

# Scarborough

# Caving Club

May News Letter 1998

Due to expected increase in activity preparing for "the trip", I am sending out the May news letter early. I am also taking this opportunity to issue a check list of kit that will be required on the trip. This should by no means be considered complete and if you can spot any omissions please inform either Richard or myself and the list will be updated. Thanks to Nial for starting the list and to Richard for updating and presenting it in its current form.



Note from Chairman regarding club tackle.

*I would like to ask all club members to return all club equipment ready for the French trip. Even if it is only "just one mallion on my handled ascender". If it belongs to the club please return it.*

*Recently, hangers have been dropped whilst de-rigging, to prevent this the club recommends leaving hangers and mallions on the rope, open the gate just enough to clear the resin bolt and tighten back up again or alternatively undo the hanger and stuff rope complete with hangers and knots into tackle sack and sort it out at home.*

*Please make sure you bring equipment back to the tackle master in good clean condition before the next Saturday, other people might want to use the equipment as well. If you sign for the equipment you are responsible for it, Excuses like "I left a tackle sack in Nial's car", are not good enough, it is your responsibility to see that it is returned, not the tackle master's.*

*Jerry Gibbs*

I have written to CNC asking to move the Gingling Hole trip date from the 6<sup>th</sup> June to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, but as yet I have had no reply. This is to replace a non permit trip which could be easily moved to another date. I will keep you informed of developments. Its good to see ourselves in Descent again (see attached photocopy).

Please note that no further news letters will be sent to those who have not paid their 1998 subs before publication of the next letter.

Peter Fambely

## Nettle Pot Derbyshire

Date:

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Author:

Jerry Gibbs

Attended By:

Nial Adams  
Andy Brennan  
Jamie Dixon  
Jerry Gibbs  
Neil Hanan  
Richard Wilsdon

The day started off well. We found a café and the pot without any trouble. Jamie had his doubts about going, when he found out the depth of the main shaft. I managed to convince him that it was tight all the way down and he wouldn't see the bottom, so he came along.

We arrived in an area called "the flats", a washed out shale bed covered in gloopy mud, called the flats probably because it was flat out crawling to the next pitch. The crawl passed many deep holes on the way, one of which is Elizabeth shaft, over 60m down to a ledge and then some! Our route to Derbyshire Hall from the end of the flats was a pitch of about 50ft. This was rigged by myself and Jamie together (Jamie was hanging on my rack with his cows tails). Through good planning we got off on to a ledge and allowed the tail of the rope to drop into a blind pit. Richard and the others then followed into the pit. It pleased me greatly. After telling them of their error we carried on over some climbs and up a pre-rigged pitch, then another, then back down again, finally dropping into a small chamber. By now we looked mud monsters from Dr Who and then we saw the squeeze. I had three attempts to get through, only by zipping up my undersuit (the zip was digging in) and only moving when I had breathed out, did I manage to get through. I must say that it was tightest squeeze I have done. Was it worth all that to see Derbyshire Hall? No, although it was pretty, it was not as pretty as Yorkshire caves, with one exception, Yorkshire caves have white formations, these were clear, just like ice!

# The Scarborough Caving Club Vercors Trip

This is a discussion document. Please add your suggestions in italics so that they stand out.

## List of Lists

| <u>Item</u>                  | <u>Notes</u> | <u>Who is responsible</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Travel Documents<br>communal |              |                           |
| Travel docs - personal       |              |                           |
| Bunkhouse gear               |              |                           |
| Caving Gear Communal         |              |                           |
| Caving Gear Personal         |              |                           |
| Underground bivi             |              |                           |
| Food                         |              |                           |
| Other communal gear          |              |                           |
| Climbing gear                |              |                           |

## Travel Docs communal

|                            |                                 |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Tickets for Channel Tunnel |                                 | Richard                                    |
| BCRA Insurance             |                                 | Richard                                    |
| Money                      | For diesel etc - Communal funds | Richard                                    |
| Driving Licences           |                                 | All drivers - Chalky, Nial, Peter, Richard |

## Travel docs personal

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| Passport     |   |   |
| Money        |   |   |
| Credit cards |   |   |
| Eurocheques  |   |   |
| E111         | Certificate of entitlement of reduced cost emergency medical care | See enclosed. Fill in and take down to post office to be stamped. |

## Bunkhouse Gear & General

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Sleeping bag        | It may be warm - 10 in one room so not '3 season' |
| Ear plugs           |   |
| Pillow              |   |
| Sun & insect cream, |   |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Food                                     | Tinned food, Dried meals,<br>tea              |  |
| Can opener                               |   |  |
| Light - carbide lamps                    |   | RW has a couple of<br>Premier cap lamps                              |
| Waterproof bag to get<br>bedding in dry. | EG Sealine Dry Bags -<br>cost £12 for Baja 20 |  |
| Dry clothes to change into               |   |  |
| Loo roll + pooper-scooper<br>bags?       |   |  |
| Cooker                                   |   | Chalky offers his 2<br>Colman petrol stoves<br>Chalky has sig bottle |
| Extra fuel for stove                     |   |  |
| Pots & pans, spoons                      |   |  |
| Mugs, plates                             |   |  |
| Brandy                                   |   |  |
| Water purifying tablets                  |   |  |

### Food

|                                   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Tea, Coffee, dried milk,<br>sugar |  | Andy is preparing a food<br>list for several meals. |
| Cereal, porridge,                 |  |   |
| Pickled eggs                      |  |   |
| Jam, honey, marmite               |  |   |

### EXPE

There is an outdoor shop near where we are staying. It is open Mon. to Fri. 8.30 - 12.00 & 14.00 - 18.00. Sat 10.00 - 12.30. Sunday closed. IE we can't get anything there till Monday morning at 8.30.

Their prices look good

|                           | <u>French Francs</u> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| TSA suit                  | 709                  |
| Petzl Super Avant harness | 286                  |
| Petzl Ecrin Roc helmet    | 367                  |
| Petzl Duo                 | 299                  |
| Petzl Zoom                | 169                  |
| Petzl Explorer            | 874                  |
| Petzl Ariane              | 269                  |
| Petzl Croll               | 190                  |
| Petzl Ascension           | 229                  |
| Petzl Stop                | 331                  |

## Old, fat and past it

ONE Sunday in the summer of 1995, Scarborough CC members were prospecting for slip rifts in old quarries on the North York Moors. Almost immediately the day proved fruitful when the team entered a quarry and discovered a draughting, 10cm wide crack less than 1m from the car. A variety of stones thrown into the hole suggested that open cave lay below the quarry.

The site was forgotten for two years until an SCC team returned and Andy Brennan was able to drop through the very tight en-

trance to reach a small ledge above a pitch. However, enlargement of the entrance was required to enable access for other members of the team, following which a bolt was placed at the pitch head to allow a descent to a further pitch that dropped into a large slip rift up to 3.6m wide and 15m high. The rift exhibits classic slip rift features such as perched, car-sized boulders and also contains its own unique characteristics where the main part of the rift bells out and the smooth undercut walls are covered in a white deposit.

To assist with the survey of the site, Moldywarps SG cavers Pete Ryder, Robin Sermon and Ernie Shields were draughted in. Unfortunately, the modest dimensions of the entrance conspired to prevent the three from entering the cave: a week later the entrance was therefore enlarged again and the survey of Old, Fat And Past It Pot was completed by a combined MSG/SCC team.

The diggers involved in the project were Shaun Aconley, Andy Brennan, Pete Fambely, Jerry Gibbs, 'Chalky' Thomas and Richard Wilson.

Report: Jerry Gibbs & 'Chalky' Thomas

## Dentdale warnings

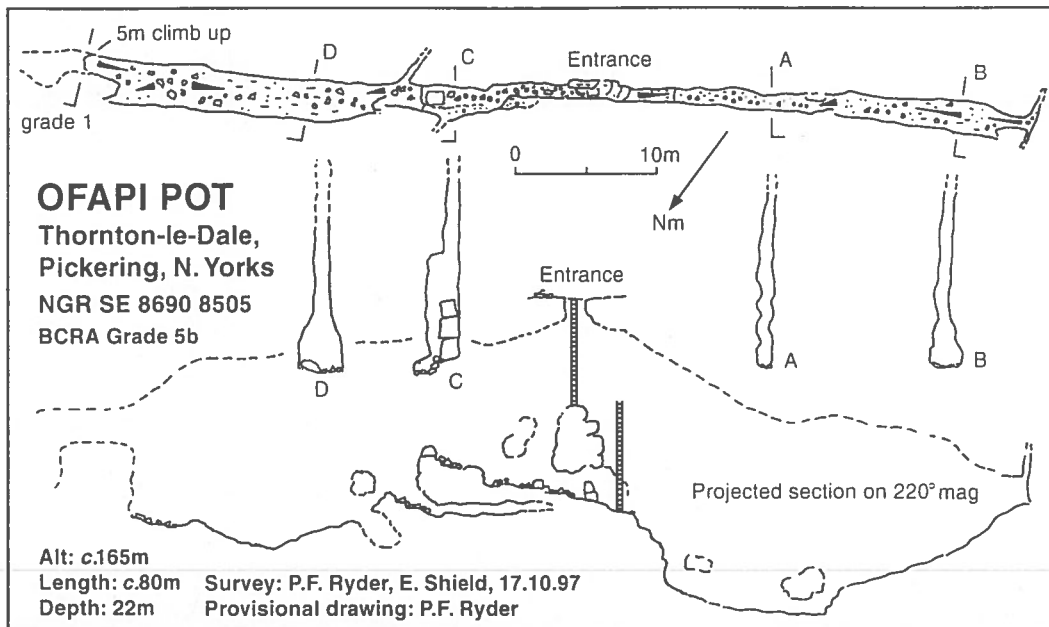
THE discovery and exploration of Nirvana, located at the top end of the Black Dub gorge in Dentdale, was reported in *Descent* (140). The Dent House SS paid a visit to the cave on 7 February and reports that the cliff face at the entrance has collapsed, although the entrance to the cave itself is not blocked.

The cliff above the cave is still in a dangerous state with large, loose, hanging boulders ready to fall. Anyone wishing to visit the cave should be very careful. To check for the latest information contact Pete Allwright (015396 25412) or Roy Holmes (015396 25280).

A similar warning applies to the cliff face between Ibbeth Peril I and II, where the cliff face has visibly moved over the past month or so. In this case a large overhanging tree is causing the movement.

Although popular opinion said that the Upper Dentdale Cave System was an SSSI, it was not formally notified until 12 February 1998. With the notification all the usual Potentially Damaging Operations apply to the system.

Report: Pete Allwright



## Subterranean Malham slide show

AN evening of slide shows and presentations, *Subterranean Malham - Unlocking the Secrets*, took place in The Buck Inn at Malham on Friday 16 January. It attracted an audience of about a hundred locals and cavers, and opened with Alan Speight of the Yorkshire Sub-

terranean Society showing slides of the area's caves including recent discoveries at Kuling Hole and an interesting new pot further to the west. This was followed by a rare showing of magic lantern slides of the great Craven PC dig at the Malham Tarn water sinks,

which took place shortly after the Second World War, by the club's librarian, Don Mellor.

After a beer break Mike Orrell (Chairman of Malham Parish Meeting) described the opening of the famous 'Spooky Parson's letter' (see *Descent* 42) a couple of years ago when villagers decided that recent explorations had at last justified this. The finale of the evening was John Cordingley's lecture on the cave divers' discoveries in the submerged passages behind the cove. Diving here had been started by frogmen in the early fifties (well before John was born!) and continues today. Two short video films were shown of the underwater system, now almost a mile long.

The evening ended with a buffet meal and raffle, with prizes being won by well-known cavers Harry Long and Ian Watson. The function was a great success and generated a lot of interest among the locals and landowners of the Malham area. It is hoped that similar evenings can be organised elsewhere in the Dales in the future - come along and enjoy a great night out!

## Buckland's Windypit

YORKSHIRE SS cavers Alan Bolton and Rick Stewart have recently made a small extension to Buckland's Windypit at Ryedale on the North York Moors.

This cave was fully described in *Cave Science* Vol. 9 (1) in 1982, where an unexplored, too-tight fissure in the floor of Chamber R was noted. In January 1998 an examination revealed that the fissure was indeed too tight; however, it was instead possible to follow the fis-

sure back under Chamber R and descend for about 10m into a small chamber containing the jaw and skull of a badger. A lack of footprints here suggests that this continuation has not been entered before, and from this chamber a crawl could be followed for around a further 7m. In line with the existing naming conventions the new passage has been named Fissure R.

Report: Rick Stewart

## New find on Fountains Fell

DETAILS have begun to emerge of a significant new discovery which has been made by Northern Pennine Club cavers on Fountains Fell.

Known as F.O.U.L. Pot, the new cave is the product of many months work by the stalwart NPC digging team, which includes Gordon Batty, Harry Hesketh and Frank Walker. It essentially consists of a series of sporting pitches and climbs (including a fine 20m free-hang and a splendid 34m deep shaft) which ultimately descend into a large, shattered chamber and a final outlet passage.

The cave appears to be in the region of around 120m deep and, most significantly, it lies in a prime location for forging a dry connection with the impressive and lengthy passages of the Fountains Fell main drain (explored by divers via the Gingling Hole Big Pitch sump).

Work continues and further details will appear in a future issue of *Descent*. A full description and survey of the pot - along with a wealth of information about other exploratory activity during the last ten years - will appear in the 1998 *Northern Pennine Club Journal* which is due for publication in October.