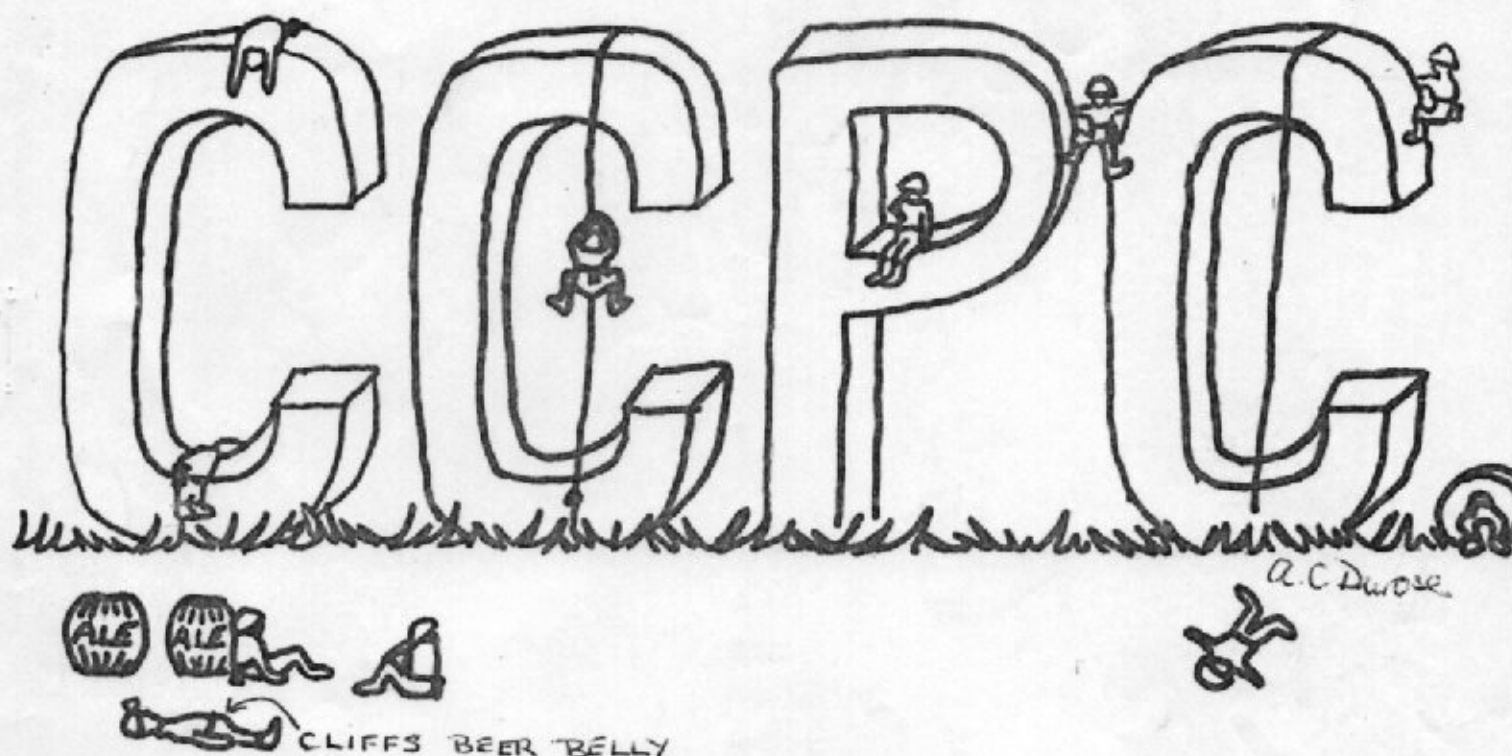


Late Summer 1984
No. 6.



NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY KEVIN MOUNTFORD.

TYPED (AND CORRECTED) BY ALISON DUROSE.

Welcome to another Newsletter. We're sorry it's a little late, but as you may know Cliff has started to work for Phil Brown at Caving Supplies. We all wish him the best of luck in his new job even though we have had to look around for a new typist. That's where we owe our thanks to Alison for filling this vacancy even though Cliff sabotaged the typewriter and it hasn't worked properly since.

ALLOY KARABINERS.

As people are starting to buy more allow Krabs be warned - alloy is less resistant to battery electrolyte and spent carbide than steel.

TWO IMPORTANT POINTS REGARDING CARE OF EQUIPMENT.

A. Ropes and electrolyte from batteries don't mix! Avoid getting them even near to each other - particularly in your car boot. Serious damage can result and will not necessarily be apparent until loaded - the result could be disastrous, perhaps for YOU!!

B. Ladders and water don't mix! No-one in their right mind would leave unprotected metal in wet conditions but lack of thought can cause damage to wire ladders particularly when the galvanizing has been damaged (by caving for example) Condensation can occur if ladders are stored in cold, damp conditions but more importantly don't store them wet in tackle bags particularly if wet ropes are in the same bag. Just a couple of days can do a lot of damage.

For the more conscientious it is better to wash (yes wash!) ladders before returning them to the store. (I know you all wash your ropes!) Farmers use nitrogenous fertiliser and these nitrates can attack wire ladders. A 10mm. ladder now costs in the region of £40!

RALPH.

Are you fed up with life? Would you like to be a super stud, a man of the world? Do you have trouble chatting women up? Do you need charisma, good looks, style? If so, get in touch with Mel Bratt.

NEW MEMBERS.

George Crane.....
Ian Freeman.....
Martin Soloman.....
Alison Durose.....
Roger Ferguson.....
Russell Carter.....

Redacted

Congratulations to Paul and Ann Holdcroft on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Julie Ann. Welcome to Ziggy number two, Ryan Thomas.

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CONTINUING THE SAGA OF THE GIANT'S DIG.

I hadn't been coming to the club very long when I was asked by Ralph to give him a hand one Saturday at the club dig in Giant's. I felt very honoured, me, a mere new comer, to be approached personally by the club secretary to help him - imagine my pride when he said there would only be the two of us.

"Wetsuit trip?" I asked.

"Naturally," said Ralph.

Saturday arrived and I collected Ralph. Arriving at Giant's I was a bit put out to see Ralph changing into dry gear. He said he had been given a new waterproof oversuit that he wanted to try out - fair enough. I noticed that he was wearing two oversuits and plenty of clothes underneath - he looked a bit like the Michelin Man.

Off we set down the streamway - I found myself carrying a great heavy tackle bag.

"Drilling gear and flask," ~~said Ralph~~, "also a camera and some other odds and ends." After all Ralph was carrying the ladder to Garland's. I don't know why but everytime I cave with Ralph I seem to end up carrying a great heavy tackle bag - I bet a few others could say the same thing!!

Anyway back to the story. Ralph had a struggle through the 'vice', eventually we reached the climb to the dig. Ralph muttered something about bailing some water - what he meant was moving a few gallon of liquid mud. This done we slithered up a small tube and eventually reached a side passage.

"It's up there," says Ralph. I'll start the drilling and then you have a go." He went a yard up the passage, got stuck, came back and complained that he had too much clothing on - but he would show me what to do.

I won't tell you any more in case Ralph asks you to go along one day.

P.S. He drank most of the coffee while I was drilling because he was getting cold, and he didn't take the camera out because it would end up filthy!!

P.P.S. We came all the way back via Crab Walk - because Ralph said as he hadn't got a wetsuit on he didn't want to go through the Giant's Windpipe.

GEOFF MILLINGTON.

THE USE AND MISUSE OF HANGERS.

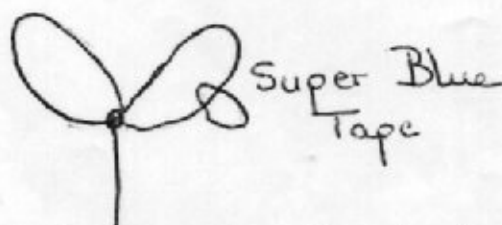
The club now has a small number of Clown Ring and Bollard hangers in addition to the Petzl bent twisted and Troll angle.

The diagram included with this article (pinched from the Inglesport catalogue) is self explanatory so even a caver of normal intelligence should have no problems. The new additions should be particularly useful in a roof or overhanging wall where the other hangers should not be used.

There is a problem with the Clown in that it is particularly difficult to thread a stiff 11mm. Blue Water rope. Lyon Ladders who import these agree but can offer no solutions. The French cavers tend to favour a more flexible 10.5mm. rope such as Beal, but this has not found favour in C.C.P.C. mainly due to its poor resistance to abrasion. Beal have started to import a more abrasion resistant rope which is being sold at an attractive price and we will have to see how C.C.P.C. members favour this new rope.

The problem with the Bollard is that it is impossible (or almost) to clip a cow's tail into the loop when passing a bolt whilst prusiking. When absailing the cow's tail can be clipped in but you try removing it!! Paul Seddon of Troll suggests putting a loop of Super Blue tape (made by Troll) into one of the two loops to facilitate the use of a cow's tail, Diag.1. Clipping into one side of the loop is 50% O.K! Clipping over both sides of the loop as in Diag.2. is O.K. but if bolt B comes out you're dead. If bolt A comes out your chances of surviving are a little higher but you would still probably end up dead!!

DIAG.1.

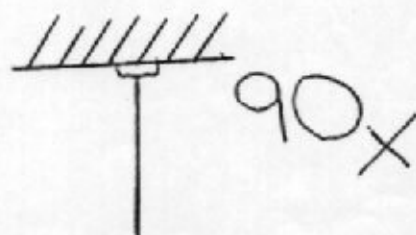


DIAG.2.



Paul also printed another advantage of the Clown (don't forget that he makes TROLL) is that it holds the rope including the knot clean of the rock. He is not happy about using Bollards when the load angle is greater than 45° stating that the hanger will bend but not break. Diag.3.

DIAG.3.



....Continued - The Use and Misuse of Hangers....













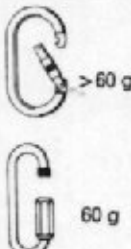
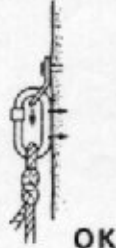




He also doubts the suitability of Clowns under these circumstances suggesting that a Ring hanger (Petzl) is the answer.

A small problem with Clowns is that once the bolt is tightened no further adjustment of the rope is possible. This means that the loading might not be the same on both sides of a loop. Bollards allow the rope to take up the correct angle even when fully tight since they do not trap the rope.

(A little thought will overcome most problems)

RALPH.

WHICH TO CHOOSE?

position of the rock anchor				essential accessories
 OK	 OK	 OK		
 OK	 OK	 OK		
 OK	 OK			 > 60 g 60 g
 OK	 OK			 > 60 g 60 g

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Yet another mention must go to that intrepid adventurer Kevin Mountford who, in my opinion, deserves a medal for bravery above and beyond the call of duty.

The day after the barbecue Kev set off on a solitary, perilous mission to retrieve a ladder that had been left down Giant's. Armed only with a lamp and a pair of plimsoles he was totally unprepared for the sudden and vicious onslaught of an irate farmer, brandishing an evil looking shotgun, who descended rapidly upon him. Showing tremendous control over leg muscles that threatened mutiny, Kev stood his ground, trembling so slightly that I could only just see him shaking from my coward's-eye view (peeping out of my car thirty feet away).

Kevin can only be commended for the great skill and ease with which he despatched the enemy who had demanded to be paid twice. It must, however, be mentioned that he had practised his 'consoling angry farmer' techniques the day before.

Mr. Mountford is shortly to become a member of the National Union of Reverential Diplomats and should hereafter be addressed Kevin Mountford N.U.R.D.

AN EYEWITNESS.

ACID ON ROPE CAN BE FATAL.

Recently a number of members have been seen carrying coils of rope over their shoulders with the lower end of the coils resting on their hip. This would be O.K. if they were not wearing Lead-ACID lamps. Please DO NOT. You never know - YOU could be next to use the rope!!

THE MYSTERY OF RALPH'S CRABS!

Ralph has been complaining lately about his lack of crabs. (Whoops shouldn't that read Krabs.) If anyone can help him in this matter - and you know who you are, you pilfering little wretch - could you please return them. Don't go sneaking any nasty little alloy ones in either - he'd rather have his good old fashioned steel ones back please!!

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

The following suggestions have been received regarding the format of this year's photo competition:

- 1/ Separate slide and print competition.
- 2/ Print competition only.
- 3/ Minimum size of prints 8"x10".
- 4/ Maximum number of entries per person.
- 5/ All photos to have been taken during the previous twelve months.
- 6/ Shield for winner/winners to be returned after twelve months plus photo/photos displayed in the Bleeding Wolf.
- 7/ Use of display boards - as supplied by Ralph for the sport's week display
- 8/ Fee for each photo entered.

Please let me know if you have any further suggestions before the club meeting in November.

A.SCRAGG.

STOP PRESS.....

In the race for supremacy and in an attempt to gain complete monopoly on the sale of caving gear CAVING SUPPLIES has obtained a sales weapon.

No details are yet available but keep your eyes peeled for this particular model of high pressure sales person. (Women's Lib please note) The new super sales person can repeatedly charm ducks off water, sell oil to Saudi Arabia, refrigerators to eskimos, has more face than Burslem town hall clock and, it has been rumoured that he has talked P.B. into giving him a 1m. length of second hand string and into telling him the time.....ALL FREE!!**

Guard your wallets with care on entering the shop, see Mel if you need specialist advice.

RALPH.

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CLUB BARBECUE 1984.

For those people who attended the club's first (but not last) barbecue, thankyou for making it one to remember. Many thanks to Paul and Ann who ran around the shops all Friday buying the food and staying up all night peeling the onions. and also many thanks to Ralph who went to all the bother of buying that precious liquid called beer.

For those few of you who could not attend this year because their wives would not let them out of the door here are a few excuses for the club's next social event.

1/ Get Cliff to phone you at around seven P.M. and when you have put the phone down shout to the wife, "Cave Rescue, there are three little boys stuck down a cave." Then gather a little caving gear together to make it look realistic and run out of the door.

2/ Tell the wife you are going to take the dog for a walk. If you haven't got a dog tell the wife you are going to see a man about a dog.

3/ If none of those excuses work Tony Reynolds (ex Royal Marine) and Mick Edge (ex Paratrooper) who are now mercenaries will kidnap you for a nominal fee £ £ £ and bring you to the social event, with a few black eyes again to make it look realistic.

So the next time the club has a social event we will expect everyone to attend. If not we will send Tony Reynolds around, free of charge, to sort you out, so you have been warned.....

BE THERE!!!



(Sorry, I couldn't draw
Lord Kitchener.)

YOUR CAVING CLUB NEEDS
YOU!

BIDDULPH SPORTS DAY.

As you all know we were invited to the Biddulph carnival, they supplied us with a 100ft. crane jib but with the embankment it was hanging over it made the total height 120ft. I thought that the prusik up was more thrilling than the prusik up Gaping Gill main shaft. Which means that I was scared stiff. If any-one has told you that they weren't scared of going up the jib it is because they are not man enough to tell you the truth. The organisers also supplied us with a 45ft. scaffolding tower which we used for teaching children how to absail, and how to climb ladders. At the end of the day it seemed like every child in Biddulph had been up and down the tower at least three times each. We were also given the use of a small marquee, on one side of this we put a large display of caving photographs which could be the largest photographic display that the club has ever shown. On the other side we put a large display of caving equipment on show. At least 14 club members attended and all of them did at least two hours work on the tower, and in the marquee. Everyone had an enjoyable day and would willingly volunteer again in the future. So many thanks to everyone who turned up to offer their services.

KEV.

FUTURE MEETS.

SAT. 3RD. NOVEMBER.....PENYGHENT.

SAT. 22ND. DECEMBER.....LANCASTER.

WANTED

Large number of adjustable spanners for fixing bolts.

Tried and tested bottle. N.B. Peak Cavern (Moss Chamber) trip due soon
see Ralph.

Best prices paid for articles for next newsletter.

Any type of caving gear, e.g. S.R.T. gear, wetsuits, lamps, please donate your spare gear to Kevin.

FOR SALE.

Club tee-shirts, black, white, blue, £3.50, see Ralph.

Club badges, £1.00 (members only) see Cliff.

Members please note, there is a key to Kevin's tackle store at Paul Holdcroft's house if needed.