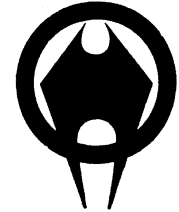


CHELSEA SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PROVISIONAL MEMBERS (2009)

History

The Society in its present form was constituted in October 1959 from two groups: one was a former society of the same name founded in October 1956 whose founder members had caved as part of the 1st Chelsea Boy Scouts and the other was the London Spelæological Group which was formed in 1938. In 1964 CSS acquired a cottage in Llangattock, South Wales, "Whitewalls", from which it bases activities in that area. The cottage has 16 bunk beds, gas central heating, cooking and washing facilities, as well as a garden for camping. An extension to the cottage adding a library room, better showers and toilets and a cave rescue equipment store room is nearing completion.

Membership

The Society has about 80 members, encompassing a wide range of abilities from complete novice upwards. The members are now spread across the whole of the UK, and a few who live abroad continue their membership. Those based in the South East of England are now a minority within the club. New members must be 18 years of age or older and they join on a provisional basis for any six months until they become known to the club and are then usually voted up to full membership. Associate membership is intended for people who just want copies of club publications but do not intend to participate in caving. Joint membership is intended for two full members living at the same address but who want only one copy of club publications.

Indoor Meetings

The Annual General Meeting is held once a year, usually on the last Sunday in January, at a venue near Whitewalls and there is an annual club dinner the evening before this. There are London Meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Grouse and Claret pub, 14-15 Little Chester Street, London SW1X 7AP. Nearest tube Victoria is 5 minutes away. Contact Gary Kiely on 07958 039721 for upcoming venues and dates.

Weekend Caving Trips

The Society runs regular underground trips, using club equipment, to caving areas around Britain. In addition, expeditions to foreign caving areas are organised by members. These are advertised on the club website and in the monthly newsletter. Usually the last or the first weekend of each month is a "club weekend" at Whitewalls or elsewhere. There will be caving trips and sometimes other above-ground entertainments like a summer barbecue, canoe/kayak or mountain bike or walking trips, bonfire party and a curry night. The club has approved leaders, keys and permits for local caves such as Agen Allwedd, OFD, Dan-yr-Ogof, Daren Cilau, Craig a'r Ffynnon and OgofCapel. Use of Whitewalls costs £2 per night to provisional and full members (non-members pay £4). Most active full members hold a cottage key on a semi-permanent loan basis and prospective members may also borrow a front door key on payment of a £10 deposit to the cottage warden or secretary.

Publications

The Society produces a monthly Newsletter that is posted free to all members. Other periodic publications, such as Records and cave surveys, are sold to members at reduced rates.

Library

The club owns an extensive library of caving publications which may be borrowed by full members and this will be moved into the library room being created at Whitewalls.

Website

The Society has a web site www.chelseaspelaeo.org.uk which contains up-to-date information about the club, its activities and lists external bookings for the cottage.

Subscription rates

Associate:	£20 (Year)	Provisional:	£20 (any 6 month period)
Full:	£30 (Year)	Joint Full:	£43 (Year)

The club financial year begins each October 1st. Provisional members may join or re-join at any point in the year. The above subscription rates include BCA 'non-active caver' public liability insurance. The 'active caver' insurance costs another £11 per annum on top. Cheques should be made payable to *Chelsea Spelæological Society* and should be sent along with the application form to the Secretary by new members wishing to join, and cheques to the Treasurer by existing members who are renewing. The committee will normally consider voting provisional members up to full membership after 6 months by which time they should have become known. The first subscription payable when someone becomes a full member is on a pro rata basis for what remains of the current club financial year to September 30th. Subscription rates are adjusted for people who are members of several clubs so that their British Caving Association (BCA) insurance premium is paid only once. Note that the BCA operates its caver insurance scheme on a calendar year basis and we have to fit in with that.

CHELSEA SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please send this form with a cheque for £20 payable to Chelsea Spelæological Society to the club secretary: Stuart France, The Smithy, Tretower, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1RD

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone numbers: (home): _____ (work): _____

(mobile): _____

Email : _____

Date of birth: _____ NB. You must be 18 years of age or older to join

Name of person to be contacted in an emergency: _____

Their address and telephone numbers: _____

Membership of other caving clubs: _____

Caving experience: _____

Any special caving interests: _____

Constitution Rule 11 of the constitution states:

Every person whether a member or not, making use of the services of a guide or guides or taking part in any activity or expedition organised by the Society or in which any member of the Society shall take part, shall do so at his or her own risk, and he/she or his/her legal representatives or assigns or dependants shall have no claim or right of action against the Society or any member thereof in respect any damage, loss or injury sustained, including death, notwithstanding any negligence of the guide or any members of the body of members of the Society.

I have read the Society's Constitution and made special note of Rule 11, shown above, and if my application is accepted, agree to abide by its terms and any amendments which may be passed by a Meeting of the Society's members.

Signed: _____ Date: _____