

# BULLETIN

OF THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP

NUMBER 22

SEPTEMBER 1997

## HALF-YEARLY BBQ

This Half-Yearly is to be held at the cottage on 4th October. Pete Moseley is organising a BBQ and a barrel. Beer will be at the discounted price of £1 a pint. Please bring your own meat/vegetarian substitute. There will be a charge of £4 per head which covers salad, baked potatoes and fireworks. In addition Charlie is to do a slide show. (Rumour has it some compromising photo's are to be given their first airing providing the victims don't make Charlie a financial offer he can't refuse!) Previous years have been poorly attended, please support this function.

## AGM MINUTES

Attached is a copy of the 1997 AGM Minutes.

Note: The Chairman explained that the Secretary had asked him to apologise to the meeting for not giving the full 14 days notice of the AGM, as required by the Constitution and Rules. He asked that the members present accept that, as it had no material bearing on the business to be done, that the meeting be accepted as constitutionally valid. This was agreed unanimously.

#### MINUTES OF THE 1997 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP.

Charity No. 270088

Held at the Hunters lodge, Priddy, on Saturday 12th of April 1997 at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Arthur Spain

Present: 1 Honorary member, 31 Full members, and 2 Probationary members. Of those present 3 were custodian trustees.

The Secretary was saddened to announce the death of Brian Merlis an ex member and committee member of the Group.

1. Apologies for Absence: Pete Goddard, Ron Saunders, Helen Ingold, Phil Ingold, Alan Mellon, Geoff Beale Jeremy Gilson and Linda Gates.

#### 2. Minutes of AGM held on 23/04/96

These minutes had been circulated to members with newsletter 253 in May 1996.

#### 3. Agreement that the minutes are a true record

The Minutes were proposed for acceptance.

Proposed: M. Rowe.

Seconded: J. Goddard.

Accepted unanimously.

#### 4. Matters Arising.

There were none

#### 5. Officers Reports

Chairman: Reports have been circulated.

##### 5.1 Matters Arising from the Secretary's Report

J. Goddard: Permission has been granted to Charterhouse Caving Company Ltd. to conserve and cap the new mine shaft that has opened at Gruffy Field near Charterhouse Cave.

The meeting that was to take place tomorrow with the manager of the Charterhouse Outdoor Centre was cancelled by him on Thursday and will now have to be re-arranged.

A. Spain: Has a trip been arranged for Phil Ingold?

J. Goddard: Yes in OFD1 for October. This will not be a rescue practice. The intention is to take Phil in a modified wheelchair as far as we can. We will need as many members as possible to help out.

M. Rowe: I would like to propose a vote of thanks for the efforts that Joan has made on behalf of the Group during her time as secretary.

A. Spain: Yes, thankyou on behalf of the group.

##### 5.2 Matters Arising from the Ordinary Member's Report

P. Moseley: The half yearly barn dance was not well attended. What do members want?

After some discussion it was decided to organise an evening at the cottage this year.

##### 5.3 Matters Arising from the Treasurer's Report

M. Rowe gave out notes detailing the changes being made to the accounting procedures. The examiners report was also given out. Copies of both are attached to these minutes.

M. Rowe had received a letter from A. Mellon with various queries with regards to the accounts. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

The answers were as follows:

Para 1: Yes, a comparison is available.

Para 2: No depreciation due to accounting method.

Para 3: Yes, a budget of £10,000 agreed at a previous AGM. Spend to date is in the region of £7500. Not shown as work in progress because of new accounting method.

Para 4: Based on insurance validation as laid down by Charity Commissioners, then allowance for inflation over time. No depreciation because of accounting method.

Para 5: A breakdown of the costs for this event is attached to these minutes. A budget was set for this event based on an attendance of 120 people. The turn out was probably much as usual and there was a good attendance at the dance. The majority of the loss was due to using outside catering and providing too much food. In addition disposal of the tyres cost £137.

Para 6: Not relevant due to new accounting procedure. The duplication was intentional to allow a comparison with previous years.

R. Kempston: We seem to be making a loss on the phone receipts?

M. Rowe: The accounts do not show the true position it depends when the money from the phone is collected. I believe that overall we make a small profit.

J. Roberts: Is there a need to project the cottage income and loss situation forward to allow for adjustments in fees to avoid a loss?

M. Rowe: Yes, I can do this now as I have a better accounting package on my computer now. We did spend more than normal this year on publications and on the cottage extension. We will soon receive around £2000 from covenants.

P. Walsh: Do we have covenant forms available? We should take this opportunity to push the scheme.

M. Rowe: Yes I do have plenty of forms.

M. Cotter: Why do cheques take up to 6 months to be cashed?

M. Rowe: This is unusual. I'm sure it does not happen very often. Cheques are usually banked monthly.

A. Spain: Why are committee expenses so low?

M. Rowe: Expenses not shown against individuals but against activities so that some of the costs are not obvious at first glance.

#### 5.4 Matters Arising from the Cottage Warden's Report

J. Goddard: I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Lee for all the work that he has done on behalf of the Group in his time as cottage warden.

R. Kempston: The lights were flashing in the cottage last night is there any intention to improve the supply?

L. Hawkswell: This was looked into some years ago and was too expensive. If circumstances change we may consider this again.

R. Kempston: Do we know who damaged the cottage ceiling?

L. Hawkswell: It is down to two groups; we will be writing to them soon.

#### 5.5 Matters Arising from the Recorder's Report

W. Hiscox: Delay on finishing the outside of the building was due to the wrong flashing kits for the roof lights being obtained. We now have the right kits and work should be completed in the next three weeks.

#### 5.6. Matters Arising from the Editor's Report

Y. Rowe answered general questions from members.

J. Roberts: I would like to thank those, on behalf of the members, who have contributed to the Occasional Publications published by the group, especially the Upper Flood Report.

A. Spain: Please continue to help Yvonne by sending in as much information and articles as possible for publication.

#### 5.7 Matters Arising from the Meet Secretary's Report

M. Ward: We will soon hold keys for Agen Allwed and Draenen; how will they be controlled?

After some discussion it was decided that the meet secretary would control the keys, which would be available by post.

#### 5.8 Matters Arising from the Tackle master's Report

None.

#### 5.9 Matters Arising from Custodian Trustees Report

None.

#### 6 Election of Officers

Chairman: Can we have two tellers please?

Tellers: Kim Headington and Pete Bennett.

The following are willing to stand:

Hon. Secretary: Tim Francis.

Hon. Treasurer: Martin Rowe.

Hon. Cottage Warden: Joe Frampton.

Hon. Tackle Master: Dave Tooke.

Hon. Editor: Yvonne Rowe.

Hon. Recorder: Wayne Hiscox.

Hon. Ordinary Member: Pete Moseley

Hon. Meet Secretary: Julie Hesketh.

The following non committee posts are also to be voted on:

Rescue Warden: Brian Snell.

Conservation and Access officer: Malcolm Cotter or Marcus Ward.

Chairman: Full members only are eligible to vote.

Chairman: The result of the ballot is as follows:

Secretary: Tim Francis 34 votes for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Treasurer: Martin Rowe 28 votes for, 4 against, 3 abstentions.

Cottage Warden: Joe Frampton 35 votes for.

Tackle Master: Dave Tooke 30 votes for, 4 against, 1 abstention.

Editor: Yvonne Rowe 30 votes for, 4 against, 1 abstention.

Recorder: Wayne Hiscox 31 votes for, 1 against, 3 abstentions.

Meet Secretary: Julie Hesketh 35 votes for.

Ordinary Member: Pete Moseley 34 votes for, 1 abstention.

Rescue Warden: Brian Snell 31 votes for, 4 abstentions.

Conservation and Access: Marcus Ward: 18 votes for ) 4 abstentions.

Malcolm Cotter: 13 votes for)

Note: The above figures include four postal votes.

#### 7. Election of Examiners 1996/97

Huw Jones agreed to continue. Ben Cooper agreed to take over from Dave Tooke.

#### 8. Election of Rescue Warden and Conservation and Access Officer

See (6) above

#### 9 Motions

The following motion to change the Constitution and Rules was put to the meeting:

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."

Proposed by Tim Francis and seconded by Wayne Hiscox.

Motion accepted unanimously.

10 Any Other Business

10.1

Expedition to Madagascar 1998: Charlie Allison and Dave Tooke gave a presentation to members on the planned expedition.

10.2

Expedition to Picos Mountains 1997: Julie Hesketh gave members an update on this years expediton.

10.3

M. Rowe: I would like to propose the following members as cheque signatories for 1997/98:

M. Rowe  
T. Francis  
W. Hiscox  
R. Kempston

Any two being required.

Seconded by J. Roberts and accepted unanimously.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The date, place and time of the next AGM was agreed as follows:

The 25th of April 1998 at the Hunters Lodge, Priddy at 2.30 p.m.