

CCPC



Newsletter No.27

December 1990



Happy Christmas

* COMPETITIONS- NO PRIZES * REYNOLDS REMINISCES * MEMBERSHIP LIST *

* GOUFFRE BERGER INFO * "THE WELL" MEETS THE WEREWOLF *

* HOROSCOPES FOR CAVERS * BOLT FAILURES & LOTS MORE CHEERING ITEMS *

* CONDE BROTHERS RESCUE REPORT *

OPEN SHAFTS

Derbyshire County Council have complained to the Derbyshire Caving Association that cavers have removed concrete sleepers from capped mine shafts and not replacing them after exploration.

If you remove any capping, please make the mine safe again before leaving to protect people, animals and our reputation.

LIONELS GRILL

DCA have thanked CCPC for the work done on Knotlow Engine Shaft. If you have not seen it, Lionel has fitted a blue mesh grill which can be lowered to protect the shaft whilst the main lid is open. It is light enough to be opened from underneath on your return to the surface providing that a sheep isn't stood on it.

CARBIDE

I recently had the misfortune to observe the effects of a few lumps of carbide in an upland stream - the death of several suprisingly large fish!! The moto is-take it home. It's unsightly when dumped and obviously lethal when dispersed in water.

WATER ICICLES CLOSE MINE

There has been a collapse in North Passage of Water Icicles Mine. Someone has had a go at digging a way through it but the whole thing looks pretty unstable with some huge rocks balancing on thin air!

The roof of the passage looks as though it has been shattered by a large explosive charge - whether this has anything to do with the collapse I do not know.

There used to be a tight crawl in the floor of the Aven at the end of Northwest Passage. The last time I went there (October) this had disappeared beneath a pile of large (too heavy to lift) rocks.

It is advisable to treat these areas of the mine with a good coat of caution. South Passage hasn't moved yet but maybe they're taking it in turns!

STREAKS POT/NICKER GROVE

The sump separating Streaks Pot and Nicker Grove Mine is at an all time low and may open up if the weather is not too severe this Winter. Might make an interesting through trip!

DEVONSHIRE CAVERN

† Local residents (of Upperwood Rd. Matlock) have complained to the DCA
† that cavers cars are often left in the
† only turning place on the road whilst
† visiting Devonshire Cavern. They
† request that visitors to the cave park
† down the valley.

CARBIDE CONTAINERS

Because of the nature of Calcium Carbide (it will absorb water out of the atmosphere, giving off acetylene, a gas which will self detonate at 2 atmos. pressure under the right [or wrong] conditions), special consideration has to be taken when transporting it around in caves. The ideal container has to be airtight, waterproof, flexible, light, capable of expansion and cheap.

A suitable container can be made by cutting an 18" long section from an old motorbike inner tube. Bend the end over and seal it using an elastic band made by cutting a further ½" from the tube. Fill with carbide and seal the other

GOUFFRE BERGER 1991

The Gouffre Berger, near Grenoble, was the first cave in the world to be explored to a depth greater than 1000 metres. Despite having been superseded many years ago as the worlds deepest cave, it is still a strong contender for the title of the 'Worlds best Sporting Cave.'

We have got the Gouffre Berger booked from 01/07/91 until 10/07/91 and this is intended to be a very brief guide to some of the aspects of caving in such a large systems that may be unfamiliar to people who have only caved in Britain before.

Firstly, the cave is very large and it is quite common for people to be 'freaked out' by its sheer size : just be prepared for a much larger cave than you have been in before - there is no need to be intimidated as there are no great technical difficulties. Secondly, although a trip to the bottom of the cave is a serious and strenuous undertaking. The far less serious trip to camp 1 at - 500 m is within the ability of most cavers and is good enough in itself to justify the trip to France.

For all people visiting the cave, the following are essential :-

- 1) A carbide light, generator and spare carbide containers. Buy your light soon and become familiar with its operation. I will have a simple container for you to copy (see previous page) A usefull tip is to put fresh carbide in a section of stocking or tights inside the generator. This makes it easy to retain the lumps of good carbide when re-filling the generator.
- 2) A lightweight electric backup light. Petzl zooms are hard to fault and can be worn on your helmet at the same time as a carbide light. FX2's are also good.

A tackle sack complete with hanging cord. The length of the cord should be such that when it is attached to your sit harness, the sack does not get in your way when prussiking.

A food container: note that a mixture of peanuts and raisins (plus any other goodies that take your fancy) is better at sustaining you on a long trip than Mars Bars.

Competence in the basic techniques of SRT and the ability to perform them whilst carrying a full tackle sack.

Anyone intending going beyond camp 1 must bear in mind the real possibility of being trapped for a time by floods. Generally, it is possible to find somewhere dry and comfortable and to sit it out but it is essential to carry the equipment necessary to make your wait as comfortable as possible, at the same time bearing in mind the need to keep the weight and bulk of your personal equipment to a minimum. Past experience has shown that plastic exposure bags are far better in use in the cave than space blankets and they fully justify their extra weight and bulk. Beyond this, you should carry more food and spare carbide than someone going no further than camp 1. In addition it would be ideal if each party could carry a lightweight stove between them, though a carbide lamp will heat a drink in a tin mug in an emergency!

If you are venturing below camp 1 you will also need to be competent in moderately advanced SRT techniques and confident enough to carry them out on your own without anyone nearby to advise you; Parties venturing to the bottom

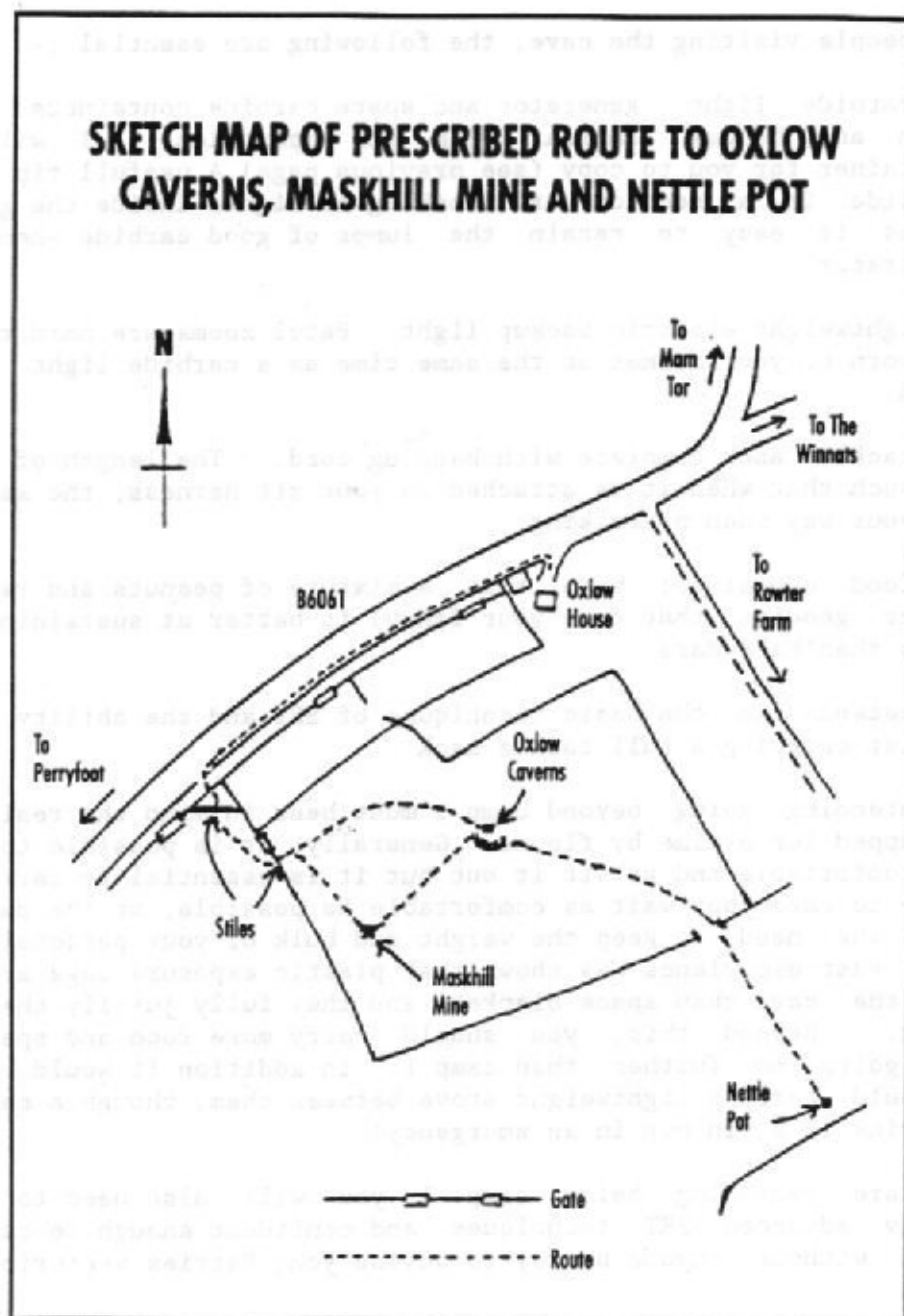
tend to naturally split up so that you may effectively be caving solo between pitches and find that the person in front will hang about at the top of a pitch until you reach the bottom before he continues his journey. This maximises the party's speed through the cave by cutting down waiting time at pitches whilst ensuring that nobody has completely dropped off the back. If you are confident in your ability you will find this quite acceptable.

Generally, there are very few tight or awkward passages, however, there are long passages with boulder-strewn floors and the ability to 'boulder-hop' whilst carrying a tackle sack is a great energy-saver. As such, and provided that you get in plenty of SRT practice, hill walking with a reasonably heavy rucksack is as good for training as anything else.

Finally, the trips tend to last a long time and a wetsuit can become uncomfortably itchy. Most people find the combination of furry/fleecy undersuit plus shell-type oversuit the best option.

I am bound to have forgotten something, so keep in touch and feel free to ask any questions.

Ade A-H (0782 662543)



KING POT - WELL MAYBE NOT!

We were sitting in the car an hour late as usual, my two brothers, Neil and Darren, a good friend of mine, Pip and myself that is, waiting to do King Pot without enough ropes. All because of a mix up in picking them up. Luckily I had remembered to throw our own rope in the back of the car and it was long enough for a through trip in Swinsto, so it was that or nothing.

So a quick change and a brisk walk up the hill and down we went. When we reached the first pitch we found that it was already rigged. No point in getting our rope dirty, so down we went. The long crawl was a little wetter than usual and the noise from the second pitch which was also rigged was getting louder. All was going well - and rather quickly for the third and fourth pitch were also rigged.

At the top of the fourth pitch we met three lads whose ropes we had used. One of the lads (whose name I did not catch so I will call him Dex) was in the middle of rigging and I got talking to the other two. I did most of the talking to Pete and Dex's brother, Ian. Pete and Dex were experienced cavers whilst Ian was a novice. Pete and myself were comparing systems we had both done when Dex shouted up about a deviation. Pete explained to Ian what to do, checked his stop was loaded correctly and down he abseiled. Pete and I continued talking but were cut short by a loud bang, like a tackle sack had been dropped down the pitch. Looking over the edge, all we could see were Ians legs. He was lying on his back around the wall of the split pitch with Dex looking over him.

Pete shot down the pitch straight away to see if he was OK. I said I'd wait at the top of the pitch because I had no climbing gear with me, but to shout if they needed me to come down. After about five minutes waiting at the top, Dex climbed back up to let us know what was going on. He said that Ian had hurt his arm and was complaining that his back was hurting, but seeing that he could move, it would be best to get him off that cold wet ledge as soon as possible.

The way we managed this was by threading a length of rope through a crab (because nobody had a pulley) on a sling belay. With one end attached to Ian, Dex climbed up the other to act as a counterbalance while Pete and I pulled from the bottom and the top. Between us, we managed to haul Ian

back up the pitch. After checking him over and weighing up the situation we decided that help was the best plan of attack. Because we were doing a through trip, we had only brought one set of climbing gear down with us, so Neil headed back out with it. Darren, Pip and myself carried on through, first one out to call for help.

The accident happened at 12.15 pm and we made our exit at 3.00 pm out of the valley entrance. Neil had beat us out and cave rescue had already arrived. A quick word with one of the rescue team then we headed back up the hill to see if we could be of any assistance. By the time we had climbed back up the hill to the entrance there were about a dozen or so already down. Darren and I were asked to rig a pulley with 60' of rope on the first pitch then to remove any rocks along the crawl which could get in the way of the stretcher. When we had finished we carried on to the top of the third pitch where we helped to haul Ian up.

Hard work was not the word. Ian was 6'2" and 15.5 stone. Even with six of us at the top of the pitch and God knows how many at the bottom pulling, he was heavy.

Once up, we pulled and carried him to the second pitch. This time I helped with the bottom pull which was a lot easier.

As soon as Ian was in the crawl I helped ferry some equipment up the second pitch and into the crawl. That is where I got collared along with two others. More manpower was needed for

the crawl.

The three of us crawled past the casualty and took hold of the lead rope. By this time I had left Darren at the bottom of the second pitch, I didn't know if Pip had come down or was still on top and I had no idea where Neil was.

The crawl was slow and hard with a long line of bodies pulling 6" at a time. It had been made easier because by this time a lot of water entering the cave had been diverted but all the same, it was still cold and wet with a long slow crawl in front of us. Halfway along the crawl, lying on a shelf, was a body I recognised. It was Pip. He had fetched the food and we had passed back earlier for Ian which by this time I think he was very grateful for it. It was at this point that Pip told me that a helicopter had landed to fly Ian to hospital. He then climbed down to help with the pull.

It seemed like a lifetime, but finally we reached the foot of the first pitch. Pip and I were chosen to help the team at the top with the stretcher haul up this final pitch. I had all the luck, this one was harder than the third because there wasn't enough room to pull.

Finally, at about 8.00 pm, eight hours later, we emerged from the entrance like heroes. It was dark and all you could see were faces all around. Ian was placed upon another stretcher, wrapped in a red quilt blanket and loaded onto the helicopter. In a blaze of light and deafening noise, away he flew to hospital.

In the pub later we met up with Pete and Dex. We sat down with a very welcome pint and they told us what they thought had gone wrong. It seems that as Ian had descended, he had entered the flow of water, causing him to speed up. Panic-stricken, he grabbed hold of his stop which anyone with one will know does the opposite of slowing you down. A very quick, uncontrolled descent followed and the rest is history.

The next day, there was a small write-up in some of the national papers. They said his name was Ian Dexter aged 21 from Skegness and he had suffered a broken arm.

The length some people will go to just to get a ride in a helicopter!

T Conde (Coddy)

★
YOUR STARS

★
MD T. LEEF
★



CANCER (June 21 - July 20):

A short dark stranger may ask you to lift a great burden from him and send you off to dig a connection between Giants and Nettle. Tell him to bog off!



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):

If a small ugly caver laughs and tips a wellie full of water down your neck whilst you are climbing a ladder, ask him if he has remembered his helmet.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22):

As the moon enters your sign this month, avoid places which end in 'low' or things may go with a bang. A good time to convert boring old mines into new open plan models.



VIRGO (Aug. 22 - Sept. 22):

You will meet a short dark woman in Caving Supplies who will offer you crap advice and rip you off. A member of the EPC will bum drinks off you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22):

Always wear an armoured jock strap when walking home from the Wilk's Head. Don't be too surprised if a tall stranger pisses in your sink.

THE OTHER CAVES OF DERBYSHIRE
Hanging Flat Mine, Middleton Dale

Gill and I were in the Three Staggs Heads one Sunday lunchtime when a stranger who looked as though he had fell off the front of a Quaker Oats packet approached us. It must have been obvious that we had been caving and he started telling us about his own exploits.

Most of it was about adventures in Carlswalk etc, but when he asked if we had ever visited Hanging Flat Mine, our ears pricked up - this one isn't in the COD.

He told us that he knew the director of the mine and that it had only closed ten years previously. He also said that it was full of mining relics. He gave us directions which we both memorized differently and we resolved to find it at a later date.

The next weekend we got off to a later than planned start and so decided to go for a potter around and examine this new 'find'. We got to Middleton Dale and tried to recall the details of where it was. I remembered him saying that it was on the left, Gill remembered him saying it was on the right. I remembered 'third lay by'; Gill remembered 'second lay by' etc.

The girl at the 'lovers Leap' Cafe was extremely helpful and produced a map of all the local mines. Hanging Flat wasn't on it. Back to the Three Staggs Heads. Our informant wasn't in but the landlord asked everyone in the pub for us. No joy. Perhaps we had dreamed it or the old fellow had made it up.

It was now going dark and sleeting so we decided to go for a potter around for an hour to let the beer go down before we started again. We couldn't do Lay By Pot as someone was already using the only safe belay point. We drove down to Lay By Shelter and noticed a promising looking hole. We both changed and crawled off into a passage which was at least 15' long before becoming completely blocked with flowstone.

One last look and then to the pub. We climbed over brambles etc until we came to a ruined building. Inside it an adit ran off into the rock face. Above the adit was painted "Knockers Pipe".

Inside it fitted the old mans description perfectly. Lots of mining relics still in place and obviously quite a modern if rather small scale mine.

A left fork at a junction led for a hundred yards to a working face. Right at the junction was a lot more interesting. After a short walk amongst a load of very rotten timber we came to a shaft in the floor. The way ahead was blind so we decided to go for the shaft. A 35' ladder almost reached the bottom but there was absolutely nothing sound to belay to. We both descended about half way down before the old bottle went when we saw what was above us and returned to the pitch head.

If anyone fancies a go at this mine it is very easy to find once you know how. Park at Lay By Shelter and walk down the hill until you come to a ruined building on your left - easy. The rock is shattered and wouldn't safely hold a bolt so take a 6' scaffolding bar to belay to. Forty feet of ladder will get you down the first pitch. Beyond that we don't know - I don't know anyone who has been any further.

The mine does actually get a mention in COD under Lay By Shelter but it is not described. Anyone got any more for the collection?

Mark

THE RETURN OF "THE WELL"

Many members will recall "the well" at the Fernihoughs Farm. A year or two ago we helped him to improve his water supply. This time he had got his pump stuck down the bottom of the 90' deep well.

Ralph and Paul led the first assault and were unable to free the offending item and so were asked to cut off the various attachments (the water pipe, electric cable, hauling rope etc) so that the borehole could be abandoned and a smaller pump used to extract water from the older (upper) well.

When we had done this and measured the various bits, we came to the conclusion that when Mr F had tried to extract the pump, the cable had not been coming up with it and it was probably that which had jammed the pump in the borehole pipe. On the way home, we hatched a plan.

Thursday evening saw Mark, Gill and Inga down the well, taking measurements with a fishing line and a lead weight observed by Ralph and Margurite. Mark managed to haul the pump up the borehole for a few feet before it jammed solid again. The evening finished off in the "Poachers Tavern" at Rudyard.

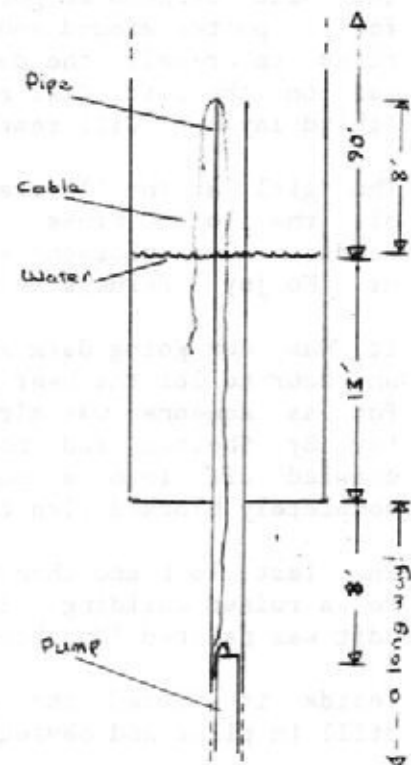
About two weeks later, Ralph, Paul and Ron arrived equipped with 35' of steam pipe (from Ron's cowshed) threaded onto a nylon rope (we couldn't get enough collars) and various other bits of gear that we thought might be useful. Part of the roof of the building which houses the well had to be removed since it was in the way and the 12' lengths of pipe wouldn't fit, but in no time at all they were in position and Paul was dispatched to guide them into the borehole. The idea was to secure all the ropes, cables etc then try to move the pump back down the borehole using the steam pipe and a sledge hammer.

Balanced on top of the pipe, Paul tried to hook the rope which had fallen down the pipe with a home-made grappling iron. Having failed, in desperation he gave the offending power cable a tug - the pump immediately freed itself and set off down the borehole like a torpedo. Fortunately Paul managed to stop it before it disappeared completely by wrapping the cable around his leg and then praying that he didn't (or at least his leg didn't) follow the pump down the pipe!

The rest was academic. Within 30 minutes we had the pump, cable etc etc on the surface and we were on the way home.

Will there be a sequel to this story, (Son of "the well")?

Ralph.



The 90' deep well shaft is rumoured to have been dug in the 13th century by monks when the farm was a grange. When the water table was lowered by the water board sinking various boreholes around the surrounding land, the well became unreliable. This was solved by sinking a borehole in the floor of the well and so effectively deepening it. The borehole was lined with a pipe and a cylindrical pump, weighing about 1 cwt was fitted internally in the pipe below water level. This eventually broke down but attempts to remove it were thwarted when the cable became jammed between the pump and the pipe wall. Now read on.....

NO SUN ON DR BANNISTERS

"Isn't it funny how inspiration strikes? Could it be that months of preparation on the part of Colin Hodgson were prompted by that extremely creditable (do I mean credible?) subterranean trip reported in this magazine or was it another of those schemes that are usually associated with pubs and the odd pint or two? Surely it must be the former I thought, as Colin who doesn't drink beer, suggested the trip in his own unique way.

"Doing anything tomorrow?"

"Day off" I replied.

"How about Dr Bannisters in a Bat?"

I resisted the obvious joke about my health and so 12 hours later on a damp Saturday morning in August we negotiated the assault course of a track so well known to cavers and not generally associated with canoing in Colins Chevette. Having got past pits in the road that trap many an unwary Sherman tankdriver, Colin swung the car into a convenient space on the limestone pavement. We dressed ourselves in gear that we felt suited our mission and unloaded the Rotobat from the roofrack. I reflected that a spud may have been more appropriate.

Not entirely with the courage of our convictions, we hid boyancy aids, head torches, helmets (of the canoists type, after a little discussion), spraydeck and camera in the bat and started on the walk past the gate and up the track. With a bit of luck the several caving parties that we encountered might think it was a new type of caving holdall, unlikely.

Yes, this was the spot. There was still no river in sight but we could hear the rush of water beneath our feet. The stream emerged from a steam at the bottom of a crevice, ran along a cleft in the floor and then dissappeared into blackness. Pausing only for the obligatory photos and to let an amused caving party past, we clambered down into the hole, dragging our plastic luggage behind us. (Samsonite, eat your heart out.)

Dr Bannisters is a pool at the bottom of a 20' chute/fall where the water collects before heading off down a streamway in the Long Churn Cave System. The top of the fall itself is 20' underground and our objective was to shoot it. The only question in our minds was how much adrenilin would we need?

Lots. After setting up the rope and a breif inspection, Colin struggled to get into the Bat at the top of the fall. The confined space and rushing water meant that this was only possible by jamming ones back against the ceiling of the passage. I positioned myself with the camera in the pool and waited. Colin positioned himself at the top, rope in one hand, paddles in the other. We had agreed on taking my Schlegels partially for the required support stroke on reaching the pool but partly for the asthetics of the photographs. With a shout Colin released the rope and fired down the fall. Flash went the camera. Slap went the support stroke. The 20 cavers with me clapped and cheered. No, Colin didn't know they were there; he was quite embarassed. It was quite a comic scene and I did feel out of place; none of the cavers were wearing boyancy aids (mad fools). Still in the boat, leaving the paddles behind, I scouted down ahead for obstacles while Colin drifted down the narrow streamway. He was able to negotiate the bends, small stoppers and even whirlpools by pushing off the walls.

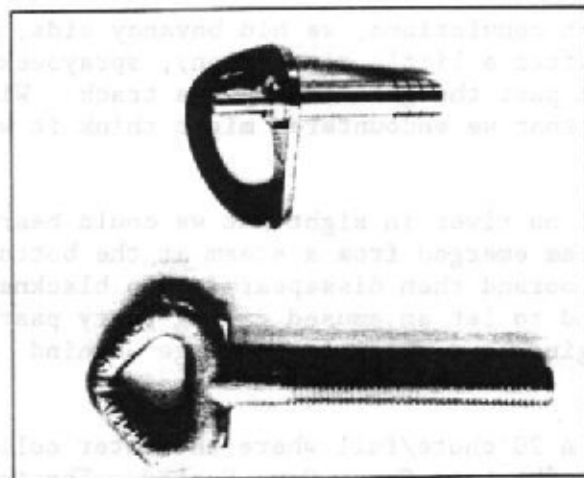
Then it was my turn. After managing to haul the Bat up the fall I breathlessly (exertion or nerves?) attempted to wedge myself in the craft. My panic was increased by dropping my head torch in the stream. First Colin took a photograph

FAILURE OF 8mm SELF-DRILL ANCHORS

Up to December 1989 only a few of these bolts had failed at widely spaced time intervals. The problem was usually rusting of the threads so the hanger could not be placed. New bolts were placed causing "bolt rash". Members of C.R.O. noted that in January 1990 five 8mm anchors failed. Since then at least 30 of these bolts have failed. In most cases this has been due to the threads stripping. In at least two cases the use of extra long bolts, spannered down, has pushed the cone out of the bottom of the spit thus ejecting it from the hole.

The seriousness of the failures lies in the fact that they are on SRT routes where every bolt is vital for the safe descent of the route. A missing bolt on a traverse may lead a party to descend too early and go "off route" down a hazardous descent. A missing rebelay on a descent may cause rope abrasion lower down. When vital bolts are missing a party should be prepared to abandon the descent until a permanent and safe bolt is placed.

A permanent bolt should have a load bearing axle of 12mm or 1/2inch diameter. The hanger should be steel and not alloy because of the way in which alloys corrode. Ideally hanger and stud should be stainless steel. permanent anchors can be adhesive fixed with industrial-grade Araldite or other epoxy resin. The hole may need to be cleared and dried with acetone.



Two types of permanent rock anchor made by Petzl, the P38 (above) and the P40 (below).

The Petzl long-life anchor system P38 uses stainless steel anchor and hanger. The hole diameter is 12mm by 46mm deep. A drivepin expands the end of the bolt to fix it in the hole. It has a strength of 2200Kg. If such a bolt ever came out it could be glued back with Araldite. Any load bearing rope should be fastened to at least two such bolts.

Using a Bosch 24volt cordless hammer drill and the 1.2Amp hour battery 5 bolt holes were drilled for Petzl P38 bolts. the drill bit was S.D.S. Plus. A peg hammer is useful to chisel a flat for the hanger, against the rock. A blow pipe and miniature bottle brush will clean out the bolt hole. An old cylinder head engine-bolt makes a suitable drive punch to avoid damaging the stainless plate when hitting the drive pin. All apparatus that can be dropped down the pitch can be fastened by cords to a karabiner, clipped to the caver. The hammer drill takes a minute to drill a bolt hole; the hand held punch may take over two hours especially in hard, black limestone.

We now possess the information and technology necessary to replace those failing 8mm bolts with more reliable stainless steel anchors!

Allan Brook



Anybody we know?

NO SUN ON DR BANNISTERS

(Continued)

of my head torch heading down the waterfall and then he realised something was wrong. The sight of the beam of the torch shining up from the bottom of the pool was greeted with a frougt 'Brad?'

It's OK, Colin I just dropped it.' I cried.

The almost tangible relief gave way to 'Don't ever do that again.'

I wasn't intending to. We retrieved the torch and I completed the 15' of steep chute followed by a clear drop of 5'. The wait had caused a bit of water to build up behind me and the speed with which it shot me down was breathtaking. There is something worrying about only seeing a small circle of light in front of you as you rush over the drop.

We celebrated with a large mug of tea in the cavers cafe in Ingleton, where else? My lasting memory will be of a caver at the bottom of Dr Bannister's walking over to us and asking 'Are you guys cavers, canoeists or nuts?' Colin and I grinned at the enquirer.

'Yes' we replied.

[Brad Lincoln: reproduced without permission from 'Canoeist' April (1st?), 1990].

GIANTS.

6th July 1974.

PARTY: ROB, GREG, ALAN, SIMON AND MYSELF.

WE DESCENDED GIANTS TO DO THE FILTHY FIVE AT 10.45 AM GOING DOWN THROUGH THE UPPER SERIES. LEAVING GREG, ALAN AND SIMON TO BAIL VALENTINES. ROB AND MYSELF WENT TO LADDER GEOLOGY AND ROPE THE FIRST CASCADE WHICH IS WHERE ROBERT AND MYSELF MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF OUR POT HUNG CAREERS. WITH THE WATER NOT FLOWING VERY STRONGLY AND THE GROUND ABOVE BEING ALMOST DRY WE NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED HAVING A LOOK TO SEE IF THE CANAL WAS IN FLOOD OR NOT. WE RETURNED TO HAVE A TEN MINUTE DIG AT ROB'S DIG. ROB DOING ALL THE DIGGING HE DUG THE LAST BIT OUT OF THE FIRST CHOKER AND PUSHED THROUGH TO ANOTHER MUD CHOKER ABOUT 25' FURTHER IN. (SO A LOT MORE DIGGING TO BE DONE.) SO BEING SATISFIED WITH THAT WE RETURNED TO VALENTINES TO SEE HOW THE LADS WERE GETTING ON TO OUR SUPPOSE THEY'D FINISHED. HAVING MADE TWO GOOD DAMS. THE SUMP WAS FILLING UP AGAIN THEY'D BEEN WAITING FOR US THAT LONG. ROB TRIED TAKING A PICTURE OF ME COMING THROUGH THE FIRST PART OF THE SUMP BUT THE SHUTTER STRUCK SO THAT CURED THAT. OFF WE SET TO DO THE FILTHY FIVE. THE FIRST TWO PITCHES AREN'T VERY BIG OR AS ALAN HAD LED US TO EXPECT VERY MUDDY BUT ONCE WE'D BOTTOMED THERE IT WAS QUITE EASY TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANT THE BOTTOM OF THE THIRD PITCH IS FROM ANKLE TO THIGH DEEP IN A VERY STICKY STUFF THAT IS BEYOND EXPLANATION. THE PITCHES AREN'T VERY BIG OR DIFFICULT BUT WITH THAT MUCH MUD AROUND LIFE GETS VERY TEDIOUS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOURTH PIT WE WERE COMPLETELY LOST FOR CHOICE A PASSAGE TO THE RIGHT A VERY LARGE LAKE TO THE LEFT AND A SMALL PASSAGE GOING ON, WELL WE CURSED EVERY BODY WE COULD THINK OF FOR NOT MENTIONING THE FACT OF A LAKE THIS SIZE. IT NEVER DAWNED ON US THAT IT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE CANAL IN FLOOD. HAVING PULLED THE ROPE DOWN AFTERNS WE'D NO WHERE TO GO BUT BACK UP THE FOURTH PITCH AND WAIT FOR

SOMEONE TO PANIC. WE ALL UNDOLED UP IN A BIG BUNCH AND WENT TO SLEEP AFTER A LIFETIME A VOICE THAT OF ALAN WALKER. IT HAD NOT BEEN ROB'S MOTHER OR MINE AS WE'D EXPECTED BUT ALAN WHO WAS WAITING AT MY MOTHER'S FOR US TO COME HOME. AFTER PHONING RALPH WHO PHONED MR WATSON WHO CONFIRMED THE FACT THAT A CAR WAS STILL ON THE FARM. SO THE TWO OF THEM DECIDED TO HAVE THE ONLY CAME RESCUE CALL OUT EVER. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A SHOCK WHEN RALPH DIDN'T FIND US AT THE BOTTOM OF GEOLOGY AS HE'D HOPED TO AND US. MEANWHILE ROB HAD LIT AN EIGHT HOUR CANDLE TO GIVE US SO JUDGEMENT OF TIME IT HAD ALMOST BURNT OUT WHEN ALAN'S VOICE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE. JOHN PRESTON HAD DIVED VALENTINES WITH THE LADDERS TO GET US OUT. WE GOT THROUGH VALENTINES TO FIND RALPH BAILING HIS HEART OUT TRYING TO KEEP THE WATER DOWN. MOST OF THE CLUB HAD TURNED OUT AND DC RO WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE. MOST OF THE RESCUE WAS A CLUB EFFORT

DON'T TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED, ALWAYS CHECK THAT THE WAY OUT IS AS CLEAR AS THE WAY IN. MAKE DOUBLY SURE WHEN YOU'RE TAKING THE ROPE OFF THE PITCHES AS YOU GO.

TIME DOWN 1045 AM 6TH JULY

TIME OUT 345 AM 7TH JULY

RINGING THE CHANGES

The caves and mines of Derbyshire seem to have changed more over the last 25 years than they did over the last 1,000 years. Below are some extracts from the first edition of "The Caves of Derbyshire" (1964). How many can you name?

(Answers on bottom of next page)

- 1) Middleton Dale.
Altitude 830ft. Length 20ft.
On north side of dale, opposite second lay-by coming from Ward.
low. Behind earth bank and vegetation.
Short mined passage slopes down into aven, with dirty stalactite above
and pot 2 feet wide with 8 feet deep below, at present choked
with rubbish.
- 2) Matlock Bath.
Altitude 300ft.
Short passage on east side of Derwent by weir at Masson Mill leads
to pool chamber. Rope useful for return.
- 3) Great Hucklow.
Altitude 1,000ft.
A choked small swallet at Grindlow, near Great Hucklow. Abortive
attempts have been made at digging, so far without success.
Water said to go to Bagshaw Cavern.
- 4) Castleton.
Altitude 1,300ft. Length 20ft.
In old quarry on south side of top of pass. Collapsed cave with roof
blocks resting on earth fill.
- 5) Middleton-by-Wirksworth.
Listed by Farey (1811, p. 293) "in 4th line—stalactites." Location
now unknown.
- 6) Old Cave: Follow stream into obvious entrance for 100 feet, to climb
and traverse into Upper Series—several rather muddy passages
with a few stalactite formations. Return to stream. Continue
down to Curtain (where rock comes down to 9 inches above water,
or less in flood conditions). Crawl under and climb into roof.
soon reached. Retrace steps a few yards and climb into roof.
Hole on left (looking downstream) is Pillar Crawl for about 60
feet. Drop 8 feet into sloping passage down to Backwash Pool.
Backwash Pool Dams: Bale water out of pool into a series of dams
until access is possible through sump. If they are full on arrival dams
next party cannot bale into them. On leaving drain dams or
first to get rid of excess water and then bale out (Level should
be down to outlet of first dam before baling is started). Last
man should leave can on first dam to warn other parties that a
party is already inside. On leaving the cave do not drain if
anyone else is inside.
New Series: After the dams and sumps a short passage leads to
- 7) Coombs Dale, Stoney Middleton.
A low bedding cave entrance high on hillside near foot of Coombs
Dale. Very tight crawl leads to rift, with crawls leading off.
Good formations.
Also known as V.D.C.
- 8) Altitude 620ft. Depth 90ft.
Manifold Valley.
In wood under Darfar Crag on east bank. Entrance 3 feet wide,
15 feet above river.
Rope pitch of 50 feet followed by 30 feet descent to clay bank and
down rock passage for 60 feet. Possible to squeeze past boulder
into chamber with pool. Liable to flooding.
Tackle: 50ft. rope.
Another cave in the same crag has Pleistocene and Neolithic remains
and is being dug by the Rolls Royce Caving Club, Derby.
- 9) Matlock Bath.
Altitude 840ft. Length over 2,000ft.
Entrance close to Victoria Tower on Heights of Abraham. Largely
old lead mine with limited solutional cave at end. Entry is by
workings in Great Rake, leading into northward continuation of
Rutland (Old Nestus) Pipe Vein, with numerous worked out
vein cavities. So-called Lake is a short flooded level. Good
example of mining in pre-explosive days. Branch galleries still
being worked via Black Ox shaft. Passages lead through to open-
cast fluor spar workings and former Knowles Mine on summit of
- 10) Manifold Valley.
A group of unnamed caves except for St. Bertram's, on Beeston Tor.
Ropes required to descend some.
References: G. H. Wilson 1926, "Some crags and caves of Peak-
land," pp. 38-47; G. H. Wilson 1934, "Cave hunting holidays in
Peakland," pp. 47-56.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Answering the clues correctly will reveal a piece of advice which is **GUARANTEED** to reduce pain and suffering and help ensure health and happiness over the coming year.

OLDEN MIXTURE	(5)
WODENS MATES CAVE	(5)
SNAPPED DIGIT POT IN YORKSHIRE	(6,6)
IF MITES GO UP, THEN THESE COME DOWN	(5)
HOME COUNTY OF CEFN CAVE	(5)
FISSURE IN PEAR IF TORN	(4)
AMPUTEES REMAIN ANGRY	(5,5)
YOUNG SHEEP GRIN SUGESTIVELY IN SOMERSET	(4,4)
LOS ANGELES YACHT STARTER BY SIDE OF ROAD	(5)
TRANSITION METAL HILL RESURGENCE	(6)
CAVERN WHERE A PIOUS CAPRICORN MAY GO	(4,6)
GLASS SPHERE AS IN STEPS	(6)
STRETCHER HELPS DESCENT	(4)
CAVE CONTAINING A RING OF BRIGHT WATER?	(5,4)
PASSAGE IN BOWELS OF MARBLE STEPS	(9)
GREY BIRD CAVES IN MANIFOLD	(4,5)
NAUTICAL MPH DEPRESSION	(7)
SOMERSET HOLE UPSET LIL'S ONE	(7)
CRUSTACEAN STROLL?	(4,4)
UNDERGROUND WATER TRACER	(11)
FOOLS MAY LEAP HERE	(6)
A MENDIP WITCH LIVED IN THIS HOLE	(6)
BLACK AND WHITE BIRD BELONGS TO ME	(6,4)
DOES THIS GULF SMELL OF GIN?	(7)
COULD YOU MAKE LENGTHS OF BUTTER IN THIS?	(4,5)
FLOWER POT IN GIANTS?	(7)
KEYHOLE CLEFT BOYO	(4,7)
CALCITE DEPOSIT ON WALLS	(9)
WALL RACKS BECOMES CONFUSED	(9)

Solution in next newsletter.

7) LATBY POT. The shaft is now 46' deep and the length measured at 1,215'.
 2) DIBO'S CAVE. Cheated here a little. Although the current COO records the length as 1,400 ft, most of this is only accessible to divers.
 3) DUCE HOLE. Now recorded as 200 ft in length with digging still in progress.
 4) WILMATS HEAD CAVE. Although this is recorded as being 250 ft deep, it has been pushed a lot further by a group from New Mills (whose name escapes me). It is now a serious contender for the title of 'deepest cave in Britain'.
 5) BOWDOO HOLE. This 'lost' cave has reappeared. It is a single large cavern at the bottom of a 260' mine shaft.
 6) GIANTS HOLE. This part of the cave was destroyed by miners acting upon the behalf of Mr Watson in his attempts to convert it into a show cave. Further on in the description is 'Garland Pot (fixed iron ladder for 50 feet)'. The reduction in depth is due to crap thrown down the pot by the miners.
 AD and see if anything is still recognizable. Mark

9) GREAT MASSON CAVERN. Now described as "over 5 miles", a dramatic increase of more than 13,000 feet. It is also described as "one of the deepest cave-cum-mine systems in the country".
 10) BEESTON TOR CAVES. These are now known as PRITCHARD'S, MAYHOLE, ST BERTHAMS, JACKDAW and LYNX Caves (west to east).
 JACKPOT was not discovered until after the book was published and so is not included. OXLOW includes complicated instructions for descending the slope to the 4th pitch and virtually every major cave has been extended considerably.
 It would be interesting to repeat this exercise in 2015 AD and see if anything is still recognizable. Mark

8) BASFAR CRAG SWALLET or POT. "Now blocked with fern debris".
 1964 COO as "COLLIERS PERIL CAVE".

Current Members (December 1990)

- Gill Argo
- Dave Bailey
- Jason Bailey
- Ron Beckett
- Rodney Beaumont
- Anita Botham
- Melvyn Bratt
- Derek & Jane Brookes
- Sarah Godling
- Daren Conde
- Tracy Conde
- Neil Conde
- Ian Copeland
- Russel Copeland
- George Crane
- Nigel Cooper
- Kevin Dunleavy
- Brian Edmonds
- Ross Evans
- Keith Falkner
- Michelle Fallon
- Peter Forster
- Ian Freeman
- John Gillett
- Liam Gilling
- Mick & Caroline Green
- Adrian Hanson-Abbot
- Paul Holdcroft
- Lewis Holleway
- Ian Housley
- Lionel Howarth
- Ralph and Margerite Johnson
- Cliff Jones
- John Kelsall
- Stan Kowalik
- Steve Knox
- Liam Kealy

Work

Home

Redacted

Current Members (Cont)

Work Home

Brian Kirkland
Steve Lamb
Mark Lovatt
Kevin Mountford
Phil Marsden
Geoff Millington
Steve Mills
Colin Morris
Linda Northfield
Lionel Parkinson
D Potter
Tony Reynolds
Mark Riva
Alan Scragg
Martin Soliman
Paul Shenton
John Shenton
John Smith
Peter Steadman
Alan Steele
Mark Stephens
Alan Walker
Paul Wightman
Zig Wozasec

Past Members

Ian Grindey

Redacted

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* **IMPORTANT** Some of this list looks highly dubious to me. Due to a combination of poor photocopying,
* Ralph's handwriting, people not bothering to tell me etc etc there are a few details which need
* confirming eg does Brian Edmonds have no address? does Mark Stephens really live in Welbarny Close?
* does D Potter have no first name? is there such a place as 'Peog Hays'? Please let me know ASAP so that
* you don't miss a callout, a newsletter or a caving trip. Mark (0625 426946) December 1990
*
