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## CLUB OFFICERS

Chairman	Philip Hendy, 10 Silver St., Wells, Somerset
Secretary	Bob Drake, Axeover House, Yarley, Nr. Wells, Somerset
Asst. Secretary	Judith Vanderplank, 51 Cambridge Road, Clevedon, Avon
Caving Secretary	Jeff Price, 18 Hurston Road, Inns Court, Bristol, Avon
Asst. Caving Sec. (Northern caves only)	Keith Sanderson, 11 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham, via Lancaster
Treasurer	Jerry (Fred) Felstead, 47 Columbine Road, Wydmer End, High Wycombe, Bucks.
Gear Curator	Dave Morrison, 1 Kenwood Park Flats, Hampstead Lane, LON W4
HQ Warden	Glyn Bolt, 4 The Retreat, Foxcote, Radstock, Avon
HQ Administration	- post vacant
Editor	Al Keen, 43 Garden Close, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 5ND
Sales Officer	Ian Jepson, c/o Upper Pitts
Survey Sales	Maurice Hewins,
Librarians	Pete & Alison Moody
Hut Bookings	Adrian Vanderplank
Committee (other)	Julie Wooton, Barry Davies

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Wessex Cave Club, Upper Pitts, Eastwater Lane  
Priddy, Nr. WELLS, Somerset

## EDITORIAL

### SAY 'NO!' TO NATIONALISATION

No, not a Tory election slogan, read on... Last March, at the AGM of the NCA, it was agreed by majority vote that a certain establishment in the North become recognised by the NCA as 'The National Cave Training Centre'. The motion was put by Whernside, and in supporting its case they asserted that they were already, de facto, just such. It says that in 1975 it 'had established a role as the only specialist cave training centre in Britain'. True, it does provide opportunity for hands-on experience of equipment and techniques, but there is already admitted evidence that unfounded prejudices exist, and anyway, who would really want to use a left-hand Spong descender. In a large club, the arguments that go on (and on !) about gear and techniques leave the caver in no doubt that it is very much a personal thing.

To quote further, 'The Centre does not encourage those without a definite interest to go caving. It offers the opportunity for those who are interested enough .... provides sound and comprehensive training ... and then directs them to appropriate caving clubs'. Fair enough, but those same clubs may provide sound training and experience, again on a try-it-and-see basis.

The whole case is not presented here, suffice it to say that an establishment that assumes such a prestigious title is going to be very closely watched by all those little local caving centres.

## CLUB NEWS

1983 AGM & DINNER This will be held on October 15th. The dinner will probably be at the Cliff Hotel in Cheddar again, following last year's success.

COMMITTEE POSTS The club is still short of a hut administration officer. The job involves overseeing the general running and maintenance of Upper Pitts. Also an assistant Hut Warden is required.

TELEPHONE A payphone has been installed at Upper Pitts. The number is WELLS 72310

NEW MEMBERS The Club welcomes the following new members:  
Colin Blake 5 Melrose Ave., WELLS, Somerset  
Paul Whybro 80a Brook Lane, Galley, CHELMSFORD, Essex CM2 8NN

AGEN ALLWEDD The Club now has its own key to Aggy, for use by members. When planning a trip, the minimum party size is four people, and no carbide is to be used. Contact the secretary or caving secretary for details.

## MENDIP NEWS

TYNING'S BARROW The water from this cave has been traced by the BEC to Cheddar Rising - time: 55 hrs!

WEATHER WARNING As can be seen from the recent GB rescue, no cave can be considered 'safe' in wet weather. If you have travelled a fair distance to go caving, it is very tempting to say 'sod it' and take the risk. A common sense rule, however, is to check about local weather and to take local advice if you are unsure. **YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO FOLLOW THIS SIMPLE RULE: IGNORE IT AT YOUR PERIL !** (Source: CSCC)

## DIARY DATES

June 3   Yorks - Birk's Fell Cave  
Oct 15   AGM & DINNER  
Nov 19   Yorks - Magnetometer Pot

# THE METALIFFEROUS MINES OF DEVON

P.R. Cousins

The following article was written sometime between 1965 and 1970 as an introduction to a survey of the mines of Devon being prepared by members of Devon S.S. and Exeter University S.S. Although nearly completed, the survey was never published, and a draft is all that remains in the author's possession. Whilst the information is now fifteen years out of date, it does provide an overview of an area that has intermittently been visited by cavers from Mendip. The draft has been written, but not updated for publication here.

## AREA AND SCOPE OF STUDY.

Mining has taken place all over the West Country counties of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset; with a wide variety of metallic and other minerals proving commercially extractable at various periods in history. This study concentrated on an area comprising approximately 350 sq. miles of Devon, bounded by the B3212 Exeter to Princetown road as far as Warren House Inn, and the A38 Exeter to Plymouth road as far as Buckfastleigh.

Geologically, this area includes part of the main Granite Massif, the surrounding metamorphic Aureole, and unaltered Culm measures of Carboniferous age. The reefs of Devonian Limestone lie mostly outside the study area, but several basaltic or doleritic dykes of Permian age (The Exeter Volcanic Serie Series) do abut onto the granite within the area.

The relief of the area is often quite sharp, with deeply incised valleys of the Teign, Bovey, and Dart rivers running from the granite to coastal Torbay. These valleys and their tributaries cut many mineral veins and provided ample water for the associated crushing and washing operations, evidence of which is still widespread throughout the area.

With the exception of the Teign Valley lead lodes, all mineral veins in the area show a predominantly SW/NE trend, veering to W/E in places. Many of the worked veins are not shown on the geological survey one-inch maps of the area, although their course may be traced on the ground by lines of workings. Perhaps this omission will be rectified as the area is resurveyed.

The main reference for the study was H G Dine's 'The Metalliferous Mining Region of South West England', (HMSO 1965). However, it is apparent that far too little field work was carried out during the compilation of this book, as many sites are omitted, poorly described, or grossly misplaced. Regrettably, the series of Mining History books by Hamiton Jenkin has not been extended to this area of Devon, although the author was able to assist us with information on several sites.

For descriptive purposes, the study area has been divide into four sections, each with clear mineral and geographical boundaries. Some isolated mines have been collected together at the end.

## 1 DARTMOOR TIN

The extensive swarm of lodes near the Warren House Inn are now represented on the surface by a maze of open works. The underground workings were shallow - app. 40 fms - and all the adits appear to have silted up, but there is one section of the Golden Dagger Mine on which the ground has given way to such an extent that the upper levels are exposed. Further down the valley the foundations of rotary dressing tables are clearly visible.

On the opposite side of Birch Tor lies East Vitifer Mine. Here, an old reservoir fed water into an underground leat, and lower down the valley an open adit was found - but blocked some way in. A large shaft on the hillside above appeared dangerous to descend, and would have been left so but for the need to

rescue two sheep! The operation was carried out at about sixty feet down a near vertical slope of gravelly material where the sheep concerned were standing on a large beam thirty feet above the adit floor. Although this adit may be open beyond the shaft, the generally crumbly nature of the granite (Greisen?) in this area does not hold much prospect for cavers.

## 2 DART VALLEY COPPER

A broad band running roughly NW up the Dart Valley from Buckfastleigh and Ashburton contains literally dozens of small workings mainly yielding copper, but including tin and arsenic bearing lodes at Owlacombe and a small tin mine near Haytor. Two of the largest mines in Eastern Dartmoor fall into this section: Brookwood and Owlacombe. The former is rarely visited since the owner does not welcome strangers. It is, however, known that working ceased about 1885, most shafts being sunk on the underlie. In contrast, Owlacombe, which was worked until 1912, has mainly vertical shafts, Teagues shaft being a notable exception. Unfortunately the deads stacked above the adit are now in a dangerous condition, making descent inadvisable. Mainshaft (Stormsdown) is blocked above adit level, and most of the lower shafts are flooded since the adit tail is now submerged.

At Druid's Mine near Ashburton, only the picturesque remains of tips and Engine house are left, together with a rare, elliptical wheel pit. Another wheel pit can be seen at Wallaford near Buckfastleigh. Although known locally as 'Tin Mines', Buckfastleigh and Dean Prior mine was actually worked for copper. Only one shaft remains - 140 ft deep - but with the pump rod still in place, surrounded by rubble from the shaft collar.

The trend of the lodes in this area is predominantly NE/SW, with little apparent order. Tin was raised at Owlacombe, Bagtor and Atlas, but the area as a whole is scattered with small copper lodes, none of which traverse the Granite boundary. Many of the mines are little more than trials, but interestingly both the Boro' wood and Goodstone adits are approximately on the line of rich lodes on the opposite side of their respective hills at Druid's Mine and Owlacombe. A small mine in Kingswood near Buckfastleigh is also notable, it was briefly worked for pitchblende, the ore of uranium, and a sample is now even on display in the Geological Museum!

## 3 TEIGN VALLEY LEAD

It is presumably a coincidence that much of the lead ore in Great Britain occurs in Carboniferous limestone districts, for example Mendip and Derbyshire, but the formerly important deposits of the Teign Valley are no exception as the new Culm measures are also of Carboniferous age. The metals lead, silver and zinc occur together as sulphides, and the veins are surrounded by gangue minerals to form a wide lode. The gangue minerals, for example calcite, fluor spar and barytes can also occur in economic concentrations and were often extracted in the valley. Bridford Barytes Mine finally closed in 1958, and is now completely sealed. Most mines in the group produced two grades of lead ore, with differing concentrations of silver. In places, zinc was also prominent, and historically some fluor spar was sold.

The vast dumps of these mines, - Bridford, Exmouth, Frankmills etc. - will remain as scars for a few generations yet, but curiously, in the whole group only two shafts remain open. An airshaft at Frankmills has been used to dispose of dead sheep, and the engine shaft at Aller may also be open, but the owner is hostile! Neither on these, nor anywhere else in the valley, were any open adits located. Some decaying engine houses remain, including a stack at Birch Mine in very good repair.

## 4 MICACEOUS HEAMATITE

There are more workings for micaceous hematite open than for any other mineral in Devon. Many mines were closed after or shortly before the 1939/45 war; the last at Great Rock was actively worked until 1970! This finely divided form of iron ore is used to make a paint with exceptionally good adhesive properties, providing protection on exterior steelwork for many years. Miners at Great Rock were pleased

to tell visitors that paint made from their ore was used on Sydney Harbour Bridge, although such paints are apparently not used in this country. The ore from Devon was of a very high grade, but other producers - Austria and South America? - have now captured the market. All the workings were in granite, and owing to a convenient geography of NW/SE valleys between Christow and North Bovey almost all workings were drives on the lodes. The general method of working was by adit levels with overhead stoping. Only in Great Rock have workings below adit been tried, and a lower adit was being driven through the hill in 1968. A micaeous hematite lode was also found during the construction of Femworthy Reservoir, this was excavated to a depth of 82 ft where its width was 6-8 ft, and finally sealed off with steel piling and concrete grout. This lode is far north of any other worked occurrence, and may indicate a much wider zone of mineralisation than the workings would suggest.

Kelly mine in the Bovey valley was worked until 1935, and old stamps, a water turbine and early diesel engine were still in place here after 1970. Further south at Shaptor, the German company working the mine in 1914 is reputed to have abandoned the mine overnight, leaving all their equipment in place! Certainly another 'portable' diesel was used by the farm until auctioned off in the mid 1960s.

## 5 MISCELLANEOUS AND ISOLATED MINES

Several isolated and apparently unconnected minerals occur in the region, and of these the iron ore at Haytor has always been a source of geological controversy since the three beds are interbedded comfortably with the country rock as if they were sedimentary deposits. The mine is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (geological). Nearby is Silverbrook, a lead/zinc mine of which only the tips and ruined engine house remain. The lode is quite unconnected with the Teign Valley lode four miles away to the north-east.

Outside the study area there were many iron mines in the Torbay district including one on Sharkham Point now disappearing beneath a refuse tip. Further south are diffuse deposits of tungsten ore which periodically attract interest. The mine at Hemerdon on South Dartmoor was refitted in 1939 in preparation for wartime shortages, but was never actually worked - future activity is more likely to be opencast working.

The mining activities of West Devon have always overshadowed those of Eastern Dartmoor and North Devon, but in many ways the latter have more variety of interest and should not be neglected by industrial historians.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Just to prove that the old dog is not dead, The Sidcot School Speleological Society has commenced digging in the further reaches of Read's Cavern, Burrington, and we formally request visitors to the area not to interfere with our activities. We shall keep the Wessex informed on any progress.

Paul Morris,  
Chairman, S.S.S.S.

## CAVING WITH THE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD

As the RAOC Bomb Disposal Squad Transit pulled up at The Hunter's Lodge, Al Mills peered over his pint and muttered, "I don't panic like that when one of my charges doesn't go off!" He need not have worried - they were only dropping in for a quick pint after successfully completing an unusual morning's work.

Lynne started it all by suggesting we did a bit of grotting at Burrington, maybe finding a small potential dig site. Foxes Hole was suggested, so off we went, poking our noses into every nook and cranny, and deciding that the cave was devoid of easily dug chokes. Except, that is, for a boulder filled alcove just inside the entrance on the right. We started to pull boulders out to get a better view, when Lynne gave a startled cry. I immediately thought of the more unpleasant things that can be found under stones, but was not prepared for the sight that greeted me as I glanced under the boulder pile that Lynne had just demolished. It was a rotting hessian bag full of misshapen brown sticks. Closer examination showed them to be eight-ounce sticks of 51% Du Pont Gelignite. There were at least sixteen of them, all sweating gently.

Perspiring gently ourselves, we left the cave and returned to Upper Pitts. After a few 'phone calls, we arranged with Brian Prewer to meet the Police and Bomb Disposal people the following morning. As can be imagined, the sight of the Bomb Disposal Squad at Burrington caused no little stir among the grockles who were enjoying a drive in the Winter sun. The team of officers and NCOs were from Tidworth with a senior officer from Hereford and an RAF officer observing. Two policemen from Weston completed the scene; Lynne and myself were joined by Brian and Stephen Prewer.

After confirming that the find was in fact gelignite (the beads of glycerine 'sweat' taste of bitter almonds and give you a headache!) the haul was photographed and packed into sawdust-filled boxes, total of twelve pound of gelignite, estimated to be around ten years old and in an unstable condition, was recovered. The police then had the dubious honour of taking it up onto Blackdown in their land rover, while the rest of us walked a long way behind. The explosive was then detonated, using a fresh charge and electric detonator. It made a satisfying bang in view of its age and condition.

Speculation on the source of the gelignite is centred on the assumption that it was stolen from a quarry, hidden, and never recovered. Du Pont is not a common brand, and the type and quantity make it unlikely that a caver was involved. What is amazing, however, is that the cache was not found before.

It was not very well hidden, and was only just inside a cave which is not exactly off the beaten track for cavers or public alike. If it had been found by children, the consequences could have been quite unpleasant.

Further to this unusual occurrence, a police informer tells me that, apparently, incidents involving explosives should be dealt with by divisional, not local, officers. To keep the record straight, later that week a team of officers from divisional police HQ, complete with bang-sniffer dog, descended on Burrington. They failed to find any more explosives, but the dog had a whale of a time chasing rabbits!

Phil Hendy

### THOUGHT

Glue-sniffing is for kids. Men inhale bang fumes.

## DOWN IN THE MINE

Phil Hendy

Visits by cavers to working coal mines are not common, so a small number of Wessex members jumped at the chance to tour the Wyndham Colliery at Nantymoel in South Wales last November. John Hogan, who works down the pit (and drinks with John Jones) was persuaded to lead the trip, and so it came to pass that at nine o'clock on a frosty Saturday morning we were standing shivering in a howling gale inside a brick shed built over the one-thousand foot Western shaft. The party comprised of John and Liz Jones, Al Keen, Dave and Diane Walker, Lynne and myself.

The Western shaft lies about half a mile North-West of the main Wyndham Shaft and the colliery buildings. It was sunk by the Western Ocean Company over a hundred years ago, at the rate a one yard a day. The draft at the pithead is caused by the huge fan which ventilates the whole pit. As a result, it is a very cold and drafty mine, with very dusty air, so we soon looked like nigger minstrels with large white rolling eyes. Our small party fitted easily into the lower half of a two-tier cage. With a clang the safety bars were pulled back, and the smooth descent started. Less than a minute later, we were walking out into the 'main road', a thousand feet below the ice-spangled grass of the Welsh valley floor.

I suspect that if you've seen one coal mine, you've seen them all! Suffice it to say that we walked a long way through monotonous tunnels, sometimes stumbling over tram sleepers on the uneven floor and sometimes squeezing past conveyors. None of the machinery was working, as the weekends are left for maintenance. The main shape of the passage was semicircular, about eight feet high and fourteen feet wide. Arches of RSJ were set every yard (metres in the newer sections!) and the spaces between them were boarded to stop friable rock, under immense pressure, from cracking off into the passageway. The pressure could easily be imagined; boards everywhere were cracked and split and in places the floor was being pushed up as the rock below reacted to the weight that had been taken from it. We were told that new roadways were reduced from eight to three feet in height in just a couple of months. Fortunately, once the pressure has been relieved, the passage can be re-worked to usable dimensions.

The most important part of the pit, of course, is the coal face. At Wyndham, there is an advancing face, about 150 yards long and four feet high. It is eight feet wide, and huge cantilevered hydraulic props support the roof along its entire length. They can be 'walked' forward as necessary, and the roof is allowed to collapse behind them, only maintaining access at each end via a supply and a hauling road. The cutter moves from end to end along a tensioned chain, spewing coal onto a steel conveyor. This in turn takes it to the haulage road, thence via another conveyor to the lines of waiting trams. The coal is very brittle, making it ideal for crushing and burning in power stations. It is also very dusty, and when working, the cutter is shrouded with canvas and sprayed with water. This reduces, but cannot eliminate, the dust.

Fire and explosions are a constant hazard, and the coal dust is mixed with stone dust to make it relatively inert. Even so, the NCB bans the use of matches, flash guns, and electronic watches underground. Surprisingly, steel toe-capped boots are allowed!

Wyndham Colliery is threatened with closure in 1983 unless more coal can be found which can be worked economically. John Hogan showed us the trial heading being driven to find a known fault, to see how the coal lies beyond it. A large boring machine is being used to cut a tunnel, and the roof is shored with RSJs behind the face. Because of the great speed with which the machine cuts through the coal, the dust is reduced by forced ventilation, and hosing the whole area with water. Shifts of miners work 24 hours a day, five days a week, chilled by the blast of air from the ventilator. They certainly earn the £120 bonus on top of the flat rate!

After what seemed like an age, we found ourselves at the foot of the Wyndham shaft, and soon we were enjoying hot showers in the pithead baths. Except, that is, for the ladies - the miners would not allow them into the bathhouse, so they washed off in Liz's bathroom. Memories of the rest of the weekend were

a little hazy, but I seem to remember we spent a lot of time in the Wyndham Arms, thanking John Hogan with various libations, and toasting him with others!

## FROM THE LOG

30 May 82 Barbondale (Yorks.) Pete & Alison, Chris and Annie. Did what we think is the first trip from Crystal Cave into Monsoon Chamber, Dog holes. Having not read the description of the route out through a series called 'The Jungle', we lost much time looking in the wrong place and were eventually forced to go back out via Crystal Cave. P.M.

12 June Swildon's Hole G Bolt, G Wright, I Jepson, J Wootton to Whitefire Passage to re-commence work at Good Stuff Dig, in the hope (much chance) of it being easier and nicer than Vicarage. Removed 35 buckets spoil, indulged in some minor hydrodynamics and exited. 5hrs. I.J.

5 June - 20 Nov Swildon's - Sidcot Dig/Renascence. Many trips, as follows: Blasted the sump passage and dug from the other side of the U-tube. This did the trick, Forty feet of descending passage led to a free-climbable pitch and a large cross passage, which was explored upstream for about 250ft to an aven. Downstream the way choked but a couple of routes above led to large inlets blocked by stal. After shuttering and digging out the entrance to Renascence, the terminal aven was climbed with bolts by Tim Large (BEC) to where it staled up. Banged the Black Gour Passage. Alison pushed a passage by the breakthrough for 50ft. A passage by the Wallow was hammered into. Stripping of boiler suits and boots, a nice chamber 50ft x 20ft was entered. At the far end, a very low, decorated bedding passage was pushed into a grotto. Before leaving a route was taped into the chamber.

A desperate squeeze near the end passage was forced into bigger passage and an inclined squeeze across a rift. Beyond, we were in a much larger passage leading up to another big aven. A 7ft climb gave access to a phreatic tube which spiralled around the back of the aven but became too tight.

After surveying to the top aven, the side passages were investigated, a flowstone squeeze was pushed into about 20ft of decorated passage choked or staled at the end. The bang on Black Gour Passage had worked but the way on is still very tight and probably not worth pushing further. Mark Madder succeeded with a fine 40ft climb to about 150' of passage.

The syphon tube from Damascus was taken into Renascence to empty a sump which had been dived previously into the new series. Meanwhile, the downstream choke was pushed to its too-tight end. On the next trip, the Sidcot U-tube had sumped, but it is an easy free dive. Another side passage was pushed and banged. P.M.

4 July Swildon's Hole J Wootton, G Bolt, G Wright, I Jepson, A Keen to Abandon Hope and Vicarage Passage respectively to whistle and shout at each other. Aural contact proved difficult to achieve, although flooding the dig in Abandon Hope caused a response in the Vicarage dig some ten minutes later. However, the point of connection remains elusive, 4hrs. I.J.

28 July Hunter's Hole Jim Rands, Al Mills. My first trip down this cave. On having a good look round I noticed a hole in the roof with some boulders wedged in it. I got through it on my second attempt after removing my kit. Found approx. 35ft of passage that was draughting, quite large, with three passages going off. All got tight and need digging. Al saw a passage that could be seen to go on for about 15ft but needs banging. 22 Aug; Jim Rands, Dave Clark. A quick survey of last month's find - total passage 70ft 6ins. Two ways on seen but needs work. J.R.

29 Aug Hesp Alyn, North Wales P Moody, A Moody, A Lavender, C Milne, P Dunk, D Cavealan, Bob Mahew (SMCC), A1 Taylor, Fumpa and Chris Johnstone. The object of the trip was to dive the terminal sump previously dived by Tony Jarrett. The large party was needed as this fairly long and strenuous trip requires 225ft of ladder as well as the diving gear. The sump turned out to "be quite large and clear and an airspace was reached after only 30ft, with a maximum depth of 8ft. Pete Moody came through after, and we explored approx 750ft of large, walking passage ending in several large clear sumps. These were not dived on this trip so a return has been planned for October. 7hrs. C.M.

12 Sep. Longwood-August Mike Wise, Paul Whybro. Supposed to be a tourist trip, but when we arrived at the end of the stream way, in very low water conditions, we found the normally sumped choke to be dryish and open. Digging out mounds of small boulders enabled us to get in about 6-7ft to a junction. The water sank through a small hole on the right 3-4ft wide, beyond which it could be seen to open up to about 8-9ft. To the left, a small dry passage about 8" high led off over smelly mud and boulders. Fifteen minutes of digging out gravel from the wet hole only caused it to block up, partially at first and then after some more digging, blocked completely and water started to back up everywhere, forcing a quick retreat back out. While sitting in the stream way watching the water level rise and cursing a bit, we noticed a loud rumbling noise. The water was seen to be sinking through our piled up spoil into the left hand passage. The hole on the right was still solidly choked so we dug out all the mud and rocks and dumped them in the pool. Eventually progressed about 20ft along a narrowing passage, gravel floored, curving around to the right at the end. About 2ft beyond our furthest point the water went round a sharp right-hand bend out of sight. Chiselling some flakes off the right hand wall and/or digging out more gravel and rocks could enable the bend to be reached at least.

P.S. The stream now roars off down this route a treat, so it might prevent the stream from backing up in wet weather.

## HANWELL

### ~~BEAR~~ THE HORRIBLE

with apologies to: ~~BY~~ DI



# RULES OF THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB

As at November 1982

- 1 That the Club shall be called, the Wessex Cave Club.
- 2 That the objects of the Club shall be to promote the sport and science of caving by:-
  - a) Initiating newcomers into the best tradition of the game.
  - b) Gating caves that are likely to become despoiled.
  - c) Publications.
  - d) Organising gatherings to explore or excavate.
  - e) Arranging for members to visit caves in districts other than their own.
  - f) Erecting and maintaining huts where Members can stay while cave-hunting.
  - g) Maintaining gear for the use by Members.
  - h) Maintaining for the use by Members a library of books, literature and maps.
- 3 That the club shall consist of Honorary Members and Ordinary Members who may be of either sex.
- 4 That the President, Vice President and Honorary Members shall be entitled to exercise all the privileges of the Ordinary Members, including rights to stand for office and for the committee, and all voting rights. The President and Vice-Presidents shall retire annually and be eligible for re-election.
- 5 That the affairs of the club shall be conducted by a Committee, which shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Gear Curator, Assistant Secretary, Caving Secretary, Editor, H.Q. Warden, H.Q. Administration Officer, and three other members who shall retire annually and be eligible for re-election. These posts are honorary and must be filled by full members of the Club. The Committee shall fill any casual vacancies. The Committee may appoint any member of the Club whether they be a Committee member or not to carry out any duties that the Committee consider necessary. The Honorary Secretary of any properly constituted group within the Club shall be eligible to attend a Committee Meeting in an ex-officio capacity, and may nominate a substitute to attend any meeting which he can not attend personally. An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed each year at the Annual General Meeting.
- 6 Any member standing for election to office or for membership of the Committee must be nominated by two members of the Club. The election of the Committee shall normally be by ballot and ballot papers must be returned by the start of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for officers and for membership of the Committee shall be received one month before the A.G.M. and ballot papers shall be sent out at least two weeks before the meeting. Any unfilled post may be filled by nomination and voting at the A.G.M. The end of the Club year shall coincide with the date of the Annual General Meeting. The A.G.M. and the Annual Dinner shall normally be held on the third Saturday in October.
- 7 That any person desiring to join the Club must be nominated by two members and elected by the Committee. No applicant for full or joint membership shall be accepted for membership of the Club until he or she has attained the age of sixteen years. Minor members must resubmit an application form, accepting the Club Rules, on attaining the age of eighteen years. All members of an affiliated club who are under the age of majority must obtain the permission of his or parent or guardian who will be required to sign a special form supplied by the Club. Adult members of an affiliated club must sign a form accepting the provisions of Rule 10. No caving club or society shall be accepted as an affiliated member of the Club unless the parent organisation has agreed to provide a suitable indemnity to cover the Club and its members.

8 That the subscriptions for the coming year be decided by motion at the Annual General Meeting, and shall become due at the end of the Meeting. Any member whose subscription has become more than one month overdue shall be named in the next Journal, and if within one month the subscription has not been paid, the members name shall be removed from the list of members, and notice to this effect shall be sent to the member.

The subscription of a member joining near the end of the financial year may be deemed at the discretion of the Committee to cover the subscription for the following year. Married couples may become joint members and shall enjoy all the amenities of the Club except that they shall receive one copy of each Journal issued, and one vote only. A membership card shall be issued to any member.

Any member of a substantial number of years standing, on reaching state pensionable age, and who has ceased active caving may apply to pay a reduced subscription; the amount of which will be decided each year by the Committee.

9 Charges for the use of Club facilities shall be regulated by the Committee.

10 That every person, whether a member of the Club, member of an affiliated club or non-member, making use of the services of a guide or guides, or taking part in any activity or expedition organised by the Club, or in which any member of the Club shall take part, shall do so at his or her own risk, and that he or she, or his or her legal personal representative or assigns or dependents shall have no claim or right of action against the Club, or any member thereof in respect of any damage, loss or injury (including death) sustained by whomsoever and howsoever caused notwithstanding any negligence of the guide or any members, or the body of members of the Club.

11 That an extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time by the Honorary Secretary when required to do so by the Committee, or in writing by ten members of the Club. Two weeks notice must in all cases be given. Such a meeting may not pass a resolution, but by a simple majority of those present may draw up a resolution to be voted on by postal ballot within one month by the members of the Club.

12 That members using the Club Headquarters shall leave it in a tidy and clean condition.

Any member or his guest(s) wishing to stay at the Wessex Cave Club Upper Pitts HQ may do so for no more than 14 days in any 28 days, unless engaged in a recognised research project connected with speleology and then only with the express permission of the Committee who will set the fees for that period at a fair rate.

The Committee and the Trustees shall be empowered to expel from the Club any member who is in breach of these conditions.

13 That no alteration shall be made to these rules except at an AGM or by special resolution passed at an EGM called at the request of the Committee. Alterations in subscriptions rates shall be effective from the date of the meeting at which they are passed.

14 Any person, or affiliated club whose membership is deemed to be undesirable by the Committee may have membership suspended by the Committee until, and not longer than the next AGM at which the member or affiliated club concerned shall have opportunity of being heard. A three-quarters majority of the members present at the AGM may expel such members or affiliated clubs.

15 That the Committee shall have the right to refuse the use of Club possessions to members, or affiliated clubs, when they consider it desirable in the interest either of the Club or the member or affiliated club concerned, but the member or affiliated club concerned shall have the right of appeal to the Committee against this decision.

16 That caving clubs or societies attached to educational establishments for minors or youth organisations may become affiliated to the Club on the approval of the Committee and subject to the inclusion in the rules of the club to be affiliated certain rules as approved by the members of the Wessex Cave Club and compliance with regulations as laid down from time to time by the Committee of the Wessex Cave Club for the time being. The subscription shall be one quarter of the subscription of an Ordinary Member of the Wessex Cave Club for each member of the affiliated club. Each affiliated club shall have one vote and receive one copy of each Journal and other Club communications.

NOTE: The concession given by this rule is normally intended for minors under 13 who are not wage earners and who are still pupils at the educational establishments concerned or active members of the affiliated youth organisations. Adults attached to an affiliated club will normally be expected to join as full members.

17 That members of affiliated bodies may become Ordinary Members of the Club when their application has been approved by the Committee and the Annual Subscription has been paid.

18 That notices of motions for discussion at the Annual General Meeting shall be received by the Honorary Secretary not more than two weeks after posting notices of the meeting. Such notices of motions must have the names of the proposers, and be circulated to the members at least seven days prior to the meeting.

19 That at each AGM, the Club shall decide on the sum of money that is to be placed for that year in the Hut Sinking Fund. This fund is to be used only for major repairs, extensions, additions to or replacements of the Club Huts. The administration of the fund is in the hands of the Committee.

20 No part of the Club's funds shall at any time be distributed by gift, division or bonus in money, to or between any of its members. On dissolution, surplus funds shall be applied in or towards the advancement of science in the fields of Speleology, Archaeology, or Geology, or any of them.

1. 21 There shall be four Trustees of the Club. The first Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee and the freehold, leasehold, shares and other property of the Club shall be vested in them to be dealt with as the Committee shall by time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property. The Trustees shall hold office until death, or resignation, or until removed from office by a resolution of a general meeting of members who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting remove any Trustee or Trustees, from the office of Trustee, If by reason of any such death, resignation or removal it shall appear necessary to the Committee that a new Trustee, or Trustees, should be appointed or if the Committee shall deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or Trustees the Committee shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nominations the President is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 and he shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Club and the provisions of the Trustees Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any deed of appointment shall be in favour of a person dealing bona-fide and for value with the Club, or the Committee be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.

## Rules relating to Affiliated Clubs

- 1 All members of affiliated clubs must comply with:-
  - a) Rule 16 and other rules of Wessex so far as they apply to affiliated clubs.
  - b) The Hut regulations and the orders of the Hut Warden and Assistant Hut Warden
  - c) The orders of the Gear Curator when using Wessex tackle.
  - d) Such sundry regulations or decisions that the Committee may make from time to time.
- 2 Members of affiliated clubs do not become, and must not represent themselves as, members of Wessex
- 3 Each affiliated club shall produce to the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of Wessex a copy of its rules on request.
- 4 Each affiliated club shall send to the Assistant Secretary of Wessex in November each year a list of members of the affiliated club, giving names, addresses and ages, and the same particulars of any new members within one month of election shall be advised to the Assistant Secretary of Wessex.
- 5 Each affiliated club may have use of Wessex tackle, and Wessex Club accommodation only by advance application to the Hut Warden. No guests of affiliated club members will be allowed these facilities.
- 6 Each affiliated club shall receive one copy of each Journal and other Club communications (see Rule 16). But affiliated clubs may make advance annual orders for additional Journals at a price to be agreed at the time.
- 7 Members of affiliated clubs shall receive, as far as possible, the same access arrangements to controlled caves as full members of Wessex.