

To all members:

At the A.G.M., Easter 1953, the following officers to serve for 1953/1954 were elected as follows :-

President	F. J. North, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.G.S., F.S.I.
Vice-Presidents	E. A. Glennie. C.I.E., D.S.O. A. H. Hill
Chairman	Dr. E. Aslett
Hon. Secretary	D. G. Hunt
Hon. Treasurer.	Miss. P. Hardwidge.
Hon. Editor. & Records Officer	D. W. Jenkins.
Tackle Manager	P. I. W. Harvey.
Cave Rescue Organiser	C. E. Hill.
Committee Members.	J. Barrows. J. M. Davics. W. H. Little.
Honary Members.	M. R. Downey Esq., J. L. Morgan Esq., T. Ashwell Morgan Esq., Cyril Powell Esq., Dr. A. J. R. Hudson.
	J. Barrows Esq., Mrs. J. Barrows. David Price Esq., Mrs. David Price.

Secretary's Report.

In his report the Secretary remarked on the decline in activity in the past year although membership had risen to ninety - five. The most outstanding incident of the year had been the accident at the Bridge Cave in August. It had taught us that there should be more control over novice cavers and that even the present arrangement of one caver to two novices may have to be revised. A sub-committee had been set up to deal with the Cave Rescue Organisation but as the organiser had left the district a new start would have to be made.

After reminding members that Mr. C. Powell had drawn up a list of rules to be observed in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu the Secretary concluded by thanking all those who had helped the Club and especially Mr. and Mrs. David Price.

The adoption of the report was proposed by Mrs. M. E. Railton and seconded by P. I. W. Harvey.

Treasurer's Report.

This will be published as soon as it is available.

Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

W. H. Little gave a report on the traverse wires and fixtures in O.F.D. These had been examined the previous weekend and found to be in good order.

Amendment to Rule 4.

This rule now reads :-

The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee consisting of the officers i.e., Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Assistant Secretary, Hon. Editor, Records Officer, Tackle Manager, Cave Rescue Organiser and three members elected from among the ordinary members, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year. Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum at a meeting.

Rules of entry to Ogof Ffynnon Ddu.

Rule 4 is amended to read:-

The maximum number of any party under one leader is six. If novices are included in a party there must be at least one experienced caver to two such novices.

Club Rules.

A sub-committee has been formed to revise these rules. The new rules are to be presented at the next A.G.M. A copy of the existing rules are included with this newsletter.

Congratulations.

Congratulations on the recent marriage of John Davies and Janet Knight. We take this opportunity to wish them every happiness and good fortune for the future.

New Members.

We welcome the following new members.

R.F.Griffiths, Llwynfedw Rd., Whitchurch, Glam.
 W.B.Mills, Hathaway, Victoria Rd., Llandrindod Wells,
 J.O.Myers, 11, Thorn Lane, Haworth Rd., Bradford 9.
 D.Scymour, 118, Pantbach, Whitchurch, Glam.
 R.Smith, 98, Stanwell Rd., Penarth, Glam.

Change of Address.

C.Freeman, 49, Harbour Rd., Barry Glam.
 P.I.Harvey, Fairleigh, 7, Woodstock Rd., Redland, Bristol.6.
 Mr. and Mrs C.E.Hill, 597, Chepstow Rd., Newport, Mon.
 Mr. and Mrs.C.Jenkins, 45, Llandenniâ Av., Cyncoed, Cardiff.
 W.H.Little, 20, Cae Mawr Rd., Rhiwbina, Cardiff.
 A.Price, 446, Hinkley Rd., Leicester.

Subscriptions.

The annual subscription of 10/- is now due and should be sent without delay to the Treasurer Miss P.Hardwidge, 15, Heol Wernlas, Whitchurch, Glam.

Leaders for O.F.D.

The following are added to the list of leaders for O.F.D.

David Hunt, 16, Spring Street, Cadoxton, Barry, Glam.
 L.E.Hawes, c/o 19, Ryelands Street, Hereford.

Cottage Warden.

John Trueman has accepted the post of cottage warden and he has also been co-opted to the committee (Rule 20).

Whitsun 1953.

The Club meet will take place from Friday, May 22nd. to Monday, May 25th. It is hoped that it will be possible to make a full trip of Dan-yr-Ogof on Saturday, May 23rd.

Coronation Meet 1953.

During this period the Derbyshire Cave Diving Group are visiting the area. As many members as possible are requested to be present in order to give the divers any assistance they may require.

Easter 1953. Club Trip to Ogof Pwll Swnd.

There are seven members of the Club to whom the oft-heard phrase "snow on high ground" now has a special significance. They are the few who set out on the advertised Easter Meet to Ogof Pwll Swnd and whose story relates another success for the elements and another unsuccessful attempt to locate the cave to add to the tally of previous failures.

We set out from the quarry in good conditions: a biting wind but reasonably good visibility. Following the contours some little way up the slopes of Foel Fawr to avoid the boggy ground in the valley we reached the landmark of black peat stretches and crossed to the slopes of Foel Fraith. We had made little progress before snow clouds rolled up behind us and an attempt was made to reach the top to get a landmark fix before visibility was completely blotted out. However, we were still a long way from the top when the swirling and driving snow enveloped us and when we eventually crossed the ridge we found that we had wandered off course and were quite a long way south of the cave location. The line-up aid provided by the Black Llynfell Pond and the tip of Fan Gihirych was out of the question: we couldn't even see the other side of the Sawdde Foehan Valley! An hour or so of searching under these deplorable conditions brought no success and, with no sign of improvement in the weather, the attempt was abandoned. Our only achievement - a filthy wet 15' shaft in millstone grit at the bottom of a never-to-be-found-again swallet.

The trip has once again brought to light the need for an accurate compass bearing from the peak of Foel Fraith. Should weather conditions rule out the use of landmarks and nature does seem to protect this particular cave with more than elaborate care - parties would at least have a sporting chance of finding the entrance. Those who have been with the occasional successful party will agree that the cave is worthy of a little more attention and, if the other six are willing, what better than another attempt at Whitsun: not only to find the cave, but to get a bearing that will make things easier for others in the future.

L.E.Hawes.

Pwll y Goedon Gnau.

On Sunday, August 24th 1952, a party of club members including Peggy Hardwidge, Colin and Ivy Hill, Maurice Hill, David Jenkins and myself left the H.Q. and went over to the Neath Valley. The main object of the trip was to locate an 'open' hole about which I had heard and to possibly explore it. The rest of the party frankly disbelieved that there would be such a hole but since it was a nice day and the Neath Valley is pleasant country they agreed to come along and help look for it. We took with us some rope ladder and a lifeline.

While in the vicinity of the alleged pothole we met one of the local farmers who not only knew about the hole but pointed it out to us. We did not see the hole that day as our friend also informed us about a spot of bother which was taking place in the Bridge Cave and which was to keep us busy for the next twenty-four hours. However, on Tuesday I again visited the Neath Valley. This time with Peggy, David and John Barrows. We found the hole under a nut tree in some land ploughed up for tree planting by the Forestry Commission. We lowered the ladder into the hole and climbed down 20' into quite a large chamber 20' long, 8' wide and 10' high. The floor consisted of boulders through which spaces could be seen.

On subsequent trips between the 28th and 30th of August and with the help of Dai Hunt and Gwyn Saunders we cleared two shafts, one at the south and the other at the north end of the chamber. Both of these could be descended for another 15' but we were unable to break in to any worth-while system.

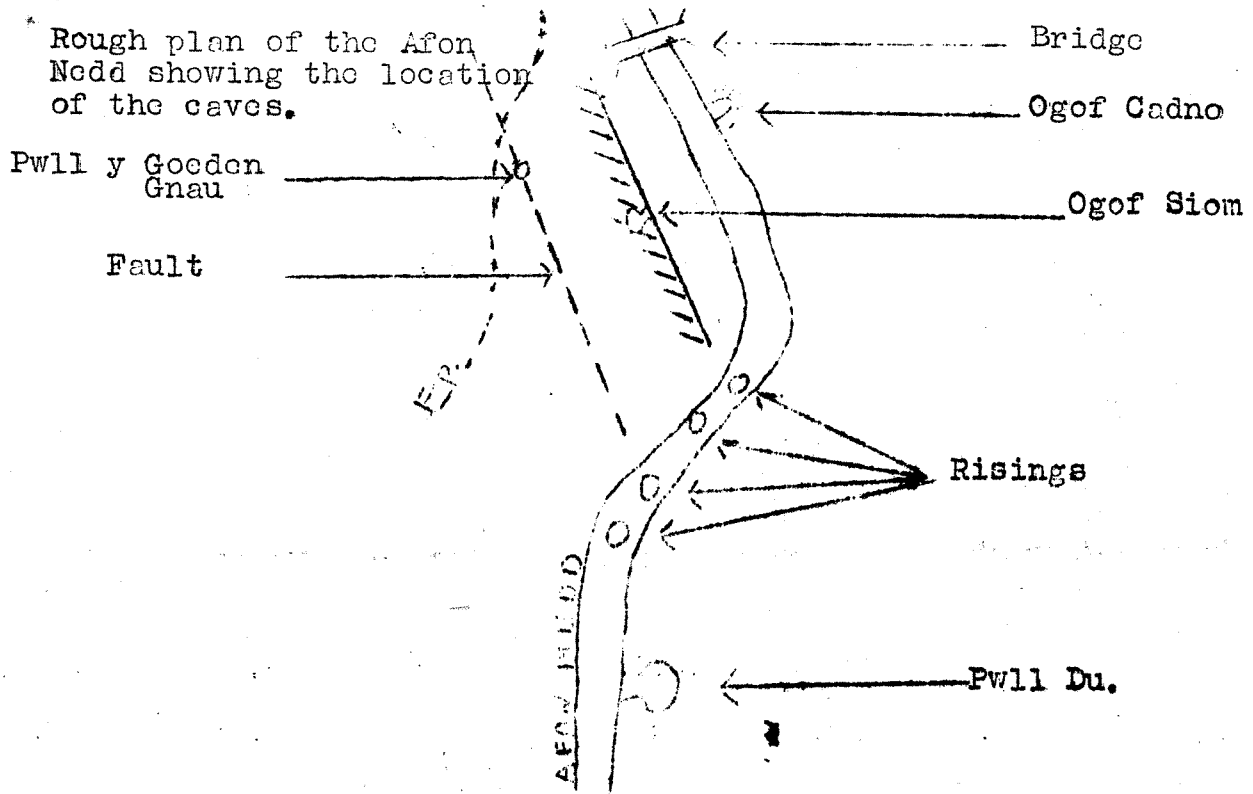
This small pothole although disappointing in that it failed to lead us to 'the vast new system of caves' proved to be very interesting in that it lay in a fault. The east side of the pot was wholly carboniferous limestone but the west side to within 2' of the floor of the chamber was millstone grit overlaying the limestone which could be seen underneath.

In the course of the work carried out in this area two other small caves were brought to light. Ogor Siom, a small cave in the cliffs below the pot was entered after a bit of work with a hammer. Both this and Pwll y Goedon Gnau gave out a strong cold draught which indicated their connection with a large system. Unfortunately this little cave became too tight after about 30'.

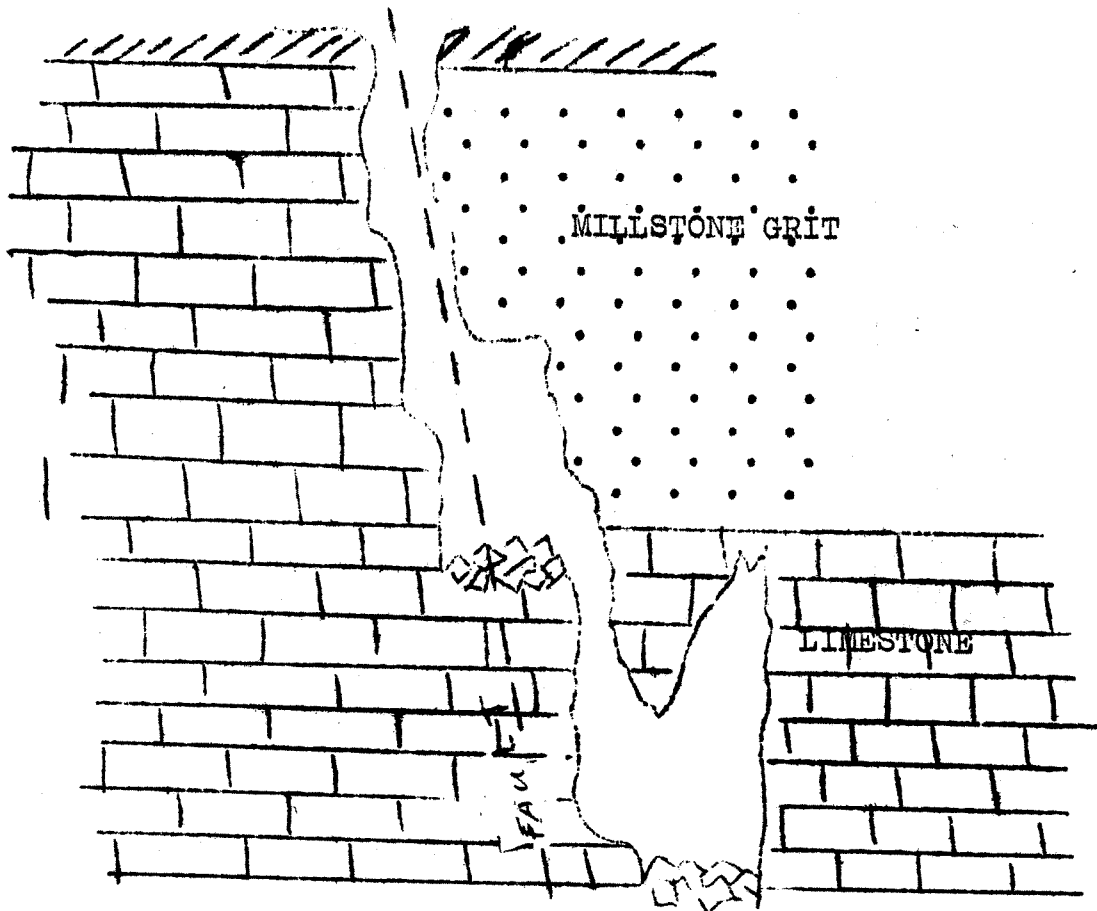
On the opposite bank of the river Neath a farmer showed us a small cave Ogor Cadno which was alleged to go in a long way but in reality opened up into a number of small passages all closing up after about 30'. The fact that several people had been in this cave before us was demonstrated by bits of candle and hand and boot marks.

P.I.W. Harvey.

Rough plan of the Afon Nedd showing the location of the caves.



Section through Pwll y Goedden Gnau looking south.



Notes from the records.

Pwll y Goedden Gnau (Nut Tree Cave) 22/910124.
 O.S.Sheets 2½" 22/91 ; 1" 141 ; 6" 44 NE.
 County Brecc. Parish. Ystradfellte.
 Tackle 60ft rope and 30ft. ladder.

Ogof Siom. (Disappointment Cave) 22/911123.
 O.S.Sheets 2½" 22/91 ; 1" 141 ; 6" 44NE.
 County Brecc. Parish. Ystradfellte.

Ogof Cádno (Fox Cave) 22/912124.
 O.S.Sheets 2½" 22/91 ; 1" 141 ; 6" 44NE.
 County Brecc. Parish. Ystradfellte.

Addresses.

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Hon. Editor. D.W.Jenkins. Dinmore, Dyffryn Rd., Llandrindod Wells,
 Radnorshire.