

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

Newsletter No. 23

January 1964

Changes of address.

Mike and Christine Rennie,
40 Bradley Gardens,
Ealing. W.13.

Geoff and Ann Davies,
70, Pine Road,
Cricklewood, N.W.2

Ted and Elizabeth Gabb,
23, Lowleighton Road,
New Mills,
Via Stockport, Cheshire.

Cottage fees.

Unfortunately certain members are cheating the Club by avoiding payment of their Cottage fees. The Committee have asked me to point out that, if this practice continues those responsible will be suspended. Also a list of 'late payers' may have to be published from time to time in the newsletter.

Forthcoming meets.

Easter - to be held in Devon (camping).

The Meet Sec. is trying to arrange access to the Lancaster-Easegill system for some time after Easter, and also to St. Cuthbert's, Balch and Gough's as soon as possible.

All articles, information, ideas etc. for the Journal must reach me within a few days please. Even if you cannot write you can tell me what you would like to write if you could. I also require good quality photographs of anything vaguely 'caving' or 'club' for publication.

Since Pedro has been called to 'higher service' I would like to know the identity of the next shadow ed.

(Ed.)

E.G.M. held at Cottage No. 30th '63

Meeting commenced at 3.35 p.m. Don Searle was Chairman and there were 22 members and 11 visitors present.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read by Richard and passed as a true record of that meeting.

Treasurer's Report (I.R.L.)

Since the last report 250 member nights were spent at the cottage and 283 guest nights were spent at the cottage. Cottage fees realised £60. - 6d., a decrease of more than £10; this may be due in part to the bad weather at the beginning of the year. Tackle fees were also down by 50%. £6. 5. - was made from the sale of tackle. £10 was made from the sale of surveys (mainly the August/Longwood Survey). £8. 2. 3d was made from sale of Journals. On expenses, the Treasurer reported £32. - - for tackle including £10 for rope and £5 for First Aid equipment. Administration expenses were down by £4.

There was now £248. 4. 9d in the Cottage purchase fund, and donations to this were up on the previous period.

Secretary's report (R.W.)

The membership total was constant at about 54 members, which included some new members whilst a few has left.

Paul Dye had been granted a blasting licence and supplies of explosive were available.

The Charterhouse Caving Committee continued to stagger along. Longwood had been gated and there was talk of placing a blockhouse over the entrance. Indemnity permits had now to be obtained for entrance to the cave.

A Club dinner which it is hoped to make an Annual event had been organised for 52 persons, including 42 members.

Regarding the Cottage, Clarke had not paid for the property yet and the position of the Club on this land was unchanged.

The Club carried on as usual although there appeared to be a tendency of less caving.

MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT. (A.J.K.)

Successful meets had taken place in Yorkshire (Whitsun), Aggi and South Wales. On Mendip there had been two St. Cuthbert's trips and the G.B. Guest Day scheme continued though generally these were not well attended. A sump trip in Swildon's had taken place.

It had been noticed that there was a tendency for visitors to borrow other members equipment from the Cottage without either asking permission or returning the same.

Cooper's dig was being worked thanks mainly to the enthusiasm of Dave, Alan and Paul, but Blackmore had almost died though shoring had been placed in position at the digging face.

The Summer Expedition to Switzerland had been very successful and the greatest discovery of the year was undoubtedly Mendip-Hohle.

Leadership standards on caving trips were up and all adequate precautions were observed.

A trip was planned to Puffduvern in Sth. Wales and to Devon this comming Easter.

No suggestions for meets were forthcoming from members which made the Meet Secs job harder than necessary.

RECORDER'S REPORT (read by R. W. as M.R. was not present).

The club library now had more than 2000 cards of references - thanks to Christine. A good stock of surveys was now held by the club. The Journal was being used as a 'weapon of exchange' for other Club's publications.

It was hoped to make purchases for the library.

Ubbley and Pine Tree Pot surveys had been produced and were selling well.

EDITOR'S REPORT (B.A.C.O.)

The last Journal was continuing to sell and 16 coppies had been sold outside the club, as a result a further stock had been assembled. The forthcoming Journal should appear early 1964, and a request made that all articles for this should be forwarded to the Editor as soon as possible. It appeared that the size

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of the next publication will probably be reduced due to the lack of material. The publication on August/Longwood was in hand.

Three newsletters have been produced and another about to be published. The Editor thanked Richard and Mike for their co-operation in the use of the printing machine.

It is regretted that neither the Cottage Warden or the Tackle Master were present at the meeting, and no reports were given.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Geoff Davies asked for further financial assistance for the filming project, on the grounds that although no reasonable results had been obtained to date on the project the experience gained should not be wasted, but would ensure a better return in the future. The club would be only too willing to assist if the project had been as successful as planned.

Pat Walsh asked for justification from the committee for having spent £10.18. 9 on the project when the scheme was only covered by a £10 grant from the funds.

Mig proposed that in future as a certain amount of ill feeling may be caused by the committee agreeing to a scheme covered by the £10 grant, details should be placed on the Club's notice board before the matter arises at a Committee meeting. At least one month must pass before a decision is reached. Proposal was seconded by Pat. Voting - 16 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions.

It was categorically denied by Pat, when challenged by Richard that he was leading up to a motion of 'no confidence in the committee'.

Geoff. Davies proposed and was seconded by Arthur Cox - the motion that within the next two months two fire extinguishers be installed at the Cottage. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bryan Mee commented that since there was little caving interest at the Club's meeting on Thursdays, there was little attraction for younger prospective members. As a result of this Geoff agreed to give a short talk to the Club on Thursday 23rd Jan at 9 p.m on the film project. It was also noted that the first aid boxes were not adequate or adequately stocked and Mig agreed to investigate.

TO A CAVE

O place of mystery, so tranquil
Of dipping waters dark and still
Spacious caverns - lofty rifts
Keep you within your wondrous gifts.
Stalactites some large, some small,
Festoon your entrance hall.
Beware you would be caver man
Tread careful - softly as you can
Here man took refuge from his foe
Many thousands years ago
Avoid his bones - take care - take care
For one day hence yours may be there
So look with awe around this cave
Which one day hence could be your grave
Treat with care this strange retreat
As man in ignorance and defeat
May destroy your gifts at last
With a dying worlds atomic blast.

A.C.

Malcom writes from Malaya:

The question of status for Associate Members continuously crops up. Some people maintain that they should only be chosen from those full members who have made a name for themselves in the group. I do not hold this view. No organisation can afford to lose any support however small it may appear to be at any one time. Anyone who through some reason ceases to become active but still retains affection for the group should be allowed to support it through this class of membership.

Dear Members,

For some time I have been unable to do my job as Secretary as well as I should due to my other commitments. This cannot go on, so I must resign from this position. The Committee has agreed to co-opt Brian Mee (Pedro) in my place and he will, therefore, be your Secretary from now on.

I was delighted to hear of the 'shadow' Committee. Simon Knight as shadow Cottage Warden. Peter Moore as shadow Treasurer, Pat Walsh as shadow Meet Sec., and Peter Munt as shadow Tackle Master. I congratulate these members on their keenness for taking part in the running of the group. I have felt for some time that far too few members are taking an interest in the organisation of the group. I hope that these shadows will be changed into names on ballot forms. Let us have at least three people contesting every Committee position. Anyone who has been a full member for more than a year without standing for the Committee is shirking his or her responsibilities. No great ability is required except an interest in the group. If you haven't got that, then you might as well take up some other hobby.

Let us get some new blood on the Committee and push our Club still further ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Woollacott. (Ex. Hon. Sec)

A letter from Pedro.

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Pinner, Middx.

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(office) Abb. 5600
Ext. 68

My first job, I am sure, is to say to Richard a big thank you on behalf of everyone for all that he has done for this club over the years. In particular he negotiated the acquisition of the cottage where we are now able to fester for a while - instead of spending the whole 48 hours of a weekend underground, and recently he has carried on the battle to keep the Cottage.

No doubt we shall be seeing our late on Mendip - at least socially - when he has grown fed up with the opulence of his new house. It is going to take a couple of weeks or so for the Club's records to be unearthed from among the foundations of Richard's house, and until these have been handed over I ask for your patience. I hope it will not be long before everything is back to normal.

Sincerely,

Brian Mee

(Poor quality reproduction of original - retyped May 1998)