

CCPC



Newsletter

No. 40

August 1994.

LOST JOHNS FATALITY.

On 5th February a large party of ULSA cavers descended Lost Johns on Leck Fell. Whilst three members of the party were ascending the boulder pile leading upto the rope climb into Lyle Cavern, the boulder slope suddenly collapsed. One of the party, Paul Lyons, was caught in the fall and was subsequently left trapped by boulders near the bottom of the slope.

Whilst members of the party initiated a rescue callout, others managed to free Paul from the extremely unstable boulder pile at some considerable danger to themselves. Sadly, despite the impressive efforts of the CRO (which at one point saw over 70 personnel underground), Paul died while being evacuated from the cave.

This tragic and extremely unfortunate incident should serve as a pertinent reminder to cavers of the dangers of boulder chokes, even on the most well-used of trade routes. The boulder slope leading upto Lyle Cavern is now extremely unstable and it still appears to be on the move. Cavers intending to visit Lost Johns Cave in the near future are advised to proceed with the up most caution here or, preferably, to stay away from the area completely.

Taken from April/may Descent, a warning to anyone thinking of doing Lost John's some time this summer.

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We are advised by the CRO to refrain from making any comments to the press about incidents. This applies particularly to your personal views on the activities of the victims even if they have been thorough prats.

HOPEFULLY THIS IS AN UPTO DATE AND INVIROMENTLY FRIENDLY MEMBERS LIST, PLEASE CHECK THAT YOUR DETAILS ARE ON THE LIST AND IF SO ARE CORRECT. IF NOT PLEASE LET ME KNOW, OTHERWISE YOU WILL NOT RECIEVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS IF YOU MISS A MEETING.

C.C.P.C.

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Present	Home Phone	Surname	First	Address	Town	Post Code	Work Phone
1		Arnold	Alison				
2		Banks	John				
3		Beaumont	Rodney				
4		Brandwood	Sharon				
5		Bratt	Melvyn				
6		Brookes	Jane				
7		Burnett	Neil				
8		Conde	Neil				
9		Conde	Darren				
10		Conde	Tracy				
11		Cooper	Nigel				
12		Crane	George				
13		Crane	Carole				
14		Davis	Malcolm				
15		Dunleavy	Kevin				
16		Dunleavy	Ian				
17		Edmonds	Brian				
18		Evans	Ross				
19		Falkner	Keith				
20		Forster	Peter				
21		Foster	Mick				
22		Gillett	John				
23		Grime	Robert				
24		Grindey	Ian				
25		Hansen	Dee				
26		Hanson-Abbott	Adrian				
27		Hobbins	Jeff				
28		Holdcroft	Paul				
29		Housley	Ian				
30		Johnson	Ralph				
31		Johnson	Marguerite				
32		Jose	Andy				
33		King	Ray				
34		Knapper	Andy				
35		Knox	Steve				
36		Lear	Gordon				
37		Lovatt	Mark				
38		Marsden	Phil				
39		Martin	John				
40		Miles	Steve				
41		Morris	Colin				
42		Mountford	Kevin				
43		Parkinson	Lionel				
44		Preston	John				
45		Reade	Pip				
46		Reynolds	Tony				
47		Shenton	John				
48		Smith	Terry				
49		Smith	John				
50		Tittensor	Pete				
51		Weaver	Phil				
52		Whiter	Dr Dave				

Redacted

[REDACTED]

7th. February 1994.

Dear Sir,

Please accept my apologies in respect of tonight's meeting. As you may or may not be aware, I was recently appointed as the northern area representative of the "Gay Rights" potholing group for the "EXAMINATION of NATURALLY TIGHT REAR ENTRANCES" or E.N.T.R.E. for short. Unfortunately our European meeting will be held in Strasbourg during the coming week and it is imperative that I reach there by Tuesday at the latest, thus allowing me a full night in Basle.

Yours faithfully,

V.K. Faulkner

V.K. Faulkner.

I just thought I would share with you a letter received off one of our members who could not make the monthly meeting.

MEETS

AUGUST.

SATURDAY 6th:- Mere Gill Hole. Yorkshire, NGR SD 740757.
Grade-IV. Depth-170m. Length-4.6km.

SUNDAY 14th:- Hammer Pot. Yorkshire, NGR SD 853697.
Grade-V. Depth-90m. Length-1036m.

SATURDAY 27th:- Little Neath River Cave. South Wales.
Grade-III. Length-(4.8Km), [Short trip].

MONDAY 29th:- Notts Pot. Yorkshire, NGR SD 617778.
Grade-IV. Depth-130m.

SEPTEMBER.

SUNDAY 4th:- White Scar Cave. Yorkshire, NGR SD 712745.
Grade-III/IV. Depth-?. Length-6.5Km.

SATURDAY 17th:- Gapping Gill. Yorkshire, NGR SD 751727.
Grade-III/V. Depth-155m. Length-11.6Km.

SUNDAY 25th:- Eldon Hole. Derbyshire, NGR 116804.
Grade-III. Depth-82m Length-Not Far.

ALL CORRESPONDENCES TO BE SENT TO T CONDE [REDACTED]

THE GREAT KNOXS AVEN EXPEDITION.

Brian Edmonds.

Many of you in the club will have heard tell of "Knox's Aven" a promising drafting dig in Giants. For those who havn't, here is a brief resume. In the early seventy's Steve, also known as Colin, and persons not named (to protect their reputations) explored an aven opposite Ghost Rift. On emerging from the Giants Windpipe Crawl you enter a large chamber. Immediately above and behind you is the fixed rope upto Ghost Rift. In front of you is Letter Box passage leading to the N.E. Swallet and the Oxlow connection. Off to the right is a high rift with a mass of calcite flow forming a sloping ledge. An interesting traverse over this, or a climb up to its far end leads to two further small climbs/squeezes (quite large really) to the base, an elliptical aven, roughly 4 feet by 8 feet at the base and 30 to 40 feet high. An inscription at the base reads CCPC 73. Steve and Co climbed & bolted up this aven to find apparently about 30 feet of hands and knees crawl leading to a partial calcite choke into which it was possible to push ones arm, and which took a good draught.

Several of us, having heard of this promised land, and believing a few hours work with hammer and chisel, or a little bang, would lead us to a continuation into an upper gallery long abandoned, (a bit like the Giants Upper Series above the crabwalk, and leading to Speedwell...) , went to have a look.

The final team that turned up at Giants on 12th Feb were Darren & Neil Conde, Nigel Cooper, Ross Evans & myself, together with Pauls drill & batterys, hammers & chisels, 6mm bolts for the aven, and two delicate ammo tins requiring gentle handling. Ross and I took the longer route via Eating House and Maggins Rift, to keep the drill dry, while the rest went via the Upper series and the Windpipe. While waiting for the others Ross and I looked at the letterbox - somebodies long term dig - and some small swallets in the floor of letterbox Passage.

Once all at the base of the aven, after climbing and traversing in, we gave Ross a rope end and sent him up the aven. There was no need to worry about the 6mm spits being rusted up as there were already bolts and hangers rusted into the spits, and looking badly corroded. After much jibbering and whinging Ross finally entered the low crawl at the top of the Aven, emptying a pool over us as he did so. We fixed an old (25 years plus) SRT rope to an in-situ hanger in the floor of the passage (again corroded) and both Darren & Neil went up to have a look. Their combined reports deterred Nigel and Myself from trying the belays integrity. It appears that the passage is a flat out crawl that gets too low very quickly. The floor is of calcite over about 2-3 inches of loose fill, and this portion would be relatively easy to dig opening the passage upto a flat out crawl. The passage could be seen continuing as low or lower for about 20 feet, before going round a gentle corner. A draught and a small amount of water indicate some potential, but generally it was felt not worth it while other, easier of access and more promising digs exist.

A fixed rope was left on the aven, but it is older (just) than the corroded bolts it is hanging from, which being a single belay in the floor of the passage leaves an interesting climb with major rub points. The inscription now reads:-

C.C.P.C
73
Don't bother
94

We hastily exited via the Windpipe, and after a quick look at the High Avens in Chert Hall (one has a fixed rope of unknown reliability hanging from it), we went to Kev's party in search of beer and Steve.....

THEFTS CONTINUE

The latest DCA Newsletter (83) notes a continuing problem with theft in the Derbyshire area. Vehicles are being broken into and all contents (not just valuables, but clothes and everything movable) removed; since the warning in Descent (117) there have been at least five more robberies. Another was foiled by a dog left in the car, but even this can have its dangers. This animal had seemingly been taunted and was in a state of distress; last year a dog left in the Daren Cilau car park in south Wales was injured.

Beware: leave someone with your vehicle, fit an alarm, and remove all clothes and valuables if you cannot.

EASE GILL AIDS

The old Fall Pot and Stake Pot ladders in the Ease Gill system are due to be removed and replaced with NCA anchors. The Stop Pot ladder will also be removed, but replaced with a new one.

RESCUE

On a recent call out in GB cave the casualty (who had a broken leg) "died" on the way out for no apparent reason. Fortunately due to an alert first aider, she was successfully resuscitated. Rescuers are advised to constantly monitor the state of casualties.

INSURANCE

M.R. Insurance covers anyone asked by a controller to help on a rescue.

Personnel on a practice are only covered if they are named team members.

National Caving Conference 1994

Harper Adams Agricultural
College
Newport, Shropshire
16th/17th/18th September 1994



BCRA

Lectures

The success of the Conference depends on the quality and variety of lectures presented. John Wilcock is co-ordinating the lecture programme and would be please to hear from anyone who is willing to give a lecture.

John can be contacted at:



Volunteer Helpers

Volunteer helpers are also required to ensure that the Conference takes place. Although the core of an organisation team has been found more help is required. If you can help either in the run up to the Conference or over the weekend please contact Keith Plumb at:

38 Abington Road, Sale, Cheshire M33 3DL

Tel: 061 973 0612

Trade and Club Stands

Details of trade and club stands and the exhibition space available can be obtained from Richard Bartrop at:



Porky in a pothole

PLUMP potholer Pete Eggleston was recovering in hospital last night after plunging 50ft down a disused mineshaft and getting trapped upside down. Pete, 36, was videoing mates exploring the mine at St Just, Cornwall, when planks he was standing on gave way under his 18 stones. Paramedic Paul Thompson climbed down dark narrow passages to free Pete, of Albrighton, Wolverhampton, who was potholing with members of a Telford caving club in Shropshire. Pete has head and back injuries.

Pothole man dies in cave

A SEVEN-hour search by rescuers ended in tragedy yesterday when a potholer was found dead in a water-filled underground cave.

The un-named man was found in the Birkwith cave system at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, near Settle, North Yorks.

The man's pal alerted rescuers when his friend failed to return to the surface.

Man dies in flooded cave

A POTHOLER was found dead in a water-filled cave yesterday after a 12-hour search.

Rescuers were called in near Settle, North Yorks, after Trevor Kemp's companion surfaced in difficulties.

Trevor, 41, from Bradford, was a member of a local potholing club.