

MCG Trustee Reports 2024

Please find herein the reports of the various club officers for the period April 2024 to April 2025, unless otherwise stated.

This is our third year operating as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO – ‘Mendip Caving Group’ - charity number 1197325.

Secretary's report

Bill Chadwick writes:

Last year we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the MCG. The trustees assisted by Linda Milne and Jane Baldwin organised a most successful celebratory formal dinner in the Wookey Hole show cave complex with around 90 members, ex members and their partners in attendance. Having personally recorded everyone's menu choices, I was relieved that no one complained they got the wrong food! To further commemorate the 70th anniversary, Tom Harrison produced a 70th anniversary Journal.

Membership is currently around 120, about the same as 2024. We now have one junior member, making use of our recent work on the under 18's part of the constitution.

We hold our routine trustee meetings about once every two months or so, on weekday evenings, using Microsoft Teams (from a free provision for not-for-profit groups). Our meetings cover formal business such as membership transfers etc. as well as pressing cottage and equipment issues, investments and finance monitoring and so on. The minutes of our meetings are posted on the member's area of our web site for all to see.

We are very nearly done transferring the assets from the old MCG charity to the new MCG Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The transfer of the cottage to the CIO at the Land Registry has been completed. Long term member Steve Porter has been instrumental in getting this transfer done for us and is still working on the removal of some redundant restrictions on the registration – many thanks Steve. Ben Cooper has completed the transfer of all our investments to the CIO. There are just one or two bank accounts left bound to the old charity. Our Treasurer Tom Harrison is currently setting up new bank accounts in the name of the CIO. When that is done, we should be able to close the old charity.

This year we have had some trouble filling all the trustee posts. We have though been assisted by some very helpful delegates: - Ed Ford for Tackle Master and Mike Moxon and Joan Goddard for Librarian.

During the year, Matty Dredge resigned as Tackle Master due to some issues with fellow members. I would urge that all members treat the officers of the MCG with kindness and respect. We are all volunteers trying to do our best for the members.

Kay Matthews appointed Editor in 2024, has produced two great issues of MCG News.

Jason Kirby continues to work hard to keep the cottage running smoothly. Some repairs to the rear dormer woodwork have been completed with help from Brian Snell. A very productive cottage work weekend was held in the autumn – many thanks to all who attended to help.

Mark Edwards has yet again been busy recruiting several new members and we have made up some new Full members. Mark's efforts in this area are most important in maintaining the youth and vigour of the MCG – thankyou Mark.

Ed Ford our delegate Tackle Master, has made a great start getting to grips with manging our caving equipment. He has measured and relabelled all the ropes.

Many thanks to Tom Harrison for his hard work on our accounts and the examiners Steve Porter and Linda Milne for their checking of them.

During the year, we have had several great socials and meals organised by Dan Matthews, Kat Rosier, Ed Ford and others, including a memorable Christmas dinner held by candlelight during a power cut caused by storm Darragh.

We have recently been gifted a considerable amount of personal caving gear by retiring cavers etc. This has been auctioned to raise funds for MCG and Mendip Cave Rescue. This has been a great way for younger/newer members to acquire gear for a very modest outlay.

We have been without a Librarian this year, but I would like to thank Joan Goddard and Mike Moxon for working hard to keep the library in a good order.

Finally, I would like to give notice that if elected for 2025-2026, I will have served as Secretary for eight years. I am happy to continue for this year, but to be honest 9 years will probably be enough.

Treasurer's report

Tom Harrison writes:

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2024

V3 March 2025

Summary

2024 brought a surplus of funds of £1,352. We still have a large cash balance in the various accounts which we are looking to invest, to continue to secure the long-term future of the group.

Member bed nights increased again this year to a 10 year high of 403 nights, while guest group numbers also rose to 233. There is a chart on page 4 that shows member and guest bed nights. While, apart from the Covid years, member bed nights are fairly stable, guest bed nights seem to fluctuate year on year.

Day use fees (counted from the shower donations box) have fallen slightly. If you are making a day use donation, there is now an option to do this via the Sumup card reader.

Income from interest on the cash holdings is up on last year.

Member numbers for 2024 were down slightly but with the small increase to £40 for 2024 full member subs, the total subs income rose last year. Member numbers at renewal for 2025 are also down slightly from 2024 but this is typical, as some don't renew at year end, then new members join during the year.

The group made £709 from the 70th Dinner, which was a huge success. The costs of the event were reduced by a few hundred pounds with 2 very generous individuals contributions towards them.

Expenditure was generally lower last year once the one-off cost of the 70th Dinner is removed from the totals. Electric and Gas costs fell, as well as a smaller amount spent on general maintenance.

Telephone & Internet costs were renegotiated, so the cost for those services reduced.

As well as producing the 70th Anniversary publication, I've also been working on a website refresh which should be ready to go soon. This will add some more functionality, including separate individual logons to make the site more secure, improved forms to help with admin, and possibly a new member's forum.

I have also created an Instagram page for the MCG. Most University Caving Groups and other caving clubs have Instagram pages, so these can be a good way to publicise the MCG to find potential new members and to advertise the facilities of the hut for potential guest groups to use.

Finally, with the finances in a healthy state, I would recommend that membership fees and bed night fees to be held for the remainder of 2025 and for the membership renewals for 2026.

Tom Harrison

MCG Treasurer

| | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | ▼ | 2024 | ▼ |
|--|---|--------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|--------|---|
| Member Bed Nights | | 277 | 322 | 358 | 356 | 370 | 394 | 226 | 246 | 241 | 351 | | 403 | |
| Guest Bed Night | | 234 | 416 | 390 | 277 | 345 | 285 | 122 | 101 | 342 | 197 | | 233 | |
| Member Bed Night Donat | £ | 977 | £ 1,125 | £ 1,261 | £ 1,780 | £ 1,815 | £ 1,970 | £ 1,128 | £ 1,230 | £ 1,205 | £ 1,755 | £ | 1,935 | |
| Guest Hut Night Donation | £ | 2,121 | £ 2,489 | £ 2,170 | £ 1,941 | £ 2,190 | £ 1,713 | £ 588 | £ 604 | £ 2,241 | £ 1,478 | £ | 1,747 | |
| Day Use Donation | £ | 163 | £ 207 | £ 121 | £ 169 | £ 136 | £ 99 | £ 7 | £ 84 | £ 89 | £ 192 | £ | 129 | |
| Member Subs | £ | 3,320 | £ 3,089 | £ 2,895 | £ 3,735 | £ 3,935 | £ 4,117 | £ 4,137 | £ 4,139 | £ 3,794 | £ 4,030 | £ | 3,787 | |
| Member Numbers | | 124 | 117 | 111 | 124 | 127 | 134 | 133 | 135 | 126 | 120 | | 113 | |
| Income | £ | 14,412 | £ 12,989 | £ 13,099 | £ 12,295 | £ 15,265 | £ 13,048 | £ 36,539 | £ 24,474 | £ 13,186 | £ 14,532 | £ | 17,764 | |
| Expenses | £ | 12,055 | £ 12,822 | £ 11,406 | £ 16,178 | £ 14,376 | £ 11,942 | £ 23,369 | £ 18,184 | £ 12,773 | £ 13,739 | £ | 16,412 | |
| Difference | £ | 2,357 | £ 167 | £ 1,693 | £ (3,883) | £ 889 | £ 1,106 | £ 13,170 | £ 6,290 | £ 413 | £ 793 | £ | 1,352 | |
| Income - Post Subs and Grants Adjustment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (= receipts for the year - all subs and BCA received that year + subs and BCA that was actually for that year) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

MENDIP CAVING GROUP

CIO: 1197325

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2024

Year to

Year to

Notes

31.12.2024

31.12.2023

(see next page)

INCOME ACCOUNT

TOTAL INCOME

£ 17,764 £ 14,532

Total Cottage Income:

£ 3,877 £ 3,913 -1%

Member Bed Nights

A 1,935 1,724 12%

Guest Bed Nights

B 1,748 1,393 25%

Day Use

C 129 192 -33%

Deposits 2025 and Bed Nights 2023

24 335 -93%

Cottage Donations

- -

EV Charge

10 -

Other Cottage Income

31 270 -89%

Total General Income:

£ 11,990 £ 8,699 38%

Subscriptions

D 4,274 4,185 2%

Subscriptions (With Annual Adjustment)

3,787 4,030 -6%

Shop & Social

E 538 447 20%

Donations

184 258 -29%

Dividend Income

F 685 683 0%

Interest

469 377 24%

Newsletter

142 7

Christmas Dinner

486 530 -8%

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 70th Dinner | | 5,031 | 1,012 | |
| Kit Loan | G | 182 | 300 | -39% |
| Other General Income | | - | 899 | |
| Total Retsricted Income: | | £ 1,897 | £ 1,920 | -1% |
| BCA | H | 1,897 | 1,920 | -1% |
| Other | I | - | - | |

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | £ 16,412 | £ 13,739 | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--|

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total Cottage Expenditure: | | £ 7,476 | £ 9,533 | -22% |
| Insurance | J | 1,460 | 1,401 | 4% |
| Electricity | | 535 | 696 | -23% |
| Gas | | 1,387 | 1,860 | -25% |
| Rates | | 1,000 | 1,078 | -7% |
| Water | | 528 | 490 | 8% |
| Refuse | | 1,066 | 821 | 30% |
| Maintenance | K | 1,145 | 2,658 | -57% |
| Improvements | | - | | |
| Telephone & Internet Access | L | 337 | 500 | -33% |
| SumUp Fee | M | 18 | 28 | -35% |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|-------|
| Total General Expenditure: | | £ | 7,174 | £ | 2,457 | 192% |
| Caving Equipment | N | | - | | 124 | -100% |
| CCC Permits & BCA Membership | | | 85 | | 149 | -43% |
| Library & Membership Admin/Postage | O | | 226 | | 280 | -19% |
| Newsletter Printing & Postage | P | | 422 | | | |
| Website | | | 341 | | | |
| Christmas Dinner | | | 353 | | 467 | -24% |
| 70th Dinner | | | 5,334 | | | |
| Other Expenditure | | | 413 | | 1,436 | -71% |
| Total Restricted Expenditure: | | £ | 1,762 | £ | 1,749 | 1% |
| BCA | Q | | 1,762 | | 1,749 | 1% |

General Surplus / (Deficit)

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|----------|---------------|
| Cash funds as of end: | 31.12.2023: | £ | 34,624 | 31.12.2022 : | £ | 36,830 |
| Income | | | 17,764 | | | 14,532 |
| Expenditure | | | 16,412 | | | 13,739 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) | | | 1,352 | | | 793 |
| Transferred to Investments | | | | | | (3,000) |
| Cash funds reserve at end of: | 31.12.2024: | £ | 35,976 | 31.12.2023 : | £ | 34,624 |

BALANCE SHEET

Total Cash Assets: £ 35,975

| Assets: | Unrestricted | <i>Restricted</i> <i>(See Liabilities)</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Total | £ 34,663 | £ 1,312 |
| HSBC Community Account | £ 23,183 | £ 1,312 |
| HSBC Savings Account | £ 2,591 | £ - |
| Santander Account | £ - | £ - |
| CCLA COIF (Cottage) | £ 8,599 | £ - |
| Petty Cash | £ 256 | £ - |
| Due from Card Payments (SumUp) | £ 34 | £ - |

Other monetary assets

Henderson Global Care

Henderson Global Equity

M&G Charifund Income

Premier Monthly Income

Rathbone Income Fund

SVS Brown Shipley

COIF Deposit Custodian Trustees

Assets retained for the charity's own use **R**

Cottage- Building £ 475,000

Cottage- Contents £ 92,500

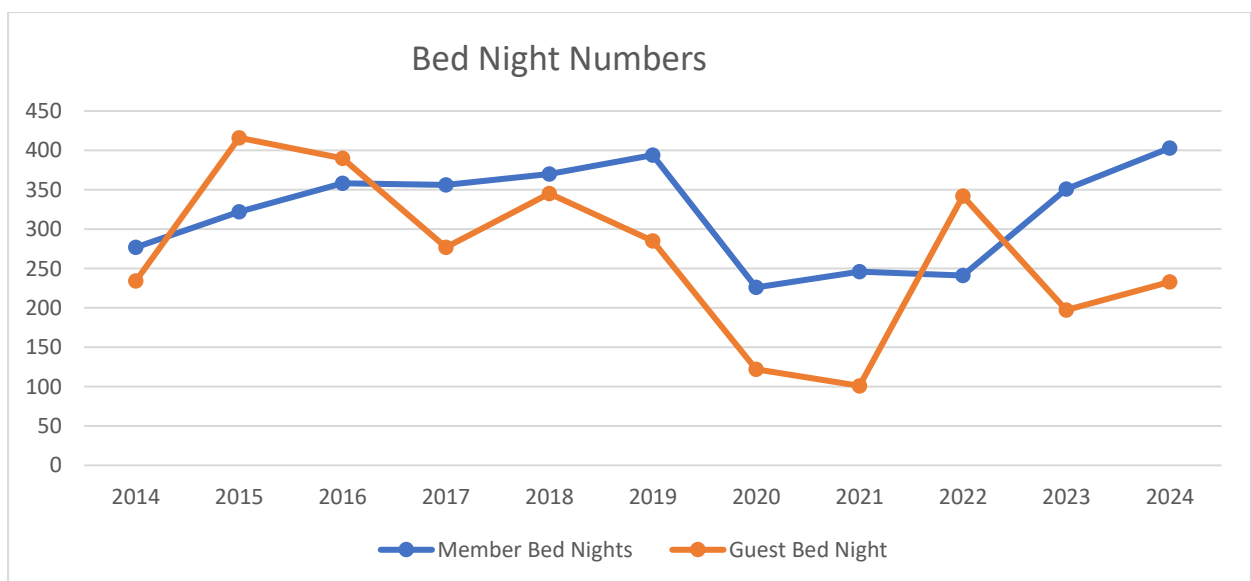
Liabilities **S**

BCA Membership Subscriptions Held in MCG Accounts/Cash: £ 1,336

Notes

Income

A & B -

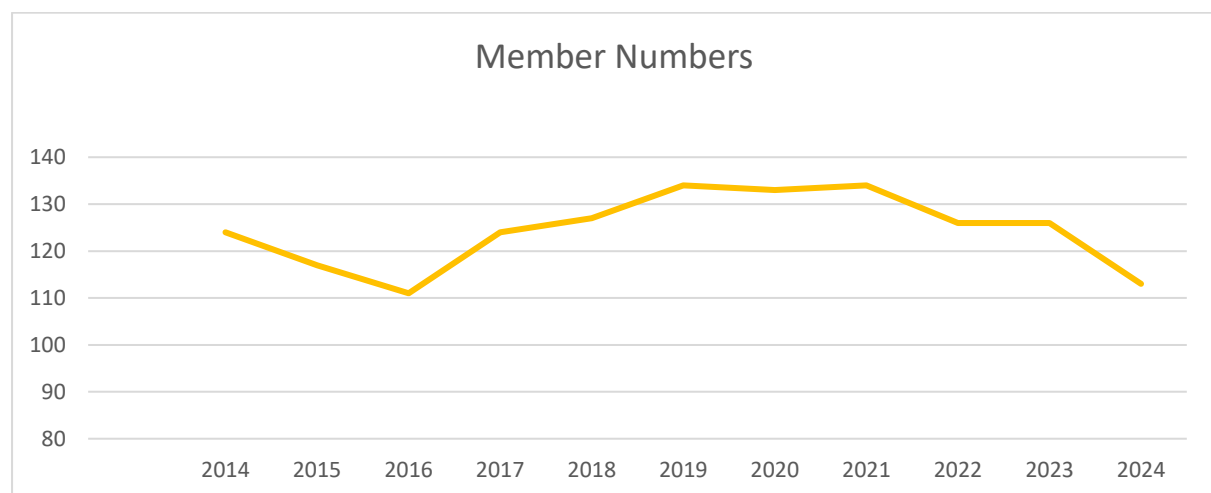


C – Day use donations are those collected from cash in the shower donation’s box and donations entered on the card payment machine as such.

Please don’t forget to pay your fee should you use the cottage but not stay!

D - Subscriptions for membership are mostly received in December and January, therefore the annual accounts to year end, do not accurately reflect the amount collected for the ‘year’s’ memberships.

This adjusted figure looks purely at 2024’s membership subs against those received to March 2025 for 2025.



E – Any cash or card donations received at the member’s weekend social events. The figure also includes MCG 70th T-Shirts sold at approximately cost price.

F – Interest received on our cash deposits and dividend income received from the Investments / “other monetary assets.”

G – Includes deposits for kit use (refundable for against membership fee).

H – BCA membership subs collected by the MCG.

I – Any other income received for a restricted purpose.

Expenditure

J – Cottage and Cottage contents insurance.

K – Maintenance and improvement related costs include items such as fire alarm/extinguisher maintenance, fixes, and equipment upgrades.

See also - Cottage Warden's report.

L – Includes Telephone and Internet Provider costs as well as Website and Virus protection costs.

M – Card Machine Transaction Fee

N – Caving Equipment

See also – Tackle Warden Report

O – Books and Postage and other costs for membership cards and renewals

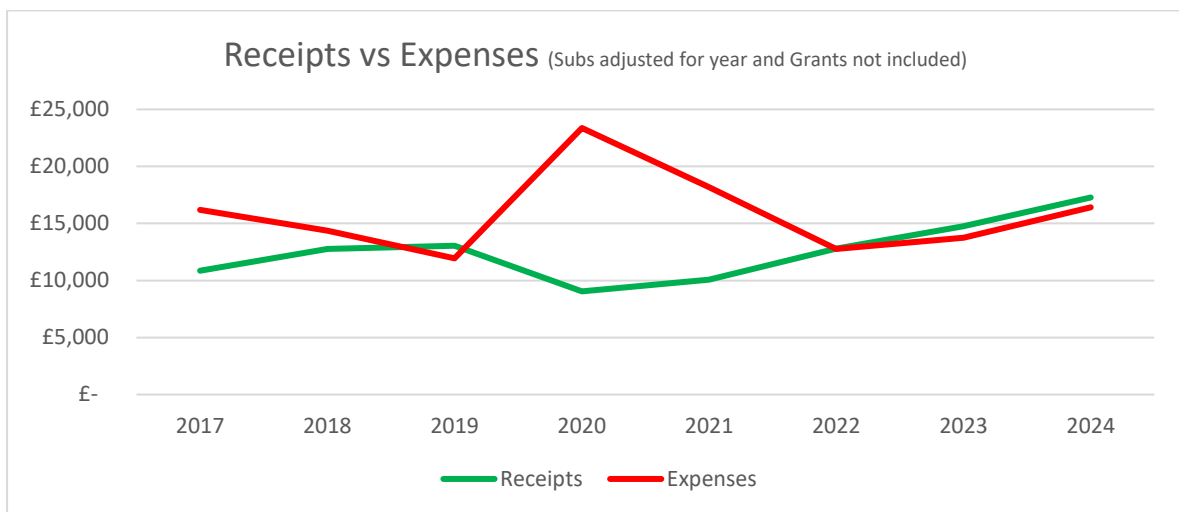
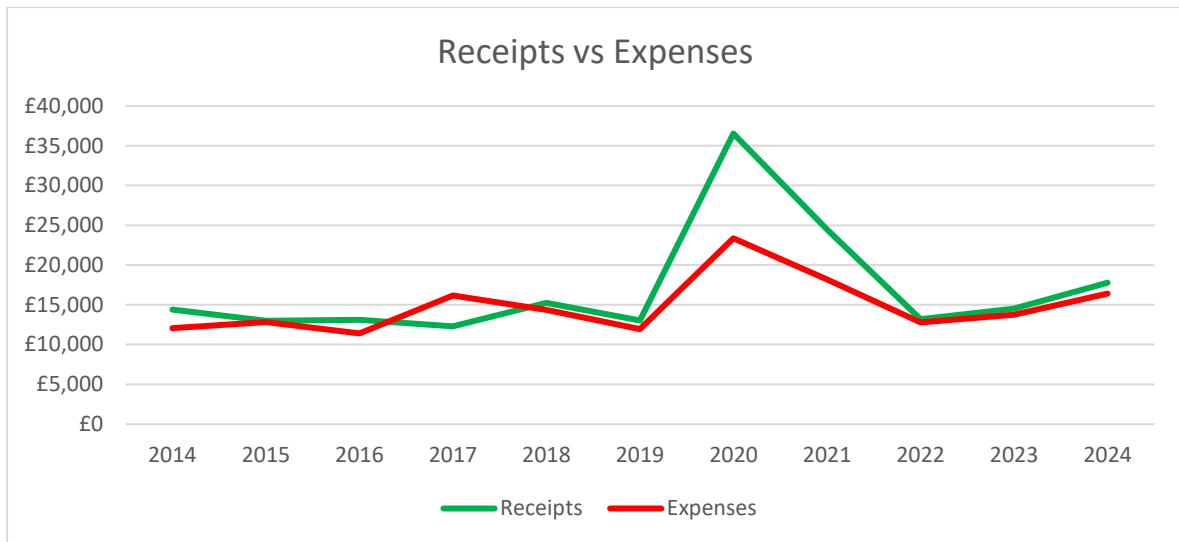
P –. Costs for Newsletter printing and postage for newsletter exchange. 70th Publication and MCG News

Q – Payment for individual BCA memberships.

R – Estimated building and contents replacement costs, as well as value of land.

Needs professional assessment for accurate assessment.

S – Money currently held in MCG accounts owed to BCA for 2024 memberships. (Paid to BCA in 2025)



Investment report

This report covers the calendar year 2024.

Ben Cooper writes (on the 22nd June, after our 2025 AGM on 5th April):

Custodian Trustees Report 2025 for year ending 31st December 2024 v0.1

Ben Cooper

Investments achieved a net growth of 5.2% between 1st January and 31st December 2024.

Investment Valuation and historic comparison

| | 31/12/2017 | 31/12/2018 | 31/12/2019 | 31/12/2020 | 31/12/2021 | 31/12/2022 | 31/12/2023 | 30/12/2024 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Henderson Gbl Equity | £4,522.86 | £4,157.18 | £4,815.52 | £4,858.32 | £5,525.65 | £5,691.67 | £6,005.86 | £6,365.33 |
| Henderson UK Resp... | £6,311.40 | £5,592.09 | £7,120.08 | £6,619.49 | £7,507.57 | £7,094.46 | £7,981.65 | £8,261.09 |
| M&G Charifund Inc | £20,548.32 | £17,813.22 | £20,773.60 | £17,169.51 | £19,466.54 | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| M&G Charifund Acc | | | | | | £18,382.55 | £19,049.74 | £20,765.89 |
| Premier (Credit Suisse) | £8,149.46 | £6,511.95 | £7,782.73 | £5,577.43 | £5,895.03 | £6,036.94 | £9,172.98 | £9,643.91 |
| Rathbone Income Fund | £5,107.01 | £4,635.29 | £5,314.36 | £4,873.99 | £5,865.70 | £5,855.74 | £6,004.62 | £5,892.35 |
| SVS Brown-Shipley | £2,767.03 | £2,520.22 | £2,961.63 | £3,317.77 | £3,754.34 | £3,064.09 | £3,793.44 | £3,802.57 |
| Total funds | £47,406.08 | £41,229.95 | £48,767.92 | £42,416.51 | £48,014.83 | £46,125.45 | £52,008.29 | £54,731.14 |
| COIF | £5,675.63 | £5,701.42 | £5,733.88 | £5,748.96 | £5,749.48 | £5,805.75 | £6,060.17 | £6,370.67 |
| Total investment value | £53,081.71 | £46,931.37 | £54,501.80 | £48,150.39 | £53,764.31 | £51,931.20 | £58,068.46 | £61,101.81 |

Unit Prices and historic comparison

| Investment | Unit Price 31/12/2023 | Unit Price 31/12/2024 | Unit Price Growth |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Henderson Global Equity ... | £0.6816 | £0.7011 | 2.9% |
| Henderson UK Responsible ... | £1.3380 | £1.3330 | -0.4% |
| M&G Charifund Accumlation | £299.9676 | £326.9910 | 9.0% |
| Premier (CS) Monthly Income Fund | £1.7920 | £1.8840 | 5.1% |
| Rathbone Income Fund | £9.4619 | £9.2850 | -1.9% |
| SVS Brown Shipley* | £3.5321 | £3.5406 | 0.2% |
| TOTAL Investments | £52,008.220 | £54,731.144 | 5.2% |

Investment Analysis

| Investment | Valuation | | | | Realised Income ² | Re-investment ³ | Yield ⁴ | Performance ⁵ | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|--|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----|
| | 31/12/2023 | 30/12/2024 | | | | | | | £ | % |
| Henderson Global Equity Income Fund E | £6,005.86 | £6,365.33 | | 6.0% | | £189.43 | 3.2% | £6,365.33 | £359.47 | 6% |
| Henderson UK Responsible Income E Inc | £7,981.65 | £8,261.09 | | 3.5% | | £316.58 | 4.0% | £8,261.09 | £279.44 | 4% |
| M&G Charifund Accumulation | £19,049.74 | £20,765.89 | | 9.0% | | £0.00 | 0.0% | £20,765.89 | £1,716.15 | 9% |
| Premier Miton | £9,172.98 | £9,643.91 | | 5.1% | £402.64 | | 4.4% | £10,046.55 | £873.57 | 10% |
| Rathbone Institutional Income Fund | £6,004.62 | £5,892.35 | | -1.9% | £282.02 | | 4.7% | £6,174.37 | £169.75 | 3% |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| SVS Brown Shipley | £3,793.44 | £3,802.57 | | 0.2% | £0.00 | | 0.0% | £3,802.57 | £9.13 | 0% |
| TOTAL Funds | £52,008.29 | £54,731.14 | £0.00 | 5.2% | £684.66 | £506.01 | 2.3% | £55,415.80 | £3,407.51 | 6.6% |
| COIF | £6,060.17 | £6,370.67 | | 5.1% | | £310.50 | 5.1% | £6,370.67 | £310.50 | 5% |
| TOTAL Investments | £58,068.46 | £61,101.81 | | 5.2% | £684.66 | £816.51 | 2.6% | | £3,718.01 | 6.4% |

1. Valuation Growth is simply the valuation of the current holding compared to last years, including any increased stock holding.
2. Realised Income is the income received into the Group's current account; effectively withdrawals from the investment funds.
3. Re-investment is the income re-invested in the investment funds. The re-investment amount is already included in Valuation.
4. Yield is the income as a percentage of the invested value (i.e. the value at the start of the year)
5. Performance is overall gain, taking into account the capital growth and income (i.e. compared to the start of the year).

Tackle Master

Ed Ford writes:

1) All ropes have been relabelled with the following information:

- Unique serial number
- Date rope went into service
- Rope type
- Rope Length (re-measured to closest meter)

Information is additionally marked on both ends of the rope. If anyone wants any longer rope's please contact me as there is quite a bit in the ex-cupboard.

2) I've created an equipment register located "currently" in the library; this will be moved to tackle store eventually. All equipment such as over suits, ladders, belts, bags, etc... will get recorded for a comprehensive list of what we have.

3) There is a plan to update the key and notice board in the tackle store to make it more clear which caves need paperwork filling out prior to heading down.

4) We have been donated a load of maillons which I've added to the store to help with rigging. There is also a spanner for these with an emergency whistle. Please return these to tackle store after they've been used!

5) I have recently procured for MCG, an MLCMAC key for Craig-a-FFynnon and the Ogof Cnwc "dry" entrance into Daren Cilau.

Please contact myself if any equipment gets lost or broken and make a log of it in the remarks section of the tackle log.

Cottage Warden

Jason Kirby writes:

Jason Kirby

It's been an astonishingly difficult year this year and last, for me on a personal level. But I'm very pleased, that when asked, all club members have chipped in and done their best to support the club. I'm immensely grateful for the help we have received.

Me and Brian successfully repaired and replaced the cladding on the side of the Dormer on the Six room window. There is still more work to be done around this area though. I was very grateful for Brian's help.

The maintenance weekend was a huge success. Loads of work done by our regular cavers and Club weekend visitors. It's very heartwarming to see everyone mucking in and just getting on with it.

It's still early days regarding the club ordering kiln dried wood to see if it is economical and financially viable for us to continue. I would like to get winter out the way and see just how much we have used and offset it against the cost of gas. I'll work closely with Tom later in the year to ascertain whether this indeed has saved the club money or not.

I am looking at replacing the toilet in the hallway. Is the second one next to the changing room that will be coming in around September this year when? Hopefully I'll have some free time to get it done it will be very similar to the one that I installed in the new toilet and shower. That toilet has been an irritation to me for many years and I'll be glad to get it changed.

Outstanding maintenance jobs currently on the books are repairing or replacing some of the barge boards. The guttering is barely hanging on. This work will need to be done in the summer months. I will be putting a shout out closer to the time for volunteers to help. I have purchased a new tap to replace the one in the kitchen as its annoying squeal has driven me mad over the last year. I'm sure this will be appreciated by all members when done.

There have been a few niggles regarding stock for the toilets and cleaning products. A lack of communication from members. I do have an email address and would really appreciate if our members could be a little bit more by sending me emails of supply needs prior to my visits rather than telling me when I get there or leaving notes on the whiteboard. That is not very helpful as the supplier is local to me and it means that we'll have to wait another month before we can get the necessary materials to the hut. If I receive an email, I generally reply quite quickly and can order the materials before my next visit to the caving hut, keeping productivity and efficiency to the max. So please people if something's missing or has run out. Just let me know in good time. It's the little things that help.

I'm pleased to say that the work carried out on the driveway has been a huge success. I am truly happy that work has worked well, but it is really important that we all check the drains to make sure they are free from mud and debris to maintain the driveway and keep it functioning correctly. If you have 5 minutes, lift them and clean them out. It doesn't take long, and it is hugely beneficial to the building and the grounds.

In the summer this year I will be carrying out major Legionella prevention work. Changing the TRV in the showers and rotating shower heads on a regular basis. This is something that I will need help with from all members. This isn't just to protect the club but benefits you and your health and well-being. Legionella is a bacterial disease that when passing through a shower head becomes airborne and can be inhaled. It can sit dormant for many years or but can potentially kill you. As we are a commercial building we must follow water treatment protocols. It's a project I've been working on to get the hut up to speed for some time now, but unfortunately, I look after many large buildings and small dwellings with a maximum of a thousand people benefiting from the work I do. So, I don't have that much spare time. But once everything has been implemented, it will be the responsibility of everybody to maintain the showers and keep them safe for all. It's a simple case of changing shower heads. TRV (thermal mixing valve) maintenance will be left to myself. For those that don't know what it is or where it is located, it's just above the door in the main shower. I believe we only have the one in the building, so it won't be too much of a drama for me to keep on top of it, however. Pasteurizing the hot water cylinder on a regular basis is recommended and this is something I'll have to work out a regime for.

On a compliance note, we now have four fire wardens registered at the hut and further training will be given to those that have just completed their fire warden training. This will be arranged for the summer. I would like to thank those volunteers personally. Mark Edwards Mike Moxon and Ed Ford for taking the time on doing the course and helping out at the hut. Really appreciate your efforts guys.

A huge thanks to all our members that have helped out over the year - it is massively appreciated and makes a huge difference.

I am currently happy to continue my role unless anybody else would like to take over and have a go

Jason Kirby MCG Cottage Warden, trustee,

Social Secretary

Dan Matthews writes:

It's been an interesting year with some fun events and parties. I would like to say a big thank you to Kat for helping out and stepping in when I'm not around. The highlights of the year being Halloween and the very challenging but brilliant Christmas dinner. The fact that we had no electricity added to the enjoyment and considering we had no oven. thanks to the help of Mary next door, we managed to pull it off. I'm happy to stand again. But if someone else wants to have ago I'm happy to pass it on.

Caving Secretary

Mark Edwards writes:

2025 Annual Report MCG Caving Secretary This year has seen plenty of caving, the club weekends and Tuesday evenings have been well attended. New members have gained in experience and progressed to organizing and leading their own trips a number have become full members.

We have had caving away trips one to Yorkshire organized by Tom Harrison, where we tackled Gaping Gill, Bull Pot of the Witches and Sunset Hole.

October saw us at South Wales Caving Hut exploring the wonders of OFD, November, North Wales visiting Cwmorthin slate mine and the Mona to Parys Mountain through trip both of those organized by Kat Rosier thank you Kat. A contingent also attended Hidden Earth.

John Crowsley put on his ever-popular cave training course over the December club weekend.

MCG members have continued their exploits in Templeton, Grebe Swallet, Cutlers and Halloween also Stainsby's Shaft.

In Stainsby's, the excavation of Possible Passage has continued throughout 2024. Beyond the 3m pot with the small, temporary ladder in place, the dig now extends along a roomy crawl to a dry mud and rock blockage after about 8m. In several places mining timbers have been found in the floor, an indication that Possible Passage lies, in parts, immediately above the roof of the 18 Fathom Level of the 19th century mine. Hopes for a breakthrough were high in the Summer but we have been thwarted by several roof collapses, a lack of manpower and a spoil removal task that lengthens with every trip. The team have been encouraged by a little bit of GoPro footage taken by gently rotating the camera around a hole in the floor at the end. But rather than following this hole the diggers have opened up a route over the top of a large boulder. Plenty of open passage of indeterminate size can be seen ahead but hard graft will be needed to gain access. And yet the strong, cold, outwards draft remains as enticing as ever. Regular diggers: Peat Bennett, Hannah Blunt, Bill Chadwick, Ben Cooper, Martin Cross, Tim Francis, Ed Ford, Tom Harrison, Keith Knight, Mike Moxon, Mike Ormond, Brian Snell and others.

So there it is another fun packed caving year!

Editor

Kay Matthews writes:

Since I filled Dan's role in April 2024, there have been two MCG News editions produced in June 2024 and January 2025. The June edition was huge as it included a backlog of articles from when there was no formal magazine for a while. The January edition was much shorter, and I expect this will be the usual number of pages produced in the future, depending on what happens and what people send in.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the previous editors who created the News templates and styles. I've had help and guidance from members who have proof-read and helped with the tech: mainly Bill, Tim, Joan and Tom. It's been a team effort. I've just moved some pictures about haphazardly and added some colours!

The main thank you goes to members who have produced articles, updates, digging reports, photographs and trip reports. The MCG has a wealth of talented writers and photographers. The News gets distributed to other clubs, and to places like Descent, so if you would like to be seen and read about in the caving world, here is your chance!

In terms of trip reports, I usually pick a few to show a variety of caves and experiences, peoples' first times in a cave, interesting caves, and lesser-known caves being visited. I'm happy to not include these in the future if people would prefer reports to be kept private. Trip reports are a relatively new feature and don't need to go in the News. Please let me know your views (and I'll ask you before I include anything). I tend to get information from what you've sent in, what is on the MCG FB site, if there is anything in the paper logbook and on the MCG website.

I am happy to continue in this role for as long as it suits my lifestyle (currently self-employed). Due to the easy access of information already shared online, instant messaging, and available technology, the role is relatively simple compared to even a few years ago.

If you are thinking that you would like to take on the role, please speak up and put yourself forward! I'm completely happy to hand the role over to someone else who is keen with fresh ideas!

Please send any ideas, feedback, articles, reports and pictures to me by email. The next edition will be June 2025.

It would be good to have a few more articles if anyone fancies writing one? It could be of anything cave-related....

Kay Matthews

14th March 2025

Librarian

This post has been vacant for 2023/2024 though Joan Goddard and Mike Moxon have been looking after the library.

Joan Goddard writes:

During the year I have endeavoured to keep members informed about library matters via the newsletter.

We are looking forward to receiving the third and final volume of Peter Burr's book on the Mines and Minerals of the Mendip Hills (Charterhouse & Green Ore areas) and I continue to try and fill gaps in our 'other clubs' publications.

A new shelf has been fitted above the window, which has freed-up some space on the books shelves. Bill and I have started looking through club administration files to identify any duplicates which are already filed elsewhere.

I'm pleased to see that more members are borrowing books - that's what the Library is there for!

Mike Moxon records that we have been gifted several books and surveys by Jeremy Gilson and Chris Binding. Some for the library and some for auction to club members.