

Can't give an accurate location as I sighted on La Verdugo (153) but when I tried to see Top Camp it had disappeared. We approached across the limestone crags, but it is easier to cut over round beneath cliffs from Top Camp, then up grassy slope towards chassy-yellowish rubble in middle of area to Cairn marks where Eric is, and also where Politician 17.8.97

4th Aug '97. Rob & Rhys. E12.

Gave up searching for entrance and decided to head back to camp before the imminent storm hit. Unfortunately I stumbled across the entrance on the way back and the sky momentarily brightened. So off we went. Rob eventually got his lamp to work and rigged the first pitch. Then up to window and descended extremely chassy rift unaided. Head of second pitch v. chassy and lacking in belays, so we freeclimbed it. Located boulder blocking rift at head of next pitch. Dug other stuff around it and chucked stuff off the drop. Managed to knock a few corners off the walls and the boulder but it is not easily accessible. Rob attempted to get a sling around the rock so that it could possibly be hauled free, however, at this point, his head exploded and helmet had to be jettisoned. Not an easy manouver whilst practically upside down in a rift.

Acetylene filled the cave and we decided to exit. Rob's electric and carbide lights were both burnt to a cinder and it was too dangerous to light mine, so we exited on one electric light, which ~~could~~ had rapidly failing batteries. Got back to camp just before heavy rain but not before I hit myself in the face with the crowbar.

Pitch still rigged. The boulder is still there. Not sure about the draught.

Rhys.

Ben: "Will the 45m rope do the 50m pitch?"

Rhys: "I've got a 2 inch one" Williams.

Dear All,

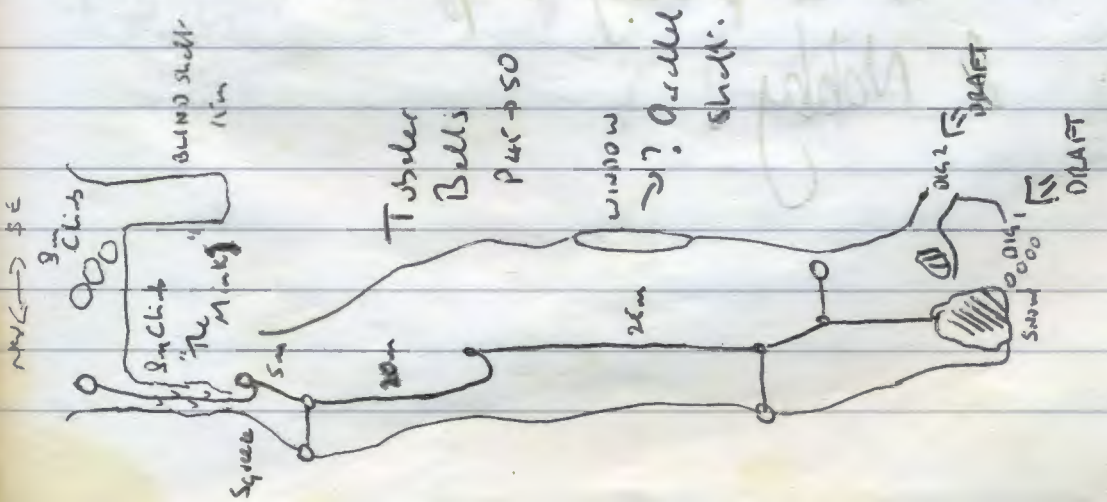
Thanks for a superb expedition and I hope that there is plenty more depth to come. I don't think I'll ever be able to kick a gear in the eye again. See you all at the BCRA/President's' invite.

New

PS - Nobby - my tent, its poles and a water bottle are in the patch of the forgotten. Could you bring them down please. Cheers.

5/4/97 - E14 Ali, Alison, J.C.

Dropped pitch (41-10-?) to choke with small patch of snow. Beautiful shaft "Tubular Bells" due to brittle-precussional effect of clipping away at rock in choke. Thin rift was dug in various places to reveal ~2m high pocket with strong draft and echoes. Needs some more hammering + removal of boulders before more progress. Parallel shaft spotted on way out through thin rift. May be easier way through. Entrance climb is a real buster, vicious with down-ward pointing rock which gets under site ("The Mink?") 80m rope on pitch (climb). 61m down cave. Crumbly entrance



94

5th August '97.

D19.

Wandered across in <sup>mist</sup> ~~raft~~. Rigged ~~from~~ pitch from the end of traverse left at end of last trip. Pitch perhaps 10m then dropped another pitch perhaps 5m to a chossy slope and rigged Y-hang ~~for~~ next ~30m(?) pitch.

Boulders slope down at base of pitch led to big aven/chanber which lead to climb down and <sup>right</sup> straight ahead system which proved no way on in the floor of the aven lead to <sup>right</sup> at lower level. Heading back towards pitch there was a diversion there was a corner. "Someone with balls and a hammer" will pass this. It takes some draught.

This cave is not yet dead!  
Also heading the opposite way ~~at~~ before head of a 5m pitch leads down a scoulder slope to another drop. This needs to be checked to see if it links with today's finds or last trip's or is completely different.

Rhys. & Nobby.

shake hole

Crap drawing

95

rift

"old route"

chass.

possible other ways!

continues

climb

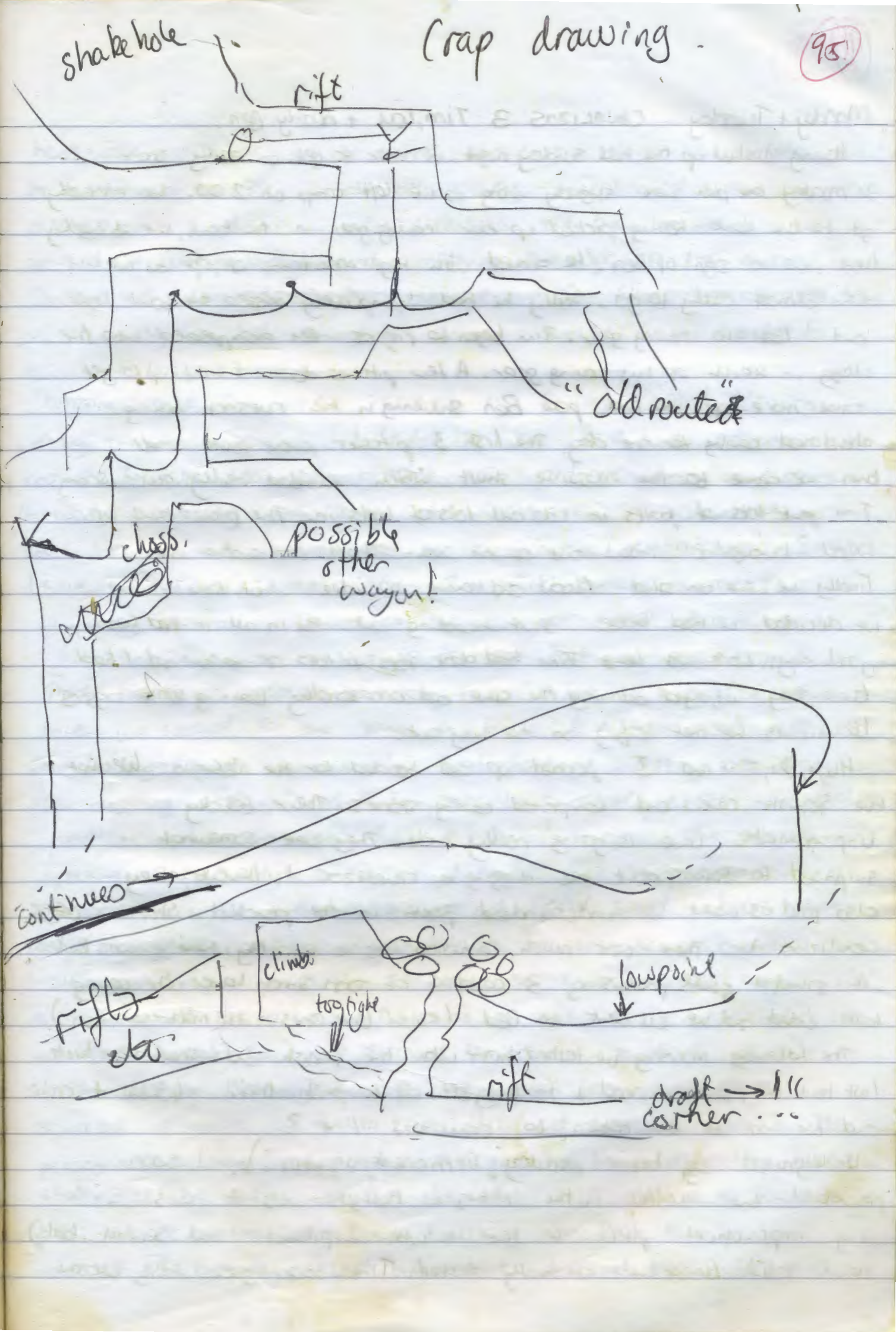
too tight

low point

fits etc

rift

draft corner ...



(96)

Canalizo 3

Start date

Monday + Tuesday CANALIZOS 3 Tim, Lou + nearly Ben.

Having walked up the hill Sunday night in order to get an early start on Monday the plan was slightly wrong as we left camp at 2.00. We eventually got to the cave having picked up our caving gear in the bowl, but strangely there was no sign of Ben. He arrived with huge mountains of rope as we were almost ready to go. Sadly he had completely missed the bowl and lost his caving gear. Tim began to rig as Ben disappeared into the clogg in search of his caving gear. A few pitches down I went up to get some more rope to find poor Ben shivering in his rucksack having abandoned caving for the day. The first 3 pitches were quite small then we came to the massive shaft which sounded really quite scary. Tim put lots of bolts in. Lots and lots of bolts in. The pitch kind of looped through a window out of the main shaft into another one. Finally we were on solid floor and having no idea what time it was we decided we had better get heading out. All in all it had been a good days work. At least Tim had done lots + lots of work and I had thoroughly enjoyed admiring the cave and occasionally learning some rigging techniques. We met Nobby on the way out.

Hugh, Ben, Tim and I packed up and headed for the Refugio. We met the Spanish cavers and compared caving stories. Their totally unpronounceable cave is going really well. They were somewhat surprised to hear about the digging in Canalizos 1. However, they also told us about an undersanded pitch in the parallel shaft of ~~Canalizo~~ Canalizos 1. There was much confusion as to exactly where it was but it sounded quite promising. 3 cartons of Don Simon later the caving talk ended and we all went to bed. (as in the ones with mattresses on).

The following morning we talked more with the Spanish and wished them luck (not that they seem to need it). They set off to push their 450m + cave and we set off to return to Canalizos 1 + 3.

Underground by before midday. (efficient or what?). I soon regretted the coffee in the refugio though as it was a very impractical place to have a well. 2 pitches (and several bolts) down solid floor was eventually reached. Tim once again doing all the

hard work as I tried not to think too much about the coffee. At the base of the 35m it all became very complicated with pitons and windows in every direction. Did they all link up or had we unexpectedly found something the Spanish had missed? Onward and downwards. The bolts, the rope and the slings were all used. Miraculously we had the exact amount of what was needed to reach the bottom.

"hmmm" said Tim, as he reached the bottom. "Mud. It's very pretty though". Squelch. I landed in the mud and looked around. I could feel the dreaded S word coming on again. It was remarkably reminiscent of canchizos 1. Once again we were standing in a lake or a sump (temporalis). Sump. I hate that word. "Sump" said Tim "It's either of these temporary sumps". Downstream there was water. A lake, or a sump, clearly just waiting to back up half way up the pitch. There was no prospect of digging here. A bit of a mud fight later we headed for the sump overflow. A minute draft and a bobbing hamme as a digging tool gave us some enthusiasm for digging. "Sump" said Tim, as I scraped at the mud and pebbles with a hamme "we're in a sump". The situation was getting rather silly. As far as I could see the passage was a flat out crawl over wet to mud and Gebil sized pebbles that needed digging all the way, unable to see because of the dust it all seemed rather pointless. After all, next time it rains anything we dig now will fill up again. There was not much of a draft and it was definitely time to leave. We descended the bottom 2 pitches as it is highly unlikely that anyone will want to go back there. ~~Tim~~ Tim squeezed up above the 2d to last pitch and there are ~~two~~ 2 rift passages that may continue, but need a bolt. We had another look at the window at the bottom of the 35m pitch. It is difficult to tell if it is just part of the main shaft or something new that the Spanish overlooked. We eventually reached the surface and it had been a really good

trip. Although the bottom is no good, there are definitely possibilities higher up.

Low

Stop Pen --- Stop Pen --- Stop Pen ---

--- Fresh evidence for the theory of psychopetogenesis emerged today as a second big cave with an open lead at the bottom turned into scrophulous, dangerous, mud filled Conder-chave swamp over flow dig reminiscent of South Wales.

Canalizes 3, formerly an elegant and spacious shaft series first explored by Spanish Carving group S.I.E., has now followed the route of Canalizes 1.

"we had expected the usual tight meandering rifts followed by enormous shafts into a major idearway" said Nobby Murray, ~~Expedition~~ leader of the Oxford University EL Regellan expedition, and father of none "That's what normally happens on Oxford Expeditions." We've never had this shit before."

but this time the arrival of ~~the~~ 5 South Wales Diggers on the expedition seems to have changed ~~the~~ the cave development for the worse.

"It's all in the mind" said Murray, explaining the theory of psychopetogenesis. "if you think Wales, you get Wales." We're all terribly disappointed"



A spokesperson for the Welsh Diggers declined to comment, explaining that he was too busy ~~constructing snow-poo~~ going for his personal best snow-poo record.

Pentons - Spain.  
(Ahoi Tom)

6/8/97 GPS Snow pole

[97-6]

N 43° 13.713'

W 04° 56.795'

17:22 GMT.

Altitude 1841 mt.

6/8/97 E14 - Team 1 JC, Alison

Team 2 Ali, Lou

A late, late start (4ish) with me and Alison in first. Removed the boulder under Ali had left in square to reveal Alison sized-hole to GTR pocket. Ali + Lou arrived with survey gear and hatched out one wall to allow easy way in and out. Slot in floor (~4') is over 10-15m pitch. Trickle and bubble beyond. Four options for progress.

1. Hammer straight down but w/ walls are solid and ab-fol-lore
2. Hammer to left of "Ship's Prow" along body sized hole.
3. Hammer to right of "Ship's Prow" taking out chassy wall.
4. Remove "Ship's Prow"

I favour a combination of 2, 3+4 to give generally more space to swing hammer. ? Two trips to get through.

On way out it started to rain which made stuff splashy AND created a stream beyond square! So sorry Big Prow - Here.

100



**5. LORO.**

Ave trepadora. De pico fuerte, grueso y encorvado y plumaje de vivos colores. Es el ave más inteligente que existe.



**BIMBOY**