

Graham Naylor

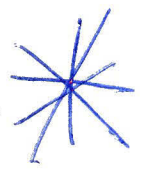
(Genus OVCC-dd-lag-us) ♂



Like Istyn this caver is small & likes tight caves. It persists in the use of ridiculously complicated SRT prunning systems long after everyone else gave up & went over to sit stand.

Not really happy unless belayed to sticking-out bolts & dodgy naturals & frequently upset by other cavers' lack of enthusiasm for its rigging style.

Likes carrying on his own & then ~~with~~ writing about it in Descent.



DAVE HORSLEY SAYS: - KEEP BLACK (OR WHITE) MARLOW OUT OF THE CAVE.

The New Dawn Breeds. Watch this space!

4/7/89 Dave & Andy go caving. Dave leads off and catches up with Gw. & Su-yong at Paradise. 20mins later no sign of Andy so its back up 7th Heaven to find that he failed to get through the squeeze 'cos ~~his~~ his helmet wouldn't fit. Pushing him down in front of me and jumping on his head a few times soon got him through. However this technique proved unsuccessful for the ~~2nd~~ find two squeezes at through paradise. (ps. Andy says his genitalia are too big)

So, whilst I removed one rope off Flying Rebels a rigged it as a traverse at the bottom. Andy extricated himself from Paradise & then set more for ages till

1 retr-ndel.
~ 5 1/2 hours underground.

Gavin + Su Yong 4/7/89

El Hefe kindly gave me 200m of rope to carry. Ok down to Seventh Heaven. After 5 mins of jumping up+down on it the tackle bag finally went through the squeeze. Repeated this performance at the Paradise. Continued slowly through the rifts without much incident. Dumped the T.B at Pessimists and started back. At Flying Rebellés swung into the other passage and started pushing. An easy pendule (clip the rope into the sling, otherwise you won't get back!) leads to an ascending ∇ rift of a typical 2/7 type (ie tight + snatchy). Carried West along the bottom of the rift, climbing up where it was obviously larger. There are probably easier routes higher up. Traversed across a drop + threw then threw some stones down it: 6 to 9 second rattle. The bottom of the rift chokes soon after (maybe continues higher up). On the way back, Su Yong tried climbing down of hole before I suggested it was the wrong way. He threw a stone down - ~ 6 second rattle. He quickly backed out. Found the correct route and exited with no problems.

DAVE AND HIS SOCIETY



Sols, sils El Hefe, Wodek, Tony, Andy, Gavin

They connect and don't really go anywhere. Dave says he's done them before anyway looked at a few other entrances but nothing going.

5/7/89 2/7 Sherry, Paul + Dave Holt.

Before we go any further it must be mentioned that two of the team whose names do not begin with 'D', brought a whole tin of fruit on their own, without leaving any for me.

Anyway:

Dave and Paul or Sherry reached the top of Sing to the Devil. At this point the sapper under whose modern technology fails in a spectacular way - I.E. the drill battery was flat after 1/2 a hole. The next 4 hours involve a lot of very tedious old-fashioned ~~hammering~~ ~~thumping~~ thumping of driver with hammer.

During this time Paul and Sherry get bored and quit and Dave probably reaches the top of the pitch below through the door. Not a bad effort but there's still a fair way to go.

Stay tuned for the next instalment of something guide to the Piers.....

6/7/89 Dave M. Dave Horsey, Tony

Down 2/7 re-rigged 1st + second pitches on a single length of Black Marlow then went to my Gairns extension. Rigged a pitch down from the passage half way down Flying Rébélles and a hand line / tape up the first climb. The easiest route from here seems to be to follow the MA at Down level to a widening then to climb up for 20-30ft before traversing Down. A widening is then reached with a small inlet entering from above and a 6-9sec rattle exiting below. The MA chokes with boulders the pitch is yet to be explored.

Kit left at top of Black Marlow pitch

- 1x bolt bit
- some tapes
- some pricillors
- 2 short wires
- some hangers*
- 1x 20m Lyon speleo-rope
- 1x 15m 9mm
- 1x 20m black marlow
- 1x 35m black marlow
- 1x 25m white marlow

7/7/89 Dave Bell, Lynn, Fred, Stuart.

Walked up Suttagee and found an interesting hole just below the top. We went down as far as the ropes went and it was very good. Fortunately we had some spare rope with us so we pushed on a bit more. The west pitch has an enormous waterfall somewhere in a big black space. Sounds really promising - does anyone know anything about it?

The Facts 2 Buffalo bags, 2 Gas cartridges, 1 scorpion stove, 2 cups 2 mess tins + some tea bags are all at the top of Cemetery Gates. There is also some rigging gear here. Wires, nails, hangers 2 bolt bits, 2 14 spits + wedges and the drill

* I knew 2/7 was big, but not big enough for two hangers, sure big?

Other rigging gear (rattlers, knots + hangers) has been left at the 1st big ledge on first Awesome with about 150m of rope.

2 pitches need a bolt call to tidy them up and remove a minor out point: Cemetery Gates. - needs a bolt between 2nd + 3rd rebays. There is a good spot 3 feet below an obvious downward pointing spike 1/2 way down this section. (X marks the spot!).

Pitch below Immageddon. - the paracimate! hung needs a bolt somewhere but its really hard to work out where on the way down.

7/7/89 Iestyn, Tony, Dave H.

Went to rig Iestyn's ratter. Found a bolt at the entrance, followed by more as we rigged down the cave. They looked very Grahamish bolts & when we got back to camp, yes it was an O.V.C.C. exploration. Xmas 1/7, Pozo las Vengayas, will be back to see why it doesn't go deep.

Dave

Gavin "How many pits do we need to take down?"
Sherry "Well there's three of us going down, so we only need one pit."

6/7/89 Wlodek, Su Yong, Gavin

Carried 200m of rope down. Started rigging. Dropped the bolt kit. Said "Fuck!" a lot. Came out.

9/7/88

Dave Horsley spends all day guarding Rio
Dave M & Stuart arrive near base Stuart goes
to fetch the water. Stuart doesn't return for
hours. Stuart gets lost between the religious &
camp!!!!

9/7/89. Dave H. A party led start then up the hill to 2/7, meeting Andy
Lynn and Dirk at the entrance.

Saw off the intrepid campers at the top of Jebel Amersame the
came out with a bolt bit, tidying up a couple of pitches on the way. I also
brought out 6 empty tackle bags and some rubbish so we have something to
put gear in now.

Back on the surface I baked in glorious sunshine before hunger and thirst
necessitated a descent into the day. Best got back in time for tea.

10/7/89 Tostyn, Tony & Dave Horsley to dig a denig
11/7 (Poza to Vanyanga). 2 hrs underground

The dig didn't go but Tony still spent hours
dig through well composted animal remains Tony then
denigged the cave. Some tackle left at the entrance.
2-4 hrs spent underground

Dave


9/7/89 Lynn, Dirk, Andy to master Paradise for the novices, and Lynn to rig some of GSP

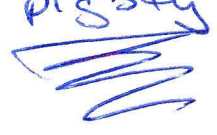
Seventh Heaven + Paradise squeezes accomplished first time (where I had
failed last time despite 25mins of trying) although slowly, ~~the bottom of~~
~~the~~ thanks to Lynn's expert guidance. At bottom of flying rebates we stopped
to replenish our energy then Dirk + I tried to explore the rift but didn't know where
to go after Pablo, while Lynn rigged some lines in GSP. One without incidents 8 hours!

Andy. P.S. Dirk practically gave Lynn + I heart failures by almost falling through the eye hole

11/7/89

Dave Horsley, Stuart & Dave M. are going to look upstream
Jestyn, Tony, Jon to G.S.P passage (gavin's shirt pit)
to survey & push.

Dave, Stuart & Dave arrive back at camp at 5-30am to find the cooking tent an absolute pigsty



unusual for a cave:
the formations are calcium hydroxide rather than calcium carbonate

Interesting whilst underground today I've noticed that some cave formations were showing remarkably rapid growth & were spreading throughout the cave. In + othering of those tasteful piles of grey dust layered over many areas of the cave and the missing ^{missing} ~~missing~~ _{missing}

**TAKE YOUR FUCKING CARBIDE
OUT WITH YOU DON'T
COAT THE CAVE WITH IT!!**

Dave H has had his say. Now I will have mine. If you can live with your conscience after despoiling the cave with piles of grey dust that's fine by me*. I object to you risking my life by getting carbide on the rope or tape and thereby weakening it dangerously. (I cite as examples the ropes ~~at~~ at the bottom of flying Rébellés and the tape at the top of Armageddon.) I agree with Dave H,

* It's not fine by me!

TAKE YOUR CARBIDE OUT OF THE CAVE, OR, IF YOU MUST, LEAVE IT IN ONE OF THE BAGS WHICH WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE CAVE. PLEASE DON'T JUST EMPTY IT ON THE FLOOR. Dave M

11/7/89 Dave Housley, Stuart, & Dave M

Aim to explore the streamway upstream from just above.

Arrived at the big ledge in just above - Dave H. kitted up in his immersion suit chest deep wading across the pool where the water enters the ledge leads to a tall narrow rift with many large boulders. Followed the stream for a 100-200m horizontally & gained ~ 20-30m in height. The passage is basically a tall narrow rift choked with large boulders through which you climb. The way was blocked where the water dropped a short waterfall & the rift was choked with boulders - it didn't look possible.

Next explored the 45° descending phreatic tube at the end of Gusama Gourd. Heeded down this till the tube was lost and you were traversing down a rift. This turned left & then arrived at the top of a short 15ft pitch. This I free climbed to a boulder floor the rift soon reappeared and I lowered down this losing height only slowly. In places the rift was quite narrow. After the narrow section the rift was wider the traversing a bit hairier and large boulders choked in the rift were encountered. Similar to the boulders I'd climbed

through when following the stream from the big ledge. The stream was now visible below & a waterfall could be heard ahead. This passage ended out where the main stream fell down a 70° waterfall, down under a large boulder in the rift, the waterfall was only 15ft high. I climbed a short way up the right hand wall and saw that it might be possible to regain human sized passage above the boulder a climb of c. 20ft. This may be the same point I reached before, though I'm not certain. Needs people to approach from both ends & it needs surveying. The 45° tube route needs rigging for safety sake

Dave

11 7 89

Jon, Iestyn, Tony

Set out to look at Gairns Shit Pit, perhaps to rig, push and survey. There are now two routes to the pitch head:

- i) the original way, using the tape to gain the rift approx 2.5m up, then following the floor through the squeeze into a small chamber, where you continue more easily by climbing 3-4m (but not right up into the false roof of boulders) until the pitch is reached a short way further on.
- ii) Lynn's rigged route involves prooving up the rope reaver to the pitch head back from the climb and continuing high in the rift, mainly following lines, until the small chamber is reached. Continue as described.

Route (i) is quicker and generally the less awkward of the two, but the squeeze may involve taking off your SRT gear, which is a bummer. You pay your money and you takes your choice.

Anyway, Jon decided that we should rig in and survey out, an understandably popular decision. At the pitch head we found that Fred had bagged the best bolt position, so we

settled for a less-good position, into which I placed a bolt ⁱⁿ ~~is~~ almost the same time that geological / geomorphological processes would have created a perfect natural. Then descended the pitch which is nearly a free hang of about 40m, but which may need some more work in the way of descenders. The scrofulous rift belks out after about 5-10m into a really quite big rift passage which is good for the soul, until you land on a rather drippy ledge 3-4 metres above the passage floor (climb down to the right). "Upstream" there is a small grotto containing a nice white-oh stall and with developed popcorn on walls and floor, containing a small pool. PLEASE DO NOT GO IN HERE AND SPOK IT. The way on is "downstream" where there are pretty mud formations at floor level. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB THESE EITHER, the real, approved and non-vandalising way on involves chimbung up a little way where the walls are still rock, and traversing over to the chuke of ~~some~~ cemented pebbles, trying not to damage the mud formations on the walls.

From here you gradually descend to the floor once more, largely by easy bridging. Slightly upstream from where you reach the floor (of boulders) there is a small passage slightly further down, which is too wet, according to leobyn. When you reach a tight bit you may either tackle Fat Mans Folly which involves thimbling between sharp lumps of rock at floor level, or more easily passing through the flat out sandy gravel about a foot above. Soon after this you reach an easy free climb down a rift of about 9m (with handline anyway) ~~until~~ until you find yourself in a biggish chamber complete with photogenic rock arch which may lead to another rift. Below the arch is an 11m pit which looks blind but apparently isn't, as a couple of small unrigged pitches continuing back in the direction from which you have come. We didn't survey this because the pen conked out. Take a pencil next time. This write-up may seem unreasonably long, but is only to speed up the process of exploration and to try to conserve some bits of cave which are really rather pretty.

P.S. We found the fingertip of a pink rubber glove partway down the passage: no idea how it got there. I don't think anyone had been here before.