

CREWE CLIMBING AND POTHOLING CLUB

NEWSLETTER MAR. 1984

No.4.

The A.G.M. took place on Monday 9th. January at the Bleeding Wolf. The officer's reports for 1983 were delivered and suprisingly the Treasurer, John Shenton reported we actually had money in the bank, (suprising because at the end of 1982 we had an over-draft of over £100) Well done John!

A proposed increase in subs. from £6 to £7 was accepted, but anyone paying before the end of March will still get a reduction of £2. It was also decided to change banks from the Nat. West. to the Co-op bank, as this would save money in bank charges.

Due to the extra workload imposed on the Training Officer, with the new policy of 'in club' training for novice members, it was decided to elect an assistant Training Officer, and Phil Marston was duly elected.

Officers for 1984 were elected as follows :- Chairman - Ralph Johnson, Secretary - Cliff Jones, Treasurer - John Shenton, Training Officer - Paul Holdcroft, Assistant Training Officer - Phil Marston, Tackle Officers - Tony Gamble and Kevin Mountford. I would like to thank the retiring officers for the splendid work they did in 1983.

1983 was a very active caving year and I've listed below the caves visited during the year. (A number after the cave denotes the number of visits, and where there is no number the cave was visited only once.)

LOCAL Jackpot (8), Giant's (10), Carlswark (7), Alderley Edge, Perseverance (3), Lay-by (2), Nettle (5), Knotlow (8), Hillook's (3) Peak Cavern, Gautries (4) Rowter (3), Eldon (5), Water Icicle (5), Jug Holes (2), Mandale Mine (2), Axe Hole (2) Wills Founder Mine, Dudley Mine and Robin shaft.

YORKSHIRE Lancaster (4), Pipikin (2), Allum Pot (2), Lost John's (2), Gaping Ghyll (2) Bar Pot (2), Sell Gill Holes, Swinsto, Notts Pot, Yordas, Diccan, Long Kin East, Long Kin West, Juniper Gulf, Newby Moss, Birks Fell, Kingsdale, Heron Pot, Jockey Hole, Dissapointment Pot, Rowten, Gavel, Bull Pot of the Witches.

S.Wales O.P.D. (3), Daryr Ogof, Cwm Dwr.

Mendips Thrupe Lane Swallet, Hunters Hole (2), Swildons (2), Lamb-Leer (2), Rhino Rift, North Hill Swallrt, St. Cuthberts.

The most active cavers of 1983 were Melvyn Bratt (45 trips) Cliff Jones (40 trips) Kevin Mountford (34 trips) and Phil Marston (29 trips).

The above statistics have been taken solely from the 'club log' and I make no appologies for caves or trips missing from the list. The log book is always available when requested. I also have no doubt that Phil and Kevin were in actual fact the most active cavers, but not according to the log book!!

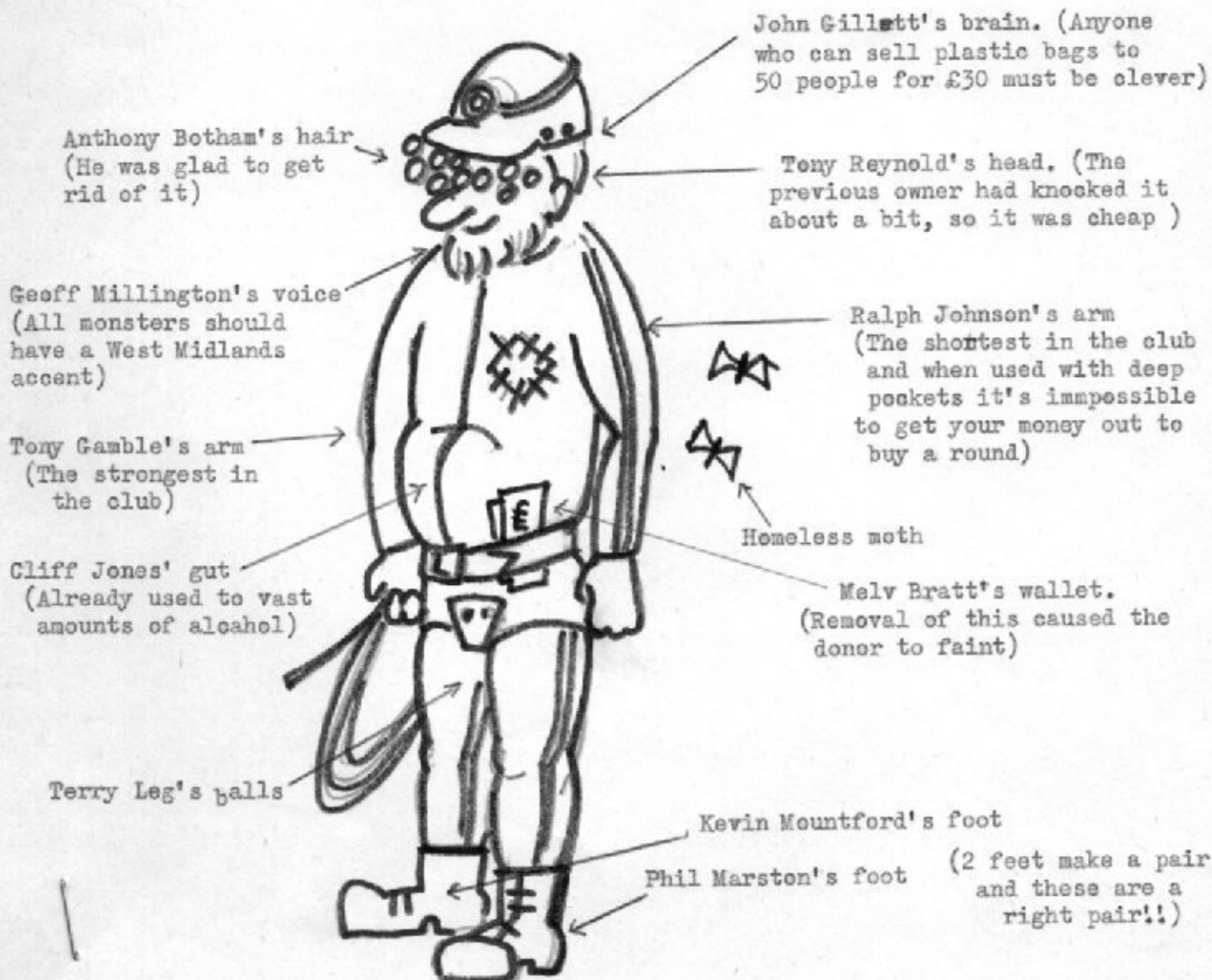
continued,

Conspicuous by it's absence from the afore-mentioned statistics is of course the trip to the Gouffre Berger. 16 members of C.C.P.C. took part in the expedition which was without doubt a huge success. John Gillett did a fantastic job with the not uncomplicated organization, and the report which he produced is excellent. The Gouffre Berger report is well written, well produced and I'm sure it is now the definitive publication for anyone planning a trip to this cave.

Let us hope 1984 is as successful and as active as last year has been, and I'd like to re-iterate what has been said before "If you are not caving as much as you would like, it only takes a telephone call to fix up a trip". There is a new members list attached to the back of this Newsletter - use it!!

Cliff Jones.

FRANKENSTEIN'S CAVER



-FIRST AID IN CAVING.

On Friday 13th. Dec. Doctor Paul Cooper gave a lecture on First Aid, unfortunately only 8 people turned up which was disappointing to say the least. I hope I'm with one of these 8 when the next incident happens - especially to me !! The following is a summary of the bare essentials, I can't hope to go into the more complex issues covered such as fitting airways.

Now for the action. First of all avoid making the situation worse by causing further injury to anyone in the party, including the casualty and yourself. Next comes the "ABC" of First Aid. A= Airway, check breathing regularly and give mouth to mouth, if necessary. Use the "coma" (recovery) position if the casualty is unconscious, check the breathing is not impaired by the tongue or vomit.

B= Bleeding, stop bleeding by using direct pressure and anything you can lay your hands on, to make a pad, if more padding is required put it on top of the old pad. DO NOT USE A TORNNIQUET.

C = Circulation, maintain circulation to the brain by keeping the casualty flat, with the head low and the legs raised; ie. treat for shock. Should the heart stop, try cardiac massage, alternate this with E.A.R (External Artificial Respiration) as required. You can do little in the event of internal bleeding which will almost certainly occur in cases of fracture of the long bones, a fall or crush (boulder).

The most likely cause of death will be due to exposure. The casualty must be kept warm (use initiative, but better still a poly. bag or space blanket). The casualty must also be kept supplied with high calorie food, eg. Mars Bars. NEVER give alcohol as this will accelerate heat loss. Alcohol is also inadvisable before any caving trip, apparently it messes up the blood sugar level, even in small amounts such as one half pint. So please - no more six packs on trips!!

Fractures were also covered - the only brief information I can give is treat it seriously and immobilise as possible.

We now have 2 large expedition first aid kits, plus a couple of surface kits.

SAFE CAVING,

Ralph Johnson.

RAFFLE

No doubt by now you have all cursed the arrival of your raffle tickets! Do your best to sell them all, and if you want more ASK! If you can't sell them all, don't leave it until the last minute before returning them. Return unsold tickets, money and counterfoils by the end of February.

If all the £200 worth of tickets are sold, our profit is £132, which means that much less on subs. It pays YOU to do your best.

Ralph Johnson.

CLIFF'S PROBLEM PAGE.

While it is not the policy of this publication to indulge in correspondence with individuals in the "Dear Margie " vein, the editor recently received a letter from a Mrs. X (name and address supplied). I think the problem outlined in the letter is relevant to caving, and in particular, to the so called "Caving Widow " I have printed the letter below, together with my personal reply, others may disagree but it might prompt cavers in this particular situation to think again.

Dear Editor,

May I, through your publication, outline my plight and the plight of other women in a similar position, as the wives of cavers. Most week-ends my husband is out caving, sometimes just on a Sunday, but mostly he's away all week-end. I explained to him how much I missed him, and how I got very lonely while he's away, and he suggested that I get a pet. I must admit the idea didn't appeal to me much at first, but after a while, I realized that it just might be the answer. If I had a dog, I could take it for walks, teach it tricks and generally have a really good friend to whom I could talk and confide. However when I suggested a canine companion, he went "spare", saying that it would be too expensive and muck the house up etc.

Well I don't know what to do, I'd like a pet, but all my suggestions don't seem to please him, can you help.

Dear Mrs. X

Your problem isn't restricted to wives of cavers, it is applicable to a lot of other sports eg. Angling, sky diving, ferreting etc. I think a pet is a great solution, and while a dog would seem to be perfect, they are expensive to maintain. It seems to me your choice of pet should be considered carefully, and I may be able to help you in this matter. Have you ever thought of a WOOD LOUSE! I bet you haven't. Think of the advantages of having a wood louse as a pet. Food-wise a matchstick a month would be quite sufficient, and the empty matchbox would make a perfect 'kennel'. The muck generated by a wood-louse on a matchstick a month would be negligible. Taking your pet for a walk would prove no problem, with your louse in his 'kennel' in your pocket, even on the wettest days there would be no muddy footprints to wipe up.

However all is not perfect and there are some disadvantages in having a wood-louse as a pet. As the IQ. of a wood-louse is only marginally higher than the IQ. of a bit of navel fluff, teaching it to "roll over and die for the Queen" will take a lot of patience and probably more time than your average wood-louse life span, and the indecision caused by asking for a paw may cause your multi-legged pet to expire prematurely. Teaching your wood-louse to roll over and somersault can be achieved by giving the matchbox an occasional rapid and severe shaking, who knows the louse might just get the right idea, if only to avoid the attacks of migraine.

continued.

Talking to a wood-louse will of course be exactly the same as talking to a dog, but you should consider the reaction of your neighbours, who might see you walking down the road chattering maddly to a matchbox!! and lets be honest anyone who can have a deep and meaningful conversation with a wood-louse needs more advice than can be given here.

C.Jones. (editor)

MAINTAINANCE OF LEAD-ACID CELLS.

A brief reminder; When topping up cells remember: Exide batteries should be inclined backwards at 45° Oldhams at 10° forwards. Top up to the level of the holes. Check liquid levels every 4 or 5 cycles. Don't charge at more than 1 amp. Don't leave lamps in a discharged condition.

Ralph Johnson.

DERBYSHIRE WEEK-END.

It has been proposed that we have a "club" week-end in Derbyshire on 16th/17th June. Hopefully everyone will attend, since the idea is to enable members and wives to socialize in addition to fitting in a couple of caving trips. Giants - Oxlow will be rigged on the Saturday, but equipment will be available for any trip you fancy. On the Saturday evening we hope to meet and camp, probably at Edale, and have a barbacue or something similar. I would be grateful for information on B&B's nearby, and opinions as to whether we should perhaps use the Orpheus hut. I have details of a couple of self-catering huts we could hire, and I will make this info. available at the next meeting.

Cliff Jones.

CAVE RESCUES.

In the unlikely event of you being involved in a cave rescue, please remember to say nothing to the press. All enquiries should be referred to the controller at the incident, or the DCRO Sec. Bill Whitehouse. A lot of bad publicity can result from apparently innocent comments. (I can remember in '59 (1959 that is!) one of our members commenting to a reporter "bloody fairies" when asked what he had seen in Peak Cavern. The headlines that night read - "Rescuers have hallucinations!")

Whilst on the subject of rescues, don't forget the rescue practice on Sat. Feb. 25th. This will involve a surface and underground search in an unknown system, followed by

continued

an evacuation (no Phil - the casualty this time.) using a winch. The new "talking rope" and gas testing techniques might also be available.

A THOUGHT FOR CONSERVATION.

Take nowt but pictures,
Leave nowt but footprints
Kill nowt but time.

Ralph Johnson.

CAVING COURSE CANCELLED

Only days after becoming Secretary I received a 'phone call from the lady Chairperson of Stockport Topless Ladies Sadism Society, concerning a week-end caving course. Unfortunately the dear lady rang me again the following day to cancel the course, because she was unable to whip up enough support.

Cliff Jones.

FOR SALE.

C.C.P.C. Cloth sew-on badges £1.00 Apply Cliff Jones.
Exclusive C.C.P.C. T-shirts, black with white logo. £3.00 Apply Ralph Johnson.
Gouffre Berger Reports. Price on request. Apply John Gillett.
Large size ammo. tubes, waterproof. £2.00 Apply Paul Heldcroft.
Carbide, large size, half price. (proceeds to C.C.P.C.) Apply Ralph Johnson.
Duracell 4½ volt flat batteries. £1.00 (proceeds to C.C.P.C.) Apply Ralph Johnson.
You can now buy an adaptor to fit your Petzl battery case so that it will accept 3 AA rechargeable cells, from Inglesport.

WANTED

Sherpa to carry miscellaneous equipment, including large ammo. box.

Apply Geriatrics Anonymous.

Labour for promising digs - see 'Finds' book.

FUTURE MEETS

SAT 25th. Feb. Rescue Practice
SUN 4th. Mar. Nick Pot, Diocan, Alum etc.
SUN 11th. Mar. Lancaster Hole.
SAT/SUN 17th/18th Mar. Agen Allwedd.
SUN 25th. Mar. Juniper Gulf, Long Churn.
SAT 7th. Apr. Youth Course Ilam.
SUN 15th. Apr. Meregill, Black Shiver Tatham Wife.
SUN 29th. Apr. Grange Rig To Xmas.
SUN 6th. May. G.G. etc.
SAT/SUN 19th/20th May. St. Cuthberts.
SAT 26th May. (For one week) Ireland.
SUN 10th. June Dow - Providence.
SAT/SUN 14th/15th. Dan-yr-Ogof. (July)
SUN 15th. July Otter Hole.
SUN 8th. July Lost John's. ***
SUN 29th. July Gavel, Notts Pot.
SUN 15th. Sept. Notts Pot.

*** Please note that the entry for Sunday 8th July is out of chronological order.

There is a proposed trip to Norway and anyone who is interested should contact:-

Doug Staff.

Anyone who is interested in the Irish trip and who can make their own transport arrangements should contact :- Cliff Jones.

The Chairman informs me, that in future, he intends to start the monthly club meetings prompt at 8.00pm. and anyone who wants a say in club policy should be there by that time, otherwise sociabilities will start at about 8.45pm.

If anyone, who is unable to buy the quarterly Newsletter on a regular basis, would like to receive them by post, I am quite willing to post them. The cost is £1.00, and this will cover the cost of 4 Newsletters and the postage. Any member who is unable to attend meetings will be sent a quarterly 'Meets List' automatically, postage paid without request.

Ralph Johnson
Cliff Jones
Paul Holdcroft
Tony Gamble
Phil Marsden
Kevin Mountford
John Shenton
Tony Reynolds
Alan Walker
Melvyn Bratt
Zig Wczasek
John Gillett

Anthony Botham
Paul Shenton
Steve Hawken
Keith Walker
Alan Scragg
Christine Scragg
Terry Ball
Brian Kirkland
Mick Edge

Stan Kowalik
Simon Leech
Ron Beckett

Andrew Beckett

Helen Pierpoint
Mark Sherwin
John Parton
Ken Griffiths
Heather Griffiths
Lionel Howarth
Rob Heath

Andrew Briscoe
Geoff Millington

Redacted

Keith Davies
Dave Bailey
Pete Steadman
Lynn Sproston
Malcolm Jump
Pete Heath
Doug Staff
Adam Baker
Mick Farnell
Richard Moffatt
Pete Forster
Mark Wilson
Alan Steele
Roger Ferguson
Liam Kealy

Redacted