

ROYAL FOREST OF DEAN CAVING CLUB



DECEMBER 1968

NEWSLETTER No 15

Contents

Editorial	Pyrenees Trip
General News	Training Schemes
A G M	WHO's - WHO
Past Events	
Future Events	

Editorial

Most people reading this newsletter will, we hope, notice the difference between it and the last one. Even if the last one was too long ago to remember.

In the past, printing difficulties made it almost impossible to produce a newsletter every month as we never knew whether we would be able to get it printed. To overcome this, the committee purchased a secondhand Banda printing machine and all the appropriate materials, this newsletter is the first to be produced by this method. The club is just starting its fifth year as a fully formed caving club and so the new look front cover marks another step forward.

The reason for the new look front cover comes from the fact that we cannot reproduce our old type cover with a Banda printer and so it was decided to purchase properly printed front covers to keep the look of the newsletter. All this means considerable increase in the cost of producing the newsletter and, with reluctance, the committee have decided that those receiving the newsletter that are not members or do not exchange publications with us, will need to pay the cost of the printing and postage for future copies. The price, including postage, has been fixed at 1/-d per copy.

As you will see from the results of the A G M Malcolm Sterry has now taken over the job of secretary and so I (J Hay) have taken the newsletter back. This newsletter, however, was mainly written by Malcolm and I am merely copying and adding to his work of the last two months. In order to ensure that we have a newsletter for this month, the contents of this one have been deliberately restricted. Reports of all the trips mentioned in the past events section will be included in the next newsletter which should come out for the next meeting on January 2nd 1969.

General News

Attendance at the Castle H Q has still not improved, but this partly due to the effort concentrated on Barbeque Churn in preparation for the Glos Cave Rescue Group Barbeque. The toilet has been installed but still has slight disadvantages ie, there is no toilet door and it is necessary to collect buckets of water from the next room since the flush box is not yet in position. Never the less, this is much better than the old system - no toilet at all. Jim Hay and Andy Solari are attempting, with the help of others, to install the cold water system. Plastic water pipe is at the Castle together with bands and junctions. The major shortage still remains as lack of effort.

We have been very lucky in acquiring ten two tier bunks for the Castle. This is the result of a generous donation of the bunks by The Youth Hostel Association at Welsh Bicknor. Many thanks to the Warden for these items which would have been difficult to have obtained.

The Cave Rescue Group Barbecue was held on Saturday 2nd November in the barbeque Churn in Old Ham Iron Mine after a gap of two years since the last one. Numbers were estimated at about 300 before-hand and so 500 hot dogs and 200 beef burgers were ordered in anticipation of hungry cavers, final numbers that actually came turned out as 285 tickets sold and a vast number of cavers that somehow got in free. The most puzzling aspect of the evening was that we started with more sausages and hamburgers than rolls but finished up with about 200 rolls left over. Where 52 lbs of beef chipolatas went is a great mystery but a number of people were seen making hot dogs at about 3 am on Sunday morning and some were eaten by starving cavers at about 2 pm the next day. There was a lack of organised entertainment again but nobody went home disappointed and some visiting Americans couldn't take their eyes of the ladies toilet arrangements. The eventual profit that went into Cave Rescue funds was in the order of £40 so the work was worth it.

The money from the barbeque was needed by the Cave because they have recently acquired an ambulance to store and transport the rescue tackle. Fortunately the ambulance was obtained very cheaply from Dowty Ltd and didn't strain the funds too severely and it will make a great difference in the condition of the stored equipment. The ambulance is kept in the Coleford Police Station yard and, although insured for any driver, cannot be driven by anyone under 21 years as it weighs 2.5 tons and is classed as a heavy vehicle. Some work has already been done on increasing the storage room available inside but some still remains.

A G M

In common with other political groups, the club had its annual reshuffle of the committee at the A G M on November 7th.

The same committee members as last year were returned to office but there was a little shuffle around to give everyone a chance to try the jobs of the others. Below is a list of the names and address of the new committee and anyone corresponding with the club is asked to take note. Particularly of the change of the secretary.

Chairman	Mr A Solari Fir Tree Bungalow Wigpool Nr Mitcheldean Glos. Tel Drybrook 326
Secretary	Mr M Sterry 9 Oakhill Road Mitcheldean Glos GL17 OBN
Treasurer & Editor	Mr J Hay 10 Park Walk Chase Park Ross-on-Wye Hfds Tel Ross 3924
Records Officer	Mr P Schwarz 12 South Rd Broadwell Coleford Glos Tel Coleford 2210
Librarian	Mr R Bailey Rose Cottage Aston Crews Ross-on-Wye Hades
Equipment Officer	Mr L Bailey Aston Crews lea Ross-on-Wye Hfds
Two Other Members	Mr M Howell 14 Woodville Avenue Mile End Coleford Glos Mr K Faul 22 Victoria Rd Lydney Glos Tel Lydney 2565

Past Events

As mentioned at the beginning, the accounts of the trips over the past two months have been held over to the next - bumper edition of the newsletter. However, this is a list of the caving that was done to make those that didn't go realise what they have missed.

Sept 14 - 15 th	B S A conference at Sheffield
Sept 28 th	C R O conference at Cheltenham
Sept 29 th	Trips in the Forest following the conference.
Oct 6 th	Banging in Coldwell Stream. Wye Valley.
Oct 12 th - 13 th	Swildens Hole. Stoke Lane Slocker.
Oct 25 th	Cambrian Conference at Newport, Salop.
Oct 27 th	South Shropshire lead mines.
Nov 2 nd	Cave Rescue Barbeque.
Nov 16 th	Swildens Hole.
Nov 17 th	St. Cuthberts Swallet.
Nov 30 th	O F D II Sreamway and upper series.
Dec 1 st and a area.	Mixed in with the outings listed were a vast number of trips in the Forest large amount of work in Barbeque Churn to increase the usable

Future Events

Only one date is booked before Xmas and that is a Cave Rescue practice at Buckshaft Scowle Hole on Sunday 15th December. This is not a repeat of the last practice but it is planned to pack up no later than 2 pm. Rescue to start at 10 am prompt.

However, Malcolm has been busy in his first month of office and the next page is the club's planned list of meets outside of the Forest for the whole of 1969. This way we hope that the numbers will increase on trips - particurly those planned with beginners in mind.

Proposed Trips For 1969

Jan 26th	O F D I Beginners trip	South Wales
Feb 8th Feb 9th	Oxbow Caverns P 8	Derbyshire
Feb 23rd	Lamb Leer Beginners Trip	Mendip
Mar 8th Mar 9th	August Longwood St. Caterers Wallet	Mendip
Mar 29th Mar 30th	Goof Did Dust Lead Mine	North Wales
April 4th - 7th	Yorkshire Weekend	
April 13th	Swindon's Hole Beginners Trip	Mendip
April 26th April 27th	O F D II & III Dan-yr-Goof	South Wales
May 11th	Stoke Lane Slicker	Mendip
May 24th - 26th	Camping Weekend on Gower	South Wales
June 8th	Goof Rhys Synch	South Wales
June 21st June 22nd	Lancaster - Disappointing Pot - Gaping Gill	Yorkshire
July 12th July 13th	Ogof-y-Darron-Gilau Agen Allwedd Beginners Trip	South Wales
	Holidays	
Sep 6th Sep 7th	Tunnel Cave Fanw Mawr Pot	South Wales South Wales
Sep 20th Sept 21st	Ireby Fell Cavern Grange Rig Pot	Yorkshire
Oct 5th Oct 6th	Little Neath River Cave Llygod Llwechwr	South Wales

Other trips especially local ones, will be arranged at short notice but wherever possible, details will be given in notices at the Castle and the Butchers Arms.

Pyrenees Trip - Summer 1969

Following the successful trip to Ireland this year, Malcolm and John are planning a more ambitious trip to the Pyrenees in the summer, next year. Considerable interest has already been shown and it appears that a party of at least eight will be going. Any club member interested in joining this expedition should contact Malcolm or John as soon as possible so that transport and equipment details can be worked out. Training also plays an important part of their plans as it is expected to do quite a lot of ladder work. Details of the best areas and the types of cave are already being gleaned from other Clubs and plans should be well fixed by the new year. Cost is not expected to be more than £40 each and to help each member accumulate this sum, it is proposed to start a saving scheme within the club where regular weekly payments of 10/- or £1 will go along way to paying for the individuals to fit in with the majorities wishes.

There are also a number of club members who are unable to spend a complete fortnight caving - like me - and so there is a similar scheme afoot to get a camping party up for a holiday in the same area when we might be able to take advantage of reduced prices for group travel. This group would primarily be interested in a holiday with a bit of caving, it would not necessarily have to go on the same dates. Anyone interested in a holiday in the Pyrenees area, please contact me as soon as possible. The savings scheme will also apply.

Training Scheme - M Sterry.

Due to an influx of new members into the local clubs, John Elliott of G S S and myself of R F D C C have decided to try and arrange a series of training meets for the benefit of the newer members.

Depending on the requirements and desires of those attending, it is hoped to hold meets with particular emphasis on laddering, rope, climbing and sumping techniques.

Some of the projects may tend to discourage members, but they will have the opportunity to choose what they do and easy starts will be made in each field to see how they progress.

The main object is to educate, with particular regard to safety, but it should prove an ideal opportunity to visit sites of interest in various areas. If it suits everyone interested, we hope to hold these mid week or on Saturday afternoons.

Could those that are interested in learning further details contact John or Malcolm.

WHO's - WHO

(The Forest Of Deans Own Slander Sheet)

Who does camera repairs in Stoke Lane II.

Who is the high speed caver that soaks even his underwear in cooking oil for less friction.

Who had a damp reception at the B S A hostel, Settle.

Who suffered from instant flu when the rest went to do Swildons II.

Who are the two hard cavers that refused to do Swildons sump one after having been unable to catch instant flu

Who has a radio in his car to talk to when he has no passengers.

Who is unlikely to carry passengers anymore.

Who is the clubs 'Fat Man' that got stuck in the Nutmeg Grater.

Who is emigrating to the Forest.

Who does the work in Barbeque churn.

Who is the member of G S S S.

Who still believes in Wigpool lake.

Who's photo has gone up on the Butchers Arms Wall.

Who has given up caving.

Who's turn was it to make a fool of himself at the Cave Rescue social.

Who had to dance.

Who has a 'Mad Mini Driver' for a friend.