

FOUNDATION MEETING

held at

Ashley House, Croscombe

Those Present:-

C. W. Harris

J. W. Duck

H. Murrell

N. Clark

K. Griffin

WESSEX CAVE CLUB

Volume I

Old Series: Numbers 1-56

October 1934 to June 1941

New Series: Numbers 1-25

May 1946 to November 1950.

Reprinted Spring, 1964.

## INTRODUCTION

The original Volume I, with the exception of Circular No. 1 (New Series) which was printed, was duplicated on foolscap and quarto sheets. These have been condensed into this volume of quarto sheets in elite type. (Now in Times Roman and with each Circular starting on a fresh page).

To save space many items, which were considered irrelevant (such as member's addresses, balance sheets, and repetition of previous notices) have been omitted.

The following Issues have not been indexed or reprinted, as no copies of them can be traced: - (Old Series) No. 49, Supplement No. 4 (Issued with Circular No. 51), No. 54, No. 55; also the Rules in force before the revised ones of November, 1935.

No.17, dated October, 1936, of the Old Series, was misnumbered 16; it is reprinted and indexed as 17. Similarly No. 38, dated October, 1938, was misnumbered 37, and is reprinted and indexed as 38.

In the index the number of the issue in the New Series is given and followed by the letter "n". For the Old Series the issue number is give, with no suffix. Thus: -

2 denotes Circular No. 2 in the Old Series

20n denotes Circular No. 20 in the New Series.

Secretarial notices and other miscellanea are indexed as "after 18n" etc., according to the date of publication.

Numbered Supplements to the Old Series were issued as follows:-

Supplement 1 with Circular No.40

Supplement 2 with Circular No.44

Supplement 3 with Circular No.47

Supplement 4 with Circular No.51

Supplement 5 with Circular No.52.

A Committee Report for 1940, issued between June, 1940 and June, 1941, is included after Circular No. 53.

In the Index, which has been compiled by Trevor Shaw, emphasis has been placed, not only on exploration, but also on the administration of the Club in its early days.

As the Index was compiled for the total contents of Volume I, certain discrepancies may occur in this reprint, which in no way reflects on the excellent work of T. R. Shaw, to whom we wish to express our grateful thanks.

## WESSEX CAVE CLUB

Circular No.1

November 4th, 1934

A Meeting attended by 29 members was held at Monterey Lodge, Wells, (by the courtesy of Digger and Mrs. Digger). The rules were passed and the following officers were elected:-

President: H. E. Balch, F.S.A.

Chairman: Arthur Pryor

Hon. Treasurer: Wyndham Harris

Hon. Secretary: Hywel Murrell

Hon. District Representatives.

Bristol: C. R. Hewer

Wells: Jumbo Baker

Winscombe: Kenneth Cowling

Members of Committee: Rex Palmer E. L. Dams.

Subscriptions are now due and you are asked to send your 5/- to Digger at once (if you have not already done so.)

Badges. The Club Badge, which shows the Wessex Dragon holding a candle, on a black background, is now ready and can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Every member is urged to wear one of these on his or her caving kit.

Forthcoming Events.

Sunday Nov. 18th. Dig at Hywel's Hole, Lamb Bottom. Leader: Jumbo

Saturday Dec. 1st. Expedition down Read's Cavern. Leader: C. R. Hewer

Reports. Leaders of Expeditions and members doing any work of interest are asked to send reports of their activities to the Secretary so that a record of work done by the Club may be kept.

Caving Code. In order to assist in carrying out one of the objects of the Club "to initiate newcomers into the best traditions of the game", the Committee intend to draw up a Caving Code. Matter for inclusion in this code will be welcomed and should be sent to the Secretary.

The following people, who were present at the meeting on November 4th, have signified their desire to join the Club and have paid their subscriptions.

(H) Balch H. S.	Barker, Rowland A.	Bourne, W. Temple
Baldwin N. V.	Clark N. M.	Cotton, P. T.
Doran, D. M.	Dunncliffe, H.	Duck, J. W.
Griffin, Margaret	Griffin, Kenneth	Hewer, C. R.
Harris, C. Wyndham	Murrell, Hywel	Morley, J.
Palmer R. E.	Pryor, Arthur	Reed, R.
Robertson, D.S.	Wills, Ralph	(H) - Honorary Member

### ACTIVITIES

Lamb Lair. As most members will be aware, this cave was opened up by Digger and party at the beginning of this year. The entrance has now fallen in again and is in a VERY DANGEROUS STATE. Negotiations are proceeding with a view to making good the shaft and clearing the entrance and meanwhile members are particularly requested not to enter the shaft.

The Dig on November 18th. Only three members turned up and as the nature of the hole made a stronger party necessary they joined up with a Bristol Speleo Trip down Eastwater.

E.L. Dams reports that he and a party from the Theological College did a full Swildons Trip on Saturday 17th. He found a good volume of water on the 40 foot drop.

Dams and Morley have been working in Hollowfield Swallet near Priddy. An obstructing boulder has recently been moved which revealed a narrow passage blocked with stones. There is an opportunity for work here for anyone interested.

Club Badges. In addition to the Badges printed on linen for wearing on cave clothing, there will be available a badge mounted on ivorine which can be used as a car badge etc. Prices on application to the Secretary.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December 9th. Dig at Hywel's Hole. Leader: Jumbo.

Friday December 14th. Rex Palmer has kindly invited members to spend an evening at his house. It will give you an opportunity to meet and get to know your fellow cavemen.

Wednesday December 26th. Anyone wishing to make up a party on this day should communicate with the Secretary.

Sunday January 20th. (Provisional date) Expedition to Cox's Hole (dry) and Stoke Lane (wet) led by H. Murrell.

MEMBERSHIP The following have joined since the last circulars.

Baker, Jumbo	Bourne, A. T.	Bowman, A. P.
Brown, Pauline	Cowling, K.	Dams, E. L.
Field, J. G.	Horstman, B. G.	Pick, D.
Pick, S. J.	Potter, C. W.	Smith, P. M.
Tucknott, B.	Tudgay, G.	Watson, R. L.

### GIFTS

Mr. Macintosh Chief Engineer of the work in progress between Cheddar and Axbridge has kindly given £1 1s. 0d. to the Club Funds.

C.W. Potter has given the Club a rope ladder on "permanent loan".

### ACTIVITIES

The visit to Read's Cavern on December 1st was attended by eleven members.

G. Tudgay reports that he visited The Coral Cave on December 8th.

The conditions at Hywel's Hole are such that the dig on December 9th was abandoned and the work will be suspended until the summer.

About ten members attended the Social Evening at Rex Palmer's on December 14th. During a very pleasant evening the Caving Code was discussed.

Jumbo Baker reports that he tried to do a Swildons Trip on December 29th but had to give up at the 40 ft. drop owing to the volume of water going over.

The Club trip down Eastwater on December 30th was attended by five members and three visitors. The tackle had been left in position by a previous party so good time was made down. Conditions were very wet. In addition to going right to the bottom some members explored several side passages. On the return journey two members explored some new passages in the Rift Chamber while the rest got the tackle out.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday January 20th Expedition to Cox's Hole (dry) and Stoke Lane (wet)

April 18th-28th First Cave Camp. Further details later.

Membership

Balcombe, F. G.  
Bufton, Wilfred  
Gibbons, Arthur  
Hughes, Alfred  
Smith J. A. J.  
Young, David

Balcombe, Phylis M.  
Carlton, J. K.  
Griffin A. Sercombe  
Rogers, Paul  
Smith, W.R.

Bordman, J.  
Frost, Frank  
Humphries, Ken.  
Shaw, K. H. K.  
Trahair, N. R.

GIFTS

H. Murrell has given the Club a 100 ft. Alpine Club Rope.

ACTIVITIES

Nine members and three visitors descended Cox's Hole on Sunday, January 20th, and the party then visited a nameless shaft in the vicinity of Stoke Lane. Three more members arrived and the party split in two, half went to Goatchurch while eight went down Stoke Lane. There was a good deal of water running down but they were able to get right to the end.

A dig, under the guidance of Graham Balcombe, is in progress at Waldergrave Swallet.

Members of the Club will join in congratulating Mr. & Mrs. Jack Duck on the birth of a son.

Several London members had the pleasure of meeting Mr. H. W. Haywood, F.R.P.S., President of the Leeds Cave Club on Thursday January 24th. Mr. Haywood came south to lecture to the R.P.S., on Alum Pot and we had a "private view" of his slides. An article by him appears in the "Amateur Photographer" for January 23rd.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday February 10th. Visit to Holwell Cavern.

Saturday March 2nd. Upper part of Swildons.

April 18th-28th. First Cave Camp (indoors) is to be held in the vicinity of Castle of Comfort - charge 3/- per head per day.

Membership

Arcott, D. R.	Bucklith	Chamberlain, J.
Chorley, N. P.	Frost, Fred.	Gibbs, K.
Hensler, Eric.	Johnston, Millicent	Johnston, Ruth
Lawler, P. J. A.	McLeod, W.	Reed, K. A.
Sheppard, J. A.	Storke, J.	Watson, Alice
Warrington, D. S.	Wilkins, C.	

Total Membership to date 68.

GIFTS. F. Frost has presented the Club with a twenty feet ladder and material for a second ladder which is being made up at Sidcot.

HEADQUARTERS. The Club has secured three rooms at the Grange - close to the Castle of Comfort which are available for sleeping and other purposes. Gifts of furniture, cooking utensils, etc., will be very welcome. Charge 1/- per head per night - 1/6 for non-members.

Sunday March 31st. By the courtesy of Capt. Green, who is suspending work pending our visit, the Club is to have the opportunity of inspecting a cave just discovered in the Windsor Hill Quarry, Shepton Mallet.

N.B. This is the only opportunity of visiting the cave.

April 18th-29th Easter Camp at Club Headquarters, The Grange, E. Harptree  
Saturday April 27th, Lantern Lecture by H. Murrell in Bristol.

Membership. The following have been elected members of the Club.

Vice-President - John Hughes.

Grainger-Sim, W. H.	Hemstead, E. H.	Hobhouse, B. A.
King, R. M.	Kingsbury, A. G. H.	Mingana, Marie
Platten, G.	Ransom, R.	Russell, S. J.
Smith, R.	Taunton, G.	Tombleson, P. G.
Tompson, A.	Wilkins A. E.	Worsley, G.

Total membership to date - 84.

Branston School Cave Club has affiliated.

GEAR Through the generosity of our Vice-President the Club has been able to obtain two first class 20 ft. ladders.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS The provisional programme for Easter is:

April 19th Small Caves	April 20th-21st Eastwater
April 22nd Small Caves	April 23rd-24th Swildons Hole
Whole time Excavation at Wigmore.	

May 4th-6th. Joint weekend with the Tricouni Club at W.C.C. Headquarters.

Membership. The following have been elected members of the Club:

Bryant, R. E.	Bryant, Mrs.	Heningham, R. P.
Sharpe, W.	Sharpe, D. W.	Sharpe, A. C.
Wigmore, V. S.	Wintringham, Supt.	

Total Membership - 92.

Committee.

Rex Palmer has resigned through pressure of work and E. L. Dams because he is leaving the district. K. Humphries and J. Chamberlain have been elected in their places.

Gear & Library.

The Club now has sufficient first class ladders and rope for any cave in the district and Ken Humphries has been appointed Curator. Members intending to use the gear must notify the Hon. Secretary beforehand.

Through the generosity of Gerald Flatten the Club has acquired the nucleus of a library. Further gifts of books will be very welcome. D.S. Robertson has been appointed Librarian and all communications should be addressed to him.

Activities.

The Committee feel that, in addition to the ordinary cave exploring parties run from time to time, the Club should do some useful work such as excavation, photography, surveying, etc. To this end it is proposed to organise "Gangs" to undertake something of this kind in connection with the M.N.R.C. and the B.S.S. Already two such "gangs" are busy excavating and any members interested should communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

Also a definite programme of monthly trips has been arranged to enable members to explore the caves thoroughly. 'They will be lead by Jumbo Baker.

June 22nd-23rd Eastwater

July 20th-21st Swildons

August 3rd-17th. Second Cave Camp led by Padre Watson, Charge 3/- per head per day.

Mew Members.

Vice-President: J. L. Milligan

Honorary Member: Dr. N. C. Cooper.

Ordinary Members:

Harding, R.H.

Boucher, Joseph

Iveno, R.

Crisp, J. G.

Wheeldon, F. T.

Total Membership - 97.

GOLGOTHA HOLE

This cave was discovered on May 25th by a "Gang" of Club members, working in conjunction with the M.N.R.C. The excavation was initiated by G. Flatten and carried on by H. Murrell. Members who assisted were M. & K. Griffin, M. & R. Johnston, W. McLeod, W. & D. Sharpe. The cave consists, in essential of a descent into a big chamber requiring a 60' ladder, followed by a scramble down a boulder filled rift to a total depth of about 350'. For the present this cave is notified as DANGEROUS (vide Cave Code)

SECOND CAVE CAMP

This is to be held at Headquarters between August 3rd and 17th and members and their friends may attend at any time between these dates. The Leader will be Padre Watson. Although the Club Room will be available for sleeping as usual members are urged to bring their own tents and to sleep out in the Grounds. Feeding will be communal and the Club House will be used for cooking and storage of gear. The charge will be 3/- per head per day (inclusive) with a booking fee of 2/6 for non-members.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend the camp which is an excellent way of spending a holiday and of getting to know one's fellow members. If attending please inform the Hon. Secretary of period of stay not later than August 1st.

The following trips will be made, open to all members (provisional)

August 3rd - 4th Golgotha Hole

August 10th Stoke Lane

August 5th Swildons Hole

August 11th Eastwater.

It is possible that an expedition will be run to Steep Holm during the Camp.

## THE CAVING CODE

(With Circular No. 8)

(I) One of the features of caving in Wessex up to the present is the complete freedom from serious accident, and it is the duty of every member to see that this good record is not broken. The following steps should be taken with this end in view:-

(a) Parties should, as far as possible, not be less than three in number, since should one be injured he would not have to be left alone while help was being fetched.

(b) The tackle should be tested periodically, and should always be in good condition when taken underground.

(c) A life line should always be used on all verticals.

(d) The instructions of the leader of the party should be followed without question, and the party should not be split without permission.

(e) An adequate supply of lights should always be taken.

(f) Finally, remember that caving is a dangerous sport, and do not take undue risks out of the spirit of bravado or in order to 'show off'.

(II) A good cave man jealously guards the beauty of the caves which he enters and therefore he does no damage, except that which is essential to the progress of any excavations. He does not carve any inscriptions, or leave any litter.

(III) It is essential that news of new discoveries should not be allowed to get known outside the circle of the Club until steps have been taken to protect any beauties which may have been found.

(IV) Caves which are notified by the Club as dangerous should only be descended by a strong official party.

(V) Before any cave trip, members should leave word of their destination with some responsible person and also state approximate time of return.

(VI) It has always been understood that Members do not interfere with the work or plans of others. To avoid overlapping members are urged to consult the Hon. Secretary before undertaking any fresh piece of work and to keep him informed of progress.

New Members.

Bayfield, D.S. Carter, R. Cotton, R. T. Mansfield, J. H.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Club will be held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol on Nov. 23rd. Tea may be obtained at 4 pm (1/-). Meeting at 4.30. ANNUAL DINNER at 7.30 Tickets, 3/6d. each, must be obtained from the Hon. Sec. in advance.

In arranging the above your Committee hope to initiate an annual social event which will be the rallying point of everyone interested in Wessex Caving. It is a considerable undertaking and every member is urged to assist in making it a success by not only coming themselves but also by bringing their wives, relatives and friends and contributing to a very happy party.

Morning dress will be worn.

Members who intend to sleep at H.Q. on Nov. 23 are asked to communicate with the Secretary beforehand.

Nov. 9-10 Joint weekend with the Camping Club (mountaineering section). Sat. afternoon - Cow Hole, Sunday-Swildons Hole. Members who intend to take part in this event are requested to communicate with H. Dunicliff, 10 Effingham Rd. Bristol.

THE COMMITTEE. Under the Rules the Officers and Committee for the coming year are to be elected by postal ballot. Notice is hereby given that nominations must be sent to the Hon. Sec. not later than Oct. 21st. with names of proposer and seconder.

The retiring committee is:- President: H. E. Balch, Chairman: Arthur Pryor, Hon. Treas. Wyndham Harris. Hon. Sec. Hywel Murrell, Hon. District Representatives: Bristol - C. R. Hewer, Wells - Jumbo Baker, Winscombe - K. Cowling. Ordinary members, K. Humphries, J. Chamberlain.

Other matter for inclusion in the Agenda must be in by No. 16th.

ACTIVITIES. Four members attended the Inaugural Meeting of the British Spelaeological Association at Derby on July 27th. S. J. Pick and H. Murrell were elected onto the Council.

The August Camp was most successful. An exploration of Cow Hole was carried out and visits were made to Swildons, Stoke Lane and Eastwater. By the courtesy of Mr. Harry Cox a party of ten crossed to Steep Holm and explored four caves on the cliffs. A promising mine shaft on Rookham was worked out and a further excavation begun at Ubley.

On Sept. 30 a party of London Members held a weekend camp at Fawkham, Kent, and excavated a reputed subterranean passage which proved to be a dead end. A very chalky event.

From Sept. 16 - 28 a party consisting of G. Platten (leader) Digger Harris, Joe Bowsher, V. Wigmore, Mr. and Mrs. Bryant, visited the Peak District. Twenty caves were explored, which included by courtesy of the Derbyshire Pennine Club, the descents of Nettle Pot and Oxlow Cavern. In spite of rough weather above and plenty of water below everyone had a very good time.

GOLGOTHA HOLE has been renamed BLACK COW HOLE.

New Members.Honorary Members. Baker, S. A. Savory, J. HarryOrdinary Member. Gould, A.F.ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for Absence
- 2) Minutes of Previous Meeting.
- 3) Committee's Report.
- 4) Hon. Treasurer's Report.
- 5) Election of Committee for 1936.

The following nominations have been received:

		<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
President	H. E. Balch, F.S.A.	J. Stark	K. Reed
Chairman	Arthur Pryor	J. Stark	K. Reed
Ho. Treas.	W. McLeod	H. Murrell	K. Reed
Hon. Sec.	H. Murrell	J. Stark	

Representatives

Bristol	No nomination		
Wells	T.G. Baker	C.W. Harris	W.G. Tucknott
Winscombe	K. Cowling	J. Stark	K. Reed

Ordinary Members.

K. Humphries		J. Stark	K. Reed
G. Balcombe (unwilling to stand)		C.W. Harris	T.G. Baker

6) Amendments to the rules - proposed by the Committee:

- a) Add to rule 5. "The Committee shall fill any casual vacancies."
- b) Add to rule 8. "Any member whose subscription has become more than three months overdue shall automatically cease to hold membership of the Club."
- c) Amend rule 9 to read:- "That a charge of 1s. 0 (exclusive of any gate fee) shall be payable by any non-member who takes part in any trip on which Club Gear is used or on any trip organised by the Club."
- d) An additional rule:- "An extra-ordinary general meeting may be called at any time by the Committee or by the Hon. Sec. when required in writing by 10 members of the Club. Two weeks notice must in all cases be given."
- e) An additional rule:- "Any proposed additions or alterations to these Rules shall be circularised to all members at least two weeks before the meeting at which it is proposed

to make the alterations. A two thirds majority of those present at the meeting is necessary for the alteration to become effective."

7) Any other business

Owing to lack of support the proposed Annual Dinner has been cancelled.

New Members.

Ordinary

Grace, Henry

Honorary - Barnes, E.E.

Beaven, John A.D.

Griffin, J. R.

Cotwell, Dennis

Pembury, C.W.

SUBSCRIPTIONS BECAME DUE ON. NOVEMBER 1st AND MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEM TO THE HON. SECRETARY WITHOUT DELAY.

At the Annual Meeting held on November 23rd, the following Officers and committee were elected. President, H. E. Balch, Chairman: A. Pryor, Hon. Treas: W. H. McLeod, Hon. Sec: H. Murrell, Hon. Assistant Sec: E. W. Sharpe, District Reps: Bristol: N. V. Baldwin, Wells: T. C. Baker, Winscombe: K. Cowling, Ordinary Members: K. Humphries, D. R. Arscott.

The Rules. A copy of the Rules as amended at the Annual Meeting is enclosed herewith. Particular attention is called to Rule 10.

Wookey Hole Log. Enclosed with this circular is a prospectus of the Wookey Hole Log which is to be published shortly. Members are urged to purchase a copy as a practical method of assisting this venture.

RULES

With Circular No. 11.

- (1) That the Club shall be called the Wessex Cave Club.
- (2) That the objects of the Club shall be:
  - To promote the sport of caving
  - (a) by initiating newcomers into the best traditions of the game.
  - (b) by gating caves which are likely to be despoiled.
  - (c) by publications.
  - (d) by organising gatherings to explore or excavate.
  - (e) by arranging for members to visit caves in districts other than their own.
  - (f) by erecting and maintaining huts where members can stay while cave hunting.
  - (g) by maintaining gear for the use of members.
- (3) That the Club shall consist of Honorary Members and Ordinary Members, who may be of either sex.
- (4) That the President, Vice Presidents and Honorary Members shall be entitled to exercise the privileges of ordinary membership.
- (5) That the affairs of the Club be conducted by a Committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Hon. Treas. Hon. Sec., and such Hon. District Reps, as shall be appointed and two other members. The Committee may make such byelaws for the regulation of the use of the Club's

property as may be deemed necessary. The Committee shall fill any casual vacancies.

(6) That the Election of the Committee shall be by Postal Ballot held not later than 31st October, and an Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Autumn of each year.

(7) That any person desiring to join the Club must be nominated by two members and elected by the Committee.

(8) That the subscription for Ordinary Members shall be 5s. 0d. per annum due on 31st October each year. On and after 31st October 1935 every new member shall be required to pay an entrance fee of 5s. 0d. Any member whose subscription has become more than three months overdue shall automatically cease to hold membership of the Club.

(9) That a charge of 1s. 0d. (exclusive of any gate fee) shall be payable by any non-member who takes part in any trip organised by the Club. The size of any party shall be at the discretion of the leader.

(10) That every person whether a Member or not making use of the services of a guide or guide or taking part in any activity or expedition organised by the Club or in which any member of the Club shall take part, shall do so at his or her own risk and he or she or his or her legal personal representatives or assigns or dependants shall have no claim or right of action against the Club or any Member thereof in respect of any damage loss or injury sustained notwithstanding any negligence of the guide or any members or the body of Members of the Club.

(11) That an extraordinary general meeting may be called at any time by the Hon. Secretary.. When required, by the Committee or in writing by 10 members of the Club. Two weeks' notice must in all cases be given.

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

(13) That no alteration shall be made in these rules except at the Annual General Meeting.

With Circular No. 11

THE LOG  
of the  
WOOKEY HOLE  
EXPEDITION

The record of the findings  
and the story of the explorer-divers  
who for over two months  
laid siege to the water-chambers of Wookey Hole Cave,  
will soon be available.

Although issued primarily for the benefit of the caving world, it is hoped that some profit will be made on the sale to assist the continuation of the work. The expenses of the Expedition are heavy, and the amount of work outstanding great

LEND A HAND  
by purchasing a copy, its success  
depends on your support.

The Log will contain some two hundred pages, sixteen photographs, and numerous sketches and diagrams.

It will cost 7/6d. a copy.

Clubmen, we are counting on your support, do not fail us. Send a post-card now to Graham Balcombe, at High Street, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berks., and a copy will be reserved for you.

ooOOooo

Supported by

members of

The British Speleological Association

The Wells N.H.& Arch. Soc.

The Wessex Cave Club

The Bristol University Speleological Society

The Northern Cavern and Fell Club.

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New Members.

Braithwaite, T. A. J.

Hardcastle, M.

Wandsworth, A.

Forthcoming Events

March 5th. Gough's Cave, Cheddar. Parts not open to public. Party limited to 25.

March 22nd Eastwater - upper part - down Canyon up Traverse and 380 ft way.

April 9th-19th Third Camp at H.Q. Charge 3/- per head per day.

A Club Evening will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Rover Den, Waterloo Road, Clifton, from 7.30 p.m. onwards. All members will be welcome.

New Member.

Cooper, A. B.

Forthcoming Events.

April 1st. Informal Meeting at the Rover Den, Pavey House, Waterloo Street, Clifton. The Hon. Sec. will speak on "Some lesser known Caves of Western Mendip" at 8. p.m.

April 9-19th Third cave camp at H.Q. Members and their friends may attend for all or any of the period. The activities will consist, as usual, of cave trips and excavation.

April 22nd. Informal meeting at the Rover Den. Subject to be arranged.

April 26th. Cow Hole.

Headquarters are now being redecorated. It is up to every member who can to give a hand. At the moment the work is being carried on by a very small number. Your help will be most welcome. The Club would also be glad of gifts of furniture - chairs and mattresses are particularly required.

In future Headquarters will be kept LOCKED and the key must be obtained from Mr. Bendall and signed for. Members who anticipate arriving in the dead of night can obtain a key beforehand from the Hon. Secretary.

The Library. The following books can be borrowed from D. S. Robertson, by paying postage both ways.

"Caving" - E. A. Baker; "Wookey Hole", "Cheddar - its Gorge and Caves", "Wookey Hole, its Caves and Cave Dwellers" - H. E. Balch; Yorkshire Ramblers Club Journals No. 1-21; Journal of Torquay Natural History Society, Vol. 11 pt. 1. Vol. VI pt. IV; N. Staffs Field Club Trans. 1917-18; Natural History of Sheffield District 1917-18; Som. Arch. Soc. Proc. Vol. VI 1880; Spelsnca Vol. 5 No. 39, 1904; Journal Northern Cavern and Fell 1935.

Circular No. 14

4th June, 1936.

New Members.

Gamlin, A. E,

Whitehead, D.

Forthcoming Events.

Sunday June 14th. Swildons Hole, Full Trip.

Saturday June 27th. Burrington Caves (Goatchurch - Sidcot Swallet etc.)

Wednesday, July 6th. Evening trip upper part of Swildons. Supper at "Castle" 9.00 if desired.

Saturday, July 18th. Coral Cave - Denny's Hole etc.

Early July. Trip to Steep Holm.

August 1st onward. Cave camp at H.Q. run on the same lines as last year. Charge 3/- per head per day.

Excavations. Members wishing to dig are requested to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary.

Mew Members.

Richardson, C.

Strachan, J. C.

Whitaker –

Forthcoming Events.

Saturday, July 18th. Coral Cave, Denny's Hole etc.

July 24th-27th British Spelaeological Association Conference at Buxton.

August 1st Onward. Cave Camp at H.C. under leadership of Padre Watson.

Swildons trip August 2nd. Other trips to be arranged as required.

August 29th-30th. Weekend Camp at H.Q. Expenses Shared. Exploration of Stoke Lane Swallet.

The Steep Holm trip has been postponed until next year.

Committee. W. H. McLeod has resigned the Hon. Treasurership and Jack Starke has been appointed in his place. Kenneth Cowling is leaving the district to take a post in the Isle of Wight and has therefore retired from the Committee. Frank Frost has been elected to fill the vacancy.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Members will be pleased to know that Jumbo Baker is to be married in the near future. The Committee feels that something ought to be done about it and invites those who appreciate Jumbo to send contributions (not exceeding 2/6d.) to Jack Starke before July 28th. A suitable wedding present will be purchased.

Lamb Leer Cave.

It was stated in Circular No. 2 of Nov. 29th, '34 that negotiations were in progress to obtain permission to re-open Lamb Leer. In order to carry these on, a joint committee was set up representing the Bristol Speleological Society, The Mendip Nature Research Committee, and the Club, and now a licence to re-open and explore the cave has been granted to these three societies jointly.

Work was commenced on, at the cave camp and has continued at Weekends since. The top of the shaft has been closed with a concrete platform fitted with an iron trap door and at present the work consists of digging at the bottom of the shaft to clear the entrance down to somewhere near its original level. It is then proposed to concrete the shaft all the way down on the two sides which are loose and dangerous and so make a permanent job.

This work will naturally cost money and the Committee appeal to all Club members to send in a subscription however small to defray the expense. You will enjoy the amenities of the cave when it is open, so what are you going to do about it?

PERSONAL

John Morley, and Chas. Hewer have returned from abroad and we are very glad to welcome them back into the club.

The name of A. T. Bourne was inadvertently omitted from the list and should be added.

Hearty congratulations to Jumbo Baker. He was married on August 1st. We see that he still comes caving.

TRIPS

It has been found that on the whole Club Trips have been badly supported and several have had to be abandoned. There is however a considerable amount of activity going on both at Weekends and during the evenings and any members who wish to cave at any time are urged to communicate with the Hon. Sec. who is in touch with most of the work.

HATS Hard hats - which are particularly recommended for cave work, can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary at 2/6d. each. Post extra.

NEW MEMBERS.  
Kidd, Mrs I.

Dawson, Miss J. E.  
Lawry, W. J.

Dumaresq, M.C.W.  
Vosper, W.G.

NEW MEMBER

Painter, T.

OFFICERS & THE COMMITTEE

The Officers & Committee for 1936-7 are to be elected by postal ballot if necessary. Nominations must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by Oct. 31st at the latest.

The present Officers and Committee are:-

President, H. E. Balch; Chairman, A. Pryor; Hon. Treas., J. Starke; Hon. Sec., H. Murrell; Hon. Assist. Sec., W. Sharpe; District Reps. Wells: T. G. Baker; Bristol: N. V. Baldwin, F. Frost; Ordinary Members, D. R. Arscott, K. Humphries.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Cliff Hotel, Cheddar on Saturday Nov. 21st at 5.0 p.m. Matters for inclusion in the agenda must be sent to the Hon. Sec. by November 7th.

The Annual Dinner will be held at the same place at 7.30 p.m. Tickets (which must be obtained and paid for before Nov. 16th) 2/9 each. It is hoped to continue the festivities at H.Q. afterwards and the Hon. Sec. would be glad to hear from members who would like to stay the night.

LAMB LEER

Out of our total membership of over 100 less than a dozen have responded to our appeal for the Lamb Leer Fund. We must point out again that everyone will benefit from the work which is being done and it is hardly too much to expect that everyone should contribute something, however small to the fund.

RESCUE ORGANISATIONS

At this suggestion of the Club a Committee has been formed with other societies to set up a Rescue Organisation similar to that which was started a couple of years ago in the north. Details of this scheme should be available shortly.

INLAND WATER SURVEY

The British Speleological' Association has undertaken the "underground" portion of this survey. A local Committee has been set up and the Area has been divided between the Club's concerned. The Club. Reps, are F. Frost and N. V. Baldwin and anyone who would like to take part in this work should communicate with either of them.

Nov. 1st. Stoke Lane Swallet.

NEW MEMBERS.

Knight, E. J.  
Strachan, J. F.

Crook, Dr. B. A.  
Newman, C. D.  
Weller, A. L. H.

Greenwood -  
Stephens, A.  
Wooley, Dr.

ANNUAL MEETING at Cliff Hotel, Cheddar, Nov. 21st at 5-0 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for Absence.
- 2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
- 3) Hon. Secretaries Report.
- 4) Hon Treasurers Report.
- 5) Amendments to the Rules. Proposed by the Committee.
  - a) Rule 5 Delete from "and such" to "two other members" and add "Hon. Assistant Secretary and nine other members"
  - b) A new rule "That Members who take up temporary residence abroad may have their membership suspended until they return, on notification to Hon. Secretary."
- 6) Election of Committee.

The following are proposed by the Committee.

President: H. E. Balch, M.A. F.S.A.	Chairman: Arthur Pyror
Hon. Treas: J. Starke.	Hon.Sec: H. Murrell, M
Ordinary Members: N. V. Baldwin, T. G. Baker, J. Duck, Frank Frost, K. Humphries & E. W. Sharpe.	
- 7) Report of the Mendip Rescue Organisation.
- 8) Report of the British Speleological Association.
- 9) Report of the Inland Water Survey.
- 10) Suggested publication of a Log.
- 11) Any other business.

The Annual Dinner will be held at 7-30 p.m. NOT Evening Dress. Tickets 2/9 each must be obtained before November 18th.

After the Dinner a Film taken by the Bristol Speleological Society will be shewn with their kind permission.

SUBS FOR 1936-7 NOW DUE

LAMB LEER No further donations are required.

ANUAL GENERAL METING, was held at the CLIFF HOTEL, Cheddar. The following were elected as Officers and Committee for 1937.

President: H. E. Balch, Chairman: A. Pryor, Hon. Treas. J. D. Starke, Hon. Sec: H. Murrell, Committee:- D. R. Arscott, T. G. Baker, N. V. Baldwin, J. W. Duck, F. W. Frost, A. F. Gould, K. Humphries, E. W. Sharpe, A. Wadsworth.

Mrs. Dinah Dobson, D.Litt., F.S.A., was elected a vice-president.

The following alterations to the rules were made.

Rule 5 Delete "and such Hon. District Representatives, as may be appointed and two other members" and add "Hon Assistant Secretary and nine other members". A new rule "That members who take up temporary residence abroad shall have their subscription suspended until they return, on notification to the Hon. Secretary.

THE GEAR A. F. Gould has been appointed gear curator. In future all gear, with the exception of that used for excavation, will be kept at his house.

HEADQUARTERS. With the removal of the gear the smaller rooms are much freer for changing. Members are informed that they must use these rooms for that purpose and not the Big Living room. Members must realise that we have no caretaker to keep the place clean and that if they confine the dirt to a room set aside for the purpose it will be much more pleasant for everyone. They are particularly requested to sweep the place out before leaving, to wash up and put away all crockery etc. used and generally leave Headquarters as they like to find it.

INLAND WATER SURVEY J. W. Duck has written pointing out that a misstatement was made in a previous statement. The British Speleological Association has made itself responsible for the WHOLE of the Inland Water Survey.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS. Jan. 3rd. Sunday. Full Eastwater, led by Hon. Sec. Jan. 9th Tuesday. Joint Meeting with the Bristol University Speleological Society in the Geography Lecture Theatre (entrance University Road) at 8.15 p.m. H. Murrell will speak on "CAVE PHOTOGRAPHY". Lantern Slides.

Very little use is being made of the facilities offered by the Clubs for the arrangement of Cave trips. Members who have a free day are urged to write or phone the Hon. Sec. beforehand. He can nearly always fix up something.

NEW MEMBERS

Backhouse, P.	Chitty, A.	Davis, N. R. K
Hudson, A. J. R.	Lander, J. W.	Peck, J. A.
Wallace, R. K.	Westwood, B.	Westwood, N.

FUTURE EVENTS.

Sunday Feb. 14th. Full EASTWATER led by Jumbo Baker.

Wednesday Feb. 24th. Club Supper. Charge will not exceed 2/- per head.

March 25th to April 4th. Easter Camp at Headquarters. Charge 3/- per head per day.

May 15th to 18th. Club Camp in connection with British Speleological Association. Meet at Gaping Ghyl. Details later.

INLAND WATER SURVEY. It is regretted that the "Correction" in the last circular failed to make the position of the British Speleological Association and its associated Societies clear. The Association is only responsible for the work so far as it is connected with streams flowing through caverns and swallets. The remainder of the Inland Water Survey is being carried out by Engineers and Geologists. The Regional Committees formed in Somerset, Yorkshire and Derbyshire by the B.S.A., to deal with cave waters, must not be confused with the Regional Water Advisory Committees of the Ministry of Health which already exist in some parts of the Country, or with any Regional Water Survey Committee, which latter deals with other aspects of Water, such as rainfall, surface water and underground water as well as with cave water.

CLUB NEWS

So many people wanted to attend the Eastwater trip on Jan 3rd that several had to be turned away (another trip has been arranged for their benefit). The ladders had been put in on the Saturday by a small party led by Jack Starke and they were left for another party the following week. The trip went very smoothly and the party was underground for 4¼ hours.

The lecture on Jan 19th was not very well supported by Club members, though the total attendance was good. H. Murrell showed 130 slides in all explaining the principles which guided their taking.

MENDIP RESCUE ORGANISATION. The Hon. Secretary wishes to hear immediately from all members who are on the telephone or who can be got by telephone and who are willing to assist in the Organisation.

Also from those who have cars.

THIS IS A MATTER OF THE FIRST IMPORTANCE AND YOU ARE PARTICULARLY  
ASKED NOT TO IGNORE THIS REQUEST.

New Member.

Bailey, Miss Betty.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday, March 14th. Visit to Gough's Cave, Cheddar, by kind permission of the Manager, Mr. T.B. Gill.

Thursday March 25th to Sunday April 4th. Easter Camp at Headquarters.

Saturday May 15th to Tuesday May 18th. A Club camp is being organised in connection with the British Speleological Association's Meet at Gaping Ghyll.

We regret to have to report that Gould is leaving Bristol to take up a new post in Northampton. This leaves us without a Curator of Tackle. Anyone with facilities for drying and storing tackle are invited to volunteer for the job at once.

INLAND WATER SURVEY The Club, through its representative Frank Frost has undertaken to survey quite a large area of Mendip, North of Wells. So far Frost has had little or no help from Club Members. It certainly looks bad when a Club of over 120 members cannot turn out more than one or two on this vitally important work. All who can are urged to spare an occasional day to the job and to get in touch with Frost with offers of help.

LAMB LEER. Some blasting has been done in the new shaft making it much easier to climb. Iron ladders have been bought and they are to be fixed permanently in position in the shaft. The new gate is ready and it only waits for a favourable weekend for it to be put in position. Meanwhile the greater part of the old Windlars platform has been dismantled as it might so easily have proved a death trap to some unwary person. Jack Duck is pushing on with his survey and he has brought one interesting fact to light - that the old orientation of the cave was completely -wrong. The cave passes right under the road and the big chamber is situated under a field on the other side where a depression can be seen. There is still much to be done and Duck will always be glad of offers of help.

NEW MEMBERS

Dalton, Miss R.H.

McMillan A. J. S.

McMillan Mrs. J.M.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday April 7th. Club Supper at the New Inn Cross. Charge 2/- per head.

Sunday April 18th. Trips to HOLWELL CAVE.

Wednesday May 12th. Trip to LAMB LEER.

Saturday May 15th to Tuesday May 18th. GAPING GHYLL. A furnished bungalow has been placed at the disposal of the Clubs in Wensleydale about 25 miles from the Cave. A charge of 5/- will be made to cover the cost of linen etc.

May 29th-30th. Weekend in South Wales. The party will stay at PONT NEDD FECHAN and visit several caves. Cost about 10/-

THE GEAR T. G. Baker has been appointed Gear Curator. He lives in the first bungalow on the right descending Rookham Hill. In future all gear must be washed by the party using it before it is returned to Baker who will dry it.

THE COMMITTEE A. J. Gould has taken a post near Northampton. We are very sorry to lose him and wish him the very best of luck in his new job. Dr. B. A. CROOK has been elected to fill the vacancy on the Committee.

THE LOG. The Club intends to produce a Log this year. Leaders of Parties and others doing work of interest are urged to send their reports to the Editor, Arthur Pryor.

LITTER. Attention has been called to the filthy state of some of the caves due not to natural causes but to debris left by various parties. Members are asked to be particular not to leave any litter about and to remove any they may find. This of course applies to such things as cigarette packets and beer cans as well as to the more common food wrappings.

Our Hon. Treasurer, Jack Starke, is being married at Easter. It is felt that he should be given a Wedding Present by the Club. Will members please send their contributions to H. Murrell immediately.

New Members.

Hobday, F. J.

Feaver, Miss M.

Newman, Miss M.

Perry, C. W. J.

Trower, A. M. G.

Wise, J. A. R.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday May 12th. Lamb Leer. It is proposed to take down a portable wireless set in order to listen in to the Coronation Ceremony. Special illumination is being arranged and the party will celebrate the event in an appropriate manner. In order that sufficient time may be left for these arrangements the Hon. Sec. must hear from members who wish to attend not later than May 6th.

May 29th-30th. Weekend in South Wales. The party will stay at PONTNEDDFECHAN and trips will be made to several newly discovered caves of considerable importance.

BRITISH SPELAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

There will be a great deal of work to be done during the week July 18th-24th in preparation for the above and on July 25th-26th when the excursions are being run. Will any members who would be willing to help on any of those dates please sent their names in to the Hon. Secretary.

Lamb Leer. A gate has now been fitted to-the New Shaft and embedded in concrete. Three sections of iron ladder reaching to within 20 ft. of the bottom have been placed in position.

Club News. Ten members turned up at CROSS for supper on April 7th. Excellent bacon and eggs were consumed and a motley assortment of musical instruments made the welkin ring until closing time.

On Sunday April 18th a large party was let loose in the maze of narrow passages which is to be found in Holwell Cave. While some members of the party confined themselves to the larger holes others spent the afternoon trying to force their bodies through tiny fissures obviously too small for them. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Paul Rogers, one of our original members, was married early in April to Miss Pat Hooton who attended part of the Easter Camp of 1935. We wish them both the very best of luck and good caving.

Congratulations to Eric Hensler and his wife on the birth of a daughter. Future cave woman we hope.

The entire contents of the Easter Camp (a motley array) was poured into Burrington Church on Easter Saturday to see the Hon. Treasurer married to Miss Nora Thompson. The party adjourned to Mendip Gate afterwards to toast the Bride and Bridegroom.

B.B.C. Broadcast May 1st. The Committee wish it to be made quite clear that this Club has nothing whatever to do with this event.

Circular No. 24

June, 1937.

New Members.  
Weaver, Mrs. D. M.

Cook, W. O.  
Weaver, C.P.

Pegg, E. J.  
Whittingham, F.M.

The following who had resigned have rejoined the Club.

Brown, Miss P.

Johnston, Miss R. A.

Sharpe, A. C.

BRITISH SPELAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. This Conference is open to all members of the Association free and to all others on payment of a fee of 5/-d. Members of the Club may visit the Exhibition at any time on the payment of 1/- but members of the public will only be admitted on the Afternoon of Saturday July, 24th. On the Saturday evening at 8 p.m. there will be a Public Lecture by Prof. L'abbé H. Breuil on "Some French and Spanish Caves". Free tickets can be obtained on application. Membership of the Association costs 10/6d. per annum and Club members are urged to support this important and growing body, As is the case with every new venture finance is a great problem and anxiety in this direction can be greatly allayed by a large subscribing membership.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS. July 23rd-26th B.S.A. Conference.

July 31st - Aug. 8th. Cave Camp at H.Q. Charge 3/- per head per day.

As usual trips will be run down all the big caves and excavations will be carried out.

LAMB LEER Extensive work of construction is being carried on. Members should note that the Cave is CLOSED to all touring parties until after the Conference. The Trustees have drawn up Rules to be observed by all visiting the cave. Members must sign an indemnity before they will be allowed to enter. Non-Members may only visit the cave with the written permission of two of the Trustees on the prescribed form.

B.S.A. CONTINENTAL CAVE TOUR July 27th - August 7th.

Circulars describing this trip may be had from the Hon. Sec.

CONDEMNED ROPES are now bound with copper wire at each end and should only be used for excavation.

New Members.

	Fitzgibbon, Mrs. L.P.	Kitcherside, A.E.
Bevir, E. A.	Ready, C.P.	Wise, Miss M.
Maggs, R.		

B.S.A. Conference.

The following events are open to Club Members who are not members of the B.S.A.

Friday, July 23rd. Reception by the University of Bristol at 8. p.m. Evening Dress optional.

Saturday, July 24th. Public Lecture in English by L'Abbé Breuil on "Some French and Spanish Caves" at 8. p.m.

The Exhibition may be visited at any time on Friday or Saturday at an admission fee of 6d. The Public will be admitted on Saturday afternoon only when the fee is 1/-

Lamb Leer, will be open to Club members on the Afternoon of Sunday July 25th when the cave will be fully illuminated.

FUTURE EVENTS

July 22nd-28th. A film made in Lamb Leer will be shown at the News Theatre, Peter Street, Bristol.

July 31st - Aug. 8th. August camp at H.Q.

NOTE Headquarters will be closed from August 9th-20th inclusive.

Club members are particularly requested not to visit Swildons or Eastwater on July 17th - 18th and July 25 - 26th. It will assist the organisation considerable if local members of the B.S.A. do not visit Lamb Leer on Sunday morning but do so in the afternoon.

NEW MEMBERS

Braker, B. M. D.

Hemming, Rev. P.

Holt, R. G.

Pritchett, D. E.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday Sept. 18th. Eastwater including 380 ft way and the Traverse.

Wednesday Sept. 29th. Club .Supper at New Inn CROSS 7-30 p.m. 2/-

Saturday - Sunday October 2nd - 3rd. Weekend in S. Wales. Party will stay at PONT NEDD FECHAN.

Tuesday October 26th. Joint meeting with the Bristol Spelaeological Society Further details later.

Saturday November 20th. Annual General Meeting and Dinner at Wells.

BANWELL CAVE During the course of Ochre Mining a small cave has been opened up between Banwell and Sandford. The chief features of interest were mud bird nests clustered round what must have been the original entrance. There is little stalactite but in one chamber a good deal of coral (splash deposit) is evident. Members who wish to visit this cave should apply to the Hon. Secretary as it is locked.

CAVES AND CAVING The attention of Members is again called to this Magazine, the First to be published in England. It is published quarterly and the first number was out last June if you have not already done so you should support this effort and send your sub of 4/6 for one year to the Editor.

S.O.S. New members of B.S.A. urgently required. New then what about it?

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB is now 141. Members are urged to make a special effort to bring this number up to 150 by the end of our year.

NEW MEMBERS

Hannabuss, Miss E. M.  
Mackeson, J.  
Pitt A. C.  
Sharland, E. W.

Braithwaite, B. R.  
Hilton, F.  
Moon, R.  
Raynes, P. M.  
Warren, P. H.

Braithwaite, J.L.  
Hucker, W.  
Parsons, A.J.  
Rees, J.D.  
Withey, M.S.W.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Museum, Wells on Saturday November 20th at 5.15 p.m. Friends of members are invited to attend or they may occupy the time in inspecting the Museum. All matter for inclusion in the Agenda should be in the hands of the Hon. Sec. by November 3rd.

THE ANNUAL DINNER will be held at Wickendens Restaurant, High Street at 7.30p.m. It will be followed by amusements and dancing. Tickets 3/-.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 23rd. TIGHT SQUEEZES IN BURREINGTON DISTRICT.

Come and see how slim you are!

Tuesday October 26th. Meeting with the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, 8.15 p.m. in the Geography Lecture Theatre. "A Tripper in County Clare" by C. Wyndham Harris.

Sunday, October 31st . Geological Field day to be led by Prof . Wallis.

Saturday November 6th. Evening trip to Wookey Hole Cave to explore parts not open to the Public.

Tuesday November 9th. Meeting of University of Bristol Spel. Soc. as above. "Recent excavations on the Cotswolds". Mrs. E. M. Clifford.

Saturday November 20th Annual Meeting and Dinner.

PUBLICITY The attention of the Committee has been called to several recent cases of undesirable publicity involving members of the Club.

All members are reminded that it is an understood thing amongst all decent cave men that reports of cave activities are not given to the press nor is the Club's name to be mentioned except with the Committee's approval. Members who desire to give publicity to their activities are advised to consult the Hon. Secretary.

New Members.  
Thomas, L. S.

Kingdon, V. E. W.  
Todd, P. G.

Rees, J. P.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Museum, Wells on Saturday November 20th, at 5.15 p.m. sharp.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting.
3. The Hon. Secretary's Report.
4. The Hon. Treasurer's Report.
5. The following Amendments to the Rules are proposed by the Committee.

Rule 5. After "Chairman" add "who shall retire annually and be ineligible for re-election for the following year".

After "Hon. Assistant Secretary" add "Gear Curator".

A new rule "Any person whose membership is, by the unanimous ballot of the Committee, deemed to be undesirable, may be asked to leave the Club",

6. The following Officers are proposed by the Committee:

President:	K. E. Balch, M.A.,	
Vice Presidents:	Rt. Hon. Earl Wallegrave.	John Hughes
	Prof. E. K. Tratman	Mrs. Dobson
Chairman:	J. Duck	
Hon. Treasurer:	K. Humphries	
Hon. Secretary:	H. Murrell, M.A.	
Gear Curator:	T. G. Baker	

The following were duly nominated in accordance with Rule 6 and are therefore elected as Members of the Committee:

T. A. J. Braithwaite	+ Dr. Crook	+ Frank. Frost
J. W. Strachan	+ E. W. Sharpe	+ A. Wadsworth
A. E. Whitehead.		

+ N. V. Baldwin was nominated but is unwilling to stand for re-election. This leaves two vacancies to be filled.

+ - Retiring members.

7. Election of Auditor

8. Any other business.

At the conclusion of the Meeting, E. Simpson, Recorder of the British Spelaeological Association will give an address.

The Annual Dinner will be held at 7.30 p.m. Lounge suits will be worn. Tickets 3/- each.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS Sunday Dec. 5th. Full Eastwater.

New Members.

Maclaren, R.

Mandeville-Mead , Miss J

Lloyd, W. H.

G Jones, E. D.

Dell, R.C.

Meade-King, M. G.

Brown, F. R.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This was attended by some 36 members and friends. The following Officers and Committee were elected:- President, H. E. Balch, Vice Presidents: Rt. Hon. Earl Waldegrave, John Hughes, Mrs. Dobson, Prof. E. K. Tratman. Chairman: J. W. Duck, Hon. Treasurer: K. W. Humphries, Hon. Sec: H. Murrell, Gear Curator: T. C. Baker, Hon. Auditor: C.W. Potter. Committee: T. A. J. Braithwaite, Dr. Crook, Frank Frost, J. F. Strachan, E. W. Sharpe, A. Wadsworth, A. E. Whitehead, C. P. Weaver, McMillan.

The Following Rule was made:

"That any person whose Membership is deemed to be undesirable to a three-quarter majority of the Members present at a general meeting, at which the Member concerned has an opportunity of being heard, shall be expelled from the Club."

It was also resolved that Members who are professionally interested in Caving may become Members of the Club.

The ANNUAL DINNER was attended by 84 Members and their friends and Festivities continued until midnight.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday January, 8th. Evening Trip to Wookey Hole. Leader, E. W. Sharpe.

Saturday January 22nd. Lamb Leer, led by J. W. Duck.

Tuesday January -25th. Meeting of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, Geography Lecture Theatre, 8.15 p.m. "Caves and Caving" by E. Simpson,

Wednesday January 26th Club Supper, NEW INN, CROSS. 7.30 p.m. charge 2/-.

LAMB LEER. Members are reminded they can only visit this cave when a signed indemnity has been deposited with the Hon. Sec. and that non-members of the Club must obtain the signatures of two of the Trustees before they can be allowed to enter the cave. No exceptions can be made under any circumstances to this Rule.

COW HOLE: Members are again warned that this cave is notified as dangerous within the meaning of the caving code and they are strongly advised under no circumstances to visit the cave at present.

E.W. Sharpe is intending to start a search for a lost Cave on the Western side of Mendip and would be glad of the help and co-operation of any Member who might be interested.

New Members.  
Dennis, P. W. G.  
Robertson, A. A.

Bayfield, A. M.  
Edwards R. D. M.  
Steven, W. G.

Bell, H. G.  
Percy, H. R. G.  
Vivian, J. M.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday January 22nd. Trip to Lamb Leer, Led by J. W. Duck.

Wednesday January 26th. Meeting of U.B.S.S. Geography Lecture Theatre, 6.15 p.m. Subject: "Caves and Caving" by E. Simpson, Recorder of B.S.A.

Wednesday January 26th. Club Supper. New Inn, Cross.

Saturday February, 5th. Visit to Old Mill Colliery, Paulton. Boiler suits strongly advised.

Saturday, February 19th. Club Meet at the Museum, Wells 3 p.m. Conducted tour of Museum, especially to view Cave Exhibits.

5.30 p.m. Informal Meeting. when Members are asked to shew slides or give short talks on any subject connected with caving.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED. Members who are contemplating starting an excavation, are requested to communicate with the Hon. Sec. beforehand as this activity is frequently restricted by conditions laid down by Mineral Right Owners and Land Owners. A great deal of unpleasantness and disappointment can often be avoided if this precaution is taken.

New Members.

Biden, J. W.

Bowen, G. B.

Burnely, W. M.

Francis, R. H.

Nathan, J. A.

Rahatz, P. A.

Affiliated Club: Wells Cathedral School Caving Club, under the leadership of J. Carlton, and C. W. Harris, with 10 members.

Branch. A Branch of the Club has been formed at the University of Oxford with Norreys R. K. Davis as the Hon. Branch Secretary.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday February 19th. Club Meet at the Museum, Wells. 3 p.m. Conducted Tour of the Museum. 5.30 p.m. Informal Meeting when 10 minute Talks will be given on the following Subjects: -

SURVEYING by J. W. Duck,  
USE OF EXPLOSIVES by C. W. Harris,  
THE RESCUE ORGANISATION by Dr. Crook,  
PHOTOGRAPHY by H. Murrell,  
THE WATER SURVEY by F. Frost,  
CURRENT EXCAVATION by J. W. Greenwood,  
MENDIP MYSTERIES by E. W. Sharpe,  
LAMB LEER CABLEWAY by N. V. Baldwin,  
and other short papers to be arranged.

Wednesday March 2nd. Club Supper at the New Inn, Cross.

Saturday March 5th. Visit to Ochre Caye, Banwell, and Loxton Cave.

Sunday March 20th. It is hoped to arrange another visit to Goughs Cave on this date.

Wednesday March 30th. Top of Swildons.

THE HON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOAN MEAD has been appointed. Hon. Assist. Sec.

New Members.

Henderson, C.T.F.

Knight, H. G.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday March 20th. Visit to Goughs Cave Cheddar. By kind permission of the Manager, Mr. T. Gill.

Wednesday March 30th. Evening Trip to top of Swildons.

Wednesday April 13th. Club Supper at New Inn, Cross.

Tuesday April 14th to Tuesday April 19th. (or longer if required) EASTER CAMP AT H.Q. Charge 3/- per head per day. Non-members are welcome and pay a booking-fee of 2/6 in addition. The programme will include excavation and trips down the major caves.

Sunday April 17th. Full Eastwater.

Sunday May 1st. Stoke Lane and Cox's Hole.

G. Platten invites any members interested to join him in S. Wales on April 16th - 18th.

The B.S.A. are running a trip to the Belgian Caves over Easter. Full details can be obtained from the Assist. Sec.

EASTWATER SWALLET

Rough Sketch Survey of Extension.

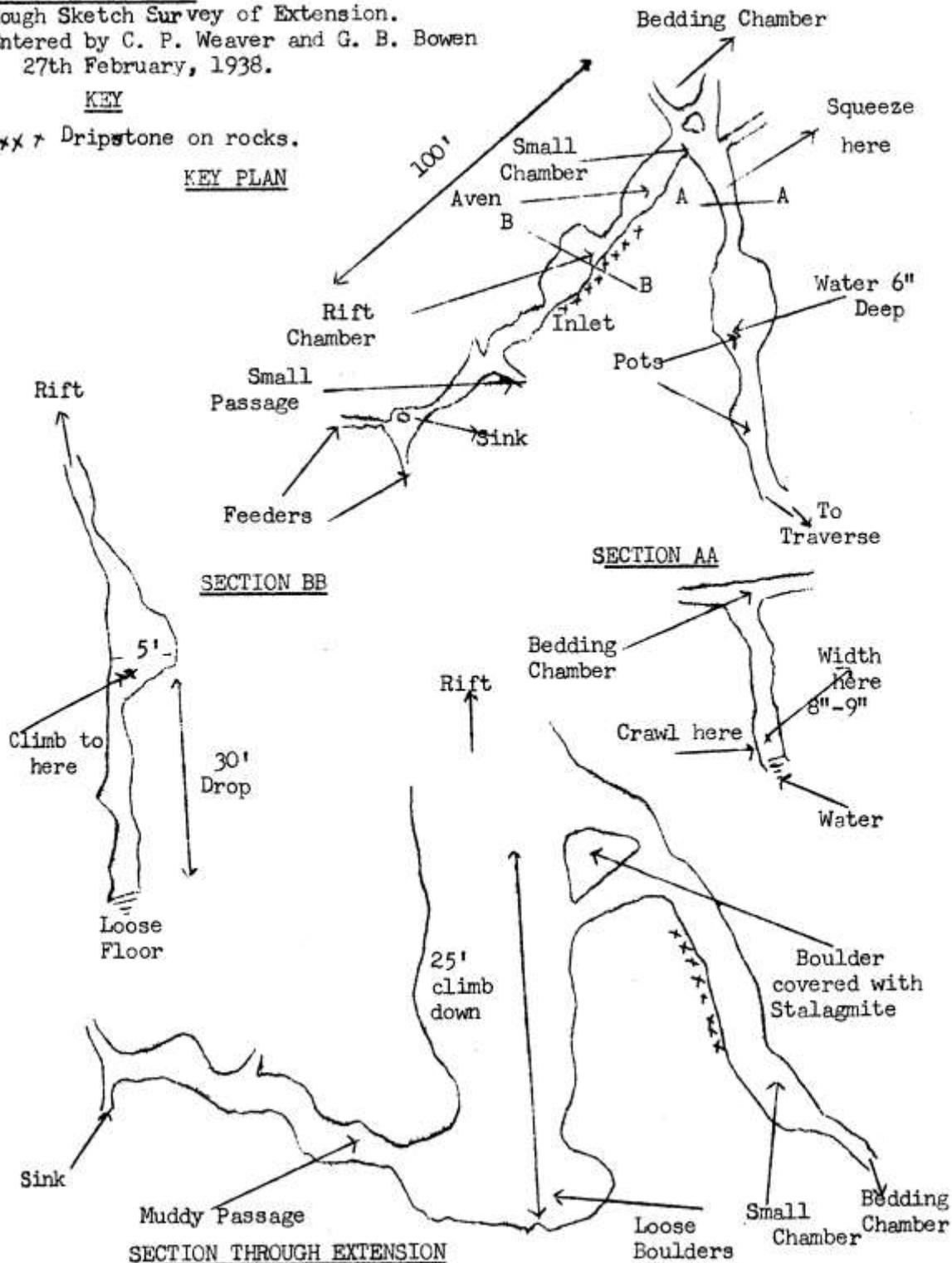
Entered by C. P. Weaver and G. B. Bowen

27th February, 1938.

KEY

\* \* \* Dripstone on rocks.

KEY PLAN



New Members.  
Dolphin, P. B.  
Paddock, N. L

Marsden, P.  
Phillips, Miss M

Neal, Miss J. L.  
Wilcox- C. J.

The North Somerset Caving Club has applied for union with the Club - this has been agreed to. We are therefore very glad to welcome the following:-

Belcher, F. J.  
Hobbs, P. W.  
Shearne, F. B.

Bisgrove, V. C.  
Pike, H. J.  
Webb, A. E.

Button, A. J. & G.  
Pool, F.

LIST OF MEMBERS. The list for 1938 is enclosed with this circular. The total membership of the Club (including affiliated clubs) was 185 on April 1st.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday April 13th. Club Supper at New Inn Cross.

Thursday April 14th - Tuesday April 19th. Easter Camp at H.Q.

Sunday April 17th. Full Eastwater,

Sunday May 1st. Stoke Lane and Cox's Hole.

Saturday May 7th. Talk and Demonstration of Laddering and Ropework by H. Murrell at H.Q. 3p.m. followed perhaps by a Cave visit.

Wednesday May 11th. Top of Swildons, confined to novices.

Saturday May 21st. Eastwater Weekend. Trip 1. 2. 30 p.m.

Sunday May 22nd Trip 2. For novices only 10.30am. Trip.3. For Experienced Members only 2pm.

Wednesday May 25th. Goatchurch.

THE USE OF GEAR. Members are asked to read carefully the notice which is enclosed with this circular.

With Circular No. 33.

Memorandum on the USE OF CLUB GEAR.

The following bye-laws have been made by the Committee for the use of Club Gear under Rule 5.

- 1) The Committee shall have the power to refuse the use of the Club Gear to any member who is deemed unqualified in the use of same.
- 2) A list shall be kept of those members who are deemed qualified in the use of gear; only those whose names are on this list may have the use of the gear either for Swildons, Eastwater or Lamb Leer or use of Lamb Leer ropeway.
- 3) Any qualified member may pass out any other member or members who have rigged a cave on any trip, club or private, to the satisfaction of the qualified member, subject to confirmation by the committee.

4) Any member intending to use Club gear of any description for excavation shall first obtain the permission of the Committee.

Any member who wishes to qualify should get in touch with the Hon. Sec. who will make the necessary arrangements or give advice.

The three caves, Swildons, Eastwater and Lamb Leer each require separate qualifications.

A preliminary list is appended herewith and any member who considers his name should be on this list should apply to the Hon. Sec. forthwith, giving full particulars of any of these three caves which he has personally laddered.

These bye-laws come into force on June 1st 1938. Under these bye-laws:

Use of Club gear will be granted to any party which has at least one qualified member amongst its numbers, who will accept the responsibility of the gear. Members making up parties should refer to the list and obtain the services of a member qualified for the cave it is proposed to visit.

COW HOLE is condemned and Club Gear cannot be used except by special permission.

Only the above four caves will be affected by these bye-laws.

With Circular No. 33.

### LIST OF QUALIFIED MEMBERS

#### SWILDONS, EASTWATER, LAMB LEER

Braithwaite, T.A.J.	Crook, Dr. B.A.	Frost, F.
Greenwood, L.W.	Harris, C.W.	Murrell, H.
Weaver, C.P.		

#### SWILDONS, EASTWATER

Baker, T.G.	Balcombe, F.G.	Platten, G.
Rogers, P.B.	Sheppard, J.A.	Tudgey, G.

#### EASTWATER, LAMB LEER

Johnston, Miss R.	Johnson, Miss M.
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#### SWILDONS, LAMB LEER

Duck, J.W.	Strachan, J.F.	Wadsworth, A
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#### SWILDONS

Dunnicliff, H.	Hensler, E.	Potter, C.W.
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EASTWATER

Griffin, Miss M.

McLeod, W.

LAMB LEER

Braitwaith, J.L.

Baldwin, N.V.

Dell, R.C.

Humphries, K.

McLaren, R.

McMillan, A.J.S.

Sharpe, W.

Todd, P.G.

With Circular No. 33

LIST OF MEMBERS 1938

President; Balch, H.E.

Vice Presidents:

Tratman, E.K.

Chairman. Duck, J.W.

Hon. Asst. Sec: Mandeville-Mead J.

Hon. Gear Curator: Baker,

Committee:

Frost, Frank

Strachan, J. F.

Honorary Members.

Baker, Dr. E. A.

Parry, R. F.

Members.

Balcombe, F. G.

Barker, R. A.

Belcher, F. J.

Bisgrove, 7. C.

Braithwaite, B.R.

Brown, Miss P.

Burnely, Miss W. M.

Carlton, J. K.

Cook, W. O.

Dell, R.C.

Dunnicliff, H.

Frost, Fred.

Greenwood, L. W.

Griffin, Miss M.

Hardcastle, M.

Hemming, Rev. P.

Hobbs, P.W.

Hucker, W.

Johnston, Miss M. M.

Kidd, Mrs. I. D.

Knight, H. G.

Dobson, Mrs. D.P.

Waldegrave. Rt. Hon. Earl.

Hon. Sec: H. Murrell

Hon. Treas.: Humphries, K.W.

Hon. Librarian: Robertson, D.S.

Braithwaite, T.A.J.

MacMillan, A.J.S.

Wadsworth, A.

Barnes, E.E,

Savory, J. H.

Arcott, D. R.

Balcombe, Miss P.M.

Bayfield, D.S.

Bevir, E. A.

Bourne, Rev.W.T.

Braithwaite, J.L.

Bryant, Mrs. B,

Button, A. J.

Chamberalin Rev. J.

Cooper, A.B.

Dolphin, P.B.

Fitzgibbon Mrs. L.P.

Garniin A.

Griffin, A. S.

Hannabuss, Miss E.M.

Har ling R. H.

Henderson, C.T.F.

Hobday, F. J.

Hudson, A. J. R.

Johnston, Miss R. A.

Kingdon, V. E. W.

Lander, J. W.

Hughes, J.

Crook, Dr. 3.A.

Sharpe, E. W.

Weaver, C.P.

Cooper, Dr. N. C.

Watson, Rev. R. L.

Backhouse, P.

Baldwin, N.V.

Beevers, A. K.

Bidden, J. W.

Bowen, G.B.

Brown, F. R.

Bryant, R. E.

Button, G.

Chorley, N. P.

Dams, Rev. E. L.

Duparesq. M.C.W.

Francis, R. H.

Grainger-Sim, W.H,

Griffin, K.

Harvey, J. P.

Harris, C.W.,

Hensler, E.

Holt, R. G.

Hughes, A.

Jones, E. D.

Knight, S. J.

Lawry, W. J.

Lloyd, W. H.  
Marriage, P. N.  
McLeod, W.  
Nathan, J. A.  
Newman, Miss M.  
Parsons, A. J.  
Perry, C. W. J.  
Pick, S. J.  
Platten, G.  
Pritchett, D. E.  
Ready, C. P.  
Rogers, P. B.  
Sharland, E. W.  
Smith, R.  
Trower, A. G. M.  
Watson, Miss A, M.  
Webb, A. E.  
Wheeldon, F..T.  
Wigmore, V. S.  
Wills, R. N.  
Wise, Miss M.  
Worsley, G.

Mackeson, J.  
Marsden, P.  
McMillan, Mrs. J.M.  
Neale, Miss J. 1.  
Paddock, N, L.  
Peck, J. A. L.  
Phillips, Miss M.  
Pike, H. J.  
Pool, F.  
Pryor, A.  
Rahtz, P. A.  
Russell, S. J.  
Sharpe, A. C.  
Thomas,L. E.  
Tudgay, G. ,  
Warren, P. H.  
Westwood, B.  
Whitehead, D.  
Wilcox C. J.  
Wintringham, F.  
Withey, M. S. W.

Mansfield, J. H.  
McLaren, R.  
Meade-King, M. G.  
Newman, C.D.  
Painter, T.  
Pegg, E. J.  
Pick, D .  
Pitt, A. C.  
Potter, C. W.  
Raynes, F, P. M.  
Robertson, A. A.  
Shepherd, J. A.  
Shearn, F. B.  
Todd, P.  
Vosper, W. G.  
Weaver, Mrs. D. M.  
Westwood, N.  
Whittingham, F. M.  
Wilkins A. E.  
Wise, J. A. R.  
Woolley, Dr. A. W.

Members Resident Abroad.

Cotton, P.T.

Hewer, C.R.

Morley, J. A.

Oxford University Branch.

Hon. Branch Secretary. Davis, N. R. K.

Members.

Bell, H. G.  
Percy, H. R. G.

D Steven, W. G.  
Dennis, P. W. C.

Edwards, R.D.M  
Vivian, J.M.

Affiliated Clubs.

Sidcot Caving Club.

Hon. Secretary: Tregelles, P.

Members:

Barguss, P. C.  
Lunnon, C.  
Reynolds, J. B.

Crewe, L. H.  
Morgan, I. M.  
Standage, M. M.

Kinnish, J.  
Pick, J.B.  
Waterfall, S.

Wragge, P.

Wells Cathedral School Caving Club.

Members.

Lenllette, B. S  
imms, J.  
Warren, H.  
Urch, O. G.

Matthews, E. H.G.  
Taylor, H. E.  
Warren, J.

Rowland, T. J. W.  
Taylor, R. G.  
Williams, A. F.

New Members.

Hill, D. C.

LeGrand, R.

Norton, H. G.

Member returned from abroad. Clark, N.

Forth coming Events.

Saturday May 21st. Eastwater Week-end.

Wednesday May 25th. Goatchurch.

Saturday June 25th. Swildons Week-end.

Trip 1. - For Novices only.

Sunday June 26th. Trip 2.- Through the Sump.

Trip 3.- For Experienced Members only.

Gear Curator. T. G. Baker has resigned the position of Gear Curator.

THE BYE-LAWS. As there appears to be some misunderstanding of the position, the Committee wish to make it clear that the Bye-Laws are primarily intended to assist the new member in acquiring the knowledge and experience needed to lead a party, and are not intended to handicap the old stager. It became evident that the permission to use gear could only be based on a question of fact and so the qualification chosen was the actual laddering of the cave in question.

While it was regretted that a list of qualified members should be published, it was felt that the full purpose of the Bye-Laws would not be served if it was withheld. The preliminary list was that of members who could be vouched for by the Committee. Obviously this must be very incomplete and the Committee are anxious to add as many names as possible. If you have laddered any cave, you are asked to send your name in without delay.

BIRTH. Congratulations to Ken and Mary Humphries on the birth of a daughter.

New Members.

Blinman Harris, C. J.

Feather, H. G.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday 25th June - Sunday 26th June. London Members dig at Wigmore Swallet.

Saturday 25th June. Swildons Weekend.

Wednesday 29th June. Club Supper, New Inn, Cross.

Sunday, 3rd July. Cave Treasure Hunt.

Wednesday 20th July. Reads Cavern.

Saturday 23rd July. Banwell Ochre Cave.

Saturday 23rd July - Sunday 24th July. London Members dig at Wigmore Swallet.

July 30th onwards. August Camp at Headquarters.

July 30th - August 3rd. B.S.A. 3rd Annual Conference at SETTLE.

Publicity. During the last month the attention of the Committee has been called to further press reports which have appeared during the past month, which have been inspired by members of the Club. We again wish to emphasise the undesirability of allowing such reports concerning club or private activities to appear in the press, and we once again appeal to members to refrain from giving news or writing reports themselves.

DEATH. It is with great regret that we record the death of Peter Warren, who was fatally burnt in an aeroplane crash during the course of his duties.

New Members.

Lord, J. E.

Minchin, C. W. K.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday 20th July. Reads Cavern.

Saturday 23rd July. Barnwell Ochre Cave.

Saturday 23rd July - Sunday 24th July. London Members dig at Wigmore Swallet.

July 30th Onward. August Camp.

July 30th - August 3rd. B.S.A. 3rd Annual Conference at Settle.

THE PROGRAMME. The events arranged during the last few months have been so badly patronised that it has been necessary to modify or cancel many of them. The Committee feel, therefore, that members do not desire such a full and comprehensive programme. Therefore it has been decided to reduce the number of events very considerably in the future.

On several occasions, also, members have intimated that they intended to take part in a trip and have subsequently failed to turn up, without informing anyone of their intention not to do so. This has on one or two occasions caused great inconvenience, and members are particularly requested to notify any change of plan which they may make.

The nominations for Committee must be in the hands of the Hon. Sec. by October 15th. The present members of the Committee are:-

Chairman: J. W. Duck (who is ineligible for re-election), Hon. Treas: K. W. Humphries, Hon. Sec: H. Murrell, Hon. Asst. Sec: Joan M-Mead, T. A. J. Braithwaite (unable to stand for re-election) Dr. B. A. Crook, F. Frost, A. J. S. MacMillan, E. W. Sharpe, J. F. Strachan, A. Wadsworth, C. P. Weaver.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday Sept. 18th. Visit the Little Garth Iron Mine. It is suggested that members of the party should travel together on the 9.00 a.m. train from Temple Meads. Fare 6/- return. Those who desire to do so can travel by car and should join the party outside the Mine, which is situated near the village of Taffs Well, six miles from Cardiff. This mine, which is a pit some 600ft deep and 100 ft wide and open to the sky, is probably the most spectacular hole in the country and every member who possibly can should take this opportunity of visiting it.

Sunday October 30th. Geological Field Day to be led by Prof. Wallis.

Tuesday Nov. 22nd. Joint Meeting with the Bristol Spelaeological Society. Speaker, J. W. Duck.

Saturday Nov. 26th. Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

The membership of the Club is now 193. Members are urged to make a special effort to obtain new members to bring this number to over 200, which we think will be easily a record for a Cave Club.

BIRTH. Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. D. S. Bayfield on the birth of a son.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS. In future a Club Event will be run on the first weekend of each month. Additional events will be arranged from time to time.

Sunday Nov. 6th, Lamb Leer. The Cave will be LADDERED and the windlass will not be used.

Tuesday Nov. 8th. Meeting of the Bristol Spelaeological Society "Caves in Ireland and Elsewhere" by P. N. Bartlett.

Sunday Nov. 20th. GEOLOGICAL FIELD DAY - date changed from Oct. 30th.

Tuesday Nov. 22nd. Combined Meeting with the B.S.S. on "Cave Surveying" Speaker, J. W. Duck.

Saturday Nov. 26th. A.G.M. at Valley Hotel Cheddar at 5.15 p.m. followed by the Annual Dinner at 7.30 p.m. followed by a social evening and dancing. Price 3/6d. each.

NEW MEMBERS.

Vage, W. S. T.

Foster, E. W.

Vawdrey, W.

Sherman, P. H.

Club Trips. The Hon. Sec. would be glad to hear from any members who would be willing to run Club Trips whether to caves or of an unusual nature.

MINERS' LAMPS Can be obtained from. Messrs. Casswells Ltd., Midsomer Norton. HARD HATS can be obtained from Messrs. Helmets Ltd., Price 2/6d.

New Members.  
Harding, T. H.

Barnes, L. S.  
Harvey, G. C.

Draper, R. B.  
Lee-Mitchell, Mrs A.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Valley Hotel, Cheddar on Saturday, November 26th.

ANNUAL DINNER. Will be held at 7.30 p.m. Lounge suits will be worn. Tickets 3/6d. Members who wish to stay the night at the Valley Hotel can do so at special terms of 6/6 for Bed and Breakfast.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday Nov. 19th. Inaugural meeting of the South Western Regional Committee of the B.S.A. in the Geography Lecture Room at 3-30 p.m.

All Members are earnestly invited to attend - they may speak but not vote unless they are also members of B.S.A.

Sunday Nov. 20th. Geological Field Day.

Tuesday Nov. 22nd. Combined Meeting with the B.U.S.S. "Cave Surveying" by J. Duck.

Sunday Nov. 27th. Goughs Cave, Cheddar. Parts not open to public. By kind permission of the Management.

Saturday, Dec. 3rd. Eastwater Weekend.

With Circular No. 39

SIXTH GENERAL MEETING.  
AGENDA.

- (1) Apologies for absence.
- (2) Minutes of the Fifth General Meeting.
- (3) The Report of the Committee for 1937.
- (4) The Report of the Hon. Treas. for 1937.
- (5) The following amendments to the Rules are proposed:-

By the Committee.

Rule 5 after "Hon. Assist Sec." delete "Gear Curator and nine" and insert "and eight".

By Hon. Sec.

Add to Rule 5 "Hon. Branch Secretaries shall be ex officio members"

By R. Dell. Seconded by P. Todd. Rule 9 after "by the Club" add "a standard charge of 6d. per time shall be payable by every member who makes use of club tackle".

- (6) Election of President and Vice Presidents. Proposed by the Committee: -

President: H. S. BALCH, M.A. F.S.A.

Vice President: Rt. Hon. Earl Waldegrave

John Hughes

Mrs. D. P. Dobson, D.Litt, F.S.A.

Professor E. K. Tratman

- (7) Announcement of the Result of Ballot for Election of the Committee.
- (8) Proposed by H. Murrell, Seconded by Frank Frost "That J.W. Duck be elected an Honorary Member of the Club."
- (9) Report of our Delegate on the South Western Regional Committee of the B.S.A.
- (10) Election of Auditor.
- (11) Any other business.

Vice President: F. J. North, D.Sc., F.G.S. has been elected a vice-president of the Club.

New Members.  
Jones, T. S.

Cole, B.W.  
Williams, D.E.

Hurd, C.J.  
Williams G.H.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday January 21st. Visit to Geological Section of the Bristol Museum, personally conducted by Dr, F. S. Wallis.

Sunday January, 22nd. J. F. Strachan is leading a party in the upper part of Swildons.

Tuesday January 24th. Meeting of the U.B.S.S. "The Part played by women in Prehistoric Times" by Prof. Jervis.

Saturday February 4th. Visit to a Coal Mine,

The 1939 Committee. The following were elected by Postal Ballot: Dr. Crook, Messrs. Duck, Frost, Greenwood, McMillan, Marsden, Strachan, Wadsworth and Weaver.

The Welsh Section. T. A. J. Braithwaite has been appointed Hon. Sec. of the Welsh Section.

The Supplement. With this circular is enclosed the first issue of a supplement which will contain accounts of the activities of the Club and its members. It has been decided to issue this from time to time instead of an annual journal (for which a charge would have to be made). Members are asked to send to the Hon. Sec. accounts of such of their activities which have some special interest to others. Accounts of "tourist" trips are not required.

Supplement No. 1  
Cross Swallet.

This swallet, formed in a N.W. – S.E. fault, lies on the South side of Mendip between Westbury and Priddy. The 1" O.S. map reference is square J (LO) 8 (7) on the Weston-s-Mare Special Edition, and that of the 6" O.S. map is the little square field  $\frac{3}{4}$ " North of the word "EARTHWORK" in the centre of Sheet XXVII S.E. SOMERSET.

It derives its name from its shape which consists of two intersecting troughs, the actual entrance being offset from the centre and about 25 ft below the level of the field. As it drains a shallow basin half a mile in diameter, the amount of earth and water which went down it in the past must have been great.

It still takes a fair amount of water in wet weather and as, within the last two years, a shake hole occurred some yards S.W. of the swallet in the adjacent field, the possibilities of finding a new cave system appear to be good.

Although known for a great many years, it has, for some reason been neglected. In August 1936 A. M. G. Trower, fired with enthusiasm by one of Mr. Balch's lectures, discovered a swallet, which he later shewed to me and which we both thought to be Sandpit Hole, but when we revealed to Mr. Balch that water was pouring down it and gave him a description of its cross-like shape he told us we had found the Cross Swallet.

Permission was sought and granted and on October 24th 1937 the excavation; was begun. In a very short .time we reached a small boulder chamber but from there downwards the work was neither, so easy nor so pleasant. However, with the aid of J. L. Braithwaite and E. W. Sharland, a ton or so of debris was removed so that we were able to descend another six feet and peer through some shaky looking boulders into a narrow rift, 30 ft below the surface.

Entrance to this was barred by a key boulder in the floor. Adverse weather now prevented further serious work until Easter, when the eight members attending the Club Camp erected a 'hoist and forced a way into the so called rift which turned out to be a gap between two great blocks of rock.

Unfortunately this was choked a few feet from where we entered it and as there was no room to move about we were prevented from making further progress.

It seems impossible to believe that this is the end, but present opinion is that, if a way on is to be found, the loose, unstable structure immediately above it together with the bottle necked entrance must be removed.

Digging underground is not a summer pastime and the weather this winter has not been kind but when the opportunity to make another attempt, preferably on a bigger scale, presents itself, it

may well be that the results will justify the energy and expenditure involved.

L.W, Greenwood, 29.11.38.

### HILLGROVE

The excavations are under the direction of the M.N.R.C., but members of the W.C.C. have taken a major part in all the work that has been undertaken since Whitsun, 1936.

At first work progressed rapidly on Swallet No. 1. but in August 1936 it became increasingly difficult to extract the material. Attention was then turned to No. 2 which at that time was taking water.

With the arrival of winter the stream became larger and the flow of water make work impossible, and it was discontinued.

A start was made on No. 3 during the winter 1936-7 but it soon became apparent that the hole was dangerous, and it was finally abandoned in the Spring of 1937.

About this time the stream feeding No. 2 began to lose some of its flow, and it was found possible to work it in moderate comfort. A hole was made in the roof of a small chamber and the water diverted into this so preventing the water from pouring down onto the man working in the rift. The work was difficult, and slow progress was made. At the end of the summer of 1937 the hole was about 15 ft deep.

Unfortunately the stream in the winter months washed a great deal of its banks into the hole, and work this summer has consisted mainly of making the banks safe against erosion by the stream.

At the present time work is in progress whenever the state of the water allows.

FRANK FROST.

### EXCAVATIONS IN LAMB LEER.

In the Autumn of 1937 a party of Club members had been engaged on an Excavation at Bowery Corner but inclement weather had made this work most unpleasant so it was decided that we would continue our activities underground. Thus it was that early in the new year, we inspected the possibilities in Lamb Leer.

At the foot of the entrance ladder and to the left of it we found a low arch, filled with mud to the roof, which must have been the continuation "upstream" of the main passage running down toward the Beehive. Above it and to the right is a vertical rift with a steeply rising earth floor which leads to the bottom of the old shaft. As there has always been much interest taken in the probable origin of the cave we decided to excavate under this arch to see if further passages could be discovered.

The mud of Lamb Leer has always been famous for its glutinous qualities. The party therefore soon became unrecognisable as one after another we crawled under the low roof to do our shift, lay on our stomachs in liquid slime passing earth and stones back by hand and emerged plastered from head to foot with mud. The job of emptying buckets wasn't any more pleasant as there was a constant drip of water from the roof which could not be avoided and the contents shewed great reluctance to leave the buckets.

The floor was lowered until it was possible to work in a sitting position and the passage was found to curve round to the right cutting across the rift leading to the old shaft. We gradually undermined the floor of this rift until we were able to cause a heavy fall from above.

This revealed a large cavity with a very perilous looking roof and an apparent continuation of our passage on the other side of the rift. We left it in this condition for a week and when resumed our work we found that a further fall had occurred, completely filling our excavation but leaving an open passage in the rift above. The unsupported floor overhung and a side rift full of earth and stones looked dangerous so we spent some hours timbering before we explored our discovery. I slid down a narrow muddy hole into a well rounded passage on the floor of which were the marks of cloth covered knees and of nailed boots. I crossed a low wall and came out at the bottom of a magnificent aven about 55 feet high and 10 ft in diameter. A little way up it is bridged by an arch of boulders which looks unbelievably unstable but has so far not collapsed.

Beyond the aven is a pool and the passage terminates in a rift, much smaller than the aven and choked with boulders, Part of it has been walled up by miners.

It seems clear that the aven was the principal entrance for the water which found the cave and survey has shown that the top of the aven corresponds to a marked depression 50 or 60 ft. from the present entrance in the direction of Lamb Bottom.

Further work was done on the floor of the great chamber but this was discontinued as the hole became filled with water and impossible to work in. I am anxious to continue our work there and would be glad to hear from anyone willing to help.

H. MURRELL.

AFFILIATION.

Wycliffe Cave Club, Wycliffe College, Hon. Sec. P. Bright. Hon Treas. N. Watts. 20 other members.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, February 4th. Visit to Pensford Collieries by kind permission of the management.

Sunday February 5th. Visit to Pwll-Pant-Mawr.

Tuesday, February 14th.. Meeting of the U.B.S.S. "The Archaeology of Asia Minor" by Mr. Barger.

Saturday March 4th. Meeting at Wells. Short Papers on cave subjects - Lamb Leer and Goatchurch. Films.

Easter. Weekend Camp in South Wales.

CLIMBING SECTION. At its next meeting the committee will discuss a proposal to form a climbing section. There are ample facilities for climbing practice in this district and special attention would be given to the training of novices. Trips could be run to North Wales from time to time. There would of course be no additional subscription. Previous experience in climbing is not necessary.

WELSH SECTION NEWS. A party of ten members and friends had an excellent weekend's caving on January 7th. The discovery of a new cave is reported. Greenwood and Trower put in a week's work before Xmas surveying Will's Hole - they are hoping to complete it shortly.

NEW MEMBERS.

Wood, R. G.

Dingle, L. S.

AFFLIATION. Bristol Grammar School Cave Club.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS. Bristol Spelaeological Meeting altered to February 20th - Miles Birkett, Lecturer.

Saturday March 4th, Meeting at Wells Museum. Mr. Balch will shew the results of the Excavation at the Badger Hole. Short papers on Cave Topics which it is hoped will include the following:-

"Latest work in Swildons II" by P. Weaver. "Waterworks" by a Water Engineer. "South Wales Caves" - author to be arranged. "Climbing" by P. Marsden.

The Goatchurch and Lamb Leer films will be shewn.

Saturday March 4th. New Cave six miles from Cardiff.

Sunday March 5th. First meet of Mountaineering Section "(weather permitting) at Churchill Rocks.

Saturday March 18th. Joint meet of Affiliated School Clubs at Eastwater.

Sunday March 19th. Will's Hole.

Tuesday March 7th. Bristol Spelaeological Meeting.

Tuesday March 21st. Bristol Spelaeological A.G.M.

Whitsun. First Miniature Conference at Headquarters.

THE MOUNTAINEERING SECTION, has been formed under the leadership of P. Marsden. It will bring together those interested in Mountaineering and will enable novices to receive a grounding in the sport. To cover the capital expense of equipping the Section an entry fee of 2/6 will be charged. Events in this section will be confined to members only.

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION. Members who would be interested in the formation of this section are asked to write to the Hon. Sec. The Section will give opportunities for discussions on technique, exchange of information, exhibition of cave photographs and collaboration in field, work.

NEW MEMBERS.

Froud, H. H.

Justin, Miss D. B.

Justin, S. H.

Hamilton, J. L.

Down, N. H.

Down, C. M.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday March 26th. Mountaineering Section Meet at Cheddar.

March 27th - April 3rd. Professor Palmer is conducting a Geophysical Survey at Lamb Leer.

Saturday April 1st. Evening trip to Wookey Hole.

April 8th - April 10th. Camp at The White Horse Inn (accommodation of Youth Hostellers) Pont-Neath Vaughan. Charge 7/- per day inclusive. Trips will be run to all major S. Wales Caves. In addition to personal belongings bring: (1) Sleeping bag or bedding. (2) Towels.

Sunday April 16th. Geological Field Day conducted by Dr. Wallis.

Tuesday May 2nd. Debate "That information obtained by dowsing for water can be accepted with confidence".

PHOTOGRAPHIC SECTION. It has been decided to form this Section. An opening Meeting will be announced next month.

With Circular No. 43

LAMB LEER.

The Lamb Leer Joint Committee are desirous of ascertaining the opinions of all members of the three Associated Societies on the desirability of retaining the cable way in Lamb Leer. These are the facts.

- a) The sum of £106 has been spent in opening up the cave, of which £101 has been subscribed. Deficit £5. Of this about £60 was spent on the Cable Way, all the labour was voluntary.
- b) The cable way has not been maintained since its installation and now requires renewal of ropes.
- c) The cost of maintenance or renewal is estimated at £3 per annum.
- d) To be kept in safe condition the apparatus will require cleaning and greasing once every two months. This must be done by voluntary labour.
- e) The cable way has been used by a large number of novices non-members who have contributed nothing to its upkeep. Steps will be taken to remedy this should the cable way be retained.
- f) The cable way will facilitate exploration which is pending in the cave.
- g) Labour will have to be found to remove the apparatus. It will only have scrap value, insufficient to pay for any alternative, (e.g. chain ladder)

In view of the above will you kindly fill in the slip below and post to the Hon. Sec, not later than March 31st.

- 
- 1) Are you in favour of scrapping the cable way?
  - 2) If you answer "yes" to the above are you willing to assist in its removal?
  - 3) If you answer "no" to question (1) are you willing to do your share of maintenance (greasing etc.)?
  - 4) Any comments?

Signed.....

NEW MEMBERS.

Fox Miss C. F:

Gilman Miss D. I. O.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday April 30th. Meet of Climbing Section at Cheddar.

Tuesday, May 2nd. Debate "That information obtained by dowsing for water can be accepted with, confidence".

Saturday May 27th to Tuesday May 30th. First Miniature Conference at H.Q. Charge 3/6 per day. Non-Members 2/6 booking fee. It is hoped that a party of members of the Craven Pot Hole Club will attend this event. They will be accommodated in H.Q. so that W.C.C. Members are asked to camp, if unable to do so they are asked to inform the Hon. Sec. so that special arrangements can be made.

Provisional Programme.

Saturday afternoon.

Burrington Squeezes or Lamb Leer,

Saturday evening.

Talks by W.C.C. Members with slides.

Sunday

Eastwater and Swildons

Sunday evening.

Talks by C.P.C. Members with slides.

Monday

Eastwater and Swildons

Monday evening

Debate "Electricity is superior to acetylene as a cave illuminant".

Tuesday.

Stoke Lane or Lamb Leer.

May 27th to June 4th.

B.S.A. Meet at Gaping Ghyll.

Supplement No. 2

From time to time the Committee has, under the Rules, made Bye Laws and regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the Club. These have now been unified and are published below.

I. Admission of Members.

All applicants for membership of the Club are to fill in an application form which will be considered by the committee before election. Prospective members may be required to attend one or more trips with Club Members but shall be allowed to enjoy the amenities of the Club until some decision is reached.

Members who have resigned from the Club for a longer period than one Club year shall be required to go through the usual formalities of admission. Other cases to apply direct to the Committee.

II. Affiliated Societies.

Other Clubs and societies may affiliate to the W.C.C. on payment of a fee of 1/- per member per annum, In case of groups of scouts or rovers the fee may be modified to suit the means of the group. One copy of the circular is sent to each affiliated club.

The members of affiliated societies may join in all events organised by the Club or by members of the W.C.C. and may use club premises on the same terms as W.C.C. Members. Each Affiliated Society may appoint a delegate to vote on its behalf at any General Meeting of the Club. Members of affiliated Societies are not eligible for gear qualifications.

Members of affiliated clubs may transfer to membership of the W.C.C. provided there has been no hiatus. Student masters at schools where there is an affiliated club may join the W.C.C. through the affiliated club.

III. Branches.

The following conditions shall be laid down in the formation of a local branch:-

- 1) That the members shall pay the full entrance fee and sub. to the Club.
- 2) That a local secretary shall be appointed by the branch.
- 3) That all applications for membership shall be ratified by the Club Committee.
- 4) That the branch may receive financial assistance from the Club.

Note.in connection with No. 2 above, at the A.G.M. held on 26.11.38, branch secretaries were appointed ex officio members of the Committee.

#### IV. Gear Qualifications

A list of members qualified to use club gear is to be drawn up and published. We therefore make the following bye-laws.

- 1) The Committee shall have the power to refuse the use of Club gear to any member who is deemed unqualified in the use of the same.
- 2) A list shall be kept of those members who are qualified in the use of gear, only those whose names are on this list may have the use of gear either for Swildon's, Eastwater, Lamb Leer, or use of Lamb Leer ropeway.
- 3) Any qualified member may pass out any other member or members who have rigged a cave on any trip, club or private, to the satisfaction of the qualified member, subject to confirmation by the committee.
- 4) Any member intending to use club gear for excavation shall first obtain the permission of the committee.

#### V. Sections.

- 1) A mountaineering section is to be formed. An entry fee to the section of 2/6 is to be charged. The Club will provide ropes and other gear required by the section.

The funds of the mountaineering section are to be kept by the treasurer as a separate account. The section may not incur a debit balance except by the consent of the Committee.

- 2) A photographic section is to be formed to assist members to improve their technique, to correlate existing work, and to assemble a permanent record of cave photographs.

#### VI. Headquarters.

A charge of 1/- per head per night, or 5/~ per week will be made to each member using H.Q. or 1/6 per night or 7/6 per week for non-members. Non-members to pay 2/6 booking fee for any camp attended.

NEW MEMBERS.

Catford, A. G.  
Lansdown, R. F.  
Wiltshire, Miss H. J.

Davies J. E. G.  
Robertson, A. J. B.

Humpidge, R. T.  
Thomas, E. R.

MEMBER RETURNED FROM ABROAD. Strachan, NJ. N.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday May 20th. Meet of Climbing Section at Cheddar.

Saturday May 27th. Miniature conference at Headquarters.

<u>Programme</u>	Saturday Afternoon	Burrington Squeezes
	Sunday	Eastwater and Swildons
	Sunday evening	Talks with photographs
	Monday	Eastwater and Swildons
	Monday evening	Debate "Electricity is superior to acetylene as a portable cave illuminant"
	Tuesday	Stoke Lane and Lamb leer

Tuesday June 6th. Meet of Climbing Section. Meet under the Clifton Suspension Bridge, on Leigh Woods side.

Thursday June 8th. Ogof Tynant.

Sunday June 11th. Eastwater on Ropes Only.

Tuesday June 20th. Cox's Hole.

Thursday June 22nd.New Cave at Penderyn.

Circular No. 46

June, 1939.

NEW MEMBER. Bradshaw, A. J.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday June 20th. Cow Hole.

Thursday June 22nd. New Cave at Penderyn.

Tuesday June 27th. Climbing Meet.

Wednesday June 28th. Evening Trip to Swildons.

Saturday July 15th. Disused Lead Mines. Orr's Close.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August 5th - 9th. British Spelaeological Association Conference at Swansea. Members who have PHOTOGRAPHS of any cave subject are particularly asked to send them to the Welsh Sec. for inclusion in the Exhibition.

Sunday August 13th. Meet of Climbing Section at Churchill Rocks. It is proposed to explore possibilities in other places starting from Churchill.

HEADQUARTERS. Members who use H.Q. are again reminded that there is no caretaker or charwoman to clear up after them. Perishable food should not be left in the cupboards to pollute the air for the next arrivals.

The Proprietor of the Miners Arms has quoted a special price to Club Members of 2/- for egg & bacon supper and bath (parties please share hot water). Member are urged to make full use of this facility.

A brochure - intended to interest non-members in the Club is now available.

Congratulations to Dick Dell and Joan Mead on their marriage on July 22nd.

Supplement No. 3

THE ACCIDENT IN ROWTEN POT.

In the Craven Herald of May 12th there appears a report on this accident and on the subsequent inquest. As it would appear that the party took all the precautions which it is customary for a pot-holing party to take; the accident seems to be such as might visit any party. This circumstance should impress all Members of the Club with the Realities of the situation and help them to raise the standard of "normal" Precautions.

The Report runs:-

"Members of the Leeds Cave Club were returning to the surface after exploration in the pothole when one of them, John Hudson Lambert, aged 25, weaving overlooker, 7 Percy Street, Nelson, slipped from a ledge with a life-line round his waist, and subsequently met his death by drowning in a subterranean pool.

••• •••• •••• ••••

"Sam Waller .... said .... they intended to descent Rowten Pot on the Sunday, and were at the surface at about 10 a.m. He arranged to stay on the surface, and the other six descended the shaft. A rope ladder was put in position in the morning, secured at the surface and lowered down the pothole to a depth of about 180 feet.

"The six members descended, one at a time. 'All got safely down,' he said 'and further tackle was lowered for exploration to be continued'.

At 2 p.m. he received a signal by a shout and a pull on the lifeline. One of the party ascended to a ledge about 60 feet from the bottom and arrived there quite safely.

"The man signalled to witness to lower the line again to the bottom of the pothole and he did so, although he could not see what was happening because it was so dark. Fifteen minutes later he heard another shout indicating that another person was to ascend to one of the ledges. Witness hauled on the lifeline, and he gathered that the man was ascending to a higher ledge 120 feet from the top.

"Someone shouted 'Whoa' and I stopped pulling" said Waller.

'Another shout from the same person was 'ease off' and I released the tension. The man shouted 'I am going to get on to the ledge' and he asked for more rope, I gave him three to five feet of rope.

"I thought he was going to untie the rope from his waist. A moment later I felt a jerk, and the rope ran through my hands. I gripped hold tightly and threw myself back on to the coils of loose

rope, but I could not stop it'.

"The Coroner: 'Did you hear a bump?'

"Witness: 'No. I did not hear anything.....'

"Asked as to whether a stake could have been used, Waller said it had been their practice to hold the lifeline with both hands, so that they could have a feel of the rope and also assist the climber.

"Superintendent Eastham said if they had a stake round which the lifeline was passed twice it would have taken the strain had a man fallen. ..." Then followed a comment by Eastham which must be reproduced, because of the grim reality of its portent. "You were in danger of losing your life if the man slipped. The weight was thrown on to you. You had to let the lifeline run through your hands and it burned them. If you had kept hold of the rope you would have been pulled down into the pothole."

(Lambert, who was unconscious, was placed on a ledge and a rescue party sent for, Thunderstorm broke and the water forced the men off the ledge — which was only large enough to afford protection for the injured man — a fifteen minute patrol visited the ledge. Between patrols Lambert fell off the ledge, presumably having regained consciousness, and was drowned in the pool at the foot of the pitch.)

Life-line men must realise that they can only guarantee to hold their man when both hands are on the rope and in the pulling position, when there is no slack out, and when the dead weight of a man will not disturb their position. The danger in handing over the rope as a man climbs cannot be eliminated, but can be reduced by meticulously shifting the hands one at a time, gripping both ropes simultaneously with the other hand. It needs considerable practice to keep pace with a fast climber. The condition of poise can only be met by being tied back, or by assuming such a position that the body is wedged, or leans back onto a wall, a stance on the two feet only, however firm it may appear, is dangerous. They must realise that it is practically impossible to hold a man by means of a wet rope when that man has had a free fall of one to two feet. They must realise that a man falling from rest will fall through this distance during their own reflex time. When a man has slack out for any purpose the lifeline man had better turn off the rope as does the Sheet Anchor in the tug-o'-war, or belay, or hold his man in safety as when unroping.

The man on the ladder must realise first and foremost that he is responsible not only for himself but also for the lifeline man. He must realise that in pandering to pride in having a slack rope he endangers the man above, for no amount of skill will avail should the ladder break. He must be consciously ready to shout a timely warning rather than consciously to suppress it until the last moment. He must realise that without such warning, the chances are that the lifeline will be of little avail.

Both men must be continually conscious that the job has a spice of danger, and they must be ready to avert catastrophe.

When not "on duty", cavers should keep a weather eye on the functioning of the safety-men, whether to learn thereby or tactfully reprove

One of the most serious and often met danger in caving is casual treatment of the lifeline. I have seen experienced men take what in the event of a slip would be the most frightful risks, apparently thinking they know better than the laws of mechanics, or rather just not thinking at all. I would like to feel that the sad accident to Lambert will at least be a warning to us to take more care.

GRAHAM BALCOMBE.

### OGOF TYNANT.

The cave is situated on the North spur of the Little Garth overlooking Tynant Quarry from which it derives its name and it is mid-way between Tongwynlais and Taffs Well, the entrance, however, is very difficult to find. The Little Garth is riddled with disused iron ore mines and quite contrary to our expectation the cave was found to be a natural one. Since it is situated almost at the top of the Little Garth it is comparatively dry and is very clean to work in.

The cave has apparently been known locally for many years but its first official visitation was early in January this year. This first visit was a great success and since then many more trips have been made and gradually more and more progress has been made.

The most spectacular part of the cave is a huge cavern fairly narrow about 75 to 80 yards long and in many places as much as 50 feet high. Down it are some very beautiful cascading limestone formations, and, as might be expected brown is a fairly common colouring but there are also some delicate shades of blue. In some of the smaller passages there are some equally beautiful stalagmites and stalactites. The great shame is, however, that it is impossible to avoid making them dirty when going through the passage. Beyond the squeeze mentioned below, are some interesting crystalline quartzite deposits in very clear pools.

There is something to interest everyone in this cave. There are some very intricate traverses for the mountaineer, a squeeze which in actual size must be the smallest possible for an ordinary man to get through. Further there are some grand opportunities for the photographer and bones for the archaeologist.

Local legend has it that there is a passage going from this cave right down under the river and up the other side to Castle Coch. It is this passage that we are vainly trying to find at the present moment. Our chances are probably small as, not only is its very existence doubtful but even if it ever existed it seems quite feasible that it has been swallowed up by the workings of the Tynant Quarry, especially as traces of a passage were actually found in the quarry face.

Still every visit produces something new and there is still hope that this passage may yet be discovered. These operations have almost entirely been carried out by the 34th Cardiff Scout Group of which R. F. Lansdown is probably the keenest caving enthusiast.

D. C. Hill.

## THE WHITSUN MINIATURE CONFERENCE.

The Whitsun proceedings were blessed with glorious weather and enlivened by the presence of seven members of the Craven Pot Hole Club. They arrived in several batches on Saturday night and Sunday morning at 7.0 a.m.! This meant that H.Q. witnessed an unprecedented early rising for a Sunday Morning. Eastwater was dished up for the C.P.C. and Swildons for the remainder of the Camp - but it was noticed in the evening that certain members were unusually Sunburned and sun lamps are not yet installed in caves.

After wrestling with a magnificent steak and kidney pie and emerging victorious we were shewn a fine collection of photographs compered by Rhodes Thompson - the proceedings being brought to an abrupt end when the proximity of "closing time" was realised.

Monday saw the C.P.C. tackling Swildons where they were inveigled into the sump by Jack Sheppard. The remainder of the camp pursued nautical activities on Waldegrave Pond where the kitchen table proved to be a superior craft to the club bath. Graham swimming about under Bendall's "Copper" gave rise to fresh rumours of a Loch Ness Monster.

The evening was spent in lively debate between the exponents of Electricity and Acetylene (Electricity won) and rounded off with a visit to a "Bob Hop" on Priddy Green where our Craven friends did so well that they found it necessary to return to H.Q. via, so it seemed, Cheddar and/or Wells.

It was hardly surprising therefore that there were many groans and creaks when Lamb Leer was proposed for Tuesday morning, but, nevertheless, most of the party did manage to get underground. After lunch came clearing up and a shuttle service by two trusty two-seaters conveyed the C.P.C. and their baggage to Green Ore on the Bus en route for home.

NEW MEMBERS. Laurence, R. F. Tredigo, K. J.  
Transferred from Wycliffe Cave Club (Affiliated) Wadson, A. R. C.

COMMITTEE 1940 Nominations for the Committee must be in the hands of the Hon. Sec. by October 16th, 1939.

WAR TIME ARRANGEMENTS.

The Committee, at a special meeting, as made the following arrangements.

- a) Members serving in H.M. Forces shall be treated as "Members resident abroad" under Rule 14. They must notify the Hon. Sec., and if they wish their circulars to be sent to them they must send an address.
- b) The Circular will be sent out every other month.
- c) Club Trips will be arranged whenever possible and members desiring to make up parties or pool transport are asked to get in touch with the Hon. Sec.
- d) It is hoped to arrange an excavation in the close vicinity of Bristol. Anyone knowing a suitable site is asked to write in.
- e) Non-members serving in H.M. Forces who wish to cave will be considered as honorary members of the Club.
- f) Gear will be available for private trips as before.
- g) Headquarters will remain open. Members owing H.Q. dues etc. are asked to pay promptly to avoid unnecessary work and postage.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday October 8th. Meet of Climbing Section. Meet in Avon Gorge under Suspension Bridge, Somerset side.

Saturday November 18th. Annual General Meeting at the Crown and Dove, Bridewell, Bristol. This will be followed by SUPPER (instead of the usual Annual Dinner) with entertainment afterwards as before! Tickets 2/9 each.

Circular No. 49

October, 1939.

No Copy available.  
Was it ever issued?

Annual General Meeting at Crown & Done, Bridewell.

AGENDA.

- 1) Apologies and messages.
- 2) Minutes of Previous Meeting.
- 3) Report of Committee for 1939
- 4) Election of Officers and Committee for 1940.
- 5) Report on Mendip Rescue Organisation.
- 6) Report on S. Wales.
- 7) Any other business.

The Meeting will be followed by Supper and Festivities.

Forthcoming Events.

Sunday November 19th. Climbing and caving trip.in Avon Gorge. Meet by Tennis Courts. If possible bring own climbing ropes.

Sunday December 10th. Cave Hunt in Kings Weston District. Meet at Sea. Mills Village Green. Bring lunch and means of transport, if any, (not essential)

Subscriptions. Your subscription became due on November 1st. It will be of great assistance if you would send it in promptly. Members serving in H.M. Forces will not be asked to pay a - subscription provided they notify the Hon. Sec. that they wish to be treated as "members resident abroad".

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Sunday Jan. 7th, 1940 Visit to Geological Section Bristol Museum, personally conducted by Dr. F. S. Wallis.

Sunday Feb. 4th. Visit to mines and caves at Orr's Close, Mr. Hillgrove.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE The following were elected', to serve for 1940.

President	H. E. Balch
Chairman	Frank. Frost
Hon. Treasurer	K. Humphries
Hon. Secretary	Hywel Murrell
Hon. Assistant Secretary	J. Strachan.
Members of Committee	G. Bowen, L. W. Greenwood,
Ruth Murrell, A. J. MacMillan, P. Marsden, E. W. Sharpe, A. Wadsworth, P. Weaver, G. Williams.	

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1939.

The first part of the year under review was one of further growth. We acquired 30 new members, and lost only nine by resignation. We have, therefore, fully maintained our membership. There was a further School club affiliation bringing the total up to four. These School clubs have made good use of the facilities we offer and we have gained some full members as a result.

Club activities have been well supported, the highlight being a turnout of 45 members for a trip down the Pensford Colliery. In addition to cave trips a Geological Field-day and a visit to Wells Museum, were held. In their private capacity members have made full use of the gear and of H.Q. and a strong party has continued the work at Swallet X.

At Whitsun an experiment was made in running a camp at H.Q. The support from members was disappointing but we had with us, seven members of the Craven Pot Hole Club, and we all had a splendid week-end. We hope that when the "present incident" is over we shall have an opportunity of renewing the contacts which were made then.

The events in South Wales will be dealt with in a separate report but we must mention the excellent work put in by Jimmy Braithwaite in arranging the B.S.A. Conference over there.

The gear qualification scheme has worked well for its first year and there have been no complaints. There has been a marked keenness amongst members to get qualified and the gear has been better treated and lasted longer than hitherto. There has had to be no gear renewals in the present financial year.

H. Q. came in for some attention in the Spring and a re-arrangement of the rooms was made and additional fittings and fixtures purchased. This result has been to make the place very much

more comfortable and thus has been appreciated by those who stay there.

During the past year the experiment has been tried for forming a climbing section. Seven meets have been held in the district and have been well supported, and two visits have been made to North Wales. This section now possesses an enthusiastic membership of over 20 keen climbers, and although its activities must, of necessity be curtailed, meets will continue to be held and we hope that the section will expand still further. It forms a valuable means of acquiring experience for those interested in mountaineering who have not had opportunity to do any previously.

When war broke out we decided to carry on, even though activities have to be greatly reduced. It is hoped that all members will give the committee their support though they may have to retire almost completely from active caving for the Duration. During the last five years we have built up a cave club of size and energy surpassing any other in the country and in spite of the War we want to keep it alive and active. Members living away from Bristol will appreciate that it will be much more difficult to arrange events which will be within their reach but they must rest assured that everything possible will be done to fix events which they can attend. The gear and H.Q. are still available and members are urged to make up private parties more frequently than hitherto. Anyone caving who would be willing to take others in his party is asked to write to the Hon. Sec.

No one knows what will happen in the next few months, but we hope that when we meet again next year it will be possible for us to push ahead where we have left off.

#### MEMBERS IN H.M. FORCES.

The following are the members who have notified that they are serving in H.M. Forces. Where known Rank and Unit are given.

Baldwin, N. V. Capt.	Signals.
Bayfield, D. S.	
Braithwaite, B. R. 2nd Lieut.	Somerset Light Infantry
Braithwaite, J. L. 2nd Lieut.	Hampshire Regt.
Braithwaite, T. A. J. Sapper.	Royal Engineers.
Cook, W. O. Ldg./Seaman	R.N.V.R.
Feather, H. G. Rifleman	Q.V.R.
Harding, T. H.	
Meade-King, M. G.	
Norton, H. G.	
Raynter, R. C.	Royal Artillery Signals.
Sharland, S. W.	
Sheppard, J.	Signals
Strachan, J. N, L/Sjt.	
Thomas, L. E. Sub-Lieut. '(E)	R.N.V.R.

Vice-President. Hywell Murrell has been elected a vice-president of the Club.

Forthcoming Events.

Easter Camp at H.Q. Would all members interested please write as soon as possible to the Assistant Secretary?

Members in H.M. Forces, (continued).

Holt, R. G.	Royal Artillery
Humpidge, R. T.	Royal Engineers.
Mansfield, J. H.	Royal Corps of Signals.
Murrell, H. 2nd Lieut.	Royal Engineers.

WILLS HOLE, PONT-NEATH VAUGHAN.

Wills Hole or King Arthur's Cave is situated on the right bank of the River Sychryd at the lowest series of water falls, and is about a mile east of the village of Pont-Neath Vaughan. Latitude 51° 45' 41" N. Longitude 3° 34' 20" W. approximately.

It lies on the narrow Carboniferous Limestone belt which occurs between the Old Red Sandstone to the North forming the Black Mountain and Brecon Beacons, and the Millstone Grit of the coal field to the South.

As will be seen from the Plan, the cave is an elongated Y and forms an underground connection between the Sychryd and the Neath. The present course of the water through the cave is at the moment something of a mystery, because although a good sized stream flows through the terminal sump, it makes its appearance only a few feet away from it.

Passage B is normally dry, but the presence of a thick layer of coal dust on the floor and part of the walls washed in from the coal washing plant higher up the Sychryd, indicates that it takes flood water. The flooding, we should imagine, would have to be severe, because in the space of a few hours, after heavy rain, the river rose 3 ft., but there was no sign of increase in the cave.

There is a trickle of water visible in the main passage A, but the clue to the supply seems to be given at F. Here, the wall is coated with a layer of stalactite, and above the noise of a heavy drip emerging about 10 ft. up, is the unmistakable roar of fast running water. This led us to think that there is another passage roughly parallel to A, and discharging its contents just above the sump.

Exploration at this point with the aid of a few sticks of gelignite would probably yield interesting results.

The inlet on the Sychryd and the exit in the Neath have been located, and with the aid of a 25" map, it was hoped to produce a section which would indicate the difference in level between the sump and the resurgence into the Neath, and thereby give some indication of the usefulness of diving the sump. Unfortunately the 25" map does not give sufficient data and several hours of levelling will be necessary, besides locating the exact position of the cave.

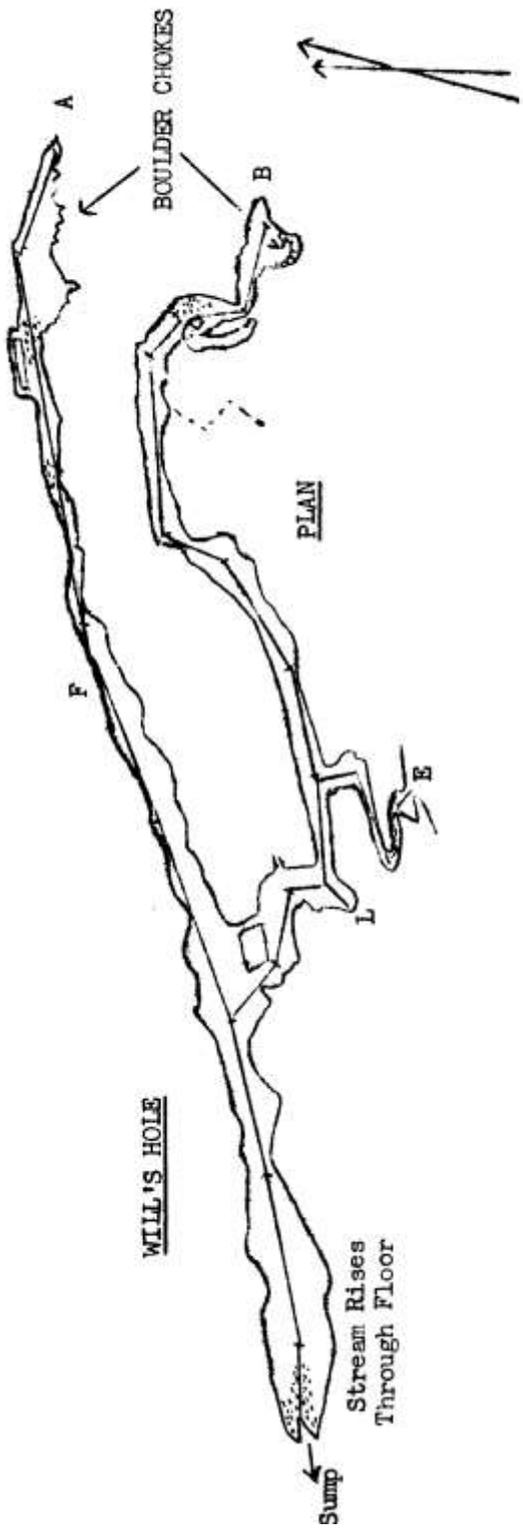
Stalactite formation is negligible.

The general angle of dip is one of only a few degrees South, but because of intense local folding, the dip in the cave is nearly 60 N.

The faults among which it has been formed can be clearly seen in the roof.

There are no technical difficulties in the exploration of the cave, with the exception of the Pot. This can be descended with the aid of a rope, but matters are made more pleasant by the use of 35 ft. of ladder.

L. W. Greenwood.  
A. M. G. Trower.  
January, 1940.



Water

Stations

Passages Unsurveyed

Dip 60°N

Scale



Surveyed December 1938

- L. W. Greenwood -

- A. M. G. Trower -

New Members.

Ellender, W. G.

Peet, G. A.

Purcell, F. R.

Thomson, T. E.

Forthcoming Events.

It was proposed to hold several club meetings in the immediate future. Under present conditions it is not considered advisable to run them. The gear is available for the use of members who may wish to cave.

Recent Discoveries.

A Cave has been found on Mendip by members of the U.B.S.S. It is a large cave (a trip takes about 4 hours) and its formations are as fine as those of any cave in the district. When it is possible it is hoped to arrange a visit for Club members.

Eastwater. N. L. Paddock, C. Low and P. B. Dolphin report the discovery by them of a connection between the 'Canyon' and 'Harris's' passage.

Subscriptions. The Committee regrets that a very large number of subscriptions are still unpaid. We are doing all we can to keep the club running in difficult times. Although many members may find it impossible at present to take part in club activities, they will appreciate the advantage of keeping the club organisation in being. The war isn't going to last for ever (we hope) and you will be glad to cave again afterwards. The next circular will be sent only to members whose subscriptions have been paid and to members who are serving in the Forces.

Note Re. Headquarters.

Visitors at H.Q. are requested to sign the Log Book.

## THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1940.

This year has seen a big reduction in the membership of the Club. Under the present conditions this was not unexpected as the majority of our members are of an age that makes them liable to serve in H.M. Forces. Over twenty have notified the Club that they joined one or other of the services. Others are doing work of National Importance, which leaves them with little or no time to cave. In the early days of the year very few had renewed their membership, but as time went on more members paid their subscriptions, and the year closed with the membership of the club standing at 106.

With the change in the military situation, and an invasion of this Country seemingly imminent, it was clearly impossible to arrange a programme of organised Club events, and all 'future events' were therefore cancelled. But Caving did not cease altogether. It was arranged that the Club gear be left at H.Q. This was done to make it available to members, whatever their form of transport.

The chief event of the year in the local caving world was, without a doubt, the discovery of the wonderful G.B. Cave. In times other than the present, this great find by the U.B.S.S. would have been of National Interest, so great is its beauty. A club trip was arranged in the summer to enable members to visit the new cave.

Our members have not been idle, and a small party played their part in furthering our knowledge of Mendip. We refer to the work in Eastwater by Dolphin, Paddock and Low. Their discovery, a route between the Canyon and Harris's passage is a trip well worth doing. These members are continuing their investigations at Eastwater, and we hope that the keenness they have shown in pursuing their task will again be rewarded.

We have lost the services of most of the members who were active in South Wales. This, being so it was thought advisable to disband the section. Apart from an event at the very beginning of the year, it was found quite impossible to arrange any Club events for the climbing section, and this was also disbanded.

H.Q. has not been doing as much as we could have wished. The Committee would like to see it a little more self-supporting. Apart from its position as a centre for Caving Activities, the Grange offers to those of our members who suffer from the strain caused by over-work or disturbed nights, a chance to get away from these things. In view of our reduced membership, we approached Mr. Bendal in regard to his rent, and are very pleased to report that he has agreed to a reduction of £4.

From time to time throughout the year, members of the Committee have for various reasons been forced to resign. Ruth Murrell and Sharpe left the district. Bill Greenwood and McMillan joined H.M. Forces, and not long after these had gone we lost our Hon. Treasurer to the R.A.F., but the most serious loss that the Club sustained was when the Hon. Secretary accepted a Commission in the R.E.

The Committee would like to place on record a tribute to his splendid work on behalf of the Club.

Hywel Murrell was one of a small band of experienced cavers who in 1934 saw the need of a Club whose members would be chiefly concerned with the sporting side of caving. At that time the only clubs in the district were the M.N.R.C. and the Bristol University Speleological Society. Of these, the former recruits its members by invitation only. The B.U.S.S. mainly comprises students and graduates of the University of Bristol. Outside of these Societies there were a number of small unconnected groups caving on Mendip, and the idea was to band all these together into one Club. This was done, and the resulting club named the Wessex Cave Club.

Murrell was appointed the Hon. Secretary, and at once proceeded to put his heart into the task. At first from Croydon, and later from Bristol, he worked with one object only in view, that was to make the Club a success. How well he succeeded, Members can judge for themselves from the fact that at the end of last year we were by far the largest club of our type in the country. This has meant an enormous amount of work. Only those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him know how much time and trouble he expended on behalf of the club. It is safe to say that it is doubtful if we would be here tonight had it not been for the work of Hywel Murrell. We know all members will join us in wishing him the best of luck, coupled with the hope that he will soon be back to continue where he left off.

The Committee would like to thank those members who, although coming under the 'Members Resident Abroad' arrangement, have continued to pay their subscriptions. It is a fine sporting gesture on their part and is very much appreciated.

The Club is in a sound position financially, and the Committee are most pleased with the support that members have given to the Club, and know that they can rely on all to continue this support.

## CLUB ACTIVITIES

### EASTWATER SWALLET.

It is hoped to run a full Eastwater, by way of the new verticals, at some date in February. This should be an interesting trip, led by the discoverers of the system.

Digging operations are being carried out in the "380 footway" by Low, Paddock and Dolphin, who report slow but satisfactory progress,

### VISITORS.

It is felt that large numbers of people visiting Bristol, particularly members of H.M. Forces, would like to take the opportunity of seeing a Mendip Cave while in the district. Will anyone knowing of such people please get in touch with the Hon. Sec,

### 1941 PROGRAMME.

We hope to arrange a more active caving programme during 1941 than in previous years. Any suggestions will be welcomed by the Committee.

MEMBER IN H.M. FORCES.      P. Marsden R.A.F.

Circular No. 54

No record of date or contents. Was it issued?

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New Members  
Jones, P.L.F.

Clark, H.F.  
Wikkenhauser, G.

Haslam, R.F.

Future Programme

July 5th or 6th  
August 2nd to 4th  
August 16th or 17th

Eastwater (new part)  
Weekend camp  
G.B. Cave

Headquarters.

The Committee regret that it is no longer possible for the Club to have the use of "The Grange", East Harptree. Members wishing to stay overnight on Mendip can have the use of a loft or barn at Manor Farm, Priddy (Mr. Maine), but they must take their own sleeping gear and cooking utensils. The charge is 1/- per night per person. The Club's Caving gear is now in Bristol and Members wishing to use same are requested to write to the Hon. Sec.

Membership.

The Hon. Secretary reports that the Club now has a membership of over 70, of whom a large proportion are now serving in H.M. Forces

Items of Interest.

P. Dolphin reports that he has been using, with considerable success a Varley Dry Accumulator, in conduction with an electric hat lamp. It has been giving about 15 hours light with each charge.

Available Records cease here.

No. 56 was probably the last war time issue.

## THE CAVING CODE.

- I. One of the features of caving in Wessex up to the present is the complete freedom from serious accident, and it is the duty of every member to see that this good record is not broken. The following steps should be taken with this end in view:-
  - a) Parties should, as far as possible, not be less than three in number, since should one be injured he would not have to be left alone while help was being fetched.
  - b) The tackle should be tested periodically, and should always be in good condition when taken underground.
  - c) A life line should always be used on all verticals,
  - d) The instructions of the leader of the party should be followed without question, and the party should not be split without permission.
  - e) An adequate supply of lights should always be taken,
  - f) Finally, remember that caving is a dangerous sport, and do not take undue risks out of the spirit of bravado or in order to 'show off'.
- II. A good cave man jealously guards the beauty of the caves which he enters and therefore he does no damage, except that which is essential to the progress of any excavations. He does not carve inscriptions.
- III. It is essential that news of new discoveries should not be allowed to get known outside the circle of the Club until steps have been taken to protect any beauties which may have been found.
- IV. Caves which are notified by the Club as dangerous should only be descended by a strong official party.
- V. Before any cave trip, members should leave word of their destination with some responsible person and also state approximate time of return.
- VI. In case of accident, the Wells Police Station should be telephoned so that local members of the Club can organise a relief party.

## CLUB PROSPECTUS

Issued August, 1939.

THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB was formed in the Autumn of 1934 to bring together all those interested in the sport of caving. It was open to anyone who wished to join, experienced or otherwise, and offered its members facilities to explore, excavate, or scramble as they were inclined. The Club fulfilled an immediate demand and its numbers, which are now over 200, have grown steadily.

In the Summer of 1936 members of the Club began to visit a hitherto unexplored cave region in South Wales. The discoveries they made roused great interest in the neighbourhood, and resulted in the formation of the Welsh Branch.

Membership of the Club confers the following advantages:

HEADQUARTERS, situated at Hillgrange, E. Harptree (near Castle of Comfort), is fully equipped for sleeping, cooking and changing.

GEAR in ample quantities is maintained in Mendip and South Wales and may be borrowed by members for private trips.

THE CIRCULAR goes to all members at the beginning of each month. It gives full particulars of all Club events, usually two or three each month. In addition to cave trips visits are arranged to Museums, coal mines, quarries, sewers, etc.

THE SUPPLEMENT comes out quarterly with the circular and contains articles on caving matters and news of Club activities.

THE WELSH SECTION, has its own Local Secretary but is an integral part of the Club. Membership is automatic for those who live in the district and its activities are open to everyone without any additional subscription.

SCHOOL CAVE CLUBS may affiliate to the Club thereby obtaining almost all the privileges of full membership.

THE CLIMBING SECTION can be joined on payment of an entry fee of 2/6 (no additional subscription). Meets are held regularly on suitable rocks in the locality and occasionally in North Wales. Special provision is made for those who want to learn.

VISITS TO OTHER CAVE DISTRICTS, are easily arranged as the Wessex Cave Club has exchange arrangements with some of the chief Clubs in the North.

EXCAVATIONS. The Club can give members ample opportunity to indulge any desire to dig or explore.

SOCIAL EVENTS such as the Annual Dinner, Club Suppers etc. are also arranged.

THE ENTRY FEE is 5/- and the subscription 5/- per annum. A special effort is made to keep the subscription low in order that those who only came on rare occasions may still find it worthwhile to belong to the Club.