

North Wales Weekend 20th - 22nd November 1998.

Goeff Beale

Weekend Warriors : Geoff Beale, Pete Bennett, Les Brown, Richard Carey, Tim Francis, Joan Goddard, Julie Hesketh, Graham Old, Martin & Yvonne Rowe & Marcus Ward.

With everyone travelling in different directions i.e. North-South and South-North, we were to meet up at the Loggerheads Inn for a pre-weekend planning drink. We had been booked into a separate self containing building for special needs groups (hopefully not us!) called Moel Findeg at the Colmendy outdoor centre. Everyone stayed indoors except Martin, Yvonne & Marcus who bravely camped outside (why?).



Saturday :

Pete, Les, Tim Julie, Martin & Marcus elected to cave in Ogof Hesp Alyn, Geoff and Richard went to Ogof Hen Ffynhonnau (Poachers Cave), Yvonne and Joan went walking whilst Graham stayed in bed.

The Ogof Hesp Alyn Team showed the Poachers duo the entrance and then departed to walk the short distance to Ogof Hesp Alyn and rig the entrance pitch.

The Poachers duo entered the cave, found the steel trap door unlocked and so rigged the 20ft entrance pitch to bolts above the trap door. Right at the pitch bottom went 20ft to nowhere whilst left was the route into the cave.

Route finding in the cave was not complex. Basically the cave is two passages overlying each other. The upper level in stooping cross-section, boulders, squeezes and mud, very little walking. The lower level is contrasting and is a very nice wet streamway where it was possible to do "vertical caving" (i.e. walk upright) instead of the hands and knees crawling in the upper muddy level.

We had been told that when the top upstream end of the cave was reached it was practically above the car parking area and not more than a few feet through a boulder choke to the main River Alyn, some of which flowed through the choke and into the cave.

Richard and I followed the stream downwards to the point where it is possible to climb back up to the upper level, exploring any side passages seen as we went. From one vertical downwards sloping tube we could hear the main stream. The tube was festooned with old bolt spits and P hangars. Unfortunately we did not have any more tackle with us to get to the bottom. This led back to the muddy thrucky upper level to the tight ladder pitch and gate frame.

Afterwards, we had to wander down to Ogof Hesp Alyn to see the entrance pitch. After washing off in the stream I found it very disconcerting to see the bottom of the pitch was at least 30ft below the minor level!!

Sunday :

Nine of us went off to cave via the Olloyn Goch Shaft, just outside the village of Rhydymwyn at the abandoned Hendre Mine complex. Marcus & Martin did Poaches while Yvonne nursed her toothache.

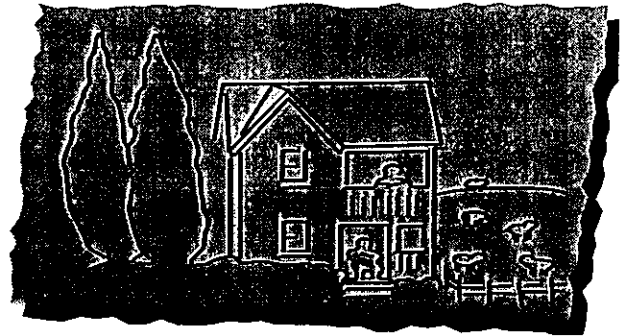
A locked gate leads via an adit to the 490ft deep Olwyn Goch Shaft. With powerful lights used by our leader's party - Jerry Dobby - it was possible to see to the partly flooded bottom. The Milwr Tunnel leads off from here to drain the hillside out to the sea level resurgence over 8 miles away. It is possible to do a through trip from hill top to sea level but a boat would be needed!! We were taken down 200ft of fixed slanted wooden ladder to the "Towd Man" lead mine area. There are miles of interconnected adits, passages, slopes and pitches which had been hand dug by miners in their search for lead veins.

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

Nordrach Cottage
 Charterhouse – on – Mendip
 Blagdon
 Bristol BS40 7XW. Tel. 01761 462797

High quality caving accomodation available for bookings of up to 16 people. All usual charging facilities, keys etc. Guests £2.50 per night.

Marcus Ward (Cottage Warden) Tel. 01252 815112
 Or e-mail: m.ward@nichicon.co.uk



M.C.G. information: - Tim Francis (Secretary)
 Tel. 0181 392 2572 e-mail: t.francis@nopres.co.uk



Weekly Meetings:

- At The Beehive, Egham, Surrey, on Thursdays from 9.30 p.m.
- At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, on Tuesdays around 10pm or at the cottage at 7pm for caving trips.

Prepayment Stickers:

(Available to members only) 12 nights accommodation £15.00
 25 nights accommodation £30.00
 55 nights accommodation £55.00

Annual Subscriptions:

Full and Probationary members : £25.00
 Associate members : £12.50

Reciprocal Rights:

MCG (members only) have reciprocal booking rights with SWCC and NPC.
 NPC bookings via Nic Blundell on Tel : 01203 713849 (home) or 01203 838940 (work) or on email : nic.blundell@bigfoot.com.
 SWCC bookings via Ian Middleton tel:01703 736997. E.mail ian_m@tcp.co.uk

THE COMMITTEE :

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Social Secretary	Pete Moseley	Pendle Cottage, Mearway, Westhay, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9TZ.	Tel : 01458 860524

Rescue Warden
Conservation Officer
Cottage Extension
Examiners

Brian Snell 01329 238341
 Marcus Ward 01252 815112
 Wayne Hiscox 01749 671282
 James Allen & Ben Cooper

Custodian Trustees: Malcolm Cotter, Pete Matthews, Jonathon Roberts & Pat Walsh.



News in Brief

Change of address :

Tim Woodhams to 6 Lodge Close, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey. TW20 0JF.

Lee Hawkswell & Sonia Cotter to 48 Deverill Road, Warminster, Wiltshire. BA12 9QR.

Change of E.mail address :

Don Vosper is now at - don@vosperd.freereserve.co.uk

Now on Email :

Charlie Allison - callison@dircon.co.uk

Committee Snippets :

- If anyone has a source of cheap carpet tiles (grey/blue perhaps) that could be used for the library floor please contact a member of the Committee.
- Extension is progressing. Some of the shelving now complete. Offers of help to Joan Goddard / Wayne Hiscox. Progress made on drainage and guttering. New window required.
- Other cottage work – Repainting of front door almost finished. Shed cleared out, sand and gravel piles tidied.
- Original Pinetree padlock repaired and back on lid.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Section 53 :

The Somerset County Council. (No.4) Modification Order 1997 to reclassify the footpath (now bridleway from Black Rock Gate to the quarry) into a Byway open to all traffic.

The local inquiry into this proposed modification will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 24 March 1999 at the Cheddar Methodist Church Hall, Cliff Street, Cheddar, Somerset.



MCG Devon Meet. 19-21 March 1999 :

Accommodation for 12-15 booked at the DSS hut in Buckfastleigh. Keys for Afton Red Rift and Bakers Pit also booked though there are other caves with open access near to the hut for people to do. Accommodation is 2.50/night.

Internet News :

- <http://home.fuse.net/cavern/CUnder1.htm>

This site is worth a look if you got a spare five minutes. Entitled "Cincinnati Underground" by Patrick Applegate it's quite a good caving home page. It's American but still has some fairly good photographs and text. The highlight is the Floyd Collins memorial page.

- <http://nerve-net.zocalo.net/jg/c/public/rhinehart.htm>

This gives details about the proposed IMAX film to be called "Journey into Amazing Caves". It's being filmed by the same people who did "Everest" in 1998. Release date is March 2001 so the new IMAX cinema on the South Bank should be finished by then. One for the meets list I feel. Basically the film will cover a number of sites and topics. Filming began on the 25th September in the ice caves of Greenland. It will then move on to an expedition, either the Huatla in Mexico or something in Belize. Finally they hope to do some stuff in Lecheguila although this is all rather controversial at the moment. Cave conservation, NSS etc. Total film length - 40mins.

Forward Meets Programme :

<i>DATE</i>	<i>VENUE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
Saturday 6 March 1999	Mendip	Charterhouse Cave trip : with leader Charlie Allison. Three additional spaces. Please contact Charlie Allison to reserve a space.	Tel : 0181 224 7591 or on Email : callison@dircon.co.uk
Wednesday 17th March 1999	Bristol University Chemistry Dept.	Caving and Diving, China and Beyond by Gavin Newman - 7.30pm. A lecture and audio/visual presentation on the 'Great Crack' project in China, and cave diving in France.	
19-21 March 1999	Devon Meet	Julie has organised an MCG Meet. 12-15 places available. If interested contact → More information on Page 3	Julie on 0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
17th April 1999	Hunters Lodge	Annual General Meeting & Anual Dinner.	
15th May	Mendip	Rescue Practice down Waterwheel. For more information contact →	Brian Snell on 01329 238341
15th & 16th May 1999	Wales Agen Allwedd	Key booked for Saturday & Sunday. Maximum party size 8. For a place contact Julie →	0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
5 th - 6 th June 1999	Nordarch Cottage	Cottage Work Weekend. Contact →	Marcus Ward on 01252 815112 m.ward@nichicon.co.uk
11th - 13th June 1999	MCG Yorkshire Meet	BCRA Regional Meet, Punchbowl Inn, near Reith, Yorkshire Camping space has been booked. Contact Julie →	0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
19th-26th June 1999	Nordrach Cottage.	BTCV will be staying at the cottage in order to finish the dry stone wall, if interested, please contact →	Julie on 0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
25th - 27th June 1999	North Wales Meets	Trip to Powells Lode, Milyr Tunnel booked. Accomodation to be confirmed (but probably B&B or camping at the Colemenny Arms pub).	Julie on 0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
31 st July — 21 st August 1999	Madagascar	Return to the Bemaraha. Tim & Ben have expressed an interest in a three week trip.	Tim Francis t.francis@nopres.co.uk
6th — 7th November 1999	Nordrach Cottage	Half-yearly meeting. Skittles evening in the New Inn. Contact →	Pete Moseley

Word Gets Around :

First words from **MW** when phoning up the AA
"oh hello" & then proudly "I've broken down!!!"

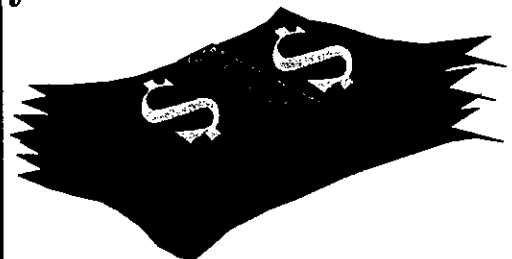
JG : "I wanted a length of Wayne".

BS : "My willy's weak" or was it : "My will is weak....".

JG : "Who was wondering around at 6.30 am
this morning?"

MW : "Oh yeah sorry I got a bit lost on the
way to the toilets".

**Please remember that
your subs are due NOW.**



North Wales by Geoff Beale, The end...

Below this, down to the 490ft level, was found a high grade thickeners of pure limestone which was quarried away to provide limestone to the Pilkington Glassworks in St Helens. There are connecting ladders, rope climbs and large chambers to reach this level. The main addit with railway tracks, trains and wagons (left in situe when the quarry closed) stretched over 1/4 mile and was over 80ft wide & 80ft high. Side passages with level roofs seemed to be over 120ft and 60ft wide, were at regular intervals along the main addit. We were showed the Milwr Tunnel which was cut with a large trench in the floor to take away water. Over this was wooden planking and the remains of railway tracks, engines & wagons.

We climbed back to the lead mining level. We went up to the main passage taken earlier and xxxx on to some very small up / down workings until we were shown the remains of a large hand xxxx partly buried by collapse. Just getting it there must have been a major logistics nightmare.

From here, we went back to the main shaft and back up the 290ft of ladders previously descended to the entrance adit. Rain greeted our return, we changed quickly - said goodbye to Jerry - our leader - and to eachother, then back home, some northwards but the rest southwards.

A very enjoyable weekend. Thanks to Julie for all the hard work and organisation from the team.



Notice of Annual General Meeting, 1999

The Annual General Meeting of the Mendip Caving Group will be held in the Long Room of the Hunters Lodge Inn on Saturday 17th April 1999, commencing at 2.30pm.

Provisional Agenda

(Chairman: tbc)



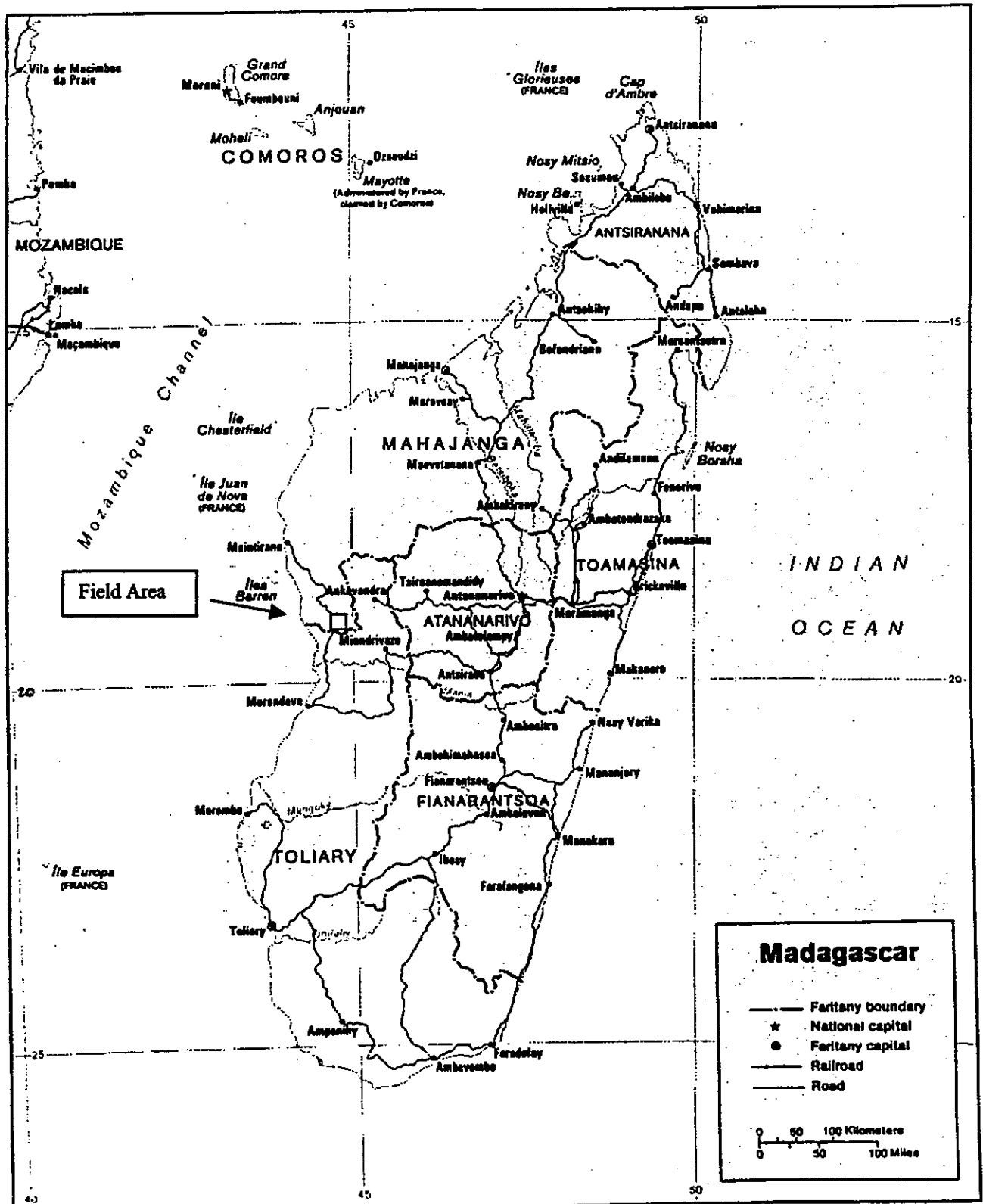
1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 25.04.98.
3. Agreement that the minutes are a true record of that meeting.
4. Matters arising.
5. Officers reports and matters arising from those reports.
6. Election of Honorary Officers for 1999/2000.
7. Election of Examiners 1999/2000.
8. Election of Rescue Warden and election of Conservation and Access Officer.
9. Motions.
10. Any other business.
11. Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting.

Nominations for office and proposals to change the Constitution and Rules must be submitted in writing by first class post to the Secretary's home address, with the signatures of Full Members proposing and seconding, at least 25 days before the meeting. A nomination for office must be accompanied by a signed agreement to stand for election by the nominee. The honorary officers shall be: Secretary, Treasurer, Caving Secretary, Cottage Warden, Tacklemaster, Editor, Recorder/Librarian, and Social Secretary. Enclosed with this newsletter is a nomination form.

Nominations for the two non-Committee posts (Rescue Warden, Conservation and Access Officer) will be accepted at the meeting.

Copies of the 1998 AGM minutes were circulated with the November 1998 newsletter, number 273. Members may obtain further copies of the minutes or Constitution and Rules from the Secretary.

MADAGASCAR 1999 – Return to the Tsingy de Bemaraha
 July 10th – August 1st



Base 504693 (545856) 3-81

A return expedition is being planned to the dramatic karst area of the Tsingy de Bemaraha, Madagascar. Virgin cave exploration and fantastic scenery guaranteed. The cost is approximately £1200 but we have applied for Sports Council/David Hood funding. For more information contact Tim Francis – (0181 392 2572, t.francis@nopres.co.uk).



CSCC NEWSLETTER

February 1999

FAIRY CAVE QUARRY ACCESS AGREEMENT

After more than 12 years of being closed, an access agreement and management plan for the caves of Fairy Cave quarry have been agreed with the owners Hobbs Properties Ltd. The plan has also been approved by English Nature because the site is designated SSSI and SAC. A non club based management committee similar to the Dan Yr Ogof system will operate, with a leadership system for Shatter Cave, Withyhill and W/L cave. All the other sites within the quarry will need advanced per-

mission to enter, but this is expected to be by means of a simple phone call.

It is currently hoped that these sites can be left unlocked although this is dependant upon a bat survey.

Much work is required at the site to make the caves suitable for regular visits but it is hoped that

these can commence from May. For further details please write to:-

Fairy Cave Quarry Management Committee, Bryscombe, The Quarries, New Road, Draycott. BS27 3SG.

Report by Martin Grass
CSCC C&A Officer

RESERVOIR HOLE CLOSURE

Following what appears to be wilful damage by cavers, access to reservoir hole is to be denied for the winter season 1998 - 99.

It is sad that at the same time as a major access breakthrough is announced, thoughtless cavers are jeopardising access for us all at another sensitive site.

All caves are owned by somebody and access to them is by their permission. Many access agreements take months or years of careful negotiation by clubs and individuals and are easily ruined by one thoughtless act.

Access is arranged for the benefit of all cavers and it is the duty of all cavers to ensure that access is maintained

The best way of achieving this is to abide by the conditions set out in access agreements and to show common courtesies to the land owners.

Latest access procedures can be found in the CSCC handbook. Copies can be obtained from the CSCC Secretary, address overleaf.

MRO NEWS

There have recently been several occurrences of a rescue callout going astray, causing problems including in one incident, a two hour delay in mobilising a rescue team. Luckily, these delays have not yet caused any serious complications. The main cause of the problems is callouts using a mobile phone as these are made via a central operator and don't route automatically to the local police control room.

A revised callout procedure is printed here for Mendip, including information for mobile phone users. It is very important that this procedure is followed exactly to avoid delays.

CAVE RESCUE CALLOUT PROCEDURE

Go to the nearest telephone, DIAL 999 and ask for POLICE, CAVE RESCUE.

The nearest telephone location is given on the nameplate by the cave entrance. Give the police the number of the telephone you are calling from and its location.

WAIT AT THE TELEPHONE until you are contacted by a CAVE RESCUE WARDEN.

The warden will require to know the name of the cave, the location of the accident and the nature of the injury. Give the answers CLEARLY and CONCISELY.

DO NOT USE THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES, i.e. overdue parties etc. Use the following Police Control numbers
- in Bristol and Somerset call TAUNTON POLICE (01823) 337911
- in Wiltshire call Devises (01380) 722341

MOBILE PHONE USERS

1. Emergency (999) calls from mobile phones should be routed to the appropriate Police Authority.
2. You will need to tell the operator the name of the Police Authority from the area from which you are calling.
3. DIAL 999 and ask for the relevant Police Authority, Cave Rescue.

For anywhere in Somerset, including the Mendip Hills tell the operator you require the SOMERSET AND AVON POLICE
For anywhere in Wiltshire including Box Freestone Quarries, Browns Folly Mine and Swan Mine tell the operator you require the WILTSHIRE POLICE

THE POLICE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT YOU ALSO MAKE A BACKUP CALL ON A LANDLINE (i.e. BT, Mercury etc).

Courtesy of Mendip Underground

UK SPORTS COUNCIL

FUNDING FOR EXPEDITIONS

Several years ago, the Great Britain Sports Council (SC) was split up into the 4 national councils (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales SCs) together with a United Kingdom SC. Combining the changed rules of eligible grant aided work with a need to identify "national elements" of a programme and a massive change in the detail of making submissions has proved a major task for NCA. One immediate impact of these changes was the loss of the expedition funding and a failure to get a grant out of the English SC. The hard work of Mick Day, Chairman of NCA, in the absence of a Treasurer has now paid off. The UKSC has recently confirmed to NCA that it will provide a grant, which will not only support the work of the training and equipment committees, but also has reinstated an expedition grant. The grant is for up to £20,000, of which NCA's application indicated that £5,000 would be earmarked for the expedition fund. NCA now awaits the result of its application to the English SC for a grant to support the work of the training committee in England. Further details will be posted on NCA's web site.

In view of the timing of this news, the deadline stated for grant applications to the Ghar Parau Foundation will be relaxed. The next meeting of the Ghar Parau Foundation is scheduled for 7 March. If you wish to make an application, please contact Dave Judson as quickly as possible on 01684 311057.

NCA Press Release

OTHER ACCESS NEWS

The CSCC standard lock has been fitted on several cave entrances recently, so here is the full list as at time of printing:-

Attborough Swallet
 Compton Martin Ochre Mine
 Coral Cave
 Cuckoo Cleaves
 Five Buddles Sink
 Loxton Cave
 Loxton Quarry Cave
 Priddy Green Sink
 Singing River Mine
 Stock Hill Mine Cave
 Stocks House Shaft
 Keys for all these caves can be obtained from most Mendip based clubs. Please note that there are access conditions at some of these sites, the latest information can be obtained from the CSCC handbook.

Dates to Remember

CSCC Meeting 10:30am Hunters lodge Inn	6th February
Shepton Quiz Night 7:30pm Hunters Lodge Inn	20th February
Cambrian CC AGM. 11:00am Brynmau	7th March
MRO Annual Meeting 8:00pm Hunters Lodge Inn	19th March
NCA AGM 10:30am Red Lion Alvechurch	20th March
CNCC AGM. Hellifield Village Hall.	27th March
CCC Ltd AGM Hunters Lodge Inn	10th April
CSCC AGM 10:30am Hunters Lodge inn	15th May
Hidden Earth 99 (BCRA Conference) Leeds University	10th to 12th September
NAMHO 99 Conference. Royal Forest of Dean	24th to 27th September

If you have any relevant dates for inclusion in this list then contact the editor at the address below.

Disclaimer

Views contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, the CSCC or its officers.

CSCC OFFICERS 1998-99

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