

ALPINE EXPEDITION UPDATE

by Joel Corrigan

WANTED - cavers who are prepared to spend the last two weeks of August (from the weekend of the 20th onwards) prospecting for caves in the Alps. All that is required is a reasonable level of fitness, combined with a desire to discover the deepest cave in the world! SRT proficiency will probably not be vital, as most of the time will be spent dropping ladders down shafts to see whether or not they "go".

In the last newsletter, Ralph told us of the fabulous prospects to be had for exploration in an area of the Alps that is just north of the Haute Savoie. We have been invited by the local club to prospect one of the more remote areas (now there's a surprise!) that they haven't looked at yet. For a Group such as ours, this is an offer that is too good to refuse. It is a chance to regain our reputation as one of the active exploration clubs on Mendip (although the Alps are not quite the same.....)

Now down to the nitty-gritty. The logistics involved are not quite as simple as we had hoped. As this is destined to be an all-out club expedition, we have to do things a certain way. I have set up an account with the Nationwide, and intend to levy a small deposit from everybody wishing to be involved. This initial money can serve several purposes. First, so that we know exactly who is coming, and who can then help with certain pre-expedition tasks. Secondly, so that we have some cash to play around with - for vitals such as ferry bookings, deposits on equipment, insurance costs etc...

As to the overall cost of the trip, this is uncertain at the moment. Things will become clearer when we know some of the following:

- a) How many people are coming
- b) Whether or not we can acquire a minibus
- c) Will the Tunnel be operating, and the resulting cost of the ferry
- d) What sort of financial backing we can expect from the committee, and therefore how much equipment we have to beg, borrow, buy, or steal (from the BEC?!)

An upper limit will almost certainly be in the region of two hundred pounds, which should include transport, BCRA insurance, equipment, carbide, and my company for two weeks - AARGH!!

One thing that must be noted here, before you all send your non-refundable deposits. This trip does not look as if it will be up to the usual MCG standards of luxury! We are looking to spend two weeks humping gear around the Alps, looking for new caves. This will certainly not be a relaxing holiday (unless you're in the Foreign Legion!), so members would be wise to think about this. However, at the same time we are not just expecting the "Hard-Men" types, as we'd be looking for a very long time! So far, we have got a good cross section of the membership interested. As long as you are reasonably fit, prepared to carry a rucksack, and can face the disappointment of not discovering the big brother of the Berger, this could be the trip for you!!! We are especially keen to hear from the non-London contingent, as it is about time that we met some of the Mendip gang!

If you think that you are interested in coming (or simply want to send us some money), then please send your twenty pound deposit NOW. Make it payable to "Alpine Expedition Fund" (or simply "Joel's Caving Trips Inc."), at the following address:
Joel Corrigan, 2 Windlemere House, Westwood Road, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6NB.

Any questions about the expedition, then don't hesitate to call either myself (0344-873613) or Ralph Diment (0249-813785) anytime.

MENDIP CAVING GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1994

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Long Room
at the Hunters Lodge Inn
at 1pm on Saturday 23rd April 1994.

To assist the smooth running of the Meeting, please submit Motions (but not for the Constitution and Rules) to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting.

THE COMMITTEE MAY GRANT A POSTAL VOTE TO ANYONE WHO APPLIES IN GOOD TIME TO THE SECRETARY

AGENDA

(Chairman - Brian Terry)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, held 27.3.93 (circulated with newsletter 227, May 1993)
3. Agreement that the minutes are a true record of that meeting.
4. Matters arising.
5. Officers' Reports (circulated with this agenda) and matters arising from those reports. *

SECRETARY	Joan Goddard
TACKLEMASTER	Kevin West
TREASURER	Martin Rowe
MEET SECRETARY	Bill Headington
COTTAGE WARDEN	Lee Hawkswell
RECORDER	Wayne Hiscox
EDITOR	Yvonne Rowe
ORDINARY MEMBER	Arthur Spain

SHOP REPORT	Malcolm Cotter, Phil Ingold
RESCUE WARDEN	John Crowsley
TRUSTEES	Ron Saunders

6. Election of Honorary Officers for 1993/94

POST	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Secretary	Joan Goddard	Kevin West	Jon. Roberts
	Charlie Allison	Malcolm Cotter	James Allen
Treasurer	Martin Rowe	Geoff Beale	JP Burch
Cottage Warden	Lee Hawkswell	Linda Gates	Ian McKechnie
Tacklemaster	Tim Francis	Joan Goddard	James Allen
Editor	Yvonne Rowe	Ian McKechnie	Geoff Barton
Recorder	Wayne Hiscox	Mike Lovell	Roger Wallington
	Julie Hesketh	Ian McKechnie	Geoff Barton
Meet Secretary	Geoff Beale	JP Burch	Yvonne Rowe
	Joel Corrigan	Lee Hawkswell	Ralph Diment
Ordinary Mem.	Arthur Spain	Wayne Hiscox	Martin Rowe

7. Election of Auditors 1993/94

8. Motions: No proposals have been received to amend the Constution and Rules.
9. Discussion on possible committee restructuring.
10. Any other business.
11. Date and venue of next AGM meeting.

NOTES: 1. An up-to-date copy of the Constitution is enclosed with this Bulletin.

2. The Secretary is required to circulate this Agenda 14 days prior to the AGM.

* 3. Due to Easter falling between the deadline for nominations and the 14th day before the AGM, the Agenda is being sent now.

4. Officers Reports, accounts etc will follow.