



Number 269

June 1998

Cave Art in Northern Spain : Richard Carey

There are 38 caves and shelters in Asturias containing Palaeolithic art and being mobile again, I decided to find out what the access arrangements are.

The first I tried was the Horno de la Pea, Los Corrales (Cantabria). It is closed to the public to conserve the paintings. Human pollution, body heat, respiration were causing irreparable damage. I was later told that there is a small cave with a narrow entrance and a single small chamber. Only archaeologists may visit.

Next, I went to Viesgo de Puente (Cantabria) to visit El Monte de Castillo. This is a much larger cave and the only restriction is to 200 visitors per day. Entry is free to European citizens and I was the only person at the time so I had a personal tour accompanied by a guide. Immediately on entry a large chamber is encountered and once I had explained that I was a caver, I was allowed a bit of time to admire the formations. The cave is large, multi-chambered and has many wonderful formations, columns, curtains and such like. Normally, the guide would ignore the formations and move straight on to the paintings. Here there are a large number of hand prints, the hand being placed against the wall and colour applied around it. There are also paintings in outline of deer, bison, fish and what is claimed to represent women. I suppose with a little imagination they might be right. I was later told that there is a mammoth but this area was closed for conservation. Even so, it was well worth the 45 minutes for the formations alone.

I had been told that the caves at Altamira required special permission for entry so I decided to find out exactly what needed to be done. On arrival, I was greeted by a security guard who told me that to gain access I would have to write to apply giving at least one years notice. I was told that it is fully booked until the year 2000. Given that it is considered along with Lascaux it might be worth the effort. They are currently constructing a copy so that this delay can be avoided. If anyone is interested, I have the address and fax number.

Moving west along the coast I stopped at Pimiango (Asturias) to visit El Pindal. A large cave with a single passage again with impressive formations. 300 meters are accessible to the public although there are another 600m of cave. Hands and knees are not considered possible for the GP. Here there are paintings of deer, bison and a mammoth in outline.

Further west is the town of Ribadesellas (Asturias) with the cave of Tito Bustillo. This is a large active resurgence and the visit takes place in a fossil passage again beautifully decorated. The entrance is through a mined passage into 1k of cave. I was not so lucky here and there were twenty in a group. The guide virtually force marched us past all the formations, some very impressive fine delicate columns, only pausing to point out previous flood levels above our heads. The paintings here are mostly of horses which are unfortunately not very distinct due to the flooding. However, it was still an interesting trip given the formations.

Heading inland I went to El Buxu (Asturias) but the limit of 25 per day had been reached. Feeling that 50% success rate wasn't bad for two days, I decided to go to Treviso for a pint. I had forgotten how scenic the road was. Its better than All Bran.

I shall definitely be going to the Picos again.

MCG doings :

On the move.....



Grahame Treliving to
Ground Floor, Flat 7,
Seymour Road, Finchley,
London. N3 2NG.

Richard Pain & Kerry
Howard to 1 Glenmore

Cottages, Victoria Road, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN4 0SD. Tel :
01892-528229

Accepted as associate member.....

Young-Shik Park

See membership list for address & telephone
number.

Access Update - The Welsh scene :

(by Julie Hesketh, Caving Secretary)

Ogof Draenen : You will be pleased to know that we finally have a key for Ogof Draenen! After 2 years of me and others asking various Pwll Du representatives for a key, our Hon Secretary finally did his stuff. I didn't know if it was something he said (or did!) but Timmy tunneler's charm worked on Sue Mabbett, Pwll Du's new Access Officer who hurried a key and formal access guidance to the MCG. Enclosed in this newsletter are the full rules of access which MCG members should observe at all times. The key will be held at the cottage in the tackle store. At present, there is also a combination lock - the number will be stored along with the key or you can ask me for it if you forget the combination.

OFD : Our permits for OFD have once again been renewed. You may also be asked for proof of your membership of the MCG or address when obtaining a key from the SWCC Duty Warden. Access is as follow :

- *Top and Cwm Dwr* : Party size max. 7. At least 50% of party must be MCG members.

- *Bottom entrance* : Max. party size 5 (including leaders). Our leaders are Geoff

Barton, Geoff Beale, John Miriam and Pete Moseley.

Word gets around...

- Hiking quotes from BC :
 - on meeting a young lady who was descending : "I wish I was going down right now."
 - on meeting a blind hiker & his friends : "did you get a good view from the top?"
 - on meeting a fell runner : "I wish I didn't have to carry my sack around."
- Quotes from MW's past & present :
 - "I managed to come without batteries..."
 - On returning from a long day's hike: "I'm gonna reward myself tonight!!!"
- Overheard at the MCG Annual Dinner :
 - Invited guest to another guest :
"Now that the MCG have finished their library extension, I wonder if they will blow it up and re-build it to make it compatible with the rest of the cottage???"

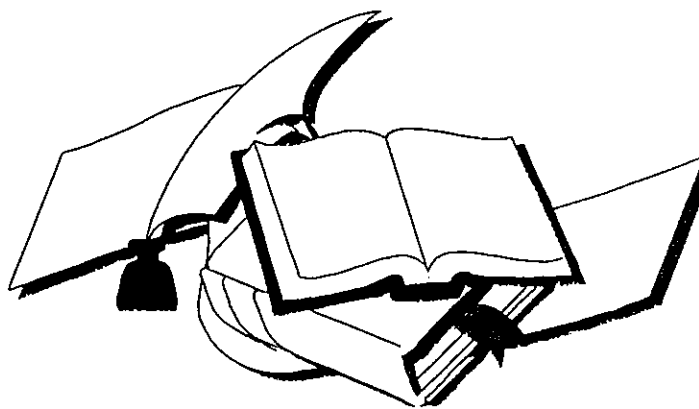
Committee Snippets :

Committee Meeting in June :



- To increase the bookings, the club will be writing to all university caving clubs as soon as possible.
- Club will not be replacing stolen rescue tackle.
- New SRT rope irreparably damaged by mice, decision to be taken on whether to replace.

In brief : could all articles be sent to me on Word 6 please or, if you haven't got a computer, just write it up, put it in the post and I'll type it up.
Thanks, Letti (Editor).



FORWARD MEETS PROGRAMME

<i>DATE</i>	<i>VENUE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
20th June	Mendip	G.B. "Stal cleaning day". Meet at the G.B car park at 11.00am.	Marcus Ward 01252 815112 marcus@nichicon.co.uk
21st June	Mendip	Longwood / August. The main objective is to remove the various signs.	Marcus Ward 01252 815112 marcus@nichicon.co.uk
27th June	Mendip	Upper Flood Extravaganza. Photographic trip, drilling & radio location.	Tim Francis or Marcus Ward
4th July	Mendip	Beginners Weekend. We hope to have a full (!) cottage and plenty of experienced cavers around to lead beginners trips. Gear will be hired for beginners so I need to know numbers well in advance. Social will be organised or we could go to the stomp at the Cavers Fair - see below.	Julie Hesketh Tel : 0802 431588 (eves) Tel : 0171 395 8053 julie.hesketh@cbi.org
4th July	Mendip	Mendip Cavers Fair. A BCRA event with practical training sessions, talks and most importantly, a stomp!	See caving press or contact Andy Sparrow
12th July	Mendip	BTCV : dry stone walling.	
1st August	Mendip	BTCV : dry stone walling.	
21st August	Mendip	BTCV : dry stone walling.	
27th Sept.	Mendip	BTCV : dry stone walling.	
Summer '98	Madagascar	A 6 weeks expedition to the Mahajunga region, in September / October but you could meet them for a few weeks only, if time is a problem.	Tim Francis Tel : 0181 392 2572
7th Nov.	Mendip	Half-yearly. New Inn, Priddy, Skittles evening.	Pete Moseley Tel : 01458 860524

Advanced Bookings :

- **30th June until 10th July** : Chatham Boys Grammar School. 14/15 people.
- **26th July until 02nd August** : 32 Belorussian dancers staying. therefore the cottage will be full. Members wishing to stay please bring your carrymat & your vodka!!! Although the entertainment might be thrown in...
- **2 weeks in September** : dates still to be confirmed. During the day, the cottage will be used by the police dog handlers. Please make sure that any illegal stashes are removed from the cottage.

ARNSIDE ANECDOTES - April 28th '98

from Yvonne Rowe

Although happy and privileged to be living in this part of the world, we assumed we would not see our caving colleagues much as we are now so far from Mendip. *WRONG!* We are pleased to say we are seeing someone from MCG up here on a fairly regular basis.

At the beginning of last week Geoff Beale, Graham Old and Tony Bolton spent a few days sharing a farm cottage with the Bracknell Caving Club at High Bentham, near Ingleton. The way my shifts work I get every Tuesday off so, as I had never before had the opportunity to indulge in mid-week caving (other than holidays), I decided to join them last Tuesday. We relished the thought of having the Yorkshire caves all to ourselves as it was mid-week and everyone else would be at work. *WRONG!* We had planned to do Alum Pot followed by a Calf Holes to Browgill through trip so after a hearty breakfast at Inglesport (Bernie's closes on Tuesdays) we went on our way. We arrived at the first parking area close to Alum to change and sort out the tackle to find three mini-buses and lots of men changing into identical clean blue overalls, green wellies and daglo green helmets. No room for us here so we drove on to the next accessible parking area to find another three mini-buses with more men changing into blue overalls etc. etc. I'm not exaggerating when I say that there were up to 50 people planning to do some part of the Alum Pot system that morning. Needless to say we gave up on doing any caving here.

"We'll go and do the Calf Holes to Browgill through trip, it will be quiet there", said Geoff. *WRONG!* We arrived at the parking area for Calf Holes to find two mini-buses with lots of men changing into clean blue overalls etc. etc. This time we asked what was going on and were told that on week days many of the professional cavers run 'male bonding', 'team leadership', 'initiative training', 'management skill' courses through caving. Rightly or wrongly we felt a bit put out that ordinary leisure cavers cannot get a decent caving trip mid-week because many of the worthwhile caves are being exploited by professional cavers for profit-making purposes. The professional cavers don't go into the caves with their clients, we discovered, so what must these huge amounts of non-cavers be doing to the ecology of the caves and surrounding areas? Anyway, we asked if it would be possible to by-pass their men and get down the cave but were told that they would be using the cave on and off all day. Groups would be doing exchange trips involving underground orienteering type activities, using codes that deliberately get them lost, thus forcing them to use their initiative and work together as a team. The organisers were worried that they might cheat and simply follow us through. (Isn't that initiative?!) However, we spent a bit of time in Browgill after the first team had gone down and while the exchange team was still at the Calf Hole end. We went as far as the climb up the side of the 30ft waterfall and a little way further but could hear voices so gave up at this point and exited.

We had a poke around Birkwith Cave nearby but as there seemed to be mini-buses coming and going everywhere in this area we decided to leave it to the professionals and their clients and find somewhere less busy to cave. We plumped for the Chapel-le-Dale area but time was running out by now and we had to be back at the farmhouse to shower and change before meeting Martin in the Marton Arms for 7 o'clock. We decided that a worthwhile but quick trip could be had in Great Douk Cave. A couple of weeks previously Joan Goddard, Cara Allison, Martin and I had poked around both ends of this through trip (it comes out in Middle Washfolds Cave) but we didn't have any lights so couldn't go in properly.

The entrance to Great Douk is in the far end of a huge (and I mean huge!) depression. Martin and Joan think from the evidence there that it is actually a collapsed cave. The entrance itself is up a short climb where the stream emerges as a small pretty waterfall in a large entrance arch. The size of this entrance arch seems totally out of proportion to the rest of the cave as it is now, but not if the depression was once a huge chamber and part of a bigger system now buried (which seems likely as there is a dig in process there).

More on Arnside overleaf.....

Arnside, the end...

The first half of Great Douk that we did consists of a single meandering streambed passage with a nice smooth floor and high ceiling. It is very well decorated and surprisingly unspoiled considering the ease of access and the fact that this part at least can be done in nothing more than wellies. There is abundant flowstone along the sides of the passage in mostly bright white, but with occasional splashes of reds, greens and black. The majority of the stalagmites, stalactites, columns etc. that are above the flowstone appear to have been under water for some time after their formation as they have that crusty, knobby appearance. Here and there also are a few small gour pools that give off nice reflections of the stal. The passage is just below the surface and at one point you come out into daylight again for a few yards. The high ceiling eventually closes down to a stoop/crawl (depending on how tall you are) and at this point (because we were running out of time you understand) we turned back.

Although, through no fault of our own, we did not do the caves or caving that we had planned to do, I had a thoroughly enjoyable day. It was lovely to see Geoff, Graham and Tony up here, and to cave mid-week - quite a novelty, and in Yorkshire (just thought I'd rub it in again!).

Last weekend we were on Mendip for the AGM and dinner. It was great to see friends old and new. The dinner venue was really nice, the food was superb and plentiful, and we had a very enjoyable evening - thanks to Pete Moseley for his work in organising it all. Next week, we will be joining Ben Cooper, his friend Sarah, Dave Tooke, Letti Patte and Marcus Ward who are coming for a long weekend's walking in the Lakes (in preparation for Madagascar I understand). Don't forget to let us know if you are planning to come up this way for walking or caving, we'd love to join you if we can and we'll make sure the kettle is on.

Geographical Terms: Cara Allison

See how many geographical words you can find in this grid. Words are spelt forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards and diagonally, but always in a straight line.

There are at least 60.

Answers in the next newsletter.

E	N	T	E	D	U	T	I	G	N	O	L	A	V	A
D	R	O	I	F	O	F	I	R	T	H	L	H	A	E
U	T	P	O	B	O	C	A	L	D	E	R	A	L	R
T	A	S	T	G	R	S	O	U	N	D	A	L	E	T
I	R	V	A	Y	A	O	O	N	K	N	O	L	L	N
T	N	L	O	O	P	L	A	L	T	I	T	U	D	E
A	E	G	U	L	C	H	A	I	L	I	A	N	O	C
L	S	I	R	O	C	C	O	R	M	F	N	N	D	I
O	C	I	R	F	G	A	R	O	R	U	A	E	A	P
C	H	O	A	L	U	S	N	I	N	E	P	P	N	E
W	C	B	V	O	Y	S	B	O	C	E	I	A	R	T
K	O	P	J	E	O	U	Y	O	A	A	E	S	O	E
S	I	S	A	O	T	N	E	K	A	L	G	S	T	L
R	A	I	N	T	A	N	T	I	P	O	D	E	S	N
H	A	Z	E	C	L	I	P	S	E	R	A	N	D	I

Springtime in Fermanagh

Tim Francis

With that the usual winter jaunt to Mallorca was put on hold. This years theory was that it would rain less in March than it had last September. Mind you it would not be difficult to only rain six rather than seven days in a week! Steve, Penny and Paul from the CUCC had booked the traditional Fishguard/Rosslare ferry crossing whereas we chose to fly to Belfast and hire a car. Everything nearly went without a hitch except that on arrival in Belfast we discovered that the travel agent had booked the hire car for the wrong airport.

Marble Arch System

Unbeknown to us the show cave was closed for extensive renovation so we were unable to pop into reception and complete the logbook in the usual way. Normal access to the cave is via a large shakehole just downhill from the visitors centre, then wander along the showcave section upstream before hopping over the barrier to rejoin the streamway. The sump 1 bypass on the left allows access to the Legnabrocky Way and the rest of the cave. Our aim on this trip was to investigate the choke at the end of Mexican Passage which we had given a cursory glance in the summer. This time we were sufficiently tooled up with digging kit to give the choke some serious attention.

The passage at the end of Mexican Passage subdivides into several small inlets. A large cobble choke has filled all possible ways on from above. We dug both the top and bottom of the choke with those at the bottom rather perturbed by the crashing of rocks above. After an hour or so it looked like we were making progress at the bottom so all three of us (Duncan, Pete, Tim) focused our efforts on a small cobble filled tube. About 20 foot of passage was excavated before we squeezed through into virgin passage.... but it wasn't to be. Unfortunately we had opened up a pointless loop of passage which only serves to bypass about 50 feet of crawling. Investigating other options we nosed around in a much older section of choke which consisted of sand fill and larger boulders. I think this may be the best prospect so until next time...

Cascades Rising

It was yet another fine sunny day so the stroll from Agnahoo, downvalley, was extremely pleasant. We had heard good things about Cascades and we were not disappointed. This proved to be an excellent trip. The entrance series consists of lots of crawling and wriggling through a bouldery streamway. Routefinding is essentially just a case of following your nose as there several ways through. Once through this section the streamway is lost and the Boulder Series is entered. Initially one does a spot of boulder hopping at the top of the choke before following a route through the boulders at a lower level. Relief finally comes when the boulders open out into a fantastic piece of streamway, the Brandywine River. This is well decorated in places and well worth the effort of dragging a camera through the entrance series. After some fine yomping passage the water gets increasingly deep. We turned back at the junction with the sump 8 bypass as no-one (apart from Steve) was too enthusiastic for a complete soaking.

Noon's Hole

The next day, called for something more vertical so Noon's was the obvious choice as it is described in "The Caves of Fermanagh and Cavan" as "probably the finest pothole in Ireland". The entrance shaft is an active 81m pitch which makes for an airy descent. Parallel shafts keep the hang out of the main waterfall and the pitches are well bolted right to the bottom. We dekkitted at this point as the rest of the cave requires no equipment. Initially the cave starts off rather gloomily and heads downstream to a sump. We noticed the rather unusual lichen that adorns the walls well out sight of daylight. Not far downstream a pleasant thrutchy bit, Crucifixion Crawl, breaks into High Noon's Right and the main cave. For some reason Duncan did the crawl feet first on the way back which made things a little more awkward!

The next section consists of muddy crawls with some nice bits of stal and then a short section of canal. This looks worse than it is and is easily passed. From here a shallow streamway is followed passing several flowstone inlets. The way on to Chamber Passage and the Arch Connection is through a choke off on the right hand side of the fifth inlet. We were running out of time at this point so went through the choke as far as Chamber Passage and then turned back. The pub/club scene in Enniskillen beckoned!

Springwell Rising

Armed with some decent digging kit and a dose of optimism it was thought that the choke at the end of Springwell might yield. Unfortunately this was not to be. This cave is a real oversuit wrecker and our knees and elbows didn't fair much better. At first we tried to dig over the top but the roof kept going up. Some progress was made around the right hand side where a route was excavated to a low crawl. This was too full of rock to continue. By this stage we were all chilled to the core so decided to head out. On the way back we hammered and chiselled twenty feet of horrible crawl to make a visual contact with the main passage. This section had been virtually sumped off last summer. Really the only plus point for this cave is that it lies within five minutes walk of the cottage.

Prod's Pot

This was the final trip of our visit to Fermanagh and is only a short drive from the Agnahoo cottage, just off the Marlbank Loop. The entrance is a tight series of five pitches ideal for the Mendip caver. From here we had a choice of either upstream or downstream so elected to wander downstream first. This was all large walking sized stuff, some well decorated. A group blouse ensued at the canal with Steve doing the honours and wandering on a bit further. On the way back upstream we took in Papist Passage as far as Sump 1 which was certainly worth the detour. Finally, after abandoning all hope of keeping our kit dry for the aeroplane journey home, a trip was made up Cascade Inlet. For me this was the best part of the cave. After a low wet crawl a delightful series of cascades leads to a perched sump. A superb end to a fine week in Fermanagh and no doubt we'll be back.

MCG members: Pete Bennett, Tim Francis, Steve Jones
 "I'm not in the MCG": Duncan Horne
 CUCC: Penny, Paul



A Bit of Humour... from Tim Francis.

RAILROAD TIE

Two guys are walking through the woods and come accross this big deep hole. "Wow...that looks deep." says one.

"Sure does," replies his friend. "Toss a few pebbles in there and see how deep it is."

They pick up a few pebbles and throw them in and wait... no noise.

"Jeeez. That is REALLY deep...here...throw one of these great big rock down there. Those should make a noise."

They pick up a couple of football-sized rocks and toss them into the hole and wait...and wait. Nothing. They look at eachother in amazement. One gets a determined look on his face and says, "Hey...over here in the weeds, there's a railroad tie. Help me carry it over here. When we toss THAT sucker in, it's GOTTA make some noise."

The two drag the heavy tie to the hole and heave it in. Not a sound comes from the hole. Well, they can't believe it, but they don't know what to do now, so they decide to just leave. Maybe they'll come back later and rig the drop, but they don't have time now. As they are turning to leave, suddenly, out of the nearby woods, a goat appears, running like the wind. It rushes towards the two men, then right past them, running as fast as it's legs will carry it. Suddenly it leaps in the air and down into the hole.

The two men are astonished with what they've just seen. What the heck was that all about? Then, out of the woods comes a farmer who spots the men and ambles over.

"Hey... you two guys seen my goat out here?"

"You bet we did! Craziest thing I've ever seen ! It came running like crazy and jumped into this hole!"

"Nah", says the farmer, "That couldn't have been My goat. My goat was chained to a railroad tie."



CSCC NEWSLETTER

May 1998

MRO NEWS

Incident List 1997

There were seven call outs in 1997, six cave related and one land search:-
Sunday 20th April, Box Stone Mine, possibly lost?.

Sunday 27th April, Swildons, suspected overdue.

Sunday 22 June, Black Down, land search.

Sunday 31 August, Swildons, overdue.

Friday 17 October, Dallimores, stuck.

Sunday 16th November, Swildons, exhaustion.

Sunday 30th November, Eastwater, overdue.

The majority of calls in 1997 were due to overdue parties or poor communication and even though there were more calls than in 1996, it would appear that caving on Mendip is still proving to be a relatively safe pastime, particularly if you refrain from caving on a Sunday

CLUB RESCUE PRACTICES

Club rescue practices are encouraged by the MRO but it is requested that any clubs planning a practice should contact the MRO Secretary in plenty of time so that a warden can be present and access to the MRO equipment can be arranged.

The MRO Secretary is:-

Bob Cork, Beech House, Beech Barrow, Penn Hill, Wells, BA53 3EL, Tel 01749 679458,

NCA AGM

Following the NCA AGM the National Council looks like this:-

Chairman Mick Day

Secretary Alan Wood

Acting Treasurer Alan Wood

Training Alan Butcher

Equipment Nick Williams

Legal & Insurance John Dobson

Conservation Graham Price

Publications & Information Jenny Potts

Club Rep Les Sykes

Also one Rep from each of the constituent bodies

Ballot papers for voting on constitutional amendments should be with clubs shortly.

NCA Finances are likely to be an important issue, which could have serious implications on NCA activities if the Sports Council grants fail to materialise.

COMPTON MARTIN OCHRE MINE

There are plans for to have another conservation day at Compton Martin Ochre Mine on 26th of September. the plan will be to replace more props and stack deads in one of the worst affected passages. A barbecue and a bit of a

party will be organised to make the day go with a swing. Please contact the C&A Officer for more information

SINGING RIVER MINE

There is still work to be done on the ginging and entrance shaft at Singing River Mine. If anybody would like to help then contact the C & A Officer so a date can be arranged.

CAVERS FAIR PRIDDY 3 to 5 July

PROGRAMME

Friday 3rd - 7.30pm - 12 midnight
SOCIAL EVENING & REGISTRATION

Saturday 4th - day

SRT SESSIONS, CAVE ART,
PHOTOGRAPHY, FIRST AID,
CAVING TRIPS AND WALKS

Saturday 4th - evening

MENDIP CHALLENGE
BARBEQUE AND STOMP

Sunday 5th - day

CAVING TRIPS

SRT ROUTES

GUIDED

WALK

BOOKINGS TO
CAVERS FAIR, PRIDDY
GREEN HOUSE, PRIDDY,
WELLS, BA5 3BE

all cheques payable to NCA
Training Account

further details are available at:-
www.mendipnet.co.uk/caversfair

PRICES & BOOKING

FRIDAY 3RD JULY:

Social evening - FREE!!

SATURDAY 4TH JULY:

morning and afternoon session
or activity

£5 per person if pre registered

£6 per person on the day

Mendip Team Challenge
small charge for entry payable on
the day

Barbeque and Stomp

£5 per person on the door

SUNDAY 5TH JULY:

morning session or activity

Split Rock SRT

£2.50 per person if pre-registered

£3 per person on the day

WEEKEND TICKET ON THE DAY
£14 per person

WEEKEND TICKET FOR
SATURDAY - TWO SESSIONS,
BARBEQUE, STOMP AND
SUNDAY SESSION
£12 pre registered

THE CAVERS FAIR IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE
COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS AND THE NCA
TRAINING COMMITTEE

TRAINING NEWS

CAVERS FAIR

The major training event this year is the Cavers Fair (see front page) which will offer low cost sessions and workshops in a variety of subjects. We hope to keep the ratios as low as 1:4 which should enable high quality training - though this is dependent on recruiting instructors to give up some time and support the event. We also want to offer visiting cavers a good choice of local caving trips and we need competent cavers to lead these. This could mean you! So, if you would like to assist please contact me.

TRAINING WITHIN THE CAVING CLUB SEMINAR

This is scheduled for the 30th May at 3pm in WCC library. The idea is to provide a discussion forum to clubs so as to share and develop views and policies on training. This will be an informal discussion on the following topics-

- * Do clubs have an obligation to train?
- * Is current club training effective?
- * How should standards be defined?
- * Is assessment desirable or dangerous?
- * What future policy?

Hopefully the seminar will generate some useful feedback and promote further discussion within CSCC membership clubs. We need your support! Please contact me if you are interested in attending or sending a club representative.

TRAINING SESSIONS

Another reminder that your Training Officer is available to give short talks on a variety of subjects - so why not fill that dead spot before the pub on Saturday with something useful!
Andy Sparrow CSCC Training Officer

CSCC SUBSCRIPTIONS

It's time for me to ask for your annual subscriptions, for the 1998/99 year. This is proposed as £10 (same as last year), and is for approval at the CSCC AGM on 16th May. Any club who is there can pay up on the day, otherwise I'll be invoicing you. I'll also be asking member clubs in Southern England to pay the new £10 National Caving Association subscription for 1998. All CSCC clubs should have had a note from me explaining the background to the proposed subs. You should also have received a proposal from me to change the CSCC financial year, becoming a calendar year in 2000 with a transitional period in 1999. This transition should mean a lower CSCC sub for that part of 1999, while the change to a calendar year for finances will simplify the admin tasks that your Treasurer now faces in trying to collect subs for different financial years for both CSCC and NCA. The forthcoming AGM will be asked to agree to this change - the AGM itself will continue in spring, and, if accepted, AGMs will in future agree the following year's subs. Finally I should like to thank CSCC officers and members for their time and effort in helping me to compile a recent claim to the NCA for reimbursement of access admin expenses for the past three years 1995-97.

I should like to put on record CSCC's thanks to NCA for accepting the claim. The resulting improvement in our financial position has restored our reserves. It puts us where we should have been if the previous NCA subs and claims system hadn't suffered from Sports Council revisions. Having said that, we must still manage our cash with care. CSCC's annual income from member clubs is under £500, our average expenditures over a number of years are higher than that. So I intend to carry on with the task of putting our finances in order.

Happy caving

Jonathan Roberts CSCC Treasurer

Dates to remember

CSCC AGM Hunters Lodge	16th May
CSCC Training Seminar at WCC	30th May
BCRC Conference Clapham Yorkshire	13th & 14th June
GB Conservation day 11.00am at car park	20th June
Cavers Fair Priddy	4th & 5th July
CCC AGM Brynmawr	6th Sept
BCRA Conference Southport	18th to 20th Sept

1999

MRO Annual Meeting Hunters Lodge	19th March
CCC Ltd AGM Hunters Lodge	10th April
NCA AGM	20th March

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second CSCC newsletter. Contained within it is some important information concerning subscriptions and also the NCA ballot. You may have spotted a section entitled MRO News, this is intended to pass cave rescue information to the clubs as a service to the MRO. Remember, it's your cave rescue service so please support it in any way possible, attend MRO lectures & functions and perhaps organise a club practice.

CSCC OFFICERS ADDRESS LIST

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