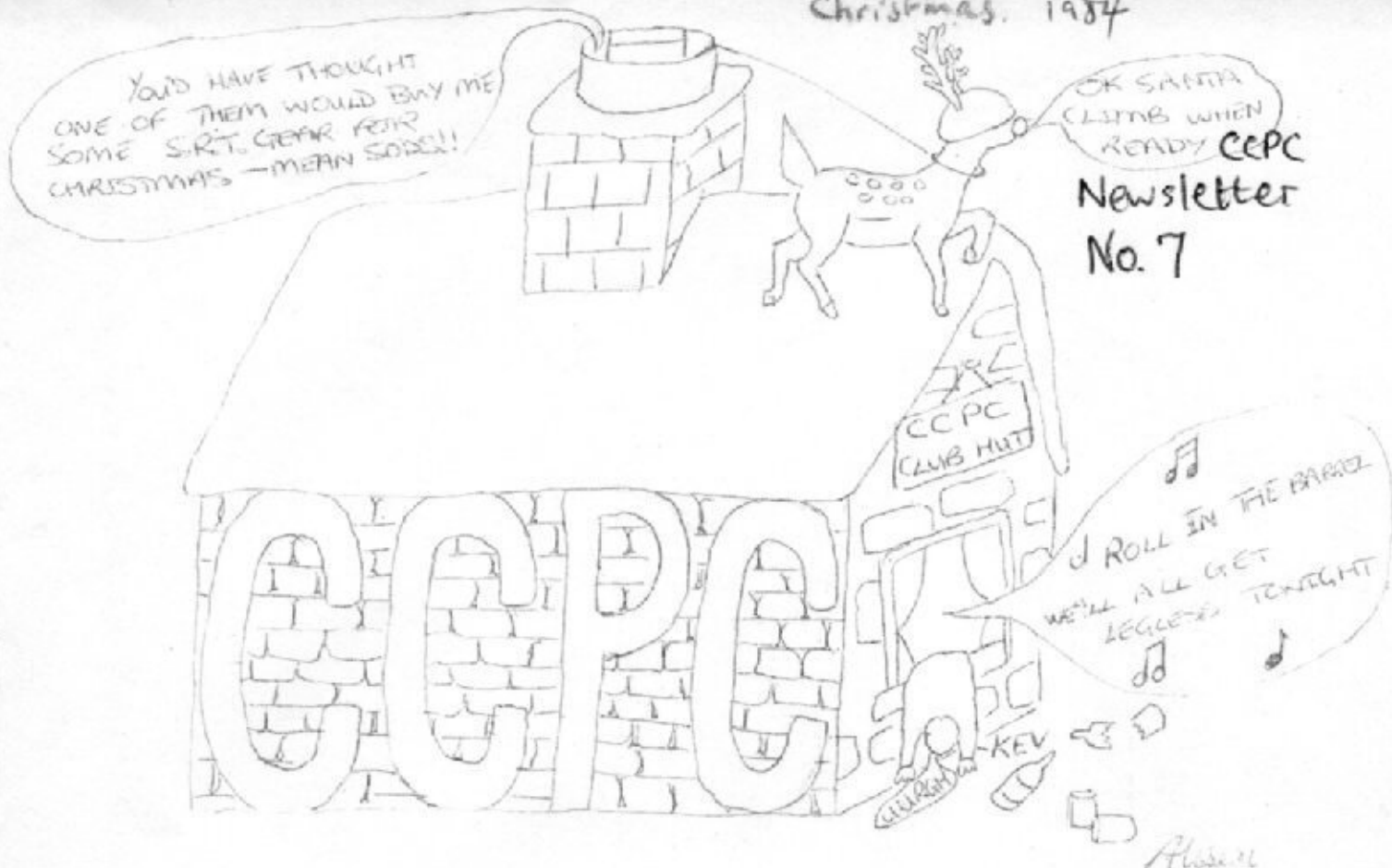


Christmas, 1984



Hello, this is your friendly Newsletter Editor speaking. If any body out there takes pity on me trying to get this bumper Christmas Edition out, yes it does say 'Bumper' then you can easily repay me by getting me a 500' Blue Water rope for me for Christmas or talk Ralph into winning me a car. (I'm sure if he digs into his pocket he will be able to buy me one - or two) If you still don't feel pity on me then think of poor Alison (sob - sob) typing this Newsletter out. I'm sure she'd accept a little gift. Not much, just a small mini or a complete set of S.R.T. gear. I'm sure Cliff could get it a little cheaper for you if you tried.

Any way while I'm talking about Cliff if you didn't know, he has retired from his post as Secretary of our caving club due to the fact that he now lives in Buxton. So if you ever need a cup of tea while you're in the area pop in to see him, I'm sure he won't mind so long as you take him a dozen oatcakes.

Cliff had not been in the club that long until he was made secretary, it must be the quickest rise to fame the club's ever seen. Every member I've spoken to agrees with me that he's done a wonderful job and brought a lot of life back into the club. If it wasn't for Cliff there would be no Newsletter today, so I personally, and the club would like to say 'many... thanks to this guy, we all hope that he keeps in contact with us all.

So now I've said that, Happy Christmas and get your Newsletter read.

KEVIN.

A Merry G.G. Christmas

'Twas quiet on the hillsides of the Yorkshire Dale,
The night was frosted over but the moon was clear and pale.
But far from sleepy villages, on Ingleborough hill,
Rubber suited figures surrounded Gaping Gill.
To all who gathered a can of lager was dealt,
A bottle of whiskey armed each mans belt.
With heavy bags of eatables and many a plastic bowl
They made their muddy way into Gaping Gill hole.
When all above were present, the party went ahead,
The band played long and loudly in the vast watershed.
A long broad table groaning under food
Put every caver in the Christmas mood.
They hung up Christmas wetsocks and had a dance or two
With a box of Acme candles to see the whole night through.
A mossy looking Christmas tree stood over by the light
Of a blazing log fire roaring up into the night.

When all went deathly quiet, suddenly it was late,
Someone whispered "12 O'Clock" hoarsely to his mate.
Sounds of someone entering filled every mind with dread
For all invited in were there, counted every head.
The cavers chorus "who goes there, and what's about?"
Cries mainshaft man (a fellow stout), "HO HO HO, below lookout".
From far above the happy hades, an apparition with a sack
Descent hellbent, now singing "three bars on my rack.
Jingle Bells! It's a giant flue, biggest one I've been through.
Yeaargh" Out of control the jovial chap flew.

....."Should have taken a Whernside course",
The others agreed after a pregnant pause.
The work of the fairies lay all asunder
What you might call a distributive blunder.

Opinions varied on the red mans fate
Voiced were the merits of a figure of eight.
Or as likely he abseils on his gate,
Passing knots in inebriate state.
Was the rope clear? did a bolt shear?
Or was it the sherries, the mince pies, the beer?

But a mournful majority in reverential refrain
Searched the main chamber for something to blame.
And found on the floor a C/S guarantee,
Another 'failsafe' invention - or your money back free!
Never yet seen in a Yorkshire Dale.....
Who sold Santa a reindeers tail ?

anon

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENT.

The club do is on Saturday 12th. January at Biddulph Arms price £3.00 This includes buffet, resident D.J.(Cliff) and a possible floor show (by P&K) a photographic competition and the now famous Wally Award. So don't miss this excellent night out, the night out which is forcing the local night clubs out of business. So get your tickets (or pay at the door) from Ralph, Paul, Kevin or Cliff.

KEVIN.

There is a new feature in the newsletter so if your Wife or family ever write a poem about your weekend activities, send it to your Newsletter to let everyone have a little laugh.

ODE TO POTTING.

Behold the Pot Holer,
He Riseth up in the Morning,
Disturbeth the whole Household.
Mighty are his preparations,
He goes Forth full of hope.
When the day is far spent
He Returneth, smelling of strong drink
And truth and sense not in him.

JENNY HOWARTH.

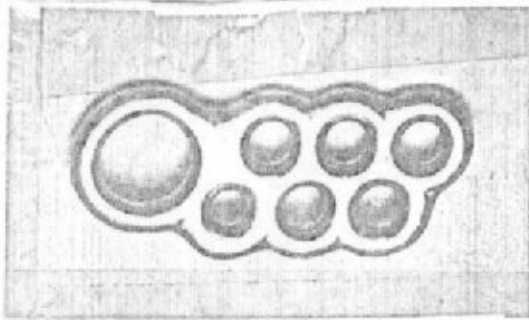
HANGERS.

No, these are not what you get after a good nights drinking, they are bits of metal fastened to rock with bolts. If you read the last Newsletter there was an article explaining the pro's and con's of various types. Some of you (not you of course) are not aware of their limitations. Some of you (not you of course) can not even thread them up!!! Make sure you read the article - you never know you might have to rig a pitch. It would be nice to live to tell the tale.

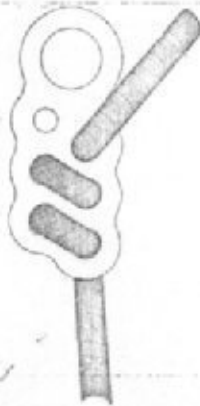
DO YOU NEED A

KONG IMPACT SHOCK ABSORBER

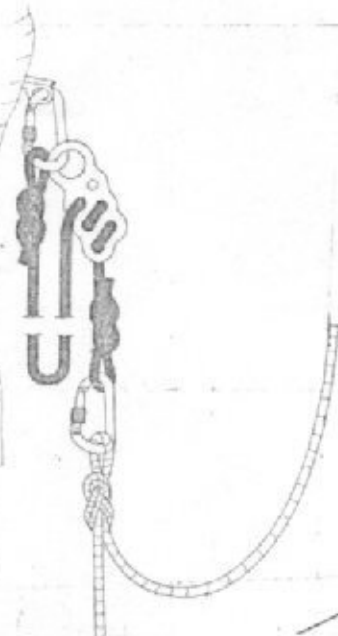
K.I.S.A. Aluminium-alloy



THIS WAS DESIGNED AS AN IMPACT
ABSORBING DEVICE FOR ROCK
CLIMBING.



THREADED AS SHOWN WITH 11mm. ROPE
IT SLIPS AT 300 - 400 KG.



A COUPLE OF CASES IN WHICH IT CAN
BE USED THAT SPRING TO MIND IS ON
A TAUGHT TRAVERSE LINE WHICH ARE
PARTICULARLY SUBJECT TO STRESS
UNDER SHOCK LOADING. THE KISA
CAN BE USED AS SHOWN OR CAN BE
THREADED DIRECTLY ON TO THE ROPE
WHICH CAN BE LEFT TIGHT BUT WILL
SLIP.

PREMIER EXPEDITION LAMP.

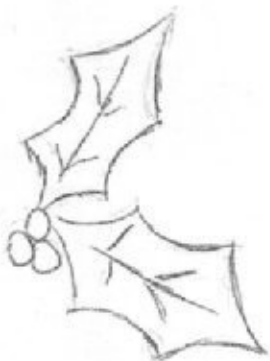
At long last 'Premier' have produced an 'Expedition' carbide lamp. Unfortunately all models are equipped with flint ignition not electronic as a petzl. However the generator is worth looking at as an alternative to Fismo (fitted to Petzl) which are prone to disintegrate at the most inopportune moments (Recently Mark Wilsons fell to bits in Peak Cavern, Kevin's fell to bits in Lost John's and Ralphs did the same just as Paul set off his Dr. Nobels magic mixture down Giant's. He nearly had a cardiac arrest since he'd never seen carbide go off with such a bang before, but luckily Alison was on hand to give him first aid.

In '59 acetylene was a contributory factor in the death of Neal Moss.

The above articles were written by our new Equipment Adviser P.Ton, who will produce a number of masterpieces over the next few Newsletters. He is also willing to deal with consumer enquiries. Contact him via the Editor.

THE CLUB DIG.

Few of our current membership have served their apprenticeship in this particular project which began in 1972. So to put you all into the picture a summary is included, the vast majority of it written by Rob Heath (or should it be Doctor Heath) No doubt interest will be rejuvenated now that Paul and Ralph have prescriptions for Dr. Nobels magic medicine and it is merely a matter of time before Giant's is connected to Spadwell, P8, Peak, Berger, etc.etc.



BRIEF DIARY OF EVENTS CONCERNING THE DIG.

- 11/11/73 A spate of digging and general exploration enthused some 'active' club members; Steve Knox, John Preston, Jeff Fox and Rob Heath were to be found bolting up the eastern wall of Ghost Rift (later called Death Aven)
- 17/11/73 A few more antics up Death Aven. Reached the top. The sight of small uninspiring passage uninspired us to continue exploration and efforts were channelled elsewhere.
N.B. About this time John Preston spotted the entrance to the future 'Dig' (Ominous connotations - he's not been heard of since.)
- 26/1/74 A rather disorganised effort involved the placing of maypoles in Ralphs Aven (located on right wall in entrance series) but not the placing of bodies to ascend the tackle.
(Attempt to peg up failed. Shattered rock. Ralph, Rob, Tony.)
- 14/4/74 Two and a half dwarves were seen playing dijjery-dooos down Giant's!
.....Actually it was Ralph, Tony and Rob Heath dragging the maypoles from Ralph's Aven up to Pres's Passage.
Hair raising antics were experienced by all trying to get the poles sited on a ledge and pointing into the passage. Something was eventually sorted out with a ladder attached to the end of the maypole. 100ft. of upward trending crawling passage headed in an Oxlow direction was discovered terminating in a mud filled short sump.
- 18/4/74 A party including Pete and Rob Heath and John Shenton consolidated the find by hammering an eye bolt and screwing a fixed ladder to the entrance of the dig.
- 21/4/74 An attempt at surveying was made by Alan Walker and Rob Heath. Inevitably mud got into the works of everything including ears, noses and hair! A taste of things to come.
- 28/5/74 Pete and Rob Heath, Greg and Alan Burns and Simon Leech made an assault on the first obstacle; the silted sump. Progress made allowed us to see the passage continuing beyond the sump.
- 6/7/74 An illfated day for the gigging team, but the important work was completed first.....a few hours digging at the first sump before getting continued overleaf.....

a little stuck in the Filthy Five series. Party included Greg and Alan Burns, Simon Leech, Tony Reynolds and Rob Heath; last two having done the digging.....Giant's Rescue!!!

- 5/1/75 Passage renamed 'The Air Was Blue' after Alan Walker, Rick Coleman, Rob Heath, Paul Holdcroft, Ralph, Tony Reynolds, Stan Kowalik and Phil Needham found the rotten 8m. ladder to the dig had been pinched!! Bad feelings dissolved in buckets of water being chucked from top of Garlands at various people getting up the pitch.
- 7/2/75 Four sections of steel signal ladder (borrowed from T.S.G.) were taken up and assembled at dig entrance by Maryhill Comprehensive School Sherpa's. J.Smith, P. Heath, R.Heath, Jan Mathews, Neil Lawton, Les Leese, Paul Pedley and A Scragg. When assembled the ladder was found to be a bit short and due to a lack of 'what your right arms for' we could not get it well placed on the ledge. 'Talk about Wimpey's on Everest!!!'
- 31/3/75 Ralph directed some of the party; Paul Holdcroft, Neil Lawton, Alan Scragg, Rob Heath, Dawn Greg and Alan Burns and Mick Mooney down to the dig. The ladder was resited on the ledge and fixed in the entrance by lasso!.....Lone Ranger strikes again! Neil and Rob then went up the passage which had been extended nearly 30ft. past the muddy sump to continue digging and removing semi-solid mud constricting a horizontal section of the 18" high passage.
- 25/6/75 A trip down Giant's worthy of note.....No digging done!! Party included Rob Heath, John Lucchese and two friends from North Staffs Polytechnic.
- 28/6/75 The law of averages takes its toll.....back to digging! Alan Scragg, Rob Heath, Alan Walker and Phil Needham shifted a few trays of mud after taking a few others round Giant's.
- 5/1/76 Squelching time had by all; Ralph, Tony, A.Scragg and Rob Heath. The horizontal section seems to heighten after shifting mud and moving forward nearly 6' Water rushing ahead heard. Ralph still reckoned on a possible connection to Oxlow.
- 20/6/76 Digging and shifting mud along horizontal section proved to be a mildly impossible task as experienced by Alan Scragg and Rob. Not

enough room for tray and digger. Three - five ft. of progress made. Reached corner from where the passage dipped slightly and went to the left. More yet to be shifted along the silted section. Another system for mud shifting had to be devised.

- 12/9/76 Just for a change; no digging done, just bottomed to East Canal and then out. Party included Tony, Mick Ryan, Alan Scragg and Rob Heath.
- 2/1/77 To herald the New Year.....'The Dig'. A short shitty episode from the Bowels of Giant's. Ralph, Alan Scragg, Rob Heath, Richard Wilson, Tony and John Gillet battled through the snow and ice leading down to Giant's Farm.
The new fertiliser bag technique did not work very well in the dig as proved and tested. Not much mud shifted from face but more room made in passage.
The conditions outside; Ralphs beard freezing up, Alan Scragg's overalls standing up on their own inspired the development of the Mk.III drag strip device.....Nothing kinky, its sole purpose was to shift mud!!
- 11/4/77 'The proof of the belt is in the dragging.' Ralph and Rob accompanied by Jeff Fox, Steve Knox plus party of the World Famous Dudley Mines Rescue Team (the first two doing the digging) proved the semi success of the system in conjunction with the drag tray. About four to five trays of mud were shifted. Progress was made to just past the left bearing corner. Voices were heard ahead!
(Oxlow? Peak? Giant'S?)
- 17/6/77 A final push was decided on to see where the Giant's -Giant's dig comes out.....Giant's perhaps?
Party included Ralph and myself(& Tony who was thinking for us at Middlewich.)
'I'm forever blowing mudballs' and 'Somme day over the mudflow' were familiar tunes burbling down the mud filled passage. With the possibility of the passage heightening (bottom falling away approx 5' ahead) efforts were maintained.....Ralph getting rid of mud somewhere in the passage (he looked a bit browned off and constipated after though) The silt turned into mud/shale along this stretch after the corner which made things a bit easier. Six drag trays of stuff were shifted before it was decided to force the last bit by reversing down the passage and pushing the remainder through with boots. It was a bit constricted, Ralph did the breathing, grunting and groaning for both

of us. Luckily the mud fell away down a small slope the other side of the constriction.

The passage opened out into a clean washed uneven sharp floored passage approximately three feet high and of the same width trending downwards and veering slightly to the left. On the right was a 3-4' wide low passage leading steeply up to more constricted (low) passage which veered to the left (unexplored). The main passage extended about 160' and involved flat out strenuous crawling in an attempt to protect wet suits, small white straw formations and very thin and fragile mud formations on the passage floor. It ended in an unprotected slope into Giant's upper series. This was later proved by voice connection (but no light seen) to join above the clean washed, smooth and slippery 4-5' high cascade.

Explorations were then curtailed for the rest of the day due to the knackered state of the digging team.

Almost 152 man hours!

End pitch down and flat out upward sloping passage need exploration.

31/7/77 Dig definitely reconnects to 0x (sorry - slip of the pen) Giant's. Bedding plane passage leading off was a bit constricted. Ralph, Dave Riley and Rob belayed about 50' - 60' from peg in floor/side of passage at end of dig. First 5 - 6' of ladder led onto a large ledge. Remainder of pitch went more-or-less straight into streamway at above ill-defined cascade. The pitch was then detackled and de-pegged and a push was made up the bedding plane.....A pull would have been more helpful.....Rob got a bit gripped up and stuck. Eventually got free. Passage is vertically constricted and requires either thinner man or drastic rock removing techniques. The floor of the passage can be seen to drop away about two - three ft. after the constriction but then turns sharp right. This obscures the view of the continuation? of the passage.

13/8/77 Plumbing the depths!
Ralph, Simon Leech and Rob were found wrestling about with a plumbers propane gas cylinder and 20' of tubing up the bedding plane passage in the dig attempting to shatter the rock around the constricted bit. They were later given verbal support as Alan Walker joined the muddy trio. Efforts were daunted by the blow torch extinguishing itself many times for no apparant reason (lack of O₂?) The tubing was a bit short also. The days proceedings were brought to a close after running out of matches (half of which wouldn't strike due to their liberal coating of mud) Ended up that everything except the rock was shattered. (It worked well in Ghost Rift when followed with liberal application

of urine.)

Later Dave Riley and Tony unsuccessfully tried to forge a way with a hammer and chisel. Apparently conditions were too cramped to get a proper swing.

27/12/77 Attempts were made to shift the rock at the constriction with a 'dynamic' pneumatic hammer and 'not-so-dynamic' air cylinder. The working party included Ralph, Alan Scragg, Tony, Rob, Malc Jump, Simon and John Gillet. The air cylinder was nursed in through the upper series without much trouble and the heavy ammo-box containing the gun and other hardware clattered noisily behind. On the surface the gun worked quite well when pressure was put behind it, but in the dig things were quite different. A few small flakes of rock were chipped off, but the problem was one of pushing the hammer to make it dig in whilst holding it in the only possible way down there - at arms length. Work was punctuated by; the chisel flying out of the gun and landing on the other side of the constriction but was luckily just in reaching distance, the pressurised tube exploding off the gun and giving the operator a nasty ringing in the ears and a force 20 blow wave. Both Tony and Rob used the gun in the dig and only succeeded in shifting the air out of the cylinder!!

1978 onwards. Details are available in the relevant log books dates as follows;

7/1/78, 26/3/78, 2/4/78, 23/6/78, 30/6/78, 13/8/78, 20/8/78, 27/8/78, 7/10/78, 4/2/79, Aug. 79, 8/11/81, 20/11/82.

In conclusion. If your interested in digging (Heaven forbid) or if you have a dig that you wish to publicise then details are in the club 'NEW FINDS' book available from Ralph. YOU could be famous.

Congratulations to Paul Shenton and Lin Sproston on their engagement.

Congratulatuons to Paul also on passing his Graduates hip of the Royal Society of Chemis try. Will this mean less revising and more caving. (At least thats what we think he was getting up to.)

Here are the results of an investigation into the downfall of that almost extinct species of vehicle - those driven by Phil (Roland Rat) Marsden.

The investigation was prompted by ugly rumours that Phil has had hundreds of accidents in cars. The results prove that these rumours were vastly exaggerated and obviously spread about by some jealous and malicious person.

Just to illustrate our point we list below some of the unfortunate occurrences in Phil's driving 'career'.

PUSH BIKE.....Wheel came off going up ladderage. Phil went over his handle bars.

1100 ESCORT.....Reversed into a gate post.

" "A three point turn into a ditch and hit a post.

" "Doing 70 miles an hour and failed to stop when the car in front stopped. (Front damage to his car. one car written off and one car with rear damage.)

DAD'S MARINA.....Reversed into a gate post.

1600 ESCORT.....Having a race and went too fast through a ford. Bottomed his car denting the oil sump and knackered the front suspension.

" "Kevin was driving while drunk and drove over a railway line. (Front end damage. Front suspension and engine both knackered.)

" "This one wasn't his fault. He stopped at some traffic lights and a motor bike ran into the back of him.

" "Swung into Nick's drive and hit a bloody big ash tree.

" "Coming back from a pub in Derbyshire and put his car into a ditch.

" "Coming from the Rudyard one night doing about 60 mph. through the country lanes. Came to a bend, hit some ice and went straight into a ditch knocking a sign post down. (Front end damage)

" "Forgot to tighten the bolts on the clutch so they all sheered off leaving the bolt in the engine block.

Phil's lack of accidents in the last few months is not, as has been suggested, due to the fact that he hasn't had a car to drive, but, we feel, because he hasn't been able to think of anything new to run his car into. Phil solved this problem recently with a brainwave and in fact managed to run his car into himself! How are the legs Phil?

THE BIDDULPH ROAD RACE.

Four fit (?) members of the club attended the Biddulph Ten Killometer Road race. We ran a team for Ralph's local, The Staffordshire Knot. I am writing their names down in order of good looks, physical fitness, stamina and beer capacity:

Kevin Mountford

Paul Holdcroft

Cliff Jones (close runner up for beer capacity.)

Ralph Johnson

If you read this far you will most probably be flabberghasted to hear that Cliff entered a road race. So to stamp out these silly rumours while they are fresh in your minds I will tell you now that he only ran to the nearest pub and passed the leaders in the race in the process.

Ralph, Paul and Kevin who were the serious runners in the race all finished in respectable times and our team which was the Staffordshire Knot B team came second and the A team came first. (Not the A team off the tele) I will have to mention this little matter before Ralph starts spreading it around the club. Even though he's old and bow legged he beat me by a few seconds or it could have been a minute, but whose counting.

KEVIN.

ALKALI BURNS.

George recently had a close encounter with the electrolyte from his lamp while he was down Peak Cavern - Not a pretty sight!! If it happens to you then the immediate treatment is dilution with water. If you are in a dry cave use your initiative and hope your companions aim is accurate.

RULES FOR ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

1. There will be two competitions, Print and Slides.
2. Print competition to be judged at the annual do.
3. Entry fee 20p per entry.
4. All entries to have been taken during the last twelve months.
5. No restrictions on the size of print/slide.
6. Any number of entries per person.
7. Everyone present at the judging to have a vote.

PRIZES.

1. PRINT COMPETITION.

Enlargement of print to go on the wall of the Bleeding Wolf.

2. SLIDE COMPETITION.

Print to go on wall of Bleeding Wolf if acceptable. If not then a prize to be awarded (Roll of film, yard of ale suggested.)

A FEW SMALL POINTS OF ADVICE FOR VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CLUB.

PHIL.....

Fast cars help to bring distant places closer together.....
like this world and the next!

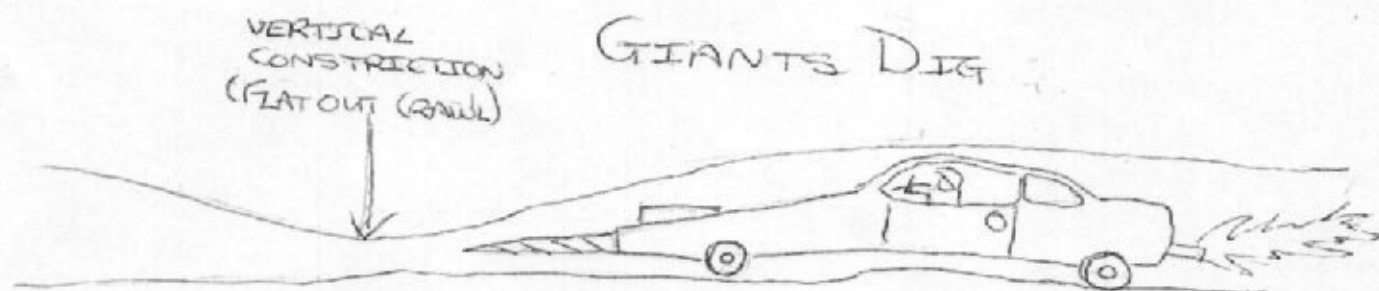
PAUL.....

If you want to blow your mind try smoking gunpowder!

RALPH.....

Life begins at forty....except for those who felt like 60 when
they were 20!

The Editor wishes to state that he has no prejudices.....
he just hates everyone.



DIAG. A.

Keen cavers will go to great difficulties and expense to conquer new passages.

There is now a new piece of caving equipment available at £3000 a go (one has been bought by a member of C.C.P.C.) which is guaranteed to pass any vertical constriction. See diag. A. above.

Cavers await eagerly the issue of a similar item (3-4 weeks?) which will be used for tight rift passages. Diag. B.

FRONT CROSS
SECTION



SIDE VIEW



DIAG. B.

ALISON.

-or alternatively 'where to get yourself a free Caving Supplies T-shirt' (a dubious gain)

As a non-scientifically minded caver who likes the thought of cave-diving my choice of lectures were obviously moulded by this. However, I didn't escape a fair share of cave science, and I was relieved to find it both understandable and enjoyable. Unfortunately I didn't arrive until Saturday lunchtime (Paul doesn't drive as fast as Melv.) which meant I missed the lecture by the C.C.P.C. punter, John Gillet, 'Caving in the Jura, France.'

There was a good lecture and some good slides of the Totes Gebirge Explorations (Austria), delivered in laycaver's language which made it seem like a good place to go. I was surprised to see that the club involved was Cambridge Uni. (envy) It was the least 'professional' lecture at the conference but we were all well amused. It was a light hearted look at the shortcomings of their trip which was never completed because they only had one bolting kit, and some pillock dropped it over the last pitch before they got chance to use it. (Couldn't C.C.P.C. teach them a thing or two?)

An interesting and illuminating talk was given by a gentleman considerably advanced in years, Arthur Gemmel, known for his discoveries whilst caving in the 30's with the Yorkshire Ramblers. His caving 'career' began in the 1920's and he described the conditions at that time. 'When I was a lad.....' There were many pregnant pauses in the delivery of this speech, but the 'audience' were too impressed at his powers of memory to mind! Being ostensibly a fell walking and climbing club, practising caving as only a sideline, the Yorkshire Ramblers decided in the 1930's that there were no more major discoveries in Yorkshire to be made! The club then apparently split into two factions and Gemmel took the prize of discovering many potholes, among them Hunt Pot and Sell Gill.

Next was a film without commentary on diving in Chapel-le-Dale; the underwater films weren't up to much, though they were genuine, unlike many cave diving films. I absconded from this half way through so I could listen to Rob Parker lecturing on the Pena Colorado Expedition, Mexico. Some of the problems their divers met up with was amply illustrated by the fact that they had to abseil a particularly large pitch fully kitted up, landing straight in the sump!

Then followed a light-hearted sap-take of Cavers and Caving - 'Cave 1984'; a film which had us all rolling. Tony Waltham was given a new official title of 'Bullsh__er' which, if you've been lectured by him is quite apt! A report was given on the effect caving has on one's sex life, its effect of unavoidable regression to brain death with sexist comments abounding. That concluded Saturday's lectures but 240 odd people piled to a speleo-hop which provided infinite entertainment till the early hours.

Tim Large and the B.E.C. engaged in gang warfare on the dancefloor against a hybrid of C.C.P.C. and Bedroc. We thought we'd won as they all fell over but as they recovered their feet, we submitted. We even got Paul Shenton on the dance floor - he was quite right; so we told him to pretend he was rope-walking - it was quite effective! Cheers to the B.C.R.A. tho', it was a good night out (even if they did only have fizzy beer) The evening did have one unfortunate result however; I slept through the Rift Pot lecture but there were plenty of photo's of it in the trade stands area, so I got some idea of what its like. (Anyone interested for 8th/9th December?)

Paul Ramsden gave a lecture on Caving Accidents and the need for training - whilst I approve I guessed it was little more than a plug for Whernside, so abstained.

The Zodiac Project 1984, diving in the Bahamas (Rob Palmer) was a report on the more colloquially called Blue Hole Expedition - an expedition with the prime object of studying the cave life in the Blue Holes. The filming was excellent and a T.V. programme (B.B.C.) is imminent and full of Bahamian promise. There was a minor set-back in its making when a spectacular shot of the Blue Hole, taken by a parachuting film-bod, looked as tough it might prove dangerous when an unwanted object of cave life appeared on the scene - a shark. The others allowed the jump to go ahead (decent chaps) and were suitably punished when the parachutist landed on the boat. The lecture highlighted the particular dangers inherent in blue hole diving i.e. whirlpools and non friendly cave/sea dwellers. It was so delivered though, that the room was full of eager hopefuls for the next expedition.

MULU '84 was accompanied by some remarkably spectacular photographs (courtesy of Jerry Woolridge) intended to whet our appetite for the Symposium in November to be held at Matlock. The lecture followed the progress of the Sarawak '84 Expedition - the walk through chaotic jungle, Farr's spectacular climb to reach the previously inaccessible high entrance to Tiger Cave and hazards encountered en route and in action (the inevitable 'Mulu Foot' photo popped up) The shots of the magnificent chambers to be found in Sarawak were unbelievable and many of us bought posters to try and capture some of the splendour for ourselves. More of Sarawak '84 after the Symposium though.

Undeniably the most exciting lecture was delivered by Dave Gill - Nare 1984 - The Untamed River Expedition. It was, as the timetable said - a preview and video. The video was that taken by the French cavers who failed to beat the river, but lost only one man. Dave Gill is 'counting' on losing three. Well, lets not write their epitaph yet.

A select team have left for New Guinea; eight to be on the surface and six below (yet another statistic at variance with the rest on this subject!) The terrific 850ft. absail, at the bottom of which the 'above' ground camp is to

be based, is apparently dwarfed by other New Guinea Holes (give us a rope Ralph, I can do that)

On the French expedition, communications were a problem so the British attempt will be aided by the use of telephone wires sheathed within the rope they will use for crossing the horrendous river underground. The ropes will be fired across the river by a grappling iron air launcher, a device used by the S.A.S. (wimps in the world of expeditionists themselves) Ear protection is to be used following the problem of deafness during and after the French attempt. It's not a question of being 'hard' for this expedition - it's a question of being mindless. Dave Gill had it suggested to him that he chose the six best cavers in the world, instead he chose the six loopest. To see the volume and ferocity of that river is to understand why the French got to Apocalypse Now about a mile in - I daren't contemplate how much farther our lads will get.

The actual lecture consisted of 15 words - 'we've got ourselves an untamed river - we hope to come back with a tamed one.'

Bloody good luck mates; rather you than I.

LIN.

Would any member who went on a caving trip abroad this year please send articles and details of the available accomadation to the Editor.

What do members think about arranging a special club trip down Giant's for Ralph. We all know he's getting older and his memory isn't quite what it was so we think he ought to have a bit of practise laddering up and down Giant's. Then maybe he won't send ladders that are too short. (i.e. Giant's Nov. '84, George and Alison)

MEMBERS LIST AND C.R.O. CALL OUT.

Please check your telephone number and address etc. (Is the code included?) The new list comes out soon are your details correct?

FOR SALE:

White tackle bags.....£4.50
Blue tackle bags.....£6.00
Club tee shirts - black (small only).....£3.00
Blue and white.....£3.50
S.R.T. bags available soon.
Club badges.....£1.00 See Cliff
Second hand wetsuit little used.....See Kevin

COMING SOON.

The truth about the Millington/Johnson visit to the Giant's dig (See previous Newsletter)

The full story of Lenny Howarths "Four-up" Motorcycle Tour Circus 1964!!
(When cavers were real men and women cavers were'nt invented)

FOR SALE.

Cheap underwater camera - offers Ralph.
Water RESISTANT camera box - see Ralph.
Gas mask-- offers Mark Wilson.
Sale - ear defenders/headache tablets/hearing aids used once in the club dig - apply Paul H.
Found, bottle. Peak Cavern - apply C.C.P.C.

LATE PHONE.

As you all know Ralph is rapidly approaching the age where he needs a good nights kip before, after, during a saving trip so please avoid ringing after 10.15 pm. unless it is urgent. If you want gear don't leave it until the last minute.

How to avoid calling out the C.R.O.

- 1) Don't have an accident.
- 2) Make certain you ring back to a responsible person as soon as you are out of a system. Recently there have been a few close shaves when parties have been overdue. The telephone should be your first port of call i.e. before the pub.

INTRODUCTION TO A HOLE

Agen Allwedd is an aquired taste one either loves it or loathes it. Personally I'd put it this way, if Aggy was as accessable and got the attention (deservidly or other wise) as say some un-mentionable Derbyshire sites, it would be by now the longest cave in Britain, overtaking Lanc/Easegill (no mean feat) and probably ranking in the world top ten, with the addition of so called lost system/Craig-A-Ffynnon link "Boyo".

Considering a club trip is nigh and overdue in this boulder ridden cavern, perhaps my efforts of exploration over the last few years may be of time'ly interest. Being presented in in the form of a handy couple of ammended surveys, conveniently sized and scaled to a portable A4 sheet. Only the further reaches are covered, which include several of the most remote locations in normal above water caving, would seem a pity not to get your teeth into it, after walking nearly two miles to the single (twinned) entrance. A bit shorter from Pen-Rhiw common as opposed to Whitewalls.

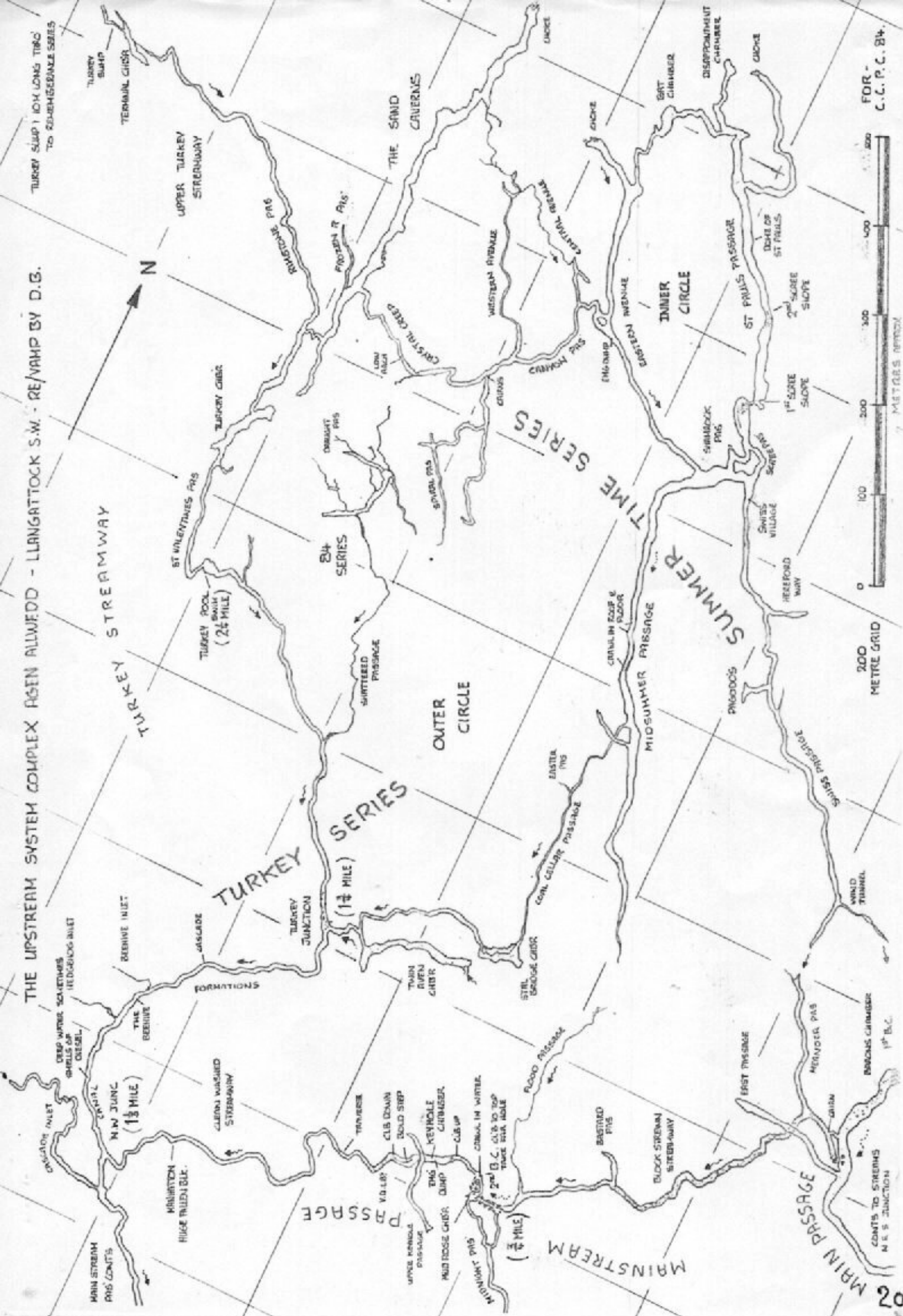
Parts of shown cave resemble a great amok 3D pinball m/c, so allthough minimal equipment is required, I wouldn't say a crowbar, tin-hat and toe-tectors were optional!?

An average of around one thousand visitors per annum pass throught its bombproof iron gate. Well over half of these however are various outdoor groups, scouts, army etc all mostly givern access outside the bat season, (ie summer) these groups normally never stray from the main passage area, thus sporting cavers tend to trot (stumble) along the entrance series on pilot, (which could be something to do with the late discovery of Northern Strem?) as the longer marathon round trips Fig/8 - Gr'd Circle and such are some six miles plus, and thus a severe test of endurance for any troglodyte and his lamp!

Q what do 12h caving trips, cocktails, crumpet and chainsaws all have in common? - - - - - Bloody leglessness.

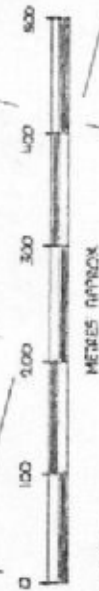
P.S. This article substitutes the report I'am compiling of our personal continental expeditions of recent times. This has literally turned into a monster, and was intentionally started and written with a proposed "FOREIGN JOURNAL" in mind SO BE IT! Being more hopefully presentable and suitable for perhaps a wider audience than the "COMIC". I'll await and no doubt hear if club members or their dogs, indeed anybody can produce and pool, fairly sensible usefull material for it, by the end of next year (85) to publish such a - journal. For which I would be willing to adopt and edit these 'surprises', that may eke from the brain and run down your leg ----- or mans best friend.

DAVID BAILEY.



OF NOTE - EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN SHOULDERS CHOKES 3 & 4. PARTICULARLY, THE ROUTES TWO' MAY CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME. CONSTANT SETTING IS CONTINUALLY IN PROGRESS. THIS RISK OF SHORING DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE A SAFE OR PERSISABLE WAY ON.

THE MIDDLE SECTION OF S/SYSTEM IS ALSO VERY LOOSE THIS EXISTENT ORDERLY PASSAGE IS FORWARDED



FOR -
C. C. P. C. 8th.

