

Scarborough

Caving Club

7th October Meeting.

1995



This month there was very little discussed at the meeting. The main item was regarding the club chairman. As very few nominations were received and they were for the same person we are missing out the voting process. The new chairman is Jerry Gibbs who I hope you will give your support to in his new position as he has a hard act to follow thanks to Richard. Anyone wishing to takeover the position of tacklemaster which is now vacant is more than welcome provided they will keep the equipment in good order, let us know if you are prepared to do the job.

As you are all probably aware our next meeting falls on the 4th

November which is the day before Bonfire Night. Because many bonfires are likely to be held on the Saturday we have moved the meeting to 11th November one week later I hope this does not inconvenience any of you.

Following our decision to try and get some new members into the club an advert was placed in the Scarborough Evening News which got us a huge response (NOT). We are still wanting ideas for attracting new members and for posters to be placed in various places. It has been suggested that one way of bringing the club to the public eye is to enter the traditional Boxing Day Raft Race around Scarborough harbour. Anyone with any suitable materials or who wish to take part please let Jerry or myself know.

Due to the dwindling amounts of cavers attending trips it has been mentioned that anyone wishing to go caving on a club trip and only do as much as they wish is more than welcome to follow the cavers going to the bottom and do what ever they want.

Finally after the Bar Pot trip on Saturday 14th Jamie found a relatively new battery belt just outside the entrance if this is yours Jamie has the belt and you can contact him for it on (01947) 602135.

Forthcoming Events.

28th October	King Pot.
4th November	Free.
11th November	Meeting.
19th November	Juniper Gulf.

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Well, as most or maybe all of you will now know I, Jerry Gibbs are now your chairman. I to thank all of those (one) who voted me in as your chairman and pledge to do my utmost in filling the position.

I would like to give, on behalf of the club our enormous thanks to Richard Ward who, for the past countless years has led the Scarborough Caving Club as chairman with great dedication and enthusiasm. Richard gave up so much of his time to the club, I only hope that I can achieve half of what he has done for the club and if I ask him nicely he might give me a few pointers in the right direction.

The next meeting falls on Bonfire Night so, therefore many of us will want to go and see some big flames and fireworks, so the date of Novembers meeting has been altered to **Saturday 11th November**. More bad news !! Mere Gill has been cancelled so we can have the meeting but it's a non-permit trip and is subject to horrendous flooding so we can (and I think it's best) do it in the summer.

Anyone for tacklemaster !! Due to being chairman now - no chairman now, the post of tacklemaster is up for grabs ! Sue says please, please someone but if anyone is interested in taking care of the ropes as she does with her comfort, and live central enough for everyone to contact them we would like to hear from you.

And for all you clever buggers who, like me do now't on Boxing Day apart from get pissed what about entering the raft race ? (Sue thinks we're off away but I'm the BOSS !) Lets don our wet suits and kick some ass ! Entries for makes and models of rafts please submit A.S.A.P. so as we can set about (in secret) building them. Oh ! yeh! I've got loads of oil drums I've cadged from my boss so I need a few takers.

The mine at Birtley has surpassed beyond all expectations. A brilliant break through was made on the upper level it just needs to be seen to be believed. More about that in the next minutes plus a comprehensive survey.

Bar Pot trip was outstanding. The infamous Chalky surpassed himself and mastered his fear of heights and tackled an abseil of more than 20 feet. The Big Girls Blouse Award therefore could possibly be held by someone else this year, Oh dear ! Gosh ! Doesn't he write some shit !

As we all know we're short of members and need to start recruiting again. What we need is ideas for an advertising poster. So all and any ideas are welcome. Lets aim at Colleges, Factories, Primary Schools to keep Jamie busy (don't let the police see this) notice boards etc. Its our club and we don't want to lose it so lets get working together.

Once again thanks to Richard and lets hope that he will continue to be an active member because I need his help in surveying that bloody Birtley mine.

yours
Jerry Gibbs. Chairman.

P.s. Next caving trip is King Pot 28/10/95. Any takers for lifts equipment etc. phone me on 354193.



Free - but how about a donation to the local Cave Rescue Service?

Equipment and Safety

NCA ROPE TESTS, JULY 1993 TO JUNE 1995

(Summary of Owen Clarke's Report)

The NCA rope test consists of a series of drops of an 80kg weight onto a nominal 1m length of figure of 8 knotted rope. The Fall Factor is increased during each series of tests to give a steadily rising maximum stress in the rope, which assists in grading the residual length of a used rope. The series of Fall Factors is 1.0, 1.25, 1.5, 1.8 and a final 1.8. A useable rope survives the 1.0 and 1.25 Fall Factor tests.

Tests have been carried out on 78 used SRT ropes and, for comparison, on 13 unused SRT ropes. 1 unused length of dynamic rope and 2 ten-year-old cows tails have also been tested. The results are detailed in the report.

HOW THE NCA TESTS RELATE TO THE PROVISIONAL EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR NEW LOW STRETCH ROPES, DRAFT Pr EN 1891.

EN 1891 calls for a sequence of 5 tests at a Fall Factor of 1.0 with a mass of 100kg on a knotted rope length of 2 metres. This drop is approximately equivalent to the NCA 1.25 FF with 80kg mass. The acceptance test is thus similar, although there are naturally more repeats with a new rope than for a used rope: 5 against 2. The function of EN 1891 is to show that a new rope has an adequate reserve of strength to allow for weakening in use; the function of the NCA test is to find out if that reserve has been used up and, if not, how much reserve still remains. It is interesting that all the new 11mm ropes have survived the full sequence of the NCA tests, including the greater forces at 1.8 FF. This appears to indicate that the other requirements of EN 1891: knotted strength

15kN and unknotted strength 22kN, give a good safety margin in the drop test.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE NCA TEST TO A FALL DURING SRT

The 80kg 1.25 FF is equivalent to 100kg 1.0 FF, or an 80kg caver with 20 kg of tackle and gear falling from a point level with the anchor. Two safety factors are produced in an actual fall. The knots only take one fall and the forces on the first fall are 70 - 80% lower than those in later falls due to energy going into tightening the knot. Also the weight is rigid, while the human body and sit harness are deformed, reducing the energy to be stored in the rope and thus the peak force on the rope.

The conclusions drawn from the tests so far were summarised in SPELEOScene No. 18. A full copy of Owen Clarke's report can be obtained by sending him an SAE, his address is on p4. The Rope Test Rig will be there at the BCRA Conference so bring along a 2.5m length of any rope you would like tested.

PUZZLED BY FALL FACTORS?

It's a way of explaining how much stress the rope takes during a fall and depends partly on the length of rope available to take the strain and partly on the distance fallen. The higher the FF, the greater the stress.

In the normal way a caver is unlikely to achieve a FF even as high as 1.0. That would require falling from a point level with the belay - most likely to happen at the top of a pitch or when passing a re-belay: a drop of only 1/2 a metre could do it! A drop of 5m when you are hanging at the bottom of a 100m rope is theoretically much less serious since the FF is only 0.05.

NEW RESIN FOR ECO-ANCHORS

With Hilti due to discontinue the C50 resin, the hunt has been on for an alternative. Tests by NCA Equipment Committee members on Sunday, 17 September will demonstrate whether a new resin made by a Derbyshire firm will prove successful. The installation technique is the same (avoiding the need for re-training) and the new resin promises to work better with stainless steel, allowing the DMM P-anchors still to be used.

CAVE RESCUE

THE GAPING GILL TRAGEDY

In July this year a group of Scouts were on a walking trip and stopped on the moor near the Main Shaft of Gaping Gill. Some were allowed to explore nearby cave entrances, using a cigarette lighter since they had no torches. They chose Jib Tunnel and, not seeing the open shaft here, one boy fell to his death in the Main Chamber. Two cavers exploring the system were within metres of where he landed and assisted the C.R.O. in retrieving the body. The adults in charge of the party included the boy's father.

PROBLEMS IN OFD II

West Brecon Cave Rescue Team report that a recent incident involved parties overdue on through trips from Cwm Dwr to OFD II. Experience of previous incidents predicts that these groups are likely to be found trying to locate the climb up from Maypole Inlet. They don't come far enough up the passage, and start looking for the ascent too early. The question, from WBCRT's perspective is - what to do about it?

WBCRT has no remit to tell cavers how they should plan trips. On the other hand an incident like the one described can involve a large number of people and is preventable, all that's needed is for cavers to be aware of the landmarks. So WBCRT is going to remind cavers via the caving journals of the need to be familiar with the route on these fairly standard trips. In this way, hopefully, they don't have to buy a barrel and WBCRT members can enjoy their Sunday dinners at home.

(From: SWCC August Newsheet)

NATIONAL MOUNTAIN RESCUE SUPPORT ORGANISATION

Anyone with any knowledge of this organisation (formerly the Milton Keynes Mountain Rescue Team) is asked to contact the British Cave Rescue Council Secretary. They have set up as a charity and there is some concern about their operation and where the money they raise is destined. The MRC is investigating the matter.

BCRC Secretary: Pete Allwright, Pearl Hill Farm, Dent, Sedbergh, Cumbria. LA10 5TG. Tel. 015396-25412.

E-mail: 100104.2642@compuserve.com

