

MCG



AGM

APRIL 1997

MENDIP CAVING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1997

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Long Room
at the Hunters Lodge Inn at 2:30pm on Saturday 12th April 1997.

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.

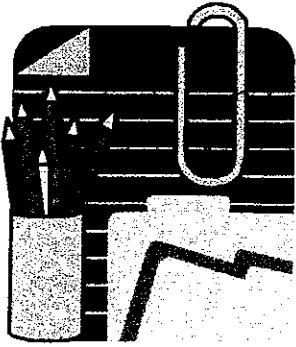
**THE COMMITTEE MAY GRANT A POSTAL VOTE TO ANY FULL MEMBER
WHO APPLIES IN GOOD TIME TO THE SECRETARY**

AGENDA

(Chairman: Arthur Spain)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous AGM, held 23.3.96 (circulated with newsletter 253, May 1996)
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.
6. Election of Honorary Officers for 1997/98

POST	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Secretary	Tim Francis	Joan Goddard	Malcolm Cotter
Treasurer	Martin Rowe	Mike Haselden	Brian Snell
Cottage Warden	Joe Frampton	Lee Hawkswell	Sonya Cotter
Tacklemaster	Dave Tooke	Tim Francis	Charlie Allison
Editor	Yvonne Rowe	Dave Tooke	Letti Patte
Recorder	Wayne Hiscox	Bill Headington	Arthur Spain
Meet Secretary	Julie Hesketh	Johnathan Roberts	Joe Frampton
Ordinary Member	Pete Moseley	Joan Goddard	Yvonne Rowe
7. Election of Examiners 1997/98
8. Election of Rescue Warden. Election of Conservation and Access Officer
(Nominations for these two non-committee posts will be accepted at the meeting. Malcolm Cotter is willing to stand for the post of Conservation and Access Officer)
9. Motion: Proposed by T Francis, seconded by W Hiscox, to alter the Constitution and Rules as follows: Paragraph 7 - Committee. Replace "Meet Secretary" with "Caving Secretary", "Recorder" with "Librarian/Recorder", and "Ordinary Committee Member" with "Social Secretary". The text should therefore read as ".....the honorary officers shall be: Secretary, Treasurer, Caving Secretary, Cottage Warden, Tackle Master, Editor, Librarian/Recorder, and Social Secretary."
10. Any other business
11. Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting



SECRETARY'S REPORT - 1997

Membership By 22.3.97 there were 97 full members, 21 probationary members, 13 associate members, 1 prospective member and 3 honorary members. Total membership 135 which is slightly up on last year, although 25 members have not yet paid up. Since the last AGM, 3 members have resigned, 8 new members have been accepted but only 3 have converted to full membership. Two lapsed members rejoined and currently there is one application in the pipeline.

Activities As usual there have been a number of arranged meets to caves on Mendip, in South Wales, Derbyshire and Yorkshire, as well as the trips arranged informally amongst members.

- As MCG won the Wessex Challenge in 1995 we were the hosts in 1996. The event, an assault course during the afternoon followed by a R & B stomp, was judged a social success, but unfortunately didn't make a profit for MRO as intended.
- The Summer expedition to N. Italy was changed at the last minute to Tresviso in N. Spain, where Cueva del Agua was the goal. Six members had an enjoyable 2 weeks of caving and walking, and the club will return again this year - hopefully with more people so that further exploration can take place.
- Phil Ingold hasn't had a trip underground since the last AGM, but we hope to oblige later in 1997!
- The diggers are beavering away in Pinetree Pot, Upper Flood (I and II), Bone Hole, Ubley Warren and Battery Swallet with varying degrees of progress. Conservation work is continuing in Upper Flood.
- Members attended the Forest of Dean Symposium and the BCRA Conference in Sheffield. The latter was particularly well attended, Charlie and Malcolm producing the Upper Flood publication in time for it to take pride of place on the MCG stand, along with a video of the archaeological dig and an MCG information video presentation.
- 21 members attended the HYF in October, and a further six were staying at the cottage but unable to be at the meeting. The evening barn dance was enjoyed by those who went, and broke even, but in view of the poor attendance we should perhaps consider what social event, if any, should be planned for 1997 - perhaps a buffet or curry evening at the cottage?

Administration has been fairly routine this year.

- I attended 3 meetings of CSCC, the Cambrian CC in September, the Charterhouse Caving Co Ltd AGM, and the Derbyshire Caving Council meeting in November at which MCG was accepted as a member. We have also rejoined the Council of Northern Caving Clubs after a break of a few years. I have been helped with meetings by Nikki Robinson, Huw Jones, Julie Hesketh and Tim Francis. Jonathan Roberts is currently the treasurer of CSCC.

- The NCA is in some disarray; the ballot on constitutional amendments rejected the new proposal and therefore NCA is currently bound by the old rules by which representation of clubs is via the regional councils. At the 1997 NCA AGM there are to be no proposals, only general discussion on the constitution.
- Work on the library extension has slowed down, partly due to the complexity of the roofwork, but once the roof is complete we should hopefully see faster progress. It may be prudent to employ contractors to carry out some of the later work.
- In last year's report I said that MCG was the only major Mendip club not to have been broken into. I'm afraid I spoke too soon! We were burgled in September via a downstairs window, and members are reminded not to leave valuables in the cottage.

As usual, committee meetings have been well attended, and I would like to thank all officers for their hard work and support. Many other members put considerable effort into the smooth running of the club, and I would like to record the committee's appreciation.

I am not standing as secretary at the AGM. I have enjoyed my 'time served' but home commitments mean that I can no longer devote as much time to club matters as I would like. I wish my successor well - and hope that whoever is elected will receive the support and encouragement necessary to take the club forward to the next millenium. *Joan Goddard*



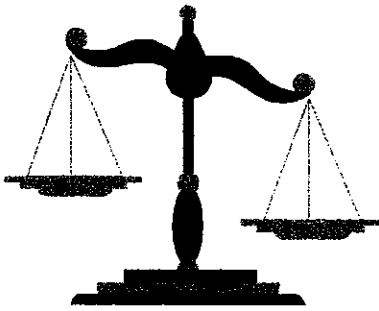
ORDINARY MEMBER'S REPORT - 1997

This has been my first year at the helm of Ordinary Member, having stepped in at the last minute to fill the vacancy. My year started with the Half-yearly which came in the form of a Barn Dance at Priddy village hall. I would like to thank all the members who came to the dance, especially those who helped prepare and serve the food. I am sure these members would agree it was an enjoyable evening even though poorly attended.

The Annual Dinner this year will be held at The Galloper Restaurant, Wookey Hole on Saturday 12th April 1997. I hope as many of you as possible will attend.

Finally, if re-elected at this year's AGM, I would like to arrange more social events for the coming year. If anyone has any ideas or a specific request, then please contact me.

Pete Moseley



TREASURER'S REPORT - 1997

With work progressing on the new extension and several major publications, the Group's payments exceeded receipts by over £5000 in 1996. This was not unexpected, and was one of the reasons for building up assets over the past few years. The cottage continues to pay its own way, and there is no reason to increase subscriptions to cover the deficit on the general and building funds. The committee's policy on activities is that they should continue to aim to break even. Now that the Group has an IBM, I have been able to install a software package for the accounts which makes book-keeping easier (any volunteers for treasurer?).

GENERAL ACCOUNT payments exceeded receipts by £1200. However, this included £1300 for printing Occasional Publications Nos. 3 (Chartreuse) and 4 (Upper Flood) and reprints of Occasional Publications 1 and 2. No Mendip caving tackle was purchased, but a contribution was made to fixed aids in Swildon's (new Blue Pencil chain) and to Priddy Green Sink entrance. Expenditure on digging fell from nearly £1000 in 1995 to less than £500 in 1996. Expenditure on library books doubled to £500. The cost of the newsletter remained the same, but a new inkjet printer had to be purchased. Subscriptions to other bodies doubled as we have now joined DCA and CNCC, as well as supporting CCC's fixed point photos of GB.

ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT showed a surplus in 1996 of £150. The sale of CCC permits fell by 50%, confirming that there was less caving on Mendip. The Annual Dinner made a surplus of £65 and the autumn social a surplus of £30. No new stock was purchased for the shop and the old MCG shop stock contributed £650 in income. The Wessex Challenge, although well organised, was poorly attended (there were rumours of a boycott) and regrettably there was a loss of £650. As a result, we were unable to make any donation to MRO (the usual beneficiary of Wessex Challenge surpluses). I wish next year's organisers better luck, and hope that MCG members will continue to support this good cause.

COTTAGE ACCOUNT broke even in 1996. Guest fees were noticeably down by £600, and donations (ie. use of shower) were only £5.30. Maintenance and improvements were up by £410 but this included purchase of a new larder fridge. Our insurers reclassified us as a "holiday home" and increased our premium by 50% to nearly £1000.

BUILDING FUND ACCOUNT received little income (mostly interest). Most of the materials for the extension have now been purchased. Labour and hire of equipment added another £875.

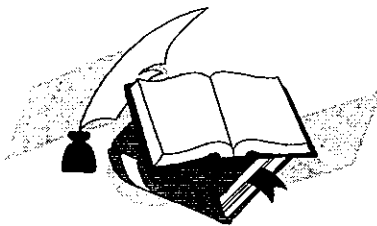
The Group cashed in its investment in the Charities Official Investment Fund during the year. The committee carefully considered what to do with the proceeds of the investment and took advice on reinvesting the cash. After much discussion and advice the committee, as the managing trustees, took the view that any investment would need to be long-term. With several projects on the horizon, and with the Charities Deposit Account paying interest at twice the rate of inflation, the committee eventually chose to put the money on deposit so that it would be readily available for projects in the near future. The Group's finances continue to remain healthy with funds available for completion of the library extension and Upper Flood II entrance, and printing of the forthcoming Occasional Publications. *M. Rowe*

1995	GENERAL RECEIPTS	1996	1995	GENERAL PAYMENTS	1996
1908.00	80% SUBS CURRENT YEAR	2045.00	128.48	MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION	249.40
230.00	80% SUBS NEXT YEAR	120.00	172.50	PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE	169.00
466.13	INTEREST COIF DEP A/C	468.97	719.66	CAVING ITEMS MENDIP	245.99
19.72	INTEREST GIRO DEP A/C	0.26	0.00	AWAY MEETS	466.20
10.00	OCC PUBLICATIONS	88.50	65.33	ACCESS	7.99
7.00	JOURNALS	0.00	914.47	DIGGING	482.20
128.22	DONATIONS	32.90	246.44	LIBRARY	500.06
0.00	AWAY MEETS	363.80	497.31	NEWSLETTERS & BULLETINS	702.63
5.00	MISCELLANEOUS	32.93	3.45	JOURNAL REPRINTS	0.00
			770.84	OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS	1316.48
			138.26	COMMITTEE, TRUSTEE EXPENSES	4.81
			87.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OTHER BODIES	153.00
			134.24	MISCELLANEOUS	44.13
<u>2774.07</u>		<u>3152.36</u>	<u>3877.98</u>		<u>4341.89</u>
	ACTIVITIES RECEIPTS			ACTIVITIES PAYMENTS	
66.68	CCC PERMITS	40.50	0.00	CCC PERMITS	20.00
1004.75	ANNUAL DINNER PREV YR	0.00	100.00	ANNUAL DINNER CURRENT YEAR	954.53
0.00	ANNUAL DINNER THIS YR	1119.00	1064.71	ANNUAL DINNER PREVIOUS YEAR	0.00
591.85	AUTUMN SOCIAL PREV YR	0.00	763.81	AUTUMN SOCIAL PREVIOUS YEAR	60.00
0.00	AUTUMN SOCIAL THIS YR	270.00	0.00	AUTUMN SOCIAL CURRENT YEAR	240.74
710.94	SHOP	645.70	0.00	WESSEX CHALLENGE	2110.16
0.00	WESSEX CHALLENGE	1457.00	231.00	SHOP	0.00
<u>2374.22</u>		<u>3532.20</u>	<u>2159.52</u>		<u>3385.43</u>
	COTTAGE RECEIPTS			COTTAGE PAYMENTS	
80.00	KEY DEPOSITS RECEIVED	100.00	30.00	KEY DEPOSITS RETURNED	40.00
0.00	PREVIOUS YR'S COTT. FEES	31.00	173.30	COTTAGE MAINTENANCE	245.19
477.00	20% SUBS CURRENT YEAR	511.25	104.48	COTTAGE IMPROVEMENT	440.73
240.00	VOUCHER 12 NIGHTS	45.00	685.35	BUILDING & CONTENTS INSURANCE	913.35
480.00	VOUCHER 25 NIGHTS	210.00	164.16	GENERAL RATES	169.62
0.00	VOUCHER 50 NIGHTS	110.00	164.31	WATER RATES	172.64
0.00	VOUCHER BEDNIGHTS nmh	0.00	0.00	CESSPIT EMPTYING	80.00
421.50	MEMBERS	402.00	38.54	REFUSE COLLECTION	96.35
46.50	MEMBERS CHILD	27.00	92.90	COAL	75.28
22.50	SWCC, NPC	3.00	35.32	GAS	35.40
2225.00	GUESTS	1654.50	780.95	ELECTRICITY	665.56
60.00	NAVY	0.00	155.79	TELEPHONE	141.94
41.10	OVERPAYMENTS	12.62	55.16	HOUSEHOLD GOODS	112.44
19.00	SHOWERS	5.30	0.00	LANDSCAPING	22.49
187.90	PHONE RECEIPTS	125.70	33.95	COTTAGE ADMINISTRATION	24.90
57.50	20% SUBS NEXT YEAR	30.00	0.00	UNCOLLECTED FEES	43.00
<u>4358.00</u>		<u>3267.37</u>	<u>2514.21</u>		<u>3278.89</u>
	BUILDING RECEIPTS			BUILDING PAYMENTS	
576.26	NSIA INTEREST	296.43	312.52	PLANNING FEES	0.00
22.93	WESSEX WATER DIVIDEND	80.11	2834.62	BUILDING MATERIALS	3610.69
234.85	COIF DIVIDEND	7.50	0.00	CONTRACTOR'S LABOUR	450.00
0.00	MISCELLANEOUS	1.00	0.00	EQUIPMENT HIRE	423.05
<u>834.04</u>		<u>385.04</u>	<u>3147.14</u>		<u>4483.74</u>
<u>10340.33</u>	TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>10336.97</u>	<u>11698.85</u>	TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>15489.95</u>
				TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>10336.97</u>
				DEFICIT	<u>5152.98</u>

BALANCE SHEET 31 DEC 1996

ASSETTS AND LIABILITIES 31 DEC 96

COIF DEP ACC 31DEC95	5730.10	COIF DEP ACC 31DEC96	6626.49	NARROW RANGE INVESTMENTS	
GIRO CUR ACC 31DEC95	3617.77	GIRO CUR ACC 31DEC96	2137.03	NATIONAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT ACC	3902.51
GIRO DEP ACC 31DEC95	51.48	GIRO DEP ACC 31DEC96	401.74		<u>3902.51</u>
NAT SAV INV AC 31DEC95	5467.13	NAT SAV INV AC 31DEC96	5763.56	WIDE RANGE INVESTMENTS	
M&G CHARIFUND 31DEC95	1698.00	M&G CHARIFUND 31DEC96	1963.75	M&G CHARIFUND	1963.75
WESSEX WATER 31DEC95	882.00	WESSEX WATER 31DEC96	973.82	WESSEX WATER SHARES	973.82
COIF 31DEC95	5347.31	COIF 31DEC96	0.00	NATIONAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT ACC	1861.05
PETTY CASH 31DEC95	134.82	PETTY CASH 31DEC96	266.81		<u>4798.62</u>
	<u>22928.61</u>		<u>18133.20</u>	OTHER FUNDS	
				COIF INCOME SHARES	0.00
M&G CHARIFUND INCREASE	265.75			GIRO CURRENT ACC	2137.03
WESSEX WATER INCREASE	91.82			GIRO DEPOSIT ACC	401.74
	<u>357.57</u>			COIF DEPOSIT ACC	6626.49
				PETTY CASH	266.81
					<u>9432.07</u>
TOTAL	23286.18			TOTAL FUNDS	18133.20
				OTHER ASSETS	
DEFICIT	<u>-5152.98</u>			COTTAGE	150700.00
				LAND	1000.00
TOTAL	18133.20	TOTAL	18133.20	COTTAGE HOUSEHOLD CONTENTS	14115.00
				CAVING EQUIPMENT	6775.00
				LIBRARY BOOKS, JOURNALS ETC	10750.00
				SHOP STOCK	563.42
				OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS	500.00
				TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	184403.42
				TOTAL ASSETS	202536.62
				LIABILITIES	0.00
				NET ASSETS AT 31 DEC 96	202536.62



RECORDER'S REPORT - 1997

The work on the library extension has gone forward as planned except for the period over the New Year. If the weather had been kinder it would have been possible to complete the roofing and the window cill. When the building is weatherproof the wiring will need to be done. When this has been completed it is intended to get a contractor in to finish the external and internal rendering and plastering.

Many thanks to Joan Goddard for keeping library purchases up to date and for keeping me on my toes with regard to building progress.

Wayne Hiscox



TACKLE MASTER'S REPORT - 1997

This year has been relatively quiet in the tackle store. This was mainly due to the overhaul of old stock made in 1995 which should keep us up to date for the next few years.

Rope and Ladder No rope was due for retirement this year so no new purchases were made. Some of the 1992 lifeline is now starting to look well used and will be replaced in the next few months. As a rule a quarter of the lifeline rope is replaced every year so that the purchases are spread out evenly. The shorter 'Swildons' length ropes show the greatest use and hence their lifespan is reduced. A semi-serious comment regarding tackle use was made at last years A.G.M. Consequently I analysed the log sheets to see which were the most popular trips which used MCG tackle. This reveals that the demand for shorter lengths of rope and ladder is still the greatest. The results for the trips (expressed as a percentage of the total number of trips) done in the years 1991 to 1996 were as follows:

Swildons	25%	Waterwheel	5%	Goatchurch	4%	St. Cuthberts	3%
Pinetree	12%	Longwood	5%	Singing River	3%	Thrupe Lane	2%
G.B.	6%	Eastwater	4%	Tynings Barrow	3%	Others	28%

1997 should see the retirement of our oldest lengths of SRT rope. These lengths of Beal 10mm were cut specifically for Rhino Rift so have seen the heaviest use. The 10mm Cairngorm (UK manufacture) purchased at the end of 1995 has performed well. It appears not to 'stiffen up' like Beal, easy to rig with but is still hard wearing. A longer length of this has been retained so that High Atlas in Thrupe Lane and most of the right hand route in Rhino Rift can be done with one rope. The total number of ladders actually increased without purchasing any new stock. Two ladders mysteriously reappeared from somewhere which upset the tagging system a bit.

Expedition Stock No new equipment was purchased. Expedition gear was used in the Picos (twice) and Mallorca. One 45m length of 11mm Bluewater was cut in half due to a nasty rub point caused by a tyrolean in Cueva del Agua, Picos.

Miscellaneous Only a few small items were lost/stolen this year. In particular rope slings seem to go missing on a regular basis. The programme of getting tackle bags repaired by Dragon rather than purchasing new bags was continued. All repaired bags seemed to stand up well to the rigours of Mendip caving. Increased digging activity meant that greater use was made of the Bosch drill and bits. A neoprene bag for the drill was made which can be used as a lightweight alternative to the ammo can.

Cave Keys As a result of the library extension these now hang on the back of the door in the tackle store. This arrangement worked well and therefore it is proposed that they remain in the store even when the library is complete.

Stock Rope - SRT(10mm) 400m in 9 lengths; Lifeline (10mm): 540m in 20 lengths

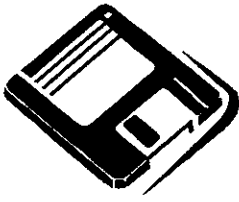
Ladders - 570ft in 24 lengths

Expedition store - SRT (11mm) 150m , (9mm) 400m, 6 large tackle bags, 10 rope protectors, 40 8mm spits, bolting kit and bag, bolting platform.

Surveying - compass, clinometer, 30m tape, altimeter, survey notebooks.

Miscellaneous - Bosch drill, 2 batteries, charger, 3 drill bits, neoprene bag, ammo boxes, BDHs.

Tim Francis



EDITOR'S REPORT - 1997

First, in response to the queries I have received about a lack of newsletters since last December, I apologise, but I have been unwell since last October and more seriously ill since December. All's well now and it is actually quite nice to know that the newsletter is missed if it is not regular.

Things have become considerably easier since purchasing a 486 computer and I can now produce a newsletter in as little as a weekend - particularly when articles and news are sent to me on disc, as they most often are now. I have to admit to occasional frustration and cursing but it is often due to my incompetence rather than any malfunctioning of the computer. Unfortunately, for a short period, the 486 was infected with a virus caught via the Internet, but we now have anti-virus software to prevent this re-occurring. The computer is still a bit of a mystery to me and seems to have a mind of its own sometimes!

The MCG Occasional Publications have proved to be extremely successful, with caving shops selling out and asking for more, and with numerous requests from cavers outside MCG. We also sold quite a few from our stand at the Hidden Earth conference in Sheffield last September. As I have said before, I don't actually edit the Occasional Publications, I just act as a link between the individual editors and the committee, but I feel this is a good opportunity to mention their popularity - well done the editors, authors and others involved in these prestigious publications.

My grateful thanks, as usual, go to Mike Lovell for getting the printing done, to the authors for their articles and news, and to Martin for his invaluable help (especially with unravelling my mess-ups on the computer). The 386 computer kindly donated by Ben Cooper will go in the library when the extension is finished and will be very useful, not least for updating committee minutes, copying news items from the noticeboard, updating cottage bookings, and much more.

As there are three committee members standing down this April, I feel it would not be a good time to stand down myself. Too many changes in one go might not be good for continuity so I am prepared to stand for another year, but I will definitely be standing down in 1998. However, if someone else is nominated as Editor and gets voted onto the committee this April, I will happily give any assistance needed while he/she settles into the post.

Yvonne Rowe



COTTAGE WARDEN'S REPORT - 1997

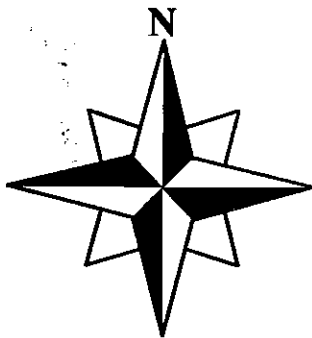
As most of you will know, I will be standing down as Cottage Warden this year, having served on the post for five years. It is my opinion that the club will benefit from a fresh approach.

The cottage maintenance weekend was held on the usual May Bank holiday. Along with a host of other jobs and a general spring clean, the outside of the windows of the Foreman's Lounge received attention, a wood store was built and the silt trap in the washing down area was rebuilt.

Since the new year, work has been carried out to protect pipes and drainage from frost damage. Many thanks to all those who have carried out work on the cottage this year. With respect to guest bookings, little has changed since last year. Members have, however, been using the cottage less on members' weekends.

All that now remains is for me to thank all those who have helped me with my post over the past five years, and to wish my successor the very best of luck.

Lee Hawkswell



MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT - 1997

In all the Group trips that were published in the newsletters last year, most took place in South Wales with the entrances of OFD taking most of the trips. With the exception of the November '96 booking for Peak Cavern in Derbyshire, which was well supported (8 members taking 10 places), there seems little enthusiasm for caving as a group. Most Group caving appears to be small groups generally caving together. The South Wales meetings were usually supported by the same members, ie. only 3/4. The booking for Peak Cavern in March is now a sell-out and I hope that the Otter Hole date in July will be well supported.

My duties as Meets Secretary for the last 3 years have not been onerous, with generally not much to do. Only one trip requested in 12 months has not taxed me too much, although I have been able to make my input to the general running of the Group via Committee meetings. With the views of the few members who turned up at the Half-yearly meeting, there was some talk of re-structuring the committee. With the duties of the present Meets Secretary being very little, I do not think that my re-election to the post is necessary, so I will be resigning and not seeking re-election at the AGM. However, I will be able to offer help and advice to any new Meets Secretary if he/she wishes it.

I shall still be caving more in South Wales than Mendip, so I will still publish trips in the newsletter if any members wish to come along.

Geoff Beale



CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES TRANSACTIONS REPORT TO THE 1997 AGM

INVESTMENTS 1996

Charities Official Investment Fund COIF Income Shares

736.23 shares bought 31.12.89 for £4000

1 dividend of £67.00 (9.10 p per share) was credited directly to the treasurers COIF deposit fund. (Same period 1995 £63.31 at 8.60 p per share)

The investment was sold on 18.1.96 for 728.09 p per share (End 1995 726.31) realising £5360.42 (End 1995 5347). The proceeds were paid into the treasurer's COIF Deposit Fund.

Income to sale date £1337. Total returned from the fund £6697.

Gain 67%, or about 9% compound. Same period RPI 118.5 to 150.9, increase 27%, thus better than RPI by 40%.

M & G Charifund

171 Income Units bought 19.7.90 for £1000 converted to 47 Accumulation Units 4.2.91.

Sell value per share quoted by Charifund for 31.12.96 £41.788 (1995 £36.13).

Total value £1964 (1995 £1698). Gain on year 15.7%

Gain; purchase date to end 1996 96% or about 11% compounded, same period RPI 126.8 to 154.4 increase 22%, thus better than RPI by 74%.

Proportion of Custodian Trustees funds 23% (1995 13%).

The above cannot be used as a performance comparison between COIF and M&G funds since the former is an income fund and the latter an accumulation fund, also different periods are covered.

National Savings Investment Account

31.12.95 £5467.13

Interest to 31.12.96 £ 296.43

Total End 1996 £5763.56

Proportion of Custodian Trustees funds 66% (1995 41%)

Wessex Water Ordinary Shares

Direct investment of Group funds to 31.12.96, £321.60

The investment has been part accumulation, where shares have been received in lieu of dividend (scrip dividend shares) and part income from dividends.

During 1996 9 new scrip dividend shares were received in lieu of dividends totalling £31.65 plus non-recoverable tax of £7.91, together with a preference dividend of £7.50 plus recoverable tax of £1.87. Notional total £48.93 (includes non-recoverable tax element), notional income 15.2%. (1995 £42.91, 13.3%).

Income excluding non-returnable tax 12.8%, (1995 12.5%)

31.12.96 Listing in The Financial Times;

224 Ordinary Shares at £3.76 value £842 (1995 £750)

258 Floating Rate Preference Shares at £0.51 value £132 (1995 £132)

Total value £974 (1995 £882). Gain on year 10.4%.

Proportion of Custodian Trustees funds 6% (1994 6%)

Realisation value of Custodian Trustees investments at 31.12.96 £8699 (1995 £13394) Contraction 35%.

OTHER MATTERS

Title deeds, share certificates and licences continue to be held, through the good offices of Ron Saunders, at the premises of Reynolds Parry-Jones and Crawford. Custodian Trustees minutes and certain reports are to be kept in the library.

The Custodian Trustees are, Peter Mathews, Jonathan Roberts, Patrick Walsh and Malcolm Cotter.

Malcolm Cotter
30 January 1997