

# MENDIP CAVING GROUP

5th April 2008



m-c-g.org.uk

mendipcavinggroup.org.uk

Founded 1954

## Notice of Annual General Meeting, 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Mendip Caving Group will be held at Nordrach Cottage on Saturday 5th April 2008, commencing at 10.30am.

### Agendum

(Chairman: to be confirmed)

#### 1. Apologies for absence

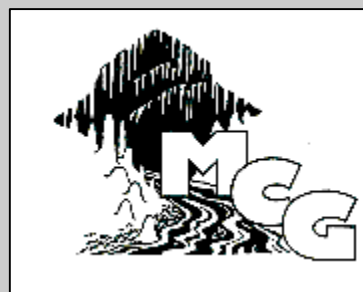
(The Committee may grant a postal vote to any member who applies in good time to the Secretary)

#### 2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24/03/07

### MINUTES OF THE MENDIP CAVING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2007 AT THE HUNTERS LODGE INN

The Mendip Caving Group is a registered Charity No. 270088

**Chairman: Jonathan Roberts**



Full members present: 22

Others present (non-voting): 6 (2 probationary and 4 non-members)

**Attendance list:** Jonathan Roberts, Peat Bennett, Doug Harris, Bob Templeman, Norma Cotter, Sonya Cotter, Andrew Cotter, Keith Knight, Biff Frith, Mary Templeman, Mike Richardson, Mick Norton, Pat Walsh, Arthur Spain, Tony Knibbs, Fiona Kempston, Roy Kempston, Brian Snell, Mike Lovell, Bryan Pittman, Louisa Minahan, Felicity Francis, Bernard Reeves, Linda Milne, Martin Rowe, Yvonne Rowe, Tim Francis, Richard Woollacott.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Karen Fendley, Adrian Bell, Denise Knibbs, Joan Goddard, Ben Cooper, Julie Hesketh, Clive Maybury, Giles Martin, Alan Mellon, Alan Wicks, Reggie Pain, Kerry Howard.

#### 2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 01/04/06

#### 3. Agreements that the minutes (above) are a true record of that meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. Matters arising

9b) Tony Knibbs queried the change to subscriptions that deleted 'members aged over 60'. OAPs. He said there was no description for overseas members, and questioned the fact that 'members may apply annually to the committee' to be classified as overseas mem-

bers'. He felt it needed clarifying. He thinks you cannot derive the same membership. After a discussion the outcome was that members can apply for reduced subscriptions on the grounds of being overseas.

11e) Privileges of membership – Tony Knibbs says non full members would like to vote. He said members felt disenfranchised. The committee was asked to look at this but were divided. The committee had discussed the issue and agreed to leave it as it was. After a discussion the outcome was that proper discussion was needed by the committee, then it should be taken to the Half-yearly Forum.

#### 5. Officers reports and matters arising from those reports.

##### **Secretary's report 2006-7 Tim Francis**

The Hon. Secretary re-iterated that the Group was in good health at the moment, both caving and socially. The committee has made a lot of progress with things throughout the year. Due to work and domestic demands, he no longer had the time needed to carry out the job of secretary. He was given a vote of thanks from the rest of the committee and a round of applause from the floor.

##### **Treasurer's report 2006-7 Martin Rowe**

The accounts have been audited by one examiner and no problems or discrepancies were found. Fiona Kempston now has the books but can't complete an audit until she has seen Ben Cooper's paperwork (Custodian Trustees).

There was a discussion about the water tank and water heating. One suggestion was that we put a 7 day timer on the tank. This could result in there being no hot water on demand, e.g. when guests were staying at the cottage weekdays or weekends, or for the Wednesday evening cavers. At the moment Joan tweaks the storage heaters according to when guests are coming. She has put a lot of effort into getting new groups in.

Gordon Brown's budget affects us. The reduction in basic rate income tax means we will receive 10% less gift aid. A member asked who was responsible for dealing with the recovery of tax. There is one more year to claim for and Martin Rowe has this in hand. The member also asked if 10% will make much difference? Martin said about £50 per year.

#### ***Caving secretary's report 2006-7 Bob Templeman***

Bob said we could have a joint overseas trip to the Ardech with, and organised by, the Bracknell and District Caving Club on the 1<sup>st</sup> September for a week plus a few days either end. The venue had been advertised but different dates had been mooted for June and September. He said he had not had any interest shown, but Yvonne Rowe said she and Martin (and others) were very interested but were waiting for an exact date before committing.

A bunkhouse with camping has been booked and there are caves to suit all abilities, including a superb show cave in a nearby town.

The meets list has been working well with good attendance, e.g.. 15 for Gough's Cave; 10 for Singing River Mine. There is as a beginners' weekend planned for the May members' weekend. There has been lots of interest for this with 7 people signed up already. Many of the enquiries have been via the web. Without the weekly pub meets of old, we should be using the newsgroup more for planning trips etc., especially when at short notice.

Someone suggested that we are too focussed on Upper Flood Swallet concerning leaders when we have no leader for St Cuthbert's. Tim Francis said Richard Cary has completed 4 trips towards the 15 needed to qualify as a Cuthbert's leader. It understandably takes time and a great deal of effort to complete 15 trips. There are also Loxton leadership trips planned.

#### ***Cottage warden's report 2006-7 Doug Harris***

There have been lots of comments about the water tank/heating. The Group received a complaint from Clive Maybury on behalf of a scout group staying at the cottage. He said the water was scalding and dangerous. Joan Goddard got a plumber in who said he could find nothing wrong. However, on the Friday before the AGM weekend 2 members who had the first showers of the day said the water went cold within minutes of turning the tap on. Joan indicated she did not wish to continue as the cottage bookings secretary if it is not fixed. On the Saturday, Brian Snell fitted a new mixer valve to the system and the water temperature was

tested at regular intervals thereafter. Quite a few people managed to have hot (not scalding) showers before the Dinner, plus lots of washing up was possible, so it looks as if the problem might have been fixed. It was noted that the Group is aware and appreciates the huge amount of work done personally by Doug, often through the week when no-one is around to see it.

#### ***Tacklemaster's report 2006-7 Peat Bennett***

200ft of SRT rope had been purchased. It has been shrunk but now needs cutting up into similar lengths as before as they worked well. We need new lifeline rope as well as a fixed ladder for Upper Flood Swallet. We have also had a request for new personal equipment to lend to beginners. It all needs costing before purchase. A comment was made about MCG fixed aids in caves – it needs avoiding if possible. An electron ladder has been left in Upper Flood Swallet and a rope in Roman Rift. We mustn't blur the boundaries between gear left down caves and gear in the tackle store. Who takes responsibility for fixed aids? After a short discussion it was agreed that we need a fixed aid policy and a fixed aid person to be responsible for annual inspections, but it was up to individuals to check on every trip too. To be discussed by the committee.

Mick Norton has tried to start SRT proving trips but there are no hangers, maillons or karabiners in the tackle store. Tim Francis said we used to have them but they were frequently stolen, even 5 from the 25 in the rescue bag! After a short discussion it was agreed that the Group should provide rope protectors, but metalwork is personal as only the owner knows the history of its usage. It was suggested that maillons etc. could be kept in the SRT box which is locked and which only SRT leaders have access to. A problem with this would be that metalwork need washing then would be put away wet, to rust. The outcome on a vote of hands: 3 for provision; 4 against. If metalwork was provided by the Group, it should be down to individual leaders whether he/she wants to use it or not. Also, the Group could be liable if there was an incident as a result of using this gear. Ordinary caving is a different matter. To be looked into by the committee.

#### ***Editor's report 2006-7 Yvonne Rowe***

Yvonne stressed the gratitude she felt towards Mick Lovell who has been printing the newsletter with little or no notice (he usually gets up to a week) as a result of the Upper Flood Swallet discoveries and all that has gone with them. Thanks to him, and Geoff Beale and Brenda Wybrow (enveloping, addressing, stamping and posting) we have managed to keep members up-to-date with everything that has happened, as it has happened. Mick announced that he is retiring from his job in September so will no longer be able to print the newsletter for us. We need to encourage more members to receive their newsletter by e-mail so that even if we do need still print newsletters, which will undoubtedly be dearer, the cost of this and rising postage prices will be lessened. Newsletters received by e-mail are not only a much better quality, but are in glorious

colour too. Once everyone has broadband they might be happier to receive their newsletter by e-mail. Yvonne received a vote of thanks from the floor.

#### **Recorder/librarian's report 2006-7 Louisa Minahan**

It was suggested that the recorder uses the distribution list to send out flyers etc. The library needs a complete set of minutes etc. Arthur Spain asked if everything could be put on DVD. Everything needs archiving digitally, especially the log books. We need to see what we've got and what is missing.

#### **Social secretary's report 2006-7 Linda Milne**

Linda said the Group is on a high and the social side is well-attended. She said Upper Flood Swallet has brought the Group together – we need more breakthroughs in the next year. Membership-arranged socials have been good and well-attended. There are nearly 60 people for the annual dinner this year, compared with 50 last year. The Christmas do was over-subscribed with 30 people attending. It would be better with 20 as this number is easier to cater for – preparation, cooking and seating. Alternate years have been suggested. Suggestions welcome.

#### **Custodian Trustees report 2006-7 Ben Cooper**

Ben has done an excellent job. Changing the signatories was painful, but he has more knowledge now about the issues involved. The committee actioned the Custodian Trustees to invest more money and to see that investments work hard for us. We are advised not to take on too many new ones. It's been a good year.

#### **Gift Aid Report 2006-7 Martin Rowe**

Martin has only recently received the gift aid files so nothing has been done yet, but will over the next couple of months.

#### **Conservation & access report 2006-7 Mick Norton**

Biff Frith has made 3 lids – 1 each for Coral Cave (the old lid failed the week before), Hanover Chalk Mine in Reading (someone smashed the old lid), and Charnel Shaft. Preparation work for fitting the lid on Roman Rift was done in 2006 and completed very quickly.

Cow Hole: The cave was entered and caved to look at what needs doing to make it safe. £1000 has been earmarked by CSCC to do this. It will save the cave from being 'lost'. It could be made an SRT cave which would mean we had an SRT cave within walking distance from the cottage. Access for Cow Hole is not to be taken on by MCG. Mick tried to get in Timber Hole without success. Trips into Timber Hole must be led by Cerberus and by invitation only. Someone asked if this was legal and whether is CCC aware of the situation. Cerberus holds the key and arrangements were made at a CCC AGM.

Charnel Shaft: Kate of the Somerset Wildlife Trust is to meet Biff Frith and Tim Francis to help word a letter for re-opening the existing shaft (NOT a dig). Permission is in hand, the wording just needs tailoring. Kate also showed them the lost shaft she had re-located by the road, that we couldn't find recently.

Upper Flood Swallet: Someone asked if we have a conservation policy ready for when we take people down. Are we photographing everything first? Tim Francis said we are, but there is still more to do. Conservation has been implemented and everywhere is well taped. It has come from CSCC who have bought more tape than ever before. Taping has been done as we've gone down passages. All work in the cave is funded by MCG to keep it an MCG cave/dig. The radio location exercise was unsuccessful due, it turns out, to water in the Heyphone so it wasn't working properly. Another radio location exercise is to be re-organised. Chris Binding is thinking of sending a flood pulse of 50,000 gallons from Waterwheel to see where it ends up.

#### **Rescue Warden's report 2006-7 Keith Knight**

MRO are keen to get MCG involved in their activities and exercises. To be advertised in the newsletter with Keith as the contact. MRO has regular meetings on Thursday evenings. We need local members to go along. MRO were impressed with their Upper Flood Swallet trip and have some good ideas for a rescue trip (TBA) now they know what they would be up against. They have a set of fixed points on the surface so they know where to put communication points in a rescue situation.

The MCG rescue bags are useless and need to be restocked with comfort items – not technical gear. It just needs to be a first response kit. Proper rescue equipment can be got from the tackle store. We need suggestions for a list of tackle that would be needed for rescue. We have a rescue dump in the cave with food, warm clothing, bivvy bags, stove etc. There are only 2 locations where cavers could be cut off by water: 1) the wrong side of the Canal and 2) beyond the Lavatory Trap, but that sump can be baled.

#### **Guest Bookings report 2006-7 Joan Goddard**

Bookings are looking good and picking up. There have been no problems regards mixed sex groups. Flyers have been sent to lots of local places and we are hoping for overspill from other activity centres. We are in the process of producing a flyer for the Group to promote membership as opposed to the cottage. It just needs to be made to look more professional with up-to-date action photos, eg. SRT, ladder or waterfall shots.

#### **6. Election of Honorary Officers for 2007/8**

The following were elected:

Caving Secretary:	Bob Templeman
Cottage Warden:	Doug Harris
Treasurer:	Martin Rowe
Editor:	Yvonne Rowe

The following agreed to be co-opted by the committee:

Secretary:	Mike Richardson
Tacklemaster:	Peat Bennett
Social secretary:	Linda Milne
Recorder/librarian:	Brian Snell

#### **7. Election of non-committee posts**



The following were elected:

Rescue Warden:	Keith Knight
Conservation & Access:	Mick Norton
Gift Aid:	Martin Rowe

(to recover last year's and this year's gift aid only)

### 8. Election of Examiners 2007/8

Fiona Kempston and Anne Pittman were elected.

### 9. Amendments to the Constitution and Rules

There were no proposals.

### 10. Other motions

#### **To upgrade the Group's IT equipment.**

We need to meet the modern needs of the cottage based on things like log books, administration, communications, Yahoo newsgroup, website, presentations, photography etc. We need to think about what members might expect, e.g.. IT facilities, a scanner, a printer, to be able to pull up membership forms, to help with projects like Upper Flood Swallet with surveys, conservation, photography, and reports. The old computer can't cope (second hand, no USB port and no more memory). We need to be able to run relevant software, send and receive e-mails, update Yahoo groups and not just buy a new computer, but we will also need broadband or a wireless network. Someone suggested that someone will need to look after it all, securing it, show others how to use it all.

The cost can be absorbed in 1 year's surplus and there should be no negative impact on the Group. How do we get where we want to be? The committee needs to look at the proposal and discuss the way forward. Roy Kempston said we need to take into account that in 5, 10, 15 years time it might need updating which could be just as costly. The need for an A3 scanner was questioned as it is very costly and, for example, it would take 30 hours or more to scan the log books. We would need volunteers to give up 2 hours per weekend doing it. Linda Milne said she has found a company who will scan documents for us on site using a flatbed scanner which is very quick. She will get some prices. If they are ok then we need only purchase an A4 scanner. Security could be a problem – we would need to put expensive items out of sight.

Linda suggested we split the motion into two: on-site IT needs, and internet needs, and assess both separately. The floor agreed that the principal of the motion is right. We might need a new committee post of IT manager. It was suggested that we photocopy documents to keep the cost down, and solve storage problems (computer space) by saving to a CD or similar. The committee needs to review and discuss the basis of a scanner and broadband.

#### *Amendment to the motion:*

The meeting invites the committee to further consider the motion as presented by Ben Cooper, taking into due account the several points raised in discussion at the AGM. *Vote for amended motion:* Carried

### 11. Any other business

#### **Fire safety risk assessment (sleeping accommodation)**

Yvonne Rowe told the floor about the need for, and outcomes of a fire safety risk assessment. We need it legally, not only for ourselves, but also because we accommodate guest groups. The main point was the fact that the only escape from the bedrooms is down the stairs. Escape through the bedroom windows is illegal (and not possible). At night it is pitch black in the bedrooms with shoes, bags and other gear all over the floor, therefore we must install emergency lighting (which would only come on if there was a power failure). Because people are sleeping (and/or under the influence of drink, drugs or medication) we must install an interconnected fire alarm system so that if a fire starts in the kitchen, for example, an alarm will sound in every area immediately, not just when smoke or heat finally reaches the detector at the top of the stairs. We should not clutter the escape route (landing, stairs, hall and lobby); we should not store wood and paper in the lounge (unless in a metal, lidded container); we should not store spirits or other flammable liquids in the cottage (unless in a metal, lidded container); we should have various signs and notices around the cottage, e.g.. no smoking, plan of floors showing location of extinguishers, gas store, key to gas store, and gas on/off taps, fuse box, stop cocks etc. The extinguishers we have are correct for possible need, e.g. carbon dioxide for the kitchen and water on the landing for the bedrooms. We need another water extinguisher for the lounge near to the library. These are the main points in brief but a précis of the full assessment findings will be going in a future newsletter.

#### **MCG's charitable status**

Tony Knibbs asked if the committee was prepared to say why we are a worthwhile charity. Tim Francis reminded him that we are in the pursuance of cave exploration. It was said that on a Radio 4 programme there were questions about private schools that were losing their charitable status because of the point: 'For the benefit of the public', private schools being selective. Because of our charitable status we get tax and rate relief – Ron Saunders got it for us with foresight and we haven't changed since then. We have guest groups using our facilities who are not necessarily cavers; we have a comprehensive library and have answered the needs of university students requiring information for their dissertations. We need to check with Ron, then discuss it and take it forward.

#### **Cave lids**

Biff Frith told the floor that Chris Binding informed him that he is going to replace the lids to Grebe and Waterwheel Swallets and did we want the lid to Upper Flood Swallet replaced at the same time. He has £150 put by for replacing the lids. Mick Norton is going to liaise with Chris in his capacity as Conservation and Access officer. We don't want to lose access to Waterwheel as we hold the key.

### 12. Date & venue of next Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008 Time: 10:30am

Venue: Hunters Lodge Inn

**3. Agreement that the minutes (above) are a true record of that meeting**

**4. Matters arising**

**5. Officers reports and matters arising from those reports.**

**5.1 Secretary's Report 2007-8 Mike Richardson**

#### ***Underground***

Although the length of passage discovered in Upper Flood Swallet in 2006-7 dwarfs the amount found in 2007-8, considerable progress has continued.

Around 400m more cave has been discovered, such that MCG topped club digging for the second year in succession. Probably the most significant discovery in terms of passage is Thief's Chamber, discovered on the December 2007 members' weekend and helped by the very wet conditions. In addition we now have one plausible location to bypass Neverland, although this will require a certain degree of chemical persuasion. Upper Flood Swallet also now sports a fine new lid; many thanks to Biff Frith for an excellent piece of engineering.

The other main area of renewed interest is Stainsby's (aka Blackmoor) Shaft. Study of the old mining records suggests that a horizontal level from this shaft closely approaches the new passages in Upper Flood Swallet in the Walk The Plank/Thief's Chamber area. Digging in Stainsby's Shaft is clearly going to take time, on account of the size and potential instability of the shaft, but progress is being made. Many thanks again to Biff for engineering operations.

As a side effect of all this, MCG has now featured significantly in six successive issues of Descent. Failure to get at least a quarter-page of the Mendip News section is now being viewed by some as a major failure!

There remains much to be done in Upper Flood Swallet and Stainsby's Shaft. All hands to the pump!

#### ***Hidden Earth***

The Group had an excellent and very large stand at Hidden Earth this year, which attracted a lot of interest. Thanks must especially go to Martin and Yvonne Rowe for organising this, and to Brian Snell for the "Upper Flood Swallet Squeeze Box". The latter was attempted by a large number of people, and successfully negotiated by most, including some fairly unlikely candidates. The stand benefited from Mark Shinwell and Charlie Allison's photographs, and Ben Cooper's survey.

#### ***Group Activities***

For another year Group social activities have continued in fine form. Once again, thanks must go to the sterling efforts of our social and caving secretaries, Linda Milne and Bob Templeman respectively. An excellent Christmas Dinner was run by Linda with help from many others, and JP has continued to provide some fine curries. Another training weekend was run by John Crowsley with classroom and practical

sessions, both above and below ground.

#### ***Membership (111 at 04/03/08)***

Membership numbers have remained healthy and roughly constant. Although we lost 8 members at the end of 2007 (3 resigned and 5 lapsed), we gained 9 new members in Jan 2008 (7 probationary and 2 re-joined); we anticipate we will gain more new members in 2008. This is good but we must not be complacent. It looks like the Upper Flood Swallet discoveries have driven interest in the MCG, and we should capitalise on this.

#### ***Miscellaneous***

To some extent we are suffering from our own success, so far as the hot water situation at Nordrach Cottage is concerned. The hot water system is currently working perfectly – special thanks to Mark Ward, Brian Snell and Geoff Beale for this – but it is overwhelmed by the amount of caving that is happening. For some reason, cavers returning late, wet, cold and dirty from long Saturday trips down Upper Flood Swallet have an unreasonable desire for hot showers! This must stop, or we will have to provide more hot water. Clearly this has become a major issue.

I have attended CSCC meetings on behalf of the MCG to maintain representation on key access bodies. Unfortunately the last CCC meeting was missed in the handover from Tim Francis to myself; I take the blame for this. The usual stream of correspondence has continued. Committee meetings have been well attended by all Committee members with good progress made on a wide range of outstanding issues.

#### ***And finally***

I would like to thank my predecessor Tim Francis for his 7 years as secretary (and 6 years on the committee before this). He set a very high standard to follow; any perceived shortcomings of the current secretary should be viewed in this context!

#### **5.2 Treasurer's Report 2007-8 Martin Rowe**

First, an apology: the 2007 accounts have not reached the examiners yet for an audit. This is because I was unable to get to Mendip for 3 months and I have the only key to the Hut Fees box. In addition, there have been delays in obtaining some of the details of income for the Custodian Trustees' investments. It has not been possible to state the income for one or two investments as the relevant paperwork has not yet arrived. However, I now have details of 99% of the income and the supporting documentation (cottage booking sheets, fees envelopes etc), and I will pass the accounts to the examiners at the AGM. Apart from the income detail for the remaining investments I don't expect there will be any major changes to the draft version of the accounts as presented to the AGM.

2007 proved to be an extremely busy year and this is reflected in the accounts which show a 50% increase in expenditure over 2006.

## Draft Income and Expenditure sheet for the year ending 31st December 2007

2006	2007	2006	2007
£		£	
<b>Cottage income</b>		<b>Cottage expenditure</b>	
11.62 Changing room donations	26.30	849.16 Building Insurance	848.78
140.00 Cotag key deposits	0.00	225.00 Cess pit emptying	230.00
30.00 Cotag sold to members	90.00	0.00 Coal	19.53
15.00 Day fees	26.00	410.00 Cotag deposits refunded	885.00
693.00 Guest fees	293.00	0.00 Cotags/keys purchased	166.85
833.00 Guest groups fees	2042.00	438.25 Electricity	510.00
655.00 Members fees	544.00	0.00 Furniture	124.98
320.00 Season tickets	240.00	0.00 Gas	98.08
383.75 Subs current year	698.75	118.20 Household	140.39
300.00 Subs paid in advance	70.00	363.23 Maintenance	177.41
40.30 Telephone	41.10	10.71 Phonecalls made	12.63
<b>3421.67</b>	<b>Sub total 4071.15</b>	130.43 Phone line rental	131.92
		188.35 Rates (NNDR)	193.14
<b>Cottage renewal fund</b>		246.89 Rates (water)	262.47
383.75 Subs current year	364.37	306.70 Refuse collection	285.43
150.00 Subs paid in advance	35.00	<b>3286.92</b>	<b>Sub total 4086.61</b>
<b>533.75</b>	<b>Sub total 399.37</b>		
		<b>Cottage renewal fund</b>	
<b>General income</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>Sub total 0.00</b>
846.00 Annual dinner	1588.00	<b>General expenditure</b>	
861.25 BCA current year	698.75	20.00 Access/keys	0.00
350.00 BCA paid in advance	96.00	54.73 Admin Committee	55.38
13.70 CCC 14 day permits	39.30	29.40 Admin General Meetings	8.40
540.34 Donations	531.37	103.32 Admin Membership	108.30
2.00 Other income	0.00	2.04 Admin Trustees	0.00
0.00 Regalia, including t-shirts	360.00	850.00 Annual Dinner	1470.00
165.50 Shop other than regalia	140.10	115.00 BCA membership for MCG	115.00
0.00 Social events	429.50	861.25 BCA members this year	1048.75
1535.00 Subs current year	1063.13	0.00 BCA members in advance	0.00
450.00 Subs paid in advance	105.00	324.00 Caving equipment	485.90
0.00 Tax refund (Gift Aid)	0.00	20.00 CCC permits 14 days	30.00
<b>4763.79</b>	<b>Sub total 5051.15</b>	30.00 CCC permits annual	30.00
		1684.18 Cottage improvement	253.35
<b>Investment income</b>		18.50 Donation	49.95
23.81 Bristol Water shares (interest)	4.22	59.98 Entrances and digs	12.00
85.31 Credit Suisse Monthly Inc Fund	91.51	0.00 Hidden Earth	128.55
116.44 Henderson NPI Global Care	126.80	0.00 IT and computers	561.08
7.04 Interest CAF Current	42.31	214.05 Library books	542.37
84.02 Interest COIF Deposit (Treas2)	114.07	21.96 Library storage	41.82
117.65 Interest COIF Deposit (Cottage)	177.69	358.37 Newsletter	215.53
247.01 Interest COIF Deposit (Treas1)	67.64	9.54 Other expenses	8.39
210.07 Interest COIF Dep (Custodians)	270.47	0.00 Occasional Publication	898.96
251.38 M&G Charifund Accumulation	184.88	135.00 Publicity and display stands	650.65
222.36 M&G Charifund Income	247.53	0.00 Regalia, including t-shirts	571.34
81.55 New Star Higher Income	97.65	0.00 Social events	306.00
93.25 Rathbone Income Fund	105.35	0.00 Stock (batteries)	26.85
0.00 Schroder US Small Company	0.00	30.00 Subs to other clubs	180.00
11.67 Solus UK Special Situa	21.14	<b>4941.32</b>	<b>Sub total 7798.57</b>
<b>1551.56</b>	<b>Sub total 1551.26</b>		
<b>Upper Flood Swallet dig fund</b>		<b>Invest income reinvested</b>	
565.90 Donations	50.00	251.38 M&G Charifund Accumulation	184.88
<b>565.90</b>	<b>Sub total 50.00</b>	81.55 New Star Higher Income	97.65
		0.00 Schroder US Small Company	0.00
		<b>332.93</b>	<b>Sub total 282.53</b>
		<b>Upper Flood Swallet dig fund</b>	
		258.97 Expenditure	396.34
		<b>258.97</b>	<b>Sub total 396.34</b>
<b>Grand total income</b>	<b>11122.93</b>	<b>Grand total expenditure</b>	<b>12564.05</b>
<b>Grand total expenditure</b>	<b>-12564.05</b>		
<b>2007 Excess exp over inc</b>	<b>-1441.12</b>		

## Draft Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2007

	2006	2007
	£	£
<b>Cash and Deposit Accounts</b>		
Alliance and Leicester (Treas)	1,291.15	1,395.81
less unrepresented cheques		
CAF Current	1,007.04	1,049.35
COIF Deposit (Treas2)	1,946.16	2,155.23
COIF Deposit (Cottage)	2,805.64	3,367.08
COIF Deposit (Treas1)	5,291.68	359.32
COIF Deposit (Custodian)	4,830.91	5,101.38
Petty Cash - Hut fees box	169.60	190.70
Petty Cash - Treasurer	1,145.00	105.59
<b>Total Cash and Deposits</b>	<b>18,487.18</b>	<b>13,724.46</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Bristol Water shares	678.40	0.00
Credit Suisse Monthly Inc Fund	2,659.33	2,455.49
Henderson NPI Global Care	3,652.98	3,498.90
M&G Charifund Accumulation	6,548.72	10,166.48
M&G Charifund Income	5,639.24	5,086.69
New Star Higher Income	3,104.74	2,627.22
Rathbone Income Fund	3,053.98	2,870.39
Schroder US Small Company	2,666.73	2,897.18
Solus UK Special Situa	1,930.68	2,004.97
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>29,934.80</b>	<b>31,607.32</b>
<b>Other Assets (insurance value)</b>		
Cottage - building	242,271.00	254,384.55
Cottage - contents	38,000.00	38,000.00
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>280,271.00</b>	<b>292,384.55</b>
<b>Year End Total</b>	<b>328,692.98</b>	<b>337,716.33</b>
<b>Increases/decreases in 2007</b>		
2007 Transfer from A&L to M&G Acc	-4,000.00	
2007 Transfer from Bristol Water to A&L	678.40	
2007 Increase in cottage value	12,113.55	
2007 Increase in investments	1,672.52	
2007 Excess exp over income	-1,441.12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>337,716.33</b>	<b>337,716.33</b>

**Cottage income and expenditure**

Members bednights fell from 567 in 2006 to 452 in 2007 (assuming each season ticket is used 30 times). This is not surprising as in 2006 we benefited from additional visits following the discovery of the extensions in Upper Flood Swallet. Guest bednights increased from 509 in 2006 to 584 in 2007 despite an increase in fees from £3 to £4 per night. I was late sending out subs renewal forms for 2007 so very little of the 2007 subs were received in time for the 2006 accounts. The balance of the deposits held for Cotag keys was either

returned to members or treated as a donation to the Group. Excluding one-offs like key refunds, income for the cottage exceeded the day to day running costs, which is just as well as the cost of electric in 2008 will rise considerably. We will continue to monitor electric bills and will switch to the cheapest supplier once the current round of price increases settles down. For 2008 we have changed our buildings insurer from Zurich to NFU Mutual and this will save more expense. An adequate supply of hot water continues to be an issue and the committee are considering several options to improve the situation.



### General income and expenditure

There was a much better attendance at the 2007 Annual Dinner, thanks to the interest created by the Upper Flood Swallet discoveries and also at the half-yearly social. These events contributed £241.50 to Group funds. There were no major cottage projects in 2007, although all the hot taps were replaced with push-action taps to help conserve hot water and a washbasin was added to the Foreman's Lounge. Fascia boards were renewed with the help of Biff and his tower scaffold. Our presence at Hidden Earth required considerable expenditure. We were unable to hire display stands and tables at reasonable rates so opted to purchase these instead. The overall effect was impressive and the stand was busy throughout the conference. We were pleased to be one of only 2 club stands to be Commended for our effort although we missed out on the Best Stand award. The stands will be used for many BCRA conferences to come, as well as events such as Mendip2008 and the BCRA Cave Technology Forum on 18-20/04/08.

After many years of indecision we finally purchased a Group computer, and work is also well underway on an updated website [www.mendipcavinggroup.org.uk](http://www.mendipcavinggroup.org.uk)

Expenditure on library books was almost double that of 2006, mostly spent at Hidden Earth where we also bought a quantity of caving equipment. We have also purchased 2 sets of helmets and lights to loan to beginners, and a stock of Duracell batteries for sale. We published and distributed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Occasional Publication at a cost of £899. A new MCG t-shirt featuring Upper Flood Swallet was designed and purchased and although it won the Best T-Shirt award at Hidden Earth, sales have been slower than anticipated. A payment of £150.00 was made to MRO to assist the purchase of a new stretcher.

As a result of all the above, general expenditure exceed income by £2747.42, however we expect to make most of this up on the sale of stock (t-shirts and batteries) and by our next Gift Aid claim.

### Investment income and expenditure.

We were required to sell our Bristol Water shares when the company was taken over by Sociedad General de Aguas de Barcelona S.A. (Agbar). The £678.40 we received, together with a further £3321.60 (making £4000) was reinvested in M&G Charifund Accumulation fund.

We had a sharp reminder in 2007 that the value of shares can go down as well as up. For the first time that I can recall, the value of our investments fell compared to the previous year. Leaving aside the £4000 newly invested, the value of our investments fell by £1648.64 or 5.6%

The draft accounts do not show the income (if any) for Schroder. However, this income would be automatically reinvested and would be included within the 31/12/07 valuation of the investment. The income and expenditure cancel each other out so that the Income and Expenditure Sheet will still balance when this fig-

ure is known. The missing figure does not affect the Balance Sheet as we know the valuation at 31/12/06 and 31/12/07.

### Upper Flood Swallet Fund

This fund was established in memory of Malcolm Cotter. Expenditure is limited to the exploration and conservation of Upper Flood Swallet. Funds were used in 2006 to make improvements to the entrance pipe. A new lid was made which can be opened from the inside. This means the cave can be locked when parties are underground but any caver can exit safely without need of the key.

### Excess of Expenditure over Income

Expenditure of £12564.05 was greater than income of £11122.93 (a difference of £1441.12). However, 2007 was an exceptional year and it is anticipated that income in 2008 will be sufficient to meet expenditure and there should be no requirement to increase subscriptions.

### Custodian Trustees

It is disappointing to note that since Ben Cooper became a Custodian Trustee almost 18 months ago, and despite his best endeavours, we have not yet completed the transfer of Group assets into his name. No Custodian Trustee assets have been successfully transferred since the 2007 AGM.

The Bristol Water shares were sold in 2006 and payment was received in 2007. Credit Suisse and M&G investments were transferred before the 2007 AGM. The transfer of the Zurich insurance was completed prior to the 2007 AGM. The COIF, Henderson, New Star, Rathbone, Schroders, and Solus investments are yet to be transferred. The Cottage deeds may need updating to show that Ben is a Custodian Trustee.

Once this is completed, the committee will transfer the non-Custodian accounts to the Custodians (CAF and COIF). We will reduce the number of COIF deposit accounts from 4 to 2 (keeping the Custodian and Cottage accounts) and close the A&L account. This is because 1) we no longer hold deposits for Cotags; 2) replacing the A&L Business Account with the CAF current account (which pays interest) means there is no need for the COIF Treasurer's Deposit Account.

### And finally

2007 was, as I said at the beginning of my report, an exceptionally busy year. This was not made any easier by my sudden and serious illness in August 2007 from which I am still recovering. In effect I was incapacitated for several months and it is to the credit of all the committee and the ordinary members who help them (Joan Goddard, Ben Cooper, Geoff Barton, Brenda Wybrow, Mike Lovell in particular) that the day-to-day running of the Group continued so that no-one noticed anything was wrong. I cannot thank Yvonne (especially) and the rest of the committee enough for the help and support they gave me. I also received many messages from well-wishers following my illness and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.



### 5.3 Caving Secretary's Report 2007-8 *Bob Templeman*

Yet again the published caving meets programme for 2007 was subject to many last minute changes / cancellations, brought about by the continuing main focus of interest in Upper Flood Swallet. Biff's activities in Stainsby's Shaft are well documented and hopefully, for the Upper Flood Swallet-challenged, will lead to the sought after break-in.

A number of exciting meets have been arranged for 2008 including an oversubscribed "between tide" trip to Otter Hole. A number of "fall back" events are also planned to be slipped in as and when required. Regrettably, due to lack of interest, the planned trip to the Vercors has had to be cancelled. On a more positive note, if you want a special trip arranged please let me know and I will see what can be done.

### 5.4 Cottage Warden's Report 2007-8 *Doug Harris*

Another busy year for maintenance jobs around the cottage. On the work weekend in March 2007, two big jobs were undertaken. First one being replacing the rotten fascia boards on the gable end facing the shed. Thanks to Biff Frith for his loan of a mobile scaffold tower. Also Biff's tools and his time.

The second big job, was fitting a wash basin/mirror in the Foreman's Lounge, thanks to Brian Snell and Keith Knight.

Brian and Keith also fitted new (push type) taps to all the sinks in the cottage, except the one in the kitchen.

I'm happy to carry on as Cottage Warden.

### 5.5 Tacklemaster's Report 2007-8 *Peat Bennett* (report may be given verbally)

### 5.6 Editor's Report 2007-8 *Yvonne Rowe*

I'd like to start by thanking the surprising number of members who give me such positive feedback on the newsletters. It's always good to hear that you enjoy them, especially as Martin and I now spend a lot of time filling much of them ourselves by amalgamating items from the Newsgroup to make into articles.

The Newsgroup is really great for communal conversations, and the swapping of news and information, but because so many of you now prefer to communicate these things in this way (and I do find it a good way to keep up-to-date, living so far away), I am no longer getting many proper trip reports for the newsletter - with one or two exceptions, and thank you for those. Until recently, with the help of computer technology (i.e. high-speed whizz-bang stuff!), I could put together a newsletter in a day or weekend. Now, also because of computer technology (i.e. the Newsgroup), it takes up to a week of evenings and I can't always spare the extra time that takes.

As a genuine moot point (not a gripe), I think we are fast coming to an age when newsletters will be superfluous? In a way we are only regurgitating what members can already read on the Newsgroup about trips,

dings, news, info etc. as they happen. Would it be better to just let the Newsgroup evolve into the Group newsletter? If you think the Group would still need some sort of publication, we could just have a monthly bulletin for membership news (i.e. new members, changes of address, phone numbers etc.), cottage bookings, caving and social calendar, committee information, and the like. What do you think?

An interim solution to this dilemma would be for a **volunteer to write up a monthly update of the progress, or otherwise, in Upper Flood Swallet** for me (an 'Upper Flood Swallet correspondent'). It wouldn't need to be pages and pages (unless we have another huge breakthrough, of course), just a summary of the month's undertakings on digging and other trips. Maybe someone else could **volunteer to do the same for Stainsby's Shaft** - another exciting and active project.

Having got that off my chest, I must thank all of you who regularly submit photos - these are great and bring articles to life. I must also thank those of you who post snippets and interesting links on the Newsgroup - these are ideal for the text boxes at the sides of main articles.

On the printing and posting front: Mike Lovell is still, thankfully, printing the newsletter for us in his own time. He deserves special thanks for that, I think you'll agree. Thanks also to Geoff Beale and Brenda Wybrow for enveloping, addressing, stamping and posting the newsletter. There are now more of you than ever receiving your newsletter by e-mail - 82 out of the present 111 members. Remember, e-mailed newsletters are in colour, postal ones only in black and white. There are also the exchange newsletters, but thanks to Joan going through the list and checking what we receive in return (or rather don't receive), she has got this number down considerably. This is also good news in light of the large postal increases we've incurred.

If we can get the above Newsgroup issues resolved, I will be happy to continue as the Group's Editor - I still get a buzz when I complete a newsletter and send it off to Mike for printing. Conversely, if anyone else is interested in being Editor, I would be equally happy to hand it over. I find it difficult to competently cope with all the new technologies. If it wasn't for Martin I wouldn't cope at all!

### 5.7 Recorder/ Librarian's Report 2007-8 *Brian Snell*

It has been nice to have the opportunity to be a member of the committee again. It has made me make a greater effort to be involved in the Group's welfare and of course to get down Upper Flood Swallet as often as I can. However I do enjoy my involvement with two other sporting activities. So I have to admit I have not been able to fulfil this role as completely as I should and have relied on Joan's support for most of the Librarian duties. I would therefore like to thank Joan for all her help. I would be happy to continue my involvement in the committee but if someone else

would like the opportunity to do sterling work then I won't stand in their way.

### 5.8 Social Secretary's Report 2007-8 *Linda Milne*

The general buoyancy of the Group has continued this year and we are seeing a marked increase in email enquiries for novice trips and taster caving sessions. The training weekend was a great success with 4 new members receiving their basic training and a perfect start to their caving careers.

A lot of my time is spent dealing with enquiries from people who want to try caving or get back into it. This is most promising but it requires a fair amount of effort to follow up as it usually means arranging a special beginners trip. We need people to help with these trips. It would suit some one who would enjoy a bimble down one of the easier caves on Mendip and would happily chat about the whys and wherefores of the cave and caving techniques. Is this you? Please get in touch as we need your help!

#### Last year

The social events were all well attended. Lyncombe Lodge, the venue for last year's dinner was a very good night with over 50 guests.

We decided to have a Barn Dance instead of the usual Beer and Skittles for the half yearly. It was well supported but we ideally need more people to make it go with a swing. The food was great. Many thanks go to Ann Pitman for sorting out the delicious Chilli and to Helen Miriam for saving the day when the fuse blew in the kitchen. The team in the kitchen also did a splendid job and food was much appreciated by everyone.

JP did a really, really tasty curry last year and will be doing another one this year (see your calendar for details). Lucky people, you'll get another chance to taste one of his superb dishes.

The Christmas dinner went very smoothly with the experience from previous years starting to show. Thanks to Brenda for sorting us out in the kitchen and Biff for supplying an extra oven for the roast potatoes. Don't forget to get your names down early for the 2008 Christmas dinner...



We produced a cottage leaflet last year and this year we did a Group leaflet. The aim of the Group leaflet is to promote the Group and encourage people to join us. If you know of anywhere suitable to stock our leaflets then let me know and I can run off some copies for you.

### This year

We have a 'calendar' this year which combines the social and caving meets. The summer highlight will be the Upper Flood Swallet BBQ, do try to come along, we've got our own Marquee now (thanks to Charlie's dad) and some nice outdoor tables. We tested it all last year and it worked really well, enabling us to eat outside and stay out longer - the bats always come out too. The annual dinner will be at Coxley Vineyard this year. We've not tried this venue before but the menu looks good and ticket sales are going well.

Thank you to everyone who supports the social events.

### 5.9 Other Officers' Reports

#### a. Trustees' Report *Ben Cooper*

Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

Compared to last year's bullish market, our funds this year have remained relatively flat, with an overall loss of 2%. Given the events during the year, especially the Northern Rock crisis, this actually represents a very reasonable position.

During the year, the committee invested £4000 into M&G Charifund Accumulation units. This nominally increased the investment value of this fund from £6,548.72 as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to £10,548.72, which is the "starting position" figure used in the calculations below.

There has been little progress to report on transferring investment funds from Malcolm's name to mine, mainly due to other commitments of the Custodian Trustees. I hope to be able to resume transfers in the spring.

Account	Status as at Dec 2007
Bristol Water	Sold
COIF	
Credit Suisse	Transferred
Henderson	
M&G	Transferred*
New Star	Initiated
Rathbone	
Schroders	Initiated
Solus	Initiated
Zurich	Transferred

\*M&G transfer is yet to complete

## Investments Valuation

	31-12-2006	31-12-2007
Bristol Water	£678.40	
Credit Suisse	£2,659.33	£2,455.49
Henderson NPI Global	£3,652.98	£3,498.90
M&G Charifund Acc	£10,548.72 <sup>6</sup>	£10,166.48
M&G Charifund Inc	£5,639.24	£5,086.69
New Star	£3,104.74	£3,104.74
Rathbone Income Fund	£3,053.98	£2,870.39
Schroders US	£2,666.73	£2,897.18
Solus UK	£1,930.68	£2,004.97
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>£33,934.80</b>	<b>£32,084.84</b>
<b>COIF</b>	<b>£4,830.91</b>	<b>£5,101.38</b>
<b>Total investment value</b>	<b>£38,765.71</b>	<b>£37,186.22</b>

## Investment Analysis

Investment	31/12/2006	31/12/2007	Valuation Growth <sup>1</sup>	Income <sup>2</sup>	Re-investment <sup>3</sup>	Yield <sup>4</sup>	Performance <sup>5</sup>		
							Value	Gain	Gain-%
COIF	£4,830.91	£5,101.38	6%		£270.41	6%	£5,101.38	£270.47	
Bristol Wa-	£678.40	£648.40		£4.22		Sold			
Charifund Accumulation	£10,548.72 <sup>6</sup>	£10,166.48	-4%		£184.88	2%	£10,166.48	-£382.24	-4%
Charifund Income	£5,639.24	£5,086.69	-10%	£247.53		4%	£5,334.22	-£305.02	-6%
CS Monthly Income Fund...	£2,659.33	£2,455.49	-8%	£91.51		3%	£2,547.00	-£112.33	-5%
Henderson Global Care ...	£3,652.98	£3,498.90	-4%	£126.80		3%	£3,625.70	-£27.28	-1%
New Star Higher Income...	£3,104.74	£2,627.22	-15%	£97.65 <sup>7</sup>		3 %	£2,2724.87	-£379.87	-12%
Rathbone Income Fund	£3,053.98	£2,870.39	-6%	£105.35		3%	£2,975.74	-£78.24	-3%
Schroder US Smaller Co...	£2,666.73	£2,897.18	9%			0%	£2,897.18	£230.45	9%
Solus UK Special Situa...	£1,930.68	£2,004.97	4%	£21.14		1%	£2,026.11	£95.43	5%
<b>TOTAL Investments</b>	<b>£38,765.71</b>	<b>£37,357.10</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	<b>£694.20</b>	<b>£455.29</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>£37,398.68</b>	<b>-£688.63</b>	<b>-1.8%</b>

1. Valuation Growth is simply the current valuation compared to last years, including any increased stock holding.
2. Income is income received into current account
3. Re-investment is income re-invested. I haven't had statements from New Star, nor all the statements from
4. Yield is the income as a percentage of the invested value (i.e. the value as at 31/12/2006)
5. Performance is overall gain, taking into account the capital growth and income.
6. £4000 was invested into this account this year, increasing the "start position" as reported at the end of last year (£6548.72) by £4000.
7. I've not received statements from New Star for last year. This will be rectified when the fund is finally transferred. However, the short report, which I have received, indicates an income of 2.2p per share on 31/10/2007. It makes no mention of an April payment (there was one in 2006). So, we have received at least £97 income, which has been re-invested in the fund. However, until I can obtain a statement, I do not know how many units were purchased for that amount on 31/10/2007. Hence, the fund value at 31/12/2007 should in fact be slightly higher than shown above.

**b. Gift Aid Report 2007-8 Martin Rowe**

I have not been able to complete a Gift Aid claim. However, HMRC will pay interest on backdated claims. There is a time limit of 5 years for making a claim so dealing with this matter is now a priority.

**c. Conservation and Access Officer's Report Mick Norton (report may be given verbally)****d. Rescue Wardens Report 2007-8 Keith Knight**

I have attended some of the regular Saturday training exercises during last year, 2007 run by Gonzo but this year, 2008 there is a new MRO training officer, he is Mark Kellaway. Mark is going to draw up a new schedule of training exercises for this year but as yet I have not had any details.

I wish to thank all of you who have volunteered your help if required for a call out for a rescue on Mendip, the list has been passed on to Mark.

There are a couple of things that need to be organised for the coming year.

1) The purchase of food to replace the out of date food in the Darren Drum in Upper Flood Swallet.

2) Volunteers to recover the drums and another volunteer to take them back in. I do not want to risk the drums being contaminated and resealed in the cave.

The rescue sacks over the stairs have an odd assortment of bits and pieces. As we are the club closest to Upper Flood Swallet I feel I should have a rethink on the contents of the bags with Upper Flood Swallet in mind. It would not be hardware, but more comfort type kit. I will ask the MRO for some guidance on the kit that would best to take in first.

I have moved the rescue ammo box out of the tackle store as another 5 crabs have gone missing.

**e. 2005 Guest Bookings Report 2007-8 Joan Goddard**

The figures below refer to beds booked, but in some cases fewer people turned up. Actual income received is logged by the treasurer.

**Breakdown of weekend bookings**

19 weekends with no guest bookings  
 13 members weekends, on three of which I booked up to 6 guests.  
 11 weekends with less than 12 beds booked  
 \*\* 6 weekends with scout bookings —  
     5 required use of 3 rooms (20, 24, 24, 26, 29)  
     1 required 2 rooms (12)  
 4 weekends with large groups (9+16, 8+15, 24, 20)

**Breakdown of potential income** (weekend and mid week bookings):

Scouts:	244 bed nights	= 38% of income
Caving Clubs:	128 bed nights	= 20% of income
University Clubs:	84 bed nights	= 13% of income
Others (colleges, groups of friends, training courses):		
Weekends:	47 bed nights	= 9% of income
Midweek:	125 bed nights	= 20% of income

**Outlook for 2008**

As members are aware we had a lot of guest bookings during January and February. However at the time of writing this report (03/03/08), I have firm bookings for only 2 weekends (26 bed nights) for the rest of 2008, and provisional reservations for small-medium groups for a 3 further weekends. I have an uneasy feeling about bookings for the rest of the year — for one reason or another a number of the 2007 bookings are unlikely to be repeated.

**Notes**

Nordrach Cottage is not the preferred venue for most caving and university groups — they come to us when they can't book into accommodation which is within walking distance of the Hunters. We receive a few independent groups presumably because our cottage comes up when people type 'Mendip' into Google — these don't necessarily stay again once they have ticked "caving" on their list of adventure sports (but could be a source of new members if they are encouraged and welcomed). We are fortunate to have 2 or 3 scout groups who have been coming for many years and they provide 38% of our guest group income. One of our members brings in a regular guest income via his training courses (12-15% of the guest group income in 2007). We also have a few other youth groups (colleges) who usually make small, 1 night midweek bookings — not very lucrative but they fulfil our charitable aims, as do the scout groups.

I would like to thank members for being flexible when we have scout and youth groups who require the use of 3 rooms. This means that any members present have to fit in with the youth group leader's arrangements for sleeping.

**6. Election of Honorary Officers for 2008 / 2009**

	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Secretary	M Richardson	M Rowe	Y Rowe
Treasurer	M Rowe	Y Rowe	B Templeman
Caving Sec.	B Templeman	J Goddard	Y Rowe
Cott.Warden	D Harris	G Beale	B Templeman
Tacklemaster	No nominees		
Editor	Y Rowe	B Templeman	M Rowe
Rec.Librarian	B Snell	D Harris	M Richardson
Soc.Secretary	L Milne	M Richardson	Y Rowe

(Where posts remain unfilled, volunteers for co-option by the Committee will be sought at, or subsequent to, the meeting.)

**7. Election of non-Committee Posts**

	Nominee
Rescue Warden	No nominees received in advance
Conservation	No nominees received in advance
Gift Aid	No nominees received in advance

**8. Election of Examiners 2008 / 2009****9. Motions****10.00 Any other business****11. Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting**

(for information: Easter Sunday 2009 is on 12th April and Members Weekends fall on Saturday 7th March and 4th April)