

Scarborough Caving Club

Jerry



Monthly Update for January 1994

Our two representatives on NCA Cave Conservation committee are Jerry and Chalky, Who attended the first meeting last month.

Lyn has a copy of the report from that meeting.

There have been several attempted trips to the dales recently, but most succumbed to the wet weather. Notable trips were when two members rigged Diccan Pot thinking it was Dollytubs! A good training trip into Sell Gill Holes when Stream Passage pot was rained off. And another good trip into the top system of Lost Johns Pot. All new Members are making a real effort to get their own gear together, which is very encouraging. Lamp building is going well with several people making their own Nicad lamps. Help and advice is always available.

Several people have asked if we can do more local trips, so we are to mount a year long attack at the Windypits, but because they are all on private land, it has to be carefully controlled, details will appear shortly.

The permit list shows only Permit caves, i.e. Grade 3,4 & 5 Caves which have been requested by members last year, so we need to arrange non permit cave trips to fit in between the others. Lists and ideas please,

The Date of the Clubs AGM has been changed to the week before, it will now take place on SATURDAY 12TH MARCH. at the New Tavern, this is to fit in with several members who have difficulty attending on the 19th.

Bull Pot needs to be looked at as apparently it has not been finished yet by CRO. In spring we will again go back and at least get the top pitch and, water permitting, the fifth pitch rigged. I will arrange with the CNCC for the equipment once a suitable date and team are sorted out.

New gear. We have a shortage of short ropes ie. we tend to use an 80ft rope for a 30ft pitch, so Michael is looking into some rope ends to help alleviate this problem. The 9mm rope is being withdrawn from heavy club use as it is showing signs of wear and tear.

20-Jan-94

Monthly Update for January 1994

Training. A new training wall is nearly ready in Dent, to which to club may go occasionally. All details of this can be supplied by Kieth Dobson. There is a wall belonging to Inglesport, but it mainly serves climbers, - OK for a wet day when nothing is accessable.

Dates for your Diary;

Next trips

Sat 5th Feb JUNIPER GULF

Sat 12th Feb Meeting at New Tavern

Sat 19th Feb GAPING GILL MAIN SHAFT (not for the faint hearted). Details at next meeting

Cavers Fair this year is at Austwick near Settle held over the weekend of 4-5th June, the same day as Birks Fell cave. The fair can be attended for one day, two days or both days and sat evening, so those going to Birks Fell could come along after the trip.

BCRA Conferance is at Newport in Shropshire on 17-18th September if anyone fancies going.

~~OFD Columns Open days in South Wales are on each of the Bank holiday Sundays this year, we could combine this with a long weekend of trips?~~

Keith has lost a gold chain of great sentimental value in Lost Johns Pot. If anyone hears of its whereabouts or anyone finding it, could they let Keith know.

One Second hand sit harness/belt set still for sale.

Also two five bar Racks now ready for sale.

See Lyn for both these.

This is not a sales ploy, but figure of Eight descenders really are unsuitable for SRT ropes and the club has tried to discourage their use for some time, due to rope twisting and the danger of dropping the descender on changovers.

Also reported are the shear number of accidents due to Petzl Stop descenders being used incorrectly or even opening up during use. If you have one of these, please check it carefully, or Buy a Rack.

See you at the next Trip or Meeting,

Caving club is praised for work

MEMBERS of Scarborough Caving Club held their annual photo-competition at the New Tavern.

There were 48 entries and winners were: best colour print, Richard Ward (Scarborough); best black and white print, Michael Ward (Scarborough); best slide, Keith Dobson (Eston, Cleveland).

All the entries were taken in difficult conditions and depended on the imaginative use of lighting from flashguns and flashbulbs to achieve some stunning shots.

The judge was Mr Mike DeRouffignac, of Malton, a professional photographer and lecturer on photography,

who awarded trophies and prizes.

The club has been praised for the way in which it co-operates and works with the Forestry Commission and English Nature in matters of access and conservation. It was mentioned at a National Caving Association conference as an example of how things should be done.

Several new members have joined over the past year and the club has a very active programme planned for 1994, with many trips to caves and mines in the North of England.

Anyone interested in caving is invited to contact the secretary (tel 9723 377443) for details.

CLUB Call



Edited by Kate Hampshire

● *Calling all clubs . . . the Evening News is pleased to publish reports of meetings and events run by local clubs and societies. Send in your reports to Kate Hampshire, Club Call, Evening News, 17-23 Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough YO11 1BB (tel: 0723 363636, extn 260).*

CAVING '86

B.A.C.C.

MAY 17	HIGH HULL and HONEY POT	(SRT)
JULY 26	GIGGLING HOLE	*
AUG 09	PENYGHENT POT	(SNAKES and LADDERS)
AUG 23	HAMMERSANDWICH POT	*(TIGHT or STOCKINGS)
SEPT 20	COUNTY POT	*
OCT 04	DINK-LINK-COUNTY	*(SRT for DINK 110')
OCT 11	DEATHS NOSE-BIG GREENIE	(SRT,BIG BITCH)

C.S.G.

MAY 24	SPECTACLE POT	(SRT,TIGHTS (BLACK))
JUNE 21	GAYGORDON POT	*
JULY 19	LINK POT	*
AUG 16	SEE GULL HOLE	
SEPT 20	STRAINENFILL POT	(SRT)
OCT 18	EASYJILL WEEKEND	*
NOV 15	SLEEPYBILL HOLE	*
DEC 13	TAKEMA WIFES HOLE	*

S.C.C.

RIFT POT	(SRT,TIGHTS)	BULL POT and COW PAT	*
BPOWGILL	*	MARBLE STEPS POT	(SRT)
LOW DONK	*	WINSTONS HOLE	*
TARBY and FRIEND POT *		PANTING RAVE	(TIGHT)
LIMPDONGS POT *		CAR PORT G.G.	(SRT,poss WENCH)
WHEELBARROW CAVE			

PHONE Nos

President	Ed. Potter	810443
Treasurer	Miles Perletta	583382
Secretary (Transport)	Dai Hatsue / Ford O'Ryan	-
Secretary (Alt. Transport)	Rick Shaw	584429
Secretary (Night Treks)	Randy Sinns	375558
Certificates	Oscar A. Ward	374761
Lighting Eng.	Mick Ronson	371943
First Aid	Shirley H. Care	-
Latrines	Mick Turate / Emma Rhoyd	-
Catering Supervisors	Anne Thracks / Sam Manella / Edith Hallup	
Back-up Crew	John Fitzpatrick / Patrick Fitzjohn / Ben Dover / Eileen Dover / Phil McAvitey / Dick Brown	
Head Guide	Mark Tracks	

A GUIDE TO THE SAFE USE OF RACK DESCENDERS

The rack, in its various forms, has, over a number of years, become one of the most popular caving descenders and correctly used, is a safe, variable friction device for descending long underground rope pitches. It does not, however, have a fail-safe self locking action.

Close attention must be paid to its use at all times, particularly on long abseils, during changeovers or in passing intermediate belays. Adequate practice above ground, preferably under experienced supervision, is essential to its safe use underground.

Different types of rack

There are two main rack types:-

1. The most common type is illustrated in fig. 1. It has five brake bars and offers great control because friction can be made to vary considerably.
2. The U-shaped rack (sometimes known as the super rack) fig. 2. A very strong device but lacking the same range of control since the friction cannot be varied to the same extent as (1) (see below under *Abseiling/use of variable friction*).

A modification of (1) is the Lewis "Safety Three" brake bar system which makes incorrect loading of the rope less likely (see below under *Loading*).

Attachment to harness

The common rack is attached to the sit harness with a screwgate karabiner or maillon rapide as shown in fig. 1. The gap in the frame (marked on fig. 1) may face left or right according to preference or even directly away from the user but it should not face directly into his body, because the lower rope may then have to be lifted over his head when adding or subtracting brake bars in the course of a descent (see below under *Abseiling/use of variable friction*).

U-shaped racks are attached to the sit harness with a screwgate karabiner or maillon rapide as shown in fig. 2. Since all bars must always be used the comments on the orientation of the frame to the user, made about the common rack, do not apply.

Loading the rope

The common rack is loaded by unclipping all save the top bar from one side of the frame and hinging them to one side. The rope is passed around each one in turn SO THAT IT PASSES AROUND THE SIDE OF THE BARS WITH **NO SLOT** (fig. 1). Should the rope be wrongly threaded the device becomes **LETHAL** because the rope is then free to fall out; so take great care. The Lewis "Safety Three" rack has modified second and third bars as in Fig. 3. The third bar cannot be removed (except intentionally), and as the second bar is free to swing (it does not "clip" onto the frame) threading the rope around the wrong side of the second bar will merely allow the rope to fall out. The rope is normally loaded by pushing a loop of rope between the top and third bars and over the second bar. Once the first three bars are correctly threaded it is very difficult to thread the other two wrongly.

Three related safety aspects of particular importance are:-

1. Purpose made S.R.T. rope
2. Tie a knot in the lower end of the rope
3. Protect yourself with "cows tails" when there is a risk of falling

U-shaped racks are loaded by pushing a loop of rope between the top and third bars and over the second bar, then between the third and bottom bars and over the end of the fourth bar so that the rope **ALWAYS PASSES AROUND THE SIDE OF THE BARS WITH NO SLOT** (as for common rack). **All the bars must be threaded** as they cannot be added later during the course of the descent.

