



THE WESSEX CAVE CLUB JOURNAL

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Contents

Club News	42
A Farewell To Max and Christine	42
New Members	43
Letters to the Editor	43
Resin Anchors in Rhino Rift	44
Caving News	45
First European Cave Rescue Symposium	46
Honeymead	47
Chipongwe, Zambia	52
Singing River Pics	54
A 'Major' Find In Singing River	55
Belgium 4/7th March 99	57
Diagrams In The Dales	58
Library Report	58
Logbook Extracts	59
Caving Events	60

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Opinions expressed in the Journal are not necessarily
those of the Club or the Editor

Club News

A series of **training lectures** have been arranged for sat evenings before the pub

They will be held at upper Pitts at 7:00pm on the following dates

22nd May **Improvised Techniques**
5th June **Emergencies**

Les

WCC Training Officer

This year's **Annual Dinner** shall be held at 'The Market Place Hotel' Market Place Wells. This will cost £18.00 per person plus £2.00 for the coach. Further details and the menu shall be in the August Journal.

The guest speaker for the dinner shall be Nick McCamley.

The Mystery Tour on the Sunday shall be £6.00 including lunch.

A club trip to **Goughs cave**, Cheddar Gorge has is being arranged, the date is May 15th (a Saturday) at 7:00 pm, I will be collecting again to buy a drink or two for Mr Castle who gives up his evening to allow us in (no Mr Castle, No trip). Any profits to cave rescue.

There is the possibility of a LIMITED number of trips to **Great Oones hole** and **Long Hole** in the afternoon.

The **ashes** shall be contested again on the 17th July. It will be held at the usual place usual time with the usual barrel and BBQ to be held afterwards.

Don't forget to support the **stomp** on the 8th of May. The Tickets shall be on sale soon.

A Farewell to Max And Christine



A framed picture of Upper Pitts was presented to Max and Christine at there leaving do.

Any one may visit them if they are lucky enough to be passing.

Max & Christine can now be contacted in Australia at:

4 Burringbar Street
North Balgowlah
NSW 2093
Australia

Telephone
00 612 9948 3783

New Members

Stephen Walker

Hillfield House, The Hayes, Cheddar, Somerset.
BS27 3HP Tel: 01934 744923

Nigel Denmeade

Kingsway House, Longleat Lane, Holcombe.
BA3 5DX Tel: 01761 233423

Malcolm Cambell

186 Bath Road, Worcester.
Tel: 01905 352264

Stephen Hacket

410 Dorchester Road, Broadway, Weymouth.
DT3 5AJ Tel: 01305 813891

Phone Number Correction**Jonathon Williams**

Tel: 0181 550 5470

Letters to the Editor

Hello Wessex

Dooley and I will be making our annual pilgrimage to Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, from mid-June through mid-July this year.

I can guarantee that anyone visiting will be in to virgin cave it's happened on every trip so far. "Flicker Ridge", northern outlier of Mt. Calder will be one of our principal objectives this year. Anyone who can make it is welcome.

There's also a US forest service trip to Kosciusko Island that will probably need cave slaves for anyone who needs an expenses paid (food, rope, accommodation and transport from POWI to Kosciusko) trip to unvisited karst.

I'll be revisiting the Dezaiko karst in August as well; and once again any visitors are welcome to tag along. (Jepson has been here a couple of times so you can question him about it. Deepest pit so far is 799' in one drop - two more 150' footers at the bottom and still going. The karst pavement here is as good as the Tete Sauvage).

Drop me a line at this e-mail address or phone 250-636-2302. Snail mail is

Box 791
Stewart, BC
Canada
V0T 1W0

Regards

Paul

Dear Editor

Regarding the Log-Report of a Wessex trip to Assynt in WCCJ Vol.25 No. 263, what is Sullivan waiting for and is he anything to do with B26, mattresses or Godot?

Best Regards,

Bob Lewis

Reply:

Suilven is a mountain in the Glencanisp Forest, 731m in height and it is waiting to be climbed. The path up Suilven is very steep. The summit itself is a wide, flattish summit with stunning views in all directions. The summits at the eastern end of Suilven can also be visited, but they involve exposed scrambling and are for experienced climbers only.

OS Landranger 15:
Loch Assynt & Surrounding Area



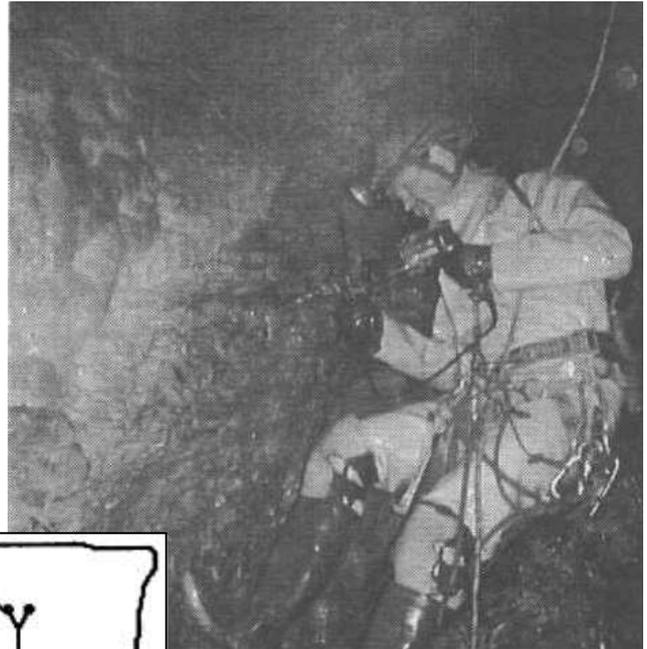
First view Of Suilven On The Inverkirkaig Path

Resin Anchors in Rhino Rift

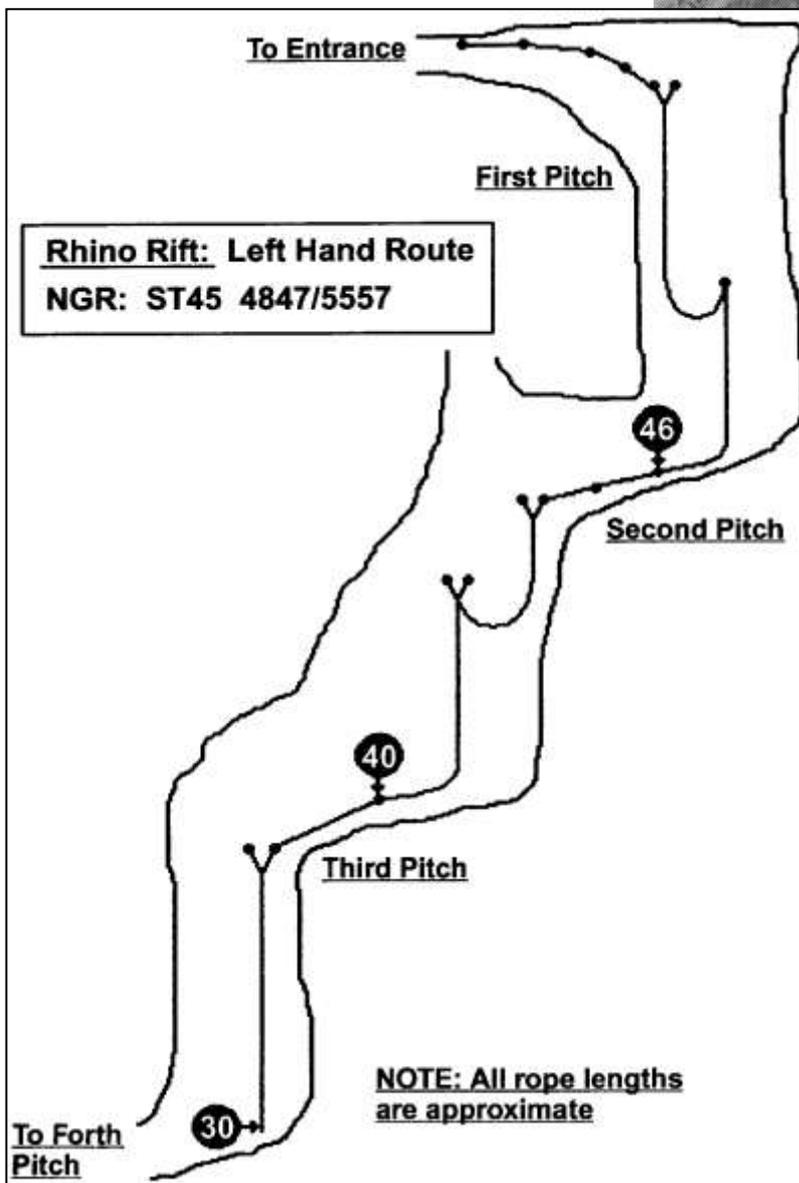
Andy Sparrow

On the 20th February Rhino Rift was, at long last, re-bolted with resin anchors (P-hangers). The operation was organised by CSCC equipment officer Les Williams who arranged for a generator and extension leads to be provided ensuring there were no power supply problems for the drilling of holes. Ivan Sandford and Paul Brock arrived by Landrover at the cave entrance together with the generator and bolting kit, while Dave Cooke and myself walked over from Longwood Farm with the necessary ropes.

The military precision of this operation was short lived when, meeting at the cave, neither team had remembered to bring a key. A group descending



Cookie Drilling Above 2nd Pitch



nearby Longwood (same key) saved the day and the operation was soon underway.

The objective was to bolt the traditional direct, or left-hand, route. Mendip being Mendip we often struggle to find ideal placements owing to the soundness of the rock and, especially in this cave, abundant flowstones. The other big problem is the frequent lack of an ideal position to give a user-friendly free hang.

The *First Pitch* proved fairly easy and the resin anchor placements are pretty much identical to the old 'spit' bolts. An anticipated problem was the rebelay half-way down. There is a lot of flowstone here which is not generally recommended for any type of anchor placement.

After close examination a good buttress of rock was spotted about 3 metres off the line of descent and an anchor was placed here.

The *Second Pitch* started easily but the rebelay at -3 metres was problematic. There was a good solid

overhanging wall around the corner into which one anchor was placed. We decided to place the second one out on a nose of rock simply so that it would be visible and would then lead the rigger on to the second bolt (rebelays this close to the pitch head should always be on double anchors).

On down to the *Third Pitch* which proved very easy as expected. We placed two anchors at the bottom of the Second Pitch to try and lead cavers over to the right hand wall and away from the highly dangerous rubble slope. At the head of the Third there is a simple two anchor Y-hang for a straight hang.

So how is the newly P-bolted Rhino? Dave Cooke tried out the route the following weekend and reported that all the anchors seemed to be sound. Another group already in the cave had missed the new off-set rebelay on the First. This is likely to be a common occurrence until people are advised of where to look. Cookie says that this anchor also works fine as a deviation- which is handy. The other group had not correctly interpreted the placements at the second and had deviated from the anchor on the 'nose' (no doubt making it bloody hard to pass!).

One thing that does excite me about the new route is the position of the First Pitch rebelay. I've yet to try it but it seems almost certain that a hang from this position will easily pick up the bolts from the more technical Right-hand route. This would allow some excellent combinations of the two descent routes. There are no current plans to resin anchor the Right-hand route because the bolts are all in pretty good condition but eventually it will happen. If anyone finds stripped bolts on the route let me know and it may precipitate some action sooner rather than later.



Top of 1st Pitch

Caving News

Andy Sparrow

His Lordship's Hole

A consortium of cavers from BEC, Wessex and Cotham recently organised the excavation by Hymac of this site close to both Attborough and Wigmore Swallets. Attempts to gain cave here by traditional methods had yielded nothing but the mechanical digger quickly uncovered a promising rift. This was too tight for immediate entry but a way on was visible, so work focussed on laying pipes, back-filling and restoring the swallet to it's original contours. In the days that followed, members of the consortium enlarged the head of the rift to reveal a vertical pot a few metres deep. This was descended on 31st January to reveal a narrow inclined streamway leading on for a few more metres before becoming too-tight. A choked fossil passage was also found providing two possible options for future digging. It seems likely that the water sinking here will join the Attborough stream before entering Wigmore via the upstream sumps. Cave passage is not easily won in this geologically complex area but the prospect of a Lordships-Attborough-Wigmore system must be a long-term possibility.

Stock's House Shaft

Meanwhile Tony Jarrat and the BEC, having been defeated by the winter flooding at Five Buddles, turned their attention to yet another infilled mine shaft just a stone's throw away. An obvious spoil heap here identified the site and digging quickly commenced. This shaft proved to be cut through solid rock and was just over a metre square - a much easier proposition than the large collapsing shafts of Five Buddles where much engineering had been required. The dig descended rapidly amid disparaging "*why bother with another mineshaft*" remarks overheard in the Hunters. Tony had the last laugh when, at nearly 15 metres down, the shaft met flowing water from the nearby swallet. An impressive stream was revealed flowing in a short section of natural passage. Work continues and further finds are eagerly awaited.

Fairy Quarry Caves

New access agreement and list of leaders will appear in the next Journal.

Charterhouse Farm is now offering **carparking** for £1. This farm is found up a track about 200 yards before **GB**. This is a much shorter walk than Tynings Farm, you walk up passed the old barn, passed Charterhouse and onto GB.

First European Cave Rescue Symposium

Göppingen (southern Germany)

Jim Davis of the CRO is organising some UK involvement - anyone from WCC thinking of going should contact him to see if they can benefit from his travel plans. His details are:

Jim Davis
British Cave Rescue Council
Borrins Farm, Fellside
HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE,
Settle
N. YORKS
Home: 01729 860379
Mobile: 07930 308515
Email: info@managerie.co.uk

More than 150 registrations from the whole of Europe have already been received! So, the first European cave rescue symposium is going to be what it's meant to be: a meeting of people interested in cave rescue from all over Europe.

The symposium relies on contribution of the participants, therefore another appeal at this point: Please introduce your group/organisation with a presentation or exhibition! All kinds of contributions to cave rescue subjects are most welcome, and everybody wants to get informed about the European cave rescue scene, so why not inform them about your Club as well.

The symposium will be held in English, although some presentations may be in French or German.

Saturday 30th October, 1999 - Arrival
The registration office opens at 2pm

Sunday 7th November, 1999 - Departure

Accommodation! Catering A rich breakfast buffet and lunch (vegetarian and standard) will be offered. In the afternoon, there will be various dishes available at our snack-bar. The cocktail-bar is open late. Possibilities to stay overnight are diverse: accommodation at our sleeping dormitory (bring your own sleeping bag and insulation mat), in boarding houses, hotels or in your own camping van.

Trade Fair

During the symposium (5th/6th November) a special trade fair takes place. Speleo-gear merchants may exhibit, but please restrict any display or goods to cave rescue relevant articles.

Workshops/Excursions

Workshop No. 4 - Mines - will be held in the area of Freiburg (Black Forest) from 31st October to 3rd November. All other workshops and excursions take place in Göppingen (southern Germany).

The following excursions will be offered:

Laierhöhle - shaft and horizontal system, spacious, more than 100m deep
Falkensteiner Höhle - water cave, more than 3km long
Todsbürger Schacht - shaft system, spacious, more than 70m deep
Mordloch - water cave, more than 2km long
Roßgallschacht and *Gustav-Jakobs-Höhle* - vertical and horizontal caves
Caves of the "Fils"-valley - vertical and horizontal caves
Various exhibition caves
Visits of the fire department and Red Cross rescue department
Additional spontaneous excursions

The Fees

Symposium participation fees (conference proceedings included):

30 DM / 15 EU (has to be remitted in EU or DM together with the registration via eurocheque, bank transfer or postal order). Bank: Volksbank Utingen, bank code 610 914 00, account no. 425 720 004, slogan "symposium"

Accommodation:

Sleeping dormitory: 5 DM / 2,5 EU
Camper van parking: 5 DM / 2,5 EU
Hotels/boarding houses: Please book them yourself. (Phone Jim or check E-Mail for list) The prices are specially reduced for participants (please tell them about your participation).

Food:

Breakfast (buffet): 8 DM / 4 EU
Lunch: 10-15 DM / 5-7,5 EU depending on kind
Various dishes at evenings: max. 15 DM / 7,5 EU or less depending on kind
(From 30/10 until 04/11 no lunch is served)

All details and actual information (free workshops and excursion places), new offers (e.g. workshops), changes, presentations, etc, can be found at our website:

<http://www.hoehlenrettung.de>

The Discovery and Exploration of Honeymead Hole Part 3

Richard Witcombe

On Wednesday 23 October, Tony Boycott fired a further charge in the streamway below Keen's Pot, where the Black Rock limestone was proving so hard that the remnants of the shotholes remained visible on the wall after the bangs. On the following Sunday, the debris was cleared back and Graham Bromley was able to squeeze feet first along the sinuous passage at roof level. After 10' he reached the top of a pot, slightly offset to his right. The awkwardness of his position and the absence of any available stones meant that he could not determine the depth, but the shaft appeared to be man-sized. Somewhere below was the sound of a small amount of falling water. Graham could make no further progress and after a struggle he re-emerged.

Meanwhile Rob Taviner and the writer investigated the inlet passage on the corner before the blasted section which was draughting strongly. Rob removed a few rocks from around the threshold, but could not risk shifting the key stone barring access as it appeared to be a chockstone for a large amount of loose material on the right. He reported that there appeared to be a sizeable aven just inside the threshold.

Wednesday 30 October saw the final assault on the lower streamway, now christened Kryptonite Passage. Tony Boycott, Mark Lumley and Rob Taviner drilled a series of seventeen (!) small shotholes in the right hand wall and laid and fired a combined charge of multiple lengths of Cordtex and one slab. On the next Sunday a large party wound their way down to face where, after a good deal of hammering and chiselling a lower route to the head of the pitch was engineered. Using a crowbar belay some way back from the pot, two ladders were joined and lowered and Graham Bromley made the first descent.

The shaft was a miniature 12' deep version of Keen's Pot, with one wall covered by a stal flow emerging from a too tight roof inlet. Disappointingly, the way on was a level floored narrow rift, also too tight to enter but appearing to widen after about 6'.

After all who could get through the squeeze had gazed on the miserable route ahead, the party withdrew leaving Tony Boycott to place a judicious charge on the jammed rocks preventing access to

the corner inlet passage. He fired from Somerville Hall, reporting a small rumble after the bang.

The Cordtex charge had removed just sufficient rock to allow Rob Taviner to quickly dig open a route into the inlet on Wednesday 6 November. He crawled in to find himself in a narrow but man-sized phreatic rift, with above and behind the entrance squeeze, a small aven chamber filled with superb stal flows and formations, including one very large curtain. Rob was joined by the writer and Mark Lumley and the three explored 70' of gradually ascending rift passage up to 8' high in places but never wider than body sized. The walls were clean washed with many protruding fossils, but the floor was largely mud covered with a meandering stream cut trench and good examples of deep drip pits in the mud. One inlet passage on the right was pushed by Mark for about 10' before becoming tight, and Rob reported a diggable way on at the far end.

Returning to the streamway, the three examined the way on below the 12' pot, now christened Chalice Well. A few hammer and chisel blows made little impact on the walls, and it was concluded that a three or four charge banging campaign would be needed to reach the slightly wider section visible beyond.

Tony Boycott drilled and fired charges on 10 November and 24 November, while Rob Taviner and Graham Bromley proceeded to survey the cave. Various stal cleaning, concreting and sightseeing trips also took place, and shotholes were drilled in the narrow rift at the back of Somerville Hall on 24 November and 27 November.

Rob Taviner and Graham Bromley surveyed the Mud Meanders on 4 December, pushing the very narrow first inlet passage (on the upstream right) for nearly 30' to a point very close to the second inlet. A few feet of digging would make the connection. Meanwhile, Mark Lumley, Dave Speed and Pete Helliard resumed careful digging at the end of Kate's Calamity, sinking a trench in the mud floor at the threshold to the grotto.

On the following Sunday, Dave Speed fixed his purpose built steel ladder in the entrance shaft, while various chores were tackled below ground.

The writer took a 4' length of steel scaffold pole down to Balcony Pot where Graham Bromley fitted it at the head of the roof climb as a replacement belay for the failed bolt. Rob Taviner and Graham then surveyed the Gods, including the Picnic at Hanging Rock inlet, during which Rob had a close call when a large rock dislodged by Graham landed very adjacently.

The writer, joined later by Mark Lumley, carried on digging in Kate's Calamity, burrowing downwards to pass under a stal floor ahead. On his way out, Mark stopped off at Somerville Hall to deepen the shotholes, but made little impression because of drill slippage and sticking.

Graham emerged from the cave with a semi-fossilised, 2" long tooth which he had found in floor debris at the end of Picnic at Hanging Rock. This was clearly a canine tooth from a large carnivore, and was it later identified by Dr Andrew Currant of the Natural History Museum as that of a large wolf of the Pleistocene period, some 60,000 years ago. Despite several detailed searches in the area, no other remains of the animal have been found.

On Wednesday 11 December, Mark Lumley went underground early to drill a shothole below Chalice Well, while later Graham Bromley and Rob Taviner made their way to the far end of the Mud Meanders to dig the lower, left hand continuation, a draughting, mud floored bedding plane with a few inches of air space. After 12' of flat out progress, a halt was called with man-sized passage visible 2' to 3' ahead.

Meanwhile Dave Speed and the writer continued digging at the end of Kate's Calamity, advancing carefully but very awkwardly under the stal floor. Heavy drip turned the mud floor into porridge, and there was no draught to speak of. Tony Boycott came down and placed a charge in Somerville Hall, but the presence of the digging teams preventing firing in the time he had available and he had to remove the bang.

Further work was done in Mud Meanders by Rob Taviner, Dave Speed and the writer on Sunday 15 December, and on the following Wednesday, Rob, Graham Bromley and Pete Hann pushed the muddy tube to within a foot or so of breakthrough.

Mark Lumley had drilled the rift below Chalice Well on 16 and 18 December, and on the latter occasion, Tony Boycott fired a charge there and in Somerville Hall. A further charge below Chalice Well was fired on 21 December, and Mark was back with his drill after Christmas on 27 December.

Meanwhile, on Sunday 22 December, Rob Taviner and Graham Bromley successfully passed the banged squeeze at the back of Somerville Hall, and dropped 6' into a walking height canyon passage. After 25', the connection with the Balcony Pot inlet passage was reached but it was too tight to pass.

Moving on to the Mud Meanders, the expected breakthrough was made after only 10 minutes digging. A roomy 10' high bedding chamber was entered with an inlet blocked by an old stal flow. The main way on continued via a dog leg and an eyehole squeeze to a three way fork. A pot in the floor dropped into a low passage with a large cobble preventing access, while the main right hand way ended in a collapse area. The left hand route led upwards to a stal coated aven with an awkward projection preventing a proper examination. Altogether about 75' of new passage was explored.

Whilst in the Balcony Pot area, Rob had noted an alternative route up into The Gods from the approach passage to Kate's Calamity. It would require only the removal of a few jammed boulders in the roof and would save the Balcony Pot formations from the effects of falling mud.

Rob and Graham, accompanied by Graham Johnson with a drill, returned to the new Mud Meander passages on 29 December. The aven succumbed without the need for any shothole drilling, but it led disappointingly into the collapse area associated with the right hand passage. The new passages, including the Somerville Hall extension, were surveyed.

On Friday 3 January, Rob Taviner and Graham Johnson dug for a while at the end of Kate's Calamity and also started work on digging upwards into The Gods. Later, Mark Lumley and Tony Boycott drilled and banged again below Chalice Well.

On the following Sunday, Dave Speed, Graham Bromley, Rob Taviner and the writer continued work at Kate's Calamity, digging almost flat out in very cramped and squalid conditions. By the end of the session, small holes were appearing amongst the rocks in the floor.

Work resumed on Wednesday, with the main team digging Kate's Calamity, while Rob Taviner finally made the new connection into The Gods. Graham Bromley revisited Picnic at Hanging Rock in the company of Max Midlen, pushing the end for a further 6' beneath some "hanging deaths".

Back at Kate's Calamity, Dave Speed was working in a very squalid porridge bowl of mud. He managed to insert himself far enough under the stal floor to see a low passage continuing ahead. Graham then went in feet first for nearly a body's length, before coming out and going back in head first with tools. He managed to break up some of stalled floor beneath him and was able to peer ahead. A few jammed rocks prevented access to a drop in the floor beyond which the passage appeared to continue small but man-sized.

On Sunday 12 January, a seven man team concentrated on the Kate's Calamity dig, but the progress made was disappointing. Just beyond the point reached by Graham on 8 January, there was a tiny airspace continuing for perhaps 10', but the passage was largely filled with slabs and gravelly mud sealed beneath a stal floor. On the following Sunday a large amount of rock and spoil was brought out, and by close of play, a narrow 6" wide slot could be seen in the floor ahead. Stones thrown through bounced down encouragingly for 10' or 12'. Two more digging sessions on 22 and 26 January made it clear that the only way on must be deep in the floor, calling for the inevitable application of bang. The campaign was opened on Wednesday 29 January with three shotholes drilled and a Super Cordtex charge fired by Clive North. The debris was cleared on the following Wednesday, and a repeat triple shothole charge was fired.

Meanwhile, the duo of Mark Lumley and Tony Boycott had been continuing the assault on the rift below Chalice Well, drilling on 22 January, and banging on 30 January and 2 February. On Thursday 6 February, they passed the terminal squeeze to emerge in 10' or so of man-sized but very narrow passage with a few formations on the walls and a nearly total mud choke ahead. Not a very inspiring prospect.

On Sunday 9 February a six man team cleared bang debris from Kate's Calamity, and Clive North fired a four shothole Super Cordtex charge. The rubble was removed on the following Wednesday, after which Graham Bromley and Mark Lumley paid a visit to the Chalice Well terminal choke. The cave was wet after heavy rain and a small stream was sinking into the mud floor with no signs of backing up.

After more clearing work in Kate's Calamity on Sunday 16 February, Graham Bromley squeezed to the furthest reaches of the passage. There was no clear view of the narrow rift below, but rocks trundled down seemed to drop for 8' to 10' into a larger space. Three shotholes were drilled and

Clive fired the usual Super Cordtex charge.

Graham also visited the Chalice Well dig and after clearing some of the mud, uncovered a rock which appeared to be holding back the choke. He detected a draught and could hear water gurgling beyond the rock. Further digging took place in Kate's Calamity on 19 February, with a drilling and banging session on 23 February and more clearing of debris on 26 February. After a causeway had been built over the pot by the white formations, the spoil had to be spread all along the approach passage. Another Super Cordtex charge was fired on Sunday 2 March and on the following two Wednesdays large amounts of broken rock and gravel were brought out as far as Balcony Pot. Sadly there was no sign of the narrow slot widening ahead and with dumping space and enthusiasm both in short supply, the decision was taken to abandon the siege.

A new JCB dig was in the planning stage, but there was just time enough to examine a few final leads. On Saturday 15 March Graham Bromley undertook a solo trip to eliminate a couple of chokes. Taking a crowbar to the far end of Picnic at Hanging Rock, he prised a rock out of the way to gain a further 20' of passage ending in a more final blockage. After inconclusively probing the choked rift below Balcony Pot, he descended Keen's Pot to examine the stal cemented boulders beneath the entrance to the Mud Meanders.

The old phreatic route had been thought to turn right at this point, but there were also indications of a continuation downwards parallel with the Chalice Well streamway. Using a short bar, he quickly broke through the boulders into a well decorated grotto with a narrow rift passage leading off. After a short distance the way on divided, with on the right a small boulder choked pot, and to the left a too low bedding plane with a view of a small grotto beyond. As he was shortly leaving for a working spell in Holland, Graham christened the find Going Dutch.

On Wednesday 19 March, the team looked again at the Balcony Pot rift before moving the digging gear to the 10' pot at the end of Blood Alley, ready for an assault on the too tight rift at the bottom. A brief dig in the Balcony Pot rift on the following Wednesday was abandoned when tipped material from the Kate's Calamity dig was encountered. It probably follows the same line of weakness at the lower, too tight, level which frustrated the earlier dig.

Wednesday 2 April saw Clive North back with drill and bang. He drilled three shotholes in the rift

below the Blood Alley pot, while Graham Bromley inconclusively probed the end of Going Dutch. A Super Cordtex charge was duly fired in the pot, and on the following Sunday a team returned to clear the debris. A corner had been removed and it was possible to look along about ten feet of disappointingly small - less than man-sized - horizontally floored rift. It draughted slightly, but as it would require a sustained banging effort to push, it was decided to leave it for future, more desperate times.

A small team went back to Going Dutch on 9 April to lower the stal coated floor at the far end. Rob Taviner eventually succeeded in inserting himself feet first and later head first into a small bedding plane grotto, about three feet wide and eighteen inches to two feet high. It was well decorated but choked with mud and stal after a body's length, and in view of the constricted nature of the approach passage and the good quality stal, no further work seemed justified.

It was almost a year and over 100 working trips since the excavator had trundled onto the site, and Dave Mitchell's dig at Charterhouse Warren was earmarked for a spring assault. With the Hale-Bopp comet shining brightly overhead, a mass of tools and kit was brought out of the cave on Wednesday 16 April, and the sustained digging effort which had yielded nearly 1400' of varied and sporting cave had come to an end.

"Other hands in other days will have much to add to my story"

H.E. Balch.

Dave Speed



Digging Deep

Dave Speed

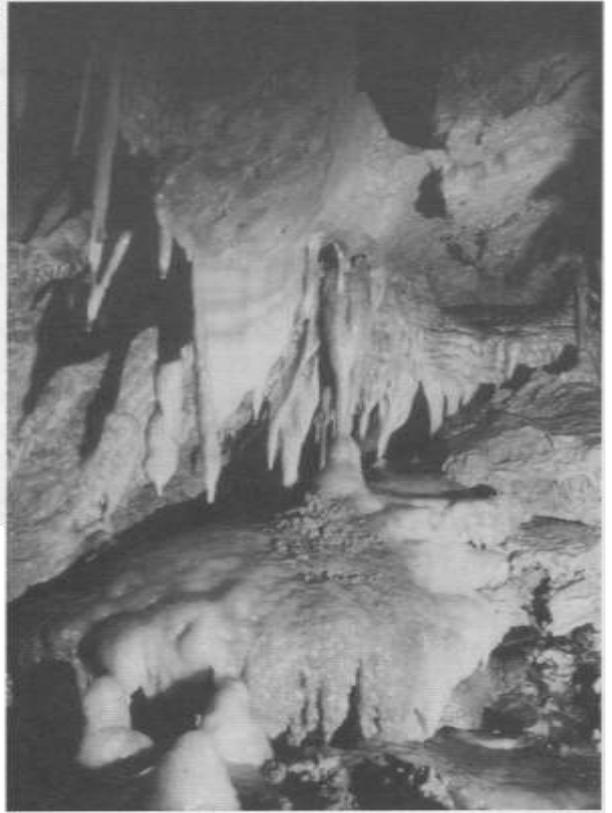


Agricultural Reinstatement

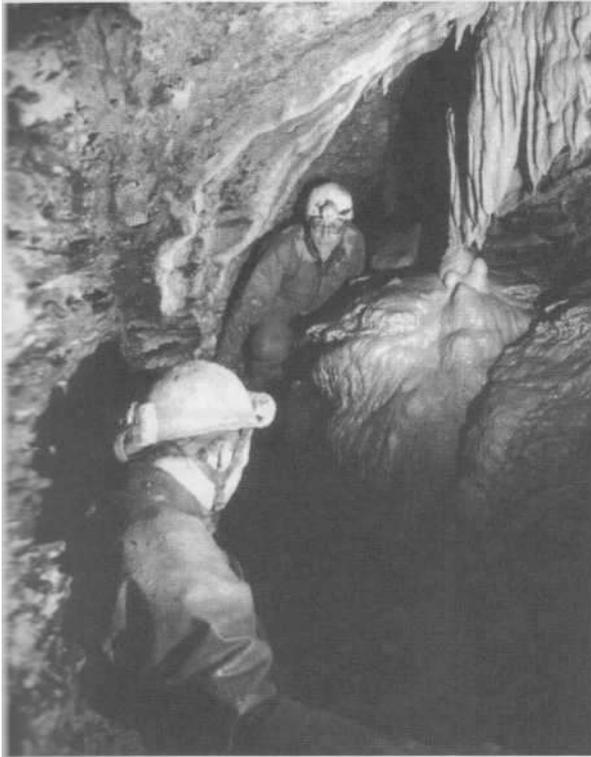


Dave Speed

The End Of The Beginning - A Hole With A Draft



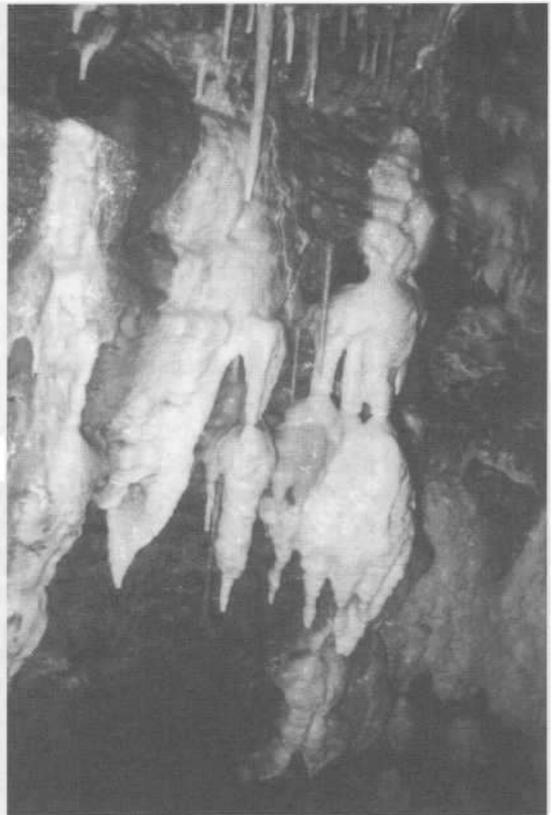
The Grotto Above Keen's Pot



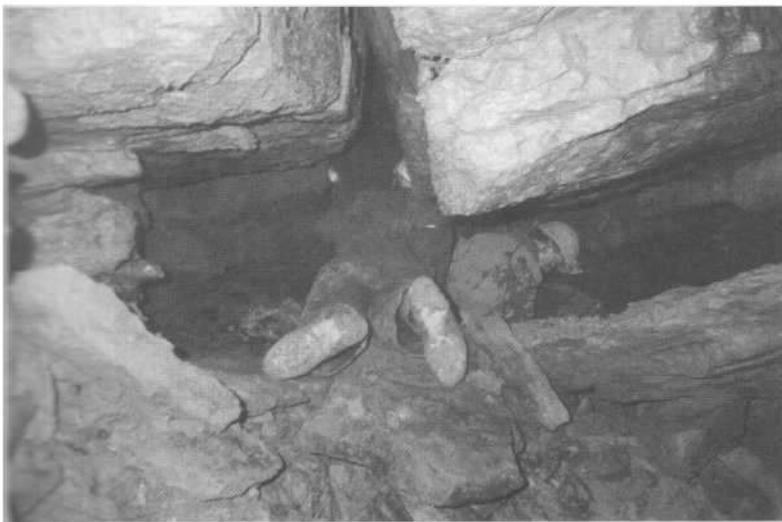
Balcony Pot



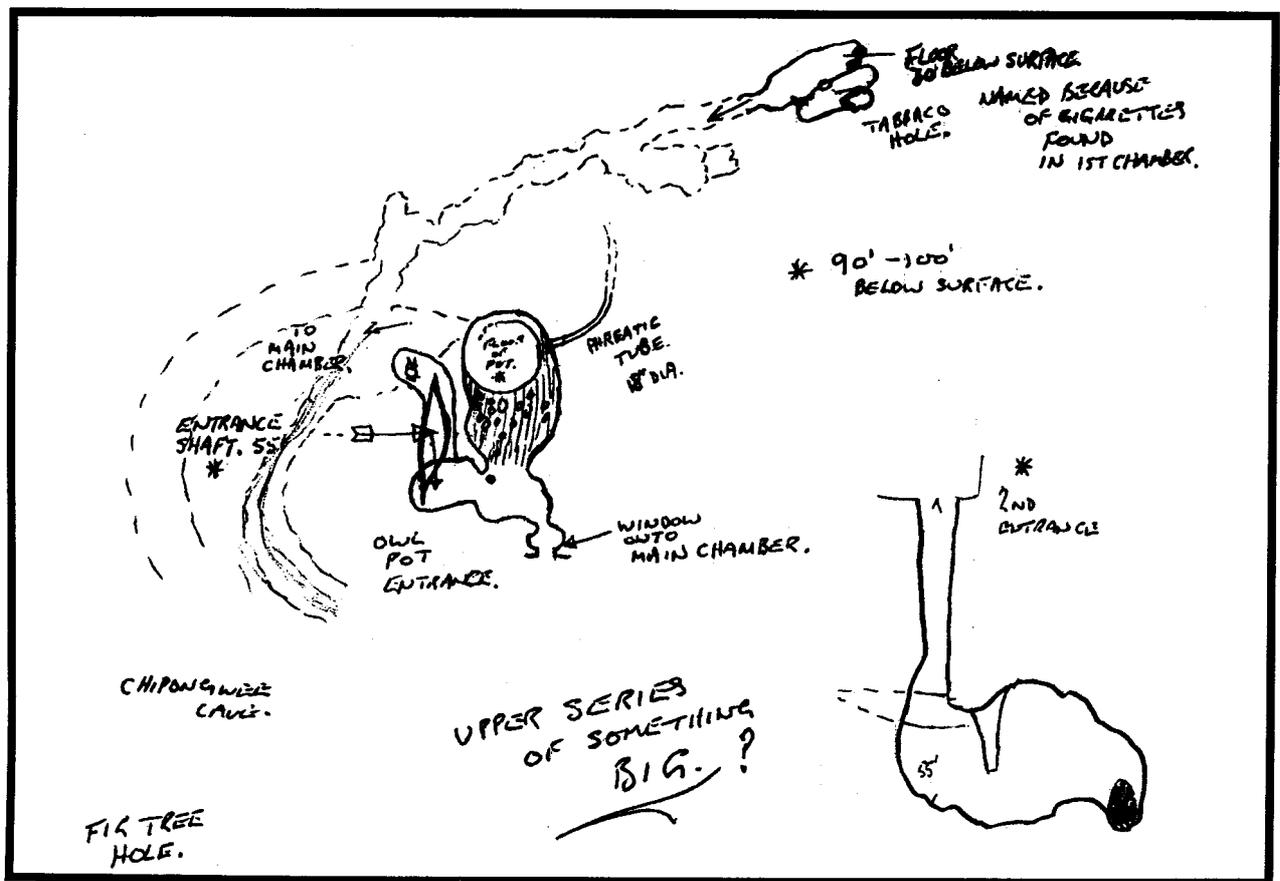
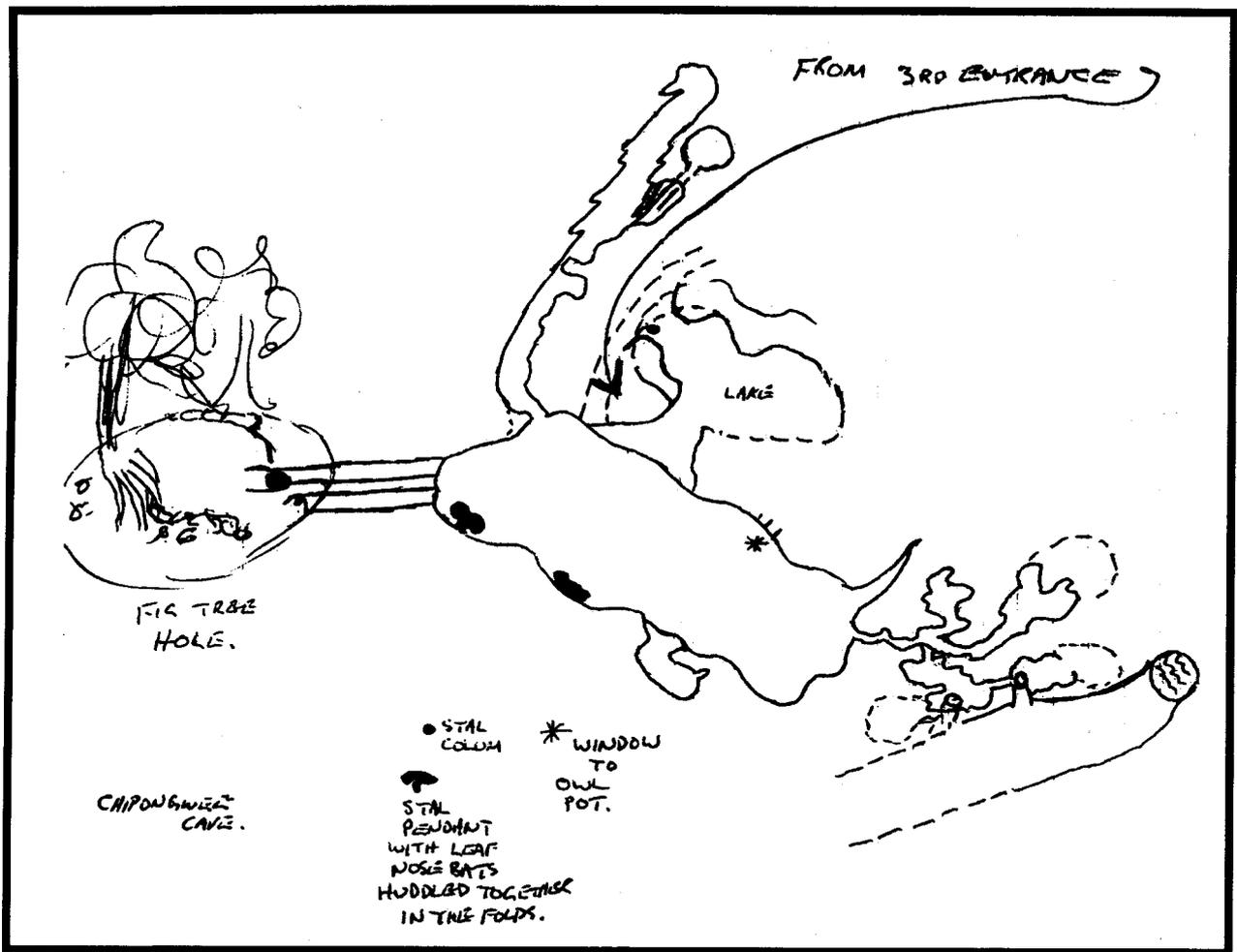
Paul Stillman



Formation's In Kate's Calamity



The Slabs In Slab House



Chipongwe Cave, Zambia, Africa

Memories of 1968 - 69

Brian Hansford

I walked into the Wessex lounge one fine day last year ('98) to be greeted from the far side of the room by Mike York

"Hello Knob rot, I see you've got your name in print again".

It turned out that Karst and Cave Science (Vol 25, No 1, April 1998) had done an article on caves and karst in Zambia, Africa, and I got a mention "after Hansford 1969"; referring to a brief article I'd done for the Wessex Journal which appears in Vol 10, but no plan or sections were printed at that time. In Vol 11 are two other little articles, one of a show cave in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and another small Zambian cave - not Malawi as stated by the Editor then. The absence of the plan and section for Chipongwe Cave has been in the dark recesses of my mind for 30 years now, and as the article in Karst and Cave Science mentions, plans are being produced. I thought the Wessex needs some indication of this 'ere cave, so - Grade 1 survey (B. Hansford 1968/9) shown opposite.

Chipongwe Cave. Kafue District. Zambia

Armed only with a head torch, six candles, 100ft of climbing rope and 2 shackles instead of krabs, about six of us set off to have a look at said cave: the rope belonged to a prof from the Lusaka Uni who had done a little caving and knew where the cave was to be found, myself (18 months with the Wessex) and four others from work who had nought else to do.

Travel south on the main road out of Lusaka towards Kafue River. 35-40 miles out of Lusaka turn right onto a dirt road - no sign posts so I'll never find it again now. A mile or so to small village - tin roofs and breeze blocks, so no naked ladies - civilised they are. Anyway, turn right and shortly you should emerge on top of a hill. Look for a very large fig tree. You'll find a collapse, the trees roots cascade down into it on the left as you look downslope; under some hanging boulders, and at the base of a short cliff where two holes beckon to the darkness within. These holes are two passages, 60-70ft long, running down to emerge in a large chamber. Bat guano on the floor, in the roof 50' above, hundreds of pairs of red eyes, fruit bats, the size of a rat, but with wings.

This large main chamber, approx 100' long by 20'-30' wide about 50-60' high, has a passage going

off left, nice walking size passage, that passes a lake on the right in another chamber, lower than the first. A small alcove further on gives access to a blind beehive chamber 12' x 12' (ish). The passage continues until the bedding dips over pretty sharp and ends in a pool, black as night. Return to main chamber. Very little stal around, nothing active, but high on the left wall about halfway along is a window with faint daylight beyond. Opposite on the right hand wall a large dark hole about 25' to 30' up, straight up. No matter, looks like it'll go, little holds everywhere, covered in bat muck, arrive at hole to find it's blind, about 15' x 10'. Foolishly brought everyone up on lifeline just for fun, but it could have been bad had someone fallen - no MRO in the bush. All safely down, I find a crawl at the far end of main chamber, no one else fancied it so we left it for later. We had another 2 entrances to look at.

2nd Entrance

Back in daylight, wander through the bush and we find the 2nd entrance, bit like a canoe shape, too wide to chimney down, too smooth to climb. Tie the rope off to a nearby tree and 'ab' down to a muddy ledge 15-20' down using shackle krabs - it works. Land at ledge and look around. Off to the left under a bit of overhang, 3 large owl chicks and, hang on, here comes Mom or Dad, hard stares from all four. Bit of a jump down into passage, quick look to see where, or if, it goes. It does, so get everyone else down. Prof unties rope, doubles it, 'abs' in and drags rope after him. Oh no, we're trapped, we're all doomed!! No we're not 'cos the passage leads to the window into main chamber and to a nice pot 35-40' deep, nice and round with a ledge spiralling down to the bottom. About halfway down is a phreatic tube 18" round boring off into the distance. The ledge doesn't quite reach the bottom, 4' jump and there is an exit to the lake. Just room to get around to the left and back to main chamber. Out to look for the third entrance ...

3rd Entrance

Back past 2nd entrance and found the third smaller entrance on the surface with an 8' drop to small passage and here my memory fails me. Does it connect to 2nd entrance passage or down to the lake? I think it might be the 2nd entrance passage. All in all, not a bad days caving considering I was the only caver and only just.

The only casualties of the day were Keith who got a gob full whilst looking up at the bats and the Prof who got a bad dose of histoplasmosis and almost died as the hospital were treating him for TB until a doc remembered reading about histo...

Around the lake (a nice pale green) were some old folded stal with loads of small bats asleep in bundles up and down the folds, with condensation on their fur glistening in our lights. No photos were taken unfortunately and it wasn't 'til weeks later that I drew the plan so some things may not be accurate.

Well, we'd been and conquered, and over cold cokes (2½ new pence or at the time (1968) sixpence) on the surface, I said I had to look at the crawl off the main chamber. No takers again so off I went... no thought of where it might lead or how long, no spare light, but as it happened no problems.

A short dusty crawl led to a weird shaped chamber, with flaky sharp bits everywhere and just as you entered it on the right, a mini shaft in the floor 3-4ft deep and 2ft across. Hello! - looks like sand on the

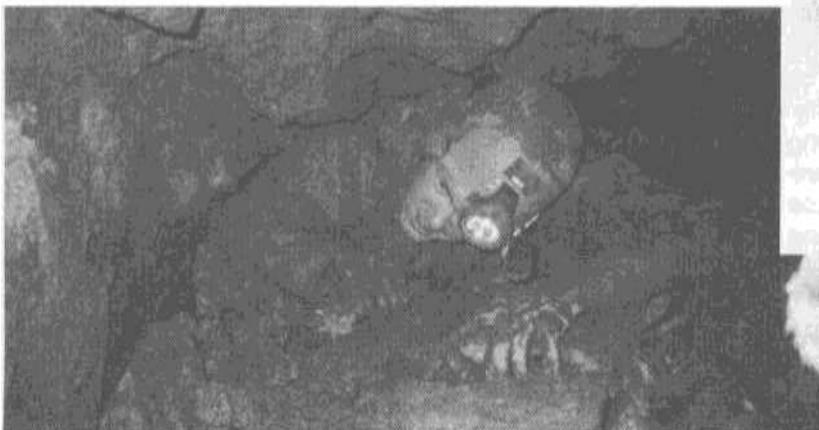
bottom. No sand up here? Head first into the hole, pushed sand around and yes, big space in there. Pushed more sand away and was in: into a passage 12'-15' wide with sandy floor sloping up to the roof maybe 30'-40' to my right. Down to my left about the same length, sloping down with more head room until about 10' high and the whole bedding tilts over again and the passage ends in another pool. Turn back up slope and there's only my footprints. Magic feeling.

Unfortunately work got in the way like it does; I moved up country, and after the Prof's illness gave caving a miss 'til I got back to Mendip in 1970. Someone may know about a survey for Chipongwe, but it was thirty years ago, and the 'it' feels about right, apart from the 3rd entrance passage to the main part of the cave. (All sizes approximate).

In the Karst and Cave Science Journal is a photo of Kashiba Lake. We did a tourist trip to look and the cliffs were very much higher - like 3 times or more. People swimming in the lake were minute - smaller than the Wessex!



The Artefacts In Situ



All Singing River Photo's by **Mark Helmore**



The Artefact on Singing River Survey for Scale

Butch Entering Chocolate Salty Balls Passage

A 'Major' Find in Singing River Mine or 'how we didn't lose the digging barrel'

Les Williams

Following news overheard in the Hunters, concerning a BEC find at Hazelnut Swallet in Biddlecombe, a plan was hastily hatched to attempt to save the digging barrel for 1998. The total passage found by the BEC was in the region of 80 feet and was an easy target to beat (we thought). After several weeks of motivation, a crack team was assembled on December 5th to have a look at a likely looking site in Singing River Mine. The site in question was just below the entrance chamber where the 'Singing River' issues from a mud and rock collapse. On several previous trips I had looked at this site and thought it looked very promising, now a top team of Wessex tigers (stupid fools) were readying themselves to push it in earnest. There was a lot at stake, not only the loss of face that comes with failure, but 72 pints of glorious? Butcombe was also in the balance.

The initial team consisted of Jonathan Williams, Dave 'Cookie' Cooke, Malcolm Campbell and myself. Armed with a crowbar we started at a low corner, where I had previously had a bit of a furlge, and quickly made progress. After about 1.5m the right hand wall collapsed and we realised it might be a long job, but digging was easy so we persevered. With no mention of the g-word (about 9.8m per second, squared) and some hopeful drystone wall construction to shore up about 10 tons of mud and deads we made rapid progress, with myself on the first shift until it all collapsed on me. Malc dug me out and for his reward was given the second shift. By now we were 3m into a flat out but mercifully dry crawl, this soon changed when Malc found the stream, which until now had flowed below the deads. On being offered an alternative route it immediately flowed into the end of the dig, ensuring that volunteers for the sharp end would be hard to find.

Malc succeeded in collapsing a major part of the passage on himself which we attempted to clear from his legs, whilst he continued to dig at the end of the passage! It proved difficult to clear his legs in the restricted passage so we informed him that we were going to the pub and might remember to mention his predicament to cave rescue as we left to go home. This threat spurred a final effort from him and he forced through a squeeze in front and disappeared from sight. With whoops of joy he

'stomped down his first Virgin' although stomped turned out to be a bit of a misnomer. The other young tigers were soon through with him although us older and wiser tigers took one look at the flat out, squalid, muddy, unstable, wet tube with a tight squeeze at the far end and decided that "in the interests" of safety somebody should remain behind, I volunteered. Ignoring shouts of "HOO HOO" and "IT'S BIG MAN, COME ON THROUGH" I steadfastly stood my ground to safeguard their retreat and eventually they returned with tales of old mining artefacts and caverns boundless etc. We retired to the pub with smug grins, certain that we had won the barrel, and had a celebratory drink or three.

The following Tuesday night armed with surveying gear and a camera, the Tuesday night team consisting of Mark Helmore, 'Butch' Meredith, Carmen Smith, Quark (Simon Davies) and myself decided to record the find for posterity. Arriving at the breakthrough we found that the stream still preferred the nice open dug passage rather than flowing through the deads, so it was going to be wet, muddy, squalid, etc. etc. I drew the short straw and proceeded through to the squeeze where I had to enlarge it (not for the first time) to fit the more average sized caver (e.g. most of us). On reaching the "large caverns measureless to man" beyond I had a quick burst of hysterics giggling followed by a few "the lying b*****s" and then proceeded to crawl the 6m over the deads to the end of the passage!! I shouted to Mark to come through and quietly giggled to myself at the thought of his reaction. It was very similar to mine!!

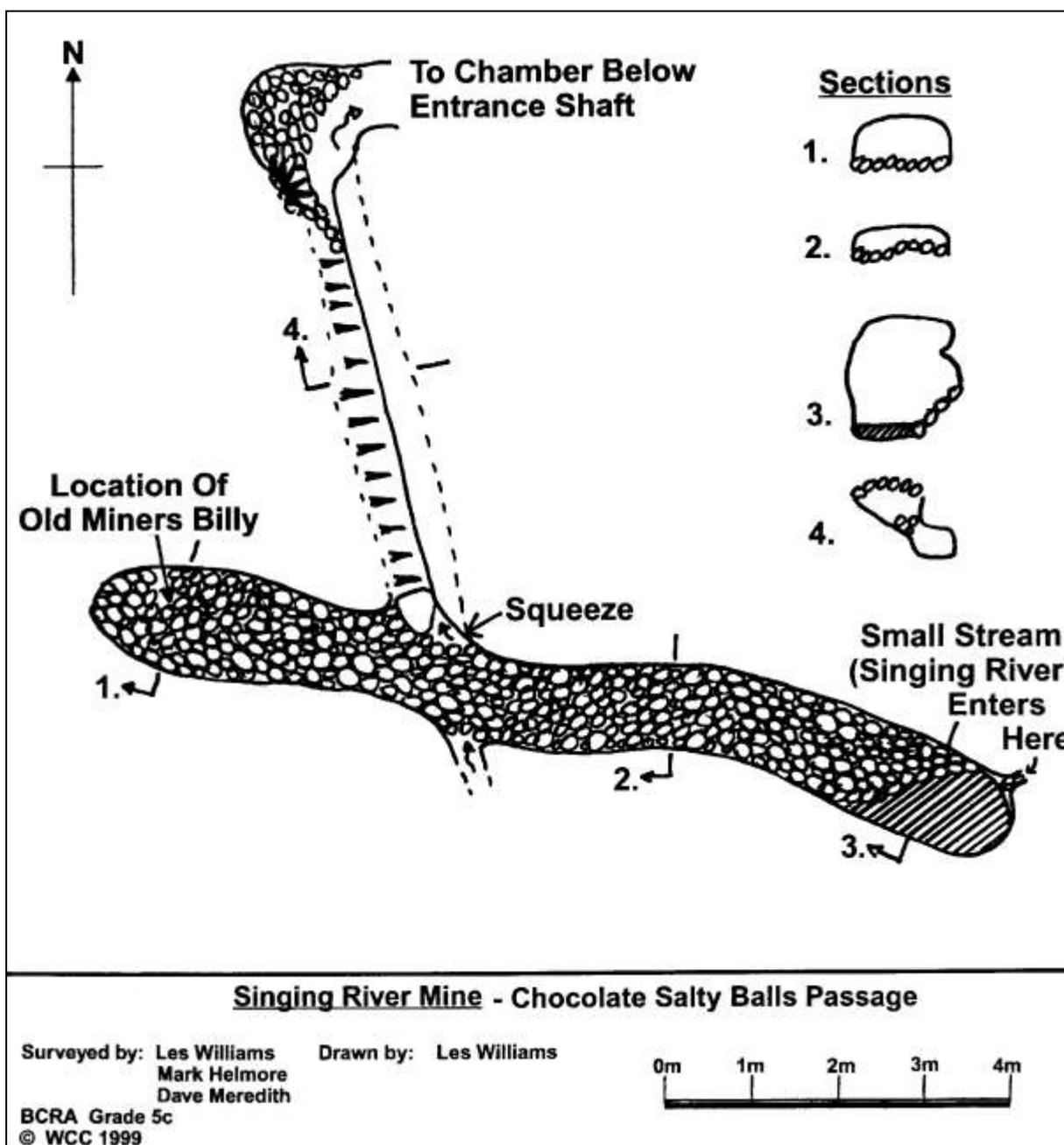
We explored the whole area (about 30 seconds) and sat (standing was impossible) to await the rest of the Surveying/photographic team. In the interest of safety Carmen remained behind and once we were joined by Butch and Quark, who had similar reactions to us, we set about the various tasks required to record this immense find. At the far side of the squeeze was a crossroads with a 1m wide, 40cm high, passage going off to the left and a similar passage to the right. Ahead was a small inlet, which looked extremely tight, we looked no closer. At the far end of the left-hand passage the floor lowered, until it was possible to sit comfortably at the side of a small pleasant looking pool, where a

gnome with a fishing rod would not have been out of place. The 'Singing River' issued from a small crack at this point, although nobody I know would have a cat in hell's chance of following it upstream.

It was obvious that the top part of the passage was phreatic and T'owd man must have followed this and enlarged it, perhaps following some good calamine ore, and then later filled the passages with deads to avoid taking them to the surface. At the end, above the pool, several unfired shotholes were apparent so T'owd man must have decided to call it a day here. Above the terminal pool was an aven of miniscule proportions which may widen after 2m although much bang would be required to reach this point (maybe if the barrel looks iffy sometime).

After some photo's we started the survey and Mark and Butch went to the end of the right-hand passage to photograph the artefacts, and remove them for safekeeping (Mark's garage?). One tin did not survive the journey out but the other was later cleaned and appears to be a miner's billy complete with pouring spout. The team retired to where Carmen waited, having completed a total of three survey legs and amassed over 16m of passage.

The find was named Chocolate Salty Balls Passage (my apologies to Richard Witcome) and while it wasn't going to win the barrel it was long enough to have the contest officially declared a draw. With kudos and the barrel intact we retired to the Hunters vowing never to go there again.



Belgium, Ardennes: 4/7 March 1999

Ian E Chandler

The objective was to stay awake as long as possible before succumbing to the mattress on the floor of a very cold voluminous room in the Chateau Ronchinne, near Mont Godine.

The delayed ferry to Calais departed at 01.00hrs on Friday morning. We wandered around Dinant, far too early, eventually to find a cafe of sorts offering meagre sustenance. Les wanted omelettes so found another cafe offering the desired fare. We had apres breakfast tea at the chateau. Some of us then had a few hours sleep whilst others went off to cave.

They came back making the statement that they had 'been everywhere'? in Trou H'aquin. It's a stream cave with mainly horizontal development. This spurred others to do the same after their nap. The latter group did not pretend that they had been everywhere, but that they had kept dry.

A minority (including the author) decided that a Belgium cafe, *Au Vieux Chateau* in Crupet, offering Croque Monsieur and Leffe Blonde beer was a far better way to combat sleep deprivation. The lady of the cafe, Madame Dehre, gave us two books on local history and places and buildings of interest. These will go in the club library.

The evening meal was prepared by Jean-Marie, the owner of the hostel facilities. This was an indoor bar-b-que of sausages and pork chops with jacket potatoes done over the open wood and charcoal fire. Of course it went down with a pitcher of wine, a bowl of salad and a great variety of bottled beers. To prolong the sleep deprivation Andy Sparrow phoned to arrange to pick up his gear we had transported. That meant supping more beer until he arrived near to midnight.

Was it not nice to wake next morning to have breakfast made for us? Later ... much later ... a group went into Trou Bernard, the deepest cave in Belgium. The remainder festered waiting for a Belgium lass to turn up with The Master Key which opened most gated caves. She did not arrive. That meant that we leftovers (Les, Bean, Jonathan, Cookie, Sky & I) went into Trou Weron.

The Trou Bernard party accomplished their SRT trip with verve, dash and true British grit. They arrived back to the hostel after five hours to meet the serving of supper. The Trou Weron party, with the exception of the author, squeezed their way to the

bottom of the cave. On the way back a ladder was dropped at an awkward section by Bean (after a heroic struggle through a vertical tight thrutch) to aid the others. They much appreciated his bruising sacrifice.

The deeper caves in Belgium are mainly narrow meandering rifts with relatively short pitches which are best dropped using SRT off just one available fixed eye bolt. The walls are glassily worn through constant bodily contact. They are the dastardly image of Mendip caves.

The evening meal, presented by Jean-Marie and his partner was grilled chicken breasts in a sauce, couscous, stuffed tomatoes and vegetables. This night was another opportunity to test further types of beer. Silly games were played with a trio of Dutch cavers.

A massive group of Flemish climbers were also in residence for the night, together with other Dutch climbers. The spacious dormitory floor was covered with bags and bodies. One or two were stepped on as a stumbling course was taken to one's own berth later that night. Those Flemish climbers can really scream.

The snow flurries on Sunday morning soon disappeared from the logs as they were stoked up on the open fire. Another excellent breakfast of bacon and egg supplemented by croissants, cheese, baguettes and preserves set us up to 'do' a show cave. We did have to provide our own lighting and were allowed to wander at will.

This was situated quite literally under the chateau belonging to Jean-Marie at Floreffe. Here he had a much more cosy and warmer hostel which is in the process of being improved. This is the place to stay when in Belgium. The hostel at Ronchine he rents from a Count who occupies the rest of the building.

The show cave had concrete steps and floors virtually throughout with cables for lighting, not in use now. The entrance chamber was used as a cellar. There are one or two possible digs, and where could you find a better place to burrow than just beyond crates of beer nestling under chateau accommodation? Most of the decorations had been broken in years gone by but in nooks and crannies new white calcite was being deposited. We did not hang around to watch it grow.

With one or two intended and unintended deviations we got to Calais to catch the 19.15 ferry.

The final tally was three caves (two groups in one) and an unlit ex showcave.

Those present and incorrect: Les Williams, Jonathan Williams (he claims no relationship), Cookie, Bean, Sky Walker, Wayne, Paul Turner, StopGo, Tim Mills, Julie Hesketh, Ian Chandler.

Accommodation:

Jean-Marie at Inventif Sprl.. Av. Charles De Gaulle 6. 5150 Florefe, Belgium Tel: 081/45.12.31.

Fax: 081/45.10.12.

Diagrams in the Dales.

Ellis

In the days of the early caving slam shafts were named with numbers in simple sequences.

This was to help the kindergarten caving man to play with his counting digits.

To give but some; TathamWife Hole (1,2,3, Last);

Quaking Pot,(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,Last);

Flood Entrance Pot, (1 and 2, 3, Last: South East Pot was not counted).

The caver also, take note,

had to be told that the Last was the last and, please, not to go any further.

Then a little wordy imagination

took to name pots within a Pot.

Stake, Storm, Carol, Shuffle, Lake, Aven and Slit

Pots in Simpson's Pot. Great Aven and Boulder

Pitch literally pronounce their integrity with a succinct and potted brevity.

It's a small and smudged concession to the sop of comprehension.

Today a name can be far too loud.

Beelzebub's Hairy Ringpiece might be airily allowed.

A smidgen of poetic metre provides Big Mean Porridge Machine.

It is known that a pot can be washed in Dr. Bannister's Handbasin with a tune played out in the nursery Ding, Dong, Bell.

Now, instead of names and numbers which are obviously far too hard to understand we cave in the Dales with waterproof diagrams.

As long as you recognise a metal P, afford a Rigging Guide, you can drop any pot using a lined-in printed dot to dot.

Library Report

Phil Hendy

LIBRARY - RECENT ACQUISITIONS (to 12.3.99)

Cerberus S. S. Newsletter 41, 2 (Feb 1999) Craven

Pothole Club. Newsletter 53 (Jan 1999)

Craven Pothole Club. Index to Publications (1932 - 1998)

C.S.C.C. Minutes (12.9.98)

C.S.C.C. Newsletter (Feb 1999)

C.S.C.C. Journal 24 Nos 4 & 5 (Sept & Dec 1998)

DC Speleograph 74, 12 (Dec 1998)

Descent 146 (Feb/Mar 1999)

Descent Indexes Issues 1 - 120 (3 vols.)

M.N.R.C. Newsletter 69 (Dec 1998/Jan 1999)

N.S.S. News 57, 1 (Jan 1999)

Oxford Univ. C.C. Proceedings 11 (1984)
12 (1984-86)
13 (1991)

N.S.S. News 54, 10 (Oct 1998)

Proc. UBSS, 2 (1998)

U.B.S.S. Newsletter 14/2 (May 1998)
15/1 (Dec 1998)

White Rose Pothole Club Newsletter 18, 1 (Feb 1999)

The Library is missing the following issues of Descent: 135, 137, 139. If any member can donate these (or return them if borrowed) it will be much appreciated. We hold some duplicates of Descent, available to members (price negotiable). If anyone has items from the Library which have not been booked out, please return them, or at least let me know. For example, the Club's copy of Complete Caves of Mendip does not appear to be in the Library - this should not be removed from Upper Pitts !

Phil Hendy

Logbook Extracts

1.2.99 - Swildon's

Jonathan & Malcolm

Short trip ... 18 mins to Sump 1, one roll of film and back to the hut for tea and crumpet(s)!

2.2.99 - SRT Training Day

Jonathan & Malcolm

Step 1: Hang yourself out of trees in Ebbor Gorge.
Step 2: Pay a visit to kindly Roger Dors to plead entrance to his fine cave.
Step 3: Cave.

4.2.99 - Wessex Diggers return to Singing River

Jon & Mal

... at least the mud is good for your skin.

6.2.99 - Swildon's Hole

StopGo & Ross (of Manchester)

... post-cave showers contrasting superbly with the after effects of Sump 1.

6.2.99 - Swildon's Sump 1

Mad Al (solo)

SRT'd the 20ft. Took forever - well five hours! but I was on various circuitous routes. Overtaken by Mark H (solo) who completed the trip (Hut - Sump 1 - Hut) in 40 minutes (and he spend 2 minutes talking to me) - is this a record? Has a new challenge begun?

Certainly is a record Al - nobody has ever spent 2 minutes talking to you before.

13.2.99 - Wessex Wookey Trip

Yes, we went caving, all XX of us! ... Christopher showed Simon the Greater Shoehorse Bat!!! ... Saga cruise on Wookey Lakes ... Thanks to Martin Grass and the Slovenia dingy.

13.2.99 - Gough's Cave, Cheddar

Malc, Robin, Michael, Chris

...dived through to Bishop's Palace to make Robin go climbing ... Robin's climbing was going well until his final abseil when a bolt pulled! Robin shouted *!?, Malc said "you'd better get down now", Mike stated that Prew would not be impressed. On the way back across Bishop's Palace, a hole in the floor that was not there on the last trip in, was explored by Mike - this led to a boulder covered floor in a chamber 25m long, 3m wide, with more holes in the floor...

14.2.99 - Swildon's Black Hole Series

Simon, Carl, Richard 1 & Richard 2

Carl turned back at Sump 1 because he could. Richard wanted to follow him but was prevented

from doing so by Les (and a large Wessex contingent) all shouting gentle encouragement ... "GET THROUGH THAT HOLE YOU *@!!>?", YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION DEPENDS ON IT!"

14.2.99 - Swildon's Hole

StopGo, Biff, Emma, Kevin, Mak, Cookie, Les, Jonathan, Ross (no dog)

Scientific trip down Swildon's Hole to discover the effects of cold on the human body. (Ross: "I've had enough cave to last a lifetime").

20.2.99 - Cuckoo Cleeves

Phil H & Dan

Renewed my acquaintance with this sporting little cave after 20 years. It's still all there, but not necessarily where I remembered it. Also, someone has put in a few extra drops. Gasping and wheezing below the Straubrey Boulder - originally attributed to age, lack of fitness and 25- a-day habit, but more likely high CO2 concentrations.

21.2.99 - Swildon's

Andy Morse

Sump 1 & Mud Sump for some pumping ...

21.2.99 - Swildon's

Mike Thomas took his mother caving, suitably kitted out by Mr Sparrow. *John, Prew* and I lurked in the background. Angela pushed on most determinably, but it must be admitted she was faster in 1964. Photographic evidence is available for disbelievers - *Maurice*.

24.2.99 - St Lukes

Max, Aubrey, Bean, Steve & Bob S

Sitting at the head of the second pitch, I have to say, I have never in my life been so tempted by a large bucket of water. It was Max's last digging session before going to Australia and there he was about 25ft below and there was the bucket of about 25 litres ... every time the little horns popped out I had to push them back in. I missed a good chance, besides the bucket of cement would also have got pretty wet ... Max would most probably have said I was childish as he usually does, but then, Max falls off roofs.

28.2.99 - The Wessex Innuendo Club Trip - St Cuthberts

Vern, Simon, Kevin, Louise, Emma & Legbreaker (Andy came so he could do the other leg!)

So, how long can you suck on a juicy pair of Joosters?

7.3.99 - Cuckoo Cleeves

Phil H & Paul Weston

Combined ages 106 years of experience ... cave very dry and rubbish-free, and the CO₂ level is almost negligible.

13.3.99 - GB

Phil H and Brian Prewer to show a young girl by the name of *Vicky*, the subterranean delights. Mud Passage Oxbows to the Sump ...

13.3.99 - Swildon's

Combined Services decided to do the Round Tip and clear the Mud Sump. Spent 2 hours pumping, fixing the pump and pumping and ... gave up and decided to put everyone through Sump 1. Did small round trip in the Black Hole Series ...

14.3.99 - Eastwater, 13 Pots

Steve & Charlie (CSCA)

... Baker's Chimney felt a bit tighter than the last time I was there 20 years ago.

14.3.99 - Box Stone Mines

Les, Cookie, Kath, Clare, Fez, Owen (Aussie)

I'm sure that roof fall wasn't there last time. Bob Scammell wasn't there so we went everywhere important, including wind tunnel, etc & didn't get lost...

20.3.99 - Upper Swildon's

Maurice, Prew & Jonathan

... to try out flashbulb gun. Jonathan sportingly 'volunteered' to stand under the waterfalls. Bulb gun was a miserable failure, so we attempted to relieve the situation with the good old Starblitz ...

13.3.99 - Daren Cilau

Derek Sanderson & Terry Waller

12 years since we were last here .. went to the Antlers and back ... we'd forgotten how good the formations are.

31.3.99 - St Lukes

No one else turned up so did some walling and let some rocks stack themselves - *Aubrey*

2.4.99 - Swildon's Sump 1 Photo Trip

Rosie, Vern, Jo & Mak

Photos taken - trip otherwise steady. Vern has only half been listening to the lifelining lectures. He carefully threw it down to avoid feeding it though the ladder- unfortunately he didn't hold onto the other end!!

3.4.99 - Thrupe Lane, Slither Pot

Rosie, Vern, Mark, Mak, & Jo

Vern has continued to have problems with ropes this weekend - some 15-20' short on Slither Pot, for example!

Caving Events

May

1st/3rd	WSG South Wales Meet
8th	WCC Stomp
15th	CSCC AGM, Hunters 10.30am
22nd	Lifeline Lecture 7pm Upper Pitts
28th/31st	North Wales Meet - Rhosesmor

June

5th	Emergencies Lecture 7pm Upper Pitts
12th/13th	BCRA Regional meeting Swaledale, Yorkshire

July

12th/16th	NSS Convention, Twin Falls, Idaho
17th	The Ashes, Cricket Match and BBQ
24th	Challenge & Stomp (Axbridge C G)

August

9th/20th	WCC Slovenia Expedition
28th/30th	Bank Holiday Meet, to be arranged

September

10th/12th	BCRA, Hidden Earth, Leeds
24th/27th	NAMHO '99 Conference, Forest of Dean

October

3rd/10th	Brush with Darkness '2'
16th/17th	AGM & Annual Dinner

November

1st/7th	First European Cave Rescue Symposium, Göppingen Southern Germany
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