

SOUTH WALES CAVING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

-----NUMBER 12 - MAY, 1955.-----

===== CONTENTS=====

Full report of the Annual General Meeting.
Club accounts.
Club news.

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Gwyn Arms on Easter Sunday, 1955, the following officers and committee were elected:-

President. Dr. F. J. North. O.B.E., D.Sc., F.G.S., F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents. Brigadier E. A. Glennie. C.I.E., D.S.O.

A. H. Hill Esq.

Chairman. Dr. E. Aslett.

Hon. Secretary. P. I. W. Harvey.

Hon. Treasurer. G. O. Thomas.

Hon. Recorder and Editor. D. W. Jenkins.

Tackle Manager. J. C. Jones.

Cave Rescue Officers. Mr and Mrs. J. Barrows.

Cottage Warden. D. G. Hunt.

Committee Members. D. Underwood, L. A. Hawes, W. H. Little.

Mrs. P. I. W. Harvey has since been co-opted as Hon. Assistant Secretary.

Hon. Secretary's Report.

During the year nine new members have been accepted and thirteen are considered to have resigned due to non-payment of subscriptions.

It should be pointed out that several applications were rejected for various reasons.

The committee attempted to organise occasional meets outside the Swansea Valley but these failed to obtain the necessary support and they have been discontinued. However, a number of excursions from the headquarters were organised independantly by various members.

Following the previous years great discoveries this last year would seem to be inconspicuous. Several small caves have been reported in the newsletters and a "dig" which certain "Gentlemen" have appropriated from the "Ladies" is now an "ogof". A number of digs of short duration were carried out on Black Mountain but by far the most outstanding was the work carried out at Ffrydiau Twrch where an estimated 100 cubic yards of earth and rocks were excavated. There was renewed activity in Starlight Chamber in Ogof "fynnon Ddu". A tunnel has been driven under Coronation Aven and this dig is proceeding through a dangerous collapse.

Archaeological field work has been at a standstill. This will be remedied now that excavations will be carried on in Minchin Hole this August. This will be led by Ted Mason in conjunction with the Royal Institution of Swansea. I am also informed that the reports on Ogof yr Esgyrn are nearing completion.

Survey work has been infrequent because the usual surveyors have been called upon for other work chiefly as guides. Few members have taken to this fascinating work.

Tunnel Cave has provided the scene for a new technique when specially developed scaling equipment was used to ascend Steeple Aven which proved to be 120 feet high. "Uppit", the new equipment is expected to reach greater heights.

2.

The headquarters cottage has been painted and "snowed" and many hours of work have been done. A separate room has been done up for the ladies. A gale last autumn removed a large part of the roof. The slates have been replaced but much of the woodwork is rotten and again since the last gale the roof of No. 1. cottage is no longer weather-proof. Major repairs are essential. Too many users of the headquarters are content with pigsty conditions and they could do more than leaves the chores to others.

The greatest work of the year has been the hospitality granted by our club to other clubs and groups who have visited us by car and coach. About two dozen parties of visitors have been accommodated and with few exceptions they have been guided by members. This has thrown a heavy load upon a few willing members. Our unusual position amongst other caving clubs is unchallenged as a host.

Misbehaviour of gusts has occurred only on one occasion when a party of schoolboys without adequate leadership trampled on the preserved mudbanks and formations in Tunnel Cave. Your committee took a serious view of this occurrence, rules were revised for visiting schools and the member held responsible was reprimanded. Your committee is deeply concerned over cave preservation.

Accidents have been light considering the number of sorties made. There were three accidents involving hospital treatment:-

1. A member fractured a shoulder blade in Pant Mawr Pothole due to a fall whilst climbing rock.
2. A visitor, previously warned for dangerous behaviour, received cuts and concussion through climbing on insecure mudbound handholds in Tunnel Cave. This party was not led by a member.
3. A member dislocated an arm on the boulder slope on Low's Chamber in Ogor Ffynnon Ddu.

These accidents were all dealt with by the casualties own party or parties already in the caves except that John Barrows was asked to assist at the entrance of Ogor Ffynnon Ddu. Whilst all accidents are regrettable and serious to the injured person, as a club we may say that nothing serious has happened. There was no call-out of rescue parties. The might have beens is another matter and the risks of our chosen sport must always be kept in mind. I speak from experience when I say that the "Hot water" we can get into can be very cold.

The club has again been elected to the committee of the Cave Research Group of Great Britain. For some years this club has contributed 25/- instead of 10/- a year to C.R.G. (equal to a private members subscription) and we felt that all other clubs should do the same. Our proposal to this effect at the A.G.M. of the C.R.G. was carried.

The year has been one of work and progress and unsensational achievement.

Finally my resignation will not be news to you. The retiring committee have known of this since last June when I ceased to reside in Wales.

W.H.Little.

Hon. Treasurer's Report.

This was not available but the funds were reported to be satisfactory. Arising from this it was proposed that the committee shall make all the necessary arrangements to obtain control of all Monies of the S.W.C.C.

Hon. Auditor.

It was proposed that an honorary auditor be elected and the post has been filled by L.A.Hawes.

Fixed Tackle.

The tackle officer (P.I.W.Harvey) reported that he had inspected the fixed tackle, rawbolts and ropes, etc., in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu and considered their condition was safe and that the ropes would probably last another two years.

Visiting Clubs and parties.

Visiting parties must make arrangements with the Hon. Secretary of the S.W.C.C. These visits will be restricted to the first weekend of each month. Bookings will not be accepted at Easter and Christmas weekends.

Rule Books.

A proposal was carried that an up-to-date rule book be sent to all members.

Notice of alteration to rules or constitution.

Notice of proposed alterations to rules or constitution shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary duly proposed and seconded one month before Easter Sunday and shall be circulated to all members prior to the annual general meeting together with a statement of accounts and an agenda for the annual general meeting.

Subscriptions.

Henceforth subscriptions shall be:-

Junior members.	5/- per annum.
Members.	12/6d " "
Husband & Wife.	
(Joint)	17/6d " "

and cottage fees shall be:-

All members.	1/6d per bednight.
Visitors.	2/6d " "

Cooking and changing fees shall be deleted.

Vote of thanks.

A vote of thanks was proposed from the chair to Mrs. Price for the use of the room for the meeting.

New Member.

We welcome the following new member:-
Frank Morgan, 33, Dunraven Road, Sketty, Swansea.

Publications.

The following publications have been received:-
Shepton Mallet Caving Group. Journal No.3.
C.R.G. Newsletter No.51.
C.R.G. Transactions.
Cave and Crag Club. Vol.4. Nos.3,4 and 5.
Belfry Bulletin. Nos.91,92.

Tunnel Cave.

On Sunday April 10th. John Alexander and Clive Jones went to the passage at the end of Final Chamber and blasted a way into about 30ft. of new passage the height of which is about 25ft. There is more mud fill than is associated with the approaching passages and this is being washed away by a trickle of water. The end of the passage is blocked by substantial "stal" flow.

Honary Members.

The editor apologises for not adding the list of honary members at the beginning of this newsletter. They are as follows:-
J.L.Morgan Esq., T. Ashwell Morgan Esq., Cyril Powell Esq.,
Mrs. G.Price. Mr and Mrs. J.Barrows. Dr. A.J.R.Hudson.

Woen Fignon Felon.

During the Easter meet an attempt was made to concrete the shaft of Wiggy-Wiggy and it appears that it will be a success.

Ogof Haffes?

With reference to the newsletter of July 1954 Gerard Platten has sent two suggestions of past water supply.

1. A large sink which lies about two to three miles above Woen Fignon Felon on the limestone edgg in the past took a lot of water. It is well beyond the peat bog towards the Fans.

2. In years past, the Llyn-y-Fan had no visible overflow so Jeffrey Morgan told me, and yet despite the winter rains the level remained much about the same level suggesting some hidden "get-away". Also, from time to time, when fisherman or shepherds happened to be there, disturbances or upheavals of water (suggesting air-locks blowing) have been observed by many reliable Fan men who have told me about them. This fact may account for the legend of the Fan Lake.

G.Platten.

Accounts.

The current balance sheet is shown on the next page.

Accounts 1954-55.

	£	s	d
Subscriptions	32	12	6
Cottage fees	55	17	9
Interest on Trustee Savings Bank	1	6	0
	<u>89</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>

	£	s	d
Circulars	12	5	0
Maps		15	9
<u>Cottage expenses.</u>			
Electricity	3	6	2
Coal	12	1	7
Gas	3	12	0
Parafin	2	17	6
Elsan	5	0	0
Snowcem	3	11	0
Windolite	1	6	3
China	1	3	0
Sundries	6	13	5

To balance Easter 1954.

	£	s	d
Treasurer's float	2	3	0
Secs. "	5	0	0
Recorder's "	1	10	0
Trustee S.B.	59	1	6
Current A/c	41	11	2
	<u>109</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>

Records of expenses

Treasurer's "	15	10	
Secs. "	5	9	
	1	5	4½
	<u>54</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9½</u>

To balance Easter 1955.

	£	s	d
Treasurer's float	1	17	3
Secs. "	5	0	0
Recorder's "		14	2
Trustee's S.B.	59	1	6
Current A/c.	64	16	11
Cash in hand.	12	13	3½
	<u>199</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>

Total £199/1/11d.

Newsletters.

apart from a short article on a new cave by the Taylors there is no material for the next newsletter. The editor makes a serious request that members should send in more articles. It is hoped to publish the next newsletter in September.

O.F.D. Leaders.

The following are added to the list of O.F.D. leaders.
 R.L.B. Bennett, 13, Glanmor Park Rd., Sketty, Swansea.
 J.C. Jones. Victoria House, High St., Glynneath, Glam.
 D.C. Moore. 1, Glyn Crescent, Blackpill. Swansea.

Cave Research Group.

The Southern General Meeting of the Cave Research Group of Great Britain will be held at the Lesser Hall at the Miner's Welfare Hall, Abercrave, on Saturday, 16th of July. Open meets of nearby caves will be arranged for Sunday, 17th, July by S.W.C.C.

Members of the S.W.C.C. are asked to write to the Hon. Secretary if they wish accomodation to be reserved for them at the Club H.Q. for this weekend otherwise they may be unable to find sufficient bed space.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is regreted that the Hon. Treasurer has resigned his position. In view of this L.A. Hawes has been appointed to the post and all subscriptions should be sent to him. Members are reminded that these subscriptions are now due and should be paid within four months of the last A.G.M.

The delay in sending out this newsletter has been due to the above committee changes.

Hon. Secretary. P.I.W. Harvey. 157, Commercial Rd., Newport, Mon.
Hon. Treasurer. L.A. Hawes. Corner Cottage, Rounton Rd., Church Crookham,
Hants.
Hon. Editor, D.W. Jenkins, Dinmore, Dyffryn Rd., Llandrindod Wells,
Rads.

