

9<sup>th</sup> 101  
August

# OH SHIT!

Last night at about 3 am... I woke from my floaty dream to be met by a blast of cold wind - the corner peg had come out of the tent and William was looking at it whilst muttering something. I pretended to be asleep, thinking that he'd fix it, but then it became obvious that the situation was even more serious. I quickly got up and for a few seconds I was lying on my back with my feet in the air holding half of the tent up, then all the poles began to sway. It was no use, the tent was coming down. Poor Simon tried to scramble out of his pit as he was engulfed in canvass, and Alison was attacked by the washing line (with smelly socks).



Once down, we removed the poles and William repegged the sheet down (Flat). It wasn't raining, so we all just got back in our pits and tried to get back to sleep. Worries that we might suffocate under the canvass were unfounded: Simon & William were near the edges whilst Rich & Alison shared an air hole. Gavin meanwhile was sound asleep in Jo's tent.

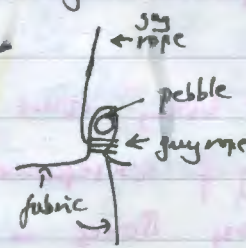
In the morning we were really efficient, sorted out all the kit, fixed the broken guys, and re-pitched the tent (in a more sheltered hollow - we hope!)

"The weather looks better - but it's not above suspicion" - William

"I think it's in the wrong hole" - Alison

a few mins later... "That's better, it's in the right hole now."

A tip from Gavin - when the guy rips out of a corner, you can make a nice fastening by tying the rope around a pebble in the corner



Another tip: The poles are too long. We repitched the tent a bit lower by excavating holes for the poles (see quotations above)

9 Aug. Decided re my shaft bashing + Richard. Labelling kit has a set of punches with all 26 letters of the alphabet but no numbers. I don't really fancy punching out seventy-seven/seven @ one letter at a time. W. (Gavin has now shown us the number punches). Found a few entrances and descended an interesting one. Near Cabeza Joluagua. See shaftbashing book. Bearing 112° from Cabeza Joluagua 30m shaft previously descended by SIE. (292° to) summit. Distance ~ 100m

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Cooking.

Lentils

pressure Cook 30 mins

Beans

Soak old water 4 hrs.  
or hot soak (pressure) 1 hr  
left when done

then pressure Cook 12 mins

Make sure plenty water. Pressure Cooker no more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  full.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August

On Callow duty for Gavin & Richard & have been spending time doing some rearing in the kitchen. Please keep the blue bin fully closed - we rely on it for mouse and mouse protection & we haven't got any mouse traps! Incidentally, I've noticed we keep an awful lot of mouse food relatively unprocessed & could lose a lot as the mice learn about how we store it & what they find good to eat. Remember mice are everywhere.

cleaned the frankfrances (one half pack + two filled by mice) + some nasty-woly protology. I'm not eating uncooked meat stored like this (no fridge) & yesterday I had the protology. Have left him & jars on floor - look pretty mouse proof.

Cleaned the blue bin out with hot water & Milton.

William

7pm

Heading off towards 2/7 to put up some coils on route to 2/7 + carry a bag or so down. May take Valley of Dry Bones or the odd extra corner. Back by 7pm to make supper.

William

Went "shaft busting" down valley of Dry Bones + out towards Area 10.

Found nothing of consequence, although I wrote some notes. One cave in

Valley of Dry Bones is still rigged

William

~~Wed~~ 10/8/99 - GSP Survey & de-rig trip  
Gavin & Rich Doyle

A good fun, efficient trip! Surveyed from the top of space trout back to the top of the previous pitch. And de-rigged the entirety of GSP back to the bottom of Paradise. This will be a really useful short-cut for next year. Rich D

11/8/99 - The rest of 2/7 derigged by Gavin, Rich D, William. Lots of rope left at entrance, and a few tackle sacs. All needs carrying down!

12/8/99. 2.30 pm.

Just returned from gear carrying from 2/7. Stopping for a bit of lunch and then down to base camp with some gear. I've already been here since the 6th of August and I'm afraid this is my first entry into either log book.

Enjoying myself greatly. Took Alison to Amoneas a couple of days ago, so another good excuse for beer and chips. Weather's fucking crap! Only about 1/2 day of sun altogether. Tents fell down in night and I've no dry clothes. 2/7 great. Only went to top of pessimists and back again. Got Hilary's letter from post office, but not really been in correct frame of mind to sign

Simon.

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## GSP derigging (Info for next year)

All hangers were greased and left. All deviation tapes were left. All wire belays were removed.

Flying Rebell's Pendule - completely derigged

Ascent into rift - rope left rigged. Needs 5m ladder

Serendipity - 55m rope left in bag at top

Blind Pot series - 40m rope left unbagged at top.

Tumbling Dice - 70m rope left at start of GSP in bag; 40m rope left at top of pitch; another 10m rope is needed for the middle two hangs

First streamway pitch (P5) - 15m rope left at top of pitch

Second streamway pitch (P8) - 15m rope left at top of pitch

Space Trout - 100m rope (bagged) and 30m rope (unbagged) left at top of pitch

Gavin

13/8/99 - Shaftbashing

Gavin & Rich D went to area 9 to look at 3/9. Gavin's memory of a possible way on was unfortunately not a way on! Rich left his gear at La Jayada for use during shaftbashing tomorrow (with William).

14/8/99 Shaft Bashing in Area 9 Richard, William

Sun! Walked up past Marinai pool + what looked like a possible entrance which we found to be marked 6/9. Then from shaft bashing guide this is where another looks. Continued to La Jayada to pick up Richard's carrying gear + 105m of 9mm rope. Snowed on awful lot lower than I remember. I remember being able to walk down onto snowplay which is now a soft down. Healed right to large looking for 17/9 + found large sheep shelter. Didn't seem to be in shaft bashing guide, so we labelled it 38/9 + Richard took a look. A couple of small passages were pushed by Richard but didn't go. William then heard further up the crone (left) or found a promising looking hole + called over Richard. We were just about to descend when we found the top 36/9, thus assuming it was ⊗ - on coming back here we find it's ○! Damn! Oh well there's always tomorrow.

Continued on up valley noting 39/9 ⊗ (a small shaft) until we came into a large bowl with La Reina <sup>ridge</sup> on the rhs and La Verdellegana astride the top of the valley. The holes at the bottom all closed, but Richard found a large shaft by a cairn on the lhs (true R) which he descended 15m on a snow play. The snow went on down, so it's still ○, unless there was also a v. faded SIE mark. At this point, the mist arrived, so we had a hasty exit leaving our gear there + lumbered aimlessly through the mist, trying unsuccessfully to follow a N compass

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14/8/99 Been to 2/7 to carry down gear. lovely day  
So after having a cup of tea, went back up  
to 2/7 to bring down the remaining rope.  
Nothing left to bang down now. off down to  
base camp (via Bar Maria Kasi) to take  
Gaur to cevodonga tammeraw. Simon

being. Eventually, we arrived at a huge closed depression, which seemed easier to  
descend than skirt. The easiest exit was a well marked path to the SE - hopeless  
direction, but we took it anyway. At the end was a cairn "It would be very lucky, that  
might be one of the Jultayu cairns". Well... it was actually the cairn at the  
junction of the Jultayu = Toca path!!! ~~TRR~~

William

Summary:

- 6/9 ∅ Worth another look.
  - 38/9 ⊗ Animal shelter w/ La Jayata
  - 36/9 ○ Not descended. Worth looking.
  - 39/9 ⊗ Small shaft up valley from 36/9.
  - 40/9 ⊗ (unvisited) Avoiding further exploration. Gear left here.
- Further details in shaft busting guide.

15/8/99 - Rich & William have returned to area 9  
(targets 6/9, 36/9, 40/9, 10/9). Simon: see call out in  
back of book.

Ticked off 40/9 ⊗, 36/9 ⊗, which unfortunately didn't go.  
Gear left at 41/9<sup>o</sup> (large shaft w/ 36/9).

Full details in shaft-busting book

W.

16/8/99.

Decided to do washing up with <sup>use</sup> ~~black~~ water from black container retrieved from Martini post a few days ago. Found it full of dirty water (presumably straight from trough). Container now contaminated & must not be used until sterilized.

Summary: Got a little water @ Refugio spring (20 min for 1/3 container) and displaced by donkey who queues up patiently behind me.

W.

15/8/99

Arrive at Ario 7:30 pm after an efficient walk up despite a v. heavy pack full of carrying gear etc. My first time at Ario since 1993. Great to be back! Fairly decent sunset - the first one to be seen from Ario for at least a week apparently. According to the others, a run of bad weather has just finished.

Celebrate my return to the Picos with Don Simon (drinkable), Delavira (undrinkable) and finally some single malt Scotch whiskey (much better).

We all retire to bed and have a very surreal discussion which culminated in an exploration of the merits of SRT in zero gravity (How do you get the rope to hang straight? How do you get it to feed through your jammies? What, in fact, is the point?). At this point we decided that the conversation had got too silly by far and promptly fell asleep instead.

Extremes

~~Extremes~~ 99: "The Last Dregs" are



now in place:

William  
Rich ~~RD~~  
Simon  
+ myself

Steve P.

16/8/99

Dubious weather in the morning, so we decide to spend the day carrying as much of Ario camp down the hill as we can. A quick tidy-up of camp produces at least six rucksacks full of stuff to go down.

We meet at the Maria Rosa for a late lunch, during which the weather degenerated from sunshine to thick fog.

Rich + I headed back up first, arriving at Ario at 5.45 pm. The weather got progressively worse as we ascended, with thick fog the whole way up and wind + rain at Ario. We decide to head back down to Los Lagos as quickly as possible with the rest of the gear to be carried down.

SJP

- "Use a waterproof in the rain?"
- "Take two rucksacs into the clay?"
- "Not me, I just pack and go. (to the Maria Rosa)"

Bye! - Rich  
& Steve

(Team Bigger - this - for - a - game - of - soldiers -  
we're - off - to - base - camp)

Proposed social calendar for Michaelmas 1999:

- 1st week: Intro. to caving (Keith)
- 2nd week: Introductory crotch smelling (Rich G)
- 3rd week: Introductory arse-bearing (Hilary)
- 4th week: How to cave safely! (JC)
- 5th week: Social (bring your own wetsuit)
- 6th week: 101 things to do with chocolate mornflakes (Rich G)
- 7th week: Introductory cuddles (by Lev) (watch out!)
- 8th week: Advanced crotch smelling techniques (Rich G)

Coming in 2000:

- "How to crap underground" (Jo)
- "How to put your hand in it" (Rich O)
- "How to look after your gear" (Hilary)
- Elocution lessons with Rich G.
- "How to take your drink" (Rip)
- "How to make your mind up" (Tim)