

Scarborough

Caving Club

Dear Members,

JULY
1998



I apologise for lateness of the news letter. I have been hanging on for some trip reports from France trip.

Minutes of club meeting
Held
Thursday 9th July At the Buck Inn Wreton.

A new SRT training route has been bolted at the Hutton Road quarry by the Thursday night crew. It has been proposed that a SRT rigging training day should take place on Saturday 25th July. It would be useful to have photo copies of the CNCC rigging guides to hand out to those attending. If anyone has access to a copy can they please let the secretary know.

A novices trip to Alum Pot has been planned for 23rd August. Anyone interested or available to help, please contact Andy Brennan 01751 475028 to arrange transport etc.

The annual B.C.R.A. Conference entitled "The Hidden Earth" is to be held in Southport from the 18th to the 20th September. The secretary was asked to contact Ernie Shields for more information if available on bookings etc.

The secretary was asked to locate the stock of club Tee Shirts, (believed to be in the possession of Mark Rowe) as there has been interest shown in purchasing these at the reduced price.

The secretary made other members aware the he had not received an requests for permits for next year. It was agreed that he should send out a trip request form to all members with the news letter.

It was noted that the next club trip to Gaping Gill was planned for July 18th. Jerry is however not available so someone prepared to undertake the rigging is required!

Sean Aconley requested that he continue to be a social member of the club an still receive the club News letter/minutes when he leaves to join the Navy. He will contact the secretary with his new address when known. The sub. for this £10 as agreed at AGM.

It was proposed by Richard Wilsdon that the club should organise a Surf Day. This is planned for 2nd of August weather permitting. Chalky mentioned that he has a contact at the surf shop in Scarborough who could hire us equipment at an approximate cost of £10 per board.

It was agreed that the clubs first trip abroad was a universal success, which we should consider repeating. It was proposed that the members should be asked for ideas on a possible destination. Slovenia was discussed as a possible destination, but the distances involved might be a problem. Any suggestions?

End of Meeting.

Scarborough Caving Club Trip to the Vercors June 1998

The Vercors is amazingly scenic and Le Lapiaz, where we were staying, was stuck up on a plateau above the Bourne Gorge. This meant we had to drive down a precipitous road for miles to get anywhere. Luckily there was an Inn at the nearest hamlet and on the evening of our arrival we walked there across country. Walking through the hay meadows and woods, we knew the 24 hour journey down had been worthwhile. The Inn provided us with a great meal - 'the speciality of the area' being the only choice.

Gour Fumant

This was described in the guide book as 'a typical Yorkshire cave'. So what was the point of driving 1000 miles? Well, here an ice slope leads to the top of the first pitch. This proved the point that 9 in a party is too many as it was a cold cave to be waiting around for your turn on a pitch.

We also had a scare when Neil fell and clattered down the 'awkward 6M climb (handline for novices)'. Luckily he only sustained bruises and was only slightly slower up the following pitches.

The Gournier

Our big trip was supposed to be up the streamway of the Gournier to bivi in the Galerie du Chaos but with one thing and another (shopping at Expé) we didn't get underground till 5pm. The superb entrance lake was a cold swim for some and a gentle pull across on Jerry's truck inner tube for others. This all took an age and by the time we were ready to stomp off along the fossil passage, three had decided to exit.

Its easy to overestimate how far you have travelled when you are tottering among the boulders with a couple of bags of gear and sweating in a wetsuit!. Chalkie maintained we had not gone far enough. He turned out to be right but it did seem an awful long way in and we turned back checking all the holes we had passed - we were obviously not the only ones to find route finding difficult as they were all deceptively well travelled!

By the time we got back near the entrance it was midnight and only Niall and myself decided to stay in overnight. The others - Chalkie, Andy, Lee and Rob decided to exit so they would be 'fresh to do something the next day'.

The bivi was quite fun - we had our curry but we were hardly in the mood to drink the litre of whisky we had carried in. The camping gear worked well and we had a tolerable sleep. The next morning it was very difficult to get up but as Chalkie had arranged to pick us up at 10am we skipped breakfast and dragged ourselves and all the gear down to the car park. We were met by Peter who explained that the 4 who exited at midnight found that the van was no longer in the car park - Peter, Shaun and Neil who had left the cave early had only waited till 11pm before driving back to the bunkhouse. The 4 then walked back to Le Lapiaz - not by the path along the bottom of the cliff but down into the valley of the Towzers and then up to the plateau - getting to their beds at 5.00am. This was without doubt the epic of the week.

The next day was a bit of write off for the night walkers who swam in the river and fed the leeches but Peter and I managed a climb - Bim Bam Boom which is the easiest climb on the Presles cliffs - still quite an achievement for us.

The Bourlion

The rot had set in and we only managed the Bourlion the next day. This boasts the largest cave porch in France and some massive passage. The river is met further in and tales of flooding made the roar of the water over cascades quite intimidating but after negotiating these Rob, Niall and myself reached the sump pool - clear turquoise water to which we sang our hymn 'and did those feet in ancient times'

Gournier - again

For our last caving trip decided we had to find the way down to the streamway in the Gournier so after listening to Hugh Penny's cautions about the bad weather and the risk for flooding we passed the point we reached before and little further on we found the First Way Down. Cautiously we made our way along the active streamway between the 1st and the 2nd Ways Down. Some went over the top and greeted us at the 2nd Way Down and we then had a short foray up the streamway in splendid deep water struggling against the current. We thought the water was probably rising so we turned back and exited at the 2nd Way Down. As we passed the 1st Way Down Rob descended to see whether the river had risen there - it had. The cairn on a ledge beside the stream was already 4 feet under and we watched as the water rose by 2 inches per minute.

Up in the fossil passage someone had turned on the waterworks. All the formations came alive with water gushing and spouting and a lake appeared near the entrance. Great fun.

The Neyron

Our final day was to be devoted to canyoning but with the wet weather all the normal trips were off and Hugh Penny directed us to the Neyron (or Canyon de Petits Enfants as Niall called it) which needs sustained rain to make it flow. This was a good introduction for us but was very cold and we exited early via an S.A.S. direct ascent of the box wood covered hillside.

That is a summary of our activities but for the rest you will have to ask in the pub for the anecdotes of: Did Shaun really jump from a cliff top into the lake? - and how many times did he nearly do it? How did we manage to leave Lee at the pub and not notice? Who gave Chalkie (T.C.) a lesson in cards?

Thanks go to Jerry and Mike for their generous donations - we had a great last meal - another 'speciality of the area' at the Inn - actually it was exactly the same as before.

Scarborough Caving Club
Trip request form

Pot Hole / Cave	Location / Area	Permit Required Yes/No	Grade	Suggested Date	Comments

Submitted by:

Date:

Please Return to Secretary.

P. R. Fambely, North Lodge, Welburn Hall
Welburn, Kirkbymoorside, York YO6 6HG.