Scarborough Caving Club

Meeting 7th June 1997.

This months meeting was only brief with 5 members present.

The main item discussed was the events of Saturday 24th May. During the course of the day Jerry, Jamie, Chalky, Richard, Peter and Mike went digging and blasting in Langstrothdale. After a good days work they all went to the pub and did not get back home until after midnight. Before they arrived home though Jamie's mum became worried as she had not heard from Jamie, naturally feared the worst and wanted the rescue team called out. She rang Richard Ward which started a chain of telephone calls resulting in a lot of people being woken up unnecessarily, as it transpired that the group was not expected back until after midnight. This highlights a problem, when you go on a trip you need to leave clear and explicit instructions / details of your trip with your family and call out person as detailed in March's minutes. Don't forget it's your life your messing with. Apologies can only be expressed to those who were awoken with out cause.

Enclosed is a list of members telephone numbers and car details including make, model and registration number for use when a call out by the rescue team is necessary. If your details are incorrect please inform me.

The club has bought 50m of 11mm dynamic rope from Lee for climbing use at a cost of £30. This rope is for the newly formed climbing section of the club.

A change to our diary to note is that on Saturday 19th July there will be a trip down Sell Gill Holes which is an ideal cave for beginners and experienced cavers alike.

Forthcoming Events.

Sat 28th June	Cow Pot (grade 4)
Sat 5th July	Meeting
Sat 12th July	Penyghent Pot (grade 5)
Sat 19th July	Sell Gill Holes (grade 3)
Sat 26th July	Gaping Ghyll (grade 4/5)

Secretary, Mark Rowe, 27 Burniston Gardens, Burniston, Scarborough, North Yorks, YO13 0HW
Telephone 01723-870527
Scarborough Caving Club is a member of the Council of Northern Caving Clubs

Members Telephone & Car Details.

Shaun Aconley			
Michael Appleby	01751 475165		
Andy Brennan	01751 475028		
Jamie Dixon	01947 602135 H315 MDC	Vauxhall Cavalier SRI	Platinum (Silver)
Keith Dobson	01642 466044		
Peter Fambely	01751 432657 Work 01751 432474 ext. 214		
Jerry Gibbs	01723 354193 G804 AEH	Ford Sierra Estate 4x4	White
Mark Rowe	01723 870527 D842 PKU	Volvo 360 GLT	Silver
Pete Shaw	01723 583473		
Ernie Shield	01845 501424		
Rob Simpson	01723 354839		
Chalky Thomas	01723 360775		
Lee Vasey	01227 721989		
Mick Ward	01723 585921 M542 HRH	Ford Escort	Metallic Blue
Richard Wilsdon	01751 432953 Fax 01751 432518		

During the last club meeting on Saturday 8th July, a drama was unfolding involving two club members, in the Dales. Jamie and Nial had gone to attempt an exploration of Bleagill cave, a severe grade 5, flood prone system near Dent.
They had left word of their trip options with Jamies mum, and promised to call her on their exit from the cave.
On our return from the meeting late on saturday night, we got a phone call from Jamies mum to say she had not heard from him, and was obviously worried for their safety, so Keith contacted Alex Polly in Dent to establish weather and water conditions in the area, and to ask if they had been seen.
Conditions were ideal, and the trip should have been completed in around 4 to 6 hours, our two were therefore about 7 hours overdue, and this caused extreme concern for their safety. Another phone call to an aquaintance of Keiths in the CRO prompted a Cave Rescue callout to the two caves listed by Jamie, descriptions were given together with car type and registration number etc, and a small search was carried out in the appropriate area.
By this time, Jamie and Nial had at last surfaced, after losing their way in the very complex passages and wet crawls, and having a major light failure, due to damage. They were very cold and tired when they eventually smelt the sweet outside air, and were suprised to discover it was dark!
On returning to Jamies car, another blow hit them when the car's immobiler system would not allow it to start.
We recived a call from Jamies mum around 1 am to say they were safe, and she informed them about the call-out.
They returned to the car and met their rescuers, but the registration number quoted was not Jamies new car, which caused the CRO to initially disregard the first sighting of the car, and got the Club into trouble!
Accomodation was found in the village for our now non-elite duo, and Keith, complete with spare imobiliser, met them on Sunday morning safe and well.
The main lessons from this drama are:
We need an up-to-date list of EVERY club members car details and Reg Numbers..... NOW (this is probably more important than informing your insurance co. of a change.. because your life could be at stake)
The carrying of spare lights should be mandatory for ALL cavers on a trip, as, no matter how long-lasting your light is, unforseen dalays, and as in this case, damage beyond repair of a lamp underground, can have a serious effect on the group. (we suggest a mini-maglite or similar fastened to the side of your helmet with cable ties).

Richard Ward

Kirkdale Cave Grid Ref NGR SE 678856
Alt 58m Diggers mainly Shaun Aconley, Jamie Dixon, Pete Shaw, Chalky Thomas
7 Jan 1996-July 1996

As this is the longest cave in the N. Yorks Moors area we thought we'd give it a bash and see if we could come up with anymore length. Work began straight after Christmas 1995 with around five of us trying various different choked passages for the best looking way on, with one particularly dismal looking bedding, forced by Jamie and Nial. After about three Thursday nights of making no real progress, Shaun, who was bored, pulled a large rock out of a (well it was basically a pool of mud) and a couple of gallons of water disappeared. Shaun and I worked on this grotty looking bog until we'd dried it out, and a reasonable phreatic tube was found, of course it was full to the roof with silt. One evening. Jamie arrived and decided it was his turn at the face, and after tapping the roof with the crowbar (to shouts of "that sounds bloody hollow") managed to pull out one- yes, one rock, and we saw open passage (fu**ing gloryboy!). The open passages seemed to go off in all directions and after about an hour or so we decided we should go to the pub and celebrate our 'breakthrough' (as is the traditional word on finding more than three feet of passage not filled with mud).

Of course, the next week another three members appeared, and we decided the way on seemed to be an outlet about four inches high at the far right of the chamber. After two weeks back-filling what was this chamber an upwards slope stacked with small rocks was discovered. The rocks were removed after a couple of visits, and we squeezed up this slope into a rift about three feet wide and six feet long, but we could see at least twenty feet of open passage ahead of us. Of course, there were three small problems - about three feet long and ten inches thick (shit!). The three were beaten, chiselled, drilled, and still wouldn't move so after a discussion with Ernie we decided to get some extra help from a man with a drill some wire, plastercine and a small box. Mr Roe arrived one Friday and after about an hour he and myself and a rabbit vomiting dog crawled off into unknown territory - down a passage about twenty five feet long with no crap in the way (although there were a few piles of undigested rabbit). That Thursday, obviously, half the club appeared, filled once more with enthusiasm. After Pete and Jamie removed two slabs with a lump hammer and crow bar Jerry and I took over once again finding a slope with some small rocks.

The next week Pete, Shaun and I soon had them hauled out. Pete made the best (breakthrough) to date in this grotty hole. We were into a rift around five feet wide and in places seven to eight feet high with beehive formations, stals, gour pools the lot. We could see four tunnels leading off but the most appealing route was straight on.

After a couple of weeks of backfilling we dug out Asphyxia (as it was latter christened from the fact that with three of us in the passage we couldn't breath and received some good headaches to prove it)and that's where it ends up to now, other than to say the passage is still going and there is still a lot to do in this strange mucky hole that changed the beliefs in a certain Holy Book some hundred and fifty years ago

Until the next thrilling episode

Chalky