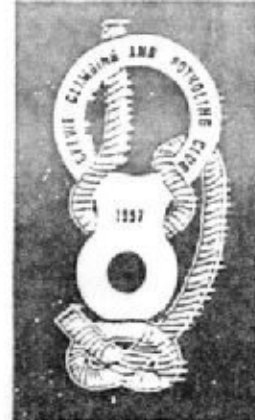


CCPC

Newsletter No.19



May 1989

Shock Load Tests on Lyon Speleorope

Following the discovery of a rub point on one of the club's ropes, members of the Bradford Pothole Club carried out a shock load test to see what effect it had on the strength of the rope. The rope in question was 10.5mm Lyon Speleorope. The rope was tested on the club's drop test rig with a fall factor one fall. The rope failed on the third drop — not as expected at the rub point, but at the knot.

As a result of this test, further tests were carried out on a number of samples from various club ropes (see table below).

The results of these tests were passed to Ben Lyon, the rope's distributor, who has since been in contact with both the rope's manufacturers, and with Ferdinand Petzl, who has independent rope testing facilities, and we expect to have further consultations with him as more tests are carried out.

In the meantime the BPC has decided to withdraw all Lyon Speleorope from general club use.

Whilst these tests are by no means conclusive, you may feel they are of sufficient interest to publish them.

B. Schofield (Schoff), Leeds

T-type cells should soon be available, ex Chaterley-Whitfield

THE JOURNAL IS NOW BEING TYPED.
ARTICLES MAY JUST GET IN IF SUBMITTED QUICKLY

* The BERGER has been BOOKED *
* by CCPC for *
* 1st - 10th July 1991 *
* Anyone interested, contact *
* Ralph *
* *
* PS Derbyshire Caving club *
* have got it booked *
* for the fortnight *
* commencing 24th July 1991. *
* *

Notes:

All samples were of approx. 1m length tied in 2m of rope.

All notes were figure-of-eight tightened by hand only.

All ropes were moist.

All drops were fall factor one.

No recovery time was allowed between drops on any of the samples.

Rope Type	No. of Trips	Sample	No. of Falls Withstood
Lyon Speleorope 11mm	New	A	62
" " "	5	A	6
" " "	"	B	4
" " "	"	C	4
Lyon Speleorope 10.5mm	5	A	1
" " "	"	B	2
" " "	"	C	2
" " "	20	A	2
" " "	"	B	2
" " "	"	C	2
" " "	23	A	2
" " "	"	B	1
" " "	"	C	2
Edelrid 11mm	58	A	17
" " "	"	B	13
Bluewater 9mm	Ex-Mexico Expedition (worn)	A	3

Ben Lyon Replies

Bradford Pothole Club have contacted me over their test results on used Speleorope. These are naturally of considerable concern. At this stage, while further tests are taking place, I would just wish to make the following points:

1. None of the ropes tested fell below safe limits for SRT use.
2. There appears to be a relatively rapid decline in rope strength from new, but this decline does not continue with increased use.
3. At least part of this initial decline can be attributed to moisture in the samples tested — nylon absorbs water, and loses strength when wet.
4. Speleorope is made with relatively more twist in the core than Edelrid static or Bluewater ropes. This gives it better flexibility, but the trade-off is that its ultimate breaking load is less.
5. Yarn used in the manufacture of Edelrid caving ropes, and the Speleorope made for us by Beal, is the same type, from the same factory.

If our own tests confirm the results from BPC, we will look at two changes for Speleorope. Firstly switching to an everdry finish to combat the effects of water (we will be testing a 200 metre length of everdry 9mm Speleorope in China in March); secondly, if necessary, by reducing the twist in the core strands.

Ben Lyon

MACCLESFIELD'S OWN ALTERNATIVE CLIMBING WALL

Someone (who shall remain nameless) sneaked out of his Sutton home in the dead of night wearing a black boiler suit and installed spits in a bridge belonging to British Rail.

The bridge is unused and only about thirty feet high but presently has two routes down and is an ideal place to practice self rescue, bolt changes, getting in and out of messes etc. It is mainly out of public view so you don't get too many people 'phoning the police reporting attempted lynchings etc.

It has pleasant views of the Gasworks and a chicken farm and there are plenty of old tyres,

dead dogs etc. to keep the kids amused. No-one has actually granted permission to use it but there again no-one has actually refused it either.

The sad news is that it is soon to be demolished, but in the meantime it is an excellent place to play when the weather is too nice to go underground!

To get there, follow the A 5.2.3 (Beech Lane) down the hill out of Macclesfield until it crosses the River Dean. There is a (free) car park on the left immediately after this bridge. Park there. To get to 'The' bridge, cross the road and walk back up the hill for 20 yards. A footpath on the left by the side of a games field leads directly to it. The bolts are in the East (stone) side.

The car park is at the beginning of the Bollin Valley Nature Trail and the bridge itself is next to the Middlewood Way, so wives/husbands who are not interested in watching their partners hang themselves can pass a pleasant hour or so in Cheshires green countryside.

SELF RESCUE PRACTICE

The self rescue practices arranged by Ralph at Holden Lane High School have been very well attended and most people have found them to be both fun and useful.

Just what technique was being polished by Tony Reynolds and Jane Brooks remains a mystery, suffice to say that they spent most of the evening in a close embrace close to the ceiling.

One of the most potentially useful techniques practiced was a method for safely removing an unconscious person from a rope.

For anyone who cannot attend the practices but would like to try the technique off a bridge/tree/stairwell, here is an outline of the method

1) Climb up to just below the victim (or back-prussic down to just above) and connect your short cows tail to the

MOLEPHONE TRIAL FOR DCRO

Thanks to all who took part in this exercise which proved successful. DCRO are likely to buy two sets in the near future, approximate cost £1,500.

They worked well in the locations tried and are said to be idiot proof (even Kevin used them!) The only incident was when one of our older bretheren managed to stumble (rumour has it that he fell out of his wheel-chair) on the way down from Oxlow breaking a finger!

victims main million.

2) If coming from below, remove the victims feet from his/her foot loops and climb past the victim. It is essential to move your hand jammer up the rope first and the whole thing is easier if you remove the victims hand jammer from the rope before attempting this.

3) Climb up the rope until the victims body is supported by the cows tail. Unclip the victims chest assender from the rope.

4) Change over to abseil and descend the rope.

Sounds simple doesnt it! From personal experience I would strongly recommend having a third person stood by with stepladders and a knife!

MAD MARCH WEEKEND
SWILDON HOLE - MENDIPS

After arriving late Friday night at the infamous "Slabhouse Pub" I soon realized why this was called "mad" March weekend. The yearly get-together was in full swing with one or two bodies already showing serious signs of wear.

After an excellent night we crawled back to the Forestry Research Bungalow which was to be our accommodation for two nights, a brilliant place with a big central log fire; just the job to crash out and contemplate the next days caving.

SATURDAY am(ish)

Swildon Hole MC/SSc NGR ST55/5312.5131
Length 30,000 ft Depth 548ft Alt 779 ft

After a frantic half an hour in the kitchen in an attempt to get something down our necks, we set off to Manor Farm close to the cave.

Swildons is the longest and most popular cave in the Mendips so we five soon found ourselves following another group for the third of a mile muddy trek (the coldest part of the trip) to the entrance, a stone building resembling an outside toilet. The walk however was made a little more entertaining as one member doning a brand new "virgin" wet suit was ceremoniously splattered with mud to be made more in keeping with the rest of this scabby Crewe crew!

The entrance dropped down into a stream passage. 1,800 ft to sump one, with many interesting scrambles and turns. The water was quite forceful. After a short way alternative routes appear looping back to the main stream passage - a choice of the "dry way" or the "wet way" - we of course chose the latter being of the Crewe!

The passage then opens up into a rift and the stream gains both in momentum and size and many formations appear high up in the roof, with some fine curtains.

A few hundred yards on we reached a 20' pitch with an awkward change over from a hand loop to the top of a ladder which then dropped down into a 3' deep pool.

A short pause was agreed at this point to acknowledge Cliff and Melv's

reconnaissance trip the day before to see if there was life beyond the bottom of the ladder: This however was where they had turned back as it was reported Cliff was mumbling something about his lamp and last orders!

The passage continued with a few slippery but easily managed climbs or alternatively the quick way down and a very cold plunge.

Another 15' climb took us up through "Barnes Loop" a well decorated walking passage with many delicate straws and other formations though sadly much damaged from constant and careless use.

Next comes a small pool - some of us got wet while others chose alternative methods of crossing.



200' of walking passage took us to sump 1, two of us admitting at this point not to have dived a sump before received encouragement from a 9 year old fellow caver who promised to follow us through as soon as he

finished his can of shandy which he produced from beneath his well worn boiler suit.



We all managed this treacherous 6'0" dive and on reaching the other side had our way confirmed by a road sign stuck on the wall which read "WELLS 1/2 MILE AVOIDING TOWN CENTRE".

The passage widened out and the water being almost up to the roof swimming was the order of the day. We reached sump 2, 27'0" long. At this point it was agreed the water was much too wet

and further discussions were needed in more amenable surroundings. So we made our way back to the surface flying through sump 1 like veterans.

Back to the farm where the days activities were rounded off with a demonstration by one member of how to hang upside down from a beam like a bat and fall flat on your back without apparently breaking any bones (still awaiting confirmation).

Saturday night was again a Slabhouse do with fine musical entertainment from Mendip Club - and their farcical Annual General Meeting. The highlight of course was Cliffs tall stories (taken with a sack of salt). He was duly rewarded with a prize of a pair of oversized green underpants (even for Cliff) which he proudly wore for the rest of the night. A mention must also be made of Zig who was a star with his communal oatcake cheese.

It was an excellent weekend and we were all made very welcome, a special thanks to the Mendip Club - I'll be there next year for sure.

Lou

DIRTY WEEKEND IN WALES

Lionel has organised what should be a superb weekend trip to Llandudno to visit the Great Orme Copper mines.

These historic mines are owned by the Mossdale Estate and have effectively been closed to the public ever since someone removed a relic (human bones no-less) which later turned up in Swansea Museum.

The Great Orme Exploration Society have now negotiated access and Lionel has liased with them to arrange a visit on the 29th Sept. 1st Oct.

For the benefit of those who speak Welsh, the trip will include;
Treweks
Pyllau Shaft
Ty Gwyn Shaft
Owens Shaft and
Roman Shaft.

A trip down Kendrick's Shaft may also be possible.

24 HOUR BAR!!

Wait 'till you read this! No, not a smelly caving hut or a damp tent but a REAL HOTEL at REDUCED RATES. Bed and breakfast is usually £34 but Lionel has negotiated Bed and breakfast for two nights and a four course evening meal for £20 inclusive at the Wedgewood Hotel (bar open 24 hrs)!

Why not bring the kids instead of taking them away this summer?

For full details, see Lionel.

'FINGS AIN'T WOT THEY USED TO BE

Altitude 1,250ft. Depth 495ft. Length over 10,000ft.

In hollow between Middle Hill and Peakshill, reached from track to Peakshill Farm. Permission required from farm.

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 First Sump is 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. On leaving drain dams or next party cannot bale into them. If they are full on arrival drain 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 Base Camp Chamber where river is met downstream from First Sump. Above this are chambers at high level with good formations. Continuing downstream to Garland Pot (fixed iron ladder for 30 feet) then into Giant's Crab Walk, a very narrow meandering passage for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, with 15 feet fixed ladder at one point.

Extracted from "The Caves of Derbyshire" by T.D.Ford 1964, which was several months after Giants Hole had been scheduled by the Nature Conservancy as a Site of Special Scientific Importance and several months before the farmer, Mr Watson decided to remove the obstacles and create a show cave.

CAPTION COMPETITION NO 1

RESULTS



Best entries received so far (all submitted anonymously) are:

Paddy- "B'jeses, tis d' first time I seed so many drips on d' one stretcher".

Victim- "Get your bloody foot off my bollocks, I felt a lot safer burried in sand"

Ralph (to victim) "...and after the doctor has checked you out, you can go back down for my tackle bag."

Any further contributions gratefully received.



Some Preliminary Comments on Radon and Caver Health



John Gunn & Stan Fletcher

(Limestone Research Group, Manchester Polytechnic)

David Prime

(Radiological Protection Service, Manchester University)

As most cavers will now be aware, radon has been very much in the news over the last six months and it is now generally acknowledged to be a major cause of lung cancer accounting for an estimated 1500 deaths per year in Britain. Most attention has focussed on radon levels in houses but there have also been several reports in newspapers and on television concerning radon levels in caves. Inevitably these have generated some concern amongst cavers both for health reasons and because of potential future access restrictions. As most of these reports stem directly or indirectly from the talk which David Prime and John Gunn gave at the BCRA National Caving Conference in September, we felt it necessary to provide a brief synopsis of our work to date for *Caves and Caving*. A fuller account will be sent to Cave Science later in the year.

Radon is a gas formed from the decay of radium which itself arises from natural uranium, an element which is widely distributed in the earth's crust, though generally in low concentrations. Possible sources of radon in caves include: (1) uranium rich shales in close proximity to the limestone (e.g. the basal Namurian shales which are stratigraphically above the Carboniferous Limestone in the Peak District); (2) mineralised areas which usually contain uranium; (3) volcanic horizons within the limestones ('toadstones' and 'wayboards') as these usually contain uranium; and (4) colophonite, a uraniferous phosphatic deposit which occurs in some Peak District and Yorkshire limestones. As radon is highly soluble in water it may be transported into caves in solution and then released. The radon gas decays to give short lived isotopes of lead, polonium and bismuth ('radon daughters') which emit alpha-particles.

The radon daughters tend to attach themselves to dust or water particles and can thus be inhaled. The alpha-particles from the radon daughters which lodge in the lungs irritate the lungs and can initiate lung cancer.

Measuring Radon

Radon daughter concentrations may be determined in several ways, the most practical for caves being (1) the 'Kusnetz' method which is relatively quick but requires access to mains electricity to process the samples within 90 mins of collection, (2) a fairly expensive (£3,500) battery operated 'Radon Sniffer' which will give an initial estimate in 15-20 minutes but takes 30-60 minutes to produce a reliable reading or (3) a ridiculously expensive (over £3,000) Instant Working Level Meter.

Unfortunately there are several units of measurement for radon daughter concentrations, the commonest being the 'working level' (WL). In assessing the risk to health it is necessary to compute dose which is concentration multiplied by exposure-time. Dose may be expressed as millisieverts per unit time (e.g. mSv y⁻¹) or as working level hours where 1 WLH equals one hour's exposure to 1 WL. Dosimeters which measure cumulative exposure to radon

gas and which may be left underground or worn on an individual are available but there is some controversy over the interpretation of dosimeter results!

Government Legislation

(The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1985 and the Approved Code of Practice Part 3 'Exposure to Radon', 1988) control the annual dose which may be received by an employee at a place of work. Normally a worker should receive no more than 15 mSv y⁻¹ (about 204 WLH) but a classified radiation worker may receive up to 50 mSv y⁻¹ (about 680 WLH) although such a high dose is considered undesirable. The National Radiation Protection Board (NRPB) recommend that a member of the public should not receive more than 1 mSv y⁻¹ (about 13.6 WLH) although over 20,000 people in Devon receive over 20 times this amount from their homes.

The actual health risks which result from exposure to radon daughters are not clearly defined, particularly with respect to short term exposure to relatively high doses as could happen in some caves/mines. However, recent figures suggest that exposure to about 200 WLH per year for life doubles one's risk of dying from lung cancer whereas lifetime smoking increases the risk of dying from lung cancer tenfold. It is very important to note that exposure to radon and cigarette smoke has a multiplicative effect which in simplistic terms might be expressed as a $2 \times 10 = 20$ rather than a $2 + 10 = 12$ risk. The moral is that if you are unable to give up smoking then at the very least you should give up smoking while underground! It has also been suggested that exposure to radon may (1) increase the risk of developing leukemia and (2) be linked to several chest complaints.

Results from Caves

Since June 1987 we have been collecting data on radon daughter concentrations somewhat sporadically from several caves and mines, primarily in the Peak District. Much work remains to be done but our observations indicate:

- (1) that there are wide spatial variations at all scales (within cave; cave to cave; area to area);
- (2) there are substantial temporal variations, again at a variety of scales from diurnal to season; and
- (3) some caves, principally those in the Castleton area, have very high concentrations at some times of the year.

The first two observations are substantially in accord with overseas experience and reflect the fact that radon levels vary with proximity to source (uranium), ventilation, atmospheric pressure and, less clearly, water levels. However, our initial literature review suggests that the radon daughter concentrations in some of the Castleton caves are substantially higher than anywhere else in the world although higher concentrations have been recorded in mines. The highest readings to date come from the Giants-Oxlow system where Terry Middleton undertook a detailed

survey over the period 20 June to 3 July 1988. Concentrations at individual sites ranged from 2.1 to 24.3 WL and the daily mean for the cave ranged from 4.5 to 17 WL. During the ten caving trips which Terry made to obtain these figures he received almost 500 WLH of exposure, well in excess of the annual dose received by the vast majority of workers in the nuclear industry and over 70 per cent of the permitted annual dose for a classified radiation worker. Concentrations were still high on 14 October but had dropped dramatically by 17 December. Further winter observations are planned and if these remain low then it is clearly more advisable for those who wish to minimise their dose to visit Giants in winter! On the basis of very limited sampling it would seem that concentrations are generally lower in the Peak-Speedwell system, P8 and Carlswark but cavers may expect to receive up to 5 WL for each hour spent underground in these caves. Our data for caves outside the Peak district are even more restricted and all that can be said is that in the Penwyllt area concentrations range from negligible (less than 0.01) to 3 WL; in the Yorkshire Dales from negligible to 1.5 WL and in Devon are generally less than 0.5 WL.

Some Conclusions

Firstly, we need a lot more data and the problems here are that the necessary equipment is expensive and that each observation takes at least 10 and often 30 minutes (assistants have commented that "Radon Sniffing" is even more boring than cave photography — and there are no pretty pictures at the end either). However, funds are being actively sought to enable a more systematic research programme to be undertaken.

Secondly, it is clear that some recreational cavers may be receiving a higher annual radiation dose than would be permitted to miners (coal/fluorspar/tin/uranium) or to work-

ers in the nuclear industry. My (JG) personal opinion is that provided the individuals are aware that they are placing themselves at risk then nothing more can or should be done. If we can establish which caves have the highest concentrations and at which particular time of day or season then cavers may choose to plan their trips accordingly. No element of compulsion is necessary as the presence of radon would be accepted as one of the risks of caving and we would emphasise that the risk is less than that of being a cigarette smoker (insurance companies please note!). However, we would also emphasise that the risk is long term and not readily observable and in this respect we would be interested in making contact with any caving medic interested in undertaking a long-term epidemiological study.

Thirdly, it seems likely that some cave instructors may also be receiving an unacceptably high dose. Where they are employed as an instructor then their employer is obliged by law to ensure either that they receive less than 204 WLH per year or that they are designated as classified radiation workers (which entails an annual medical and keeping of dose records) and receive less than 680 WLH per year. Our understanding is that if an instructor is self-employed then there is no similar obligation under law and the above comments on recreational cavers would apply. In addition, instructors should note that children under 16 are generally regarded as being particularly susceptible to the effects of radiation and for this reason it is important that their annual dose is kept as low as possible.

Fourthly, it would seem likely that those caves and caving areas which are identified as having low radon daughter concentrations will receive greater traffic in the future than those with high concentrations. The implications of this for cave conservation will need to be considered as more information becomes available.

CAVER'S FOUND HIDDEN DEPTHS

AS a 19-year-old university student I recently fulfilled a long-time ambition and joined a local caving and potholing club.

My first trip to the clubhouse was obviously noted, for that initial delve underground was in the company of five dishy fellas with muscles like rocks.

They handed me a black rubber wetsuit to wear on the trip and straight away there were five pairs of helping hands to squeeze my ample build into the costume. I realised this would be a weekend to remember.

It wasn't long before I was on all fours, writhing around in liquid mud. I had to keep a hand on the smooth bottom of the guy in front and his friends behind took it in turns to squeeze me through tricky positions.

After a while we came to a warm cavern at the centre of which was a prominent stalagmite thrusting three feet into the air.

As our group leader caressed

its ribbed form he explained it was called "Virgin's Delight". It certainly gave me the hots.

Unable to resist the urges I unzipped my wetsuit... which was an apt description of it by now.

Stripped

To my amazement, my five friends were soon stripped and lying on the ground, and to my delight five of the quickest-growing stalagmites I'd ever

seen had sprung up.

Then they told me it was their club duty to make sure I was up to all the demands of their adventurous sport.

You certainly need plenty of stamina for it, for next they showed me how to use their ropes by lashing me firmly to a rock and smothering me very slowly in baby oil.

They said this was vital to get me back to ground level as my wetsuit was lost in the dark. It was the biggest thrill of my life having to squirm through those cold, hard, smooth rocks completely naked.

The problem is I am doing my geography dissertation on underground rock formations. Every time I try to write a serious thesis my mind wanders back to my subterranean experience.

The essay is due in this week and it is not finished. What do I say to my geography lecturer?

L.H. Mike Glenmorgan

FIONA: Tell him you've decided to give a practical demonstration of your findings. That'll knock his ROCKS off and you're bound to graduate with first class honours.

SUNDAY SPORT February 5, 1989



CAPTION COMPETITION No 2



Remember, you don't have to be a caver to appear in cavers wives! Study the photo and use your skill/experience to fill in the caption to indicate what this caveress/stalacmite was saying /thinking.

Best entries to be included in a forthcoming newsletter.

CAPTION COMPETITION No 2.

Person/Stalacmite "....."
....."

I think that Gill should remain anonymous ☐

Please give/post entries to Mark Lovatt

Redacted

GAPING GILL

I've been obsessed with an ambition to abseil Gaping Gill Main Shaft for about 24 years and was determined to go on the Crewe trip in September. I began learning about SRT at the beginning of August and went caving at every opportunity with the sole purpose of being experienced enough to tackle Gaping Gill in September. A couple of times, when I doubted my abilities, it was suggested I wait for the next trip, but I'd set my heart on this one and where there's a will, there's a way!

The only thing I then had to come to terms with was that all the people I knew who were going seemed more keen to do Bar Pot. Then, the day before, during a trip to Nettle with Martyn, he said that as the Otter trip had been cancelled, he'd be keen to come to Gaping Gill instead and he'd rig main shaft. To make sure he came and didn't change his mind I drove from Macc. to Clapham via Biddulph to give Martyn a lift.

When Martyn and I arrived in Clapham, Liam told us that two groups from the EPC had already gone up to do Main Shaft so we'd probably have a long wait if we still wanted to do it. After some discussion, we agreed to rig Bar Pot and then derig Stream Passage Pot. Clutching Liam's guide book, Martyn and I went off for breakfast and to study Bar Pot.

When we arrived at Bar Pot (with Jane, George and Mark) we found that Lenny had already rigged it so once again a change of plan was called for! We told Liam that we would still derig Stream Passage Pot but we'd now wander up to Main Shaft and see what the chances of rigging that would be after all.

We'd left everything we'd brought with us to dam Fell Beck in the car thinking No. 1 that we were going to do Bar Pot and No. 2 that if the EPC lads were doing Main Shaft they would have already dammed the Beck.

Mistake No. 1 The EPC lads hadn't dammed the Beck, so mistake No. 2 we thought that if the EPC lads could do it without damming the Beck we could too!

By this time it was around mid-day. The EPC lads were just derigging so we decided to wait and do Main Shaft after all. After all the doubts and changes of plan I was finally here, putting my gear on and soon I would be conquering an obsession! Martyn went to rig and I waited, nervous, excited, impatient and eager to follow.

Around 1pm the rain started and the mist came down. George leaned over the pot to see what he could see, and called to us that Martyn was on his way up again. A few minutes later and George told us Martyn had stopped about 100' down, he was sat in his harness reading Liam's guide book! Well this kept us all amused for a while. Eventually George called that Martyn had gone back down again. Minutes ticked by, then Mark started talking about going back and doing Bar Pot after all. I said that it would be a little unfair on Martyn if he finally rigs Main Shaft and in the meantime we've all cleared off! Apart from which I was still clinging on to the hope that I was going to abseil Main Shaft that day!

ANSWERS TO LAST EDITIONS 'SPOT THE DELIBERATE MISTAKES' COMPETITION

MOST PEOPLE got these quite easily and so I will have to make them a little harder in future. The correct answers were :-

1) The difference between a 'Student' and a 'Student' was £4.00.

2) The Training Officer is not Kevin Beaumont, Rod Mountford or Rod Beaumont but KEVIN MOUNTFORD.

3) Ron, George and Ralph repaired the KNOTLOW SHAFT and have since been thanked by the committee of the D.C.A.

Eventually Martyn re-appeared at the top, he couldn't find the bolts. George went down for a look and finally about 2.30 we admitted defeat and gave up. If we'd dammed the stream we wouldn't have had any problems!

We walked back to Bar Pot with the intentions of going into Gaping Gill this way instead. Martyn and George had had enough for one day. They were cold and wet had only one thing on their minds, a pint! We said we'd see them later. At the entrance to Bar Pot it rapidly became apparent that the idea of a pint was more appealing to Mark than Gaping Gill too! Trouble was we'd promised Liam that we would derig Stream Passage Pot. Someone suggested that we find the top, go down and come straight back out to derig. Problem here was that none of us knew where Stream Passage Pot was on the surface and now the mist had come down, I wasn't sure we'd find it, whereas Mark and I had been to Stream Passage from Main Chamber before, so I thought we stood more chance of finding it from below.

Mark crawled through the entrance to Bar Pot followed by Jane, then me. Having had three goes at squeezing through the narrow entrance to the first pitch, Mark admitted that it would all be so much easier if someone hadn't mentioned the pub and beer! Jane went through, successfully negotiated the tight squeeze and abseiled to the bottom of the first pitch. Mark was still hesitating and although I had been to Stream Passage before I have a lousy sense of direction and wasn't sure if I'd find it again without Marks help. After some discussion Mark had another go and this time got through with little difficulty!

Bar Pot is a great way into Gaping Gill, the final pitch being in a magnificent chamber. I descended quite slowly having a good look round on the way.

I think it was at this point that I began moaning because I'd so looked forward to an exhilarating trip and so far, it was gone 4'o clock and I had done nothing very difficult. Little did I know what was to come!

We set off for Stream Passage and emerging from the narrow uncomfortable crawl from South East Pot we found Liam and his group on their way to Bar Pot. Liam said that he would meet us at the top of Stream Passage Pot later.

We set off, after Mark, worried about how long his lamp would last, swapped to his carbide lamp. By the time we arrived at Stream Passage Pot the carbide was giving problems too, which he tried to sort out while we waited for Jane to climb the first pitch. As soon as Jane called "Rope free" I followed her, and was very glad of her assistance at the top of this pitch. There's not a lot to stand on and I couldn't see initially how to get off the rope. Well, I managed, then Mark followed. Jane went off in search of the next rope while Mark and I derigged by the light from my lamp and his, by now, rapidly failing lamp.

 *
 * STAFFORD COUNTY SHOW *
 *
 * CCPC and Holden Lane High *
 * School are involved is the *
 * (Stafford) County Show which is *
 * to be held on 24th and 25th *
 * May. *
 *
 * This involves a display similar *
 * to the one we did at Bidulph *
 * Carnival many years ago, ie. *
 * an abseiling tower (but no 100 *
 * ft crane this time! We might *
 * allow the public to use it. *
 *
 * Petrol and meals are provided *
 * but not loss of salary. If you *
 * work for Staffs. CC this should *
 * be no problem. *
 *
 * All enquiries to Ralph. *
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The next pitch is climbed in a waterfall, but at this stage in the day, who cares?! I was cold, hungry, tired and wet but at least I was getting the excitement I'd craved earlier on! No one ever pretended to me that caving was a comfortable sport and I'm forever being told that the more uncomfortable you are, the more you are supposed to enjoy it. In retrospect, this is true, I think!

Again at the top of the next pitch, I made use of Janes experience to help me off the rope. Once again, there is not much to stand on and I felt precariously balanced while waiting for Mark. By the time Mark had reached the top of this pitch his lamp had gone out. He tried undoing the bolts by the light of Janes lamp, but this was almost impossible as there was nowhere for Jane to stand that gave Mark light, not shadow. Eventually Jane took the spanner and after some effort, got the bolts undone. Jane climbed the next pitch while Mark and I pulled up and packed the ropes. A climb of about 90' through a waterfall was our third pitch and by now felt like hard work. Approaching the top, I caught sight of another lamp and heard the very welcome tones of Liam's voice. Prussicking in the dark was not Mark's idea of fun. Anyway, Liam stayed to help Mark and finished derigging whilst I followed Jane along a narrow passage, traversing over a sizeable drop, until we came to a short pitch of 25' down which Liam had put a ladder and lifeline. Climbing up was no problem, but getting off at the top was fun, a very narrow squeeze, and once again, not much to put your feet on. One more tight squeeze then we thought we'd be out. Certain that we'd climbed our last pitch, Jane and I took off our climbing gear and attempted to push through (like being born was Jane's description).

After much struggling and blue language I finally made it through and was then faced with another climb of about 25' through the oil drums which led to the surface. Before continuing, Jane and I waited to hear Mark's 'interesting' language as he negotiated another tight squeeze! We were dissapointed, Mark got through easily - how did he manage when Jane and I struggled? On with the climbing gear again and prussik out. So at last we were out and I now recognised we had the most difficult part of the journey to face - finding our way back to Clapham in the dark, rain and mist, without getting lost or falling down a hole or in a bog, and before they called time in the pub.

We made it, and discovered on our return that Martyn, worried by the length of time we'd been gone, had borrowed a lamp and walked back to Gaping Gill looking for us. Thanks Martyn!

Stream Passage Pot makes a wonderful trip and I'd like very much to tackle it again sometime. I still have my ambition to abseil down Gaping Gill Main Shaft to fulfil, so what I want to know is - when's the next trip planned for?!

 FOR SALE	URGENTLY REQUIRED News, views, suggestions, stories, libels, information, ideas, tips, photographs, cartoons, scandal, reports, opinions, jokes, questions, answers, facts, lies - What's the matter, can non of you write? Mark	'T' SHIRTS as above. White £3.50, Coloured £3.80 Ralph. DURACELL BATTERIES Suitable for 'Petzel' Headsets, £1.90 Ralph. STITCH-PLATE Lost. Last seen at Holden Lane High School 21st March. John Shenton.
WANTED Highly paid job in South Wales. Lots of free time essential Offers around £25,000 considered. Liam	SWEAT SHIRTS With Club Logo. All sizes £7.00 Ralph.	LOST: PETZL HEADSET Probably in Crabwalk, Giants 20th April. Mark.