

Club

7/10/1959  
SECRET 10

# SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB NEWSLETTER

---

NUMBER 27

CONTENTS

MARCH 1959.

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
  2. NEW HEADQUARTERS.
  3. CLUB NEWS
  4. THE HOT AIR MINE.....W. Birchenough.
  5. OGOF Y DAREN.....S. Phillips.
- 

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the South Wales Caving Club will be held at the Gwyn Arms on Easter Sunday, March 29th at 7.30 p.m.

Agenda.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Chairmans Opening Remarks. | 5. Election of Officers and Committee. |
| 2. Hon. Secretary's Report.   | 6. Election of Hon. Members.           |
| 3. Hon. Treasurer's Report.   | 7. Planning Committees' Report.        |
| 4. Tackle Officer's Report.   |  |
| 8. Any Other Business.        |  |

There being no notice of motion, no changes to the constitution can be effected, although there can be a general discussion of Club matters.

Important.

The present Headquarters is reserved for members only during the Easter Meet.

D.W. Jenkins.

Hon. Sec.

2

## 2. NEW HEADQUARTERS.

At the Committee Meeting held on February 14th 1959, the following Planning Committee was formed:

E. Aslett            Chairman.  
L.A. Hawes        Vice-Chairman.  
D.W. Jenkins      Vice-Chairman.  
Members: W.H. Little, B.W. Fenn (as cottage warden), D. Hunt,  
J. Barrows, W. Birchenough, B. de Graaf.  
Mrs. V.E. de Graaf    Secretary.

The Committee request members and visitors not to attempt to use the new headquarters until it is ready for occupation.

Will any member who is prepared to help in any way please get in touch with David Jenkins.

At present the main work in progress is the stripping of the interior walls and general tidying up of the outside area. Whenever possible a list will be put up in the present H.Q. of the work in progress so that members will know how they can assist.

## 3. CLUB NEWS.

### EDITORS NOTE.

Seeing that we are bound to send you due notice of the A.G.M. the Editor is taking the opportunity of getting in a couple of articles which may have lost their point if we leave them until the next regular issue. This explains the unprecedented step of sending out two Newsletters in consecutive months, but members are assured that it will not become a habit.

### APOLOGY.

I suppose in terms of geological time four years ago could be described as "recent", but the marriage which the Hon. Editor should have recorded in the last Newsletter was that of Mr. and Mrs. Gwyn EVANS. It is hoped that this mistake did not give rise to any domestic difficulties among the parties concerned, and that both couples will accept my humble apologies. Pass the ashes again, please!

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

J Bevan, 21, Bevan Crescent, Blackwood, Mon.  
T. Davies, 38, Crompton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 21.  
W. Sharpley, Earnock lodge, Boswall Road, Edinburgh 5.

### NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome the following new members to the club:  
R.H.C. Basham, 111, Fleet Road, Fleet, Hants.  
G.N. Fewkes, 94, High Street, Clydach, Swansea.

## 4. THE HOT AIR MINE.

When the first snow of the winter fell, it was thought to be a good time to look for shake holes with "wind" in them. The weather being fine, Clive Jones, Bill Harris and David whose name I forget, we set out from Penwyllt, up the valley to the East of the engine house.

About 400 yds. S.E. from the frog tanks a number of holes were found. The following weekend we dug in them. One became unstable so we moved to the next and so on. About this time Bill Little found a rabbit hole, with a very strong draught, nearby. All effort was put on to this hole, soon a torch could be lowered about 20 ft. Gordon Clissold lost his car key down it, at least we could not find it.

Next day's dig took us down to 18 ft, by now it was a helmet and lamp dig. Another day added about 15 ft. and we were looking down a 10ft. pitch about 4 ft x 1 ft with a nice hole at the bottom which led into a chamber about 20 ft. square and as much high. At the bottom of the pitch we dug a tunnel about 10 ft. long and have gone down about 6ft. to an interesting rift from which a wind comes.

We hope to continue this dig and reach who knows what!

B. Birchenough.

## 5. OGOF Y DARREN.

"A 1,500 ft. very narrow small stream passage. The end (strangely for Llangattock area) is blocked by stal. flows."

History: Started as Vic's Dig by B.N.S.C.C. in Summer 1957. A lot of digging was done, and an entry made, by Brian Price and a party of scouts from Bognor Regis last October. The scouts got about 250 ft. to a boulder choke. Next entry by B.N.S.C.C. demolished the boulder choke and penetrated a further 200 ft. to second boulder choke.

On Nov. 29th I went in with John Dyer (B.N.S.) and made a way through the second boulder choke. The hole made was too small for him, but I went a further 100 ft on my own.

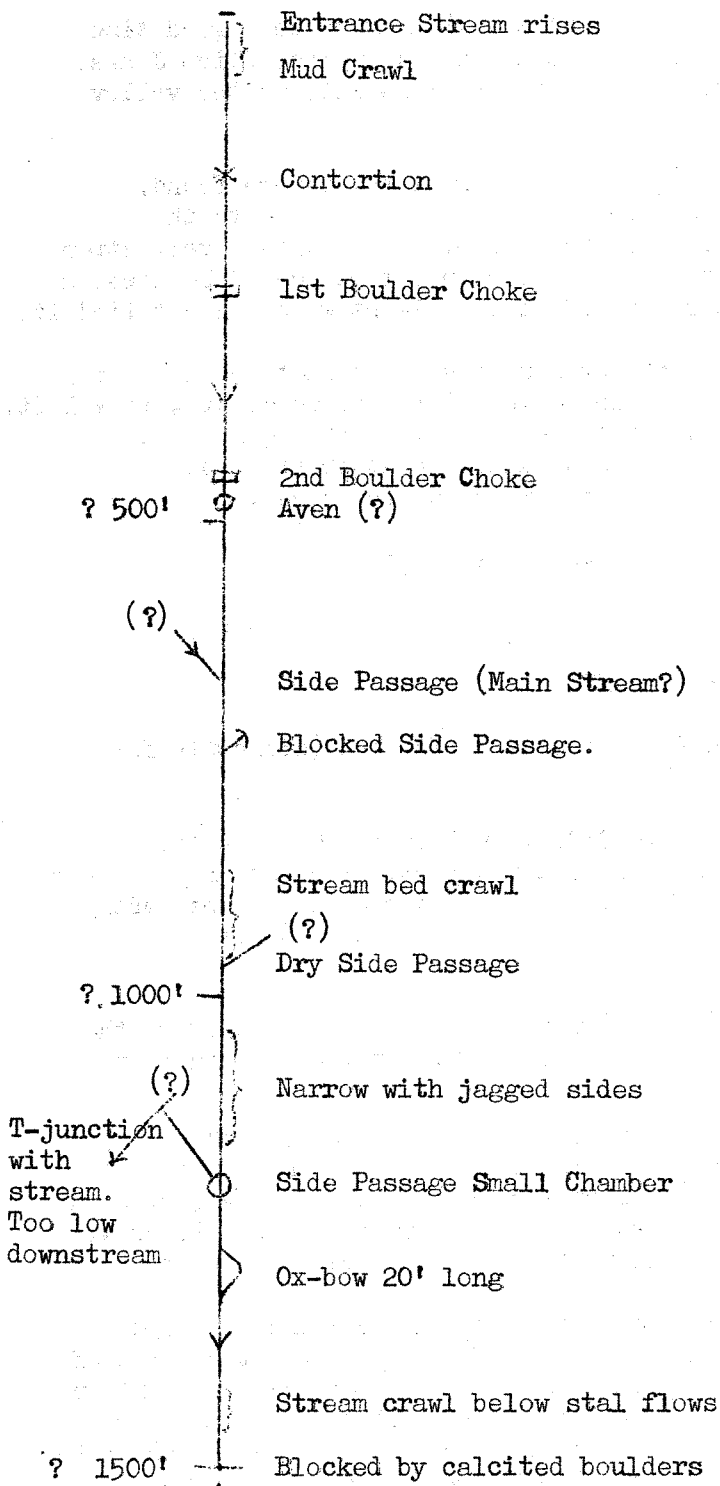
In the middle of December, Mel and I went in, enlarged the second boulder choke, and penetrated a total of about 1,500 ft. from the entrance, until the way on was blocked by stal. flow from above and small curtains on the sides. By destroying some curtains and the lower edges of stal. flows in two places, I was able to crawl through in the stream, but did not continue due to time and temperature conditions.

Yesterday I went in with Bruce Dawson (not a club member) and we found the present farthest accessible point most disappointingly only 50 ft. from the point of our last penetration. The end is another stal. Blockage with boulders in the floor solidly cemented in with calcite. I could just get my two feet through the largest opening, but no more. To make a way on by chipping would be more arduous than it is worth, I am sure in the small space available. Blasting would probably be the only hope. The blockage is of almost no length and the passage beyond appears to be as large as on this side. The end is marked S.W.C.C. 1.2.59.

There are, however, three side passages. We followed the lower R.H. passage  
(cont.)

OGOF Y DARREN

Llangattock 2:2:59



(cont.) for about 150 ft. It leads up a dry stream-bed to a T-junction with another stream. Downstream (to the left) becomes an impossibly low crawl after a few feet; upstream is small but quite possible. We did not go up.

Description: (This may explain why we sometimes turn back without reaching an end, and why no one trip has ever lasted more than 5 hrs.)

The entrance, at the foot of an old quarry face 4 ft. below ground level is an oval hole 1 ft. high and 2 ft. 6 ins. wide. Water wells up from floor immediately outside cave and flows inwards, forming a pool just inside which half fills the entrance.

No attempt can be made to indicate direction.  
 Distances are guessed.  
 Possible continuations = (?)

This can be baled out before entering, but on emerging one member of the party must come through the pool (unless an accomplice waits outside the whole time). Beyond the pool is a wet mud crawl, a second shallow pool and more wet mud. 40 ft. in, one can stand up. From here the whole cave is a narrow stream passage, with a very small stream. In a few places one can stand up, but one can never move more than a few paces in an upright position, until the last side passage is reached.

Items of interest include the constriction (or, more correctly, contortion) which is caused by a boulder jammed in the narrowest part of the cave, the only possible route being over the top, necessitating a sort of horizontal chimneying.

The first boulder choke means climbing over a small boulder pile, but there is plenty of room: the second boulder choke also has plenty of room now.

An aven just beyond is narrow and I have climbed up about 12 ft. Above, it is narrower and partially blocked by small rocks which could probably be moved. Then there is an awkward double right-angle in a crawl.

The first side passage is the main stream, I think, coming from the right, although it is hardly larger than the entrance stream. Below this is a long stream-bed crawl, including another double right angle, ending at a left hand side passage. This is a dry passage leading in an up-stream direction.

Then follows a very narrow jagged-sided section. At the junction with the lowest R.H. side passage is a small chamber, the only one in the cave. Below this it is possible to walk (almost) for some distance.

There is a 5 ft. climb up to a crawl over dry flowstone, before reaching the final stream crawl below stal. flows.

The lowest side passage has a dry mud stream-bed, and one can walk most of the way. There is a climb over large boulders before reaching the T. Junction with the second stream. At the junction are small white formations, and small formations occur occasionally in other parts, including one lone 6" white carrot.

Seaton Phillips. 2:2:59.

Hon. Secretary.....D. W. Jenkins, Dinmore, Dyffryn Road, Llandrindod Wells, Rads.  
 Hon. Treasurer.....L.A Hawes, 4, Connaught Road, Fleet, Hants.  
 Hon. Editor.....B. de Graaf, 5, Tai-north, Pennorth, Brecon.  
 C.R.O. & Tackle.....G. Clissold, The Meend Staunton, Nr. Coleford, Glos.  
 Manager.

