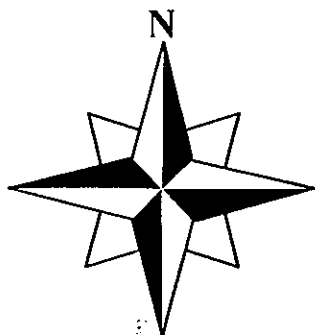


Speleo Rhall Night Orienteering Challenge

by Brian Snell



Mike and Oliver Haseldine did it again, when they organized an excellent night orienteering race in the New Forest on Saturday 6th Feb. Brian Snell, Keith Knight and Darren Gamblin represented the MCG.

The first reference point (successfully found) was the office that Oliver works at in the middle of an industrial estate. Here we were given the clues and references for the course out in the Forest. From here we set off for a car park in the woods about a mile and half from Beaulieu Road Railway Station. The basic idea is that you have 5 hours to get as many points as you can. As an incentive to get back on time, for every minute you were late points were deducted, calculated as the square of the time overdue. So for the first minute 1 point, the second two the third four and so on. If you were twenty minutes late it equated to the theoretical maximum obtainable points. The reference points were well scattered such that to get all of the points possible, you would need to be running hard and be spot on with the navigation. In the boggy ground that we experienced this would be almost impossible.

It was raining as we set off at about 8:00pm for our first chosen reference point and decision to wear wellies instead of walking boots proved a good one we were later to discover. It was soft enough to sink in up to your knee in places. All points were identified with a piece of wood with a code like B1 or TN on it. From some of these points, bonus points could be obtained by finding another marker on a bearing and within a fixed distance, usually somewhere out there in the heather! We didn't take it too seriously, its getting too much like hard work to try running from point to point. Every point we went for though we found. Our only mistake was to unwittingly miss the highest scoring reference plus bonus. We hadn't noticed the small circle penned in on the map and it was only when it was too late to go back that we noticed our mistake. We had been only 200m. from it too. This would have given us another 65 points, which would have put us into 3rd place. The standard of navigation was very good with the winning team beating us by almost 100 points.

1st	The Lost Shi-ites	360 pts
2nd	W.R.D. Gas	345 pts
3rd	Muffalls	270 pts
4th	M.C.G.	261 pts
5th	Mungrals	225 pts
5th	G.S.C.	225 pts
6th	Karrimor	180 pts
7th	The Mapping Muppets	120 pts
8th	Were Lost Again	105 pts
9th	Little & Large	70 pts

It had stopped raining at about 10:30pm and had started to get cold by the time we finished 3 minutes late at 1:10 am. We lost 4 points when we tried for one more reference but as it was worth 10 points we gained 6 for making the effort. We were dog tired but it had been great fun. It makes you want to do better next time. This was the fourth time I had taken part in one of Mike's night events and I can't wait until the next one next year. Hopefully more MCG members might be able to take part.

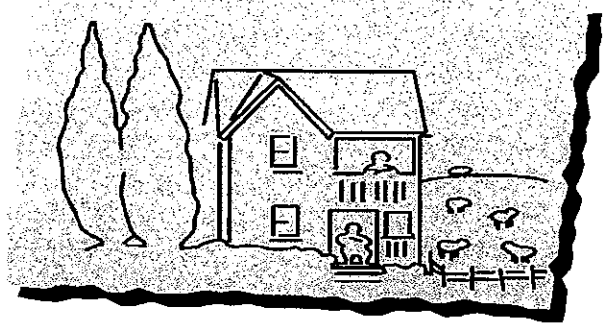
MENDIP CAVING GROUP

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

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

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



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 :

Secretary	Tim Francis	Flat 6, 16 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4QR.	Tel : 0181 392 2572 t.francis@nopres.co.uk
Treasurer	Martin Rowe	"Abingdon", off Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancashire. LA5 0DJ.	Tel :01524 762664
Caving Secretary	Julie Hesketh	23, Ashleigh House, Mortlake High Street, London, SW14 8SH.	Tel : 0802 431588 julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
Tacklemaster	Dave Tooke	44, Beechtree Avenue, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0SR.	Tel : 01784 436237
Cottage Warden	Marcus Ward	56, Barn Meadow Close, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants, GU13 0YB.	Tel : 01252 815112 m.ward@nichicon.co.uk
Editor	Letti Patte	44, Beechtree Avenue, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0SR.	Tel : 01784 436237
Recorder / Librarian	Wayne Hiscox	3, Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset, BA5 1TR.	Tel : 01749 671282
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

The Mendip Caving Group is a registered charity number 70088
 MCG News is published by the Mendip Caving Group, Nordrach Cottage, Blagdon, Bristol, BS40 7XW.
 Original material, © Mendip Caving Group and the authors 1999.

News in Brief

Accepted as Prospective Members :

Michael Norton	Bill Webb
62 Bay Road	30 The Spinney
Bullbrook	Bradwell Village
Bracknell	Milton Keynes
Berkshire	MK13 9BX

End of E.mail for the Editor :

Please note that as of March , I will not be on e.mail for a while due to my changing job. I will still be contactable by post though so don't forget to write you trips up...

More E.mail Addresses :

Chris Jones : chrisjones@intimex.demon.co.uk
MarcWatkins : M.Watkins@bsn106.x400.icl.co.uk
Bill Webb : bill@comtex.swinternet.co.uk

Change of Address : Cara Allison

Who will be at the following address until the end of the summer:

Ty'r Morwydd Environmental Study Centre
 Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny NT7 5UD
 Tel. 01873 855959



Internet News : by Tim Francis



The following are three web sites that deal with cave survey software:

- <http://www.chaos.org.uk/survex/cp/Contents/cp13.htm>
- http://www2.wku.edu/www/geoweb/karst/survey_programs/
- <http://www.sat.dundee.ac.uk/~arb/surveying/software.html>

After a few months out of action the **Sherry Mayo** site is back on line at a new location. This has been traditionally the first port of call for anyone hunting down caving links. Ex. MCG member Dave Gwillim now living in Australia seems to have been helping out on this. The following are details of the new site:

“ The Cave Page and the Caving Links Page are back. They can be found at:

- <http://www.cavepage.magna.com.au/cave/cave.html>

and

- <http://www.cavepage.magna.com.au/cave/cavelink.html>

Please update any links accordingly!

You will notice a couple of banner ads around for the company who are providing my web-hosting for free, otherwise everything is pretty much as it was before. The pages are somewhat in need of an update and hopefully I will find time for this soon. “

Another web site address I came across a brilliant animation site. One particular animated story tells the tale of a dog that falls down a cave

and his owner's search for the errant pet. You may need to download a piece of software called Shockwave to run the animations.

- http://www.hotwired.com/animation/collection/ezone/lenny_goes_spelunking/

Also :

- <http://www.wakulla2.org/>

This is the web site of the Wakulla Springs Diving Expeditions in Florida, with updates which include the work done in January 1999.

The site has loads of detail including geology, photos, surveys, technology etc. The trip this year was marred somewhat by the death of one of the American divers. Details of the incident are not on the web site.

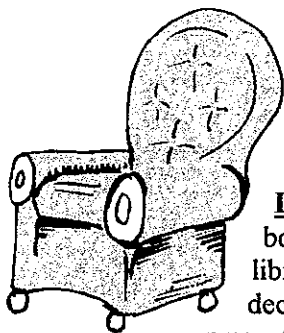
- <http://nerve-net.zocalo.com/jg/c/public/>

This site is intended to provide a relatively neutral source of information on a major issue in the caving community: publicity about caves aimed at the general public. The current focus of this long-running debate is MacGillivray-Freeman's forthcoming film Journey into Amazing Caves. Material from all sides, if presented in the spirit of civilized and productive debate, is welcome.

This site is maintained by John Ganter, an American caver. If you are interested in issues such as the IMAX film referenced in the last newsletter then this would be the obvious next port of call.

Forward Meets Programme :

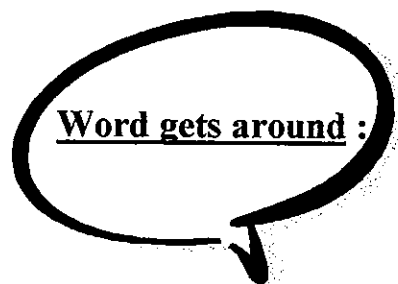
<i>DATE</i>	<i>VENUE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
Wednesday 17th March 1999	Bristol University Chemistry Dept.	Caving and Diving, China and Beyond by Gavin Newman - 7.30pm. A lecture and audio/visual presentation on the 'Great Crack' project in China, and cave diving in France.	
19-21 March 1999	Devon Meet	Julie has organised an MCG Meet. 12-15 places available. If interested contact Julie on →	0171 395 8053 (day) 0802 431 1588 (eves) julie.hesketh@cbi.org.uk
17th April 1999	Hunters Lodge	Annual General Meeting & Annual Dinner.	
15th May 1999	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. Accommodation 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
6 th — 7 th November 1999	Nordrach Cottage	Half-yearly meeting. Skittles evening in the New Inn. Contact →	Pete Moseley



Committe Snippets :

Library Extension : Library books to be put back in the new library shortly. Carpets tiles decided on & will be fitted presently.

Bone Hole : Pete Moseley & Wayne Hiscox to replace padlock.



Word gets around :

BC : "I'm looking to buy another body".

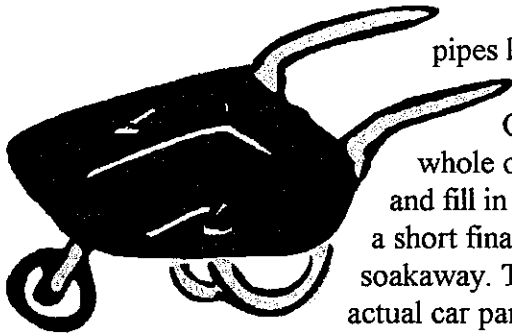
JG : "Anyone for some wine?"

DT : "Yeah, shall I pour myself?"

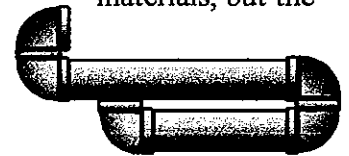
JG : "No, pour the wine..."

Work Weekend 16th & 17th of January 1999 By Marcus Ward

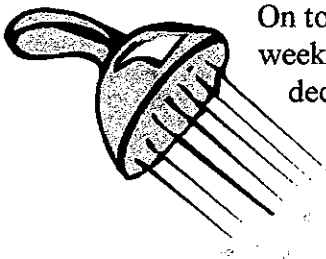
As I have mentioned before, due to the large amount of work that needs doing at the cottage it was decided to now have 2 work weekends every year. So we will now have one in January and June every year, this years January maintenance weekend was held on 16th & 17th.



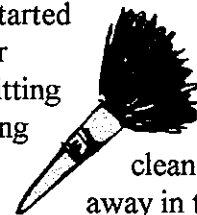
The main aim for this weekend was to get the water drainage pipes laid so that we can get the car park back to normal. This went very well with Brian Snell, Keith Knight, Letti Patte, Richard Carey, Doug Harris and Tim Woodhams toiling away for the whole of Saturday. The result was that they managed to lay all the pipes and fill in the trench as well as concrete in the main joints. There is now just a short final section that needs completing which takes the pipes into the soakaway. This was not completed due to lack of materials, but the actual car park area is back to normal. Thanks to Wayne Hiscox for all his help. He was also seen spending most of his Saturday on the library roof as well as inside it working away without taking any breaks.



While all that hard work was going on, Dave Tooke, Zoe Hammersley and myself measured and fitted the majority of the guttering to the front of the cottage but again we had to finish just short of completing the job but as most of the work has now been done it will only take 5 minutes to finish.



On top of all that a number of people were toiling away inside the cottage over the weekend. Bill Richards, Julie Hesketh and Tim Francis all put a lot of effort into re-decorating the toilets. Ben Cooper stripped and started door as well as giving it a plane so it no longer Beale fitted new shower heads as well as fitting library and being the general advice giver along Lynn Furneaux gave the shower's a thorough a big difference. Also Joan Goddard was hidden whole weekend doing various jobs.



On top of all this various other jobs were completed as team efforts, such as concreting the path outside the front of the cottage.

A big thank you goes to Joan for so kindly going shopping for the troops and preparing a much appreciated hot lunch, especially by the people working outside in the cold!!

As well as all of these exciting events that were taking place through the day on Saturday and Sunday, we had a beer and barrel of Mendip Gold in curry evening on the Saturday night as we had a the cottage for the workers and we all got a Wells. A great evening as far as I can remember!!



So I look forward to seeing everyone at the next maintenance weekend which will be held on 05/06/99, and I would like to pass on thanks to everyone that made the effort to come and support the club and the cottage.

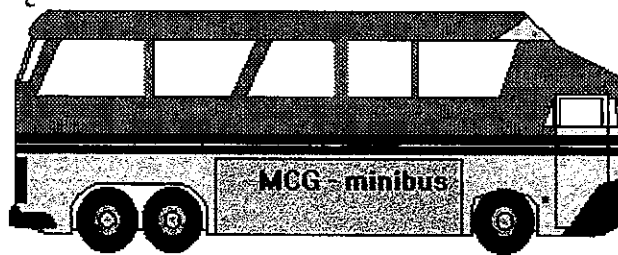
Stop Press
This is your last chance to book your ticket for :



17th of April

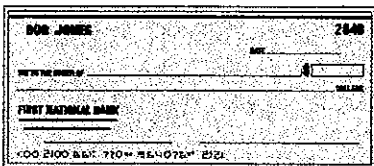
At the Seymour Arms
Bath Road, Blagdon.

Tickets are : £18.00 per head including transport



Slips are to be returned to Pete Moseley

82 Meareway,
Westhay,
Somerset. BA6 9TZ



Cheques should be made payable to :
Mendip Caving Group

Please note that cheques will not be accepted after the 31st of March

For details of the menu see Newsletter 275 - January 1999