

The Mendip Caving Group is a Registered Charity No. 270088

Notice of 65th Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meetings of the Mendip Caving group will be held at The Hunters Lodge Inn, Priddy, Wells, Somerset, BA5 3AR on Saturday 6th April 2019 commencing at 10:00 am.

Agendum

Venue: Hunter's Lodge Inn, Priddy

Chairman: Tim Francis

Minutes: Miranda Litchfield

Attendees: 25

Bill Chadwick, Tim Francis, Russell Porter, David Lossi, Miranda Litchfield, Ed Waters, Mike Moxon, Steve Porter, Lisa Gibson, Jonathan Roberts, Peat Bennett, Joan Goddard, Hayley Clark, Roy Kempston, Fiona Kempston, Bryan Pittman, Pat Walsh, Steve Church, Brian Snell, Kay Matthews, Bernard Reeves, Andrew Horecky, Daniel Matthews, Tanya Sparey, Tom Harrison.

1. Apologies for absence

Keith Knight (Old Cottage Warden), Paddy Newman, Mike Haselden, Neil Maine Jackson, Doug Harris (New Cottage Warden), Denise Knibbs, Nicola Pearce (New Social Secretary) & Chris Pearce, Michelle Smith, Neil Maine, Victoria Arbizu-Sabater, Linda Milne, Graham Price, Karen Fendy.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 8th April 2018:

The minutes from the 2018 AGM are an appendix at the end of this document.

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

Unanimous agreement with 1 abstention.

4. Actions from the previous meeting

64 - 3.2.1 Reimburse GP for Pearl Mine Expenses

TH informed the group that MCG are still currently awaiting a reply from GP. EW stressed that the costs were substantial and GP should be offered again. BC confirmed that an invoice or receipt would be adequate for reclaiming GP's expenses. TH to offer again. **Action TH.**

64 - 4.6.1 Monitoring of Library Humidity

All agreed humidity and temperature levels in the library appear to be stable. **Action closed. To be removed from the 2020 AGM Agenda.**

62.10 - Committee Nomination Process

BC confirmed it will be reworked in new constitution. **Action closed. To be removed from the 2020 AGM Agenda.**

64 - 5.2 GPDR and Membership Data and 10.6

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. We did send out some individual information for review with 2019 renewal but omitted to seek consent for continued holding of it. We will do this with the 2020 renewals and list more of the information that we hold.

TH informed the group that a privacy notice was delivered via email in 2018 and was available on the website however, not every member had confirmed consent for their data held by the club. TH has prepared all of the documents, they were unfortunately simply missed in the membership renewal of 2019. BC stated that data consent will be included in the MCG membership renewal going forward. DL suggested that MailChimp could perhaps provide us with confirmation of consent in the meantime. Ongoing. **Action committee** to resolve this as soon as possible.

64 - 5.8 Printed Newsletters

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. There were just one or two complaints at 2019 membership renewal time. **Committee action.**

AH informed the group that current printing expenses for a run of the MCG newsletter are around £200 a time at present, most copies are exchange copies which are reciprocated with other caving clubs. JG stated that non-caving members would not wish to pay additional sums for a printed newsletter. EW suggested that we should continue, and make every effort to appease older members of the club who continue to support the club's activities. It was agreed that we should find out who these members are, and how best can we print the newsletters to ensure quality and cost effectiveness. Ongoing. **Action committee.**

64 - 5.9 (A) Investment Objectives – cash

This may be covered by work on the new constitution.

64 – 5.9 (b) Conservation & Access

GP was asked to provide new CSCC locks / keys.

64 – 10.1 TK Memorial

The TK plaque is now affixed to a wall in the lounge. Creation of a scroll is in hand thanks to BS. A presentation will be made at the dinner.

Action closed. To be removed from the 2020 AGM Agenda.

64 - 10.2 A printed annual of MCG newsletters?

Ongoing with the editor.

Please see above, 64 - 5.8 Printed Newsletters.

64 – 10.4 Web Site Archive

Is in place, but still needs work on broken links due to new server being case sensitive.

DL stated that he had not yet fixed the links. Ongoing. **Action DL.**

64 - 10.5 Cave Leaders

Dan M is signed up as a new Upper Flood leader. Still short on Charterhouse leaders. The rusting ladder at Curtain Climb in UF has been replaced with a stainless one of Biff's.

Action closed. To be removed from the 2020 AGM Agenda.

5. Officers Reports

5.1 Secretary's Report 2018-2019 – Bill Chadwick

I hope that my first year as MCG secretary has been effective. There are some routine, but important, activities that must happen – the filing of financial details with the charity commission, dealing with membership renewals, insuring the cottage, managing hut bookings, backing up the access system, organising the AGM... Having the responsibility for those is taking a little getting used to but both Brian and Tom have been a great support.

At times it has proved difficult to get a quorate committee meeting at member's weekends, though we have I believed, managed to keep the MCG on a sound administrative footing. Now we have half decent broadband at the cottage, we hope to be able to make use of some virtual meeting technology – Andy H, absconding to the middle of the North Sea may no longer be a reason to avoid a meeting!

Much of mine and the committee's time has been taken up with the new constitution project – at times it has felt a bit like our own version of Brexit! The aim is to move the MCG from a traditional charity with the land, cottage and investments held by named trustees to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which can hold the cottage and investments in its own right. The advantages of this are several – avoiding the need for potentially costly, named trustee transfers and hopefully, further limiting the liability of the trustees and committee members. The core of the proposed new setup is for four, membership elected, 'oversight' trustees to delegate day to day running of the MCG to a committee' as at present. The committee would only have to defer to the trustees and the membership for major operational and financial decisions. Over time, the trustees and committee members may merge into one. Much modernisation of the formal communication and banking details in the constitution have been required (Email mostly replaces the use of the post, electronic banking mostly replaces the use of cheques). A draft of the new constitution is available for inspection. It is going to be sent to the Charity Commission for vetting before circulation to the members. We will then need an EGM or AGM to formally adopt the new constitution and approve the change to a CIO. Steven Porter has supported us with his legal experience at great lengths during this work. We are much indebted to him and offer him our sincere thanks. The work would have been costly or impossible without his help.

There have been several events this year that bring our charitable role to the fore. The first of these was the collection of scientific samples from Upper Flood. This triggered some emotive debate about the cave and the nature of our access agreement. The outcome is that the collection of samples has been approved by the Landowner, Natural England and the MCG. The study of the cryogenic cave crystals, formed during episodes of perma-frost, will be undertaken by the University of Innsbruck. One of their research aims is to aid our understanding of long-term climate change. Another interesting event was our hosting of some artists. They have undertaken some exciting underground audio and photographic projects for an exhibition in the Crypt Gallery, London. Tim gave a lecture on cave exploration during the exhibition. In the autumn of 2018, we welcomed a group of Belgian cavers. A larger group from their club are returning this August for a longer stay – let's give them another good welcome. Also raising the profile of the MCG have been Ed, Hayley and others with their promotion of interest in Apotropaic marks.

It has been great to see so many new members at the club, no doubt in part due to Dave's infectious enthusiasm as Caving Secretary, Web Master and Facebook administrator. The new drying room is

operational and the new tackle store taking shape ready for Dan's takeover as Tackle Master. This has been a really great team effort of which the contributors should be very proud – the moving and re-fixing of the roof of the old shed in one piece, will be a lasting memory. We must thank Keith for his sterling work as cottage warden over the last few years and Doug for taking on the role. Jackie is passing on the Social Secretary baton to Nicky. Jackie has organised some truly memorable events for us in her own inimitable style – hilarious quizzes, frisbee golf, fish and chips in the gorge, Christmas dinners and more. Many thanks Jackie!

5.2 Treasurer's Report 2018-2019 –Tom Harrison

(Subject to Accounts Examination)

Receipts

Member's Bed nights were up by 14, with fees slightly up. £50 was owed by members for nights stayed at the year-end cut off.

Guest's Bed nights were up 24%, a significant increase from 2017 and closer to the numbers that stayed in 2015 and 2016.

As discussed last year, 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 not give an accurate year to year comparison of membership fees or numbers. However, using the membership spreadsheet, 2018 saw 127 Members in total (some joined mid-year), an increase of 3 over 2017. Membership fees rose by nearly £200 as although we had only 3 more members, there were more people renewing at the start of the year and paying the full £35, when they may have been only mid-year joiners the previous year.

Total receipts are up from £12,295 to £15,265. Note however that this doesn't take into account that some people paid membership for 2018 in early 2018 and for 2019 in late 2018, therefore on the year to year comparison table below, I have calculated receipts for the year, moving 2017's subs to 2017, and 2018's to 2018, regardless of whether those subs were paid in 2016, 2017 or 2018. This helps to show that receipts for 2018 were up from £10,871 to £12,360.

We received a various generous donation from a member of the club, which is reflected in the 38% increase in the donation's column.

Expenses

£2000 was budgeted for the outstanding Shed costs, of which £1,669 was paid to complete the work. As detailed in 2017's report, the Access System was replaced at a cost of £1,104. This meant that the total costs for maintenance and expenses was down 10% on 2017.

Light and Heat includes Calor Gas delivery early in 2018, which is why the figure is significantly up. Telephone, Internet and Computer costs are down due to no major expenditure being required on IT.

BCA Membership costs are down due to my decision to move the BCRA subscription to a Library Cost.

No money was spent on new equipment in 2018, so this category consists of simply the expense of CSCC Permits.

Summary

In 2018, although receipts were up 24% and Payments down 11%, we do have to be cautious that this is because of when subscription payments were made. As a larger number paid before the 1st Jan 2019, the 2018 receipts are inflated and in 2019, we may see slightly lower receipts should people pay for 2020 after 1st Jan 2020. We also didn't have any unexpected bills and didn't need to get a Calor Gas delivery and have not yet repaid the capping costs of Pearl Mine.

That said, after adjustment for membership payment dates, receipts are up 13% and payments are down.

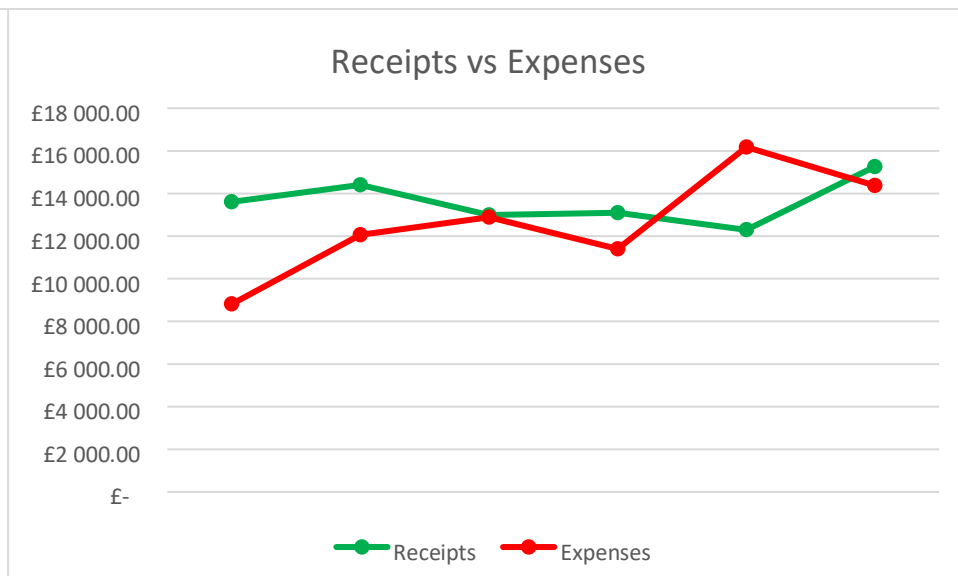
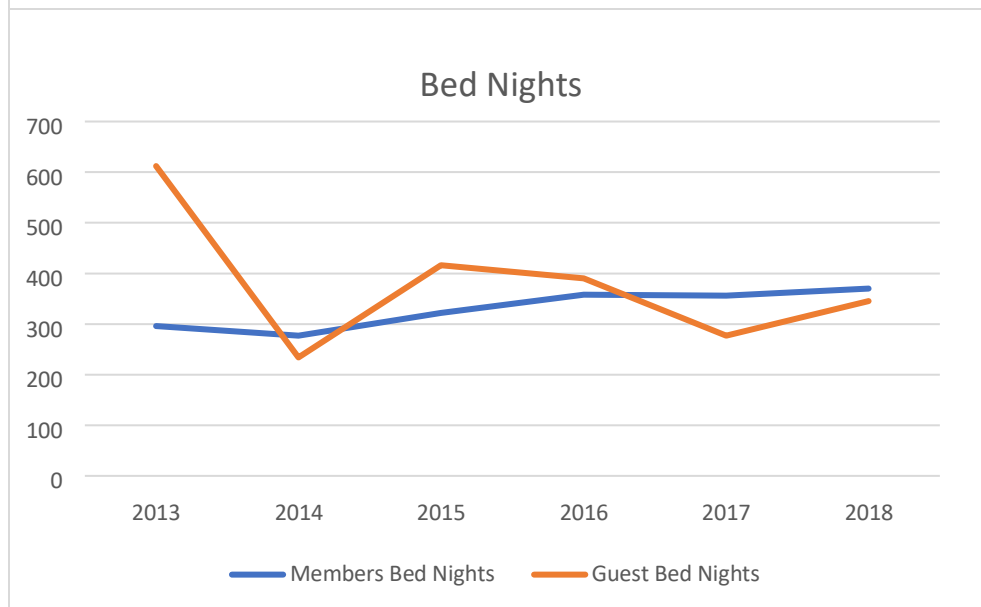
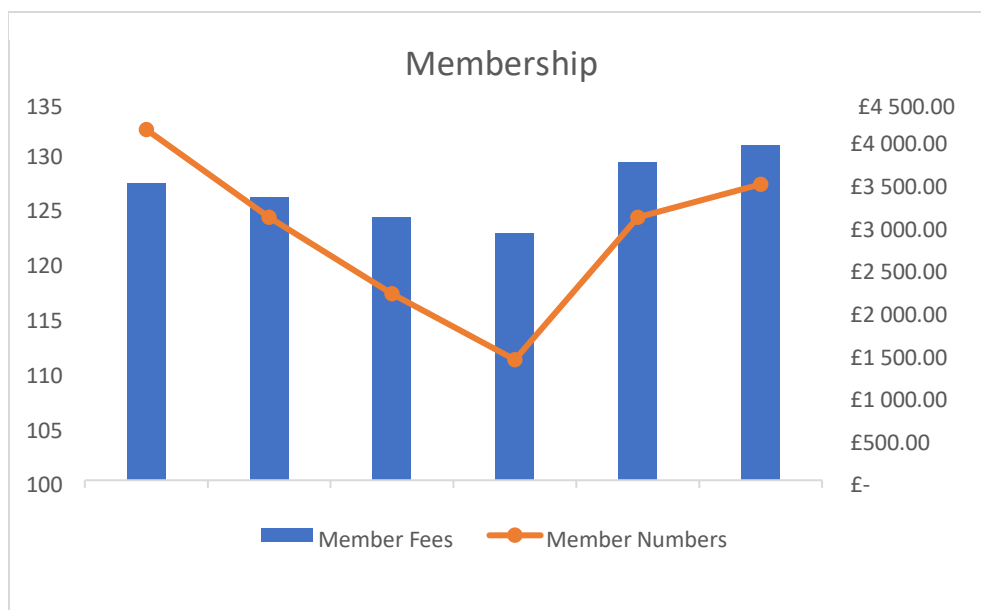
In the next few years we are still looking to create a new shower room where the tackle store currently is, which needs to be costed to ensure we can afford to do it. The benefit of completing this

work, should be the potential to attract groups who would otherwise be put off by communal showers.

	Charity Name		No (if any)		
	Mendip Caving Group		270088		
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
		01/01/2018		31/12/2018	
	Receipts and payments				
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	2017	VAR %
	£	£	£	£	
Receipts					
Cottage Income	-	-	-		
Day fees	136	-	136	169	-20%
Guest Fees	2,190	-	2,190	1,941	13%
Members Fees	1,815	-	1,815	1,780	2%
Other Income	-	-	-		
General income		-	-	-	
Annual dinner	1,190	-	1,190	1,188	0%
CCC 14 day permits	16	-	16	15	7%
Donations	581	-	581	422	38%
Subs & BCA 2018	2,145	901	3,046	2,757	
Subs & BCA 2019	2,725	1,070	3,795	2,401	
Shop & Social	288	-	288	263	10%
Away Meets Deposits	368	-	368		
XMAS Dinner	435	-	435		
Other Income	42	-	42	24	75%
Investment Income	1,364	-	1,364	1,335	2%
Total receipts	13,295	1,971	15,265	12,295	24%
Payments					
Cottage Expenditure	-	-	-		
Insurance	1,114	-	1,114	1,042	7%
Light & Heat	2,412	-	2,412	1,112	117%
Maintenance & Improvements Other	936	-	936	4,134	-10%
Maintenance & Improvements Access System	1,104	-	1,104		
Maintenance & Improvements Shed	1,669	-	1,669	1,940	
Telephone & Internet & Computer costs	225	-	225	705	-68%
Rates, Water & Refuse	2,830	-	2,830	2,603	9%
General Expenditure					
AGM Dinner	1,205	-	1,205	1,142	6%
BCA Membership	130	-	130	150	-13%
Caving equipment & permits	70	-	70	1,054	-93%
Library	22	-	22	287	-92%
Other expenditure	82	-	82	177	-54%
Newsletter	215	-	215	262	-18%
Shop & Social	106	-	106		
Away Meets Payments	390	-	390		
XMAS Dinner	300	-	300		
BCA 2018		1,566	1,566	1,570	
Investments	-	-	-		
Sub total	12,810	1,566	14,376	16,178	-11%
Total payments	12,810	1,566	14,376	16,178	
Net of receipts/(payments)	484	405	889	(3,883)	
Cash funds last year end	13,291	1,671	14,962	18,845	
Cash funds this year end	13,775	2,076	15,851	14,962	

Year by Year Comparison

-	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Members Bed Nights	296	277	322	358	356	370
Guest Bed Nights	612	234	416	390	277	345
Members Hut Fees	£984.00	£977.00	£1,125.00	£1,261.00	£1,780.00	£1,815.00
Guest Hut Fees	£3,377.00	£2,121.00	£2,489.00	£2,170.00	£1,941.00	£2,190.00
Day Fees	£271.00	£163.00	£207.00	£121.00	£169.00	£135.82
Member Fees	£ 3,480.00	£ 3,320.00	£ 3,089.00	£ 2,895.00	£ 3,734.50	£ 3,935.00
Member Numbers	132	124	117	111	124	127
Receipts	£ 13,616.00	£ 14,412.00	£ 12,989.00	£ 13,099.00	£ 12,295.00	£ 15,265.00
Expenses	£ 8,811.00	£ 12,055.00	£ 12,882.00	£ 11,406.00	£ 16,178.00	£ 14,376.00
Difference	£4,805.00	£2,357.00	£107.00	£1,693.00	-£3,883.00	£889.00
Receipts - Post Subs Adjustment					£10,871.50	£12,360.00
(Receipts - Subs & BCA Received during year + Subs and BCA for year)						



All three graphs have the same horizontal access in years.

Notes: RK noted the club's Light & Heat bills have nearly doubled and posed the question of sustainability to the committee. TH assured this is just the way payments are forming however, it was suggested that a donation breakdown be considered. Action committee. There are no plans to review the MCG membership rates/fees for at least a few years.

5.3 Caving Secretary's Report 2018-2019 – Dave Lossl

2018 saw several new members join the club and some others leave – overall a small net increase.

Some key events in a brilliant year of club caving...

May - Mendip Cave Fest with beer, BBQs and fun as well as lots of caving.

June - an amazing Debyshire trip organised by Tom Harrison.

September - Hidden Earth, with Rick Stanton giving a talk about the Thai Cave Rescue

October – a sleepover trip in Darren Cilau organised by Chris Pearce and Kay Matthews. Of even greater note a gaggle of MCGrs cracked Lionels Hole at last (Richard and Andrea will no longer be pestered with “when can you take us”)

November- a great club weekend with an invite to Cerberus for their fireworks night and pig roast.

November – A trip down PGS memorable for a wrong turning that took us to Barcode Crawl... tight, miserable and rib cracking.

December – A hilarious xmas party at the cottage with sprout firing, smoke machine havoc, games and a brilliant meal organised by Jackie Murch.

There was also an SRT Improvers Course at Wild Wookey organised by Chris Binding – what a lot we all tried out!

January – lots of sport and digging trips, and Miranda Litchfield finally did Sump 1!! She was clad in thick rubber, base layer, hood, thick gloves and goggles. Were flippers and an oxygen tank also involved we wonder? True to form Miranda emerged with all make up fully intact. The Short Round awaits you Miranda.

February – Loads of snow resulted in a delayed Club weekend – and some very chilly meltwater streams in Longwood/August. Hayley Clark and Ed Waters hit national TV and press news with their discovery of Witches Marks at Creswell Crags. Daniel Matthews organised a Portland caving trip – with some needing dramatic sea cliff abseils to start.

March – The Murlis Loop in Rods was finally done. OK its short, committingly tight and is devoid of any stal...but those who got round felt pretty elated after months of talking about doing it.

Digging featured throughout the year in various locations with regulars meeting up to enjoy a mud bath and the physical effort of dragging spoil through dark cramped spaces. Greatest effort has been put into Cutlers, Pearle and Templeton and Grebe with some digging still happening in UFS. Mike Moxon reported that MCG have opened over 1 km of passage in Mendip in the last 10 years. Not bad! For those who don't dig – do consider lending a hand. Remember very few caves would be accessible today without digging and the odd bang, so think about doing your bit to help us find the next breakthroughs! Diggers, if you want your dig posted in the Club Events Diary let me know.

Tim Francis gave his amazing Upper Flood presentation at one Club weekend – it was a good history lesson for all newer members about the work the club put in over so many years, It also documented the rewards of persistent effort. It was an opportunity to sense the history of the MCG and the commitment of so many of its members. Would it be possible to have the presentation available on the website?

The new website seems to have been a great success with all systems working well. There is now an online Trips Log. I know there are those who prefer the written log – but it was hardly being used. The online log has been well visited because people can make an entry on their mobile phone when

they have a moment. However, digs are not being recorded- is there a reason? The log is in a Password protected area, so security should not be an issue.

The Tuesday Group now has enough regulars and combined experience that trips happen with or without me – a really nice place to be.

Tim Cockle married Claire, and Richard Carey married Andrea last year - what a great summer of romance and love. Congratulations to you guys.

Notable event planned for 2019 - Vercours, France - July

Footnote - the 50 Shades Of Grey DVD is still unclaimed in the office!

Notes: BS noted that the Veteran's Weekend be included in this list of 2019 achievements and events, adding that this was a huge success. TS added that temporary access to the Trip Log Book could be considered to inspire new members with the club's activities.

5.4 Cottage Warden's Report 2018-2019 - Keith Knight

In the last year we have spent a bit of money on the shed.
The fitting out of the drying room finally finished Jan 2019
The electrics for the drying room. Nov 2018

For the drying room I must thank all of you who helped get this amenity up and running for the club. Special thanks to Russ for sorting the flooring and drainage, and Steven Church for the shed electrics.

Tackle store

There is more work to finish off the inside of what will be the new tackle store.

- Insulation all round
- Inner walls and ceiling boarded
- A floor covering
- Lights and power circuit to be installed
- Shelving and other storage facilities for the tackle store.
- A new steel door to make the room more secure
- Key fob access

Maintenance

I must also thank all those members who give their time and effort in the upkeep of the cottage.

Without whose help the cottage would not function.

The fire alarms have been tested and the fire fighting appliances have been inspected all OK. A big thank you to Joan for meeting these contractors this saved me a two hour drive each way to let them in.

Now the bad news

There is some urgent maintenance work on the cottage which has come to light at the February member's weekend.

The library roof



- There is a leak in the lead gully over the library which will have to be investigated further. Bill and I could not positively find the source of the leak even after clearing all the detritus out of the gully.
- From the loft space above the library we could see the wood base of the gully was wet but where the water is getting in is not so obvious. See above picture
- We also observed a problem with the ridge tiles on the roof these will have to be removed and some remedial work carried out to stop the ingress of water blown up under the ridge tiles. The dry fix plastic inserts under the ridge tiles have become loose letting in leaves and water; this has shown up by leaving water staining the ceiling below.
- The library ceiling will have to be sealed and re-painted once the leak has been found and fixed.

The 16 room dormer.



- As we looked for the library roof leak Bill noticed the wood planking on the sides of the dormer are rotten and will have to be replaced.
- Also the wood work around the window has rotted. The window frames are OK. The wooden soffits and fascias are also rotten.
- It looks like all the wood work will have to be replaced.
- The under lying wood frame may also be damaged as we found out when replacing the wood on the 8 room other dormer.
- As you can see from the picture above the roof tiles are very close to the woodwork so leaves and twigs are trapped there .We may have to trim the tiles back to create a more obvious gap which will self clean.

I did ponder the possibility that the leak may come from the dormer? The water running down the felt under the tiles then under the lead work of the gully?

The old wood shed

Not so urgent the old shed roofing felt peeled back in a storm revealing the rotten wood below. I an effort to stop any further damage the rotten part of the roof was covered with some ply wood sheet and a spare length of felt was fitted over this. Both Brian and I think the best fix will be to replace all the wood with OSB board and re felt the roof. And re fit the guttering.

Fire safety

I was asked to review the fire safety of the cottage this is ongoing which I will continue to work on this.

I regret I do not feel able to continue as cottage warden as at some time in the next 6 months I am expecting to get a knee replacement at last whoopee!!

Then the time for recuperation which is any body's guess could be 6 weeks or 6 months. But I will continue to assist whoever becomes the new cottage warden for as long as I can be of use. Thanks again to all the members out there who do muck in and help with looking after the cottage I could not have done it without you.

Please accept my apologies for not attending the AGM but a family do in Manchester prevents me from attending.

Keith Knight MCG Cottage Warden

Notes: BS wished to acknowledge Keith's dedication to the role and stated he had put his heart and soul into looking after the cottage, proposing that KK did a wonderful job, seconded by DM.

5.5 Tackle master's Report 2018-2019 - Russ Porter

Sorry this is literally last minute!!

Much of my spare time since the last AGM, has been spent on getting our new drying room up together, which seems to be working pretty well from the feedback I've been given. No new tackle has been purchased this year, mainly due to amount we bought last year and that our rope stocks have been running in date. 2019 might be another year that the club decides to purchase some more semi static rope and look at retiring some of the older ropes from the SRT box, I'll leave that decision to the next tackle master and committee members.

Going forward, I'm not sure if the new tackle store will get finished this year due to other demands on everyone's time, but some progress should be made. Hopefully the club kit that prospective members can use is faring well, although with Dave Lossel's success in gaining new members, I also hope it's being used to its full potential!

It's been a great pleasure to be part of running the Mendip Caving Group again as Tackle Master and I hope the next member who takes up the role will also enjoy their time on the committee.

5.6 Recorder/Librarian's Report 2018-2019 - Miranda Lichfield

This year has seen the continued collection and acquisition of numerous UK and international caving publications. The library has also been recipient of many books belonging to Biff Frith, all of which have now been digitally catalogued and added to our collection; the collection consisted of 51 valuable books and journals; most written in English but some foreign publications as well.

Marilyn Crawford has also been in touch this year to announce she had found caving-related material belonging to her late husband Tony Crawford (founding member). I recently received an email from Marilyn to say that these are being delivered as we speak and I will share the contents with the club once they arrive safely, probably through the Facebook MCG group. We can decide what we would like to do with the items, if they are of worth to the club and the remainder will then be discussed with Marilyn to see what she would like us/me to do with them.

During the Spring/Summer of this year, I plan to spend a significant amount of time in

the Library and look for ways to make our vast collection more accessible for its users. This will be announced nearer the time and input is welcome at any stage. Main objectives will be to create more space, create a 'new acquisitions' area to allow members to see new material before it is shelved and, re-organise the group publications to ensure shelf-room for future editions. The library's book collection can then be developed to match interests and needs of all current MCG members.

5.7 Social Secretary's Report 2018-2019– Jackie Murch

It's been another good year for social gatherings on our members weekends which have been well attended. We also had another great Christmas meal at the start of December where we were once again sold out and managed to seat and feed 30 people at the cottage. We also introduced a new gift giving game which went down as a great success! I've always tried to keep the costs of the social evenings down and any money left after taking out costs are always donated back to the club.

The approximate amount of donations arising from social events during 2018-2019 is £240.

I've enjoyed arranging these events but I'm also happy to be handing over the baton to Nicky who I know will be a great success.

Notes: Thank you Jackie for your very memorable social events! Welcome Nicky Pearce.

5.8 Editor's Report 2018-2019 - Andrew Horeckyj

Club Magazine 'The News' - Editor's Report
Summary of the year-ending, based on the stated aims

Aim to maintain the high editorial and presentational standards set by the previous editor

I think this has been achieved, broadly speaking. The print quality has been high for the paper copies and they do seem to be popular, to the extent that the magazine-rack prints have a tendency to walk-off by themselves.

Aim to produce 3 copies per year

This has not been achieved. I don't think this is necessarily a failing on the part of the editor or indeed the club. In order to have "stuff worth printing", the membership (collectively) have to take the pictures and write the words, that the editor collates and edits for the final copy. If the club has a quiet year, then there will be less that they decide to write about.

This reduction in the actual copy-count does work out less-expensive for the club, though that does lead-on to the question of how the club wants the NEWS to be distributed- by pdf-download or by paper.

Recruitment of regular correspondents

This has actually had some success – though you may not believe it. There are a few members that have done the requested thing- send an article or a few photos for a write-up, once a year...or when you do something "interesting" or new.

What I would like to occur

Assuming the AGM wants me to continue as NEWS editor, I would like to see the magazine carry-on broadly to the publication standard that has been established.

I'd be happy for members to continue to send articles and photographs for inclusion. If the club wants to have more copies per year, the editor needs more material.

I'm all for the notion of regular columnists...they don't always have to have pages and pages to say, but a regular contribution is welcomed.

The club needs to decide if it wants to continue to distribute in the current printed form, with its associated costs.

The expansion of the website and social media platform presence, has perhaps caused some to question the relevance of the NEWS as a documentary archive of the club's activity. There is a cautionary note here- electronic media has a habit of being short-lived. I think it unlikely that even the most "traditional" of Mendippers, still stores documents on 3.5" floppy disks and few probably bother with optical archives.

The Yahoo Group is – at best- waning and the Yahoo platform seems to be quite problematic.

A bound paper Newsletter is still a very good way of collating and preserving Group Activities, as well as distributing it to other societies and repositories. The same can be said for the written paper logbook.

Andrew Horeckyj, 16-03-19

Note: DL suggested a copy deadline could motivate club members to contribute in a timely fashion or prodding, as EW suggested if a deadline is not suitable. BS made a comment that the MCG newsletter has evolved from a monthly A4 sheet, into journalism of a high standard.

5.9- Other Officers' Reports

- Trustees' Report**

Custodian Trustees Report 2019 for year ending 31st December 2018 v1.0 Ben Cooper

2018 was a turbulent year for the stock market, and, as I predicted following last year's bumper 17% return, our investments lost value in 2019 with an overall return of -9.7%. Overall income was down but still good at 3.0%.

Investment Valuation and historic comparison

	31-12-2012	31-12-2013	31/12/2014	31/12/2015	31/12/2016	31/12/2017	31/12/2018
Henderso n Glbl Equity	£2,405.44	£3,004.31	£3,193.62	£3,366.79	£5,731.31	£4,522.86	£4,157.18
Henderso n UK Resp...	£3,629.82	£4,750.00	£5,064.33	£5,483.02	£4,104.29	£6,311.40	£5,592.09
M&G Charifund Inc	£15,008.57	£18,002.48	£17,990.22	£17,936.31	£19,206.60	£20,548.32	£17,813.22
Premier (Credit Suisse)	£5,969.29	£7,352.03	£7,187.52	£7,473.13	£7,685.25	£8,149.46	£6,511.95
Rathbone	£3,112.24	£3,852.08	£4,076.24	£4,419.74	£4,756.34	£5,107.01	£4,635.29

Income Fund							
SVS Brown-Shipley	£1,938.47	£2,216.34	£2,196.20	£2,244.32	£2,489.94	£2,767.03	£2,520.22
Total funds	£32,063.83	£39,177.24	£39,708.13	£40,923.31	£43,973.73	£47,406.08	£41,229.95
COIF	£5,562.21	£5,589.42	£5,613.11	£5,638.41	£5,662.42	£5,675.63	£5,701.42
Total investment value	£37,626.04	£44,766.66	£45,321.24	£46,561.72	£49,636.15	£53,081.71	£46,931.37

Unit Prices and historic comparison

Investment	Unit Price 31/12/2017	Unit Price 31/12/2018	Unit Price Growth
Henderson Global Equity ...	£0.6266	£0.5582	-10.9%
Henderson UK Responsible ...	£1.3490	£1.1480	-14.9%
M&G Charifund Income	£16.4268	£14.2403	-13.3%
Premier (CS) Monthly Income Fund	£2.1400	£1.7100	-20.1%
Rathbone Income Fund	£9.2356	£8.0506	-12.8%
SVS Brown Shipley*	£2.5764	£2.3466	-8.9%
TOTAL Investments			-14.5%

Investment Analysis

Investment	Valuation			Realised Income ²	Re-investment ³	Yield ⁴	Performance ⁵		
	31/12/2017	31/12/2018	Growth ¹				Value	Gain	Gain -%
COIF	£5,675.63	£5,701.42	0.5%		£25.79	0.5%	£5,701.42	£25.79	0%
Henderson Global Equity...	£4,522.86	£4,157.18	-8.1%		£141.32	3.1%	£4,157.18	£365.68	-8%
Henderson UK Responsible ...	£6,311.40	£5,592.09	-11.4%		£242.42	3.8%	£5,592.09	£719.31	11%
M&G Charifund Income	£20,548.32	£17,813.22	-13.3%	£625.44		3.0%	£18,438.66	£2,109.66	10%
Premier Monthly Income	£8,149.46	£6,511.95	-20.1%	£349.15		4.3%	£6,861.10	£1,288.36	16%
Rathbone Income Fund	£5,107.01	£4,635.29	-9.2%		£200.46	3.9%	£4,635.29	£471.72	-9%
SVS Brown Shipley (Solus)	£2,767.03	£2,520.22	-8.9%	£26.43		1.0%	£2,546.65	£220.38	-8%
TOTAL	£53,081.	£46,931.	-	£1,001.	£609.99	3.0	£47,932.	-	-

Investments	71	37	11.6%	02		%	39	£5,149.32	9.7%
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- Valuation Growth is simply the valuation of the current holding compared to last years, including any increased stock holding.
- Realised Income is the income received into the Group's current account; effectively withdrawals from the investment funds.
- Re-investment is the income re-invested in the investment funds. The re-investment amount is already included in Valuation.
- Yield is the income as a percentage of the invested value (i.e. the value at the start of the year)
- Performance is overall gain, taking into account the capital growth and income.

Note: SP suggested the potential need for an Investment Officer, as a new Committee Member post. This role would primarily include the responsibility of revisiting the club's current investments and providing professional oversight.

b) Conservation and Access Officer's Report - Dan Matthews

It's been very difficult for me to attend the meetings over the last year due to work but I did manage to get to the important meeting. This was to discuss the future of access to the caves in cheddar gorge that are owned by Longleat.

Just briefly from what I can remember being said. The person that an agreement for access was in place, with left Longleat. The agreement was very simple the CSCC were made responsible for access and conservation and held no liability. A new person took over for a short period and mentioned this agreement to Longleat lawyers who decided this was not good enough so they came back with an offer to the CSCC which named and held the committee of the CSCC personally liable as individuals for any damages or injuries. Of course, they did not sign this agreement and have instead gone back to Longleat with a proposal that they change the CSCC to a limited liability company which then holds the company liable as a whole and the BCA insurance covers any issues. I'm not sure of the progress of this agreement as have missed the last meeting but last I heard the CSCC had not moved forward. the main problem that spans from this is that if any issues arise then access to cheddar gorge caves could be cut off completely to cavers. The access to cheddar caves has not been affected. Apart from that there is not really much to report. Crow still stands the same as last year with no change.

I'm happy to run again this year and am looking to share the role with James Hazel.

c. Rescue Warden's Report – Mike Moxon

Since our last AGM MCR have helped people to exit the Tradesman's from Goatchurch & Lobster Pot in Sidcot, had a couple of calls for assistance evacuating casualties at Gough's, searched for a dog on East Mendip and rescued a lost group &, separately, a dog from Box. The dog at least resulted in decent donations to the team!

Biff's bequest from his books has still to be spent on something major, such as a drag sheet or stretcher, but new designs are still being worked on. The remaining funds of the Border Caving Club have also been donated & put towards the same end.

After a good attendance of new members on 2 practices in Goatchurch the previous year, the only one open to non-wardens in the last 12 months was in GB Cave during Cavefest. Other clubs are currently organising their own events, so do MCG want to arrange a practice & when would be a suitable date?

Members' weekend in September will also be the BCRC conference at Ebborways Farm (campsite) in Priddy, with underground & surface events, plus talks & discussion groups. Tickets will include camping, a hog roast & party, or can just be got for either day. MCR are looking for helpers during the event & on the Thursday & Friday to set up, as well as Monday to take down. Any volunteers, let me know...

Notes: HC wished to thank all of the Committee Officers for their work over the last 12 months.

6. Election of Honorary Officer for 2017- 2018

Election of Honorary Officer roles are detailed in the list below:

Social Secretary Nicky Pearce – Proposed BC, Seconded MM
Cottage Warden Doug Harris – Proposed BC, Seconded MM
Librarian / Recorder Miranda Litchfield – Proposed BC, Seconded MM
Treasurer Tom Harrison – Proposed RP, Seconded DL
Caving Secretary Dave Lossi – Proposed KN, Seconded BC
Secretary Bill Chadwick – Proposed TH, Seconded RP
Editor Andrew Hprekyj – Proposed BC, Seconded RK
Tackle Master Daniel Mathews – Proposed KN, Seconded BC

7. Election of Non-Committee Posts

Rescue Warden/Conservation Officer

The role of Rescue Warden is to be continued by MM; proposed by EW, seconded by PB. The role of Conservation Officer is to be continued by DM but shared with James Hazel (JH); proposed by EW, seconded by AH. Votes in favour: 23, 1 abstention.

8. Election of Examiners 2018- 2019

Both existing Examiners confirmed they are happy to stand again. PB proposed by TH, seconded by AH. LM proposed by BS and seconded by TH.

9. Motions

No formal motions have been received.

10. Any other business

The secretary suggests the following topics will need our attention over the coming year:

10.1 CIO Constitution Progress

The secretary, helped by Steve Porter aim to get a draft ready for vetting in the next month or two.

RK asked when a EGM might be appropriate and could be expected. The reply stated that this was hoped for the end of the summer. **Action ongoing with BC, SP and others.**

SP also spoke briefly on the need for the new constitution. SP explained that the old constitution set up in the 1950s, means that the Club Trustees are responsible for and own, the Club building(s) and that this, is the main motivation for changing the club's current status. BC raised the concern of Trustees also holding Committee posts and SP informed the group that a restriction on the number of individuals available to do so, could be built in to the new constitution.

10.2 Electronic Archiving

We need to consider the long-term archiving of digital material – MCG News, Log Books, Electronic Log Book material, Meeting minutes etc. The use of a major cloud provider such as Drop Box might be appropriate but will need paying for. Having the archive offsite from the cottage seems sensible. Perhaps looking into this this should be a task for the Recorder / Librarian.

RK noted that certain accounts can be deleted. EW stressed the issue that wrt digital storage, nothing can be seen as secure in the long term. TH added that the club has a mixture of digital and paper records. BS proposed that the majority be stored on external harddrives. TF added that storage/archive costs should be considered also. **Action committee.**

10.3 Communication

EW noted that communication has been a topic for conversation for many years and there is a need for inclusivity to avoid all members feeling out of touch. TH asked whether communication could be worked in the role of the Editor. TF added there needs to be a collective means of official communication. EW pointed out that one of the original functions of the newsletter, was to inform members of upcoming events and plans, and is this something we can reinstate. DL suggested the website could be a solution. **Action committee.**

EW and TH offered very generously to donate £50 each to the individual who contributes the most entries to the trip logs. DL offered to print digital log entries and add to the paper log, so that all contributions will be included in the final count of the paper log at the end of 2019.

Neil Maine would like to alert members about the 2019 Cave Fest which will be held in South Wales over the August bank-holiday.

EW also expressed a possibility of organising a trip to visit an underground bunker in West Sussex.

11. Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting

It is proposed that the next MCG AGM meeting will be held Saturday 18th April 2020 at The Hunters Lodge Inn. All in favour. TBC.

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 Pecz, 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.

- **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.

- **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.**

- **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.**

- **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 Lossl

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 Horeckyj

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 Lossl 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.

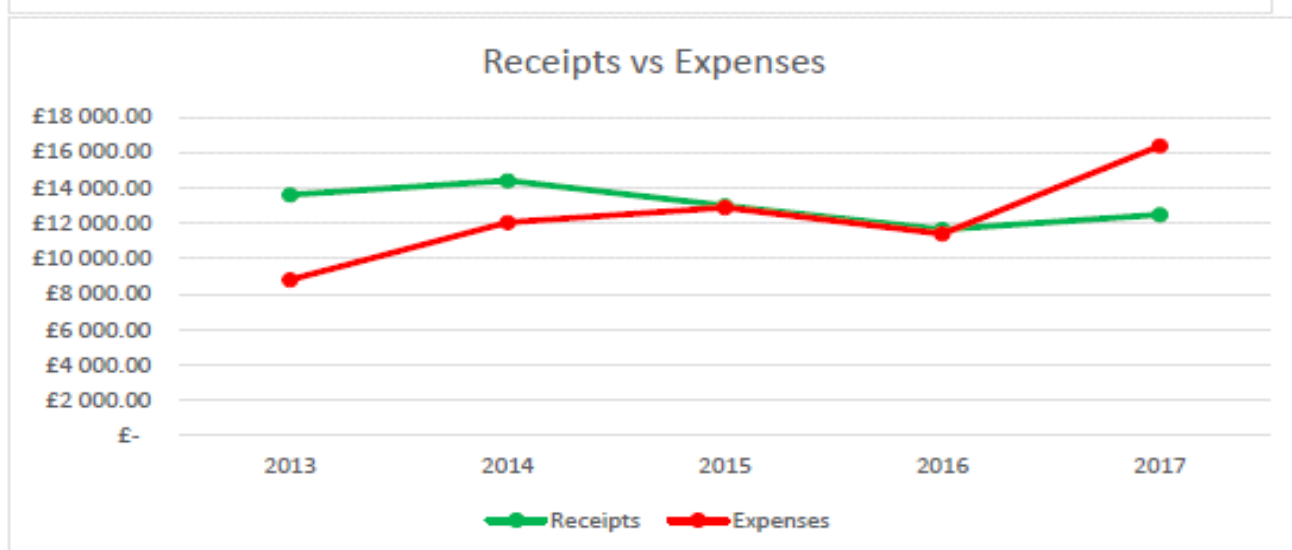
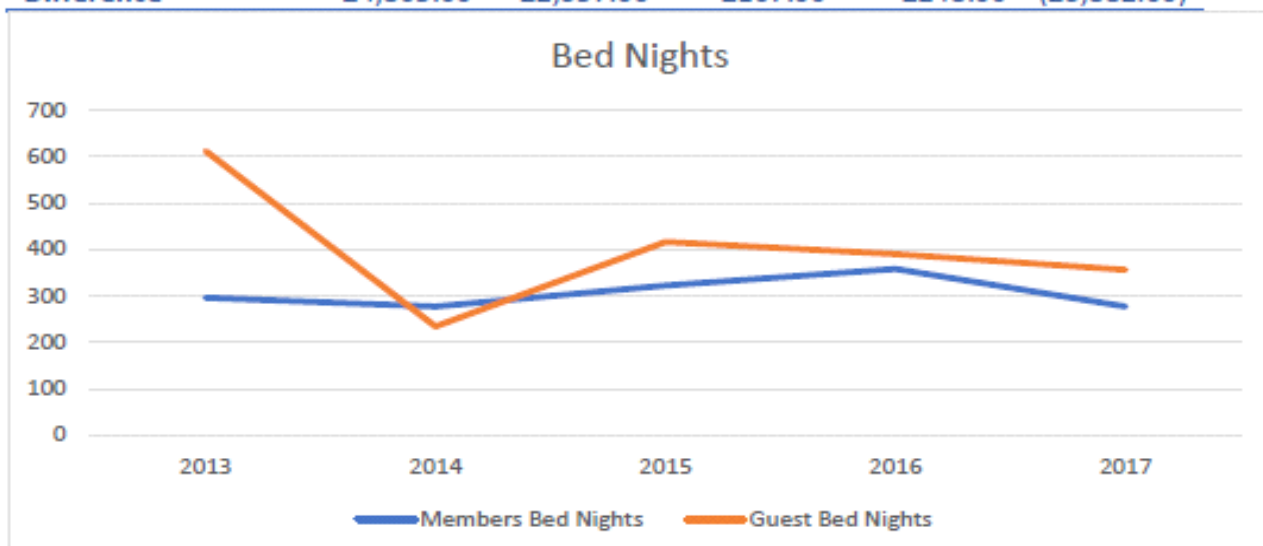
At the current level of receipts, we do have sufficient cash funds to cover these known future outgoings. However, to guard against unexpected events, the need for maintenance, wear and tear and improvements to the cottage, it is important to continue to be prudent to secure a bright future for the MCG.

	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	-28%
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)



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 acquired, 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 room 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, 15-02-19.

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 Glbl 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	Unit Price	Unit Price Growth
------------	------------	------------	-------------------

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

Investment Analysis

Investment	Valuation			Realised Income ²	Re-investment ³	Yield ⁴	Performance ⁵		
	31/12/2016	31/12/2017	Growth ¹				Value	Gain	Gain-%
<i>COIF</i>	£5,638.41	£5,675.63	0.7%			0.0%	£5,675.63	£37.22	1%
<i>Henderson Global Care ...</i>	£5,483.02	£6,311.40	15.1%		£219.31	4.0%	£6,311.40	£828.38	15%
<i>Henderson Global Equity...</i>	£3,366.79	£4,522.86	34.3%		£142.96	4.2%	£4,522.86	£1,156.07	34%
<i>M&G Charifund Income</i>	£17,936.31	£20,548.32	14.6%	£935.05		5.2%	£21,483.37	£3,547.06	20%
<i>Premier Monthly Income</i>	£7,473.13	£8,149.46	9.1%	£365.38		4.9%	£8,514.84	£1,041.71	14%
<i>Rathbone Income Fund</i>	£4,419.74	£5,107.01	15.6%		£192.18	4.3%	£5,107.01	£687.27	16%
<i>SVS Brown Shipley (Solutus)</i>	£2,244.32	£2,767.03	23.3%	£28.27		1.3%	£2,795.30	£550.98	25%
TOTAL Investments	£46,561.72	£53,081.71	14.0%	£1,328.70	£554.45	4.0%	£54,410.41	£7,848.69	16.9%

- Valuation Growth is simply the valuation of the current holding compared to last years, including any increased stock holding.
- Realised Income is the income received into the Group's current account; effectively withdrawals from the investment funds.
- Re-investment is the income re-invested in the investment funds. The re-investment amount is already included in Valuation.
- Yield is the income as a percentage of the invested value (i.e. the value at the start of the year)
- Performance is overall gain, taking into account the capital growth and income.

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.

Mike Moxon

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)

- **Motions**

No formal motions.

- **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.