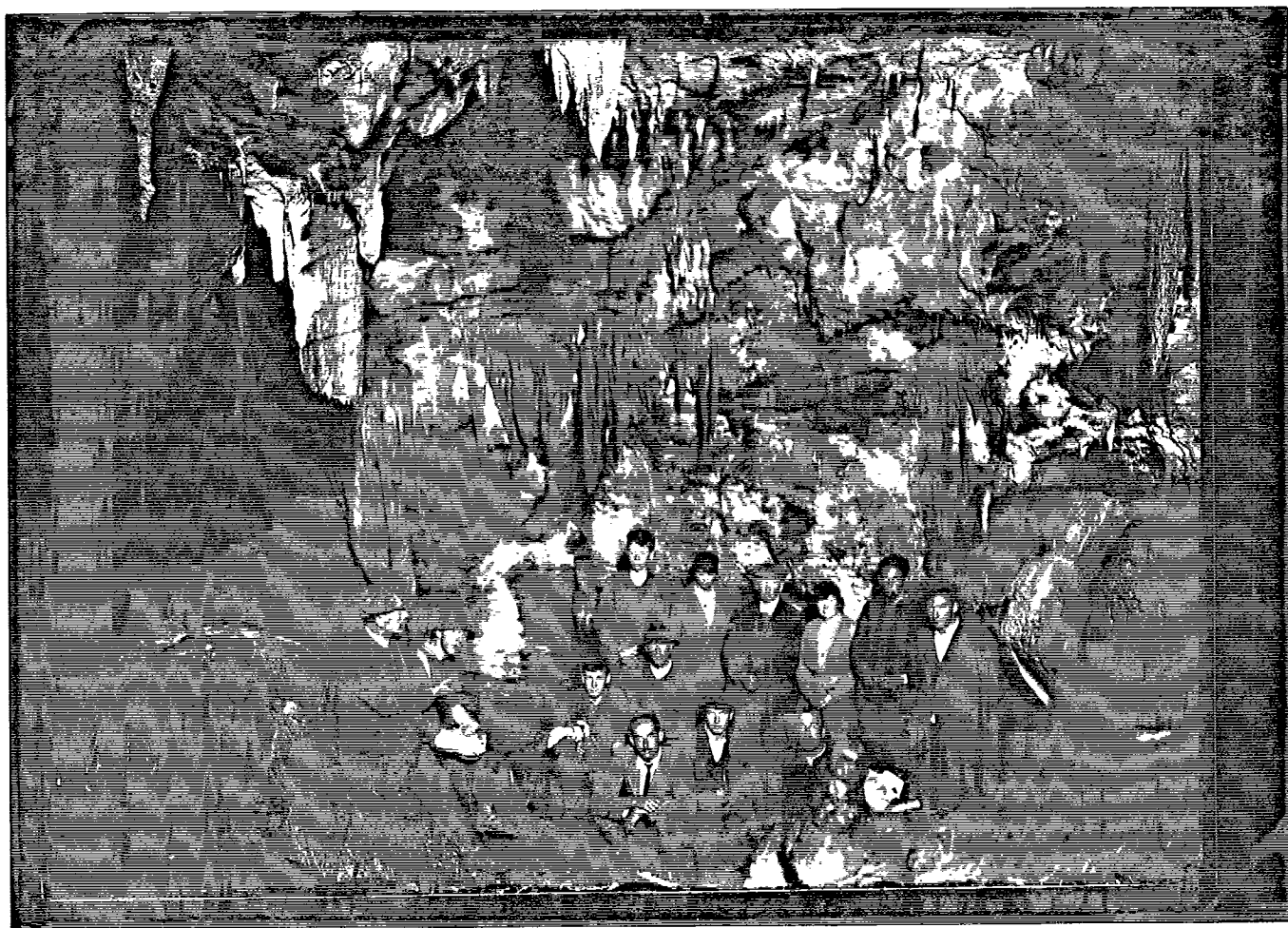


U.B.S.S.

University of Bristol Spelaeological Society



NEWSLETTER

Vol 11 No. 2 June 1995

Editorial

Well, this is a bit difficult to write because as yet we do not have an editor, but instead an 'editing consortia'. So, any volunteers? Anyway - welcome to the last newsletter of this academic year. Sorry for the delay in publishing, but as you can imagine, three editors are slower than one! Also, most of the students seem to have these things called exams, not that that really means much to the average UBSS member! Still, keep those articles, newsclippings and juicy bits of gossip etc. coming in. The newsletter wouldn't be here without them. Articles can be sent to the usual address c/o Newsletter Editor, University of Bristol Speleological Society, Students Union, Queens Rd, Bristol, or can be sent via email to A.Farrant@bristol.ac.uk. Now the disclaimer. All views expressed in this newsletter are the authors own and do not necessarily reflect those of the UBSS committee.

Happy Caving!
The Editorial Consortia.

Newsdesk

TACKLE STORE

So that a full stock take and clean up can occur, please remove all caving gear and/or belongings from the Tackle Store before the end of term. ANY gear left in the store will be deemed to be rubbish and will be **BINNED!!**

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

If you wish to leave gear in the store, please make special arrangements with me first.

Steve Cottle, Tackle Warden

SWILDONS HOLE UPDATE

Note that the Bristol Waterworks company has now decommissioned the pumps at Swildons, which may increase the risk of flooding in heavy rain. (Source: SPELEOScene No 17). Please take care in the entrance series. Although it has stabilised a bit, it could still prove dangerous.

GB DIGGING

This is the summer when GB will go (sic). All volunteers to help with the digging should

contact either Andy 'Escape from Colditz' Farrant or Simon 'Stalag Luft III' Grace. Its muddy, its tiring, its anti-social, what more could you ask for?

WESSEX CHALLENGE

This years annual Wessex Challenge is taking place on the 1st July. For those of you who haven't heard of this event, it basically involves teams from the Mendip Caving clubs competing against each other to complete some set task. Inherent in this is lots of cheating, drinking, obstructing other teams progress etc... Good excuse for a laugh. Anyone interested in taking part should contact either of the Hon Secs. One word of warning, the winning team has to organise next years event, so any UBSS member found taking the event seriously will be thrown out of our team!

*****IMPORTANT*****

NEW PERMITS FOR CHARTERHOUSE CAVES

All members should be aware that the expected sale of Bristol Waterworks land above GB and Charterhouse caves, to the Somerset Trust For Nature Conservation has taken place. It is vitally important that ANYONE wishing to go caving in the Charterhouse caving area, including GB, Charterhouse, Rhino's Rift, Longwood etc, MUST have a new permit available from either of the Hon Secs, AND REMEMBER TO TAKE THE NEW PERMIT WITH THEM ON EVERY TRIP THEY DO!! Please Remember that any of our club members found breaking the regulations (Written on the back of the new permits), or found caving without a permit, risks losing our clubs rights of access. This will not make you very popular! So make sure that you've got a new permit.

REDCLIFFE STONE MINES

The Axbridge Caving Group, with the permission and help of Hamish Orr-Ewing from Bristol City Council have been undertaking some digging and survey work in the Redcliffe Stone Mines in Bristol. Over the last few weeks excavation through some of the spoil dumped in the mine probably in the 1800's has revealed a further

series of small chambers. What proved of most interest was the discovery of chalk inscriptions on the wall. Closer inspection revealed signatures and dates as old as 1789 and 1785. Whether these are the original excavators inscriptions or later ones written by Dutch prisoners held in the mine is unclear, but it does prove that the mine was excavated before 1775. The mines are rumoured to extend over as far as St Mary Redcliffe Church and towards the New Cut on the other side of the Victorian railway tunnel underneath the hospital. Please note that access is not generally allowed without the express permission of the City Council.

UBSS IN COUNTY CLARE

Since our first visit in 1948 the Society has had trips to Co. Clare, Ireland every year and frequently more often. These have resulted in the discovery of many, many miles of passage, numerous papers, our two books (and one monograph!). 1998 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of that first trip and it is felt that it would be a good idea to celebrate it in some way, possibly with a dinner to be held in Ireland. Such an event would require a fair amount of organisation, especially if we were to seek to reunite as many participants in these trips as possible. This note is therefore appearing now so that we might judge how much support there is for this idea. I am asking, therefore, for all those who are interested to contact myself, or the Hon. Secs., with any ideas as to exactly what form it might take, as soon as possible.

Graham Mullan

GRAVEL

Nice to see Simon Shaw has finally bought a house after being evicted out of Jim's and now Sarah's house. So, if anyone has lots of canoeing, caving, climbing, surfing or camping gear and wants to store it somewhere, drop it in to;

394, St John's Lane,
Bedminster, Bristol.

The house demolition party will be in late June. For further details and a sledgehammer, see Jim.

Normanton Road in Clifton is becoming a bit of a UBSS ghetto. Not only do Clive and Wanda live there

but both Steve and now Eve has moved in. Rumour has it that freshers Chrissie and long haired Simon are also moving in next year. Is there soon to be a UBSS enclave, or are we witnessing the birth of the 'Clifton' set, preparing to take over from the 'Westbury' (on-Trym and sub-Mendip) set?

James Sugg has joined that very elusive club that only the very elite of UBSS members attain and live to talk about. Always known for doing things to excess (perhaps he should join the BEC?), rather than simply break down or crash his car - he decides to do triple back somersault and half flip in it. 10 out of ten for effort. Nil points for style.

Quote of the month:

"There's always something attractive about the unobtainable" - Rachel Privitt.

The editing consortia have decided to run a competition as to what she was referring to. Was it?

- a: Tony Boycott in a crushed velvet codpiece
- b: Something to do with Steve (is that why she's going out with him??)
- c: The happily married Mike White?
- or d: A night with the Chippendales?

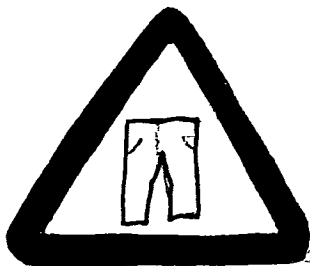
Answers on a postcard to the usual address.

Congratulations to the new Hon Sec, Simon Grace for carrying on a time honoured UBSS tradition - that of oversleeping and missing your first exam! Perhaps it was the excuse that he gave that let him off which involved the birth of 12 Dalmatians (five of which died during the night he was on watch duty)? Confused? So are the rest of us.

However - that almost old lag Tim "I'm not stressed - oh my Gooood" Parish was not to be outdone. On arriving back to Bristol after spending some time at home happily ~~revising~~, ~~working~~, driving Landrovers, a week before his exams were due to start, he was somewhat surprised to be met off the train at 11 am by his tutor. Turns out his first exam started at 9.30 am that day, and his tutor was there to make sure he made it to his exam without meeting anyone. Ah well Tim, they're only your finals after all....!

Several recent experiences have led the UBSS committee to issue a Spelaeological Health Warning.

**** Bullshit Warning ****



Danger - risk of copious amounts of Bullshit
Bullshit can seriously damage your credibility (Chief Health Officer - UBSS)

Cavers in South Wales are being warned of a new, potentially lethal cave hazard - cave infesting geologists. A large outcrop of geologists has recently been spotted swarming round Ogof Draenen over the last few weeks. Please approach with extreme caution, otherwise you may get pontificated at and hit with a hammer. Other sightings have occurred in Slaughter Stream cave and GB. If approached - don't throw a rock at them - it'll only encourage them.

Perhaps this year's greatest would-be April Fools joke was that perpetrated by Ashford Price of Dan yr Ogof Showcave - except that he got the date wrong. Readers of a local South Wales newspaper were somewhat surprised to hear of the rescue of a man trapped for 24 hours in Dan yr Ogof by the World's first cave rescue dog. The said dog naturally became an overnight celebrity appearing on such illustrious programmes as Blue Peter. Funnily enough, the Gwent CRO didn't know anything about this incident, which somewhat suspiciously happened just prior to the beginning of the tourist season and created mass publicity about the showcave.

Unfortunately Gwent CRO and the SWCC didn't see the funny side and the cave is now shut for 5 years on 'conservation grounds. Apparently, the 'dog' has now gone into retirement.

It appears the club is being the subject of a take-over by dyslexics and teachers. The Uneversittee of Bristol Speleological (Dislexic) Sositete now boasts four members and is growing rapidly. Applications for membership must be in writing to the Hon 'Secretary'. Meanwhile, talk in

Crockers seems to be less about caving, beers and gossip, and more to do with discipline, truancy, league table and class sizes. Is this a belated attempt to educate the UBSS? To make things even more confusing, several of the teachers are dyslexic themselves.

COMPETITION CORNER

Yes its time to test your ability to spot the obvious as once again we ask you to match the pairs. Simply draw a line connecting the members that have been (or rumoured to have been) an 'item' over the last few years and win a prize! First prize is a romantic candle lit trip down Lionel's Hole.

DAMES

Linda
Rachel
Hilary
Alison
Jo Wright
Eve
Harriet
Lucy
Chrissie
Gallia
Sarah Ryde
Henrietta
Pippa
Wanda
Helen Wills
Sarah Walker
Gaynor
Jo Denson
Kathy Sykes
Steph Whitfield
Helen Lowe

BACHELORS

Rupert Hay-Campbell
Tim (Big)
Tim (Welsh)
Julian Todd
Ian (Yorkshire)
Ian (Fresher)
Simon (Hon Sec)
Simon (Long hair fresher)
Graham Mullan
Simon Shaw
Andy (Geologist)
Andy (Trousers)
Andy Cooke
Julian (2CV Fresher)
Charlie Self
James Sugg
Tony Boycott
Paul Drewery
Bill Miners
Trevor Mosedale
Steve Cottle

Entries with a solid black mass between the two will not be accepted! Answers on a postcard to the usual address.

Rumours that Tim has passed his exams have yet to be substantiated, as are rumours that Andy has written up his Ph.D. Still, miracles may happen....

Finally on a happier note - readers will be shocked, delighted and amazed to find that Rachel Privett has finally passed all her vet exams and won't for once have to retake. Congratulations!.

THE HON SEC'S BIT

So what's the Hon. Sec. supposed to write for this bit anyway? Whatever? OK. Well, lets start at the beginning. Hello, I'm Simon, your 'All New' Hon Sec. I should also introduce Ian Morely as the other 'Shiney New' Hon Sec, but he's taking his exams seriously and I'm not, so I got lumbered with writing this. So here we go...

What's Happening?? Well, first of all there is the end of term Barbeque on the weekend of the 10th/11th June at our delightful club hut. Although that's probably already happened by the time you read this. As far as I know, there is no official UBSS expedition this summer so that brings us onto the subject of next term. That will start with freshers fair, which we need as many people to man our stand as possible. This will be followed by Freshers weekend and your chance to make an innocent freshers life hell for a day! There will also be the usual Bonfire weekend as well, so start experimenting with the home-made explosives!

We are planning to go to Yorkshire for the weekend before Christmas, so if anyone knows of a good pub/restaurant that would be a suitable battleground for the Annual UBSS Christmas meal/Cranberry sauce fight, near Ingleton caravan site, please let us know. Also we hope to throw in a South Wales weekend somewhere as well. So there you are. That's the plan. How much of that actually happens remains to be seen! Both me and Ian are both new to this organising caving stuff, so please bear with us while we sort ourselves out. We are only too happy to listen to any ideas you might have, so if any of you desperately wants to go some where, let us know, and we'll see what we can do.

WANTED:- NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We desperately need someone to fill this post. Basically the Newsletter editor is someone who nags people to write articles and just sticks everything together at the end. Ideally they should have access to a Word Processor at home or in there department, and they should be able to spot gossip at 2000 yards! To see if you could fulfil the highly prestigious role of Newsletter editor, try our little self test below.

TEST:- Time yourself to see how long it takes you to complete the word search below.

WORD TO FIND:- GOSSIP

A	P	Q	Y	A	X	M
E	J	P	K	W	A	U
I	<u>G</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>P</u>
O	Z	E	T	W	N	I
U	Z	T	A	U	P	Q

How did you do?

Time less than 10 seconds? You are ideal, and were obviously born to become newsletter editor.

Time more than 10 seconds? Blind, go see a doctor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Graham Mullan

The year 1994/5 has seen the Society's finances get back on target in some ways, but go astray in some others.

As can be seen from the accompanying accounts, we paid for two issues of *Proceedings* during the year which brings our publishing and our finances back in line. As can also be seen, the costs of *Proceedings* 20.1 were comfortably below that of 19.3. This is due in part to savings in paper arising from the new format and in part from better utilisation of technology. These savings should be maintained in coming years.

The problems that have arisen this year come from a number of unpaid bills, no bill was paid for the Society's stand at "Fresh", because the Union forgot to bill us and no donation was paid to MRO because I forgot to send one. Both these items will be sorted out this year. More importantly, we have yet to pay our insurance premium on the library and museum because our insurers have yet to decide what it should be! I am assured, however, that we are still covered.

These items aside, it can be seen that there was a small deficit on the current account. This will be dealt with in the coming year by the increased subscription that is now due. To all those of you who have received letters about this, please pay up as soon as possible, it makes my job so much easier.

BRISTOL STUDENT BECOMES ENGAGED TO FAMOUS SPORTSMAN TWICE HER AGE

All those of you who saw headlines like the above in the national press and were beginning to wonder – don't. This does *not* mean that Ms Rachel Privett has finally succeeded in having her evil way with eligible bachelor and renowned cave rescuer Dr. A. (Tony) Boycott!

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST JANUARY 1995

RECEIPTS	£	£	PAYMENTS	£	£
Publications Grants: University of Bristol	1000.00		Proceedings 19.3	3392.46	
Other	<u>100.00</u>	1100.00	Postage of Proc. 19.3	69.89	
Members Subscriptions		1280.00	Proceedings 20.1	2821.47	
			Postage Proceedings 20.1	<u>166.33</u>	6450.15
Student Members Subscriptions		408.00	Tools & Equipment		590.41
			Library		184.54
Union Grants: Capital	590.41		Museum		55.75
Current	<u>450.00</u>	1040.41	Sessional Meetings		180.53
Interest on Investments: Bank	392.71		Postages		30.06
N.S.B.	<u>44.79</u>	437.50	Hon. Secs Petty Cash		479.44
Sales of Publications (not C. of C.C.)		979.00	Stationery & Duplicating		28.69
			Rates & Taxes		
Pen Park Hole Fees		12.50	Insurances: Third Party	193.00	
Donations		152.00	Property	<u>225.03</u>	
			Subscriptions & Licence		418.03
Treatman Grant	500.00		Travel Money		63.25
			"Fresh"		367.34
Tax Refund on Covenants		<u>250.42</u>	Donation To Mendip Rescue Organisation		
		6159.83	Treatman Grant		500.00
Transfer from Printed Publication Fund	3000.00		Loss on 1994 Annual Dinner		34.00
Excess of Expenditure over Income	<u>238.10</u>	9397.93	Sundries		<u>15.74</u>
					9397.93
Balance at 1 February 1994			PUBLISHING ACCOUNT 1993/4		
			Sales of "Caves of County Clare"		292.21
			Debit balance at 31 January 1995		<u>228.55</u>
					520.76

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JANUARY 1995

<u>HUT FUND</u>	£	£	£
Balance at 1. 2. 94	1982.16		10500.00
Add net income	<u>549.91</u>	2532.07	<u>823.85</u>
			11323.85
<u>PRINTED PUBLICATIONS FUND</u>			
Balance at 1. 2. 94	4780.00		543.12
Less Trf. to I & E a/c	<u>3000.00</u>	1780.00	
<u>LIBRARY FUND</u>			
Balance at 1. 2. 94	289.50	289.50	15.55
			<u>00.09</u>
			15.64
<u>G.B. CAVE CAPITAL FUND</u>			
Balance at 1. 2. 94	18.97		
Less net expenditure	<u>15.19</u>	3.78	
<u>EQUIPMENT HIRE ACCOUNT</u>			
Balance at 1. 2. 94	110.02		
Add net income	<u>63.03</u>	173.05	
<u>"CAVES OF CO. CLARE" RESERVE FUND</u>			
Advance for Publication	7000.00		
Less expenditure not yet recovered	<u>228.55</u>	6771.45	
<u>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</u>			
Balance at 1. 2. 94	570.86		
Less net expenditure	<u>238.10</u>	332.76	
			<u>11882.61</u>
			<u>11882.61</u>

HONORARY AUDITORS REPORT: I have examined the above Receipts and Payment Account for the year ended 31st January 1995, and the attached Balance Sheet as at that date and certify that they are in accordance with the Society's accounting records and explanations provided.

..... M.J. Bishop F.C.A.

The Diary of a Teenage Cave Freak

Tuesday 9th May:- Arranged with Simon to do Lionels Hole tomorrow. Also roped Lucy, Julian and Chrissie into coming as well. I wonder if they know that neither me nor Simon have done this cave before? Still, what they don't know, won't hurt them.

Asked Andy Cooke what he thought of Lionels Hole, but he just replied "I've been down there twice before, and that was two times more than I've wanted to do it." Linda has offered us several brownie points if we can find the streamway, and even more brownie points if we can find the way out again. Anyone would think its hard to find your way around down there...

Wednesday 10th May:- ...rushed back from Uni to pack my gear, only to discover a suspicious liquid leaking from my Oldham lamp. Two pieces of Blu Tack and some Boggit tape later and there's no longer any suspicious liquid leaking from my Oldham lamp! Over to Simon's flat, to find out that Chrissie has pulled out. Bugger, there goes my chance to lead an Epic trip, will I ever get on 999??

A quick drive later and we're scarring off old grannie horse riders from Burrington Combe car park by getting changed in front of them. Simon was risking all by wearing his nice shiny new oversuit/furrysuit combination in a Burrington cave. I opted for the Furrysuit under (a rather small) Boiler suit, as Im not letting my oversuit get ripped to shreds, its far to nice for that! Julian was wearing a Boiler suit that hasn't seen a washing machine for a very long time, and Lucy was in Jogging bottoms and her white 'Good Luck' smock top thing. Student caving at its best.

I had photocopied the write-up of Lionels Hole, and gave everyone a copy, so that we would know where to go looking for the streamway. Full marks to Julian who left his copy in the car.

Lionels Hole represents Burrington Combe at its best, small and scrotty! A leisurely saunter up the road and we're in. A quick mosey through the entrance chamber, then its crawling, wriggling and squirming all the way! The guide was fairly easy to follow, and within what seemed no time at all, we were in the streamway. Both me and Simon spent ages negotiating the first duck, whilst Lucy shot through in seconds, as did Julian, who is obviously not fed enough when he's at home.

Things are getting fun now. A nice flat out crawl along a streamway, through a second duck and up along another flat out crawly bit, and we eventually popped out into a chamber where you could actually sit up! It was now that upon a close inspection of my guide, which had been in my chest pocket throughout the streamway, that I discovered that it had become a completely illegible, disintegrating mess. A quick inspection of the other guides produced a total of three completely illegible, disintegrating messes (4 if you count Julian's Boiler suit). We were therefore without a guide.

My last recollection of the guide was something about the Duck bypass being in the vicinity of where we were. So without any guides and with nothing better to do, we set off to look for that. We were looking for a Sandwich boulder squeeze at the top of a rift, after which there should be a wide down sloping passage to the right.

By now Lucy was getting cold, as was Julian, so we sent him off up this rift and through what might have passed as a Sandwich Boulder squeeze. After repeatedly reminding Julian that he was looking for a wide downward sloping passage to the right, we eventually heard him report that he had found the way on. We asked him to describe the route he'd just done and we got the reply,

"Go up through the tight squeeze to the right, along a tight crawl, drop down through the hole, go over the muddy hump..."

As both me and Simon rather conservatively deemed this suspiciously unlike a wide downward sloping passage to the right, we rudely interrupted Julian, to inform him to come back. While we were waiting for Julian's return, we had an impromptu Bonfire Sing-a-long around Simon's carbide lamp, Scout style! Me and Simon (Both ex Scouts) led with Ging Gang Goolie but despite Lucy's fascination with Cub Scouts, she didn't know the words. So we gave up with singing, and decided to find a way out.

I had a quick look down a wide downward sloping passage but it didn't go anywhere. I returned to hear Julian shouting that he'd definitely found the wide, downward sloping passage to the right, only to discover that he'd actually discovered the way we came from! As Lucy was becoming quite chilly by now, we decided to retrace our steps out of the cave. Simon set off in the lead, back along the crawly bits, only to reach the streamway, and crawl off in the opposite direction to the one we came from! So I assumed the lead and set off up the streamway, through the second duck, no problem, then spent five minutes re negotiating a passage through the first duck. To the inexperienced caver, this may have looked as if I was struggling to fit through the hole, but obviously the REAL reason for me lying in the duck for five minutes was to warm up the water for Lucy, who was by now quite cold. Cave leadership at its best!

Out of the streamway, and all we had to do was climb back up through that Boulder Maze to the traverse and we'd be almost out. Boulder mazes have a nasty little habit of looking completely different when going through them in the reverse direction to that which you came from. After a good five minutes of going every way possible except the right one I still hadn't found this traverse, but the ever intrepid Julian did find it, so we carried on. Almost there now, along the traverse, through these squeezey bits, up this chamber and, erm... there's supposed to be a hole with daylight coming in through it, here. Quick deduction and I concluded that this was not the entrance chamber. So I figured that this must be the Boulder chamber, as it was large and chamber like and had boulders in it. Still, no problem, I could remember that the letterbox squeeze I can see over there leads into the entrance chamber. It did, and nobody seemed to notice that we came up a different route than we went down (Or at least, if they did, they were too polite to say!).

Daylight and we're out. We had found the streamway and all come out alive as well. We were in line for lots of Brownie points! Back to Burrington Car park and one of the pleasures of caving in Burrington Combe, the hand dryer in the Bogs! All in all, a great trip, and I can't wait to go back and explore the rest of the cave. Only one question though, What exactly is a brownie point??

Simon Grace



SPOT THE PISSED GAVER

STARTING
OO Andy Cooke

THE STORY SO FAR...
Late one Night, in the Club Hut,
after an evening in the Plane...

10

You must be right next to it
OO /

Andy, I think the
chimney may be
blocked
OO /

Well, theres nothing 'up here
OO

I'll go and see
what the problem
is
OO /

Are You Sure?
OO /

Editors Note: The five minutes of swearing
causing Andy falling off the roof, noses
have been cut out for reasons of space.
Final Score: Hut Roof 1, Andy's Hand N/1

I can't find the Chimney

Only this 8fe high brick
thing sticking out of
the roof
OO

This Cartoon Strip is entirely fictional, and
any resemblance to actual events is
purely coincidental, unintentional, and
in no way deliberate, honest.
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Dedicated to anyone who thinks a comic strip is Rupert Hay - Campbell taking his clothes off...