

GB CAVERN ACCESS

The following letter has been sent to all Charterhouse Caving Committee caving clubs by the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society:

"A recent gross infringement of the regulations by Trevor Hughes of the BEC has resulted in his Club banning him from the use of their keys and they have requested that this information be passed to the other CCC clubs. As a consequence of this, please would you take the necessary steps to ensure that he is not issued with GB keys by your club during the next year, after which time we will review the situation.

In view of the above we would be grateful if you could stress the regulations governing the use of CCC caves to all your members and any others who borrow your club's keys. Continued breaches of the regulations could damage relations with Bristol Waterworks and any assistance you can give in reducing these difficulties will be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely, Steve Cottle, Hon Secretary, UBSS Committee"

CHARTERHOUSE CAVES ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Full members of the MCG automatically receive a yearly permit for access to caves on the land owned by Bristol Waterworks Company. If you do not have a current permit, you should contact the Treasurer. The permit is only valid for the holder. If you take a guest to a BWC cave, you must first of all issue him/her with a temporary 14 day permit available from the library. The area covered by the Charterhouse Caving Committee (CCC) agreement covers the Bristol Waterworks Company land at Charterhouse, around GB Cavern, and part of Cheddar Gorge. The caves included are:

GB CAVE, LONGHOOD/AUGUST SWALLET, RHINO RIFT, CHARTERHOUSE CAVE, TYNINGS FARM SWALLET, as well as various minor caves and digs.

The CCC consists of the major Mendip caving clubs including MCG, each having one vote and entitled to hold cave keys for their own use or to issue to visitors. CCC and member clubs are required to hold third party insurance indemnifying BWC. All cavers entering BWC land are required to hold a current CCC permit to prove indemnity. None of the CCC caves are suitable for novices, and no-one under 16 may enter the caves. Digs (above or below ground) must be approved by the CCC committee and a progress report made to the AGM of the CCC committee. Failure to do so could result in the committee assuming a site to be abandoned. BWC require gates to be locked at all times, including when a party is underground.

Access to GB is controlled by UBSS on a sub-licence from CCC and different access rules apply:

- Each caver must carry a valid CCC permit.*
- Party size limited to six including the leader.*
- No novices and nobody under the age of sixteen.*
- Minors must have an indemnity chit signed by a parent.*
- No carbide. No digging or photography without prior permission of UBSS.*
- Cave to be locked at all times.*
- Observe the caving code.*

Access to Charterhouse Cave is covered by similar restrictions with the additional rule that party size is limited to four and groups must be led by an approved leader. For the MCG, the approved leaders are Brian Murlis and Yvonne Rowe.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

The following applications for probationary membership will be considered at the next committee meeting on 09.01.91: Charles Allison, 69 Cheam Road, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 3EG. Tel: 081-393-5910
Tim Francis 90 Woking Close, Priory Lane Roehampton, SW15 5LB Tel: 081-878-3508

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Barry Parker, Kevin West and Steve Albino who have successfully completed proving trips and who are now full members.

1991 AGM & DINNER

The next AGM will be held on Saturday 23rd April 1991. The annual dinner will be held at the Webbington Hotel again. Last year's dinner was a great success although only 80 people attended. This year we hope that more will join us. A coach will be laid on to transport you to and from the Webbington, or you may book in at the hotel itself at a reduced rate. We had many complimentary remarks on the quality of the food last year, especially the vegetarian meals. This year we would like your comments on the seating plans (do you want long, narrow tables or circular, etc.?) and your ideas for the evening's entertainment. Please let the committee know ASAP.

GROUP LEADERS

Below is a list of current MCG leaders. If it includes any errors, tell D Tooke.

UPPER FLOOD:	J Beauchamp	M Cotter
	M Haselden	W Hiscox
	G Lister	
	L Hawkeswell	B Murlis
	S Redwood	
	V Simmonds	M Lovell
	A Spain	
	R Wallington	A Duckett
	M Rowe	
	J Crowlsey	S Eddy
	V Gill	
	A Thomas	M Carson
	S Wyatt	
	D Tooke.	

DFD:	A Knibbs	G Smith
	J Mirriam	G Barton.

DYD:	A Knibbs	G Smith
	J Mirriam	I McKechnie
	R Wallington	
	J Beauchamp	P Collings-Wells

CHARTERHOUSE:	Y Rowe	B Murlis
---------------	--------	----------

THANKS...

...to Fred Burton for mending the cottage phone. You can now make a call without the coinswitch jamming.

A LETTER FROM LODZ

We have received a letter from Victoria Arbizu who many of you will remember for her frequent caving trips on Mendip and the warm welcome and help she gave MCG on our Spanish expeditions.

Victoria had been trying for some time to get a teaching job, somewhere like Africa, and the last we heard was that she had succeeded. She says that she had an offer last May of a job in Ghana but a few weeks ago things turned upside down and she ended up with the same job - but in Poland! She is teaching Spanish in a University in Lodz which is just 138km SW of Warsaw.

Victoria says it is very cold but she is thrilled about it all and enjoying the change. She plans to stay there at least a year, maybe more. The Polish Government have provided her with her own house, and she has invited MCG members to go out and stay with her whenever they like. She quotes a Spanish saying: "My house is your house." Victoria is looking for a Polish MCG - we have found the name and address of one Polish caving club but if any member knows of a Polish caver or club, she would be pleased if you could let her know. She would be happy to hear from anyone anyway, her address is:

UL. ZRODLOWA 41 M.32,
91-735 LODZ,
POLAND,
Tel: 010-48-42-785321

She signs her letter "Do zobaczenia" (see you), Victoria.

1991 SUBS...

...are due. Please complete the form enclosed with this bulletin and sign the CCC permit (if included). Return the form, with a cheque for the membership fee and the yellow copy of the CCC permit, in the s.a.e. provided. Please pay promptly as this helps the Treasurer! Your membership card will be sent with the next newsletter.