

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Number 47

CONTENTS

June, 1964

1. Annual General Meeting, 1964.
 2. Surveys of Caves in South WalesC. Lewis Railton.
 3. A Blow O'er Bleaklow.....Bill Little.
 4. Correspondence.
 5. Club News.
 6. O.F.D. Leaders' List.
 7. Anemone Passage - An Extension to Tunnel Cave.
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Hon. Secretary:

Gwyn Thomas, Greenfield, Heol Sarn, Llantrisant,
Glamorgan.

Hon. Treasurer:

L. A. Hawes, 'Cribarth Court', Moor Avenue, Fleet,
Hants.

Hon. C.R.O.:

G. Clissold, 'Silhouette', Staunton, Nr. Coleford,
Gloucs.

Hon. Records Officer:

Derrick Webley, 39 Heol Isaf, Radyr, Glamorgan.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1964

Election of Officers and Committee for 1964

President:	Brig. E. A. Glennie, C.I.E., D.S.O.,
Vice Presidents:	Mr. A. H. Hill, Mr. D. W. Jenkins, Dr. D. A. Bassett, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.G.S., Mr. C. L. Railton.
Chairman:	Dr. E. Aslett.
Hon. Members:	T. Ashwell Morgan, Dr. A. J. R. Hudson, C. Powell, Mr. & Mrs. J. Barrows, Mrs. G. Price, G. Platten, Dr. Dorothy Nichols, Mr. & Mrs. P. I. W. Harvey, C. Freeman.
Hon. Secretary:	Gwyn Thomas,
Hon. Assistant Sec:	John Osborne,
Hon. Treasurer:	L. A. Hawes,
Hon. Editor:	Brian de Graaf (Now resigned)
Hon. Records Officer:	Derrick Webley,
Hon. C.R.O:	Gordon Clissold,
Hon. Tackle Manager:	F. Baguley,
Hon. Warden:	W. Birchenough.
<u>Committee:</u>	Noel Dilly, Bill Little and John Barrows. Rob Williams was co-opted by the new committee.

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Hon. Secretary's Report

Mr. Vice President, Blokes, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome to another meeting of the Club Ogofeydd Dehendir Cymru - for those who, like myself, cannot speak Welsh, this means the South Wales Society for the Preservation of railway furniture. (Ha, ha, ha, English laughs).

Well, now I have to tell all of you what some of you have been doing during the past twelve months, and what we hope to achieve in the forthcoming year.

The Club cottages still have their usual web-like hold on far too many of our members, for a club of our size, and we almost number 200, the amount of caving done during the year is about half of what it should be. We still lack that get up and do it drive, or even that get up and make someone else do it drive. In a nutshell, the club has too many monkeys and not enough organ grinders.

Apart from this small criticism, and I might have emphasised it a little too much, the year has been one of the most active and eventful in the history of the South Wales Caving Club, with the year's major find not on, but under, our doorstep.

You are, in fact, sitting over a section of the main passage in Cwm Dwr. Practically everyone has dug in Cwm Dwr at one time or another, but I feel that the names of two people must be mentioned in connection with this cave, those of Bill Birchenough and Alfred Nobel, one has worked wonders in the hands of the other, a slave driver and a headache, what a formidable team. There is however a lot of unfinished work to be completed in this cave, the equipment is available, all we need is someone to get on with it.

During the last year most of our digging activity has been centred on three large surface digs. Pwll Byfre which was pushed like the clappers earlier on in the year has been idle for far too long. The original winch and cable way which was erected on the site is still servicable and ample shuttering is to be had for the asking. This in my opinion, is the finest dig in the area and the possibilities are enormous. What about it?

The title of 'Dig-of-the-Year' must, I am sure, be given to Waen Fignan Felin, the magnitude of this project is staggering, a well shuttered shaft 70' deep, a winch which is guaranteed to break ones back, a compressor, generator, Kongo hammer, piles of good solid shuttering and always, or nearly always an abundance of slaves. It was re-started last August and has been worked on more or less consistantly since. Even a week's camping in atrocious weather at the sink did not deter anyone and mere initiat and drive has been shown on this dig than any other to date, particularly by the younge club members.

Another dig which has to be mentioned is the one which has been pushed by our very active chairman, Edward. By menas fair but mostly foul, he has persuaded quite a number of us to help him from time to time. The chairman's hole has now reached a depth of 120' and it is still going down. It is a perfect example of how neat and tidy a dig should be kept. When I first saw it I thought that he was building a sheep pen. (We'll think about that Blokes, it might be an idea). One word of warning to anyone who might help Edward in the near future, make sure that he doesn't go down to take the first spell of digging, you can never get him up again. There are various methods but we won't go into these now.

To summarise on the year's digging, it appears that the old method of looking for caves, whereby a caver dug in solitary confinement, moving boulders one by one, has been superceded by methods and equipment resembling that which is usually found on civil engineering or mining contracts. In fact, onemight say that most of it is from such contracts. Digging is now mostly undertaken by teams of people using highly efficient lifting and drilling gear. I wonder how many of those people who hug the cottages are looking towards future automation as a possible excuse for continuing their life of leisure. One thing that worries me, is that they found cavés using the old method.

The Club's Rescue Organisation has been extended on three occasions this year. (I had to re-write that bit). The rescues being from Cwm Dwr, Llethrid, and Agen Allwedd. All were very successful, we managed to extract a patient and not a victim on the three rescues. These operations have given us the much needed practical experience we so badly lacked, and faults have been discovered in our organisation which only actual rescues could have highlighted. The idea in most peoples' minds that we in South Wales are immune to caving accidents, and that these only happen in the North and on the Mendips has been completely shattered by the recent events. We are just not safety conscious enough.

The absence of accidents in the past has made us too cock sure of ourselves, and if this is not corrected we can expect a lot more accidents in the near future. This might be the correct time to remind Ffynnon Ddu leaders of their obligation to the parties they lead. The standard of leading has dropped considerably in the last year or two, and some of our most experienced cave leaders have taken people into the caves in gear which is not suitable for playing tiddelywinks, let alone caving. Quite recently a leader took a chap who had never caved or climbed in his life over the Airy Fairy Traverse, and dancing shoes are now almost as popular as boots.

I must warn leaders that any committee will not hesitate to take them off the list if the correct procedure for leading parties is not strictly adhered to. Our reputation rests in many parts, on the standard of our leaders, and this has to be maintained at a high level. The introduction recently of quite a number of younger members to the list is not the cause of this decline in standards, the fault lies mainly with the more experienced members, so please don't forget, no proper equipment, no caving, and always no piles of unsightly carbide. Gordon will have more to say about the rescues so I will press on.

Publications:- Two books of special interest have been published by club members during the year - an excellent book called 'Caves in Wales and the Marches', written by David Jenkins and Ann Williams, and a 'Speleological Yearbook and Diary' compiled by John Dryden.

The royalties which arise from the sale of David and Ann's book will, after deducting expenses, be donated to the club, and I should like to thank them both on behalf of everyone for making such a fine gesture, so don't forget, when you buy your copy you are not only helping yourself but also the club. The book is published by Dalesman, price 7s. 6d. and it is wonderful value for money. The second book, written and compiled by John Dryden takes the form of a yearbook and diary. It contains many invaluable articles, and if it encourages people to record what caving they do at weekends then the results might well take the form of many more newsletter articles. Ridian being the exception - of course we all know what he does at weekends and it cannot be published in our newsletter.

The amount of literature given during the year to our club library has exceeded every expectation, the response to the repeated appeals made by Derrick Webley have been quite remarkable and Derrick has asked me to thank all those who have helped to make the club records more complete. However, the task is not yet complete and a home will be found for any unwanted or discarded publications or photographs in the club records. Please remember it is our duty to preserve for use by future caving generations any literature which appertains to caving or any of its auxiliary sciences, particularly that which has a direct link with this club, we have the finest club facilities in the country so why can't we possess the finest collection of records as well.

All major articles in our possession have now been card-indexed. I would like to suggest, therefore, that a lot more use be made of this in the future. Derrick has even started slimming in an effort to cope with the expected flood of requests.

A party of cavers and photographers will set off in August, our destination being the bottom of Balinka Pit near Plaski in Jugland. The pit is known to have a vertical entrance pitch of at least 900 ft. and this could easily extend to a depth of 1200 to 1300 ft. The team which is being led, or should I say driven, by Clive Jones, will be the most highly organised and well equipped caving expedition to have ventured overseas from South Wales. Anyone who has seen the array of equipment being assembled in No. 1 will just have to agree with the last statement. I could talk for an hour or so about this trip, but briefly the main equipment list reads as follows:-

an hydraulic winch with 1900' of specially made contra bound cable,
1000' of ladder with sufficient life lines,
a radio telephone communication system,
rubber dinghies,
blokes and a 32 seater diesel coach.

We hope to make a cine film of the whole operation for showing on the B.B.C. Adventure Series. Any money which might be made will be used to set up a permanent expedition fund, and the equipment will be kept for use on future expeditions. The club should benefit greatly from the efforts being put into this work by those who are fortunate enough to be going to Yugoslavia, and I should like to thank all those who are helping with the preparations, even though they are not going, this just proves that the club's spirit is a long way from being dead. I must stress, however, that this is a private venture within the club and for reasons which are obvious the numbers must be strictly limited. There are quite a few disappointed cavers who would have liked to have taken part in this trip, I'm afraid the only advice that I can give them, is that they should start on the preliminary work required for a future trip abroad, say next year or even the year afterwards. A superhuman amount of effort is required to make an expedition of this type a success, and the experience gained from our journey to Jugland will not only help those participating but also anyone who intends going abroad in the future.

The Club cottages have accommodated the usual vast number of visitors during the year - the numbers just rocket every year. The committee has decided that in future two instead of the usual one weekend per month should be set aside for members only. There are so many of our own people using the H.Q. these days that this just had to be done. Visitors are always made welcome at Penwyllt, but I would like to point out that this is a private club and not a benevolent association, visitors must obtain permission prior to staying at our headquarters, and you can all help here, simply by stressing the point at every available opportunity.

Well, I have taken up enough of your time so to conclude I would like to thank all those who have helped me during the year and to congratulate all those who have managed to think of excuses good enough to avoid leading parties in Ffynnon Ddu.

GWYN THOMAS.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Vice-Presidents, Blokes, Members:

For my first trick this morning, I am going to explain what I have done with your money. In doing this you'll notice that I have absolutely nothing hidden up my Balance Sheet. I hope you can always say the same.

The first question is "how have we done" (not to be confused with "by how much have we been done"). You'll see our surplus for the year is just over £16 and this shows that we've not done as well as last year when the comparable figure was almost £108. The reasons for this are twofold. Our overall expenditure both on the Headquarters and on General Expenses is up by approximately £46. Our income is down by approximately £46. We have spent some £20 more on electricity and coal and on calor gas. The increase is from £19 last year to £33 this year. Have I been mistaken all these years and does S.W.C.C. stand for the South Wales Cooking Club? However, much of the increase arises from the very much larger numbers of people staying at the Headquarters and the fact that we had to buy gas refills right at the beginning of the year and also right at the end, tended to inflate the figures. All the other H.Q. Expenses were about the same. Under General Expenses, the increase is due to heavier spending on Club Tackle and Rescue Equipment - both very good objects.

On the income side, the Headquarters have again produced a record figure. Last year £218 this year £266. The greater proportion of this increase is due to visitors and guests. In collecting this large sum I am particularly grateful to Bill "Rachman" Birchenough who always seems to be on hand to collect cash at the Headquarters and who remains unsurprised by the immense bills he gets from me each quarter. Subscription income is just slightly down but this is largely due to me not being able to get the usual reminders out at the normal time. The fact of the reminders going out late, coupled with my not giving details of the Subscription Rates produced very rewarding results. Many members paid not only this year's subscription but next years as well and others not remembering how much, sent far more than was actually due. There must be a moral to this somewhere. The loss of income is due to the stopping of Dr. Nicholl's annual donation of £50 after the first quarter's instalment had been received. No reason is known for this action but the thought of this money coming in for evermore has always seemed to be too good to be true. On the subject of the Llethrid Rescue (please excuse my English typewriter) our worthy star of dog and cave rescue, Bill Little, had done it again. For his personal appearances on the "telly" he squeezed fees out of both "lots" and paid them into the Club to help pay for the replacements to our rescue gear made necessary by the incident. Thank you Bill.

Down below in the Appropriation Account, the usual provision has been made for the H.Q. Repairs Fund, which next year, unless anything startling happens, should reach a satisfactory maximum level. At the head of the page overleaf are shown the details of the Scientific Sub-Committee Account. With so little there I hardly need comment.....said the actress.....

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

Statement of Income and Expenditure for
the Year ended 29th February, 1964.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£.	s.	d.	<u>INCOME</u>	£.	s.	d.
<u>HQ Expenses:</u>							
Electricity	22.	13.	6.				
Coal	44.	0.	0.				
Calor Gas	32.	19.	0.				
Cleaning &c. Materials	3.	16.	0.				
Cement, Timber, Glass &c.	14.	10.	2.				
Framing Photographs	14.	15.	6.				
Common Room Seating	6.	15.	0.				
Rates & Water Rates	29.	14.	2.				
Fire & Burglary Insurance	11.	7.	8.	HQ Fees	266.	7.	0.
Sundry Expenses.	<u>7.</u>	<u>13.</u>	<u>1.</u>	Rent: 5 Powell Street	9.	2.	0.
			188. 4. 1.				
<u>General Expenses:</u>							
Club Tackle	77.	1.	3.				
Cave Rescue Equipment	30.	18.	4.	Annual Subscriptions	108.	8.	6.
Survey Equipment	2.	13.	6.				
Records, Publications &c.	24.	0.	1.	General Donations	13.	8.	0.
Work on Cave Entrances	16.	9.	7.	Donation: Dr. Nicholls	12.	10.	0.
Telephone Rental & Charges	30.	3.	6.	Lethrid Rescue: TV Fees:			
Newsletters & Circulars	29.	5.	7.	B.B.C.	4.	4.	0.
Printing, Stationery &c.	6.	13.	0.	T.W.W.	12.	12.	0.
General Postages	11.	13.	10.				
Public Liability Insce.	8.	12.	6.	Telephone Calls	9.	19.	7.
C.R.G. Sub. 1964.	1.	5.	0.	Interest on Deposit a/c	8.	7.	0.
B.S.A. Sub. 1963.	2.	2.	0.				
Sundry Expenses.	<u>10.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>241.</u>	Sundry Income	1.	8.	10.
			429. 12. 3.				
Gross Surplus for the Year	<u>16.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>8.</u>				
	<u><u>£446.</u></u>	<u><u>6.</u></u>	<u><u>11.</u></u>		<u><u>£446.</u></u>	<u><u>6.</u></u>	<u><u>11.</u></u>

Net Revenue and Appropriation Account

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
HQ Repairs Fund	100.	0.	0.	Gross Surplus bt. down	16.	14.	8.
				Net Loss for the Year	<u>83.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>4.</u>
	<u>£100.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>		<u>£100.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>
Net Loss brought down	83.	5.	4.	Balance at 1st March, 1963.	294.	11.	3.
Balance carried forward	<u>215.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>11.</u>	Sundry Creditor 62/63.	<u>3.</u>	<u>15.</u>	<u>0.</u>
	<u><u>£298.</u></u>	<u><u>6.</u></u>	<u><u>3.</u></u>		<u><u>£298.</u></u>	<u><u>6.</u></u>	<u><u>3.</u></u>

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

Scientific Sub-Committee Account.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Aerial Survey Photographs	6.	9.	6.	Balance at 1st March, 1963.	9.	9.	6.
Balance carried forward	3.	0.	0.				
	<u>£9.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>6.</u>		<u>£9.</u>	<u>9.</u>	<u>6.</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 29th FEBRUARY, 1964.

<u>Liabilities & Credit Balances.</u>	£.	s.	d.	<u>Assets & Debit Balances.</u>	£.	s.	d.
Capital Balances	401.	4.	4.	1-10 Powell Street (at cost)	200.	0.	0.
HQ Repairs Fund	300.	0.	0.	Ronec Duplicator w/d value	11.	4.	6.
Scientific Sub-Committee	3.	0.	0.	Club Tackle, Rescue & Survey Equipment w/d value	181.	8.	6.
Revenue Balances	215.	0.	11.	Plant, Loose Tools &c. w/d value	8.	11.	4.
Subscriptions in Advance	15.	5.	0.	HQ Fees Outstanding	54.	16.	6.
				Cash at Bank:			
				Current a/c Lloyds Bank	106.	17.	2.
				Deposit a/c S.Wales Trustee Savings Bank	342.	13.	5.
				Cash in hands of Hon. Treasurer	28.	18.	10.
	<u>£934.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>3.</u>		<u>£934.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>3.</u>

L.A.Hawes.

J.M.Davies.

Hon. Treasurer.
20th March, 1964.

Hon. Auditor.
26th March, 1964.

The Balance Sheet again indicates quite a satisfactory financial state of affairs. The only item for comment is the figure for H.Q. fee arrears. This is up by £20 mainly due to the heavier bookings in February, the fees for which fall to be collected after the close of the Club Year.

To the Committee and all Members, I have been particularly grateful for your co-operation during what has been a difficult year for me. Because of exceptional conditions at work I was forced to neglect my Treasurer's job for some two or three months and I know this must have resulted in considerable inconvenience all round. No subscription reminders, H.Q. fees piling up, and often no answers to letters. My apologies to all who suffered. One would have thought that I would have been overwhelmed with complaints but this is where the greatness of the Club is revealed - I was!!

My closing remarks. The Subscription and H.Q. fees are to remain unchanged yet again and long may this position continue. Thank you all very much.

LES HAWES.
HON. TREASURER

HON. CAVE RESCUE ORGANISER'S REPORT

Rescue Personnel

There has been a steady increase in members during the past year but the increase only compensates for the number of rescuers whose particulars have changed and neglected to inform the CRO. It is imperative that these particulars are forwarded as soon as possible.

Rescues and Incidents

I am sorry to report there has been an increase in incidents and accidents. This is probably due to the increase in outside clubs now caving in South Wales.

Pant Mawr, Saturday 26th October.

A party of Cambridge University C.C. members were overdue from a trip to Pant Mawr. A rescue party set out at 11.30 p.m. to be followed later by a party carrying the heavy equipment. The first party found no signs of the missing group on top of the pot apart from the rawbolts in position. The team descended the pitch but still found no signs of the missing party. They were joined by the second team and shortly afterwards a recall signal was sent. The Cambridge party had lost their way on the surface and had returned to the Club H.Q. via Colbren.

Cwm Dwr, Sunday 27th October.

A party of Cambridge University C.C. members returned from a trip in Cwm Dwr leaving one of the party to carry on his exploration singly! The party packed all their gear and as their member had still not returned decided to leave a note for him and make their return trip home. S.W.C.C. members later, at the H.Q., decided that something had probably happened and formed a search party. The missing person was found sitting without lights in the chamber at the end of blasted passage.

His one light had gone out and his other had been lost in a rift. He was brought out none the worse for his experience. Later a member of his Club rang up to find out if he was alright!

Cwm Dwr, Sunday 8th December.

At approximately 3 p.m. a member of Chelsea Speleological Society slipped and damaged his knee. Very shortly afterwards a party entered with rescue equipment. The leg was splinted and as the injured person was obviously in much pain and suffering shock tubonic morphia was administered. Very little enlarging was required and the party commenced the haul to the surface at 5.50 p.m. In spite of the restricted passages the rescue was culminated at 9.35 p.m. Thirty members took part in the rescue.

Llethrid Swallet, Sunday 9th February.

Whilst on a return trip in Llethrid Swallet a member of the Distillers Caving Club fell at 4.30 p.m. and fractured a femur. His companions belayed him to a boulder to take the weight off his leg and raised the alarm.

A party in Tooth Cave, near at hand, first entered the cave at 5.05 p.m. and a second party from the H.Q. by 5.55 p.m. The injured caver was splinted and given relief by morphia, then carried to a more comfortable position. Later when it became apparent that considerable enlarging of the route out would have to be made, his leg was set and a tent erected over him. In the meantime the police had arrived and a full call out was requested. At 7.15 p.m. a Mine Rescue team was called out and put in charge of rescue operations. Enlargement of the passages commenced at 3.24 a.m. and the first experimental shot holes drilled at 5.50 a.m. and fired at 8.0 a.m. By 2.55 p.m. it was decided to attempt the movement out and the journey commenced eventually reaching the surface at 5.0 p.m., Monday. Sixty-five cavers participated in the rescue and an unknown number from other organisations. A full report of the rescue will appear in a future newsletter.

Aggen Allwedd, Sunday, 22nd March.

At approximately 9 p.m., Sunday a member of the Nottingham University caving club fell 25 ft. in Keyhole passage receiving slight facial injuries and suspected spinal injuries. A call out was first received at approximately 11.30 p.m. and the first party with two Doctors assembled and entered the cave at 1.30 a.m., Monday, followed shortly by a second team. A telephone laying party moved into the cave at 6.30. The injured caver having sufficiently recovered to assist himself, started on the way out at 8.0 a.m. During his movement out of the cave his condition gradually improved. A party then entered the cave to help in the retrieving of equipment. The injured person reached the surface at 11.30 a.m. and declined the use of an ambulance. It is unknown at present what damage he actually received, but he was fortunate not to have suffered deep shock, thus being able to assist so much in his own rescue. Assistance was given by the Army and the laying of a surface telephone link and sustenance. Relations with the Police could not have been better, full co-operation was given at all times. Approximately thirty-five cavers participated in the rescue.

Rescue Practices

An exercise was held at Ogof Foel Fawr for the Caving Club of University College Swansea under the direction of W. E. Clarke.

Equipment

The medical equipment has been fully checked by Dr. R. Williams and repacked. The Gypsophilia plaster of paris bandages have been replaced and miscellaneous medical supplies obtained.

The rescue equipment has been checked and repainted orange by W. Little and helpers.

Additional equipment purchased during the past year:-

- 1 - Transistorised Megaphone (donated by W. Little)
- 1 - Tilley flood lamp
- 6 - Nife cell electric cap lamps
- 1 - Pair of Transistorised telephones and miscellaneous tools for laying same
- 1 - Replacement quart flask
- 3 - Thermos food jars

A new type of stretcher has been devised by W. Clarke and is undergoing modification to date. This is by far the best developed stretchers for cave rescue use I have seen.

Aggen Allwedd Rescue Depot has not, as yet, been set up but the scheme is well in hand.

Surplus medical equipment donated to the Chelsea Speleological Society Triglav expedition is to be made available to the organisation after their return.

Donations have been welcomed from W. Little, the proceeds of his television interviews. A donation of £5 was given by C.S.S. towards the rescue of one of their members.

Third Conference of C.R.O.'s

A meeting of Cave Rescue Organisations was held on the 28th September, 1963 in Brecon, Dr. E. Aslet taking the chair.

Representatives attending were from:-

The Cave Rescue Organisation of Yorkshire,
The Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association,
Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation,
Devon (Plymouth Caving Group),
Hereford Caving Club,
BNS Caving Section,
Mendip Cave Rescue Organisation,
London Cave Rescue Organisation,
Representatives of the Irish C.R.O.,
Representatives of Glamorgan and Mid Wales Constabularies,
S.W.C.C. Cave Rescue Organisation,
Miscellaneous Club Members.

A paper by Dr. R. Williams was read by E. Inson on "A Survey of Cave Accidents". This paper was an analysis of all recorded accidents in caves. The statistics were:- age, member of a caving club, equipment used, cause of accident, type of injuries, date of accident, etc. This paper was well received and led to a vigorous discussion afterwards, answers being ably handled by E. Inson. It was felt by the majority that excellent though the paper was, unfortunately many incidents which had occurred in the past had not been recorded and that very often statistids, i.e. had the person a good night's sleep, sufficient food prior to trip, etc. were unobtainable, but would play an enormous part in the cause of accidents. The conclusion the paper inferred was that the majority of accidents occurred in Spring to young non Club members with injuries to the lower limbs, through the lack of using a life line. Most serious accidents occurred to Club members.

A lengthy discussion was held on the use of ropes, the final outcome was the encouragement of their use for lifelining but the practice of using them for abseiling in caves discouraged. It was proposed that C.R.O.'s supplied a list of cave accidents in their areas to Dr. Williams yearly.

An outline of the present system of rescue in Ireland was then given by Mr. J. Childs who then asked floor for constructive suggestions. I will not give the details of the procedure for cave rescue in Ireland as all C.R.O.'s have been supplied with a list of facilities available and can be contacted for information. The outcome of the discussion was all Club's who had expeditions to Ireland should exchange information amongst themselves. If in the case of a serious accident a team was required from England the cost would be rather high and the taking out of insurance against accidents encouraged. The Mendip C.R.O. agreed to provide various articles of rescue equipment for the setting up of a further rescue depot at Lisdoonvarna as the existing depot based at Enniskillen was a considerable distance from the Southern Irish caving area. It was suggested that all expeditions to Ireland should take with them full rescue equipment as if on a major expedition.

A general discussion was held on the raising of funds for cave rescue organisations. The S.W.C.C. rescue organisation is in a unique position of being self supporting from general Club funds whereas other cave rescue organisations are a combination of Clubs each supporting their organisation by yearly grants. Some C.R.O.'s receive grants from local authorities.

Yorkshire C.R.O. then raised the question of the formation of a national organisation. This certainly led to a vigorous discussion but the house seemed divided to whether it would be of any real value. Those for the proposal felt that it would give more weight being truly representative of all C.R.O.'s in television, radio and newspaper interviews on the subject of cave rescue. Those against felt that each area had its own local problems, conditions etc. and a national organisation would be of little help. All agreed that a still closer co-operation between organisations was required. Derbyshire C.R.O. was invited to hold the next meeting in their area.

Sunday, 28th September unfortunately turned out rather wet for demonstrations.

Mr. L. Devenish demonstrated his power drill, of similar construction to a hand power saw. This is quite an efficient means of drilling bore holes in soft ground, such as was required by the next demonstration given.

This was a means of digging a ditch by Mr. E. Inson, with the use of explosives for rapidly diverting a stream. The Demonstration was very effective but unfortunately many delegates failed to find their way to the site due to a low cloud.

In the meantime Mr. L. S. Dingle had commenced a demonstration on "A rapid means of sinking a shaft". Delegates were invited to try their hand at drilling shot holes. In spite of the soaking everyone received, a reasonable number of Delegates watched the demonstration through to a successful conclusion.

Mr. W. Birchenough gave a short talk on his Electronic Survey equipment and its future development. Later a demonstration was given in Cwm Dwr Quarry showing its merits of locating a point under ground in relationship to the surface. This equipment could be used if a shaft had to be drilled as the only means of rescuing a trapped or injured person.

In spite of the foul weather a really instructive morning was spent thanks to the excellent work put in by the demonstrators and their assistants.

In Conclusion

For many years there has been a lack of really keen interest in the Cave Rescue Organisation, due mainly, I believe, to the few accidents which have occurred in South Wales. The majority of members, I am sorry to say, have been content in filling up their rescue call out particulars form on joining the Club and maybe voting in, at an A.G.M., the Cave Rescue Organiser, and leaving it at that.

During the past year there has been a large increase of accidents in South Wales and members are becoming more aware that a lot more is desired apart from having a room full of equipment. A number of members are now showing a more constructive interest in the organisation and how it can be improved. Their ideas have been noted and will be put into effect as soon as possible.

In the past it has been the duty of the cave rescue organiser to do everything, and in later years, with the help of a medical warden, but this state of affairs must now obviously come to an end due to the increased number of accidents and the growth of the organisation in size and equipment. It is intended to designate various sections of the organisation to rescue wardens who will advise the organiser on the desired improvements required.

To general members in the organisation I would advise you to ask yourself and to act upon as soon as possible these questions:-

1. Are my call out particulars up to date?
Notify my C.R.O. of any alterations.
2. Do I know who my local warden is?
Find out from the Rescue Board and liaison with him from time to time.
3. Do I know what equipment is held in the rescue room?
Contact a warden to show you.
4. If I were called upon to use any of the rescue equipment could I?
Contact a warden to instruct you in its use.

It is up to every member to make and show the general public that we are an efficient organisation. Too often, with little point, holes are pulled in the organisation, written constructive suggestions are the foundation stones for a solid structure, so let us all make sure the part we maintain is sound and leaves no weakness to the whole.

I congratulate all those members who have given freely of their time and energy in the successful rescue of five cavers in South Wales during the past year and instilling confidence in those who find enjoyment underground in South Wales.

GORDON CLISSOLD.

HON. TACKLE OFFICER'S REPORT

Please accept my apologies for not attending this A.G.M.

Greater demands on tackle were made last year than ever before due to a very active year by so many. The equipment has increased in quantity, variety, and sometime complexity. We have had such activity on various projects that I envisage the tackle room being too small in the near future. Waun Fignen Felin is a good example of what progress has been made in the refinement of tackle. The coming year I am sure will see further progress due partly to expeditions and cave rescue and to even greater activity in exploration.

Other than tackle for general use, there are now tools and materials being accumulated for replacements and repairs. This will avoid delays in the future and eliminate some difficulties.

There have been few complaints about tackle, so I shall consider the majority are satisfied.

I have two complaints to make about the use of tackle by a small number of members, and the number is small, these are when checking ladder I unwrapped some adhesive tape from around the wire and found every wire strand but three were broken. That was stupidity. May I emphasise that faulty tackle should be reported to the tackle manager. Also it was brought to my attention that climbing ropes had been used as hauling ropes in 'digs', this has been stopped.

It has been interesting to note the number of other clubs who have taken interest in our use and construction of tackle and at times much correspondence has resulted in requesting advice and information.

The traverse wires were examined and found to be in satisfactory condition in O.F.D

D. T. LLOYD.

REPORT OF CONSTITUTION SUB. COMMITTEE

The Constitutional Sub Committee have met during the year. Owing to difficulty encountered in getting all the sub-committee together on several occasions, and the lack of general reaction from members of the Club it is proposed to give the same committee the task of tidying up the wording and loose ends of the existing constitution and contemplating major changes.

REPORT OF CAVE SCIENCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The membership of the sub-committee has been the same as last year (David Cons, Les Hawes, David Jenkins, Bill Little, Lewis Railton, Derrick Webley and myself), but we have also coopted Charles Freeman and he has been doing a most useful job in connection with the Club's surveys - more of this later.

In the report I gave last year I said that John Hartwell had agreed to coordinate water-tracing activities in the Club and that he hoped eventually to correlate hydrology with surface features such as shake holes. John has produced, in the Newsletter, a list of tracings carried out by Club Members. This, with some subsequent corrections seems to represent the total of recorded water tracings in the area. If anyone knows of any others, I am sure John Hartwell would like to know of them. I also said, last year, that it was proposed to use aerial photographs in the work of correlating surface features with hydrology, etc. We now possess quite a number of these photographs at a scale of 1/10,000 and John has been working on them. As you will have seen in the Newsletter, he has produced an article on his findings and this is to be published in the next issue. We are now in the process of obtaining a set of aerial photographs at a scale of 1/2,500 covering an area roughly from Waun Figen Felin to Pant Mawr. The idea is to superimpose relevant features from these on to 25" maps of the area and to pin-point the exact sites of all known digs, 'hot-air blows', etc. We hope, of course, that this may prove helpful in the search for new caves - clearly one of the main interests of the Club.

This brings me to the subject of geophysical methods in the search for caves. We managed to borrow a "Tellohm" resistivity meter and the services of a geophysicist colleague of mine. The results were mildly encouraging; we managed to detect Pillar Chamber from the surface and we are confident that we could detect caves at depths of down to 80 ft. or so. At greater depths and in shattered ground I am not so optimistic, but clearly we should persist with this method and see if we can achieve anything in the area between Penyllt and Pwll Byfre. The instrument we used before is no longer available, but the Geology Department at University College, Cardiff, now has one, and when this has been fitted with electrodes and been calibrated, I hope the Department will be able to continue surveys in the area.

We have also done some experiments with geo-phones and high-grain amplifiers; we hoped it might be possible to hear underground streams, but this was hopeless as there is too much background noise. However, it is possible to pick up the sound of hammering through very considerable thicknesses of rock (up to 400 ft. or so) and this might be of use in cave rescue if someone was trapped.

Perhaps the most important work undertaken by the sub-committee has been to sort out the Club's surveys. Several of these are incomplete and arrangements have been made in most cases to have them completed by the original surveyors. Charles Freeman and Lewis Railton have put in a lot of work on this, and an article is being prepared for the newsletter giving a list of the Club's surveys and indicating what further work is needed. The Club now possesses survey equipment and more is under construction so that there is no excuse if surveys are not carried out. In this connection I am glad to say that some keen and relatively new members of the Club are carrying out a detailed study of Pant Mawr Pot, tracing and correlating beds etc. along the lines of Aubrey Glen work on the Entrance Series of O.F.D. Archaeological and Palaeontological work is continuing in Tooth Cave and Powell's Cave, and the survey of the former is under way.

On the biological side we have now arranged that specimens sent to C.R.G. by Club Members will be returned to me in batches from time to time and then are being used to build up a reference collection of specimens. I am also making up a small exhibit of common cave animals for display in the Club.

In conclusion I should like to congratulate David Cons on being elected Chairman of C.R.G. in succession to Bill Little - both members of the sub-committee - and I should also like to thank David Jenkins for acting as recorder for the sub-committee.

G. T. JEFFERSON.

2. SURVEYS OF CAVES IN SOUTH WALES

An examination has just been made of all the cave surveys held by the S.W.C.C. of caves in South Wales. The result is really quite shocking in that most of the existing drawings and notes give the reader no useful information or even impression of the nature of the caves they intend to portray. In some cases one cannot even see whether one has to crawl, walk or climb along the passages and whether there is any rock, mud, sand or water to be dealt with.

It should be remembered that survey of a cave is not like a survey of a footpath through fields in flat country. It should be akin to an architect's drawing of a house and of necessity has to give a true representation of the place. It must show the distance apart of walls, height of ceilings, relative positions of rooms, slope of roof, size and run of chimneys, ventilation ducts, drains etc. We need the equivalent of all these and more in surveys of caves. In particular, the nature of floors such as sand, mud, boulders, rock, calcite or water. Deposits on walls are also important; they may be clues to the history of the cave or to possible extensions.

Our surveys, therefore, must include a plan drawn with lettered and numbered squares for reference purposes and with magnetic or true north clearly indicated. Transverse sections of passages should be drawn on the plan as frequently as necessary to show changes of form. A longitudinal section is essential to show the slope or drop of floors and roof.

Some recent cave accidents have very much high-lighted the deficiencies of our existing surveys. This particularly applies to cases where drilling into a cave passage from the surface may be necessary for the rescue or the removal of the injured. These days, this operation may be much quicker and safer than having to clear boulder chokes or by-pass floods in the cave itself. Apart from this, the route for the rescuers and injured may thus be reduced from a mile or so to mere yards. This, however, can only be successful if one has a proper and accurate survey of every cave.

You do not need to be a qualified surveyor to produce a good cave survey. It can easily be explained or demonstrated what has to be done. All you need is persistence, patience, attention to detail and an interest in caves. You will find that this interest grows very rapidly. First as the cave reveals its bends and twists

as the plan grows under your pencil. It grows more and more as you draw in the cross and longitudinal sections. You ask yourself why the sudden change in roof height here and there or why there are holes in the passage floor or a curved slope in the dry mud. You will decide that next time you are in the cave you must recheck these places. The chances are that you will find some hidden and unexplored passages. There is nothing like surveying for making discoveries.

The following table lists all the surveys we have, their state and whether they are now being worked on. Those marked with a cross have nobody working on them and urgently need converting into good and useful surveys. We make a special appeal to our members to come forward and do the work necessary to bring these up to standard. When this has been done there are still 108 caves listed as being in South Wales, in "Caves in Wales and the Marches" of which we have no surveys or neatly recorded descriptions. There is so much to be done that duplication of effort should be avoided if possible and to this end the Scientific Sub-committee of the Club is prepared to coordinate the work.

Comments on Available Surveys

<u>Cave</u>	<u>Comments</u>
• Cwmndwr Quarry Cave.	The Grade is not given. The following is needed:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A longitudinal section.2. Notes on the survey.3. History of discovery and exploration.4. Description of the cave. <p>Work is now in hand to complete these.</p>
• +Llethrid+	A plan drawing exists but the entrance is not shown nor is the grid reference, the name of the surveyor, spot heights, the nature of the floors or which passages are over one another. A recent magnetic check indicates error of about 100 ft. in the position of a chamber. The plan needs checking and re-drawing. Longitudinal and cross sections are needed as are the history of exploration and a description of the cave.
+Ogof-y-Ci+	A plan drawing exists but this does not even indicate where the stream flows through the cave neither does it indicate the grade, the surveyor, the nature of the floor, the size of the passages, and some passages are not shown. A complete plan is needed with position of water, deposits, etc. Also longitudinal and cross sections and description. In view of the closely adjacent surface valley, drawings are needed to show its position vertically and horizontally in relation to the cave.
Craig-y-Nos Quarry Cave	A plan with cross sections is available and a member has undertaken to make a longitudinal section and complete other information.
Pant Canol and Downie's Caves.	These have been surveyed and the information is to be made available so that they can be added to the survey of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

Cave	Comments
Porth-yr-Ogof	At present only an outline plan exists of part of the cave and this does not show the presence of any water. The grade is not indicated nor are there any sections. A member now has this work in hand.
+Bone Cave and Step Cave+	There is no survey of these caves apart from the area concerned with the archaeological excavations.
+Ogof-y-Cae, Crwbin+	There is a plan but cross sections are needed together with a description and location of the cave.
+Llygad Llwchwr+	A plan exists but the grade and surveyor are not given. There are no details of floors, formations, depth of water, etc. Longitudinal and cross sections, also a description and incorporation of information from cave divers, are needed.
+Pwll Swnd+	A plan exists but this given no indication of the cave. No grade or name of surveyor. Longitudinal and cross sections are needed together with details of floor, location, description, etc.
+Wills Hole+	There is a plan but it needs redrawing. No grade, or floor details given. Needs longitudinal and cross sections.
+Cwm Porth+	A plan was made by The Taylors in 1952. The grade and position are not given. Sections, details of floor etc. and description needed.
+Bridge Cave+	There is a plan but no details of floor, water or grade of survey given. Longitudinal and cross sections are needed.
Hen Coed Cave.	A plan was made by The Taylors in 1952. Unfortunately there is no grade, nature of floor, cross sections or description. This is a pity because the cave no longer exists.
+Old Quarry Pot, Llanrhiddian+	A plan by the Taylors exists but this given no details. Sections, floor details, and description needed.
+Bwa Maen Cave+	A plan exists but there is no information about grade, floors, size of passage, etc. Sections and description wanted.
+Cave near Rhossile, Gower, Ref.21/434864+	A plan without grade, size of passage, etc. Sections and details needed.
Tuhnel Cave	With the exception of the new top entrance, the plan and all sections and descriptions are very complete.

+Agen Allwedd+

The two plans by two parties of surveyors are available. Both of these suffer from a great lack of detail. Cross sections are almost non-existent. There is no longitudinal section or even spot heights so that the depth and relative positions of all parts of this wonderful system are not known. There is no good description of all the passages and chambers. The need for longitudinal sections is considered urgent and when drawn should be related to the surface above. This would be essential for the quick and successful sinking of a rescue shaft: unfortunately a very likely requirement in a system such as this.

Pant Mawr Pot.

Plan, sections and description up to date. Members starting research work on plotting beds, deposits, formations etc.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu

The published plan and sections are now incomplete. New passages beyond Boulder Chamber, Starlight Chamber and near the entrance have been surveyed and work is in hand to bring drawings and descriptions up to date.

C. LEWIS RAILTON.

A BLOW O'ER BLEAKLOW

The Birmingham Cave Rescue Teams first call out came about 8 p.m., Monday 16th March, not for a cave incident but a request for a team to help the search of Bleaklow for a missing scout. The wintry conditions then prevailing obviously made this a mounting matter and for that reason C. L. Railton and I agreed to restrict the call out to personnel most likely to be suitably equipped, and in view of the rendezvous time not to go further South than Birmingham. This change from the planned procedure was for this incident only and is not intended to alter the call out for a Cave Rescue.

The majority of persons asked if they would help did so, even knowing that the chances of finding the scout alive were very slight indeed. After an alpine start, 5 o'clockish for most, the nine who agreed all met before 9 a.m., Tuesday, 17th at Glossop Police Station. They were:-

W. H. Little (Leader) (C & C.C. & S.W.C.C.)
P. Charles (Deputy) (C & C.C.)
T. Oakes.....(C & C.C.)
J. Bevan.....(S.W.C.C.)
R. M. Powell.....(S.W.C.C. & Y.H.A.)
J. Hirons.....(C & C.C. & S.W.C.C.)
M. Hirons.....(C & C.C. & S.W.C.C.)
B. W. Fenn.....(S.W.C.C.)
T. Grohmann.....(S.W.C.C.)

All arrived with adequate or more than adequate food and equipment although only half the party had ice axes.

Shortly after 9 o'clock we were instructed to work with the R.A.F. Leeming Mountain Rescue Team and we followed them in our own cars up to the summit of the Snake Pass, then on foot in a long line behind the M.R. stretcher across the snow covered moorland to the upper reaches of the Alport River. For those unfamiliar with this area, the ground is mostly covered with uneven clumps of grass and that day half concealed with soft snow. Every few yards the route is crossed by "gruffs" steep sided stream courses up to 12 feet deep and partly or wholly filled with snow still drifting in the strong wind. By 10 o'clock the hillsides were dotted with lines of figures moving into positions previously planned by the police.

At times we plunged waist deep in snow as we crossed gruff after gruff and struggled up the crumbling peatbanks with ice axes driven in to their heads. A running jump cleared some but the chill of cold water was felt by several members finding thin ice beneath the snow. However, the freezing wind soon windproofed wet socks with a layer of ice.

A fair pace was set by the "Mountain Rescue" lads and it was decided to send three of our party back who had no axes. They joined another group searching nearer the road. In the valley of the Alport River we smashed the ice, poked every pool and prodded every foot of snow more than ankle deep, slowly we moved downstream in a line down the left bank, in the bed, and up the right bank; the flanks guarded by "walkie-talkie" men. A buzz of talking then orders to stop and gather together again. "They've found him!". "Further up the river", seemed unlikely, another party was still busy prodding snow half a mile above us. "Don't stop them", commented the R.A.F. Sergeant, "This might be a false alarm". An hour later it was found that our radio man had got the wrong map reference but the body had been found nearer to the road after all. We waited for the other parties in our area to start back before retracing our tracks back to the road. A count showed all present and whilst our teetotal members reported our safe return to the police the remainder of us refreshed ourselves in the first pub.

An unexpected task for us outside ordinary caving experience, seriously and competently (in my opinion) carried through by those who did what they felt must be done and that surely goes for the hundreds of other individuals that went and did. But why aren't the climbers organised in teams to do their own work?

BILL LITTLE.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM MEL DAVIES

Since Ian Powell's article on Ogof Coed-y-Creigiau in the March issue of the Newsletter did not include the early history of the cave I am enclosing the story of its discovery. This has not hitherto been published in full, and, by doing so now, confusion in the minds of cavers, present and future, will be avoided.

Ogof Coed-y-Creigiau was opened not "in November last year" by quarrying but by members of the British Nylon Spinners Speleology Section on 8th September, 1963. When found on that date the entrance was completely blocked by quarry debris, but the emergent flow of water suggested the presence of a cave system. The quarry manager was approached but, while giving permission for us to dig, said he did not believe there was a cave present. However, we pulled out some hundredweights of boulders and eventually gained

entry to the stream passage. Another boulder blockage had to be cleared within 20 ft. and the duck reached at about 35 ft. The pool was considered to be only the result of moderate rain on the previous day dammed up by the entrance choke, so we retired to clear the slabs forming the choke. This was largely completed, but as drainage was taking a considerable time, and we had other quarries to call at that day, we did not go back inside.

The find was reported in the Works Newspaper, "Signpost", of 13th September, and the Records Officer will have a copy in his files. An abstract of this is scheduled to appear in Volume 40 of "The British Caver".

Ian's extension demonstrates again how useful quarries can be in revealing new caves, and, in South Wales at least, rarely are the caves so opened completely destroyed by further blasting. Last year B.N.S. members examined 24 individual quarries in the Principality stretching from Cil-yr-Ychen in the West to Coleford in the East. A number of new caves were found, the best being Llanelly quarry pot near Brynmawr. With its 70 ft. pitch this pothole placed South East Wales firmly on the map as "pothole country" and adds to the problems of those geologists who are interested in the origin and development of the Clydach valley.

MELVYN DAVIES.

5. CLUB NEWS

Secretarial Notice

It was with great regret that the committee accepted the resignation of Brian de Graaf, at their last meeting.

Brian and Valerie have edited and produced our club newsletter for the last seven years, and both now feel that the time has come for the office of editor to be handed to someone else. The amount of time, effort and sheer hard work which has been put into the newsletter by Brian and Valerie is really staggering and the club is forever indebted to the de Graafs. I am sure I speak for every single club member when I say 'Thank you' to them both. Now that the printing presses at Llangorse have come to a halt, an ideal opportunity has arisen for all those who moaned and groaned when the newsletter was a little overdue to come forward and help. In future the responsibility for producing the newsletter is to be divided between several people, under the control of the Editor. It will be duplicated at Penwyllt on a weekend set aside for the purpose and ample notice will be given for anyone willing to help. I would be most grateful, therefore, for any offers of help, skilled or unskilled. We are particularly short of people able to type, or with access to a benevolent typist - any offers please?

In the meantime we ask everyone to bear with us patiently during any teething trouble with this new method of newsletter production.

GWYN THOMAS.
HON. SECRETARY.

New Members

We welcome to the club the following new members:-

Miss Laura Stratton, 39 Brynmawr Place, Maesteg, Glamorgan.
Brian Jorgensen, 58 Linden Avenue, West Cross, Swansea, Glamorgan.
Andrew Millward, 179 Grove Rd., Sparkhill, Birmingham 11.
Hywel Ball, 'Bronder', Peniel Gra., Llansamlet, Swansea.

Changes of Addresses

J. Alexander	-	196 High St., Redcar, Yorks.
D. F. Dilly	-	53 Emery St., Walsal, Staffs.
M. Duerden	-	67 Pimlico Rd., London, S.W.1
P. Foreman	-	55 Middleton Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
W. Hughes	-	C/o 16 Greensame Close, Doxey, Staffs.
R. T. Hylton	-	3 Moor View, Newley, Clapham, Lancs.
Dr. J. P. Mathews	-	38 West Cross Lane, Membles, Swansea.
J. K. Platt	-	34 Somerton Drive, Edington, Birmingham 23.
J. F. Roberts	-	C/o Rhidian Roberts, 8 Albany Rd., Blackwood, Mon.
G. Saunders	-	40 Twyn-y-Bedr, Clydach, Swansea.
Mr. & Mrs. G. Tonkin	-	T.S.B. "Premier", Abingdon Rd., Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxon.
Mr. & Mrs. P. Harvey	-	Yacht "Bingara", C/o P.O. Barry Island, Glam.
Jill Upton	-	Dept. of Medical Photography, Prince of Wales Orthopaedic hospital, Rhydlafer, Nr. Cardiff.
G. O. Thomas	-	40 Dan-y-Graig, Pantmawr, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu Leaders List 1964/65

Aslett, E., T.B. Clinic, Courtland Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil.
Andrews, T., 135 Danson Rd., Bexley, Kent.
Ashwell, A., Stanyeld Rd., Trevor Hill, Church Stretton, Salop.
Baglin, C., 8 Archer Rd., Penarth, Glam.
Baguley, F., 15 Elm Grove, Aberdare, Glam.
Ball, K., 'Bronderi', Peniel Green, Llansamlet, Swansea.
Baynton, R., 15 Weig Gardens, Cendros, Swansea.
Bevan, J., 62 The Greenway, Sutton Coldfield, Worcs.
Birchenough, W., Coedmor Farm, Cardigan, Cardiganshire.
Clarke, W., 6 Glynderwen Crescent, Derwen-Fawr, Sketty, Swansea.
Clissold, G., Silhouette Cottage, Staunton, Nr. Coleford, Glos.
Cons, D., 'Haffes', 16 Great Elms, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Coombs, D., 'Brynawelon', Banwen Rd., Glynneath, Glam.
Davies, T., 40 Crompton Rd., Handsworth, Birmingham 20.
Deurdon, M., Joy Cottage, Upper Poppleton, Yorks.
Dilly, N., 3 Balaclava Rd., Bermondsey, S.E.1
Dryden, J., 1 Beaufort East, London Rd., Bath, Somerset.
Evans, G., 25 Wren Rd., Sidcup, Kent.
Fenn, B., 113 Sherwood Rd., Hall Green, Birmingham 28.
Galpin, L., 6 Trinity Rise, Tillington, Stafford.
Galpin, M., " " " "
George, C. Leys Cottage, Llanblethian, Cowbridge, Glam.
de Graaf, B., Neuadd, Llangorse, Brecon.
Gregory, B., 32 The Rise, Llanishen, Cardiff.

Grohman, T., 15 Bourne Close, Kings Heath, Birmingham 14.
Harris, W., Glen View, 17 Ford Rd., Velindre, Port Talbot.
Hartwell, J., Park Cottages, Nutfield, Surrey.
Harvey, J., 4 De-Breos St., Brynmill, Swansea.
Harvey, P. I. W., at present abroad.
Harwood, E., 33 Worcester Rd., Droitwich, Worcs.
Hawes, L., Cribarth Court, Moor Avenue, Fleet, Hants.
Hirons, M., 60 Neville Rd., Erdington, Birmingham 23.
Homes, I., Upleadon, Trumpet, Nr. Ledbury, Herefordshire.
Hughes, W., C/o 16 Greensome Close, Doxey, Staffs.
Hunt, D., 19 Daniel St., Cadoxton, Barry, Glam.
Inson, E., 19 White Barn Rd., Llanishen, Cardiff.
Jenkins, D., Dinmore, Dyffryn Rd., Llandrindod Wells, Rads.
John, B., 12 River View, Gabalfa, Cardiff.
Jones, A., Victoria House, High St., Glynneath, Glam.
Jones, C., 27 South Rd., Sully, Glam.
Jones, E., 159 Kings Rd., Canton, Cardiff.
Jones, N., 4 Heol-y-Felin, Rhwbina, Cardiff.
Jefferson, G. T., 6 Rhwbina Hill, Rhwbina, Cardiff.
Kemp, D., 5 Church Lane, Southwick, Brighton, Sussex.
Little, W., 29 Wrekin Rd., Sutton Coldfield, Warcs.
Lloyd, H., 62 Broniestyn Terrace, Trecynon, Aberdare.
Lloyd, O. C. Withey House, Withey Close West, Bristol 9.
Millet, P., 26 Bacton Rd., Gabalfa, Cardiff.
Morgan, R., 51 Malvern Terrace, Brynmill, Swansea.
Osbourne, J., 34 Haygate Rd., Wellington, Shropshire.
Phillips, S., Balam Hall, Whalton, Morpeth, Northumberland.
Platt, J., Flat 2, 4 The Drive, Hunton Hill, Erdington, Birmingham 23.
Railton, L., 12 Chester Road North, Sutton Coldfield, Warcs.
Roberts, R. D. 26 Wheatley Place, Cefn Forest, Blackwood, Mon.
Round, T., 250 Henwood Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, Staffs.
Saunders, G., 44 Down St., Clydach, Swansea.
Skinner, M., 11 Three Arches Avenue, Llanishen, Cardiff.
Smith, R., Ashleigh, 2 Cambridge Rd., Fulbourne, Cambridge.
Stephens, A., 65 Dan-yr-Graig, Pant Mawr, Cardiff.
Squires, J. 3 Swanborough Corner, Highworth, Wilts.
Thomas, G., 'Greenfield', Heol Sarn, Llantrisant, Glam.
Thomas, G. O., 6 Villiers Rd., Ammanford, Carms.
Williams, A., Botany Dept., University College, Cardiff.
Williams, R., 107 Plymouth Rd., Penarth, Glam.
Woodford, T., 6 Hurst Park Avenue, Cambridge.
Woods, B., 27 Foxley Lane, Purley, Surrey.
Lloyd, N., Barlands Cottage, Bishopston, Swansea, Glam.

Access to Ogof Cil-yr-Ychen

On Saturday, 21st March a party of cavers from Manchester entered Ogof Cil-yr-Ychen in the quarry of that name, without first seeking permission. The quarry manager, Mr. D. L. Evans, was informed of their presence and he went to the quarry with the local Police Constable. A search revealed that the cavers had gone, but a quarry man reported that he had seen the cavers earlier in the day. They told him that permission to enter had been received, but there was, of course, not a word of truth in this statement.

Mr. Evans wishes to point out, once again, that no one is allowed to enter Cil-yr-Ychen without first getting permission from him in writing, and this applies to each visit.

Failure to comply with this rule may result in ALL cavers being banned from the cave.

Applications to enter should be sent to:- The General Manager,
Lime Firms Ltd., Llandybie, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire.

MELVYN DAVIES.

Anemone Passage - An extension to Tunnel Cave

The wet climb up the waterfall in Davey Price's Hall was done first by Bill Clarke soon after the discovery of this cave. After an awkward squeeze at the top of the climb a passage is entered. The right hand comes back to a window at roof level in Davey Price's Hall and the other end closes down to a wet crawl with a squeeze into a boulder choke. This passage had rarely been visited as presumably the wet climb put people off.

I had another look at the place on 30th May and was attracted by the draught and the spaces in the boulder choke. The next day, 31st May, Chalres George and I went there to force this choke. After a careful scrutiny of the calcited blocks ahead and above us, a couple of 'bangs' produced an unmistakable black space above. With some wary dismantling, the remaining obstructing blocks were removed and stowed. We were in a larger ripple marked passage about 15 ft. high x 5 ft. wide. After ascending a pile of large blocks further ahead the size of the passage soon reduced to half these dimensions. Here a wet branch passage on the right soon divides into two passages; one of which has beautiful calcite crystal formations on the floor. We were unable to avoid damaging some of these as we crawled over them before we were stopped by a calcite flow just revealing a narrow vista of 'stals'.

Back at the blocks the first passage continued; neither of us had a compass, but judging from the dip (South) this 'new' part was taking us West and North past innumerable straws, stals, and some very fine crystal pools. One of these with radiating needle crystals resembled a sea anemone. The passage gradually narrows and finally we crawled over blocks into a nasty dripping boulder choke which twice shifted whilst we watched. It consists mainly of small eroded limestone blocks with some gritstone boulders amongst them. This appeared to be the main source of the trickling stream which we had followed more or less from the start. The draught was also in the same direction as the water (hot day outside). Returning a little way we climbed a 20 ft. dripping aven but no passage was visible.

Altogether some 300 ft. of passage was found, much of it worth preserving. Any intending explorers must be prepared to climb over the anemone and other crystal formations without damaging them or not go beyond that point.

Twisted mythologists will realise that Zod for once was not watching and due tribute must be paid to Aeolus, the Wind God, who might get nasty if some careless nit should tread upon Anemone the Daughter of the Wind.

BILL LITTLE

AN APPEAL BY THE TACKLE OFFICER.

I wish to make an appeal under various headings below, to all members of the Club and to non-members who may read the newsletters or use the equipment. Whilst there is only one Tackle Officer, all members are his assistants, and for many there is no need to make this appeal, but for others, I hope it will be a gentle hint.

I have spent quite a bit of time and effort overhauling the equipment and tidying up the workshop both prior to and since being elected. I have done the same as if it were my own, and I have still a lot more to do to bring things up to scratch. The increase in the number of rescues recently only goes to show the need to have everything in good state of readiness. (I am keeping a spare set of caving equipment, clothes, ropes, lights, etc in readiness at home or in the car so that I shall always be ready for a rescue without fail or loss of time.)

After this brief preamble through the entrance series? I come to the squeezes, they should not be too tight, though they might scratch some a little.

1. Tackle is kept in No. 3 cottage. Hauling ropes, spades, pulleys, shovels, crowbars, trenching tools, trowels, hammers etc are kept in the front room downstairs. Special equipment- ladders, drills, lifelines if any, surveying equipment etc are kept in the front room upstairs away from the heavy loose digging tools to prevent damage. The backroom downstairs is for the boffins- it contains the benches and charging equipment and benches and a scarcity of tools at present. The backroom upstairs- the security block, is the rescue room and is normally locked.

A tackle register, to be improved upon later, is being kept in the front room downstairs, and all tackle taken out should be entered therein with the date, items, where to, by whom, for how long, with a note made when it is returned, with if possible any remarks on damage or loss etc. This is not intended for the purpose of assessing any blame or suchlike, but to ensure the safety of equipment, especially ropes and ladders, and to enable ~~repairs~~ repairs or replacements to be attended to soon.

One ladder was recently returned from Pant Mawr with a ~~br~~ broken top rung, on which a karabiner had been used to tether it. We might have had another rescue yet! It required some ingenuity and effort on my part to replace it without shortening the ladder. But it only emphasises the need to ask that this equipment is used carefully and correctly. The tails or a wire tether should be used in this case. If you do not know, then please ask. Those who have had to purchase materials, design the parts and the jigs and assemble the laddering really appreciate the cost, time and effort that has to be put into their manufacture and testing to secure a foolproof product.

When returning equipment, please clean or wash it. Ropes and ladders can be washed under the outside tap or in the rainwater tank between No. 2 and No. 3 by dunking and then swinging to remove the excess water, and then hang up to drain outside, or in the porch of No. 3, and finally put back in the particular room.

Please do not leave Club equipment in digs or caves, save when you know that you know that another party will need to use the equipment to get out after you have left. This would not of course apply to heavy lifting gear etc erected and left in place



for future operations in extensive digs.

2. Much work is being done in No.1 and No.3 workshops. We are very lucky to have the accomodation we have due to the foresight and drive of the few. Why have workshops? This is a far cry from caving. We need workshops to carry out the necessary maintenance repair and manufacture of tools and equipment for caving, and for the cottages in general. No.1 is being used exclusively for the Yugoslavain venture, and No.3 for all other work. The work that is being done for the ~~few~~ majority by the few is as yet unrecorded but this should not be so. We are very fortunate to have a fine nucleus of chaps, specialist enthusiasts, capable of tackling most types of jobs, devising schemes, making gadgets (see C.R.G. publication on practical aids to caving.) We have even got a forger now (don't get me wrong, he's done nothing illegal that I know about-yet,) capable of making forgeries- sorry, forgings and castings. Casting an 18" diam. aluminium pulley with the main supply off which operated the blower for the forge was no mean achievement. The look of joy on B.B.'s (male variety) was wondrous to behold. Even a professional forger who just arrived at the crucial moment had to hand it to us -after it had cooled, of course!

The battery chargers in No.3 have been re-installed to give more room for charging batteries. Please use that bench only for your batteries, and the shelf underneath for the attachments. This will leave the main benches free for working etc. I would suggest that labels are used to mark your batteries with your name and the time for ~~charging~~ charging, the labels are provided. (Two batteries disappeared recently belonging to Andy and John Harvey.)

If you do enjoy using the workshops and the facilities, then please leave them in the state you would like to find them in the next time you'd like to use them. The same applies to the other cottages, especially the kitchens and dining room. Any offers of help at any time would be greatly appreciated in respect of the workshops and other cottages and frontages. Don't leave it to the few, its your Club, help it, help yourselves and help others as much as you can, you can still have time to enjoy a spot of caving. The boys are doing a fine job of work-and the girls too, good for morale or is it moral?!

3. A certain amount of equipment that I know was present before I took over, is now not present and is not recorded as being out. Would any members who have any club equipment out at home or in digs (caving type) please notify me what they hold, and return same as soon as is convenient. There is going to be a heavy demand for equipment this year, and it is also necessary to keep some in hand in case of a rescue. This will result in a relative shortage for normal demands, so it all the more important not to have equipment out on long lease for too long. It will also help me to make a complete list of all the equipment we hold.

4. This brings me to the rescue equipment, and in this respect the two officers work in close liaison. At a rescue, what goes in must come out, or should do so within a reasonable time. This equipment has to be kept up to scratch and at the ready. The main trouble in the past is that items have been lost or left or delayed in return, the general impression being that once the rescue is over i.e. the rescued is safely out, that is the end of the operation. It is only the beginning of the end. It is often left to tailenders to bring everything out, and very

often they are pretty tired and thereby prone to accidents. The packages accumulate, especially telephone reels of wire, as they are being wound up. Extra help is needed to bring it all out, wash and clean and dry it and finally check it and put it back in the Rescue room in readiness for the next rescue, and who knows, it might be you who requires it. Please don't think very complacently 'It can't be me', it has been happening all too frequently recently to treat it lightly. At present the whole set-up is being revised and improved and you will be hearing about it soon. There have been five rescues in the past four months (fortunately not involving club members) and that is very exceptional for this area. It has entailed club members and the Club itself in quite a bit of time, effort and money. The rescue equipment is being constantly added to and improved upon, Bill Little would appreciate any help in this direction also. There's a lot to be done yet to get a fully efficient operational service.

5. Apart from the appeals for offers of help, I would appreciate any offers of equipment or tools for caving or the workshops, or for rescue; fittings, materials, nuts bolts washers etc, or just plain suggestions, but keep them clean, if you have nothing concrete to offer. We do not mind how you obtain the items, - beg borrow, purloin, pinch, scrounge or just win. Small items like a lathe ($3\frac{1}{2}$ ' or over), drilling machine, flypress, welding kit, petrol engines, electric motors would not be frowned upon. With a motto like 'Be adept, adopt and adapt' or in plain language 'Be clever pinch and alter' we should go a long way over the moor, where we have plenty of hideouts. Just mention the item and we will tell you if we can utilise it. It all helps the kitty. But not scrap.

To summarise:- equipment costs money, to obtain and maintain, so please help all you can towards this end, and report any damage to myself or any officer or committee member or make a note of it into the tackle book or on the notice board. I just cannot be present every weekend. Your help, cooperation advice and criticism will always be welcome, but it should be constructive and not destructive criticism. We can all learn and listen to advice. (Don't forget the old idea in the officers' mess, the one who complains the most, finishes up as the Mess Secretary, and serve him jolly well right!).

I know I can depend upon you all to help. Thank you, and good safe caving to you all.

P.S. I hope the Editor forgives my effort at typing & duplicating. It's a small contribution to his appeal at the A.G.M. Errors and omissions excepted! Just ignore them, only.

Frank Baguley. Tackle Boss.