

# Scarborough

## Caving Club



Meeting Of 2nd November 1996

7 members present.

This months meeting was more of a very informal gathering as there was very little information of great importance to mention.

Two things were mentioned of which were of interest firstly the club is holding a return match of darts and pool to the people from Wrelton which we promised them. The event will be held on December 7th at the New Tavern all are welcome the more the merrier.

The other important issue that was mentioned was that of digging.

The point raised was that of dig site tidiness, all large holes left either in fields, shake holes, river beds or river banks must be covered over or fenced off. This is to provide ample precautions to avoid people or animals falling down such holes, these actions should be carried out with the permission of the land owner and or tenant and also include any precautions that they request. Sand bags can be used to stabilize digs and to divert water not forgetting to ensure you check where you are diverting the water to. The club has a small quantity of sand bags available which Pete kindly obtained with club funds which have yet to be used even though they were specifically requested for a particular job. Although these were only a small expenditure the club cannot afford to not use equipment or have it lying around dormant this means that more scrutiny over such purchases will be enforced. All these points should be taken into consideration as we have a good relationship with all of the land owners and tenants we deal with and it would be a shame to spoil it by leaving mess, dangerous holes in the ground, lighting fires and generally bugging about. The club has also for the purpose of digging renewed its insurance with the BCRA for third party liability.

Club kit, please return club equipment promptly and after it has been cleaned other people need to use this equipment and I (Jerry) am getting cheesed off with ringing around to get stuff back for other trips. On the subject of club equipment the ladders that the club has don't get used very often apart from the use Tony gives them. Tony is therefore now looking after the clubs ladder equipment which comprises of :- 4 x 25ft ladders; 2 x 12ft ladders; 2 x 15ft slings; 3 x spreaders and 2 x tackle sacks. Anybody wishing to use this equipment should contact Tony (01262 470560).

Tony is also the person to contact with regards to novice trips as he is prepared to lead parties underground please talk to him to arrange suitable trips for your capabilities.

Novices where are they? Many have promised to join but haven't if the don't join or attend a meeting they will not get any minutes or find out about trips for them. Why aren't our members encouraging novices to join club trips I (Jerry) certainly am. Our last novice trip was Sir Francis level but this was poorly attended by members and

Secretary, Mark Rowe, 27 Burniston Gardens, Burniston, Scarborough, North Yorks, YO13 0JW  
Telephone 01723-870527

Scarborough Caving Club is a member of the Council of Northern Caving Clubs

novices is there some sort of problem? This was a good trip and was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending. The club needs an influx of new members to survive as a "Club".

Posters. I (Jerry) was hassled into making some posters which I did but the only ones I have seen around are the ones that I have put up. These posters cost the club money and so far nobody has joined I hope it hasn't been a waste.

At the last meeting 7th September it was agreed that the club would start a journal I hope that others will submit information, stories and trip reports I (Jerry) will not do everything myself.

### Support Your Club Or Lose It.

#### Forthcoming Events.

7th December	Social Night, Darts & Pool At The New Tavern Everyone Welcome.
14th December	Making Hurth & making Hole.
21st December	Tatham Wife Hole.
28th December	Free.
4th January 97	Free.
11th January	Meeting.
18th January	Free.
25th January	Free.

Trips Report 14th September to 26th October By Jerry.

*Sat. 14th Sept. Gaping Ghyll.*

What a bloody good trip, attended by myself, Nial, Jamie, Pete and a guest appearance by Keith. It was Pete's first SRT trip for a long time and I must admit the old man did very well. The plan was to visit Henslers Master Cave, but after I had slithered down a tight muddy tube and through an obnoxious pool it was decided that there was not enough time forcing a retreat. Jamie had already decided that his leg would not make the ascent and had not ventured in and the pub was open. Earlier in the day Nial had shown us how many knots he didn't know and so for his penance had to de-rig, good job as big red is heavy when wet.

Mike and Carol had a good trip down Great Douk on the same day.

*Sun. 22nd Sept. Giants Hole.*

Another good trip, well attended by myself, Tony, Shaun and non-members Andy, Mathew, Pete and Louise. Every time I have done Giants I have enjoyed it but I never really remember what it's like. I forget how tight the Crab Walk can be for larger members, Andy didn't realise it was there all 2000 feet of it - Skinny Git! I also forget how complex the system is although we didn't get lost very often or for very long. The duck was interesting I remembered it as being short with 6 inches of air space, but when I arrived there I thought it had dried up as there was a foot of air space I was proved wrong though as on rounding a corner I saw the duck. I could not miss it there was barely 2 inches of air and was at least 50 feet long, hats off to all who went through it.

*Sat. 28th Sept. Pool Sinks & Langcliffe Pot.*

Pool Sinks was not done and the permit was wasted, who requested this trip and why weren't they there?

*Sat. 12th Oct. Marble Sinks.*

I was gutted when I could not make this trip but all was not lost Chalky and Jamie went and had a good time.

*Mon. 21st Oct. Bog Hall Rising.*

Attended by myself, Nial and Richard Wilsdon. A very interesting dive to the first air bell, poor visibility prevented diving through to the main cave but what we saw was impressive and we will certainly dive here again. No real problems were found apart from me pulling the guide rope off on my return, which meant that it was difficult to find my way out as visibility was less than 6 inches. I thank Pete for supplying us with a new guide line and I also thank Richard for helping us with our first cave dive

without whom things wouldn't have been so easy.

*Sat. 26th Oct. Death's Head Hole & Big Meanie.*

Yet another really good trip attended by Jamie, Nial and myself. The day started like any other day, raining. It seemed like everything was in flood, we didn't think there would be anything to do, we talked about other trips we could do like Conduit Springs, Ibbeth Peril or even Meregill (Not) we decided to give Leck Fell a go. We were all surprised to find that the water level was only about 6 inches higher than normal so on we went to Big Meanie. Big Meanie is extremely tight at the top and as I was the only one to fit through we decided to retreat which was a good thing as all the bolts / hangers below this point are dodgy and it needs re-bolting. We progressed to Death's Head Hole which is an impressive day lit shaft not unlike Alum Pot. Nial was volunteered to rig but after showing us all the knots he didn't know and some new ones we changed our mind and I rigged. On reaching the bottom I shouted "Rope Free!" there was no response so I shouted again after about half an hour of shouting and waiting I climbed back out de-rigging on the way. When I reached the top I cursed both Jamie and Nial, then asked what had happened. Jamie explained that he got to the first re-belay and thought my leg, my leg and came out. (Yawn! have we been here before?) I asked what happened to Nial. Nial replied that he too had got to the re-belay and just couldn't pass it. He explained that couldn't stand up high enough to pass it and had to haul himself out back up to the tree. Jamie interjected to say that you know what he did, he put his kit on wrong again. What Nial had done was connect his foot loop to his harness instead of his ascender and consequently when he tried to stand up in his foot loop he nearly pulled his harness off. Did laughing at Nial make up for the loss of a trip? I pondered, I dive with his bloke, mad or what?

I read in this month's Descent that permits for Leck Fell are a problem to get hold of as so many are applying and only a limited amount of days to use the permits. I find this surprising as our car was the only one on the fell that day.

Tony and Shaun with a few others were also out this weekend and found that flooding caused somewhat of a problem but never the less enjoyed themselves.