

YORKSHIRE UNDERGROUND RESEARCH TEAM

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The name of the person who has written any report is not given at the end of each report.

REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday 4th.

Whilst waiting for John Rhodes to arrive during the afternoon, Tony Cansell and the Davies brothers walked over to Blood Pot, in a large shakehole north of Stump Cross. Tony went into the hole and found the head of the first pitch, which Chesh had missed on a previous visit by not looking closely enough. The pitch was roofed with gritstone boulders but despite these Tony free-climbed down and found another chamber adjacent to the foot of the pitch with a crawl to a further pitch, estimated at 30ft. As the ladders were back at Pateley it was left until later.

John had by this time arrived and he and Chesh went into Susilk Gallery in Stump Cross. This starts as a squeeze which cannot be done wearing either helmet or lamp and continues as a bedding crawl into a boulder chamber. A crawl over the top of the boulders leads into a small chamber with a slot heading down on the low side. An extremely tight squeeze at the bottom of this drops into a small passage, above a very small, boulder-filled pot. The passage divides in two and both ends are calcite chokes. There are some very fine small formations. The published survey, by the N.C. & M.R.S., is incorrect and a resurvey will be done. In fact, a survey was to have been done on this occasion but cowardice prevailed.

- G.M.Davies.

After a descent of the first pitch in Blood Pot, Tony Cansell and Roger Davies, refusing to give up the lake theory at Stump Cross, visited the Circular Cavern with two tent poles and a torch in order to probe the crawl heading toward the boulder fall at the end of the Show Cave. Much grinding and sweating confirmed that the crawl gets tighter but poking the torch forward on the end of the tent poles revealed a slight lifting of the roof ahead. A sharp jab at a small rock sent the missile bouncing into what sounded like a small chamber; a good echo came back but no way on could be seen.

Abandoning this, a visit was made to Delta Pot, where rocks and rubbish were thrown out at an alarming rate. A solid floor was uncovered at about six feet in the main pot and the fissure running down from this soon got narrower. All hope of progressing was abandoned and the pot was filled in again.

-A.G.Cansell.

Team:- A.G.Cansell; G.M.Davies; R.J.Davies; W.J.N.Rhodes.

Sunday 5th.

Blood Pot besieged! (or something like that).
Five hardy souls tramped across the trackless wastes of Craven Moor to a large shakehole with a limestone block standing in the centre. Tony and Chesh changed and entered Blood Pot amid much clicking of camera shutters.

The entrance is a small hole onto a ledge above a 7ft. drop. Through a fissure underneath the entrance stones could be thrown into the top of the first pitch. For added excitement this should be done while someone is climbing! After falling down the drop the way is obvious under a lip of rock and less obvious up between boulders to the left. The roof at this point is a mass of boulders almost directly under the entrance to the pot and the surface party were therefore dissuaded from jumping about.

An awkward manoeuvre, over a boulder with one's head inches away from the instant death roof makes it possible to hang over the first pitch. This is an easy free climb of 30ft. from the top of the boulder or 24ft. from the true lip of the pitch. 8ft. from the bottom is a ledge on the east side with a pot about 1ft. diameter in it. This is choked 4ft. down. A fissure leads off from the ledge and stones thrown along it go down the second pitch.

At the bottom of the first pitch a hole on the north side leads into a small parallel shaft with a 6ft. pot in the floor. A fissure leads down from the pot and stones thrown into this also go down the second pitch. The pitch itself is reached by a short, muddy crawl under an old calcite floor. The belay is a natural rock eye on the edge of the 6ft. pot and a 5ft. belay and 50ft. ladder are necessary.

Tony went down first and found that it was impossible to get his feet on the ladder at first and he had to stand on a ledge on the other side of the shaft and look for the ladder whilst balanced on this. The ladder hangs against the fluted side all the way and towards the bottom the pitch becomes more of a fissure. At 7ft. 6in. from the bottom there is a ledge and a hole on the east side, too small to get in, gives a view of a small parallel shaft, choked at the same level as the main one. Stones thrown in didn't go anywhere but the entrance hole should be widened so that a proper inspection of the shaft can be made. At the bottom, 98ft. below moor level, water trickling down the pitch disappeared into a fissure to the south. To the north was a very small chamber with a fissure in the floor down which stones went for about 6ft.

There is virtually no room to stack anything so digging is rather impracticable. On the way out Chesh did a survey, a copy of which is included with this Newsletter.

-G.M.Davies.

Team:- A.G.Cansell; Mrs.B.A.Cansell; G.M.Davies; R.J.Davies; W.J.N.Rhodes.

Saturday 12th.

Hagg Beck was visited and after walking a few yards up the dry stream bed the beck was found to disappear among rocks, bits of metal, broken

