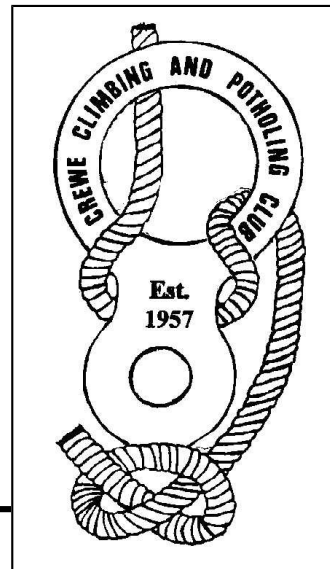


C.C.P.C.

Newsletter 92.

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Fifty Years and Going Strong!



Fiftieth Celebration.

Well it's all over and hopefully you all had a reasonable time at the Bull I Thorn without too much suffering the following day. It was certainly nice to see members and ex-members from all five decades present, so far all reports were good (apart from being thrown out of the pub in the early hours of Sunday morning). Apparently some of you were going to bed as I was getting up for work!

The quiz was won by the team "captained" by Ade Hanson Abbot (ably assisted by Jane et al) – apologies to both the Ades for getting their surnames mixed up in the quiz and for mistaking Jim for Andy Banner and for ... oh what the hell nobody's perfect (even me) but I'm glad you ALL recognised the shot of yours truly carrying THREE tackle bags down the Berger witnessed by non other than Paul H.

I'm pretty sure I won't be around for the 100th (maybe not even the 60th) but at least the 50th will give me some memories to dwell on when I'm sitting in that old folks home opposite Inglesport (Apparently Darren has booked me a place!).

Finally we should all thank Gareth and Mike for sorting out a venue, without their "kickstarting" the project we would still be discussing where and when and to Ann A for donating the prizes for the quiz.!

Best wishes to you all. Ralph.

A number of ex- members who could not attend wrote to me explaining why, the following e mail came from Ian Freeman (Tipple), I found it particularly amusing – I hope you do and that Tipple doesn't mind it being passed on to a world-wide audience.

Hi Ralph, Hi Jane

It is great to hear that the CCPC is still going strong after 50 years and of course that you Ralph are still playing a central part in it all. To think that now I must be almost as decrepit as you were when I met you!!! Only now can I marvel at the pains you must have gone through to keep up with us youngsters - surely you deserve a gong if you are still active in the underworld. Are you still getting underground these days or are you now limited to the role of dummy victim in practice rescues (I know I would be)!!

I would love to make the get together but unfortunately it clashes with our eldest son's birthday weekend and we are committed to a weekend in the Lakes. That has at least

saved me from the (admittedly small) temptation to don my old caving gear and tackle Hillocks or Knotlow. I wonder if the lid we replaced on the latter in the early eighties is still in service? I'm still concerned that some poor unfortunate caver may have come to grief whilst belayed to it. You see I'm convinced that Paul 'bang the bugger' Holdcroft used a weak sand:cement mix just so he could hold back a few bags of cement for his new patio!!

The Bull I' th' Thorn should be an excellent venue - I had an old photo which was taken in pub car park on the morning after a club do (Orpheus club do possibly?). We'd camped the night in the neighbouring field and it must have been a good night as Martin 'I'd sleep with a mop if it wore a skirt' Tunstall and I are still resplendent in our Long Johns and (judging by the steaming puddle at our feet) clearly too desperate to make it to the nearby facilities. I met up with Martin a few years back to tackle some of the more remote Scottish Peaks - he's not changed a bit - I even think he was wearing the same Long Johns! They could well have been the pair that he disgraced himself in some years back when Martin and I tackled a multi-pitch climb in the Cairngorms. A storm had broken mid-climb and we were wet through so when a call of nature arose Martin decided not to bother to loosen off his harness and just 'went with the flow' so to say. Unfortunately the Long Johns were his only undergarments for the weekend and we were wild camping so it wasn't a pleasant evening in the tent. He learnt his lesson though as the next day he developed a severe rash and we had to seek out a chemist's near Balmoral. I can still recall the look on the female assistant's face whilst he explained his predicament and then proceeded to show her exactly how it had affected the more delicate parts of his groin!! Still I suppose it's no worse than peeing in your wetsuit but I won't go there....

Ahh.. memories.....I'll be very sorry to miss you on the 23rd but will be thinking of you and hope you have a fantastic night. Please give my regards to all those old enough to know me & hopefully there will be another chance when I can get together to meet with you all.

I trust you and your families are well and here's to at least another 50 years of caving high-life at the CCPC.

Very Best of Wishes

Tipple

Alps 2007

By now most of you will have heard that a group of us will be in The Alps 25 Aug- 1 Sept. If anyone else is interested you know what to do! (Get fit and get there!!) We will be doing a high level walk (on snow and ice in parts) so you will obviously need to make sure you are equipped for that. The alternative is to turn up and do your own thing (such as walk up to the huts – an experience in itself- then walk back to the valley the following day).

Ireby Fell- Bubble Route.

A select group of members turned up at Inglesport and after a somewhat lengthy, and occasionally heated, discussion we set off for Ireby Fell Cavern, as did many other Derbyshire clubs! The entrance to Bubble Route is on the left a couple of metres before Ding Pitch, how the hell did we miss it for all those decades! Not only did we do Bubble (a first for CCPC) most of the group went through the sump into Duke St Two courtesy of the digging team who had pumped it dry(ish). This was also a first for CCPC.

Bubble is an excellent way in (especially when it's rigged!), Rather than describe it go and look, it's much more fun that way.

Child Protection and CCPC

At a recent meeting concern was expressed as to whether or not we were contravening the child protection law. The meeting decided not to admit persons under the age of 18 until the situation was clarified and Simon, our legal eagle, was asked (and thankfully agreed) to look into this matter. His comments are below and it would be helpful of members read and digested the contacts so that an informed decision can be taken at a future meeting, possibly the AGM.

Currently the area of child protection is primarily governed by the Children Act 1989 and the Protection of Children Act 1999 (look forward to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 taking effect).

Essentially a child is an individual under the age of 18 years and consequently child protection measures must be in place wherever the Organisation (e.g. club) involves such individuals.

'Involves' in this context will mean has club members, holds or takes place in activities/ events that include children.

There is no recommended ratio or number of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) cleared members for a given number of children in the club or taking part in activities so numbers will depend on what is reasonable under the circumstances.

Where, however, the child is (or the children are) accompanied by/ under the supervision of their parent(s), or someone acting in that capacity ('loco parentis'), such as a teacher or Scout Leader, that person has primary responsibility for that child (or children).

The Club

If we take in members who are children there must then be a child protection policy (or something like) in place.

There has to be a CRB cleared member in charge of child protection issues to ensure the policy is followed.

Activities

The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and other bodies agree that the starting point for child safety is having written permission from the parent (or equivalent) that the child may undertake the activity in question. This is an

obvious way of informing the parent and child of what to expect and the place the authorities look first if things go wrong.

Other than under the loco parentis exception, any supervised activities that include children must include at least one adult supervisor who is CRB cleared.

There can be non-CRB cleared supervisors, e.g. volunteers on the day, but they must themselves be under the supervision of someone who is CRB cleared and the BMC helpfully suggested that, as a rule of thumb, if a CRB-cleared supervisor can see the other supervisor (or could easily bring them into view), that other supervisor is supervised !

Procedure, Checks and CRB Clearance

If the club decides it is going to include children as member and in its activities, the Child Protection in Sports Unit (CPSU) and the BMC give commonsense, relatively straightforward guidance on policy and procedure.

By way of example, the BMC require all their personnel who will be working with children to be vetted to some degree or another. All are required to complete a Registration & Self-declaration form and to provide the names of referees (minimum 3 years knowledge of the applicant).

Those who regularly engage in activities involving children need to have CRB clearance at what is called 'enhanced' level as anything less means they can't work directly with children. Irrespective of level sought the application requirements are the same.

Although CRB clearance doesn't expire as such, new members claiming they have clearance should be re-checked if their clearance is over 2 years old.

In order to obtain CRB clearances the club has to go to an organisation registered with the CRB to obtain such clearance. As neither the British Caving Association or the British Mountaineering Council are registered, the club would have to go through the local authority or Social Services. Good news is that volunteers should only be charged an administration fee (of about £10) for the checks.

Conclusion

No children: no risk, but that does seem extreme.

If the club is to continue to take parties of children (typically Scouts) underground the minimum requirement would be for one member with enhanced CRB clearance to supervise. For practical and safety purposes I would suggest at least four members obtain enhanced clearance.

And if the club is going to get such clearance then it might as well open the doors to child membership.

Useful links:

Criminal Records Bureau: <http://www.crb.gov.uk/>

British Mountaineering Council: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/>

The Child Protection in Sports Unit: <http://www.thecpsu.org.uk>

Her Majesty's Stationary Office: <http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/legislation/uk.htm> Disclaimer:

This 'report' is not meant to be a legal document and I have tried to be as accurate as possible about the basics of child protection issues in as few words as I could. Don't blame me if someone else understands it differently.

I'm a prosecutor not a child protection lawyer. Simon T. 06/07/07.

Well that should give you some bedtime reading. Thanks must go to Simon – it's now up to the members to come to a decision.

Tryfan and the Glyders, 25th March 2007

From a cast of thousands we were whittled down through various lame and not so lame excuses to just Jim, Nat and I. We had arranged to meet at the Milestone Buttress car park for 0930 as Nat was coming up from Porthmadoc. This wasn't so bad except the clocks sprang forward that morning, so our early start became really early... A fried pig on a plate in the Potteries was followed by the usual long haul to Snowdonia, made easier by the fact most Sunday drivers opted for a lie in, giving us a clear run and an early arrival. Geared and booted and farewells said to Nat's father we tramped over to Tryfan, heading below the Milestone to the North Ridge. On the ascent Jim found a nice quartz vug in the scree, so ended up carrying a rock in his bag all day. We paused for some photos by the cannon, and collected some strugs near the notch and on some of the more exposed climbs, but we had no need to get out our ropes for them our small group. Eventually in quite thick mist after the several false summits we reached Adam and Eve. Nat was especially pleased as this was her third attempt on the hill, having had to retreat twice due to group and weather considerations. There was a good breeze blowing so the traditional step across the boulders was left for a calmer day. Once some light refreshment had been taken we descended to the col, skirting around the crags on the South Ridge and finding numerous small bits of path that didn't go where we wanted to be.

Over the ladder stile and the hard work began again, initially up the scree, then a confined gully, and finally onto the crest of the Bristly Ridge. The climbing was easy but occupied the hands and the mind, and we had the ridge almost to our selves, ascending though blowing mists. In the hollows and gullies there was some melting sugary snow from the fall at the beginning of the week, but the rocks were dry and ice free. Once again the rope was not felt to be required and stayed in the bag, the exposure being curbed by the hill fog and the large well polished holds dropping easily to hand and foot. Gradually the ridge levelled off and we stepped onto the Glyder plateau. In due course the Cantilever stone was met and the compulsory photos duly taken. In a sheltered niche we had our lunch of cold steak pies, coffee and éclairs – what a feast!?

The cloud cover was beginning to break up a little now, and as we continued over the “Castle of the Winds” the views began to open up. On the ascent to the big Glyder we began to meet the crowds, in various states of preparedness and experience. At the top the cloud cover had completely cleared and the views were hazy but good all around. It also meant we didn’t need the map to find the route down into the Devils Kitchen. The “improved” path down to Idwal was the usual knee bouncing joint hammering descent, and as on the rest of the walk I was boring people silly talking about geology and geomorphology, pointing out bits that I thought of interest... Eventually we regained tarmac at Ogwen, and then the car park. A swift glass of refreshment at the Tyn Y Coed and then we returned Nat to her parents. We then took ourselves back home for tea and beers via Caernarfon and the A55. All in all a grand day out.

Brian Edmonds.

Anyone venturing down Knotlow 210 in the near future? I have a couple of stainless maillons destined for the end of Meccano passage. Ralph

It Shouldn’t Happen To An OAP!

The previous week had been quiet with only three days underground (6 trips down 4 different caves- well one has earn a crust when surviving on a pension!) and I was looking forward to a restful weekend with level one trips planned with various clients on the Saturday and Sunday. The booking also provided a genuine excuse for missing a DCRO Exercise! On the Saturday I met my first clients, a scout troop from Cheshire who were “regulars” and I knew them to be well mannered and well behaved as opposed to the usual riff raff I’ve been forced to cave with over the last five decades! As a bonus half the “scouts” are now female and some of the leaders best describe as stunning, the female ones that is. It’s a hard life but someone has to do the work!

The group were divided in two with half busy on the vertical bits of Black Rocks Cromford accompanied by Brian the UP part of “Up and Down”, the rest with me(the DOWN part) in Devonshire Cavern. The weather was surprisingly fine after a couple of weeks torrential rain so both groups had a good morning – even my group in Devonshire had a “dry” walk to and from the cave – for the last couple of weeks cavers had looked as though they had done The Giants Windpipe after what should have been a “dry day underground”.

The afternoon began well with the usual talk on cave (and mine) formation, conservation- the usual prelim to a first underground experience. I did notice on the way to the cave that one lad had a distinct limp but when asked he told me in no uncertain terms (as only a teenager can) that he was fine. I new that one of the youngsters was diabetic but the group were well prepared for this with the leader carrying the necessary medication and the lad had been familiar with his condition for some time. We had the usual stories (tales of T’owd Mon etc) while we decided the best way of tackling the large boulder just beyond the “dustbin”. As we negotiated the boulder I noticed that the diabetic scout was rubbing Hypostop into his gums. We progressed into the large breakdown chamber with a stop to admire the (somewhat stunted) formations on the way. At this point the leader opened a pack of food for the diabetic only to find the contents all contained nuts- and guess what -he had a nut allergy! (previously undisclosed)

I asked the leader to open my first aid kit which contained a supply of food, he said it also contained no nut- free food, how he missed the bar of chocolate I don't know! I was told that we needed to exit within 20 minutes. Oh, I forgot to mention that the guy with the limp was caving rather slowly and I had discovered by now that the limp was caused by the absence of a limb, his left leg was prosthetic! I must add at this point that he was really "up for it" and determined to prove that his handicap was not a handicap at all.

I had no choice but to abandon the group with an adult helper and exit as fast as possible with another leader- fortunately (within the allocated 20 minutes) the boy was sitting in the first house we called at whose occupant just happened to be the district nurse.

On returning to the group we had a "council of war" and decided to continue with the trip with the instructor (me) performing his "I'm lost" routine on at least two occasions. Thankfully by the time we reached our base at Black Rocks the diabetic was back to normal and everyone proclaimed they had had an enjoyable day.

A pleasant evening was spent at the DCRO BBQ at The Miners' Standard in Winster and it was with great reluctance that I tore myself away – after all I had to work next day and I'm not as young as I was!

Sunday am was spent doing an SRT introductory session in Suicide Cave with a couple of adults who had spent the previous day in Carlswark with a colleague. Prior to this I had met up with some of the "young- uns" from CCPC and with considerable charm had persuaded them, since they were doing Giants anyway, to rig the "pull thro" in Wet Inlets thus saving me from struggling up the tight bit – has anyone noticed that caves, like wet suits, are shrinking. I'm told this is due to continental drift or maybe tectonic plates (the caves not the wet suits- I think) or some other inexplicable phenomenon. My two clients and I spent a pleasant afternoon dangling on the aforementioned pitch and on Garlands prior to exiting with maybe a pint in The Wanted to finish off the day.

Sadly this was not to be! I glanced at my mobile to notice that it was full of "missed calls" all from the Buxton area- this could only be one thing, a "Shout". I didn't have far to travel as the incident was at P8, however I did have to take some stick from younger (and not so young) team members who sadly have little respect for their elders!- why is it that I'm always underground when I'm the duty controller and there's a "Shout"?

Apparently the casualty was at the far end of the traverse over the main streamway (near the bottom of the cave) but with our tame doctor and paramedic on the way things could be worse and anyway the rain that had been forecast hadn't arrived and it looked like being a dry evening. Despite being handicapped by a disproportionate number of youngsters in the team, or maybe I'm getting older, the rescue went surprisingly well and by 2 am Monday I was on the way home. I'm sure this coming week is going to be a quiet one!

Ralph J.

Tim C is in the process of arranging a course on rigging in the Dales with non other than Dave Elliot. Places are limited to five, cost maximum of £25 but this WILL be grant aided by CCPC and MAYBE also by BCA. Book your place while you still have time! The plan is for a surface session above ground followed by an underground session in the afternoon. I'm sure you all know Dave, he is the UK's guru on SRT and has even been forgiven for introducing "red-eye" bolts to the UK".

22 July, Smelt Mill Beck Cave.

12 Aug. Youds Level

15 Sept Lancaster – Easegill

4 Aug. Aquamole Pot

2 Sept Little Neath

30 Sept Long Rake

Don't forget- if you want a cave booking- Call Darren.