



Mendip Caving Group Newsletter

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

NEWSLETTER No.123

MAY 1978

EDITORIAL Have you noticed how much warmer the weather is getting? You have? Good. Now then, how about grabbing your diary and scheduling a few visits to Nordrach this summer. Bring your family, friends, distant relatives by long-forgotten marriages - in fact, bring anyone who can wield a hammer or lay a few bricks. You will be welcomed by the sight of a nearly-completed cottage and a somewhat tired-looking workforce. Oh, I must mention the foreman and industrial relations executive - Wayne Hiscox. Cheerful fellow, he'll find you a simple task or two and then bend over backwards (or is it forwards?) to see that you enjoy your stay. Its quite painless really, and a great deal of fun, too.

The annual dinner was hilarious. Assorted cabaret acts supplied a novel and most enjoyable highlight of the evening. Most notable was Eric Dowley's incredibly funny monologue and a short play - 'The Drunkard's Dilemma' - starring Simon and Val Knight, Pete Mathews and Tony Knibbs. Isn't it strange how one's memory goes blank in front of an audience! Personally, I blame the beer. Maybe we should forego the next AGM and simply start the dinner earlier.

Much of this newsletter is taken up by reports given verbally at the AGM by the respective committee members. It occurs to me that, if such reports were circulated before an AGM, it could save considerable time - or maybe allow members to invent longer arguments to waste the time saved.

Of greater interest is Phil Ingold's article on 'The Diabetic Caver'. In it, he goes to great lengths to explain how, although diabetes symptoms are similar to those of drunkenness, one of these ailments can be briefly alleviated by taking a lump of sugar. Not the drink-inspired one I'm sorry to say. The article should give encouragement to anyone suffering from diabetes. It also gives me a great idea for explaining away any alledged drunken driving. Now then, where did I put that old heroin syringe.....

NEW ADDRESS Having over-wintered at Nordrach, Wayne and Anne Hiscox have flown south to sunnier (?) climes. They can now be found enjoying the rural life - painting, decorating, car repairing and all that sort of thing at:

3 Keward,
Glastonbury Road,
WELLS,
Somerset.

THE VELVET BOTTOM BAND MCG's very own Philharmonic Folk Orchestra is available for weddings, christenings, funerals, house-warming parties and all that jazz. Strings, woodwind, reeds and occasional percussion all combine to produce a truly footwarming sound. Just see what the reviewers say:

Priddy Post "Gurt powerful zounds do emanate from thi' enzemble. Aaarh! Oi were truly zent, ooaarh..."

Wells Newt-breeders Gazette ".....has spawned a great embryo of syncopation. A wonderfully amphibious performance and a credit to our great British heritage of seething pond life. It is easy to see why Moses took to the bullrushes".

Topper's Opinion "Foot shuffling, glass-upping good. The fug-shifting qualities of the music are reminiscent of the good old days of step dancing, lynch-the-landlord and seven-a-side dominoes. The band's specialities include Five Steps to the Bar, an assortment of Drunken Reels and an amusing little corruption of the Strathspew. Drops of Brandy are available on request. Heard from beneath a convenient table, the band and its caller provided a winter mixture of peculiar strength and aroma. Thirsty work indeed!"



CAVING MEETS

- 13 May SOUTH WALES. Ogof Ffynnon Ddu and probably Dan-yr-Ogof caves. Accommodation at SWCC headquarters, Penwyllt.
- 22 July YORKSHIRE. Nott's Pot, Leck Fell, is booked. Take your camping equipment.
- September YORKSHIRE. Dow Cave and Providence Pot, Kettlewell. Camping again. Precise date not yet decided.
- October St. CUTHBERTS. Precise date has yet to be arranged with a leader.

Vague murmurings have been heard concerning the possibility of trips to Otter Hole, Chepstow, and Withyhill Cave, Mendip.

SWITZERLAND. Greg Smith is planning a fortnight's visit to the Bernese Oberland in late August or early September. Check with Greg if you're interested.

September JUMBLE SALE. Yes folks, here's another chance to make the group a small fortune. 9 September has been suggested and the venue will be Hounslow again. Start collecting jumble now and make a note in your diaries to give assistance on the day.

10 (or 17) July BCRA Symposium on Northern Spain. Bristol.

VILE DISEASE IN STOKE LANE SLOCKER. A member of Yeovil caving club contracted Weill's Disease (Hepatitis) after taking in water in Stoke Lane slocker. Within fourteen days he had lost the use of both kidneys and his liver was infected. He was put into an intensive care unit and hooked up to a dialysis machine. He responded well to antibiotics and, following six weeks of treatment, made a total recovery.

Weill's Disease is usually associated with rat-infested water and can prove to be fatal. Several years ago, Dr. O. C. Lloyd contracted this same disease in the same cave. He, too, made a complete recovery, but only after serious illness.

MORE ABOUT OGOF CRAIG-Y-FFYNNON. Since its discovery at the end of 1976, some five miles of cave have been explored and surveyed. Recent water-tracing tests have failed to prove a connection with Ogof Agen Allwedd and the two caves are thought to be independent systems. However, optimists will point out that the upper reaches of Craig-y-Ffynnon end in boulder chokes (with strong air currents) composed of the same Oolitic Limestone in which Agen Allwedd is formed.

The lower passages of Ogof Craig-y-Ffynnon are in Dolomitic beds. From the cave entrance, progress is made along a flat-out crawl followed by the notorious 15 ft. long duck - ten inches high with two to four inches of airspace, according to water conditions. This section of passage is believed to flood in a few minutes. Beyond the 2nd Boulder Choke, a large passage (60 ft. high) is superbly decorated and reckoned to be considerably better than anything in Dan-yr-Ogof. The cave is not yet open to 'tourist' cavers.

NEVER TOO OLD Some of our more senile members might care to note that Eric Hensler recently celebrated his 70th Birthday with a descent of Gaping Gill. The trip included Hensler's 'Old' and 'New' Passages which he discovered way back in 1937. Even today, this trip is regarded as being quite strenuous.

CAVE DIVING RECORD. The World's sump diving record was broken by Ian Lewis, an Australian diver, with a dive of 2 kilometres in a cave under the Nullabor Plain.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - OFFICERS' REPORTS

HON. SECRETARY. Although the Group has remained rather introspective over the past year, things have been happening elsewhere in the country.

It seems that the National Caving Association is in the process of changing its name to British Caving Federation. In the north, Whernside Manor is now owned by the Dales National Park and continues to run excellent courses of which those on SRT are worthy of note. The NCC has negotiated an 'all risks' personal caving insurance, but it seems to offer no great advantages.

Nearer home, the Southern Council Ltd. is having some success in arranging access to Lamb Leer and is actively considering opening a way direct from the surface into Stoke 4. The Group has deferred buying shares in CSCC Ltd. (and keys) until caving activity within the Group is restored.

In the past year, most of the Group's activities have centered around cottage building and fund raising. With regard to the building work, mention should be made of the incredible amount of work put in by the Hon. Cottage Warden. Funds are rolling in: the recent jumble sale made a good profit and perhaps should remain a permanent event on the Group's calendar. Dances with the Velvet Bottom Band have been developing well and moving in to a profit. Similarly, book-selling activities are proving successful, but profits are being used to buy more stock. The search for more funds will continue to be a secretarial preoccupation for some time to come.

At the last Half-Yearly General Meeting it was reported that communications within the Group were poor, and all aspects of progress on the new cottage were suffering accordingly. Since

this meeting, newsletters have been appearing regularly and attendances at Thursday evening meetings have increased.

The important of the newsletter was convincingly demonstrated within two weeks of its reappearance. Five times as many members turned up on Thursday evenings, funds increased by about £400 and building activity increased. The Thursday evening talks at the Beehive Hotel have been very successful.

It is a poor reflection on the Group's membership that only three of the retiring committee were elected to office last March: others had been co-opted since. Some thought should be given to 1979 when we hope to open the new cottage and return to caving. This will not be effectively done without considerable committee activity.

Although mention is being made of caving again, the first priority is completion of the new cottage. It would be nice to see a few new faces joining the regular workforce. A tremendous amount of work remains to be done before final completion, and it is hoped that most members will be able to put in a week's work during the summer. This can provide a cheap and very enjoyable holiday.

Building the new cottage has consolidated the Group in a most dramatic fashion. The Group is now progressing with great determination and it is hoped that this trend will continue through 1978 and into a return to caving activities.

HON. TREASURER. On 31st December, 1977, the Group's finances were reasonably healthy.

Credit balance L.P.F.	£420
" " G.P.F.	£393
	<hr/>
	£813
	<hr/>

This must be tempered by three considerations:

- (1) In October, 1977, the Cottage Committee estimated further expenditure of £1,300 for completion of building.
- (2) The L.P.F. credit includes £122 for the levy made with 1978 subscriptions.
- (3) The G.P.F. credit includes £113 for 1978 subscriptions.

We have spent about £100 of the estimated expenditure.

COTTAGE FEES. There was an excellent income of £447.50 due no doubt to the attendance of industrious cottage builders

Cottage expenses	363.96
	<hr/>
Excess	83.54
Wayne & Anne's contributions	75.00
to fuel	<hr/>
	£158.54

Fuel was the largest item at £166 against a nil expenditure in 1976 which, although it looks odd, is nonetheless correct. We had deliveries for 1977 in January, September and December, the highest price being £66 per ton.

MEMBERSHIP. 52 members have paid subscriptions for 1977. Reminders were sent to 12 members, of whom 6 paid and one made a handsome donation of £100. There was an excellent response to the £5 levy. 42 members have paid subscriptions and levy for 1978, and subscriptions are still owing from 14 members.

FUNDS AS AT 1ST APRIL, 1978. Since 1st January, 1978 we have paid:

Taviners Ltd. - building materials	£604.91	
- balance of tiles	147.26	
	<u>752.17</u>	
Repayment short-term loan	250.00	
	<u>£1002.17</u>	
Current account credit		£183.99
Deposit account credit		18.23
Cash credit		10.00
		<u>212.22</u>
Jumble sale 1978		67.16
		<u>£279.38</u>

COTTAGE FINANCING.

Sports Council's offer		£3412.00
Received		<u>3060.00</u>
		352.00
VAT to come 1976	171.27	
1977	276.99	
1978	<u>55.74</u>	504.00
		<u>£856.00</u>

The VAT, however, will not be claimable until the project is completed. Consequently we are faced with paying about £1,200 to finish the cottage, but have only a small residual income from subscriptions and levy, plus any fund raising schemes (dances) and cottage fees. We must retain a G.P.F. balance of £100 for rates, insurances and incidental expenses so that we are faced with raising about £1,000 before we can recoup the £856 balance from the Sports Council and VAT.

The long-term loans to be repaid total £1,735.69.

DEEDS OF COVENANT. There are 23 covenantors. 4 tax deduction certificates are still to be rendered for 1976/7 before application can be made for the tax repayment. Estimated annual refund is £52.

HON. EDITOR. The backlog of draft articles has now been accounted for, having been published in the last three newsletters. It is appreciated that reports on caving trips will be few and far between, but members are asked to submit any article suitable for publication. Apologies are given in advance that the next few newsletters will continue to feature articles and/or exhortations concerning progress on the new cottage.

Members involved in giving Thursday evening talks had (where appropriate) been asked to submit a written version for publication. The only response so far has been from Ron Saunders - an interesting item on Cavers and The Law. Other members have also promised written accounts of their talks.

The costs of newsletter production have been negligible over the last three issues and will continue in this way for some time to come.

Although the precise date will be difficult to identify, the group will be twenty-five years old late this year or in early 1979. This ought to provide a good opportunity for producing a Silver Jubilee journal, the date of which will probably coincide with completion of the new cottage.

HON. COTTAGE WARDEN. Bed bookings are continuing at a very satisfactory level and many applications for block bookings have been received from other caving organisations for 1978 visits. Mid-week bookings are proving to be particularly useful.

Progress on the new cottage is clearly visible in the building itself and no account of past effort is really necessary. However, it is an appropriate time to thank those members who have so regularly contributed effort over the past winter months. It would be most encouraging to see a few new faces amongst the workforce and members are asked to give consideration to setting aside a few days holiday to offer help with completing the work this year.

With the roof tiling virtually complete, emphasis now needs to be given to completing the cesspit. The availability of new toilets is becoming important because the existing convenience is faulty - it has sprung a leak.

HON. MEET SECRETARY. Due to the importance of getting on with cottage building work, few meets have been planned for 1978. The meets planned are:

SOUTH WALES - Ogof Ffynnon Ddu, 13th May
YORKSHIRE - Notts Pot, 22nd July
YORKSHIRE - Dow Cave/Providence Pot, September
MENDIP - St. Cuthberts Swallet, October.

It is also possible that trips may be arranged to Otter Hole, Chepstow, and to Withyhill Cave, Mendip.

HON. TACKLEMASTER. No use of caving tackle is currently being made because of the concentration of activity on cottage building. John Miriam is still looking after the tackle. No new caving tackle has been purchased during the past year. However, there is a requirement to obtain new tackle, particularly rope, and this will take place as soon as funds allow and demand increases.

The current amount of tackle available is approximately:

Ladder	-	400 feet
Tethers	-	20 assorted lengths
Rope	-	nil.

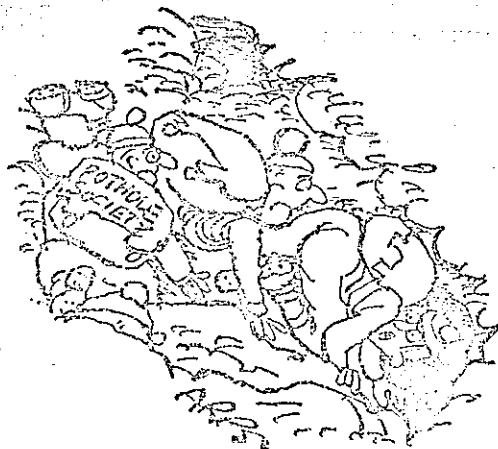
HON. RECORDER/LIBRARIAN. During the past year, very many newsletters and publications have been received from other caving clubs. A list of these items is being prepared for publication.

The contents of the Group's library is still divided between the librarian's home address and the MCG cottage at Nordrach. Present cottage facilities are not suitable for having any more library additions, but storage facilities in the new cottage will enable the entire Group library to be assembled there when building work is complete. A working party will be needed to tackle the enormous task of sorting and cataloguing the entire library contents.

Library access should be available to all full members and a 'booking' system will need to be carefully maintained.

To mark the Group's approaching Silver Jubilee, a scrap book of MCG history is being assembled. This could possibly appear in printed form if the contents are suitable. The printing of postcards and Christmas cards is currently under consideration and a printer has been contacted.

EVENING STANDARD, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1978



"Fancy holding the A.G.M. down here. Couldn't they get the room over the Pig and Whistle?"

THE DIABETIC CAVER
Phil Ingold

I have been a diabetic for 13 years, caving regularly since 1967. I have found the disease to be more of a nuisance than a problem and do not restrict my activities, despite the minor problems that can arise.

Diabetes is caused by the breakdown of the normal control mechanism which enables the body to use carbohydrates (sugar, glucose, starch, etc.). This results in the blood-sugar level increasing and, if no action is taken to reduce this level, diabetic coma follows. The body tries to remove some excess sugar by passing it into the urine.

The disease was described by Hindu physicians 2500 years ago as being characterised by an excessive flow of 'honey urine', and was attributed to two main causes - one genetic and one a result of eating a diet excessively rich in molasses.

There are two basic types of diabetic. The A.O.D. (Adult Onset Diabetic), usually contracting the disease in later life. It is often associated with obesity. This condition is often treated by diet.

The J.O.D. (Juvenile Onset Diabetic) is thought to be caused by a virus, not yet isolated, and research seems to indicate a hereditary lack of the normally-present antibodies. This accounts for the commonly, but incorrectly held view that diabetes is hereditary.

Diabetes can occur very suddenly, without previous symptoms. One woman, seemingly fit and well, was disturbed one night by a burglar. He escaped empty-handed, but for the rest of the night she was excessively thirsty and passing a lot of urine (typical symptoms). Next day she was diagnosed by her doctor as being a diabetic, the latent illness having been triggered by the severe shock.

As a diabetic, caving causes a few additional problems which, fortunately, can be easily overcome.

Balancing insulin dosage and carbohydrate intake in a normal day is not much of a problem, providing suitable meals are taken at regular intervals. When undertaking violent exercise, such as caving, one 'burns' up a lot more carbohydrates, which leaves a surplus of insulin. To counteract this, either extra high sugar food must be eaten or the insulin dosage reduced. An excess of insulin can result in coma and death in a relatively short time. It is very important to recognise the symptoms of hypoglycaemia so that sugar or glucose can be taken immediately. A caver with a low blood-sugar level would be at serious risk either climbing, lifelining, traversing or sumping, because of poor co-ordination, etc. The symptoms can vary considerably, and might include aggression, double vision, slurred speech, poor co-ordination, staggering, dizziness, confusion, etc. Some of you may have had similar experiences,

but from a different cause! If you see a person staggering along the road apparently drunk, whose breath does not smell of alcohol, he may be a diabetic, with too much insulin. Try and give him some sugar, to which he should respond in a few minutes, if medical help is not available quickly.

When I go caving I always take sugar, Mars bars, chocolate, etc., to eat underground instead of meals and to balance out the surplus insulin.

When I took a doctor caving on his first trip, he was alarmed to see me eat a more than generous breakfast - toast, marmalade, sausages, eggs, bacon, tomatoes, fried bread, etc., then, as we proceeded underground, a Mars bar, chocolate and glucose tablets. He was so worried that he had brought his black 'medical bag' in case I collapsed. He had not appreciated how much energy you use caving.

On the way out, the doctor became very tired and could not climb a 20 ft ladder. He seemed grateful when I pulled up his 15 stone and half-carried him, slowly, back to the surface.

Taking food underground can be difficult. I find a small ammunition box best, as I can also get insulin, syringes and a spare lamp inside. The box can be a problem in long tight caves or potholes, so I usually take extra food and bribe others on the trip to help carry it. I usually also take glucose tablets, an immediately absorbed form of carbohydrate, by placing them inside my wet suit. After a wet crawl or sump, the glucose tends to be just a 'nasty stain', having dissolved in the water, but I have been able to overcome this, having gained access to a polythene bag-making machine. I can totally seal a packet of glucose sufficiently to withstand the rigours of the Penyghent Pot wet crawl.

Diabetics have less resistance to infections and it is even more important to treat any cuts or grazes with antiseptic.

The longest trip I have ever been on was in Yorkshire, and took 12 hours. The trip was longer than expected and I did not have an injection or main meal underground.

This resulted in me having my evening meal 5 hours late (midnight). This caused me yet another problem: I had to stay up until 4 am, to eat again, before going to bed very tired indeed.

Probably the major difficulty for the diabetic caver occurs above ground. Having worked up a good thirst during the day, it is difficult to quench it in the evening as I have to control my carbohydrate intake. I usually substitute part of my evening meal with beer. Most cavers try and drink excessively (to quench an insatiable thirst). I have to contain my enthusiasm and drink halves or diabetic beer.

If you are a diabetic, or are taking one underground, it is a good idea to let the leader know. If the diabetic starts to become hypoglycaemic, others can assist him. There is no reason why a diabetic should not go caving. I have greatly enjoyed every trip, and would not like to stop now.

The discovery of insulin in 1921 has not cured diabetes: it is just a method of controlling it. One person in a hundred is known to be a diabetic - twice as many actually exist. The major cause of diabetes is obesity, so stay slim! Complications can occur in later life, although good control can eliminate them. If you would like to help, please send any spare cash to:

The British Diabetic Association,
3-6 Alfred Place,
London W.C.1.

YOU might need them one day!

THE LANDSCAPE OF ONE-SEVENTH OF CHINA
Pete Mathews

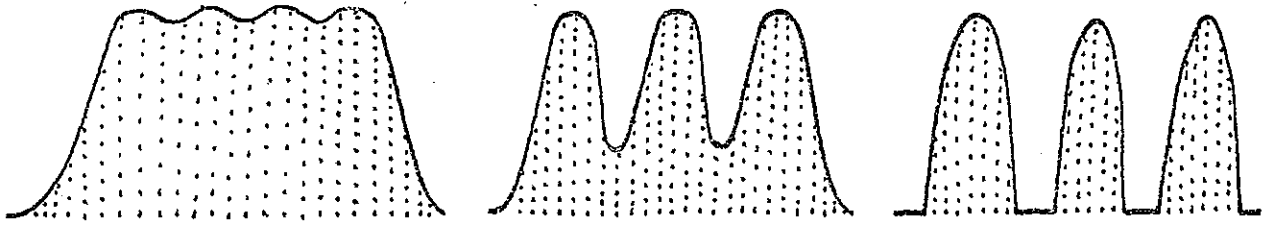
Improbable though they may seem, Chinese paintings accurately depict their landscape which is one of the most beautiful in the world. The Chinese concept of mountains is derived largely from South China, and is based on the widespread occurrence of pinnacle and tower karst rising sharply from the alluvial plain.

It is likely that the South China karst may become the most important, apart from merely being the largest. The conditions for its development are quite unique. First, the limestone beds are vast, ranging in age from the Devonian to the Tertiary. These limestones are uninterrupted by flysch, clay, etc., and so show continuous karst development. Secondly, the climate has been warm to sub-tropical with no ice ages and, with a high rainfall for a very long time, the karstic denudation has been severe. Thirdly, the area has been subject to considerable tectonic movement resulting in an enormous range of karstic phenomena.

Guilin City, on the banks of the Lijiang River, is built between limestone pinnacles and is the tourist centre for visits to the area. Much of the more picturesque areas is protected in national parks, which is just as well as Guilin has a large cement industry. The national parks have numerous show caves in which the stalactites and stalagmites are particularly well developed.

Surprisingly, the Chinese have carried out a great deal of research into hydrology and morphology of the area. Much of this work has been orientated towards water supply and hydro-electric projects.

Evolution of the Guilin Karst: -



1. Feng-Tsung stage

2. Feng-Lim stage

3. Tu Feng stage

(from an article by Marjory Sweeting in Geographical Magazine, March, 1978).

If after reading this you fancy seeing it all for yourself, Lüxingshe (the Chinese Tourist Board) are organising a tour of the South China Karst at £950.

KARST IN CHINA is the title of a book by the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences; 150 pp published 1976 by Shanghai People's Press.

This is really quite a superb book of the South China Karst. Most of the book is devoted to the impressive karst landscape, but there are extensive sections on caves, minerology, surveying, etc. The book is mainly colour photographs on art paper with a brief but adequate commentary in English.

The book is readily available from The Chinese Bookshop at £6.50 (or Tony Oldham at a tenner!). Incidentally, the shop also sells soapstone carvings, silk pictures and fans, all of which are exceedingly cheap - their posters, for example, are only 25p each.

THE Y.H.A. SHOP in John Adam Street for so many years, isn't. To be more explicit, it is now in Southampton Street, opposite the Savoy. It is now spaciouly laid out on one floor - no more of that crush on the narrow stairs. The other good news is that they are now open until 4 o'clock on Saturdays and 7 p.m. Thursdays.

GROUP ORGANISATION

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WEEKLY MEETINGS of the Group are held every Thursday evening at the BEEHIVE HOTEL, 227 High Street, Brentford, Middx.

CAVING ACCOMMODATION is available at the Group's Mendip headquarters cottage:
The Stirrup Cup, Nordrach-on-Mendip,
Blagdon, Somerset. (NGR ST55/5150.5605).

29 beds are available, together with cooking facilities and other amenities including caving library. Guest bookings must be made to the Cottage Warden.

MINUTES OF THE 1980 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP
HELD AT THE M.C.G. COTTAGE NORDRACH ON MENDIP 19TH APRIL 1980.

CHAIRMAN Ron Saunders

HON SECRETARY'S REPORT. FROM PETE MATHEWS

In matters outside the Group little was noteworthy from the Carterhouse Caving Committee which appeared dormant. A merger between the British Cave Research Association and the National Caving Association was on the cards. Following last year's A.G.M. we had a vacancy on the Committee for the Editor. Martin Roe who was a Probationary Member at the time was co-opted to the post. Some difficulties had been experienced in holding committee meetings, and on several occasions there was not a quorum.

There may be some dissatisfaction among members on some matters, especially caving, but this it is up to the members themselves to organise or propose trips. If they have not received the Newsletter they can ask for one to be sent. There has been a very small loss of Members. Membership could be increased, but advertising could have a bad effect.

Arthur Cox felt that the British Cave Research Association tended to be research rather than caving orientated, so would not have purely caving interests at heart. Pete Mathews answered that the present structure of the National Caving Association made it very easy to join their committee. There was to be a meeting of the Council of Southern Caving Clubs on 17th May at the Hunters where views about the national caving scene could be put.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT. FROM ERIC DOWLEY

As most of our spending has had to be on the L.P.F. to all intents and purposes I have amalgamated the L.P.F. and G.P.F. During the course of this year I suppose the L.P.F. will extinguish and only the G.P.F. will remain, but I think I will leave the accounts as they are until the new cottage is completed, which we hope will be by the end of this year.

H.M. Customs and Excise have written to me stating that our claim for £789.55 will be met with the exception of £9.29 for tools which are not allowable. So I will be receiving a cheque for £780.28 soon.

Covenants as you can see are a nice source of income, amounting to £85.88 for 1979, and I have also received £82.27 this year from the Inland Revenue. When I can finally coerce them to send me some more forms I will claim for some more.

We have received quite considerable loans and donations during the year, which were our salvation once or twice during the year, and I must thank the people concerned on behalf of the club.

As you can see from the balance sheet, there is an amount shown overdrawn of £33.09. Joan and I spent several weeks trying to find this but unfortunately failed. The annoying thing was that the bank balances agreed at the first try! So this means that there is a book error some where that I have just had to write off. I can assure you that it is not that Joan and I have been whooping it up. Because of the time spent trying to find this error and not being able to contact the auditors to discuss points after they had received the books, I am afraid they have not been audited in time for this A.G.M.

With regard to our current cash situation, we have £1233.98 in the L.P.F. and £14.52 in the G.P.F. I should point out that £1000 was passed over to me from the £30,000. I have had it on deposit of course.

I notice in the Newsletter that clearing the site cost us £450 I haven't received a bill for this. There will also be a further payment of £300 odd to the National Playing Fields Association. So you see it doesn't take too long to spend cash.

With regard to the loans various people have made to the club, with your permission I would prefer not to make repayments en mass as I feel that we still require to keep our fingers on the cash, Should anyone feel that they require their loan repaid, a word in my ear will produce the desired result in all probability.

I would advise that we dont go mad and start splashing out too much cash on tackle but try and keep a tight budget this year until we find out the cost of the cottage rebuild. By this time next year all being well we might even be able to afford gold plated carbide lamps.

HON MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT. FROM JOHN MACMILLAN

He said that a meet programme had been published. It was suggested that a Meet Leader should be appointed for each special occasion.

HON TACKLEMASTER'S REPORT. FROM PHIL INGOLD

100 feet of rope hade been purchased for a cost of £8.00 The new Tacklemaster would need funds to be allocated. Wayne Hiscox suggested that we purchased tackle from the proceeds of scrap sale of lead and tiles, most members were against this. Malcolm Cotter asked how much tackle we had and what was required. John Mirriam (Tacklemaster Elect) answered that we had adiquate ladder, but would need about 400 feet of rope. Wayne Hiscox proposed we allocate £50 for the purchase of tackle. The proposal was seconded by

Pat Walsh and carried unanimously.

Phil Ingold thought that the provision of lamps and helmets should be made by the Group for the use of beginners. Several members thought this a good idea but that the matter should await the outcome of our proposed new building.

Before the Cottage Warden could give his report a loud comment amidst laughter was heard:- What have you done to our new cottage?

HON COTTAGE WARDEN'S REPORT. FROM WAYNE HISCOCK

Following the wrecking of our new building Phil and Helen Ingold put in a lot of work tidying and decorating the hut. The fuel bill had been small aided by donations of wood from Pat Walsh and a cheap supply of fuel. The bookings for the hut had been high. It had been usual to reserve the first weekend of the month for club use only, but recently the hut had been unused at this time. June Walsh propose that a list of jobs be prepared and equipment be made available for their execution.

HON EDITOR'S REPORT. FROM MARTIN RCWE

Owing to change of work the present editor would have to resign. He thanked everyone who had contributed to the Newsletter, especially Pete Mathews Ron Saunders said that he had found the Newsletter most readable and entertaining.

HON RECORDER'S REPORT. FROM MALCOLM COTTER

The out going Recorder said the comments he mad last year regarding the library side of the job continue to apply. Our holding of books is still held in his loft which is unsatisfactory both for access and condition. The wrecking of our new cottage thus came as a bitter disappointment. He was looking forward to sorting and organising our material in a satisfactory manner. It will be at least a year before a new library is ready for use. When it is he will offer his assistance to current Recorder.

On the recording side, the same comment as last year also applies to a large extent. A tremendous ammount of work, mostly unseen, has been done by our architect Roger Wallington in revising and drawing up plans for rebuilding the new cottage. Roger is also arranging the tendering.

Ron Saunders what benefits the Group had received from the Caving Shop Malcolm replied that £100 had been transferred to the General Fund, and that cavers had benefitted by receiving cut price items. Cash needed to be held back to make large purchases. Phil Ingold was investigating entry into

various tackle and equipment fields. Wayne said he would like to have a book list. Malcolm replied that there was a rapid change of titles, but that headings of a general nature could be given. Wayne could do this himself (laughter)

Malcolm said he was resigning. The year's highlight empty demonstrated by our chairman's hammer. (A Calor Gas valve heavily banged on the table causing a great bout of laughter)

THE NEW BUILDING A REPORT BY ROGER WALLINGTON CLUB ARCHITECT

There were a few changes to the original plans, the most important being a different roof tile and a wooden floor in the living room. Wayne said that the new plans were on view on the wall. There was a detailed specification with them which was 'mainly rubbish' (said in absence of Roger Wallington-more laughter.)

Arthur Cox said that Chapmans of Cheddar could be approached, he had a good opinion of them. Roger replied that a number of tenders had already been sent out but he would note Arthur's suggestion. Malcolm Cotter said that he could not see provision for separate showers and if not why not? Wayne replied that a lot of thought had been given to this question but it was not possible to fit them in the space available. Another shower unit could be put in if there was to be future expansion. Ann Pittman asked that families be considered and hoped that camping space could be found.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pete Mathews thought the Thursday lectures organised by Malcolm a good idea. He thought members should give stronger support to them by turning up on time. He wondered why one lecture had not been announced in the Newsletter. In answer it was stated that this lecture was arranged at short notice, and there was no option but to have it when we did. Malcolm said that he would be very worried to have gas rather than electricity in the new building. Ron said he shared the same concern.

MEETING CLOSED 5.30