

Mendip Caving Group

NEWS

NUMBER 209

JANUARY 1990

AGM AGENDA

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 10.30am on Saturday 31st March 1990 in the longroom of the Hunters Lodge, and will finish no later than 1.30pm. Nominations for office and proposals to change the Constitution and Rules should reach the Secretary no later than 10th March. Motions for discussion should reach the Secretary prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

Chairman - to be decided by the committee.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 1st April 1989. (To be circulated.)
3. Officers reports. (To be circulated.)
4. Election of officers for 1990/91.
5. Election of Auditors for 1990/91 - General and MCG Shop Accounts.
6. Motions.
7. Any other business.
8. Date and venue of next meeting.

THE 1990 MENDIP CAVING GROUP ANNUAL DINNER

The 1990 Annual Dinner will be on Saturday 31st March. The venue will be The Webbington, Loxton, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2XA (tel: 0934-750100). Reception will be at 7.15pm with the meal at 8.00pm. The bar will be available until 1.00am.

As we went to press, the final menu had not been decided. This can be checked by contacting John Beauchamp after 5th February. However, a vegetarian meal will be available, but to avoid the problems of last year, it must be ordered when buying your ticket. "Special" vegetarian tickets will be issued which must be presented to the waitress.

Tickets for the dinner, price £13.50 are AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE from John Beauchamp and can be obtained by completing the form enclosed with this newsletter. Cancellations will be fully refunded as long as reasonable notice is given to John Beauchamp.

There will be a coach to take people to and from The Webbington. Tickets for the coach, price £2.00 return, are also AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE. People who have booked (and paid for!) the coach should note the following pick-up times:-
Depart from Hunters Lodge at 6.30pm, pick-up from MCG Cottage at 7.15pm and return from Webbington at 1.00am.

People requiring accommodation at The Webbington should make their own arrangements with the hotel. We have been quoted a special function rate of £23 per person for bed and breakfast, which also includes the use of: gym, swimming pool, snooker, sauna and solarium - remember to mention the MCG (function 23) when making a booking.

++++ MCG 1990 MEETS PROGRAMME ++++ BANK HOLIDAY WEEKENDS IN ITALICS ++++

DATE	AREA	MAIN EVENT	AND/OR
06 Jan - 07 Jan	Mendip	Eastwater	Rowberrow Cavern
20 Jan - 21 Jan	Yorkshire	Rowten Pot	Simpsons/Swinstow
03 Feb - 04 Feb	Mendip	Bone Hole	Stoke Lane Slocker
17 Feb - 18 Feb	S Wales	Dan Yr Dgof	Pant Mawr Pot
03 Mar - 04 Mar	Mendip	Cottage Maintenance	Swildons Round Trip
17 Mar - 18 Mar	Yorkshire	SRT Course	Stream Passage Pot
31 Mar - 01 Apr	Mendip	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	St Cuthberts
13 Apr - 16 Apr	Scotland	Cnoc Nam Uamh	Uamh An Claonaite
13 Apr - 16 Apr	Cumbria	Copper Mines	Graphite Mines
05 May - 07 May	Mendip	Swildons 9	Singing River Mine
26 May - 28 May	S Wales	Dgof Ffynnon Ddu	Craig A Ffynnon
02 Jun - 03 Jun	Mendip	Geology Field Trip	Merehead Quarry
23 Jun - 24 Jun	Chepstow	Otter Hole	(over-tide trip)
07 Jul - 08 Jul	Mendip	Thrupe Lane	Burrington Caves
21 Jul - 22 Jul	Yorkshire	Pippikin/Link	Long Kin West
04 Aug - 05 Aug	Mendip	Rescue Practise	Upper Flood
25 Aug - 27 Aug	Yorkshire	Penyghent Pot	Notts Pot
08 Sep - 09 Sep	Mendip	Manor Farm	Novice Weekend
22 Sep - 23 Sep	Derbyshire	Peak Cavern	Oxlow Caverns
06 Oct - 07 Oct	Mendip	Longwood clean up	East Twin Swallet
20 Oct - 21 Oct	Yorkshire	Lost Johns	Hurnell Moss
03 Nov - 04 Nov	Mendip	HALF YEARLY MEETING	BARN DANCE/BONFIRE
17 Nov - 18 Nov	S Wales	Daren Cilau	Pwll Dwf
01 Dec - 02 Dec	Mendip	Charterhouse	GB Cavern
15 Dec - 16 Dec	Yorkshire	Alum Pot	Bar Pot
29 Dec - 01 Jan	Mendip	New Year Party	

MCG EXPEDITIONS	June - July	Ireland	NW Clare
### AND ###	July - August	France	Vercors
CAVING HOLIDAYS	Winter	Mallorca	Pollensa

For further details of meetings, contact Martin Rowe (tel: 0252 872006)
 "Away" meets: accommodation can be booked by telephoning the relevant cottage warden:

Yorkshire	Northern Pennine Club	Steve Thorpe	0532 559214
South Wales	South Wales Caving Club	Janice Richards	0985 219111

WEEKLY MEETINGS are held at the Group's Mendip headquarters on Wednesdays at 7.00pm. and at the Eclipse Inn, Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey, 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: MCG members, member's children, SWCC and NPC £1
 Guest clubs and member's guests £2
 ANNUAL SEASON TICKET: Optional exemption from cottage fees, for members £10
 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: Full and Probationary Members: £20; Associate Members: £10
 The subscription includes free day-time access to the cottage by the member, their children, and their accompanied guests



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MCB

MEETS

1990 MEETS PROGRAMME

You will notice a few changes in the way the meets programme (opposite) has been put together this time. Hopefully these changes will encourage a little more activity this year.

Members weekends on Mendip are still the first weekend of the month but there are exceptions: eg to keep the AGM away from Easter. Away meets are generally the third weekend: however, in April the meet is at Easter and in May and August it is on the last weekend to utilise Bank Holidays.

Accommodation for away meets has been problematical in recent years. This is because, when a cottage is booked six or twelve months ahead, it is impossible to know how many (if any) members will actually turn up. This year, the telephone number of the SWCC and NPC cottage wardens are appended to the meets programme so that members can book their own beds. Please give the wardens as much notice as possible and remember to mention that you belong to MCB if you wish to take advantage of "reciprocal rights".

As well as a "main event" there is also an alternative, often an easier cave suitable for "less experienced" members, or for a relaxing Sunday trip after the main event. To give you even more choice, Lancaster/Easegill has been booked for each weekend that there is a Yorkshire meet.

A few "non-caving" events have been included: a cottage maintenance weekend in March and a visit to Foster Yeoman's limestone quarry at Merehead in June.

There are two "training" weekends: an SRT course in Yorkshire in March and a "novice" weekend on Mendip in October. The rescue practise has been moved from winter to summer, making it a more pleasant experience.

As the MCB are responsible for keeping Longwood/August nice and tidy, there will be a trip to clean up the cave in October. In February, the Group will be making an effort to replace the entrance shoring in Bone Hole and at the same time provide protection for Skull Slope and its archaeological remains. The Barn Dance and Half Yearly Meeting have been held over until November to avoid clashing with other social events on Mendip - this also gives us the opportunity to combine the Barn Dance with a bonfire party (identity of the Guy to be announced after the Half Yearly!).

At Easter there is a choice of caving in Scotland or mine exploration in the Lake District and, by popular demand, the meets programme includes several overseas trips: Ireland in early summer, France in late summer and Mallorca in winter.

As well as the meets programme, each edition of the newsletter/bulletin will contain more detailed information of the next month's meets, both on Mendip and away, plus information about trips abroad. (See pages 5 & 8 in this newsletter.)

In planning the meets programme I have tried to make it as comprehensive as possible. However, if the trip you have always wanted to do does not appear in the programme, contact me and I will add it to the programme later in the year.

Finally, the programme omits the names of "leaders" or contacts. It was too difficult getting people to commit themselves to a specific trip upto a year in advance. Instead, the names of the contact for each away meet will appear in the newsletter nearer the date of the meet. Anyone who wants to act as a contact should telephone me on 0252-872006. *Martin Rowe, Meets Sec.*

Cottage doings

COTTAGE BOOKINGS

03 Feb - 04 Feb	Members weekend	
09 Feb	Dave Gibson's sch	(11)
16 Feb - 18 Feb	SWCC	(30)
26 Feb - 02 Mar	Royal Navy	(20)
03 Mar - 04 Mar	Cottage Maintenance	
19 Mar - 23 Mar	Royal Navy	(20)
26 Mar - 30 Mar	Royal Navy	(20)
31 Mar - 01 Apr	Members weekend	(AGM)
05 May - 06 May	Members weekend	
18 May	Dave Gibson's sch	(11)
02 Jun - 03 Jun	Members weekend	
26 Jun - 29 Jun	Gof Daine & sch	(TBA)
03 Jul - 06 Jul	Gof Daine & sch	(TBA)

NEW COTTAGE KEY

All the locks to the cottage will be changed on 01.02.90. At the same time the shed door will have a new lock fitted which will be identical to the one on the front door. You will then need only one key to gain access to the cottage and the shed. The new key is being issued to members on receipt of their annual subscription. This is not a ploy to get you to pay your subs early. Over the years, many people have joined and left the Group and for insurance purposes it makes sense to try and ensure that only current members have access to Group property. Don't throw away your old keys! The committee intend to "re-cycle" the old locks and old keys. Hand them to any committee member, or deposit them in the letter box after 31.01.90.

WHAT A SHOWER

Please make sure the extractor fan is on when showering.

AND THE HUT WENT BANG...

...on 31.12.79 (exactly ten years ago). After (nearly) completing the building of the cottage, everyone went down to the Hunters to celebrate the New Year. Meanwhile, the gas was slowly leaking in the kitchen. At 1am on 01.01.80, the gas ignited demolishing many years work. The blast was heard 5 miles away, and our neighbours, the Frys, thought it was odd that Concorde sounded so close. But as Jim Fry said, "I thought 'e were odd - Concorde 'e normally 'ave two bang and there were only one." Make sure the gas supply is turned off when you leave to avoid a repeat of this ----->

COTTAGE MAINTENANCE

It is now 10 years sine we accidentally blew up the cottage, and to be honest the cottage is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. We could blow it up again and get a new one... or we could do some WORK. (If 30 people can build a cottage, why is it that 130 can't manage to maintain it? It isn't as if everyone is too busy CAVING every weekend.) Here is the list of work to be done on the weekend of 3rd/4th March - the committee will provide materials if you will provide the labour. As added persuasion, there will be liquid refreshment of an alcoholic nature (for more details, spot which of the tasks in the following list gives the most pleasure!).

01. COMPLETE NEW SOAKAWAY
02. CONSTRUCT DRAIN ACROSS FRONT GATE
03. TREAT THE SHED (no, not at the Hunters)
04. CLEAN SURFACES IN LOUNGE/HALL
05. CLEAN OUT GUTTERS
06. REPLACE BROKEN SHOWER MIXER
07. COLLECT COAL BUNKER
08. REPAIR KITCHEN CUPBOARD DOOR
09. REPAIR TOILET WINDOW
10. REPLACE TOILET SEAT
11. REPLACE HOSE NOZZEL
12. REPLACE/REPAIR BUNK HOOKS
13. REPAIR DAMAGED BUNKS
14. CONSUME CONTENTS OF BARREL
15. CLEAN SHELVES IN KITCHEN
16. TREAT SHOWER CEILING FOR MOULD

LIBRARY HEATER

It is important to keep the library heated at all times except the height of summer. This is to prevent deterioration of the library stock and computer. For this purpose, there is a small electric heater which should be left on permanently. There is also a battery charger (for the rock drill) which should also be left on trickle charge. If you want to use the computer you will have to unplug either the heater or the charger. When you leave the library please remember to leave the heater and the charger plugged in.



SPELEO DATE

ANYONE FOR CAVING?

Brief details of forthcoming MCG meets.

20/21 JAN YORKS

ROWTEN POT A classic open pot, only a short walk from the road. Various routes of descent depending on ability. For those who still use ladder, the main shaft can be treated as a single 220ft pitch or broken into pitches of 40, 15, 100, and 45ft. There are two more pitches of 25ft and 40ft. SRT cavers have a choice of routes, the best of which is the classic "Rift Route" and "Flyover" complete with famous red bolts. Following this route requires rope lengths of 55m 40m and 30m.

SIMPSONS/SWINSTOW A choice of routes into the West Kingsdale Master Cave, which could be combined with Valley Entrance for a sporting through-trip. Wet suit essential for the ducks and wet crawls - sections of the cave will sump in bad weather.

LANCASTER EASEGILL For an alternative, this cave is always booked when there is a Yorks meet. For the necessary permit, contact M. Rowe

03/04 FEB MENDIP

BONE HOLE The shoring in the entrance is rotting and needs replacing. We also need to improve the protection at Skull Slope. All materials will be provided - just turn up at the Cottage at 10.00am on Saturday to help.

STOKE LANE SLOCKER Prone to flooding, so if the weather is unsettled, which it will be, you'll have to help at Bone Hole.

17/18 FEB S WALES

DAN YR OGOF Find yourself a recognised leader, present him to any SWCC committee member on the day and, weather allowing, you will be issued a permit.

PANT MAWR POT If its wet and misty, forget this one, as you'll never find the entrance. If its a clear day, you'll be rewarded by a fine cave of large proportions with a sizeable stream and some pretties.

03/04 MAR MENDIP

COTTAGE MAINTENANCE See "Cottage Doings" in this newsletter.

SWILDONS ROUND TRIP This is the only way you will get out of cottage maintenance this weekend.

17/18 MAR YORKS

SRT COURSE Anyone interested in learning SRT? I am arranging another course with Dave Elliot at Sedbergh. He provides all SRT equipment and rope, you provide clothing and light. Saturday is spent indoors learning the techniques, Sunday is spent underground. Cost will be around £30 which sounds a lot, but it is worth learning SRT from a professional. CONTACT M. ROWE NOW for more details.

SRT RESCUE and SRT RIGGING: course details also available from M. Rowe

STREAM PASSAGE POT A classic descent and possibly the most interesting of the Gaping Gill tributaries. For SRT you'll need 25m, 40m, 50m and 35m ropes. On ladder, the pitch lengths are 25ft, 90ft, 110ft, 75ft and 50ft. The huge "Stream Chamber" leads to "Mud Pot", the long abandoned "Sand Caverns" and finally "Main Chamber"

13-16 APR SCOTLAND

Easter Weekend, Cnoc Nam Uamh, Uamh An Claonaite

If anyone is interested in a long weekend caving in Assynt contact your friendly Meets Sec for details. Camping is possible, or we could arrange accomodation at the Grampian hut (basic but friendly)

13-16 APR LAKE DIST.

Easter Weekend, Coniston Copper Mines, Borrowdale Graphite Mines. Something the Meets Sec has fancied trying for a number of years now. He knows where the entrances are - anybody else like to give it a try?

FURTHER DETAILS...

...of meetings are available from Martin Rowe (tel: 0252 872006). If you are interested in acting as the contact for the meets listed above, or any of the other in the programme, please let Martin know as soon as possible.

ACCOMODATION...

...for away meets can be booked by telephoning the relevant cottage warden:
Yorks NPC Steve Thorpe 0532 559214
S.Wales SWCC Janice Richards 0985 219111

MCG AND DEEDS OF COVENANT

(mostly) by Alan Mellon

As a charity, the Mendip Caving Group may recover from the tax man some of the income tax you pay. This is how it works: In order to pay your subs of £20 you first of all have to earn £28.17. From this, £8.17 is deducted in income tax leaving you with £20. You can now pay the MCG £20. The Group can reclaim from the tax man the £8.17 you paid in tax and the treasurer can smile all the way to the bank. This is called A COVENANT. Good, eh? If 100 members covenant their subscription the Group would make an extra £817 per year at no cost to the members. The following table shows how much the Group has gained (and lost!) from covenants in recent years.

SUBS YEAR	TAX YEAR	NO. OF MEMBERS	NO. OF COVENANTS	RECOVER-ABLE TAX	RECOVER-ED TAX	LOST TAX
1989	88/89	122	87	£ 765	£ 437	£ 328 EST
1988	87/88	123	71	£ 682	£ 363	£ 319
1987	86/87	123	75	£ 695	£ 429	£ 266
1986	85/86	113	80	£ 675	£ 482	£ 193
1985	84/85	112	84	£ 659	£ 511	£ 148
1984	83/84	111	50	£ 433	£ 209	£ 224
1983	82/83	100	11	£ 394	£ 47	£ 347 EST
				£4303	£2478	£1825

As you can see, a fair amount of recoveries has been lost where members have not made deeds of covenant. In order to minimise this, please complete a Covenant and tax form if requested, IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!

The MCG's covenants are administered by Alan Mellon. He has recently submitted a couple of claims to "ye olde Inland Revenue". The claims are for 1985/6 (£482.20), 1986/7 (£429.05) and 1987/8 (£363.74), total £1274.99

That should help "Mick's Coffers". So far the tax man has coughed up over £800. Before he can claim for the year 1988/9 ie. for the subs paid in January 1989 he needs a few people to fill in a form and return it to him as soon as possible (we don't want to lose the momentum now, do we!). The form (if you need one) is enclosed with this newsletter. There is also a membership list below showing whether each member has a current Covenant, or, needs to return the tax form, or, does not covenant at all. If you have a current covenant you need do nothing, Alan will increase the Covenant in line with subscriptions as and when they increase. If you are in the last two categories, please complete the forms and return them to him in the SAE provided so that he can claim back the dosh. If you don't wish to Covenant, then OK, but please return the form stating this, that way he won't pester you again.

New members will in future receive BOTH forms with their membership form, so hopefully this hassling may be a thing of the past. Perhaps part of the proving trip could be the successful completion of a Covenant form. (Joke!)

A few comments about what may upset the tax man. Firstly, if you do not pay your subs before the 4th April every year, he could disallow the payment which would then mean your Covenant may lapse and must be re-submitted. MORAL - pay your subs early.

Secondly, if you have a change of circumstance (eg. giving up work) and therefore are not paying income tax. NO PROBLEM, so long as the subs are paid from the income of a tax paying Coventor, he can claim against their Covenant. However, a claim against a non taxpayers Covenant is technically a false claim. MORAL - please inform Alan of any change in circumstance if this effects your tax payments.

Thirdly, if you pay tax at any of the higher rates, he can make a claim only at the basic rate. However, each individual can make a claim against their Covenant on their tax return, and claim back the additional tax over the basic rate. This is normally actioned through your tax code or assessment. Hence, higher rate tax payers will personally receive this additional rebate. What they do with this sum is up to them, but if they would like to give it to the MCG, we would not refuse it!

We hope that this clarifies the Covenant situation at present. If you have any queries please contact Alan Mellon.

ED: I am sure that everyone in the Group will join me in thanking Alan for all his time and effort spent in recovering some £1300 from the tax man on behalf of the MCG. Well done! ££££!!!***£££££\$£\$!!!\$\$%%£\$£!£!

MCG MEMBERSHIP & COVENANT STATUS - 24.11.89

		CURRENT COVENANT	TAX FORM REQUIRED	BOTH FORMS REQUIRED			CURRENT COVENANT	TAX FORM REQUIRED	BOTH FORMS REQUIRED
MARQUESS OF BATH		1	N	N	PHIL	INGOLD	Y	N	N
STEVE	ALBINO	N	N	N	CHRIS	JOHNSON	Y	N	N
VICTORIA	ARBIZU	2	N	N	ROY	KEMPSTON	Y	N	N
DOMINI	BARRETT	N	N	N	DENISE	KNIBBS	Y	4	N
GEOFF	BARTON	Y	N	N	TONY	KNIBBS	Y	4	N
DAVE	BAXTER	Y	N	N	KEITH	KNIGHT	N	Y	N
ANDY	BEARE	N	N	N	SIMON	KNIGHT	N	Y	N
JOHN	BEAUCHAMP	Y	N	N	PETE	LINGWOOD	Y	N	N
STEVE	BEDFORD	Y	N	N	GORDON	LISTER	Y	N	N
TIM	BETHUNE	N	N	N	DAVID	LITTLE	Y	N	N
GILL	BLACKGROVE	N	Y	N	MIKE	LOVELL	Y	N	N
JEFF	BLACKGROVE	N	Y	N	BOB	MARLES	Y	N	N
STEPHANIE	BOHIN	N	N	Y	PETE	MATHEWS	Y	N	N
DAVE	BRIGGS	N	N	Y	IAN	McKECHNIE	Y	N	N
MARK	BUCK	N	N	Y	JOHN	McMILLAN	Y	N	N
PETE	BULLING	Y	N	N	ALAN	MELLON	Y	N	N
JEAN PAUL	BURCH	Y	N	N	JOY	MERRON	Y	N	N
FRED	BURTON	Y	N	N	PAUL	MERRON	Y	N	N
MIKE	CARSON	N	Y	N	HELEN	MIRIAM	Y	N	N
PETER	CATTEMULL	N	N	Y	JOHN	MIRIAM	Y	N	N
PAM	CHARNOCK	3	N	N	BRIAN	MURLIS	Y	N	N
ROBBIE	CHARNOCK	Y	N	N	CHRIS	NEVARD	N	N	Y
JOCELYN	CLARK	N	N	Y	PAT	NEWMAN	Y	N	N
JOHN	COLES	N	N	Y	CAROL	NUNN	Y	N	N
PETE	COLLINGS-WELLS	N	N	Y	IAN	PARRY	Y	N	N
STEVE	CONQUEST	Y	N	N	BRYAN	PITTMAN	Y	N	N
MALCOLM	COTTER	Y	N	N	BILL	PLATT	Y	N	N
SONYA	COTTER	N	N	Y	JOHN	PUDDUCK	Y	N	N
DANIEL	COUTIN	N	N	Y	STEPHEN	REDWOOD	Y	N	N
JOHN	CROWSLEY	N	Y	N	BERNARD	REEVES	Y	N	N
LOUISE	CURLEY	N	N	Y	LESLEY	ROBBINS	Y	N	N
JANET	CURSI	N	N	Y	JONATHAN	ROBERTS	Y	N	N
GOF	DAINE	N	N	Y	MARTIN	ROWE	Y	N	N
KEITH	DART	N	N	Y	YVONNE	ROWE	N	N	Y
GEOFF	DAVIES	Y	N	N	CHARLIE	RUDDICK	N	N	Y
JO	DAVIES	Y	N	N	CATE	SAMPSON	N	N	Y
MIKE	DEAN	Y	N	N	RON	SAUNDERS	Y	N	N
ALAN	DOUGHERTY	Y	N	N	STEPHEN	SAY	N	N	Y
ERIC	DOWLEY	Y	N	N	DON	SEARLE	N	N	Y
ADRIAN	DUCKETT	Y	N	N	VINCE	SIMMONDS	N	N	Y
BILL	DUCKLIN	Y	N	N	GREG	SMITH	N	N	Y
PETE	DYMENT	N	N	Y	BRIAN	SNELL	N	N	Y
STEPHEN	EDDY	N	N	Y	ARTHUR	SPAIN	Y	N	N
PHIL	ELIOT	Y	N	Y	PETER	SPAIN	Y	N	N
GEOFF	FISHER	Y	N	Y	GRAHAM	SUTLIFFE	Y	N	N
LINDA	GATES	Y	N	Y	STEVE	TAYLOR	Y	N	N
NICK	GEH	N	N	Y	BRYAN	TERRY	N	N	Y
VANESSA	GILL	N	N	Y	ADRIAN	THOMAS	N	N	Y
ANDY	GODDARD	N	N	Y	DAVID	TOOKE	N	N	Y
JOAN	GODDARD	Y	N	N	DON	VOSPER	Y	N	N
PETE	GODDARD	Y	N	N	ROGER	WALLINGTON	Y	N	N
JIMMY	GREEN	N	N	Y	DEREK	WALSH	Y	N	N
PAUL	HARDING	N	Y	N	DAVID	WALSH	N	N	Y
PETER	HARVEY	Y	N	N	JUNE	WALSH	3	N	N
MIKE	HASELDEN	Y	N	N	PAT	WALSH	Y	N	N
OLIVER	HASELDEN	N	N	Y	MARK	WARD	N	N	Y
DAVE	HASTILOW	N	N	Y	DAVID	WARREN	N	N	Y
LEE	HAWKSWELL	N	Y	N	GILL	WARREN	Y	N	N
WILLIAM	HEADINGTON	N	N	Y	RICHARD	WHITTINGTON	Y	N	N
WAYNE	HISCOX	Y	N	N	CHRIS	WHITTLE	N	N	Y
DAVE	HODRY	Y	N	N	ALLAN	WICKS	Y	N	N
RICHARD	HODGSON	N	N	Y	JOHN	WILLIAMS	N	N	Y
JEFFREY	HOLLOWAY	N	Y	N	ALAN	WOOD	N	N	Y
DIK	HOUSEAGO	Y	N	N	PAUL	WOOD	N	N	Y
ISCA	HOWELL	N	N	Y	CARL	WRIGHT	N	N	Y
NEIL	HUTCHINSON	3	N	N	STEVEN	WYATT	N	N	Y
HELEN	INGOLD	3	N	N	FRED	YOUNG	1	N	N

KEY: 1 HONORARY MEMBER
 2 NON-UK TAX PAYER
 3 COVERED BY SPOUSES COVENANT
 4 WILL LAPSE UNLESS £8.17 UK TAX IS PAID, (EG BULD. SOC. INTEREST) - PLEASE NOTIFY ALAN MELLON
 5 PLEASE NOTIFY ALAN MELLON IF PAYING INCOME TAX

MCG Abroad

EXPEDITIONS AND CAVING HOLIDAYS

JUN-JUL IRELAND (NW CLARE)

One of the classic caving areas of the British Isles, and long overdue a visit by the MCG. The caves are generally of no great depth, but many show considerable horizontal development - some over 10km.

Doolin Cave 10500m The 3km traverse of the streamway from St Catherine's One to Fisherstreet Pot, part of the Doolin Cave system, is a popular through-trip. Entering the system at Aran View Swallet and visiting Fisherstreet Pot before exiting at St Catherine's One gives a 4.5km through-trip.

Faunarooska Cave 1690m Another popular stream cave ending at 22m and 35m pitches. The cave is sporting, with narrow, twisting sections contrasting with wide phreatic passages.

Coolagh River Cave 5285m Prone to flooding, so only possible in dry settled weather. Four main tributaries join a master cave, the Main Drain. This winding, high canyon complete with plunge pools and cascades ends at a sump after 780m.

Pol-an-ionain 550m Knee-wrecking crawls and complicated route-finding lead to the unexpected Main Chamber, 40m long, containing the worlds longest stalactite (according to the Guinness Book of Records)

Pouinagollum-Poulelva 12100m Also prone to flooding. The most extensive system in Ireland, yet route finding is easy. The through-trip of 2285m follows the Main Streamway for 1700m. A classic.

Bullock Pot 1000m A collector's piece. Tight, awkward, arduous, constricted ducks, Accupuncture Crawl... and that's only the entrance! Don't worry- it opens out into a canyon (but it's only 2x1m and gets smaller!)

JUL-AUG FRANCE (VERCORS)

For those who want to go further afield there is the possibility of a trip to France and the Vercors. As well as the Gouffre Berger, this area contains many other caves well worth a visit. This could also be an opportunity to do the "field work" for an MCG Berger expedition in 1991 or 1992.

For non-cavers there are several excellent show caves including the Grotte de Choranche. Inside the low, wide entrance is a large lake 30m across. The water is crystal clear, held back by gour dams. Stal flows flank the walls and delicate straws up to 2m hang from the roof.

Mike Haselden visited the area in 1987. The following is a resume of his article in MCG News 198 to whet your appetite!

Malaterre A 120m daylight shaft with a footbridge spanning the chasm. The footbridge has a removable floor panel which offers an ideal y-hang but causes problems for public safety.

Trisou An excellent sporting trip with 20 pitches and awkward rifts totalling 400m.

Gournier 4km of large bouldery passage with access across a large and deep entrance lake leading to a climb up a tricky rock face for the leader. Others following can use the ladder put in place by the leader. Starting and ending a ladder climb from an inflatable boat will be enjoyed by all.

Bournillion An easy walk-in trip with some trial and error route finding. The entrance is the largest in Europe, spanning 200m.

Molier and Sornin Reached by car and 2000m above sea level: walking east from here, the entrance of Gouffre Berger can be reached in 1 hour. However, there are many open holes to invite disaster.

Scialet du Pot2 7 miles from the nearest road, this 320m shaft is concealed in deeply rifted wooded karst.

INTERESTED? . . .

...then contact M. Rowe on 0252-872006



ON THE MOVE

Keith Dart has moved to:
18 Stanley Avenue, Filton, Bristol,
BS12 7NQ

Chris Nevard has moved to:
24 Ardmore Road, Lewisham, London, SE13
tel: 01-318-5423

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to the following probationary members who have completed a proving trip and have been accepted as full members:

Stephen Eddy and Alan Wood

...and to the following prospective members who have been accepted as probationary members:

Steve Albino and Richard Whittington

FELICIDADES...

...from Victoria Arbizu to all her friends in the MCG. Victoria was in England briefly in December and wishes to be remembered to everyone in the Group.

Feliz Año Nuevo, Victoria from MCG

ANNUAL SUBS

Mike Lovell has reported a good response to the request for prompt payment of subs - about 40 members paid before the end of 1989! Some subs are still outstanding. Please remember Mike is kept very busy as treasurer and we shouldn't expect him to have to chase members for payment. If you are genuinely finding it difficult to raise £30 in one go, have a word with Mike about making two-stage payments.

SEASON TICKETS

Twenty one members purchased season tickets in 1989 at a total cost of £210. Bed nights for season ticket holders stood at 225 at 01.12.89. The £225 "lost" in cottage fees has almost been recovered in season ticket charges, proving the idea to be successful.

RATES

The new rateable value for Nordrach cottage has been assessed at £1900. With the new English rate poundage of 34.8p, we face a rate bill of £662 less 80%, compared to £925 less 50% under the old system. If the old system had remained unchanged the bill would have been £460. We will actually pay £169 in 1990/91 after transitional arrangements so we will save over £300. In 1991/92 we can expect to pay £149, and here is JR's method of calculating this figure:

$$£929 \times (2 \times 7.6\%) \times (-15.5\%) \times (-18\%) \times (-80\%) = £149$$

No, I don't understand it either but JR has threatened to write another article for the newsletter based on a dissertation in Descent to explain it! *Dissertation* a long, detailed, written treatment of a subject; specifically one submitted for a higher degree.

CARE OF ROPES

After washing and inspection, ropes must be coiled and returned to the tackle store, even if wet (the tackle store is well ventilated and can cope with a little moisture). Ropes are best kept in a cool, dark, well ventilated place, loosely coiled and hung on an untreated wooden rack away from any hazardous chemicals. Ropes must never be taken into the shed. This is firstly a question of safe usage and storage - the shed contains all kinds of things that should be kept away from rope such as electrolyte, carbide, polyurethane varnish, etc. The shed is also well lit, leaving ropes exposed to ultra violet light. Secondly, it is a question of insurance - if a rope goes missing from an unlocked shed we cannot make a claim. Use the shed to dry your caving clothing and store your personal caving gear, and use the tackle store to store the Group's ropes.

NETTLE POT

After another animal fell into Nettle Pot, the farmer (Tim Quick) approached MCG to express his concern. He does not want to fill in the entrance, but he needs to protect his livestock. MCG have agreed to consider fencing off the entrance, but this needs to be done soon. Volunteers should contact Martin Rowe (0252-872006).

YVS' DROPPING

JR: "I'm looking at drainage as a whole"

... AND YET MORE**1990 JOURNAL**

We have received articles about caving in Majorca, south-east Asia and Mulu, as well as a progress report on Upper Flood/Blackmoor (which needs updating and a survey). There are also a few items of general interest (eg. tunnelling and air currents). We still require write-ups and pitch diagrams of recent visits to Spain (Sima GESM and Coventosa?). But, what we really need is a breakthrough on Mendip to add weight to the Journal - any offers? Ian McKechnie and Bryan Pittman are co-ordinating the 1990 Journal team. Please contact them with items of interest.

ISSUING CAVE KEYS

Only full members should issue keys from the library to visitors, etc. If possible, take a cheque for £10 as deposit and record on the back of the cheque which key has been issued. Ask the borrower to use the destination board (ETA, party, vehicle registration). If a borrower intends to return the key late on Sunday, make arrangements for exchanging the key and deposit, and removing the ticket from the board. This is prompted by a recent near call-out when a Longwood key was borrowed at 9am on Sunday and had not been returned at 9pm. The last MCG members were about to leave for London when it was noticed that a £5 note had been left in the library and a key was missing. The overdue party were met at the entrance to Longwood at 10pm and the MCG members arrived home late and a little annoyed.

BULLETIN NO. 8...

... Issue Dec. '89 will now appear Feb. '90

14 DAY CCC PERMITS..

...for guests are kept in the library and should only be issued by full members. The person issuing the permit is responsible for ensuring that the guest meets the CCC rules (no novices, no carbide, etc). Charge: 30p, remember to put money in lecturn and record receipt of cash on reverse of cottage booking sheet.

OFFICERS REPORTS...

...for the AGM to be sent to the editor by 9th February for circulation to members with March newsletter - committee please note.

DYO & OFD LEADERS

Would all current leaders for DYO and OFD make themselves known to the meet secretary, who will then renew their annual permit with SWCC. Also, anyone who is familiar with OFD and/or DYO, who is not yet but would like to be a recognised leader, should also contact the meet secretary. He will then arrange for them to be included on the permit.

EARWIG...

...on committee doings... new key for cottage comes into effect 1.2.90 (hope you have paid your subs)... new key will open shed door as well as cottage doors... please deposit old key in letter box (seriously!)... Upper Flood leaders to be reviewed at AGM, nominations to committee... nominations required for committee officers... library storage under way... located compass and tape but where is rest of surveying gear?... large map in lounge to be refurbished... £50 donation made to West Brecon CRD Landrover appeal.

HAS ANYONE SEEN...

...a white "Boots" hairdrier left in the Foremans lounge on 3rd December. It couldn't be found on 10th December so perhaps someone has put it somewhere safe? Reward offered for information leading to its safe return to Yvonne Rowe (0252-872006).