

MCG News

Newsletter of the Mendip Caving Group



Number 318
January 2004

www.m-c-g.org.uk
Founded 1954



Slovenia 2004—the MCG 50th anniversary trip abroad

By Julie Hesketh

The Bunkhouse is booked and around 15 people have indicated that they are coming to Slovenia in the summer of 2004, so it is time to get down to some detail....

This trip is intended to be an MCG Anniversary trip – a way of getting the club together for a holiday – some socialising, some caving, some walking and other activities. With the booking of the bunkhouse, we are aiming for a fairly relaxed and comfortable holiday, rather than an expedition. The main focus will of course be on limestone related activities but we hope to encourage as many families as we can as well as seasoned cavers and there is plenty to do if you don't want to spend 2 weeks underground (see previous article on Slovenia in Newsletter 315).

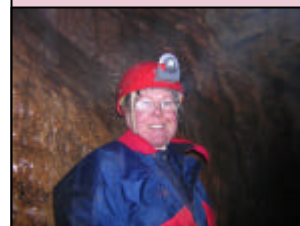
DATES The date that seems most suitable for the majority of folk is to arrive at the SpeleoCamp on Saturday 31st July and depart on Saturday 14th August 2004 – a total of 14 nights. It is inevitable that some people will want to come for part of the holiday and if that applies to you, I would encourage you to come for the first part of the trip as that is when I aim to book any caving trips that require leaders. It also means that we can try to arrange a group dinner that week too when most people are around. A number of people are planning on going for the whole 2 weeks.

ACCOMMODATION The apartment at "The SpeleoCamp" at Laze has been booked for us for the whole 2 weeks of the trip. Camping is available too and can be booked on arrival but we are hoping that we can accommodate the whole group in the apartment. The apartment sleeps 18 people – including a smaller room that sleeps 4 – possibly to be reserved for those with small babies (including me!) so that we don't disturb the rest of you. The apartment has central heating (if we need it) and has two kitchens, bathroom and dining room and sounds ideal for evening dining/socialising in the warm. The apartment will cost around 9Euros per person per night though this may go up if it is only partially occupied. The campsite is 5 Euros per person. Full details can be found at http://www.speleocamp.com/find_us.htm Several of the caves featured in the Bishop guide are within walking distance of the SpeleoCamp. The SpeleoCamp is situated close to a bar but it does not sell food – so we are likely to self-cater (making the apartment a more attractive option). The nearest restaurants are a short drive away. The owner of the camp has agreed to book us into a local restaurant and arrange transport for us for a 50th Anniversary Expedition meal.

GETTING TO SLOVENIA The recommended way to get there is by air and then car hire, though we will have to ensure that enough club equipment arrives safely in the country. If anyone is considering driving, please let me know, particularly if you are willing to offer someone travelling alone a space in your vehicle.

By air : The nearest airports to SpeleoCamp Laze are Brnik airport (23km NW of Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital and Trieste airport in Italy. There are regular scheduled flights from London to Brnik operated by British Airways (www.britishairways.co.uk) and the Slovenian national carrier, Adria Airways (<http://www.adria.si/eng/main.asp>). Details on Ljubljana airport can be found at <http://www.lju-airport.si/ang/default.htm> . Ryanair (<http://www.ryanair.co.uk>) fly to

From the Editor



This is me (argh!) on my last caving trip of 2003 in November before the public liability insurance problems closed many Mendip caves. I thought it was going to mean a sad caving start to 2004, especially with it being MCG's 50th anniversary, but thankfully it looks as though it has all been resolved now and caves are beginning to re-open.

The Group has an exciting year ahead with its many '50th' caving and social celebrations and I for one am looking forward to them all, not least to seeing many old (longstanding) and ex members not seen for a while.

Don't forget to send your subs in and to buy your dinner tickets.

Yvonne Rowe

In this issue

- 1-2 Slovenia 2004
- 3-4 MCG logbook
- 4 Library additions
- 5 AGM, Dinner
- 5 BCA Insurance
- 6 Fragments from France
- 7 CSCC
- 8 Group information

MCG doings

Applications

for Probationary Membership have been received from:

Brenda Wybrow

✉8 Blackwater Close, Caversham Park, Reading, Berks
Proposed by Geoff Beale
Seconded by Joan Goddard

Martin Peck

✉116 Rutten Lane, Yarn-ton, Kidlington, Oxford
☎01865 376442
Proposed by Michael Norton
Seconded by Tim Francis

On the Move

Steve Taylor to:

✉29 Wheatsheaf Close, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 8UT
☎01444 236520

Simon Goddard to:

✉55 Stow Avenue, Witney, Oxford OX28 5GP

Resignations

The following members have left the group:

Letti Tooke
Adam Livett

Cottage Bookings

There is a new cottage fee payment system in place.

The bookings sheets are now bound with one sheet pre-dated for every day of the year. These sheets must not be removed.

A supply of envelopes are in the lectern, which you can complete with details of your stay and place in the newly installed secure box.

Please note that you must still inform the Cottage Warden if you intend to stay mid-week (in case the cottage has been pre-booked by another group).

Trieste frequently and have bargain prices if you book early enough. Trieste is under 40km from the caves and flying there would be a relatively quick and cheap way to get there.

By train : You can enter Slovenia by train from Italy (via Trieste), Austria (via Graz) and Croatia. Direct trains from places including Vienna, Salzburg, Venice, Milan, Munich, Budapest and Brigade pass through Slovenia.

By road: Slovenian motorways (which have tolls) and A-class roads are of an excellent standard. B-class roads are generally good but may not be metalled, particularly on less frequented routes. Geography and little dual-carriageway can combine to make overtaking difficult (the locals can be quite reckless and drive very fast – be warned). The journey from Calais to Ljubljana is around 850 miles by car.

Car hire: If you plan to come on your own let us know and we can put you in touch with others who might want to share car hire. Details on companies renting cars from Brnik airport may be found on the Brnik airport website above. (*Martin and Yvonne have already confirmed that they will be taking their Landrover and that they have places available for passengers and/or tackle.—Ed.*)

There may be insurance difficulties in hiring a car outside of Slovenia and driving it over the border (e.g. from Trieste) but a call to the Hertz 24 hour reservations line (020 7026 0077) confirmed that it is possible (at the time of writing) to hire a Hertz car from Trieste or Treviso (Venice) airports and have insurance for driving in Slovenia, but only if the car is booked via the Ryanair website.

The Cost: It seems best if we are all responsible for our own costs. All costs will be paid for locally (e.g. camping and apartment costs) and participants are expected to make their own way to the SpeleoCamp. I will arrange payment for the accommodation for the group when we are there. It does seem sensible though that in order to cover general trip costs (for items such as maps that will be used by the whole group, a deposit for the bunkhouse and for general items such as tea and coffee that will generally need to be available) a kitty will be needed to ensure that neither myself or the club are out of pocket. A deposit of £15 per person will be required to confirm your place in the bunkhouse or campsite (cheques made payable to "Julie Hesketh").

Slovenia Booking Form

I/we will be coming to Slovenia on the MCG 2004 50th Anniversary trip

There will be _____ persons in my party

Names:1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Address of main person in party

I/We wish to *stay in the bunkhouse/*camp (delete as appropriate)

We hope to arrive on (date) _____

Enclosed is a cheque for £_____ (£15/per person, payable to "Julie Hesketh")

Please send this form to Julie Hesketh, Flat 1, 162 Stapleton Hall Road, Stroud Green, London, N4 4QJ

Log book extracts, October and November 2003

12.10.03 - Hunters Lodge Inn Sink. Malcolm taken on tour by Tony Jarratt, Trevor and Tangent. Made video record with commentary by discoverers. *MOC*

13.10.03 – Templeton Pot (Mick Norton, Elaine Johnson (ACG) + 2ACG). My first time digging with the Axbridge CG at Templetons. No cave but a monster hole 60 feet deep. You smash rocks with a 14lb sledge hammer and lever them out with a full sized 6' bar; decent rocks are left in the bottom for wall-building and clay/small rocks are put into a metal skip which is then (diesel) pulled up a near vertical railway and dropped into a dumper. After three fills (¼ ton/fill) the dumper is emptied onto an enormous spoil pile. Oh! And you have to pay £1 for digging. A good experience! *MN*

14.10.03 – Totty Pot (Mick Norton). Trip into Totty Pot; also cleared lid of Timber Hole *MN*

15.10.03 – Carcass Cave (Doug Harris, Mick Norton, Alan Gray(ACG)). Down to bottom to fit some scaffolding. c. 35 drums pulled up from bottom of Fault dig and deposited in Bi-curious (temporarily). DH and MN dug floor of Scaffold Shaft and down between entrance to new chamber found last week and the entrance to the lower part of the cave. 40 drums lifted up shaft. *MN*

18.10.03 – Carcass Cave (Tim Francis, Chris Vernon). Surveyed last week's small extension. Air noticeably fresh at bottom of Scaffold Shaft. Dug c. 30 skips out of end dig and have exhausted spoil area around Bi-curious – dig needs 3 people to pull spoil back further. Dig is going classic Mendippy – tubey and small. *TF*

19.10.03 – Carcass Cave (Tim Francis, Lee Hawkswell). Lee took photos of new extension. Wrestled with a boulder then dug out a tube at base of scaffolding – nothing doing. Two bats. *TF*

19.10.03 – Shatter Cave (Malcolm and Norma Cotter, Jackie Ankerman). Took video and photo shots. *MOC*

28.10.03 - GB Cave (Malcolm, Norma and Sonya Cotter). Took video shots using new spotlight. The 'spot' was too much of a spot in some places and needs a diffuser. *MOC*

End October/early November – Mallorca (Tim Francis, Louisa, Julie Hesketh, Peat, Duncan). Usual Mallorca jaunt – bumped into Tony Merino who gave us loads of information. *TF*

03.11.03 - Templeton Pot (Mick Norton + 4). Very muddy due to clay slowing water drainage. About 1 ton removed. No obvious way on except to keep digging clay up from floor. *MN*

04.11.03 to 06.11.03 – Carcass Cave (Mick Norton and Doug Harris). . A lot of poking around. Dug underground and started a trial shaft from surface. *MN*

08.11.03 – Waterwheel (Lee Hawkswell, Tim Francis, Jeff, Martin & Yvonne Rowe) Very low water and hardly anything in the dam. Popped down pitch and removed old wood and metal from the bottom. YR took some digital photos. *TF*

09.11.03 - Carcass Cave (Tim Francis, Jeff, Mick Norton, Martin Peck). Shifted a load of spoil from bottom of Scaffold Shaft - doesn't look like a way on. I think if we're going to go further down the aven we'd be best looking behind the choke where air seems fresher. *TF*

14.11.03 – Swildons (Malcolm Cotter, Sonya Cotter, Johnathan Roberts, Ralph Diment). Trip to celebrate Malcolm's 50th anniversary of caving on Mendip. 2¼ hr trip. Small stream entering cave and water levels low throughout. Ralph dived Sump 1 and reported that air space at Sump 2 extended a long way. Bottle of Champagne opened to celebrate! *MOC*

From the Members Weekend, Nov 7/8/9



Tim invents a new cottage game (above).



Prospective member Jeff, with Tim, Lee, and Yvonne at the entrance to Waterwheel ...



... and Jeff on the ladder pitch in Waterwheel



Lee's firework display, Saturday evening.

Earwig in on...

...the committee meeting held on 06/12/03

Cottage Extension Work to complete the roof gully and skirting boards is still outstanding.

Bone Hole There is currently no access to Bone Hole due to the lack of Public Liability insurance so no work is to be carried out until a new policy has been obtained.

Cottage Maintenance Wayne to find out cost of replacement UPVC weatherboards.

Cottage Heating. Wayne and Brian Pittman to organise Economy Seven wiring and timers. The library was considered the most urgent.

MCG Website Tim to contact Les Williams regarding his scheme for hosting caving web sites to see if this is a good option for the MCG. The advantages are apparently a lower cost with more space and email addresses.

Additional sites outside of the core MCG homepage were not considered to be the best way forward at this time. The on-line booking sheet to be closed unless the cottage warden is able to keep it up to date.

Lounge floor The floorboards in the lounge opposite the entrance to the kitchen are now very rotten. These will need replacing in 2004.

Library shelves The bank of shelving on the left hand wall of the library has collapsed. These need to be repaired.

29.11.03 – Hunters Hole (Mick Norton, Bill Chadwick, Martin Peck + 2 Bracknell District CC). SRT trip. Down Sanctimonious and all the way through Gas Street, air good. Did all the grovels. Very heavy rain at 10.30am – looked down entrance to Hunters Lodge Inn Sink which was taking an enormous amount of water, mostly road and car park drainage. Hunters Hole was dry. *MN*

29.11.03 – Bath Swallet (as above). Ladder trip. Looked at 2 digs in floor that weren't there last time (30.12.01). Both look excellent. If you go left after descending the ladder pitch and go as far as possible, turn again and squeeze up through loose boulders there is an exciting, very tall chamber. Several transit-sized boulders on climb inlet passage. Very interesting, but dangerous. Went down the Hunters for the evening – completely empty. Apparently the New Inn was selling beer at £1 per pint. *MN*

30.11.03 – Carcass Cave (Bill Chadwick, Mick Norton, Martin Peck). Digging trip *MN*

06.12.03 – Carcass Cave (Ben Cooper, Sarren Ward, Julie Hesketh, Doug Harris, Tim Francis). Went down to dig Mick's 7ft lead with a big draught - good fun but no imminent breakthrough. A good re-introduction to caving for Sarren. *JH*

07.12.03 – Swildons (Ben Cooper, Tim Francis, Sarren Ward). Great fun and enjoyable but very, very tiring. We got up to Barne's Loop. Last time I went down the cave I only got as far as the ladder pitch (when I was 8 years old). *SW*

06.12.03 - CHRISTMAS DINNER AT THE COTTAGE. Excellent meal (turkey with all the trimmings, Xmas pud, mince pies, Stilton and biscuits) and plenty of lubrication during and afterwards. Many hands made light work of the preparation, cooking and clearing up. Many thanks to Linda for organising it. There were 21 people for the meal plus two who didn't make it - Graham Old who turned up at 10pm (too late for the food) and Fiona Crozier who, during the morning, had to accompany her car and recovery truck back home after an altercation with another car along the Old Bristol Road. *Although the car suffered, fortunately Fiona is OK.*

Library Additions

The International Caver 2002 Articles on caves in Laos, China (Guangxi Caves), Sarawak, and West Malaysia and also an overview of Karst and Caves of the Indian Sub-Continent. Iran warranted two reports, the limestone caves in the Zagros Mountains and caves formed in salt plugs, which I found very interesting. The standard of production is good – plenty of clear maps, surveys and photographs. As usual, there are tables of the world's longest and deepest caves and lists of British and French overseas expeditions during 2002.

Caves of County Clare and South Galway ed G Mullan (UBSS, 2003). Nicely presented with a protective PVC cover. A reference manual rather than a book to be 'dipped into'. At the moment I don't have time to read it properly but the first three chapters by Mike Sims and Dave Drew (geology, geomorphology and hydrology) seem to be quite detailed - some knowledge of geology would help here! The rest of the book is arranged on a regional basis with caves listed alphabetically and including length, depth, grid reference, altitude, description and a survey when one is available. Photos are dotted about but their reproduction is poor. Definitely the book to buy if you are planning to cave in the area.

The Pothole Mystery by Vernon Noble A children's story set in Yorkshire; it has the usual gripping plot, but is interesting as it refers to Norman Thornber's (author of 'Pennine Underground') card index of caves and potholes in Yorkshire.

Some Buildings of Mendip by R.D. Reid (published by The Mendip Society, 1979) – this is to replace a copy which we used to have in the library.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2004

The AGM of the Mendip Caving Group will be held at the Hunter's Lodge Inn on Saturday 27th March 2004 at 10.30am.

Nominations for Office and proposals to change the Constitution and Rules must be submitted in writing by first class post to the Hon. Secretary's home address with the signatures of full members proposing and seconding at least 25 days before the meeting (2nd March).

A nomination for office must be accompanied by a signed agreement to stand for election by the nominee. Nominations are sought for all posts and a form is enclosed with this newsletter.

MCG 50th Anniversary Dinner 2004

MCG 50th Anniversary Auction & Raffle

At the MCG 50th Anniversary Dinner on 27th March, we will be holding an Auction and a Raffle to raise money for caving causes.

The Auction will be for special one-off items and the Raffle will be everything else! If you have any items you are willing to donate to either of these events, or if you know someone who might be willing to donate, please contact Jacky Ankerman (Hon. Treasurer).

Menu Choices

Many people have already sent cheques for the dinner, thank you. Linda has kept a record so you just need to let her know your menu choices (which you can do by email if you prefer).

Liability insurance scheme 2004



Until November 2003, MCG insured all its members for public liability through the BCRA insurance scheme. This ended when BCRA's insurer chose not to provide cover when the renewal was due last year. From January 2004, public liability insurance for Caving Clubs is only available from the [British Caving Association](http://www.britishcaving.org.uk/).

By the time you get this newsletter, you should have received by post all the latest information regarding the new British Caving Association Public Liability Insurance scheme. The BCA has given caving clubs a short period of grace to collect premiums from all their members. Please can you complete and return the slip along with a cheque and the equity form as soon as possible to the Hon. Secretary.

Lee Hawkswell

MCG Members Weekends 2004

To help you plan your visits to Mendip, here are dates of the Members Weekends for the next 12 months. There are 2 Members Weekends in March, including the AGM weekend. The dates shown below are the "Fri Sat Sun" dates.

Feb	06/07/08	Jul	02/03/04
Mar	05/06/07	Aug	06/07/08
Mar	26/27/28	Sep	03/04/05
Apr	02/03/04	Oct	01/02/03
May	07/08/09	Nov	05/06/07
Jun	04/05/06	Dec	03/04/05



Ogof Draenen

A new lock has been placed on the entrance to Ogof Draenen. Any members requiring the new code number should get in contact with the Secretary, Lee Hawkswell.

In addition please note that the logbook is now located in a box on the side of the Lamb and Fox Pub. The following details about any Club trips must be entered in the logbook:

Names (including surnames) of all members of the party
Name of the Club/Clubs of those in the party
Date
Planned destination
Time in
Estimated time out

Hanover Mine

For those of you who are familiar with Geaff Beale's mine at Emmer Green, there is an excellent trip report on the Subteranea Britannica website at:

http://www.subbrit.org.uk/sb-sites/sites/h/hanover_chalk_mine/index.shtml

Anchor Scheme

Andrew Atkinson has volunteered to take over the CSCC role for the anchor scheme.

Blackmoor Shaft

John Baker is the warden again and is looking for help to install a new lid. It was agreed that the group should help. The cave will remain locked, but with a CSCC key. A fixed ladder for the entrance is proposed.

Upper Flood

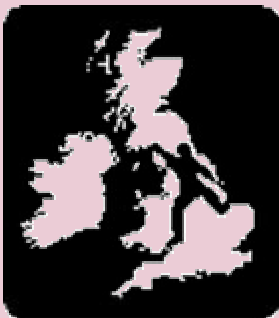
The lock is in need of replacement. Keys for the new lock will be held by the Charterhouse Centre, MCG and the MRO

BCRA diary dates

BCRA Science Symposium 2004 - 6th March 2004. Manchester University, Dept. of Earth Science, Williamson Building. Doors open at 08:30, sessions commence at 10:00 and end at 17:00. There will be a 1½ hour mid-day break. Presentations of short papers on Cave & Karst Science topics. Admission charges (payable on door) will be £5 (BCRA members £4, undergraduate students £3). This charge includes tea/coffee in the morning and afternoon.

CREG Field Meeting - 20th-21st March 2004. Cave Radio Field Meeting, North Wales. A field meeting of BCRA's Cave Radio & Electronics Group - one of the special interest groups of the BCRA. Based near Blaenau Ffestiniog. For more details, please contact Stuart France on 01874 730016 or stuart-france@linetop.freeserve.co.uk. Further information at bcra.org.uk/creg/

Hidden Earth 2004 - The annual caving conference and weekend convention with field trips, trade and club stands, competitions, talks, discussion groups, entertainment. Hidden Earth 2004 will held in the North in September or October.



BCRA

The original "Fragments from France"

No "Fragments from France" this month, but instead – the story of how the title came about. Captain Bruce Bairnsfather served in 1st Battalion, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (infantry) in the First World War. He had studied art under the popular artist John Hassall before joining the army and subsequently put his skills to good use whilst on active service in 1914. It was in the trenches at Ploegsteert (Plugstreet) Wood on Messines Ridge, near Ypres, that Bairnsfather started to create a series of cartoons about life in the front line. His principal character was "Old Bill" with his trademark walrus moustache and an unruffled, good-humoured stoicism that was taken to represent the average British "Tommy". Soon his work was taken up by "The Bystander" magazine in London and began to have a wide circulation in France and at home, published under the title "Fragments" (a word of ill omen, it refers to the metal shards of a bursting high-explosive shell). The cartoons rapidly gained widespread popularity and Old Bill began to appear on postcards, mugs, plates and on a host of other commodities. There is still a thriving collectors' market for these items.

The best-known of the Old Bill cartoons is the one captioned "Well, if you knows of a better 'ole, go to it." The drawing has always, to me, looked like two diggers looking out of a shakehole in the midst of a battle. For me it also has echoes of the day, decades ago, when Dave Mitchell and I were forced to take cover in the nearby rake in Velvet Bottom when a particularly violent thunderstorm interrupted our digging in Blackmoor Shaft; the petrol-hoist/scaffolding jib arrangement at the head of the shaft seemed to us to be a potential target for the lightning which was bouncing around the valley.

When I moved to France in 1987 I decided that, because my articles for the newsletter were often of a fragmentary and occasional nature, I'd adopt the "Fragments from France" label as a general title. This was often helpful when an article dealt with several different caves or events. It avoided the problem of any article looking like a treatise on a given subject.

Having become a bit of an "Old Bill" myself, the cave visits are now few and far between, and I thought it a good idea to explain, before I forget, that my titling was far from original.

Tony Knibbs, Toulouse



"Well, if you knows of a better 'ole, go to it."

**SLOVENIA 2004
MCG 50TH
ANNIVERSARY**

If you are feeling creative,
Julie is asking members to
design a tee-shirt for the
Slovenia trip. The winner
gets a free tee-shirt with
their design on it

Send your designs to Julie
at Flat 1, 162 Stapleton Hall
Road, Stroud Green,
London, N4 4QJ

Council of Southern Caving Clubs

Council Of Southern Caving Clubs

A constituent member of the National Caving Association

to cross their land for two reasons - the insurance factor and also during the last year a trailer was stolen, hence a concern about strangers on their land. Negotiations are taking place to resolve this situation.

P-BOLTING: CSCC reminds you not to trust your life to just one bolt (always back up your rigging).

INSURANCE: CSCC recommends that all member clubs should promote and purchase this (new) policy. It should be noted that NFU continues to provide PL cover to farmers with caves on their land, even if the farmers don't realise it (!).

TRAINING: There will be a first aid course toward the end of 2004, run by Stuart Marshall of Marlin Training; the cost of which will probably be similar to last time (around £60); NCA funding may be available for attendees and will be checked out beforehand. Andy Sparrow will be the contact for any clubs or club members who wish to sign up for attendance on this course.

LAMB LEER: Discussions to take place with the landowner for Lamb Leer since the English Nature SSSI checklists have been produced and there is a statutory requirement for the listed caves (of which LL is one) to be inspected.

GOATCHURCH CAVERN: Recent problems with litter etc. have been reported; local outdoor pursuits organisations are to keep an eye on the place; SBSS, the "Adopt-a-Cave" group for the site, report that they have had a clear-up at the site and recently collected a quantity of litter etc.; UBSS have done similarly.

SHOULD CAVING BE PROMOTED? There are good arguments both for and against this but many objections occurred in the past when caving was much different and the numbers far greater; however, the future of caving may depend upon it. Should the minimum number of UK cavers be gauged to establish the number required to maintain in a healthy condition clubs, shops, magazine(s), insurance premiums etc. Cavers have little, if any control of publicity and that negative coverage and misleading stereotypes are promoted via the media. The average age of UK cavers was guessed at being around 45 whereas in Eire many meetings there comprise 50% of under 30s even though the demography of the two countries is similar. Are caving organisations (such as CSCC) too complex, daunting, political and argumentative to appeal to younger cavers?. Andy Sparrow's recent film "A Rock and a Hard Place" was excellent and could be used to promote caving in a positive light. It was acknowledged that the student contingent of UK caving may be overlooked and the possible role of a CSCC "Piss up officer" was mentioned; there was only one stomp during 2003. Andy Sparrow said he was surprised and pleased at the reaction (broad agreement) to his suggestion and hoped that the topic provokes further discussion throughout clubs; he offered to host a debate/forum "Should caving be promoted?"

Cottage work weekend

The cottage could do with a spruce up before the 50th celebrations. We will need three bands of workers - one doing maintenance, one doing internal cleaning and one doing outside (garden) work.

Provisionally, the work weekend will take place on the March members weekend - 6/7th March (to be confirmed.)

CSCC website

CSCC's internet service provider has gone bust, which explains why the site has been down. CSCC are in the process of moving the domain to a new provider. Any email address that ends in @csc.org.uk will fail. If you know the officers personal email use that. In the mean time <http://www.tuoni.demon.co.uk/csc> still works.

And the winner is....

As no-one came forward to fill the post of Meet Secretary, all the names were put into a hat and the lucky winner's name was drawn out.

We thought it was only fair to notify the winner first, before announcing who it is. So, if there is a small blue envelope enclosed with this newsletter..... congratulations!!!

Full details of the lucky winner will be in next month's newsletter.

For Sale

SRT kit including:		Dragon caving belt	£ 5.00
Petzl chest jammer & chest strap	£17.00	Small Warmback fleece	£30.00
Petzl hand jammer	£20.00	Medium Warmback oversuit	£35.00
Petzl 5 bar rack + maillon; alloy bars	£32.00	Kirby kidney pack & charger	£80.00
SRT bag (adjustable shoulder strap, draw cord + drainhole in PVC)	£ 4.00	Protex lightweight plastic hat (incl lamp bracket)	£20.00
Petzl Super Avanti harness	£30.00		
		People can contact me at home on 01753 686 906 or on my mobile 07974 345 203.	Letti



Group Headquarters

Nordrach Cottage
Charterhouse-on-
Mendip, Blagdon,
Bristol BS407XW
01761 462797
Grid Ref ST51475606



Custodian Trustees

Pat Walsh
Malcolm Cotter
Jon Roberts
Pete Matthews

Rescue Warden

Keith Knight
01329 280386

Conservation Officer

Peat Bennett
01223 2406333

Examiners

Ben Cooper
01344 776306
Mike Lovell
0118 966 3747

Gift Aid Administrator

Malcolm Cotter
01784 252643

Booking the Cottage

Please make bookings
for Groups (whether MCG
or Guests) through the
Cottage Warden to avoid
double bookings



GROUP INFORMATION

Weekly Meeting	At The Hunters Lodge, Somerset, Tuesday at about 10pm	
Monthly Meeting	At the Group HQ on the first Fri/Sat/Sunday of the month	
Accommodation	Available at the Group HQ (for members and guests)	
Cottage Fees	MCG members, members children, SWCC, NPC	£ 1.50
(per night)	Guest clubs and member's guests	£ 2.50
Season Ticket	Available to members only	£30.00
Subscription 2004	Full and Probationary (excluding BCA insurance)	£25.00
	Associate Members (excluding BCA insurance)	£12.50
BCA Insurance	Cavers £18.00 Non-cavers £6.00 (all members must have cover)	
Reciprocal rights	MCG members have reciprocal rights with SWCC and NPC	
	NPC bookings Nic Blundell tel 01203 713849 (hm) or 01203 838940 (wk)	
	SWCC bookings Ian Middleton tel 01703 736997 email ian_m@tcp.co.uk	

2004 CAVING AND SOCIAL CALENDAR

DATE	AREA	EVENT	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Members W/Es	Mendip	Digging in Carcass Cave	Bill Chadwick	0118 9691812
6/7th March 2004	Mendip	Cottage work weekend	Wayne Hiscox	01749 671282
26th March 2004	Mendip	Swildons 1950's style	Lee Hawkswell	01985 212690
27th March 2004	Mendip	50th Anniversary Dinner	Linda Milne	01344 774589
28th March 2004	Mendip	Upper Flood	Lee Hawkswell	01985 212690
28th March 2004	Mendip	Fairy Cave	Lee Hawkswell	01985 212690
28th March 2004	Mendip	Shatter Cave	Jacky Ankerman	01985 212690
1st May 2004	Mendip	Shute Shelve	Joan Goddard	
2/3/4 July 2004	Mendip	Social events	Linda Milne	01344 774589
Summer 2004	Slovenia	Summer overseas meet	Julie Hesketh	0208 340 2458

THE 2004 MCG COMMITTEE

Secretary	01985 212690	secretary@m-c-g.org.uk
Lee Hawkswell	48 Deverill Road, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9QR	
Treasurer	01985 212690	jacky.ankerman@blueyonder.co.uk
Jacky Ankerman	48 Deverill Road, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9QR	
Tacklemaster	01784 244479	dave.tooke@futureelectronics.com
Dave Tooke	12 Ashdale Cl, Long Lane, Stanwell, Staines, Midx TW19 7BA	
Recorder/Librarian	0208 392 2572	t.francis@research-int.com
Tim Francis	Flat 6, 16 Lambert Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4QR	
Cottage Warden	01749 671282	cottage@m-c-g.org.uk
Wayne Hiscox	3 Keward, Glastonbury Road, Wells, Somerset BA5 1TR	
Editor	01524 762664	yvonne.rowe@btopenworld.com
Yvonne Rowe	Abingdon, 11 Church Hill, Arnside, Lancs., LA5 0DB	
Caving Secretary	Vacant	
Social Secretary	01344 774589	Linda.Milne@btinternet.com
Linda Milne	40 Harts Leap Close, Sandhurst, Berkshire, GU47 8PB	

COTTAGE BOOKINGS

Who	Date Arrive	Date Leave	Nights	Beds
1st Bookham Scouts	Fri 30/01/04	Sun 01/02/04	2	?
1st Bookham Scouts	Fri 12/03/04	Sun 14/03.04	2	?