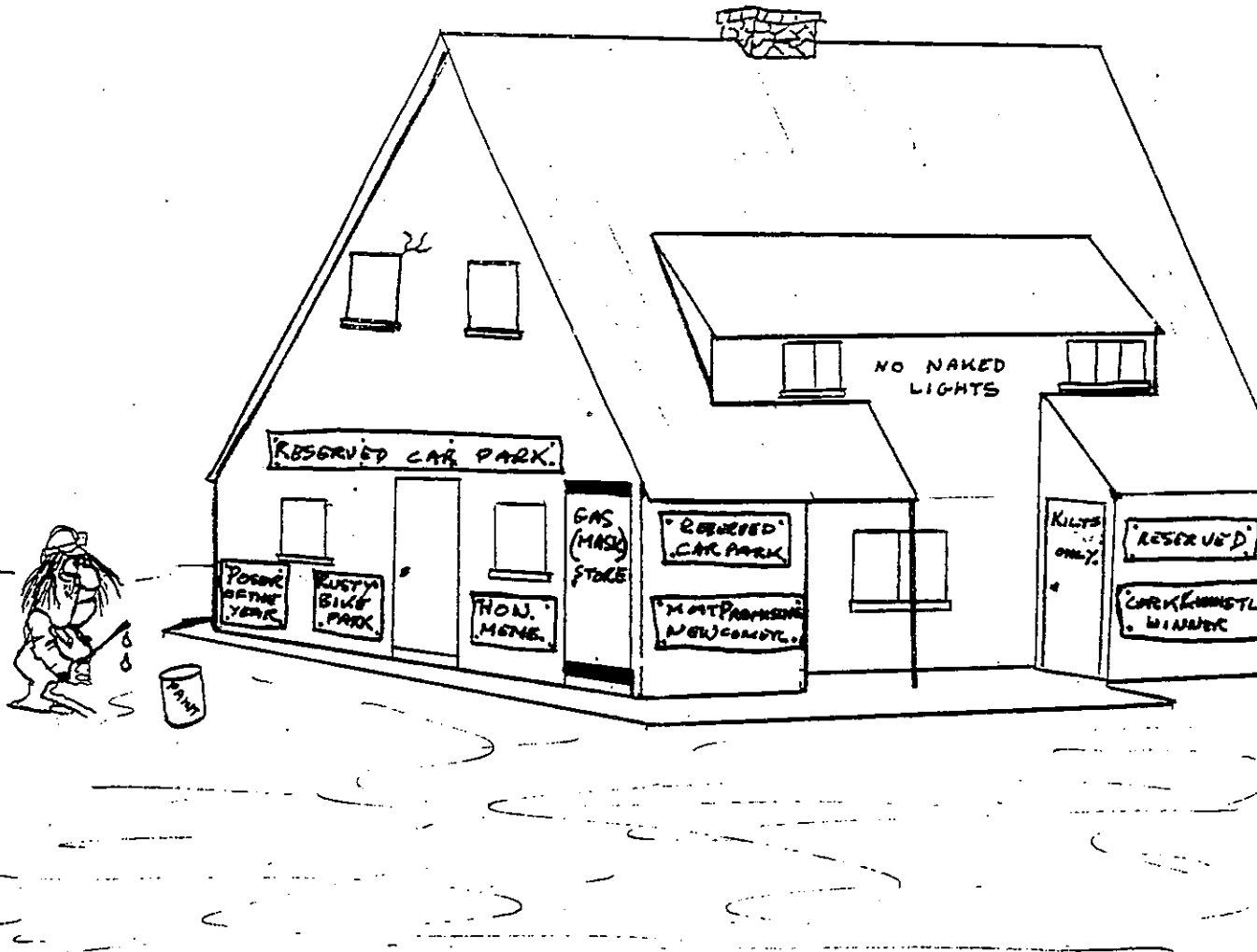




# Mendip Caving Group Newsletter

April 1983

No. 163



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Covenant Forms

... all the regular features, and more!

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CAVING ACCOMMODATION is available at the MCG Cottage on Mendip. The address is: Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Bristol, BS18 6XW. Map reference NGR 5147 5606 (OS 1:50000, first series sheet 182). Bookings should be made with the Cottage Warden.

WEEKLY MEETINGS are held every Thursday evening at 8.30 onwards, at: The Fox and Hounds and Mawson Arms, Chiswick Lane South, London, W4.

NEXT NEWSLETTER is due on 19th May. Copy should reach the Editor before 14th May to ensure inclusion.

MCG MEET PROGRAMME.

Meet	Leader	Base
May 7 Swildons - Damp Link	Steve Lane	MCG
Jun 18 Stoke Lane Slocker	Jon Roberts	MCG
May 28 Gaping Gill	Neil Hutchinson	NPC
Jul 2 OFD / Dan-yr-Ogof	Denise Samuel	SWCC
Jul 16 Mendip Geology	Malcolm Cotter	MCG
Aug 13 Birks Fell	John Miriam	NPC
Aug 18 - Sep 6 Pyrenees	Ian McKechnie	Camping
Sep 24		MCG
Oct 8 Penyghent Pot	Roger Wallington	NPC?
Oct 22 Half-Yearly Forum / 30th Party		MCG
Nov 12 Peak Cavern	Roy Kempston	
Dec 3 St Cuthberts Swallet	Tony Knibbs	MCG

The next ARMCHAIR MEET is on 12th May. There will be a slide show on the MCG 196? Austrian trip, followed by a Pyrenees forum -- a chance to discuss and exchange notes on the meet.

DAMP LINK leads off Swildons 6 and takes you to Shatter Series. What more can I say, except that it's an indispensable collectors piece for the keen caver? For more details, contact Steve Lane or Jon Roberts.

COVER PICTURE: Bob makes some necessary changes to the cottage following the AGM.

The GAPPING GILL meet coincides with a bank holiday winch meet - a winch will be set up at the head of the 365' pitch, and will remain there over the weekend to save you hauling 400' of rope across the moors. The descent of GG is an experience I can personally recommend. Anyone requiring further details, contact Neil Hutchinson or Geoff Barton.

The PYRENEES expedition is looking good - we appear to have about 25 people, including about 15 active cavers. There will be a few SRT practice sessions over the next few months - keep in touch for details. It is planned to have a "Pyrenees Forum" for the exchange of information each month until the trip. Provisionally, these will be on the second Thursday of each month in the back room of the Mawson Arms, following the Armchair Meet. If you're coming to the Pyrenees, try and get along to these meetings as often as you can, as they will be the main form of liaison and discussion.

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS.

Welcome to the Group, to five new Probationary members accepted this month:

Louise Curley, 53 Wills Crescent, Hounslow, Middlesex. TW3 2JA  
Introduced by Adrian Duckett, Tony Knibbs.

Andy Tizzard, 3 Dukas Court, 218 Peckham Rye, E. Dulwich, SE22.  
Introduced by Geoff Barton, Roy Kempston.

Andy Beare, 20 Thorpebank Road, Shepherds Bush, London, W2.  
Introduced by Adrian Duckett, Ian Parry.

Dave Higginson, 19 Princes Avenue, Acton, London, W3.  
Introduced by Jon Roberts, Malcolm Cotter.

Fiona Picton, 49 Cecil Park, Pinner, Middlesex. HA5 5HJ.  
Introduced by Malcolm Cotter, Jon Roberts.

We have heard nothing for some time from Quentin Cowen, so reluctantly remove his name from the membership list.

MARTIN ROWE has returned from his latest wanderings, and we were very pleased to see him at the AGM and dinner (well-behaved this year!). He is now living at:  
229 Hawthorne Road, Bootle, Merseyside.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS seem to be in vogue at the moment - there must be Spring in the air. Here's three more:

Richard Dominey, 1 Larks Meade, Elms Lane, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 2TA.

Lesley Robbins, c/o 10 The Greenway, Tring, Herts.

Gordon Lister, 127 Seaford Road, West Ealing, W13.

CLUB SWEATSHIRTS were discussed at some length at the AGM. It was decided that there should be an open contest for designs for a club logo or picture to go on the sweat-shirts, and also possibly on a separate sew-on badge. Designs should be about 3" overall (ie normal sweatshirt badge size) and should be as neatly drawn as possible - but they will be redrawn if necessary before use. To minimise delay in producing the goods, we have set a deadline of Wednesday, 11th May for entries. Send your ideas to the Editor, or give them to any committee member. A choice will then be made and the chosen design published in the next Newsletter.

CAVERS LAMENT, overheard in the bar; "I've got this complaining thing down the end of the road, called a wife."

"Daffodils would have tasted much better than the stuff I had to eat in Japan."

ANOTHER ADDRESS CHANGE:

John Felton, 31 Borough Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

ANNUAL SUBS had still not been received from 10 members as the newsletter goes to press. This means £100 of club money. If you are one of the ten, you will receive a personal reminder with this newsletter. Please send the money to the Treasurer without delay. If we have not received your subs by 11th May, we will reluctantly conclude that you no longer wish to be a member, your name will be deleted from the membership list, and you will cease to receive club benefits and publications.

DRAFT AGM MINUTES are reproduced later in this issue. The following corrections were noted after the minutes were printed:

In the tacklemaster's report, ladders are colour coded, not coated.

The Sutherland trip was, we believe, suggested by Derek Walsh, not Roy.

In the sweatshirt discussion, a competition was suggested.

"Training test" (p3) should read "training trip". (It is not a test.)

There is a fair selection of spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors which will be corrected on the master copy.

If you find any other errors please tell the Recorder!

DESPITE being given his own transport at the Annual Dinner (a tricycle), we hear that a certain member of the MCG committee has taken to stealing lifts on the roof of cars on the way back from the Hunters. While we have to admit that this shows a certain amount of initiative on the part of the said member (and a lack of initiative on the part of the car driver?), there is cause for concern about where this sort of activity will lead to if allowed to continue. Will it be safe to go for a walk carrying a rucksack, or will someone leap into it as you leave the cottage? Should our new caving tackle-bags be provided with barbed-wire entanglements around the rim? Will it even be safe to get out of bed without someone fixing himself to your back, only getting down again when you have reached where he wants to go?

COTTAGE BOOKINGS.

	June
April	4
23	11 Notts Speleo (12)
30 Pat Walsh + 12	18 Members (Stoke Lane)
	25
May	
7 Members (Damp Link)	July
14	2 Kingston Poly (5)
21 Roy Kempston + 5	9
28 Bill Ducklin + 5	16 Members (Mendip Geology)
	23
	30

Cottage Notes.

THE DUSTBIN fills very quickly, and we are only entitled to one bin per week without paying extra rates. Please, therefore, keep all burnable rubbish apart from the rest and make sure it is burnt before you leave the cottage at the end of the weekend.

HERE ARE some more selected thoughts from the "Guidelines for the use of Nordrach Cottage". A copy of this is normally in the cottage lecturn - if you would like a copy, ask John Miriam.

ON FIRST ENTERING the cottage place your names on the COTTAGE BOOKING SHEET on the shelf in the lounge.

ON LEAVING the cottage - even for a short period - always lock all outside doors, close all windows, and turn off gas supply.

NO MUDDY BOOTS to be worn in the lounge, kitchen, or upstairs area.

NO DOGS or other pets may be brought into the cottage by non-members.

RESCUE EQUIPMENT is stored below the battery charger. It consists of a carrying sheet, survival bag, blanket, first aid and comfort boxes, hauling rope and pulleys.

### ANNUAL DINNER 1983.

This year's annual dinner, held at the Star in Wells on 19th March, was another great success. Following the dinner, Malcolm Cotter was deservedly announced as an honorary member of the club in recognition of his work over the years since the founding in 1953. On a lighter note, other presentations included 'Most Promising Newcomer', (Tony Knibbs), 'Scrounger of the Year' (Rusty Bicycle Award - Jon Roberts); 'Le Poseur de Mille neuf cent quatre-vingt trois' (sez Denise) to Roy Kempston; Don Vosper was recognised for his great skill in avoiding caving at any excuse; and Bryan Terry was awarded a 3ft long cork with attached whistle - the fact that he was wearing a kilt that evening probably made it much easier to wear.

A spontaneous limerick contest produced the following gems among many; these aren't necessarily the best - just the ones the Editor managed to write down.

There once was a caver, JR,  
Who didn't possess his own car.  
Oh, what a bore,  
There's room for no more,  
And from the Hunters to Nordach's so far.

Who's that great twat in a kilt,  
Like a bleeding great pillock he's built.  
You can see what he's got,  
And that ain't a lot,  
And anyway, it's all on the tilt.

The meeting this year was a bore,  
There was hardly a yawn from the floor.  
But the issue that hurts  
About badges and shirts  
Was discussed for an hour or more.

There was a young caver named Martin  
From Mendip to Belize was departing.  
On a volcano one night  
He woke up with a fright.  
An eruption? No, only me farting.

See you next year, folks!

### BREAKTHROUGH ON MCG DIG.

Late in March, a party of six MCG members broke into a cave system after only 45 minutes digging, at a site they had been investigating for some time. The system comprised several hundred feet of passage, in the form of large chambers joined by short crawls. Some signs of human and animal habitation were found.

Until the entrance is made safe and the cave properly explored, the site is being kept secret. More news as it becomes available!

### ACCIDENT IN LONGWOOD / AUGUST.

by Alan Mellon.

At about 1pm on March 13th, a boulder fell from the roof of fault Chamber in Longwood August. Andy Barker, a caver from Ealing College, happened to be sitting directly underneath, taking the full force of the 12" x 10" x 8" boulder on the toe of his boot. Being new to caving, he was not wearing steel toecaps, but a pair of good, heavy, walking boots. His toes were badly crushed, and consequently he had to be assisted from the cave.

With a total of 8 in the party, it was decided to assist Andy to hobble to the surface, and only send for outside assi if his condituio deteriorated. He was able to hobble with support, and climbed the ladder at Swing Pitch reasonably easily using toe and heel. For the traverse of Great Chamber, he was belayed from both ends while teid in the middle if the rope. For the awkward trimb by the warerfall, an extra tape was rigged so that he could be held from three directions.

Once over the waterfall, we noticed that blood as well as water was escaping from his boot. However it was less than it looked, and we pushed on to the foot of the

entrance series. A rope was rigged in the entrance rift for assistance and haulage, and Andy was able to climb out with little help except for the support of the rope. He was back at the cottage by about 4.30, and was taken directly to the Bristol Royal Infirmary. It was found that he had two broken and crushed toes, and a nasty gash across the base of his toes. Later that week the surgeon removed the middle toe due to lack of blood supply.

The question of whether steel toe-capped boots would have saved his toes is worthy of discussion. The site of the injury would have been right on the edge of the toe-cap which would therefore have taken most of the impact. However, the incident does show that the footwear often seen underground (peep-toe boots, soft shoes, etc) is perhaps a little foolhardy, and could have lead to more serious injuries in this case.

#### MONTY'S HIDEOUT.

by Clive Towner.

Some time during the dark years of World War 2, in Southern Command's secret underground control centre deep in the heart of the North Downs, General Montgomery (and perhaps Spike Milligan too) was planning the D-day landings. At least, that's what local legend will tell you.

With a deep sense of history deepened further by a lunch of King & Barnes' ale, our intrepid explorers (Pete Bulling, Steve Taylor, Ian McKechnie, Arthur Spain, Clive Towner) set out on a cold, wet, Sunday afternoon to find Monty's Hideout. Its whereabouts is given in Chelsea S.S. Records, vol 5, as in a quarry face half-way up Reigate Hill. But in 1968 the entrance had been dynamited, to prevent access. So it was that we began looking along the cliff face for any signs of the old entrances.

A few courses of brickwork and rubble looked promising. Further investigation showed this to be the remains of a block-house which protected one of the entrances. Inside, the centre consisted of a series of steel-lined tunnels, which are in remarkably good condition, and show few signs of recent entry such as beer cans or graffiti.

Any further visits to this site would have to be of a surreptitious nature, as it is now on private land.

Reference: "More Secret Tunnels in Surrey". CSS Records, vol 5, 1968.

#### THE DEED OF COVENANT AND MCG SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Following the AGM and the confusion about the operation of deeds of covenant, Martin Rowe has been to the MCG's tax office in Liverpool to sort things out.

The deed of covenant between an MCG member and the Group is simply an agreement to pay a fixed amount every year for an agreed period. Since the MCG is a charity, it is able to reclaim the tax that your employer (under PAYE) or yourself (if you are self employed) has paid on the amount. So if you are a taxpayer at the standard rate, your £10 subscription was £14.30 before you paid  $£14.30 \times 30\% = £4.30$  tax on it. This £4.30 is the amount that the Group is able to reclaim from the taxman. If 100 members make a covenant this year, we can reclaim £430. Yet last year we only received £55, so few covenants were received from members.

In our case this year, the situation is complicated a little by the fact that we do not have an agreement with the inland revenue to complete a bulk covenant declaration for all members. It will therefore be necessary for each member to sign an additional form for the taxman, declaring that you have paid tax during the year.

Rather than trying to explain fully in the newsletter, the Treasurer will be sending individual letters stating what is required and including the requisite form. All you need to do is sign it and return it to the Treasurer, and when you fill in your

next income tax return, remember to include the MCG when they ask you about any covenants you are paying. Meanwhile, we hope to agree with the tax office a simplified method of reclaiming covenants in the future,

Don't forget, this can mean an extra £430 to the Group this year - money we can't afford to throw away.

ANDY - Next time you bring a night-cap back from the Hunters, can you make sure it makes less noise?

AN UPDATED MEMBERS LIST will be published soon. Many people have asked that phone numbers be included in the list. One or two people have specifically asked me not to publish their numbers. If you prefer to remain ex-directory and have not told the Editor, could you please let him know before the next publication date?

#### MRO REPORT 1982.

Thirteen call - outs are recorded in the report received recently by the recorder. They are summarised as follows:

20 Feb	Sludge Pit	1	Trapped, stuck, claustrophobia.
17 Feb	Manor Farm Swallet	?	Snowstorm, overdue party alert.
17 Feb	Eastwater Cavern	7	Overdue party search.
14 Apr	Hunters Hole	2	Trapped, unable to climb.
28 Apr	GB Cavern	1	Fall, broken arm and dislocation.
5 May	Longwood Swallet	6	Overdue party alert.
25 Jun	Alert	?	Overdue party.
15 Aug	Swildons Hole	?	Overdue party alert.
15 Aug	Sludge Pit & Underwood Quarry	1	Overdue alert.
26 Oct	Eastwater Cavern	2	Lost, lights f.
29 Oct	Sidcot Swallet	1	Trapped, stuck.
21 Nov	GB Cavern	11	Floods, trapped.
31 Dec	Rhino Rift	2	Overdue alert.

Half of the above tell the old story of vague messages being left, and even ignored in one case. Because the MRO must answer to all reports of overdue parties, cavers and clubs are urged to make more of the commonsense precautions of letting reliable people, preferably fellow cavers on Mendip, know about their trips beforehand and afterwards! The GB rescue brought home how many fail to do either in practice.

Apart from noting the trap of under-estimating the length of a trip, it makes good sense to add reasonable leeway for delays appropriate to both the cave concerned and how those left with the message are likely to react when the ETA becomes due. The normal procedure when an ETA has passed is to alert the MRO through the Police Control at Yeovil rather than phoning round known contacts for help. This saves time and minimises the risk of messages becoming garbled.

The report goes on to give a detailed description of each incident. If you'd like to read it, ask the Recorder, or dig it out from the library yourself next time you're on Mendip.

DURING a serious discussion on concerning some necessary work on the cess pit: "Nobody ought to go down there without any protection."

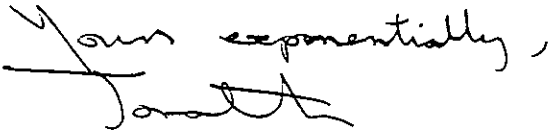
Ian McKechnie  
 Editor  
 MCG Newsletter

Dear Ian,

LIES, DAMNED LIES AND...

Statistics may have a bad name for themselves. This in most cases is due to misunderstanding or misinterpretation by the readers, or by bad statistical work by the authors. Central to any assurance of statistical veracity is that the results are laid out carefully and clearly, to discourage both readers and authors jumping to unwarranted conclusions. I thought I had achieved this, in my draft article on Flooding in GB Cave; however I had reckoned without the editor cutting the text. The consequence is that the concluding paragraphs of this article are a masterpiece of incompleteness and imprecision.

Could you please print the accompanying text, which should replace the paragraphs on page 7 of the MCG Newsletter No.162, March 1983, which follow immediately after the list of known or surmised dates of flooding in GB Ladder Dig series.

*Your exponentially,*  


Jonathan Roberts  
 MCG Hon Facts & Figures Merchant.

correction to page 7.

The concluding paragraphs of the article on Flooding in GB Cave should read as follows:-

This count shows 7-9 floods in 16 months, or an average of 5-7 per year on our observations alone. Grossing up the observations using the weekly sampling rate of 43%, produces an estimate of 12-16 floods yearly. Of course flooding does not occur with weekly predictability, but varies from season to season, and year to year. Nevertheless a working range, of flooding once to more than twice every two months, seems credible. Direct observations by MCG parties, plus the MRO call-out, have shown 3-5 floods between October 1982 and January 1983.

Despite appearances, with twice the number of floods noted during the 36 weeks following Bristol Waterwork's closure of the depression compared to the 32 weeks before, this provides no conclusive evidence of an increase in flood risk attributable to the silt deposited by Bristol Waterworks. This is because twice the number of trips were made in the latter 36 weeks - with the more frequent sampling rate itself probably revealing additional floods. Nevertheless a greater volume of silt is now encountered in the terminal choke, and this cannot improve matters, with the choke's limiting capacity for water flow possibly reduced.

Until recently, GB Cave has been regarded as a system offering safe caving at any time. This remains so in parts of the cave, but there must now be a big question mark over Ladder Dig in prolonged wet weather. Since many trips to GB Cave are made by parties visiting Mendip, it may be appropriate for the Charterhouse Caving Committee to publicise the potential problems in the caving press. A cautionary note may also be worthwhile when the Mendip caving guide books are next reprinted. As always, though, the final responsibility rests with the caver. Think more carefully about the weather before you go underground !



## THE BIGGEST

I say it was the biggest, mind, it's only my opinion, but I'll stand by it.

It was huge, it was the usual run of wierd colours, and it was eleven inches long and five inches across.

And it was mine.

When the boss's secretary saw it, she said 'ow' and pulled a face, my colleagues are jealous and ask all sorts of questions about it.

The wife, of course, ignores it, but then, wives always do.

I first noticed I was different when showering in the cottage after a trip. It was really just a passing remark that someone made, 'cor, look at that' and there it was, mighty and magnificent.

Now I'm not usually one to boast, but I will say, that compared to the other examples on view in the shower block, it took the biscuit, something to be proud of, a talking point for years to come, the envy of the organisation.

If I'm honest, it was really a bit of an embarrassment, owing to the way the swelling made a lump in my clothing, and also when offered for inspection, usually caused people to recoil in horror. It was also a little uncomfortable if not carefully tucked away. This of course meant that ~~there~~ wasn't a lot you could do with it, I mean you had to be careful. (I could do one or two things with it but you made sure you only did them one at a time, and carefully.)

All this, of course does not detract from the honour of having the biggest one, and the biggest it was, no question.

Ah well, all good things must come to an end and now, two weeks later, it's barely a shadow of it's former self. In fact it's all but disappeared. nearly all I'm left with is the memory, the memory of the biggest bruised elbow of the year. That'll teach me to muddle my feet up climbing up into Barnes loop, won't it.

Inky Scribbler.

# MENDIP CAVING GROUP



PATRON: THE MARQUESS OF BATH

MINUTES OF THE 1983 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Saturday 19th March at Charterhouse Manor, Nordrach at 3pm.

Chairman: Pat Walsh.

Attendance: 41 full members, 6 probationary and 10 associate members.

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Brace, Pete Mathews and Greg Smith.

Minutes of the 1982 Half Yearly General Meeting: These were agreed by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports from the Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and Recorder have been circulated in advance of the meeting, in MCG newsletter no.162, March 1983. No report was received from the Hon. Meet Secretary. Reports from the Hon. Tacklemaster and Cottage Warden are published below.

Hon. Tacklemaster (Phil Ingold) - report circulated shortly before the AGM: "Tackle has been well used during the year and the new equipment purchased for trial in 1982 has been used and seems suitable, e.g. 25' ladder, 600' 11mm Nylon Rope and hard hats. Tackle available at the beginning of last year comprised 380' for the ladder, 750' for the rope and 50' for the dig ladder, 21 Belays, 3 Spreaders. This has now been supplemented with the purchase of 4 pulleys, 200' of ladder, 600' of rope and 2 Belays and 5 Dry Cell Cap lamps, c/o Tony Knibbs, and 3 tackle bags. The new ladder is identified by having resin on one side of each rung coloured red. This colour scheme is unique so far, so it can easily be identified and dated for maintenance purposes. The next batch can perhaps be colour coated differently. Some people have difficulty in identifying ladder lengths. To find the length, note that all rungs are 10" spacing so count the rungs to find the length.

"I have had some problems of marking rope lengths: I tried using shrink sleeving with a series of rings on one end, each ring designating 50' of length, i.e., 300' equals 6 rings. Some rings are firmly secured but a few have been detached. Two sizes of shrink sleeving were tried and the tighter fitting one seems to be better, so I propose to replace the loose rings. The system is, in fact, fail safe: if a 300' rope loses 3 rings you have got 150' spare rope on the pitch. The latest batch of 600' of rope has been divided into 1 x 300' and 2 x 150' lengths which is additional to the 5 x 50', 3 x 100' and 1 x 150'.

"It is nice to see that much more use is being made of the club tackle. Please examine it, before and after, each trip to ensure that it is in good order. If you do find any damage, please do not put it back in the store, pass it to the Tackle Master for repairs or scrapping."

Hon. Cottage Warden (John Miriam) - verbal report given at AGM:

"I don't think there is a great deal to say. The most significant feature is that the Cottage is still there. We are using the same booking system as before - this is working well, and I am happy with the scheme. We are not yet booked heavily for the summer. There is a good balance on cottage income between members and guests, and in general the cottage is getting good use and is ticking over happily.

"The storage heaters have been installed, and the work completed on the cess pit. We have got to get the cottage extension done this year - it is the single most important item outstanding, and is needed to ease the pressure on the changing room. Another overdue item is the installation of strip heaters in the changing room. Bryan Pittman and Derek Walsh deserved the Group's thanks for their work in providing and fitting the storage heaters.

"Odd jobs and other cottage items outstanding include some covering on the lounge floor, a loft ladder, coal bunker, fencing adjoining the Fry's property, and repair work on the upstairs windows whose sealer coat is deteriorating. I do not propose to do all these jobs myself (cries of 'shame'). Mendip District Council's charges for refuse collection were high this coming year, so members are encouraged to burn suitable waste and put out only 1 bag of refuse on any one weekend - this will save £18 a year."

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hon. Treasurer (Arthur Spain):

Malcolm Cotter queried how the Group's money was banked - he thought that some medium and long term funds could be kept in a separate account with longer notice of withdrawal, to earn additional interest. Malcolm suggested a Post Office account, Simon Knight proposed income bonds. Arthur Spain thought that up to £2000 could now be reserved this way, and the Committee were asked to follow up this possibility.

Hon. Editor (Ian McKechnie):

Ian offered the Group's thanks to Bryan Pittman, and Kate Taylor and Jill Attwood, for their hard work on the 1982 Journal. Bryan thanked everyone who had contributed to the Journal, and said he was looking forward to reading the next one!

Hon. Cottage Warden (John Miriam):

There was some discussion about occasions when members had booked a bunk in advance but had not turned up - maybe losing the club some income. Members agreed that appropriate action had been taken - to give the Cottage Warden discretion to impose sanctions if there were persistent problems - and that it was largely up to individual members not to be silly.

Arthur Spain made a strong plea for members to pay up cottage fees during the relevant weekend, rather than after the event which caused a lot of unwanted effort by the Treasurer.

Roger Wallington had prepared revised plans for the cottage extension and these would be displayed on the notice-board. They were to be submitted to the local council for building regulations' approval (planning permission was not required).

Steve Taylor was promised that the extra shower heads he had requested were not forgotten. John Miriam thought that the existing water supply to the shower area could cope easily with a third shower point.

The land extension at the rear of the cottage was still no further advanced, but it was intended to ask for an area large enough to accommodate extra car parking and camping space.

Replying to Roy Kempston, Tony Knibbs said the Committee were alert to the question of membership numbers, and were monitoring how fully the cottage facilities were used, such as the kitchen area. But there appeared to be no warning signs yet.

Hon. Recorder/Librarian (Jon Roberts):

Roy Kempston asked what progress had been made in acquiring maps of the area, following the 1982 HYGM decision. Jon said that 12 had been acquired so far, with a further 9 on order.

Hon. Tacklemaster (Phil Ingold):

It was agreed that ways of improving ladder markings should be looked into - Adrian Duckett offered to swage or crimp rings to identify the ladders clearly.

Steve Taylor asked that the Group should publicise digging meets; Roy Kempston wanted to see a rescue meet organised this year, and a meet in Sutherland. Members suggested that publicity could be given through the newsletter - as for Sutherland, Roy was invited to talk to the next Meet Secretary.

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Following Bryan Terry's withdrawal from the nomination of Tacklemaster, the two posts vacant were filled by unopposed candidates: Geoff Barton, Meet Secretary; and Roy Kempston, Tacklemaster.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Peter Spain and Mike Lovell agreed to be auditors for the main MCG accounts in 1983. Alan Mellon and Geoff Barton agreed to be auditors for the MCG Caving Shop accounts.

ANY OTHER BUSINESSBadges and sweatshirts

The meeting agreed that the Group should buy its own design of sweatshirts (likely cost in the range £5.50 to £8), though it was not expected to be a major money-raising venture. Members preferred the option of sweatshirts rather than T-shirts, with good quality embroidery. A design occupying approximately the same area as the Fullers 'Griffin' format was wanted. A new Group badge was desired: suggestion to the Editor, within two months.

Training test forms

Gordon Lister expressed concern about the training test. Members after discussion agreed that the form was adequate, and that it was up to sponsoring members to make sure they were satisfied of the probationary member's competence on the points raised in the form, during the training test.

Overdue subscriptions

There was a lengthy discussion on the tardiness of some members in paying their membership subscriptions - about 20-30 members still had not paid for 1983. The committee were already empowered to terminate the membership of persons not paid up by 31st January in each year, if this seemed appropriate. The question of what action to take with each individual was a matter for the committee to decide, but it was noted that no-one present at the meeting had objected to the notion that those who hadn't paid by 31st March would indeed be removed from the membership list, and would have to re-apply for membership after that date.

Covenants

Arthur Spain renewed his plea for members to fill in covenant forms - these did not bind the member to paying extra money, they just enabled the Group (as a Charity) to claim from the Inland Revenue the tax difference between the member's subscription to the Group and the pre-tax earnings this represented.

Vote of thanks

Members warmly appreciated the work that had been carried out by the two retiring committee members, Phil Ingold and Greg Smith.

DATE OF INFORMAL HALF-YEARLY FORUM:

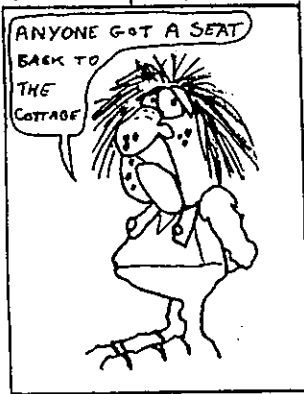
This, and the 30th Anniversary meet, will be held on the weekend of October 21st to October 23rd. Full details will be publicised in the newsletter.



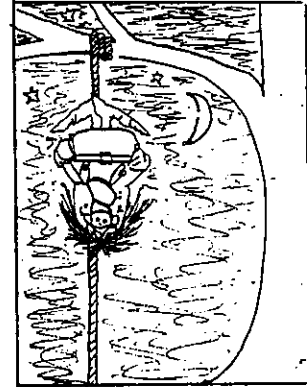
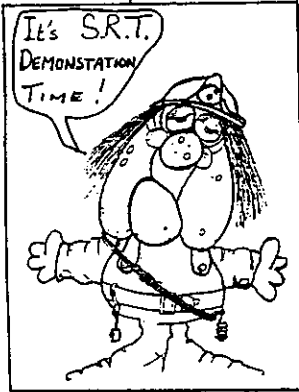
*Right, lads - I think you trainees are ready for the real thing!*

# Bob Speleo - AGM Weekend Special.

Bob Speleo β



Bob Speleo β



Bob Speleo β



Bob Speleo β

