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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE, 1981/2

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<u>Journal Distribution</u>	To be decided
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EDITORIAL

Autumn is finally with us, and by the time you read this the AGM will have passed, and the new Committee will be finding its feet, ready to tackle the business of the coming year with fresh energy and enthusiasm.

Furthermore, the Upper Pitts Sunbathing Team will have disbanded, and there will be no feelings of guilt when we forsake the sun to go underground. I detect a new enthusiasm in the air, and look forward to new levels of activity in the coming months.

CLUB NEWS

(Based on the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on September 5th.)

Cave Keys To offset the cost of replacing lost keys and locks, it has been decided to introduce a charge of £1 per party for the use of any cave key. This charge will not apply to members or to bona fide guests staying at Upper Pitts.

Electricity Meters A 10p slot meter has been fitted to the Upper Pitts power circuit, and a similar one will be replacing the 5p unit for lighting. This should ensure that the income from this source matches more closely the cost of our electricity.

Central Heating System Glyn Bolt, John Ham and Barry Davies have now installed a larger hot water tank, which means that there will be more hot water for showers. It is hoped to simplify the switching circuits for the hot water system soon.

Trustee Richard Kenney has been invited to complete our quota of four Club trustees. He has accepted the position, and will act in an ex officio capacity until his appointment can be properly ratified.

Club Membership by under-18s Adrian Vanderplank has succeeded in finding an insurance policy which appears to be suitable in allowing us to accept applications for membership by anyone aged sixteen or over. The policy will cover member-to-member claims in cases of accident involving negligence etc. Adrian is clarifying the details, and the topic will be raised at the AGM. It appears that the annual premium will be in the region of £400 per annum (an increase of about 60p per member on our existing premium) with a surcharge of £1.50 for each minor. As there will only be a limited number of applicants expected each year, and it will be in the Club's interests to encourage young cavers, the Club may consider favourably the notion of carrying this surcharge from funds.

Committee Meetings The last Committee Meeting was held on a Saturday evening; this proved to be very workable, and business was dealt with in record time. The incoming Committee will consider holding future meetings on Saturdays

Atty Members will be pleased to hear that Atty is now living back at home, and is able to walk with the aid of a stick. He thanks all those who have written to him in the past months, and says he misses his occasional trips to the local - and of course his annual trip to Mendip.

Address Changes

Al Keen: 88 Upper Albert Road, Sheffield S8 9HT

D.F. Donnelly: 21 Windermere Road, Reading, Berks. RG2 7HU

New Members We welcome the following new members, elected at the September 5th Committee Meeting:

Ian Christopher Annesley, 63 Cavendish Road, Highams Park, London E4
Christopher Johnson, 42 College Gardens, Chingford, London E4 7LG
Keith Jones, 16 Lodge Road, Caerleon, Newport, Gwent, NP6 1KA
Amanda Caroline Onions, 2 Bredon Close, Trenewydd Park, Risca, Gwent
Susan Elaine Sweetland, 47 Columbine Road, Widmer End, Bucks.
Isolde Zimmerman, 7086 Neresheim - Ohmenheim, W. Germany

DIARY DATES

October	2nd	F	St. Cuthbert's Swallet
	16th	F	Rhino Rift
	17th		Wessex Cave Club A.G.M. and Dinner
	30th	F	Thrupe Lane Swallet
November	7th	C	Burrington Bonfire Party (?)
	8th		WCC Committee Meeting
	14th	F	South Wales
	27th	F	Longwood Swallet
December	11th	F	Tynnings Barrows

F: Friday Night Trips Contact Brian Prewer, Wells 73757. Meet at cave 7.30

C: Club Trundles Contact Phil Hendy, Wells 76134. Suitable for novices or prospective members. Meet at Upper Pitts 2.45

I shall be organising a further series of Trundles for 1982; these may include the odd field trip over areas of interest on Mendip. Suggestions for venues will be welcomed, though please bear in mind my girth.

P.G.H.

'The Caves of Portland' updated

Nigel Graham

The dissertation on the Caves of the Isle of Portland (J. WCC 16, Nos. 186 & 187) contains a few points which should be corrected, clarified or updated. The article was originally written as an information sheet for the MRO; hence the odd 'slant' apparent here and there.

WESTCLIFF AREA The Blacknor Fort road should not be used. The present tenant of the fort has erected posts to prevent vehicles being turned or parked at the end, by the fort gates, and the Coastguard barrier. This barrier is locked, and is there to keep cars off the clifftop meadow. Either park in the housing estate or along the main road (preferably just off it, but not on the grass verges.)

BLACKNOR HOLE 'The most popular - and easiest - technique is abseiling in and prusiking out of the cave'. This should read '... and abseiling out...' as the entrance is perched in the cliff face and the top belays are on flat ground. Prusiking has been used but the move at the top is awkward and the technique inadvisable there anyway. Abseil down to the path and walk north to the slope back to the top.

Two lengths of pipe driven into the ground at the pitch head were intended as stake holders for the belays.

The dig in the Via Aquae Sulis extension has been attacked recently by Gaynam Lock (of Speleo Rhal) and myself : not only did we alter things a little, we also exposed one of the most frightening perched boulder chokes either of us had ever seen; take the greatest care.

Finally, a note for any members of the diving fraternity thinking of diving in the sea around Portland. A lot of fuss and palaver was recently made by residents complaining about divers changing in the car parks at Chiswell. They don't object to divers as such, just the choice of changing room.

A CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

Sanity Clause

It is now days* to Christmas, and we can all expect the usual crop of boring gifts. Is your heart sinking as you recall the woolly socks, lurid ties, cheapo aftershave, etc etc that most of us collect year after year? And are these not the very things that we buy our nearest and dearest as every time the festive season approaches, the mind goes blank in the search for unique and appealing Xmas presents?

Things could be different this year, however, because I have been scanning the shop windows and catalogues for that special something for the caver in your life, be he husband, boyfriend, or Club chairman. The following list must surely include something for everyone.

The Pindisports gold lame boiler suit will probably be a bit extravagant for most of us, though the proud wearer will doubtless cut a dashing figure at breakfast in the Red Lion. I feel that for £2.50 the 'Grippo' velcro glove represents a far better buy, and will surely be useful when defying the forces of gravity in, for example, Swynne-Puke rift. Austin Reed are offering centrally heated bathing trunks, a 'must' for every serious cave diver. Quite wisely, the BSI are withholding its kite mark until the minor problem of powering the heating coils with a car battery have been solved, but I believe that by next December mass production should ensure a good supply at moderate prices.

I came across an inexpensive but very acceptable idea in the current issue of 'Woman's Own' magazine, where they publish a pattern for hand-knitted Fairisle jumar grips, while in forthcoming issues they promise patterns for crocheted helmet liners and applied NiFe cell cosies. The November edition of 'Amateur Mortician and Sexton' contained excellent articles on formaldehyde embalming and grave shoring, advice which would have been well-received by the original Cow Hole digging team. More importantly, it carries an article on home-made explosives mixtures, which might make an acceptable gift for some of you. They are also offering supplies of super-luminous tape for sewing around the top openings of sleeping bags - very useful for after those heavy nights in the Hunters when you can't find the light switch in the dorm.



Keep an eye open for Max Factor's new 'Karbyde' under-arm dusting powder, in a novel pack which can be adapted to make a table cigarette lighter when empty (see illustration). It can be bought in a special gift set, including a bottle of 'Lectralyte' after-cave lotion. (Splash it all under).

Cavers looking for an investment might care to consider the Wimpey 'D-I-Y' range of cave kits.

(* Please fill in requisite number - Ed.)

The basic set of sewer pipes and quick-setting concrete can be made, with the aid of a simple 500-page handbook, into a reproduction Goatchurch or Sidcot within a couple of hours. You can add to your cave with the accessory kits; for example it is possible with the aid of a mains water supply and the contents of a dustbin to construct Swildon's 1 in your own back garden. By charging a moderate goodwill fee, the cost can be recouped in a couple of months, enabling the real enthusiasm to construct any cave desired, using the Fillpott plans handbook, available through the Cave Survey Scheme. Commercial versions of the kit have been used by entrepreneurs, and may be inspected at Wookey Hole and Cheddar Gorge. It is a well-known fact that St. Cuthbert's Swallet was built in this way in modular form in Cornwall, and was later purchased and installed in its present location by the BEC. It is expected that they will shortly have enough money saved to enable them to purchase Cuthbert's 3, and a suitable spot is already being prepared ready for its installation. But I digress ...

Of course, there is no reason why the lady in your life should feel left out of it as you spend your weekends building your very own cave. Simply buy her the 'Goffkaves' box of unbreakable plastic pretties, and let her decorate it to Shatter Cave standards. With a tube of epoxy resin, the selection of curtains, stalactites, straws and gour pools can be arranged to her own design. Special sets of plaster of Paris stal are available for those of you with vandalistic tendencies (lump hammer £1.50 extra).

A 'must' for cavers who specialise in eastern Mendip is the Nathealthco pre-filled syringe of Weils disease and anti-tetanus antitoxin. A useful stocking filler for drinkers is the Mothercare non-spill polypropylene pint pot, finished in simulated pewter. Each is hand-engraved with a portrait of Tony Oldham; it can be sterilised.

Christmas is always a popular time for the publishers, and this one will be no exception. Highly recommended is 'The Almost Complete Caves of Mendip', bound in simulated neoprene. Why not buy your friends the fifth updated edition of 'The Speleo-European Dictionary and Phrasebook', published by Chatty and Windy? This delightful volume should be in every foreign expedition's baggage. With its aid you can order two pints of screech and a ploughmans in colloquial French, or inform your German guide that 'my friend has just abseiled a 150m pitch on 200ft of Ulstron'. With this lexicon to hand visitors to European speleological congresses will be able to discourse in fluent Bulgarian on Bogli's mischungskorrosion theory and the periglacial drainage patterns in the Canadian Rockies. There is a useful section of essential words which should be memorised, such as the Spanish for 'below' and the Dutch for 'rungsliip'. I can foresee hours of fun in bar, tent or bothy translating what it was that hairy foreigner said when you dropped the ammo can on his foot - and composing a suitable reply.

Slightly cheaper is the Descent 1982 Diary, with pages of useful information such as the dates of access to Leck Fell, close seasons for quarry managers club secretaries and BACI instructors, as well as opening times (corrected for BST) of the Hunters Lodge, Sunset Caff and Craven Heifer. There are also useful tables dealing, for instance, with the stretch coefficients of various types of rope loaded under different conditions, and the volume of acetylene produced by carbide at different depths underground (and hence different atmospheric pressures.) There are basic instructions on the construction of cave diving kit, and a useful 10-page supplement dealing with candle maintenance. The address list includes MRO, karst police, massage parlours and local casualty departments. This handy diary is bound to be a winner and, with its quarto format and plush Dexion binding, will surely find its way into the pocket of every caver worth his salt. Publication is expected in April 1982.

Well, I hope I have given you a few ideas for the forthcoming festive season. Before I go out to play with my new Junior Lepineaux Water-Cooled Brake Bar Set, let me give you one final suggestion for the caver who has everything – penicillin!

MENDIP NOTES

Wimblestone

Back to the Bones

After a lay-off of two or three years, during which time the diggers took up boatbuilding, work has recently restarted at Charterhouse Warren Farm Swallet above Velvet Bottom. This site is of interest not only for its cave potential but also for the abundance of archaeological material recovered from the spoil, much of it dating from the Bronze Age. The swallet is situated in a shallow dry valley, and takes the form of an almost perpendicular, elliptical shaft, some 5 - 10ft wide and up to 25ft long. In the 1970s it was excavated to a depth of 75ft, but to speed progress, only half of the fill was removed, the remainder being held back by timber shoring. Considering the load now bearing on these timbers, their life expectancy cannot be great, and as a safety measure it has been decided now to take out the remaining spoil and continue excavating downwards along the whole length of the rift. The top of the shaft will be given a reinforced concrete roof to provide security and room for spoil dumping, and a powered winch will be used for hauling.

In the earlier excavations, besides the pottery and the flints, the remains of over 40 human individuals were uncovered. The chances are that these represent a tribe of early Mendip hill farmers, although bearing in mind the proximity of Manor Farm, can one entirely rule out the possibility that these pathetic specimens were perhaps a prototype NHASA digging team, wiped out in some Bronze Age assault on the Cheddar Master Cave. Come to think of it, some of the skulls do have a familiar look to them.

Meanwhile, across the valley

Something is stirring at the end of Manor Farm itself - members of the BEC to be precise. They are pushing along a crawl off the Mud Meander and have reached a point where stones dropped through the bouldery floor seem to bounce on a considerable way. Perseverance here could bring big rewards as the passage is in a much faulted area and close to the likely line of any Blackmoor Swallet system.

The same team is working in much less salubrious surroundings on Eastern Mendip, where they have opened, or re-opened, the notorious Haydon Drove Swallet. Various members of the Wessex, not to mention the odd dog and goose, claim to have ventured into the first hundred feet or so of this rubbish and sewage filled sink, but only the BEC has produced a survey to prove it. A network of bedding planes has been opened up, shale roofed and rather dangerous, with several possible ways on. The most promising is a small tunnel blocked by a single boulder, beyond which can be heard the sound of a running stream. This rock is going to require careful removal as 20ft above is the floor of a pig pen.

Hanging about the office

The extensive labyrinth of worked out stone mines in the Copenacre area of west Wiltshire is well known as the home of hundreds of Ministry of Defence storekeepers, but a recent examination by naturalists has shown that the civil servants share their quarters with a vast array of less belligerent mammals. As well as over 150 different species of insects and spiders, the scientists have found thousands of bats. In one mine alone, live nine out of the fifteen species of bat native to this country, including the first serotine bat ever to be found underground. Their most interesting discovery was an individual Bechstein's bat - apparently only the 31st time in 100 years that a member of this species has been spotted in Britain. The future of these creatures seems happily secure since, needless to say, in a mine working occupied by civil servants, disturbance is never likely to be a problem.

Stoke 6 revisited

After an absence of more than a decade, members of the CDG have once again been probing the far reaches of Stoke Lane. Progress to 6 was straightforward, but the large sump beyond was badly silted and underwater digging failed to open up a way on visible beneath a rock flake. Stoke 7 and 8 have not been visited since the original exploration dives of 1965, and the Great Flood of 1968 could well have brought about changes in the terminal boulder chokes. Who knows, there may yet be a watery back door to the show cave complex of Fairy Cave.

MENDIP NEWS

(From the Council of Southern Caving Clubs meeting, September 26th.)

Cuckoo Cleaves

The new access arrangements have been finalised between Mr. Masters, the landowner, and the Council of Southern Caving Clubs; the major clubs now hold keys. On behalf of the CSCC, the Wessex has volunteered to administer the access, and applications from clubs who wish to hold keys should be made initially to Phil Hendy. It is of paramount importance that this cave is kept locked at all times.

Fairy Cave Quarry

The Cerberus SS outlined its plan to purchase the quarry and its caves in conjunction with the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation. A long debate ensued, during which various member clubs of CSCC voiced disapproval of the way that the CSS had not informed local clubs of its plan, preferring instead to canvass support directly from NCA and BCRA. It is firmly held that the long term preservation of the caves will be best looked after if a multi-club management committee is appointed - this should also facilitate access for a wider spectrum of cavers.

Brown's Folly and Swan Mines

Negotiations for an access agreement between the Council and Sir Charles Hobhouse are complete, except for a demand by Sir Charles' solicitors that CSCC pay an annual rental, starting at £10. The Council feels that, in view of the expense to which it has already been put, this is unreasonable. Unless a compromise can be reached, the Council will relinquish its interest in the mines. It is worth noting that Brown's Folly can be entered via the Avon Wildlife Trust's nature reserve, which is not subject to such controls.

Underwood Quarry

Somerset County Council has withdrawn its application for the extension of this quarry, situated between Wells and Wookey Hole, as a result of public opposition. However, it is understood that a revised application is being prepared.

Swildon's Hole

The Cerberus SS has replaced the guide rope in Sump III.

MENDIP CAVERS SET ALTITUDE RECORD?

Phil Hendy

Saturday 5th September saw a collection of Mendip cavers, plus some Hunter's regulars, meet in the bar at Lulsgate airport for a sightseeing and photographic flight over Mendip. Among the party was Jack Foxwell, who was flying for the first time, after celebrating his 74th birthday the night before.

There were two flights, each half an hour long. The weather was perfect, clear blue skies, and some haze which didn't matter. After take off, we flew to the north of Sandford and Banwell hills and round Crook Peak. Sandford Quarry and Wavering Down stood out well, as did the railway cutting leading to the tunnel at Shute Shelf. At Cheddar, we circled over the gorge, which is very impressive from the air. Longwood Valley, being wooded, did not stand out well; I was unable to spot the G.B. field, though I did catch a quick glimpse of Velvet Bottom. We flew too far south of Wookey Hole to pick out the ravine or Ebbor Gorge very well, though we had good views of Wells, and Chris Bradshaw was able to see 'BEC' on the bus station roof. The significance of these heiroglyphs is being studied.

The plane turned north over West Horrington, and then made a wide turn round Pen Hill mast to circle Priddy. The Minneries were easily spotted, and it was easy to locate the Hunters Lodge, the Belfry and Upper Pitts, where the residents were waving their arms in the air. The Eastwater valley is a very striking gash when seen from the air, and the Nine Barrows stand out well. From my seat, I could not see Priddy Green, though the houses along Pelting Road look like a strip of urban ribbon development. Swildon's valley was seen, and then we headed north again, seeing the line of swallets from Read's Cavern to Bath Swallet before flying over Burrington Combe and, all too soon, circling over Butcombe and Winford to make our landing approach at Lulsgate.

It proved impossible to really study the landscape for signs of cave entrances, though certain well-known sites stood out well. These included those already mentioned, and the line of depressions from Tankard Hole past Hunters Hole to Priddy. Most of us took photographs, and hopefully these will show more detail when they can be studied at leisure.

The flights were quite bumpy, the fine weather causing strong updraughts on the Mendip scarp, and hence turbulence. This resulted in a degree of air sickness, which seemed to be proportional to the time spent in the bar! It may be added that Executive Express, the airline, kindly laid on a supply of beer for consumption during the flight. Ozzie the pilot was most helpful, and added greatly to our enjoyment of the trip. We concluded with a visit to the briefing room, the control tower and the radar room.

The whole event was ably organised by Nigel 'Biggles' Taylor, who also acted as co-pilot. Our worst fears were unfounded. It was a most successful afternoon, costing only £13.50 per head. I would thoroughly recommend anyone to put the pressure on Nigel to arrange a repeat performance.

NOT QUITE EVERYWHERE?

Visitors to Norway may be surprised to locate a certain sticker in various unusual and out-of-the-way places. It purports to claim that a certain caving club gets everywhere. I am informed by the highest authority that these were in fact placed by the Wessex at this other club's request. Get everywhere they may do, but it is quite obvious that the Wessex usually succeeds in getting there first.

NORTH AMERICAN NOTES

Paul Hadfield

This year I managed to avoid the worst of the Canadian winter by fleeing south to Texas where I was working from early February until the end of May. Caving was, however, spasmodic in that I managed only a couple of trips to the Ozarks and one to a major Texas cave, 'Powell's'.

The Ozarks in Arkansas are a delightful region which abounds in caves. On first impression the hills and valleys resemble those of the Dales in scale; there however resemblance ends, the whole landscape being covered in beautiful deciduous forest, perhaps akin to that of England many years ago. Much to my surprise when in Dallas I received a phone call from a Q.M.C. member who had in the past enjoyed the hospitality of the Wessex, and together we journeyed to Jasper, Arkansas, where we visited two caves, Little Bear and another. The first is an old abandoned system containing a large chamber reached only by complex route finding. The other is a beautiful clean-washed active stream cave.

Arkansas, however, despite the amount of caving potential, has one drawback for the majority of serious cavers: it is, except for two counties, dry. This means that a suitable supply of spirituous liquor and ale has to be transported with one at all times! This problem being overcome, one can easily while away the days lazing at a quiet swimming hole along the Buffalo, or one of its many tributaries, or saunter off as I did one day, up a dry streambed, where after a gentle amble of a mile or so an eight foot wide stream of 3 or 4 metres depth disappears into the ground over a 30ft stretch leaving me to ponder on the caverns, doubtless measureless to man, that lie beneath.

Texas caving is another matter. The limited access to caves ensures that when access is granted, a sizeable crowd turns up to visit. Powell's Cave, the largest known system in Texas and linked hydrologically to Weal's (though not physically by cavers) is down in the beautiful rolling hill country of Texas west of Austin. I was fortunate to visit the system in the springtime and was treated to acres of wild flowers covering the meadows and the famous 'blue-bonnets' (?-Ed), bordering the highways for mile after mile.

I was recruited into a survey team and on the Saturday morning, four of us made the rather unique descent into the shakehole at the cave's entrance. A wire grid cattle fence that had fallen into the hole provided a somewhat shaky ladder down 50ft of nasty unstable conglomerate to a small hole at the bottom that took us into a maze. Negotiating this led us to 'The Canyon', one of the principal routes of the 17 miles of passage. Some distance along here we picked up our side passage and started surveying. It wasn't long before I started getting suspicious. At nearly every survey point I began to unearth previous markers and my questions were answered to the effect that, "Yes, it has been surveyed before, twice in fact", but for some reason or another, they wanted to do it again! This did not make me overenthusiastic about the trip, and made me wish I had gone along with Hal Lloyd, an old friend of mine from Pyrenean days, to look at the terminal canal that they suspected connected with Neal's Cave.

The survey was not overly arduous, however, and there was a suitably generous beer supply on the surface. Hal Lloyd did not in fact surface until about 9 am next day after a 23h marathon in which they had just managed to pass the previous far point of exploration before being stopped by mud and 'too low' passage.

Apart from another visit to the 'River Styx' Cave, entirely in gypsum, that ended my caving in Texas; the high north was calling, and I journeyed up to the Arctic in late May.

It was not until mid-July that I was back in civilisation again. This time it was the Yukon that drew me for a couple of weeks. I hiked around Kluane national park getting a feel for the area and an urge to visit the central part of the area which includes the largest ice fields outside of the Arctic Circle and Mt. Logan at over 19,000ft. Then it was south and east to the Front Ranges of the Rockies where I bummed around climbing things, mostly solo, including Mt. Athabasca, 11,400ft, Mt. Victoria and Mt. Eiffel along with a number of pleasant hikes into the back country.

The last week of August however was reserved for the Andy Good Plateau and its caves. Rendezvous was, as usual, at the 'Summit Inn', at Crownsnest Pass, and our party consisted of the ubiquitous Peter Thompson, Jim?, John Pollack, seven Dutchmen from Spelio Nederland, and myself.

The principal objective was the exploration and survey of the new entrance to what we were now certain was the old Mendip's Cave. Found last year by Jim Barton (?- Ed.), this entrance had been pushed to connect with Yorkshire Pot and still had (and has) going leads.

On our first trip, John, Pete, three Dutchmen and I soon reached the limit of exploration in a large diameter passage at the top of a pitch. In went the bolt and back-up belay and Hadfield was down onto a boulder-strewn ledge 15ft below, and unclipped, to traverse across the pot into the continuation of the main passage.

I sat around and waited for a while, whilst the Dutchmen, who had been promised some virgin cave, rappelled down the pitch to start their own explorations. I was soon bored waiting, though, so I pushed off to the echoing curses of Pollack. The large tube we were in soon gave way to a short section of dry vadose stream way followed by a tight squeeze into larger passage. This too didn't last long and I found myself crawling in a mud-floored passage with a strong draught. After about 300ft I came to a junction, left going down a pot of about 25ft, and right continuing on and up. At this point I returned and informed John and Peter, who as soon as the last Dutchman had bottomed the pit traversed over to join me. We were soon back at the pot and this time it was old Hammer Hand Hadfield working the bolt drill. Our sole vertical equipment was a 25ft ladder which was soon down the pit with me on it. To my frustration this was followed immediately by a further pitch of about 15-20ft, but we didn't have enough gear to tackle it. So back up the pitch and up the right-hand branch. Steep passage with a narrow trench, similar to the section at the top of the pitch out of the 4 stream way in Cowsh, led to rocky roller coasting, but walking-sized passage. Only too soon this closed down and John disappeared into a tight rocky rift while Pete and I sat waiting. Boulder trundling is hardly a sufficient adjective to describe what we could hear of John's activity. In the subsequent twenty minutes he must have shifted two or three tons of rock when climbing up what he described as a rift. At the top though it got too bad even for John so he wisely decided to re-join us.

From our far point we surveyed out, picking up over 300m of new passage, with the lead down the pot still not explored. The Dutch, it transpired, had descended another 100ft pitch after the first one, and had had a very narrow escape from falling rock; however they had discovered several hundred metres of passage, both up and down stream from the foot of the pitches.

Next day, Thompson, another Dutchman and myself were back at our post and down it in very short order. This time Pete was out front making time in good trucking passage, which included some nice little climbs and traverses until a junction was reached. Pete went right and our Dutch friend, Pierre, left. I sat and shivered in the draught.

Pierre found his passage very tight but it wasn't long before we heard Pete's voice calling. Pretty soon we were in a descending muddy-floored tube, very similar Pete said to parts of Yorkshire Pot. This, if it followed the same pattern, could lead us into the depths with no vertical pitches to deal with. Well you all know Sod's Law! So you won't be surprised when I tell you that it wasn't long before we were pulled by a large diameter pot dropping about 60ft into the blackness. Once more lack of tackle called a halt to our trip and we headed for the surface.

Back at camp we talked things over with Jim Barton who had come up the previous evening and who had been underground at the same time as we were pushing the previous deep pots of the Dutchmen.

It seemed that the pot we had found could well be one of a number of high large avens he had encountered when pushing downstream from the foot of the new pitches.

Despite the excitement of new cave we were nevertheless somewhat disappointed. The big hope that we have for the Andy Good area is that we can find our way into passage that will lead us westward below the col or under the Ptolomy ridge and down the valley to the presumed rising. If we succeed in this we will have the potential for a stupendous system. As it is, we simply have a world class alpine cave system, remarkable only for its frigid temperature and a notably sustained level of technical difficulty (and I can assure you that Mendip's is a savage hole if ever there was one- its teeth point in and down !). Currently, everything we have found seems to be heading us back to Yorkshire Pot.

At the same time as we were playing on the Andy Good, another party including Mike Brown discovered yet another entrance to Nehime (?- Ed.) Cave in Revelstoke National Park, and had fun dodging park rangers and grizzlies.

Tom Barton, since I introduced him to the delights of diving sumps a couple of years ago, is really getting into it, and has passed the second sump in Rat's Nest with a dive of about 50-60ft and a third sump of about 5 - 6ft. His progress has been halted at the top of a pitch and by a lack of back-up divers. His current efforts seem to be aimed at recruiting a certain bald-headed Englishman into sticking his head under water to accompany him!

Hopefully this coming winter will see me headed southwest for a while and I will be able to bring you tales of sunshine, and a considered opinion on the quality of 'Tres Equis'.

Good caving to you all.

M.V. Edward O. Vetter
Beaufort Sea
September '81

FOOTNOTE: In the preamble to this report, Paul writes:

"Just now I'm off the boat, but due back soon and I'm in the throes of buying a home. In reality its a log cabin in about 3 acres of big aspen with plenty of wildlife around. The current owner - a lady - was having a crap in the outhouse when a black bear got curious. She yelled at it to bugger off and when it stepped back in surprise it trod on the cat which pursued the bear hell for leather into the bushes. It looks like I'm going to be rather broke for quite a long time to come; however I shall have a little piece of Canada for my own. "

WANTED - A PIONEER

Jim Hanwell has recently been asked for a copy of the Wessex Occasional Publication 'Pioneer under the Mendips'. This is intended as a christening present for a certain young man, Herbert Balch, great-grandson of our late President of the same name.

If anyone has a copy of this book in good condition, and is willing to part with it (for a reasonable price), Jim would be delighted to hear from them.

WESSEX CAVE RESCUE TEAM PRACTISE RESCUE

13th September 1981

Bob Drake

Venue

Longwood Swallet

Objective

To recover a victim from the bottom of Main Chamber with injuries to the lower half of both legs.

Members attended

Al Mills (Victim), Glyn Bolt, Jeff Price, Adrian Vanderplank, Dave Gill, Andrew Watson, Pete Lacey, Dave Evans, Phil & Lynne Hendy, Barry Davies, Barry Wilkinson, Marion Gay, Gordon Wright, Bob Drake.

Report

We met at 9.30 a.m. on a bright Sunday morning having had a good deal of rain the day before. J.P., A.V. and G.W. went down first to go on ahead and tackle the pitches. After finding that I had given them an old key, J.P. returned to collect the correct one and they finally got underground at 10.30am. A.W. and D.E. were next in, taking the telephone and laying the cable. D.G. and P.L. followed 10 minutes later with the drag sheet and hauling ropes. P.H., G.B. and B.D. with ammo boxes and ropes followed on after. When the telephone had been installed at the top of main chamber and contact was made to the surface where Lynne acted as a receptionist. At 10.55 a.m. after a tot of brandy A.M. was persuaded to ignite his smelly carbide lamp and venture underground avoiding breathing near the flame.

We all met at main chamber at 11.10 a.m. and after sorting ropes and ladders we positioned the victim at the foot of the pitch assuming he had fallen. With directions from G.B. and some fireman's knots from A.V. we laced him into the drag sheet. On tackling the pitch we found we were short of ropes for lifelining so a rope was taken from the 12ft pitch. The victim was then lifted up the pitch fairly swiftly being hauled by five people, with the rope through a pulley and a clog for safety, the victim being assisted by two lifeliners and D.G. and P.L. climbing the pitch. We reached the top of the pitch at 12.15 p.m. by which time we were joined by B.W. and M.G. The narrow rift between the head of main chamber and the wet chamber below the 12ft pitch presented a few difficulties. Firstly not enough people were keeping ahead of the victim to supply lifting power and secondly the eyelet in the drag sheet pulled out ripping the end. P.H. retied the head of the drag sheet and after moving a few people forward and letting the victim have yet another tot of brandy which he had strapped in with him and a cup of oxo we proceeded on to the wet chamber. We reached the wet chamber at 1.45 p.m. and carried on quite well to the bottom of the 12ft pitch, by this time our well oiled victim wanted to release some of his brandy and oxo so he was untied from the drag sheet. Here we decided to leave the victim out of the drag sheet and firmly bind the lower half of his legs together and hoist him up the pitch in a sitting position. A rope harness (Bosun's chair) was made up by our resident fireman and the aid of A.W. and a lifeline tied on. He was then hoisted up the pitch being pulled from above by J.P. and B.D. and assisted from a ladder from below by G.W. This seemed to work quite well and at the top of the pitch the ropes were taken off and used as hand lines through the narrow passages above. Here the victim was inserted into the tube and carefully manoeuvred after a few attempts around the left hand bend with assistance from J.P. in front and G.B. behind. This section of the cave proved to be difficult but with pushing, pulling and twisting is possible with this type of injury.

The advantage was in having the top half of the body free to twist and turn. Lifting him carefully by hand we reached the bottom of the entrance pitch where he was hauled up again in a sitting position using a tape harness and the rope run through a pulley belayed to a large bough of a tree overhanging the blockhouse. The victim finally surfaced at 3.40 pm., and the cave was cleared by 4.00 pm.

Conclusion

We concluded that if the patient was a fit, experienced caver and his injuries were either to the lower half of his legs or an arm it would be possible to get him out without major problems, assuming his injuries allowed him to be kept fully conscious throughout. The original idea of pulling the victim through the narrow parts of the cave on a wire rope and pulley had to be dropped because it would have restricted the tight sections and may have caused the victim some discomfort. From main chamber to the surface this rescue took about 4½ hours. Many thanks to all who attended, it was a worthwhile experience all round.

Victim's Remarks

These practise rescues give me hang-overs.

PIRACY IN FRANCE

Bob Lewis

Ojo Guarena

Sotoscueva, Burgos, Spain. The entrance is fortified. The road passing the entrance runs close to two optional verticals of considerable depth but the owner (or guardian) of the cave regularly drives up and down this road shouting 'No escalada' and similar at innocent tourists. He gets quite upset. Official arrangements to visit this 44 mile system may be possible via 'Caja de Ahorros Municipal de Burgos'.

Grotte de Grand Antoine

Sauveterre, Gironde, France. Lowland cave between the Dordogne and the Garonne some 25 miles ESE of Bordeaux. Follow D670 SE of Libourne to turn off right onto a minor road at Minjon (a farmhouse) marked on Michelin sheet 75. Downhill to turn left at first crossroads and head south passing mansion on left, woodland and a sharp S-bend. Park within the next 300 yards and spot the obvious speleodendron on the right among vineyards about 200 yards from the road. There are farms (including one called Gd. Antoine) on the left of the road. Large doline screened by large (50ft +) trees. Cold draught. The cave consists of three stream ways which radiate from a complex of dry muddy passages 500ft from the entrance. The centre passage is that entered from the speleodendron and may be followed upstream, but easy going for 500ft downstream gains a junction. Ahead and left are sumps and a long left-hand passage going upstream again. Turn right at a junction, via a well-worn muddy bedding creep which reaches a major stream way after 200ft. Go upstream through a fairly large chamber then a fine easy stream passage with interesting stal and gours for 1500ft until a broad stal bank forces a crawl in water on the right; the lower stream way slowly loses height beyond a sump (duck in drought) then low passage to a second sump (duck in drought) followed by more of the same kind of thing to a third sump (very low duck). The passage now eases as a rift giving walking to a stal choke with no draught. The system totals 7 miles in length but one only covers a fraction of this in any one of the three stream ways which converge at the '500ft' junction.

Riviere Souterraine de Bramabiau

Camprieu, Gard, France. The show cave marked on Michelin sheet 80 is a resurgence - go ¼ mile SE of the show cave cafe on the main road to find a car track on the right. This leads to a valley and a river sink. Down an enormous tunnel to daylight from a large doline, then left for about 200ft to an obvious way down on the right. Gain the water as soon as possible and, ignoring side passages, follow the stream way down, wading and swimming, with nice cascades (easy descents) all of which go free until the railings of the show-cave are met after about 2000ft of pleasant cave. Follow the show cave out to daylight, avoiding one awkward cascade via the path and avoiding the gate by descending the final cascade which is simple. The trip is best done in the early morning or late evening. Wet suit advisable.

Event de Rognes

Le Vigan, Gard, France. Free access. From Le Vigan head south then west on the D999 passing La Tessonne camp site. One mile beyond the La Tessonne sign is an obvious cirque on the south side of the road. Cross the river and find a good steep track up the west side of the cirque (which contains a rubbish dump) and use this to reach a dry stream bed in the middle of the cirque. Go up this to a draughting entrance and piles of carbide. The pebble slope within leads to a short drop behind a giant pebble; then cross a dry gallery to an obvious way gradually descending to a lake. Swim (or traverse on the right) to a second similar canal beyond which the large main way reaches a chamber with an obvious passage ahead and 10ft up. There is an easy climb round on the left, and 100ft further on there is a junction. Ignore the big, obvious passage on the right, and find the draught - more or less on the left; follow a series of much smaller eroded passages for about 50ft to a rift with a drop below. Use a sling and krab belay for a rope or ladder (25ft); actually this can be free-climbed but it doesn't appear so from the top. At the bottom is a large passage down to a lake with traverse wires, then three other easy pools beyond to a major junction with a rift running from left to right. Turn right here, and forward 100ft to Salle de la Colonne (40ft pillar in alcove on right). Ignore a tempting traverse and descend a small hole between boulders to gain the floor of a rift. Go forward in this, keeping low to a couple of canals after a few hundred feet. At the end of the second canal (the start of the third) hangs a 40ft ladder. Up this (exposed as a free climb) and through a short narrow passage leads to the large 'Grand Galerie'. Follow this for 3,000ft with an awkward stal bank half way to a junction with Galerie de Joly on the right. This descends via a slope and gravel banks, plus low sections, to a 50ft bedding crawl and a canal with a strong wind rippling the surface. Swim the canal to a further (terminal) pool and choke.

Grotte des Claris

St. Hippolyte-du-Fort, Gard, France. In an old quarry by the D982 between St. Hippolyte and Durfort (Michelin sheet 80) is a large entrance impossible to miss when driving north-east. There is free access to a big dry cavern with large stal bosses. Where it closes, crawl right at the lowest point to a further large cavern, and down a hole on the right at a vast tilted boulder after several hundred feet. The way on, by a pool and a slight squeeze, opens up to the Salle de la Lecouverte, more walking which ends at a massive stal flow. Go up the slippery stal slope on the right for 30ft to a way on, on the right. There follows a series of muddy crawls to a branch. Turn left and soon climb up through a mud wriggle to Galerie Cardaire and Galerie Teulade - easy going to chokes. A gloomy cave, suitable for all weather conditions. No tackle, and ordinary clothes required.

Goule de Foussoubie

Labastide de Virac, Ardeche, France. At the intersection of the D355 and D217 south of Vallon Pont d'Arc is a small road bridge. Follow a path down to the entrance (Michelin sheet 80). Scramble into the entrance pool and on to a 20ft pitch (awkward rig) to a pool. Beyond is the next pitch, 25ft into huge passage (with a traverse up on the left to a possible flood refuge. There are natural belays on this easy traverse). Scramble forward from the foot of the creaking metallic device (if the floods haven't washed the thing away) of 50ft, best done with a lifeline (it is possible to rig one's own ladders from a bar at the head). Scramble forward from base to an obvious slide which is a 25ft free-climb but may be laddered if desired (it is easy to ascend free). Continue forward through pools to a remarkable basin, La Grande Marmite, which is a swim, at least 10ft deep - a sporting feature. A 100ft rope belayed 10ft back from this blue-green pool may be used to facilitate the exit and for the 15ft drop over smooth stal immediately beyond. The exciting part is now at an end. The passage doubles back below La Grande Marmite among some large logs and leads to the shore of a canal. Swim for about 200ft with 18in headroom at the lowest point, keeping right at the fork - a fine piece of cave, then go through another canal wading until the last deep bit necessitates another swim. Now follow large dry passages (for at least an hour) with occasional pools and some good stal. Finally these narrow down and progress continues through narrow rifts sculpted by the water until a duck with 2ft airspace. Go up a slope, and on in similar passages. The cave now starts to descend, and bifurcate. I halted when a slight headache developed; this may have been due to stale air and overheating. P.M.'s reference to flooding and carbonic gases is important - the place is full of the remains of trees and anyone caught below the pitches will drown if rain continues. Minvielle recommends tackling pitches 2 and 3 as one (of 18m apparently) from the far end of the traverse below the first pitch - this may be correct. It is best not to descend if it has been, is, or may later be, raining.

REVIEW

GROTTES ET CANYONS, by P. Minvielle. (Editions Denoel, Paris)

This book, currently £14.95 from retail outlets, is not available in translation, and no attempt has been made to simplify or modify the text for English readers. It is written for Frenchmen and you'll be buying it either as a coffee-table showpiece (it is rather pretty) or as the best available guide to French caves. It contains many photographs and simplified surveys of nearly all the 91 caves described (some systems appear more than once within the text, eg. Reseau de la Dent de Crolles at nos. 91 and 96) but it is far from perfect as a guide. Some examples from caving 'by the book' follow (utilising Minvielle's system enumeration):

15, Grotte des Claris: a straightforward muddy cave. If, at Salle de la Decouverte, you're driven to continue to the end by the thought of those excellent formations photographed by P.M., forget it. The photos are flattering.

54. Riviere Souterrain de Bramabiau: everyone goes here and it isn't especially good. The climbing (AD grade) at Pas du Diable merely avoids a 10ft swim across a pot. It isn't necessary to "climb 4m on the right wall and then jump across 2m to the left wall" as P.M. asserts. No tackle is needed.

75. Event de Rognes: this is a good description but carrying a boat as advised will probably turn it into an epic and needlessly difficult undertaking.

80. Event de Peyrejal: this is a seriously misleading description. P.M. lists no tackle for the trip whereas entry by the man-made shaft involves climbs of 10ft then 40ft down to head of definite pitch of 40ft followed by a further drop which, having run out of ladder, I did not attempt. No doubt one could jump down ! I did not attempt it. It is not a free-climb by normal standards and the French certainly use tackle as pitches have bolt-belay holes. The option is the original entrance, a 100ft dive!

81. Goule de Foussoubie: carrying an inflatable boat adds needless delay in this superb cavern which is accurately (but incompletely) described.

84. Grotte de Chauveroché: this seems to be an accurate description. The inflatable boat is, oddly, worth consideration in this cold system.

91/96 Crolles: The tackle as described in Le Guiers Mort is not exactly correct although a good climber determined to get out after one of the through trips would probably manage somehow. This 3-dimensional complex of large phreatic passages is hard to describe, and P.M. must be excused some inexactitude. The photographed climb on page 219, 'en aval de la Coupe de Noël' is, however, the initial climb on the RH wall of Salle del l'Escalade (a free climb on the right of the ladder in the photo has a peg runner and is not too hard).

Note: For photographers, the shot on page 207 is also a bit of a con. The lighting is such that the 15ft sloping cascade appears to be quite a steep 25-30ft climb, whereas the climber is practically standing on the floor! Very clever!

R.G. Lewis

THE FRANK FROST JOURNAL PRIZE

Jim Hanwell and Phil Hendy scanned the last year's Journals recently in order to decide who should win the prize for the best article. For his contributions on caving in France, and the cave systems of Portland, the winner was clearly Nigel Graham, and the £10 prize was awarded at the Club Dinner, together with our congratulations. The award is possible thanks to a donation from Frank Frost which has been invested for this purpose.

AMENDMENTS TO JOURNAL 189

p. 202, diagram - The Docking Station. This should have included a footnote as follows: "Facility of adding a 3A meter in circuit is shown. It requires a 2 gang 5-position switch wired so that only the metered circuit is broken."

p. 203, Circuit for Ammeter in 5-way Transformer. The note should read: "C is a piece of shafting to mount wafers around B (not shown in diagram). (Make before break system, therefore no sparking.)"

Also, no prizes for guessing that p. 199 was missing the title at the top: MENDIP NEWS.

Apologies for these omissions. Ed.

FROM THE LOG

2nd May 1981 Swildon's Hole, Black Hole P. & A. Moody, Tony Jennings, Chris Wood, Jim Rands. The Shepton had to clear away the bang debris last week, and they reported they could see open passage. They would have gone through but Chris got caught in the face by a boulder and was bleeding rather profusely. It took us only a few minutes to clear the way and Chris squeezed through a very unstable hole and climbed up a pot into a large collapse chamber 20ft wide and up to 10ft high, sloping up steeply for 50ft to where the boulders met the roof again. Ways on could be seen through the boulders at the top but clearing them was too dangerous as the whole pile was threatening to avalanche into the pot we had come up. We decided to concentrate on making a safer route in over to the right of the choke where we could get a light connection with the passage below. A large boulder blocking the way through was banged out of the way.

9th May Longwood, Swallet P. & A Moody. Put a 3lb charge on the squeeze above the sump. Had a look at the MCG dig in the oxbows on the way out. They are going up through boulders in the choked rift at the end. There appears to be little draught but one can peer through a gap in the rocks into a big black space.

23rd May Swildon's Hole, Black Hole P. Moody, Chris Wood & Tony Jennings. The Shepton had engineered a safe route up into the chamber at the 2nd Boulder Choke last week. We took down three more lengths of scaffold to complete the blocking up of the old route which was then backfilled from above. Digging in on the top left hand side of the chamber, a way was found for 8ft following the roof to where a large slab blocked the way - one could see round it to more boulders extending upward. The slab was banged.

23rd May Swildon's Hole, Shatter Chamber A. Moody, Mark Faulkner + 1, (SMCC). The aim was to attack the boulder roof of the 20ft chimney in the roof of the right hand side of the chamber. After ½ hour of Russian roulette Mark engineered a squeeze up through the boulders into 'open passage' at which point his light fell to pieces. The open passage proved to be a small chamber with a choked inlet passage coming in. A few boulders were removed and open passage could be seen a few feet further on. A crowbar or bang will be needed.

24th May Swildon's Hole, Fault Chamber P. & A Moody, B. Woodward, J. Ingram. The intention was to dig the final choke in Fault Chamber Extension, but at the top of the climbs, Jane, a beginner, wasn't up to going on, so Brian and Alison went to look at the dig while I rigged a new rope on the pitches. The dig turned out to be flooded 1ft deep. Alison went to pull few boulders from the hole at Fault Chamber Junction. Within 10 minutes an open passage could be seen; another 10 minutes and we were in. A low wide bedding plane sloped, down steeply 15ft to a pot. Some acrobatics were then needed as Alison had gone down head first. The pot was rather slippery at the top and looked deep, so we sent the ladder down. It was some 50ft deep, the top 30ft in a rift but the bottom 15ft free where the pitch dropped, into a large cross passage. Downstream the passage led quickly to a big mud choke. Upstream the way divided - the left passage choked, the right passage we didn't get into being at the top of a slippery little overhang.

25th May Swildon's Hole, Fault Chamber Pot P. & A. Moody, Tony Jennings, Mark Faulkner, Dave ?, Mike ? (all SMCC) Nick & Jackie. Collected equipment on the way from Sidcot Passage and Shatter. The downstream choke was flooded but the right hand inlet was pushed to a couple of short choke, which we dug through although nothing of any significant length was found. Some considerable difficulty was experienced climbing back down. The extension was surveyed to BCRA Grade 5. It heads west towards Watergate which cannot be more than 50ft away at approximately the same level.

6th June Swildon's Hole, Watergate P. & A. Moody, B. Woodward, Liz Price, Alan Taylor. Abortive trip to try and dive through the upstream sumps. The cave was very wet and the first duck into the extension sumped, this took nearly an hour to bail. At the end both Brian and I dived but neither of us could get through the sump I passed without trouble in January. We shall just going to have to wait for the summer.

13th June Swildon's Hole R. Websell, P. & A. Moody. Checked out Wright's Dig in P.R. A 10ft pot leads to two chokes, the upper one is mud choked but looks quite good, the lower one, although more open, is too tight. Both draught.

14th June Swildon's Hole P. Moody & P. Dunk. Showed Phil the lower Fault Chamber dig and then banged the passage found by Rich and Alison yesterday.

4th July Swildon's Hole P. & A. Moody, P. Dunk. Put in an hour's work at the lower Fault Chamber dig. It had dried out quite well but as we progressed water started to flow back in from the far side. Checked the Greasy Chimney on the way out. The second bang had been successful and a short tight passage led to a narrow cross rift 10ft long and. about 40ft high, but with no way on. Had a short dig at the passage on the Shatter side of Greasy Chimney - its a sand choke with an airspace over the top.

2nd July Seven Star Crag Cave near Zhaoqui Guanzhou, across the Pearl River, Southern China. Guides from the Peoples Republic took us to this fine limestone site, paddled us about for three or four minutes in a boat and told us that's it. I took a lot of photos but there wasn't a lot to Photo.

P. Weston

18th July Swildon's Hole, Sidcot Dig P. & A. Moody, D. Clark, T. Jennings & A. Taylor. First digging stint of '81 trying to reopen the way to Renascence. A reasonable start was made, uncovering the arch and opening out the base of the U. Broke four new buckets.

26th July Swildon's Hole - Sidcot Dig P. & A. Moody, G. Bolt, A. Taylor, C. Johnson, I. Almesby. Second digging session. Although there had been some heavy storms during the week the dig was still dry and good progress was made. About 12ft made.

27th July Swildon's Hole, Sidcot Dig Roughly the same team as yesterday. The air proved to be still bad. About 60 buckets removed, we must now be very close to the pot going up into Renascence

26th July Alveston Dig P. Weston, A. Clark. Bangin' and diggin'.

30th July Alveston Dig P. Weston, S. Nicholson. Still going down!

4th August Swildon's Hole – O.C.L's 70th Birthday Party The Wessex was well represented in the Old Grotto. Sherry and cake as promised. Wine, champagne, sparklers, camera team from BBC Points West. 40 or 50 people plus, of course, OCL (and a dog) The Grotto looked very pretty, lit up by candles, and so did most of those present. Press varied from wetsuits to evening dresses and dinner jackets. Great fun, must go to the next party in 1991.

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POSTSCRIPT

I cannot complete this last issue of my term of office without thanking all those of you who have helped in so many ways - not least by keeping me well supplied with material. I am sure that the new incumbent, Al Keen, will find the job just as enjoyable. Perhaps now I will be able to find the time to contribute a few caving articles of my own.

Phil Hendy

WESSEX CAVE CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st AUGUST 1981

<u>1980</u>		<u>1981</u>
£		£
INCOME		
1,357	Subscriptions for the club year	1,299
25	Affiliation fees	36
38	Donations	40
17	Permit fees	77
-	Surplus on Club Dinner	53
<hr/>		
1,437	Total income	1,505
EXPENDITURE		
134	Tackle expenditure (Note 1)	287
507	Journal costs - seven issues (1980 - four)	1,060
216	Third party insurance	234
108	Stationery, postages and telephone	176
40	Subscriptions paid (Note 2)	23
41	Library costs	63
38	Deficit on Club Dinner	-
7	Sundry expenses	14
-	Wreaths etc - P.W.Frost & B.Dors	38
<hr/>		
1,091	Total expenditure	1,895
346	(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BROUGHT DOWN	(390)
67	SURPLUS ON RUNNING UPPER PITTS (Note 3)	182
(67)	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON GOODS SUPPLIED TO MEMBERS	198
<hr/>		
£ 346	SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR CARRIED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	£ (10)

The notes attached form part of these accounts

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST 1981 - ACCUMULATED FUNDS

<u>1980</u>		<u>1981</u>	
£		£	£
10	SHARE IN SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS CO.LTD		10
262	TACKLE (Note 1)		347
<hr/>			
576	CURRENT ASSETS		
50	Sundry stocks (Note 4)	569	
124	Loan to Southern Caving Clubs Co. Ltd	50	
1,592	Debtors and payments in advance	303	
	Cash at bank and at Building Society	1,550	
		<hr/>	
2,442		2,777	
<hr/>			
84	Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		
300	Subscriptions received in advance	121	
	Sundry creditors	722	
		<hr/>	
384		843	
2,058	NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,934
<hr/>			
£ 2,336	NET ASSETS		£ 1,934
<hr/>			
Representing:-			
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
2,057	Balance at 1st September 1980	2,336	
315	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(10)	
		<hr/>	
2,403		2,326	
67	Less: Proposed transfer to the Hut Fund for approval by the 1981 A.G.M.	162	
		<hr/>	
2,336		2,164	
<hr/>			
-	JOURNAL AWARD FUND		
-	Donations up to 31st August 1981	110	
-	Interest received to 31st August 1981	17	
-	Award made - P.Moody	(10)	
		<hr/>	
-		117	
<hr/>			
£ 2,336		£ 2,092	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST 1981 (continued) - HUT FUND

1980		1981	
£		£	£
	HUT FUND ASSETS		
5,010	Freehold land and buildings - Upper Pitts Net cost at 31st August 1981		5,010
109	Hut Fund investments		
435	Stock of Swildons books in hand	286	
	Cash at bank and at Building Society	984	
			1,270
<u>£ 5,855</u>			<u>£ 6,280</u>

Representing:-

HUT FUND			
5,696	Balance at 1st September 1980		5,855
39	Add: Building Society Interest		66
53	Surplus on sale of Swildons books		177
67	Proposed transfer from Accumulated Funds		182
<u>£ 5,855</u>			<u>£ 6,280</u>

The notes attached form part of these accounts

I have prepared the attached Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheets from the books and records of the Wessex Cave Club. No stock take was carried out of the Goods for Resale at the 31st August 1981 and the figure included in the accounts is based on the result of a stock take carried out on 10th October 1981. Subject to this in my opinion, and to the best of my knowledge, these accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Club's affairs at 31st August 1981 and of the surpluses and deficits for the year ended on that date.

16th October 1981
Leek Wootton
Warwickshire

T.E.REYNOLDS F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant

WESSEX CAVE CLUB SURVEY FUND

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 1981

1980		1981	
£		£	£
17	Sales		45
72	Less: Cost of sales		
12	Stock at 1st September 1980	71	
	Survey purchases and costs	34	
		<u>105</u>	
84	Stock at 31st August 1981	71	
71			34
13			
<u>£ 4</u>			<u>£ 9</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST 1981

Assets			
71	Stock of surveys at cost		71
121	Cash at bank		57
<u>£ 192</u>			<u>£ 168</u>
Representing:-			
Accumulated Funds			
188	Balance at 1st September 1980		192
4	Profit for the year		3
-	Purchase of survey tape		(33)
<u>£ 192</u>			<u>£ 168</u>

The Survey Fund was set up in 1962 for the purpose of making cave surveys more readily available, to prevent them from becoming lost and to sell them at as low a price as reasonable. The surplus on this fund is to help finance the holding of a stock of surveys, to buy surveying equipment and to help the production of surveys in other ways. The survey fund is operated under a joint arrangement with the Bristol Exploration Club, Mendip Caving Group and Shepton Caving Club.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st AUGUST 1981

1. TACKLE

	<u>1981</u> £	<u>1980</u> £
Balance brought forward	268	-
Expenditure in year	366	402
Charged to Income and Expenditure Account	(287)	(134)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward	£ 347	£ 268

Major expenditure on tackle is being written off over three years.

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID

During the course of the Club Year the Wessex Cave Club has paid subscriptions to other caving organisations as follows:-

	<u>1981</u> £	<u>1980</u> £
British Cave Research Association	10	9
Cambrian Caving Council	8	-
Council of Northern Caving Clubs	-	2
Council of Southern Caving Clubs	-	8
Charterhouse Caving Committee	5	15
Southern Caving Clubs Co. Ltd	-	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 23	£ 40

3. SURPLUS ON RUNNING UPPER PITTS

	<u>1981</u> £	<u>1980</u> £
Hut Fees received in year	1,736	1,328
Less: Expenditure - rates	297	251
- insurance	216	214
- electricity	165	106
- propane gas	79	70
- central heating - fuel	415	400
- repairs	180	-
- repairs etc - locks etc	54	-
- tiles	-	52
- drive	40	-
- sundry	39	58
- cleaning materials	69	53
- cesspit costs	-	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,554	1,261
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus on running Upper Pitts	£ 182	£ 67

The figure for hut fees received is based on cash actually received in the Club Year and does not include any amounts that were owing to the Club at 31st August 1981. The income from the electricity and shower meters has been set against the expenditure on electricity and the central heating system respectively.

4. SUNDRY STOCKS

	<u>1981</u> £	<u>1980</u> £
Goods for resale	250	253
Upper Pitts stocks - fuel oil etc	120	217
Journal covers, envelopes and stationery	129	136
Building materials	70	68
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 569	£ 676

5. CASH AT BANK AND AT BUILDING SOCIETY

The total figure for cash at bank at at Building Society at 31st August 1981 shown in the Balance Sheet amounts to £2,834 and is made up as follows:-

	£
Bristol & West Building Society - main account	808
- award account	167
Midland Bank Ltd	1,863
Cash floats	12
	<hr/>
	£ 2,834

6. CLUB EQUIPMENT

At 31st August 1981 the Club owned the following items of equipment which were not represented on the Balance Sheet at that date:-

Roneo duplicator, hut furniture and equipment, Roneo addressograph, arc welding equipment

All of these items were written off to the Income and Expenditure Account in the year in which they were purchased.

7. MEMBERSHIP

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>
Membership at at 31st August - full	213	217
- joint	28	31
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	245	250
- honorary	11	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	257	274