



The Mendip Caving Group is a Registered Charity No. 270088

Notice of 64th Annual General Meeting 2018

The Annual General Meetings of the Mendip Caving group will be held at The Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy, Wells, Somerset, BA5 3AR on Saturday 7th April 2018 commencing at 10:00 am.

Agendum

Venue: Hunter's Lodge Inn, Priddy

Chairman: Tim Francis

Minutes: Miranda Litchfield

Attendees: 23

Tim Francis, Peat Bennett, Fiona Kempston, Roy Kempston, Ben Cooper, Bryan Pittman, Martin Pecy, Tim Case, Graham Price, Bernard Reeves, Pat Walsh, Joan Goddard, Linda Milne, Lisa Gibson, Richard Carey, Daniel Matthews, Russell Porter, Bill Chadwick, Keith Knight, Miranda Litchfield, Brian Snell, David Loss, Tom Harrison.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nicky Pearce, Mike Haselden, Michael Perryman, Julie Hesketh and Andrew Brander.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 8th April 2017:

Venue: Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy

Chairman: Ed Waters

Minutes: Lisa Gibson

Attendees: 20

Brian Snell, Lisa Gibson, David Loss, Jeremy Gilson, Martin Cross, Bill Chadwick, Bob Templeman, Roy Kempston, Fiona Kempston, Tim Francis, Peat Bennett, Bryan Pittman, Joan Goddard, Bernard Reeves, Steve Church, Pat Walsh, Russ Porter, Ed Waters, Tom Harrison, Ben Cooper.

3. Actions from the previous meeting

Action 3.2.1 Ben Cooper to go ahead and invest £5k from club funds into appropriate investment accounts in order to generate additional annual income for the club. This figure was reviewed by the committee following the purchase of computers and tackle amounting to approximately £2000 and it was agreed by the committee to invest a lower amount of £3k. This action has been put on hold until the shed is complete. Will revisit at a later date. **Action on hold.**

Action 4.6.1 The committee to look into the on-going issue of humidity levels of the library and establish how best to maintain correct levels so that this matter can be concluded. Although a dehumidifier has been installed in the library it is generally agreed that it could not be used to judge the humidity levels in the library as the door was often left open. Books are currently kept away from the wall to allow ventilation and a temperature log has been introduced by Charlie. It was agreed that a humidity meter will also be introduced and people should be encouraged to fill them in regularly and keep the library door closed. The committee will monitor the situation.

Humidifier ran and picked up water. When door open takes moist air from cottage anyway. Temperature readings are still ongoing. No damage has been noted to books, etc. Ventilation is an issue. Do we need something thermostatically controlled? Could look online for other examples of similar situations and solutions? Bob will let LG know about a possible solution he saw on Amazon. EW: Librarian (LG) keep an eye on this and if any issues let the committee know. **Action ongoing with Lisa Gibson.**

4. Matters arising

*62.1 The old computer will continue to be used for the access system. A copy of MS Office will be obtained so that library /membership databases can be created. Action with Brian Snell. BS: MS Office on new PC. Access-issues update: access is on 2nd PC as a back-up system. Need to copy recent/current files to the back-up PC, so it's up to date. Option: put virtual machine software on new computer, and run as a virtual machine. Will investigate. Good that we have a back-up but will need a long-term solution. EW: no issues with access system, really reliable. BS: put novice helmets into 2nd box, to be accessed by the access system, so know who's using/taking. Long-term will be the new shed and movement of tackle store. **Action ongoing with Brian Snell and Russ Porter.***

*62.2 Tom Harrison will put a reminder in the newsletter about filling in the hut-fees sheets and using the envelopes for paying fees. Brian will get guest group leaders to take responsibility for filling in the 'booking in' sheet. Both reminders have been done. **Action complete.***

*62.3 New windows for upstairs dorms, action with Keith Knight. New windows have been done successfully. If change downstairs windows will use the same source. **Action complete.***

*62.4 A number of actions were identified: new ladders need marking, some of the old ropes need retiring and a sample of SpanSet ropes need assessing as to whether we would want to purchase more, action with Dave Ball. RP is now Tackle master, and is looking into all of this. EW: 60 m of SpanSet was used at EuroSpelio. Petzel have new rope, Andy Sparrow is selling at a good price – investigate. **Action ongoing with Russ Porter.***

*62.5 Investigating print on demand for newsletter, action with Tom Harrison. TH investigated but decided would not work for us. Prints a few copies of the newsletter for the cottage anyway. Will leave for the new Editor to pursue further if decides to, but closed for now. **Action complete.***

*62.7 Marking Tony Knibbs' 80th birthday. Overtaken by events (Tony Knibbs passing away). **Action closed.***

*62.8 Marking the 10th anniversary of the Upper Flood breakthrough. Tim did a presentation about this at the relevant member's weekend. **Action complete.***

*62.9 Kitchen improvements. Karen Fendley asked that the committee to consider improvements to the kitchen, in particular the oven which she felt was not big enough for big social events, but also work surfaces and the position of the fridge. It was generally agreed that the kitchen could be better and the committee would look into possible improvements. This has all been completed successfully (oven replaced with 2 new ones, and additional changes), due to the hard work of Brian, Keith, Russ and Leon, and huge thanks go to them from the committee and MCG membership. **Action complete.***

62.10. *It was noted that only one member of the committee had been nominated in advance. It was felt that this was mostly due to committee members being prepared to stand aside if someone offered to step in to the post at the meeting. Nomination of committee members taking place at the AGM instead of advance has become the general practice over the last few years and maybe the constitution needed changing. Tim Francis proposed that the committee review the Constitution in the light of current practices e.g. the nomination procedure. This was agreed. 1 abstention. Action for the committee.* Decided that wouldn't change because couldn't come up with anything different. EW: nomination by email? BS: could be refined, which would mean a change of constitution at a meeting such as this, but other matters are more pressing for the club atm. EW: need to think about the wording – needs modernising. BS: potential for big change in constitution, but not for at least a year, and needs to be discussed with custodians/trustees. **Action ongoing.**

62.11 *The Christmas dinner was again very popular this year. A new table layout was tried which increased the number of guests but it continues to be oversubscribed. Karen Fendley felt that the method of restricting numbers needs to be reviewed to ensure that it is fair to all. Action for the committee.* Worked out ok this year. Still 1st come 1st served. BS: ultimately if larger group than we have capacity for, would need to look at it again, but currently it's not an existing problem. **Action closed.**

5. Officers reports and matters arising from those reports.

5.1 Hon. Secretary's Report 2016-2017 - Brian Snell

Brian said the Tony Knibbs' wake was successful. Grant: time-limited, need to use by November. Shed is going to be replaced by new drying room and tackle store (thanks to Joan for 1st alerting the committee about the grant). Thank you to BS from all of us, for his continued hard work as Secretary. RK: how many members do we have now? BS: 122. BS: primarily website led – all new members requested novice trips through the website.

5.2 (Acting) Treasurer's Report 2016-2017 – Tom Harrison

Tom began with an update of examination of accounts – a few alterations. Broad sense: member's nights up slightly, guest groups up slightly, cash funds and total funds up slightly. Have increased membership and hut fees, and will see next year what difference this makes. BT: the club has had money back from rates – was it just this year? EW: different clubs get different treatments. Need to get on top of Gift Aid also. TH: when elected as Treasurer for the coming year, will look at rates, charity status, etc. EW: if same cottage fees for members and guests, would be justified if we could then have charity status/Gift Aid. RK: member's fees are still 10x the money that people pay for day fees. TH: day fees down, member's fees are up. Suggestion – i.e. poster on door that says if you haven't stayed the night, would you consider donating. BS: emptied box in kitchen just before did the kitchen and was £65. People are donating, it's just about how we separate/record this. TH: what counts as a donation? I.e. when a group has overpaid? Need to think about all of the informal bits of money donated, wrt the category "day fees". BS: difficult subject to find a solution for. Need status quo and good feeling in the club. Whether you stay, do a day trip, etc, a proportion of subs does go to the cottage upkeep. EW: this is committee business for the course of the year. Treasurer to come back with an update through the year. TH: we can separate out, if want to, for the annual report. Look at 10 year trend, to see if there really is any change? It goes in cycles. TH: day fees = 2 boxes (shower and kitchen), all else is considered as donations. TH will create separate boxes for the donations to keep a close tally on what is donated in either. Treasurer to report at next AGM. **Action 63.1 Tom Harrison.**

5.3 Caving Secretary's Report 2016-2017 – Dave Lossl

Dave said that he had been focusing on new members. Hard to go from probationary to full member. Many of the new members cannot attend club weekends, for various reasons. DL can assess, but needs someone else to help assess the new members for full membership (RP will help with this on Tuesday evening trips when he can). Tim: “group” element to being a member - onus on applicants to meet new people, join in, etc. Joan: could those members who can only make week days do other jobs on a Tuesday, to help the club? DL: could have a Tuesday-night “job’s evening”, when the rest of the club has the annual work weekend. BS: do we need 2 full members to assess a new member for full membership? Tim: not just about technical capabilities. DL: any full member should be able to assess any probationary member. Gear: helmets don’t fit and over suits are massive, not suitable for smaller women. EW: replace the helmets? RP: will discuss at the next committee meeting – DL needs to submit a budget for new kit. Jeremy had access to update the trips section on the website. Dave to contact Jeremy to get him to pass on the access to Dave, so that he could update it. **Action 63.2 Dave Lossl and Russ Porter.**

5.4 Cottage Warden's Report 2016-2017 - Keith Knight

Keith spoke briefly about the years activities and work done at the cottage. It was acknowledged that Keith has done a tremendous amount of work throughout the year, and he was thanked for this.

5.5 Tackle master's Report 2016-2017 - Russ Porter

Russ has put superfluous ladders in the loft and brought some new rope. Dave will submit a budget for new kit. Tim: also need new pulleys. RP: going to purchase 5 pulleys and put a couple in the X cupboard.

5.6 Recorder/Librarian's Report 2016-2017 - Lisa Gibson

Lisa said that she was looking at rationalizing the club’s records, to free up a bit more space in the library. **Action 63.3 Lisa Gibson.**

5.7 Social Secretary's Report 2016-2017 – Hayley Clark (with Ed Waters)

After Hayley's report in which she stated that she would be standing down, there was a Big vote of thanks proposed to HC and EW for all their hard work over the years. It had resulted in truly memorable social events.

5.8 Editor's Report 2016-2017 - Tom Harrison

Tom sent his thanks to everyone for their support/assistance with content for the newsletter and new-member’s guide. EW: very high quality of newsletter. Thanks to Tom again from everyone for all this hard work.

5.9 Other Officers' Reports

a. Trustees' Report Year ended 31st December 2016 - Ben Cooper

Ben said that the half-yearly meeting in October was devoted to the issue of increasing investments. Tim Fancis - still believe in backbone, and investments, but the money is there if needed for anything. Need to continue this policy. Peat Bennett asked what happened to the £3000 that was going to be invested? Brian said it had been delayed in the light of up and coming expenditure, but we could still do that. Will take a look at it and get some money invested. Tom noted the good job done by Karen over the years, and in more than just her Treasurer role (vote of thanks). Brian will review Sept/Oct, when know how much money spent. Will look at investments. **Action 63.4 Brian Snell.**

b. Conservation and Access Officer's Report 2016-2017

Post currently vacant

c. Rescue Warden's Report 2016- 2017

Not available

6. Election of Honorary Officers for 2016- 2017

Brian Snell – Secretary

Tom Harrison – Treasurer

David Lossel – Caving secretary

Keith Knight – Cottage warden

Russ Porter – Tackle master

Lisa Gibson – Librarian/recorder

NEW: Jackie Bishop – Social secretary (proposed by Jeremy, seconded by Bob, unanimous).

NEW: Andy Horecky – Editor (proposed by Peat, seconded by Tim, unanimous)

Tim proposed and Bill seconded for “vote on block”.

7. Election of Non-Committee Posts

Rescue warden - Mike Moxon (proposed by Lisa, seconded by Ed, passed)

Conservation and access officer - Dan Matthews? (BS to ask Dan about this.)

8. Election of Examiners 2016- 2017

Sue Fennell and Linda Milne.

9. Motions

None received

10. Any other business

10.1 How should we commemorate Tony Knibbs in the group

An award given in his memory, once a year. Tony was a great “recorder”, so an award given for something that's been published (in its loosest term, so could be writing, a photograph, film, etc), and presented at the AGM dinner. BS spoke to Denise and she is happy with this. Ideas – a carved plaque with a list of winners? A carved wooden scroll? (Mike Hazeldene might be able to assist with this.) JG: committee come up with a proper proposal for this, needs a lot of thought. Make 1st award this time next year. And a financial component to the award, again to be discussed. **Action 63.5 for the whole committee.**

10.2 A printed annual of MCG newsletters

Would members be interested in purchasing an amalgamated print-out of the newsletter, annually, i.e. in the form of an annual? TH will look into and see what the new editor, AH, thinks. **Action 63.6 Tom Harrison and Andy H.**

10.3 Recording honorary MCG members

Tim: no record of honorary MCG members – suggestion of a plaque in the cottage. Maybe a board, with a wooden caving-trip/call-out card, saying “gone caving” (just one idea). **Action 63.7 Ben Cooper** (report at next AGM on the recording of honorary members) **and Andy H** (look at engagement with older members through communication channels).

10.4 Website

Currently under way with Dave. Deadline of end of April for a new website for the committee to have a look at. **Action 63.8 Dave Lossl.**

11. Date and venue of next AGM

Saturday 7th April (BS to check with the Hunters and book).

Agreement that the minutes (above) are a true record of that meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 8th April 2017 were agreed. Proposed by RC, seconded by RK. Unanimous votes in favour.

3. Actions from the previous meeting.

*Action 4.6.1. LG informed the group that she is no longer in the role of Librarian/Recorder however, ML with the help of JG and others who regularly visit the library, will continue to measure the humidity levels. During 2017, the books were moved away from the walls of the library to allow air to circulate so the collection is unlikely to be at any risk of damage. **Action ongoing.***

*Action 3.2.1. Ongoing. The club spent a significant sum of money on several projects since the last AGM. These consisted of the new Drying Room, the new Access System and GP's work in Pearl Mine. GP still needs to be reimbursed however despite this, it was agreed at the AGM that investments should still go ahead and that £3,000 would be invested. **Action TH.***

4. Matters arising.

62.1 The old computer will continue to be used for the access system. A copy of MS Office will be obtained so that library /membership databases can be created. Action with Brian Snell. BS: MS Office on new PC.

Access-issues update: access is on 2nd PC as a back-up system. Need to copy recent/current files to the back-up PC, so it's up to date. Option: put virtual machine software on new computer, and run as a virtual machine. Will investigate. Good that we have a back-up but will need a long-term solution. EW: no issues with access system, really reliable. BS: put novice helmets into 2nd box, to be accessed by the access system, so know who's using/taking. Long-term will be the new shed and movement of tackle store. Action ongoing with Brian Snell and Russ Porter.

Action complete.

62.4 A number of actions were identified: new ladders need marking, some of the old ropes need retiring and a sample of SpanSet ropes need assessing as to whether we would want to purchase more, action with Dave Ball. RP is now Tackle master, and is looking into all of this. EW: 60 m of SpanSet was used at EuroSpelio. Petzel have new rope, Andy Sparrow is selling at a good price – investigate. **Action ongoing with Russ Porter.** *RP purchased new helmets for the club. Action closed.*

62.10. It was noted that only one member of the committee had been nominated in advance. It was felt that this was mostly due to committee members being prepared to stand aside if someone offered to step in to the post at the meeting. Nomination of committee members taking place at the AGM instead of advance has become the general practice over the last few years and maybe the constitution needed changing. Tim Francis proposed that the committee review the Constitution in the light of current practices e.g. the nomination procedure. This was agreed. 1 abstention. Action for the committee. Decided that wouldn't change because couldn't come up with anything different. EW: nomination by email? BS: could be refined, which would mean a change of constitution at a meeting such as this, but other matters are more pressing for the club atm. EW: need to think about the wording – needs modernising. BS: potential for big change in constitution, but not for at least a year, and needs to be discussed with custodians/trustees. **Action ongoing.**

BS asked the question of whether the pros out-way the cons but stated that this must be pursued. Action ongoing with BS/BC.

5. Officers reports and matters arising from those reports.

5.1 Hon. Secretary's Report 2017-2018 - Brian Snell

BS said that it has been an honour to be Secretary. So much had been achieved in the last year including the kitchen, which was Karen's idea and the new Drying Room, BS said that everyone had helped. RK proposed a vote of thanks to Brian for his work as Secretary.

5.2 Treasurer's Report 2017-2018–Tom Harrison

TH said the Accounts were in need of a bit of a sort out, he had discovered since submitting his report that money from previous years had been placed in the wrong categories and TH was in the process of correcting these errors. Guest fees had seen a significant drop since the previous year (24% reduction) however, membership fees were up (34%) and therefore alarm bells are not ringing yet. Guest fees could perhaps be increased however TH pointed out that this may affect our Charity Status. There is hope that the new website designed by DL will encourage more people to stay at the hut and therefore we should see Guest fees rise again. RC wondered how many new people leave. DL assured RC that barely any new prospective members leave the group, most go on to pay membership fees and join the club. LM commented that the Facebook Group seems to be very successful and keeps people interested and has seen a lot more activity recently. It was agreed that this, along with the Yahoo group must continue.

TF said the primary source of money coming in to MCG is through new members joining and that we should continue with this. LM agreed and said improvements to the club were also encouraging to new members. DM said the new shower room is good. BS said with the GDPR membership lists would need reviewing. TH/LG both said that with consent, this should not be too problematic. GP highlighted the options of 'Opt-in' and 'Opt-out' option and TH said that to his knowledge the default setting is 'Opt-out'. RK raised the issue of GDPR. **Action committee.**

5.3 Caving Secretary's Report 2017-2018 – Dave Lossi

LM asked who is looking after the kit. DL said he needed regular hire access to the oversuits and RP added they should stay put.

5.4 Cottage Warden's Report 2017-2018 - Keith Knight

KK thanked everyone for their hard work on the cottage this year although he could not be at the cottage to help, particularly in regard to the new Drying Room. Work on the Drying Room was subsidised by a substantial

grant and felt has been added to the roof. KK commented that the cottage was looking a bit tatty. FK offered and allocated to lead a deep clean of the cottage and a decorating event is TBC. KK put forward that the gully at the back of the cottage needs repairing and that there are methods we could use to improve the gully. At the moment, the water from the gully is causing the path at the back of the cottage to crumble. RP has an idea for this. JG raised the potential problem of security in the new shed. BS assured the group that the new access system would allow it to be secure in the future and a key would be added for the Drying Room/Tackle store section. LM said that work weekends would be posted in advance and KK agreed and added we would aim for September. TH suggested a cottage list to be created and RC added that every weekend this could be on display. RC also proposed a vote of thanks to KK.

5.5 Tackle master's Report 2017-2018 - Russ Porter

DL commented that the new rope was wonderful and RP added the pulleys were great too. RP highlighted how DL had fixed the tackle bags. LM asked if donations to the kit collection would be welcome such as wellies. BS added that children etc borrow kit too and although we have a lot of kit for newcomers, we have little in the way of children's kit hire. LM said something could be put into the shed to let people know. On the note of donations, GP raised the event of severe flooding at Cerberus Caving Club and requested any books not needed at the MCG library would be most welcome at Cerberus. BC suggested that Cerberus could possibly have cheaper Guest fees with MCG. TF asked GP to put his request into writing for MCG to consider/act upon. GP thanked MCG however stated, this was early days and as of yet there is nowhere to safely store donations. TF said to contact the club as and when.

5.7 Social Secretary's Report 2017-2018– Jackie Murch

BC Huge thank you to JB for her efforts this year.

5.8 Editor's Report 2017-2018 - Andrew Horeckj

LM commented on the splendid job AH has been doing with newsletter this year. BS said we should be encouraging more MCG members to contribute to the MCG updates. JG would like to see more newsletters and more content given to AH. TH highlighted that to do this we must keep asking people. BS suggested a one-page update every month. RP said each Editor has their own style. RC said a glossy magazine like the Wessex produce is expensive. GP commented printed copies are read more than digital copies. TH said printed copies are kept in the cottage and sent to members who pay their membership for nothing other than copies of the newsletter. GP suggested an option to pay £5 a year for printed copies with JG adding that printing copies at home was expensive. RK highlighted this was extra work for the Editor and TH added that we cannot guarantee how many copies will be produced in the year. BS said this did used to be included in membership but postage is on the rise every year. **Committee action.**

5.1 Hon. Secretary's Report 2017-2018 - Brian Snell

As last year, it has been another eventful year, with constructive things happening and more sadness. The main cottage project was to meet the dead line of November for constructing the new Drying Room + Tackle Store shed. The first phase of this project was remove the old wood store sheds. They had outlived their usefulness and were somewhat unsightly. So they were broken up and burnt after Dave Lossi and his wife Helen spent an afternoon in June moving out all of the logs to a temporary position by the stone wall. The next major step was to move the old store shed to the area vacated by the old wood stores. Bill Chadwick helped me position, level out and mortar down the footing for the shed move. This was followed by a gathering of members to dismantle and move the old store to its new position on a newly constructed floor/base. The shed was some 30 years old

and because it was sat on the concrete slab with leaves and rain able to be trapped underneath, the floor and timbers had rotted out. Some good thinking using long scaffold poles from Mike Richardson meant we were able to remove the roof as an assembly and place back after the shed had been rebuilt in its new position. This shed is now ready to become a new log store with some room for storage. In September my wife and I popped up to the cottage for a day so that I could get the brick base laid ready for the shed build. Unfortunately it was on the way home from this that we received a phone call which would quickly lead to us becoming Foster Parents to two of our grand children. This meant our lives of laid back easy come easy go retirement were completely turned up side down. The shed still needed to be built and I managed to muster an excellent team to get this done in October. There was not enough time left to complete this project before the November dead line but at least we achieved its build and it was made weather tight for the winter. Hopefully progress can continue during this year to bring this project to fruition.

The sad side of the year was yet another poignant loss of a lovely person, Lewis (Biff) Frith. Biff had done so much not only for the MCG but for other clubs on Mendip too and was very much involved in making new gates for cave entrances. To name but a few of the things he achieved for the MCG apart from general building maintenance, was the laying out of the internal car park, the digging out of the pit required for the gas tank, the construction and fitting of the main folding gates, and of course his heavily engineered table which will live on for many years in the cottage. With that in mind we had a small brass plaque made and has been sunk into the table surface to remind future MCG members of him. I last saw him in April when he was well enough to come up to the Pearl Mine dig and take a look at what we had been getting up to. I was very fond of Biff, one of the most generous, modest and unselfish people I have had the pleasure to know and I will continue to miss him.

Earlier in the year as mention in my previous year's report we lost Tony Knibbs and with that in mind the idea of a literary trophy in memory of Tony was proposed by Ed Waters. The end result of that was a magical piece of woodcraft in the form of a mounted scroll from Mike Haselden who is a very accomplished award winner in wood turning. This will be mounted in the cottage lounge and inside will be a copy of a record for all those future winners of the award. Ed has always been keen on club members contributing to the MCG log or newsletters, as it is what contributes to the history of the MCG. In the past he offered and presented a financial reward for this. So this coming year is an opportunity for all members to attempt to be the first person to win the trophy. Entries will be logged and judged by the committee and the first person to win will receive the award at the AGM dinner of 2019.

We have some large expenditure items to address this year. The drying room is still to be completed (the new Tackle Store will have to be handled as a separate project); the cost of capping Pearl Mine which has been completed but is still to be paid for (we very narrowly missed the digging award for this); the replacement of the main controller board on the Access System. The latter has now been completed and we now have up to date software running on the new MCG PC. The cost of these projects amounts to nearly £4000 which is a big hit on the budget for the this year. The two major sources of income are membership fees and hut fees. Over the past decade or so there has been a drop in members staying at the cottage over night and after checking the current ratio of local members to Mendip compared to distant the ratio is about 30% are local. Member bed nights are still down the totals only massaged by the fact that the bed fees went up last year. Unfortunately guest bed nights, normally a good source of income are also down by over 40% since 2013. It is a delicate balance between charging too much for guest fees and deterring guests and not achieving enough for the running costs of the cottage. However I feel it is probably time to raise the guest fees and I would propose a raise to at least £7.50 per night.

As mentioned previously I have become a Foster parent and the consequence of that means that I have to re-evaluate what I can achieve in a year with the time available. With that in mind I made the decision in October that I could not continue to function efficiently as the Hon. Secretary and therefore I am standing down this year. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Secretary, and I would happily stand again should my personal situation change allowing me more available time and the position becomes vacant again. My thanks go out to all of the members of the committee who I have had the pleasure to work with over the last five years.

In particular for their support and willingness to help ensure the MCG keeps on the right track and is a club which will continue to attract new members to take the club into the future. They have been a good team, and still are. My successor can be assured that I will provide all the support required to get up and running.

Brian Snell

5.2 Treasurer's Report 2017-2018–Tom Harrison

(Subject to Accounts Examination)

This is the 1st full year that I have completed in the role of Treasurer and it has taken this long to get a proper understanding of the accounts!

Receipts

Guest Hut Fees are down 11% on 2016. We had 34 less guest bed nights in 2017 compared to 2016.

Members Hut Fees jumped up 41%, due to the increase in Members hut fees from £3.50 to £5. This was despite 81 less members bed nights in 2017 compared to 2016.

The MCG accounting year ends on 31/12, when we are usually about half way through the renewal process. This means that the year end accounts do give an accurate year to year comparison of membership fees or numbers. However, using the membership spreadsheet, 2017 saw 124 Members in total (some joined mid year), this was an increase of 13 over 2016. Due to this increase and to the decision to raise membership fees for 2017, membership fees rose from £2,895 to £3,734.50.

Total receipts are up from £11,651 to £12,493.

Expenses

This year has been most notable for the rise in expenses due to the major projects that the club have undertaken. The cost of the changes to the Kitchen came to £3,705. The new drying room / storage outbuilding has so far cost £1,940 with £750 of these costs being paid for by the Somerset Fund grant. We expect to spend a further £2,000 to complete this.

We switched in August from separate internet and telephone providers to EE, paying an upfront line rental of £300 with £100 refunded as cash back. This should save between £200 to £300 over the 18 month period.

British Gas meter readings were a little out of date and so we paid significantly less in 2017 for electricity than in 2016. We also spent nearly £1000 in new ropes and caving gear, which should help us to continue to kit out new members or members who have forgotten kit!

Summary

In 2017, we spent nearly £4,000 more than we received, after 4 years of spending less than the amount received.

We do have some other larger expenses coming in 2018. Capping costs for Pearl Mine that the committee have agreed to pay for and potentially the costs for a new access system, as the current system has become outdated and has suffered from a recent comms failure. In the next few years we will also be looking to create a new shower room where the tackle store currently is, so that we can have separate Male / Female showers and changing.

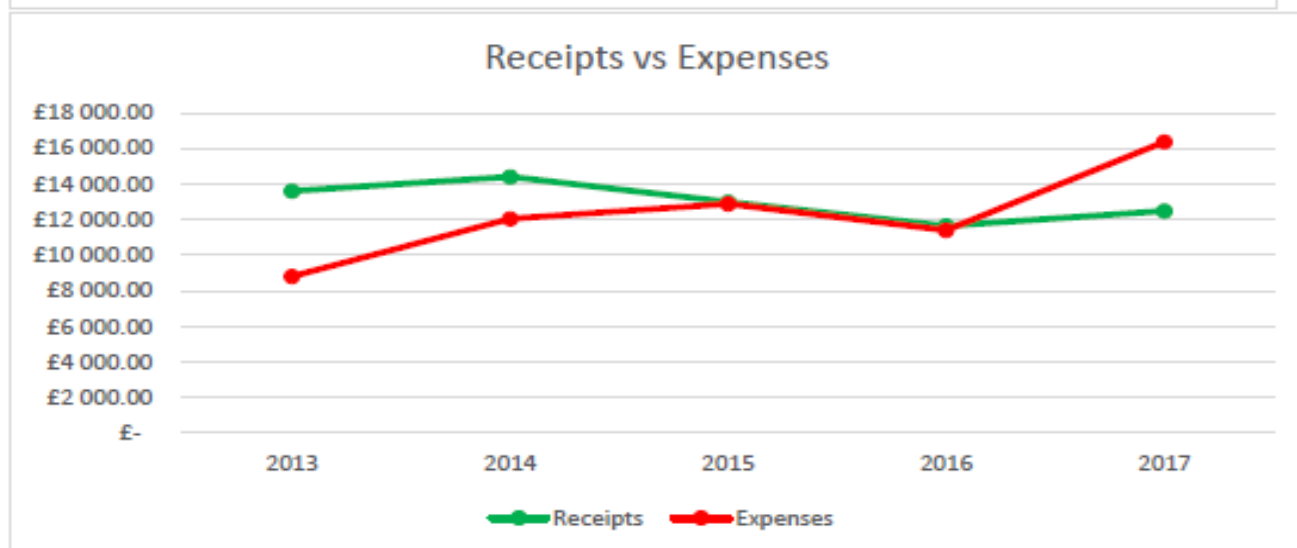
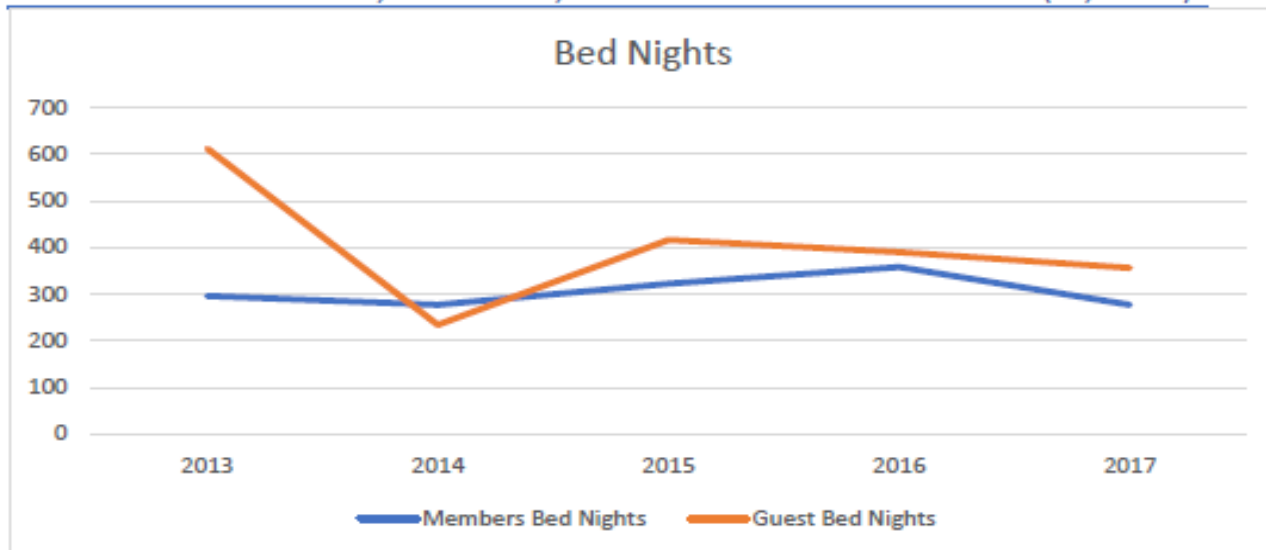
At the current level of receipts, we do have sufficient cash funds to cover these known future outgoings. However, to guard against unexpected events, the need for maintenance, wear and tear and improvements to the cottage, it is important to continue to be prudent to secure a bright future for the MCG.

	Charity Name Mendip Caving Group		No (if any) 270088		
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2017	To	Period end date 31/12/2017	
	Receipts and payments				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2016	VAR %
	£	£	£	£	
Receipts					
Cottage Income	-	-	-	-	
Day fees	169	-	169	121	40%
Guest Fees	1,941	-	1,941	2,184	-11%
Members Fees	1,780	-	1,780	1,261	41%
Other Income	-	-	-	-	
General Income			-	-	
Annual dinner	1,188	-	1,188	1,219	-3%
CCC 14 day permits	15	-	15	21	-29%
Donations	262	160	422	422	0%
Christmas Dinner	462	-	462	482	-4%
Subs & BCA			-	100	
Subs & BCA 2016	1,965	792	2,757	1,570	
Subs & BCA 2017	1,736	665	2,401	2,481	
Other Income	24	-	24	1,767	
Investment Income	1,335	-	1,335	25	
Total receipts	10,876	1,617	12,493	11,651	7%
Payments					
Cottage Expenditure	-		-		
Insurance	1,042	-	1,042	1,042	0%
Light & Heat	1,112	-	1,112	1,744	-36%
Maintenance & Improvements Other	429	-	429	2,087	191%
Maintenance & Improvements Kitchen	3,705	-	3,705		
Maintenance & Improvements Shed	1,190	750	1,940		
Telephone & Internet & Computer	705	-	705	519	36%
Rates, Water & Refuse	2,603	-	2,603	2,489	5%
General Expenditure	-	-	-	-	
BCA Membership	150	1,570	1,720	1,517	13%
Caving equipment & permits	1,054	-	1,054	58	1717%
Library	287	-	287	443	-35%
Donation	20	-	20		
Annual Dinner	1,142	-	1,142	1,213	-6%
Christmas Dinner	199	-	199		
Newsletter	262	-	262	141	
Other Expenditure	108	-	108	50	
Holding (2017-2016)	48.50		49		
Investments	-	-	-	100	-100%
Sub total	14,055	2,320	16,375	11,403	44%
Asset and investment purchases					
	-	-	-		
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	14,055	2,320	16,375	11,403	44%
Net of receipts/(payments)	(3,179)	(703)	(3,882)	248	-1663%
Transfers between funds			-	-	
Cash funds last year end	16,639	2,374	19,013	17,403	
Cash funds this year end	13,459	1,671	15,130	17,651	

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted/ Designated to nearest £
Cash funds	Santander	5,020	-
	HSBC Current	2,622	1,065
	Petty Cash	278	6
	COIF Deposit (Cottage)	1,689	-
	HSBC Savings	3,850	600
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	13,459	1,671
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted/ Designated to nearest £
Other monetary assets	Details		
	COIF	5,676	-
	Henderson Global Care ...	6,311	-
	Henderson Global Equity...	4,523	-
	M&G Charifund Income	20,548	-
	Premier Monthly Income	8,149	-
	Rathbone Income Fund	5,107	-
	SVS Brown Shipley	2,767	-
		-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Current value (optional)
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Cottage- Building	Unrestricted	354,984
	Cottage- Contents	Unrestricted	69,016
			-
	Details	Fund to which	Amount due
Liabilities			-
			-

C	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Members Bed Nights	296	277	322	358	277
Guest Bed Nights	612	234	416	390	356
Members Hut Fees	£984.00	£977.00	£1,125.00	£1,261.00	£1,780.00
Guest Hut Fees	£3,377.00	£2,121.00	£2,489.00	£2,184.00	£1,941.00
Day Fees	£271.00	£163.00	£207.00	£121.00	£169.00
Member Fees	£ 3,480.00	£ 3,320.00	£ 3,089.00	£ 2,895.00	£ 3,734.50
Member Numbers	132	124	117	111	124
Receipts	£ 13,616.00	£ 14,412.00	£ 12,989.00	£ 11,651.00	£ 12,493.00
Expenses	£ 8,811.00	£ 12,055.00	£ 12,882.00	£ 11,403.00	£ 16,375.00
Difference	£4,805.00	£2,357.00	£107.00	£248.00	(£3,882.00)



5.3 Caving Secretary's Report 2017-2018 – Dave Lossl

Eight new members have joined the club since April 2017

The regular Tuesday evenings continue to be a success. Its been good that Jackie, Mike Moxon and Richard Carey in particular have also stepped in when I have been unable to make some Tuesdays. Its also great to see that more new members have just been “getting on with it” this year. Particular note of newbie triumphs must go to Jordan Lucas who thought he was doing the 13 pots with his dad. He was asking me about the very tight passage which led to a big pot. Eventually I realised he had done Primrose Path to Primrose Pot!

Local Membership has continued to grow, and I enjoy reading posts where people are organising trips among themselves to get the hang of Goatchurch, Swildon's Upper Series and the other basic systems. Now that we have some local full members it has been easier to organise progression to full membership. I think that needs to be a focus for this year.

A new self locking pulley has been purchased which I take on trips with ladder pitches with new people. It was tested thoroughly on a trip to Swildon's 1 with a party of about 6 and is a great bit of kit in the event of a tired caver lacking energy at a pitch. It is very easy to hoist them. I was however very surprised how reluctant Richard Carey was to let me lower him on this new untried system at the 20. O ye of little faith!

The New Members FB group was established to make it easier for prospective members to join in with what's going on, and it has done just that, however it has created duplication with the Full Members group. In discussion with Tom and the Committee it has been agreed that prospective member will now be allowed to join the full members group for 3 months. To continue in the group they have to join. If they don't they will be removed from the group.

Kit has now been sorted for potential new members novice trips with the purchase of new over suits and 3 more Petzl Duos to fit existing club helmets. This has made the experience for newbies much better and has avoided a repetition of not having enough kit for all those that turned up. Thanks for sorting Russ.

Huge thanks to Tom for organising the N Wales trip last year. I had the most amazing time...and I'm sure everyone else did too.

David Lossl

5.4 Cottage Warden's Report 2017-2018 - Keith Knight

As most of you know by now I had a heart attack at the end of June and as a result have been out of touch with the club. I am OK now but need time to get back to some sort of fitness, before returning to Mendip. I regret I was unable to organise the annual cottage work weekend for September.

But great things have been done in my absence.

1 The wood sheds emptied thanks to Dave and Helen Lossl

2 The two dilapidated woods sheds have been done away with and new base was constructed on the same site in preparation for moving the old shed/drying room.

3 The old shed/drying room emptied and the walls and roof dismantled and moved and reassembled on the new base.

For tasks 2 and 3 many thanks to Brian Snell, Doug Harris, Russ Porter, Bill Chadwick, Mike Richardson and anyone I have missed who helped in achieving those major jobs.

4 A brick base was put down by Brian Snell in preparation for the new shed.

5 Materials bought and a new shed built many thanks to Brian Snell, Russ Porter, Doug Harris, Andrew Horeckyj, Mike Moxon, Ed Waters and anyone I have missed out.

NOTE

The shed is not finished the walls, roof and flooring have been installed making the shed water proof for the winter. There is more work to finish off the inside.

- A partition wall
- Insulation all round
- Inner wall boarded
- A water proof floor and walls and ceiling for the drying room,
- A new feed for the electrics from the cottage,
- Lights and power circuits to be installed,
- Timer circuit for the drying room dehumidifier
- Shelving and other storage facilities for the tackle store.
- Plastic gutters and down pipes fitted
- Key fob access

The high and steep angled roof is there for two reasons, the ladder currently stored in the lounge will be stored in the roof space, and we are hoping to get the roof tiled so hopefully will not need re-felting every few years. So plenty of work on the shed required I will be planning this in the coming months for the summer so I will be looking for volunteers to help out.

Many thanks to Brian Snell for acquiring the shed grant money and for all the resulting paper work required to satisfy the grant stipulations.

The cesspit was emptied in December after complains of a funny smell in the cottage.

The tank was not full so will have to investigate the drains. Yuck!

We are experiencing problems with the cottage access control system this has to be sorted or replaced ASAP. I will report progress at the AGM. (Post note- a new controller board was fitted mid February along with new software being installed on the new MCG PC. Hence the Access System is now back up a running.)

I must thank all those members who give their time and effort in the upkeep of the cottage. The grass gets cut the silt traps get emptied the gutters cleaned towels and tea towels washed, mail sorted all those little things that keep the cottage clean and tidy to make it a place to be proud of.

There is another little project outside that needs doing that is to put a grid of some kind over the silt trap and gully and make good the path which is crumbling in to the gully.

Inside most rooms are in need of a lick of paint.

I hope to be around more this year so will catch up on all the odd little jobs that need doing around the cottage.

A Note to all members

Can you please take away any food items after your stay at the cottage as this year we have had problems with mice in the cottage.

Lastly, I happy to continue for one more year as Cottage Warden.

Keith Knight MCG Cottage Warden

5.5 Tackle master's Report 2017-2018 - Russ Porter

The group has spent a few pounds this year on new tackle. We purchased 200m of Petzl Club semi static rope, this has been soaked, cut and labelled at various lengths and can be used for both SRT and life-lining. More new rope will be required in the near future as some of the older ropes come up to retirement.

Five new fixed pulleys and Three ladder spreaders were also added to the clubs equipment stock.

David Lossel has kindly had a range of our tackle bags repaired instead of binning them, maybe this is something the group can look to do more in the future?

Three donated helmets have been fitted with new Petzl Duo lights and upgraded to CustomDuo LED sets. This should help give beginners a brighter experience on their first few trips underground. Also for beginners trips, there are now 2 x small and 2 x medium over-suits available to borrow, these are a new option to the 'Tent' sized over-suits that were probably donated by myself in the past!

Finally I'd like to mention the new shed that will eventually be the home of our new tackle store and drying room. We hope to get this operational by the end of the year, but this will depend on everyone's availability to finish the work.

5.6 Recorder/Librarian's Report 2017-2018 - Miranda Lichfield

In November, Lisa was unable to continue the role of Librarian/Recorder due to exciting new work commitments. However, this meant there was an opportunity available to become more involved with the club, give something back to the people who had for the last year provided me with excellent caving opportunities and thirdly, it enabled me to take up a voluntary post directly connected to my interests and line of work. I can happily say that the role has been just as interesting as I had hoped it would be. Unfortunately, I have not been able to travel to the cottage as much as I would have liked to in the last two months, due to various viruses. However, I am determined that this will pass and that I will be able to spend more time at the cottage over the course of 2018, allowing me to devote more energy into addressing some of the areas earmarked for improvement. As it stands, the library is still a fantastic resource and I must say it is a pleasure exploring the length and breadth of books, journals and magazines stored safely at the Mendip Caving cottage.

Concerns were raised about overall humidity levels in the library and I am pleased to report that this seems to have become less of a problem each time I have visited the library. However, records of the humidity and temperature levels are still being kept and added to regularly.

The library has seen dozens of new acquisitions to its book collection in recent months. The major contribution was of course the collection of books from Biff, of which Bill Chadwick carefully sorted into two groups; books not held in the library's collection and books already held in the library's collection. I am pleased to say most of the 'new books' have now been added to the spreadsheet held on the MCG computer (and backed up on the memory stick), only foreign books and journals remain to be added. I must thank Mike Moxon for kindly putting the books already acquisitioned, away on the shelves. Mike Moxon, Joan Goddard, Bill Chadwick and Lisa Gibson have all been a brilliant source of knowledge and have also, largely helped me to either settle in to this new role, and/or have helped with mammoth tasks, such as Mike investigating the duplicate books and storing them away in a cupboard to make more rooms on the shelves. For this, I am truly grateful and I would just like to thank them and note their wonderful contributions to the library. I really look forward to continuing in this post.

With best wishes, Miranda Litchfield

5.7 Social Secretary's Report 2017-2018– Jackie Murch

This was my first year as social secretary and it's been fun arranging different themes, meals and events. Ideas from other members have been taken on and I'm grateful for the input.

We've had a good year of social events and well attended which included; Phillipine evening, BBQ in the summer to celebrate Mike Richardson's big birthday, Fish n chips followed by Frisbee golf, cider and sausages and Chinese evening. Plus a splendid Christmas dinner which again was sold out.

The AGM dinner will be held at the Cameley lodge again this year due to members' request and the arrangements are well underway.

Cheers, Jackie

5.8 Editor's Report 2017-2018 - Andrew Horeckyj

I became editor of the News when Tom Harrison moved to the vacant position of treasurer in the early part of 2017. Tom had established a high standard of editorial content and style for the magazine that I was hoping to continue. We both had subscriptions to the same *Adobe In Design* layout software, so from a purely technical perspective the handover was quite smooth.

What has actually occurred

I have produced two editions of the *NEWS* since assuming the role of editor- that's two copies in what will amount to the first year. This is at a lower print frequency that I would like to see.

I took the decision to try to produce a quality printed copy of the *NEWS*, for the club magazine rack, the distributed copies and the club's paper mailing-list of members. The principal argument being that the *NEWS* is the club's *shop-window* of recent goings-on and activity- in addition to electronic social media. Visitors to Nordrach Cottage that might be thinking of joining can pick-up an edition and (hopefully) see an active, vibrant club of members, with a variety of stuff going-on...and want to join. Even members of associated clubs, that are local, may want to increase their involvement- which should not necessarily be seen as a problem- unless numbers attending events grow out of control, which I think unlikely. This professional printing does come at an elevated cost to the group- and even though the rates are competitive, the committee will need to decide if it wants to maintain the current standard of the copy produced.

What I would like to occur

Ideally I would like to produce more copies than two in a year. I would like to see four copies a year rolling off the press, but – *realistically*- this might be reduced to three. From a cost perspective- the magazine increases in cost as the page count increases, more-so than by the number of units produced. So a 10-page *NEWS*, 4 times a year, is not a lot more expensive than a 20-page *NEWS* twice a year. The mailing costs do rise in line with the number of copies mailed, however.

The rate-determining step for all of this is the supply of content to the editor. A number of members have a great deal of caving experience and – *crucially*- also write extremely well-balanced, entertaining and informative prose. I would be happy if they could be persuaded to write one or two articles per year- trip reports, club events, social visits to other clubs. This would provide the necessary content to produce a copy. I would also welcome regular columnists- if a member is sitting there thinking “*why didn't the NEWS do a report on such and such...*” – then write that report and mail it to the editor.

Photographs- good quality images are always welcome. They do not need to be cover-shot quality- the usual standard being: files as large as possible, bright (well-lit), in focus (not blurred), relevant to what is being said in the text, and hopefully not just containing the subject figures as tiny specks in the distance.

Regrettably, my working schedule does keep me away from members' weekends for some periods of time- Jan-April this year, for example, so the editor is not always present to *badger* the members for this stuff.

Additionally- it was suggested to me that the *NEWS* might include a column of gossip snippets heard around the place- in the way that a previous editor compiled the magazine. I think this is a great idea and would welcome it- though

again....volunteer *gossip-columnists* step-forward please...the editor is listening! Bought some new great bit of kit? A few pictures and a tech-review of how you found it to use?

There is room for a “*in case you missed-it*” summary of recent events in the wider caving world- the stuff reported by other clubs that we get in email form...if folks think there is a benefit in doing this?

Summary

I think the copy produced so-far has been up to the required standard, though I would like to see a broadening in the content and variety.

I am quite happy to continue as editor of the *NEWS* if the committee is happy to see me do so.

The perennial lament of the editor – that of simply not having stuff sent-in for filling-pages is still the single biggest limiting factor to frequency of print-run. If we manage – as a group, to address that, then there is no reason why the *NEWS* cannot be more relevant to Mendip caving than other printed cave publications with a wider intended print audience.

Andrew Horeckyj, 15-02-18.

5.9- Other Officers’ Reports

A) Trustees’ Report

BC had forgotten to change the year on the report and TH added we needed to amalgamate some of the accounts. BC said investments should not be holding cash and investments are there to generate income and asked the question of why we have them. BC went on to say there were lots of reasons; a sudden large outgoing such as the roof, electrical issues, the cottage, land with a cave coming up for sale and foot and mouth outbreaks given as examples. TH agreed and concluded the holding cash is for a disaster/catastrophe primarily, RP used GP’s current situation as an example. BC said there were plenty of reasons but these must be ordered into a clear statement of objectives and the Charity Commission would need a set of reasons which can then periodically be measured, revised and reviewed. **Action committee.**

b) Conservation Reports

GP CRoW give access and access requests must be made else they could close the caves. TF commented that there is not much demand on the Mendips with GP agreeing and adding ‘occasionally’. DL asked when Hunters would be open again and GP confirming the Hunters is open now. New locks was raised and GP informed us that approximately 40 locks needed replacing. Some new keys have already been added to the old key fobs so irrespectively, we should be able to get in. BC suggested taking both and GP suggested putting a notice in the Tackle Store. GP will go ahead and replace keys to all sites but this must be agreed by both Trusts, MM said some keys are getting old and are faulty as a result. **Action GP.**

a. Trustees' Report Year ended 31st December 2017 - Ben Cooper

Our investments achieved an astonishing return of nearly 17% this year, with an income value of 4%. The stock markets were very high at the end of the year, so we may expect some reduction over the coming year.

Investment Valuation and historic comparison

	31-12-2011	31-12-2012	31-12-2013	31/12/2014	31/12/2015	31/12/2016
Henderson Global Care	£3,065.30	£3,629.82	£4,750.00	£5,064.33	£5,483.02	£6,311.40
Henderson Gbl Equity	£2,123.84	£2,405.44	£3,004.31	£3,193.62	£3,366.79	£4,522.86
M&G Charifund Acc	£9,593.56					
M&G Charifund Inc	£3,815.35	£15,008.57	£18,002.48	£17,990.22	£17,936.31	£20,548.32
Premier (Credit Suisse)	£1,999.67	£5,969.29	£7,352.03	£7,187.52	£7,473.13	£8,149.46
Rathbone Income Fund	£2,709.13	£3,112.24	£3,852.08	£4,076.24	£4,419.74	£5,107.01
Schroders US	£3,772.52					
SVS Brown-Shipley	£1,881.92	£1,938.47	£2,216.34	£2,196.20	£2,244.32	£2,767.03
Total funds	£28,961.29	£32,063.83	£39,177.24	£39,708.13	£40,923.31	£47,406.08
COIF	£5,513.66	£5,562.21	£5,589.42	£5,613.11	£5,638.41	£5,675.63
Total investment value	£34,474.95	£37,626.04	£44,766.66	£45,321.24	£46,561.72	£53,081.71

Unit Prices and historic comparison

Investment	Unit Price 31/12/2015	Unit Price 31/12/2016	Unit Price Growth
Henderson Global Care ...	£1.2650	£1.3490	6.2%
Henderson Global Equity ...	£0.4991	£0.6266	6.6%
M&G Charifund Income	£14.3387	£16.4268	7.0%
Premier (CS) Monthly Income Fund	£1.9624	£2.1400	6.0%
Rathbone Income Fund	£8.6175	£9.2356	3.4%
SVS Brown Shipley*	£2.0897	£2.5764	11.1%
TOTAL Investments	£36,960.908		6.5%

Investment Analysis

Investment	31/12/2016	Valuation 31/12/2017	Growth ¹	Realised Income ²	Re- investment ³	Yield ⁴	Performance ⁵ Value	Gain	Gain-%
COIF	£5,638.41	£5,675.63	0.7%			0.0%	£5,675.63	£37.22	1%
Henderson Global Care ...	£5,483.02	£6,311.40	15.1%		£219.31	4.0%	£6,311.40	£828.38	15%
Henderson Global Equity...	£3,366.79	£4,522.86	34.3%		£142.96	4.2%	£4,522.86	£1,156.07	34%
M&G Charifund Income	£17,936.31	£20,548.32	14.6%	£935.05		5.2%	£21,483.37	£3,547.06	20%
Premier Monthly Income	£7,473.13	£8,149.46	9.1%	£365.38		4.9%	£8,514.84	£1,041.71	14%
Rathbone Income Fund	£4,419.74	£5,107.01	15.6%		£192.18	4.3%	£5,107.01	£687.27	16%
SVS Brown Shipley (Solus)	£2,244.32	£2,767.03	23.3%	£28.27		1.3%	£2,795.30	£550.98	25%

b. Conservation and Access Officer's Report 2017- 2018

It's been a while since I've been to a meeting, there was one last Saturday but I wasn't aware of it until Graham posted a photo on facebook.

Any way from what I can remember the main topics are:

Crow: the CSCC firmly stands against this as they believe that it would severely impact the arrangements that we have with land owners and could impact access to certain caves. The CNCC are all for it as they believe it would help them get access to caves that the landowners won't give permission for in Yorkshire. I think us as a club stand by the CSCC decision?

Anchor testing and replacement:

Fay has been doing some anchor testing in the past few months and has come to the decision we should replace new anchors with the twisty type ones (Not sure of the technical terms for them) but at the moment they are trying to source them.

Hunters Lodge Inn Sink:

As you may know there was some serious vandalism in HLIS a while back and thanks to the efforts of some dedicated cavers a repair was done (super glued stals back together). The decision has been made to remove the fixed ladder from the entrance in the hope this will deter non cavers access from the cave. This has yet to be done and until it is HLIS will remain closed.

New locks:

The CSCC are slowly fading out the old padlocks as they can't get them anymore so they are having new ones made we will have a new key but it maybe pot luck to which pad lock will be on the cave so will probably have to keep the old and new key together unless they do a list.

I am happy to carry on the post this year.

Dan Matthews

c. Rescue Warden's Report 2017- 2018 - Mike Moxon

During last summer there were 5 rescues from Box (3) and Browns Folly / Monkton Farleigh Quarries, contributing to the loss of access to Box, plus a stuck student in Goatchurch that required a rock to be removed. Meetings with the other emergency services have taken place to try to reduce the number of vehicles turning up and blocking road access.

In September there was a rescue practice at Monks Park Mine, a still operating Bath Stone Quarry, unfortunately nobody from MCG could attend, but we had good turn outs for the Goatchurch searches around the time of the last AGM and the stretcher carry this January. Wardens also had additional training in comms and stretcher use; first aid courses are being arranged for club reps.

The MCR had a stand at Hidden Earth in Churchill, where one of Gonzo's paintings was auctioned for funds and they will be running the bar at May's Cave Fest, they also provided first aid cover at Priddy Folk Festival.

Alan Gray is currently writing a history of Mendip Cave Rescues.

At the last CSCC meeting Graham Price mentioned that all CSCC locks are being changed in the near future, so we will need both keys for a while.

I am happy to continue as the MCG Rescue Warden.

6. Election of Honorary Officer for 2017- 2018

BS Wrt nominations, none were received. Existing Committee prepared to stand again with exception to BS.TH proposed for BC, RP seconded. AH could not sign himself due to work commitments, a physical opportunity would be made at the next Committee meeting. Votes were submitted for all except AH. TF proposed we vote on block, LG seconded (19 votes for, 0 against with 0 extensions). TF proposed co-opt, BS welcomed BC and promised to give as much support to BC as he could.

7. Election of Non-Committee Posts

Rescue Warden/Conservation Officer

GP proposed MM, this was seconded by RP (19 votes for, 0 against with 0 extensions). DM proposed by RP, seconded by RC. (19 votes for, 0 against with 0 extensions)

8. Election of Examiners 2017- 2018

Sue announced she would be standing down and LM would be carrying on. TH has Sue's report. New examiner was requested and PB put himself forward, proposed by BC and seconded by RC. RK proposed LM and BS seconded this. (19 votes for, 0 against with 0 extensions)

9. Motions

No formal motions.

10. Any other business

BS shared a quote from Nicky Pearce "I would like to add a thank you for the warm welcome as a newbie, especially Christopher. I am sure the club will reap the reward of its positive approach to newbies."

10.1 How should we commemorate Tony Knibbs in the group

Keith put together a plaque for the Tony Knibbs award, to be awarded each year for the best article or piece of writing contributed by a MCG member. The award will start this year and each winner will have their name added to the scroll, which will be kept inside the plaque made by Mike Haselden. BS raised concern about how to keep this safe and that, perhaps a copy should only be kept in the scroll. There was a question of where the plaque should be displayed in the cottage. BS suggested where the switches are for the kitchen but also that this will be left to RP, BS and the committee team to complete. **Action committee.**

10.2 A printed annual of MCG newsletters

This had been left with Andy, who was not present to comment. TH raised the issue of printing one newsletter at a time and that it would be most cost effective to print the year's worth of newsletters together and send out to the members who would like them. **Ongoing with AH.**

10.3 Recording Honorary MCG members

A list has been created of the honorary members of the MCG. BS had been in contact with veteran members of the club and is in the process of arranging suitable date to get everyone together for a barbecue or meal. RC suggested a barn dance or disco. BS is very keen that this be a 'no pressure' event. **Ongoing with BS.**

10.4 Website

DL announced that the new website is finished and is now live. DL said a huge thank you to JG for proofreading everything and also a big thank you to the MCG members who completed the survey, the

comments given were very helpful. DL said that the member's area needs more work and a survey would be sent around again for this. Access to the old website is in the members area and the password is 'hunters' all lowercase. Ideas are welcome on how to archive the old website. **Action DL/all.**

RC raised the issue of Charterhouse leaders and the new leader procedure. There is a vacancy for Jeremy's role.

10.5 Cave Leaders

Upper Flood is also in need of new leaders, RC's request was met with silence. RC highlighted that the current leaders had been in place since 2006 and although he had posted on Facebook, it was met with minor interest. BS/Tim added that all that was needed was a knowledge of the route, the history of the cave, access rights and formations. Tim asked if there were any further requirements, Chair Tim added that the main necessity is a willingness to take people with GP adding conservation needs to be taught, it is very importance and should be a primary consideration. RC also added that finally, the trainee leader must be approved by the committee. RC also added on a side note that the rusty ladder at the curtain needed removing, with BS adding to RC's comment that the curtain climb is very vulnerable. RC said BC and DL would help. Wrt to leaders, Charterhouse was the main concern and it was agreed to publicise this further. **Action all.**

10.6 GDPR/Policies

RK: GDPR. BS said TH had raised this previously in the meeting and this was something the committee would look into. **Committee action.**

RK also said we need a way to demonstrate how we use these policies, such as renewing information and where the old information was kept. TF noted this and said this would also be one for the committee. **Committee action.**

10.7 Cottage Heating

JG: Cottage heating. JG would like to remove either the fan heater or the small heater. BS would check this. JG was concerned the heaters were being left on using power, without necessarily heating the used parts of the cottage and extra heaters were being turned on without reason, perhaps to dry clothes. BS said they would speed up the new Drying Room as much as possible.

11. Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting

Next meeting is 10.00am 6th April 2019 at The Hunters Lodge Inn. All in favour.