

Anyway we were led ably by Pauline to the end of the known cave, Hash Brown pitch which consumed many minutes whilst we searched for the bolts put in by Michael et al. We found one, & didn't use it, but put in one on either side of the passage & Y-rigged a drop through the slot which proved that a deviation was needed to stop the rope rubbing. The pitch is a curious rift that opens out quickly into a larger passage. Back led to a tight squeeze into the descending stream passage, where a trickle tumbles into a slot at the bottom of the rift, about 15' deep. This then came out into a much larger passage with a sandy flared inlet on the left (Bugger Bogner) where we reckon the brew ste should be. Trouble is, that we then decided to put a rope down into it in case the stream route floods. More like Bogner High Street!

The stream disappears into its slot & splashes off into nothingness, over which a bold step reaches a stance, now devoid of all debris, (which is in various locations down in the black bits below), & the start of something that was bigger than all of us. Including bouncers, we averaged out the fall time to be 7.1 (oops), seconds. Pauline then tidied up a piece of the floor, & despatched it down a slot making such a booming noise that Nobby thought the sky was falling in. * This slot may lead to somewhere different to the main pitch & is worth descending (or at least looking at more closely)

* NOTE

Tim put 3 bolts in whilst Pauline re-rigged an earlier pitch, & came back with 90m of rope which was duly attached to the bolts & Tim edged cautiously off into the nothingness. As it happens,

(42)

a large, sometimes spray lashed maelstrom of a ledge is encountered about 40m down, & P+N followed for a look-see. It being Pauline's cave, we let her do the next bit - i.e. putting in 3 bolts on the way to the bottom, whilst Nobby pruned back up the pitch to get the second Goring kit, to keep warm. Despite her doubts, the bolts all held, & Pauline disappeared into the beyond nothingness - so of course we both followed. Our joy was curtailed by the guide's reappearance of another 3 to 4 second pitch. Our mate said a 5m rope length wasn't long enough, so we left it for another day.

The trip out was uneventful except that someone had cleverly doubled the number of pitches that I remember abbing down. All out by 6:30 am, & back to camp for tea & spiced lentil stew. Thank you Bob.

TS

C4

Suney Station now on pitch prior to Bugger Bognor

Bolts & Wedges required

More rigging tape

24/7 Tide V Alex, Jo, Martin S.

Continuation of the "Vasco Frasco". Short trip 12 to eradicate the pitch gremlins. Eyehole (7): used 15 year old Spanish bolt as second back up. 40m (8): Placed bolt to create free-hanging Y-hang. Big Sleep (11) Placed bolt for re-belay just below large ledge, rock slightly dodgy. By the time I had done this & had dinner part one the others had caught up. We had dinner part two and set off out. I had dinner part three and watched Alex disappear. Jo & I had a very leisurely exit making a severe gardening effort at 4th pitch.

MJ

25/7 Cavers delayed in C4.

7.20 Andy returns from C4. Last saw Geoff and Bob at top of the Monster, approx 1 1/2 hrs behind. Geoff is having problems with his jammer.

MSB

8 am callout time.

9.55 Martin, Tim B and Thumper set off to entrance, taking first wave first aid kit and rescue kit. If the cavers are out they will come straight back, otherwise Tim and Thumper will get changed and go down. Martin will come back to ridge and signal.

1 blast on whistle - don't know news

2 blasts - cavers safe.

Martin will then go back to entrance, and return to ridge in 1/2 hr or if there is news.

If no news in 1hr from Martin's first contact, 2nd wave to go.

44

10.40

2 blasts heard from ridge.

10.45

cavers seen walking back. Rescue stood down.

P.

26-7-98

ANDY, JEFF + BOB

C4

MY FIRST TWP IN THE PICES, AND WAS I IN FOR A SHOCK! I SORT OF LBD THE WAY IN DOWN THESE INTERESTING 'STABLE' PITCHES AND FOUND ROUTE FINDING VERY EASY, WE DECIDED THE DEPTHS WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAD TO GO UP AGAIN AFTER. WE REACHED THE BRW SITE AND COLLECTED ALL THE RELEVANT ITEMS TO BE MARKED DOWN TO THE 'BEACH' AT 350M A NICE SPOT, OUT OF THE DRAFT AND A GOOD SUPPLY OF WATER FOR RATTING. WE CONTINUED ON DOWNWARD UNTIL WE CAME TO THE EXTENT OF THE LAST PARTY'S EFFORTS, A BIG BLACK HOLE BECAME, IT WAS A GOOD 3 SECONDS SO WE THOUGHT A ROPE MIGHT BE REQUIRED, A COUPLE OF TAPE SLINGS AND 80M OF ROPE LATER WE WERE ABLE TO DESCEND INTO THE BOWLS OF THE CAVE, YET ANOTHER BIG CORRIDOR, WITH A DEPTH OF ABOUT 45-50M THE PASSAGE WAS ABOUT 6-8M WIDE, THE CAVE CONTINUED DOWN FOR ANOTHER 100M UNTIL ANOTHER DROP OF 10M WAS ENCOUNTERED THIS WAS SWIFTLY DROPPED WHICH THEN LED TO ANOTHER PITCH AFTER ABOUT 50M. 'OH DEAR' ANOTHER BLACK HOLE, THERE WAS ABOUT 35M OF 9mm LEFT SO WE HOPED THAT IT WOULD REACH A 4 BOLT TRAVERSE THEN A RE-BELAY UNDER THE CURR HANGING LEDGE, LBD US DOWN ANOTHER 25M OF SHAFT, YET ANOTHER CORRIDOR, ABOUT 6-8M WIDE AND 30M LONG. THE CAVE THEN DECIDED TO CLOSE DOWN AGAIN, A SMALL RIFT WAS ENCOUNTERED

WHICH WAS VERY TYPICAL OF PAST PASSAGES
SO A QUICK LOOK WAS TAKEN BUT WE ARE SURE
THAT IT WILL GO, INSTEAD BY THE LOWER SECTION
WHICH WILL BE CALLED 'TAPE MEASURE TORTURE' AFTER
ANDY'S BRIEF PROBLEM, WHEN HE FOUND HE WAS WHIRL
AND TRULY STUCK WHILST TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE
LOWER LIFT HE REALISED HE HAD THE TAPE MEASURE
INSIDE HIS OVERSUIT.

WE ALSO SPENT 3 HOURS SURVEILLING FROM THE OLD
BREW SITE DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF HARBOR BROWN.
SORRY FOR THE LATE EXIT BUT MUCH APPRECIATION TO
THE TEAM WHO WAS WAITING FOR US ON SURFACE.
Bob.K.

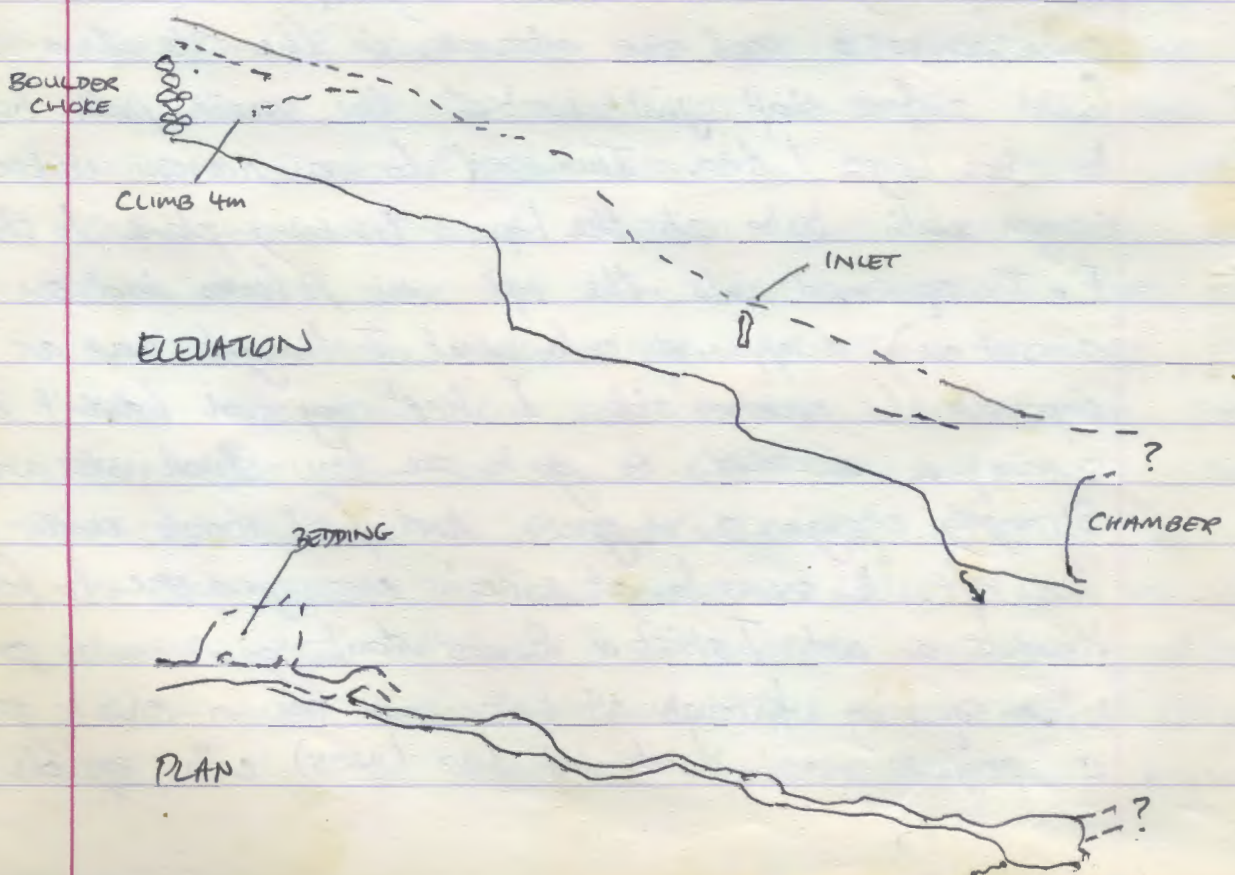
27.7.96

A DIG SOMEWHERE - PAULINE, FUMPA, TIM S.

We walked down to near the main path to look
at a draughting hole which Pauline said needed some
boulders taking out of. It wasn't easily found, but we did
come across a real cave entrance, in the side of a rubble
filled surface shaft just west of the main path back
to Los Lagos / Ario. This went to a narrow vadose
canyon with tube at the top, & bedding plane to the left.
P & T squirmed into the rift, & P (who had an
oversuit on) disappeared into what I thought was an
impossible to reverse slot. I kept my cool (didn't even
scream) & decided to go & see how stuck she was.
Strangely enough she'd gone, had first back under me in
the rift. "It seems to get wider" encouraged me to follow.
However a wet T shirt & Rdans don't give much comfort
when squeezing through what seems like a cheese grater
& progress was punctuated (as I was) with squeals

(of pain). Down to the canyon bottom, Bridging & climbing, we headed North(ish), downstream passing one or two inlets in good grey limestone, occasional avenus and a small stream in bits.

After a tricky climb down into a chamber made out of ginger nut biscuit type rock, the low route involved crawling (forward Pauline) & so I went over the top to avoid the pain. We joined at another climb down & a chamber of about 5m x 3m was encountered. Problem. No way out. But, 5m up the forward wall is the continuation. A higher level continuation of the canyon at the last climb down took us to the top of the chamber, but still no way across. The climb is possible, but the rock not good. A rope is required & some protection. We exited with only minor route finding problems to find a worried Fumpa. Trip time 30 minutes. Vital Statistics - 55m long, 25m deep. Survey Grade 1.



FRI 26 JULY

What is the matter with Spanish rain?

it's only water, and causes no pain
Yet it falls from the skies with tremendous persistence
as whilst we lie on our backs, with its helpful assistance
Our only excuses for not going caving we lie here
quite happy and thankful its raining!

The caves in Spain lie mainly off the plain
and in the hills, it must be said
the rain will send you off your head.

Boom boom!

The triviums of love

I loved a girl, or so I thought
for now it all has come to naught,
Forever true she said she'd be,
but not to who, it wasn't me.

ANON.

My thinks we need a periscope for seeing the
extent of the slag above us. Are the peaks out of
the cloud, he wonders!

Another shit day at Top Camp - shortage of dry
seating space ...

- Martin : 'Oi! You're trying to shove me off my pew, aren't you?'
- Fumpa : 'Well, it is 200m long ...'

(48)

Andy whilst pouring Grappa into Paulines cup, and Grappa from his own cup onto his feet:

"The good thing about this liquid is that it doesn't affect your co-ordination"

23/7

Torca del Vasco

Fumpa, Jason, Alex, Anita

Jason set off down the entrance pitch and waited there for me (i.e. random company) as Alex told him, as he was going down: "See you at the Marge Tub, than". After 10 min of sorting out my carbide generator and adding snow to it for a jump-start, Jason & I continued down T del V. After 1 1/2 h we were sitting inside the atmospheric walls of the marge tub. And started our wait. Jason: "If they are not here in another hour, I'm going out." Luckily, a pair of wellies appeared about 20 min. before the allocated time. Having gathered, a plan had to be made. One person goes down 2-3 pitches and starts rigging the next one. The others survey. Noone volunteered for rigging. I suggested we all go down to the end & survey loose. ~~then~~ Alex gives me the rigging gear as its decided. I almost put the belt in when I got worried that the belt won't unscrew from the driver (it was my second belt ever, N.B.) Jason came down to my rescue and helped me rig the pitch. No means for guessing what was at the bottom; a rift is. [wonder what would

happen if Nobby & I went on a same trip...]. Huge, tall rift. I went down a couple of climbs, Jason safely remaining at the bottom of the last pitch. I didn't quite fancy squeezing through the further part of the rift and decided that a way on (from a ledge) needs a traverse line. Lets go back. Jason pulled me out from one of the climbs. Might need a hand line there. Alex & Funpa hadn't gone very far in the meantime, surveying. Alex wanted to check out the rift himself. Just as well. He must've gone further than me and it appears he found the way on. Surveying team went towards the Marge tub and after the initial misunderstandings managed to get into a rhythm. We reached the penultimate leg just as Alex reappeared to tell us where the permanent station was. After a fiddle in the famous Marge Tub, I set off for the siddee first. 2h 15', not bad. Alex followed me closely. We waited in front of the entrance for 2h before deciding we really want to go to bed. Jason & Funpa emerged round the corner about 2h later... Still Tidal V is wide open (A.H.). Lets go there tomorrow.

Anita

"Who hasn't got one?"

John, "Well Anita and I have been sharing one".

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Shopping / Carrying List 28/7

Pencils !

Small EPI Gas stove & Cylinders
Paprika (some in Base camp spice rack)

Bread

Vino Tiuto

Marg

Slime

More Bread

More Vino

Depth

More depth (Happy to oblige)

28-7-98

JOE + BOB C4

JUST A CAWLE TRIP DOWN C4 TO RB-116
THE 'MONSTER' WITH ONE 150m 10mm rope,
PITCH WAS VERY DIPPY AS USUAL BUT NOT
OVER THE TOP, JOE WAITED AT THE BASE OF
THE C4S WHILST I RE-RIGGED AND DROPPED THE
80 JUST TO MAKE SURE THE ROPE WOULD REACH.
THE 90m ROPE OFF THE BOTTOM PITCH IS NOW STUCK
IN THE CAUBING SUPPLIES BAG AT THE TOP OF THE 80,
WITH A KNOT IN EACH END. THE TOP ROPE 80+
WAS COILED IN TWO LOOPS AND LEFT ATTACHED TO
THE TRAVELER AT THE END OF THE RIFT AS YOU
ENTER THE MONSTER.

*N B 2ND PITCH UP THE MONSTER, DEVIATION
CAME OFF WHILST I WAS PUSHING UP, THE ROPE
CUT THROUGH TO THE 'CORE'. IT HAS NOW BEEN
CUT AND JOINED WITH A DOUBLE FISHERMAN'S. THE
DEVIATION WON'T COME OFF NOW.