



Mendip Caving Group Newsletter

September 1983

No. 166



MCG SWEATSHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE
From Tony Knibbs

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Bob Speleo β



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 Btittain 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 NGR 5147 5606 (OS 1:50000 first series sheet 182)
Bookings should be made with the Cottage Warden.

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER is due in mid-October. Copy should reach the Editor before 7th October, to guarantee inclusion.

MCG MEET PROGRAMME

Sept 24	Rescue Practice	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

NEXT YEARS meet programme is now being prepared. If you have any requests or suggestions, please tell Geoff Barton within the next month.

The HALF YEAR FORUM on 22nd October will, as agreed at the AGM, be an informal meeting this year. The committee will give a brief verbal report, after which it is up to the members to raise any topics they would like to discuss. The meeting will begin at 4pm in the Cottage lounge.

A BARN DANCE is arranged for the evening of 22nd October, starting at 7.30pm in the Chewton Mendip village hall. Tickets at £2.50 each are available from Ian McKechnie, and the cost includes entry, food, and entertainment. There will be a bar in the hall, and a coach has been booked leaving the cottage at about 7pm.

ON THE COVER this month is a copy of the final MCG sweatshirt logo. See ad on page 3 for further details.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME to

David Corr, of 57 Northoote Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3HK.
(introduced by JP Burch, Mike Lintram).
who has been accepted as a probationary member.

CLUB SWEATSHIRTS are now available from Tony Knibbs. There is a choice of white logo on navy, or blue logo on grey. Cost is £6 each.

PLEASE REMEMBER if buying items for the club or the cottage, to submit receipts to the treasurer with your claim for reimbursement. This is important even for small items like toilet rolls etc. If on the odd occasion there is a good reason for not having a receipt, (eg private cash deal) then it would be a great help to the treasurer if you could write the item, cost, and explanation on a piece of paper in lieu of a receipt.

NOTE ALSO that no-one may spend more than £10 of club money without prior authority of the Treasurer.

The JOURNAL should go to all probationary members, not just full members as stated in error in the last newsletter. All members should have received a copy of no.7 (1982), but if you've been missed, contact the Editor or ask for one next time you're at the cottage.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS notified by Steve Conquest; new address is 10 McAdam Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 8PS, tel 01-366-3276.

COTTAGE BOOKINGS

September
24 Members (Rescue Practice)

October
1
8 Kingston (10), Westminster (14)
15 Northern Pennine
22 MCG HY Forum, Barn Dance
29 Alan Mellon (12)

November
5 Members Weekend
12
19 Ealing College (12)
25 Kingston Poly (10)

December
3 Members (St Cuthberts)
10
17
24
31

DAN-YR-OGOF TRIP 3.7.83

by Paddy Newman

Present: Tony Knibbs, Denise Samuel, John Puddock, Dave Edwards, Dick Stenhouse, Paddy Newman.

The party set off expecting a trip of about 5 hours, and with the latter 4 experiencing the fear of death as usual. Just before the Long Crawl, it was announced that PN had lighting problems. Once down the 20ft at the end of the very dark Long Crawl, PN's gloom was discussed. TK and DS decided to sandwich PN between two good lights (curious feeling this), and TK was heard to mention starting a new club called Speleo-gloom.

Before long we were acting as photographic models in Cloud Chamber, and also posing for TK in Flabbergasm Chasm. However we soon cooled off in the Green Canal, and after an exciting descent of the Abyss, we arrived at the Camel's Hump. This was negotiated with much cursing and swearing as we went over the top and couldn't see the bottom.

As we were tucking into some some nosh, TK was heard to mumble "Sh...!" and remove

a large lump of tooth (cave rescue imminent?). Never mind, he says, it's only the second time this has happened in Dan-yr-Ogof.

Soon we were searching for the quick way back to the long crawl, after an excursion round Mazeways One. When the intrepid 4 had waited for 1/2 hour or so, TK and DS decided they couldn't find it (the quick exit, that is), so a return under the Camel's hump, up the Abyss, through the Green Canal was necessary. Following the Long Crawl, we were treated to a quick wash in the Lakes prior to exit. Above the roar of the water, DE was heard to say something about his "new Jacuzzi".

Coming out into the hot, humid air of the car park was like Paradise Regained, but judging by the glances of onlookers, they didn't agree. "It's a tough show cave, this one! Eh?"

Many thanks to TK and DS for leading this trip for JP, DS, DE and PN.

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M C G

30th ANIVERSARY

----- BARN DANCE -----

22nd October 1983

7.30pm onwards

BAR -- ENTERTAINMENT -- FOOD -- DANCING TO THE VELVET BOTTOM BAND -- BAR

Tickets £2.50 (including food) on sale now
(contact Ian McKechnie)

Coach transport will be available from cottage.

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LATE NEWS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Dave Baxter, 52 Bradshaw Rd., Watford, Herts. WD2 4DE.
tel (home) Watford (0923) 32504.

AGEN ALLWEDD MEET 12th November: If you want to go, please tell Tony Knibbs as soon as possible, as he needs names for the permit.

BARN DANCE 22.10.83: Helpers needed to assist with food. Please contact Tony Knibbs or Ian McKechnie if you are prepared to help.

HY FORUM / BARN DANCE WEEKEND 22.10.83: If you have no Mendip accommodation that weekend, you may like to write to Glyn Bolt, WCC Cottage Warden, Upper Pitts, Eastwater Lane, Priddy, Wells, Somerset. BA5 3AX. At present, he expects to have about 10 beds available that weekend. And of course, there's Charterhouse Manor,, Phone Blagdon (0761) 62262.

The PYRENEES MEET was reasonably successful, in that a fair amount of caving was done and we all returned intact. More details in the next newsletter, I hope.

NEXT NEWSLETTER is the 30th anniversary edition. Anyone with any journal-type articles, or any other material, please let me have it as soon as possible so that work can start on this (hopefully) bumper edition.

MCG CAVING SHOP

For all your Caving, Mountaineering, Walking, and Boardsailing needs.

: SPECIAL PURCHASE :
: ----- :
: ***** :

4mm 2 PIECE WET SUITS - SMALL, MEDIUM, AND LARGE £39

ONE PIECE FURRY SUITS, WITH ZIPS AND POCKETS. (rec. retail price)

POLYESTER / ACRYLIC PILE	PS1	£17.00	£19.97
EXTRA WARM SUIT	LS1	£20.00	£24.50
STRETCH POLYESTER / ACRYLIC PILE		£17.00	£19.97
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	£12.95
ANKLE SOCKS	AS1	£ 3.00	£ 3.50
CARRYALL BAG (NYLON) 30"X14" diam.		£ 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 GORETEX OUTER		£100	to £140
SYNTHETIC FILLED	from	£32.00	to £63.00
WITH GORETEX OUTER		£110	
GORETEX JACKETS		£55.00	
GORETEX OVER TROUSERS		£37.00	

THE SHOP IS STILL RUN BY MALCOLM COTTER AND PHIL INGOLD.

249 FELTHAM HILL ROAD, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX TEL ASHFORD 52643

31 SPRING LANE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS TEL 0442 42029

ARMCHAIR MEET on Thursday, 13th October - Steve Lane has offered to goive a slide presentation of his caving trips this year in Greece and France (Vercours). If time permits, this may even be supplemented with a few Pyrenees slides.

MORE MINUTES PER PINT

Once again the infertile minds at the Department of Transport's South Western Region offices have taken out their felt-tip pens and drawn thick black lines all over the countryside. No, this is not the new Government's way of accelerating the road programme, but it does represent a second public stage of the Heytesbury Bypass, to follow on immediately after the Warminster bypass which these pages have mentioned previously.

Heytesbury, as all MCG members who travel via the A303 route will know, is the first sign of habitation reached on the A36 after zooming across Salisbury Plain at unmentionable speeds. It has a 30 mph limit, regarded more in the breach than the observance. The village appears tatty, and could be spruced up considerably if the through traffic were removed (including Mendip cavers).

Unfortunately it isn't easy to bypass the village. A route to the south of the village was rejected at public consultation because of the impact on the Wylve Valley (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and its effect on the next village along, Knook. Perhaps more important to the Department, it would cost more than the alternative to the north of Heytesbury, which route has now been selected (on a shortened alignment). The proposed line passes near to housing north of the present road, and severs Heytesbury House from its grounds !

To the motorist, the bypass would begin at the road junction of the A36 and the route from Chitterne, and would continue on an easy alignment to feed directly into the eastern end of the proposed Warminster bypass. So cutting another minute or two from the London-Hunters timing. Meanwhile, spare a thought for the suffering residents of Heytesbury next time you drive through - some will be inconvenienced as much by a bypass. Subject to approval under the statutory procedures, and funding, construction of the bypass could start in 2 to 3 years' time and take up to 2 years to complete.

