

## MENDIP CAVING GROUP

---

NEWSLETTER ..... JULY 1963

No. 21

### FILMING IN LONGWOOD SWALLET

Geff Davies and Don Dovaston are planning to make a film, showing as factually as possible, the story of the survey of Longwood and August Hole, including the breakthrough of Christmas Crawl

The help of all members is earnestly required to make this venture a success.

A great deal of work will be required, and both your acting abilities and humping skill will be put to the test sternly. Initially August Bank Holiday weekend has been set aside for filming. A portable generator is already on Mendip which will be used for lighting supply, thanks to the efforts of Geff (aquisition of same) and to Mig for its safe arrival at the Cottage. Iain is arranging a copious supply of heavy duty electric cable, and Richard is looking after the supply of film.

If you are available on any or every of the weekends 2nd.-5th.; 17th/18th; 31st/1st August then please contact Geff.

### Change of address.

Richard Woollacott has now moved to:  
12 Leyton Road,  
Hounslow.

### Annual Dinner.

Would members who have not yet returned their Annual Dinner questionnaire, and are in favour of the Club holding one, please return the completed form to the secretary as soon as possible: All non-replies are regarded as signifying not in favour, and on the present return of forms there does not appear to be much support for the idea.

If you want the Dinner - return those forms.

### Coopers Hole.

Dave Mitchell, now organising the digging for the Club, has asked that all members when digging Coopers should clear up the face before finally finishing work, as it is extremely discouraging for the next digging party to find half a ton of debris to be moved before they can get to the face - i.e. play the game!

We are indebted to Geff Davies for the following results of some useful tests he carried out on loading carabiners to failure.

Using a standard stretching machine in conjunction with a Dynex hydraulic ram, three snaplinks of different types were tested to destruction. The load was applied slowly to each, pauses being made for inspection as necessary.

Type 1

A parallel sided Stubai.  
Weight - 4 1/2 ozs.  
Material - 3/16" diameter steel  
Length - 4" O.D. - 1 1/2"

Under test the gate failed to open when a load of 170lbs. was applied. At 2600lbs. the tempered swivel pin hinging the gate snapped. Reapplying a load of 200lbs. the link distorted.

Type 2

An unmarked link - oval in shape.  
Weight - 4 1/2 ozs.  
Material - 3/16" diameter steel  
Length - 4 1/2" O.D. - A 1 3/4"  
B 1"

The gate failed to open at a load of 250lbs. At a load of 2500lbs the gate pin broke. Reapplying a load of 200lbs. the link distorted.

Type 3

A "keyhole" shaped link.  
Weight - 5 1/4 ozs.  
Material - 3/16" diameter steel  
Length - 4 1/2" O.D. - A 1 3/8"  
B 2"

The gate failed to open at a load of 250lbs. and at 3200lbs. the gate pin broke. At 3000lbs. load, however, the diameter of the link at B reduced slightly, and the length thus increased.

On inspection of the link it was found that the pin hole had enlarged and partially torn the surrounding metal.

### Conclusions

It can be seen that No. 3 was stronger than No. 1 or 2 but this does not imply that if a number of such links were tested then the results would all be the same. All links snapped at their gate pins and here the true strength or weakness lies as far as stretching is concerned. Sudden loads as might occur in a fall can be simulated and these results would probably be a better guide to the caver and climber.

Type 1 is a standard climbing snaplink and costs about 8/6d. Type 2 is often used by yachtsmen and is available at about 5/6d. Type 3 is a yachting type and costs about 2/3d.

-----

### Journals

Copies of the last Journal are still available so persuade your friends, particularly in other clubs, to get a copy now. The next edition is hoped to be published at the end of this year, and articles are urgently required. If you are considering contributing please let the Editor know the subject, length and when the article will be ready.

### Half Yearly General Meeting

This has been fixed for Saturday 12th. October at the Cottage, the meeting will start promptly at 4.30 p.m.

### Surveys

The Club now holds further stocks of surveys for Stoke Lane, Balch Cave, Lamb Leer and Eastwater. Enquiries to Mike Renny please.

### New Member

We welcome Mike Brace of 1, Pavilion Gardens, Eastcote who was recently made a provisional member.

### New Disease

We extend our sympathy to Mr. Simon Knight for the creeping fungus which has recently been noted on his upper lip. Growth has been reported as now stopped and it is not thought to be contagious.

### Revised List Of Proving Trip Leaders

John Barker	Peter Goddard	Mike Rennie
Arthur Cox	Tony Knibbs	Don Searle
Geff Davies	Simon Knight	Pat Walsh
Don Dovaston	Iain Leake	Richard Woollacott
Ted Gabb	Dave Mitchell	
Jack Green	Barrie Ottewill	

### Pengelly Cave Research Centre

“The purpose ..... the furtherence of cave education, conservation and research through the creation ..... of national centres, and initially the Pengelly Cave Research Centre”.

- extract from Constitution.

Mike Rennie has been appointed to the post of Interim Membership Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of this organisation. All enquiries will be welcomed by Mike.

### Blasting Proceeding

The large rock in Blackmore has been removed under the expert guidance of Dynamite Dye. The new shoring is still in position, and the whole Dig looks very promising.

### Carbide

Another supply of carbide is being obtained to be sold at the Cottage as requires

### Railway Lines

Ample supplies of railway line can be obtained on application to our East Mendip members. More will soon be needed in Coopers - Mig has kindly consented to supply transport.

### Seen Recently

Certain members of a certain club in Swildons in shoes, - bare feet next?

“Carbide lamps go much better on cider”, “Yes, but I’ve heard Simon goes well on Epsom salts”

Four different people recently did not know who the M.C.G. were. They were staying at the Cottage!

*(Poor quality reproduction of original - retyped May 1998)*