



DERBYSHIRE CAVING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of DCA Council Meeting, 13th. June 2009, Monyash Village Hall

Present:	Officers:	Bob Dearman [BD]	Chairman (Eldon P.C. & Ind. Memb)
		Terry Jackson [TJ]	Vice-Chairman (Ind. Memb.)
		Jenny Potts [JP]	Secretary/Treasurer (Orpheus C.C. & Ind. Mem.)
		Dave Webb [DW]	Conservation Officer (PDMHS, Masson C.G.)
		Paul Lydon [PL]	Newsletter Editor (Orpheus C.C.)
		Chris Broome [CB]	Asst. Sec. / Planning Liaison (Masson C.G.)
	Club Reps.:	Orpheus C.C.	Boyd Potts [BP], Karen Slatcher [KS]
		Masson C.G.	Dennis Jump [DJ]
	Ind. Membs.:	Bob Dearman, Terry Jackson, Jenny Potts, Karen Slatcher	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / ESTABLISH QUORUM:

- 1.1 **Apologies received from:** Iain Barker (Access Officer), Peter Mellors (Legal & Insurance Officer), Martyn Grayson (Projects Officer), Nigel Atkins (Training Officer), Jules Barrett (Equipment Officer); Ind. Membs.: Elaine Hill, Andy Tickle & Dave Wall; Mick Earle (Wild Track), Mick Hogg (Orpheus C.C.)
- 1.2 **Quorum:** Agreed the meeting was quorate with 5 officers plus Chairman.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING: (21 Feb. 2009: circulated previously and on DCA website.) *That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.* Prop. B.Potts, Sec. D.Webb. **Agreed unanimously.**

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 3.1 4.1 **Sheffield Cliffhanger:** Paul Chandler had agreed to organise this and it was assumed all was in hand. JP had not heard from him recently and he was currently on holiday. She would contact him as soon as he returned.
- 3.2 5.2.a **Do You Dig Caves Leaflet:** DW and JP had this in hand.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2009 AGM:

- 4.1 6.3.c **Sales of Manifold/Hamps Publication:** JP would visit possible sales outlets now summer was here.
- 4.2 6.3.d **New DCA Treasurer required for 2010:** JP reminded members that she wished to stand down as Treasurer. Agreed she would draw up a "job description" outlining what tasks she carried out.
- 4.3 6.4.d **Paper Pulp pollution in Peak Cavern:** See under DW's report (6.2.a below).
- 4.4 6.8.f **Moorfurlong Mine:** The landowner wished to retain a ladder on the entrance shaft so this was being replaced. Nick Williams was dealing with the matter and had estimated cost at approx. £100. DCA agreed to pay for this.
- 4.5 13.1.a **Caves of the Peak District:** See under Treasurer's report (6.1.c below) and Access Officer's report (6.4.a below).
- 4.6 13.1.b **DCA Handbook (PDARG):** Noted that more Eco-anchors had recently been placed in some new sites so the set of rigging topos drawn up by PL would need to be updated ready for publishing. PL would liaise with Jules Barrett. TJ was continuing to update access notes ready for publication when we had a go-ahead. We would aim to publish the new "Peak District Access and Rigging Guide" at the same time as the new CoPD appears.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Club: Darfar Potholing Club. Prop. Orpheus C.C., Sec. D.Webb. Noted they had already applied for BCA membership.
D.P.C. accepted unanimously as DCA members.

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

6.1 SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT: (Written report tabled.)

- 6.1.a **Subscriptions:** Many of the Individual Members contacted had now paid their subscriptions to DCA and the remaining few would be contacted again as a final reminder. One Club, Rolls-Royce Caving Club, had still not renewed their BCA subscription and had not responded to JP's letter reminding them that their DCA membership would cease if they did not pay BCA. They would be sent one final reminder by JP.
- 6.1.b **Cave Discovery Fund:** Forms had been taken for an application for grant in respect of the Flowerpot Entrance (Eldon P.C.)
- 6.1.c **Caves of the Peak District:** In view of IB's report that he was unable to find an interested publisher, JP had suggested that DCA should look at publishing CoPD itself. John Beck had found a possible self-publishing firm and was looking into costs. There was considerable discussion about this: how many to print, distribution, cost per copy, price to be charged per copy, advance ordering, etc. It was agreed that DCA itself could afford to put in a considerable sum and, after discussion, the proposal was put:
That DCA contributes a maximum of £5000 to the cost of publishing Caves of the Peak District.
Prop. B.Potts, Sec. P.Lydon. **Agreed unanimously.**

It was further proposed by J.Potts and agreed:

That John Beck and Iain Barker be authorised to go ahead and obtain quotes and decide on numbers for the first print run, having regard to cost.

It was agreed that DCA would give as much publicity as possible to the publication: posters, advertise via websites and DESCENT, advance orders at a discount, selling on line (PL would check how this could best be done). Agreed we would look into inclusion of advertisements in the book to defray part of the cost.

- 6.1.d **DCA Handbook (PDARG):** Agreed to go for production standard similar to the current BCA Handbook.

That the Secretary/Treasurer's report be accepted. Prop. K.Slatcher, Sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.2 CONSERVATION & ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Written report tabled.)*

- 6.2.a **Paper Pulp pollution in Peak Cavern:** Further problems had been reported on UKcaving.com, including caverns being unwell after encountering the pollution. DW noted that it was good that action was being taken by the relevant authorities after the complaints had been received. Noted it may be possible that this would future result in refusal of permission to dump this substance as it was clearly not "inert".

- 6.2.b **Arrows in Carlswark:** Noted that spray-painted arrows had reappeared in Carlswark but, despite enquiries, it was still not known who was responsible. Darkside members would remove them. It was agreed to publicise this and to ask caverns' help in tracking down the culprits. Agreed to place notices inside entrances (Edale Shaft, & Gin) for a few weeks to draw attention to the fact that this is an illegal activity in an SSSI and Natural England has the power to prosecute.

- 6.2.c **Delph Top Sink:** Noted that the cost to the Parish Council of fencing to protect the shaft will be approximately £600. It was agreed that, as a goodwill gesture, DCA would make a contribution of up to £200 towards this.

- 6.2.d **New Caves & Archaeology leaflet:** Agreed that we would wish to circulate copies of the leaflet to DCA members. JP would liaise with DW to obtain copies.

- 6.2.e **ACID booklet:** A copy had been sent to Mary Wilde, BCA Training Administrator.

- 6.2.f **Hungerhill Swallet:** Pleased to hear DW's report that a possible solution to the road run-off pollution problem is being considered.

- 6.2.g **Youds Level:** Noted that there are still problems with pollution. The Environment Agency will persist with following up the matter.

That the Conservation Officer's report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. B.Potts. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.3 PROJECTS OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Apologies given but no report tabled.)*

JP noted that she had spoken on the phone to MG a few days before the meeting; he was extremely busy and had not been sure if he would have time to report in writing.

6.4 ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Apologies given, written report tabled.)*

- 6.4.a **Caves of the Peak District:** IB's comments noted and taken into consideration. (See 6.1.c above.)

- 6.4.b **Holme Bank Chert Mine:** Noted the continuing problems. There was concern that an incident might result in the site being closed, losing a prime cave diver training site.

That the Access Officer's report be accepted. Prop. K.Slatcher, Sec. C.Broome. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.5. LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Apologies given, written report tabled.)*

- 6.5.a **Jug Holes:** BD noted that the tell-tales installed in Ashford Marble Mine years ago to detect ground movement had worked very successfully; most were still in place, indicating no problems. Suggested the same system be tried for the top of Jug Holes. CB will liaise with BD and DW on this.

- 6.5.b **Waterways:** Noted that the lid had now been installed, thanks to Keyhole C. C.

- 6.5.c **Garden Path Monitoring:** Thanks to BP for providing a completed monitoring form for Garden Path.

- 6.5.d **Query from CNCC:** JP reported receipt of a query from CNCC re. the problems posed by a caver who appeared persistently to ignore safety and access issues, notably in Titan as well as in the north, and queried whether such an individual could be banned. It was suggested that such activities might put BCA's insurance at risk of a claim being made. JP had suggested that Nick Williams, BCA Insurance Manager, might be able to advise. The subject could be raised at the next BCA Council Meeting on 20th. June.

That the Legal & Insurance Officer's report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.6 EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: *(Apologies given, written report tabled.)*

- 6.6.a **Earth Leakage:** Noted that DCA ought not to approve the installation of Eco-anchors in digs which are liable to collapse. Only stable sites should be permanently bolted.

- 6.6.b **Winnats Head Cave:** Noted that only the downstream pitches had Eco-anchors installed. There had been no request for a cable-and-ring installation to provide a pull-thro'.

- 6.6.c **J.H.:** The situation at the top of Bitch Pitch was being watched and no new anchors would be placed until the problems of stabilisation of the area had been solved.

- 6.6.d **BCA Anchor Installation Training Document:** BD explained to members the systems set out in BCA's new "Permanent Resin Bonded Anchors - Installation Procedure". This was in the form of course notes and so would not be publicly available, though a "Scheme Overview" would be available on the BCA website. Noted that BD is the regional Co-ordinator for Anchor Installation in the Peak District and is one of the authors of the Procedure document.

Noted that the programme of testing bolts with a Hydrajaws puller carried out by former DCA Equipment Officer, Dave Cowley, on over 300 DCA anchor installations had resulted in all bolts tested passing the test, despite some of them dating back to 1992. In view of this BCA Equipment & Techniques Committee had decided that it was not necessary to test pull any further bolts. BD felt, and the meeting agreed, that DCA should test pull any newly installed anchor a few days after installation in order to ensure that there was no otherwise undetectable weakness in rock or resin; once this had been done and the anchor passed, there would be no need for anything other than a regular "inspection", which would be recorded in the DCA Eco-anchor database.

Noted that the CSCC rep. on the BCA Committee had asked for a national database of all bolt installations to be available on the BCA website in order for caverns to be able to ascertain whether a bolt was suitable for use and whether it had been installed under the NCA/BCA scheme. DCA's view is that the complex database records kept by the regions would not be helpful for this

purpose. The ordinary caver would be better advised to buy the published rigging guides for the Peak District or the Dales. In any case, during a caving trip users should inspect for themselves all bolts at the time they rig. The DCA records would remain confidential but were available for inspection in case of need.

DCA members expressed themselves satisfied with the system set up by BCA and thanked BD for his detailed explanation.

That the Equipment Officer's report be accepted. Prop. T.Jackson, Sec. P.Lydon. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.7 TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT: (*Apologies given, written report tabled.*)

JP noted that clubs can arrange training events for themselves via the Training Officer and that BCA grant could be made available for this.

That the Training Officer's report be accepted. Prop. B.Potts, Sec. K.Slatcher. *Agreed unanimously.*

6.8 PUBLICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT:

PL reported verbally and pointed out that, without material being sent to him, he could not produce a Newsletter. Despite requests, he still had insufficient material to produce the next issue of The Derbyshire Caver. JP said she had an article on the British Caving Library in progress for the Newsletter.

6.9 ASST. SECRETARY / PLANNING LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT:

6.9.a **Current Panning Applications:** CB reported verbally that all appeared to be "quiet" at present with no planning applications likely to affect caves.

6.9.b **Clatterway Access:** DJ noted that the DCA reminder about using the correct route at Clatterway sough has worked and the owners are happy with the situation. Suggested that a small notice might be installed inside the sough exit to remind users of the correct route; DJ would approach the owners to seek their permission and, if OK, will install a suitable notice.

DJ also noted that house next door to the Clatterway owners has a sough in its garden which normally has clear water. However, since work has begun again in the nearby quarry the sough appears to be silting up and local people are complaining of excessive use of explosives in the quarry. It appears the quarry has permission to work; explosives use is not a matter for the Planning Authority but can be taken up with other appropriate authorities so it was suggested that DJ could advise the locals on where they should direct their concerns.

7. BCA REPORT:

7.1 **BCA AGM 2009:** Both JP and BP had been present at the BCA AGM and reported that it had been a very positive meeting with a committed Secretary, Damian Weare, and a new Chairman, Andy Eavis. Mick Day had stood down after 27 years as first NCA and then BCA Chairman. It was unanimously agreed that BD should write to Mick Day expressing DCA's thanks for his wise chairmanship of the organisation.

7.2 **British Caving Library:** JP drew attention to the British Caving Library, which now has a catalogue on line and is providing excellent service to cavers through its professional Librarian and the work of many other volunteers. The Library is based at Glutton Bridge and JP is happy to show any DCA members round the Library if they are interested and get in touch with her. BP noted that the Library is now receiving donations of materials, individual cavers' records are particularly welcome; archive material is being put on indefinite loan to the British Geological Survey and grant aid is being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable this to be digitised and made available on line.

8. DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Confirmed that this would be at 10am on Saturday, 31st. October 2009 at Monyash Village Hall.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

9.1 **Cave Conservation Monitoring:** Noted that the next SSSI Cave Monitoring Meeting hosted by Natural England would take place on 30th. June. We were pleased to hear that J Poll was back after her illness and that she would be concentrating on working on cave SSSIs for the present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.32pm.

J.E.Potts, Recorder

APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND FORMING PART OF THEM IS THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT:

Officers' Reports to the DCA Council Meeting, 13 June 2009:

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Item 6.1 - Secretary/Treasurer's Report | d. Item 6.5 - Legal & Insurance Officer's Report |
| b. Item 6.2 - Conservation Officer's Report | e. Item 6.6 - Equipment Officer's Report |
| c. Item 6.4 - Access Officer's Report | f. Item 6.7 - Training Officer's Report |

Item 6.1 - SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Communications

Posted out to all members in early May were the 2009 AGM Minutes, the Council Meeting Minutes of 21 Feb. 2009, and Information Circular 2009/2. I also sent out with this circulation subscription reminders to 18 unpaid Individual Members (9 of whom have now paid) and a reminder to 3 Club Members who appeared not to have paid their BCA subscription by March 2009.

The Agenda for this meeting was circulated very late due to my absence on holiday, for which my apologies.

Pleasing to note that we have an application for Club Membership of DCA.

Otherwise, many thanks to all who take the trouble to keep me informed of progress on various fronts so that I can contact appropriate officers if need be. Always somewhat annoying to find vague queries/comments on Derbyshire caving matters on UKcaving, the answers to which can be found on the DCA website or are well known to all members of DCA.

Finances

Major payments into our accounts since the AGM are: £2493.21 in total from 3 grants from Natural England re. Conservation work on Gautries Side Pot, Hungerhill Swallet earlier this year and Cave monitoring in 2008-09; £240 in total from DCA Training Workshops; £364 total so far Individual Members' subscriptions. (We await the last N.E. grant due for the Stoney Middleton clean-up.) All major items of expenditure on conservation work have been, or will be, covered by E.N. grants.

We have a Cave Discovery Fund application on its way, which will be considered after 1st. September.

Current funds are:	Deposit a/c	£ 9305.12
	Current a/c	£ 606.39
	Total	£ 9911.51

This amount includes £932.59 in the Cave Conservation Emergency Fund and £486.77 in the Cave Discovery Fund. As far as I know there are no major bills outstanding. Worth noting that the last quarter's interest on our deposit account was only £8.04, whereas we received over £117 for the year 2008.

I would propose that we use part of the money in our accounts to fund the publication of "Caves of the Peak District". This is now well overdue and we can easily pay for publication and the outlay is likely to get a better return than leaving the money in the deposit account. (Note also Iain Barker's comment in his Access Officer's Report.)

Jenny Potts, 11/6/09

Item 6.2 - CONSERVATION OFFICERS REPORT

February (AGM) to June 12 2009

1. Paper Pulp/Hazard Mine/Ink Sump

In March this year spreading at Hazard Mine was brought to a halt and the Licence withdrawn. Existing material had to be removed, but there was a delay while they found an alternative site. In May, following "prompting" by the PDNPA, the site was eventually cleared - but I still wish to be kept informed regarding the quality of the Peak Streamways.

2. Youd's Level.

Following a major effort and a spend of £10,000 by STWA the sewage pipes were relined in April this year. I re-visited the site on May 27th with Dave Ottewell (EA) but although the situation was much improved the place was not as fresh as we expected. I presume that the next stage will be to do some dye testing.

3. Knotlow.

Work on the apparently unsupported large rock in the roof of the main climbing route was carried out in April and a small team assembled to support fellow MCG member Mick Biggin who happens to be a dry-stone waller in his spare time. The result not only looks good but will still be doing its job many years from now. The work was requested by PICA.

4. Jugholes.

It was reported that there had been movement and rockfall at the head of the pitch to the Lower Series. I have placed warning notices at the adit and pitch head and Pete has visited the site (see L&I Officer report). Warnings also appear in the DCA Circular and on the caving websites.

5. Delph Top Sink.

It was reported that a major collapse had taken place in an old dig at the head of the Delph (an SSSI) in Stoney Middleton Dale close to a public footpath. Pete Mellors and myself met with John Fox of the Nature Reserve to do a site inspection (see also PM's report) and discuss alternative ways of making it safe in accordance with NE's requirement for a sympathetic solution. I have written to the interested parties with our plans and they have been accepted.

I have been asked if DCA would be willing to make a contribution to the fencing work and I have agreed subject to approval by Council.

6. New Caves & Archaeology leaflet.

I was involved with the production of this new leaflet and have prepared a short article that has appeared in the latest issue of Descent. The principal aim is to highlight the fact that important archaeology can exist, principally in cave entrances, in certain areas of the various caving regions. Cavers planning digs in threshold zones are asked to consult and work with archaeologists to conserve ancient material in context. I am currently trying to establish how the leaflets will be distributed.

7. Hungerhill Swallet.

Chesterfield Caving Club recently spent some time clearing away a huge amount of slimy smelly mud caused resulting from road run off discharging into the swallet. I have since persisted with trying to get the drain diverted and with the help of NE I met with the DCC to discuss possible solutions. John Beck was present and remembered that a small sough carries water into the swallet at the head of the main pitch and after a great deal of searching it was located 2m down in the corner of the field.

We hope the Council will agree to fund the diversion into the sough thus avoiding the swallet completely.

8. Devonshire Wall.

A large coping stone has become dislodged from the wall leading to Devonshire Mine which is tending to destabilise the whole wall. PICA have agreed to do the work and I have contacted the landowners.

Dave Webb, June 2009

Item 6.2 - ACCESS OFFICER'S REPORT

Very Quiet.

Damage continues to occur to the lock at Holme Bank. Dave Webb and his crew are helping out by applying advanced engineering to the problem.

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Bookings for Rookery Mine are up; one party had problems with closing the gate, subsequent parties haven't! John Wilmott is paying a fettering visit this week.

We had our first official booked trip into the Garden Path and all went well.

I was pleased to hear that the lid had finally been fitted to Waterways Swallet; another brownie point with the land agent.

COPD.

I've exhausted all my contacts within the publishing world. Everyone stopped publishing new projects about six months ago when the current financial crisis started to bite. If only we had been quicker off the mark. Publishers are now just distributing current titles and waiting to see what happens; we can't do this. COPD is currently about two years behind the schedule we promised the Derbyshire caving scene and we are beginning to look a bit unprofessional. I believe that inroads are being made into other ways of getting it on the shelves, if so, go for it - I (and I'm sure John Beck would concur) have done all I can now.

Iain Barker, June 2009

Item 6.5 - LEGAL & INSURANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chatsworth Licences

The 3 year agreement we have with Chatsworth for access to the Garden Path and Lathkill Upper Entrances has been renewed till March 2012. The terms remain the same: DCA indemnifies Chatsworth, their tenant farmer, and Natural England; all visitors to have Public Liability insurance cover and abide by the access procedures in force at the time of their visit; emergencies and/or damage to the site(s) to be reported as soon as possible to DCA. The agreement for access to the Ashford Black Marble Mine will be due for renewal in October.

Jugholes

Reports of loose and dislodged rocks at the top of the climb down to the Lower (Water Caverns) Series have been investigated. I understand Dave Webb has put up notices warning of the hazard. Legally speaking, DCA's duty of care here does not extend beyond informing cavers that they enter at their own risk. In the interests of safe caving, however, DCA may wish to monitor this area of Jugholes for any signs of slumping or rock movement, with a view to possible future action to stabilise the area.

Cucklet Delf (Delph??)

A swallet here appears to have led to a fair amount of speculation over the reasons for its sudden collapse and what should be done to protect people (i.e. non-cavers) from their own curiosity. I visited the site last month, along with Dave Webb, to consult with John Fox who has charge of the Nature Reserve on behalf of the owner. We agreed that a plan to divert the concessionary footpath and fence a rather wider area than the one already fenced should be put to Natural England and the landowner. It was felt the area should then be allowed to stabilise, whilst ensuring most of the stream continues to flow along its surface course to the foot of the dale.

Waterways Swallet

I am assured that a secure lid has now been fitted to the entrance. Okeover Estate admitted to an administrative error on their part after sending us a reminder to renew the Access Licence in April. For the past thirty years or more the Licence has been renewed annually from the end of September.

Peter Mellors, June 2009

Item 6.6 - EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Giants Hole - Earth Leakage

At the AGM earlier in the year I sought permission to install four eco anchors and a large stainless steel ring to facilitate parties gaining access to the Earth Leakage Trip in Giants Hole. This was at the request of the caver who recently dug back through to it. Before I had chance to visit the choke slumped again and access is no longer possible. We can take this off the agenda now.

Winnats Head Cave – Downstream Pitches

The Downstream pitches in Winnats Head Cave have been equipped with eco anchors. Immediately after The Sewer is a short 'up' pitch with a couple of re-belays which is permanently rigged with fixed ropes. These fixed ropes are attached to Spits. Arriving at the top of this pitch a short crawl leads to cascading water and the start of the Downstream pitches. There are three pitches which are comprehensively rigged with Eco anchors. At the time of writing (8/06/09) all anchors are in place but have not been inspected. Please avoid these pitches whilst the work is ongoing. A message will be posted on the DCA website, ukcaving.com and in the DCA newsletter when the work is finished.

James Hall's Over Engine Mine - Bitch Pitch

See 2009 AGM report for more info on this. No new anchors have been installed yet.

New Anchor Installers

Applications are invited for the honorary position of DCA anchor installer. Installers must have extensive vertical caving experience (including rigging) and should be willing to devote time to testing and installing anchors underground in Derbyshire/the Peak District. Full training will be given. Anyone interested should contact the Equipment Officer before 31 July 09.

Anchor Records

DCA anchor records are up-to-date.

Thanks to the following cavers for their help with various equipment work since the AGM: Phil Baker, Jon Pemberton, Sam Pemberton, Bob Toogood, Alan Brentnall, Lee Langdon.

Jules Barrett, June 2009

Item 6.7 - TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

DCA/BCA CAVERS WORKSHOP

SRT Pitch Rigging & Self Rescue - Saturday & Sunday April 11th & 12th 2009

This Course was available only to SRT proficient people and had a limit of 5 places per instructor. Due to the bank holiday weekend, some people could not make this date so the workshop has been split into 2 weekends of 5 people.

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Saturday morning and the usual brew and a quick chat before embarking onto the powerpoint intro on SRT safety and the new title of 'Trip Leader' that seems to be handed over to anyone doing the rigging! We also looked at the problems with weather and cavers who may pushing themselves beyond their capabilities and experience.

A quick personal 'SRT kit' check over was done and a discussion followed about how many incorrect facts seem to be passed down as 'common practice'....

The usual brew was followed by a fun session on knots where all agreed that we only needed a couple of them!

The outside platform and decking was used and abused until everyone was rigging away without having to concentrate too much on their knots. This day concluded with a look at self-rescue and the most common problems occurring.

The Sunday underground trip was full on and all were rigging to perfection. Other cavers passed by and our new group of rigging experts were on hand to view first hand some misused butterfly knots and comment on the variety of ways you can go down 1 vertical drop!

Traverse lines were then set up using a variety of Eco, 8mm bolts and natural threads followed by lots falling off and epics!

Each person then had a fine opportunity to assist a tired caver up the pitch, which they all did with ease.

The techniques covered on this workshop are not just for riggers, they are useful for anyone using SRT as a vertical progression underground.

My thanks go to those who attended for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Good caving

Nigel Atkins