

CCPC



Newsletter No. 28

March 1991

CCPC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1991

This was held at 8:30, Monday 7th January 1991 at the Bleeding Wolf. It consisted of all the usual stuff (yawn), nothing earth shattering. Each committee member present gave the usual account of his behaviour and excuses for the previous year.

In a nutshell, the only points which need to be mentioned are :-

Club Fees will be raised by £2.00. Fees due by end of March, £2.00 reduction for payment before this date.

The committee will stay the same with the addition of one new post; Mark Lovatt will become Assistant Training Officer.

Other news is that following last years success, the 'do' (ie Annual (Christmas?) party) will be held at the Rifleman, Kidsgrove on April 13th, price £6.50 per head. Vegetarian meals can be booked (in advance please) and a 10 ozs steak is £8.00.

John Smith will again run the photographic competition (which he usually wins). Judging will be at the 'do'.

Tacklemasters give a report of the state and amount of use of their stock. Ralphs store is by far the most used. Perhaps in fairness to Ralph, members should consider using the other stores from time to time, equipment permitting. (a full report of what is available at each store will be published soon).

Ade pointed out that the bottom pitches of the Gouffre Berger is below camp 1 will be rigged with 9mm rope and it may pay off to get used to using this with your descender before the trip because of the different handling characteristics (for example, Stops don't stop).

Lionel produced a 1991 meets list (reproduced inside).

URGENTLY NEEDED - Owing to changing work circumstances, CCPC will shortly require an assistant/replacement Newsletter Editor. Applicants must be able to read and write. Contact Ralph.

LATHKILL DALE CAVE EXTENTIONS

Ben et al have been doing a lot of digging in Lathkill Dale (legally) and as reported in DESCENT etc have opened up hundreds of feet of passage. Most of these are now (temporarily) inaccessible due to the river Lathkill taking its Winter route through them (and so unsafe when not submerged that even Ben is nervous about them!) Ricklow mine is still accessible, but Ben warns against going down there at present.

He is blasting up to three times a week and tell-tale wisps of white fumes can be seen emerging from the (protected) entrance. If you cannot resist the urge to go down, check with Ben first to make sure that you will not be asphyxiated/blown to pieces on Buxton (0298) 70202.

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&		&
&	USEFUL TIPS FOR CAVERS No 6	&
&	(Darren)	&
&	When rigging the entance pitch	&
&	to Nettle, it is recommended not	&
&	to use Granny Knots, not because	&
&	of safety but because it's no	&
&	fun sitting in a snowdrift for	&
&	45 minutes whilst Tony re-rigs.	&
&		&

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WEIR EXPERTS!

Dave Kennidy, who was recently seen picking up a prize on 'You Have Been Framed' for demonstrating how to pull a belay out of a wall to send him and his boss cascading down a weir overflow is a member of the Derbyshire Caving Club. I think it prudent not to reveal who gave him his first rigging lesson!

GRID TO BE FITTED, HELP NEEDED

Following the success of the 'blue grid' on the 210' shaft at Knotlow, DCRO and the Assosiation of Farmers (AF) have approached CCPC about the feasibility of installing similar protective grills on other potentially dangerous shafts.

It has been mutually agreed between DCRO, CCPC and AF that a pilot project be arranged to protect the shaft on Eldon Hill, grid reference 117808.

Volenteers are needed to help withmeasuring, transporting gear etc and a meet has been arranged for 10:30 am on Easter Monday at the hole in question. Please do your best to attend as this is quite a big task and the more people who turn up, the merrier.

CAVING SUPPLIES RAPPEL RACKS

If you bought a five bar CS Rappel Rack between 16th October and 14th of December 1990, check that thefourth and fifth bars are fitted the right way round. A rogue batch was produced, six of which are unaccounted for. If you have one, Phil Brown will replace it free of charge. (I should bloody well think so!).

PETZL HELMETS

If you own a Petzl Helmet which may have been manufactured since 1988 and it has 11mm smooth rivets on the outside of the dome, please do the following check -

Pull on the tape coming out of each rivet at right angles to the dome until the dome distorts. In the event of any failure, return them to the supplier.

Shock Absorbing Knots

The suggestion made in the NCA Equipment Report that shock absorbing knots should be used on single bolt rebelay (Descent 94) led to further comments in issue (95). Now, Al Warild adds this additional discussion, based on the relevant section of his SRT book, *Vertical*.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ SOLUTION

ELDON
THORS
BROKENFINGER
TITES

CLWYD
RIFT
STUMPCROSS
LAMBLEER

LAYBY
CHROME
GOATCHURCH
MARBLE

RACK
OTTERHOLE
INTESTINE
DOVEHOLES

KNOTLOW
LIONELS

CRABWALK
FLOURESCENE
IDIOTS
WOOKEY
MAGPIEMINE
JUNIPER

LONGCHURN
GARLAND
AGENALLWEDD
FLOWSTONE
CARLSWALK

FALL FACTORS

A fall factor is a number applied to a fall which indicates the relationship between the length of rope available to take the strain of a fall, and the distance fallen. Mathematically, it is determined by dividing distance fallen by length of rope, D/L. A weight hanging on the end of a rope cannot fall; there is a fall factor of zero. The other extreme comes from a fall from above a belay to the same distance below it: a fall factor of 2. Fall factor one is obtained by a weight dropped from the same level as the belay: fall distance and rope length are the same. The standard test is to drop a weight of 80kg for a distance of 1m under FF1 conditions. Further information on drop tests can be found in *Descent* (96), pp34-5.

AFTER several years of allowing shock absorbing knots to lie quietly in the pages of *Techniques de la Spéléologie Alpine*, I see that some cavers are trying to resurrect their use. Like the current advocates of shock absorbing knots, I too thought it was a great idea. I could carry 7mm instead of 8mm rope, and by tying a simple extra knot here and there it could be safer, shockwise at least, than my 8mm rope. Fortunately, I checked first and as part of my research for *Vertical* I did a series of drop tests. Shock absorbing knots did not fare at all well.

The principle involved is that by tying a suitable knot in a length of static rope it is given some dynamic properties. However, they do not work reliably enough to be safe, as can be seen from the results in the table. The abnormal loading of any knot is exceptionally hard on the rope and almost invariably reduces the number of fall factor one (FF1) 80kg falls it will survive.

Shock absorbing knots have some chance of working in a new rope, which normally fails within two FF1 80kg falls (ie. 7mm or some 8mm ropes). Their performance, however, is so variable as to make them more dangerous than no shock absorbing knot. The only possible advantage such a knot may give is that the extra 'end effect' created by another knot tightening may dampen the shock of the first fall and reduce the chances of one's ascender biting through the rope sheath. The problem is that the shock absorbing knot may not slip as it should and the rope may break on its first fall instead!

Put simply, shock absorbing knots are worse than useless - they're dangerous!

So, if shock absorbing knots are not the answer, what is? Try making use of the following advice:

1. Never use very static rope. Keep stretch greater than 2 per cent.
2. Do not rig rebelay close together, or the possible fall factor may approach FF1. Aim to rig with a maximum FF of 0.3.
3. Keep the slack in a rebelay to an absolute minimum - allow just enough to undo a descender.
4. Use a Y or shared anchors so that if one fails the result is a minor pendulum rather than a fall.

Results of Drop Tests on Shock-Absorbing Knots

Rope* (mm)	Age (years)	Shock Absorbing Knot	Falls FF1, 80kg, 1m
9	new	none	40
9	new	Overhand loop	4
9	new	Alpine Butterfly	3
9	4.5	none	3
9	4.5	Overhandloop	2
9	4.5	Double Bowline	1
8	new	none	1
8	new	Overhand loop	2
7	1	none	1
7	1	Overhand loop	0

NOTES

* Ropes used were as follows:

9: Bluewater II; 8: Bluewater accessory cord; 7: Beal accessory cord

The figure in the 'Falls' column represents the number of Fall Factor 1 drops that were sustained. In only one test (the 8mm) out of thirteen did a shock absorbing knot give a clear improvement. The 7mm rope results are especially frightening.

DEJAVUE

There were these keen, young, aspiring cavers (yacs!) insistent in their tone.

"It's OK, you'll be alright, you're not too old for the trip."

I then snapped out of a beery dream at the 'Bleeding Wolf' to realise that these yacs were talking to Ralph. I immediately felt better.

And so it came to pass, a trip back in time to the Pyrenees, PSM, Gavarnie and Casteret's Ice Cave. To this last item I have now been press ganged into telling a tale or two.

I first went to Gavarnie in 1974 with SWCC and the usual camp followers and a little known lad called Martyn Farr. We spent two weeks at the Berger and then headed for the Reseaux Felix Trombe. WE were six in number and packed into a short wheelbase Landrover owned by Peter Francis (SWCC). It was late in the afternoon and only a short distance from our destination when Peter Francis blew a fuse. You see, he had brought an ice axe and crampons in order to go to Castertons Ice Cave which was nowhere near the Felix Trombe. His transport tus did an about turn and headed for Gavarnie with five unhappy and silent passangers. Still, it pays to be flexible.

We dossed in Lourdes about midnight and looked around the town the next day. I have to say it is the pits - exploitation is an understatement. However it is on the way to the mountains. The road climbed steadily and the mountains rose in splendour before us. WQe took the ski road from Gavarnie up the 'Vallee des Especieres' to the end of the road at Port du Gavarnie. It was late afternoon thus we went back down the road a short way and camped near the Col de Tentes, with youthfull expectations for the next day. The night was quite cold and dawn rose in the form of a misty drizzle. Visibility was about ten feet and our hopes sank to a man, all except one Martyn Farr.

"We'll find it - come on, get up " etc was thrown at us.

We set off, along the path from the Port du Gavarnie under the hanging Glaciers on the Taillon towards the refuge below the Breche de Roland. Picking our way along the edge of a large snowfield we found a well worn trail leading to the Refuge. Pausing only to draw breath, we pressed on, crunching up a long snowfield leading to the Breche itself. We could see all of two yards. The Breche appeared suddenly out of the mist giving only a breif impression of its size. This was silly. We stopped to assess the position. All thought it hopeless except guess who, yes, you're right, Martyn Farr. He bravely set out into unknown Spain while the rest of us sat down in what little shelter we could find. We would give him 30 minutes before returning to civilisation and beer. I passed the time huddled behind a large boulder wearing every piece of survival kit I had to hand, watching the ice crystals growing on the boulders.

After 15 minutes Martyn appeared cursing the weather and describing the terrain beyond as appalling.

"I was lost between boulders the size of houses" he was heard to mutter. We said little and hurried back down to Gavarnie for food and beer.

A transformation, the next day dawned bright and clear with visibility of 40 miles or more. We repeated the walk but with spectacular mountains to appreciate and to detract the attention from gasping lungs and thumping hearts. The view into Spain from the Breche was worth the trip alone and showed the folly of Martyn the previous day.

We quickly picked our way across the terrain to the ice cave and climbed a small unstable scree up to the entrance. An icy blast met us, very welcome this time after the hot sun. And so to caving. Six people, one set of crampons, one ice axe and.....

"Who's got the ladder?"

"Where is the ladder?"

"You have it"

"No I don't"

"I thought..."

I have cleaned up the text somewhat, but you get the idea. Anyway, it was fun, sliding across the entrance lake and gazing long at the huge columns of ice 30, 40' high and 10, 20' in diameter cascading from the cave roof. Martyn had to spoil it by asking for volunteers to photograph it with him. Oh yes and lying full length between an ice floor and the roof gazing dolefully down an ice pitch into the darkness (beckons!!)

This is the background to my love affair with Gavarnie. So it was natural for me to suggest we go when we had a planning meet for the Summer holiday, sorry expedition. No one objected, and so it came to pass.

1987 and one overloaded minibus full of hot sweaty, drunken cavers rolled into an unrecognisable Gavarnie. It was swarming with bloody tourists!

"This place was empty last time I was 'ere" was uttered by my lips. I felt the bus groan. It is always a mistake to reminisce.

No hillside camp this time, pure luxury in a campsite in the valley bottom. A shower, some hot food and a few more "biers" soon revived the spirits. Plans were made for the next day (this is a cryptic comment - ie none). This is not entirely true, I did have a conversation with Tipple.

"What do we need?"

"Not much, couple of ice screws plus rope."

"We haven't got any rope, it's all packed."

"Groan - what, none handy?"

"No"

"OK, we use mine. 120' 9mm."

"No need, I've found some!"

"Are you sure?"

"Yeah."

And the night was still young. What delights were to tempt us. A new band had joined the camp. The nearest translation I can give for the name is 'The Rent Boys'. They were a bit lacking on musical talent but made up for it with stage presence which saved the day. They were well received by the locals who applauded with gusto. I will not name the people in question as yet, beer will buy my silence.

Dawn came bright and clear. With food eaten and bags packed we headed up the Port de Gavarnie and parked the bus. Most people were still unsure as to what they wanted to do but my goal was clear and I thought I had one or two followers.

We set off in two's and three's and were soon spread all over the mountain. I brought up the rear (or close to it) in style!! I was slightly confused by this time. Paul Shenton said it was altitude sickness, the more cruel said it was

senility. The whole mountain had changed, where was all the snow? No hanging glaciers on Le Taillon. The snowfield before the refuge was no more. The view from the refuge was even more startling. No handsome snowfield sweeping majestically to the Breche de Roland but bare barren scree staring back at me. I had a sinking feeling. We slogged on up the dusty scree path past the hordes of tourists and regrouped at the Breche. I feasted on Bombay mix while people discussed what to do. Paul and myself decided to go straight to Casteret's ice cave. Everyone else decided to top Le Taillon as the easiest 3,000 m peak in the Pyrenees. I then asked Tipple for the rope.

"I don't have the rope."

"I thought you brought the rope"

"It's down in the bus"

"I don't believe this, this is just like...." I bit back the rest of the words, they were not appropriate. I had of course taken out my rope when Tipple said he had found one the previous evening.

Paul and I left for the cave, the ice screws and crabs chinking away in the sack as a cruel reminder. Thirty minutes later we were in the cool entrance, yet again welcome after walking in the noon sun (sounds more like a western). We quickly put on our caving gear and crampons and set forth. Where was all the ice? That sinking feeling I had experienced earlier was now fully realised. The entrance lake ice level was about 5' lower and the huge ice columns had gone. Pitiful remnants lay broken across the lake. Yet again I looked sadly down the ice pitch. This time I had no need to lay flat out on the ice but merely to lower my head. I had the gear to front point down but not the experience or the nerve.

Paul at this point thought it was time to bring some joy into my trip. He had to use his ice axe since he had brought it all the way. He took a mighty swing at a large fallen column and sent ice splinters cascading around and embedded his axe totally. It took 5 minutes to get it out (and the axe). One almighty pull sent him staggering backwards axe in hand. He then took one step forwards, caught his crampons and went sprawling (is this guy unlucky or what?) That was it. Crying with laughter all the tension and disappointment was gone, I could now see the funny side after all this effort.

A hot sweaty climb back to the Breche, passing several members of our ragged 'crewe' on the way, telling them of the fantastic sights that awaited them. A rapid descent to the Refuge and the Port de Gavarnie. Bus back to campsite for more food and beer and it was all over yet again. Our small party split up the next day to head back home. The dawn came misty and grey in true Gavarnie fashion and probably reflected most people's feelings.

I might go back again! For the wise, I suggest waiting for the next ice age.

PS I hear John Gillet might be in the area this Summer, I wonder???

Bomber

SORRY IAN !!!

The Notlow 210 grill was in fact fitted by Ian.....please accept our apologies.

FIRST AID FOR CAVERS

I recently attended a course run by DCRA entitled "First Aid for Cavers". You may find the following notes interesting but 1) They are not a complete guide and 2) Don't sue me if I have misheard something. I would recommend anyone who can to go on this or a similar course. There is also a booklet issued by CRO entitled "First Aid for Cavers" at fl.50.

NUMBERS

Although CRO do not recommend going caving in ones, twos or threes, they recognise that most cavers do do this (including themselves). It is worth bearing in mind that in the event of a debilitating accident, even three people would struggle; one being the casualty, another would need to stay with the casualty and the third may have to exit the cave alone, possibly without a lifeline for pitches. If people caved in twos, they should be aware that they may have to accept spending many hours alone waiting to be rescued in the event of an accident.

SPARE LIGHTS

In a large party of say ten, two lamps failing would cause only a minor inconvenience. In a party of two, this would be a total disaster. The smaller the party, the more important it is to carry spare lights.

ATTITUDE & APPROACH

If you find yourself having to administer first aid to a casualty, bear in mind that his mental well-being is just as important as his physical well-being if he is to stand the maximum chance of getting out of the cave without deteriorating further.

Approach a casualty slowly, ie don't run up, see the injuries, shout "Oh my God!" and throw up. This will not help their state of mind.

It is recognised that there is very little that you can do to treat a person underground and the best you can expect to do is to assist them out of the cave or failing that, keep them alive and comfortable.

If the casualty is in immediate danger eg from drowning under a waterfall or about to be crushed by an imminent landslide, you have no choice but to move them to safer ground. Do this as carefully as possible, trying not to bend the neck or back.

The next thing to do is to prioritise injuries ie there is little point in treating a broken finger if the casualty is bleeding to death from a head wound. Treat the most urgent injuries first. A rule of thumb is 1) breathing 2) bleeding 4) fractures 4) others.

BREATHING

The next thing that needs to be done is to make sure that the casualty is still breathing. If they are conscious this won't be difficult. If unconscious, you need to check and inspect their airways. Don't just stick your fingers in their mouth, unconscious people bite! Guard against this by wedging their back teeth with a karabiner or suchlike and remove any broken teeth, false teeth, vomit etc from the air passage. If they have stopped breathing, you are going to have to attempt to resuscitate them. It is best to learn this technique before you go caving. (The same applies to cardiac massage; unless you are absolutely sure of what to do you are as likely to kill a healthy person as save a dying one if you

make any mistakes!)

If you have to resuscitate a drowning person after dragging them out of a sump for example, don't waste time getting them to dry land. You can start the resuscitation in the water whilst you are bringing them 'ashore'.

BLEEDING

The next biggest killer to not breathing is bleeding to death. Check for any external bleeding and stop it. This is done by applying pressure with a rag or anything that is available. If you have nothing else, use your bare hands. Sterility may have to take a back seat in an emergency. Elevating the limb will help to reduce the flow of blood. Tourniquets are not recommended by the St Johns etc. because of the danger of strangling the limb which could lead to the need for amputation.

FRACTURES

The next thing is to diagnose and assess injuries. This will only be a rough guess; doctors spend years training to do this and they are sometimes wrong. Start at the head, feeling for damage, lack of symmetry etc. If a head injury is suspected, don't remove the helmet if it has not already come off - it will support any loose bits.

Move down to the neck. If the casualty is conscious, they will tell you if they have a broken neck. They will probably also hold their head in position with their hands. Don't let them move! Movement could make the difference between a few weeks off caving and a lifetime in a wheelchair. Pack the neck with mud, rocks, anything to support it and get help from the CRO.

If the person is not conscious, it is practically impossible to detect a broken neck. Assume the worst.

Next check the shoulders and upper arms for symmetry. Lack of symmetry may indicate a break or dislocation. Although very painful, this is unlikely to be life threatening in itself. Don't try to reset the limb. Let the casualty decide upon the most comfortable position for it and support it in this position using whatever is available (ie rocks and mud). If you are lucky this position may be next to the body and it may be possible to strap it into position. If you are very lucky the casualty may even be able to help himself out of the cave.

Feel the ribs and back. Injuries to the ribs can vary in intensity from cracked to stove in. If chest injuries are suspected, sit the casualty upright. This prevents fluid from building up in the lungs. Support any broken ribs with firm pressure. This may be done by getting the casualty to hold them, by you lying against them or by resting them against the cave wall depending upon where the damage is.

If the back appears to be damaged, read as for a broken neck.

Pelvic fractures can be quite serious. They are detected by feel and comparison. You are going to have to stick your hand down their pants and feel about. This might be pleasurable or otherwise, depending who the casualty is. Another symptom is the casualty will have a feeling of wanting to 'go to the toilet'. They will find this physically impossible but never-the-less, the feeling will be there. If a pelvic fracture is suspected, it's a rescue job.

Fractures to the thigh are pretty self indicating. One of the side effects of these is that the limb goes into involuntary tremour. This may be continuous or intermittent, but must be reduced to stop it causing further damage. The easiest way to do this is to sit on the limb until the attack is over. This may not be very popular with the casualty at the time, but they will thank you for it in the long term.

Fractures of the lower leg vary in severity. Once, after telling her that there was nothing wrong with her, I helped a girl to get herself out of a mine which included a 30 ft ladder climb. The next day she was diagnosed as having a broken fibula. Other breaks can be decapacitating. A splint may help if you can find something (eg an old stemple, but not one which is holding the roof up!) but don't try to reset it. The casualty will tell you whether they can walk or not.

INTERNAL INJURIES

If the stomach feels taut, it may indicate abdominal injuries. If this type of injury is suspected, don't let them eat or drink and try to talk them out of 'going to the toilet' (how many caves have you seen with toilets?). This will hopefully reduce the risk of causing infections in the abdominal cavity.

SHOCK

There are two types of shock. The first is caused by witnessing nasty accidents and similar. It is actually a recognised medical condition. Blood rushes to the lower bowels causing a sinking feeling and the brain is thus starved of oxygen and may cause a faint. This is not serious provided you are not balanced on top of a 50 ft pitch. If someone faints due to shock, put them in the recovery position. If they just feel faint, sit them upright and place their head between their knees until they recover.

Hyperbolic shock is caused by lack of blood due to bleeding, either internally or externally. The only sure way to prevent this from being fatal is to replace the blood. This obviously has to be done in a hospital so all you can do is to help remove the casualty to the surface as quickly as possible and get them to a hospital.

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia sneaks up on people. It is caused by cooling of the body core temperature and is often difficult to detect in its early stages. It is very difficult to detect it in yourself. The first symptom is shivering, followed by an erratic pulse rate. Mental confusion indicates that the situation is getting dangerous. This may cause strange behaviour like people complaining of the heat when they are obviously cold. The next two stages are unconsciousness and death.

A simple test of someones mental state is to ask them their phone number. If they struggle to reply, then (providing that they are on the phone) this indicates that it's well time to do something.

In its very early stages, hypothermia can be curbed by physical exercise. However, if the casualty gets to the mental confusion stage, this could accelerate death. They need to be gradually warmed up again. The only practical way in a cave (without the little dragon) is to climb into a survival bag with them and cuddle them. If you have the luxury of a thermometer (and believe it or not, I have seen them in caves), it is possible to monitor any trend in their body temperature which will indicate their recovery (or otherwise).

Warming externally too quickly may kill a person so resist the temptation to toast them with your carbide lamp. Another way to kill someone in this state is to give them alcohol. Food and warm drinks may help though, especially in the early stages.

Morale is a major factor with hypothermia. Victims sometimes make miraculous recoveries upon seeing daylight and happily skip off to the pub. However, bear in mind the conditions outside the cave. The relative warmth of Giants Hole may be an infinitely better place to recover than in that God-forsaken car park in the middle of a Winter's night.

Tell the casualty what is happening to them. An understanding of the situation can sometimes help them to help themselves. If they are too far gone this will not be the case. A cousin of mine who almost froze to death on a Scottish mountain recalls the experience as being like a pleasant dream in which he was just watching the proceedings without being involved.

CRUSH INJURIES

If someone is lying crushed under a rock and you suspect that they have been there for an hour or more, unless they are in some other immediate danger don't move the rock! This may seem strange advice but toxins build up in the area around crush injuries. If the pressure is suddenly relieved these are released into the bloodstream and may kill the casualty. Wait for medical assistance.

SUMMARY

There's not much you can do to treat an injured person underground. Make sure that they are not in any imminent danger, breathing, not bleeding to death, not freezing to death and don't move them if you suspect back or neck injuries. If you want to carry any first aid equipment on routine trips DCRO recommend a triangular bandage as the most useful single item. If you are in any doubt, don't hesitate to call cave rescue. Their attitude is they would much prefer a wasted journey than a fatality caused by hesitation.

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MEETS 1991

Lionel has booked the following for your entertainment!

April	13	Xmas do
	20	Ireby Fell
	21	Marble Steps
May	18	*Dale Head Pot
	19	*Pen-y-Gent
June	1	OFD 1-2
July	1-10	Berger
	27	Gingling Pot
August	11	Eldon
September	14	Lost Johns
	14/15	*GG/Bar Pot/Stream Passage
October	5	Otter Hole
	12	Juniper Gulf
November	24	Peak Cavern

* Subject to confirmation

The permit for Otter now covers only 4 people + guide.

Please see Lionel with any requests for 1991/92. Some caves now require more than 12 months booking in advance.

CCPC ARCHIVES : KNOTLOW (Part 1)

In the early days the CCPC used to keep a 'log' of any interesting finds (maybe this idea should be resurrected?). This archive is full of absolute gems. Some have become standard trips, some abandoned whilst the vast majority have simply become lost and forgotten. How about this one with it's superb survey?

"During July 1974 John Preston and I spent some time investigating the fields around Knotlow entrance. We opened and entered a number of small shafts, none of which were of any great interest, being merely trials into the Knotlow Vein, quickly abandoned by the miners.

"But down in the bottom field, near to the capped 'Fourways' Shaft is a small fenced off shaft which was more encouraging. The opening was covered with a couple of logs and some rusty tin but underneath, the collar of the shaft and the ginging were in perfect condition.

"We dropped a hundred and twenty feet of ladder down and descended with care not to disturb the ginging. This finished some twelve feet down where the shaft entered solid rock. The shaft here had the appearance of a natural rift.

"At -30' it was possible to get off the ladder onto what appeared to be a rubble floor with a couple of holes through it. It was only when we had descended through the larger hole that we could see that our rubble 'floor' was really a wooden platform covered by rubble (possibly the remains of the original 'bee-hive') and as such non too sound!! The shaft then continued to the bottom without further interruption.

"Features of note on the way down were:-

a) a large stack of deads resting on rotten wooden stemples.

b) a very inviting bedding plane some 18" high and up to 10' wide. This looked a definite hopefull, but due to our clothing (everyday outdoor) and the thick mud on the floor we did not enter it.

c) A second bedding plane only a couple of inches high.

d) Pockets of dog-tooth spar.

"The bottom of the shaft simply runs into loose rubble, well sprinkled with animal bones (possibly a cow).

"Having compared the position of the shaft with the Eldon survey of Knotlow and having considered the depth (100') we concluded that this shaft, if cleared, would lead into Heifer Rift near Crimbo Swallow. Digging the shaft would be easy if the stacked deads above could be made safe for a fall could not be avoided by anyone in the bottom of the shaft.

Colin Knox 9.1.78

"Sounds very promising. Had a chat to Dave Gill who also knew about the shaft. Agrees on the likelihood of a connection but has done nothing about it. A/C to my calculations based on Eldon survey and Steve's notes (and my own measurements)-

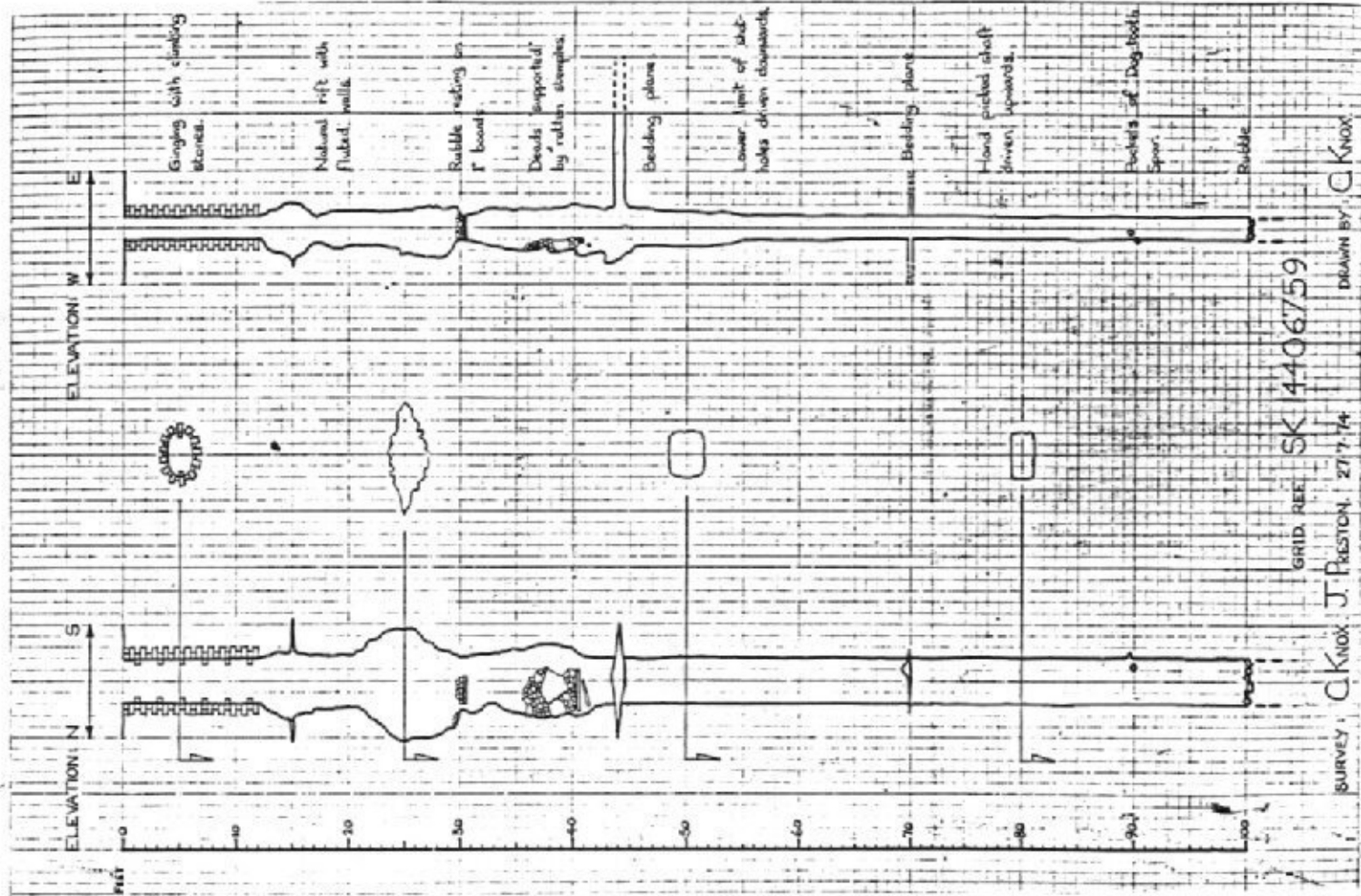
"ELDON- Fourways to top of Heifer Rift	= 253½'
Height to top of Heifer Rift	= 804'
Height to top of Fourways	= 923'
Difference being	= 119'

"STEVE- Shaft is 100' deep	
Difference in height, Fourways to Steve's	15' - 3' = 12'

"A/C to me there is only 7' vertically and 2m horizontally. The verticle distance is accurate (using a Dumpy Level). The horizontal distance is less accurate.

Dave Gill (and Eldon) reckon it does connect." Ralph Johnson (undated)

If you are tempted to go for a look, please bear in mind that access to this land is dodgy at present.



Colin Knox

9-1-78

Shaft

exposed.

Bones found

Cross Cut.

Hand Picked Shaft.

25'

Conjectured connection

Heifer Rift

Passage to Crimbo Swallow.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

At our AGM Kev (Our T.Off.) expressed concern about our responsibilities and ins. cover when instructing beginners particularly since with one exception members hold no recognised qualification.(CIC ,CIC) It was decided at the meeting that the club finance Kev to take his CIC ASAP and that the position be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

Since then I have made enquiries and would like to make the following points; Members are insured on our BCRA policy when taking

beginners carving ,even when being paid to do so and in addition many recognised bodies e.g. scouts have their own ins. cover.

The attitude of SCC is that experience is frequently of more value than a certificate and I would suggest that although we should not discourage members from taking qualifications likewise we should not discourage competent members from introducing others to the sport.

This raises the question of what does one mean by the word 'competent'. Some time ago we ran a scheme where we had a list of members who we felt were sufficiently competent to be responsible for parties of beginners w/ground.

These "instructors" would normally have 2 or 3 years carving experience on a fairly regular basis and would have to satisfy the club as to their suitability.

We also had a list of "assistant instructors" who we felt were competent to assist with parties of novices. These restrictions only applied to "external" groups and not to groups of friends...Give it some thought.

Ralph & Geof.

FOR SALE.....

T type lamps (10 Hour) £10.00 only a few left of these desirable items. Order now to avoid disappointment!!!

Tackle sacks. Any colour as long as its green!!! £11.00

Slave units KFSU MK2 If you are into photography these units are indispensable! No, they wont carry your camera box or tackle sack (It's rumored that Ralph tried to buy up the entire stock!) but they will trigger your flash units at a distance of more than 150' and are operated by INFRARED. DIY £6.00 Ready made £11.00

CCPC Running vests(Small) £3.00 T Shirts £3.50

SPECIAL DELIVERY..... GOUFFRE BERGER EXPEDITION '91 Sweat shirts £7.00 blue grey black also T shirts £3.50. These items also bear the name of a well known club

THE WEEKEND

Most weekends are spent
On this awful event,
The dawn does break,
We're all awake
The banging doors
is worse than his snores.
He crashes about
till goodbye he does about.
At last peace will reign,
but its not the same
As you wait all alone
Praying for his safe return home
Oh, how I wish he'd kick
this daft habit
And leave underground
to mole and rabbit.
ANON.(A cavers wife)

BERGER '91

AS many of you know the bottom end of the Ber will be rigged with string (9mm) You may find your rack FAST and your Petal STOP reduced to a Petal SLOW.....PRACTICE makes perfect, P.TON(EQUIP. A

BAGS OR BLANKETS?

No doubt you have all read the recent article: Descent on the above items.....if not you should unless you now own a breathable bag!!! P.T. etc