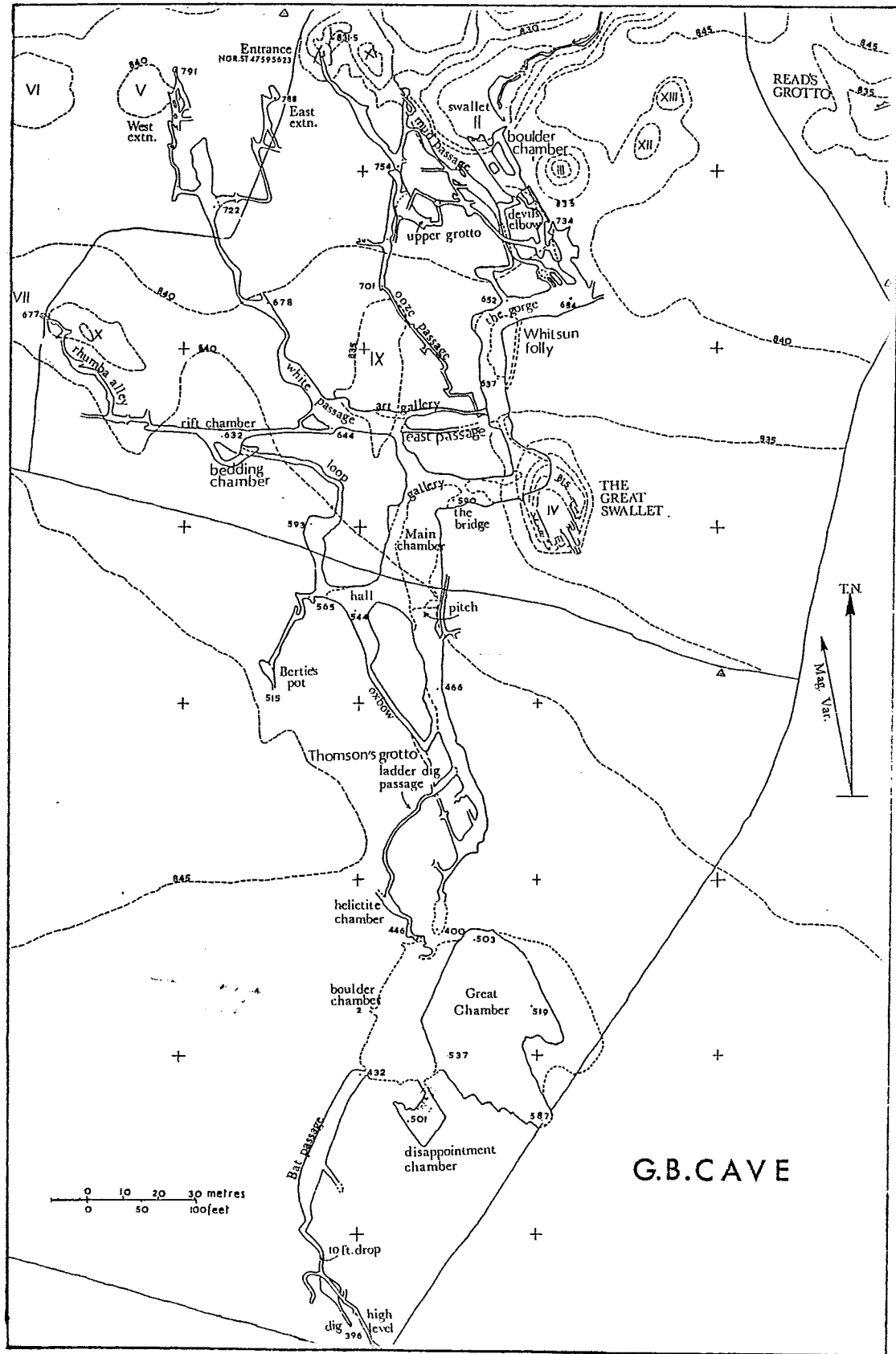


UBSSS



NEWSLETTER 4(2)

EDITORIAL

All opinions in this newsletter are the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent those of the society.

At the UBSS AGM and following committee meeting several changes were made to the officers of the society as follows :

Student Treasurer.....Simon Firth
Hon Sec.....Steve Hobbs
Paul Turner
MIC Photography.....Chris Bennett
Committee.....Paul Drewery, Robin Taylor-Hunt,
Dan Harris, Fiona Whitaker, Linda
Wilson, Paul Harvey

Newsletter EditorSimon Firth (from Sept. '88)

All other posts remain the same as last year

Any articles you have for future newsletters will be gratefully recieved (please !). They should be sent to :

Newsletter Editor,
University of Bristol Spelaeological Society,
University Union,
Queens Road,
Bristol.
BS8 1LN

Included in this issue are a list of keyholders to the Society's rooms in the Union building along with telephone numbers should you need access and not be able to find anyone.

Due to student examinations this term no club weekends have been arranged, however it is likely that a Yorkshire weekend will take place early to mid June. Trips to Mendip will continue as and when demand occurs. See the notice board, or phone Steve for details :

(0272) 303030 ext 3829 - day

(0272) 735486 - evening

Do not use these numbers after September 25th as I will be leaving then. The new Hon Sec' s phone number will appear when he gets it.

LIST OF KEY HOLDERS TO SPLAEO ROOMS

NAME	TELEPHONE NO.	KEYS HELD
Charlie Self	541728	3 rooms and tackle store
Trevor Shaw	Bath 883838 (work)	3 rooms
Paul Harvey	291162	3 rooms and tackle store
Simon Firth		3 rooms
Paul Turner		3 rooms and tackle store
Tony Boycott	663587 (work)	3 rooms, tackle and dark
	507869 (home)	room
Graham Mullen	501456 (work)	3 rooms
	502556 (home)	
Bob Savage	303030 (work)	3 rooms
Desmond Donovan		3 rooms
Chris Hawkes	(0749) 870474	3 rooms and tackle store
Chris Bennet		tackle and dark room
Steve Hobbs	303030 ex 3829	3 rooms, 2 tackle, dark
	735486 (home)	room

If access is required to the rooms you may contact any of the above. It should be noted that these phone numbers may change, especially those of students.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Graham Mullan

Attached to this report will be found a copy of the Society's accounts for 1987-88. These show a relatively healthy financial position, with a small surplus at the end of the year.

The day to day running costs of the Society have been met by Members' subscriptions and by the grant from the University Union, for which we are grateful. Consequently there is no need to increase subscriptions this year, although it may be next year.

Proceedings continues to be our most expensive item. Alternative sources of funding are being investigated, and some have born fruit. Members with any bright ideas on this subject please let me know.

SAVORY PHOTOGRAPHS

In 1962 the Society was given 98 glass negatives taken between 1912 and 1928 by Harry Savory. For the next 25 years mic/phot was very busy: some of the photographs were printed (but the prints have been mislaid); four glass negatives were lost; the U.B.S.S. number was scratched or written in the emulsion, so that it now prints as part of the picture; and the whole collection was lent to a non-member who wanted to keep it. But things have got better: in the last four months we have retrieved the plates and our tame FRPS has made us prints and copy negatives of every one, so that further prints can be made without need to handle the glass plates.

Stop Press : The venue for the 1989 Spelaeological Congress is Budapest, Hungary - more details concerning this will appear as and when we get them. All those interested in attending the conference, and organising some pre / post conference caving should write to the secretary.

Ed - I realise this is current news, nay future news, but everyone slips up at least once.

FOR SALE

The Society has a full set of University of Bristol Spelaeological Society Proceedings which it is offering for sale. This comprises Volumes 1 to 15 bound in various mixed bindings as described below. Volumes 16 to 18 (1) are unbound as new.

- Vol 1 Rebound Maroon. Some flood damage to the plates but text is completely legible.
- Vol 2 & 3 Rebound Green. Fair condition, slight flood staining.
- Vol 4 Green. Fair condition.
- Vol 5 Red and black. Good condition, needs relettering.
- Vol 6 Green. Fair condition.
- Vol 7 Red/Brown binding. Good condition.
- Vol 8 & 9 Red. Matching. Good condition.
- Vol 10 - 13 Red. Matching. Good condition.
- Vol 14 - 15 Red. Matching. Good condition.
- Vol 16 - 18(1) Unbound as new.

A minimum price of £250 has been set. Offers over this amount are invited from members and non-members alike. Please submit offers in writing only to : The Librarian, University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, Students Union, Queens Road, Clifton, BRISTOL, BS8 1LN. Offers should be enclosed in a sealed envelope and will be opened on 31st July 1988. The highest offer will be accepted

The set may be inspected by prior arrangement with the Librarian - Telephone 0272 - 663587 (Work) or 507869 (Home). In the event of any dispute the decision of the U.P.S.S. Committee in the conduct of this sale is final.

Tony Boycott Librarian

LIBRARY NOTES

Some books have recently gone missing from the Library, notably some cave guidebooks and Manual of Caving Techniques. I suspect that this is simply because books are not being signed out in the Library Loans book. I would be grateful if all members could check if they have any club books they are not currently using, and return them. PLEASE USE THE SIGNING OUT BOOK FOR ALL FUTURE LOANS!

Tony Boycott

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY 1988

EXPENDITURE	£	£	INCOME	£
Publications:			Publications:	
Proc. 18.1	3,806.00		Grant from Univ. of Bristol	850.00
Postage 18.1	<u>135.29</u>	3,941.29	Other receipts	<u>589.14</u>
				1,439.14
Tools and Equipment: Capital			Members' Subscriptions	921.50
Current	112.46		Student Members' Subscriptions	73.00
	<u>53.11</u>			
	<u>165.57</u>		Union Grants: Capital	282.33
Less income	<u>73.00</u>	92.57	Current	<u>575.00</u>
				857.33
Library		165.80	Interest on Investments: Bank	168.58
Photography		3.99	P.O.	<u>190.53</u>
Postages (not Proc.)		135.17		
Hon. Secretaries' Petty Cash		9.94	Sales of Publications (not C. of C. Clare)	983.45
Stationery and duplicating		173.39		
Kates and Taxes		31.47	Donations	591.50
Insurances: Third Party	176.25			
Property	<u>147.10</u>	323.35	Tax Refunds on Covenants	219.90
Subscriptions and Licence		36.00		
M.R.O. Donation		5.00	Tratman Fund	830.00
Travel Money		252.00		
Tratman Fund		830.00		
Sundries		5.00		
Freshers' Squash		<u>5.00</u>		
		<u>6,009.97</u>		
Excess of income over Expenditure		<u>264.96</u>		
		<u>6,274.93</u>		<u>6,274.93</u>

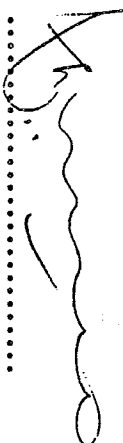
'CAVES OF COUNTY CLARE' PUBLISHING ACCOUNT 1987/88

Balance at 1st February 1987	3,452.66	Sales of 'Caves of County Clare'	500.66
	<u>3,452.66</u>	Debit Balance at 31.1.88	<u>2,952.00</u>
			<u>3,452.66</u>

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AT 31st JANUARY 1988

	£	£		£	£
<u>hut fund</u>			<u>Investments</u>		
Balance at 31.1.87	140.18		Deposit a/c	1,500.00	
Add net income	233.80	3/3.98	P.O. Invest. a/c	3,766.99	5,266.99
<u>Printed Publications fund</u>			<u>Lamp hire a/c</u>		146.75
Balance at 31.1.87		780.00	<u>Current a/c</u>		791.73
<u>Library fund</u>			<u>Cash in Hand</u>		
Balance at 31.1.87	119.00		Hon. Secretaries'	11.22	
Add net income	32.50	151.50	Hon. Treasurer's	62.47	73.69
<u>G.B. Cave Capital fund</u>					
Balance at 31.1.87	48.05				
Add net income	22.99	71.04			
<u>Caves of County Liare a/c</u>					
Advance for Publications	1,000.00				
Less net expenditure not yet recovered	2,952.00	4,048.00			
<u>Income and expenditure a/c</u>					
Balance at 31.1.87	589.08				
Add net income for year	264.90	854.04			
		<u>6,279.16</u>			<u>6,279.16</u>

HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT: I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.1.1988, and the attached balance sheet as at that date. I confirm that they are in accordance with the books and records of the Society and the explanations given to me by the Hon. Treasurer.



 J.A. GUNN, B.A., F.C.A.

CHARTERHOUSE CAVING COMMITTEE.

Linda Wilson.

On 16th April 1988, Tony Boycott & I attended the annual meeting of the Committee, held as usual in the back room of the Hunter's. We had the usual pre-meeting problem of finding a new secretary as Mike Hearn was firmly intending to resign. Eventually we managed to persuade John Beauchamp (M.C.G.) to take on the job.

No contentious matters were raised, for a change; the various dig reports revealed very little except that Pete Hann (Wessex) has almost mastered the art of joined-up writing. The Wessex have installed a gate at the entrance to their dig in the terminal boulder choke in Charterhouse Cave, to protect over-curious parties from the consequences of rocks falling on their heads, at least that was the reason they gave, it might actually be that their dig has been more successful than they have let on.

I had very little to say in the annual G.B. Report. We have only had to replace the lock once & even that was for general maintenance rather than as a result of vandalism. A new sign has been put on the gate to the field, reminding people not to obstruct the road or the gate when they park, (that road is used frequently by large lorries & cars parked directly opposite each other can easily cause problems.)

I did complain about one thing, the number of over-sized parties who claim to be caving as two groups with two keys, regardless of the fact that they have all travelled in the same minibus & have not lost sight of each other for the whole trip. Groups like this appear to be on the increase, & at the risk of being contentious, in my experience, the majority of them come into the category of those being "taken" caving, usually from a school, college or youth group. The people "in charge" of them either can't read the regulations printed on the permits or they simply don't care, either way they should have the error of their ways pointed out to them.

For those who might be unsure of the regulations for G.B. & the other Charterhouse area caves ie Longwood, Rhino Rift & Charterhouse Cave, the following is a brief note of the details printed in full on the permits :- No-one under 16 is allowed, no novices, maximum party size = 6 (except C/House = 3 + leader), no carbide (except Longwood & Rhino Rift), everyone must have a valid permit.

The Society has a supply of 14 day permits for sale at 30p each & we also have the new 1 year permit available free for the use of members only.

LECTURE NOTES

on

"TRAVELS WITH MY LEMUR"

or Small furry animals I have been bitten by on holiday.

given by Phil Chapman.

.....This lecture really had potential, good slides showing splendid scenery, cuddly creatures with long luscious eyelashes.....pretty similar to the lecturer
.....I might even stay awake.....

The following is a thumb nail sketch of some of the wildlife encountered by our hero on a large island off the East African coast :-

Ring-Tailed Lemur - as featured years ago on Animal Magic, show business really went to this animals head, it regularly holds autographing sessions & even charges an appearance fee.....come back Johnnie Morris, all is forgiven.

Aye-Aye - this animal really must sack its publicity agent. Lifestyle appears to consist of wandering into villages & being beaten to death by the inhabitants. A somewhat extreme reaction, even to an animal with a two foot long skeletal index finger used for long-distance nose-picking.

Brown Tree Lizard - incredibly rare, bears a remarkable resemblance to.....wait for it, wait for it.....tree bark.....what a surprise ! Actually, it might not be at all rare, but its disguise is rather good & there are an awful lot of trees.

Small Furry Lemur Living in a Hollow Tree - nocturnal, but can be woken up during the day by kicking the tree; when it emerges to complain it can then be mugged & forced to pose for photos.

Sardine-Eating Lemur - staple diet consists of canned sardines filched from visiting naturalists, & as the latter are increasing rapidly, so is the former.

Miscellaneous Cuddly Lemur - enough said.

Nasty Looking Snake - probably poisonous, but who on earth would want to eat a bright green snake covered with red & yellow spots ?

Cave Dwelling Crocodile - can be identified by the faintly bemused expression on its face when confronted with a procession of cavers invading its unnatural habitat. The poor beast had only retreated there in the first place for rest & recuperation. After two months in the company of British cavers it was last seen heading off in search of a handbag manufacturer.

Cave Dwelling Shark - just when you thought it was safe to go caving..... now this really is going too far.....

.....souvenirs will be available for sale in the foyer after the lecture.....

LECTURE NOTES

on

CANNIBALISM AT CHEDDAR

or "Extracts from the British Museum Cookbook"

given by Jill Cook.

.....The curtains are drawn, the lights go down..... I start to drift inescapably into oblivion.....try desperately to stay awake.....this one is bound to be interesting, must include some violence and stomach-churning detail.....I sit up straight, must listen attentatively.....It all seems to have started with some bones found in a cave at Cheddar, total coincidence that the tourist season was just starting and the local news had been somewhat thin of late.....faint scratchings on bone surface, possible butchery marks.....on human bones?.....YUK! Long description follows of comparative bone scratchings.....prehistoric equivalent of pork scratchings ?..... A few details thrown in about scalping to amuse the masses.....end result..... can't tell if Cheddar man ate other Cheddar men or not.....why and/or how did bones end up down small fissure in cave.....why eat people anyway when arctic hare so abundant.....?.....The room is now dark and muggy.....after two pints of beer even the green armchair in the corner seems quite comfy.....

Scene :-

A chamber in a cave somewhere in southern England, a long time ago; families cluster around hearth fires, the low murmur of talk fills the air, punctuated frequently by raucous shouts from a group of children playing with a small round object.

At one particular hearth, a disgruntled voice is heard to say, "Arctic hare yesterday, arctic hare today and blimey if it don't look like arctic hare again tomorrer." The speaker's false rabbit's ears nodded from his fur headband in time with his words, emphasising the point.

A female sitting opposite him bent over the fire, the rabbit's tail attached to her fur kilt bobbed attractively in the firelight, she examined the meat roasting on sticks, then handed a piece to the previous speaker, "Your arctic hare is done."

"I'm bloody sick of hare," he retorted ungraciously, "and I'm bloody sick of wearing these stupid ears and tails, we all look like bloody hares !"

Another member of the group chewed thoughtfully on his roast hare, "Well, we'd all look pretty stupid dressed up like....like....sheep, for instance," he pointed out reasonably, "and anyway, it might lead to misunderstandings," he added, with a rare flash of insight, "and don't forget the ritual significance of it all, I mean, where would we be without that, that's what I want to know ?"

Their thoughtful mood was rudely shattered by a small object hurled into their midst, followed by a small child, banging on a toy drum made of stretched and tanned hares hide, the child screamed loudly in accompaniment to the banging, his small rabbit's ears nodding frantically as he demanded, "Mister, mister, can I have my hares skull back please, please mister, can I, can I, mister please...??"

The disgruntled member of the group looked first at the unappetising lump of meat in his hand and then at the screaming child, the latter was plump, juicy-looking and above all extremely irritating, as well as being one of a very large family, and they were conveniently close to the waste disposal fissure, he reached quickly for his reindeer antler pick and looked round at the others, a wistful smile on his face, "It's bound to be better than arctic hare." he said with satisfaction.

.....The sound of clapping woke me up with a jolt.....from the resulting questions I gathered that a small skull with a neat round hole in the forehead had been found, with possible scratch marks, but there is still no definite evidence of cannibalism.....maybe it was all media-hype after all.....or maybe it wasn't.

SKY BLUE PINK HOLES

Well we all agreed that the Blue Holes were blue, so when submarine caves were found at Doolin Point in County Clare, Eire and were called "Green Holes" we, quite naturally, asked if they were green.

"Er, no. They're Irish, you see..."

Next came the Brown Holes of County Clare, less than a kilometre north of the Green Holes and not even submarine.

"But they are underwater at high tide..."

No wonder the editor of CDG newsletter goes to the Bahamas. However lesser mortals (but still cave divers) can't afford the fare and have to go to Ireland instead. Before a new series of "a funny sort of grey" Holes are discovered may I propose that the Clare coastal caves be called collectively the Sky Blue Pink Holes. We can then progress from the twin problems of nomenclature and colour blindness to the much more serious business of why they are there at all.....

ARE THE GREEN HOLES REALLY BLUE HOLES IN DISGUISE ?

Between Doolin Bay and Poulcraveen Bay, on the coast of County Clare, there are several apparantly unrelated groups of caves. The best known are the submarine Green Holes, which have featured in recent CDG Newsletters. Further north are the tidal Brown Holes and north again some old cave remnants. The caves are all developed in the same beds in the limestone, which has led some people to wonder whether they are part of the same system. The limestone dips gently towards the south, which means that the deepest caves (and the most southerly) are the reef caves at Doolin Point at -13m. Mermaid's Hole, one of the most northerly of the Green Holes, is at around -10m for most of its length, rising to airspace when several hundred metres inland (see Descent 76 and 78). Urchin Cave, the most southerly Brown Hole, is at the low tide line while the rest of the Brown Holes are close to the high tide line. The coast now turns to the east and the impressive pre-glacial cave remnant Poulcraveen is met, also developed in these beds. Were these sites all to belong to an ancient pre-glacial "Poulcraveen System" the most likely source of their water would be a proto-Coolagh River, probably passing via the pre-glacial relic Pol-an-Ionain.

Further along the coast, north of Poulcraveen, the UB33 has dug sporadically over the years in several small sediment-filled caves located in the cliff face

above the sea. Their situation, and the sediments within them, means that they can safely be presumed to be pre-glacial. No such confidence can be expressed in the case of the Green and the Brown Holes, where marine sediments and beach debris have entered the caves. The caves could be of almost any age.

An explanation of how caves of quite different ages can develop at a similar altitude in the same bed is that the same geological factors may apply. One bed may be particularly soluble, or have many more joint fractures. It could also be confined between shale or chert layers. Chert beds are one of the most important hydrological controls in Co Clare and an extensive sheet of chert is seen in a bed above the Brown Holes, forming a lumpy pavement surface to one of the coastal platforms. A limestone bed resistant to erosion is a conspicuous feature of the tidal zone in Poulcraveen Bay, just below the level of the caves.

Poulcraveen is an old cave remnant of quite large dimensions, aligned north-south. Its southern end is unroofed and buried under boulder clay and so is inaccessible. The cave probably continues beneath the boulder clay in a southerly direction, but because of a bulge in the coastline will lie progressively further inland. At the latitude of Mermaid's Cave (if it maintains its course) it may be 500 metres from the coast. With further extrapolation of its course it could be predicted to reappear offshore in Doolin Bay, buried under the sand.

The Brown Holes extend from the western side of Poulcraveen Bay to Urchin Cave, 300m to the south-west. Although they have been given a collective name they are not uniform in character. In the northern part of this coastal section the caves are joint-controlled phreatic networks, developed in a bedding plane at the back of a tidal rock platform. Several caves interconnect and one passage has been followed for 70m inland. The passages are typically 1m wide and 1m high at the entrances, though at least one is of walking height further inland (Steve Milner, pers. comm.). In some ways these caves mimic the phreatic mazes that are found at the edges of poljes, but polje mazes are water-level controlled. The Brown Holes are still largely unexplored but there is no evidence to suggest that they are other than bedding controlled. Pat Cronin (pers. comm.) says they are very much like the Green Holes, but with smaller dimensions.

To the south of the phreatic mazes there are several large cave-like features in the cliff that have been greatly modified by collapse and by marine action. These features may be related to Urchin Cave, the most southerly of this group of sites and the only one that can be followed inland. Urchin Cave, with only one entrance exposed at low tide, is as yet only partially explored (Descent 76). Several large well-defined passages have been followed underwater and the cave is said to be as exciting a prospect for divers as Mermaid's Hole.

Mermaid's Hole is the most extensive of the Green Holes and the only one to have been followed inland from salt into fresh water. Two passages have now been pushed to airspace (Descent 76 and 78), the underwater passages being 450

and 700m long respectively. In the first of these the divers found a well-decorated phreatic aven and a breakdown chamber. The passage ended soon after in a mud choke with a small freshwater stream emerging. Details of the second passage have yet to be published. Many other routes in Mermaid's Hole have still to be explored, with some trending south towards Bedding Cave, "Hell" and the other Green Holes. It seems only a matter of time before connections are made between these sites, proving that the Green Holes are all part of the same cave.

No surface streams drain to the Mermaid's System. Instead, an extensive limestone coastal strip feeds rainwater to the cave through small percolation channels. The potential catchment area could be as much as 10 sq km, but is probably very much less with water being lost to the Aille River, the (underground) Coolagh River and to the sea direct. The phreatic aven, now lined with stalactites, poses some problems for interpretation. If Mermaid's Hole has only ever received percolation water, it is likely that the aven formed at a time of high sea levels. It is possible for phreatic avens to form above normal water levels by back flooding (Fisherstreet Pot in Doolin Cave is an example), but this is usually in caves fed by swallet water; percolation-fed systems respond sluggishly to rainfall and back flooding only occurs when there is a major obstruction to the stream course (eg Mangle Hole on Mendip). Mermaid's Hole has strong tidal currents but otherwise little flow, so any phreatic features now dry belong to a time of higher sea levels. Since the end of the last Ice Age the sea has risen about 15m, so the cave must pre-date this. In this interpretation the cave is a submarine resurgence, partially drained in its inner reaches by a nett fall in sea level.

An alternative explanation, that Mermaid's Hole is a relict feature once fed by swallet water but now acting only as a local drain, also points to an age before the end of the last glaciation. On this basis, an old cave has been flooded by a rising sea level, as happened to the Blue Holes of the Bahamas. The cave may well be the old resurgence for Poulcraveen. Back flooding in a swallet-fed system allows for an original sea level at the present position, or even lower. Circumstantial evidence would favour a lower level. The two major coastal resurgences developed at the end of the last Ice Age, the Coolagh resurgence S3 and the Doolin resurgence D3, seem to have developed to the contemporary sea level. In flood conditions water from these caves resurges in the (present) tidal zone, but the main resurgences are in deeper water offshore, probably in the tidal zone of the early post glacial shoreline.

Yet a third interpretation admits that the inner reaches of Mermaid's Hole belong to an old cave but believes that the underwater passages leading to the sea are recent. The passages were initiated by groundwater in the coastal platform draining towards the sea, but once a critical size had been attained tidal currents became important. At first the effect was of faster outflow on a falling tide, but as the dominant passages expanded and captured the flow of

the minor routes the sea began to encroach inland. With this much greater volume of water, brackish now, moving both in and out of the cave with the tides, the passages quickly enlarged. In some exposed positions on the coast these strong currents opened up some of the minor routes, forming the mazes of the reef caves. Wave action may have assisted this process.

Common to all three theories is the idea that the air-filled cave at the end of Mermaid's Hole is of pre-glacial age. It is also in exactly the right place to be the projected southern extension of Poulcraveen. Similarities between the northern Brown Holes, Urchin Cave and the Green Holes suggest that they were formed by a similar process, and possibly at a similar time. It seems more likely that they were formed by groundwater than that they are all distributaries of a swallet-fed Poulcraveen. The suspicion of some divers that there are flooded vadose passages in the Green Holes has yet to find its way into print; the published accounts are all of phreatic passages which could be of any age, even recent. On the scant evidence available, there does seem to be an old "Poulcraveen System" inland from Doolin Point. There is also a younger percolation-fed network of cave passages that are still developing.

In choosing Theory 3 I am able to give the most encouragement to the divers. Any part of the limestone coast from Doolin to Kinvarra could contain percolation-fed caves, though best prospects are away from the major active resurgences (which would tend to capture the percolation streams) and away from the sand-floored bays (eg Fanore) where the cave entrances would be buried. There is also the chance of finding pre-glacial cave remnants offshore from known coastal sites such as Glasha More (S9) and Derreen West (S6). Further possibilities exist in the region of present day active resurgences, Brian Judd's discovery of the main Coolagh River water at S3a being a fine example; as yet no one has had a look offshore from Poulavaud (S7).

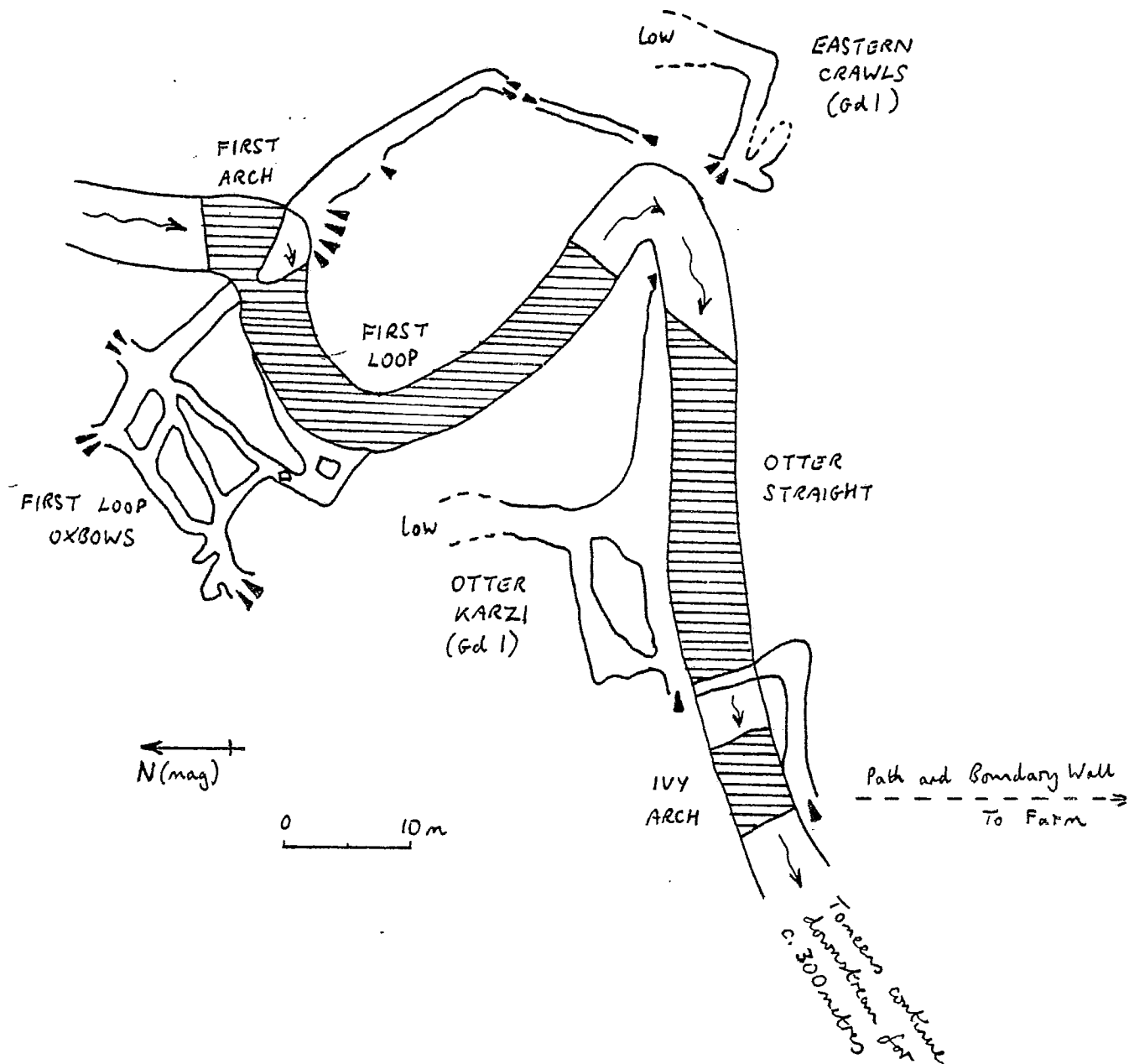
POSTSCRIPT: Tony Boycott insists that in Chert Ledge Cave (one of the Reef Caves) there is a meandering vadose canyon passage. The cave must be at least early post-glacial in age. Further complications to the simple theories expressed above are invited from observant divers wishing to embarrass me.

Charlie Self

DOOLIN - POULCRAVEEN SURFACE SURVEY

The UBSS library has a large scale hand drawn surface survey of this part of the coast, marking the entrance to Mermaid's, Urchin and "Hell". At a scale of 1:1056 (five feet to the mile) most of the significant surface features are noted. Slightly reduced to fit an A3 sheet, a set of photocopies can be obtained at cost price (£2 with postage) from Tony Boycott, Spelaeological Society, Students Union, Queens Road, Bristol 8.

THE TOMEENS OF TULLA, EASTERN COUNTY CLARE.



The first part of the Tomeens were surveyed during a major flood on New Year's Day, an excellent way to wash off a hangover. The streamway averages six metres square and had two metres depth of mud-laden water rushing through it. The First Loop Oxbows were also surveyed. They are beautifully sculpted, with rock arches within rock arches, making them much more complicated than the survey suggests.

Two other sections of dry cave were explored, but not surveyed. Both ended in a low bedding cave that could be pushed further. Otter Karzi is a smelly place with the odd bat (plus guano) and neat piles of shit, presumably from the otters who the farmer (very friendly chap) says live in the area.

There are three more, longer, sections of river cave further downstream but the airspace is lower. During our visit the final tomeen was sumped. The surveyed cave stream length is 82m, the dry cave 94m. An additional 130-150m of dry cave is shown (Grade 1). A return visit is planned, in May, to complete the survey. The final total may be 600m, half of it active streamway.

AMAZING, INCREDIBLE, TRAT ONLY KNOWS

Where all the cave water in County Clare goes being the first two lines of the ballad "The tracing of the Coolagh". The song elegantly satirised Professor Tratman's assertion that the Coolagh River resurged in the sea at Glasha Beg, probably offshore from Lackglass. With the discovery of the intertidal resurgence S3, the songwriters had material unsurpassed in quality since the discovery of Doolin Cave (Trat had told everyone that Fisherstreet Pot was bound to end in a sump).

But now Brian Judd is trying to rewrite history. He has found a large resurgence in the sea bed 600 metres south of S3 at Clare 4, 17.9E/ 0.5N (approx), rising up from cracks in the rocks. This rising is at the southern side of the large bay south of Poulsallagh (where S3 is located) but cannot be other than the Coolagh River because of the amount of water being discharged. It was in spectacular condition this New Year when it was observed by a large UBSS party. The site is perhaps 100m offshore and has been designated S3a.

Another place where Coolagh water resurges was found by the UBSS students. S3b is at the foot of a low cliff at the high tide line at Clare 4, 20.0E/ 3.3N and seems to be on the same N-S joint as S4, the grike-like opening just inland from S3. A pool of peaty water was seen there one afternoon, but was gone the following day.

But at all these sites the water rises from impenetrable cracks. Where is the main (or the original) resurgence? Could it be far enough south and west for Trat to be vindicated? At Glasha More (S9) there is a pre-glacial cave remnant that has been broached by the sea. If the Coolagh River has invaded one of these old caves it could resurge almost anywhere, and in flood leak out through joints wherever the cave roof is close to the sea bed.

DEAR STEVE,

here is a story for the Newsletter ;

Once upon a time, I resolved to do an inordinate ammount of work all through the third year and then receive a nice rolled up piece of paper with a red ribbon and 2 : 1 written on it. That was last term. Then I started to rediscover the delights of caving and the rolled up piece of paper will have "Desmond" written on it.

Incidentally, I'm only writing this pile of cobblers because Linda asked me to, but here is a summary of some of the trips I've had the pleasure of going on.....I missed Freshers Weekend and would only like to say "Alas" and sigh for the lack of the Squeeze and the back room of the Plume and the sad demise of yet another pagan custom.

One weekend we went to Wales during the rainy season and went swimming in Porth yr Ogof where it all got a bit fast/deep/dubious etc as we strolled in, so we strolled back out. Stayed at Graham's and he fed us bolognese and a fried breakfast, oh joy. He also had a very friendly landlord who kept serving beer till the "best" ran out and then carried on with spirits. Trevor and I beat the locals at pool and Joseph lost Trevor's keys on a wine rack.

Quite a lot of people went to Pant Mawr, we had an extremely Sunday afternoonish afternoons caving. Pant Mawr is one of those caves that lends itself to a gentle amble, incomparable to grovelling in Goatchurch.

Highlights of the term :-

Hirwaun hashes for breakfast.

Joe's 90mph jalopy from Panda on the M6 (I'm glad I wasn't there).

Marco's monologue on Tresviso (love the slides, Gavin !).

Is this really the sort of c..p Linda meant, Steve?

Love,

IAN HEDGECOCK.

Steve,

Its the sort of c..p I expected,

Love,

Linda.

AS OTHERS SEE US - CHEDDAR CAVES IN 1962.

by S.A. Craven.

The arrangements for visitors to the Cango Caves in the Oudtshoorn district of South Africa left much to be desired a quarter of a century ago. The Oudtshoorn Municipality, which managed the Caves, therefore decided to implement an extensive development scheme. The Town Clerk and Director of the Cango Caves, Mr. Michael C.T. Schultz, was therefore sent overseas on a tour of inspection of show caves in England, Belgium, France, Spain and Majorca.

On his return to Oudtshoorn, Mr. Schultz wrote a lengthy report dated 14 June 1963 to the members of the Cango Caves Development Sub-Committee, from which I quote verbatim and without comment:

7.2.(a) Dave's Cave and Cox's Cave in the Cheddar Gorge in the County of Somerset in the West of England.

The visit to these Caves was most important from a point of view of the following factors:-

- (i) *These caves receive approximately 575,000 tourists per year with as many as 10,000 on a bank holiday.*

(ii) The caves are tremendously overcommercialised with a mile or more of souvenir shops lining the access road to the caves themselves.

(iii) A great fetish is made here of the sale of an assorted number and type of souvenirs.

(iv) The museum is an outstanding feature and is the basis of the proposed museum layout to be followed in the Congo Caves Development Scheme - a number of colour slides were taken to more clearly illustrate this to the members of the Committee and the Council who are interested.

(v) Instructive pamphlets to tourists in five different languages are prominently displayed and copies of each were obtained to be used as a guide at our Caves, which also caters for a large number of foreign tourists. Many features of the extremely modernistic cavemouth building were truly outstanding and included inter alia a giant gold fish pond accommodating 2,000 gold fish in crystal clear water with a miniature fountain the bottom of which in turn formed the roof of a cocktail lounge. In addition the official curio shop and restaurant fully illustrated what could be done for the convenience and pleasure of tourists to put them in an amenable mood and encourage the spending of money. The interior of these caves revealed a marked similarity with "Congo" but, they had not yet reached the

advanced stage we have attained in the provision of handrails and footpaths.

(vi) The method adopted in these caves of concealing electrical conduits has already been applied successfully in the first two caverns of the Cango Caves where the route lighting has been adjusted by the Electricity Department and bulk head fittings installed.

(vii) An outstanding feature of these caves is the mode of presentation of the roofs of low caverns by the expedient of accentuating rimstone pools and keeping these filled with crystal clear water, which when using the right type of light advantageously placed reflects the roof formations which are revealed as Swiss Chalets upside down.

(viii) A number of outstanding formations such as the fossilised river are protected by handrails and plate glass, but, unfortunately this tends to create the feeling that one is on the wrong side of the caves.

(ix) Another unique feature of these caves is the great emphasis placed on the illumination of individual formations to illustrate their translucency, tending from the pure white to the pinks and glowing reds - a most impressive sight and one which one will not easily forget. This system although comparatively primitive and affected by

means of co-coa tins properly slotted and containing the incandescent source of light will be adapted for inclusion in our cave illumination project.

(x) By the clever operation of lighting dimmers in one of their larger chambers a concealed source of light is presented in varying degrees of intensity imitating the rising of the sun and setting of the moon which leaves the observer breathtaken.

(xi) The extremely neat and colourful uniforms of the guides made a deep impression on one and there was no doubt whatsoever who was in charge of the tourist parties, unlike the position in Cango.

(xii) The Administrators of these caves go to great lengths to publicise the existence of the caves, and shortly before my visit world renowned aerialists had been employed to cross the 400 foot Cheddar Gorge by tightrope, and, this had obviously attracted tens of thousands of people who at the same time visited the Caves.

(xiii) There is a system of cave exploration going on in respect of the Cheddar Caves, and, as a matter of coincidence a new cavern was discovered during my visit which made the headlines of all the newspapers.

(xiv) During the course of my visit I was afforded the opportunity of exchanging views and ideas with the Marquis of Bath, Lord Thynne and his Director of the development of Caves, which proved most informative.

(xv) The visit to these caves involved a journey by train from London to the Western Point of England to the city of Bath where I resided in the Craam Hotel.

(b) Wookeyhole.

After visiting the Caves of Cheddar I preceeded by car to the Wookeyhole in Wells and the following points are of interest here:-

(i) The absence entirely of any buildings within halfmile of the cavemouth which is preserved in its original state and is locked by an aged warrn wooden door where the tourists gather and where the next tour is announced when the guide opens the door from the inside. Approximately half a mile away from the entrance of the caves is situated the Wookeyhole administrative offices together with bungalows or in rustic wood and housing in addition a curio shop and a restaurant with a beautiful swimming pool - again colour slides are available. These caves were found to be a primitive in the extreme and the absence of decent steps and footpaths made the visit an extremely unpleasant

one as the caves were dripping wet and the floor covered in sludge.

(ii) The guided tour revealed precisely what a bad impression can be left by distorted facts and childish stories - the caves are reputed to have been inhabited many hundreds of years ago by the Witch of Wookey.

(iii) The cave formations were all highly discoloured with mud and the approach to a boat onto the river styx was extremely messy and untidy.

(iv) The lighting arrangements were atrocious to say the least and naked incandescent bulbs hung from flex and seriously detracted from the otherwise natural condition in which this cave has been preserved.

I was interested to see that " Our Exploits at West Poley " by Hardy was quoted in a recent Proceedings article. I was first introduced to the book in an English teaching method course in 1956 by Miss Meek of Bristol Education Department and I have always thought it would make a lovely childrens film. Quite by chance in Melbourne Vic, Australia in January, 1987 I noticed that a Czech version based on the book was to be shown on the ethnic TV station. It was made in 1980 and was called " Secret in Devils Pocket " and is interesting although the plot deviates somewhat from the original - the synopsis in the Melbourne Age reads " While freeing a trapped lamb two boys unwittingly remove a stone dike thereby changing the flow of a river and endangering the lives of the villagers ". Viewing was not under ideal conditions as the family was non spelaeological and could not understand my interest and, the owner was experimenting with placement of the TV aerial at the time. I think it is worth investigating by other speleao's interested in the role played by caves in literature. Does anyone know which cave inspired the Hardy book ?

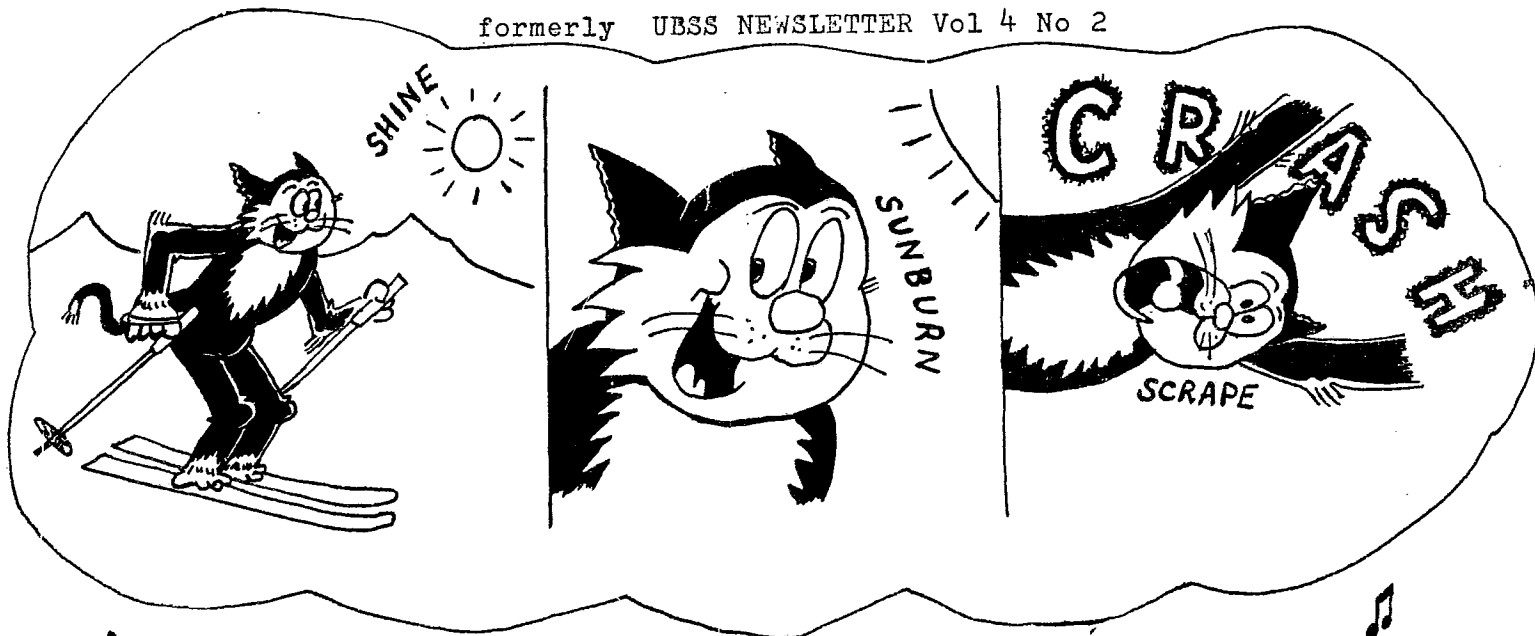
Rosemary Balister

PRIVATEER

No 15 PART 2



formerly UBSS NEWSLETTER Vol 4 No 2



MEMORIES

ARE MADE



OF THIS

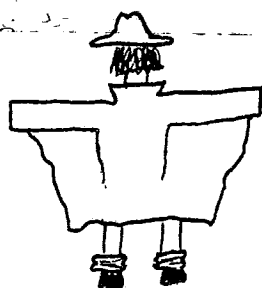
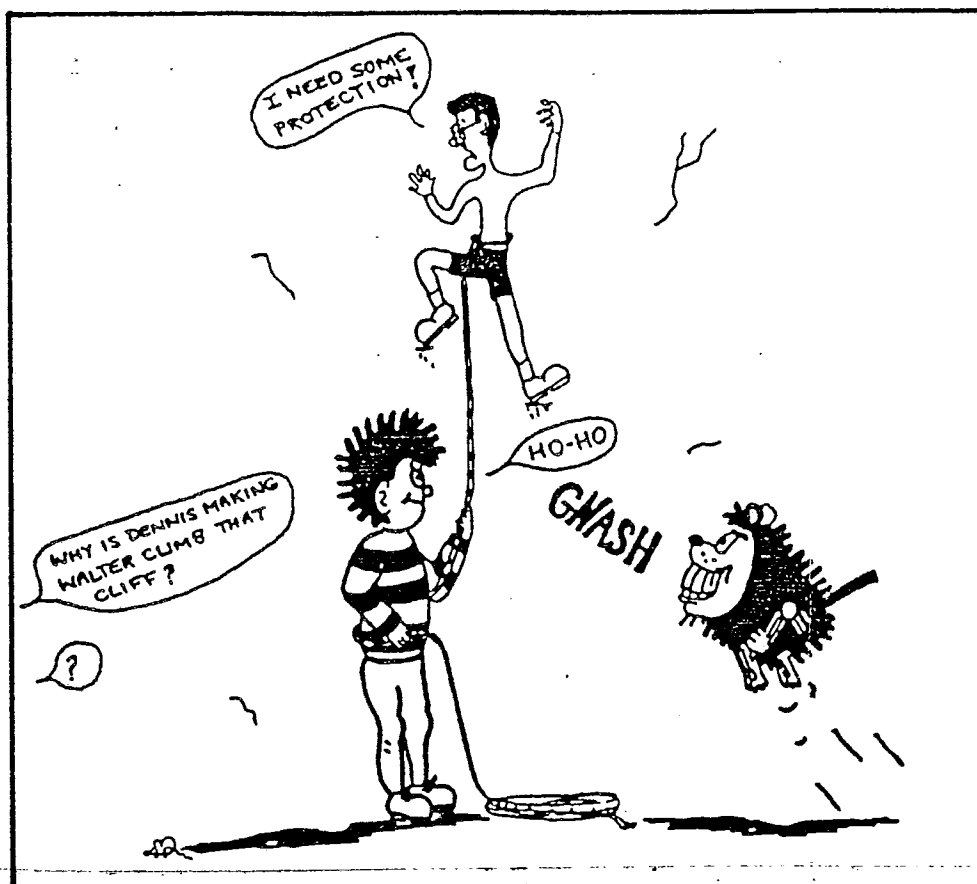


Is it
the Phantom
of the Opera?

No. It's
Pete Sleet
after a ski
holiday

PRIVATEER CELEBRATES THE START OF THE CLIMBING SEASON.

ANY RESEMBLANCE TO
TREVOR 'DENNIS' MOSEDALE
JIM 'WALTER' WALMSLEY
CHARLIE 'GNASHER' SELF
IS ENTIRELY DUE TO
THE SKILL OF THE
CARTOONIST.



DOM ^{only} / for readers with dirty minds

- Q. Why is the hero of the last Peacocks cartoon now known as Simon the Fireman?
- A. Because he's got a red helmet. (Keep taking the tablets, laddie)
- Q. What sounds like a rabbit being caught and eaten by a fox?
- A. Ask the girl who tries to sleep in the room next to Kathy's bedroom.
- Q. If you are in the habit of doing "press-ups" on your girlfriend, why should you never attempt the flashy one-arm version?
- A. Ask Rob "dislocated shoulder" Fallows.
- Q. How did Steve "China Expedition" Jones get his name onto the front page of the "bonking" Sun scandalpaper?
- A. Because the wife of a local councillor helped him with his fitness training.

Joe and Rob, for their degree project in Engineering, have invented a bone scanner for sheep which involves bolting the back legs of the animal to the workbench. All very worthy. But why is it known in the department as the "sheep shagging machine"?

More problems for the club's vegans. Some daft scientist has reclassified yeast as an animal. Soda bread instead of "real" bread, and NO ALCOHOL! It doesn't bear thinking about, does it?

Further scandal from the South Wales home of Graham Foster. Trevor "the Menace" Mosedale went to stay one week-end and slept in the back bedroom with Wendy's fluffy-toy rabbit. In the morning the rabbit looked as if it had had a hard night and Trevor was asking about Playboy Club membership. Could someone tell the lad.

Question: What is 2 metres long, 1 metre high and travels at 60 kph down Ben Nevis?

Answer: Mic Seavers on skis.

Bonus points to the Treasurer for his cunning plan to pre-finance part of this Newsletter. When a surfeit of articles were submitted to the last NL, he agreed to have them all printed (and paid from last year's accounts) so long as some were held back for this NL. Points deducted from the Secretary who held back the 1988 news reports from Ireland in favour of "news" dated 1913 and 1957. There's nothing like being topical and UBSS Newsletter is nothing like

A typically incomprehensible letter has arrived at Privateer headquarters from Mick McHale, suggesting that Martin Warren has achieved Yuppiedom by buying a Peugeot GTI car. He is of course wrong - the UBSS yuppie drives a black VW Golf GTI. Meanwhile he thinks that he himself is on the way to social success because he has a Golf with go-faster stripes, though it is not a GTI. Wrong again. Even Charlie's ancient Cortina has go-faster stripes!

Paul Harvey's latest chat-up line: "Would you like to plait my ponytail?" Sweet, isn't it?

HON. SEC.

prepares a Newsletter





Gravel

It seems strange to accuse an army colour sergeant with a scar across his forehead of having had a sheltered upbringing. But when Marco Paganuzzi told this gentleman that he was a cave diver, the response was "You had your brain removed, then?"

When one thinks of other former UBSS Hon Secretaries, and if you include some of the girls who have done the job, a platoon of them would reduce a colour sergeant to monochrome.

And on the theme of former Hon Secs. with brain removed, Joe Oates was awarded a pickled rat's brain at the Annual Dinner. True to form, he shoved it up his nose, then wondered why it made his eyes water. It had been pickled in pure alcohol!

Meanwhile Kathy Sykes was awarded the contents of a walnut shell, painted a pretty gold colour, with the recommendation that it was safer than what she normally used as a brain. It does not seem to have worked. Latest reports from the sub-aqua club are of a polaris - type missile heading for the surface and a quick-release weight belt sinking to the sea bed.

An unusual award this year was a turnip nailed to a block of wood, for Superworzel of the year. Originally intended for Martin Warren, who only goes caving in Daren Cilau these days (14 hour trips and as much kit belonging to other people as he can carry), it was given instead to Paul Harvey for spending more time in the Hut than anyone else and less time underground. The joke is that Paul made the award, but asked someone else to present it, saying that it was wrong for one country boy to call another a worzel.

Predictions made in the last issue of the winner of Wimp of the Year were sadly awry. Not one of the senior members came to the Dinner, for fear of embarrassment, so the President was given $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of beef dripping at the AGM. They missed a good evening.

It must have been the balloon race down Swildons Hole that started it all. The students took inflated balloons on the Swildons Round Trip to see how far they could get, and three of them brought intact balloons back to the surface - to the envy of the weegies and the puzzlement of the sheep, as the song goes.

Later that evening, at the Annual Dinner, they displayed destructive testing of condoms by stretching the neck of the condom to pull it down over their head and nose and then inflating it by breathing in through the mouth and out through the nose. Old lags and waitresses were equally impressed.

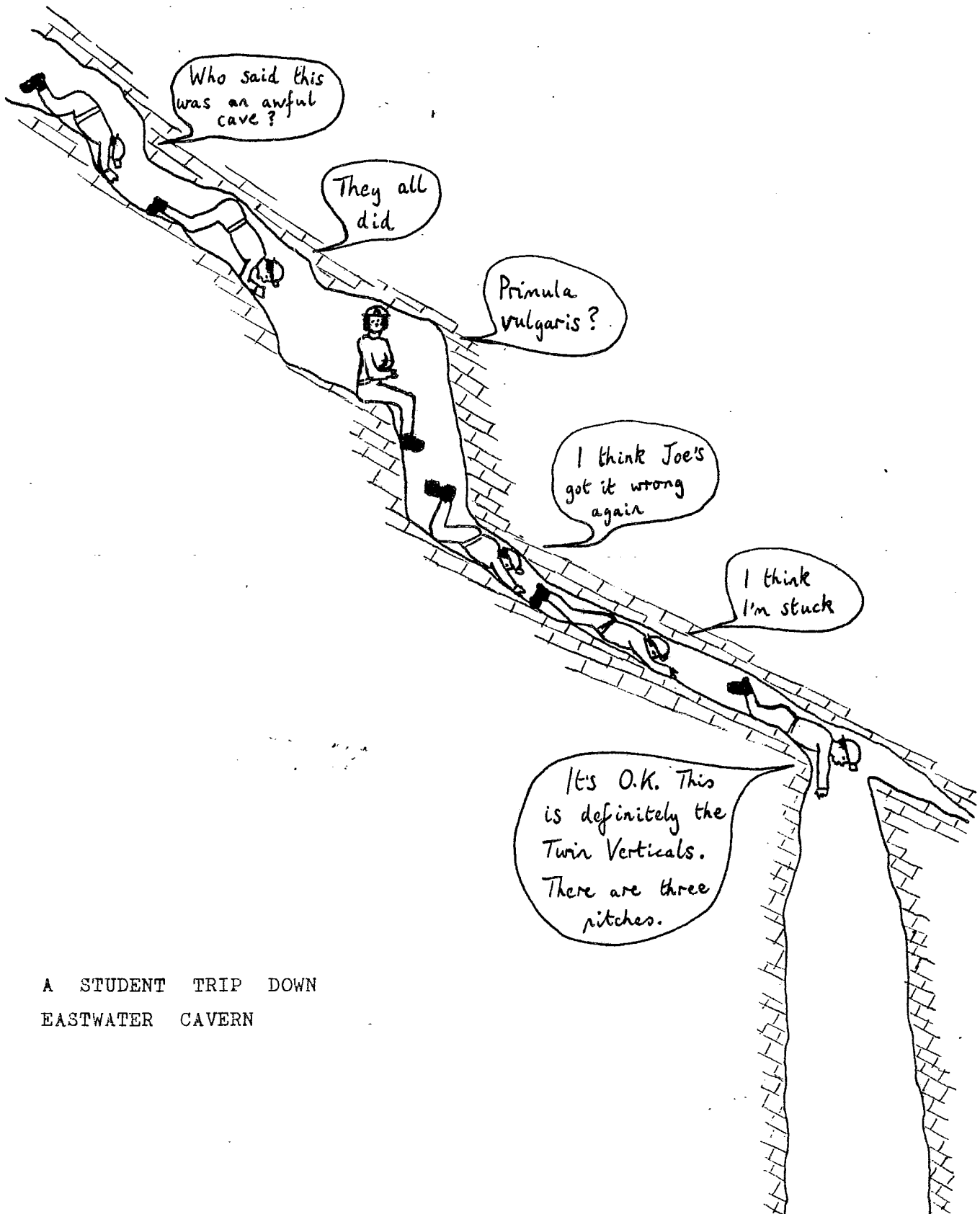
No loss for failure and a hundred Australian dollars for success. Marco Paganuzzi has shaken hands with Jim Blyde on what must be the best wager in UBSS history: any red-blooded male would count himself the winner if the money went in the opposite direction! More details if Marco wins twice.

Martin "Animal" Warren was recently spotted in the Clifton area wearing a smart designer raincoat, red lambswool scarf and sporting the latest offering from the Tie Rack. When it was remarked that perhaps "The Animal" was becoming "The Yuppie" the reply was "Bu**** off you fu***** cu**!" It sounds as though some things will never change.

At his age Charlie Self ought to know better than to offer advice to a girl when caving. No sooner had he told Fiona not to fall down the pitch (Sally's Rift entrance climb) than there was a rumbling sound and she landed at his feet.

PRIVATEER

No. 15



A STUDENT TRIP DOWN
EASTWATER CAVERN