

ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN CAVING CLUB

NEWSLETTER No 4

NOVEMBER 1965

The annual general meeting of the Club was held on Thursday November the 4th, as may be expected was very well attended. The Chairman congratulated everyone on the hard work put in during the year, a year in which the Club has greatly extended its membership and activities thereby placing itself on a very secure footing.

The election of officers and committee members took place with following results :-

Chairman - John E Lewis, Springfield, Mansons Cross, Monmouth, Tel. Mon 2856.

Secretary - James Hay, Lea Villa, Caravan Site, Nr, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Treasurer - Raymond Wright, The Bungalow, Haywood Rd, Cinderford, Glos.

Librarian - Roger E Bailey, Rose Cottage, Aston Crews, Lea, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Records Officer - Roger A.Solari, Fir Tree Bungalow, Wigpool, Mitcheldean, Glos. Tel. Drybrook 326

Committee Members - Lawrence M Bailey, Rose Cottage, Aston Crews, Lea, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

Rex Keane, Kirjath, Coalway, Coleford, Glos, Tel. Coleford - 2477.

Malcolm Sterry, The Cross, Drybrook, Glos.

The Chairman thanked the retiring committee for their hard work and support during the year.

Club members are reminded that subscriptions are now due as from November 1st 1965 and remain at 5/- for junior members (16 -18) and 10/- for senior members (over 18years) payable to the Treasurer before 1st February 1966 or membership will be assumed to have lapsed.

Cave Rescue - The following trips have been arranged :-

Monday - November 22nd Doctors trip to New Dunn.

Sunday - December 12th - Pitch training Crows Nest Iron Mine, The Scowles, Coleford. Meeting at 11.30. Due to the extensive programme arranged to assist the North West Glos Water Board we regret we may be unable to support this as fully as we should wish to.

Some tickets are still available for the Cave Rescue Group dinner and dance at the White Hart Cinderford, Friday 26th November. Tickets are 15/6d, Chicken dinner, dance and a bar extension to 11.30 pm. Any funds remaining from this function will help to swell the coffers of the Cave Rescue Group, so we can do with your support. Contact Jim Hay or any committee member as quickly as possible.

Equipment

Nife Batteries three cell type.

The manufacturers recommend the replacing of the plastic plugs with steel plugs similar to the two cell type.

These are available through Jim together with the following :-

Steel plugs with washers 1/- each

Spot reflectors, polished 2/6 - each

Main bulbs, 3.75 v 1amp 3/- each

The club is purchasing 200 ft of Formula S, Polypropylene rope for club use, and several members are interested in purchasing their own. This rope is similar to "Ulstron" but with better handling qualities, available to members at the following price:- 1.25 inch circum, 3000 lb, breaking strain, 40/- per 100 ft.

Neoprene rubber sheet of one-eighth thickness (approved by the leader of the Moroccan Expedition)
Can purchased in bulk by the club at about 13/6d, for 2.5 ft x 3ft , sheet. With the cost of zips, tape and adhesive etc, a wet suit can be made for about £4.

Anyone interested in any of the above items should contact the secretary.

North West Gloucestershire Water Board.

Due to the efforts of Ray Wright the club is now in a position to assist the Water Board in assessing the water reserves underlying the Eastern side of the Forest of Dean. This involves a fair amount of work on the Club and up to the present, levels have been pegged or measured in Wigpool, Westbury Brook, Beech Pit,

And Buckshaft. The Water Board expect to commence pumping at a rate of two million gallons a day from the reserves on Monday 22nd of November for one month , and expect us to check water levels and obtain samples during this period. A heavy programme has been arranged to cover this as fully as possible and the Club Committee hopes that all who are able to will assist in this venture.

For once the Club is in a position to do a great public service and this may go a long way in improving public relations. The Water Board is very appreciative of the work already done and arrangement are in hand for blood test for all who may negotiate the Green Bottom Water adit.

Members spent a very enjoyable week end as guest of the South Wales Caving Club on Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th. Saturday afternoon was spent exploring Cwm Dwr, and Sunday, Ogof Ffnonn Ddu. We would like to thank the South Wales Caving Club and the two leaders who conducted us on Sunday for a very exiting week end. I hope to cover this fully in our next newsletter,

The next social and business meeting will be as usual in the Scowle Room at the Royal Forest Inn, Mile End on Thursday December 2nd 7.30 pm. We hope to keep club business to a minimum in order to leave as much time as possible for a social evening and colour slides of Ogof Ffnonn Ddu and Cwm Dwr.

Provisional Programme Subject to Revision.

Sunday 21st November :- Wigpool. First party to escort Dowty apprentices through the beauty spots. Shakemantle and Perseverance. Second party to plumb water levels in shafts.

Sunday 28th November :- Buckshaft Scowle hole, collect samples, check pegged level.
(Ladders and Ropes) .

Saturday 4th December :- Shakemantle, Perseverance, Westbury Brook. Plumb shaft water levels.

Sunday 5th December :- Possibly open.

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Sunday 12th December :- Wigpool. First party to sample and check water levels.
Wych Elm Hole. Second party to sample and check pegged ware levels.

Saturday 18th December :- Shakemantle, Perseverance, Westbury Brook, Plumb water levels.

Sunday 19th December :- Buckshaft Scowle Hole. Check level.

Wednesday 22nd Dec :- Wigpool. Check water level.