

Temporary MCG Cottage Closure

5th November to 2nd December 2020

Firstly, the committee would like to apologise for the somewhat terse and incomplete announcement about cottage closure that was made last Saturday in rapid response to the government's announcement of the new Covid 19 lockdown for England.

The MCG committee have now had time to properly study and debate the government guidance associated with the announcement.

With regard to the appropriateness of caving during the new lockdown, we made near identical observations to those recently announced by the CSCC and MCR which can be found here <https://csc.org.uk/>.

In studying the government guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>, it is quite clear that the accommodation facility at our cottage has to be closed.

We consider that the intent of the section in the guidance about venues which have to close, must be to include club houses such as our own. We do not want the MCG's reputation to be diminished by our neighbours, or other locals, observing MCG members contravening government guidance to enter our cottage. It is expected that our members will be compliant with the government guidelines and so radically reduce the demand for the use of MCG caving equipment or cave keys. Bearing these points in mind, the committee voted, by a significant majority, to close the cottage (and its outbuildings) for all but essential maintenance, from the 5th of November, but hopefully, only until the 2nd of December.

As in the previous lockdown, we request that you comply with the closure. As part of our regular maintenance checks on our cottage, we will monitor the cottage access system logs and reserve the right to disable access to any member during the closure period. The online booking system is suspended for the time being.

On the plus side, when you are able to visit the cottage again you should find it a warmer place. The remaining windows and the two back doors, most of which are rotten beyond repair, are soon to be replaced with double glazed units provided by a company from Cheddar.

We hope you all stay safe during the continuing pandemic.

Bill Chadwick for the MCG committee – 3rd November 2020.