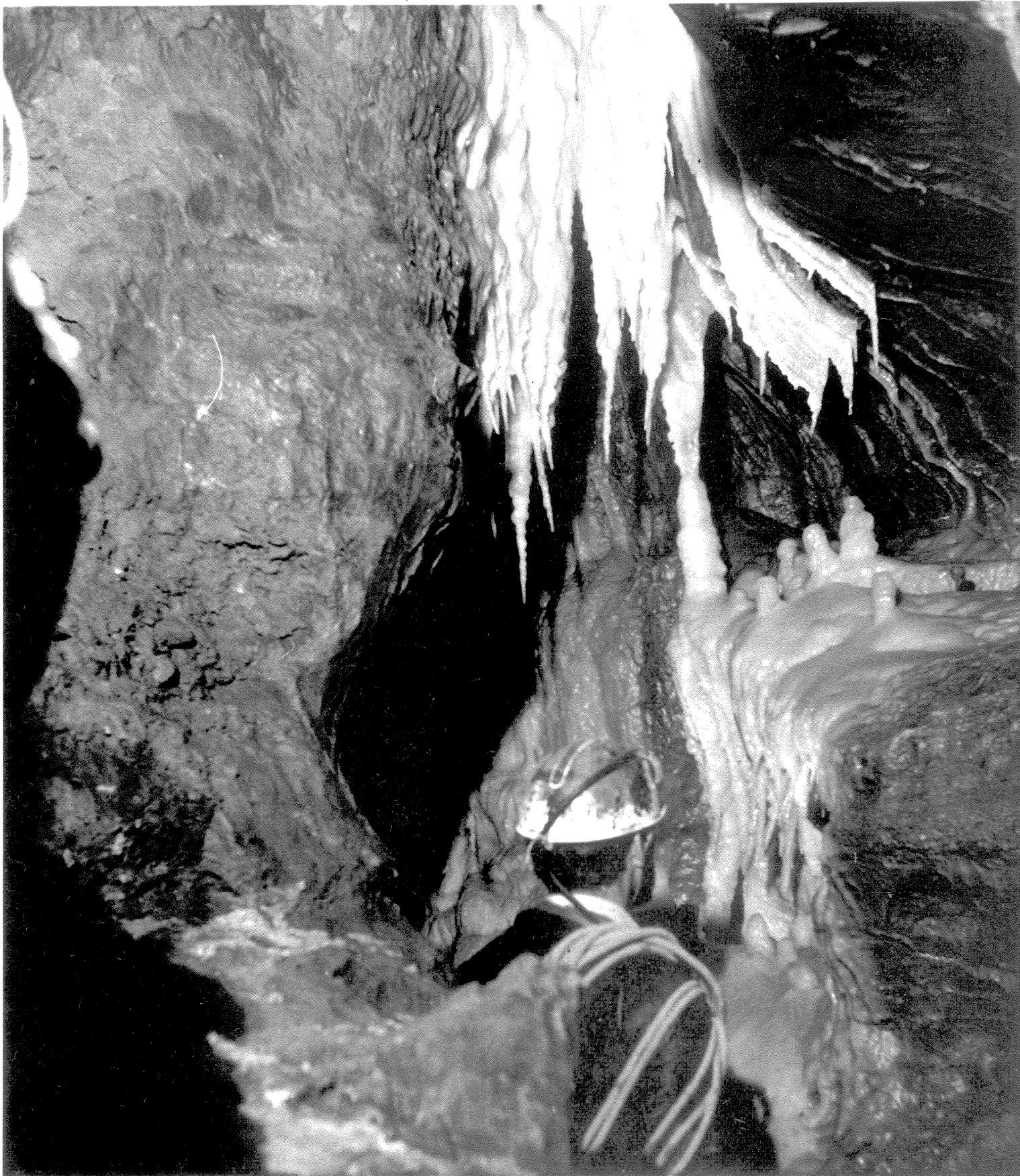


**SOUTH WALES
CAVING CLUB**

NEWSLETTER



CONTENTS

1.	FROM THE LOGBOOK.....	page 1
2.	HOSPITAL CAVE - THE END OF A SAGA (C.M.FAIRBAIRN)	page 2
3.	POSSIBILITIES IN DAN-YR-OGOF, PART III..... (A.COASE)	page 4
4.	OGOF MORFRAN..... (M.DAVIES)	page 6
5.	DRAETHEN LEAD MINES..... (M.DAVIES)	page 7
6.	SOME NOTES ON FIRST AID..... (C.RYAN)	page 8
7.	REVIEWS.....	page 12
8.	A CAVING COUNCIL FOR WALES.....	page 13
9.	AGM 1969.....	page 15
10.	CLUB NEWS.....	page 25

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NEWSLETTER FREE TO MEMBERS - 4s. for outside subscription

COVER PHOTO: Formations in Swamp Greek, OFD II (P.M.O'REILLY)

(Due to circumstances beyond control the final Gower Hydrology article has been held over for the next issue).

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

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1. FROM THE LOGBOOK

Apart from the dive in Hospital Cave reported elsewhere in this issue, there has been little hard caving done in the area for the last few months. Some of the miners have been particularly active, however, and it is reported that an exceptionally fine through-trip was done in a mine in North Wales. The trip took the participants through seven miles of wet passages (floating on old car tyres) and lasted for only 3½ hours. On the same weekend (at the beginning of February) heavy snow fell over the mountains and many members took the opportunity to take to the hills - the weather was brilliant and walking good.

A non member took several people to visit a new cave, Ogof Gynnes, situated on the moors about 1¼ miles west of Blaen Onnan. The entrance is in a grit shakehole near an old iron water pipe. The entrance is small and leads to the top of a series of muddy passages totalling some 2500 feet. Side passages either narrow into rifts which drop away or end in boulders. There are several reasonable digging spots, and we hope to hear more about the cave soon.

Nearer home, Bruce Foster and some others noticed a cave in Cwmdwr Quarry beyond Cwmdwr itself - although it looks as if it has been open for some time, it was not reported in any literature! Bill Little thinks that it may be Cwmdwr I (see 21st Anniversary Publication). It looks as if a relatively recent fall has reopened the entrance, and prospects of extending it further would involve digging in the choke at the end or some tubes on one side. Cwmdwr itself was almost blocked by a large boulder that fell from the cliff face but the obstruction has since been removed. John Osborne has been carrying out some radio tests in Cwmdwr Jama recently.

In OFD II few new discoveries have been made, but the survey is progressing slowly. One outstanding short length of passageway located near the crevasse has a very fine collection of helictites and even horizontal straws!

In Dan-yr-Ogof divers have been busy, and the Rising was dived. The sump is 20' wide at the entrance and widens out. After 80' an air bell was found, but sand and signalling confusion caused the divers to return to base - after this visibility was too poor to attempt another dive. On the same occasion, the entrance pool in Mazeways was examined, but although a passage was found poor visibility hampered activity. As well as this the river cave sump has been dived with no results.

The divers also visited Cwm-Pwll-y-Rhyd and examined some passages there, but they appear to be blocked with flood debris.

2. HOSPITAL CAVE - THE END OF A SAGA

Hospital Cave is a resurgence cave situated opposite the hospital at Craig-y-nos about half a mile south of Dan-yr-Ogof cave entrance. The 600 ft. of dry entrance passage ends in a small sump from which the stream appears.

Over the past two years several diving trips have been made which have pushed the known cave further and further into the heart of Cribarth.

The first sump was passed early in 1967 by Terry Moon (now married), John Osborne and Mike Coburn. This sump is entered over a sandbar through a squeeze about 18 in. high and then opens out until dry cave is reached after 50 ft. After another 60 ft. the stream sumps again but this is bypassed by a sandy squeeze and a slippery slope which leads straight into the next sump. Some 300 ft. of phreatic passage was explored between these two sumps.

In November 1967 the first sump was passed by Bruce Foster and Rod Stewart. Rod then dived the next sump which was about 100 ft. long and constricted in a couple of places. The passage then rises steeply with two waterfalls of 4 ft. and 10 ft. until after 80 ft. the third sump is reached.

In March 1968 Rod, Charles George, Colin Graham and John Osborne all passed the two sumps and Rod dived the third. This was some 80 ft. long and led into a large dry chamber about 60 ft. long and 40 ft. wide with some small passages in the roof. The other divers followed through and were stopped by a fourth sump a 100 ft. past the chamber. As a matter of interest the dip of the rock around this chamber is about 40 degrees.

Interest in the cave lapsed until November 1968 when smooth talking John Osborne whipped up enough enthusiasm among the divers for another attempt. Bruce Foster, Bob Saunders and Colin Fairbairn kitted up for the dive but the first two had trouble with their valves and the dive was abandoned. Later that night John Osborne and Colin Fairbairn dived through to the mythical fourth sump to find out it was only a duck. This was followed after about 80 ft. by three sumps, which ranged from 40 ft. to 15 ft. in length, then a duck and another sump (sump seven). The interconnecting passages were small and involved crawling in 1 foot of water. Above sump 7 there are two avens one of which was climbed and ended in boulders. On this trip a compass was taken and the general direction of the cave appeared to be between south west and west.

In January 1969 Bob Saunders, Mike Coburn and Colin Fairbairn returned to the scene. The other aven above sump 7 was climbed and followed for 30 ft. back towards sump 6 until it got too small. Sump 7 was then dived and found

to be 50 ft. long. The "dry" passage entered was about 15 inches high with about 4 inches air space and the cylinders had to be pushed along in front whilst breathing through the valve. After 30 ft. a small chamber was reached and the stream cascaded into this from a rectangular passage about 4 ft. by 2 ft. Hopes rose high until 15 ft. around the corner a boulder choke was reached. After ten minutes futile hammering at the boulders the divers returned.

In February Bob Saunders and Colin Fairbairn returned armed with a lump hammer and crowbar. After half an hour's work the choke yielded another 10 ft. of passage until another choke was reached. This choke is considered impenetrable unless an underwater Clive Jones can be found to haul in railway sleepers. The divers returned disconsolate but happy in the thought that they would never have to drag their kit through that miserable, cold place again.

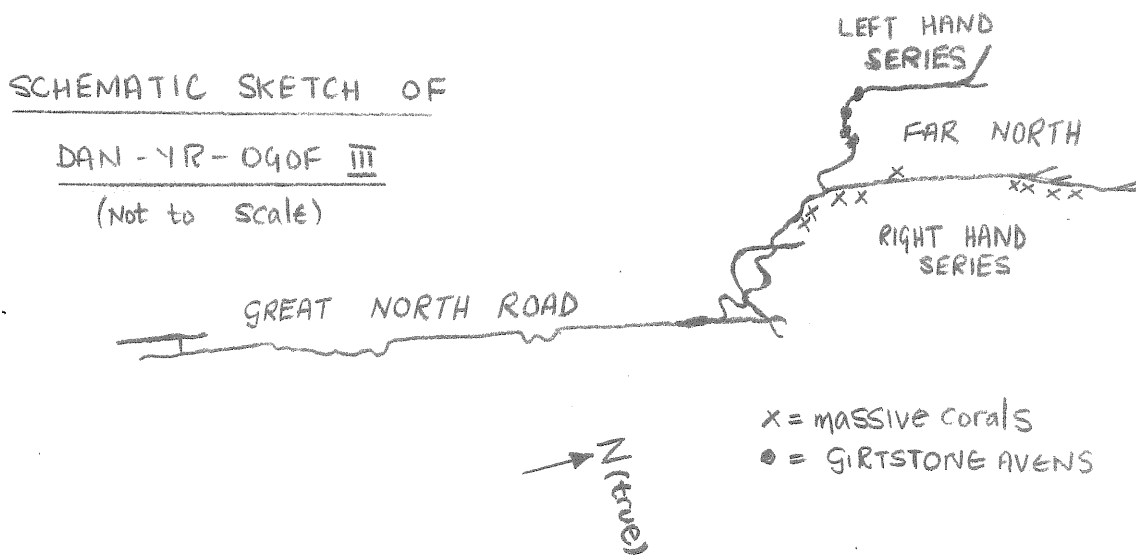
There endeth the saga.

Thanks must be extended to the hospital authorities who gave permission for this exploration to be carried out.

C.M. FAIRBAIRN.

3. POSSIBILITIES IN DAN YR OQOF PART III

As was anticipated, and is likely to prove true of the whole system, DYO III is now beginning to reveal its complexities and branches. While the high level secrets of much of the fault-orientated Great North Road remain untouched, surveying and exploration from the Pinnacle onwards has been far more successful. Again, time, distance, weather and distractions both inside and outside the cave may be used to explain the comparative lack of activity in these vast and important parts of the system. For example, very little has been done in Pinnacle Series discovered during the Easter camp last year and so far no success has been achieved in the Girtstone Avens in the Far North. However significant facts have arisen from the Easter surveying and water tracing and from geological observations in the Far North.



The survey, a diagrammatic sketch is included here, indicates that the remarkably straight main passages, i.e. the Right Hand as well the Left Hand Series and also the Great North Road, are orientated a few degrees East of north in almost perfect parallels. They are connected by a meandering passage whose overall trend is little short of right angles to them. Whether this is purely a response to dip or whether it has developed along a cross fault is as yet hard to determine. However, amongst other points of significance is the fact that it is in the far smaller Right Hand Series that one can progress farthest to the north. The terminal point in that passage is a small choke with a half choked pot in the floor. While progress via this must be viewed pessimistically, odd things can happen in pots (!) as the discoverers of Starlight Chamber no doubt recall.

Also significant but a little confusing is the fact that the Right Hand series is formed within massive coral beds. These beds (of Lithostrotion Martinii) are exposed magnificently in the river cave 9 (i.e. in the resurgence) where they are believed to lie some 40 feet above the base of the main (S2) limestone. A major surface outcrop exists just to the north west of Waen Fignen Felin bog revealed no doubt by the faulting to which the bog is believed to owe its origin. The same beds also form the base of the last pitch in Pwll Dwn at a depth of approximately 300 feet, which according to some estimates is the depth of the Right Hand Series. Certainly the distance of the latter beyond Pwll Dwn is not very great, there being some 800 to 1200 yards to West Fignen Felin from the furthest known point. The existence of extensive faulting in the area causes difficulty when using lithological means to confirm depths. It also encourages pessimism when confronted with huge and solid looking chokes, as at the end of the Great Hall.

However chokes and other obstacles have already been overcome by climbing in Dan yr Ogof III and the Girtstone Avens certainly offer a worthy challenge to the climbers among us. It is worth adding here a note about these avens. If they are, as I am inclined to believe, "pirates" invading an existing system it is logical to expect them to have originated at a small sink. This may well have originated at the present or one time junction of the grit and limestone. Without delving too deeply into the matter, or relating the somewhat different Pwll Dwn to it, it is worth noting that a large number of such avens do exist in similar locations, and that in the approximate position of the Far North (i.e. a little east of Castell-y-Geifr) several active sinks are known. Spasmodic digging has been carried on in several of them, notably in one which is directly on the junction of the grit and limestone, and which drains a succession of solution hollows and a small bog which has formed on a bench in the grit.

Apart from the avens what prospects are there underground in DY0 III?. In a system as large and endless as these they are of course endless, but the pattern of parallel passages and abrupt endings is in itself interesting. If as seems likely tear faulting has been important, large passages may be found again beyond comparatively tight rift sections. Certainly Pinnacle series, the virtually unexplored complex (complete with its own avens!) lying at the head of the Great North Road, cries out for detailed examination. The passage of fluorescein from an active sink on the North West side of Waen Fignen Felin into a sump in Dalis Delight without its passing through any of the marked streams in III should also encourage a search for an unknown series somewhere paralleling III.

To sum up then one starts looking at III as one started looking at the whole system. Clearly there was something big there, but to all intents and purposes it should have been fairly simple. Our explorations, surveys, water tracing and analysis clearly show that we are right in our first assessment, it is big, but it is also very complex. To predict that the Far North has some connection with Waen Fignen Felin would be a truism, but to pin all one's hopes on one sink might be fruitless.

ALAN COASE
(Feb. 1969)

4. OGOF MORFRAN - A NEW PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

On 16th February 1969 a new cave archaeological site was discovered on the Pembrokeshire coast by 2 members of the Cwmbran Caving Club and myself. The 3 of us were continuing the methodical search for new caves which began with the finding of Ogor Gofan in September last year. The new cave has been named Ogor Morfran (Cormorant Cave), and it lies about 1 mile westwards along the cliffs from Ogor Gofan.

It is possible to reach the cave at low water of spring tides by traversing along ledges at sea level from a small inlet. This route is slippery due to sea-weed, and dangerous because of the paucity of footholds over deep water. It is only open for a short time at low tide. The cave ascends up-dip from this entrance with several openings to seaward and vertically downwards to sea level, but this section is bare of cave fill. Finally the passage opens through a small bedding-plane into the back of a rock shelter 30 ft. long, 10 ft. deep, and over 6 ft. high in places. This is where all the finds were made. Fronting the shelter is a wide, safe ledge which continues westwards to end abruptly in a sheer drop to the sea. The best access is by a 40 ft. ladder and 20 ft. free-climb down the vertical cliff face to this ledge.

We examined the floor of the rock shelter very carefully because it faces south and suggested occupation in ancient times when the ledge probably continued to the cliff top.

Lightly cemented in stalagmite together with small, angular fragments of limestone in a slope against the rear wall of the shelter, and 1 ft. above floor level, we found a fragment of pottery. This measures 4.5 x 3.4 cm and was tentatively identified as Samian ware. Dr. H.N. Savory of the National Museum of Wales has since confirmed this and classified it as second century, Dragendorff Form 37. The floor of the shelter is mostly covered with limestone blocks resulting from cavern breakdown, and these were cleared away from a small area. On the surface underneath was a piece of coarse-grained sandstone, straw-yellow in colour, measuring 8.8 cm long, 2.9 cm thick, 6.7 cm wide at one end tapering to about 3.2 cm at the other end. One face is curved but the other is quite flat. Some of the quartz particles are as much as 0.25 cm square. The implement seems to have been used for grinding and may be part of a saddle quern.

To determine whether there were deposits beneath the surface, a small hole about 1 ft. across was excavated. Within a depth of 9 inches this yielded several bone fragments, a tooth, and a fragment of flint measuring 1 x 0.4 x 0.3 cm. These finds were enough to prove that the site was of considerable archaeological interest, and comparable with Ogor Gofan, and it was not disturbed further. Photographs were taken showing the position of the pottery, and the general layout of the rock shelter.

Work is continuing with the search for coastal caves in co-operation with Mr. R.A. Kennedy, Curator of Pembroke County Museum, permission being obtained from the Army authorities who control access.

MELVYN DAVIES

19TH FEBRUARY, 1969.

5. DRAETHEN WOOD LEAD MINES, GLAMORGANSHIRE

Draethen Wood in south-east Glamorganshire contains a series of lead mines in an outcrop of carboniferous limestone which were worked in Roman times. The area is now controlled by the Forestry Commission, and they have become increasingly concerned about the open shafts, and the danger to walkers and inexperienced cavers.

On 12th January a meeting was held on the site with the Forester, and John Osborne, Secretary of the South Wales Caving Club, Roger Smith, Chairman of the club, Dr. Jefferson, Chairman of the club's scientific committee, Norman Tuck, discoverer of 'Roman Mine' in the wood in 1965 and myself, who was in on the first recorded exploration of Draethen lead mine in 1957. It was intended to examine every shaft, and advise the Commission on preservation, access and safety.

The 120 ft. shaft at the head of Cwm Leyshon (ST 211.871) was entered via the adit which opens about 50 yards away. The pool and loose roof at the end of the adit block access to the workings that can be seen beyond the great shaft, but mechanical aids will be used to overcome these difficulties in the near future. Meanwhile the Commission will be asked to block up the shaft with debris so as to make access difficult, but not impossible to the experienced caver who is prepared to remove a dry stone wall, and re-erect it on leaving. The shaft itself is surrounded by barbed wire, but this is to be strengthened.

Draethen lead mine is something of a pothole which attracts cavers in the area with its 45 ft. shaft, and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of galleries at ST 214.876. The wire fence around it will have a stile or gate for access fitted, but cavers are asked not to damage the mine in any way. It contains remnants of 18th, 19th century, and earlier workings. Explorers should not pull down walls in the mine, or interfere with timbers, cave pearls or piles of ore.

Roman Mine is situated further east on the ore vein, and is already gated, the key being held by the Commission. Norman Tuck has found Roman coins, pottery, and a Viking-type bone comb in this mine, and excavation is not complete. Being small, the mine is of no interest to the sporting caver, and access will probably be denied to those applying without archaeological intent. Most of the finds have been made on the floor of the main gallery, and what is left is very vulnerable. There are difficulties in getting in archaeologists who may be well qualified in their own subject, but are loth to pursue it where the roof is only a foot above a muddy floor.

Other shafts in the area are shallow and may only be trial pits. Some of these may be filled in. Gates on roadways through the wood are locked, but a key can be borrowed from the Forester. The Commission should always be asked for permission to enter the wood and explore the mines, and people are warned that they explore at their own risk.

MELVYN DAVIES

CWMBRAN, 14.1.1969.

6. SOME NOTES ON FIRST AID

As interest in caving gathers momentum and becomes increasingly more popular every year, like most outdoor sports demanding great physical and mental stamina, it is a sport not without it's share of accidents.

Despite all precautions, accidents do inevitably happen to novices and experienced cavers alike. When a situation arises in which a member of the party is injured there is in most cases a long delay before help may arrive, it is in these few vital hours that every second ticking away could mean life or death. An elementary knowledge of first aid would be invaluable in such cases, especially when a rescue is going to be a long and difficult operation.

In minor accidents when it can be seen that the casualty is not seriously injured move him to a place of safety, away from draughts and falling water. Keep him warm and comfortable, loosen any tight clothing from around the neck and waist. **WARNING!!** Do not warm the casualty too quickly, as in severe cases of exposure, as this may precipitate a flow of "core" blood to the surface with possibly fatal results. Reassure the injured person that he will be alright, this will help greatly if he is suffering from shock.

If the person's injuries are so serious that he cannot be moved without the aid of a stretcher, examine the casualty closely and ascertain whether:-

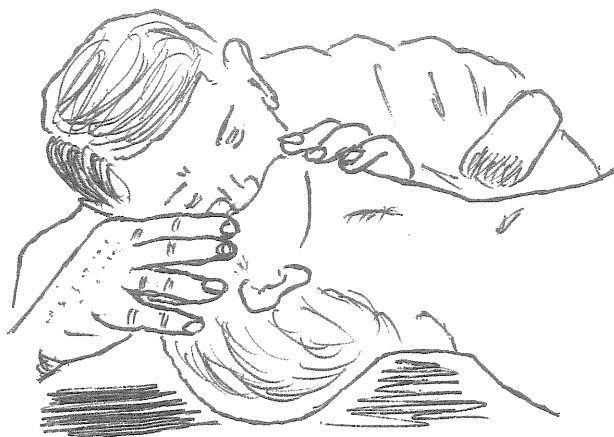
1. He is breathing
2. If he is bleeding (internally as well as externally)
3. If he has any fractures.

BREATHING

If breathing has ceased, give artificial respiration immediately.

"Mouth to Mouth" Method

1. Lay the person on his back after first checking that nothing is obstructing the airway e.g. tongue, dentures, etc.
2. Tilt the head well back, pinch the nostrils together with the fingers.
3. Take a deep breath.
4. Seal your lips around the person's mouth, breath into the lungs until they are filled.
5. Watch the chest rise, remove your mouth and again watch the chest deflate.
6. Repeat the above procedure about 15 times per minute.



BLEEDING

Minor bleeding can be controlled by applying a firm bandage or dressing, or by elevating the affected part. In cases of severe external bleeding such as an artery (blood bright red in colour) apply a soft thick pad over the wound, securing this with a bandage. If the bleeding continues do not disturb the original dressing, but add more dressings and pads of bandage. NEVER APPLY TOURNIQUETS unless you are medically qualified. Haemorrhage must be regarded as a serious condition, and if it is not dealt with immediately the severe loss of blood may cause death within minutes unless help is forthcoming. The symptoms of internal bleeding are usually:

light-headedness

pale complexion

a feeling of cold and increased pulse
and breathing rates.

Keep the person at absolute rest, loosen any tight clothing such as belts etc. Reassure the casualty and explain the necessity to both relax mentally and physically. If an internal injury is suspected on no account give anything to eat or drink, as the person may have to undergo an operation after rescue. In cases in which the casualty has lost a large quantity of blood, and obviously requires a blood transfusion, no time should be lost. Messengers should be sent quickly and safely to the surface to notify the appropriate authorities. They should state:

Where in the system the accident occurred

Time of the accident

Nature of injuries.

Number of persons still below ground

FRACTURES

The great majority of injuries encountered whilst underground are more or less the direct cause of fractures. A bonemay have been fractured in a fall and can cause bleeding into the surrounding tissues, complicating the injury.

If injuries to the spine are suspected the person should on no account be moved until a stretcher and proper medical help arrives. If, however, he has to be moved from a place of danger, great care should be taken and plenty of help needed. The injured person should be carefully turned, face down and lifted very very gently so as not to bend the spine. When he is lowered on to a stretcher his feet must rest over the edge to keep his body as straight as possible. If the injured person is conscious severe pain can be felt at the site of the injury. This is aggravated by movement. A fracture can be detected by the following signs:

Deformity

Swelling and bruising of the surrounding tissues

Alteration of Curvature

Shortening of the limb caused by a spasm of the muscles

Shock

If in doubt it should be treated as a fracture. Before moving the casualty immobilise the fracture by using - slings, bandages (if available) and the fractured limb should be splinted to the uninjured limb with plenty of padding. Unless a member of the party is skilled in first aid the application of splints should be left alone.

SHOCKS & EXPOSURE

Shock accompanies most injuries whether mild or severe. The general principles are the same as those for minor injuries namely, keep the patient warm and comfortable and allay the injured person's anxiety. In severe shock as from a serious injury such as arterial bleeding, the injury can be treated but shock can accelerate the flow of blood from the system.

Shock combined with the effects of cold results in exposure. The effect of exposure is insidious and may go unnoticed for some time. The symptoms vary considerably, a person suffering from exposure becomes incoherent, unreasonable behaviour or irritability, shivering and giddiness. The person eventually tends to become sleepy and this must be prevented at all costs by keeping the patient awake and cheered by reassurance. Exposure or Hypothermia is a dangerous lowering of the body temperature. The casualty is deathly cold to touch, the pulse slow, weak or imperceptible and the breathing slow and shallow. The vital organs cease to function and eventually death occurs.

It cannot be stressed too often that to give medical assistance requires both knowledge and practical training, but I hope that the information condensed in the above article will be of use if ever the situation arises.

C. RYAN

6TH FEBRUARY 1969.

7. REVIEWS

(a) UBSS Jubilee Proceedings 1919 - 1969 price 20/-

(b) The Caves of NW Clare E.K. Tratman published by Dicken & Charles,
price 5 gns.

It is interesting to read the history of another big Caving Club and to compare it with our own. The differences between the UBSS's Jubilee proceedings and our own 21st Anniversary Publication are similar to the differences between chalk and cheese, and perhaps reflect on the differing attitudes of the Clubs - whereas UBSS always manage to publish a very "polished" Journal, our own has always had that touch of Heath-Robinson about it. The Jubilee issue is a very fine publication and makes good (if stodgy) reading. I particularly like the old photographs and the interesting titbits of life in early Mendip caving days.

Apart from the historical aspect, the book contains several fine articles on Archaeology, Ceomorphology of Central Mendips as well as a nicely-produced revised survey of G.B. Cave.

Altogether a good publication and a worthwhile addition to a general caving library.

Complementing the Proceedings is an extremely well produced and edited book, written entirely by members of UBSS, on "the caves of Northwest Clare, Ireland". It runs to over 250 pages, 32 pages of plates and 55 figures, which include area maps on 21 surveys of caves. If you intend caving in Clare, this is an invaluable text book; it leaves the reader in no doubt as to the value of the work that UBSS have done in the past 23 years.

Ever since UBSS dealt a blow to our prestige by discovering the Little Neath River Cave almost on our own back doorstep, there has been an undercurrent of rivalry between the two clubs and two references to South Wales cannot go unmentioned. The first is in the Proceedings where the rather surprising tale is told of how in 1946 UBSS "took part in the discovery of Ogof Ffynnon Ddu"... I am assured that there is no truth in the claim by the Russians that they, too, had a hand in the discovery ... Professor Tratmann also lays himself open to a charge of "sour grapes" on his only reference to the Club. Referring to the trip when Bill Little and others managed to connect Polleiva with Pollnagollum he says:

"In 1965 the South Wales Caving Club members dug a way through and made the way passable. They called the passage 'Merthyr Vale', a not altogether happy choice of name for 10 ft. of an Irish Cave passage".

Perhaps I can assure the author that in Wales mining terms come very naturally to mind when excavating passages, and Merthyr Vale conjures up

pictures of anything but the happy vale that seems to visualise.
In fact, for the situation of the connecting passage, it seems an ideal name!

P.O'R.

8. A CAVING COUNCIL FOR WALES

On January 25th last the fifth meeting of the Cambrian Caving Conference was held at Penwyllt to discuss a proposal that the Clubs with interests in Wales should form a regional council to collate the views of its members and be able to work towards closer co-operation between all caving bodies.

At this meeting eighteen bodies were represented and after detailed and very open discussions it was agreed that the Conference should be reformed as the Cambrian Caving Council (Cyngor Ogofeydd Cwmreig) and a constitution has been compiled and agreed.

The objects of the Council are to encourage co-operation between Clubs and to foster relations with landowners. Its work should benefit Clubs by supporting them in negotiations and in its encouragement of the recording of sites of speleological interest.

A respect for the autonomy and independence of action of all caving Clubs is built into the constitution as is the accepted right of landowners to decide how access is to be allowed.

In fact a study of the constitution shows that the Council is designed to assist Clubs where this is wanted but it cannot interfere with their independence.

Membership of the Council is open to any Club having a major interest in Wales.

The SWCC Committee have considered carefully all the moves towards the new Council and now it is formed we have seen with pleasure that our interests coincide with those Clubs represented at the January meeting. We have joined the new body and will look forward to playing a part in developments now taking place in the caving world.

The new Council now has a basis and declared interests but at its meeting on May 3rd it will decide its duties and begin to work for its members. At this meeting it will consider its recommendations for a constitution for the National Caving Association and its policy regarding this body. The Club can therefore also express its views through the Council.

However it is pleasing that the secretaries of the Councils, at their meeting in Duxton in March, have suggested some desirable aims and limitations as a framework for the constitution. From this it can be seen that the rights of every caving organisation are to be preserved and their independence maintained. These basic principles are proposed.

Aims

1. To foster the sport of caving and the scientific study of caves.
2. To support the constituent bodies in ensuring and maintaining access to caves in accordance with regional practice.
3. To support cave conservation through the constituent bodies.
4. To promote the exchange of information between cavers.
5. To make contact with other national bodies; to provide information on behalf of its constituent bodies.

Limitations

1. The Association shall not interfere in any way with the affairs of its constituent bodies or their members.
2. The Association shall not arbitrate between caving organisations or between cavers.
3. The Association shall not be called upon by the National Sports Council or any other body to assess the merits of caving organisations or their projects.

These are important developments in caving and the Club have ensured that we shall have the opportunity to play our part.

J.V. OSBORNE

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

EASTER 1969

The Club's AGM was held in Abercrave this year.

The following reports are included:

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Equipment Officers Report
4. Cave Rescue Organiser's Report

Election of Officers and Committee for 1969 - 1970

PRESIDENT	C.L. Railton
VICE PRESIDENTS	Mr.D.W. Jenkins Dr. D.A. Bassett Mr. L. Hawes Miss M. Hazelton
CHAIRMAN	Mr. R. Smith
HON. MEMBERS	Mr. & Mrs.J. Barrows, A.J.R. Hudson, G. Platten, C. Powell, Mrs. G. Price, Dr. North, C. Freeman, Mr.P. Harvey, Mrs. P. Harvey, Dr. A.C.Price, Z.Pepionic, Dr. E. Aslett, Brig. E.A. Glennie.
HON. SECRETARY	Mary Galpin
HON. TREASURER	Eric Inson
HON. EDITOR	Richard Arculus
HON. RECORDS OFFICER	Clare Harvey
HON. C.R.O.	Robin Williams
HON. TACKLE OFFICER	Frank Baguley
HON. COTTAGE WARDEN	Laurie Galpin
HON. AUDITOR	L.A. Hawes
COMMITTEE	Colin Fairbairn, Bill Little, John Osborne, Noel Christopher (co-opted).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

EASTER - 1969

Had you realised it has been a negative sort of year. A year when many members have had to stop with a shrug having proved it doesn't, isn't or wouldn't. In spite of a large amount of work spread rather thinly our big achievement is to prove nothing new!

The most ambitious caving work during the year was in the Easter push in Dan-yr-Ogof when a team of members camped in the cave for five days in order to survey, trace waters and explore. The reports in the log indicate that several assumed watercourses must now be looked at closely and in fact it would appear that no new courses have been proved in spite of much effort.

Explorations in the cave have resulted in minor extensions particularly Window Passage; and after some failure Dali's Delight was located from the surface by radio. Work in the cave has been hampered by the usual winter weather but members should note that a series of incidents around Dec-Jan. concerning access have not improved matters. Please be sure you are aware of the access conditions before you go to the cave.

The scene at Ogof Ffynnon Ddu started badly when vandals broke the Candle and defaced the walls of some passages. Repairs are being done but one result is that the cave is now gated.

In OFD 2 Oxbow series was discovered and an overland route as far as Marble Showers was established. Paddy and Colin have worked hard on the survey which now includes all the major passages. New extensions at the Maze area and Midnight and Pendulum Passage will delay publication as the cave is obviously not beaten yet. A magnificent trip was done from Y Grithig through to the Armoury via the sump and back quite safely in 12 hours making quite a trip and proving something. The Armoury has been fixed on the surface by radio to show it is further east of the Byfre!

Minor extensions have filled in the blanks on the survey and now all passages in Clay series could be said to lead out, there being so many interconnections. One such passage near the Columns was checked by radio to be within 15 ft. of Engine House dig, close enough for speech in fact. As Clive Jones says 'At least it proves me right if nothing else'. The new areas covered by OFD and DYO have been included in an extended SSSI covering 13 sq. miles.

The divers have been busy in DYO, OFD, Agen Allwedd, Pwll Ddu and in Hospital Cave. Enthusiasm is high and Hospital in particular was pushed on several occasions. Only when a complete boulder choke was reached was the attempt abandoned. The extensions produced are measured in feet but the dives in yards. The Mazeways are now over 600 ft. from base.

Digs have been in short supply this year with small attempts in OFD 1 around Grand Piano Chamber and at Penderyn, but the major dig is at present in the Hidden Valley. Starting from a grit collapse the dig is down 2 ft. and dropping rapidly. Digging is an art which the regulars will teach in exchange for labour!

As is now usual the Committee have felt the pressure over the year and it has been a pleasure to see that the Officers have organised their work and effectively applied themselves for the Club. With a process akin to Brownian Motion all the pushing and pulling has resulted in a nett movement forward or, at least, along the path. It is unfortunate that several Officers have been unable to stand for re-election but a change at this time may well be appropriate.

The only issue I shall mention is the decision to join the Cambrian Caving Council this year and lend our enthusiasm to see that it is constituted to play a useful role and organised to complement the work of the Club. Following a meeting of Clubs interested in Wales, in January a Council was formed for Wales where it was clear that we share common interests. The case for and against has been passed on to members but for the CCC the advantages justify our participation at present.

The National Body is rather too loose to have any effect as yet, but this year there are hopes that it will be constituted effectively and begin to play its role. The Councils will decide what functions it will fulfil and it is here that our opinions can be expressed. The all important NCA meeting in November is to be held in the Cambrian Region.

There is a real danger that Committee functions will become too much for the average caving Club member and this risk has already been conveyed through the CCC to the National Body. It is accepted that in its work both the caving bodies will be required not to interfere with the affairs of caving clubs and it is this clause which allows us to give our support.

The coming year should resolve many of the problems now concerning the Committee and from then on it can be a case of pulling together towards the common goal, that of better facilities in caving for cavers.

Since this is my last report may I thank you all for your support over some difficult times. The secretary's work is not the most satisfying of jobs and can become that of a buffer between Committee and committed. At these times particularly your understanding counts a lot. I can confidently expect that the same regard will be extended to the new secretary during the period of office now starting.

Hon. Secretary

JOHN V. OSBORNE

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ending 28th February 1969

EXPENDITURE	£.	s.	d.	INCOME	£.	s.	d.
<u>HQ Expenses</u>							
Materials etc.	120.	7.	4.	HQ Fees	350.	0.	2.
Gas	49.	8.	11.				
Electricity	42.	11.	5.				
Coal	48.	0.	0.				
Rates	30.	10.	0.				
Insurance F&B	14.	10.	4.				
							305. 8. 0.
<u>OTHER EXPENSES</u>							
Equipment etc.	102.	4.	6.	Annual Subs.	185.	9.	2.
C.R.O.	50.	17.	5.	Donations	27.	6.	2.
Telephone	36.	11.	8.	Telephone	6.	11.	0.
21st. Anniv.Pub.	233.	12.	5.	21st Anniv.Pubn.	207.	11.	4.
N/L(inc,post)	210.	4.	0.	Interest Dep. A/C	9.	9.	0.
Postage & stat.	51.	16.	9.	Misc.	37.	6.	0.
Pub.Liab.Ins.	10.	17.	6.				
Publications etc.	12.	13.	3.				
Donations	5.	18.	0.				
Misc.	24.	2.	2.				
							738. 17. 8.
							1044. 5. 8.
Debts written off							<u>16. 11. 3.</u>
							1060. 16. 11.
							<u>843. 19. 3.</u>
Total Expenditure	1060.	16.	11.				
Total Income	843.	19.	3.				
Deficit	216.	17.	8.				
Prov.HQ Repairs	100.	0.	0.				
Total Deficit	316.	17.	8.				

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

STATEMENT OF FINANCES AT 28TH FEBRUARY 1969

CAPITAL ASSETS

	£.	s.	d.
Club premises 1-10 Powell St. (Cost)	200.	0.	0.
Garage (Cost)	15.	0.	0.
Duplicator (written down value)	5.	0.	0.
Equipment etc. (written down value)	401.	0.	0.
	<u>621.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>0.</u>

MONETARY ASSETS

		£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.
Cash at 29th Feb. 1968		925.	7.	8.	Current A/C at Midland				
Fees Outstanding		+196.	6.	5.	Bank 28th Feb. 1969		283.	1.	6.
					Less Uncleared Cheques		-128.	0.	0.
Total 29th Feb. 1968		<u>1121.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>1.</u>	Net cash at Bank		<u>154.</u>	<u>12.</u>	<u>6.</u>
Add income 1968/9		+843.	19.	3.	Cash in Hand		82.	14.	6.
		<u>1965.</u>	<u>13.</u>	<u>4.</u>	Deposit A/C S.W.T.S.B.		387.	12.	5.
Subtract Exp. 1968/9		-1060.	16.	11.	Fees outstanding		279.	17.	0.
M. Assets 28 Feb. 1969		<u>904.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>5.</u>	M. Assets 28 Feb. 1969		<u>904.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>3.</u>
Composed of:-					Composed of:-				
H.Q. Repairs Fund		800.	0.	0.	Cash		624.	19.	5.
Surplus		104.	16.	5.	Debts Unpaid		279.	17.	0.
		<u>904.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>5.</u>			<u>904.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>5.</u>

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON LADDERS

During the year the ladder situation became desperate, and in April Peter Harvey and myself tested the 10 ladders to the original specification of $\frac{1}{2}$ ton B/S. Four were condemned and destroyed. Within a few weeks two of these ladders broke, fortunately without causing any injury, in OFD 2 and Pwll Dwfn, following their previous use in mines. Consequently, all ladder was withdrawn, thereby initiating an effort to finish new ladder which had been prepared for nearly a year. Of the 300 ft. or so made, 100 ft. were handed over to S.W.C.R.O. I would like to commend here an article on ladder corrosion, by G.O. Thomas in our N/L, for reprint at higher levels. Another supply of materials, namely £20 of ferrule tubing, and a supply of rungs materials obtained by Gwyn Sanders, and wire rope, will be available for further ladder production in the near future. The equipment for ladder production has been improved. Special ladders, tailor-made are being scheduled for the potholes, the one for Pant Mawr has been prepared a year ago and is awaiting pressing. 1400 ft. of Spunstron rope has just been purchased, of which 420 ft. has been put in the C.R.O.

Following the replacement of the Bolt and Upper Bolt traverse wires last year, appeals were made for assistance to renew the remaining wires which were badly in need of repair. Both notices were removed, and there was only one response, namely Laurie Galpin. Consequently, an appeal was made to leaders through the Chairman and Ass. Secretary, and on the weekend of Mar.1 - 2, a team consisting of E. Inson, C. Baglin, D. Kemp, L. Galpin and myself, victualled by Pat Baglin, replaced all the remaining traverse wires. Some minor improvements are still needed. These members have been excused leader duties for one year. The fixed wire hand line in Tunnel Cave still requires to be done.

A gate was fitted on O.F.D.1 by J. Osborne and R. Stewart, following the vandalism there. It requires modification, 4 keys are available at the H.Q. for general use, and two are kept at the Grithig and C.R.O. I have taken impressions of the damaged Candle and prepared models for the construction of a new one. Replicas will be available at moderate charge.

The chains at the Maypole series and Low's passage have been replaced, and the others are due for changing soon. Consideration of improvement to the one at Low's is thought necessary on the advice of a few leaders.

The Tunnel gate and dam have been improved (following the removal of the farm), by J. Osborne, R. Stewart and B. Foster, to the satisfaction of the owners. Similarly the river entrance gate to D.Y.O. has been improved by B. Little and myself. We secured an arrangement chiefly for the closed season, whereby the key could be obtained from Trevor Lewis on presentation of the permit card, and returned to him immediately afterwards. Another key is being retained in the C.R.O. for emergency only, such as recce for overdue parties. Unfortunately within a month Trevor's key was not returned and duly lost with consequent incriminations. We were bound to honour the agreement, and supplied a new lock with a supply of keys, costing a few pounds. Such happenings do not help to engender good relations with the D.Y.O. management, especially after the efforts of some committee members to secure the privilege for all and cost the Club some expense.

The O.F.D. 2 gate has been modified, and a new lock fitted. Paddy O'Reilly has made 20 permanent labels for the keys. 10 are for Club use, 5 for visitors, 1 at the Grithig, and 1 in the C.R.O. with 3 in reserve. Again a party used the key label as a lever to turn the key in the mud-filled keyhole. The key broke, and it took a day's work to strip down the allegedly impregnable lock containing some 49 parts, to retrieve the key blade. Two keys have been retained by persons known or unknown. The keys cost 10/6d. each.

We have secured B.Burton's garage for a moderate fee, and it serves well as a building supplies store to relieve the H.Q. congestion.

Equipment is still being lost, stolen, damaged and misused, particularly engineering drills and tethers, of which we have only 2 left out of 20 and one of those is a stranger. The electric drill was borrowed for a private project without permission, and when retrieved, it cost about £3. to be repaired. The workshops are similarly being ill-used, and tools are not being replaced, particularly after non-caving ventures. I have put up notices to this effect, to no avail.

Both rooms downstairs in No.1 have been knocked together, before both the upstairs rooms decided to join them. The job is not yet finished. Similar lintels were placed in the kitchens and dining rooms thereby improving the amenities. It is intended to make the front room upstairs No.1 into an electronics and light electrical engineering workshop.

Assistance was also given on the following projects:-

The changing of and improvements to the married quarters,

the temporary changing rooms in No.4

the transfer of C.R.O. stores to No.2

modifications and work on the C.R.O. and Landrover

drains for No. 4, 5, 6 cottages, with B. Little and Idris Williams and 6 weeks work on the chimneys with Bill Little and others which has proved worthwhile.

I have also served on the cottage sub-committee.

The Duty Officer venture is working reasonably well, despite some objections, particularly from those who oppose it or decline to serve on it. There are some minor improvements required to make it work effectively and efficiently. It does facilitate the issue of keys and equipment, but does not and is not intended to overcome the mishaps already mentioned. The Club lamps are quite a headache. The stores are being broken into, and 4 lamps have been lost. On other occasions they have been borrowed and returned uncharged, with consequent inconvenience and possible C.R.O. hazard. The maintenance of these lamps involves quite a lot of work, but I feel it would be better to dispose of them than to run the present risks, though this recommendation would defeat the original intention of having them for official parties of non-cavers.

Equipment has been loaned out for overseas projects, though no further additions have been made to this store.

Finally I would like to mention with thanks those who have very kindly assisted me, by way of materials, tools and efforts, namely the President, Dr. Aslett, R. Stewart, L. Galpin, W. Little, N. Christopher, R. Smith, P. O'Reilly, P. Harvey, J. Osborne, G. Sanders and others.
THANK YOU.

FRANK BAGULEY.

CAVE RESCUE REPORT 1968-69

I am pleased to report that there has been no major accident or reported minor incident which has necessitated in the call out of the Rescue Organisation. A small party did however go to the Anglesey mine accident recently.

Practices

A series of most informative practices were held on the 1st September in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu 1. They were; the use of stemples to negotiate the lift out of Crystal Pool Chamber; the movement of the stretcher to and down the waterfall; the buoyancy method of bringing a stretcher down stream passage and a catering party on the surface. The practices were well attended.

A sump rescue demonstration was held on the 28th September for the 1968 Conference of Cave Rescue Organisations in Cheltenham. A sump rescue practice was held on the 8th March in the River Neath. A most instructive and successful meet.

On the 22nd March demonstrations were given on rope techniques, stretcher lowering and first aid. Approximately 20 members attended, these bring the same diehards. By all appearances it seems that about 80 members don't need training and are fully proficient.

Meetings attended

A Cave Rescue Council meeting was held in Cheltenham on the 28th September attended by Cave Rescue Organisers and two representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers namely the Acting Chief Constable of Gloucestershire and a Superintendent representing the Chief Constable of Somerset.

A most interesting topic of some importance was the question of Police re-imbusement of out-of-pocket expenses. The Acting Chief Constable stated that it was entirely proper for the Police to meet the out-of-pocket expenses of those called to assist them, because of services given.

Other subjects discussed, were Area control and coverage, Scottish Cave Rescue System, and International Commission.

A National Conference of C.R.O.'s was held in Cheltenham on the 28th September. An article has already appeared in January's Club Newsletter, covering the Agenda. This conference was well attended by Officers and members of our Organisation.

Equipment

W.E. Clarke donated 10 stemples to the C.R.O. and 500 ft. of Courland line has been donated. 420 ft. of Spunstron has been purchased. Modifications have been carried out to the neoprene casualty bag which is now fully operational.

All equipment has been regularly serviced and now fully transferred to the depot. One major problem in spite of building repairs, the depot remains damp, serious thought must go into some type of heating for the building.

Due to the amount of work required to repair and convert the Landrover, we are about a year behind our automobility plans.

In spite of the fact that our equipment has grown from little more than 2 medical haversacks and a stretcher when I first took office to an impressive array of equipment as it is today, it is falling far short of what is required to effect an efficient rescue.

Our means of communication has remained virtually unaltered over the years and drastically needs bringing up to date. We need at least 400 ft. of stardier ladder as our present stock in quality and quantity has diminished over the years and its reliability is somewhat questionable. The length and depths of caves and mines have increased in South and Mid Wales so also have the difficulties of rescue from same, therefore our expenditure on equipment must increase if we are to give the maximum of aid to those involved in an accident.

I know we have scraped along up to the present time but I'm afraid the time has come when the Club must spend more on rescue equipment.

In conclusion (and this time it really is for me), I have had the honour for many years to have been elected C.R.O. and the privilege of heading and seeing the Organisation grow into one of the major Cave Rescue Organisations in the country, respected by other Organisations here and abroad. This has been the work of many members who have given me support over the years to whom I extend my sincere gratitude especially the C.R.O. Officers and assistants who took so much work off my hands, not forgetting of course the committee who decided quite a few years back that C.R.O. and Tackle Officer should be separate offices. Thank you all sincerely.

G. CLISSOLD

10. CLUB NEWS

1. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

There will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the South Wales Caving Club on Saturday June 7th 1969 at 5.30 p.m. in the large Common Room at Penwyllt

A G E N D A

- (i) It is proposed that Arthur Hill be elected an Honorary Life-Member of the South Wales Caving Club by:

E. Aslett	W.H. Little
G. Clissold	A. Smith
D. Jenkins	G. Jefferson

- (ii) The Committee propose that item 4(a) of the constitution shall be amended to read

"The annual subscription and entrance fees shall be:

Full members	:	20/- entrance fee, 30/- annual subscription
Junior members	:	10/- entrance fee, 15/- annual subscription
Joint members	:	30/- total entrance fee, 40/- total annual subscription"

- (iii) P.O'Reilly proposes (seconded J.V. Osborne) the following amendment to the constitution (Item 7)

amend "... on the occasion of the Easter meet ..."
to "... during April ..."

NO OTHER BUSINESS MAY BE CONDUCTED. Mary Galpin, Hon. Sec.

2. The Club would like to welcome the following new member :
Mrs. Dorothy Williams (Idris's wife).
3. We would like to extend our best wishes to Terry Moon on his recent marriage, and to Roger Flaherty and Elizabeth Chandler who plan to marry in the summer.

4. The Galpins had a lot of camping gear stolen from their tent over Easter - a quick whip-round by members (and non-members too!) at the Gwyn realised £10.10.0 which will help offset their losses.
5. I have been asked to announce a Competition. It is for a Club Badge. The rules are to be found on the back of most Corn Flake packets, but send the entries (in colour preferably) and with any comments, or reasons to the Hon. Editor. Closing date is July 1st and the prize is a free weekend at the Club's luxurious mountain retreat in Breconshire. Consolation prizes include all-expenses trips round OFD II and III! Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!
6. John Oz is compiling a songbook for use on Saturday nights at the Gwyn. Send any "folk" songs to him if you consider that they ought to be included.
7. Save the Newsletter by writing articles, collecting interesting caving news items. Sending in some photos or helping the Editor. Your help is very much needed.
8. Alterations to address list.
Please amend your Newsletter 62 list as follows:-

 BALL, H. 108a Bon Accord Street, Aberdeen
 COASE, A. Mr. & Mrs. 4, Sutton Close, Oadby, Leicester
 CONS, D. 2, Hawthorn Way, Sonning-on-Thames, Berks
 ELLIOTT, R.H. 20, Park Lane, Havant, Hants.
 HARVEY, P.I.W. Frenchay Lodge Bungalow, Homestead Gardens, Frenchay, Glos.
 HARWOOD, E. 38, Corbett Avenue, Droitwich, Worcs.
 HUME, D. 1, The Grange, Exhall, Alcester, Warks.
 JEFFERY, L. Mrs. 1, Blacklands Road, Bucklebury, Berks.
 JUDSON, D. Ipsley Court, Redditch, Worcs.
 MORGAN, R. "Klisterli", Patricx Bourne Road, Bridge, Canterbury, Kent
 O'REILLY P.M. Mr. & Mrs. 1, Le Mayals, Owls Lodge Lane, Mayals, Swansea
 PICKERING, R. Belmont, The Firs, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire
 RAILTON, C.L. Mr. & Mrs. 12, Chester Road, North, Sutton Coldfield, Warks
 ROUND, T.N. 250, Henwood Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, Staffs
 SAVAGE, D. c/o 6 Sandfield Road, Rochdale, Lancs.
 SPOONER, J. 51, Mardy Crescent, Castle Park Estate, Caerphilly, Glam.
 THOMAS, Glyn, Plot 44, Seaview Estate, Gwerneinon, Sketty, Swansea.

9. In order to ease the job of collecting hut fees it would be appreciated if all people using the HQ pay their hut fees to the duty officer or to a member of the Committee. The duty officer, if willing, would then send all fees collected, together with the sheets from the register covering those fees, to the Hon. Treasurer, Eric Inson, 42, Torrens Drive, Lakeside, Cardiff.

10. Increase in hut fees

With effect from Friday June 6th, 1969, the hut fees for members will be raised to 2/6d. per 24 hours or part of 24 hours.

11. Use of married quarters

Members using the married quarters are to be encouraged to light at least one fire, in order to air the cottage.

12. Acknowledgements to Committee Members, 1968-69

I would like to thank all committee members for their support and hard work over the past year. The average club member has little conception of the drain on these members' time outside committee meetings. I appeal to all those who haven't done a stint on the committee to make themselves available in the years ahead. It is only by so doing that members can fully appreciate the role played by the club in caving in this day and age. Eventually committee members feel the need to step down for one reason or the other and it is essential that others be prepared to replace them.

I would like to say a special thank you to Gordon Clissold for 15 years as Cave Rescue Organizer. Although he hasn't been a prominent caver over the past few years he has had his ear close to the ground in cave rescue circles, and has the committee informed. Gordon is now based in London and finds that he is unable to give the same amount of time to the job.

Another member who has devoted his time to club business over a long period is little seen and heard, John Davies. John has been our Hon. Auditor for some 12 years, he has now felt it time for a rest. L. Hawes has been appointed to this post.

John Osborne has retired from the post of Hon. Secretary after 4 years service but is back on the committee as an ordinary committee member.

I feel that the club owes him a debt of gratitude for a lot of very hard work. He has never failed to put the club first and has been very militant in ensuring that it hasn't lost its identity. The Secretary's job is perhaps the most important on the committee since it is the one which involves most written dealings with the outside world.

Our new Hon. Editor is Dick Arculus who takes over from Paddy O'Reilly. He has quite a task ahead in order to keep up the good work which Paddy has put in over the last two years. I think that everybody would agree that Paddy gave a new impact to Newsletter production.

Lastly, but by no means least, Bruce Foster has resigned from committee work. He has put in a valuable term of two years as cottage warden. Laurie Galpin now takes over to carry on the good work.

In conclusion, I would stress that the club owes much to the efforts of too few members. I appeal to everyone to assist somewhere somehow.

ROGER SMITH.