





### FOREWORD

The Dinner was another fine success, and everyone was most appreciative of the entertainments arranged by the two Hanwells and Brenda and David Willis. 103 sat down to the meal, but our list contained only 101 names, (and we therefore made a loss on the function) so we do hope that the 22/- outstanding will be sent to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

We must apologise for the length of the report on the Annual General Meeting. It was very difficult indeed to sort out the notes on the proceeding and put them together in a coherent manner. Reading and correcting these notes leads one to the conclusion that little or nothing was done to remove the cause of the complaints, and letters received since the meeting would suggest that this is a commonly held view.

During the coming year it will be necessary to make special efforts not only to complete the out- standing work on the Hillgrove site, but to put in hand the improvements that must be done to bring the facilities up to a reasonable standard. Luke Devenish has suggested that we hold week- end 'working parties' when members of the committee can stay at the hut and get on with the work. I see no reason why we should limit the help to that from the committee, and hope and expect that other members will be willing to give a hand.

I think it is only right that I should warn members that it may not be possible for me to renew or make extra tackle, and the Club may find itself short of ladders before long. Work on the

Journal may also have to be curtailed.

I have just been informed by Mr. Sealy that the recent collection of the money in the electricity coin box included a number of half-pennies. On previous occasions some foreign coins were used and as in this case, the club is held responsible by the S.W.E.B., not only have we to pay for the current used, but will have to pay for any damage that may be caused to the meter. A member of the committee has suggested that we may have to call in the police. It is certain that the culprits are known to other members, so I must point out that they should take steps to prevent this sort of behaviour, or report the people concerned to the Club. If it continues we will have to do one of two things, either install an expensive meter of our own which can be examined every weekend, or have the supply cut off.

It is obvious that the control of members using the Club facilities must be tightened up, and to prevent any misunderstanding we must insist that Members must book before using the accommodation at Hillgrove and Eastwater. (This includes camping at either place) No visitors can stay at the huts or use tackle without official permission. Tackle must be booked. In addition members and others will be expected to enter details of their stay in the Log, and fees due and paid, in the fee book.

At the moment I am trying to get a complete set of all the circulars published by the Club. This set will be held by the Librarian, but will not be for circulation to members, being in the nature of Club records. If, at the same time it is found possible to make up an extra set for the Library this will be done. Unfortunately we are short of copies of at least four issues, and hope that a member or members will be able to loan us their copy

so that we can get a stencil cut. The numbers of the missing circulars are:

38. (Oct 1938) 49,50, (Oct or Nov or Dec 1939) 55. (between Oct 1940 and June 1941)

The last issue we have of this series is No 57, and while it is thought that this was in fact the last of the first issue (October 1941), if anyone has a copy of any published between that date and No 1 (N.S.) perhaps it could be sent to us for copying.

We have a number of the current series of the circular and Journal for disposal to any member who is willing to pay the cost of the postage. The early numbers, come in all shapes and sizes, and from No 1 to No 26 (N.S). are mostly of the single sheet type. In addition there are spare numbers of some of the Journal type from No 27 to the last issue. Members interested in these circulars and journals should get in touch with the Hon Secretary as soon as possible

Our thanks to Peter Harvey for the gift of a book for the Library. It is 'The Springs of Adventure' by Wilfrid Noyce.

Also to a member who wishes to remain anonymous, the gift of £2, the cost of six extra blankets for Hillrove.

Hon Secretary. F. Frost, 22 Wolseley Road, Bishopston, Bristol 7.  
Phone Bristol 44221.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1958/59 were due on October 1<sup>st</sup>

10/- full member. 12/6 'Joint or Family' membership.

Affiliated club members 1/6 each.

Please note these subscriptions should be sent to Mr. G.H. Williams who, in addition to being Chairman is also Hon Treasurer. His address is:

'Cedarwood', Cadbury Camp Lane, Clapton-in Gordano, Bristol.

Members who do not pay their current subscription before January 1st, will cease to receive copies of the Journal after the second issue. It would be greatly appreciated if those who do not intend to renew their membership would inform the Hon Secretary. Thank you.

Officers and Committee for 1958/59.

President Left open.

Vice-Presidents. N. Norbet Casteret, Mrs. D. Dobson-Hinton, Prof L.S. Palmer, Dr. E.K. Tratman, Dr. F.S. Wallis. Brig A.E. Glennie was proposed by the Hon Secretary and seconded by Howard Kenney, and unanimously elected as a new Vice-President.

Chairman G.H. Williams.

Hon Secretary. F. Frost.

Hon Treasurer. G.H. Williams.

Gear Curator. H.S. Stanbury.

Committee. P. Davies, L. Devenish, D. Ford, E. Hanwell, Com P.B. Lawder, N. Tuck, D. Warburton, D. Willis, Mrs. B. Willis.

The result of the Postal Ballot was as follows:

D. Warburton 76, L. Devenish 74, P. Davies 72, Mrs. B. Willis 69, D. Ford 66, D. Willis 65, Com P.B. Lawder 61, N. Tuck 48, E. Hanwell 43, C. Hawkes 43, J. Hanwell 38, M. Yates 23, G. Morris 13.

As there was a tie between E. Hanwell and C. Hawkes the Chairman gave his casting vote to Hanwell.

87 Ballot forms were received.

Alteration to Rule 6.

Defeated 31 to 14.

Alteration to Rule 14.

"Any person whose membership is deemed to be undesirable by the Committee may have his membership suspended by the Committee until and not longer than the next Annual General Meeting, at which the member concerned shall have an opportunity of being heard. A three-quarters majority of the members present may expel such a member.

This amended rule was proposed by Howard Kenney and carried by a large majority.

New Rule.

Rule 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 Spelaeology, Archaeology, or Geology, or any of them"

This new rule was carried unanimously.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE H.E. BALCH.

At a meeting of representatives of the principle Mendip caving clubs and societies, it was agreed to erect a memorial plaque to his memory on the front of the Wells Museum. Final details have not yet been decided but it is thought that it will take the form of a portrait in bronze and in bas-relief. Your committee has not yet discussed the matter, but I am certain they will whole-heartedly agree to subscribe to the fund as a tribute to our late President. Members wishing to make personal contributions may care to send them to the Hon Secretary, who will be very pleased indeed to forward the money to the Hon Treasurer of the fund. It has been suggested that in the event of there being a surplus above the cost of the plaque, this could be given to the Wells Museum, as I am certain this would have been the wish of Mr. Balch.

Hon Secretary.



Forthcoming Events.

G.B. Guest Day November 22nd or 23rd.

University of Bristol Speleological Society's Sessional Meetings.

Members are invited to attend the following lectures which will be held in the Geography Lecture Theatre. Time 8.15 p.m.

Monday December 1st 1958.

"In the Land of the Garamantes" (Herodotus Bk IV)  
Dr. R.G.J. Savage. Ph. D., F.G.S.

Monday January 26th 1959.

"The Rock Shelter Paintings in the Gibraltar District".  
Mr. M.C. Burkitt M.A., F.S.A.

Monday February 26th 1959.

"Stonehenge in the Light of the Latest Research"  
Professor R.J.C. Atkinson M.A., F.S.A.

Monday March 2nd 1959.

1. Some Caves in France and Northern Spain  
Dr. B.A. Crook.

2. Ireland 1958.

Mr. D.G. Mead.

(a short film will be shown at the end of this meeting)

Monday March 16th 1959.

"Some Caves of Gibraltar" - Dr. E.K. Tratman. O.B.E., F.S.A.

Easter 1959. Club trip to Yorkshire. Details from the Hon Secretary.

## The Hon Secretary's Report for 1957/58.

During the year the membership of the Club increased by 14 from 234 to 248. There was also an increase in the number of 'joint membership', (from 11 to 20), and this would suggest that there has been a spate of marriages. Three new affiliated clubs were elected, making a total of 10.

From the purely caving angle there is little of note to report, although quite a number of our members gave valuable assistance to the diving party which recently discovered Swildons 4. There has been some criticism from members, suggesting that we are not doing much in the way of original work, and it has to be admitted that this is quite true. On the other hand it should be pointed out that it is really up to these members to change this state of affairs, so we look to those who think we are at the moment in the doldrums, to get to work themselves. We can promise them every support during the coming year.

As will be seen from the balance sheet the income from the hut fees has considerably increased. This is very satisfactory and would seem to suggest that members are making more use of the Club's facilities, but it must be pointed out that for some months, visitors tackle fees have been included in their hut fees. The other side of the picture is not so pleasant, and we have to report that, in spite of the precautions taken to try to avoid loss of money from the hut, some person or persons have continued to steal from Hillgrove. This time it was the money left by members in payment for carbide lamp spares. There should have been £2 in the box when all the spares had been sold, but in fact there was only 1/4d and no spares. We know that most of the money was at one time in the box. Much the same thing happened with the actual carbide. This has all been taken by members and others, but the cash received

was far below the cost of the carbide to the Club. The sad thing about all this is that we feel it is quite impossible to continue to give these 'services' to members.

For the first time in the history of the Club the committee has considered that it was in the interest of the Club to suspend members on four occasions. Those concerned were Cleave, Oldham, and Horton (twice). As the whole subject will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting I do not think it is necessary to go into details in this report. There is no doubt that some of the members have acted in a very selfish manner, but I have to agree with Oliver Wells that there was nothing new in the problem as "the youth of the day had been going to the dogs for the last 6000 years", although I would have put it for a much longer period. On the other hand if there is a deliberate attempt to ignore the interests of the Club and other members, obviously something must be done about it.

We must thank those members who have contributed articles for the Journal. It has sometimes been a little difficult to find sufficient material to fill an issue, and we have always been pleased to receive articles from members. Special mention has to be made of Willie Stanton, Robert Lawder and T.R.S. (Trevor Shaw) who have sent us articles and reports without being prompted. Oliver Wells has also kept the Journal in mind when writing his reports, etc, for the Cave Diving Group. The publication of each issue always involves us in a last minute rush, and we are very grateful to Mrs. Fenton and her staff for the way in which they met our requests for the stencils to be ready by a given date. We again report that but for the kindness of our ex-chairman A.J.S. McMillan in giving me the use of his duplicator and providing the paper at cost price, it would be quite impossible to publish six issues

of the Journal each year. However, even with all our efforts to keep down the cost it still takes about 7/- from each member's subscription of 10/- to cover the cost of the Journal, leaving us with only 3/- to cover the remainder of the Club's expenses.

Host members will know of the fire which came near to destroying the Hillgrove Hut. We were indeed lucky not to have lost the hut and contents. For this we have to thank Mr. & Mrs. and Marjorie Sealy who took such prompt and energetic action in fighting the fire. On second thoughts perhaps our real luck is in having such grand people to look after our interests at Hillgrove. However, some good did come out of the incident as the repairs to the floor and walls has resulted in a much reduced fire risk due to an improved foundation for the heating stove, and the use of asbestos sheeting instead of hardboard.

At the last A.G.M. permission was given for the purchase of a small wooden hut (to be used for extra sleeping accommodation at Hillgrove), costing not than £50. However, after careful consideration of costs and other factors it was decided that we could get better value for our money, (and incidently a better job) if we purchased the timber and built an extension on one end of the main hut. We obtained the timber for just under the £50, but it became clear that if we were to line the hut with hardboard, most of this work would have to be done before the new bunks were fixed in position. This meant that we would have to spend more than the sum allotted, or leave the extension in an unfinished state. It was decided to go ahead and fit the hardboard. (Perhaps this is the moment to mention that if they had only . the committee were taking an awful risk in turning me loose with £50 worth of timber and a saw. As I can remember the last time I constructed a portable wooden building was about 40 years ago,

and in any case it was a rabbit hutch). The work took most weekends for two or three months, during which time I had valuable assistance from members, particularly Harry Stanbury. Others who gave regular help were Brenda Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Withey, Don Wilson and Tony Preston. More occasional help was given by other members.

To get things in the correct perspective it has to be noted that all the help came from the older members (with perhaps two exceptions), and this in spite of very broad hints in the direction of some of the younger elements who were hanging about at Hillgrove.

Early in the year I lost the valuable help of the Gear Curator, Jim Swithenbank when he went to Canada, but Harry Stanbury stepped into the breach. He not only gave a tremendous amount of assistance with the constructional work, but went to great lengths to obtain most of the materials used on the extension (apart from the timber) at cost price. Not only that, he purchased and presented to the Club, all the wiring and fittings used in the installation of the electricity at Hillgrove. This did not cost the Club a penny.

All in all I think he must have saved the Club about £20. He was a most invaluable 'assistant' to me in every way.

One point on which I think we should have guidance. It has always been the custom to give an actual date for receiving the motions for discussion at the A.G.M., and up to this year members have fully co-operated with us. It will be appreciated that there is quite a lot of work to do before the meeting, and while there is no particular significance in the publish date it is selected to fit in with the work that has to be done. This year a

member insisted in ignoring the given date, although it was pointed out to him that he was causing a lot of work and also extra expense. (The Hon Treasurer tells me the cost to the Club for the extra work is over £3) This was due to the fact that a stencil had been prepared on the strength of the motions received by the publish date, but had to be scrapped. This left insufficient time for me to do the work myself and resulted in a charge to the Club of over £3. It did not help matters when Hawkes in one of his letters mentioned that he and others had discussed the motion and decided to put it to the A.G.M. a month or so before sending it in. To clarify the position for future secretaries I would ask the meeting to give a ruling on the subject.

It was with great sorrow that we heard of the death of our President. This was an irreplaceable loss. It seems only a short while ago when we had the pleasure of his company at an Annual General Meeting of the Club. It was in fact on October 18th 1952 at the Museum Wells. Many very sincere tributes have been paid to his memory, and we will all greatly miss this kindly and lovable man.

It has been a pleasure to work with this year's committee. We were very sorry when the Hut Warden had to resign from that post, and even more so when we learnt that he would be out of England for some time. I would like to take this opportunity of recording my grateful thanks to all members for their co-operation and kindness during the past year.

Perhaps I cannot do better than close this report with a plea for tolerance of the other fellows point of view. If we can have just that, I think most of our differences will soon be smoothed away. After all we have the same interest at heart, and if we bear that in mind it should be possible to get a lot of interest and fun from our caving during 1958/59.

Frank Frost.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The A.G.M. of the Club was held at the Cliff Hotel, Cheddar on Saturday, 25th October. George Williams took the Chair at 4.35 p.m. at a time when 46 members were present, but this number later rose to close on 60. After reading the Minutes, out of which no important matters arose, the Hon Secretary (Frank Frost) gave his Report for the year. This is printed on pages 139 - 143 of this Journal. In it he mentioned the great service rendered to the Club by Harry Stanbury in installing electricity at Hill Grove, and the Chairman warmly thanked Stanbury on the Club's behalf.

In the last issue of this Journal the Hon. Secretary had asked members to submit notices for motions by September 26th. One motion had been submitted after this date, but the mover had insisted on its going forward under Rule 18, which says that 'not less than three weeks', notice must be given. The Secretary pointed out that this had caused him great inconvenience and additional expense to the Club. The longer notice was needed so as to be able to submit motions to Committee and to give time for circulating motions to members. After discussion it was agreed that the rules must be obeyed, whatever they were. The Committee was asked to draft an amendment to Rule 18 for the next A.G.M. extending the period of notice to 4 or 5 weeks, whichever was convenient. C.A.T. Beauchamp then proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary for his Report and for all the work he had done for the Club, particularly for those like himself who lived at a distance, and who greatly valued the Journal, because it enabled them to keep in touch.

### FINANCE.

The Chairman in his capacity of Treasurer

(George Williams) then presented his financial statement (printed on pages 136 and 137 of this Journal). The Hon. Auditor (Howard Kenney) spoke to this and made it clear to all that the financial position of the Club was a good one and that we were lucky to have such a competent and meticulous Treasurer. Income for the year was up by £19, expenditure by £15 giving us an additional surplus of £4. The Journal expenses were up, due to increased costs all round. Our assets now stood at £142. The Accumulated Account was down, because of the cost of Hut extensions (£74). The Hut fund was increasing and now stood at £52.

Hywel Murrell asked why no value had been given the Club's Headquarters and Equipment. Kenney replied that he had included a note on the Balance Sheet to say that this had not been done, so that there should be no misunderstanding. He considered that the difficulty of placing a fair value on the Club's property was, at least for him, insuperable. After a little discussion, which followed closely the lines of a similar discussion at the 1956 A.G.M., Murrell agreed not to pursue the point.

Kenney then proposed that a sum of £30 be again added to the Hut Fund. Luke Devenish seconded by Murrell moved an amendment that the sum be increased to £35, because the capital value of the Hut had been increased by additions. Kenney said this would be cutting things rather fine, as our Current Account stood at only £36 at the moment. The Amendment was lost and the proposal carried. The Treasurer's Report was then adopted.

#### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

Chairman and Hon. Treasurer, George H. Williams; Hon Secretary, F. Frost; Gear Curator, T. Harry Stanbury; all unopposed. For the nine other members of Committee the postal ballot resulted in

the election of the following (in order of numbers of votes received: 87 papers sent in). Denis Warburton, Luke W.E. Devenish, Phil Davies, Mrs. Brenda Willis, Derek C. Ford, David A. Willis, Lt. Cdr. P.B. Lawder, Norman Tuck. For the ninth place there was a tie between E. Hanwell of Wells and Christopher Hawkes of Leicester. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Hanwell, because he lived nearer to Mendip.

#### Vice Presidents.

Prof; L.S. Palmer, M.N. Casteret, Dr. E.K. Tratman, Mrs. D. Dobson Hinton and Mr. F.S. Wallis were all re-elected and to their number was added Brig. E.A. Glennie.

Mr. C.H. Kenney was re-elected Hon. Auditor.

#### The President.

Derek Ford "What about a President?"

Chairman said he had had a letter from Oli Wells suggesting Frank Frost for President, had thought it might be best to leave it open, even though no one was more worth of the honour than Frank.

Howard Kenney had no hesitation in proposing Frank for President, even though he had not given due notice. Many members had the same feeling but had not actually made the proposal. There was no reason why the President should not be an Officer of the Club; the rules specifically allowed him to do so. He was seconded by Harry Stanbury.

Luke Devenish respected Mr. Frost having been proposed for President but said that he was far too valuable a Secretary to lose. The President should be above the Club politics, because if there were to be a violent difference of opinion between the Secretary and members, the President would have to intervene.

Oliver Lloyd replied that if there were no President the position envisaged by Luke would still be insoluble. If we didn't elect a President now we never would. The President should be the "biggest" man in the Club; Balch was that. Now Frank is. You could never elect a President over Frank's head. The Club needed a Working President rather than a figure head, and they would find one in Frank, who would be expected to continue to act as Secretary.

Murrell seconded by Oldham proposed Wyndham Harris for President as he was one of the founder members and was above the politics of the Club.

The Hon Secretary then spoke. For some time he had been considering relinquishing the Secretaryship. More and more work was falling on his shoulders, and it was becoming almost too much for him. He would like, in view of what Murrell had said, to do so now. He felt very honoured by the proposal that he be President. It was one of the nicest things that he had heard said, and he appreciated it very much, but was not going to compete with Wyndham Harris.

Howard Kenney said that when Harris heard that night he offered the Presidency he was horrified by the idea.

Beauchamp asked if he might pour some oil on troubled waters. There was nothing wrong with being political. Politics have to be carried out and Frank had been playing his part very well. If the Secretary was worried, then everyone ought to help him. He ought not to resign. Those who shoulder difficult tasks should know that they are not alone. He found it odd, however, that President and Vice-Presidents should be allowed to hold Office.

Devenish in reply to Lloyd's first point said that, in the absence of a President, the Vice-Presidents

would have to arbitrate between the Secretary and dissident members.

Mike Woods said that to him the Hon Secretary was the Wessex Cave Club, but he was against anyone holding two Offices. If it came to a vote he would have to abstain. The discussion had become very distasteful, and he asked the Chairman to pass to next business, and he was supported by the Hon. Secretary. This was not accepted by the Chairman, who asked the Hon Secretary to go into another room.

Peter Harvey proposed that the election of President be left over until next year. It was impossible for the President and Secretary to be the same person. He was seconded by Phil Davies.

Lloyd suggested that members wanted to get used to the idea of having a Working President. Other Clubs found this satisfactory, but he was not going to hold them up as examples; The Wessex would choose whatever suited them best. Frank had spoken of the probability that sooner or later he would have to relinquish the Secretaryship, and this was a situation that had to be reckoned with. With no President, this would mean a clean break, with all the dangers that that would entail; but with Frank as President he could gradually relinquish his more onerous duties. The Club was his only child and he loved it more than anything else. From the position of President he would know that he could always take decisive action to avert any dangers that might beset it while changes in Secretaryship were in process.

The Chairman said that Frank was a suitable man for the presidency and that he had done much for the Club. He had been reserved in his opinion but now he agreed with Oliver. He asked Murrell if

in spite of what Kenney had said about Harris's views, he still wanted his proposal to go forward. Murrell said he did.

An amendment standing in the names of Devenish and Harvey was then taken, "That the office of President be held vacant," and this was carried by 31 votes to 11. On being put as a substantive motion it was carried 33 votes to 13. The Hon Secretary then returned the meeting.

Alan Blackwell-Jones proposed that an Assistant Secretary should be appointed.

Michael Holland said that a Hut Warden was more important, but The Hon Secretary pointed out that this was not an elected post.

Richard Kenney proposed that the duties of Assistant Secretary be delegated as and when necessary by the Secretary. It was no use appointing anyone, in case there was a clash of personalities. This was accepted.

Beauchamp offered practical help with any printing that may be required.

## MOTIONS.

Christopher Hawkes proposed a motion to alter Rule 6 by deleting the phrase "That the election of the committee shall be by postal ballot" and replacing it by "That the election of the Committee shall be by a simple majority at the Annual General Meeting." The postal ballot, he said, meant that those who were interested in caving and who came to the A.G.M. were outnumbered by the votes of the nominal members of the Club, who were often past their active time of caving and might even no longer be really interested in the Club. The Club needed on its Committee those who actually do the caving. The election should be done

at the A.G.M., because the members who attended that meeting know the cavers best. The seconder, S.J. Pike, he said, was an elderly gentleman who had told him that he didn't know what to do with the postal ballot forms, because he didn't know any of the names, anyway. The proposed change was simple. Those who were not able to attend the A.G.M. would feel that their views were better represented by those who were able to attend. The voting at the meeting need not be open but could be by ballot.

Stanbury said the proposition was basically wrong. Every member of the Club paid his ten shillings and was entitled to the same privileges, which included a word in the government of the Club. Hawkes pointed out that if this were carried to its logical conclusion then all amendments to rules would have to be done by postal ballot and the A.G.M. would be powerless to do anything. Murrell said that proxy votes could be allowed at the A.G.M. This would overcome the disadvantage of not being able to attend. Woods pointed out that the A.G.M. was at the moment being attended by about 60 people and that this could be considered representative, seeing that only 87 voted in the postal ballot.

Robert Lawder said if a person cannot get to the A.G.M. he is unlikely to be doing much caving. Every year more people came to the dinner than to the meeting; they seem to prefer their privileges to their duties. Beauchamp: the touchstone of our criticism should be whether the Committee actually elected is suitable. We vote for those who have proved useful or about whom we read in the Journal. The Committee elected was a good one.

Richard Kenney: the present system was adequate. If a postal ballot was possible, so was a postal lobby. Objectors could circularize all members saying "vote for so-and-so".

Davies: if anyone is dissatisfied with the running of the Club he can vote for those candidates who are not on the Committee.

Howard Kenney: a member is not bound to use all his votes.

The Hon Secretary: It would be wrong to change the rule. One must not underestimate the value of the "sleeping" members to the Club. It was their subscriptions that made possible our favourable financial position. If the rule were changed we would have to introduce another laying down a minimum number for a "quorum" at the A.G.M.

In being put to the vote the motion was lost by 14 votes to 31.

In amendment to Rule 14 was introduced by the Hon. Secretary on behalf of the Committee, the purpose of which was to give the Committee power to expel members, who would have the right of appeal to an Extraordinary General Meeting, as under Rule 11. At present the Committee only has powers to suspend members. Expulsion can only be done by a 3/4 majority at a General Meeting. He outlined the difficulty the Committee were having in dealing with a clique of undesirable members, who not only left the Club H.Q. dirty but were unfriendly to other members visiting that place. The Committee had already found it necessary to suspend three men. They were, besides, getting the Club a bad name on Mendip. An article in the Belfry Bulletin related how some of them had let off a detonator in the Belfry porch.

The Chairman: read the relevant extract from the B.B. The explosion might have been dangerous. He had taken up the matter with the B.E.C.

Howard Kenney said that he would vote against the motion as it stood "because of the poor redress it gave to expelled members; no reason need be given by the Committee; it may be difficult for the expelled member to get the nine other sponsors necessary for calling an E.G.M., and even assuming that an E.G.M. were called, it could do nothing. It could only draw up a resolution to be voted on by postal ballot. And who among the postal members would vote against the Committee's decision without a knowledge of the background to the case? Under the present procedure the Committee would have to justify an expulsion at an A.G.M. and members could listen to all points of view. Also it would need a ¾ majority. The Committee would probably be right but a member must be able to defend himself against accusation and have a right of appeal. The answer was that the Committee should exercise their right to suspend members under Rule 15.

He proposed the following amendment:

"Any person whose membership is deemed to be undesirable by the Committee may have his membership suspended by the Committee until and not longer than the next Annual General Meeting, at which the member concerned shall have an opportunity of being heard. A ¾ majority of the members present at the A.G.M. may expel such a member." This amendment was seconded by Richard Kenney.

The Chairman asked those members who had made complaints to repeat them now. Mike Holland had complained several times. They don't say "Hullo." They disappear leaving the hut dirty and the dishes dirty, and when you remonstrate they don't respond. This drives a chap off to another place, where the spirit is better. Hawkes had made comments in the log book after a cleaning trip in Swildon's where he had found a lot of detritus

above Trat's Temple, which had been left there by members for some weeks. He had made other remarks to the Secretary in a personal letter. Norman Tuck, a Committee member, received substantial complaints about individuals' bad manners and of people leaving the hut in a filthy condition. It was getting us a bad name and the Committee didn't know what to do.

Chairman: Well, now you appreciate the difficulty of the Committee. We want a concrete lead from this meeting.

Hawkes: agreed that a trial period of a year for new applicants before full membership was conferred would help to eliminate unsuitable people. The cleaning of the hut was all left to the conscientious ones. Others not only left their bunks untidy, but he once found some sausages mixed up with the blankets. The hut stayed untidy all the week.

H. Kenney also liked the idea of a probation period. It would require no new rule, as the committee could use their discretion as it was.

Hon Secretary: the complaints were not exaggerated. One week-end he arrived with Harry Stanbury and found that all the washing up had been left undone. He and Harry did it and left the door open for the return of the offending party. The party returned, messed the place up again and left it so. You try to get their co-operation and they seem completely uninterested and won't help. One declined to empty the Elsan. Another, now under suspension, spent a whole fort-night at the hut and left the Elsan can full. On being taxed with this he denied having used the Elsas at all during that period!

Harvey couldn't see what was wrong with the existing rule. It gave the Committee power to suspend

undesirable members, so that they could not stay at the Hut.

Woods: at a week-end there is often no senior member at the Hut and one arrives there to find everybody griping.

H. Kenney: We used to have some older members staying at Beechbarrow every week-end, who saw to it that the younger members did what was expected of them. Can we not get enough volunteers?

Jack Waddon: the tone of the meeting has changed. We are now thinking that it is our own fault for not setting the right example. Newcomers will always be more impressed by their first visit than by any other. It is then that they decide if it is a good club, or whether they will have to "pig it." Each member should try to do even more than his own share of the work. That would help the right spirit to catch on.

Chairman: When I first joined it was a matter of honour to clear the place up (it was the Grange, then). I can't understand the modern mentality. The onus should not be on the older members but on the newer ones.

Morris said that when he first visited the Hut his impression was that the bedding was filthy. In such circumstances why worry about one sausage?

Edwards pointed out that in fact it would need a new rule, if new members were to be given a year on probation at first.

Woods always used his own sleeping bag at the Hut.

R. Kenney: has the Committee received any letters of complaint from members about the bedding being dirty?

Chairman: no written complaints had been received about the state of the bedding.

Morris: nine dirty pillows and only one sausage! The laundering of blankets should be carried out by Club. Members paid their subscriptions and were entitled to services in exchange.

Hawkes: we are one of the few clubs that have blankets in the Hut. If hut fatigues for shaking blankets were organized regularly, they would not need cleaning more than once a year.

Tuck: why do members never wash the blankets themselves? Do they expect the Committee to do this?

The Hon Secretary: well you have heard now what I would call the Morris mentality. "Everything is wrong, everything is dirty". But we are concerned also with bad behaviour and the lack of welcome shown to other cavers. There is this feeling that some groups own the hut. He offered, if the committee would agree, to withdraw its motion in favour of the amendment proposed by H. Kenney which he would be very pleased to second. Kenney's proposal was then carried by a large majority. It was agreed to leave the question of a years probationary period until next year.

New Rule: Rule 20.  
Proposed by the Committee).

"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 Spelaeology, Archaeology or Geology, or of any of them."

The Hon Secretary told us that the reason for the new rule was that we had received a demand for the payment of rates on the Hillgrove hut, but if we were to adopt this rule we could apply to the Registrar of Friendly Societies for a certificate of exemption from rates.

David Willis: If we pay rates, will the local authority empty our Elsan?

The motion was carried unanimously.

## DISCUSSIONS.

### 1. Hut fees paid by non-members.

The Secretary said that the fee of 3/6 per bed night was too much. It had been raised to this figure from 2/6 by the Committee because tackle fees were not being paid as they should be. He gave as an example how a member of another club stayed two nights, visiting Wookey Hole on the intervening day, and had been expected to pay 7/- for this. He had in this case on his own responsibility remitted part of the fee.

Holland: do not members of other clubs enjoy reciprocal rights?

Hon Secretary: yes, when it is a visit by an organized party, but not individual members.

Waddon: we should give members of other clubs a privileged rental. They should not be charged

as much as strangers.

Holland: a letter of authority from the Secretary should be enough to show in each case what fee was payable.

Tuck: said that he proposed the increase charge visitors because people were not paying their tackle fees. About 70% of visitors used tackle and only the odd one went to Wookey.

Chairman: 3/6 seems a reasonable fee to charge for non-members, but could we not leave this matter to the Secretary's discretion?

This was agreed.

2. Facilities to be given to members, who fail to pay their subscriptions before January 1st.

The Secretary pointed out that under the existing practice a member who failed to pay his annual subscription received three copies of the Club's Journal before ceasing to be a member of the Club. Could these not be stopped after two?

Willis and Holland both supported this and the Meeting agreed with the Secretary, but before they did so the Hon. Auditor pointed out that we were all to blame. By the end of the year less than half the memers had paid their annual subscriptions; by the end of January only half, and it was not until the end of February that nearly all had paid.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Roach asked if the suspended members were to be re-instated.

The Secretary: no, not until the Committee decides to re-instate then or until the next. A.G.M.

The Secretary: no, not until the Committee decides to re-instate them or until the next A.G.M.

Morris: Is it to be left to the Committee? Are you afraid of bringing the facts before the A.G.M.?

Tuck: They have the right to appeal; let them appeal.

Wainwright: There is too little time left before the end of the meeting for the matter to be properly 'considered. Could it not be held over'?

Davies: The member in question has had no time to prepare his case. We should re-instate him now, and then, if the Committee sees fit, it can re-suspend him again next week. This was seconded by Devenish.

The Chairman: said that it must apply to both members under suspension. The resolution was carried and the suspension of Horton and Oldham was lifted.

Wainwright: considered that the lack of spirit had not been changed as a result of the meeting. He suggested that members should write to the Committee and let the Secretary know their views.

The meeting, which was the longest on record, ended at 7.40 p.m.

## THE WESSEX DINNER

The Club Dinner, which was attended by 103 members and guests and only two gate-crashers, was a lively one. We are getting used to the bread-pellet artillery of Johnny Parkes, but this year he improved his technique by making a catapult from two forks and a burst balloon. Jim Hanwell brought a motor horn, but Tony Preston left his pistol at home.

E.K. Tratman was Master of Ceremonies and quite early in the proceedings gave us a "police message" to say that the missing sausages had been found in one of the bunks at Hill Grove. We were all much relieved at this; we had been missing them all the evening.

Oliver Lloyd proposed the health of our Guests. First and foremost there was Mr. Sealey, a long-suffering friend of the Club, who got called up in the small hours of the morning by the police, whenever a member had forgotten to let his people at home know that he was not returning that night after caving. He was also our principal fire extinguisher, and had saved the Hut from severe damage by his prompt action a year ago.

We also had guests from the U.B.S.S., the South Wales Caving Club (Brian de Graff), and the M.N.R.C. while Bob Bagshaw was again representing the B.E.C. But our principal guest was Dr. Alan Rogers. Alan was Secretary of the U.B.S.S. around the time G.B. was discovered. He had drifted away from caving since then, but they had once been down Swildon's together. He was one of the members of the Medical Divers Club, doctors who dived into various parts of the harbour at Bristol to fish out drowning people. More recently he had crossed the Antarctic as a member of Dr. Vivian Fuchs' expedition. Alan was

always late. He had been late for dinner that evening, only no one had noticed, because dinner had been later than anybody else. When Fuchs was making such slow progress towards the Pole, everyone here was saying, "No wonder, with Alan Rogers on his party!" When, after leaving the Pole, Fuchs began to make such good speed, we wondered if he had left Alan behind. But no.

Dr. Rogers replied to the toast, thanking the Club for their hospitality. He was greatly enjoying his dinner, unruffled by the first ranging shots from the opposing tables. (A bread pellet had scored in his wine glass and he had found himself eating the Queen's health). He then told us a story about how he had had to dig his own cave in the Antarctic snow. A member of another party at Halley Bay, Robin Smart, had fallen onto his camera and injured himself. He developed an abscess and was very ill. They radioed the South Pole party, who sent Alan Rogers and Gordon Haslop by air to his aid. But snow alters the landmarks and they flew half a mile to one side, missed the Halley Bay party, came down on the snow and had to stay where they were for eleven days, before the weather improved.

They had no shovel and no tent, so they dug themselves a cave in the snow with a sheath knife. It took them six hours and they covered it with a cape. The temperature was minus ten to twenty degrees, so they lit their primus and tried to get warm. Even the brandy froze, and during the night the temperature in the hole fell to minus forty.

Next day the visibility was about three yards, and they divided their time between turning the aircraft into the wind to stop it from being blown over, and digging a bigger and better hole.

The hole they eventually made was seven feet cube, with a kitchen at one end, shelves, and a front door made of snow. They couldn't leave the door open, because of the draught and because snow came and filled the place up, but when they shut it the candle went out from lack of air. It was a nice cave but they were glad to leave it. On the 11th day a larger aeroplane came to their help, as they had run out of petrol, and they went to Halley Bay, where they found that Nature had taken its course. The abscess had burst and Robin Smart had recovered.

Brian de Graff proposed the health of the Wessex Cave Club. He found himself at a disadvantage, because so few of his stories (he said) were fit for mixed company. Frank had only asked him that afternoon to make a speech and he very nearly offered him eleven shillings for his dinner to get out of it. He said he felt like the Prodigal Son returning to his parents, for the Wessex had given birth to the South Wales Caving Club. "So thank you, fathers and mothers. You'll be surprised to see what an offspring you've got." He then told us a story about some cows watching television.

After drinking the Club's health, certain reprobates formed themselves into a quartet and sang their version of a well known caving song.

(Some of the words have got altered", said Alice)

Derek Ford's reply to the toast was understandingly short as he had thought he had to give the toast of "The Club". The many hours (we assume) of preparation had been wasted as he confined himself to a few "remarks" about the B.E.C., but before he sat down mentioned that he was cheered by the spirit shown at A.G.M., even though it was the longest ever.

The Hon Secretary reminded us of "Absent Friends" who we next toasted. Willie Stanton in Angola who kept the Journal going by his contributions and sent duplicates in case the originals got lost. Jim Swithenbank had gone to Canada, so the speaker had to run his own errands. Bill Harrison in Malta seemed to have got subscription mixed up with lottery ticket. Four were in hospital. Aubrey Glennie, Vincent Stimpson, Derek Goldie and Charles Bryant. But more than all of these we were missing our late President. His loss was quite irreplaceable, but his name would be remembered as long as there was caving on Mendip.

After dinner we engaged in a competition organized by the Willises and Hanwells. A number of photographs, surveys or descriptions of caves or bits of caves were posted on the walls, and we had to guess which they were. The really difficult item was childhood snapshots of eight of our Committee Members. Only Frank hadn't changed. Luke was still wheeling a barrow, while George looked ever so smart. The prizes were presented by a certain Celebrated Lady who bore a strong resemblance to one of the Hanwells. Peter Harvey won the first prize: two bottles of Guinness (chocolate) Oliver Lloyd won the second: a bottle of spirits (methylated).

The Hanwells and Willises then arranged some games for us, in which we made up for our lack of skill by our great energy. Never before had we seen such a collection of titfers. By the end of the evening we felt very grateful indeed to the Willises and Hanwells, because what they had done for our enjoyment was both entertaining and unusual. The competition in particular must have needed a lot of work to get together and gave us all a great deal of pleasure. So thank you once more both Hanwel and Willises!

## Lamb Leer

In 1938 resistivity work on the surface by Prof. L.S. Palmer disclosed an unknown chamber adjacent to the East Wall of Lamb Leer Great Chamber and separated from it by about twenty feet only. On my return from India in April 1946 I teamed up with the Murrells to look for it.

A small arched recess with a flat flowstone floor at the top of the Boulder Slope was found by measurement to head towards the new chamber. In the course of over ten years intermittent work a 55ft long tunnel was made in the direction of the supposed chamber without finding it. Bad ventilation was overcome by an excellent air-pump devised and made by Hywel and Pudge, but the main trouble was flooding. Excavation in puddled clay is not too good. I proposed a deep trench through the boulder slope. This met with no enthusiasm locally, so a team from the Birmingham Cave and Crag Club came down, and dug it in two days. There was no difficulty, of course, since, as I knew, the boulders formed only a superficial skin resting on clay. A vertical section of the trench showed about 3½ ft stiff clay then a thin 'stal' layer less than ¼ inch thick, then 1½ ft clay followed by a very thin layer of 'stal' then a foot or so of clay, and below this fine grey sand usually water-logged and of unknown depth. (These measurements are from memory, it would be interesting and easy to cut and measure up a clean section and take a sample of the sand. A nice dry period is indicated for this operation).

After the trench was made, each period of digging was preceded by breaking down a dam at the top end of the trench and letting the water from the tunnel rush down the slope. This water disappeared under the wall not far from the rope ladder pitch and re-appeared 12 feet down in the pit excavated by Hywel many years

ago. The excavation had been abandoned because of impossible condition created by liquid clay, but now the water from the trench has cleared this away. It comes in on the East side of the pit, runs over a clean rock floor, and pours away without any check at the joint corner between the South and West walls. Here listening through the small opening, the water can be heard running on quite freely below.

In my opinion this is the only really promising place for work in Lamb Leer. Perhaps only one hour's work with a jumper would force a way through. Before this is done however a large boulder must be secured to make the operation safe. Beyond may well be a system comparable to Eastwater or St. Cuthberts.

This stream extension has not shown up in the recent resistivity work. This may well be the case if it runs in an East-West direction, since no resistivity line crosses it.

After most of the 55 ft long tunnel had been dug, we learnt that revised resistivity computations proved that we were far below the alleged chamber, and the latest resistivity work shows, I believe, that in fact it does not exist.

Anyway conditions were so bad that, helped by the Lawders, I began another tunnel higher up, at the base of the fixed ladder. The clay was nice and dry and Bob Lawder burrowed at a tremendous pace and everything went well until volumes of CO<sub>2</sub> gas stopped work. This was associated with a black sandy ore-body wholly surrounded by clay. Chemical analysis with laboratories of the Fresh-water Biological Association near Windermere proved the ore to be a mixture of ferric and manganese hydroxides. Presumably this was originally a carbonate altered by the clay which absorbed the release

gas. However after a check of about 2 years the gas barrier was passed with the help of the air pump. It proved to be purely local and the tunnel was driven to a total length of about 50 feet from the entrance without any further need for an air pump, then the passage suddenly closed down to a 6 inch wide clay-filled fissure.

Up to this terminal point work had been in a nice phreatic passage with an arched roof and occasional side-solution recesses, sometimes with a free space above the clay. The depth of the clay floor of the tunnel is unknown.

We have to thank many willing helpers from many clubs from time to time in the course of the work. A list of names would be a long one. The final stages of the 2nd tunnel were the work of the M.N.R.C.

Berkhamsted  
8th June 1958.

E.A. Glennie.

### BOOK REVIEWS

NORTHERN PENNINE CLUB JOURNAL, Vol. 2. No. 1. 1957.

64 p., plans, illus.

(Obtainable from R. Riley, Gatehouse, Skipton Castle)

Not long ago Fountains Fell was thought of only as 'the place where Gingle Hole is'. Since the Northern Pennine Club started work there they have discovered four more major pots, all longer than Gingle Hole, and exploration is still going on. Descriptions of all these, with surveys, fill most of the present issue of the journal, and there is also a good account of cave work in Durham.

T.R.S. 25.10.58.

The Cave By Marjorie Sisson

(The Vine Press, Hemingford Grey, 1957) 30., Illus. £1.10.0

Some time, five hundred or a thousand years in the future, an American professor and his young stepdaughter visited the cave of Lascaux, an unusual thing to do in an age when anyone could wander through it at home by using their distance-sence apparatus. While they were below a terrible explosion occurred and on looking into his distance-sence set he saw only a red fog over the whole world. This was the ultimate explosion, predicted as far back as the twentieth century, which left the surface of the world uninhabitable, but with their supply of food tablets they were able to live contentedly in the cave. Once every year the professor viewed the rest of the world in his apparatus and after ten years the red fog subsided. The next year there was vegetation and after that animal life, but still there was no man. One day they leave the cave together; the girl finds a snake, and an apple, and human life begins again on the earth.

This book is published only in a limited edition of two hundred copies on hand made paper and contains eight wood engravings by Frank Martin. It is a book for those suffering, from biblio-lunacy rather than spelaeo-lunacy.

T.R.S.  
28.6.58.

All Material published in this Journal is Copyright.