



LOST JOHN'S/LOST POT CONNECTION DRAMA

On Saturday 27th February, Greg Smith and three N.P.C. Members made one of the first through trips from Lost John's through the newly found connection into Lost Pot.

They rappelled down Lost John's meeting the N.P.C. Lost Pot laddering party at the bottom. Having passed another party who were left wondering how Greg's party would get out of Lost John's without tackle, as they did not know of the new discovery! They then climbed the 75 foot pitch and then went through a big faulted passage to the 90 foot pitch, above which perched a 100 foot boulder choke through which they all clambered to the surface.

On Sunday 28th February a second party attempted the through trip from Lost John's using the ladders rigged the previous day. When Jim Newton of Red Rose C.P.C. was tied on at the bottom of the 90 foot pitch, boulders from the boulder choke directly above the pitch fell on him very seriously injuring him and from which he is now recovering in hospital.

Lost Pot entrance has now been completely blocked off as it is considered too dangerous to descend.

CAPPING OF UBLEY HILL POT

A mere 22 years after the discovery of this interesting cave, (when did you last visit it, eh?) not far from the M.C.G. Cottage, we are pleased to announce that the club has now installed an entrance pipe.

Alltogether, fifteen people were involved in the operation. Special thanks must go to Steve Lane and Phil Eliot for taking the 1 metre lengths of pipe weighing 700 lb each to Mendip from London in their small vans.

Installation of the pipe was eventful to say the least. Saturday was evil, with gale force winds and blinding, horizontal rain - which soon turned the bottom of the depression into a mud bath as we dug open the entrance. By Sunday, the weather had improved so we returned to lever the pipe into the prepared entrance.

A great deal of thought was given to this. We drove stakes into the ground above the entrance, rigged complicated pulley systems, calculated it all very accurately - and dropped the 700lb pipe in HORIZONTALLY followed by 1/2 a ton of mud.

Now, have you ever tried pulling 700lb of concrete out of a cave entrance full of that thick horrible Mendip mud? It's not easy. It's even harder to pull out the railway sleeper which was thrown into the hole in desperation to stop the pipe falling in, but only succeeded in blocking the narrow entrance.

Ian McKechnie volunteered to climb under the pipe to tie the ropes around the sleeper, while we tried to keep the pipe off him. By now, a simple pipe lowering job had become a major Civil Engineering Project. As four people heaved on the pipe to take the weight off the sleeper, six people pulled on the other two ropes attached to the six foot railway sleeper. Nothing happened! Tempers began to get short. "You bastard, you splashed mud on my trousers", said one person. This was a strange comment to make, as by now we were all covered from head to toe in mud

MENDIP CAVING GROUP COMMITTEE

SECRETARY	TONY KNIBBS	23 Winern Glebe Byfleet, Surrey Byfleet 43875 01.546.7741. Ex 377
	TEL (HOME) (WORK)	
TREASURER CO OPTED	ARTHUR SPAIN	57 Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, Sussex. Horsham 64068 Crawley 542251 Ex 60
	TEL (HOME) (WORK)	
MEET SECRETARY	GREG SMITH	16 Nield Road, Hayes, Middlesex 01.848.3340.
	TEL (HOME)	
COTTAGE WARDEN	WAYNE HISCOX	3 Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset. Wells, 72081 Ex 273
	TEL (WORK)	
TACKLEMASTER	PHIL INGOLD	31 Spring Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. 0442.42029
	TEL (HOME)	
RECORDER	JONATHAN ROBERTS	17 Kent Avenue, West Ealing, London, W13 8BE 01.997.2916 01.278.3825
	TEL (HOME) (WORK)	
EDITOR	BRYAN PITTMAN	36 Manor Way, Egham, Surrey. Egham 37540
	TEL (HOME)	

CAVING ACCOMMODATION

MENDIP CAVING GROUP
NORDRACH COTTAGE
CHARTERHOUSE ON MENDIP
BLAGDON,
BRISTOL BS18 6XW

N.G.R. ST/5147.5605

GUEST BOOKINGS:-

To be made with the Cottage Warden

THURSDAY MEETINGS

THE FOX & HOUNDS AND MAWSON ARMS
CHISWICK LANE SOUTH, LONDON, W.4.
FROM 8.30 P.M.

anyway (It was like the Somme). An hour later, the sleeper moved, Chris Cowley chipped off a few rock flakes, we re-arranged the pulleys and stakes and only two hours later we eventually managed to get the damn thing in!

As we mixed some concrete to secure everything in place, a local farmer (not from Ubley Drove!) came by and asked what was happening.

"Oh, we're putting an entrance pipe in", I said.

"Oo aarr", he said. After a while he added -

"A bloke called Searle discovered that in 1960"

"Yes thats right", we replied.

"Is he still alive?" he queried.

Martin Rowe

P.S. Second section of pipe installed the following weekend.

QUOTE

"The pipe for Ubley costs £24 for each section", said Martin.

"Oh well, that's another pipe dream gone", replied the Treasurer.

COTTAGE WORK WEEKEND 5/6 MARCH

This was a huge success despite the weather! All beds were taken and many of the objectives substantially completed by the trojan efforts of all those who attended.

The top bunk anti roll boards which Tony Knibbs had made at home were all fitted. Now, if you have good free-climbing technique and have not had too much to drink, you may manage to get into a top bunk and slumber assured that you will definitely not fall out. Infact drunks are now effectively confined to the lower bunks.

The front bedroom and the ladies room have now had all floor tiling completed and the Foremans Lounge is two thirds completed. A very good effort which took most of Saturday and Sunday and would have been completed but for only having one adhesive spreader.

Preparations were made to start tiling the fire surround but as we were unable to purchase suitable tiles and cement on Saturday the job had to be left outstanding.

Despite the foul conditions Adrian Duckett and Gordon Lister spent most of Saturday suitably kitted in bright yellow nylon coveralls, digging a trench round the tree stump and cutting the roots. On Sunday Wally and I attempted the remaining third in fair weather conditions, but our efforts were not quite so impressive as theirs. Our excuse was that the roots we had to cut were bigger. Ken Fry may be looking at the stump this week. SO WATCH THIS HOLE. The next time you arrive on a Friday night you may drive your car into a hole or a trench as you enter the car park if you're not careful.

By the way, Wally, Mike Lovell and Jon Roberts have done a fine job levelling the car park on a previous weekend.

Bryan Pittman.

HUNTERS GOSSIP

"It wasn't doing anything so I pulled it off", said Jane Reynolds in the Hunters detaching something from Greg's jeans.

COTTAGE BOOKINGS

MARCH

19 Dave Gibson
26 A.G.M. & DINNER

APRIL

2 MEMBERS WEEKEND
7 MEMBERS WEEKEND (EASTER)
16
23 Dave Gibson
30 MEMBERS WEEKEND (BANK HOLIDAY)

MAY

7 MEMBERS WEEKEND
14 West Midlands C.C.
21 Phil Ingold + 20
28 MEMBERS WEEKEND (BANK HOLIDAY)

JUNE

4 MEMBERS WEEKEND
11 Dave Gibson
18 MEMBERS WEEKEND
25

M.C.G. MEETS PROGRAMME 1982

27 MAR ST CUTHBERTS
17 APR POACHERS CAVE
15 MAY SWILDONS 9
26 JUN OFD/DAN-YR-OGOF
17 JUL LAMB LEER
14 AUG GIANTS HOLE
18 SEP DOUBER GILL PASSAGE
16 OCT RHINO RIPT (SRT)
20 NOV AGEN ALLWEDD
18 DEC EASTWATER

LEADER BASE

A. Spain
B. Pittman N.W.C.C.
J. Roberts
D. Samuel S.W.C.C.
D. Walsh
G. Barton Orpheus
T. Knibbs N.P.C.
J. Miriam
P. Ingold
I. Mckechnie

ST CUTHBERTS 27 MARCH

Members wishing to go down St Cuthberts on 27th March should contact Arthur Spain as numbers are limited to two parties of six.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome the following as Probationary Members of the M.C.G.

Clive Towner, 1 Long Copse Close, Bookham, Surrey.
Steve Taylor, Flat 2, 29 Saint Pauls Road, Thornton Heath Surrey.
Carrol Nunn, 26 Spruce Hills Road Walthamstow, London, E17 4LD

And congratulations to Derek Walsh and Phil Eliot on being accepted as Full Members of the M.C.G.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS GAMBLE ON COTTAGE INCOME

Those present at the cottage while the committee meeting was in progress on 5th March may well have wondered what was actually going on in the library. Was it actually a committee meeting? Do they always sit in the library shouting at each other, send out orders for more and more beer, then orders for curry, then more beer, then continue shouting again? No, only when Wayne bets Jon £1 that cottage income in 1982 will be less than £1400, and Jon bets Wayne it will be more.

CAVES OF THE PEAK DISTRICT

19th - 21st November, 1982

This weekend course will provide those with an interest in geology and landscape with an introduction to the Derbyshire Limestone area. The landscape forms and cave systems are part of a continuing evolutionary process started perhaps a million years ago. The details show contrasts with other classic Karst areas of Britain, the Yorkshire Dales and Mendip Hills, as well as with overseas limestone regions. During the weekend we will visit representative Derbyshire cave systems, some not open to the general public. The weekend will cater for all ages. Underground visits will be supplemented by short surface walks and evening talks. All excursions will be led by experienced cavers.

Course Directors: Dr Trevor Ford, Department of Geology, University of Leicester.
Betty King, Lecturer, Losehill Hall.

Course Fee: £45.00 (all inclusive).

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Friday 19th November

4.30 p.m. Onwards - Arrival and Registration.
6.00 p.m. Dinner.
7.30 p.m. Introduction to Losehill Hall and the Peak National Park.
7.45 p.m. "Studying Caves" - Illustrated introductory talk by Dr Tony Waltham, Trent Polytechnic, Department of Civil Engineering.

Saturday 20th November

8.30 a.m. Breakfast.
9.15 a.m. Introduction to the Derbyshire Limestone Area - Dr Trevor Ford.
9.45 a.m. Depart for underground visit to Bagshawe Cavern, an intermediate cave system.
Packed Lunch.
1.00 p.m. Party 'A'
Visit Carlswark Cavern, entered by a mined joint, followed by a visit to Giants Hole an influent swallet cave.
Party 'B'
Surface walk to Windy Knoll (bituminous deposits), Conies Dale, Eldon Hole (pothole 30m across), Cavedale. (4 miles).
6.00 p.m. Dinner.
7.30 p.m. "Caves of Derbyshire" - Illustrated talk by Dr Trevor Ford.

Sunday 21st November

8.30 a.m. Breakfast.
9.30 a.m. Introduction to Peak Cavern
Underground visit to Peak Cavern, with the largest natural cave entrance in Britain.
Party 'A'
Caving trip beyond the show cave to Far Sump.
Party 'B'
Visit Peak Cavern Show Cave followed by a walk to Odin Lead Mine and Treak Cliff.
3.00 p.m. Tea and Biscuits.

COURSE ENDS

NOTES

- 1) All course participants are advised to bring old clothes (woollen jumpers, warm trousers that you do not mind getting wet and muddy), strong walking boots or wellingtons and a boiler suit or overalls. Wet suits are not essential but if you have one bring it.
- 2) Course participants will need to be physically fit although you will not be required to do difficult crawls or squeezes. If you can bring your own helmet and headlamp or torch please do so.
- 3) Thermos flasks will be filled if you require a hot drink with your lunch.
- 4) Please indicate on the Booking Form whether you intend to join Party 'A' or 'B'. (You can change your mind on arrival). If there are insufficient numbers in either party the course will be altered accordingly.
- 5) Some useful books you may like to obtain from your library before the course: "Caves" by Dr A C Waltham (MacMillan)
"Limestone and Caves of the Peak District" Ed Dr T D Ford (Geo Abstracts, Norwich).

BOOKING FORM

Ref: 35A/82

Caves of the Peak District
19th - 21st November, 1982

NAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Tel. No. _____

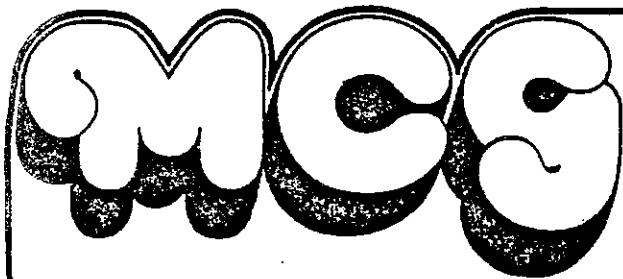
Do you object to sharing a twin-bedded room? YES/NO.
Any special dietary requirements? YES/NO.
Any relevant medical conditions? YES/NO.

I intend to join Party 'A'/Party 'B' on Saturday and Party 'A'/Party 'B' on Sunday.
(Please delete as applicable).

Completed Booking Forms, together with non-refundable booking deposit of £5.00 per head to: Peter Townsend, Principal, Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire, S30 2WB. Cheques should be made payable to the PEAK PARK JOINT PLANNING BOARD.

How did you first find out about this course? (Please give details of magazine, person, display or other source of information).

.....



CAVING SHOP

FOR ALL CAVING BOARDSAILING
AND MOUNTAINEERING NEEDS

SPECIAL LOW PRICES TO MEMBERS

JAN 1982

WARMWEAR

HLOFIBRE	DUVET JACKETS	FROM	£31 - 50
DOWN	DUVET JACKETS	"	£47 - 50
HLOFIBRE	SLEEPING BAGS	"	£27 - 00
DOWN	SLEEPING BAGS	"	£62 - 00
THERMAL PILE	SLEEPING BAG LINERS	"	£16 - 00

WETSUITS

SPECIAL PRICE 2-PIECE 4MM DOUBLE LINED WITH
EXTRA ZIPS ON ANKLES AND WRISTS (LADIES SIZES ONLY) £33 - 00

SINGLE LINED 4MM JACKETS £24 - 50
SINGLE LINED 4MM LONG-JOHNS £30 - 50
SINGLE LINED 4MM TROUSERS £20 - 00

SINGLE LINED 'ECONOMY' JACKETS £22 - 50
SINGLE LINED 'ECONOMY' TROUSERS £15 - 00

SINGLE LINED 6MM JACKETS £31 - 50
SINGLE LINED 6MM LONGJOHNS £38 - 00

TO OFF SHORE NORTH SEA STANDARDS
DOUBLE LINED 6-7MM JACKETS £40 - 00
DOUBLE LINED 6-7MM LONGJOHNS £49 - 00

4MM SINGLE LINED SOCKS £5 - 00
6MM SINGLE LINED SOCKS £6 - 10
6MM DOUBLE LINED SOCKS £7 - 50

BOOKS

GEOLOGY OF THE PEAK DISTRICT £ 2 - 00
BRITISH CAVES AND POTHOLES. BY DEAKIN £ 4 - 95
CAVING AND POTHOLING. BY JUDSON £ 1 - 95
CARLSBAD CAVES AND A CAMERA £ 5 - 25
SPELEOLOGY, THE STUDY OF CAVES £ 2 - 95
CAVING MANUAL. LOVELOCK £ 7 - 95
THE DARKNESS BECKONS. M.FARR £10 - 50
DOWN TO A SUNLESS SEA. BOON £ 8 - 50
NORTHERN CAVES VOL I WHARFEDAILE & NIDDERDALE £ 2 - 50
VOL III INGLEBOROUGH NEW EDITION £ 3 - 25
VOL V THE NORTHERN DALES £ 2 - 50

ODD VOLUMES OF CAXTONS ENCYCLOPAEDIAS 60
CHILDRENS ENCYCLOPAEDIAS 60

249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX.

TEL. ASHFORD (69) 52643

31 SPRING LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS.

TEL. 0442 42029

It seems a staggering thought as our humble newsletter reaches its nominal 150th issue, that it also nears its 1300th page of print. That does not include the MCG Journal.

There have been by my reckoning 174 newsletters and news-sheets of varying descriptions from No.1 (old series) in February 1954 to No.150 (new series) in March 1982.

The statisticians among you may be pleased to be informed that the past 173 issues have emerged, on average, once every 1.9 months with 7.3 pages of print.

Our Editor has produced newsletters monthly since February 1981; on average they have contained over nine pages of print. There has been only two previous periods (1961/2 and 1965/6/7) when the club had the fortune to get newsletters on a monthly basis for at least a year - and then you had fewer pages for your pains!

Bryan Pittman is retiring as Editor at the forthcoming AGM. I think it is highly appropriate to record the club's appreciation for the work he has put in. His efforts have contributed immeasurably to the growth of activities and club membership, that now put the MCG in such a fortunate position for 1982 and beyond. Thank you Bryan.

Jonathan Roberts.

RETIRING COTTAGE WARDEN

Retiring also from the committee is Wayne Hiscox, to whom we owe many thanks for his unstinting efforts over the last 10 years.

Not the least of Wayne's strengths has been his perseverance in the face of calamity when our new cottage (Mk.1), to which he had devoted so much spare time, failed to see in the new decade by a matter of minutes. There is no truth in the rumour that he is now an adviser to the government's Rocket Propulsion Establishment, though that cider on sale at Henton is a powerful propellant.

Nowadays he coins waxy on the shove ha'penny, and offers flexible visiting hours at his other cottage in Wells.

Jonathan Roberts.

THE ALLADIN TOUCH

Do you remember that point in the pantomime where the wicked, scheming Abanazar rips off Widiw Twanky with his ploy of "New lamps for old"? No? Alright I will start this request another way.

Some months ago it was decided to provide novices with a basic light source and a helmet to hang it on. The lamp was to be a caplamp headpiece with electric cable to enable it to be attached to a 4.5 volt bell battery. The lamp was to be available on free loan; users would provide the batteries. So far, so good.

IN A FIT of optimism, I offered to overhaul a few caplamps from the box of junk in the tackle room. On closer examination the box really did contain junk. Collapse of stout promise.

HOWEVER ther must be many members who have odd caplamps lying around unused. You have? Great! In that case, would you please consider donating them to a good cause. You would? Better still.

SERIOUSLY though, I'd be pleased to receive some caplamps, even incomplete ones, to put into running order for use by needy novices (or me, if I foget my Nife). Oldham or Nife headpieces would be preferred on account of the better spares availability. But I should express a preference for a gift already?

And while I'm on the scrounge, how about that old helmet lying neglected in your attic.....

Tony Knibbs.

M.C.G. TRAVEL NEWS SERVICE... ROADWORKS AHEAD....

Those perennial wayfarers who like to travel between London and the Hunters via the Wagon and Horses, the George and the Royal Oak (whoops, I mean of course Beckhampton, Norton St Philip and Green Ore) may have to make some extra gear changes from 1982, for which they can blame, or thank, the Government, and particularly the Department of Transport's South Weston Regional Office (which is run, I observe, by an F.P. Davis... Surely no relation(?) but find out by ringing him on Bristol 297201 extn. 387).

As part of the DTpSWRO (see above) trunk road programme the delightfully quaint and (visually) obscure 'Brown Shutters' crossroads, where the Mendippers route between Farleigh Hungerford and Norton St Philip crosses the A36, is to be 'improved'. The accompanying map shows the scheme, for which orders have now been approved by the Secretary of State for Transport. The principal effect will be to force traffic crossing the A36 to turn on to and off that road deliberately instead of nipping across as is the prevailing tradition.

Jonathan Roberts.

OUR MOTORING CORRESPONDENT WRITES:-

"This will add at least a full half minute to my journey which means I shall have to drive even faster in order to get to the Hunters before closing time. This is the sort of blatant government interference with the unhallowed rights of all freedom-loving taxpayers which has dogged the underprivileged motorist since the days of Ernie Marples. The road user may want his road fund taxes spent on highways but on this occasion I find it quite unbelievable that.....(continued M.C.G. Journal 94)

CAR BATTERIES

50% off List Price of all Automotive Batteries to M.C.G. Members.
Phone Bruce Dean on 01 848 3340

FULLERS BEER

Would members ordering beer please ensure that payment is made promptly.
All orders and payments to Bruce Dean.

MORE GOSSIP

1000ft of passage has been found on Mendip or so they say.....

S40C
12.685ha
31-35

830C
754ha
1-86

G40C
105ha
-26



Brown Shutters Farm

TO BATH
A 36

TO TROWBRIDGE
A 366



①

②

③

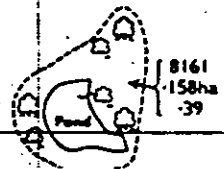
④

NORTON ST PHILIP C

8066
8.00ha
19-78

6864
2.29ha
5-67

5063
1.70ha
-4



8161
158ha
-39

TO RADSTOCK
A 366

WEST OF SOUTHAMPTON - BATH TRUNK ROAD (A 36)

THE WEST OF SOUTHAMPTON - BATH TRUNK ROAD
(BROWN SHUTTERS CROSSROADS, SIDE ROADS)

ORDER 1982

SCALE 1 : 2500

PRIVATE MEANS OF ACCESS TO BE STOPPED UP	
ROUTE OF NEW MEANS OF ACCESS	
EXISTING OR IMPROVED TRUNK ROAD	
HIGHWAY TO BE IMPROVED	
HIGHWAY TO BE STOPPED UP	
ROUTE OF NEW HIGHWAY	

5645
5.219ha
12-90

7250
1.398ha
3-46

8937
527ha
1-30

TO WARMINGSTER
A 36

The Brakes

7132
539ha
1-33



Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map
D.O.E./D.Tp. S.W.R.O.
© Crown copyright 1981

A.G.M. 1982

The M.C.G. 1982 A.G.M. will be held at Nordrach Cottage at 3p.m. on 27th March 1982 As space and speaking time will be at an even higher premium than usual at this A.G.M., it has become necessary to restrict attendance to Members Only at the meeting

CHARTERHOUSE CAVING COMMITTEE
HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT
FEBRUARY 1982

This year has kept me fairly busy, not just in the paperwork field, but visiting various cave sites and also with the construction of a new Rhino Rift gate. In this help was gratefully received from Glyn Bolt (WCC) and Tony Mintrim (MNRC) The gate has been placed within daylight making it much easier to operate and inspect. Unfortunately it appears to be easier to vandalise as well. The two locks so far fitted have both been forced. A third lock will now have to be purchased. Modifications to the gate will also be carried out to reduce the opportunities of vandalism.

On two occasions the GB padlock has been sawn off. It appears that this has been done by gaining access to the cave via the shakehole. From daubings on the blockhouse it appears that these people have grand ideas about total free access to caves. As per our intermediate meeting enquires are being made with a view to fitting a security lock to reduce the number of rogue keys. This year I have collected three such GB keys. One was the result of an MRO callout.

A party of scouts led by The London Ambulance Service Caving Club got lost in the Devils Elbow. It transpired that the group had :-

1. A rogue key
2. No Permits
3. Party members under 16

All the ingredients that could jeopardise our access agreement. Perhaps such stupid and selfish people do not deserve to enter 'our' caves!

Bristol Waterworks are very concerned about unauthorised access to GB via the shakehole. They realise their liabilities and the effect it has on CCC control. As many of you will have already seen a new fence has been erected and new notices displayed. Unfortunately cavers are still using the shakehole. I understand Bristol Waterworks will take further action to prevent this access if it continues. A BWW official on inspecting their nice new fence found a caving ladder belayed to their nice new fence post disappearing down the hole. He was not amused.

For some inexplicable reason some cavers consider they have a divine right to enter any cave whenever they choose. They forget that cave entrances are other peoples property in just the same way as your house. Would they object if I forced the front door of their home?. Cave entrances are no different. Access agreements have been established with landowners in order that a regulated system acceptable to the landowner can be operated. This has to take into consideration the landowners wishes as regards land usage, insurance, legal liabilities and conservation. We must not tolerate the few selfish and unreasonable people who dare to call themselves cavers who could bring the downfall of CCC now in its 20th year. Ultimately cavers in general will lose out - the caves could be permanently closed. Therefore all your efforts to trace vandals is requested.

FIRST FRUITS OF THE NEW LIBRARY

On a page close to this one is a list of all the MCG Newsletters that your Recorder thinks have been published. If you keep past newsletters, the list may be useful to you in any case to check you still have them all from the date you joined the club.

The list's preparation and publication has been hastened by a request from Bradford Pothole Club to obtain some back numbers of our newsletter. This your Recorder is quite willing to do if Bradford are willing to pay for the photocopying (are you reading this, Neil !), but clearly it is a bit of a waste to spend what will be a considerable time in front of a photocopying machine and produce only *one* copy of each newsletter, when extra copies would scarcely take any longer.

Furthermore there lurks the possibility in the near future that others, whether MCG members or other clubs, may also want back numbers requiring photocopying. Better to do a number of copies at the same time, providing there is public demand. If a reasonable number are wanted, the unit cost of photocopying gets cheaper, too, which is an advantage to all.

Nor, thinks your Recorder, is it simply a matter of photocopying - some newsletters were so poorly produced to begin with that it will be a matter of retyping the pages in question before something readable can be produced. Yet another factor is that your Recorder is unlikely to relish the idea of making continual forays to the printers in the pursuit of occasional copies... better to have a 'grand slam' effort and try and do most if not all the copying in one go.

And a final matter for consideration is that those members and other clubs who do retain their newsletters may well wish to have some simple index to them, possibly also with some cheap means of binding them into sets, to save that tedious thumbing through for the latest on the Timber Hole dig (now let me see, was it 1962 or 1963... ?)

All the aforementioned is by way of prelude for the GREAT 1982 MCG BACKNUMBER AND INDEXING SCHEME, a moderately fantastic and unrepeatable offer (at least this Recorder hopes it will not need repeating while he is still in that committee post).

THE OFFER CANNOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND 31st JULY 1982 as prices have been negotiated specially with the printers - any requests received after this date will be treated severely on their merits and will almost certainly cost more.

Arrangements are outlined on the following pages :-

MCG BACKNUMBER AND INDEXING SCHEME

- 1 Copies will be A4 sized - so some early foolscap newsletters will be reduced a little in size.
- 2 Copies will be based on the number of pages needing photocopying, including covers where produced.
- 3 Costs cannot be fixed precisely at the moment, as the costs of photocopying are heavily dependent on the number of copies made. The printer whose premises I shall be using to photocopy the publications has agreed the following scale of charges:-

No. of copies made from each original page:-	1-9 copies	10-19 copies	20 or more copies
Cost per single copy (pence) :-	7p	5p	3½p
- 4 The accompanying page which lists the MCG Newsletters also lists the number of printed pages in each issue. Clearly if more than a few people are interested in copies of the same publication then the cost of copying will become cheaper. To take an example, the entire 'Old Series' of MCG Newsletters, from February 1954 to April 1959, requires 108 pages of photocopying. If only one person wanted these, it would cost £7.56. However, if more than 9 persons all wanted the series, it would cost them £5.40 each - a 29% saving!
- 5 Based on this information, it should be possible for you to work out
 - a) which newsletters you may want
 - b) how many pages this involvesand c) whether you are willing to pay if only one copy is produced specially for you, or if multiple copies are produced.
- 6 The INDEXING will be really simple, since there isn't time for your Recorder to do more - it will be a detailed List of Contents for each issue, compiled into sets covering broadly 100 pages of newsletter at a go. For example, there will be one set covering the 'Old Series'.
- 7 Since the indexing is not complete yet, it is not possible to say precisely how many pages will be occupied by one complete index, but the chances are it will be about 40-60 pages long.
- 8 Members may wish to indicate with their orders whether they will want a complete index for the full run of MCG Newsletters, or indexes for specific years, in which case the appropriate set will be photocopied.
- 9 BINDING has not been given much thought yet, except that it may eventually be possible to bind the 'set' index with the appropriate newsletters, using plastic comb binding and some printed covers, or simply to use the plastic 'slides' to hold the appropriate index and newsletters together albeit in a rather crude fashion. Members' views would be appreciated on this.

THE FIRST STAGE of this entire process is for YOU to tell me which newsletters you wanted to be copied, together with your general requirements for indexing, based on the information above and especially paragraph 5.

THE SECOND STAGE will be for me to collate the various individual requirements, to work out the cost per person for each individual issue bearing in mind the different numbers of people wanting each issue. REMEMBER - the more the demand, the cheaper the photocopying. I shall then notify everyone how much the final cost is and whether their 'threshold' of willingness to pay has been reached.

FINALLY, copies will be produced and sent to everyone concerned.

There is just one small sting in the tail - postage will have to be charged, when needed, in order for MCG not to make a loss on the scheme - it is very much an 'at cost' operation.

ORDERS AND QUERIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO Jonathan Roberts, either at the Thursday evening gatherings or to his address (see the committee addresses in this newsletter).

Anyone who wishes to inspect past MCG Newsletters to see if they want individual backnumbers is welcome to do so - they are in the cottage library, above the desk, though please don't remove them from the library.

MENDIP CAVING GROUP — NEWSLETTER LIST 1954-1981

(the number of pages refers to the number of printed pages)

N/L No.	Date/ Month	No. pages	N/L No.	Date/ Month	No. pages	N/L No.	Date/ Month	No. pages	N/L No.	Date/ Month	No. pages
OLD SERIES			1963			1968			1975		
	1954		20	June	6	66	May/June	5	111	February	8
1	February	1	21	July	4	67	July/Aug	13	112	March	8
2	March	3	22	September	4	68	Sept/Oct	8	113	May	9
3	May	5		1964		69	November	5	114	September	10
4	June	4	23	January	6	70	December	5		1976	
5	August	6	24	May	4		1969		115	January	12
6	October	4	25	July	3	71	January	10	116	March	13
	1955		26	August	4	72	March	7	117	September	8
7	March	6	27	October	2	73	April	5	(1)	November	2
8	November	3	28	November	2	74	May	5		1977	
	1956		29	December	3	75	June	7	118	January	12
9	March	4		1965		76	July	8	(2)	March	2
10	?May/June	1	30	January	5	77	August	5	119	March	15
11	?December	3	31	February	4	78	Sept/Oct	6	(N)	September	4
	1957		32	April	7	79	November	7	120	November	12
12	May	2	33	May	9	80	December	10	121	December	13
(-)	?June	3	34	June	7		1970			1978	
13	July	4	35	July	7	81	January	6	122	March	11
14	August	10	36	August	7	82	March	5	123	May	14
15	December	10	37	September	6	83	May	8	124	September	17
	1958		38	October	6	84	June	6	125	December	11
16	June	27	39	November	6	85	September	7		1979	
17	November	4	40	December	6	86	November	8	126	February	11
18	December	4		1966			1971		127	July	17
	1959		41	January	6	87	Jan/Feb	7	128	November	12
19	April	4	42	February	6	88	March/Apr	7		1980	
	no newsletter in 1960		43	March	12	89	Apr/May	8	129	January	6
	NEW SERIES		44	April	8	90	June/July	11	(!)	January	1
	1961		45	May	8	91	December	6	130	March	9
1	July	2	46	June	7		1972		131	April	7
2	August	4	47	July	5	92	?February	6	132	June	9
3	September	4	48	August	8	93	March/Apr	12	133	August	8
4	October	4	49	September	8	94	May/June	9	134	October	7
5	November	4	50	October	7	95	July/Aug	12	135	November	7
6	December	8	51	November	7	96	Sept/Oct	9	136	December	15
	1962		52	December	5	97	Nov/Dec	11		1981	
7	January	4		1967			1973		137	February	9
8	February	4	53	January	9	98	Jan/Feb	9	138	March	7
9	March	8	54	February	8	99	March/Apr	8	139	April	8
10	April	4	55	March	7	100	July	11	140	May	11
11	May	4	56	April	8	101	August	8	141	June	10
12	June	4	57	May	10	102	September	7	142	July	8
13	July	4	58	June	7	103	November	13	143	August	8
14	August	4	59	July/Aug	8		1974		144	September	9
15	September	4	60	September	8	104	February	5	145	October	7
16	October	4	61	October	7	105	April	9	146	November	6
17	November	4	62	Nov/Dec	8	106	?May	11	147	December	8
	1962/63			1968		107	July	11			
18	Dec/Jan	4	63	January	7	108	September	10			
19	Feb/March	12	64	February	6	109	November	10			
			65	March/Apr	9	110	Jan.1975	9			

NOTES: (-) ?June 1957 :- note of activities during 1st/2nd June.
 (1) November 1976, (2) March 1977 :- Club Information news-sheets Nos. 1 and 2.
 (N) September 1977 :- 'MCG News' published by Pete Mathews in absence of N/L.
 (!) January 1980 :- large (A3) sheet of news reports about explosion at cottage.

MENDIP CAVING GROUP NEWSLETTER

OLD SERIES Nos. 1 - 19

February 1954 - April 1959 (no newsletters published in 1960)

SAMPLE

<u>Date</u>	<u>N/L No.</u>	<u>Contents (main items in CAPITALS)</u>
1954 February	1	List of MCG members. Subscriptions following first meeting. Caving trips made recently to Swildons Hole. Next trip Swildons Hole.
1954 March	2	Membership news. REPORT OF POSSIBLE SITE FOR MCG HUT. REPORT OF 27/2/54 MEET, SWILDONS HOLE. Tackle Manager invented. Members' addresses wanted. Newsletter needs articles. Possible summer meet in Scotland.
1954 May	3	REPORT OF EASTER MEET - Eastwater Swallet - Tony Knibbs starts dig - Mr Saye's Cave, Cheddar - more on 'The Dig'. Treasurer wants your subs. Tackle needs and manufacture. Group badge being designed. Whitsun meet to be Longwood Swallet. Explanation of 'phreatic' and 'vadose'. Cave records to be compiled. CURRENT CAVING BOOKS AND WHERE TO BUY THEM.
1954 June	4	REPORT OF WHITSUN MEET - Longwood Swallet - Burrington Combe - The Dig. Treasurer: current news. Tackle: Tony Crawford at work. August camp at Piney Sleight. General meeting to be held at August meet. Application form now needed for membership. Members please publicise their future trips. <u>Appendix:-</u> SOME ROPE KNOTS.
1954 August	5	REPORT OF AUGUST MEET - General meeting 1/8/54 - Treasurer's report - The Dig (mentioned as Timber Hole) - Chelm's Coombe Cave - Mr Saye's Cave. Some members express interest in cave diving. Group badge on sale. Future caving dates. To join MCG needs two proposers plus proving trip. MCG applies to join Cave Research Group. <u>Appendix:-</u> CAVING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. LIST OF MEMBERS

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORDRACH COTTAGE

SATURDAY 27TH MARCH 1982
3.00PM SHARP

CHAIRMAN R. J. SAUNDERS

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last General meeting, the H.Y.G.M. held on October 17th 1981. These minutes have been circulated and will be taken as read.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Committee Reports:-

Hon. Secretary	- Tony Knibbs
Hon. Treasurer	- Arthur Spain
Hon. Editor	- Bryan Pittman
Hon. Cottage Warden	- Wayne Hiscox
Hon. Recorder/Librarian	- Jon Roberts
Hon. Tacklemaster	- Phil Ingold
Hon. Meet Secretary	- Greg Smith

These Reports have been circulated with Newsletter No. 150 March 1982 and will be taken as read.

5. Matters arising from the Committee Reports.
6. Election of Committee Members.
With the exception of Hon. Editor and Hon. Cottage Warden, who are both retiring, the Committee remains as listed in item 4. above.

Hon. Editor two nominations have been received and a vote will be taken between Ian McKechnie and Brian Terry.

Hon. Cottage Warden one nomination has been received and John Miriam assumes this post unopposed.

7. Proposed changes to Constitution and Rules.
 - a) Delete the wording of para.2, item 6, page2, and substitute:-
"The amount of subscription shall be determined at a General Meeting and notified to Members in time to take effect from the next due date of subscription".
 - b) Add after para. 2, item 3(c)(Associate Members) page 1:-
"Or (iii) persons who wish to become members of the Group, but who are unable to take part in the regular caving activities and who have been approved by a majority vote at a Committee Meeting".

Delete item 3(e), page 1.

8. Additions to Nordrach Cottage:-

- a) Off-Peak background heating,
- b) Built-on extension outside changing room,
- c) New soakaway to relieve cesspit emptying demand.

9. Any other business.

10. Date and Venue of the 1982 Half-Yearly General Meeting.

NOTE As space and speaking time will be at an even higher premium than usual at this A.G.M. it has been decided of necessity to restrict attendance to MEMBERS ONLY at the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS 1981/2

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Looking back to the report which I gave to the Half-Yearly General Meeting it seems as though I have left little more to be said at this stage. Nothing has occurred since last October to change the optimistic view in which I then held the Group's progress and prospects.

Central to the spiritual and material needs of the Group is the need to maintain a strong active membership. Total membership (all classes) currently stands at 79 - the highest level in our history. But even more impressive is the enthusiasm which is becoming increasingly apparent in all aspects of the Group's activities.

The amount of caving is going up (and down of course!) steadily. This year's Meet Programme is the best I have ever seen; anyone who manages to attend every meet will have some memorable trips by the end of the year.

Mordrach Cottage continues to improve and - without figures to quote - I suspect is becoming more heavily used. The Committee is sharply aware of the need to balance income with expenditure, and we will monitor closely the major financial responsibility which the cottage represents. For the foreseeable future, the cottage will provide our greatest asset, and also our greatest liability; the financial state of the Group depends more on this than on any other factor.

The policy of accepting guest parties from other organisations on alternate weekends will come up for review at the A.G.M. I know that some members feel that a 'members and members guests only' policy is desirable. Unfortunately this would not be possible with present levels of cottage fees and subscriptions. Despite minor problems, the present scheme has proved workable administratively and financially. Any change to this situation must provide a similar, or higher level of income.

It remains our intention to try to purchase a piece of land at the back of the cottage. A sum of money has been set aside for this and we are simply waiting to hear the outcome of the probate on Jim Fry's estate to determine who owns this land.

There must be an appropriate Parkinson's Law which refers to the time-consuming nature of legal procedures. If there is, it would also apply to the great length of time it has taken the National Trust not to revise the Group's licence for operations at Bone Hole. In case you have not guessed, the matter is now in the hands of the N.T. legal department.

Although nothing has been done to improve access to Bone Hole, it is heartening to see that Ubley Hill Pot entrance has at last been lined with concrete pipes. No doubt, a lid will soon follow and - working on the principle 'Where there's a lid, there's a lock' - a key will be needed. I envisage administering access in much the same way as for Pinetree Pot. Bonafide clubs can purchase a key and we will always have one available to lend to callers or to postal applicants.

Keys remain a problem with Charterhouse Caving Committee's area of responsibility. In particular, GB Cave and Rhino Rift are being occasionally vandalised - hence the problem of finding that the appropriate key will not fit a temporarily fitted lock. Members are reminded that access to caves in the CCC area is subject to prescribed conditions being observed and a valid permit being held.

Throughout the past year, the secretarial job has been a pleasant one. With 95 items of correspondence to deal with, postage costs have remained within a figure of £20. The most time consuming activity has been that of attending Committee Meetings (31 hours) and reading the minutes (34 pages) afterwards.

Still thinking in numbers, I have estimated that this year's Annual Dinner will attract at least 80 people to break all previous records. I have not worked out how many pints will be consumed - and I certainly shall not attempt to count them on the night!

Tony Knibbs Hon Secretary

HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Taking over from Eric this January has meant a lot of extra work transferring the account to the local bank and generally getting acquainted with what has gone on in the past year financially. However as Eric had made up the books for 1981, the task was not too onerous.

I would like to pass on the Committee's and Club's thanks to Eric for the sterling job he has done over the last three years, I'm sure he's greyer.

The books have been audited by Joan Goddard and myself and apart from a few minor points have been found correct, any volunteers for 1982?

As will be seen from the copy of the accounts attached, we are pretty solvent, but we must bear in mind that the running costs of this cottage are vastly greater than the old hut. This has been met by increases in Subs and accomodation fees and should be satisfactory at least for the next two years. But, as costs rise so will our outgoings. At least every half year there will have to be a review of our income. A breakdown of the 1982 Budget is included opposite (prepared by Jon Roberts) and shows that we held our own in 1981, and will in 1982 providing nothing unforeseen arises. (Accounts will be circulated at the A.G.M. not as stated at beginning of paragraph)

Our Brought Forward Total was £3624.59 Deposit/Current Account and £767.07 Special Account for land purchase etc.

Thanks must also go to Bruce Dean for continuing cash flowing in the sale of beer etc.

Finally there are still some members who have not paid their subs for 1982, remember the greater our deposit Account shows the more interest we earn, not only that you will then receive a membership card! Those of you who have paid but are still awaiting your card, don't despair they will be available at the A.G.M.

One last thing, it is sometimes quite tricky analysing the hut booking form, albeit the new one is 100% better than the old. Please enter Name, Status, and Amount Due in the correct column, and total the complete amount in the box below. THEN overleaf make the necessary adjustments for Expenditure etc.

Arthur Spain Hon Treasurer

HON MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT

"I will not be issuing a written report for the Newsletter as if I make an oral report at the A.G.M. I can report on three trips instead of only two".

Gæg Smith Hon Meet Secretary.

UPDATED M C G BUDGET FOR 1982

following preparation of the 1981 accounts.

and bearing in mind that the cottage has only been used for 1/2 year in 1981.

ESTIMATED RUNNING EXPENDITURE (£)

Item	HYGM Budget	1981 Outturn	Factor to 1982	Revised 1982 budget
CLUB ACTIVITIES				
Secretary + stationery	20	20.00*	Up some more	25
Recorder/librarian	75	44.00	Add some more	100 (current items only)
Treasurer + audit postage	10	17.24	More	25
Tacklemaster + tackle	100	240.00	Guesstimate	150
Meet Sec + subs to clubs	35	42.00	Round upwards	50
Editor + newsletter	360	302.21	Up some more	400
Journal 1982			Guesstimate	200
Gifts, donations	-	228.00	Guesstimate	50
COTTAGE				
Warden's float	-	115.01	Down now built	100
Fuel	200	125.70	n/c	200
Gas	100	84.00	n/c	100
Electricity	300	117.93	n/c	300
Water rates	20	59.07	Up some more	70
General rates	250	210.23	n/c	250
Refuse collection	20	15.86	Up some more	30
Sewage disposal	40	89.01	Up more	100
Insurances	200	195.26	Up a little	225
Cottage sundries	50	393.39*	Down now built	275 (=£375 with Warden's floa
Cottage maintenance	100	-	Guesstimate	100
Other sundries	30	48.00	Luck of the draw	100
	<u>1910</u>	<u>2296.91</u>		<u>2850</u>

of which:-

Expenditure on cottage 1403.46 1850

Expenditure on club activ. 893.45 1000

ESTIMATED CURRENT INCOME (£)

allowing for decisions made at HYGM

Current year's subs.	325.00	x2 + more members	700
Cottage fees	1034.11	x 1.5	1550
Covenants	116.51	as for subs	250
Bank interest	703.23	less in bank + inflat.	500
Indemnity chits etc.	3.50	trivial	10
Dinner + coach fees	-31.97	break even	0
Brewery account	138.58	a little up	150
Other items	75.32	luck of the draw	0
	<u>2364.28</u>		<u>3160</u>

of which:-

Income from cottage fees 1034.11 1550

Income from subs. & covenants 441.51 950

Other income (net) 888.66 660

* Reallocation of items bought by the Secretary but which actually count as cottage sundries e.g. toilet paper.

HON. EDITOR'S REPORT

During the past year twelve newsletters have been produced. The quantity of good material has increased steadily throughout the year, reflecting the increasing activity within the Group, and interest in the newsletter. It makes the job comparatively easy and very enjoyable when one gets so much pre-prepared and even pre-printed material!

Although a new duplicator was considered, it has been found that the existing equipment is satisfactory providing it is properly maintained. However greater use is being made of photocopying facilities as the cost of photocopying decreases.

Members have very kindly written to me expressing their appreciation of the monthly Newsletter which has enabled them to keep abreast of current events in the Group even when they may not have been able to make Thursday evenings or get down to the cottage for a while. Although I will not be able to continue as Editor, I am sure my successor will be able to maintain and improve the quality and frequency with the material support that Members are giving to the Newsletter now.

Finally while I wish my successor every success with the Newsletter in the coming year I must now remind you that I will be continuing as 1982 Journal Editor. I trust that you will give as much support to this project as you have given to the Newsletter in the last year. Copy Date will be the H.Y.G.M. in the autumn. If you think about it there is plenty to write about, digs, surveys, cottage building, 1982 expedition, caving S.R.T. techniques etc. Remember our last Journal was published six years ago.

Bryan Pittman Hon. Editor

HON. COTTAGE WARDEN'S REPORT

Fuel costs are well down on the old premises. Now that people have got used to the new fire, this is thought to be adequate, except for the problem of the fire not staying in overnight. An overnight burner conversion is available but has the disadvantage of reducing the output of the fire. This brings me nicely onto the only other problem that has been noticed and that is the necessity for background heating to protect the cottage.

It is felt that if proper background heating is installed the necessity for the fire staying in overnight will be less essential. After considerable discussion, the best form of heating seems to be storage heaters on Off Peak Tariff, water could also be heated off peak. It must be emphasized that background heating is only being considered, we are not considering high level heating. There will therefore be other areas which require more rapid and higher level heating such as the shower/changing area. The best solution in this case would seem to me to be a wall mounted gas heater. These are now very safe as they generally contain a flame failure mechanism and are efficient and reasonably cheap to run.

Cottage Bookings. Most guest weekends have been booked but not all have been used to capacity. Members have also introduced a fair number of guests on Members Weekends. Unfortunately, however the present level of usage by Members in my opinion is still too low. On average the use by guests would seem to be 8 per weekend giving an income from this source of around £580. The average usage by Members would appear to be about the same that is seven per weekend giving a minimum of £728 This means that our income from the cottage will be around £1300

There are no signs of a vast change in this level of income and I feel that it is likely to remain fairly constant unless there is some change in the attraction of Mendip, like a promising new dig or a pub with free beer

Wayne Hiscox Hon. Cottage Warden

HON RECORDER/LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Since the 1981 Half Yearly General Meeting, there have been five committee meetings, which are less of the marathon they used to be now the bulk of the cottage work is over. The minutes always remind committee members (myself included) of their outstanding commitments - this has a healthy effect on the amount of work actually done on behalf of the Group and cottage.

The Recorder's main headache is the library, now that the shelving, map cabinet and desk are in place and publications transferred from the bunkrooms. An item-by-item check through all our acquisitions, which will take some months to complete, is already revealing serious gaps in our newsletter and magazine coverage within existing runs - even for other local Mendip newsletters - and a scanty number of books which does not tally with the nominal holdings in the former card index.

A temporary arrangement for book borrowing is now in operation, but I urge members who have previously borrowed items from the library to check your bookshelves, and to assist the process of indexing by returning any publications you may have.

The Committee has set aside some funds for catching up on the publications backlog, but cave surveys must also be purchased and filed, and newsletters and magazines somehow kept safely. All this will demand time and effort in addition to the other tasks. I should like to thank those Members who have already offered to donate items to the library - this is a very kind gesture of help indeed. The lounge now has duplicates of the main caving magazines - these may be read to destruction, so avoiding unnecessary damage to or loss of the library copies.

The Recorder has taken over from the Editor the job of distributing exchange newsletters to other clubs and associations, to ensure that what goes out corresponds to what comes in.

Members are reminded of the M.C.G. Newsletter backnumber and indexing scheme announced in the March Newsletter. Please advise me soon of your requirements, so that the final costs can be worked out and notified to those interested

Jon Roberts Hon Recorder/Librarian

HON TACKLEMASTER'S REPORT

The club increased the tackle available by making the following purchases during the year:-

200M Nylon Lifeline
25ft Electron Ladder
150ft Rescue Rope
various belays wires and spreaders

The 200M reel has been cut into shorter lengths and left on Mendip. I have retained 200ft of rope which I am keeping in store. If you are planning a long pitch, please let me know and I will make it available.

The new ladder seems to work o.k., but no-one has made any comments about it, if it is satisfactory after one years use I will buy the same type again to increase our available gear.

Current Levels of Tackle 7.3.82.

Ladder	350ft	(8 x 25', 5 x 30')
Rope	500ft	(1 x 100', 1 x 120', 3 x 50', 1 x 150')
Rescue Rope	150ft	

plus assorted belays, spreaders etc.

In 1982/3, I would like to increase our tackle levels by making the following purchases:-

2 x 30ft	Electron Ladders
200ft	Nylon Lifeline
2 off	Lightweight Pulleys.

If anyone thinks we require anything else or that the current stock is adequate please let me know.

I am going to try a system of marking our ropes so that they are better identified and the length can easily be determined. A shrink sleeve about 3/4" wide will be fitted to one end of each rope, with each band signifying 50' lengths (e.g. 100' = 2 bands, 150' = 3 bands)

Phil Ingold Hon Tacklemaster.