



Mendip Caving Group Newsletter

July 1983

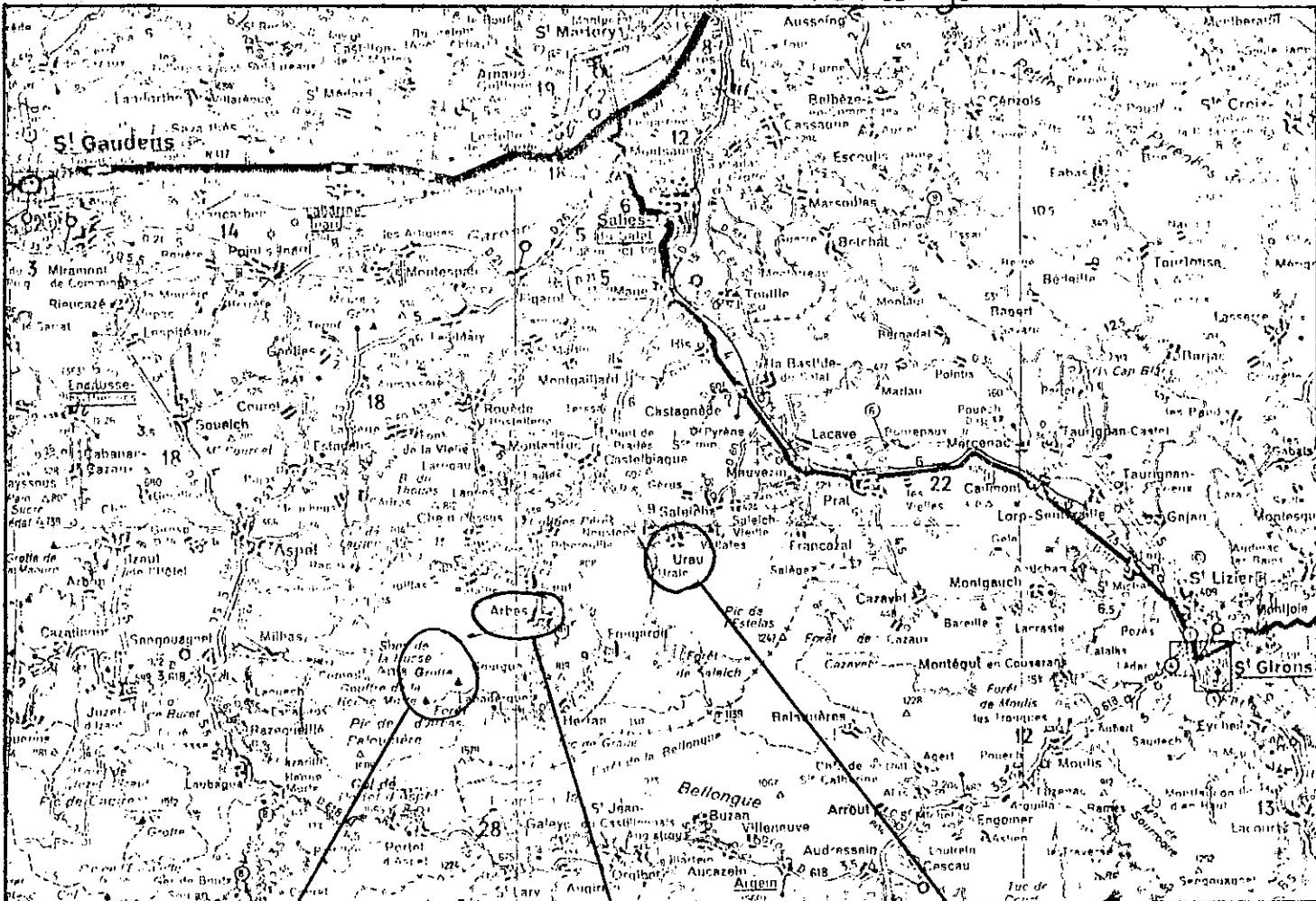
No. 165

***** First Colour Edition *****

Michelin 1/200,000
Sheet 86 or 235

PYRENEES 1983

Toulouse 70 km Calais 1000 km
MCG Cottage 1300 km.



MCG
Campsite & caves

Arbas Village

Gite

IN THIS ISSUE...

MCG meet programme	2	Craig-a-Ffynnon Report	7
Pyrenees Notes	3	Little Neath Report	8
Membership News	4	"Going Caving"	10
Cottage Bookings	5	MCG Shop Advertisement	11
Caving Notes	5	"Pudding Club"	12
Charterhouse Cave	6	MCG Members List	13
Dan-yr-Ogof Report	7	Bob Speleo	14

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

Secretary:

Tony Knibbs, 23 Winern Glebe, Byfleet, Surrey.
tel (home) Byfleet 43875 (work) 01-546-7741 ext 2199

Treasurer:

Arthur Spain, 57 Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham Sussex.
tel (home) Horsham 64068 (work) Crawley 542251 ext 63

Meet Secretary:

Geoff Barton, 5 Cricket View, Princes Road, Weybridge Surrey.
tel (home) Weybridge 49241.

Cottage Warden:

John Miriam, 44 Chesterfield Road, West Ewell, Surrey KT19 9QP
tel (home) 01-393-3955 (work) 01-736-1212 ext 3027

Tacklemaster:

Roy Kempston, 13 Florence Road, College Town, Camberley, Surrey.
tel (home) Camberley 34338

Recorder:

Jonathan Roberts, 17 Kent Avenue, West Ealing, London W13 8BE
tel (home) 01-997-2916 (work) 01-278-3825

Editor:

Ian McKechnie, 30 Brittain Road, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey
tel (home) Walton 228292 (work) Walton 228851

CAVING ACCOMMODATION is available at the MCG Cottage on Mendip. The address is:
Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Bristol, BS18 6XW
Map reference NCR 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 8.30pm onwards at:
The Fox and Hounds And Mawson Arms, Chiswick Lane South, London W4.

NEXT NEWSLETTER is due in mid- September (I don't think an August issue will be possible due to holidays etc.) Copy should reach the Editor before 9th Sept. to ensure inclusion.

MCG MEET PROGRAMME

Aug 13	Birks Fell	John Miriam	NPC
Aug 18-Sept 6	Pyrenees	Ian McKechnie	Camping
Sep 24	Rescue Practise	Arthur Spain	MCG
Oct 8	Penyghent Pot	Roger Wallington	NPC
Oct 22	Half-yearly Forum/30th party		MCG
Nov 12	Agen Allwedd	Tony Knibbs	Whitewalls
Dec 3	St Cuthberts Swallet	Tony Knibbs	MCG

The next ARMCHAIR MEET is on Thursday 11th August in the "back room" of the Mawson Arms. It is hoped that all of the "Pyrenees Team" will come along on that evening, as it will be a last chance for a discussion before we go. We will have details of the camp site or a meeting place, and will circulate any other relevant information.

The TREE MEETS still continue every Tuesday, about 7pm, behind the Editor's flat. We haven't missed one yet - but check before you come along, just in case it's cancelled. These sessions certainly seem to be proving useful in giving us a chance to practise our SRT techniques, adjust our rig, and hopefully make all the mistakes in less hostile surroundings than the 80m pitch in Reseau Trombe!

NETHERWOOD DIG is being stabilised and capped on the weekend of the 6th/7th August. Lengths of piping should be there by then, along with all the other necessary materials. We need many hands to make light work of the job - so be there if you can. Contact Arthur Spain for further details.

LAST CHANCE to practise your SRT underground before the Pyrenees may be the Birks Fell meet on the 13th August. So dust your descenders, polish your prussikers, and join John Miriam for a weekend in Yorkshire.

The RESCUE PRACTICE is an important event in the MCG calendar. Once a year it brings home the problems of removing a casualty from a cave, and gives us first-hand experience of some of the difficulties involved. Not only will this be of use if we are ever called in to assist in a real rescue; it will, I hope, make us think twice before making an exposed move or climbing a ladder without a life-line. A broken leg on the surface is bad enough, but do we really want to be dragged through the cave on a stretcher, and involve a lot of people in expenditure of a lot of time and effort? Join us if you can for the Rescue Practice, 24th September. We need as many people as possible to make it work - and I hear a rumour there may even be a barrel on that weekend.

The HALF YEAR FORUM on 22nd October this year takes on a special significance as we shall be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the formation of the club. A hall has been booked nearby, with bar, band and barndancing. There will be food and "further entertainments" (still on the secret list.) It promises to be an excellent evening at a reasonable cost (but we haven't quite done all the sums yet - watch this space). Tickets will be on sale in advance, but it will be advisable to book your bunk or B and B now, before it's too late. Don't forget Charterhouse Manor is just across the road - phone number Blagdon (0761)62262 and mention the MCG.

PYRENEES NOTES

- (1) BCRA insurance is now arranged. Tony will be approaching you for money!
- (2) SRT practice, Tuesday evenings, 30 Brittain Road Hersham. Check with Ian McKechnie in case of cancellation or change of venue.
- (3) Expedition rope and equipment is on order and should be in our hands by the time you read this. Geoff Barton would like a contribution of £10 from each caving member of the expedition, to supplement the £250 provided from club funds.
- (4) Please note that the final planning meeting will be at the Mawson Arms, Thursday 11th August. If you can't make it, contact Tony Knibbs or Ian McKechnie, to ensure you receive all the information and documentation due to you.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The following changes of address have been notified:-

Christine Martin (again!) Honeyhanger, Rectory Road, Padworth Common, Reading Berks

John Miriam 44 Chesterfield Road, West Ewell, Surrey KT19 9QP

Mike Mintram 45A Oxford Road, Ealing, London

A MEMBERSHIP LIST is published elsewhere in this issue. As promised in a recent newsletter, phone numbers have been included where known. Only three people have requested to remain "ex-directory" for various reasons. If you have a phone and the number isn't on the list, or the wrong address is shown, please tell the Editor, who will make the necessary correction.

APOLOGIES are due to Steve Bedford, who was recorded in the last edition to be withdrawn from membership due to non-payment of subscriptions. In fact he paid promptly and in full, and we can only, again, apologise for our error. We don't even have a computer to blame.

OBVIOUSLY PIQUED at not being allowed caving or sailboarding, young Simon Alexander Ingold came down to the Mawson Arms a couple of Thursdays ago to "meet the lads". Introductions went well until he was picked up by Pat Walsh, when he made some rather uncaverlike sounds and pulled some extremely caverlike faces. By the way, Simon Alexander; Arthur Spain hasn't received your subs yet - it's not good enough you know.

CLUB SWEATSHIRTS should be available about 3 weeks from now. First editions will be on sale at the Mawson Arms as soon as they arrive.

THE 30th ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER is waiting for contributions - anything relevant should be sent to the Editor as soon as possible.

THE MCC JOURNAL published earlier this year did not, it seems, get to everyone entitled to a copy. If you are a full member and didn't receive your copy of the journal, please either contact the Editor, or pick up a copy from the library when next you're down on Mendip.

MUD ENGINEERS. Minimum 5 years' experience, required for North Sea and possible worldwide work. (Recent advertisement in the Daily Telegraph.)

PLEASE NOTE the Editor's change of telephone numbers from 31.7.83. All Walton-on-Thames numbers will be prefixed with 2, so the new numbers are Walton 228292 (home) and 228851 (work). The STD code changes from 09322 to 0932, but local calls will require the extra "2" on the number.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP is now 106, comprising 62 full members, 27 probationary members, 15 associate members, and 2 honorary members.

COTTAGE BOOKINGS

July		October	
30		1	
August		8	Kingston(10) + Westminster(14)
6	Pete Bulling + 12	15	Northern Pennine
13		22	MCG 30th Birthday
20		29	
27			
September		November	
3		5	
10		12	
17	Barnet C G	19	
24	Members (Rescue Practice)	25	
		December	
		3	Members (St Cuthberts)

CAVING NOTES

WEEKEND COURSES arranged by Losehill Hall Centre, Derbyshire, are described in a bundle of brochures received recently. They include:

"Minerals, Rocks and Fossils", 21st-23rd October, £46.

"Caves of the Peak District", 18th-20th November, £46.

"Mines of Derbyshire", 2nd-4th March 1984, £48.

The cost in each case includes accommodation and meals. For further details contact Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire S30 2WB. Phone Hope Valley (0433) 20373.

SINGING RIVER MINE is on private land which has just changed ownership. To ensure continued access to this system, we must remain on good terms with the new owners, and with the residents of the adjoining houses. There have been some complaints recently of inconsiderate parking by cavers, and of cavers changing in sight of the houses. (not a pretty sight!) Please remember to use a little common sense in these matters; it's worth a little thought if it will keep another cave system open to us.

A NEW CAVING SHOP is due to open in Wells early in August. Phil Romford has premises at 8 Tucker Street (turn right by the cinema, just before "Rocksport", then park in the big car park.) His business is called "Bat Products", and he will be dealing in Caving, Climbing, Camping and other outdoor gear. We wish him every success in his new venture.

TOM ELKIN is retiring from his position as warden of the Charterhouse Outdoor Field Studies Centre in September, to take up a post with the Countryside Commission. During his time at Charterhouse, Tom has been a good friend to the MCG in many ways. We appreciate all his help in the past, and wish him every success in his new position. His place at Charterhouse will be taken over by Terry Matthews.

FOUND after the last Pyrenees planning meeting - a 50,000 map of the area by Institut Geographique National. If you've lost one, contact IDMcK.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS: Charterhouse Manor.....Blagdon (0761) 62262
Mawson Arms.....01-994-3584 & 2936
BEC (The Belfry).....Wells (0749) 72126

I could have got matters more wrong to begin that weekend of 26th and 27th February, but not much. First, without car and with limited carrying capacity on the bicycle that I proposed to put on the train from Paddington to Yatton (thence via Burrington Combe to Wordrach), I chose to bring a large number of publications for the cottage library rather than my caving gear. This was wrong as I still ended up caving - or did I get the best of both worlds. My decision had however been spurred on by my impression that no other members would be present at the cottage. Wrong again - Tony Knibbs, John Miriam and Denise Samuel were there, or would have been when I arrived in time for a liquid Saturday lunch if they hadn't been down St Cuthbert's Swallet with Tony wearing 'L' plates for one stage of his Cuthbert's leadership training.

In the event, Saturday lunchtime and afternoon were a useful round of Mendip establishments and library chores, much as I had planned. However my Saturday evening and Sunday had clearly been planned by others, being drawn into various commitments during what seemed only a short space of time (but several pints) after stepping across the threshold of the Hunters. Not least of these was an invitation to visit Charterhouse Cave the next day, in the company of Alison and Pete Moody and other Wessex expeditionaries, as supporting cast for supporting karst - concreting boulders to be precise. I had to say yes - how often do you get the chance to visit a fresh Mendip cave? 10.30 to 11am, suggested Pete, so at 12.40 he arrived with spare caving gear. The party tallied 1 Alison, 1 Paul, 2 Petes and 1 Jon. Time underground was nearly five hours.

Charterhouse has everything you would expect in passage variety and formation from a Blackdown cave. By Longwood out of Tynings Barrow, is how the sporting pundits would describe the entrance series. A bouldery passage followed by a body-sized hole reminiscent of those in Tynings lead to the end of Reads Grotto and the beginning of Charterhouse Cave proper, the vertical rift first pushed by Alison Moody, Pete Moody and a lumphammer. They must have dragged the rift from the Longwood Showerbath area, by all appearances, though the water was left behind. Progress along the base of this rift is obtained by sligging (a mixture of slithering and wriggling) still spread-eagled vertically, until a small rift junction is reached. Here one consults the pundits again, whose opinion is that the next passage required fewer than the normally accepted number of parents. It is the Squeeze, a level 5 foot long rift.

Vets call this problem one of 'presentation': is the subject facing the right direction, are the arms in the approved position, and the legs in an orderly fashion. Obstetrics, veterinary or human, are not normally concerned about lead-acid batteries, loose caving helmets, or whether the subject is wearing a slightly eroded 6mm wet suit with a 6mm flap over the zip. But I know now what it is like to be a born again caver. It dawns that this is not a quick doddle to the equivalent of The Bridge in GB Cave, in fact if you don't keep a grip on yourself this cave will keep its grip on you.

Recovery on the far side of the Squeeze is assisted by the sight of a shuffling-size passage, though this is of brief duration. Longwood then rapidly reasserts itself, with the streamway joining at the Wallows, a semi-prone crawl grafted straight from the Wet Way in August Series. And suddenly, after a short section of upright crawling, the main chambers arrive. Both GB and Manor Farm have clearly had a hand here. Descent down a muddy slope is followed by the Waterfall and the parting of the ways. To the left is the main passage following half Manor Farm sized streamway steps; right a thrutch up to the Citadel, where the overwhelming impression is of standing in GB's main chamber below the Bridge.

Off the Citadel is Chiaroscuro Passage. I was uneasy here, afraid of spoiling the cave pearls and calcite flows just by my presence. I shall remember that feeling, which was the more memorable for the freshness of the formations. Access to Chiaroscuro's continuation towards GB double passage is with socks for footwear, traversing at high level along the length of a rift covered by calcite flow. I did not attempt this.

The lower part of the cave is gained back at the main streamway. But just as you think "aha, here's another GB Gorge going on and on", Charterhouse Cave closes down. We have arrived at the Great Swallet depression. The first route to the terminal boulder choke under the Great Swallet passed through a delightful grotto. This has been protected by taping and newly bypassed by a low level grovel in the streamway, which I found best to negotiate feet first, after contorted attempts at turning round on the far side of a flat-out crawl. This new route emerges on the distant side of the grotto, which provides the best viewing position and a fitting conclusion for the cave's (temporary) terminus.

Other pristine areas of the cave have also been taped off - their freshness and freedom from damage are vitally worth conserving. At the terminal dig, unstable boulders are being cemented into semi-rigidity, to secure a 'safe' tunnel under Great Swallet's boulder choke. A 50 foot length may need excavating. The cave's side walls slope very steeply here, so a ladder pitch may be due.

I should like to thank the Wessex and especially Alison and Pete Moody, for the invitation to visit Charterhouse Cave and for the opportunity to help with the terminal dig.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since this article was written earlier in the year, the club has been issued with a key to Charterhouse Cave. The conditions of access require that parties should be accompanied by one of two appointed leaders. Anyone who would like a visit should contact Tony Knibbs or Ian McKechnie. Advance notice is advisable, to ensure the key is available.

DAN-YR-OGOF, THE FAR NORTH - Saturday 2nd July

by Tony Knibbs

Participants: Tony Knibbs, Roger Wallington, Denise Samuel, Geoff Barton, Ian McKechnie, Roy Kempston, Martin Rowe, Stuart France (SWCC)

There are days when the weather is too good to go caving, and there are caves which are too good to miss. When both situations arise together, the cave has to win - especially when it is Dan-yr-ogof.

For some of the party, the trip was something of a return match; last year we only scored a draw, reaching the sand choke near North Aven at half-time and being too late/confused/tired to press on northwards. I remember leaving the cave carrying too many ammo boxes and muttering darkly that, "Things will be different next time".

And behold, things were indeed different. Following a latish start at 10.45am (ETR registered as 8.30pm at SWCC), the trip got under way smoothly with RW up front making the same sort of minor pathfinding errors which TK remembered well, afterwards.

In one hour, we were at Gerard Platten Hall beyond the crawl, and a further hour found us climbing into Windy Way at the Rising. A steady pace was being accompanied by minor outbreaks of singing and whistling, especially selections from Walt Disney films of which "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" drew suitable comment.

The intermediate descent from Windy Way into Birthday Passage was done as a 45ft ladder pitch which I strongly prefer to the alternative traverse over deep holes. A second pitch of similar length drops out of Birthday Passage into the Great North Road, a stream passage of impressive size. We were now about halfway to our destination - Far North Choke - and 2½ hours had elapsed. Also MR's lamp virtually expired.

The charge to the Far North was now on. Route finding around or through boulder piles provided brief delays, but high spirits prevailed and we soon passed Pinnacle Chamber and The Meanders to reach the sand choke where we stopped in 1982.

A quick reconnaissance identified North Aven and the upper end of the Mostest, a finely decorated oxbow where great care is needed to avoid damaging the formations. After a short stop for food, RW led the 50ft climb up North Aven and everyone else thrutched up in hot pursuit to reach Overpass Passage.

There was now an atmosphere of remoteness about the cave, which increased as we progressed over sand-covered boulders and down again to the streambed. Passage size increased considerably as Far North Choke drew nearer. Finally leaving the stream and scaling a boulder pile brought us to the massive choke itself. Here the sound of the stream is absent and footfalls are deadened by sand deposits - the silence is profound.

At this point we were about 300ft above and two miles from the cave entrance. It was 4pm and into the second half of our allotted time, so sightseeing was restricted. MR saw even less but was, by now, becoming adept at caving on the general glow afforded by the lamps of others.

The return journey was uneventful, the vanguard of TK, DS, and RK emerging from the river entrance at 8.15pm, soon followed by IMcK and GB. SF had elected to take RW and MR out via Thixotropic Passage and the lower streamway, a detour which added on a few minutes.

Overnight rain had produced a rise of between four and six inches in the level of the lakes, the waterfalls were noisier on the return, and the water much more brown and turgid.

For me, the trip provided a fitting celebration of 30 years of caving. With caves like DYO to visit, it is hardly surprising that a mild attack of carboniferous curiosity should turn into such a chronic, enjoyable, incurable, hilarious ailment.

OGOF- CRAIG -A-FFYNNON - Sunday 3rd July

by Tony Knibbs

Participants: Tony Knibbs, John Miriam, Roger Wallington, Denise Samuel, Derek Walsh, Geoff Barton, Roy Kempston, Ian McKechnie, and led by Bill Gascoigne.

Again, a clash of preferences - such a hot day but such a good cave. Again, the cave won. The hard bit was getting into caving gear (mostly wetsuits) and walking the 200yds from the lay-by to the cave in the sweltering heat; the cold draught coming out of the entrance was most welcome.

Ogof Craig-a-ffynnon is about seven miles in total length. It commences with sections of stooping-sized passages interrupted by crawls, a muddy wallow and a couple of ascents through boulder chokes.

Shortly beyond the second boulder choke the cave opens up dramatically into a huge passage about 30ft wide, 50-60ft high and seemingly going on forever ahead. Forever is actually about half a mile, through several changes in passage cross-section and past many fine areas of calcite formations, to reach the Hall of the Mountain King. This is a grandiose affair - some 70ft high, 100ft in diameter, and with some fine hanging decorations.

Another boulder choke precludes continuation in the large passage, but an 800ft bedding-plane crawl was pursued by JM and RW to reach the aptly-named Severn Tunnel. Expecting at any time to be run down by a train in this passage with a remarkable similarity to a railway tunnel, they hurried on to Severn Tunnel Junction, where two routes diverge. A downward climb led them to Blaen Elin streamway, with some fine formations. "Elin", by the way, is "Nile" backwards.

The rest of the party made a leisurely return towards the entrance, pausing to take many photographs. A major diversion was to follow what initially looked like a minor tributary passage to the west(?) of the main route. Emitting a howling gale, this stream passage soon took on an impressive cross-section and was well decorated in places. After about 2000ft, a huge boulder choke stopped further progress; it must be one of the best digging prospects in the UK.

Returning downstream we met JM and RW continuing their tour at a brisk pace. The party made their exit at about 4pm, having spent four hours underground.

The stream available at the roadside to wash off in is, unfortunately, the tributary which we made so muddy back in the cave. Ever tried washing in cold tea?

LITTLE NEATH RIVER CAVE 3rd July

by Ian Parry

Participants; Martin Rowe, Alan Mellon, Adrian Duckett, Gordon Lister, Lesley Robbins, Andy Beare, Ian Parry.
Team Support. Bryan Pittman, and Kathy

As we couldn't find a DAN Y OGOF leader, we tentatively decided in the pub on Sat. evening to do Little Neath on Sunday. MR and IP had been there before on the last DAN Y meet, so it was decided it warranted another trip. With the sun shining brightly we set off with BP threatening to come with us 'UNDERGROUND' and MR, armed with mental map succeeded in touring various farms and meeting plenty of farm animals.

We were, however, soon to find the cave. We donned our wetsuits (without BP who had forgotten his wetsocks HO-HUM) and headed down the entrance streamway. The warm water bubbled around our parts for 50ft, then after a series of crawls we soon found ourselves at a duck, which LR decided to sump. (The duck can be passed by a passage to the right).

On down the streamway, passages got bigger and the going easier, till we came across the canal. The canal is a long flat out arm over arm crawl 3ft high by 30ft wide with the streamway running the length of it. At the end of the canal the streamway continues down to the sump, though large rocky passages. To the left is a tributary which IP and AM investigated, the others continuing down to the sump.

The left hand passage began dry and soon arrived at a drop in the floor to a small streamway and flat out crawl. Upstream lead back to the left hand passage and also continued for a long way with numerous sand banks and clear crystal pools and prettys, to a small waterspout from a high level passage.

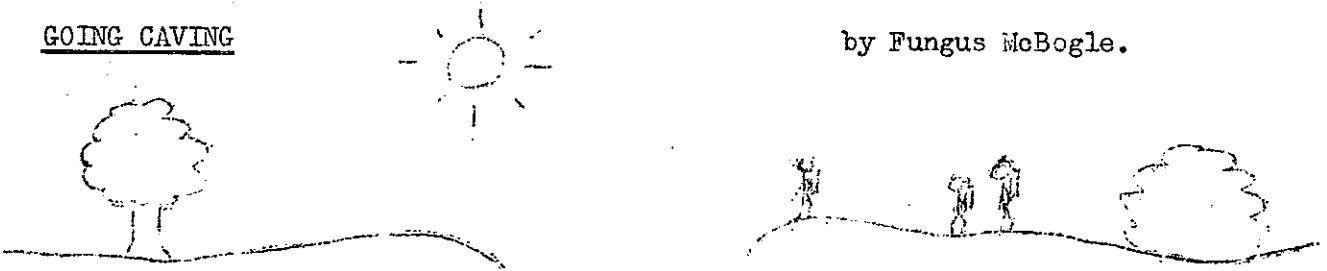
IP and AM decided to turn back to join the others at the sump. They arrived at where they thought the sump was and concluded that the others had already returned up the canal. so they did likewise, to find no one there. 20mins later the others joined them and IP and AM realised they hadn't reached the sump.

A quick Mars break and out. MR took over the lead and soon directed the party the wrong way up a tight, sharp, muddy horrid passage which went on and on. This greatly upset GL who remarked "what's that fxxxxxx bxxxxxx playing at" and various death threats from the others persuaded MR to cut his losses and turn back. IP quickly found the streamway and the party soon surfaced to meet a tanked up BP.

To summarise - sporting trip, wetsuit essential, but watch weather as liable to flooding. Well worth doing if you can't get on a DAN Y trip.

GOING CAVING

by Fungus McBogle.



Don't go caving
When it's raining
Unless you want
Survival training
Don't go caving
When it's fair
The rain may come
While you are there
Don't go caving
When it's cold
The water's icy
So I'm told
Don't go caving
When it's hot
It makes your body
Sweat a lot
Don't go caving
When you're young
Stay in bed
It's much more fun
Don't go caving
When you're old
Show the young
Some self-control

Don't go caving
When you're drunk
It's nasty pewking In a sump
Don't go caving When you're sober Stay at home
Until its over Don't go caving On your own
They may take months To find your bones Don't go caving
With your mates They'll leave your bones To suppurate
Don't go caving When they're open The landlord's heart Is easy broken
Don't go caving When they're closed They'll soon be open
I suppose
GOING CAVING? ARE YOU RAVING? ONLY FOOLS (AND US) GO CAVING

MCG CAVING SHOP

FOR ALL YOUR CAVING, WALKING, BOARDSAILING
AND MOUNTAINEERING NEEDS.

* * * * *
* SPECIAL PURCHASE *
* * * * *

4mm 2 PIECE WET SUITS
SMALL MEDIUM AND LARGE ONLY £39.00

ONE PIECE FURRY SUITS WITH ZIPS AND POCKETS

(Rec. Retail Price)

POLYESTER/ACRYLIC PILE	PS1	£17.00	£19.97
STREICH POLYESTER/ACRYLIC PILE		£17.00	£19.97
EXTRA WARM SUIT	LS1	£20.00	£24.50
HEAVY DUTY SUIT	CS1	£30.00	£35.00
100% WOOL PILE (SUPER LUXURY)	SS1	£37.00	£44.85
'SHORTY' ACRYLIC PILE SUIT	SS2	£11.50	£12.93
ANKLE SOCKS	AS1	£3.00	£3.50
CARRYALL BAG (NYLON) 30"x14" DIA.		£5.00	£6.00

SLEEPING BAGS

ACRYLIC PILE		£16.00
SYNTHETIC 'RADIANT BARRIER'	FROM	£46.50
HOLO-FIBRE		£32.50
DOWN	FROM	£55.00 to £130

DUVET JACKETS

DOWN-FILLED	FROM	£52.00 to £100
WITH GORTEX OUTER		£100 to £140
SYNTHETIC-FILLED	FROM	£32.00 to £63.00
WITH GORTEX OUTER		£110
GORTEX JACKETS		£55.00
GORTEX OVER TROUSERS		£37.00

It was lunch time, past it in fact, our guide was seated with his feet across the entrance to the chamber, but then, he couldn't stand up, there wasn't enough head room. He was filling his face like it was going out of fashion, sandwiches, cake creme eggs, the lot, all out of his ammo box. (actually, the creme egg came later, but I exaggerate for the sake of effect.-mind you he nearly got lynched and we discovered a new cottage game.)

All this started about a month before when someone decided he could organise a trip to Merstham mines and instructed the guide to us all the interesting bits, but forgot to find out how long it would all take. We all thought that we were in for a cushy hour or two and a liquid lunch. (soft lot).

I only had my emergency mars bar, of uncertain vintage and a little flat. Hardly the ultimate in three course lunches (pint, whisky chaser and half a pint for luck) but hunger won.

The first job was to get the wrapper off. Normally this only requires slightly above average skill, but on this occasion, well, have you tried peeling a bandage off a bad burn.

Having got the wrapper off, I addressed myself to this mixture of water, limestone, sand and a little chocolate, thinking, "what else could I have brought" when Steve said it, well, not 'it' exactly, more "Oi you old cripple, havn't you got any bread pud."

There it was, the answer, calories and bulk in one mass, and no more repulsive above or below ground.

The discussion which followed was academic as we didn't have ovens, stale bread or anything, naturally, Steve demanded immediate delivery of a recipe I had promised him on another, similar, occasion in the Black hole.

Below is what was dictated.

Using any stale or fresh bread or doughnut (the mould may be left on stale bread as preferred) break into pieces 1inch square \pm 10% and soak overnight in water, milk and water or milk, depending on your personal wealth.

In the morning, after cleaning the grate or changing a wheel on the car, plunge both hands into the soggy mass and squeeze out the surplus water.

This process has been likened to hand-mashing fresh brain or crushing blancmange, and you must get all the lumps out, no coherent crusts, all mush, but drier than a cow-pat. At this stage you need to know how much of the equivalent of a loaf of bread you put in.

At this stage it is too late to find out how much of a loaf of bread you put in.

For each loaf, you need, 5-6 oz. chopped marg.(chop it frozen-its easier) 4 oz. dark brown suger, a tablespoonful or two of mixed spice and a good big cupful of dried fruit.

Using the left hand to anchor the bowl, mix all this into the bread mess with the right. (now it really looks like a cow-pat and it's all up your arm)

Scrape the cow-pat into a dish to a depth of about 1 inch and cook in an oven gas mark 5 or 6 (until cooked).

Upon removal from the oven and before treatment of burns occasioned by touching the hot dish, sprinkle with white suger.

This confection should be eaten before Steve Taylor sees it and in any case before 72 hours have elapsed.

Bob Speleo β



MCG MEMBERS LIST July 1983

A=Associate, P=Probationary, F=Full, H=Honourary.

1	Doug Anderson	30 Sunley Gardens, Perivale, Middlesex.	997.3311x2676	F
2	Gill Attwood	24 St Barnabas Road, Sutton, Surrey. SM1 4NF.....		P
3	Geoff Barton	5 Cricket View, Princes Road, Weybridge, Surrey.....	Weybr. 49241	F
4	Dave Baxter	9 Jordon Street, Shelton, Stoke on Trent, Staffs ST1 4JZ.....		F
5	Kathy Baxter	9 Jordon Street, Shelton, Stoke on Trent, Staffs ST1 4JZ.....		A
6	Andy Beare	20 Thorpebank Rd., Shepherds Bush, London.	01.748.9115	P
7	Steve Bedford	251A Lady Margaret Road, Southall, Middlesex. LB1 2PZ.....		P
8	Peter Bulling	126 Corsletts Ave., Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, W. Sussex.....	0403.51286	P
9	Jean Paul Burch	47 Chichester Court, Chessington Rd., Ewell, Surrey.....		F
10	Fred Burton	33 Woodford Crescent, Pinner, Middlesex.		F
11	Julie Burton	33 Woodford Crescent, Pinner, Middlesex.		A
12	Mike Bygrave	Rookery Cottage, Church Street, Effingham, Surrey.....	31.54764	F
13	Robbie Charnock	30 Bassett Gdns., Osterley, Middlesex TW7 4GY.	01.570.4116	F
14	Steve Conquest	113 Lincoln Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.....		F
15	Malcolm Cotter	249 Feltham Hill Rd., Ashford, Middlesex.	69.52653	H
16	Louise Curley	53 Wills Crescent, Hounslow, Middlesex.	01.894.1704	P
17	Anne Davies	72 Aldenham Road, Bushey, Watford, Herts.....	0927.27154	A
18	Geoff Davies	72 Aldenham Road, Bushey, Watford, Herts.....	0927.27154	F
19	Bruce Dean	13 Pennyhill Park, Penrith, Cumbria.	6768.65327	F
20	Mike Dean	29 Bonner Hill Road, Kingston, Surrey.		P
21	Barbara Dewdney	9 Windermere Road, London SW16.	01.764.0539	A
22	Richard Dominey	1 Larks Meade, Elm Lane, Lower Earley, Reading, Berks. RG6 2TA.....		P
23	Eric Dowley	32 Chequers Orchard, Iver, Bucks.	X	F
24	Joan Dowley	32 Chequers Orchard, Iver, Bucks.		A
25	Adrian Duckett	138 St Stephens Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.	01.572.2374	F
26	Bill Ducklin	5 Edinburgh Road, Sutton, Surrey.		P
27	Peter Dyment	Rn.9, 79 Eaton Rise, Ealing, W5.		P
28	Dave Edwards	11 Milland Hse., Bessborough Rd., Roehampton, London SW15.....		P
29	Phil Eliot	7 Oak Dene Road, Brockham, Betchworth, Dorking, Surrey.....		F
30	John Felton	co 64 Buddle Lane, St Thomas, Exeter. EX4 1JJ.....		F
31	Joan Goddard	10 Enstone Road, Charlbury, Oxon.	0608.810382	F
32	Pete Goddard	10 Enstone Road, Charlbury, Oxon.	0608.810382	F
33	Peter Hervey	3 Oakfield Cottages, Caeherbert Lane, Rhayader, Powys. LD6 5CB.....		P
34	Mike Hesleden	3 The Close, Thornhill, Southampton. SO2 5RV.....	0703.464490	N
35	Dave Higginson	19 Princes Avenue, Acton, London. W3.	01.992.0162	P
36	Wayne Hiscox	3 Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset.....	0749.72081x273	F
37	Dave Hodby	"Dawn", 25 Aggisters Lane, Wokingham, Berks.....	01.206.3132	F
38	Dik Houseago	Flat3, 8 The Downs, Wimbledon, London SW20.....	01.947.4773	P
39	Dave Howe	41 Wick Road, Teddington, Middlesex.	01.977.5370	F
40	Neil Hutchinson	15H Gloucester Avenue, Camden Town, London NW1.		F
41	Helen Ingold	31 Spring Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3QS.	0442.42029	F
42	Phil Ingold	31 Spring Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3QS.	0442.42029	F
43	Tony Ingold	96 Forburg Road, Upper Clapton, London N16.		A
44	Bill Jones	6 Craighall Place, Alloway, Avon. Avshire KA7 4XD.....		F
45	Roy Kempston	13 Florence Road, College Town, Canberley, Surrey.....	0276.34338	F
46	Tony Knibbs	23 Winern Glebe, Bvfleet, Surrey.	91.43875	F
47	Simon Knight	14 Rowdens Road, Wells, Somerset.		F
48	Val Knight	14 Rowdens Road, Wells, Somerset.		A
49	Steve Lane	"Rossett", Hillcote, Bleadon Hill, Weston super Mare, Avon BS24 9JU....	0934.812043	P
50	Pete Lingwood	37 Holnbridge Gdns., Enfield, Middlesex. EN3 7EY.....		F
51	Gordon Lister	127 Seaford Road, West Ealing, London W13.		P
52	Mike Lovell	4 Settrington Close, Mill Green, Reading, Berks.....	0734.663747	F
53	Mick Lowe	"Merrilees", Molemer Road, East Molesey, Surrey.....	01.398.1616	F
54	John MacMillan	11 Whitehouse Way, Iver Heath, Bucks.		F
55	Judy MacMillan	11 Whitehouse Way, Iver Heath, Bucks.		A
56	Christine Martin	Honeyhanger, Rectory Road, Padworth Common, Reading, Berks.....		P
57	Pete Mathews	15 Dellcott Close, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.	07073.21018	F
58	Ian McKechnie	30 Brittain Road, Hershaw, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 4LR.....	0932.228292	F

59	Alan Mellon	133 Ellerdine Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 2PU.	01.560.0205	F
60	Joy Merron	41 Preston Road, Upper Norwood, London. SE19.		A
61	Paul Merron	41 Preston Road, Upper Norwood, London. SE19.		F
62	Mike Mintram	45A Oxford Road, Ealing, London, W.	01.579.6061	F
63	Helen Miriam	44 Chesterfield Road, West Ewell, Surrey. KT19 9QP.	01.393.3955	A
64	John Miriam	44 Chesterfield Road, West Ewell, Surrey. KT19 9QP.	01.393.3955	F
65	Paddy Newman	140b Westhount Road, Eltham, London SE9 1XY.		P
66	Carol Nunn	26 Spruce Hills Rd., Walthamstow, London. E17 4LD.	01.527.8533	P
67	Ian Parry	30 Walton Way, Aylesbury, Bucks.	0296.07795	F
68	Rob Penn	"Sunnvbank", Hambledon Common, Lane End, High Wycombe, Bucks.		F
69	Paul Phipps	105 Eastland Road, Yeovil, Somerset.		P
70	Fiona Picton	49 Cecil Park, Pinner, Middlesex. HA5 5HT.	01.866.6141	P
71	Ann Pittman	36 Manor Way, Egham, Surrey.		A
72	Bryan Pittman	36 Manor Way, Egham, Surrey.	87.37540	F
73	John Puddock	9 Windermere Road, London, SW16.	01.764.0539	F
74	Bernard Reeves	16a Newbury Way, Northolt, Middlesex.	01.864.3559	F
75	Lesley Robbins	9 London Road, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury. Bucks.		F
76	Jerry Roberts	16a Manor Road North, Hinchley Wood, Esher. Surrey.	01.398.8419	P
77	Jon Roberts	17 Kent Avenue, West Ealing, London W13 8DE.	01.997.2916	F
78	Martin Rowe	229 Hawthorne Road, Bootle, Merseyside.	X	F
79	Charlie Ruddick	10 Berryfield, Wexham Court Estate, Slough. Bucks.	0753.30494	F
80	Denise Samuel	4 Brent Court, Church Road, Hanwell. London W7.	01.579.4778	F
81	Roger Saunders	21 Rushmoor Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe. Bucks.	0494.813487	F
82	Ron Saunders	21 Rushmoor Avenue, Hazlemere, High Wycombe. Bucks.	0494.813487	F
83	Don Searle	14 Hilda Vale Road, Farnborough, Orpington. Kent BR6 7AN.		F
84	Greg Smith	15 Church View, Gisburn, Lancs.	02005.270	F
85	Arthur Spain	57 Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham. Sussex.	0403.64068	F
86	Julie Spain	57 Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham. Sussex.	0403.64068	P
87	Linda Spain	57 Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham. Sussex.	0403.64068	A
88	Peter Spain	64 Albion Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.	01.572.8765	F
89	Graham Sutcliffe	80 Hurst Lane, East Molesey, Surrey.	01.979.3390	P
90	Kate Taylor	Flat 2, 29 St. Pauls Road, Thornton Heath. Surrey.		A
91	Steve Taylor	Flat 2, 29 St. Pauls Road, Thornton Heath. Surrey.	01.653.8707	F
92	Bryan Terry	54 Brunswick Crescent, New Southgate, London N11 1EB.	01.368.9877	F
93	Pat Terry	54 Brunswick Crescent, New Southgate, London N11 1EB.		A
94	Andy Tizzard	3 Dukas Court, 218 Peckham Rye East, Dulwich. SE22.	01.299.3183	P
95	Clive Towner	1 Long Copse Close, Bookham, Surrey.	8.54529	F
96	Peter Turcan	Flat 10, Kensington Mansions, Trebovir Road. Earls Court. SW5.		P
97	Bob Varley	18 Apsley Road, Oxford, Oxon OX2 7QY.		F
98	Don Vosper	5 Franklyn Terrace, Farrington Gurney, Avon.		F
99	Roger Wallington	125 Langley Road, Slough, Bucks.	0753.43384	F
100	Derek Walsh	74 Gresham Road, Staines, Middlesex.	59.63341	F
101	June Walsh	50 Munster Road, Teddington, Middlesex.		A
102	Pat Walsh	58 Munster Road, Teddington, Middlesex.	01.977.8414	F
103	Chris Whittle	18 Cranville Dean, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead. Herts.	0442.832994	F
104	Peter Whittle	139 Fletcher Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.	0442.61450	P
105	Alan Wicks	39 Sheridan Avenue, Caversham, Reading. Berks.		F
106	Richard Woolacott	Old Church Farm, Main Street, Whissendene. Rutland.		F
107	Fred Young	"Wanstead Cottage", Shipham, Winscombe. Somerset.		H

Bob Speleo β

