

M E N D I P C A V I N G G R O U P

News-sheet No.9.

March 1962

EASTWATER TRIP Owing to lack of transport on the week-end Feb 17th/18th this had to be cancelled. If there is enough support it will take place on March 10th. Those wishing to be included on the trip should contact the Meet Secretary. The route - Two Verticals to the Terminal Rift. Leader - Mike Rennie.

WHITSUN WEEK-END It is hoped that a trip down Easegill and Lancaster Hole will be arranged for this week-end.

YSTRADFELETE AREA. South Wales of course. A expedition will be arranged to this area in July.

FIELD SURVEY One and a half square miles of the Mendip Field Survey have now been completed.

EASTER There will be a club meet in Derbyshire. All interested contact Meet Secretary.

COTTAGE WORKING WEEK-END. There will be a working week-end at the Cottage on 24th/25th March. It is hoped that as many as possible will spend at least one day working on the Cottage. Among the jobs to be tackled are 1. The outside shed 2. Bunks in the Middle Room, 3. Fanlight in the roof in the Middle Room and the Loft. etc. etc. Please bring paint brushes and tools. Full details from the Cottage Warden. Don Dovaston.

SUBSCRIPTIONS The following remain outstanding John Coles, Brian Cheney, Steve Dixon and Vic Bragg. It was agreed that Seruff only be asked to pay 10/6 for the second half of the year.

FUNDS The Cottage Purchase Fund now stands at £ 141. 0. 0. and the General Fund at £ 50.0.0.

COOPERS HOLE. 20ft of the rail have now been laid down in Coopers.

TACKLE As a result of the vote taken at the talk on Tackle Making the club is to make 250 feet of 10" spaced ladder.

TRUCKS FOR COOPERS. After the human skeleton has been moved from Brownes Hole the truck there is to be used for Coopers, by kind permission.

GAS STOVE There are now two more gas rings in the cottage in working order. The gas cylinders now used hold 28 Lbs. These are to be replaced by larger cylinders holding 80 Lbs.

ALCOVE IN COTTAGE. This is to be adapted to be used possibly for boots on the floor and a larder above. The wash basin is to be transferred to the middle room for use by the ladies, as soon as the bunks have been fitted.

G.B. System. The present method of applying for a week-end has not worked as well as it was hoped and it is probable that the old system will once again be adopted.

SLIDE SHOW On Thursday 22nd February Rane Curl gave a slide show and talk on American Caves. As the Queen Victoria was not available the meeting took place at No. 9 Ealing Park Gardens, for which we would like to extend our thanks to Mr and Mrs Charnock.

## CAVE LEADERSHIP

### Basic Rules to be accepted by all cave leaders.

Before entering a cave make sure-

1. That you have some idea of where you are going, how long you will be and that someone reliable on the surface knows this information.
2. That your party is strong enough to tackle the trip envisaged, remembering that a team is as strong as its weakest member.
3. That everyone in the party has at least two reliable forms of lighting, excluding candles, and that they carry sufficient carbide and batteries for more than the proposed length of time to be spent underground.
4. That every member of the party is properly clothed eg. boots, boiler suit if possible, and that whistles are carried when necessary.
5. That food and first aid equipment are carried as required.
6. That sufficient tackle for laddering all pitches on which ladders are normally used is carried and that it is in good condition. Also that lifelines are carried sufficient for every pitch.
7. That you have sufficient confidence that everyone in your party will obey any orders and decisions that you might have to give or make.
8. That you know and that your party know what to do in the event of an accident with regard to location of telephone etc.

Down the cave.

1. Watch every member of the party for tiredness and be prepared to turn back at any point, being tactful and having regard for the feelings of any person who may feel he has let down the rest of the team.

2. Give everyone in the party a definite order and insist that they remain in that place unless you state otherwise or in cases of emergency.

3. Never refuse a lifeline to anyone who genuinely asks for one.

4. Give orders concisely and clearly and expect them to be obeyed. Never give an order that you do not mean.

On returning to the surface.

1. Make sure that those responsible for the knowledge of your descent know that you have come out.

2. That the farmer has been paid when required.

3. That the cave has been locked when required and that no other party is down there.

4. That before you go down and when you return make sure that no one is a nuisance to the farmer and that no un-necessary noise is made, especially when you surface late at night.

CLUB CAVE LEADERSHIP . In the past and in some cases very recently correct cave leadership has in some instances been non-existent.

It is not everyone that can lead a caving team and not everyone that wants to. When a person is accepted as a member of the club he can not be expected to be a suitable leader by virtue of his membership. If this was the case membership would only be open to experienced good cave leaders, and the club would find it difficult to exist.

The problem of cave leadership has been discussed at long length by the Committee and they have decided that the best way to ensure safe or as safe as possible, caving trips is to compile a list of those members of the club whom the committee consider suitable leaders. This list may be changed at anytime by the Committee and if anyone on it wishes to be taken off or anyone not on it wishes to be placed on it they should apply to the Hon. Secretary who will put it before the Committee.

In future any caving trip led by members or anyone else from the cottage must have as its leader one of the following members. This does not apply to other clubs who might be staying at the cottage and cave in the name of some other club.

See next page for full list.

## MENDIP CAVING GROUP CAVE LEADERS

Malcolm Cotter	Simon Knight	Richard
Alan Cowley	Ian Leake	.Woollacott
Arthur Cox	Dave Mitchell	Tony Knibbs
Tony Crawford	Barry Ottewill	Mike Rennie
Geoff Davies	Chris Renyolds	Jack Green
Peter Dyer	John Rutherford	John Barker
Peter Goddard	Don Searle	Don Dovaston
	Robby Charnock.	

## PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION & RULES

To be brought up at the Annual General Meeting.

### Membership.

Four classes. A. Probationary B. Full  
C. Associate D. Honorary

Only full members may propose for membership any prospective member. Thus B. should read. Probationary members shall be persons who have attended at least one Group Meet at which Committee Members are present. They shall be proposed by two full members and their names shall then go before the committee and if accepted they shall remain as probationary members for the period of one year. They shall have full voting rights but may not stand on the committee. At the end of one year they shall be proposed as full members by the Committee.

### Subscriptions.

Subscriptions shall be paid on the 1st Jan. and members failing to pay by 31st Jan will be suspended and at the discretion of the committee are liable to lose their membership. Members under the age of 18 shall pay 6/- a year, those over the age of 18 shall pay 21/- per year. Those -----

SPONSORS Owing to the fact that two of the Club sponsors are unable to cave regularly on Mendip, in future the Sponsors will be the six members of the Committee and Malcolm Cotter.

CARNIVAL FLOAT It has been suggested by W.C.C. that all caving clubs combine to make up a float for the Wells Carnival. The club is to offer its co-operation in this matter.

GAMBLING In future this will not be allowed to take place in the Cottage on Mendip or at the Games Room of the Queen Victoria on Thursdays in Ealing.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. All members and prospective members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the club will take place at the Cottage, Nordrach on Mendip at 4.30 pm on Saturday March 24th. It is hoped that all members will make a special effort to attend.

Richard Wollacott will be asked to take the chair

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

The following nominations have been received.

Hon. Secretary 1. Robby Charnock

2. Malcolm Cotter

Hon. Treasurer. John Barker

Hon. Editor. Mike Rennie

Hon. Tackle Master. John Green

Hon. Cottage Warden. Don Dovaston

Hon. Meet Secretary. Tony Knibbs

Hon. Recorder. Mike Rennie.

## Rules.

Three whistle signals only shall be used. X  
the four blast signal to be omitted.

### A. Honorary Members

At the moment this says "shall be persons who have given service to the Group. They have the privileges of Senior Members but are not allowed to stand on the committee nor have the right to vote. They shall pay no subscriptions

They therefore have no privileges and so it is suggested that the wording be changed to read. "Honary Members shall be persons who have given service to the Group. They will have no Group rights and pay no subscriptions."

### Associate Members.

It is proposed that subscriptions be raised from 10/6 per annum to 30/- per annum.

A n n u a l

G e n e r a l

M e e t i n g

4.30 P.m.

March. 24th 1962

At the COTTAGE

Hon Editor.  
Mike Rennie  
125 Cleveland Road. Ealing.