



## CONTENTS

Editorial		24
Club Notes		25
COTSWOLD KARST	A. Ward	26
RESCUE (Part 2 concluded)	R. Kenney	28
Library (Club Library additions, reviews)		31
50 Years Ago		33
CHINA RECONNAISSANCE NOTE	P. Weston	33
Rules, Wessex Cave Club, as from AGM 1986		34
Accounts, Wessex Cave Club, for Year Ended August 1986		38
From The Log		44
Prize Crossword Solution.		48
Regional Notes		49
Officers, Wessex Cave Club, (Duties of)	The Committee	50
BCRA Club Insurance Summary		51
Back Page		

NEXT EDITION:      HERMIT'S CAVE (Cotswolds)      Andy Ward.  
                                  CHINA RECONNAISSANCE      Paul Weston

## CLUB OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN	Phil Hendy	Dragon Cottage, Westholme Lane, Steanbow, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA5 4EH.
TREASURER	Dianne Walker	Field Cottage, 90 Chelynch, Doultling, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.
HON. SECRETARY	Robin Taviner	64 Farm Road, Weston-S-Mare, Avon BS22 8BD.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY/ HQ BOOKINGS OFFICER	Mike Dewdney-York	59 Kennington Avenue, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 9EU
CAVING SECRETARY	Pete Watts	c/o Upper Pitts
NORTHERN CAVING SEC.	Keith Sanderson	Heather View, Newby, nr. Clapham, Lancashire.
GEAR CURATOR	Dave Morrison	2 Westholm, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11.
HUT ADMINISTRATION	Mary Rands	c/o Upper Pitts.
HUT WARDEN	Duncan Frew (+rota)	6 The Greenway, Wickford, Essex SS11 7NU.
SALES OFFICER	Pete Hann	3 Queens Terrace, Sherborne, Dorset.
JOURNAL EDITOR	Nigel Graham	60 Williams Avenue, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9BP. Tel. (0305) 789770 (home).
ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Jim Rands, Jim Moon	
JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION	Pete & Alison Moody	
SURVEY SALES OFFICER	Maurice Hewins	31 Badshot Park, Badshot Lea, Farnham, Surrey.

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

WESSEX CAVE CLUB HEADQUARTERS:

UPPER PITTS. EASTWATER LANE, PRIDDY, nr. WELLS, SOMERSET BA5 3AX

## EDITORIAL

To The Manor Born

(With apologies to the BBC)

So the NCA is investigating establishing a "National" Centre for caving?

I wonder if they can answer a few simple questions, convincingly?

1 Do we NEED a "national" centre?

2 Would such a centre actually be national, or little more than parochial to the area in which it is situated, as Whernside Manor Cave & Fell Centre was?

3 What would its main function be?

4 How are we, the caving public to whom the NCA Executive is a representative service, pay for its establishment, assuming once in operation it will be self financing (e.g. by course fees, accommodation, etc.)?

5 What lies behind the NCA's decision?

These are my answers, based on my judgement on what is happening both in caving itself, and to some extent, in other sports and pastimes generally:-

1 No. Each caving area has plenty of accommodation (club huts, camp sites, holiday accommodation, etc) available. Finding venues for lectures etc is not much of a problem, while the real "facilities" have been around for thousands of years - before bureaucracy was invented!

2 No. If only for practical reasons. There are some signs that the old "my region is better than yours" syndrome is beginning to disappear: why give it a "national" centre to feed on?

3 I do not know. Training possibly: well, the CSCC are establishing courses in SRT, photography, surveying etc., using the facilities we already have. I cannot see it as little more than a glorified NCA clubhouse.

4 I doubt if we can. Perhaps they will receive grants from some outside body or other. On top of, or instead of, those already sought for developing Pseud's Corner officerships etc;?

5 I do not know. Imagination can justify anything, and invent uses for anything, but I suspect that in the end, their dream of "national" centres boils down to prestige, "governing-body" elitism, and impressing the Sports Council, rather than for practicalities like a permanent NCA address, a darkroom and a drop-test frame, or whatever.

I have not asked where it would be sited. Derbyshire (sorry, our friends in the Peak District) is geographically the most logical, but I have my suspicions regarding choice of site and reasons for the choice. (Perhaps it ought to be on Portland: the few of us there can then totally ignore it and get on with what really matters: going caving!) I will not recognise such a centre as national, I didn't with Whernside, why should I?

And of caving:

Mendip has an impressive list of countries to the credit of its expeditionary cavers. Gratifyingly, a new one has been added to the list: CHINA.

NEW MEMBERS: The Wessex Cave Club Welcomes:-

Aidan John Williams.	26 Rock Road, Midsommer Newton, Bath BA3 2AQ.
David Cockfield.	30 Alexandra Way, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4PT.
Jacqueline Penny Ridewood.	32 Fulford Way, Woodberry, Devon EX5 1NZ.
Genevieve Myra Ann Jeffrey.	5A Tower Walk, Weston-super-Mare, Avon.
Sean Kelly.	c/o Darwin College, Silver Street, Cambridge, CB3 9EU.
Gary Smith.	28 Union Street, Kendal, Cumbria.
Michael David Wright.	63 Wood Lane, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9AY.
David Alan Peter Grieves.	232 Bournemouth Road, Charlton Marshall, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 9NF.

Martin Paul Lockyer.

43 Burleigh Way, Crawley Down, West Sussex RH10 4UG.

## ENGAGEMENT.

PETER HANN & SANDRA MACKENZIE. Congratulations and Best Wishes from the WESSEX CAVE CLUB.

## CLUB NEWS

'ATTY' (Harry Carleton Attwood): a memorial exhibition of his paintings and sculptures is to be held in his home town of Swindon.

At the Museum & Art Gallery, Bath Road, Swindon, 30th March - 26th April '87.

The Club will be offering a selection of his caving drawings.

INSURANCE & SUBSCRIPTIONS. As was explained in the last Journal, the 1986/7 Subscription had to be raised rather more than had been intended following a sudden, unexpected insurance problem and the possibility of the Club having to pay an enormous premium for the cover we need. Subsequently, the Secretary has obtained the B.C.R.A. Insurance, a policy designed for caving clubs. This means we may now be able to actually REDUCE the Sub. for next year.

Explosives licence holders will be covered by an individual extension to the main policy, and a simple questionnaire has to be completed and submitted to the Hon. Secretary by each licence holder. If you have not already done so, could you please obtain and complete a copy of the form (from Upper Pitts or the Secretary).

SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS. According to the Club Rules, these are due within a month of the AGM. This is awkward if you have relied on the Journal to learn the new year's Sub, and the Journal takes over a month to appear. The Committee have examined the problem: one solution may be that of sending out Subs Reminders separately as soon as practicable after the AGM, possibly as printed postcards.

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS. Simple name & address computer files are used by the Club: they expedite Journal addressing for a start. NO OTHER information is held on these files, but any member may have his or her name & address removed from the computer file (and kept on paper instead) on request to the Assistant Secretary.

LADIES' DORMITORY is NOT a route to the tackle store. Neither should it be used as a couples' retreat: men should not be in there. Following complaints to the Committee of one or two persistent offenders, the Committee warn that in future offenders who flout a verbal, then Written, Warnings, will be liable to suspension.

UPPER PITTS SECURITY. If you are last to leave, please ensure all windows (including in the toilets, dormitories and the new changing-room) are secure, the gas bottles are turned off, the doors are locked.

Whilst on the subject, Alan Jeffreys (G.S.G.) has circulated a paper on theft prevention, covering protecting cavers' cars and belongings as well as club huts: see "Descent" No.74 Jan/Feb 87.

FANCY DRESS PARTY (Feb. 14th) had to be cancelled, when it became clear we would not have been able to sell sufficient tickets (Mendip has been rather quiet in the last couple of months).

UPPER PITTS DOOR KEY. Would you like one? Contact Pete Hann (Sales Officer).

AWAY FIXTURES. Would members making their own arrangements to stay at another club's cottage, please confirm their booking writing (don't forget the SAE)?

cont. p48

# COTSWOLD KARST

## HERMIT'S CAVE

Tetbury, Gloucestershire, ST 879 945

Hermit's Cave is situated in a disused quarry, now overgrown with trees, in oolitic limestone. At time of writing the cave is about 24m. long, with an inward draught and several ways on - all of which need digging. Digging has already resulted in the addition of another 7m. of passage. The cave contains a great deal of shattered rock, presumably caused by past quarrying.

As there is no known survey, or record of exploration, of this cave a survey is being prepared.

## COLLAPSE HOLES

Tetbury area

These are large holes which appear in the area from time to time. The ones marked are either still there or have appeared in the past and have been filled in. Details of locations were given to me by local people.

The holes are all of similar appearance, circular with sheer sides belling out at the bottom. They vary in size. The floor is clay and loose rocks with water which appears to flow through. The most recent hole appeared in September but unfortunately had been partly filled with rubble before I could see it.

I now think that Beechtree Swallet is also a collapse hole which has captured a surface stream, as its appearance is similar to that of the other collapse holes.

## ASHBED HOLE

See survey.

## HAWTHORN TREE HOLE

A hole at least 50 years old, now a depression 4m. wide, 1m. deep which accepts a large number of drainage pipes. Water from these drains into the depression, draining away with no evidence of backing up.

## UN-NAMED HOLES 1 & 2

Both of these holes appeared about 20 years ago and were of similar appearance to Ashbed Hole. UH1 is said to have been 10m. wide and 14m. deep, the largest of the known holes. Both have been filled in and grassed over. Their locations were shown to me by people who remembered seeing them.

All the holes appear to drain towards the River Avon near Tetbury. It is my belief that these holes were formed by an underground stream which flowed through a fault in the rock. The water flowing round the hole formed the circular shape, washing out the soil until the top soil collapsed.

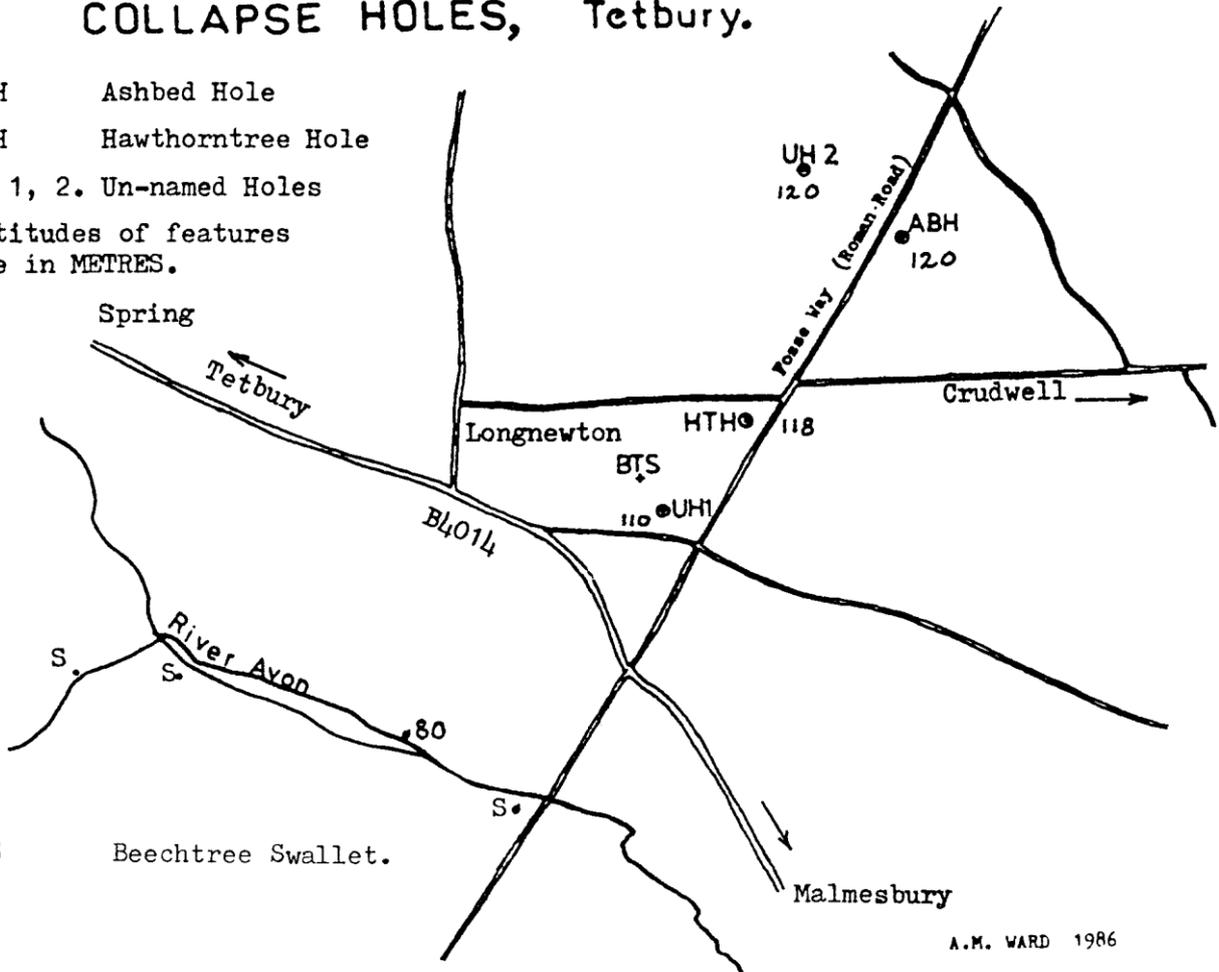
Hermit's Cave: a full description and sketch survey has been prepared and will be published in the next edition.

# COLLAPSE HOLES, Tetbury.

- ABH Ashbed Hole
- HTH Hawthorntree Hole
- UH 1, 2. Un-named Holes

Altitudes of features are in METRES.

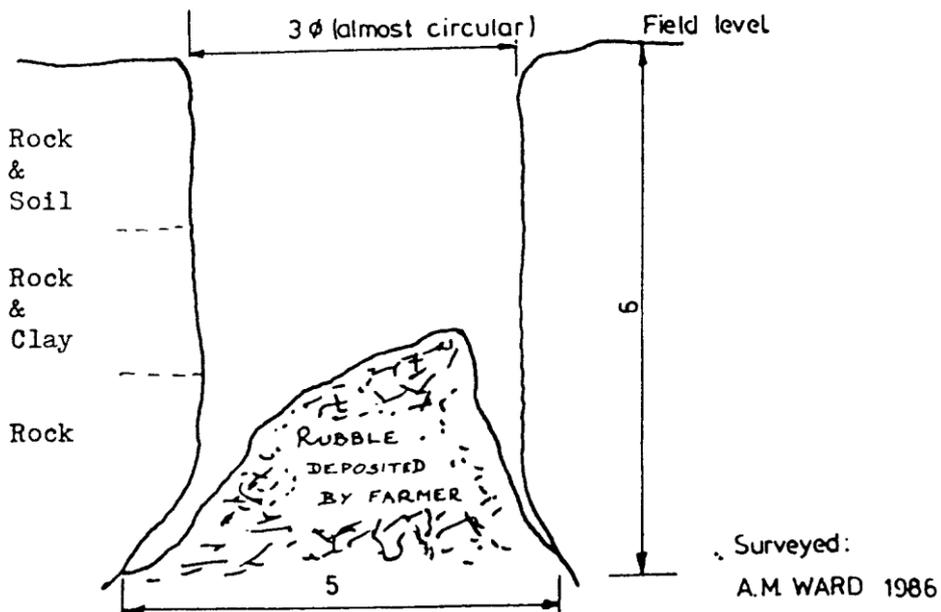
S° Spring



BTS Beechtree Swallet.

A.M. WARD 1986

## ASHBED HOLE ST 934 936 A120m



Other accidents and rescues took place, some far afield but with great impact, and others that had a local poignancy.

The first of these occurred during the same Easter weekend. A party of B.E.C. members including Pat Ifold, Roger Cantle, Tony Settington, Pat Browne and H. Perry, found themselves on a virtual non-stop rescue weekend in Snowdonia. The weather up there was winterish, and first of all they had to answer a call for a woman who had fallen on South Gulley. On reaching that locality they found that she was dead, but the weather was so bad that her body had to be left there until the following morning (there were no helicopters in those days).

Thinking later that their good deeds were done, they set out to enjoy the hard conditions of high winds, ice and packed snow. They then heard cries for help from a man who had fallen 400ft and had suffered severe internal injuries. A trail of blood led them to his position, and as night was approaching they had to improvise quickly to make a rescue. A rope stretcher was made, with the help of some other local climbers, and a descent was started. Pat Ifold lost his footing when moving backwards with the stretcher, and fell about 60ft on soft snow. They got the victim down to safer ground, but he then died.

As with GB, they had to emphasise in the "Bristol Evening World" that correct training was essential, and all concerned were left in no doubt about the causes and consequences of rescues.

And now for some more general reporting:

THE LISTENER 8-3-51 "A Short Essay on Caves" 2p on caves and artificial grottoes.

WELLS JOURNAL 6-4-51 Report on diving exhibition of finds and photographs, Bristol.

THE COUNTRYMAN Spring 51 The Mendips: "There is little or no mud wallowing".

TIT-BITS 7-4-51 1p review, "Cave Men New & Old" (Casteret).

LIVERPOOL ECHO 14-5-51 Rescue attempt on John Williams, in Penyghent Pot.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 26-5-51 Inquest on John Williams. Riders: stricter organisation of all expeditions to see that all personnel are fit to undergo such strenuous work, that they be supplied with adequate food and that better communications with the surface be provided.

DAILY TELEGRAPH 11, 12-6-51 Fall, and rescue, of John Frankland, Penyghent P.

DAILY GRAPHIC 12-6-51 John Frankland: "Injured man in pot-hole floats to safety".

THE LISTENER 14-6-51 ½p on caves of Castellana, Italy.

WEEKLY OVERSEAS MAIL 16-6-51 Frankland: "Potholer Saved After 25 hours".

DAILY GRAPHIC 4-8-51 1p on Goughs Cave. Guide smartly dressed in suit.

JOHN BULL 11-8-51 2p Goughs Cave: "Through Cheddar Caves with Uncle" - "Underwater Restaurant" - "Quick Kiss in the Dark" - "The Heckling Parson" - "Caves Cleaned Daily".

DAILY TELEGRAPH 14-8-51 Record in France: Max Cosyns at Pierre St. Martin, 1253ft descent.

Once again the impact of events was more local. Pat Browne, climbing on Clogwyn Crochan with two youngsters, attempted too much and fell 60ft. The evidence at the inquest was that he was using an old hemp rope. He is to be remembered as the discoverer of Browne's Passage in Stoke Lane Slocker, and his parents had "their" hole nearby. I remember Howard, who did a bit of climbing in those days, had stopped going with Pat because he considered him to be too reckless. Howard gave up climbing after this accident. This was the 14th fatal accident in Snowdonia for 1951.

SUNDAY TIMES 19-8-51 "Climber Killed On Snowdon".

DAILY TELEGRAPH 20, 21-8-51 "Leader of Climb Killed" - "60ft Snowdon Fall" - "Climber Used Worn Rope" - "Coroner's Warning".

DAILY HERALD 27-8-51 OFD: "Cavemen Rescued After 60 Hours".

SINGAPORE FREE PRESS 28-8-51 OFD "Human Chain Saves Two".

DAILY MIRROR 28-8-51 OFD: "2 Men Saved From Cave After 60 Hours".

DAILY TELEGRAPH 28-8 OFD: "2 Saved After 59 Hours In Flooded Cave".

THE LISTENER 30-8-51 ½p-review-: 'Cave Men New And Old' (Casteret) and of 'Subterranean Climbers' (Chevalier).

JOHN BULL 8-9-51 2p "Groping Into The World Of Bats" - the Hoopers.

THE LISTENER 9-51 Photograph of entrance to Lepineux.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE 9-51 Reviews as for 30-8 (above).

THE ILLUSTRATED 22-9-51 4p "Pottering About In Pot-Holes".

DAILY TELEGRAPH 30-10-51 Lathkill House Cave (Derbyshire): "Two Lost For Day In Cave" - "Wax Clue To Route".

WELLS JOURNAL 23-11-51 GB film to be shown at Axbridge (Axbridge Caving Grp).

In 1952 many other articles appeared. The three major events were the escape of four men from a flooded Holloch (Switzerland), the rescue of the Scouts from Bridge Cave, and the long-drawn-out story of Marcel Loubens. His rescue was to last for seven days, and generated the following headlines: "Explorer's 130ft Fall In Cavern" - "Serum Dropped By Plane" - "Doctor Goes Down 1600ft" - "Injured Cave Explorer Dies 1180ft Down" - "Rock Fall Delayed Rescue" - "Twin Ropes To Rescue Four Men From Cave" - "Trapped Explorers Bury Companion" - "Man Dangles Two Hours On Rope" - "Cave Rescue Hitch" - "3 Of 4 Now Safe" - "Last Man Saved From Cave" - "Pyrenees Rescue" - "Trapped Men Find New Cave 1150ft Down". PICTURE POST also did a major article.

#### SOURCE COVERAGE (G.B. and Snowdon rescues)

RRK caving scrapbook containing Press cuttings and other notes.

BRISTOL EVENING POST 27-3-51 William Hucker. He had done some caving and had written a piece about Longwood which was reliable. Colin and I briefed him as much as possible: "Girls in Party Trapped by Cave Flood" - "15 Hours In Darkness" - "Dropped Torch" - "Relatives Told".

BRISTOL EVENING WORLD 27-3 John Tisdall (I don't remember meeting him): "Bristol Explorers Trapped 14 Hours In Cave" - "Rescuers Find Them Drenched Without Light" - "Swollen Waterfall" - "Fell Back Three Times" - "They Were Overjoyed".

BATH & WILTS CHRONICLE AND HERALD 27-3 "22 Black Hours Underground" - "Five Holiday-Makers' Mendip Cave Ordeal'.

LEICESTER MERCURY 27-3 (An example of syndication) "Five Saved after Night In A Cave" - "Hundreds Of Caves".

LONDON EVENING STANDARD 27-3 "Five Trapped 22 Hours In Cave" - "Several Hours Search".

LONDON EVENING NEWS 27-3 "Women Explorers Trapped Underground For 14 Hours" - "Five Are Saved In Cave" - "London Men Get Aid Call" - "The Roof 365FT Up" - "The Wind Blew Out Candles" - "Fell Asleep In Kiosk".

LONDON STAR 27-3 "Five Trapped In Cave For 20 Hours" - "London Rescuers" - "Lamps Failed" - "A Torrent" - "Almost Frozen".

BBC HOME SERVICE 27-3 "Party 2 Miles Underground".

BRISTOL EVENING WORLD 27-3 (Snowdon) "Rescuers Too Late" - "Trail Of Blood".

DAILY GRAPHIC 28-3 "Teenager In Stone-Age" - "Five Cavers Are Rescued After 18 Hours In Dark" - "Told Yarns".

DAILY HERALD 28-3 "Girls Trapped In Cave" - "They Sang in The Dark At Devil's Elbow".

DAILY TELEGRAPH and MORNING POST 28-3 "5 Trapped 15 Hours In Cave" - "Party Without Light And Food" - "We Were Wet Through".

BRISTOL EVENING POST 29-3 Letter from T.H. Stanbury.

WELLS JOURNAL, SOMERSET & WEST OF ENGLAND ADVERTISER, FROME, SHEPTON MALLET, GLASTONBURY and AXBRIDGE GAZETTE 30-3 "Wells Rescue Party For Trapped Cavers" "All Night In Darkness in GB Cavern" - "Raised The Alarm" - "Torch Lost" - "Water In Torrents" - "Behaved Marvellously".

Letter, James Pembry to Richard Kenney, 4-4.

WELLS JOURNAL 6-4 Letter from C.H. Kenney.

WELLS JOURNAL 29-6 "Mendip Cave Closure" - "Protest By University Caving Society

WELLS JOURNAL 6-7 AXBRIDGE R.D.C. DECISION ON G.B. CAVE".

SUNDAY TIMES 19-8 "Climber Killed On Snowdon".

DAILY TELEGRAPH & MORNING POST 20-8 "Leader Of Climb Killed" - "60FT Snowdon Fall", and, 21-8 "Climber Used Worn Rope" - "Coroner's Warning".

WESTERN GAZETTE 24-8 "Fell to Death On Mountain" - "Former Bruton Schoolboy Killed" - "Frome Parents Bereaved" - "Coroner's Comments".

Now is the time for a summary. All regular Mendip cavers now realised cave rescues were anything but straightforward, and were outside the experience and capabilities of the Police. Many a pint must have been downed in discussions on the subject, and of course the B.E.C., with their experience in the climbing world were able to make a realistic and major contribution.

It is a truism that personal experience of violent injury or death leaves one in a changed state of mind for the rest of one's life. One begins to anticipate accidents, to accept their inevitability and to gain the confidence to cope with these emergencies.

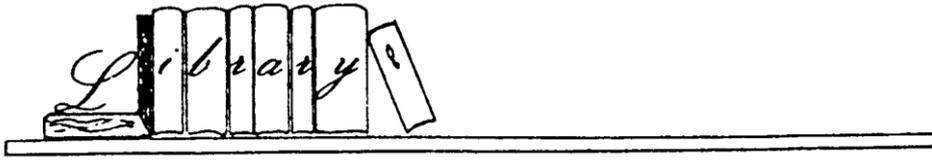
And now we have the Mendip Rescue Organisation.

Finally:

There are also the potential rescues to consider . . .

BRISTOL EVENING WORLD 1-10-52 "He Wants To Put A House In Middle Of Mendips". "If I care to have drunken parties at night I don't want neighbours complaining. We sometimes have caving parties, and the neighbours are pretty tolerant, but I don't know how long they will remain tolerant" - Mr L.W.E. Devenish, an enthusiastic cave explorer."

RRK.



## Club Library Additions & Book Reviews

The following are rather random samples of recent Club Library additions which came to the Editor's attention: it is hoped that a regular, more complete, Library page will result from this start.

NSS NEWS November 1986.

The National Speleological Society (of America) bulletin, roughly equivalent to our "Caves & Caving". This edition includes a detailed, illustrated article on the Chislehurst Caves (old mines), in Kent.

LANCASHIRE CAVING AND CLIMBING CLUB BULLETIN 1986

mainly chronicles its members' climbing activities, but it also contains a report on diving in the Bahamian Blue Holes as part of the Operation Raleigh programme, a trip remarkable for its massive internal bureaucracy!

The same club celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1986, producing a book to mark the occasion. "1936 - 1986, 50 Years of Caving and Climbing With The (L.C.C.C.)", charts the high and low points, administrative as well as geological, of this very active club: here's to their next 50 years!

PROCEEDINGS, U.B.S.S. for 1986 (Vol.17 No.3)

Papers mainly covering paleontology and archaeology, together with notes on County Clare, and a bibliography of O.C. Lloyd's work.

THE CANADIAN CAVER Fall 1986 Vol.18 No.2.

I had not come across "Canadian Caver" before, and I am most impressed with this Journal. Printed and produced to high commercial standards, and well illustrated with b&w photos, diagrams (mainly surveys) and drawings, it receives financial assistance from the "Clark-Rennie Memorial Fund". I do not know the background to this, but if as I presume, this journal is intended itself to be a memorial work here, then it is certainly a worthy one.

This edition itself starts on a tragic note with an analysis of Canadian Caving's first fatal accident, and the obituary. There is a report on the International Congress, and a paper to please the speleosociologist (heaven help us!): "The Phenomenology" of caving - why we do it, I think. A letters page and a review of "China Caves '85" complete it. All the rest of the 63 pages, edited by Tich Morris and Patrick Shaw, are occupied by reports of new explorations.

DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION Nos. 61 - 63 inc.

Thanks are due to Pete Cousins for sending these on via me together with his suggestion that book reviews in the WCC Journal be re-introduced.

The DCA N/L fulfils two roles. It reports the administrative work (access, etc.) of the regional body itself, and it reports on new exploration in Derbyshire (in which the CDG take a very active part). The Mendip SSSI troubles are discussed, perhaps to our advantage in that being on neutral ground so to speak a calmer perspective is possible. Anyone trying to navigate through the fog of NCA / Regional Body admin. may find No.62 very helpful: Jenny Potts has written what amounts to directory of regional councils, summarising their membership requirements, access responsibilities, etc.

All this leaves plenty of room for caving however: Derbyshire tends to be the region one drives past en route for the Dales, for many, yet it is an area which repays a closer look. These N/Ls summarise a great deal of activity on the part of the local clubs and CDG members.

On a lighter note (oh dear...):

Following an evening of excellent CPC hospitality at last Year's G.G. Winch Meet, printed matter was

delivered to the Editor in a plain wrapper. I opened it, furtively. "LOADING ZONE" shouted the front page. "C'MON IN AND GET LOADED" it further extolled: the Craven Pothole Club song-book. Like most club song collections, it has its share of "in" ditties, teasing individuals or sending up particular events. Here the events of course are the Gaping Gill Winch Meets, whilst many of the individuals happen to be Wessex members... General caving songs include the "Wetsuit Song" and "Twelve Days of Christmas". I won't say who "Screeching Pat" or "The Falklands Hero" are, though both appear in this Journal edition ... and can explain the "Horton Vicarage" better than I. -N.G.

All the above are in the club Library. The next is not. A quota of members, asked if it ought to be, I answered "NO", very emphatically.

SRT by Dave Elliot (published by Troll Safety Equipment Ltd.)

Review by Nigel Graham.

I was intrigued by the condemnation this book received from quite a number of Club members, so decided to review it to assess both the book and its reception.

First, the book. I approached it from my own position of learning SRT, i.e., asking, will this book help me? (Given the obvious that SRT is like any other skill in that practice, not reading, makes perfect). I also examined "SRT" as a technical manual, i.e. how explanatory is it. I looked at it as a book on vertical caving: is it, in fact, such? Finally, I assessed its "wind-up" value on the basis of Dave Elliot's reputation in that department.

"SRT" is not an SRT reference work. It does not aim to be, nor does it claim to be, from the Introduction. Elliot describes only that prusiking system he uses; sit-stand ("Frog"), making no reference to any other style, not even to note their existence (for that, see "Caving Techniques & Equipment": Elliot does discuss these in the chapters he wrote for that manual). Accepting, then that the book's terms of reference are somewhat narrow, what is described, is described very well. When he wants to, Dave Elliot can maintain a very high standard of technical literature. With one or two rather peculiar exceptions, he does so here. Abseiling (autolock bobbin descender only), prusiking and rigging are dealt with lucidly, concisely and objectively. The "engineering" behind what after all is a rather mechanical exercise, is carefully explained. Throughout, Dave emphasises safety, sometimes with a lugubrious wit.

The text is complemented by Donna Elliot's layout work and Dick Lawson's clear drawings. Thankfully, the latter avoids ornamenting his diagrams with spurious musical notes, etc., beloved of some other SRT writers. Simon Raven's photographs (mainly of the author on pitches) are untitled, and seem to be there simply to add to the presentation, which they do.

So what is wrong with "SRT"? The "peculiar exceptions" are inimitably Elliotisms, fair enough in a club magazine or a letter to "Descent", say, but rather out of place in a book like this. Anyway, having learnt early in the text how to render laden tackle bags buoyant when swimming is necessary, what do we wear in such situations: Dave does not like "rubber diving suits". All right, that quote is out of its context (climbing in waterfalls), but it is absurd. So is the reference to "older club cavers' " home-made inner-tube & 'Araldite' harnesses! I was irritated by the ugly, if trendy, typeface used on the diagrams. I was also annoyed by his gratuitous use of colloquial French term "Topo" (from the French for survey). His "Rigging Topo"s are the rigging diagrams for two sample SRT trip-guides (Rowten and Diccan Pots).

Approach "SRT" with an open mind, accept its narrow terms of reference and ignore his two witticisms, and you will probably find Dave Elliot has produced a manual as good as (but not necessarily better than) any other treatise on the Frog system and its rigging. Disagree if you like with Elliot's technical opinions, but avoid the trap of condemning "SRT" because Elliot wrote it: it is far better than some of his writings for the caving Press - even if it does not quite deserve the "universal praise" the cover blurb hopes for!

## 50 YEARS AGO

From W.C.C. CIRCULARS 20, 21 (February 1937)

An Eastwater trip on January 3rd proved so popular that several people had to be turned away. A trip for them was held the following weekend.

On Jan 19th members of both Wessex and UBSS attended a lecture given by Hywel Murrell, on Cave Photography, illustrated with lantern slides.

The Hon. Secretary appealed for members accessible by telephone, and for those with cars, to contact him immediately if they were willing to assist in the Mendip Rescue Organisation.

Frank Frost appealed for assistance from members with the Club's share of the Inland Water Survey. Each caving area's contribution to this national survey was arranged by the British Speleological Association, the BSA being responsible only for the cave and swallet streams,, the rest by professional engineers and geologists. The WCC had undertaken to survey quite a large area of Mendip, North of Wells.

Lamb Leer's new entrance shaft was being fitted with steel ladders and a gate, and the old, now dangerous, Windlass platform removed. Jack Duck's survey indicated that the old orientation of the cave was completely wrong. He showed it passes below the road, the Main Chamber being below a field the other side.

Forthcoming events included a full Eastwater trip, a visit to Gough's Cave a Club Supper, and for May, a Club camp at Gaping Ghyll, organised in connection with the BSA Meet there.

## CHINA RECONNAISSANCE NOTE

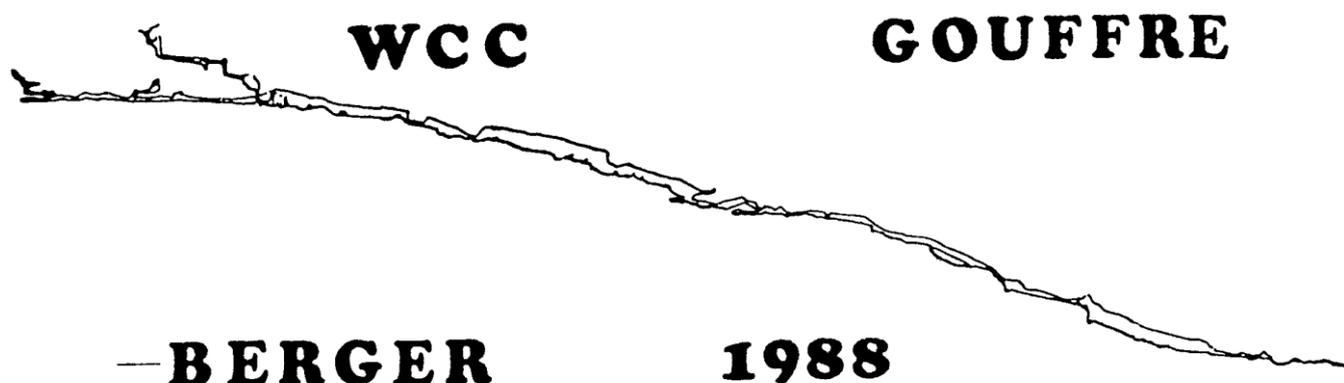
Paul Weston

In December 1986, a joint Wessex Cave Club / Severn Valley Caving Club team investigated an area to the North of ANLUNG, in the GUIZHOU province.

Sites noted were a doline 1 mile in diameter, many very large entrances, sinks, resurgences, and shafts 200 - 300 feet deep. The area has excellent potential, the Chinese co-operation superb. Accommodation was a wooden farmhouse.

There is scope for a full-scale expedition in 1988.

Personnel were: Bob Lewis, Doug McFarlane, Mike Adams and Paul Weston.



The Wessex Cave Club has the Gouffre Berger booked for Ten Days commencing on the 16th July 1988.

Further details will be published as they are arranged.

SEE PAGE 52

# RULES of the WESSEX CAVE CLUB

from A.G.M. October 1986

1. That the Club shall be called the Wessex Cave Club.
2. That the objects of the Club shall be to promote the sport and science of caving by:-
  - a) Initiating newcomers into the best traditions of the game.
  - b) Gating caves that are likely to become despoiled.
  - c) Publications.
  - d) Organising gatherings to explore, or excavate for, caves.
  - e) Arranging for members to visit caves in districts other than their own.
  - f) Erecting and maintaining huts where members can stay while cave-hunting.
  - g) Maintaining gear for the use by members.
  - h) Maintaining for the use by members a library of books, literature and maps.
3. That the Club shall consist of Honorary Members and Ordinary Members who may be of either sex.
4. That the President, Vice-President and Honorary Members shall be entitled to exercise all the privileges of the Ordinary Members, including rights to stand for office and for the Committee, and all voting rights. The President and Vice-Presidents shall retire annually and be eligible for re-election.
5. That the affairs of the club shall be conducted by a Committee, which shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Gear Curator, Assistant Secretary, Caving Secretary, Editor, H.Q. Warden, H.Q. Administration Officer, Sales Officer and two Ordinary Committee members. In the event of an Officer not being elected by the A.G.M., an Ordinary Committee Member may be elected to bring the Committee back up to its normal strength.

These Officers shall retire annually and be eligible for re-election. These posts are honorary and must be filled by full members of the Club. The Committee shall fill any casual vacancies. The Committee may appoint any member of the Club, whether they be a Committee member or not, to carry out any duties that the Committee consider necessary.

The Honorary Secretary of any properly constituted group within the Club shall be eligible to attend a Committee Meeting in an ex-officio capacity, and may nominate a substitute to attend any meeting which he cannot attend personally.

Committee Officers shall each provide a written report to the Annual General Meeting.

An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

6. Any member standing for election to office or for membership of the Committee must be nominated by two members of the Club. The election of the Committee shall normally be by ballot and ballot papers must be returned by the start of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for Officers and for membership of the Committee shall be received one month before the A.G.M. and ballot papers shall be sent out at least two weeks before the Meeting. Any unfilled post may be filled by nomination and voting at the A.G.M. The end of the Club Year shall coincide with the date of the Annual General Meeting. The A.G.M. and the Annual Dinner shall normally be held on the third Saturday in October.
7. That any person desiring to join the Club must be nominated by two Members and elected by the Committee. No applicant for full or joint membership shall be accepted for membership of the Club until he or she has attained the age of sixteen years, and obtained the permission of his or her parents

or guardian, who will be required to sign a special form supplied by the Club. Minor members must resubmit an application form, accepting the Club Rules, on attaining the age of eighteen years. All members of an affiliated club who are under the age of majority must obtain the permission of his or her parent or guardian, who will be required to sign a special form supplied by the Club. Adult members of an affiliated club must sign a form accepting the provisions of Rule 10.

8. That the subscriptions for the coming year be decided by motion at the Annual General meeting, and shall become due at the end of the Meeting. Any member whose subscription has become more than one month overdue shall be named in the next Journal, and if within one month the subscription has not been paid, the member's name shall be removed from the list of members, and notice to this effect shall be sent to the member. The subscription of a member joining near the end of the financial year may be deemed at the discretion of the Committee to cover the subscription for the following year.

A membership card shall be issued to any member.

9. That the classes of Club Membership shall be:-
  - a) Full Single; paying a full subscription and enjoying all the rights of membership, including a vote.
  - b) Full Joint; a couple paying 175% of the single subscription, each having a vote, but receiving one only copy of the Journal between them.
  - c) Joint; a couple paying 125% of the single subscription, having one vote between them, and sharing one copy of each Journal.
  - d) O.A.P.; (Full); any member of a reasonable number of years standing and of State pensionable age, who, on request to the Committee, pays 30% of the single subscription and receives one copy of each Journal.
  - e) Affiliated; members as defined by Rule 16, and paying 25% of the single subscription.
10. That every person, whether a member of the Club, member of an affiliated club or non-member, making use of the services of a guide or guides, or taking part in any activity or expedition organised by the Club, or in which any member of the Club shall take part, shall do so at his or her own risk, and that he or she, or his or her legal personal representative or assigns or dependents shall have no claim or right of action against the Club, or any member thereof, in respect of any damage, loss or injury (including death) sustained by whomsoever and howsoever caused notwithstanding any negligence of the guide or any members, or the body of members of the Club.
11. That an Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by the Honorary Secretary when required to do so by the Committee, or in writing by ten members of the Club. Two weeks' notice must in all cases be given. Such a meeting may not pass a resolution, but by a simple majority of those present may draw up a resolution to be voted on by postal ballot within one month by the members of the Club.
12. That members using the Club Headquarters shall leave it in a clean and tidy condition.

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

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

14. Any person or affiliated club whose membership is deemed to be undesirable by the Committee may have membership suspended by the Committee until, and not longer than, the next A.G.M., at which the member or affiliated club concerned shall have the opportunity of being heard. A three-quarters majority of the members present at the A.G.M. may expel such members or affiliated clubs.
15. That the Committee shall have the right to refuse the use of Club possessions to members, or affiliated clubs, when they consider it desirable in the interest either of the Club or the member or affiliated club concerned, but the member or affiliated club concerned shall have the right of appeal to the Committee against this decision.
16. That caving clubs or societies attached to educational establishments for minors, or youth organisations, may become affiliated to the Club on the approval of the Committee and subject to the inclusion in the rules of the club to be affiliated certain rules as approved by the members of the Wessex Cave Club, and compliance with regulations as laid down from time to time by the Committee of the Wessex Cave Club for the time being.

The subscription shall be one quarter of the subscription of an Ordinary Member of the Wessex Cave Club for each member of the affiliated club. Each affiliated club shall have one vote and receive one copy of each Journal and other Club communications.

NOTE: The concession given by this rule is normally intended for minors under 18 who are not wage-earners and are still pupils at the educational establishments concerned or active members of the affiliated youth organisations. Adults attached to an affiliated club will normally be expected to join as full members.

17. That members of affiliated bodies may become Ordinary Members of the Club when their application has been approved by the Committee and the Annual Subscription has been paid.
18. That notices of motions for discussion at the Annual General Meeting shall be received by the Honorary Secretary not more than two weeks after posting notices of the meeting. Such notices of motions must have the names of the proposers, and be circulated to the members at least seven days prior to the meeting.
19. That at each A.G.M., The Club shall decide on the sum of money to be placed for that year in the Hut Sinking Fund. This Fund is to be used only for major repairs, extensions, additions to or replacements of the Club Huts. The administration of the Fund is in the hands of the Committee.
20. No part of the Club's funds shall at any time be distributed by gift, division or bonus in money, to or between any of its members. On dissolution, surplus funds shall be applied in or towards the advancement of science in the fields of Speleology, Archaeology or Geology, or any of them.
21. There shall be four Trustees of the Club.  
The first Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee and the freehold, leasehold, shares and other property of the Club shall be vested in them to be dealt with as the Committee shall from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the Club property.  
The Trustees shall hold office until death, or resignation, or until removed from office by a resolution of a General Meeting of members who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting remove any Trustee or Trustees from the office of Trustee.  
If by reason of any such death, resignation or removal it shall appear necessary to the Committee that a new Trustee, or Trustees, should be appointed or if the Committee shall deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or Trustees, the Committee shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such

nominations the President is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Club within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 and he shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Club and the provisions of the Trustees Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment.

Any statement of fact in any deed of appointment shall be in favour of a person dealing bona-fide and for value with the Club, or the Committee, be conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.

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

## RULES RELATING TO AFFILIATED CLUBS

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

---

## REVIEWS & NEWS

REVIEWS of Meredith's "Vertical Caving" (New Edition),

+ John Cordingley's Peak Cavern book: perhaps one of the CDG members could appropriately oblige here?  
PLEASE.

Pete Cousins has pointed out to me that book reviews seem to be lacking in the Journal lately, a lack I too would like to put right. These two reviews, the Peak Cavern book in particular, would be most appreciated.

REGIONAL NOTES: would someone care to act as regional correspondent for the Wessex Cave Club Journal, for Yorkshire, Derbyshire, etc. (1 or 2 reporters per area!)  
-The Editor.

WESSEX CAVE CLUB  
 INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 1986

	1986	1985
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions for the Club Year	2605	2123
Affiliation fees	0	36
Donations	26	225
Permit fees	271	193
Surplus on Club Dinners and Parties	0	33
Sundry receipts	0	0
	-----	-----
	2902	2610
	-----	-----
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Tackle expenditure (Note 1)	77	110
Journal costs	886	1048
Third party insurance	450	400
Stationery, postage and phone	338	107
Subscriptions paid (Note 2)	33	40
Library costs	106	110
Loss on Club Dinners and Parties	11	
Donations (1985 all MRO)	60	50
Sundry expenses	34	46
Access costs	0	134
	-----	-----
	1995	2045
	-----	-----
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) BROUGHT DOWN</b>	907	565
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) ON UPPER PITTS</b>	(162)	547
<b>SURPLUS ON GOODS SUPPLIED TO MEMBERS</b>	462	398
<b>SUSPENSE – INCOME / DEFICIT</b>	0	639
	-----	-----
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	1207	2149
	=====	=====

The notes attached form part of these accounts

WESSEX CAVE CLUB  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1986 – ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	1986	1985
SHARES IN SOUTHERN CAVING CLUBS CO LTD	10	10
TACKLE (Note 1)	0	77
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Sundry stocks (Note 4)	2457	2556
Loan to Southern Caving Clubs Co Ltd	50	50
Debtors and payments in advance	108	124
Cash at bank and in Building Society	3151	5213
Loan to MRO	200	
	-----	-----
	5966	7943
	-----	-----
<b>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions paid in advance	122	187
Sundry creditors	1598	1415
	-----	-----
	1720	1602
	-----	-----
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	4246	6341
	-----	-----
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	4256	6428
	=====	=====
<b>Representing:-</b>		
<b>ACUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Balance at 1st September	6272	4123
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1207	2149
Transfer to Hut Fund for 1985 & 1986	(3383)	
	-----	-----
	4096	6272
	-----	-----
<b>JOURNAL AWARD FUND</b>		
Balance at 1st September	156	153
Interest received	14	13
awards made in year	(10)	(10)
	-----	-----
	160	156
	-----	-----
	4256	6428
	=====	=====

The notes attached form part of these accounts

WESSEX CAVE CLUB  
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST AUGUST (continued) - HUT FUND

	1986	1985
HUT FUND ASSETS - at Original Cost		
Freehold land and buildings - Upper Pitts		
Net costs at 1st September	7488	5122
Additions in year	3187	2366
	<u>10675</u>	<u>7488</u>
 Hut Fund Investments		
 Cash at bank and at Building Society	 2	 (382)
	<u>2</u>	<u>(382)</u>
	 <u>10677</u>	 <u>7106</u>
 Representing:-		
 HUT FUND		
Balance at 1st September	7106	6920
Building Society interest	188	186
Transfer from Accumulated Funds:-		
- approved at 1985 AGM	1383	
- proposed at 1986 AGM	2000	
	<u>10677</u>	<u>7106</u>

The notes attached form part of these accounts

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have prepared the attached Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet from such books and records of the Club as were made available to me. In my opinion these documents show a materially correct view of the state of the Club's finances as at 31st August 1986 and of the results for the year ended on that date. However, in view of the absence of adequate explanations I am unable to comment on the accuracy or otherwise of the comparative figures for the year 1985.

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

8th November 1986  
Leavenheath, Suffolk

WESSEX CAVE CLUB  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 1986

	1986	1985
1. TACKLE		
Balance brought forward	77	187
Expenditure in year	0	0
Charged to Income and Expenditure Account	(77)	(110)
	-----	-----
Balance carried forward	0	77
	=====	=====

Major expenditure on tackle is being written off over three years

2. SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID

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

	1986	1985
British Cave Research Association	13	13
Cambrian Caving Council	6	6
Council of Northern Caving Clubs	4	4
Council of Southern Caving Clubs	6	4
Charterhouse Caving Committee	0	10
Southern Caving Clubs Co Ltd	4	3
	-----	-----
	33	40
	=====	=====

3. SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) ON RUNNING UPPER PITTS

	1986	1985
Hut Fees received in year	3074	3290
	-----	-----
Less: Expenditure:-		
- rates	405	363
- insurance	185	162
- electricity	181	123
- propane gas	82	50
- central heating - fuel	1043	1159
- central heating - repairs	109	78
- cleaning materials	100	319
- phone	183	135
- repairs - sundry	366	354
- repairs - living room door	324	0
- repairs - guttering	258	0
	-----	-----
	3236	2743
	-----	-----
Surplus/ (deficit) for year	(162)	547
	=====	=====

The figure for hut fees received is based on cash actually received in the Club Year. The income from electricity and shower meters has been set against the expenditure on electricity and the central heating system respectively.

WESSEX CAVE CLUB

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 1986 (continued)

4. SUNDRY STOCKS

	1986	1985
Goods for resale	2228	2168
Upper Pitts stock - -fuel oil etc	229	338
Journal covers, .envelopes and stationery	0	50
Building materials		
	-----	-----
	2457	2556
	-----	-----

5. CASH AT BANK AND AT BUILDING SOCIETY

The total figure for cash at bank and at Building Society at 31st August as shown in the Balance Sheet is made up as follows:-

	1986	1985
Bristol & West B.S. - main A/C	3081	2892
Bristol & West B.S. - award A/C	220	206
Midland Bank Ltd, Wells	(150)	1731
Cash floats	2	2
	-----	-----
	3153	4831
	-----	-----

6. CLUB EQUIPMENT

At 31st August the Club owned certain items of equipment which were not included on the Balance Sheet. These items were written off to the Income & Expenditure Account in the year in which they were purchased. Items treated in this way include:-

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

7. MEMBERSHIP

	1986	1985
Membership at 31st Aug - full	210	169
Membership at 31st Aug - joint	27	38
	-----	-----
	237	207
- honorary	20	20
	-----	-----
	257	227
	-----	-----

WESSEX CAVE CLUB SURVEY FUND  
 PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 1986

	1986	1985
SALES	102	59
Less: COST OF SALES		
Stock of surveys at 1st September	89	78
Survey purchases and other costs	62	56
Stock of surveys at 31st August	(71)	(89)
	-----	-----
	80	45
	-----	-----
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	22	14
	-----	-----

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST

ASSETS		
Stock of surveys at cost	71	89
Due from Wessex Cave Club	0	58
Cash at bank	140	42
	-----	-----
	211	189
	-----	-----

Representing:-

ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 1st September	189	175
Profit for the year	22	14
Purchase of survey equipment		
	-----	-----
	211	189
	-----	-----

The Survey Fund was set up in 1962 for the purpose of making cave surveys more readily available and to sell them at as lower price as possible. The surplus on this fund is to help finance the holding of a stock of surveys, to buy surveying equipment and to help the production of surveys in other ways. The fund is operated under a joint arrangement with the BEC, MCG and the SMCC.

## FROM THE LOG

### **Charterhouse Cave**

30th December. Pete Hann, Julie Bolt. More cement taken to end but no work done because Mr. Hann had light-pox. Cave very wet and water could be heard below end dig.

31st December. P.H., Duncan Frew, Nigel Graham. Second Boulder Choke. Mr. Hann's light stayed on long enough for him to demonstrate his hamstering technique with some cuddly herberts. Long session shifting spoil, approx. 10 buckets. If you're wondering why Pete isn't scribing his own dig notes, it is because he is knackered after his toughest stint so far. -D.F.

Plus lots of cement in end boulders -N.G.

### **Drunkard's Hole**

6th December. Geoff Newton. Steady progress with the blowtorch. Another 2 or 3 trips should see a breakthrough. Joined by Mr. Moody who had found GOON'S HOLE too wet to work.

Then to BOS SWALLET: just a look around. The bottom dig looks promising but the whole cave is a vile place - Ugh!

Then a second trip to Drunkard's to look for missing car keys, which eventually turned up between the furry and over-suits. Car nearly got bogged down. Returned to find Eastwater rescue in progress.

30th December. G.N. Slow progress -G.N.

### **Pierre's Pot**

1st December. Pete Moody, Rich Warman ('Kermit'). Hopefully sorting out boulders. On return to cars, found someone's VW had been broken into, passenger door open and glove compartment rifled. Other cars including our own were untouched.

3rd December. P. & Alison Moody, Pete Watts. Bit of digging, everyone had look at way on. A boulder in the roof is causing problems.

10th December. P. & A.M., Andy Sparrow. Big cementing session, we can see 8ft to what looks like a pitch surrounded by very loose rock. A lot of work is going to be required to secure the way through. Looking good.

30th December. Same 3. Digging and cementing. Nearly at the pitch? now, only obstacle is the 50 tons of rock and clatch threatening to go down the hole with us. -P.M.

### **Portland**

December & January. N.G. + Phil Strong, Martin Crocker. Dig, as yet with no name, going well. Air-space now above sand / clay fill can draught well, but this is not taken too seriously on Portland as masses of cross-rifts ventilate everything. Rescued some curious, hollow, calcited sand formations from the spoil (many tons of that still to be moved). -N.G.

### **Swildons Hole**

4th January. Ian Jepson & Aubrey Newport recommenced Operation Rolling Thunder (henceforth "Rolling Blunder '87"). Cave very wet, and the thunder rolled. This dig is the inlet below the Old Forty, remarked on by generations of cavers as a "promising site". 1½ hours.

Stayed overnight at Upper Pitts, which was a pig-sty. When please can we have a Hut Warden again as efficient as M.D-Y. in days of yore? -I.J.

### **Tween Twins Hole**

1st January 1987. P.H., D.F., G.N., N.G., Malc Foyle, Rob Taviner, Jim & Mary Rands, Fiona Lewis. Post-pub New Year Burrington Dig. Left-hand hole 5ft deep in water, right-hand just a bit damp. Good progress with enthusiastic and appreciative team. More gloop came out on suits and wellies than in buckets. Tav won 1st nomination for Muddy of the Year. Lack of foliage meant visitors to the entrance.

### **Viaduct Sink**

7th December. G.N., Dave Morton. Playing around in the boulders in the rift between the two halves of Grimpen Mire. Still some promise but needs more people and some bang to work easily.

31st December. G.N., Tav. More digging in the aven (rift as above). Quite a lot of boulders removed revealing a small space. Looks a bit long term. Then tourist trip of rest of cave for Tav's benefit. Trip down WINDSOR HILL FLOOD SWALLET to look at the engineering, and a wander in the railway tunnel, which has some nice flowstone and gours.

\*\*\*\*\*

30th November. EASTWATER CAVERN (BEC inspection trip reported to P.M. by J-Rat). The connection through to Boulder Chamber has partly collapsed, and large slab on cut across to this route has dropped further. Definately a case of your life in your hands. Everything else reported OK, so stick to proper routes across Traverse. -P.M.

6th December. EASTWATER CAVERN. Rescue of someone suffering from failure of nerve and technique the wrong side of Hallelujah Hole. Was taken out via Lower traverse by J-Rat, Fred Davies, P.H., P.M. and others. G.N. and Alison arrived to find an abandoned Zot at end of Traverse. Searched Primrose Path, Lower Traverse, head of Twin Verts., Dolphin Chimney: no sign of rescue. We sent Zot out and checked Dolphin Pitch: no ladder, therefore the Boulder Chamber must have been the route they used. We didn't think J-Rat would use Boulder Chamber as he had said it was unsafe. -G.N.  
(I'm no authority on Eastwater, but surely Geoff, this does not necessarily follow: you don't go near either Dolphin Chimney or Pitch on this round-trip of the upper cave so they could easily have gone out the normal way ahead of you whilst you detoured to the pitch? -Editor).

2nd December. SWILDONS TWO. Tav, Dean Nute +2. Pleasant trip down streamway made more eventful by Dean breaking his little finger. He gets upset if you call him a plonker! -R.T.

6 & 7th December. Upper Pitts. P.H. tiling wall in new showers. Apart from interruptions like keys, the rescue and the pub, about half the work done on a wall that's up and down like a fiddler's elbow. -P.H.

6th December. GAPING GILL SYSTEM. D.F. (having overcome a speeding ticket and an Escort immobile in the fast lane of the M25), M.F., Kev, Andy (CPC) FLOOD ENTRANCE POT (Wade's Ent.) to STREAM PASSAGE POT, exchange trip with Keith & Roz Fielder and Parrot (Dave Cockfield). Excellent trip, apart from Andy stopping Malc and Dunc getting a couple of "extra" hours in the pub (after 7½ hours without a fag!). -D.F.

7th December. SELL GILL HOLE tackled by a WCC member and a CPC prospective for the CPC Meet there. -Anon!

12th December. EASTWATER. Tav + 1. Short trip (canyon and Boulder Chamber). Very wet, very cold. Then the pub. -Tav.

14th December. G.B. CAVERN. R. Warman, A.M. Ward. Photos all over the place.

13th December. Upper Pitts working weekend. Malc, Tav, Dunc, Pete H. all pretending not to have hangovers while wielding the Kango. Gets dark too early so we get to the pub early, etc, etc, , ...

17th December. SWILDONS. Fred Felstead, Bob Lawder, plus Manadon: John Tooze Andy Titcomb, Rich Burmiston (can't quite make it out -Ed), Angie Cheatham. Sauntered round Upper Swildons: Long Dry Way, sporting Wet Way.

18th December. BURREINGTON. Tav + 1. Tour of smaller holes (Drunkards, Bath Swallet, Aveline's Hole). Bottom of Avelines making interesting noises - weather bleak and gruesome.

21st December. EASTWATER. Dean + 2. Thirteen Pots, Muddy Oxbow. A good stomp around to burn off pre-Christmas flab!!

25th DECEMBER. Merry Christmas.

Following a Christmas message from 'Chickenhead', Dancer upheld the spiritual outing to Saint Swithin's Hole, with five dwarves from the BEC: Biffo, Snablet, John (Drew?), two hungover Dutchmen. A quick trip to the Twenty and back via Short Dry Way since due to overnight "sunshine" the water was at very seasonal levels. The rest of the team must have lost their way in the fog: it's their only excuse for their absence!

27th December. RESEVOIR HOLE. Jeff Price, Jo Beckett, 2 Duncan Michaels (Price and Frew). A rapid ogle at Willie Stanton's engineering, there was no stopping the 2 Js making noises like hamsters on heat.

13th December. LLANGATTWG. G.N. and Arthur Millet to lots of bits of DAREN CILAU I had not yet seen: Aggie Passage, Half-Mile Passage, Eastern Flyover Passage, etc., Quite impressive. G.N., Ar. Mt., John Cooper. EGLWYS FAEN, to interesting new digs ending at unstable choke with open space beyond. Also J.C.'s dig on escarpment. -G.N.

## YORKSHIRE CHRISTMAS 1986

BULL POT. K. & R. F., M.F. A bit of rigging practice as far as third pitch. Got wet so chickened out and kept dry. 2hrs.

MARBLE STEPS POT. Above 3, P. & A. M., (WCC) with Tony, Parrot, Ted, Ian, John (CPC) and Karl (LCCC). Exchange trip: Pete & Alison, Tony, Ted, Ian & John in via the 90ft, others via The Intestines. Malc and Parrot returned to the bottom to find no lifeline but somebody shouting abuse from the top. After a few minutes playing 'guess-who', Steve Gough, Nick and Martin (WCC) were recognised. 7-hour trip went well. Not bad: 8 out of 14 were Wessex members.

BAR POT (26th Dec.) Tony, Ted, Ian, Pete, Parrot, Malc. Nice stroll up the hill after the stupid bird forgot his furry suit. Quick look around Main Chamber. Great to be the only party in Bar: does a lot to improve the trip. 4h

SELL GILL. (27th) Parrot, Andy, Ian, Malc. At last Parrot talked me into doing the "CPC Club Pot". Not bad. 3 hours.

NOTTS POT. (29th). Pat & Ric Halliwell, Steve Gough, Maggie, Gary, Andy, Parrot, Ian, Malc, Ted. Strolled up yet another Yorkshire mountain and descended Notts to the last but one Centre Route pitch. Decided not to go further owing to the water conditions. Excellent pot: must go back to bottom it. 6hrs.

-M.F.

Dec. '86. Weymouth. N.G. investigated pleasantly watered "resurgence" passage in R. Wey close to its source N. of Weymouth. Spacious walk with some small staws and an eel or two, ending at very ferrous choke. Short pitch in blind pit with an attractive calcite flow, near "sink", also investigated...

... I'm having you on in a way: this is no natural feature, but the tailrace tunnel and the drive gear pit of a watermill I was helping to inspect for a friend considering the mill to re-open commercially. The source of the Wey, a short distance upstream, may (from geol. map) be a limestone feature (Portland beds): this area might just repay some study. The river is very responsive to rainfall but the spring is probably impenetrable.

30th December. GB CAVERN. Bob Lawder, Jim & Mary Rands. Post-Christmas trip to work off the effects of over-eating. Water very high, sump backed up to 100ft from waterfall. Total age of party: 150yrs. Average age: 50yrs. So we did only a short (2 hr) trip. -J.R.

31st December. Burrington area. P. & A.M., Chris & Annie Milne. Drove to RICKFORD FARM CAVE, were asked if we were insured, qualified cavers, then asked to return at 3pm. So to AVELINES to listen to the gurgles at the end, and to PSEUDO'S to show C. & A. Still too early for RFC so to U.P. 4 t, then back to Burrington. He was out. Hung around for 20 minutes then gave up. -P.M.

31st December. SWILDONS. J.P., J.Bt., Rich Websell. Changed at Priddy, asked a party way to Eastwater. At Sump One, asked same party where Primrose Pot was. They said, "It's in here somewhere"! A fine way to finish '86 underground.

31st. December. BEC tested fire insurance, finding it valid. When asked if he had had any difficulty finding the Belfry, the Fire Officer said, "No, I remember coming up here in '68!"

2nd January 1987. HUNTERS' HOLE. J.R., Aidan Williams. Quick look for dig site and to see what BEC have. Found one possibility in Main Chamber. -J.R.

2nd January. EASTWATER. G.N. Tourist trip down Thirteen Pots. Looked at high aven, now tackled by BEC, in Ifold's Series. Met J-Rat and Gonzo (Mark Lumley) (BEC) establishing voice connection with Boulder Chamber.

3rd. January. Upper Pits. J.R., Mike York installed new gas pipe (from site of bulk tank to new boiler room).

2nd - 4th January. S. WALES. M.F., R.W., P.H., D.F., N.G.

1st four to look at OFD III Traverses, pointed in right direction by Pete Dobson (WSG) and his two brothers. Got warm, but not lost!

D.F. walked along Neath/OFD watershed, a fine day for it, therefore a fine view. Most of the peat bogs were frozen solid. Rest to PANT MAWR POT with a WSG group, photographing the helictites then visiting WSG .dig. Wetter than on last trip, and with a re-arranged 1st boulder choke.

CRAIG-ar-FFYNNON. All 5 + G.N. M.F. and N.G. assisted P.H. photographing from Hall Of The Mountain King out while rest visited Promised Land and inspected various interesting corners inc. a roof passage (to Daren?). Leader was Arthur Millet.

3rd January. OGOF DAREN CILAU. Bob Pyke, Jim Moon. After coldish night camping at Whitewalls what better way to warm up than a gentle DC stroll?

Bob soon realised how overworked and knackered he was so left it for another day. Good slow look around: St. Valentines Chamber, over the pitches (interesting corkscrewing rope climb), Time Machine, start of Bonsai Streamway. A picnic then leisurely exit meeting G.N. on way. Thanks, Chelsea, for instant cuppa on exit. 12 (ish) hours, fine trip. Old cavers go on for ever! -J.M.

7th January. SWILDONS. Tav +1. Wet, Pretty & Short Dry Ways, Butcombe Chamber, Oxbows. Pretty damp.

\*\*\*

Please, those of you with wiggly handwriting, could you print (or at any rate write more legibly) names, especially of people? Most cave names I can work out or check in the books, but I can't always make out cavers' names properly! -The Editor.

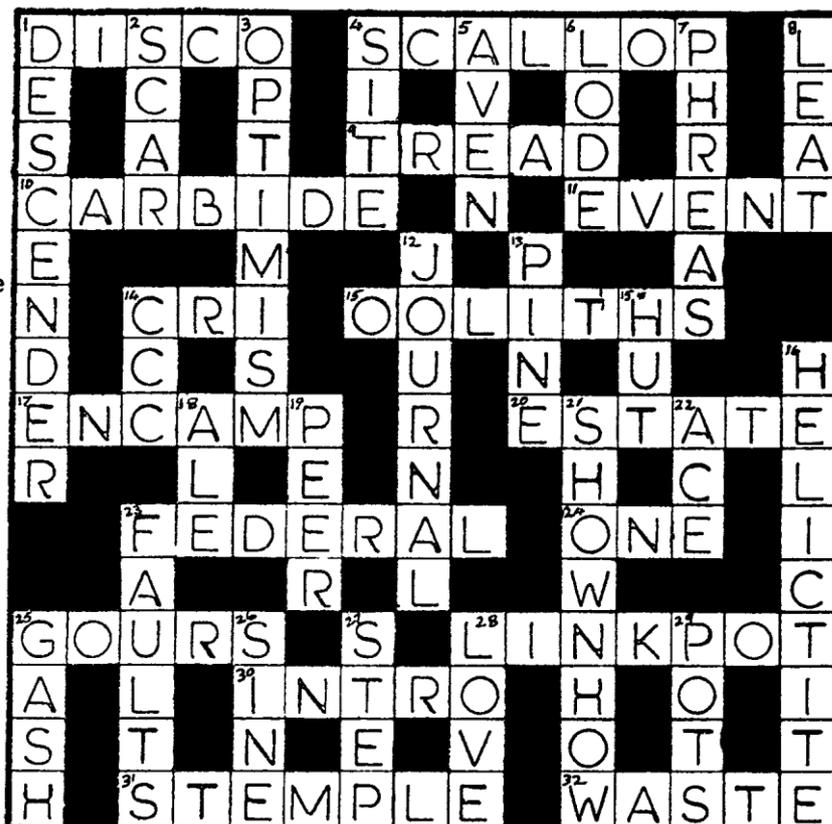
PRIZE CROSSWORD 3 SOLUTION

There were no takers!

Evidently it was too devious. Many members did attempt it: odd bits of paper left lying around the Hut bore witness to that, bearing part-solved anagrams. I gather Pete Hann's comment, when a WCC / CPC "Brains Trust" finally solved 10 Across, was, "You've got to consider his sense of humour".

Obviously a case of "SC".

And the book token? Following precedent, the prize was put up by the compiler. I have not yet decided what to do with it, other than that it will be used for some other Club competition or (easier!!) Crossword.



There was one minor error: 21 down "Demonstrate the latter in the former", should have read "DemonstratED ..." (5, 4). I'm sorry about that mistransposition from the draught version, but it should not have made things any harder. -N.G.

CLUB NOTES (from p25)

Some confusion and a certain amount of annoyance to the host club occurred recently when two independent groups of members arrived at another club's HQ on the strength of verbal bookings.

FRANK FROST PHOTOGRAPHS / ATTY COLLECTION collating: work continues.

ADDRESSES / POSTCODES. A comment was passed in Committee regarding this. Is your address complete, including its postcode? It would be appreciated membership applications included this detail: an applicant's proposers could see to it.

THANKYOU from the Club to Pete Watts, Pete Hann, Malc Foyle and other members for actions in preventing damage at Upper Pitts when pipes burst in the recent cold snap, and thanks too to Pete Moody and Mike D-York for alerting them.

UPPER PITTS PROGRESS. To date (mid February) the new bulk propane tank, new showers and part of the new plumbing has been installed. A fourth shower is to be fitted, in the spacious loo in the new changing room, thus providing a separate ladies' priority shower. To complete the project, some £2000 will be needed, mostly to finance the new central heating system. The Committee have therefore put forward the following request:

LOANS

Are you willing to LEND the Wessex Cave Club, Interest-Free contributions to this fund? Asking round the Committee members "raised" over £700 to start with: a very healthy start. There will naturally be a few conditions:

Loan Agreements will be drawn up, by a solicitor, to start with. Starting date will be 28th March if the agreements are ready. All loans shall be in Multiples of £25 and the MINIMUM Loan shall be £25. Re-payment shall be in THREE years' time (1990), the Re-payment fund being one produced by budgetted repayments from Club Funds, into an account opened expressly for the purpose. N.B. These are LOANS, NOT Advance Subscriptions, in order to complete the heating system as soon as possible, thus expediting completion of the new changing facilities and hence the rest of the project, as instructed by the AGMs.

A CAR BOOT SALE has been mooted as an extra fund-raiser. This will be in the Summer: details to follow.

NEXT Committee Meeting: March 28th. Next Journal mid-April (projected).

## REGIONAL NOTES

### MENDIP

SWILDONS HOLE, EASTWATER CAVERN, HUNTERS' HOLE, are now open again, the Goodwill Fee on all three caves is now TWENTY PENCE (20p).

NINE BARROWS and SLUDGE PIT are still closed as the landowner is still unhappy about the SSSI Scheduling, confused here by the "Priddy Pools" biological SSSI.

LAMB LEER CAVERN is still closed until the access agreement has been resolved.

BROWN'S FOLLY MINE is shut until vandalised locks have been replaced.

PEN PARK HOLE (Bristol - well, it's near Mendip!) seems likely to be completely DESTROYED. Access has been denied for a long time by the local council (the cave is surrounded by housing estates), now it appears that concern over it being possible to gain entry (is it?) is answered by the simple expedient of filling the cave up. Clever that: it's a void at least Lamb Leer size. As several local members have suggested, a more sensible solution would be to fit an extremely heavy lid, so designed as to need heavy lifting gear, and to open the cave on set occasions to cavers (like the OFD Columns). Perhaps it ought to have been made an SSSI - do bats use it?

The proposed SEVERN BARRAGE may seem rather irrelevant here, but remember a large proportion of the rock needed to build it will come from Mendip. Much of Eastern Mendip is now owned by quarry companies, while the scheme itself has just had encouragement from Lord Cranborne, MP for South Dorset. He is fighting a proposed power station (to be accurate, considered not proposed) at Winfrith, in Dorset, and to do so has suggested a set of power stations elsewhere: including the Barrage. (Safeguard your environment spoil someone else's?). That would be a lot of the Hill removed...

FAIRY CAVE QUARRY: still no access yet. Hobbs / N.C.C. discussions, etc. are still under way. The N.C.A. has not helped, by sending comments on the show-cave proposals in rather undiplomatic wording.

SPLIT ROCK QUARRY. This is private property: we are not meant to use it without permission! CSCC are seeking this.

CSCC matters: a new Handbook is in preparation. A cave surveying course, run by Dave Irwin, will be held on March 7/8th. Further courses (SRT etc) will follow. Graham Wilton-Jones is the CSCC Training Officer.

### SOUTH WALES

The main news from the region is the find in AGEN ALLWELD. A total of nearly 3000 feet so far of passages found after relatively little digging, yielded to Gloucester Speleo Soc and to a Chelsea S.S. /

Birmingham Uni. S.S. team. These two digs are in Gothic Passage, and bring the cave a little closer to Daren Cilau. (information: Pete Cousins).

Progress in Daren itself is slow due to the nature of the chokes, and the Pwll y Cwm (Aggy rising) project has been hindered by the swollen river, but Hereford C.C. will attack the Inner Chamber choke of EGLWYS FAEN, and in OGOF CRAIG A FFYNNON the North West Inlet dig still goes ahead. Over at Ystradfellte, Croydon C.C. have dry-bypassed the first sumps into upstream WHITE LADY CAVE.

## **NORTH**

MISTRAL HOLE, the alternative entrance into Pippikin Pot, is now barred, following illicit blasting which widened the squeezes, angered the landowner, caused concern to the N.C.C. (the cave is an SSSI) and resulted in the CNCC withdrawal of permits for Mistral.

NOTT'S POT? Not now you're knot. At least not until it has been re-opened. Nature closed it by collapsing the entrance.

BOREHAM CAVE has been extended by the CDG, the choke taking ONE Minute to dig!  
Digging in Kingsdale's BULL POT by Bishop Auckland C.C. / Cleveland S.G. continues, encouraged by the nearby recent NCC / DCC find, CRAFTSMAN'S HOLE.

---

## WESSEX CAVE CLUB — DUTIES OF OFFICERS. - (Issued by the Committee)

The Committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting to run the Club on a day-to-day basis. At Committee Meetings, officers deal with matters relating to various aspects of the Club's business. They should endeavour to put the interests of the Club first at all times. Certain duties, such as key and tackle issuing, are the responsibility of any Committee member whilst at Upper Pitts. Officers are issued with an under-stairs key, giving access to keys to all the HQ. This cupboard must be kept locked, and keys should not be issued to unauthorised people. Whilst an officer has certain defined responsibilities, delegation of tasks to other Club members is to be encouraged wherever possible.

**CHAIRMAN.** Chairs meetings, and ensures that all decisions take into consideration the traditions and best interests of the Club, and of caving generally.

**SECRETARY.** Takes the Minutes of meetings, and circulates them promptly to Committee members. Handles correspondence with other clubs and bodies, and individuals.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY.** Handles membership applications, i.e., sends out application forms and prospectuses, and Club Handbooks with letters of welcome to newly-elected members. Assists with subscriptions (to ease the Treasurer's workload), issuing membership cards and receipts. Deals with affiliated clubs.

**TREASURER.** Deals with all the Club's finances. (May be assisted with subscriptions). Banks monies, pays bills, and transfers funds as instructed. Advises the Committee on the feasibility of projected expenditure and budgets. Keeps the books for annual audit.

**HUT ADMINISTRATION.** Oversees the general management of Upper Pitts, maintaining stocks of fuel, cleaning materials etc.

**CAVING SECRETARY.** Deals with cave key applications from visitors, and books caves for members' trip in areas other than Mendip (via Assistant Caving Sec., qv, for Dales caves.).

**GEAR CURATOR.** Responsible for making and Maintaining Club's caving equipment.

**HUT WARDEN.** Oversees the use, cleaning and care of Upper Pitts by members and guests, and ensures the HQ is left secure when vacated. Maintains Rota of Acting Hut Wardens. Is first contact on behalf of the Club for visitors.

**EDITOR.** Collects and edits material for the Journal, and types it in final form. Arranges Journal production.

**SALES OFFICER.** Purchases goods for resale, and is responsible for sales and its associated accounting.

**ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS.** No specific duties. May assist other officers, take on tasks not specific to any one Officer, etc. (This post is sometimes used as a "training" for people serving their first year on the Committee, to gain administrative experience before seeking election to Officer post.).

**NON-COMMITTEE POSTS.**

These may be taken by Committee Members, or by any other Club Members, without election. They are appointed by the Committee.

**H.Q. BOOKINGS OFFICER.** Acts as a contact for guest bookings, preventing double bookings, and controlling group sizes. Maintains a bookings diary with a duplicate at Upper Pitts.

**LIBRARIAN(S).** Maintains the Club Library. Responsible for new purchases, Journal exchanges, keeping a card index, and arranging binding of volumes.

**SURVEY SALES OFFICER.** Liaises with the Cave Survey Scheme, obtaining copies of surveys from various sources, and arranging for copies to be made available. Deals with postal sales, and keeps a stock of surveys at Upper Pitts for sale by the Sales Officer.

**ASSISTANT CAVING SECRETARY.** A special post created for Keith Sanderson, who books Northern caves only, for Club members. All these bookings should go through Keith, though they may be via the Caving Secretary.

**M.R.O. TEAM CO-ORDINATOR.** Maintains a list of members living close to Mendip who can be called out for mid-week rescue. Calls on these members on request from a Rescue controller.

**ACTING HUT WARDEN.** Any member acting as Hut Warden has all the powers and duties of the Hut Warden, in the same way as any Committee member. His decisions, like those of the Hut Warden, are binding, subject only to later appeal to the Committee.

**JOURNAL DISTRIBUTION OFFICER.** Organises enveloping, addressing, and posting or hand-distribution of the Journals. Maintains a Club address list for this, liaising with the Assistant Secretary to keep it up to date.

**AUDITOR.** Appointed by the A.G.M. as an independent person to audit the Club's Books at the end of the financial year, for presentation to the A.G.M.

---

#### **CLUB INSURANCE: THE B.C.R.A. POLICY.**

This is a summary of the BCRA Public Liability Scheme.

It covers Club and Members' activities in Sporting, Exploring and Scientific caving, and similarly in mines and quarries (NB, Disused, NOT working), and the crossing of land to gain entry to such sites. Landowners can also be indemnified against claims by cavers (Occupiers' Liability Act). Member to Member claims are also covered, BUT caving which may be considered as part of the caver's employment is NOT covered, and

it is important to note that voluntary training of groups such as Scouts should be approached with the greatest of legal consideration. Novice training as a club activity, of that club's novices, is however covered. Cover is available to £500,000 OR £1,000,000, the club applying for one OR the other to cover the whole membership.

Cover for the use of explosives is obtainable under the Insurance Scheme, but on an individual basis, and an application form from each licence-holder is needed.

The BCRA does not require club membership lists itself, though since in the event of a claim against a member, that member's name and date of joining would be required on a declaration signed to the effect by a club Officer, then insured clubs have to maintain their own written membership records. The Insurers reserve the right to inspect a club's records to satisfy themselves no understatement of membership has been given.

The above has been compiled from information circulated to Club Secretaries by Sam Moore, B.C.R.A. Insurance Manager.

Footnote for those Club Members who are also members of other clubs: your other club can apply for BCRA Insurance even if it not affiliated to BCRA. In this case, an additional flat-rate administration charge is levied.

For further information, or Explosives cover, contact the Secretary.

---

Two notes from the Secretary: Do you have any photographs suitable for framing to display at Upper Pitts? and,

A suggestion of a file of contacts for caVing holidays (particularly abroad. The Editor suggests such a list could also include caving hut addresses.

---

#### GOUFFRE BERGER

An expedition to the GOUFFRE BERGER is being organised by the Wessex Cave Club for the Summer of 1988.

The cave has been booked and confirmed for TEN DAYS starting 16th JULY, to the 25th. We are now starting to compile a list of people interested in going. If you are interested, please contact JIM MOON (49 Somerville Road, St. Andrews, Bristol BS7 9AD).

Initially we would like a £50 deposit / payment so that we can get on with purchasing tackle and other essential equipment as soon as possible. This deposit will also guarantee your place. A further, probably smaller, payment to cover the final cost will be required nearer the event.

The sooner we know who is going, the better for all.

Duncan Frew.

---

a COUPLE OF LATE ITEMS.

PIERRE'S POT (Burrington) has yielded to The Moodys, with assistance from others, particularly Andy Sparrow (BEC). Full report & survey to follow.

That one won't count as the BEC helped, but...

The Wessex Cave Club has challenged the Bristol Exploration Club to a 1987 Digging Contest. Usual rules: All finds must be on Mendip (defined by the "Complete Caves"), and at least 50 feet long each. Inter-club digs not counted (that also rules out West End Series).

When the challenge was put down, in the Hunters' at New Year, the BEC said, "Can we include the Bristol area?" "Yes, if we can have Portland and the Cotswolds!" replied Pete. H.

## BACK PAGE

### UPPER PITTS ACTING WARDEN ROTA

It may have escaped members' notice that the Acting Hut Warden Rota is still in operation, and the Hut Warden's post is only to ensure that weekends not covered by the Rota are taken care of, and that the Rota is operating efficiently.

If you are prepared to do a weekend's duty, please let the Hut Warden know, either c/o Upper Pitts or at the address on the title-page.

-Duncan Frew.

Some Dates.

N.C.A. A.G.M. 21 March 1987, Hunters' Lodge Inn, 10.30am.

BCRA Conference. 12/13 September 1987, UMIST, Manchester.

WCC Committee Mtgs. 28/3, 9/5, 20/6, 1/8, 12/9. 1987.

WCC AGM & Dinner. 17th October 1987.

(Committee Mtg. dates may change. Journal contributions deadline is one week before Committee Mtg. weekend for articles. Short items/news/dates/announcements up to Sunday of those weekends. The Editor cannot guarantee inclusion in a given edition, especially of major articles which may deserve a lot of presentation work (eg justifying), but will endeavour to do so. Carried-over papers will be announced.)

No this isn't a Riddle;  
WHO, exactly, invented the bobbin descender?

Was Glyn Bolt the original inventor, Petzl developing a commercial version of Glyn's "Budgie-Box"? (... or What did you call it ... ?)

Or, was it devised by someone called Dressler?

I ask having reviewed Elliot's "SRT" book in this edition, in which the device is referred to as the "Dressier" pattern.

Could it be a matter of separate, independant, inventions, not unknown in engineering and science?

-N.G.

No Riddle this time. Devising that Crossword must have drained all the Editor's Factor Machiavelli. Don't worry though, the journalistic mind is slowly twisting back into shape, the "Warp Factor" building up...