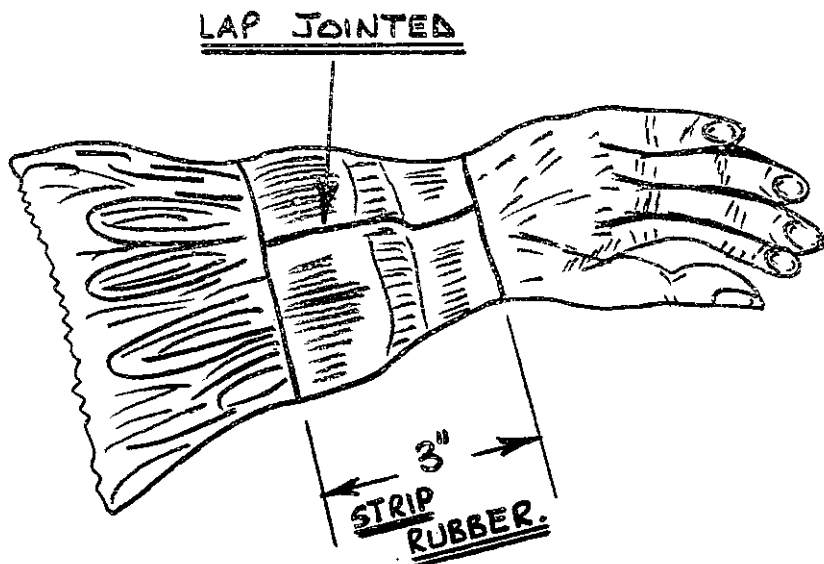
GREAT MORAL VICTORY FOR THE CLUB - SEES ERROR OF PAST WAYS.

The Very Rev. Tony Crawford is pleased to report that Ant Taylor who some members will remember, after much remonstrations by him has renounced his life of crime. He has therefore donated to the Club his two foot jemmy which has done notable duty in the past. He so far realises the errors of his ways that he will possibly rejoin the Club in the future. He sends his regards to Club members.

An item I thought members might be interested in is a pair of rubber cuffs (Diving type) that I find very useful for stopping grit, stones, mud etc., ascending one's sleeves on underground trips.

All they consist of is a strip of three inch wide tyre inner tube or other rubber sheet cemented together with rubber solution at the required length. (See Sketch)

BOB.



OPEN LETTER TO THE CLUB FROM 'ART'

Dear Friends,

A camp warden's job is unenviable at the best of times and I feel it is only right to bring to your notice how much better things would be if they were organized on the philosophy of OMAR-KHYAM

REVEILLE

Warden sitting on a high outcrop of rock, preferably overlooking camp and big drop!, beats gently on a biscuit tin after which he bellows to the four winds.

V.1.AWAKE!

For MORNING in the bowl of NIGHT
Has flung the stone that puts the stars to flight;
And Lo! the Hunter of the east has caught
One low member still quite tight.

The Warden then gives the thought for the day.

V.32.

There was a door to which I found no Key:
There was a Veil past which I could not see:
Some little Talk awhile of Me and Thee
There seemed - and then no more of Thee and Me.

This being the chant for the dig haulage party.

V.41.

For, Is' and, Is-not' through with Rule and Line,
And, Up-and-Down' without, I could define,
I yet, in all I only cared to know,
Was never deep in anything but - Cider

Dig Underground song. _____

V.75.

And when Thyself with shining Foot shall pass
Among the Guests Star-scatter'd on the Grass,
And in thy joyous Errand reach the Spot
Where I found one - turn up a full Glass!

At the Hunters.

V.60.

And, Strange to tell, among that Earthen Lot
Some could ARTICULATE, while others not:
And suddenly one more impatient cried -
Who is the laddie, pray, who pays the lot.

V.63.

None answered this; but after silence spake
A Vessel of a more ungainly Make:
They sneer at me for leaving all awry;
That was the hand, that cried I.

Finally at the end of day, while attending execution
of the camp Warden and the election of the new one.

V.16.

Think, in this batter'd Caravanserai
Whose Doorways are alternate Night and Day,
How Warden after Warden with his Pomp
Abode His Hour or two, and did his nut.

And my last words to you are I think most appropriate.

V.51.

The Moving Finger writes; and having writ,
Moves on; Nor all thy Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all thy TEARS wash out a word of it.

So there !!!

ANONYMOUS.

LOG OF EVENTS ON EASTER MEET 1958 AT VELVET BOTTOM
CHEDDAR

Friday 8.00am P. Goddard, T. Crawford, R. Knott.
9.00am R. Woollacott, T. Davies, M. Cotter,
R. Charnock.
11.00am P. Green, J. Green.
2.30pm B. Hayward.
6.30pm N. Dilly, D. Dilly.

There were Six Tents:

- (1) T. Crawford, P. Goddard, R. Knott.
- (2) T. Davies, R. Woollacott.
- (3) M. Cotter, B. Hayward.
- (4) P. Green, J. Green.
- (5) N. Dilly, D. Dilly.
- (6) R. Charnock.

Weather:

Friday the weather was fine and sunny but a cold East wind was blowing which made standing at the Dig not very pleasant.

Digging started and half hour shifts were taken as much as possible.

Those who took part:	Tony Crawford
	Pete Goddard
	Bob Knott
	Richard Woollacott
	Tony Davies
	Malcolm Cotter
	Rob. Charnock
	Brian Hayward

3 Charges were placed at 11.00pm. The Group went to Oliver Speed's and the Hunters in the evening.



SNOW AT EASTER

M.O. COTTER

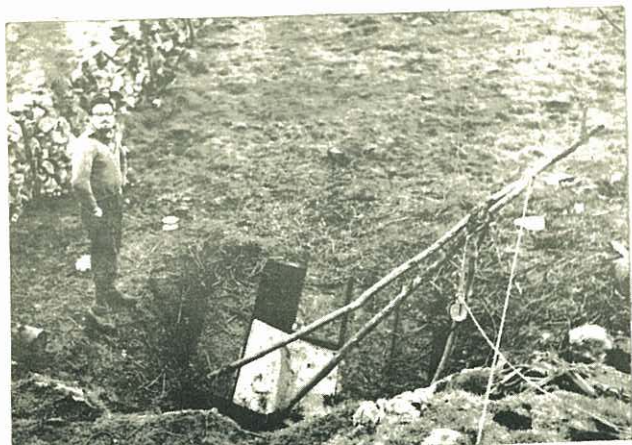


WORK ON THE DIG



BRRRRRRR

M.O. COTTER



AFTER THE BANG!



FOOD

R.L. WOOLLACOTT



RIMSTONE POOL
6 INCH RULE FOR SCALE



PEARL LOFT



KEING CHAMBER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
R. L. WOOLLACOTT.

SATURDAY

Weather:

It started to snow at 7.00am and continued until lunch time when it started to rain. The tents stood up to the weather very well and no one complained of leaking. It was cold and the east wind was still blowing.

Digging was again started:

Tony Crawford
Pete Goddard
Bob Knott

Five charges were laid before lunch and these blew off part of the lid. This was soon nailed back into place.

Paul and John Green went to Cheddar and fetched a rope ladder and the field telephones. These were rigged up between the campsite and the Dig by John and Paul.

Tony Davies and Richard went to Cheddar to fetch food etc.

After blasting Malcolm Cotter.
 Brian Hayward.
 Richard Woollacott.
 Rob. Charnock.

During this time 12.00 - 3.00 Tony Davies was at the top of the dig.

Bob Knott.
Paul Green.
John Green.

These three members went down for an hour each doing

valuable work under very trying conditions.

4.30pm A charge was laid.

Paul and John went to bed as did Noel who were tired after their Dig work.

Tony Crawford, Bob, Dave and Pete went to Oliver's in the evening.

Tony Davies, Richard, Brian, Malcolm and Rob went to Cheddar and then later to Oliver Speed's at Priddy. Here cheese sandwiches were served and they were very welcome after such an unpleasant day.

SUNDAY

Weather:

It was rather dull but quite dry and the strong wind was sufficient to dry all our clothes off and also the tents.

Digging started again:

Pete Green.
Tony Crawford.
Dave Dilly.

Five charges were laid at 12.30pm. One set off three and one off two. These were to remove two slabs on the Left Hand Side.

After lunch digging continued

Pete Green.
Tony Crawford.
Malcolm Cotter.
Rob Charnock.
Jack Green.

A charge was then laid of over 4 lbs. This consisted of one set of five, two of two, three of three

and one of one. This was detonated at 7.30pm and blew the whole of the lid off. Malcolm went down later to inspect the damage and found that a considerable amount of the roof had fallen down. This was not altogether what we had wished for but was useful since small rocks had been falling all day.

In the afternoon Richard had led a small party with Dave and Brian into Longwood to determine whether a passage hitherto unknown could be found. The party did discover 100' of new passage which as far as we know is unknown. Pitons were taken on this trip but it was found that they were unnecessary; this rather dismayed the leader who had hoped to use them! The whole Group bar Malcolm, Richard, Brian and myself went to Oliver Speed's for the evening.

Weather:

At 11.00pm it was cloudy with no wind. It was not freezing.

MONDAY

Weather?

No frost, cloudy, windy and cold but quite pleasant.

The lid was put on again and at 11.00am a charge was laid of 2 of 3 and 1 of 3. When the fumes had cleared Richard went down to take a flash photo. Brian also went down.

The camp was left at 2.00pm.

The site was reasonably clean but PLEASE pick up scraps of paper.

R. CHARNOCK.

NEW DISCOVERY IN LONGWOOD.

When I was down Longwood at Christmas, I noticed a calcite gully leading down to the Traverse in the Great Chamber. I was not able at the time to examine it, but at Easter, with David Dilly and Brian Hayward I went down to explore.

I ran down the vertical face at the end of the traverse and I took pitons for the climb. As it happened, it was not possible to climb at this point, but at the very start of the traverse I climbed up about twenty feet which enabled me to traverse across to a small passage.

The climb is quite easy, but I would warn members that the rock is rotten and care should be used.

The passage goes along about fifty feet and enters a Chamber about fifteen feet by eight feet up a small slope. The walls of the chamber are covered with staligmite with festoons of staligmite hanging down.

On the floor is a beautiful rimstone pool with cave pearls.

This Chamber we named 'Icing Chamber.'

At the far end, there is a tunnel about fifteen feet from the ground. To reach it however, it is necessary to climb the calcite wall and for this reason it should not be climbed more often than necessary.

This leads to an obstructed passage.

This was named "Pearl Loft" as there are more rimstone pools and cave pearls there. I hope that everyone will ensure that this Chamber is not spoiled by thoughtless cavers.

R.L. WOOLLACOTT.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor is prepared to accept advertisements for insertion in the next newsletter.

As the newsletter has quite a large circulation amongst the caving world, any person wishing to sell any article such as caving, camping or photographic equipment etc., should find this a way of finding a buyer.

The price for twelve words (maximum) and address will be 1s.0d. to Club Members and 2s.0d. to non-members.

If more than twelve words are required, the Editor will notify the person concerned if there is any extra charge.

All proceeds will go to Club Funds.

EDITOR.

MAP OF THE LIMESTONE AREAS OF GT. BRITAIN.

Late last year the Ordnance Survey published an outline map of Great Britain showing the Limestone Areas.

The Map is printed in two parts.

Part 1 Scotland and England - North of Kendal and Part 2 the rest of England and Wales. The Scale is 1:625,000 or approximately 10 miles to the inch.

This map is one of a series of planning maps

and shows all limestone areas including chalk.

It is of chief interest to those who wish to know the location and level of production of the quarries in this Country.

An explanatory text is published in conjunction with this map.

This map is not of great interest to the caver since the scale is rather too small to show sufficient detail of faults and formations.

If, however, any member of the Group would like to see this map it may be borrowed from me at any time.

The map is priced at 5s.0d. and the explanatory text at 9d.

ROBERT CHARNOCK.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Editor on behalf of the Club would like to express thanks to Noel Dilly for the services he has rendered to the Club in the last few months.

Also on behalf of the Club I would like to welcome three new associate members into the Club, Brian Hayward, Pete Goddard and Brian Cheyney and wish them good caving in the future.

I would also like to bring to members notice that your Committee has decided that in the future, if any individual member applies for tackle, the Tackle Master should bring the application up before

the Committee for a decision. This is to ensure that Tackle will be available if required for members attending Club meets.

I am also pleased to say that the Committee has been working on a Club Badge; full details of design and price, I hope to publish in the near future.

Will all members please note that photographs will be required for Christmas Cards and Calendars this year. If any member has, or takes any caving photographs during the next few months, which they think may be suitable, would they please submit a copy to me so that I may pass them on to the members concerned with this job for their selection.

I think most members will agree with me that this job was very well done last year and I know that this year it is hoped to produce a much larger selection if possible.

D. HARLE. (Hon. Editor)

88, Cawdor Crescent,
Boston Manor,
HANWELL,
London, W.7.

MR. H. E. BALCH DECEASED.

Mr. Herbert Ernest Balch who was Curator at Wells Museum and a leading authority on the Mendip Caves passed away on Whit Monday at the age of Eighty-eight.

The Editor on behalf of the Club wishes to express regret and sorrow at the passing of a great and respected Caver.

