

# CREWE CLIMBING AND POTHOLING CLUB

NEWSLETTER JUNE 1984

No. 5.

Edited by Kevin Mountford.

## THE CLUB 'DO'

Most of the comments about the 'Club Do' have so far been complimentary. In my opinion, anyone who didn't make it, missed a good night out, so book it down in your diary for next year. The floor show engineered by that 'right pair' (Newsletter Feb.84) Phil and Kevin was excellent, despite being 'near the knuckle' (rumour has it they're auditioning for TW TW TW!) and the Wally awards had an excellent standard of entry, with Phil's 'Berger evacuation' gaining most points on the clapometer, narrowly followed by Ziggy's 'rescue in Knotlow'. Finally I would like to thank our resident DJ/compare/ringmaster/MC Cliff Jones for sterling service. If you have any suggestions for 1985, they'll be most welcome and if you can 'do a turn' \_\_\_\_\_ !!

J.R.JOHNSON.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Thanks to all those who took part in this competition which was judged at the 'club do' in February. The standard of entries was high, the winner by a narrow margin being Mel Bratt with a slide of C.J at the Columns (OPD). Anyone with suggestions for improving this competition should submit ideas to ALAN SCRAGG who (with minimal pressure and without resorting to the usual strong-arm tactics) has agreed to collect, analyse and publish suggestions. This competition will hopefully become an annual event, so don't leave it too late -- Do it now. Pass on your suggestions either in person or in writing.

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## WINNATS HEAD CAVE

It has been stated that rescue from Fox Chamber is now impossible, and there are rumours about the cave entrance to be blocked permanently!!

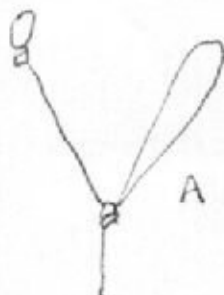
## GET KNOTTED !!

(An abbreviated version of a recent article in Caves and Caving.)

For 'attachment knots' the strongest are Fig.8 and Fig.9. Contrary to popular belief the bowline is particularly poor. The Fig.8 and Fig.9 are less good when used other than in an 'end' situation.



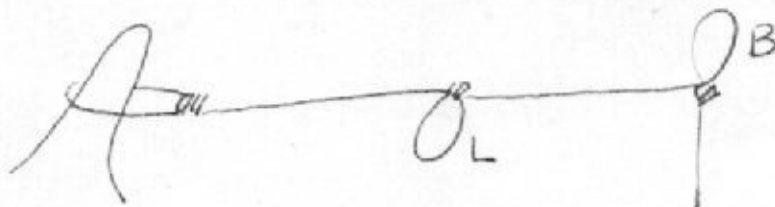
In the above diagram, should the bolt fail then the Fig.8 at this point will no longer be loaded along it's main axis ie. an 'end' knot, but will become a middle knot, and the rope will be much weaker at this point. MORAL -- avoid this situation by always using 'Y' anchors.



In the above diagram B (Bowline or Fig.8 on the right) is better than A, since in A the Fig.8 or 9 on the large loop is basically a 'middle' knot.

Now what happens in B if one of the bolt fails? In the case of a Fig.8 on the right, then nothing unexpected happens. With a bowline on the right, it depends on how the knot is tied!! Sometimes the loop slips back into the knot absorbing much of the energy of the fall, thus being stronger, BUT it depends how the knot is tied. Personally I would go for the Fig.8.

Now for a 'new' concept (unless of course you're old enough to remember the Tarbuck knot!) A shock absorbing knot can help considerably.



In the above diagram, should the bolt fail (B) then the loop of rope (L) can absorb the energy, if say a butterfly knot is used. You can't of course use the traverse line to hang on, since the butterfly knot will slip, but it does help if you fall onto the traverse line,--- think about it!

PS. Having been weened on shock absorbing knots such as the Tarbuck knot, I am putting together some ideas of my own for consideration by Dave Elliot. I'll let you know the outcome.

J.R. JOHNSON

### COMPLAINT

Dear Editor,

May I complain about the objectionable insinuation that females employed by H.H. Government in the armed forces (particularly the Navy) are of low intelligence as portrayed in your 'problem page' of your February issue. I also take exception to the term 'Naval fluff'.

C.P.O. Wiggins W.R.N.S.

Hello Sailor,

The article refered to Navel fluff' not Naval fluff.

Ed.

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GOING \_\_\_ GOING \_\_\_ GONE

Some people have said, and I would not disagree, that the Mayday Bank holiday meeting was the best they have ever attended. Although the attendance was lower than usual (where was Tony Reynolds) I'm sure those who were present will agree it went very well. The agenda was dealt with very quickly, but for the life of me I can't remember one single item. I should add here that I lost my bit of paper on which I was taking notes, and all those people who asked me to book certain caves should approach me again ---- before I oil my neck this time. After the meeting proper, we held an impromptu auction, Alan Walker, recently retired, had sent along some gear which he wanted to dispose of. Krabs, tapes, helmets and belt, along with various other bits and pieces all went 'under the hammer'. Most people were happy with what they managed to successfully bid for, and Alan Walker became £40 better off, (he originally wanted £25 for the lot) . People with gear to sell , take note.

Also on auction was a collection of photographs recently taken in Yorkshire, and the proceeds of these were for club funds. Photograph NO.1 went to Phil Marsden, whose final bid of one new tackle bag, secured him a black and white print of his own face. Photograph No.2, in a sealed plain envelope, also went to Phil (what's this I've got in my hand) Marsden, for a paltry £2. (I think people took pity on Phil, whose inability to tell his \*\*\*\* from his face must put his reputation as a hard ? caver at risk.) Photograph No.3 after some hard bidding, went to Paul Shenton for £5, and although the print was once again in a sealed plain envelope, most people knew what it showed. Photograph No.4 which was also in a sealed plain SEE-THROUGH envelope was aquired by yours truly for £5.05, and I can only surmise that the people who saw it before-hand thought it worth no less.

Finally a message for Paul Holdcroft, your'e a marked man, you'll get yours --  
IN A SEALED PLAIN ENVELOPE!!!

C.Jones.

## IS THIS A RECORD.

Ralph's story ---

This particular "dig" began in about 1957 when two intrepid teenagers, clad in layers of woolly pullies and armed with a couple of modified bicycle lamps and a home-made wood and hemp ladder, set off for their new find in Giant's Hole. In those days you couldn't get into it if the weather was bad, firstly there was a duck about 50m. in which threatened to drown anyone attempting to exit against the current, and secondly, the first sump had to be bailed. This took three men about two hours since they had to move about 5000 gallons of water - I counted several times!! If the rain had been heavy the previous week the water running in just about equalled the bailing rate. Even in dry weather one always had to bear in mind the possibility of heavy rain filling the sump before you returned or the likelihood of someone letting the bungs out of the dams!!

Anyway - back to my story. On one of our aborted sessions on the way out we noticed a stream coming out of the left hand wall, just before Pillar Crawl. (Pillar Crawl dissappeared years ago). An awkward climb landed us in a tight upward sloping passage with a tighter right hand bend. After some difficulty we arrived in an aven from which the water appeared. With our paltry lights we could hardly see each other let alone the top through the torrent of water, so we went home. (Me on my bike)

A couple of weeks later there we were, Mike Scott and myself, ~~back~~ in the aven with the sum total of two bits of metal called pitons, one coal hammer, two ladders and a couple of krabs. After a few feet I decided that discretion was the better part of valour so I handed Mike the hammer and remaining peg, and he continued upwards by standing on one ladder fastened to a peg, before planting the second peg higher for the next ladder, transferring to the new ladder before removing the lower peg. Now this might sound stupid in this different age but these pegs had cost us around 2/9 each (thats about 14p in 'new' money!) and being skint, it's all we could afford, also we didn't possess any lifelines!

Eventually Mike reached about 20' while I shivered below. Suddenly a 'ping' was followed by a brief cry as the top peg came out sending Mike back in the direction he had come, leaving his fingernails behind as he clawed at the rock in an attempt to arrest his fall. Luckily for him (but not for me) his fall was broken by yours truly.

Needless to say we were somewhat disencouraged by our lack of sucess, so nursing our wounds, we exited to our club hut (the infamous hen cote at Rowter Farm) leaving a trail of blood to mark our route.

N.B. We never went back, but in the early 70's the notorious Rob Heath accompanied by Tony R. (Jaws) had a look but their attentions were diverted to 'Rob's dig' which held the previous 'dig record'.

Now Phil and Kev. take up the story.

J.R. Johnson.



Kevin's story ---

Ralph came running up to Phil and I, all excited telling us about this new 'dig' that he had found. Phil and I were not very enthusiastic at all but then Ralph told us about the last time he visited this passage down Giant's Hole. They got 20' up this aven using pitons, but as the piton came out, they saw a sign post at the top of the aven which said "Jackpot 1 mile" but only for young men. So Ralph and his friend retreated from the passage knowing they were too old for this type of adventure, because back in 1957 Ralph was 43 years old, and so never returned to the aven to retrieve his piton.

This is where the adventurous Phil and I stepped in. We decided to unravel this 25 year old mystery, so we sat down at our drawing table for days on end, devising a plan of action. In the end we decided not to use pitons, but to use scaling poles. So one cold frosty Saturday morning we went to Giant's (in cars this time, not on bicycles) with 30' of scaling poles sticking out of the boot. We drove up to the farm house and gave the farmer 45p each, the farmer went into the backroom and fetched his shotgun and politely asked us for 90p each, so we told him that we were only going in Giant's and not coming out as we knew where the connection to Jackpot was. At this he began to load his shotgun, so we shoved £1.80 into his hand and ran off. We entered the cave with a rucksack each and the scaling poles and made our way to small passage that Ralph had described. Full of excitement I climbed up to the crawl, with the help of a bunk-up from Phil (thanks Phil). I went 5' up the crawl and came back. Phil asked if I had reached the aven and I answered "I'm not going up that crawl" and climbed back down again. Phil then entered the crawl only to return a few minutes later to tell me that his 'posh' petzyl helmet would not fit through the squeeze, so I gave him mine because mine is a lot smaller (due to the fact his head is a lot bigger!) Phil vanished back up the crawl and a few minutes later shouted back that he had reached the aven. So I built up my courage again and started up the crawl, only to find that I now had Phil's big cumbersome helmet, which I had to take off and push in front of me. Phil started to laugh as I reached a 45° bend and couldn't push the helmet round, so he came back and took it off me. I finally reached the aven and Phil pointed to Ralph's piton, still there after 27 years.

Phil chimnied up the aven to see where to put a bolt and returned, and I then climbed up to the piton and fastened a rope to it and tied myself on. I knew the piton would still be safe after 27 years, especially as Ralph had put it in. I dangled for about half an hour putting in the bolt, but if you ask Phil he will probably say it was more like 2½ hours, but I should know, shouldn't I. I attached the rope and ladder to the bolt and abseiled to a shivering Phil, blue with cold. I made him sit on his carbide lamp to get warm, and once he was and realized he was sitting on his lamp he shot up the ladder and put the next bolt in, in 5 minutes flat!! We repeated this procedure for about 3 hours and although I was unaffected Phil got exposure 6 times waiting for me, so we called it a day.

continued.....

The next day Phil and I returned to Giant's with Paul Holdcroft, to help us with the bolting. We had decided to remove Ralph's piton and make it into the club 'Wally Award' (already mentioned), and while Paul was doing this Phil had placed another bolt. Once the ladder was attached to this bolt Phil was able to enter a passage similar to Crab Walk, but which closed down to a squeeze after 4 feet, and only by breathing out and pushing hard was he able to enter the chamber beyond. A small stream ran through the 6' high chamber but the only way on was a 3" square hole, admittedly heading towards Jackpot, but even Phil who is, as we all know - all skin and bone, could go no further. He returned to the foot of the aven and asked Paul and me to 'have a look'. Paul went first, took one look at the first squeeze, and came back, telling Phil he was "bloody daft" for going through that. I climbed the ladder but did not even attempt the squeeze "bloody daft" was right. I unclipped the ladder and abseiled down to Phil and Paul and we made our way out.... straight to the nearest pub.

Kevin Mountford.

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#### EQUIPMENT NEWS

To aid future rescues the foot of the stretcher will be labelled 'FOOT' (the end with the boots on goes here - Kevin please note) and the head of the stretcher will be labelled 'HEAD' (thats the end with the helmet eyes etc. etc.). This will avoid confusion for Team G. and will minimise chest fractures on the "victim"!!

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#### S.M.D.C. SPORTSWEEK

The organiser (ie. the barman at the Annual 'Do') has asked if we will help with the above event, which takes place in Biddulph on Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> June. I suggested an "indoor display" (gear, photographs, posters etc.) and a prusiking, ladder, abseil tower. We have also been offered a 100' high crane jib!! We will need at least 8 people to attend on the day so please give your name to Ralph if you can help.

J.R.Johnson.

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#### C.C.P.C T.V STARS

Most of you will have seen Sid Perou's film of the Gaping Gill/Ingleborough connection recently on television, but how many of you spotted Cliff, Melv, Kev and Mick Farnell in the film. If you blinked at the wrong time you will have missed them.

## BELAYS FOR S.R.T.

Some months ago I wrote an article on bolts for SRT, fortunately most of the points covered are now standard practice but one aspect, which is most important, seems to be regularly overlooked. SRT ropes are low stretch and not designed to take a dynamic load (fall). They should never be subjected to a fall factor of greater than  $\frac{1}{10}$  (10%). This can readily be calculated using the formula:-



$$\text{Fall Factor} = \frac{\text{Height Fallen}}{\text{Length of Rope.}}$$

For example - if a caver was clipped into the intermediate bolt 'B' or was close to it when it failed then he would fall 1m. (It is impractical to leave a loop of less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. and frequently the loop is much longer - Don't forget you fall twice the length of the rope.) If the distance A - B was 9m. then the fall factor would be  $\frac{1}{10}$  ie. the limit of safety. Any shorter and the rope (or bolt) would break.

- In practical terms a) If you were doing Mandale, the intermediate bolt is about 60m. from the main belay, so even with a 1m. loop (2m. fall) the fall factor would be  $\frac{1}{31}$  - well within safety limits.
- b) If you were doing Nettle and used the intermediate anchor 3m. below the Sentry Box, with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. loop you would fall 1m. on a 4m. rope ie. fall factor  $\frac{1}{4}$ , the rope/belay etc. would fail.

- In simple terms a) Keep your loops small, but don't forget your mate if he's wearing a roller box!! (and if you don't savvy, then ask Tony R. to recount his epic on Deaths Head.)
- b) If you are within 10m. of your main anchor treat the intermediate bolt as a main anchor ie. put two in.

J.R.Johnson.

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## MISSING.

Come on - own up, who's got the club copy of Caves and Caving No. 15 and Ralph's Descents No's 49 and 54.

C.C.P.C. "LIBRARY"

Some time ago, in a moment of weakness, Ralph offered to publicize the contents of the club "library". Well here's the first edition, a list of BCRA "Transactions" "Bulletins" and "Cave sciences". For the normal caver with miniscule brain these tend to be a bit high-powered (to put it mildly) so the list includes details of anything of special interest to the average 'thickie'.

T.DEC '74	Ropes in SRT. (extract)	T.MAR '80	MUSS Austria
B.NOV '76	Swildons. NW Stream Passage	T.JUN '80	Three Counties system
T.DEC '76	New Guinea	T.SEP '80	
B.FEB '77	Forest of Dean	T.DEC '80	
B.NOV '77	SRT ropes	T.MAR '81	
B.FEB '78		T.JUN '81	Matienzo
T.MAR '78	Pitch-rigging & SRT	T.SEP '81	
B.MAY '78		T.FEB '82	
T.JUN '78		T.JUN '82	Mulu
T.DEC '78		T.SEP '82	
T.APR '79		T.MAR '83	SRT Rescue
T.AUG '79	Iran	T.JUN '83	
T.NOV '79		T.OCT '83	
T.DEC '79	Otter Hole & Derbyshire Soughs	T.DEC '83	Leck Fell

CAVES AND CAVING

All issues contain regular items on equipment etc. and Irish News, Northern News, CDG etc.

AUG '78	Sheath slippage, Winnats Head, Mulu	AUG '81	Mexico, Mulu
NOV '78	Austria '78, King Pot, U.S.S.R	NOV '81	Morocco, Matienzo
FEB '79	Norway (by you know who)	FEB '82	<u>Missing!!</u>
MAY '79	Mulu, Eire '78	MAY '82	Sardinia, Morocco, Vercours
AUG '79	Austria	AUG '82	Asia, Austria
NOV '79	Spain	NOV '82	Norway, Austria, Spain
FEB '80	Magnetometer, France, Greece	FEB '83	Norway, Greece, Spain, Mexico
MAY '80	N.Spain, Matienzo, Austria	MAY '83	Greece
AUG '80	Yugoslavia, Austria, Trevisco '79	AUG '83	Spanish caving data
NOV '80	Streaks Pot, Spain, Switzerland	NOV '83	Matienzo, Ireland
FEB '81	Matienzo, Hungary, Austria	FEB '84	Spain, Austria
MAY '81	Morocco, Sardinia, Trevisco		



If you are interested in a caving holiday in Spain next year (1985), kindly fill in this form so that we will know your requirements.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

For the questions below please tick the appropriate boxes.

We planned to go at the end of August, is this date suitable? ☐

Or would you prefer an alternative? ☐

If an alternative, please indicate \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be able to go for 2 weeks? ☐

or 1 week? ☐

Which accomodation would you prefer - Camping? ☐

Hotel? ☐

Shared Villa? ☐

Which means of transport do you prefer - Own Car? ☐

By Air? ☐

Coach? ☐

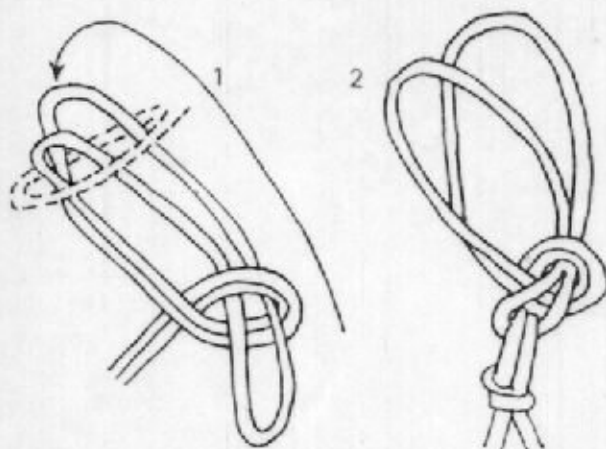
Would you prefer 2 weeks caving? ☐

or 1 week caving and 1 week on the beach etc? ☐

Please return to Paul Holdcroft, Cliff Jones or Ralph Johnson.

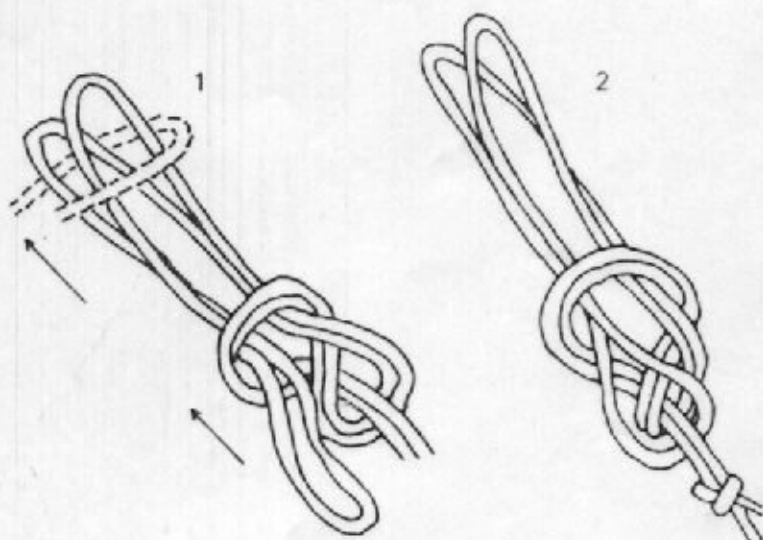
P.S. "BACK-UP" TO ARTICLE "GET KNOTTED."

Bowline on the Bight



Each of the loops can easily be altered to any length

Figure of Eight on the Bight



P.S. AND JUST TO FILL A SPACE - RECORDED TRIPS JAN-MAY 84

-OXLOW(2) IERBY(1) P8(6) HANFRED VALLEY(10) GIANTS(6) MOUNTAINSHAF(1) ELITHERSTONES(1) HILLOCKS(1)  
CARLEWARK(2) WALLS FOUNDER(5) HANDELF SHAF(1) ALUM-LL(1) RHINO RIFT(1) CWO CLOS(2) ENTHROUS(2)  
WICKLE(2) STRAITS(1) HERBELL(1) PERRYFOOT(1) ASBY(2) DYD(1) GARNING-FE(1) ST. CUTHBERTS(2)  
SWILDONS(1) STOKES LANE(1) AXE HOLE(1) SWINTO-VE(1) ROWSTEN(1) PLUS BELGIUM AND IRLAND  
AND THESE ARE JUST RECORDED TRIPS - THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS ARE YOU  
GETTING YOUR SHARE?

AMMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS LIST.

Alan Steele Tel.  
Paul Holdcroft Tel.  
Melvin Bratt Tel.  
Keith Davies  
Rob Heath  
Simon Leech

Redacted

NEW MEMBERS.

Danny Jones

Redacted

FUTURE MEETS.

SAT 9th. June. S.M.D.C Sports display. Biddulph.  
SUN 10th. June. Dow - Providence.  
SAT/SUN 16th/17th. Derbyshire Week-end, Barbaque etc.  
SAT 30th June. Giant's Hole - Beginners.  
SUN 8th July. Lost Johns  
SAT/SUN 14th/15th July. Dan yr Ogof - Otter Hole  
SUN 29th. July. Gavel - Notts Pot.  
SAT/SUN 18th/19th August. Longwood - Thrupe Lane - Cuthberts.  
SAT 25th August. Digging in Derbyshire (for one week)  
SUN 15th Sept. Notts Pot - Death's Head.  
SAT 28th Sept. Swinsto - Simpsons.

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FOR SALE

Walking Boots, size 9, £10 see Ralph.  
Club T-Shirts, black with white motif. £3 see Ralph.  
Club badges, £1.00 (members only) see Cliff.  
Interesting negatives, offers, see Paul Holdcroft.

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COMING SOON. In the next issue of Newsletter:- The Belgian expedition (or how to poke diced carrots down the plug-hole). Melv reveals all!! - in a plain sealed envelope. The Irish expedition - will Fornarouska go!! (or if she won't who will???).