

CREWE CLIMBING AND POTHOLING CLUB

NEWSLETTER OCT. 1983.

No. 2.

This is the first Newsletter typed on the 'Club typewriter' thanks to Geof Millington, who procured the machine in exchange for some obsolete ropes. Thanks Geof. I am hoping to bring out the next Newsletter before Christmas i.e. The December meeting, so items for printing should reach me by mid-November.

C. JONES.

Denise Pinnington and Steve Price were recently married and are now in Felixstowe. Steve is serving in the R.A.F. Denise was an active member for several years, she took up caving whilst a pupil at Holden Lane High. Both Denise and Steve kept up thier membership until 1983, when other commitments caused them to retire.

Ken Griffiths and Heather Beech, both long serving club members, are to be married this month, one week before they set off on 'Operation Crocodile' an expedition taking a number of handicapped children on safari to Kenya.

Rob Heath who has been working and living in London for the last three years has just gained his P.h.d. "Doctor Heath I presume." He hopes to find employment back in his home territory and thus rejuvenate his interest in caving.--- Better get all those "obsolete" ladders polished.

J.R. JOHNSON.

'XMAS DO'

Something should be decided about the 'Xmas Do' fairly soon so that a booking can be made. Please give this matter some thought.

This years national caving conference was held for the first time at Liverpool university. Three lecture theatres were in use, offering a varied programme. The lectures which I attended on the Saturday included :-

Crewe C.P.C. Gouffre Berger Expedition '83 - John Gillet

John gave an interesting talk on the recent club expedition, concluding with a short selection of slides.

Gregoriana - George Hostford

Report on a recent caving expedition to Northern Spain.

Speedwell cavern - Clive Westlake

Clive gave everyone an interesting tour of Speedwell with an excellent series of slides.

Lunch time was devoted to the S.R.T. race and the exhibition. The S.R.T. race was rained off and left everyone with time to view the various stalls which included caving supplies and Inglesport battling for competition. There were also caving club stands showing projects undertaken during the past year.

The afternoons session included:-
Tresviso '83 - Howard Jones.

A report on this years expedition to Cueva in northern Spain, which was explored to a depth of - 1169m.

Sink -y-Giedd / Dan yr Ogof Link ? - Pete Francis

work has been going on for a number of years with a view to the linking of the major sinks and the main Dan yr ogof system.

Mexico '82 - Pt. I.

Terry Whittaker and Howard Limbert introduced every one to the topography and caves of the Las Margaritas area.

This was followed by a preview of Sid Perou's film of the Mexico '82 expedition, which is to be screened on Tv some time in the new year and is well worth watching.

This provided an excellent end to an enjoyable days conference.

Alan Scragg.

COURSES AT LOOSEHALL 1983/4

I have details of 3 courses available at Loosehall Peak National Park Centre entitled:

* Minerals Rocks and Fossils* Oct. 1983 Price £46.

* Caves of the Peak* Nov. 1983. Price £46.

* Mines of the Peak District* Mar. 1984. Price £48.

Anyone who requires more details should contact me.

C. JONES.

-DERBYSHIRE CAVE RESCUE MEETING

(A summary of Cliff Jones' report on the meeting.)

ITEM 1. Minutes of previous A.G.M. accepted.

ITEM 2. Chairman's report ---- ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ

A.O.B. None.

The meeting closed at 5.55 P.M.

J.R. JOHNSON.

P.S. We made a brief encounter into a Marston's pub before the meeting.

(Which probably accounts for Cliff's report.) On the way home, I have 3 witnesses to swear that Cliff tried to exchange a pint of real ale (Ruddles County.) for a pint of ice-cold, pasteurised, paralised, sterilised LAGER.

** It's all lies !! - Editor.

A REMINDER

Don't forget the AGM. on JAN.(9) We will be looking for willing volunteers to fill the various posts within the club and it would help if nominations could be made before the meeting, (although this is not essential). As you all know Alan Walker will not be standing as chairman, and Ralph has at long last decided to hang up his pen and his new typewriter, and will not be standing for re-election as secretary. Give this matter some thought - it's your club, so the person you nominate should be; a) Willing to do the job (ask them before you nominate them) b) Capable of doing the job.

The various posts are listed below, I have tried to summarise their responsibilities.

CHAIRMAN. (vacant). Run the meetings. Help the Sec. with the organization and running of the club and club functions, help to fill any administrative gaps.

SECRETARY (J.R.Johnson) Circulate information, book meets, maintain contact with external agencies and deal with membership.

TREASURER. (J.Shenton) Keep the club in the black.

TACKLE OFFICERS (T.Gamble, P.Holderoft, J.R.Johnson) Issue and maintain tackle in a safe condition. Maintain adequate stocks.

TRAINING OFFICER. (A.Soragg) Deal with requests from outside agencies for instruction, lectures etc, persuade people to qualify as instructors and assistants and run internal training and practice for new members.

There has been some suggestion re. Club Library, so perhaps a librarian should be on the committee. Comments would be welcome on these areas of responsibility.

THE CLUB INSTRUCTOR SYSTEM - A TIME FOR CHANGE ?

The present system of club instructors has been operating for a considerable number of years and as been very succesful, a considerable sum of the yearly club income been attributed to the work of the instructors.

This system as seen very little change since its creation, the one major development being the appointment of a training officer to co-ordinate the work of the instructors.

Recent criticism of the present system has centered around the reform of the requirements for the instructor and assistant instructor qualification to include modern developments within the caving field ie. S.R.T.

The following notes are intended as a basis for futher discussion and are a personnel view point only.

Let us commence at the beginning:-

AN OUTLINE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM :-

1. All applicants for instructor/assistant instructor must in the opinion of the club be competent to take charge of caving parties consisting predominantly of beginners.
2. All applicants should be able to fulfill the requirements for the instructor /assistant certificate. See appendix (1) and (2).
3. Applicants must complete an application form giving details of experience.
4. All applications are submitted to the committee of instructors for consideration.

ROLE OF THE TRAINING OFFICER

It is difficult to describe the role of the training officer because in the past there as been no set job discription . This needs to be changed for next year , an ideal opportunity to do this is the annual general meeting. The job as I see it :-

1. Encouragement of suitably experienced members to become instructors.
2. The organization of novice caving parties. Which includes the work of the instructors.
3. The collection of fees for instructed parties.
4. The training of novice club members. In the past this area has recieved little attention and now with a large number of new beginners a determined effort is required.

The major fault in the past has been that there have been no set duties for the training officer and it has been left to their own discretion. this needs to be rectifed at the next annual general meeting so that future training officers know exactly what is involved in the job.

Criticism of the present system.

1. Depends upon co-operation. Persons appointed must be willing to take parties out. Some members have the view that the training officer should take all parties out, but it is up to all instructors to take parties out and it must not be left to a few to do all the work. Persons who are appointed as instructors must be prepared to take parties out and not use thier appointment as a status symbol.
2. In the past due to low numbers of instructors and non-availability of instructors it has been common practice for non-instructors to take out novice parties. In the future approved club instructors only must take the parties out. If this practice continues it makes nonsense of the appointment procedure.
3. Most members seem to be un-willing to fill in an application form . Application forms are useful ; they provide all the information required for the assesment of candidates.
But due to the reluctance of members to fill in forms , asystem where members are asked to become instructors by a committee of instructors is required.
4. In conjunction with (3) all future appointments of instructors should be made by a committee of the training officer and a small number of the present instructors.
There is a need for a appointment procedure , recent incidences such as those stated in D.C.R.O. reports I37 and I38 (D.C.A. newsletter 52) were novice parties not using lifelines required rescue , shows the need for competent , experienced instructors only.
5. There is a need for a standard fee to be set for the instruction of novice parties.

What i have tried to do is to outline briefly the present club system and its major drawbacks. The list is by no means complete and any other suggestions would be welcome.

There is a need for discussion, the question which requires answering is :-

" Why do we offer an instructor service :-

To make extra income , To provide new members for the club.

Do we need to carry on with this service." ?

Alan Scragg

CREWE CLIMBING AND POTHOLOGING CLUB

Instructor Certificate

Instructors are persons, who in the opinion of the Club, are competent to take charge of caving parties consisting predominantly of beginners.

All applicants for instructor qualification should be able to fulfill the following requirements (a log or summary of experience to be submitted to the Committee):-

- a) Served as an assistant instructor on three occasions,
- b) Have acted as a Leader (Organiser) on at least two major Club Trips,
- c) Have explored at least 20 cave systems which should include:-
 1. Potholes with more than 4 pitches.
 2. Pitches of at least 100ft.
 3. Caves with at least 2 wet pitches.
 4. Major streamways.
 5. Crawls and squeezes.
 6. Ducks or sumps.
 7. Rift passages (including high level traverses).
 8. Boulder chokes.
 9. Mines or mined passages.
- d) Have taken part in ten trips of at least 4 hours duration.
- e) Have taken part in two trips of at least 10 hours duration.
- f) Be able to demonstrate that he can swim dressed in caving gear (inc. wetsuit).
- g) Be conversant with rescue techniques and callout procedure.
- h) Have a thorough knowledge of equipment (club and personal) and techniques.
- i) Have a knowledge of cave formation and formations.
- j) Be familiar with 'Manual of Caving Techniques'.
- k) Have caved in at least three major caving areas.
- l) Be familiar with first aid procedure particularly with the type of first aid likely to be encountered underground.
- m) Have completed at least 50 caving days.
- n) All applicants to be at least 18 years.

APPENDIX- 2

Assistant Instructors are persons who, in the opinion of the Club, are competent to assist Instructors with parties of beginners.

All applicants for Assistant Instructor qualification should be able to fulfil the following requirements. (A log or summary of experience to be submitted to the Committee)

- a) Have taken part in at least 5 trips of at least 4 hours duration.
- b) Have caved in at least 2 major caving areas.
- c) Have explored at least 10 cave systems which should include:-
 - (i) Potholes with 2 or more pitches.
 - (ii) Pitches of at least 60 feet.
 - (iii) Wet pitches
 - (iv) Crawls and Squeezes.
 - (v) Rift passages. (Including high level traverses)
- d) Have a thorough knowledge of caving techniques.
- e) Have an elementary knowledge of first aid in particular with the type of first aid likely to be encountered underground.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

Contrary to popular belief C.C.P.C. has not gone into retirement since the "Berger" Since our return the trips recorded in the log have included; P.8, Rowter Mine, Nettle Pot, Swildon's Hole (twice), Lamb's Lair (twice) North Hill Swallet, Lancaster Hole (twice), Rowten Hole, Water Icicle, and Gautries Hole. There may be other trips unrecorded. If you have'nt been getting your share the only person to blame is yourself, you only have to pick up your member's list and make a few phone calls.

ADDITIONS TO FUTURE MEETS.

PEAK CAVERN 30th. OCT.
LANCASTER ETC. 11th. MAR.

PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION TO AXE HOLE.

(With apologies to J.Gillett.)

The first question you must ask yourself when planning an expedition of this kind is WHY ? Well WHY NOT ? Seriously though, Axe Hole, being the deepest cave (or possibly the second deepest) on Stanley Moor holds some kind of facination for most dedicated cavers, and our expedition was planning to be the first team ever (I think) to do the whole cave using S.R.T. completely!!

"Gasp!" I hear you say "Impossible" Well you may be right (Who am I to doubt) but our plans are simple (They have to be, most team members couldn't understand them otherwise) With a team of about 60 cavers we will use siege tactics and hopefully get 3 or 4 to the bottom.

After asking yourself WHY? your second question must be WHO? - easy - anybody Anybody that is who can afford the expense. I took meticulous care over the financial aspect of the expedition, and programmed all relevant information into my son's abacus, and came up with what I consider to be a reasonable cost unit per person somewhere between 3 yellow beads and 2 red ones. While discussing finance I should mention sponsors, I contacted several, but none of them seem enthusiastic, it may well be that they consider the task before us too difficult or doomed to failure, NEAR SIGHTED DIM WITTED FOOLS!!! My only success was the Post Office, who kindly donated £4.65p. (actually I emptied my savings account, but I intend to recoup this when they use some of our photographs on thier next issue of special stamps.)

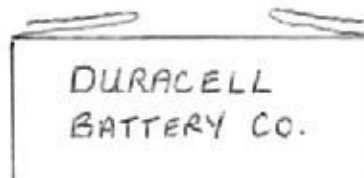
Well now you've answered WHY? and WHO? -next - WHEN? I've been in touch with several experts on this one and thier opinion has been unanimous - during the 'Dry Season' Thinking this answer a little ambiguous, I checked further and discovered the 'Dry Season' falls between 3PM. and 5.30PM. when I'm assured it's impossible to get a drink anywhere in Buxton.

After WHY? WHO? WHEN? comes HOW? As I've mentioned before, we hoped to be the first team to do the cave using S.R.T. only, but we will be taking along a few ladders incase of 'mishaps. The problem of underground communications caused us a severe headache. We planned to have a telephone link from Camp 1 to the surface, and to save us money we contacted the experts - POST OFFICE TELECOM. Remembering how well we had done on sponsorship from their cousins the Post Office we expected big things, only to be told we would have to pay a £50 connection fee and 5p a call thereafter. RIDICULOUS!!! It was at this stage that I came up with an idea that could be worthwhile persuing in the future- HOMING PIDGEONS ! We spent several hours trying to iron out the wrinkles in this idea, but we were finally beaten on two counts. *1The pidgeon invariably flew home to Biddulph, which meant a 20 mile round trip to find out the message. *2 The pidgeons struggled a little on take-off wearing an Oldham battery and caplamp. I still think the idea is a sound one, and once these problems are mastered, someone will make a killing.

WHY? WHO? WHEN? HOW? The next question must be obvious --WHERE? Does any body know where Axe Hole is ????

A QUICK TIP FROM TERRY.

If you want to improve the contact, battery life, light intensity, etc on your Petzl/Duracell lamp, bend the contacts over, as shown, with pliers. It also avoids shorting out.



ROPES.

A reminder : All our ropes are (should be) marked to show their length.

Colour code:	White	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
Length in feet:	50	60	100	120	150

DAMAGE TO LADDERS.

The phantom ladder wrecker has struck again, after a rest of about 5 years! His technique is simple, He throws a ladder down a short pitch so that it lands on it's end. If it's a pin and resin job, the resin cracks and the rung slips, if it's a crimped end, this lands on the wire and chops it quite neatly. The latest attack was on a brand-new Youth Service ladder. Keep your eyes open you might be using the ladder next. I KNOW YOUR'E NOT GUILTY!!! Please don't throw ladders down pitches.

EQUIPMENT RE-CALL.

A fault has been discovered on the 'JONES PATENT LIGHTING SYSTEM' Due to faulty wiring the electric 'willy warmer' once switched on, won't switch off, (If you are using Duracell batteries, as I was, it takes 21 hours to run down.) If any sets are returned, a full refund will be made.

P.S. Does anybody know how to get rid of a permanent grin.

***** NEWSFLASH *****

There is a faulty batch of ladders in circulation, manufactured by 'CAVING LADDERS' of Bristol,retailed through Caving Supplies. The manufacturers name with a letter 'T' is stamped on the end rungs. In a number of cases the 'C' links have snapped without warning! Please circulate this information amongst your friends.

It has been suggested that a Miscellaneous Sales, and Miscellaneous Wants column might feature in the Newsletter in the future. This might be a good idea, and if anyone would like to use this service, they should contact the editor. Some possible examples appear below.

*Sundry Caving Gear, good condition, offers.

Apply, Ralph (I'm retiring after this)

*One 'Jones patent lighting system' Only 21 hours use.

Apply, Cliff (smiler) Jones.

*One sunhat complete with sunglasses.

Apply, Mrs. (Who sold you that) Reynolds.

*C90 cassette, containing valuable historic radio broadcasts.

Apply, Cliff (T. Wogan) Jones.

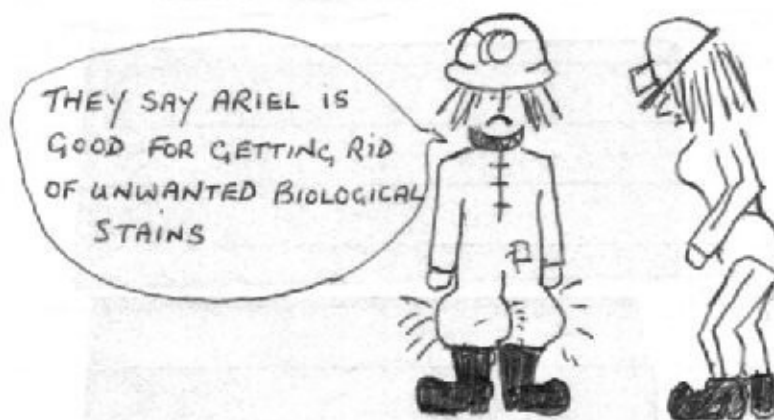
*Blow-up rubber dolly bird, slightly used, real hair wig.

Apply P.O. Box 42

MISCELLANEOUS WANTS.

*Set of Dominos. Apply Ralph (This is better) Johnson.

*Rubber blow-up dolly bird. Apply Tony (I only want it for the wig) Reynolds.



AMMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS LIST

NEW MEMBERS

Adam Baker.

Anthony Botham.

Paul Shenton.

CORRECTIONS.

Tony Gamble.

Mick Edge.

Redacted

To end on a lighter note, I know a caver who is so enthusiastic, he even named his dog BELA(Y).