

# MCG NEWS



APRIL 1988 NUMBER 200 NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP

## NIAH CAVES, SARAWAK, BORNEO

January 1988

by Vince Simmonds and John Beauchamp

After obtaining permits from the Sarawak Museum in Kuching we flew to Miri where we were to set off to Batu Niah. The roads were, in places, none existent and on the return journey were quite an experience being extremely slippery after a rainstorm. The bus seemed to spend as much time going sideways as it did in a straight line. However, we arrived at Batu Niah mid afternoon and decided to walk to the Park Hostel up river. We spent the rest of the day settling in.

Next day we set off to visit the Great Cave. The cave is reached by a 3km walk along a slippery plankwalk, it's also rather warm and sticky. At about 2km we saw a small cave just off the plankwalk so we decided to have a look. It turned out to be a smallish through-cave with a river flowing. Eventually the plankwalk began to rise sharply and soon we were at the Great Cave.

Before we actually entered the cave we could hear what sounded like rushing water, which in fact turned out to be thousands of swiftlets milling around. One of the things we noticed was a large amount of litter which seems to be thrown all over the place, mainly (it appeared) by the nest collectors.

The cave itself is massive, the roof in places must be 100m plus. The nest collectors (for birds nest soup) overcome this small problem by shinning up wooden poles without any safety aids, not a job I'd really fancy. The trails through the caves were fairly straightforward being more plankwalks. They are, however, treacherous being covered in guano (polite for bat and bird shit). In fact, guano is everywhere: on handrails, rocks, in shoes and down your back. And it smells. It's very humid in these caves and before long we were drenched.

There were some nice features in the caves, one particularly nice area is called Lobang Padang, a light shaft coming through a hole in the roof some 100m above. We spent a couple of hours walking around the cave before making our way back to the hostel and a well earned cold beer.

The following day we set off for the Painted Cave. The way to the cave is back through the Great Cave; Painted Cave is situated on the other side. Once through the Great Cave a plankwalk was located. This proved to be a little dilapidated so care was needed. The keys to the gates proved to be unnecessary because they did not fit and the gates were broken anyway.

The cave was quite impressive and a lot tidier than Great Cave. Painted Cave is a large through-cave about 50m x 100m in diameter and over 500m in length. The paintings the cave takes its name from are situated half way up the right hand side not far from the entrance. They are of "death ships" and men, the paintings are red (hematite) and they are up to 40,000 years old. They were only discovered in 1958. There are also a couple of the actual "death ships" which are like small canoes. These were discovered in the caves by archaeologists.

We had a quick look around the rest of the cave before making our way back for some more cold beer. Which was quite expensive, I may add.

# SPELEODATE

## 1988 MEETS PROGRAMME

06 MAY - 07 MAY	MENDIP	HOLWELL CAVERN	ROY KEMPSTON	0276-34338
28 MAY	CHEPSTOW	OTTER HOLE	GEOFF BARTON	0932-849241
03 JUN - 04 JUN	MENDIP	GEOLOGY	MALCOLM COTTER	07842-52643
10 JUN - 11 JUN	N.WALES	TAY NEWYDDION	JOHN BEAUCHAMP	0761-62929
17 JUN - 18 JUN	YORKS	BIRKS FELL	JOHN MIRIAM	01-393-3955
01 JUL - 02 JUL	MENDIP	CHARTERHOUSE	YVONNE WARD	0252-876783
15 JUL - 16 JUL	S.WALES	TUNNEL CAVE	MIKE HASELDEN	0703-46491
05 AUG - 06 AUG	MENDIP	LIONELS HOLE	ANDY BEARE	0494-449955
13 AUG - 27 AUG	SPAIN	SIMA GESM	NEIL HUTCHINSON	01-267-1005
02 SEP - 03 SEP	MENDIP	BLACK HOLE SWILDONS	GILL WARREN	0252-835051
16 SEP - 17 SEP	YORKS	PEN-Y-GHENT	MARTIN ROWE	0252-876783
08 OCT	MENDIP	HALF-YEARLY	BOB SPELEO	0761-62797
15 OCT - 16 OCT	DERBYS	TO BE ARRANGED	JOHN BEAUCHAMP	0761-62929
04 NOV - 05 NOV	MENDIP	STOKE LANE	MIKE MINTRAM	01-673-2057
18 NOV - 19 NOV	S.WALES	OGOF FFYNNON DDU	GEOFF BARTON	0932-849241
02 DEC - 03 DEC	MENDIP	GB CAVERN	GORDON LISTER	01-579-3466
XMAS - NEW YEAR	MAJORCA	AVENCOS Y CUAVAS	MARTIN ROWE	0252-876783

WEEKLY MEETINGS are held at the Group's Mendip headquarters on Wednesdays at 7.00pm. and at the Mawson Arms, Chiswick Lane South, London, on Thursdays from 8.30pm.

CAVING ACCOMMODATION for 30 people is available at the MCG headquarters, Nordrach Cottage, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Blagdon, Bristol, BS18 6XW Tel.0761-62797 National Grid Reference 5147.5606 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 sheet 182

COTTAGE FEES per night:	Prob., Assoc., Full and Hon. members	£1.25
	Members children	£1.25
	Reciprocal members (SWCC, NPC)	£1.25
	Guest clubs and members guests	£1.75

CAMPING FEES per night:	Charged at the same rate as cottage fees.
COTTAGE DAY FEES:	Members using any of the cottage facilities but not staying overnight, are asked to make a reasonable donation via the donation box.



SECRETARY: NEIL HUTCHINSON	01-267-1005
15H Gloucester Avenue, Camden Town, London, NW1	
TREASURER: MIKE LOVELL	0734-663747
4 Settrington Close, Loddon Park, Earley, Reading, Berks	
MEET SECRETARY: MARTIN ROWE	0252-876783
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TACKLEMASTER: BRIAN NURLIS	0934-412048
1a Arundell Road, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, BS23 2BG	
COTTAGE WARDEN: JOHN BEAUCHAMP	0761-62929
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ORDINARY MEMBER: GORDON LISTER	01-579-3466
127 Seaford Road, West Ealing, London, W13	



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please add the following telephone numbers to the MCG membership list published in Newsletter 197:

Phil Eliot	0736-787648
Allan Wicks	0734-475628
Steven Wyatt	0934-838953

Please note that James Davies no longer lives at 95 Owlsmoor Road, Camberley, Surrey. This address should be deleted from the membership list. We do not know his current address.

## CONGRATULATIONS . . .

... to Mandy and Roy Kempston on the birth of Neil Andrew on 2nd February weighing in at nearly 7lb 15oz.

## CONGRATULATIONS ALSO

... to the following probationary members, who have been accepted as full members following the successful completion of their proving trips:

Vanessa Gill	Domini Barrett
Brian Murlis	Steve Redwood
Jeff Blackgrove	

There are still some 30 or so probationary members, many of whom have been with the group more than six months and so are eligible to become full members on completion of a "proving trip". Proving trip forms are usually available in the library. When completed they should be forwarded to the Secretary.

Full members, especially those who have recently introduced probationary members, should encourage them to undertake their proving trip. Any probationary member who wants to complete a proving trip, but is having difficulty finding two active full members should contact the committee.

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The following applications for probationary membership have been received and will be considered at the next committee meeting:

Stephen Say (proposed by V. Simmonds, A. Thomas) 56 Fairlyn Drive, Kinkswood, Bristol, BS15 4PX tel. 0272-571070

John Loring (proposed by V. Simmonds, J. Beauchamp) 30 Mellent Avenue, Hartcliffe, Bristol, BS13 ONT tel. 0272-783959

Daniel Coutin (proposed by S. Taylor, P. Bulling) 37 Gospond Road, Barnham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex tel. 0234-553204

David Little (proposed by G. Lister, M. Mintram) 11 Mills Spur, Old Windsor, Berks, SL4 2ND tel. 0753-86665

Keith Knight (proposed by B. Snell, R. Kempston) 7 Highmead, Fareham, Hants tel. 0329-280386

Carl Wright (proposed by B. Murlis, J. Beauchamp) Rose Cottage, West Lane, Draycott, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3TS tel. 0934-743711

## 1988 SUBS

Subscriptions were due on Jan. 1st. Members who have not yet paid will have their membership terminated, and will not receive further newsletters.

If you wish to remain a member please send your cheque (£15 full/probationary, or £7.50 associate) to the treasurer (Mike Lovell, 4 Settrington Close, Loddon Park, Earley, Reading, Berks) as soon as possible. If you are not renewing your membership, inform the treasurer and return your cottage key.

## YV' SDROPPINGS

Scene: Moth flying around the Mawson Arms...

Gordon: "Ian McKechnie must have his wallet open."

## DEADLINE . . .

...for the next newsletter is April 30th

## FRAGMENTS FROM FRANCE - 3

by Tony Knibbs

The intense summer heat seems to have a soporific effect on life this far south. July and August are notable for the fact that all urban centres are more or less deserted while all the good folk head for the holiday resorts. This rebounded on our caving activities since all our chums were, almost to a spéléo, *hors de combat* for two months. Taking advantage of Bastille Day public holiday on 14th July, we took ourselves off for a long weekend at the Cirque de Gavarnie in the Central Pyrénées. We camped at the "Pain de Sucre" site in the valley approaching Gavarnie and busied ourselves in modest walks in the immediate vicinity, all within the Parc National des Pyrénées Occidentales.

A new ski road now runs from Gavarnie right up to the snow line towards the nearby Spanish frontier, giving access to Brèche de Roland and the peak of Taillon (3101m). Our attempt to reach the higher areas was rained off but we found plenty to do lower down; a good walk was had along the Gave d'Ossoue, following the flower-studded valley up to a dammed lake below the towering form of Vignemale. Another, shorter excursion was a ridge walk up to Pic Mourgat (2101m) commanding fine views across to the Cirque with its cascades and tiered snowfields rising to the Marboré Massif (3248m).

Caving was back on the agenda for the weekend of 8/9th August with a visit to the Arbas Plateau with Alain and Sylvie Mas. Friday night found us driving gingerly up the forest track - the stretch up to Fontaine de I'Ours is now tarmac surfaced - desperately trying to avoid rubbing the sump off the Alfa as it lurched and skidded as night descended on the surrounding forest. We parked at the end of the track from where an easy walk took us down into the meadow-like clearing near Trou Mile.

Trou Mile was the object of our attention during Saturday. The cave is comparable to Swildons down to sump one in character but 180m deep and 1.5km long. Little tackle was required: 5m ladder at the entrance, 15m of ladder for a double pitch soon after, then 20m of ladder for a deep cascade near the bottom. A handline of 10m was found useful on several occasions.

By British standards the trip is "sporting" with about 20 obstacles in the form of short, mostly free-climbable pitches in the active streamway. A steep "toboggan" of around 10m made nice climbing and a pair of almost consecutive fixed (grotty) handline traverses called for a mixture of sweat and acrobatics to avoid deep pools. Best was the fairly wet 12m cascade where the ladder could be hung just clear of the cascade itself.

We reached the sump after about two and a half hours. From here a crawl and an ascending rift lead into the huge chamber in Trou de Vent, but this we decided to leave for another day because Sylvie was wet through, cold and looking tired. The return was rather like hard work at times, with our "passenger" needing help on most of the obstacles. Keeping moving we got out after a six hour trip to emerge into late afternoon sunshine.

The Sunday was spent walking up to the east-west ridge which marks the southern limit of the Arbas Plateau, lunching at Tuc de Tucal (1579m). The day had started bright enough but midday brought low cloud through which distant peaks could occasionally be seen to the south. After lunch the cloud thickened to a dense fog and it was time to resort to map and compass for the return.

The immediate slope proved no trouble, but as soon as we reached lower ground Alain insisted that the only way back was to follow an obvious stream down a valley. Saying not a lot, I simply noted the features we passed knowing that we would have to return once the hunch was exhausted. Passing a familiar group of trees on our way back an hour and a half later.... we followed the right stream to reach the tents in twenty minutes.

Our next caving trip was a week in the Vercors where we stayed in a nice cosy gite from 5/12th September and enjoyed a holiday in the company of Peter Harvey, Wendy Bell, Mike and Sue Haselden and Pete Eckford. No doubt (nudge, nudge) Mike will write up the trips concerned, having been there longest and involved in everything. OK Mike? (ED: see newsletter 198, wink, wink. OK Tony?)

About 30km east of Fois is the village of Bélesta with limestone hills overlooking it from the south. A unique local feature is the intermittent spring of Fontestorbes in the south-east bank of the Frau valley. The periodicity of the spring is at approximately 60 minute intervals when a small trickle of water from a cave mouth swells to an impressive cataract in 20 minutes and then diminishes again.

On a hillside above the resurgence is located the Gouffre de Caoujous No.1 which descends to reach the stream issuing from Fontestorbes. This we visited on Sunday 10th October. The 15m entrance shaft had been excavated (in part by BSA!) and gave a muddy climb down to a wriggle between boulders (passing a toad and a salamander *en route*) to open at a drop of 3m where a handline was used. A 6m pitch was SRT rigged and led down to the small hole to another pitch of 8m followed by yet another narrow section to the head of the 28m pitch. This deepest pitch offered a rediculously offset rebelay at the head and was divided, by a good landing, into two distinct drops.

Waiting above pitches, one was treated to occasional air currents as the water backed-up or discharged from the passages below. The last pitch dropped into highly eroded passage running down-slope to an up-stream sump or horizontally to a steep scramble down to the down-stream sump. Observing either sump was to see the water level rise steadily for about 3m then subside with the most unusual gurgling and glooping noises - like a bath running out - which seemed to suit the bizarre surroundings where erosion has produced some remarkably sculptured passages and grottos.

For all its modest 100m depth and some 200m length, the cave took about four hours to descend and re-ascend, sightseeing and silly pitch rigging accounting for most time. The muddy entrance was particularly unsuitably to SRT tactics. The day was rounded off by going down the valley to see the water flow variations at the resurgence - and have a coffee at the café opposite.

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## SPELED SEARCH LAMP

*by Mike Haselden*

The Group has purchased a hand-held halogen spot-lamp and mini power-pack with charger. Alan Dougherty and I have tried it in Longwood and can vouch for its effectiveness. It is most useful in the inspection of remote high-level avens, etc. The battery will power the lamp for about half an hour of continuous use but this can be prolonged by using the lamp economically. We found that once you switch the lamp on it is more than tempting to keep it on longer tahn necessary just to enjoy the brilliant spectacle.

It is important to remember that once discharged or partly discharged the battery should be put on charge as soon as the trip is over because even an overnight delay can damage the cells. It is also worth topping up the charge before use when the battery has been shelved for a while. The full charging period is 20 hours but the charge rate is so low that a few hours over will not harm the cells. During long periods out of use the cells ought to be run down and re-charged periodically to keep them in prime condition. The lamp is fairly robust but not entirely cave-proof so it should be transported to site preferably in an ammo box.

Members wishing to use the lamp should contact the Tacklemaster, Brian Murlis.

# WHILST WALKING I SAW A MAN BATHING..

## OR, LIMERICKS FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER

on the subject of cottage fees

Whilst walking I saw a man bathing  
Who told me he'd just been out caving...

There was a young caver from Dover  
Who wanted to get his leg over  
But he was not a gent  
For he paid not a cent  
And thought the whole thing a pushover

There was a young caver from Mendip...  
It was on a weekend in March...

Paddy's limericks they were all flops  
So bad they were given the chops  
But do not despair  
Because something was there  
As a 'first liner' he was the tops

Day fees are a bone of contention  
So bad that I hardly dare mention  
If you cave through the day  
Or have it away  
A donation must be your intention

Era una noche de dio  
Cuando estabo llo solo  
Con tres de mis companeros... ?

The MCG may brew wonderful tea  
But it seems they have a problem  
It is you see  
The cottage fee  
'Cos the committee wants to doublem

The motion was on cottage fees  
There was plenty of heat about these  
Bryan Terry of course  
Was verbal with force  
But his views are not ours if you please

Day fees were the theme for debate  
For showers and tea if you're late  
They're for gas and for power  
For one day, not one hour  
But double if you procreate

There was a young caver from Ealing  
Whose feet marks you'll find on the ceiling  
The day fee's not right  
'Cos this happened at night  
But I'm told it was done with great feeling

A young caver wanted to pee  
And decided to use MCG  
But he took it to heart  
When passing a fart  
And got charged 1.75 by B.T.

The joy of a shower, shave and shite  
Costs more than you think that it might  
And a bit of the other  
You soon will discover  
Costs as much for a day as a night

In the Mendip Caving Club  
You can afford to go to the pub  
But to pay for your keep  
Won't be on the cheap  
The committee might like a bigger sub

Brian Murlis said "It's a fair cop"  
But Bryan Terry went over the top  
And got too close to the bone  
With his Leicestershire tone  
And found himself next for the chop

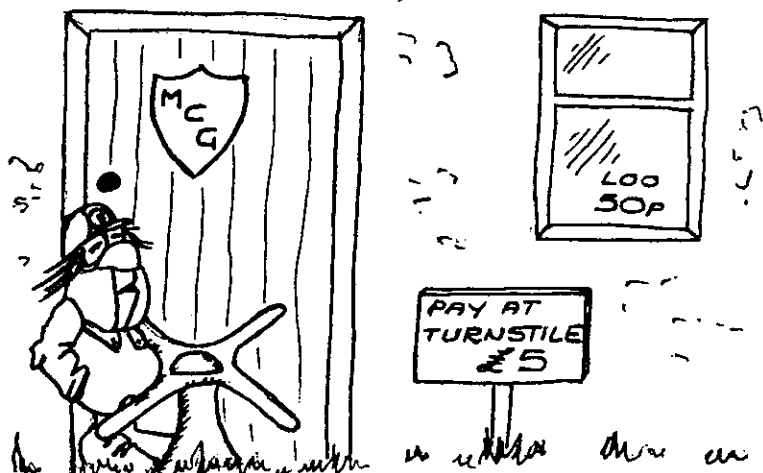
It seems that were living in dread  
Of ending the year in the red  
So it's two pounds an hour  
Per person per shower  
Or ten quid for two in a bed

We all know a man called B.T.  
Who wanted to charge for a pee  
When the locals said "No"  
He said "They can't go"  
So instead they went down GB

At the meeting there was a big flap  
They wanted to charge for a crap  
When the locals refused  
B.T. was bemused  
What an utterly mercenary chap

...I'm bathing out here  
Cottage fees are too dear  
I'd rather spend my money on beer

(ED: For those who were at the dinner -  
this is what you were all waiting for!)



## REVIEW OF GROUP TACKLE

by Brian Murlis

My first task, on taking over the Tacklemaster's job, was to sort through and examine every item of equipment that we have, and our facilities, to assess where improvements can be made. I have liaised with Alan Dougherty and John Beauchamp and have been up-dated on any outstanding projects and equipment requiring attention.

On examining all the tackle I was surprised to find the majority of it in good serviceable condition, my main observations being as follows:

### ROPES

1. Three were left unacceptably dirty. There is a rope wash in the wash area, please use it, and pull the rope through several times until the water runs clean. I will be re-doing the rope washer with different pulleys so that the rope does not keep pulling off them.

2. Five ropes were badly made up, please coil them properly. Don't plait them as this causes un-necessary kinking.

3. Three were left lying on the floor. There are hangers provided, please use them. A new system for hanging ropes will be provided soon so this problem should not re-occur.

4. The Aquaguard ropes have a tendency to bunch up underneath the sheath. Because of this problem I have had to shorten one rope by 20ft and take two out of service. These will be replaced as will any others that are taken out. All the ropes taken out of service are to be put to use as hauling ropes for digging, etc. These will be plainly marked on bins of each end with alternate red and yellow bands and then stored with the digging gear.

5. Several of the ropes were badly kinked. This is probably caused by plaiting them or by using fig-8 descenders on them! If you do find one badly kinked, use Mike Haselden's tried and tested method: hold one end and run around a field several times trailing the rope behind you! Don't let anyone see you as you might be chased by two men in white coats. Seriously though, it does work.

### OTHER EQUIPMENT

The ladders appear to be in good order, and relatively clean. The age of some of the gear is unknown but looks sound. If anyone should notice any fraying on the wires please let me know. All the belays and spreaders will be tagged as the ladders are, so that we can keep a track of their use.

All the old helmets, except the four Petzl ones have been thrown out. Through a piece of luck, I even managed to locate one of our missing ladders, so that only one is missing now.

The charging area is to be re-vamped to cater for some of the many different types of lamps. The possibility of acquiring or making up some more lamps is being looked into for those who forget to bring their own!

### TACKLE LOG BOOK

Entries are far from clear. Could you please write clearly and use the code numbers and letters on the gear so that the history of each item is known. Don't forget our tackle belongs to us all, so let us treat it with the respect it deserves.

Finally, if there are any items of equipment that anyone feels would benefit the group, please let me know.

## MCG PRACTICE RESCUE 1988

## PINETREE POT

by Alan Dougherty

Saturday 6th February was an excellent spring-like day on Mendip. It made a change to have pleasant weather for our practice rescue. Having rushed her early morning round, Wrington's answer to Postman Pat arrived at Nordrach Cottage just in time to be the practice rescue victim yet again! Certain frictions were self-evident between Stephanie Bohin and those who had her believe another volunteer was available.

I briefly outlined the MCG rescue kit and its intended function. Stephanie was duly tied up in the drag-sheet we had borrowed from MRO. Similar in design to our late lamented model, this one was in canvas which appears to wear much better than PVC. Although the practice was to be a full carry from the far reaches of Pinetree Pot to the surface, two main objectives were in mind:

1. To ascertain just what could be done in Easy Street.
2. Sorting out the pitch-head problems of a haul up Pine Pitch.

John Beauchamp, Stephanie Bohin, Brian Murlis, Steve Redwood and Vince Simmonds entered the cave at 11.30am. They rigged Pine Tree as for a normal trip, and continued down to Easy Street. As we all suspected, virtually the whole of Easy Street was thought to be impossible with a victim tied in a drag-sheet. Stephanie was therefore tied in just around the first S-bend where the passage enlarges a little.

Meanwhile, Mike Haselden, Paul Merron and Steve Taylor applied themselves to the problems of the two pitches. The writer floated between the two groups. Good progress was made to the foot of Pine Pitch. The direct route up the bouldery climb was chosen in preference to the muddy alternative. Care had to be taken to protect the victim on the short but potentially dangerous climbs.

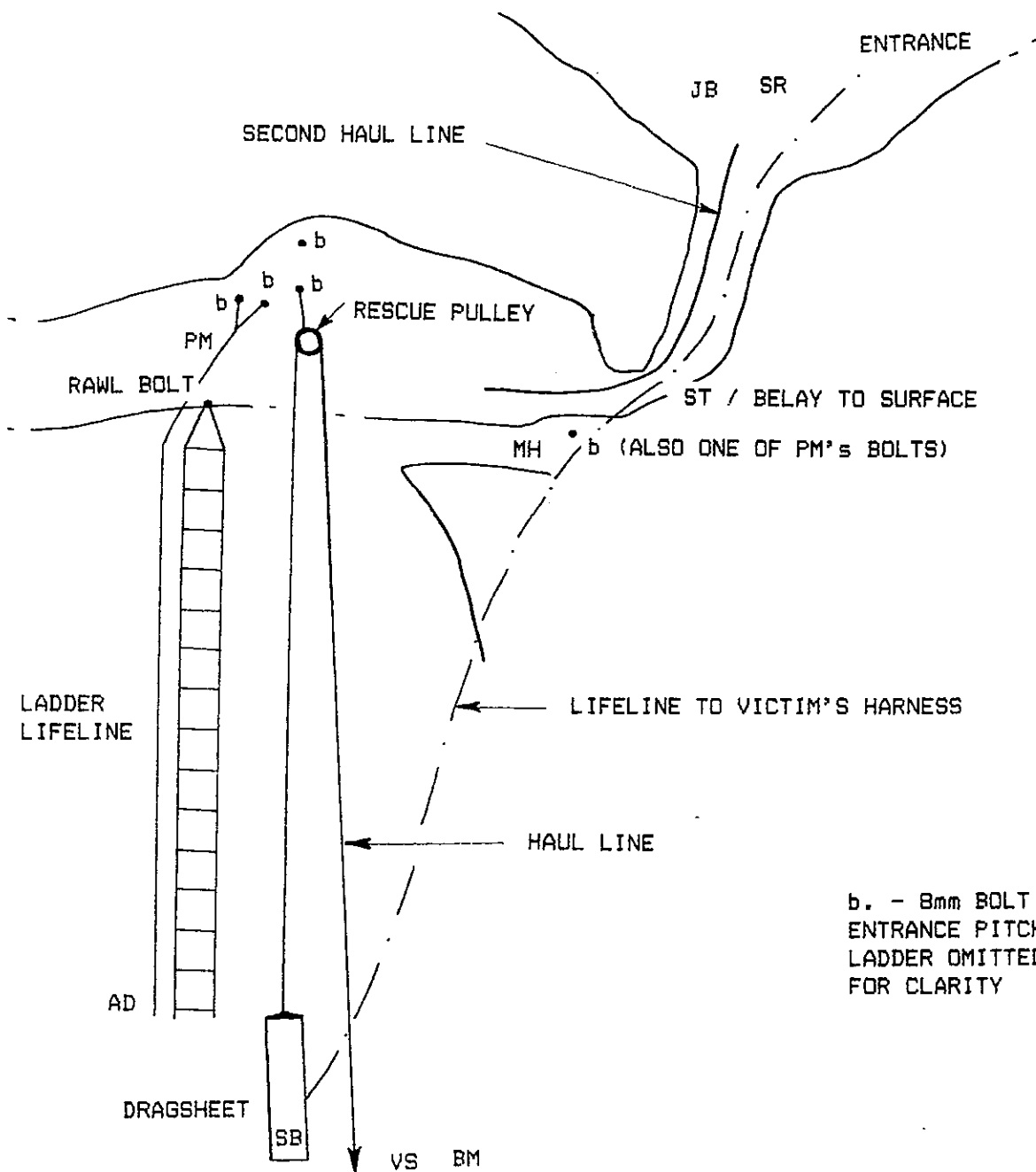
On arrival at the base of Pine Pitch the victim and carrying party were supplied with coffee and chocolate. Mike had placed a pair of linked 8mm bolts directly above the pitch-head, which gave an excellent haul line from the rescue pulley anchored directly with a crab. We knew the major problem would be getting the drag-sheet horizontal at the pitch-head ready for the subsequent squeeze.

Even though Mike had drilled the anchors as high as possible, the high point of the haul left only the victim's head and shoulders above the level of the pitch-head ledge. In addition to the haul-line being pulled from below, a separate life-line for the victim and a life-line for the ladder-climber were provided. A second haul-line was provided from the surface to the pitch-head in order to facilitate a safe change-over from the double haul up Pine Pitch. Ropes were arranged as in the diagram opposite.

An initial haul was reversed in order to shorten the tie-on point of the drag-sheet, so the victim could be hauled as high as possible. A second attempt proved more successful but it was still very difficult to move the drag-sheet into the horizontal. Climbing the ladder below the victim, I had to exert considerable force upwards whilst those at the pitch-head manoeuvred the drag-sheet. Too little room is available for a foot of drag-sheet line, but given a rigid stretcher an horizontal haul may be practical, removing the rigid frame for the squeeze to the entrance pitch. This squeeze proved quite problematic due to a boulder in the floor.

All vacated the cave at 15.00hrs for tea at Nordrach Cottage. Thanks must be extended to MRO for the loan of equipment, all those who participated, Andy Beare and Lesley Robbins for tea-making, and to Stephanie Bohin for being the victim and raising the aesthetic qualities of the post-practice ablutions. Incidentally, the anchors which Mike placed would be excellent for a double life-line on Pine Pitch and certainly improve the rather meagre belays previously present.





## THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE — BLU TAC FOR THE EARS

by Malcolm Cotter

Everyone who worked at Sludge Duck in Upper Flood last summer will know how unpleasant and troublesome the mud was. Of particular annoyance and so far only a minor medical problem, was mud in the ears. This mud was particularly resistant to washing in the normal way, and also to syringing. In at least two cases ear inflammations resulted. The mud gradually comes out with wax as a natural body cleaning function. On discussing the matter with my Doctor he suggested using thread rolled in Blu Tac. The material is shaped something like a mushroom and the short stem inserted into the ear with a thread puller left dangling. The large head is required to prevent the plug going too deep. This arrangement was tried out with great success. An additional benefit is that cold water is stopped from entering the ear and so prevents dizziness. The system is thus suitable for ducks and shallow sumps.

Meanwhile, work continues beyond Sludge Duck. On the Sunday after the AGM Sonia Cotter pushed the inlet beyond the long duck for some 100ft towards the bedding plane sink of Sunrise Boulevard.

# Cottage doings

## COTTAGE BOOKINGS

16 APR-17 APR ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL (5)  
 18 APR-22 APR RNAS (16)  
 30 APR- 1 MAY WORTHING SCOUTS (18)  
 7 MAY- 8 MAY FARNBOR. & CAMB. YHA (8)

## WET PAINT!

The showers, changing room and kitchen have been painted, and cleaned. Please make the effort to leave these areas clean after you, especially in the kitchen - no more splashed fat, etc., thankyou.

## ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

Few habits are more irritating than snoring. The worst aspect is that the snorer himself - most snorers are men - is usually blissfully ignorant of the upset he is causing to others. Because snoring is so annoying, many weird and wonderful anti-snoring devices have been invented over the years. The latest is the Snore-Stop. This is an electrical device which detects the noise produced by the snore and then triggers off two electrodes in a band placed around the snorer's arm. This produces a mild electric shock which is strong enough to stop the snore, but does not wake the snorer. The snorer soon associates snoring with the electrical irritation and so stops the habit. The Snore-Stop costs £29.95 plus £2.20 p&p and is available from Berwick Supplies, PO Box 1, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 1XT.



*(Could this be the real reason for extra power supply to MCG?)*

## POWER SUPPLY

After Bryan Pittman's letter in N/L No.198 Ron Saunders has written as follows:

"Bryan's observation that it would be wise to consider whether the cottage should have its own supply direct from the road is pertinent for a reason other than the increased load.

MCG does not have any written agreement with Mrs Fry or the late Mr Fry's personal representatives granting us an indefensible easement to have our power supply through their land.

Our line of supply had not been determined when we took the conveyance of the land on 20th February 1976. Although Mr and Mrs Fry permitted us to lay the cable through their yard the only written agreement was between SWEB and Mr Fry dated 15th April 1977 which allows the SWEB to maintain the supply but the agreement is terminable by 6 months notice either side which could leave MCG isolated from electricity.

The Frys have always been well disposed towards us but times and persons change and we can afford to have our own supply line from the road then we should get on with it.

SWEB told me that they were not allowed to supply me with a copy of their agreement with Mr Fry so they sent me a blank form showing the supply line."

Ron's letter was discussed at the AGM. At the moment, we do not have a problem with the supply, and the cost of getting a direct supply from the road seems to be several thousand pounds. However, the committee are looking at the suggestion in more detail.

The recent problem of circuit breakers tripping seems to have gone away at the same time that the toaster was removed. If this becomes a problem again, or if anyone experiences problems with the supply, please let John Beauchamp know.

## AFFORESTATION

Malcolm Cotter and Don Searle ask you not to cut the really long pieces of grass. They are newly-planted trees.