

CONTENTS

Editorial / News / Notices		59
Letter to the Editor	Paul Weston	61
CAVING IN NORTH NORDLAND (Norway)	Geoff Newton	62
THE UNTAMED RIVER EXPEDITION	Steve Gough	66
Access Restrictions at Whitewalls, Llangattwg.	Arthur Millett (CSS)	69
MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION, Reports for 1984	Jim Hanwell	71
Brendon Hills – an addendum (Iron Mines)	T. Charles Bryant	78
From The Log		79
N.C.A. Training Committee Report (C.S.C.C. Report) and Editorial Comment		81
Back Page: HQ Duty Warden roster / Yorkshire Meets List / Riddle		

NEXT EDITION:

Mendip Hills Local Plan Consultation Document (held over)
British Cave Research Council Conference

CLUB OFFICERS

Chairman	Phil Hendy, 10 Silver Street, Wells, Somerset BA5 1UN.
Treasurer	Dianne Walker, 90 Chelynych, Doulling, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.
Secretary	Bob Drake, Axeover House, Yarley, Nr. Wells, Somerset.
Asst. Secretary	Julie Bolt, 4 The Retreat, Foxcote, Radstock, Avon.
HQ Administration	Glyn Bolt, 4 The Retreat, Foxcote, Radstock, Avon.
Caving Secretary	Jeff Price, 18 Hurston Road, Inns Court, Bristol BS4 1SU.
Asst. Caving Sec. (Northern caves only)	Keith Sanderson, 11 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham, via Lancaster.
Gear Curator	Dave Morrison, 2 Westholm, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11.
HQ Bookings	Mike Dewdney-York, 59 Kennington Ave., Bishopston, Bristol
Sales Officer	Pete Hann, 3 Queens Terrace, Sherborne, Dorset.
Editor	Nigel Graham, 60 Williams Avenue, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9BP (Tel. 0305-789770)
Committee	Jerry (Fred) Felstead.
Librarians	Pete & Alison Moody.
Survey Sales	Maurice Hewins, 31 Badshot Lea, Badshot Park, Farnham, Surrey.

Opinions expressed in this Journal are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Wessex Cave Club as a whole, unless otherwise stated.

(c) Wessex Cave Club 1985

Wessex Cave Club Headquarters:

Upper Pitts, Eastwater Lane, Priddy, Nr. WELLS, Somerset BA5 3AX
Telephone Wells (0749) 72310

EDITORIAL

I do not propose to write much here: I have, instead, added an Editorial to the C.N.C.C. Report on the N.C.A. Training Committee Report later in this Journal.

There may not appear to be a great deal of Regional News, but that is by no means a reflection of activity, underground and on the surface. By the time you read this, the British Cave Rescue Council Conference will have taken place, and I hope to report on this in the next edition. The Club will be well represented on the B.E.C. Gouffre Berger Expedition, and another group are planning to go to Eire this Bummer, while here on Mendip the various digging teams are as indefatigable as ever... and with success, for the M.C.G. most recently.

H. CARLETON ATTWOOD

After a turn for the worse, Atty was taken to hospital, where he passed away peacefully in late April.

The cremation took place on May 3rd.

The Wessex Cave Club expresses its condolences to his sister.

CLUB NEWS

MARRIAGES.

The wedding of Tony Jarrett and Jane Thomas took place on April 27, and Keith Fielder and Rosella Morgan were married on May 4th.

Best Wishes to both couples from the Wessex Cave Club.

The HOWARD KENNEY DIARY has been published, in hardback at £24.00 and soft binding at £17.00. Copies will be numbered.

The Upper Pitts DOOR LOCKS will be changed on August 31st 1985. New keys will be available at £5.00 each.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Club welcomes the following new members:

Richard Acton. The Wheatsheaf, 42 Mount Pellon, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX2 OEE.
Duncan Michael Frew. 6 The Greenway, Wickford, Essex SS1 7NU.
Andrew David Summerskill. 10 Joseph Avenue, Northowram, Halifax, West Yorkshire.

REGIONAL NOTES

MENDIP

BLACKMOOR FLOOD SWALLET has rewarded the Mendip Caving Group with some 500ft of well-decorated streamway, the formations including some fine straw collections.

SOUTH WALES

A dig in the Eglwys Passage area of DAREN CILAU gave Chelsea Speleological Society a major breakthrough: reaching a massive choke shortly beyond, then passing this by a 65ft aven climb followed by a 70ft pitch entered a huge, bouldery passage taking the entrance series stream to a sump about 1300ft from the Agen Allwedd rising.

On the Clydach Gorge side of Mynydd Llangattwg, Blackrock Quarry had intercepted a small streamway. Early this year, one of the remnants of this, OGOF RHAADR DDU, was extended, mainly by local cavers, to 1000ft of awkward streamway, including two avens, ending so far at a third aven. The stream flows from the entrance, across the quarry floor and sinks into Waterfall Cave, to resurge a short distance away near the Aggy rising.

And after visiting these? The Rock & Fountain Inn at Clydach has changed hands: cavers welcome.

THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB

Saturday 19th OCTOBER 1985

followed by
THE DINNER

The Committee invite suggestions from members regarding venue etc for this year's Annual Dinner, please make your views known to the Committee as soon as possible: to start things off, the following have already been expressed by various people:

Return to Cadbury Court Country Club: plush surroundings, good food, facilities such as the swimming pool available, live music.

Do not return to Cadbury Court Country Club: too large a place, so that the Club became fragmented all over the building, also a return would diminish the special nature of last year's Dinner.

Return to the Cliff Hotel, Cheddar, scene of 1982 and 1983 Dinners: good meal in good surroundings, not so large as to disperse the party but with a bar room sufficiently separated from the main room to be away from the music.

Find another venue: among places discussed last year were the restaurant/ballroom at the Royal Bath & West Showground and the Wessex Hotel at Street: the former was judged to be lacking in atmosphere, the latter possibly too small.

Do not find anywhere too far away (including Cadbury Court).

Let us have a change of menu, from roast beef.

Make sure the coach does not leave before the end of the evening, as it did last year.

BRISTOL EXPLORATION CLUB
GOLDEN JUDILEE CELEDRATIONS
At THE BELFRY Sat. June 22nd 1985 6pm.

The Main Event that evening will be a Race between Slave-drawn Chariots each carrying their Tribe's Brave and Heroic Champion over Cuthbert's Terrain for the Wessex Challenge Trophy. At the furthestmost point, he alone must Journey over a Far-off Sea (in Craft Supplied) whilst the Chariot is made ready for the never-to-be-forgotten Return.

Tickets £2.50. from

Brian Workman,
Meadow View,
Little London,
Oakhill,
Somerset BA3 5AU. (s.a.e. please)
Tel. (0749) 840815.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I was fettling one of those character-building Italian motor-cycles, the 'Ducati', so beloved of cognoscenti of speed, when my brother Garth telephoned to tell me, horror of horrors, that the historic entrance ladder of Lamb Lair had been removed "in the interests of safety", according to 'Descent'!

Since Garth and I are now into our forties, the thought of slithering down the entrance shaft without said iron ladder "in the interests of safety" didn't quite ring true.

As to a few missing rungs, the odd rattle and a decent bit of swaying, wasn't that all part of the charm of the thing? And didn't this alleged "fixed aid", well, it was almost growing there, ensure that older cavers could at least get to the winch platform to enjoy one of Mendip's most beautiful views?

Whoever's got the ladder should put it back, we'll pay for the bolts! Perhaps it's really just been taken away for chrome plating...?

What's next...?

Yours
Paul Weston

CAVING IN SOUTH NORDLAND

Geoff Newton

South Nordland is not a fashionable area for caving expeditions. Even the Norwegians largely ignore it. There is no local club, and cavers from abroad, or from Southern Norway, speed through South Nordland on their way North to Mo-i-Rana and beyond without so much as setting foot off the E6.

It is true that nobody will find Norway's deepest or longest caves in South Nordland, however it is still possible to visit the region with the guarantee of finding previously-unrecorded caves. Trevor Faulkner has been doing this now for several years and his small expeditions almost invariably come back with a healthy total of previously-unrecorded cave passage. I was present on the last two occasions, in 1982 and 1984, when we found more cave than any other British expedition in Norway that year (and in 1984, more than most other British expeditions in Europe).

The limestone in South Nordland is found as countless long, thin bands of steeply (often vertically) bedded marble. Contrary to popular opinion, vertically-bedded limestone can encourage cave formation, and the caves can in fact look similar to those in horizontally-bedded limestone. The vertical profile passages are controlled by the bedding planes and the horizontal profile passages are controlled by the joints! Even very thin limestone bands can form caves. We have seen a sizeable river disappear into a band only a metre wide. It must, however, be admitted that limestone areas in South Nordland tend to be smaller than those farther North, so the ultimate potential of a cave system is likely to be less as a result. This seems to have put off everyone else from looking at all. Their loss has been our gain.

South Nordland has other advantages. Being further South you save a day's drive in each direction, and the road network is relatively good. A large proportion of sites may be reached from a roadside camp, saving a lot of arduous, time-consuming back-packing. The region is sufficiently well populated that the whereabouts of prominent cave entrances, sinks and resurgences may be determined by talking to local residents interested in hunting and fishing (in practice, almost everybody!). All these factors make it possible to find a lot of previously-unexplored cave in a short time.

To give an idea of what can be found, I have prepared a list of the chief caves found so far in the South Nordland area we have been most active in. The list excludes a host of minor sites and relatively unproductive areas we have visited, and only includes the major finds of other groups. These have chiefly been David Heap's expeditions and a steady, persistent contribution from the St. Pierres. The St. Pierres have also been active further West with many finds, fairly minor so far, in the Velfjord area, while David Heap's expeditions were to Hattfjelldal.

The locations of the caves described are shown on the area map.

1. OYFJELLGROTTA L. c. 1000m

South Nordland's best-known cave, situated only 4km from Mosjoen. The spacious upper and middle levels have always been known and are one of the local tourist attractions. The more sporting, active, lower series was discovered by Heap et al in 1967.

2. EITERAADALL L. 660m

A simple stream passage through-trip. A Faulkner / Wessex find, 1978.

3. SINJORDGROTTEN L. c. 1400m

An unusual cave with many sporting features and some large passages. The cave exhibits several stages of development and a complete exploration involves maypoling as well as laddering. A wet-suit is advisable. A Faulkner / Wessex find, in 1970.

4. MOLLEBEKKGROTTE L. c. 550m

A relatively complex, but shortish, cave. A SWETCCC find.

5. JEGERHULLET L. c. 650m

A really fine, sporting hole found by the 1984 expedition. The entrance series is a network of abandoned phreatic tubes intersected by a series of circular shafts. A fine streamway leads to a 25ft pitch (avoidable by the bold or laddered by the faint-hearted) into a large chamber. This gives access to decorated phreatic tubes and the lower streamway, which may be followed pleasantly almost to the resurgence. The cave offers innumerable different round-trips, some involving interesting exposed climbing and crawling.

6. ETASJERGROTTA L. 920+m

An extremely complex cave entered from a spectacular shake hole. The cave is largely a series of ascending and descending ramps and crawls, separating and merging to form a bewildering vertical maze. Two pleasantly sculpted streamways, a grand sump chamber and some fine climbable avens add variety.

This cave was probably the most important find of the 1964 expedition, and exploration is not yet complete.

7. KVANNLIHOLA L. 950m

This cave is basically a single large streamway entered from the resurgence. The first 245m is a straightforward walk to Sump One. The sump is free-diveable but first should be lined by an experienced free-diver (there is no line in at time of writing). The sump is one metre deep and 1.5 metres long to an airbell in chest-deep water. From the airbell an eyehole gives a glimpse of the passage beyond, but a further dive 0.5m down and 0.5m long is necessary to reach Kvannlihol Two. This should not be attempted in high water conditions when it becomes much longer on the upstream side and the airbell disappears.

Kvannlihol Two is built on the grand scale, appearing much longer than Kvannlihol One (the latter is probably partly filled with sediments). Kvannlihol Two is a very pleasant passage, well decorated by Norwegian standards, with attractive marble striping, some cascades and a canal leading to Sump Two. Sump Two has not been attempted as it appears a more serious proposition and is believed to be very near the sump in nearby Kvannlihol Sink Cave.

Kvannlihol Sink Cave and Kvannlihol Two were products of the 1982 expedition.

8. LILLEENGAASGROTTA L. 200m+

An exciting cave, packing a lot of variety and quality into a short length. Under normal conditions only about 200m can be reached from the sink before the way on becomes too low and aqueous. Another 100m or so can be entered from the resurgence and two intermediate entrances. A complete through-trip may be possible for thin people under extreme drought conditions, but it is unlikely to amount to more than 400m. A find of the 1984 expedition.

9. GRUBLANDSELVEGROTTE (NEDRE, MELLOM, STOR, OVRE)

Hattfjeldal contains more limestone than any other area of South Nordland, and the Grublandselvegrotten are the chief caves found to date. David Heap and his schools expeditions have been very active in Hattfjeldal, finding most of the caves explored to date in this area. Much more remains to be found, however.

The Grublandselvegrotten are all large stream caves made exciting by the large Grublandselve. Stor Grublandselvegrotta is the most difficult to locate, the most complex, and the longest of them: at around 2km, it is the longest in South Nordland.

Full descriptions may be found in Kendal Caving Club Journals.

10. JENDELVATN area

An area needing a long walk in, though there is a convenient but expensive fishing hut nearby. A number of pleasant stream caves were explored by the 1934 expedition, and the work has yet to be completed.

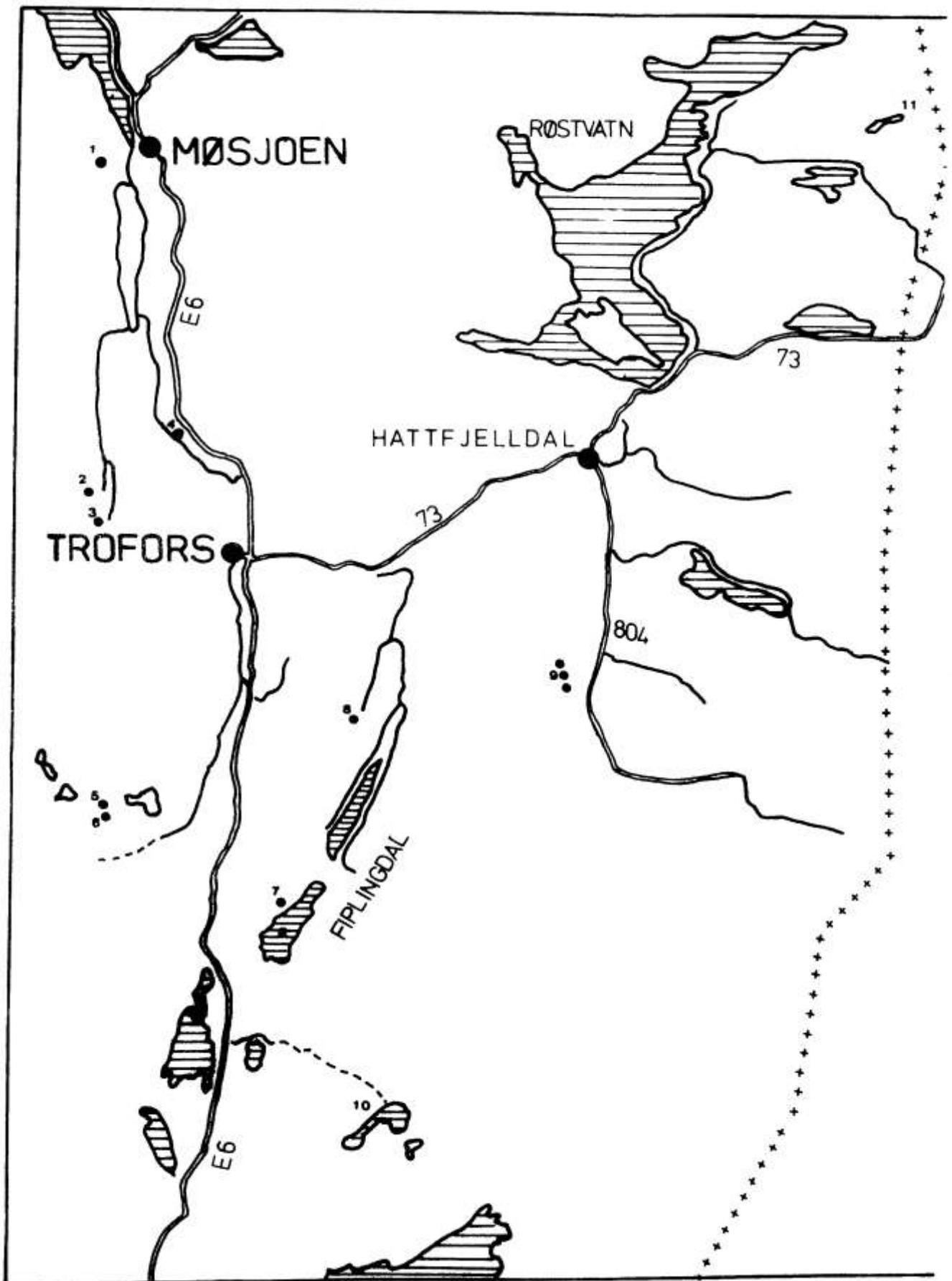
11. SKINFJELDALEN area

An area which offers more to the diver than to the ordinary caver. The river here has created many large entrances and even larger sump pools. Most passages are under water. The 1984 expedition found nothing longer than CAIRN CAVE, a spacious but depressing 300m long.

A return to South Nordland is planned for either 1985 or 1986, when we hope to continue to find more cave. There are sufficient unpushed leads to guarantee a lot more passage, and plenty of limestone yet to be prospected. Anyone interested in getting a piece of the action should, in the first instance, contact Trevor Faulkner or myself.

References.

- Faulkner T.L. (1980) "Sinjordgrotten and Other Caves in Eiteraadal, Norway" Trans. B.C.R.A. Vol. 10 No. 2 pp53-69.
- Faulkner T.L. et al (1983) "Kvannlihol 2 and Other Caves in Fiplingdal and Other Areas of Nordland, Norway" Cave Science: Trans. B.C.R.A. Vol. 10 No. 3 p117-
- Heap D. (1967) Kendal Caving Club Journal Vol. 3 1968 pp1-17
- Heap D. (1969) Kendal Caving Club Journal Vol. 4 1969 pp1-13
- St. Pierre S. & D. Cave Science: Trans. B.C.R.A. Vol. 7 No. 2 pp70-82.



The Untamed River Expedition

Leader: D.W. GILL

APPROVED BY THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY



Patron: The Rt. Hon. Lord Shackleton, KG, PC, OBE.

Steve Gough

"Though this be madness, yet there is method in't" HAMLET

The Expedition, planned for the Winter of 1984 / 85, was conceived during the Spring of 1983. The first real event of its organisation was the 17th June 1983 when Mike Boon, Tim Allen and myself did Lost John's. Boon, who at that stage was responsible for picking the team, recruited Dave Gill and Alan Gamble while I was in Greece that Summer. Almost immediately Dave took over as effective Expedition Leader. Boon returned to Canada, became ill, and gradually faded out. I, who had hoped to get invited as a bag carrier, found myself gradually promoted to the dizzy heights of Deputy Leader. My doubts that we would ever reach Papua New Guinea were not dispelled until the Summer of 1984. I just didn't care if I lost a little time and money.

In the Autumn of 1983, the Expedition faced the following logistical problems:-

1. THE TEAM

Basically we hadn't got one, although we tried not to think about it. Further, until January 1984 Mike Boon had, in theory, a veto on team selection which he was applying totally, i.e., only five of us were going. Of course, there are plenty of people who would like to be on, or, more often, would like to have been on, a trip of this kind. There are fewer who will commit three or four months of their time one year in advance, and risk substantial amounts of their own money on such a venture.

2. TRANSPORT OF PEOPLE

None of the members of the Untamed River Expedition was, or is, rich. Clearly the members of the Expedition had first of all to reach the cave which is inconveniently situated from this point of view. A flight to Singapore or Hong Kong first is necessary, followed by a further major lift to Port Moresby. On this last section, Air Niugini is the only possible carrier. Thereafter a flight to Rabaul, in New Britain, takes only an hour and a half, but costs K140 each way (K1 = 95p). Next a cheaper sea voyage, and, at worst, quite a lot of unpleasant but free walking would reach the entrance. We did not feel that we could ask members for more than £1500 each in total, which would hardly cover this journey. The figure arrived at by dividing Dave Gill's initial budget by the number of members realised a personal contribution required of £4500 each. Clearly, there was much work to do, or the number of applicants would be limited.

3. TRANSPORT OF EQUIPMENT

To my surprise, at least, it is possible to ship direct from Hull to Rabaul. The cost would be around £6000, and the voyage would take 77 days. No passengers may be carried.

4. BUREAUCRACY

Mike Boon originally believed that the organisation of the trip would eventually become a full-time job for one man. He was wrong about this. There was a vast amount of paperwork, and secretarial help would be required.

5. EQUIPMENT

The equipment list covered seven pages, excluding food. We had to take everything for at least three months, and I mean everything. There are no shops in the jungle. There are some in Rabaul, a mere three days' journey away, at best - and by air - but they are very, very expensive. A further problem here was that it was difficult to know what we actually needed. What sort of rope? How many saucepans? What sort of insect repellent? What sort of ear protection? What radios? What to sleep in? How much bog roll? etc...

6. TRAINING AND TECHNIQUES

We knew Naré was supposed to have a dry season flow of 20m³. How much is that? we wondered. If you're in North Wales, go and stand at Swallow Falls or the Serpent's Tail, and ask yourself, "How could I cross this here?" We didn't know...

7. FOOD

An immense problem. Papua New Guinea permits the importing of no dried meat products, or foods containing these, and no dairy products. Importing tinned meats requires extensive certification. Anyway, what do you need, and how much? The French in 1980 had remarked that no fresh produce was available.

8. PHOTOGRAPHY

On the surface, the great humidity of the rainforest was likely to make film vulnerable and camera electronics unreliable. If we were going to raise any sponsorship, we would need some good pictures. Underground photographs would be even more difficult, and no top-class photographer would commit himself to the trip. There was also the question of making a film.

9. ARRANGEMENTS ON THE GROUND

Accommodation was needed in transit in port Moresby and Rabaul for a brief period for the whole team, and for longer for the advance party. Maps of the area were unreliable and featured blank spaces marked simply "obscured by clouds". Above all, how would we move our gear within the country, how many surface camps would we need, and how would we deal with the natives? How would they deal with us?

All these problems were overcome, more or less, during the next year.
It went something like this:-

1 As the trip looked more likely to actually take place, and the expected cost got less, so it became easier to recruit people. At first we bypassed Boon's objections by inviting people to join a "surface party". Hence Mike needn't worry about them, because they weren't going down Naré. We hoped this would be O.K. When it became clear that we were doing the whole thing without Mike, we abandoned this fiction altogether, and ended up with a team of twelve. Eventually the trip cost £500 each, including food for three months and everything else too, except the air fare from Port Moresby to Rabaul. That was incredible, and we could never have invited people on that basis.

2 We hoped, by a careful and sustained approach to British Airways, to persuade them to give us a discount. They offered to fly us to Singapore free. Our joy was short-lived as we discovered that it costs more to book to Port Moresby from Singapore than it does from London! British Airways then agreed to pay for the whole flight, and even flew the advance party Club Class. My ticket would have cost £1830. At the other end, a lot of walking was saved by helicoptering around, of which more later.

3 We made a friend in Mr. C. Scott-Jackson of Kuehne & Nagel Ltd, wisely spending £95 on supper for him one night. This charming man arranged for Bank Line to ship a container to Rabaul and back free, and also dealt with the paperwork.

4 Dave Gill eventually gave up work, and I finished in July 1984, three months before departure. It was a full-time job for two men. I was still a frequent visitor to the school, however, as I needed to see the five pretty secretaries who had volunteered to deal with the Expedition's typing, photocopying, telephone answering and word-processing requirements for a year.

5 It is a mistake to suppose that an expedition of this kind simply snaps its fingers and everyone gives it gear. Publicity is essential, so we began with a carefully-produced press release which attracted the attention of the Guardian and the Sunday Express. The latter eventually paid £3000 for two features, while early coverage in the former produced further Press interest, including B.B.C. T-V and Radio. Above all, Mr. Ron Hall, Editor of the Sunday Express Magazine, wrote us a letter outlining his publication plans. This was posted to potential sponsors, along with a team sheet, a word-processed begging-letter, a photograph of the entrance to Naré, a copy of the French account of their attempt from 'Caving International', and so on. Each package (and we sent out hundreds) cost about £2 to produce. Gradually, the gear started to come in.

6 We did not, in the end, have much time for training, as when we were training we were usually taking pictures, and there is nowhere to practice anyway. Fortunately, Tim Allen spent a lot of time working on techniques. On our first trip down the river, Dave Gill and I both forgot how to tie the basic tightening knot used on tyroleans, so under-rehearsed we were.

7 Huge quantities of food were eventually obtained, including food for native porters, and equally-huge quantities of documentation accompanied it all. The biggest single cock-up was that owing to some miscalculation we had 150Kg too much sugar. Customs at the P.N.G. end, impressed no doubt by all the authorisations we produced, and the fact that we had been in the only national daily paper, gave us no difficulty. We managed to obtain some local vegetable. This was just as well, as the dried ones arrived too late to be shipped.

8 Rod Leach did a valuable and time-consuming job rounding-up photographic gear, and looking after it in the jungle. Electronic flashguns, in particular, gave endless problems. Many of the Expedition members took excellent photos, but I regret that the Wessex representative, who does not own a camera, took only one photograph, and that failed. To the relief of some of us, it was decided not to make a film. Sid Perou was keen to come and make it, but the proposed cost was so great, and the chances of success so doubtful, that no-one would back it financially.

9 Thanks to luck, and the fact that Lord Shackleton was the Patron of the Expedition, we were able to use a small helicopter to get us to Naré, or near it anyway. We had a Shore Base and an intermediate camp (two huts donated by natives) at Nutuve village. This could be reached in a long day from the coast, and in four hours from Base Camp. There was also an underground Advance Base linked by field telephone to Base Camp, and a very unreliable radio link from Base Camp to Shore Base.

In transit, accommodation was usually with expatriate families, as anything else is far too expensive.

Finally, maps were useless. In the New Britain rainforest, you can't see the sky, and you can't walk a compass bearing. The best way to get anywhere is to ask a native to take you.

H.W. Tilman, when asked "How do I get on an expedition?" is supposed to have replied, "Put on your boots and go", and to have held that any expedition which could not be planned on the back of an envelope was over-organised.

He is my hero.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS AT WHITEWALLS. LLANGATTOCK.

Arthur Millett
(Chelsea Speleological Society)

Following complaints from long-suffering residents on the Hillside, Llangattock, The National Parks Warden, Mr Ledbury, arranged for a meeting, held at Whitewalls on January 10th. All immediate members, excepting Mr. Barry, owner of the cottage just past the Sunday School, and a representative from the Sunday School, were present. The main item discussed was the ever-increasing level of vehicular traffic and consequent parking problems.

Mr. Ledbury ... stated that while a parking area was required, no-one wanted it next to their house. Several areas were looked at during his earlier visit in December and he had brought with him maps of his suggested proposals. During the evening many stories were told: visitors using the surrounding area as a public toilet, paddling in water storage tanks, mini-busses never giving way, naked cavers changing by the roadside, abuse from drivers to Mr. Barry's visitors who were parked on the tram-road. The last straw was last Summer when a party from a C.S.C.C. member club who failed to get a key for Whitewalls, despite the fact that keys were available, decided on their 2.30am Saturday arrival to go round waking up every household in order to obtain a key. I arrived home from my caving holiday abroad to very angry neighbours at White Walls.

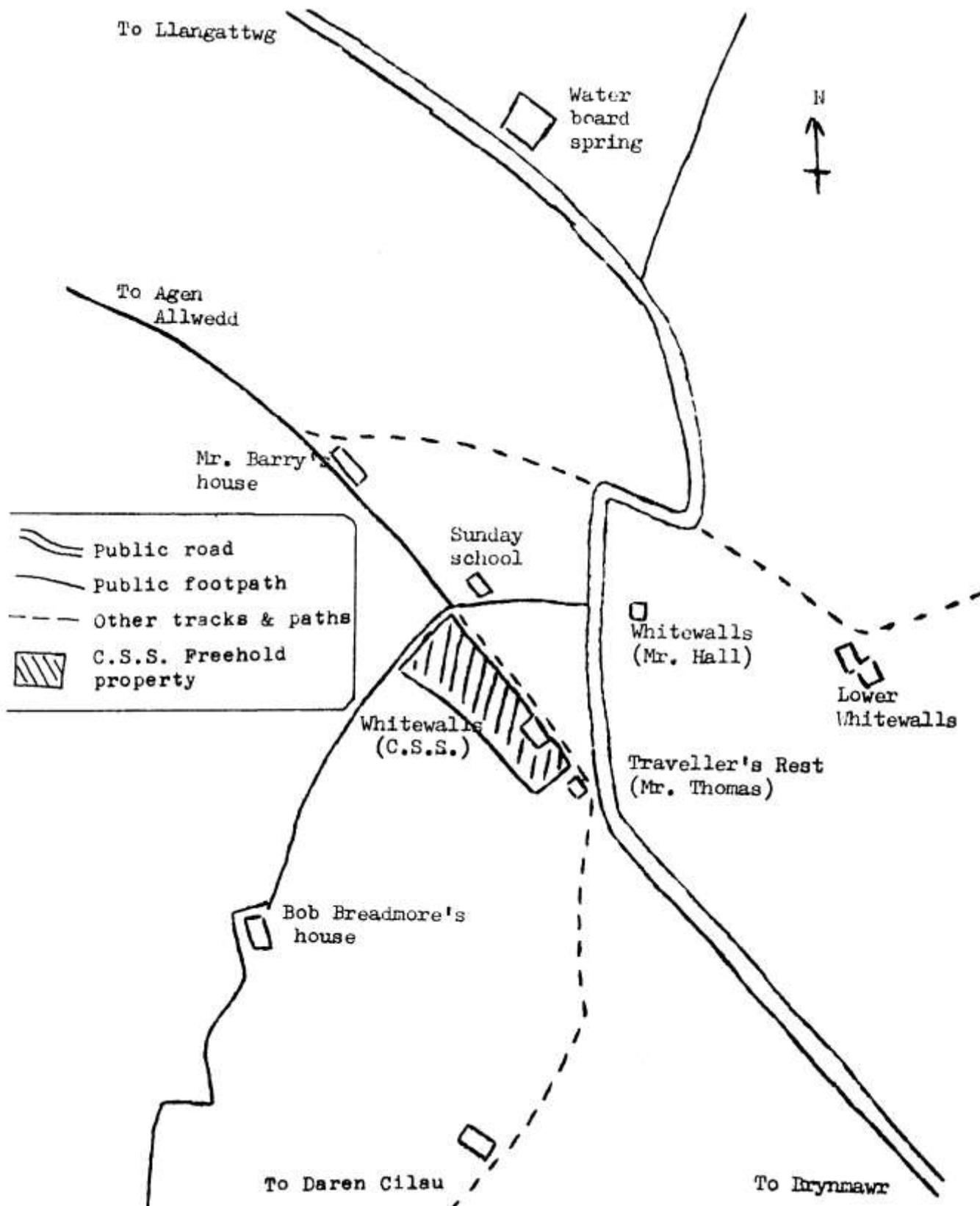
The residents are not against cavers, walkers or climbers but while most of us go home after a weekend, Monday is when all the Outward Bound/school/Adventure/Services groups start arriving. 52 weekends per year or inconvenience become days of non-stop traffic.

An outcome of the meeting is that the un-metalled tram road starting at Mr. Thomas' home (next to Whitewalls. Ed.), passing White Walls, the Sunday School and Mr Barry's house to the viewing spot, is a PRIVATE ROAD, giving access to the two houses and White Walls ONLY. The Sunday School has no access from this road, having a mere 1 metre freehold around the building. (See sketch map for details of public paths etc). A barrier and stile will be put across the tram-road by Mr. Barry's house, and a gate has been installed in front of Mr. Thomas' house.

ACCESS to WHITE WALLS will be by staying there as a Chelsea member or a booked-in visiting party. In emergency or cave rescue, then the gate will be opened. (All other visitors') parking will be on the side of the road past Mr. Thomas, going towards the sheep-dip.

Finally, the residents have asked me to inform all Clubs and visiting parties with mini-buses to use the alternative ways on to the escarpment other than the steep Hillside road, if at all possible.

SKETCH MAP OF IMMEDIATE AREA AROUND WHITEWALLS



This article is condensed from a more-detailed report published in Chelsea Speleological Society Newsletter Vol. 27 No. 5 February 1985, and submitted to this Journal by Bob Drake (for C.S.S.). C.S.S. have also sent copies to the Editors of "Caves & Caving", "Descent" and "Red Dragon".

MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION

REPORT by the Hon. SECRETARY and TREASURER for the YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1984.

Despite obvious increases in the numbers caving on Mendip, it is good to record a decline in call-outs this year; even better, that we have not been asked to help anyone injured underground. A novice caver did sustain a badly-broken ankle in Goatchurch Cavern last Summer, in fact, but experienced cavers on the spot helped him out and to hospital without calling out M.R.O. My accompanying log of incidents shows that several of the calls attended were really unnecessary and more attributable to thoughtlessness than anything else. Failure to leave satisfactory messages about trips may cause us to stand-by cavers and equipment exactly as for genuine accidents. Being prepared and getting ready aptly sum up 1984.

Dr. Oliver Lloyd has reported that the recue gear set up by us for visitors to County Clare, Ireland, many years ago is in good order. A novel and useful practical session in dealing with patients with bad fractures and injuries was made uncannily real by members of the local Casualty Union. We thank John Hill for this experience. Another stimulating occasion on First-Aid was run by Dr. Andrew Nash, one of our Medical Wardens.

We are grateful to the Chief Fire Officer for Somerset, Mr. Nigel Musselwhite, and his colleagues for many valuable and reassuring meetings during the year. A tour of flood-prone swallets took place in January and was followed by a joint exercise in the Spring at St. Cuthbert's Swallet. A simulated flood rescue was set up with help from the BEC and dealt with by fireman from Wells. In November we took several officers down Swildons Hole under high water conditions to see the other end of the problem, and visited the Cheddar Station with friends there to look over the brigade's new rescue vehicle. This will travel overland and is fitted with outlets to which our compressed-air tools can be connected via standard hoses. We are pleased to have been consulted over the provision of this facility on the vehicle.

In September, we demonstrated hauling techniques using SRT systems at public displays with the Police in Wells. The scaffolding erected by Fred Davies and several wardens was no less impressive. We also manned a pictorial display which describes what M.R.O. undertakes. This now has a professional impact as a result of much hard work by Jeni Sandercott with Helen Prewer and Philip Underwood. In fact, two versions were in use simultaneously at Wells and at the Mountain Rescue Committee National Conference in Exeter. The latter was organised by Rich West and Phil Romford whilst Jeff Price and Bob Drake kindly displayed the Kirby Morgan sump rescue equipment to interested people at the Conference.

The following accounts show a close balance between income and essential expenditure yet again. The former owes much to Brian Prewer's hiring of Nife cells, to Tim Large's initiative in setting up collection boxes and to Nigel Taylor's Christmas raffles at the Hunters' Lodge Inn. In other words, M.R.O. is doing a lot to generate funds as well as organise rescues. We do not intend to seek grants or go outside the caving community for funds; nor can we imagine Mendip caving getting into the sad situation indicated by the following Press report in the Daily Mail. It must not happen here!

Jim Hanwell.

Hon. Secretary & Treasurer.

50 Wells Road, Wookey Hole, Wells, Somerset, BA5 1BN

Potholer killed after strike by rescuers

Paris: A potholer died 200ft below ground yesterday after rescue workers went on strike.

Christian Peres, 35, died of exhaustion and cold only minutes after he was finally brought out from caves in the French Pyrenees.

Another potholer had raised the alarm but

volunteers delayed the rescue with a one-hour protest over expenses and Insurance.

They said that teams in 43 other districts in France had cash agreements with the authorities.

The dead potholer had spent six hours trapped in a flooded cavern.

Four others escaped unhurt

DAILY MAIL 2/4/84

MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1984

<u>1983</u>	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Donations:		
149	General appeal	100
123	From rescued parties	20
19	Interest on bank deposit account	19
158	Hire of M.R.O. Nife Cells	299
-	Contribution towards radio licence (Cheddar Cliff Rescue Team)	20
20	Contribution towards expenses for Electricity Council Conference	-
25	Wessex C.C. Barbecue	-
57	Raffles	53
-	Collection boxes	101
<u>551</u>		<u>612</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Equipment		
11	Training	-
-	K.M.B. 10 supplies	14
23	Radios	2
145	Lighting and Nife Cells	40
26	Other supplies	143
27	Medical supplies	15
60	Insurance of equipment	90
97	Postage, stationery, duplicating etc.	95
-	Display and Exhibition	78
65	Annual radio licence to department of Trade & Industry	65
5	S.W.E.R.A. levy	10
10	Donation – B.C.R.C.	-
56	Meeting expenses	27
10	Film hire	-
<u>535</u>		<u>579</u>
<u>£16</u>	Surplus for the period	<u>£33</u>

MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1984

<u>1983</u>		
£		£
	<u>Current assets</u>	
	Balance at bank	
300	Deposit account	300
251	Current account	281
<u>20</u>	Cash with Hon. Treasurer and Equipment Warden	<u>23</u>
<u>£571</u>		<u>£604</u>
	 <u>Representing</u>	
	 <u>Accumulated funds</u>	
555	Balance at January 1, 1984	571
<u>16</u>	Surplus for the period	<u>33</u>
<u>£571</u>		<u>£604</u>

J.D. Hanwell, Hon. Treasurer, 50 Wells Road, Wookey Hole.

I have reviewed the above accounts which have been prepared from the books and records of the Mendip Rescue Organisation. In my opinion, and to the best of my knowledge, these accounts give a true and fair view of the status the Organisation's funds as at December 31, 1984 and of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

R. Chant, A.C.A., F.T.I.I., Bali, Milton Lane, Wells.

February 8, 1985

MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION

CAVE RESCUES and INCIDENTS for the YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1984

The following cave rescue calls have been answered during the year. These do not include an alert for a possible cliff rescue incident in Cheddar Gorge on Sunday 8th April, for the Police themselves received the "all clear" before any rescue team was contacted. The figures in brackets to the right show the number of people going underground on rescues but do not include many more cavers who willingly stand by in case they are needed.

10th January	Swildon's Hole	?	Alert	-
15th July	Swildon's Hole	4	Overdue, lights failure	(4)
19th July	Fairy Cave Quarry	1	Alert	-
19th August	Swildon's Hole	6	Overdue, misunderstanding	(4)
25th October	Bleadon Hill caves	1	Missing person, suicide	(6)
3rd November	Swildon's Hole	1	Alert	-
5th December	Swildon's Hole	1	Exhaustion, unable to climb	(6)
8th December	Manor Farm Swallet	3	Alert	-
17th December	Swildon's Hole	1	Exhaustion, unable to climb	(11)

The nine call-outs led to only five occasions when it was necessary to go underground. Yet again it must be stressed that most calls involve cavers who fail to leave clear details of trips. This year we have recorded examples of misunderstood verbal messages through to the sheer thoughtless case of no information left locally. Accounts of each incident are given below.

Tuesday 10th January SWILDON'S HOLE

Pete Moody at Fountain Cottage reported that a car with caving kit had been parked on Priddy Green since the previous evening. He had seen the party going to Swildon's and clothes were still in the car. Brian requested the Police to trace the owner's name and stood by Tim Large and Phil Romford at 8.10 a.m. to form search parties. Meanwhile, Martin Bishop reported overhearing a conversation in the Hunters' Lodge Inn the previous night that someone had inadvertently locked the keys of his car in prior to going down the cave and intended to return the following day with spare keys left at home. This person turned out to be the owner of the car. It is a pity that a clearer message had not been given.

Sunday 15th July SWILDON'S HOLE

Four Scouts from Hertfordshire entered the cave at 3.00p.m. for a trip to Sump One. They hoped to be out by 6.45 p.m. and had left two people on the surface as a check. When they had not re-appeared by 8.30 p.m., one of the surface party raised the alarm. Brian Prewer got the call from Yeovil Police straight away. On reaching the informant at the Priddy Green call-box he discovered that the party only had a sketchy knowledge of the Upper Series. Soon afterwards, one of the cavers emerged to say that the remaining three were lost and lightless. He was now too tired to return and give assistance.

Tony Jarrett, Alison Moody and Dave Pike went down the cave at 8.55 p.m. and found the waiting trio in the Water Chamber. They had been unable to find their way out because there was no stream to follow!

Thursday 19th July FAIRY CAVE QUARRY

An enquiry was received from Yeovil Police concerning a parked car containing caving equipment at the Cerberus Spelaeological Society cottage. It had been there over a week and they had been unable to locate the owner at his home.

Sunday 19th August

SWILDON'S HOLE

Miss J. Edwards in Evesham contacted the Police at 11.10 a.m. because her brother, Paul, had not reported having completed a trip down a cave. She was under the impression that he had gone caving the previous evening and that she was to raise the alarm if he failed to phone back at 10.00 a.m. on the Sunday. Brian Prewer experienced frustrating delays in gaining more information about the party because Miss Edwards had gone to the local shop! It was eventually deduced that the cave was Swildons because of notes left at home which mentioned Blue Pencil and Double Trouble. Although also uncertain of her facts, Miss Edwards thought that there were four in the party, that they could be using carbide lamps and that they had travelled by train.

On making enquiries, cavers at the Belfry reported passing a group at about 10.00 p.m. the previous evening who had asked them if Sumps 2 and 3 were ducks.

Searches of local barns and campsites were undertaken whilst Tim Large and Stewart McManus formed a party to check Blue Pencil and Double Trouble. They entered the cave at mid-day and caught up a group of divers including Chris Batstone so that a check of the streamway to Swildons Six could be made.

Tony Jarrett and Brian Prewer established a surface control on Priddy Green. At about 1.00 p.m. Brian approached a group of cavers just out of the cave and asked them if they were from Evesham. They said not and had gone down the cave at 8.30 a.m. as far as Sump 2. After further questioning and an explanation of the incident, one of the party said that, just by coincidence, he lived in Evesham. His name was Paul Edwards and he had arranged to phone his sister at 10.00 p.m. on the Sunday! Moreover, they had passed Tim Large's search party and, when asked if they had been in the cave since the previous evening, they had replied that they had started their trip that morning. Tim learned about this after a fruitless Round Trip when he surfaced later in the afternoon. So ended a hot summer afternoon's saga bordering on farce.

The serious side to this incident is the source of the misunderstanding. More precise information must be given to local cavers rather than distant relatives with no knowledge of caving.

Thursday 25th October

BLEADON HILL CAVES

Weston-s-Mare Police called Brian Prewer at 8.55 a.m. They had been looking for a missing person whom had probably attempted suicide after abandoning a car on Bleadon Hill the previous day. This person regularly walked the area and knew it well, but was not a caver. A search of local caves and rock shelters was requested. Brian met Jim Hanwell and they called out a small search party with particular knowledge of the unfrequented caves on the hill. All met at the Police control by mid-day.

Chris Richards led a party with Chris Bradshaw and Greg Villis to check nearby Bleadon and Hutton cavers whilst Russell Clark guided Brian Prewer and Jim Hanwell to Canada Combe Rock Shelter and Tuckler's Cave. Nothing was found at these sites.

On reporting back to the control at 1.30 p.m., news was received that a body had been located by search dogs in thickets across the hilltop from where the car had been abandoned.

Saturday 3rd November

SWILDON'S HOLE

Alison Moody at Fountain Cottage reported that a car with clothes in had been on Priddy Green since about 1.00 a.m. so that those concerned must have been underground for at least ten hours. Brian went to check at about 11.00 a.m. and happened to meet P.C. Brice passing by. The car was quickly traced to an address in Brighton and the residents there were contacted by telephone. They explained that a Mr. Lush

from a local Scout group was on a sponsored sit-in for 30 hours in the cave and was not expected out until mid-day on 4th November. No-one appears to have been told on Mendip. Two search parties raised were then stood down. This easily-avoidable incident caused a great deal of trouble.

Wednesday 5th December SWILDON'S HOLE

Barry Warton took Karen Crouch to Sump 1 during the evening. She became tired on the return journey and could not climb the Twenty-Foot ladder. Warton was unable to assist her on his own, so she was made comfortable in a poly bag whilst he left the cave to summon help. A party comprising Tim Large, Trevor Hughes, Jeff Price, Al Mills, Bob Drake and Kevin Gannon went down the cave at 11.15 p.m. with hauling gear. Another party was stood by and the Police informed of the incident by Brian Prewer. A surface control was established with Dany Bradshaw on Priddy Green. All were safely out of the cave by 12.15 a.m., and Karen Crouch had been simply too exhausted by the relatively high water conditions.

Saturday 8th December MANOR FARM SWALLET

Brian Prewer was called by Mr. Mercan Jefferies because of his concern for the safety of a party of three whom he thought to have been underground for over five hours. It was now 1.40 a.m. He had also reported details of the car used to the Police at Yeovil. Brian requested the Police to contact the owner's home to see if anyone could help with further details. The wife of the caver concerned was then telephoned and she explained that her husband was a 'potholing instructor'. He had not left Bristol until after 11.00 p.m. and was not expected to report back until 3.00 a.m. with his friends. It appears that Mr. Jefferies mistook the time that the party went underground because it was very late at night. In fact, they surfaced on time at 2.58 a.m. and no further action was taken.

Monday 17th December SWILDON'S HOLE

A party from Cheltenham led by D. Gluck went down the cave at 1.00pm. They chose to use a knotted rope on the Twenty-Foot pitch in preference to a ladder! On the way back, Alan Pugh was unable to climb the rope and the rest of the party was too tired to haul him up. Gluck left the cave and called the Police from Soloman Combe Farm. Brian Prewer received details with Fred Davies at 7.25 p.m. They alerted a party of Frome Caving Club members already at Priddy, and Dany Bradshaw took charge of the hauling party. Tim Large established a surface control with Pete and Alison Moody whilst Fred Davies, Brian Workman and Brian Prewer stayed in touch in case needed. Once a ladder had been hung on the pitch, Alan Pugh was able to climb on a tight line. He had been dressed in a sleeveless wetsuit and sweatshirts despite a planned trip to Sump 2 and a not-so-planned look around St. Pauls where he had tried to dive the first sump mistaking it for the Mud Sump. His arms had become very cold and tired as a result.

We must go back to 1966 to exceed the half-dozen incidents in Swildon's Hole this year. Then the old Forty-Foot Pot was the bugbear, and now the Twenty-Foot pitch threatens to take the same role as the most frequented and under-estimated climb on Mendip. Congestion and near-misses there are reported all too often. One more example will suffice.

Novice parties figure increasingly among those descending the pitch, just for the experience and to have a look. Using other people's tackle in the absence of their own seems to have become an accepted ploy. I was amazed to hear of a large party of poorly-clad and equipped youngsters left wet and cold at the bottom of this pitch to have a look around while both 'leaders', in wet-suits of course; went to Sump 1.

Meanwhile, the party whose tackle had been used returned from Paradise Regained and helped the most distressed children up the ladder. One hesitates to think what might have happened had all the novices gone to the sump and returned to find the tackle removed.

I must also forego our customary restraint to be very critical of those involved in the unnecessary call-out on 3rd November. Quite apart from the questionable use of caves as suitable places for long sponsored sit-ins, it is unforgivable to lack the simple courtesy of seeking the approval of the owners and very thoughtless to presume that a parked car with clothes left inside would go unreported after a reasonable period of time had elapsed. Mr. Robin Main had every reason to be angered by this incident for it plays into the hands of those who argue for more control over caving on Mendip, especially at Priddy. It also draws M.R.O. into similar arguments better dealt with through the established clubs.

Times change, of course, and M.R.O. is aware that, as more and more caving is undertaken through schools, colleges, universities, Scouts, adventure groups and the like, the traditional influences of clubs and their representative bodies become proportionately less. Far more individuals now participate without even belonging to any of these organisations, but are beginning to figure in rescues. How can reports like this reach them at all, let alone the knowledge of how M.R.O. works? We would like to know.

As M.R.O. approaches the fiftieth anniversary of its pre-war foundation we may need to draw together the implications of the comments ending the previous two paragraphs. Presumably our founders had similar thoughts concerning the early growth of club-based caving on Mendip. Today, however, it is not just a matter of more of the same.

THE MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION

The Organisation was founded by local cavers before the Second World War as more visitors came to explore caves under Mendip. The older Mendip based clubs which formed at the same time continue as the mainstay of cave rescue work throughout the area. M.R.O. answers calls in Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire to cover all caves and stone mines. Underground incidents in Dorset and Gloucestershire may also be attended if required as are calls to assist neighbouring cave rescue teams.

The tradition that cavers must rely on themselves is fundamental to the self-help approach of M.R.O. The Wardens who run the Organisation are locally-resident cavers who have themselves contributed to cave exploration and the development of caving in many ways. They ensure that suitable equipment, rescue teams and call-out arrangements are always available when needed. Their work is voluntary and the Organisation is funded entirely by donations.

Links with the Police and other emergency organisations such as the Fire Service and Ambulance services are maintained. All may work together on some incidents. Throughout the country, cave rescue teams are coordinated with such services through the British Cave Rescue Council. Similar arrangements exist for walkers and climbers, and so all these activities are associated with the Mountain Rescue Committee nationally. A handbook is published annually by the M.R.C. called Mountain and Cave Rescue. This publication gives up-to-date lists of rescue teams and posts with useful notes on safety, First Aid, and the nature of incidents each year. Special sections are devoted to Caving Safety and Accidents in these handbooks. M.R.O. itself publishes detailed reports of every callout to the Mendip clubs each year.

M.R.O. can only answer calls officially on being requested by the police. This is a standard procedure throughout Britain and the 999 Emergency Call system through the Police is shared with cliff and mountain rescue teams. Since responding to the first official call in 1951, M.R.O. has dealt with 239 calls up to the end of 1984. Over this thirty-four years, 396 cavers in some sort of trouble underground have been helped. Many more could be added for the times that rescue teams stand-by for parties reported

overdue from trips. This record provides enough information upon which to identify the main causes of rescues as the result of FLOODS, FALLS, and FAILURES of either crucial equipment such as lights or of messages left about intentions on trips.

The best advice about weather conditions is from experienced cavers who know about local and prevailing stream flows in relation to forecasts from the nearest Weather Centre at Bristol. Written messages about trips are best left with knowledgeable people on Mendip rather than with friends elsewhere. Clear details about the cave to be visited and the routes to be followed are vital. So are realistic times of arrival back. People unfamiliar with caves and caving terms are easily confused by vague verbal reminders, especially when things appear to go wrong. Do not change basic plans and then neglect to amend messages left behind. Above all, be prepared to help yourself and fellow cavers in difficulty as much as possible. Remember that M.R.O. comprises of volunteers who are themselves cavers; they are not sitting around awaiting possible rescue calls, nor are they a substitute for self-help and good preparations.

In the event of an Emergency, go to the nearest telephone, DIAL 999, ASK FOR POLICE and then REQUEST THEM FOR CAVE RESCUE. Give exact information to the Police about all aspects of the incident, including your telephone number. STAY AT THE TELEPHONE UNTIL CALLED BY A M.R.O. WARDEN. Valuable time is saved when informants are able to talk directly to the Warden about what has happened.

Jim Hanwell
Wookey Hole
20th January 1985.

BRENDON HILLS - AN ADDENDUM

T. CHARLES BRYANT

Since writing my original article*, Mr. S. P. Bowditch, an Industrial Archaeologist, has pointed out three more mine entrances in the Eisen Hill Complex. These are to the West of No. 6 (Mold's Pit) and about half way between that pit and Lower Terr.

I have numbered these new entrances 5A-C. I have sent a map to the Mendip Rescue Organisation. The details are as follows:

5A SS.8996.3717 ADIT, roof fall after 6 m, entrance partly blocked.

5B SS.9001.3721 ADIT, open for 30 m.

5C SS.9003.3718 ADIT, blocked at entrance.

*W.C.C. Journal, Vol 16, No 180 for March 1980 pp. 7-14.

FROM THE LOG

Charterhouse Cave

Pete Hann, Julie Bolt, Beth Yates, Pete Watts, Nigel Graham.

9 March. P.H., J.B., B.Y. More cement in boulders.

10 March. P.H., J.B., N.G. Started dig in left-hand wall just before the Citadel. Good fun getting a 5ft iron ladder down the cave. 3ft of easy progress in firm compacted mud. It appears to be a rift passage and not just an alcove. Another session should see if it carries on or pinches in.

17 March. P.H., J.B., P.W. More cement in boulders, some large ones need banging. Back to dig near the Citadel: pushed in another 5ft, stopped by rock which could be a large slab fallen in - needs more work to find out. P.H.

Swildons Hole

Pete Hann, Beth Yates, Merv Ingram, Clive Barlow, John Scott, Rosie ?, Aubrey Newport, Dave Willmott, Steve H.

8 March. P.H., B.Y., M.I., C.B., J.S. BUTCOMBE CHAMBER. The floor of the dig was lowered another foot, will need to go down another 2ft to go under the flake. Water has started trickling in, making digging unpleasant.

13 March. P.H., B.Y., Rosie, C.B., J.S., M.I. The dig was attacked by C.B. etc. while P.H. climbed around between the boulders in the roof. A small chamber in boulders 8' x 6' entered, above the bottom end of the rift, holes between the boulders look down into the rift. A climb 10' up through boulders at this point reaches a small hole between car-sized boulders held up by small, loose stones and cobwebs. A solid roof and what looks like a small chamber can be seen 5ft higher. Entry was not attempted as you would have to take out the supporting stones and get crushed by the big b s: "Death Wish Chamber". The main dig has reached a solid floor and digging started under the flake into what could be a low bedding plane.

27 March. P.H., B.Y., Rosie, J.S., M.I., C.B., A.N., Uncle Tom Cobbley & all. A good turn-out to find Swildon's New Master Cave but b...y dig is under 9" of water. Mixing mud and water doesn't work: when passing the buckets up the 4ft drop most runs out and down your neck. A short pipe and funnel will be needed next time, to bail it down the slot.

3 March. P.H., C.B., J.S., M.I. Fitted pipe and funnel and bailed dig dryish. Straight ahead has reduced to a small bedding too tight to dig. The gravel bank on the right-hand side will now have to be removed to see what happens next.

5 April. "Dorothy & Toto" First to BUTCOMBE CHAMBER to finish surveying and do some digging. Then to LOWBOW to see if really is that bad. It is. Managed to push a body into some pretty small places, but pain hurts!

7 April Nigel Graham. HENSLER' DIG. Took bearings in dig and in Water Rift, following discussion on the direction with Pete Hann. They are parallel. Then to SHATTER POT DIG for an hour's useful progress.

8 April. "Crazy Larry & Dirty Harry". SWILDON'S ONE. Climbing and falling out of roof looking for new digs. A maypole will be needed to fall out of a couple of black holes.

10 April. P.H., C.B., M.I., J.S., D.W. BUTCOMBE CHAMBER. Removed lots of spoil, going down into mud but water is causing problems. Gave up when more crud was falling into the dig than we were getting out.

17 April. P.H., Rosie, C.B., M.I. More spoil and water removed.

24 April. P.H., C.B., M.I., J.S., S.H., "Winalot". Lot more spoil removed.

20 April. Geoff Newton, Alison Moody, Doug Boomer, Richard Acton, "Winalot". NEW RENASCENCE SERIES. First three completed upstream survey. Others decided against the squeezes and exited with Keith Fielder's mob. Water level up one foot in U-tube from a month ago when the line was put in.

NOTES on above digs. The dig headed BUTCOMBE CHAMBER is in a high-level passage, parallel to the chamber and entered from a small cross passage high in the South wall of the chamber. SHATTER POT DIG was started around the end of March by Alison Moody, Pete Watts and Nigel Graham, and is a silt-choked passage (hopefully!) in the alcove opposite Shatter Pot. -Ed.

8 March. Doug Adams and Jim Moon. ST. CUTHBERT'S. S.R.T. practice on Pulpit Pitch: interesting and instructive!

9 March. Geoff Newton. More S.R.T. practice: up and down Pulpit a couple of times then to Ledge Pitch, where — had set up some godawful rigging.

24 March. Rich Warman, Andy Ward, Paul Ibberson, Pete Watts. NOXHAM PARK IRON MINE (Forest of Dean). Three to dive, one to carry and watch the aquatic minority in absolute amazement. P.W.

18/22 March. Paul Weston. SOUTH WALES. Took ten Health Service staff to the Brecon and Black Mountains for a week's training in "adventure pursuits". Excellent weather for this: sub-zero temperatures, snow, sleet, high winds, with sufficient snow around Ystradfellte for snow ploughs to be out. At Llangattock there seems to be a good deal of conflict between local residents around the old Daren Sunday School and visitors. The track between the Chelsea hut and the Daren is closed to vehicles. This is enforced vigorously, as I found out to my peril when accosted by wild Celts. On our last night I thought I'd got away scot-free, but this was not to be - my sleeping-bag was full of salt, pepper and flour.

P.Wn.

(The matter of vehicle access at Llangattock has been resolved: see notice elsewhere in this issue. -Ed.)

20 March. Kev Clarke, Sean Walsh. SWILDONS SUMP TWO. Quick trip to St. John's Bell as a long-overdue pre-Hunters and to try out my new ex-fire extinguisher. This was not like caving with a large zit (this refers to the hardware, not to the company). Kev.

30 March. Beth Yates, Pete Watts. AGEN ALIWEDD. Southern Stream, but rapidly got bored. Turkey, but equally boring. Nothing changes! -P.W.

31 March. "Doris and the Dots". TYNINGS. Everything but the Dragon.

24 March. Jim & Marie Rands. SWILDON'S. a very short trip, to the first 5ft drop, which Marie did, literally! She was carried out and back to the Wessex. J.R.

31 March. Pete & Alison Moody, P.H., N.G. First to FOXES HOLE, to bail sump at foot of Second

Chamber. Water in this and adjacent sump too high so to RICKFORD FARM CAVE. Entrance temporarily covered by stack of rubbish. Caves 2, cavers 0, so back to HQ for a cuppa, then out for walk. N.G

4 April. P. Underwood, S. Gough. LONGWOOD. 1½ hour tour to sump via Longwood Chamber.

5 April. Geoff Newton, Pete & Alison Moody. DAREN CILAU. G.N. to Terminal Sump, P. & A. to Eglwys Passage and Misfit Passage.

6 April. G.N., P. & A. M., Martin Grass and loads of BEC. OGOFF FFYNNON DDU 1. P. & A. etc out via Cwm Dwr, G.N. etc out via Escape Route. Streamway very sporting.

7 April. G.N. and 2 BEDROC. DAREN CILAU.

8 April. G.N. and 2 BEDROCK. EGLWYS FAEN.

6 April. Rich Websell, Pete Hann, Pete Watts. LONGWOOD. Lower streamway upper galleries. Websell managed to con the Wessex Thin Man into pushing a horrible upward squeeze going absolutely nowhere. Had a go at bolting up a horrible wall towards a black hole.

8-13 April. Ric & Pat Halliwell, Paul Norman, Mike Cooper and group of Craven members (most of whom had never been to Mendip before). The delights of Mendip caving: EASTWATER, SWILDON'S, LONGWOOD, St. CUTHBERT'S and G.B. I couldn't get any of them to go down North Hill. Ric H.

13 April. Jeff Price, Martin Buckley, Kev Gannon, Doug Adams, Jim Moon, Nigel Graham. DAREN CILAU. J.P., M.B. with Arthur Millet (Chelsea) to Terminal Sump, rest with John Cooper (Chelsea) to Antler Passage via Man-in-the-Roof Passage and Urchin Oxbow, out via Epocalypse Way.

14 April. Pete Watts, Beth Yates. SWILDONS. 3 hours 20 minutes and never went beyond the Water Chamber?

21 April. "Faith, Hope, Charity and Winalot" (sic). CHARTERHOUSE CAVE. More cement, and "crunch, hiss".

24 April. Pete Watts, Beth Yates. SPAR POT / EAST TWIN. Elizabeth collecting 100 Brownie Points and one well-and-truly shredded wetsuit.

27 April. P.W., B.Y. HOLWELL CAVE. Nice crystals, but why do the little b.....s hide in the tight awkward bits?

NATIONAL CAVING ASSOCIATION TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT 84/85

COMMENT

The Report (next page) is, in itself, a set of logical and sensible ideas, the result of discussions by people whose integrity and concern for caving I do not question. Nevertheless, it raises some worrying thoughts about the future of British caving.

Three questions are raised: (a) Why involve Whernside in N.C.A. management? (B) What would proposal 1 imply without the second half of the sentence? (c) What would be the effects on the "Club system" and on caving generally if training was firmly in the hands of professionals?

I do not consider Whernside a "National" centre: it is very parochial (Dales-based) - but so would a

Priddy or Llangattwg-based centre be, I suspect. More seriously, it has earned itself a reputation which is less than enviable for its treatment of any who dares disagree with it, in print anyway. To be fair, this is mainly due to the writings of certain staff members in "Descent" etc. Its courses are in demand, but did the demand already exist or has it been created? If so, by what or by whom?

We have a very good working relationship with professional equipment suppliers, book publishers etc, and that is how training centres must work. We are the customers, they must offer what we want. There must be NO place in Council or N.C.A. management for these organisations, who should simply OFFER courses and advice to cavers requesting them.

If we are not careful, there may come a time when we are all saddled with expensive courses and petty, albeit useless, bits of paper "proving" we are competent to visit our favourite caves.

-THE EDITOR

COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CAVING CLUBS

REP. ON NCA TRAINING COMMITTEE (1984-85) REPORT 6.3.85

The year has seen several new faces on the Committee especially myself from Whernside and Dave Edwards from Whitehall Centre, Derbyshire. We have looked at the needs of caving without the knowledge of what has gone previously. This caused some confusion, with Ben Lyon being away in Mulu for the first meeting and no-one really being able to answer questions raised about the cave leader and instructor schemes.

Ben Lyon is now stepping down from the Training Committee and the last meeting unanimously nominated Dave Edwards to be the new training officer. One of the proposals at the NCA AGM is for Whernside to take over the administration side of the Committee dealing with the cave instructor certificate etc. (work previously done by the Sports Council). It is also hoped to get a place on the Committee for a Whernside Rep. because of the centre's special interest in training.

The main areas of discussion have been:-

1. Ensure that Training Committee looks at training for cavers - who do not need assessments and certificates.
2. With respect to Sports Council grant aid - seek to gain assistance for training which is relevant to caving in general, rather than the present just the Instructor system, as at present.
3. A seminar on instructed caving later this year for all interested parties with possibly another on more general matters perhaps at BCRA. Conf.
4. Provide a progressive series of techniques courses at various levels and commend these to beginners, colleges etc. who have problems finding experience within the club system.
5. The local cave leader scheme has special problems because of different procedures in each region.

BACK PAGE

UPPER PITTS WARDEN ROSTER

May	24	Jeff Price.	Aug	9	Brian Pitman.
	31	Liz Green.		16	Bob Lawder.
June	7	Fred Felstead.		23	Jim Rands.
	14	Kev Clarke.		30	Mike D-York.
	21	Brian Pitman.	Sept	6	Pete Hann.
	28	Kevin Gannon.		13	Bob Drake.
July	5	John Scott.		20	Nigel Graham.
	12	Bob Lawder.		27	Glyn Bolt.
	19	Keith Fielder.	Oct	4	Phil Hendy.
	26			11	Fred Felstead.
Aug	2	Kev Clarke.		(18	A.G.M. / Dinner w/e.)

YORKSHIRE MEETS LIST

Saturday	8th	JUNE	Hammer Pot
Saturday	22nd	JUNE	Spectacle Pot / Vespers Pot Exchange
Sunday	30th	JUNE	Birks Fell Cave
Saturday	28th	SEPTEMBER	Death's Head Hole & Long Drop Cave
Sunday	29th	SEPTEMBER	Rumbling Hole

Anyone interested, please contact Keith Sanderson in good time:

s.a.e. to 11 Pye Busk Close, High Bentham, via Lancaster.
or tel. 0468 61862.

PSILLY PSEUDONYMS

You may well wonder just who it is who prefers the anonymity of strange pseudonyms in the Log. Well, the ED. knows who perpetrates them, but is not going to reveal his/her identity (well, you never know, perhaps one day...). In fact, if you study this edition's Log entries, it is fairly easy to work out who it is, from the literary style...

ANSWER TO LAST EDITION'S RIDDLE:

"The WESSEX ROMAN CHARIOT RACE, 1984"

Try this somewhat easier, if mathematical, one:

$$\{y=\sqrt{(r^2 - x^2)}\} + \sin 90$$

represents a particular, well-known, Mendip caving route.

(Clue: for any given set of values for x, r remains constant).