

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETYCIRCULAR TO MEMBERS

(1967, No.1, April)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's A.G.M. was held on Monday, 6th March, in the Geography Lecture Theatre.

The following Officers were elected:

President : Dr. E.K. Tratman, O.B.E., M.D., M.D.S., F.S.A.

Vice Presidents: H. Taylor, M.B., Ch.B.
Dina P. Dobson-Hinton, Litt.D., F.S.A.
B.A. Crook, M.B., Ch.B.
D.T. Donovan, D.Sc., Ph.D.

Hon. Treasurer : O.C. Lloyd, M.D.

Joint Hon. Secretaries: M.G. Norton, B.Sc.
S.M. Joyce.

Committee : C.J. Gilmore (member in charge of rescue).
C. High.
P.W. Kaye, (member in charge of tackle and equipment).
P.A. Standing (Librarian).
A. Waller (Curator).
E. Wheeler (Miss).

Also appointed as Officers were R.L. Cleaver (Hut Warden) and Miss M. Lauder (P.R.O.).

The President's address was given on the archaeology of the Carnac area of Brittany.

Treasurer's Report

In presenting the Accounts the Treasurer said that we had only just managed to keep the right side of our account and had finished the year with an uncomfortably small cash balance. This was because Proceedings had cost nearly £50 more than the estimate. A difference like this of 16% is enough to throw any Income and Expenditure Account out of gear. However, sales of publications at £174 had been much more than expected, and we had finished the year with a balance of nearly £3.

We had not had to meet the excess of expenditure by selling investments, because we were paid the Colston grant twice over: once for the current year and once for the preceding year. Normally it is paid a year late, which accounted for the "Sundry Debtor" on the right of the Balance Sheet. This year we have no "sundry debtor", and will have to meet capital payments out of our investments.

The balance in the Income and Expenditure Account (£10) is still much too small, so that we have not been able to credit the Hut Fund and the Hay Wood Fund with the interest accruing to them. This can be remedied another year.

The G.B. Capital Fund has this year been credited with the whole of the balance of the Cave Tackle Account. The Manor Farm Account has been separated from the Tools and Equipment, so that members may know what this venture is costing. Donations are still welcome. About six members did not pay their subscriptions last year. It will greatly ease the Society's financial position if they would do this as soon as they receive this Newsletter. Subscriptions for 1967-68 are now due. Elected members pay £2 a year, Ex-Student members £1.10. Cheques should be made out to the University of Bristol Spel. Society, and sent to the Treasurer, Speeco Rooms, University Road, Bristol 8. The Treasurer is grateful to those who pay by Banker's Order.

O.C. Lloyd.

OBITUARY

News has been received of the death on Jan. 7th 1967 of Mr. Reginald.F.Read.

Reggie was one of the founder members of this Society in 1919. He was an active member for more than a decade after which he emigrated to the United States. He had a well developed flair for finding caves as Read's Cavern and Read's Grotto testify for he was the discoverer of both.

Read's Cavern was found when Reggie noticed a slight dip in the soil level against the cliff while the rest of us were investigating the actual east swallet. Less than one hour later the way into Read's Cavern, originally called the Keltic Cavern, was opened in Sept. 1919. The present entrance was dug a year later a little further to the east.

Read's Grotto was found when Reggie went off in a bit of a huff because all of us would go on trying to get into the active swallet near G.B.Cave and refused to dig at what he called the Old Swallet - the present entrance to G.B.Cave. After about an hour he came back and told us he had found a new cave, which was named after him, as Read's Grotto. The little upper chamber was of surpassing beauty, though it is now hard to realise that it ever contained any fine formations, but such is the fate of any cave left open to general access.

In his death we lose one of the old brigade to whom the present generation of cavers owe much.

D.A. Tratman.

CAVINGLittle Neath River Cave

Since the opening of the Severn Bridge, South Wales has become easily accessible to cavers based in Bristol, and this led to the investigation of some of the sumps in that area. One of these was the Terminal Sump Of Bridge Cave, near Ystradfellte. The Cave consisted of a 300 ft. dry crawl leading to a streamway which joined a much larger stream from the overhead River Neath to go on for another 350 ft. before sumping.

On January 29th, Chris Gilmore, Dave Savage, Peter Kaye and Oliver Lloyd went to look at the sump and C.J.G. dived for approx. 100 ft. before reaching an air space. The passage went on, getting larger for nearly 300 ft. before sumping again.

The following weekend, C.J.G., P.W.K., and D.S. all dived the sump and proceeded to explore the system. Just before the second sump a tributary joined the main stream in a very large chamber, and by following this tributary upstream, the passage was found to go on for over 1000 ft., getting smaller, until some wet crawling brought the party to within sight of daylight. Having no wish to get out of the cave at this point, they returned and noticed a passage 4 ft. high and 7 ft. wide over some gour peals. This was followed and got lower to a flat-out crawl before opening out to a roomy dry passage, some 8X8 ft. A stream soon joined it and disappeared, only to reappear as a waterfall from the roof. The passage went on and once again the stream sank out of sight, but by climbing up again to another dry section, the roar of a distant stream was soon heard.

The sump by-pass passage (as it now obviously was) joined the main river in a large junction chamber with some colossal fallen blocks through which the water flowed. The streamway continued just as large (50 ft. high and wide in places) for 2000 ft. or so before reaching a low section and a third sump. Again the cave was obliging in providing a fairly obvious and easy by-pass, and the streamway continued for another 1500 ft. before the fourth and final sump was met. The party called it a day and returned the way they had come.

LNRC- continued.

A fortnight later, a large party spent the weekend camping on site. First the river bed was scouted for the second entrance and this was found without difficulty, a large crowbar being all that was necessary to make the first part passable. We split up into groups and between us managed to survey all the passages found on the previous trip, and to take photographs. The water conditions were lower than before and both the second and third sumps proved to be ducks. Something over 2000 ft. of new passage were also discovered, most of it off the Sump 2 By-Pass.

The following Saturday, a streamway parallel to the entrance passage was found and surveyed and a start was made on the inlet series in the Sump By-Pass. Unfortunately, the heavens opened while we were down there, and the survey party of three were trapped just inside the entrance and had to be extricated by the combined efforts of the Police, Fire Brigade and SWCRO. Sunday was spent clearing up the mess.

The weather continued wet, and an abortive trip was made the Saturday after, the water being much too high.

By this time, rumour had it that some of the 'locals' were planning to dive the terminal Sump, so eight of us crossed over on March 11th. The four divers went in via the Sump while the rest of us surveyed Bridge I to a Grade 5. Both FWK and DS dived and reached a spacious chamber after 100 ft. with a stream entering from a passage in the roof. The fifth Sump was then attacked and went on for 150 ft. at a depth of less than 20 ft. without regaining an air space. It thus looks as if the Fourth Sump will remain the end of the Cave for some time at least.

The following Sunday (19th.) we had a go at finding a Sump 4 By-Pass and a passage between Sumps 3 & 4 yielded 400 ft. of cave, but no by-pass. Further upstream another crawl led to a complex of passages estimated as about 2000 ft. long, about 500 ft. before Junction Chamber.

The surveying was completed on the weekend of April 15/16th. and the total passage surveyed is about 12,500 ft. The vertical drop inside from Bridge Cave Entrance to the resurgence near Fwell Dhu is approximately 300 ft. while that to the 4 th. Sump is around 200ft., leaving 100ft. to drop and nearly a mile to go. The chances of open streamway on the other side of Sump 5 are thus good, although it is not likely to be accessible to non-divers.

A full report is to be published in Proceedings later on this year.

M.G.Norton

G.B. Cave

Unfortunately, since the opening of the Ladder Dig Series the Collectors have been at work. The 'Carrots' - two large red stals at the end of B + Passage - disappeared within a week of opening the Series to other Clubs (before the gate was put on), and two more red stals went around Xmas. Apart from these examples of vandalism, people have been reasonably good and kept to the marked paths so that parts are still well preserved.

Manor Farm

The week's drilling session over the New Year made disappointingly slow progress due to our striking a band of very hard rock, the short days and shortage of manpower during the latter half of the week. The shaft ended up 54 ft. deep.

The following months were spent in Wales, and we did not get the drill again until April 8/9th. when we blew out the rift which went on

Manor Farm Cont.,

about 10ft. above the floor. We got 10 ft. into this on the Saturday and it has now bent round and goes on down valley, 2 ft. 6 ins. high and up to 5ins. wide, with a howling draught coming out. It is thus debatable whether to follow this or continue straight down, there being fairly strong arguments to support either course of action.

AWAY TRIPS

Dan-yr-Ogof March 1 th. 1967

A large party, totalling 12 UBSS plus our guide, Noel Christopher, were the first party to get onto the extensions in 1967. We were shown the splendours of the Long Crawl, Gerard Platten Hall, Flabbergasm Chasm, the Green Canal and up to the end of H. 1000 we split up and some of us went off to the Abyss and survey A Dali's Delight - finding a route to the top of a 100-150 ft. aven. We then returned via Thaxotropic Thruway. The rest of the party returned the way they had come and did some photography. All of us were quite impressed with the extensions and the formations and thoroughly enjoyed the 7-hour trip.

Yorkshire Easter 1967

A strong party, all but one staying at the Bolton Hostel, spent Friday to Monday in Yorkshire.

The divers used Friday to mount an attack on the sump at Spring Trap Rising, but without success.

The intention on Saturday was to do Juniper Gulf and eight of us set off with eight bags of tackle and a pot on Ingleborough. A pot was soon found and laddered, whereupon we descended a very wet pitch, lowered down the tackle and everyone but could not find the traverses the cave ending in a 20ft. pot. After some discussion, we deduced that this was not Juniper Gulf and retreated to the surface to look for it. After an hour's tramping the moors, we eventually found it, and decided to go to the third pitch only, as it was getting late. This we managed to do.

The next day we joined forces with one Warrington C.C. member, 3 White Rose members and Mike Watson and one W.C.C., to do Lancaster-Easegill exchange. Apart from minor incidents (one party getting lost in Easegill for 2 1/2 hours, and some trouble with a Wessex party on the 100' pitch) the trip went smoothly and was very enjoyable.

On Monday everyone went up Pen-y-Ghent in the snow.

R.G.N.

Ireland 1967

The UBSS party will be staying at Lisdoonvarna. Part of it will be at McCarthy's cottage for about six weeks from mid-June to the end of July, part of it will travel with Oliver Lloyd, leaving Bristol on the 14th July and leaving Lisdoonvarna on the 26th and travelling via Cork. There are still two places left in his car. There are 5 rooms reserved at the Hotel (Keane's) for this fortnight, for which they are charging a reduced price (37/- per day instead of 44/-), to include packed lunches and an evening meal. These have not been taken up. There are about 5 places still available at McCarthy's cottage for this fortnight, for which the overnight fee is 2/- and you fend for yourselves.

We have a lot of work to do, and it is greatly to be hoped that the party will increase in size, so that we can do it. We have several thousand feet to survey in Deolin. We have a new cave to explore and survey, of which only 1250 ft. of gravel-type passage have yet been passed. There is a 25 ft. vertical at the end of this and a fairly large passage coming in. The weather forecast is "fein saft deys" O.C.Lloyd.

U.B.S.S. CIRCULARArchaeologyPicken's Hole

Further work during the winter months at this site has completed all that is necessary to do there. There is no substantial chamber which could have been used by hyaenas or by the animals of the earlier fauna. It is surprising to have found many pieces of hyaena and of the other beasts that they ate in the small chamber behind the cliff face, where the height of the roof was less than 2 ft. from the floor rock. The latter showed polishing in several places by the feet of the animals that had used the cave.

Coombe Hill Earthwork (Henbury, Bristol). This has now been surveyed.

Charterhouse-on-Mendip.

A trial trench has been started inside the small earthwork to the east of Rains Batch. So far only a drainage ditch has been found and perhaps some foundations of a wall of a building. The total absence of finds suggests that the date of this structure is not Roman.

Museum

Strip lighting has been installed in the five large wall cases. The cost of the fittings has been born by the Society, but they were put in by the University. This is much appreciated.

An exchange of accommodation for the museum workroom has been completed. The old cellar has been exchanged for the smaller room next to the Library. The arrangement is much more convenient for us as it means that our rooms are all together as one unit.

Security

In view of thefts of books and lantern slides the locks on the doors leading to our premises have been changed. As far as possible the door opening on to University Road should be kept locked at all times. Access during working hours is thus via the Geography Dept.

S.K. Tratman.

Notes and News.

Members will be pleased to know that Mr. A.M. ApSimon has recently been appointed to a lectureship in Prehistory at Southampton University.

The expedition to Czechoslovakia this year is definitely on and has been blessed with a grant from the Expeditions Society.

South Wales Caving Club have just made the connection at long last between Cwm Dwr and Ogof Ffynnon Ddu II, thus having the Country's deepest system within 100 yds of their H.Q.

Quote from the 'Belfry Bulletin', commenting on progress at the Fairman's Folly dig-- " W.C.C. have just reached buckets left by B.E.C. "

The old concrete pipes at Manor Farm have gone at last! The concrete platform and foundations got demolished earlier this winter and since then the pipes have slid down about three feet and are leaning at quite a noticeable angle.

The Annual Dinner was very poorly supported by the older members, but nevertheless we mustered 37 for a very pleasant evening.

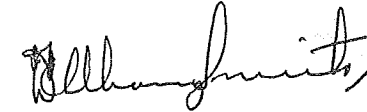
Hon Secretaries: M.G. Norton.
S.J. Joyce.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st January, 1967.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<u>Hut Fund</u>			<u>Investments</u>		
Balance at 31st January, 1966.	35.18.11		5½% National Development Bonds	420. 0. 0	
Add Hut Levy	<u>9.12. 6</u>	45.11. 5	5% National Development Bonds	<u>330. 0. 0</u>	750. 0. 0
<u>War Damage Replacement Fund</u>			<u>Balance at Bank</u>		15. 3. 9
Balance at 31st January, 1966.	180. 6. 8		<u>Cash in Hand</u>		-.13. 0
Less Expenditure	<u>5.12. 9</u>	174.13.11			
<u>Printed Publications Fund</u>					
Balance at 31st January, 1966.	380. 0. 0				
Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account for Proceedings	<u>50. 0. 0</u>	330. 0. 0			
<u>Library Fund</u>					
Balance at 31st January, 1966.	9. 0. 6				
Add Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	<u>-.12. 0</u>				
	9.12. 6				
Less Net Deficit	<u>9.12. 6</u>	-. --. -			
<u>Hay Wood Publications Account</u>					
Balance at 31st January, 1966.		157.10. 0			
<u>G.B. Cave Tackle and Capital Fund</u>					
Balance at 31st January, 1966.	5. 0. 0				
Add Net income from Tackle Account	<u>19. 9. 0</u>	24. 9. 0			
<u>Equipment Fund</u>					
Balance at 31st January, 1966.		5. 0. 0			
<u>Manor Farm Account</u>					
Donations, etc.	73.16. 3				
Less Expenditure	<u>73. 8. 7</u>	-. 7. 8			
<u>Sundry Creditors</u>		18. --. 3			
<u>Income and Expenditure Account</u>					
Balance at 31st January, 1966.	8. 1.11				
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>2.14. 7</u>				
	10.16. 6				
Less Transfer to Library Fund	<u>-.12. 0</u>	10. 4. 6			
		£ 765.16. 9			£ 765.16. 9

I have examined the Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers of the Society and find them to be in accordance therewith.



Finance Officer, University of Bristol.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the twelve months ended 31st January, 1967.

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>INCOME</u>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Proceedings and Postage Vol.11 No.1 (part cost)	418. 7. 4	Members' Subscriptions	131.10. 0
<u>Less Donations</u>	<u>30. 0. 0</u>	<u>Grants:</u>	
Sessional Meetings	388. 7. 4	Audit sub-committee of the University of Bristol Union	65. 0. 0
Tools and Equipment	10. 0. 0	Colston Research Society	<u>80. 0. 0</u>
Library	54. 7. 5	Printed Publications Fund	50. 0. 0
Museum	31. 4.11	Donations (not earmarked)	9.13. 3
Photography	10. 4. 5	Interest on Investments	50. 2. 0
Postage (excluding Proceedings and Petty Cash)	2. 9. 8	Sale of Publications	174. 6. 2
Secretary's Petty Cash	1. 0. 0		
Stationery and Duplicating	15.13. 9		
Rates and Taxes	10. 3.10		
Insurance	3.12.11		
Subscription and Licence	17.14. 2		
M.R.O. Donation	5. 2. 6		
Sundries	2. 0. 0		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	5.15.11		
	2.14. 7		
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	£ 560.11. 5		£ 560.11. 5
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