

MENDIP CAVING GROUP.

NEWSLETTER NO. 32.

APRIL 1965.

Annual General Meeting.

This was held at the cottage on Saturday, 27th. March. Sixteen full members, two probationary members and three guests were present and the Chairman was Hon Hogston. After the minutes of the last General Meeting had been approved, members of the committee gave their reports for the previous six months.

Treasurer's Report. (I.L.)

By the 22nd. March 1965, £356.10 7. had been spent on the cottage, the greatest item being £159. for timber and hardboard. This leaves us with only £24. 12. 9 in the kitty - not nearly enough to complete even the essentials in the cottage. Loans totalling £33. are due to be repaid by 1970.

Income from cottage fees has naturally been low this year (£21. 12. 0. compared with £69. 2. 6. in 1963/4.), but during the coming year it should be much greater. Rent, coke and electricity have accounted for over £30. On the 22nd. March the general fund stood at £50. 14. 0.

Secretary's Report. (B.M.)

Membership remains much the same; fifty-six people are at present members and Pedro stressed the need for encouraging newcomers to join the Group. He also mentioned increasing "political" activity in the caving world, which explains the greater amount which the Group is now spending on subscriptions to caving organisations. Membership of the Charterhouse Caving Committee has proved advantageous in that we are in a position to issue permits and gain easy access to caves on Bristol Waterworks property. A gate for Longwood has been constructed by Pat, and this was fitted during the A.G.M. weekend. We are also a member club of the Council of Southern Caving Groups.

Meet Secretary's Report. (A.K.)

Lack of active cavers in the club was again brought to our notice, although this may be attributed to the building of the cottage. A meet programme has been produced, which enables one to plan ahead for some months. Will people wishing to attend any meet please tell Mig in plenty of time especially in the case of an away weekend? Anyone intending to come to Mendip when the Swiss group are here, or who wish to go to Yorkshire in the summer, should let Mig know immediately. It is to be

hoped that the coming year will see an increase in the amount of caving by the B.C.G.

Cottage Warden's Report. (P.W.)

Work on the cottage has been done by relatively few people, and much still remains to be done: The third dormitory has not yet been started, and very little painting has been completed. In answer to a question, Pat said that at least £50 - £60 is required to finish these jobs. An equally essential requirement is a willing and regular labour force. A vote of thanks was made to Pat for all his work.

Tacklemaster's Report. (P.M.)

Stocks of tackle remain the same as at the H.Y.G.M. and little tackle has been used during the past six months. There is a supply of carbide lamps for purchase and it is proposed that some new helmets, provided with one form of lighting, should be acquired for loan to novices and new members. Bulk carbide will be bought if there is sufficient demand for it.

Editor's Report. (A.C.)

Arthur said that he had managed to produce a newsletter for almost every month since he was co-opted as Editor, following the unfortunate death of Barrie Ottewill. The newsletter is at present sent out to 56 members and as some of these people no longer show an active interest in the Group it was suggested that the mailing list should be revised. Pedro agreed to look into the whole question of membership.

Recorder's Report. (S.K.)

As Simon was unable to be present, Pedro gave the report. As soon as suitable accommodation for it can be transported to Mendip, the library will be transferred; a suggestion was made that the card index be available on thursday evenings.

Elections.

New officers were elected for the positions of Treasurer, Editor, and Auditors. The results are as follows:

Treasurer.	Tony Fitzgibbon defeated Robbie Charnock
Editor	Joan Robinson
Auditors	John Barker Ian Leake

Ammondments to the Constitution & Rules.

Pedro and Mig expressed concern over the question of the number of people in a caving party. It was felt that people caving singly or in twos should not do so under the club's name. After some discussion the following new rule proposed by John Barker was agreed to by the requisite majority.

Add to Part II (Caving) new rule 9:

"Every caving party must have an experienced leader and an experienced end man."

The Secretary is to formulate proposals for a major revision of the Constitution and Rules for the H.Y.G.M.

Rules for the use of the Cottage.

A proposal to establish these rules was made by Mig. in conjunction with Pete Goddard. They were accepted in principle by the members present and are to be drafted by the committee for all to see.....and heed.

Any Other Business.

A number of people and organisations have enquired about the possibility of M.C.G. members giving lectures on caving, or some aspect of caving. Arthur Cox said that he is prepared to help in this respect, and asked for the loan of any transparencies. Duplicates will be made for lecture purposes if the transparencies are good enough.

The A.G.M. ended around 6 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Ian Reake, who became engaged to Jennifer Taylor in February.

to Charlie Brown, who was married in March to Susan. They are now living at 82, Roxeth Green Avenue, South Harrow, Middlesex.

CHANGE OF ADDEBSS.

Robert Templeman has moved to 3, Park Hill, Baling, W.5. He is neither dead, nor has he disappeared into thin air as may have been rumoured.

MEMBERSHIP. SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Secretary has pursued a number of recalcitrant sub-payers, some of whom have responded with cash. Have you "forgotten" to pay YOUR subs?

DRAINS AT THE COTTAGE.

The Council surveyor has requested that the soak-away pit at the cottage should be moved further away from the building, and a "trapped gully" installed. The drains trench must be left open for inspection.

INSURANCE OF THE COTTAGE.

The cottage is not yet insured against fire or burglary risk. Negotiations have been going on for some time but are not complete, and in the mean time members are urged to be especially careful.

SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION.

Sufficient separate sleeping quarters for men and women are now provided in the cottage, and must be used as such. The living-room should not be utilised for sleeping in.

OGOF FFYNNON DDU.

The Group has nominated Tony Knibbs and Pete Munt to be leaders for O.F.D.

THE SPELEOLOGIST.

"The Speleologist" magazine is in dire financial straits, and in an attempt to boost sales, copies of forthcoming issues will be available from Pedro. This seems a cause worthy of your support.

EASTER 1965.

A great improvement in numbers present on Mendip was evident during the Easter period, when 22 people appeared at the cottage. As well as caving trips to Swildons, Goatchurch and Rod's Pot, two digging projects were restarted. Parties were at work down Blacknoor and at Knapp Hill, and digging continued at Cooper's Hole. All are promising, (perhaps some more than others?!), and well worthy of continued interest and enthusiasm.

The results of the Green Shield Stamp collection were put to good use at Easter; Six saucepans, three frying-pans, an egg-poacher and two wall-tinopeners have been obtained.

Two days out of the four were spent on cottage work; a new soak-away pit was constructed, and interior jobs such as painting and carpentry were continued. Other recent work includes the beginning of a crazy-paving (very crazy, did I hear you say?) to the front door, and ceiling paintwork.

500ft. DEEP.....AND STILL GOING.

"Balinka Pit, 1964", an account of S.W.C.C.'s exploration of a 500ft. deep shaft in Yugoslavia, is the subject of C.R.G.'s southern area meeting at Hereford on Saturday, May 8th. The meeting starts at 5.30 p.m. in the main Greenland Hall of the Y.M.C.A, St. Owen's Street, Hereford.

If time permits two further brief talks;

"The allocation of closure errors in surveying" by G. Stevens and "Introduction to Resistivity Surveying" by J.D. Wilcock will be given.

The trips arranged for Sunday, May 9th. include; Agen Allwedd, caves in the Clydach area, a surface field trip to the Clydach Gorge area (exposure of the complete local Namurian and Avonian succession on the north rim of the South Wales Coalfield syncline) and, if there is sufficient support, a coach trip through the Wye Valley.

Further details including accommodation (no camping) and the dinner on Saturday, from the Secretary.

LAMB BEER.

Turner's Grotto, 30ft. above Valentine's Shelf in Lamb Beer is now fitted with an endless cable to which ladders may be clipped. The MNRC newsletter says: "Providing enough tension is given to the cable, a person can climb the ladder in safety: Cavers are warned against using the cable, itself, as a means of transportation.

UNUSUAL CAVES.

The 1964 journal of the Axbridge Caving Group discusses, among other subjects, the relatively unusual formation of caves in Jurassic limestone of the north west Wiltshire / east Somerset border. Most are small, but one, Gorton's Rift at Bradford-on-Avon, is more than 90ft. deep.

The author of the article on the Jurassic caves, J.H. Tucker, also discusses in some detail the discoveries in Banwell Bone Cave. The Axbridge journal is in our library.

CAVE RESEARCH GROUP.

Members are reminded that they may join C.R.G. By gaining individual membership members are entitled to receive publications and to borrow from the library.

PENGELLY MEMBERSHIP UP 50%

At the annual meeting of the Association of the Pengelly Cave Research Centre, Mike Rennie reported an increase

in membership of IOO compared with 1963. There are now 324 members. The Association requires offers of help to build at Buckfastleigh; if you are interested tell R.T. Thompson, II, Sandford Road, Bromley? Kent. An anonymous gift of £1000 has helped their building fund.

SECRETARY CHEAP AT HALF THE PRICE.

The following notice has been received from Pedro:

" A look at the annual accounts will reveal that the scurrilous allegation by one auditor, James Gibb, that the Secretary's expenses for 1964/5 were double the previous year, was quite untrue. In fact The Secretary's expenses decreased by 50% This change of position does not alter the Secretary's statement that he had twice as much work to do during 1964/5 compared with the previous year

Issued by the Secretary without consultation with anyone. B. & O.E."

MEET PROGRAMME.

May 8th./9th. Sat. Stoke Lane Slocker.
Sun. Digging at Cave of Your Choice.

May 22nd./23rd. Penwllt, South Wales.
Accommodation at the S.W.C.C. Headquarters
Choice of caving tips lies between O.F.D.,
Pant Mawr, Dan yr Ogof, Pwll Dwn, Cwm
Dwr and Tunnel Cave.

GROUP OFFICERS.

Secretary: Brian Mee, 12, Cranbourne Drive, Pinner, Middx.
Treasurer: Tony Fitzgibbon, 265, Eastcote Rd., Ruislip, Middx
Meet Sec: Tony Knibbs, 2, Rectory Lane, Byfleet, Surrey.
Editor: Joan Robinson: 4, Cromwell Rd., Penywern, Neath, Glam.
Cottage Warden: Pat Walsh, 18, Oxford Rd. North, Chiswick, W.4.
Tacklemaster: Pete Munt, The Cedars, Upper Butts, Brentford,
Middx.
Recorder: Simon Knight, 40, Garrard Rd., Banstead, Surrey.

I should be grateful if all articles for the newsletter could be sent to me at the above address.

(J.C.R.)

For LATE NEWS, see over.

The following points were raised at a committee meeting held on Monday, 26th. April.

COTTAGE.

The committee will back the Cottage-wardens efforts to enforce a measure of discipline at the cottage; the third room, when built, may be used by couples, especially those with children.

COTTAGE WARMING PARTY.

The committee is to ask Simon and Pete Goddard to look into possibilities.

MEMBERSHIP.

Robert Templeman and Arthur Spain were made Associate Members.