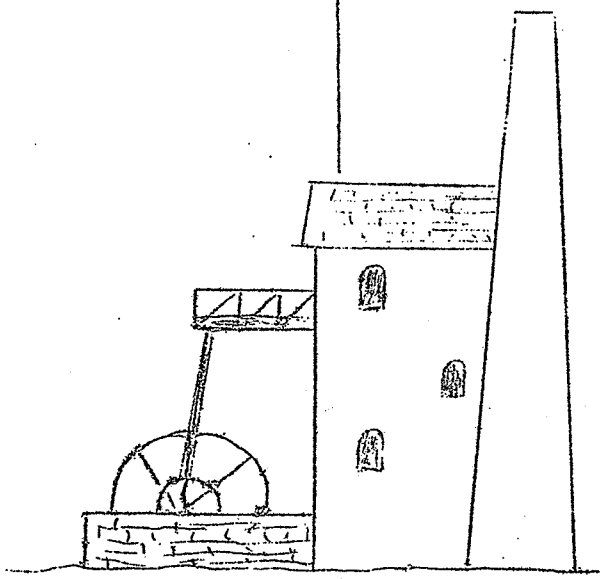
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No



PLYMOUTH CAVING GROUP



NEWSLETTER

No 33 A1

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Balance Sheet 1969/70

Income				
Balance from 1968		15	16	9
Membership Subs.		20	15	0
Provisional Membership		1	0	0
Grants and Donations		81	10	0
Sales		24	7	6
Meet Subscriptions		18	4	10
Miscellaneous		7	14	1
	Total	169	8	2
Expenditure				
Running expenses		3	1	8
Tackle		27	11	10
Publication & Postage		1	5	2
Books & Journals		3	6	0
Club Room		8	8	9
Subscriptions		6	0	0
Miscellaneous		19	12	0
	Total	69	5	5
Balance in Halifax plus interest		75	3	0
Petty Cash		24	19	9
	Total	169	8	2

Interest in Halifax 1-4-4.

Signed: R. Jones (Hon. Treasu
L. Rainsford (Chairm

Plymouth Caving Group Management Committee for 1970/71.

Chairman D.A.Curry,238 North Rd.,Plymouth.

Secretary Miss P.Evans,1 Erme Gdns.,Efford.

Treasurer R.Jones,28 Coltness Rd.,Elburton.

Membership Secretar D.Badmin,Flat 9,12 St.James Terr.Citade

Tackle Warden H.Browning,37 York Rd.,Paignton.

Club Room Warden B.Moran,75 Pomphlett Rd.,Plymstock.

P. Northfield, 17 York Rd.,Weston Mill Estate.

D.Ford, 161 Langley Cres.,Southway.

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Expedition '69 to Yugoslavia.

Slovenia in northern Yugoslavia has many large and beautif caves,especially in the Postojna region,and it was here that PCG decided to spend three weeks of exploration.

One of the largest and most spectacular caves visited was Krizna Jama - the cave of the cross.This cave has been known since 1838 when local workmen used to go boating on the lakes inside.Topographical and geological studies were made in 1882 and over two thousand bones of Cave Bears were excavated.Two complete skeletons of these bears can be seen in the Imperial Museum in Vienna.

The seven members of the PCG plus four cavres from the mid and a local guide set off for the cave early one morning in J The entrance is a large cleft in the rocks in a wooded valley below the mountains.The entrance was sealed some years ago wi large steel door.This was to prevent the local villagers stea the stalagmites and stalactites from inside the cave.

The first chamber inside the cave is extremely large and t floor is littered with large boulders fallen from the roof. the far end of the chamber is the first lake - one of a serie of 24.H ere it was necessary for the party to inflate two rub dingies to speed up the crossing of the lake.There was only e room for three people in each dinghy so the rest of the party to swim.Their neoprene diving suits protected them from the c The lake is extensive yet shallow with muddy banks on either

When we arrived at the second lake we found that the roof was much lower and it is here that the main water gallery beg From this point the lakes continue,separated at times only by a shallow calcite dam which was only an inch or two high.The lakes gradually increase in depth and size,sometimes reaching

fifteen to twenty feet deep and the water stretching from wal wall.

Islands of stalagmite formations protrude from the water a have been aptly named,e.g.Beneski Pristan - The Venetian land stage,Piratska Ladja - the pirate ship,Goba - the mushroom.

At the tenth lake there is a passage completely blocked by calcite formations.The entrance to this passage was used as a camp when the first survey was made in the mid-nineteenth cen

At a spot named Otock - the island,the passage changes fro clean narrow lake to a wider passage strewn with boulders and earth.This was probably the resultmof a roof collapse.From he several large passages branch off.

Unfortunately by now some of the members of the party had to feel the cold.Strangely enough it was the people who were travelling in the dingys.They decided to return to the surfac taking the boats and the guide with them.This left six member the PCG to carry on alone.....

To be continued.

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Training Meets.

A test series of 3 training meets are now being run at three weekly intervals.If the turn out is good we will extend these m a regular basis over the comming year.

The objects of these meets will be firstly to raise the star fittness and ability of the club,secondly to provide a set near training novices in such things as ladder climbing,and thirdly provide a stepping stone for perhaps a handful of the really ke and more fit members to push far ahead,towards expedition stand hope!The emphasis will mainly be on ladder climbing and carryin heavy loads over very uneven ground.

Our first trip was to the Dewerstone Rock.On arriving at Sha Bridge we changed,shouldered our gear and lept into the river - the amazement of the tourists,and waded and swam up to the Dew Here we spent the afternoon practicing on an 80 foot pitch.Wher evening started to draw in we shouldered our gear once more our way back to the bridge.Nothing fantastic,but enough to put who are not so keen.Fifteen members turned out for this meet.

Only six turned up at the second training meet.This wasa an hike across the moors with no equipment.A deliberate up and dow was chosen;from Yelverton to Burrator,Sheepstor,Down Tor,Crazyw Foggin Tor Quarries and then down into the Walkhan valley,into Walkhampton and back to Yelverton - a distance of 14 miles.Once nothing fantastic but enough to show us wether we are fit or no

I hope that future underground meets will give us experience and efficiency - something we all need.I hope the interest last Don't hang about!

Hugh Browning.

Tackle Inventory 1970

Ropes

Ulstron multi-filament	2 x 60 ft. 1 x 100 ft. 1 x 150 ft.
Ulstron fibrilated tape	2 x 150 ft. 1 x 420 ft. (to be cut) 1 x 720 ft. (to be cut)
Hemp & sisal	1 x 300 ft.sisal 6 assorted digging ropes.
Slings	8 nylon.
Ladder	2 x 15 ft. 14 x 30 ft. 1 x 26 ft. 4 x 30 ft under constructio

Material in stock
600 ft. of 20 cut wire
37 'c' links to be cut
24 thimbles
250 taper pins.
178 ft.of rungs.
6 oz. plastic filling for rung ends.
20 ft. of brass rod for pins.

Headers	1 x 40 ft. 1 x 20 ft. 2 x 3 ft. 1 x 1 ft. 1 x 18 ins.
Material in stock	80 ft. of 35 cwt. wire 90 talurit ferrules
Maypole	2 x 10 ft. 6 x 8 ft. one with steel e 7 x 6 ft. 1 x 5ft.

19 swivel clams for maypole
9 right angle clamps
15 expanding plugs.
1 external end clamp
1 special clam with eye holes for ladder.
6 base plates.
1 small stemple.

Plus various accessories for construction work and digs.

Disaster

At break of dawn,
the miners leave whitewashed cottages
and make their way
to the mine on the cliff.
Passing other dwellings, they meet other men
and march in groups of two and threes.
Few words are exchanged .... the men, they are old.
They walk with quickening step and as they approach
the mine they see the candles aglo in the dry.

The men, now in coarse flannel dress and felt hats light thei
candles and walk towards the tunnel. The flickering light shi
and glistening on grey familiar walls. Now they stand and wai
at the end of the shaft. The wooden rod rising and falling.
As the rod rises they step onto the platform and descend int
darkness. And soon they have gone, each to their own levels.

Deep below are lodes, rich in granite, where the men toil day
night, drilling holes and blasting, placing the sot with stead
hand.
Fire !
Men scatter,
A deafening roar,
then the stillness .... the silence, like that of a tomb.
Now, the men stop work so that the smoke may settle.

Croust time.
Men and boys come from all directions, securing a position, tl
sit and eat.
Old men talk of times when they were young, boys listen to tl
tales they tell.
With meat now eaten, the older men puff contentedly at clay
and chew at twists of tobacco,
But there is little time to stop and stare.

Securing picks and shovels, the men proceed to their places.
The ore is shovelled into waiting wagons then loaded into k
and hoisted to grass, there to be cobbed by young maidens.
In other parts of the mine, men and boys work in pairs,
Banging and digging, watching and learning.

The shift is o'er,
The men await for the engine to start so that they may begi
upward journey.
Just as before they step with ease on and off the wooden pl
Yet, today there seemed an uneasiness.
For days there have been trembles and creaks.
Old men wondered, the young troubled not.
The shaft resounded with the voices of men singing together
as they made their way upward, step on ... step off,
A step into nothing !

Down,down,
Falling bodies, splintered timber,and a mound of rubble.
Miners working at hand rushed to the place,digging and scrap:
at bare rock with bruised hands ... and sickened hearts.
But ... there is no life.

Men changing in the dry hear the news,
What is this they ask?
The engine gone .... what do they mean?
They rush to the tunnel where the engine once stood,they see
nothing.
How did it happen?
How many are dead?
There are so many questions to ask.

The surface had now become animated with men and boys fetchi
and carrying ropes,candles and brandy.
They rush down the pathway to the adit.
Down the ladder they climb,for speed is important now.
They reach the level and hasten along the tunnel,
Yet,what they see is carnage,terrible carnage.

News spreads,on top women weep,and men mourn.
Brothers,sons,lovers dead.
In the village people collect outside shops ... houses ...
anywhere.The tale of trgedy spreads from village to town.
Houses are darkened,and streets become empty

As darkness turns to light sons and grandsons proceed to
granite chapels.Their heads bowed deep in sympathy.
Still Weeping,
Women,pregnant with sorrow gaze upon the coffins,their
bodies mute with grief.
Then ... out into the churchyard,onto open open windsweapt
moors ... and home again.

Now,many a year has passed since the disaster.
Old men meet and talk together.Their wrinkled faces and
sad eyes tell of times long ago.
Like that time in Levant.

Tricia Evans.

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Have you seen a Knacker ?

Those of us who visit old mines may not have heard of th knackers (the supposed spirits of deadtin miners).The word knacker is thought to have been derivedffrom the Anglo Saxo word 'Nicor' meaning an underground fairy.

In later centuries the Knacker becamea gnarled old man w red or grey hair and a head which was unproportionately lar the rest of its body.The Knackers went around in groups und and they often changed shape or even vanished when the tim drew near.

With the deepening of the tin mines the story of the Kna grew and tales concerning these little men became widespread

One such tale was where a miner somewhere in Cornwall re to leave any morsels of food for the knekers as he had no t them.Whilst working underground he came across a small grou Knackers in a vugh.They told him that something would happ still refused to leave any titbits for them.He took no noti them and continued about his duty.

When he arrived for work the following morning he found where he had been working had fallen in. Such incidents to happen and he eventually left the mine to work elsewhere. other miners said it was undoubtedly dueto the Knackers.

So next time you hear a knocking or tapping underground make sure you leave something behind .....

Tricia.

Phoenix United Mine.

An early start to this meet was delayed when Hugh's motor finally gave up the ghost.He broke the news to us three hour later in the club room.

Bad weather and the exposed situation of the shaft made changing into damp gear an effort,and it was a full hour bef people were disappearing down the shaft collar.The ninety fo pitch was probably the filthiest I have ever encountered,wit black slimy mud slithering down the walls.Everyone was plast by the time they reached the bottom.

Ian,little Phil,Paul and Kevin - a new member went first intended to bottom the mine.Pat,Hugh,Nell,Rod and myself dec to stay at the top of the last pitchand explore the stope.We scrambled about to the sounds of Hugh's grumbles about motor looking for a way on or possibly an extention to the mine. Unfortunately nothing was found.

We went back to the top of the ninety foot pitch and afte bringing the others up we started the long haul to the surfa Hugh and Pat decided to look in the stope in the first level was here that they saw a huge boulder just balancing on top rubble heap.

Ian was first up to grass with the rest following behind. It was a nightmare hauling wet muddy tackle to the surface. Changing back into warm clothes didn't take long, except for Hugh. He ran about in socks and shreddies splashing through the pools of icy water .

We quickly loaded the gear and were soon on our way home Kevin did fairly well for his first trip underground, completing all four pitches. A total of approximately 270 fe

Phil Tozer.

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A little information on Japanese speleology. By Taf Ware

N.B. Taf is a founder member of the H.M.S. Fearless Caving Club and has explored many systems in his travels around th globe.

The ship accompanied by R.F.A Stromness arrived in Tokyo last year for the British Week Exhibition. I had several addresses of various people to contact in Tokyo regarding caving but unfortunately they could not be found. However with the help of the tourist offices I succeded in locating Dr. Shun-Ichi Ueno from the Zoology Department of the National Science Museum, Tokyo. Dr. Ueno, who is also a fellow speleologist , was secretary of the Speleological Society of Japan and the Caving Association of Japan. These are the mai caving organisations, although there are one or two smaller very active clubs.

Akyoshi, in southern Japan, is the Speleological Societies headquarters and has an underground laboratory called Kamor Ana. Here the staff are working on the development and reproduction of shrimps and Myriapods. Akyoshi is also one o the major caving regions of Japan and contains about 150 ca and potholes, many of which are far more extensive and finel decorated than those oin the surrounding areas of Tokyo. Dr. Ueno, an authority on cave and other faunas, chiefly speciallises in the Trichid beetles, and has so far discover 150 new species which he is in the process of describing. He was general supervisor and zoologist on the 1966 Speleologi Survey in South Korea, and although not all the data has bee processed he kindly gave me copies of the 15 completed pape

A caving trip was arranged for us by Dr. Ueno, with a Mr. Kikuchi who is a student from Nihon University and a member the Univertity Exploration Club. Later that afternoon Mr. Kik arrived at Dr. Ueno's office where we made plans for the cav trip; unfortunately Dr. Ueno was engaged over the weekend and could not accompany us. We decided to visit Aoiwa cave, recog as the best cave in the Tokyo area. It was situated in the

Chichiboo National Park some distance from Tokyo, and the trip was spread out over Saturday and Sunday.

The four Fearless members ; P.O.Stanley, A/B Smith, L/Cpl. Penington and myself, set out from the ship early Saturday morning, meeting a dozen members of the Explorati Club at the station. We had a three hour train journey fol by an hour's coach trip, in which we quickly made friends our hosts. The rest of the journey was on foot and took ju over five hours. It should only have taken us three hours the going was very difficult and in places we almost gave On reaching the site at about 5.30 p.m. we made camp and a good meal. Afterwards we entertained ourselves with a si by candlelight, as dusk had already set in. The university members now totalled 15 as one or two joined at various p along the journey. Unfortunately , near the end of the trek of the university chaps who was behind the rest of the pa slipped of the track down a 200 ft. slope. Luckily the slo was well vegetaed with firm, long grass and he was not seriously hurt. However he was taken back to the National Lodge for the night by Wataru Ishikawa, leader of the univ club.

Next morning we split up into several different parti visit the cave which was situated about thirty yards awa the site . There were five in our party - four from Fearle and Waturu. The cave is about a mile long, the entrance bei about five foot high, gated and locked. This leads down to small stream passage ankle deep in water which passes thr one or two large chambers (30 - 40 ft. high and 50 ft. in diameter). There are some fairly good formations with a fe waterfalls and constricted rifts. The stream passage final ends in a large chamber, where the stream falls down a 40 waterfall, the top of which continues a little way before sumping. There one or two side passages which lead to some decorated chambers - almost half of one medium-sized cham contained a frozen river formation. The trip took just ove an hour, after which we broke camp, and left. The return jou was much easier and after making our farewells at the sta we were guided to the right bus stop and arrived onboard Sunday morning.

Summary

Caving in Japan has only really developed in the last years and is rapidly becoming more popular. Under-develope limestone areas are being exploited, and sophisticated pro is now being made in all aspects of speleology.

Although there is no cave rescue organisation as such, have a record of only two fatal accidents, one being cause starvation and exhaustion as a result of getting lost.

There was no real language barrier between us and our the Nihon University Exploration Club. Wataru the leader o

club could speak good English and students in Japan are taugh English as a second language.The club has a membership of 25· the fifteen members we met were all very keen and dedicated t the sport,although the club discapline is fairly strict they all had a very good sense of humour.They all wore the club uniform which consists of red shirts with the letters N.U.E.C on the arm.Had it not been for their great help and encourage on the journey to the campsite we would not have arrived at c destination.

Taf Ware.

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Morwellham - A venture in recreation and education.

Morwellham is a derelict river port on the Tamar which wa the hub of an enormous complex of mineral enterprises; Devon Great Consols extended over 160 acres,with five separat centres of extraction.Bedford United Mine and Ding Dong Adit produced arssenic,copper,fluorspar,tin uranium and wolfram.

In the 1850's vessels up to three hundred tons queued up t Tamar to use the port of Morwellham but as the production of mines declined,capital was withdrawn.After Devon Great Consol was closed at the turn of the century the port fell into dereliction.

The Dartington Amemity Research Trust has opened the thepc as a Recreational and Educational Centre with picnic sites,ca park and a museum.

The PCG has helped in the project by supplying valuable material and information such as underground surveys,mine rel and photographs.Its encouraging to know that the PCG can prov a service outside the realms of club activities to a project this size.We will undoubtedly reap a benefit from it.

Ed.

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You have all undoubtedly heard of Bob Cawthorne's accident earlier this month when he sustained serious injuries.We hope he makes a speedy recovery and will be trogging before the year is finished.All the best Bob.

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Swildons Trip

We started off for Mendip one Sunday morning - late as usu and arrived at Swildons about lunch time. On arriving at the f we found numerous other cavers there and it looked as though Swildons was going to be crowded. However we changed quickly and made our way to the entrance. There was a fair amount of v flowing into it and accompanied by moans and groans from the non wet suit members we set off down the passage.

The first chamber, before the wet way was a mass of water w streams coming in from all directions. Everybody was well soak from the start. We continued on down to the remains of the 40 without any holdups but as we approached the 20 we came up to the back end of a queue of about 30 people waiting to ladder pitch. While we were waiting Hugh and Phil rifted above the qu and made their way to the top of the pitch. With the usual PC improvisation Hugh found an iron bar which he wedged behind a large formation and rigged up a ladder to the side of the usu belay point. We all rifted above the long queue and smartly nipped down the 20 much to the annoyance of most of the other cavers waiting to climb.

We arrived at Sump 1 and it looked in a horrible state. The water was very dirty and there was a lot of froth floating on surface. Hugh was the first one through followed by the rest c although there were a couple members who prefered to stay whe they were. The water in the sump was cold and we moved quickly the first duck. This turned out to be a sump and a guide line been laid through it. When we reached Sump 2 Nell decided she getting too cold so we left her at the entrance contemplating something.

After we had weighted ourselves we pulled our way through the air bell. In my opinion this is the most dismal place that have ever seen. It is a small chamber with Sump 2 at one end a Sump 3 at the other with no place to climb out of the water.

After a meal of chocolate we decided, reluctantly, to try su 3 and Hugh disappeared into the murky depths. The sump was no as long as we thought and Hugh was through quite quickly. He g the signal and I followed.

From Sump 3 we followed the stream passage down as far as 4 . We were thinking of trying Sump 4 but decided to attempt B Pencil instead. This again was not as difficult as we imagined could be compared with the Dutch Oven in Bakers but on a smal scale and much longer. A small stream was flowing down the pas and this helped to keep us cool as the passage is quite steep in places quite tight. On reaching the top of Blue Pencil we f ourselves in a chamber with two exits. We decided to traverse the chamber above Blue Pencil and after 60 ft. or so came to large pool of water. This was the first of the Double Trouble The sump needed bailing and so we set to and started bailing the two plastic buckets provided for that purpose.

After a while we had removed enough water to reveal a 5 inch air space. We proceeded through the first sump to the second which fortunately didn't require any bailing.

Sump 2 emerged into a series of muddy passages which we thought were Paradise Regained. After following the well troc route we came to a chamber with two exits - straight on or t a rift in the floor. We decided to try the latter and on doin could hear the main stream below. We later found the fixed rc which led in Swildons 2 30 ft. below. We were disappointed in way as we had hoped to complete the full round trip.

After returning the lead weights to Sump 2 we set off for quick trip out. Apparently we were the last party out and we reached the surface after 6 hours of trogging.

The day's caving was finished with the usual trip to the Hunters and the final drive home. We had proved that although were out of reach to most of the caving areas it is possible plan day trips to one of the best caves in the country.

Rod Jones

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EUROPEAN CONSERVATION YEAR

1970 is European Conservation Year - a time when we are t to point out the need for care in planning managing and usin countryside - your environment.

But already we hear of a threat to destroy Britains deepe finest cave system - Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. A vast quarry company owning the countryside around the cave are planning to take 40 million tons of rock from the area. The proposed workings would extend towards the entrance of the cave. Consideration the preservation of O,F.D. will be weighed against the need roadstone to build motrways. O.K. so you need to get from A t much quicker but development that destroys the quality of ou lives is not progress.

We also hear of a case in Mendip where the Somerset Medic Officer of Health believes that cavers are a source of pollu to public water supplies in Mendip. He has presented a report the Council of Southern Caving Clubs in support of the claim Threat of greater access control is enevitable. An actual cas successfully proved could have serious consequences for cavi the area especially with the increased numbers of cavers vis the area.

But I wonder if the County Medical Officer of Health has similarly confronted inland sailors, anglers, firms dischargin effluent, farmers, quarry owners etc.? Has his own local author provided toilet facilities near sight-seeing spots or encour safer sewage and rubbish disposal on the Hills. To all these

questions the answer, one suspects is NO.

However we as cavers must take all preventative measure to minimise risk of pollution both in mines and in caves. Conservation means acting with respect.
IT CONCERNS ALL OF US.

Dave Curry.

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B.S.A. Conference, 11th - 13th September.

This is being held at Nottingham University this year. Entry Fee, including a copy of the Proceedings will be appr 15/-
Included in the programme will be lectures, films and and exhibition - the best stand winning a prize of £5. There is a competition for the best colour slide of a caving subjec and the best black and white print. The first prize in each category will be £2.
Lectures include Dave Gill on "Pierre St. Martin", Tony Walt on "Geomorphology of the Astrakas Plateau, Greece" Chelsea Speleos on "Bury St. Edmuns Chalk Mines " etc.
(Its about time some of us removed our digits and did somethi

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