

niceday

EXTREME MERO '99

ARIO CAMP

LOG BOOK

MEMBERS OF EXPEDITION

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Paul "Absent" | Mann |
| Jo "Big knickers" | Whistler |
| Hilary "No knickers" | Oreaves |
| Pippa "Chica" | Crosby |
| → Jonathan "I make people physically sick" | Cooper |
| Lynn "Lev shaped hole" | Mullely |
| Rich "Takes the piss" | Gerrish |
| Lev | Bishop |
| Jonathan "See above" | Cooper |
| Alison "It's in the Wrong Hole" | Waterfall |
| Tuis | Gurford |
| Can | Maurice |
| William "You need a lamp in a cave" | Stead |
| "Don" Simon "Spotty Banana flavoured Mr. Blobby toothpaste" | Goddard |
| Richard "PIG" "Drinking whilst drunk" | Doyl. |
| Gavin "good boyfriend" | Lowe |
| Steve | Phipps |

OXFORD UNIVERSITY
CAVE CLUB
LIBRARY

9-7-99 Day 1

RG, LB, LM, PC, HG First carry from Base Camp to Ario. Paused by Xitu for a quick root around. As we began to leave a group of Spanish walkers asked us to take photographs of their group. Oddly one of their party was completely stark bollock naked apart from a rucksack and a pair of boots. More worrying than this was his friends apparent willingness... no.. DESIRE to be photographed holding and stroking his tanned member!!! RG

After the amazingly efficient start this morning ~~morning~~ (left base at 8.15am) we spent most of the day at Ario setting up the kitchen shelter. This is by no means as easy as one might initially think. We also collected some water from the Refugio and other Ario springs. Both were only dribbling - probably an hour for 20c. Lev and I went in search of the Martini Pool, but to no avail. We just got very hot walking from bowl to bowl before choosing a very inefficient route back to camp. LM

"Donde este de la martini fuente?"

(3)
10/7/99 2/7 - First Rigging Trip LB, JC

Got a nice early start ~~up~~ the mountain, but I at least still found it quite a sweaty walk, with all my carrying gear plus a tackle bag. I did the rigging down to the bottom of 7th Heaven. I'm fairly happy with the rigging but the usual warnings apply about not hooking the rope round any projections on 7th heaven.

Then we had a look upslope in the direction of the bottom of 7th heaven & I checked out the unascended Gink up moonmill - I didn't jolly ascend it.

Hangers and deviation tapes ~~have been~~ ^{had been} left in place and were mostly in reasonable condition, although one of the tapes was quite well worn and I removed it.

We have left:

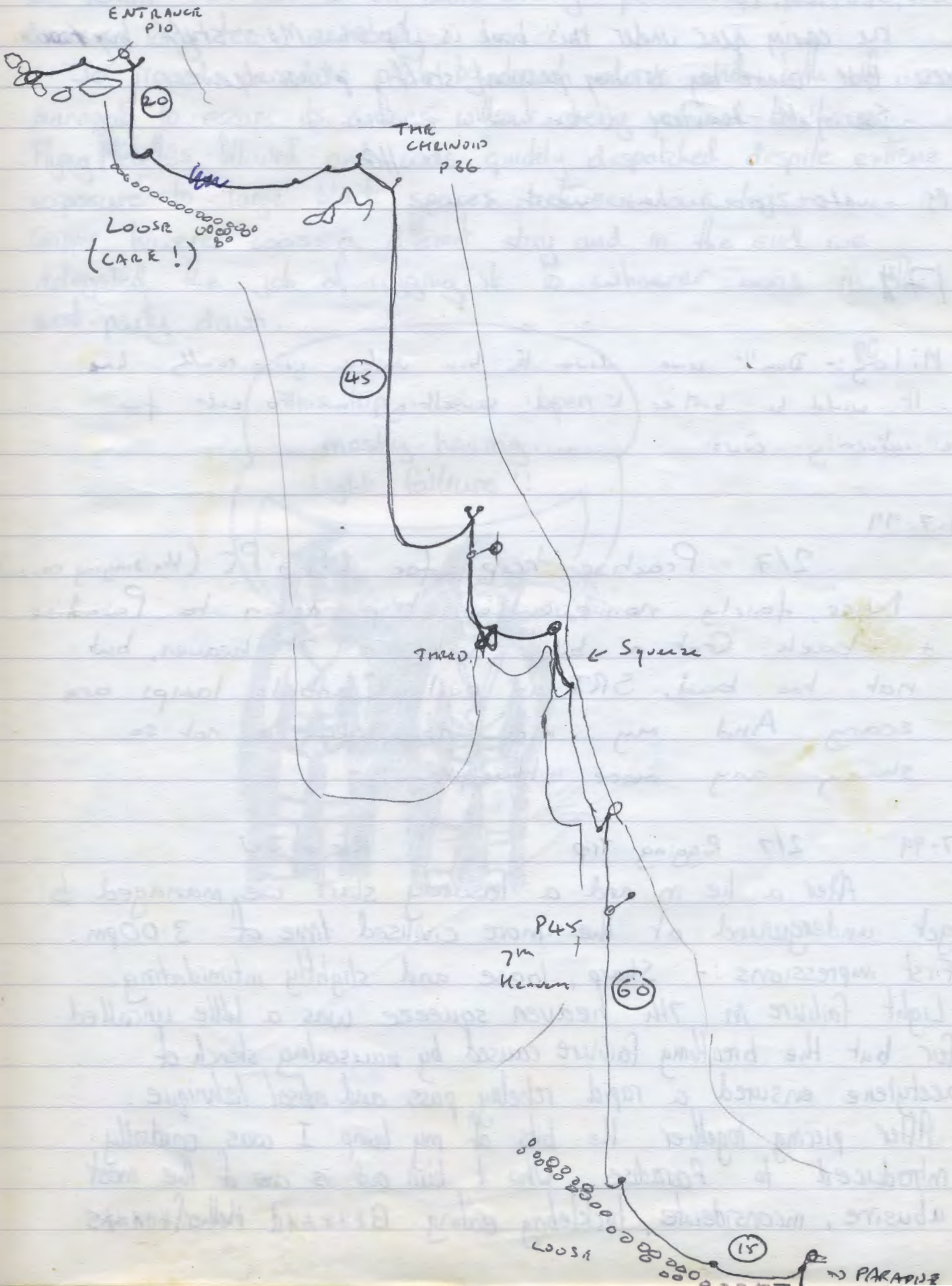
- some tape
- some string
- several hangers
- a couple of wires
- ~~a couple of~~
- a knob or two ^{mittens}
- not many spare ~~hangers~~ at all (1?)
- a bolting kit

There is still a water bottle at the bottom of 7th Heaven.

LB

PS: We also checked out crossrift cave - full of snow, not v. promising.

2/7 Topo.



(3)

Sat 10/7/99 pm

JW, RG, LM, PC:

The caving gear under this book is Pip's. More stuff by food boxes. Blue canoe bag is my personal stuff, please leave.
See y'all tomorrow

HE

PS - water now has vent.

11/7/99

→ Hilary:- Don't come down to box unless you really have to. It would be better to put something in the cans for the returning crew.

11.7.99

2/7 - Practice trip for LM + PC (the singing cavers)
Nice, fairly non-eventful trip down to Paradise + back. Got a bit stuck in 7th heaven, but not too bad. SRT is evil. Carbide lamps are scary. And my nice new gear is not so shiny any more. Humph.

11-7-99

2/7 Rigging Trip

RG + JW

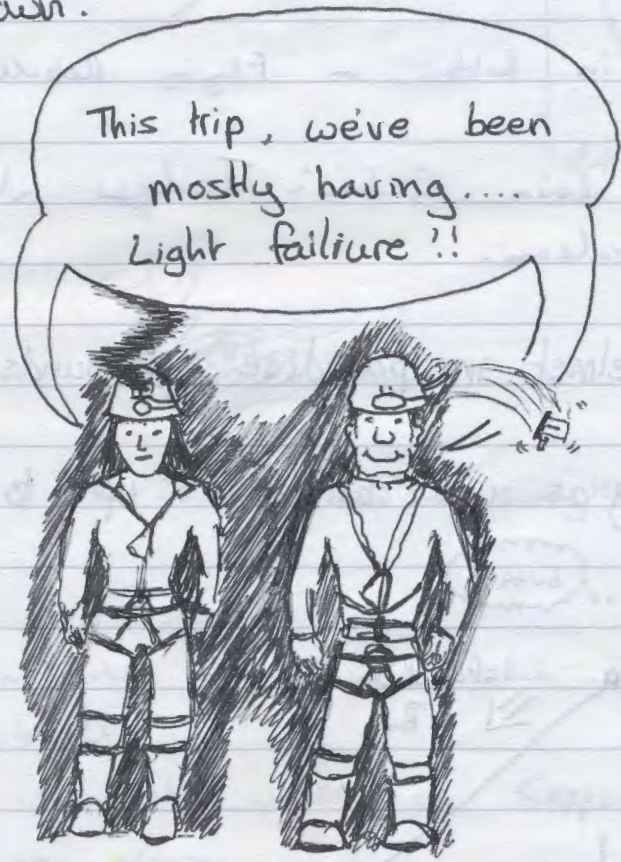
After a lie in and a leisurely start we managed to get underground at the more civilised time of 3:00pm. First impressions:- Sharp, loose and slightly intimidating. Light failure in 7th heaven squeeze was a little uncalled for but the breathing failure caused by nauseating stench of acetylene ensured a rapid rebelay pass and abseil technique.

After piecing together the bits of my lamp I was cordially introduced to Paradise. Who it turns out is one of the most abusive, inconsiderate, tacklebag eating B*****d Motherf*****s

that one could care to meet. It is unspeakably worse on the return but due to an above average personality fails to cause long term animosity.

To rigged paradise pitch by touch alone and both of us managed to escape its confines without being reduced to tears. Flying Rebell's blowed and was quickly despatched despite extreme exposure to large black spaces between our legs. Gripper however was a different story and in the end we delegated the job of rigging it to whoever was in the next party down.

RG



(2)

12/7. 3rd Rigging Trip → Top of Pessimists

Law, Hills, JC.

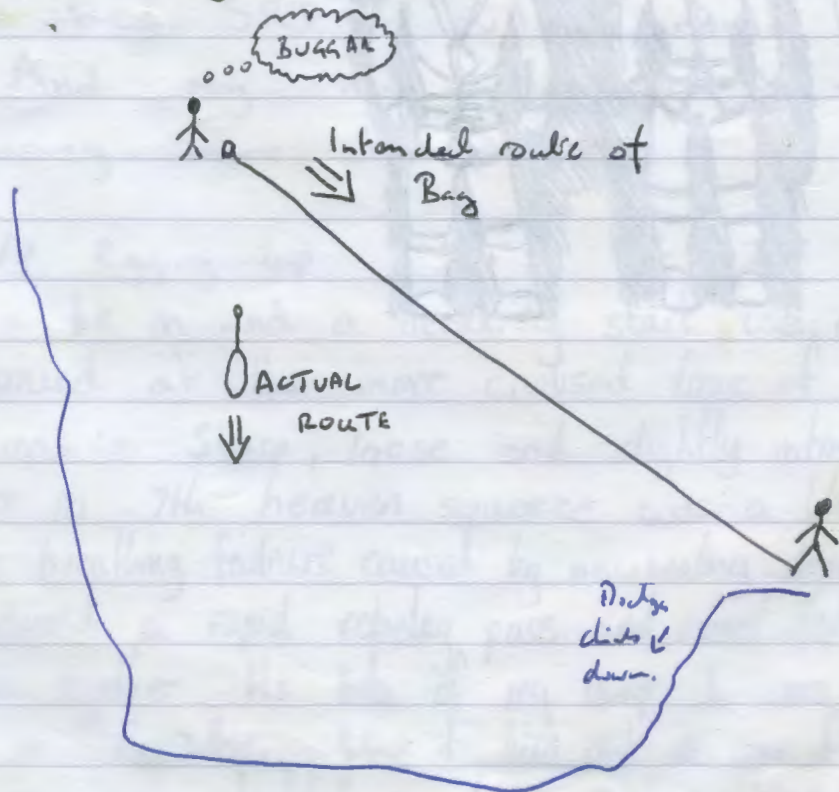
Caving the JC way = Solo Clusterfucking i.e. Clusterfuck

High-lights of Trip (All My fuck-ups)

- * Hanging by helmet in Paradise.
- * Pulling electric off helmet and breaking it.
- * Catching chin strap in bobbin on Flying Rebellies
- * Dropping tackle-sac down Graham's Trolley when trying to clip it to Tyrolean.

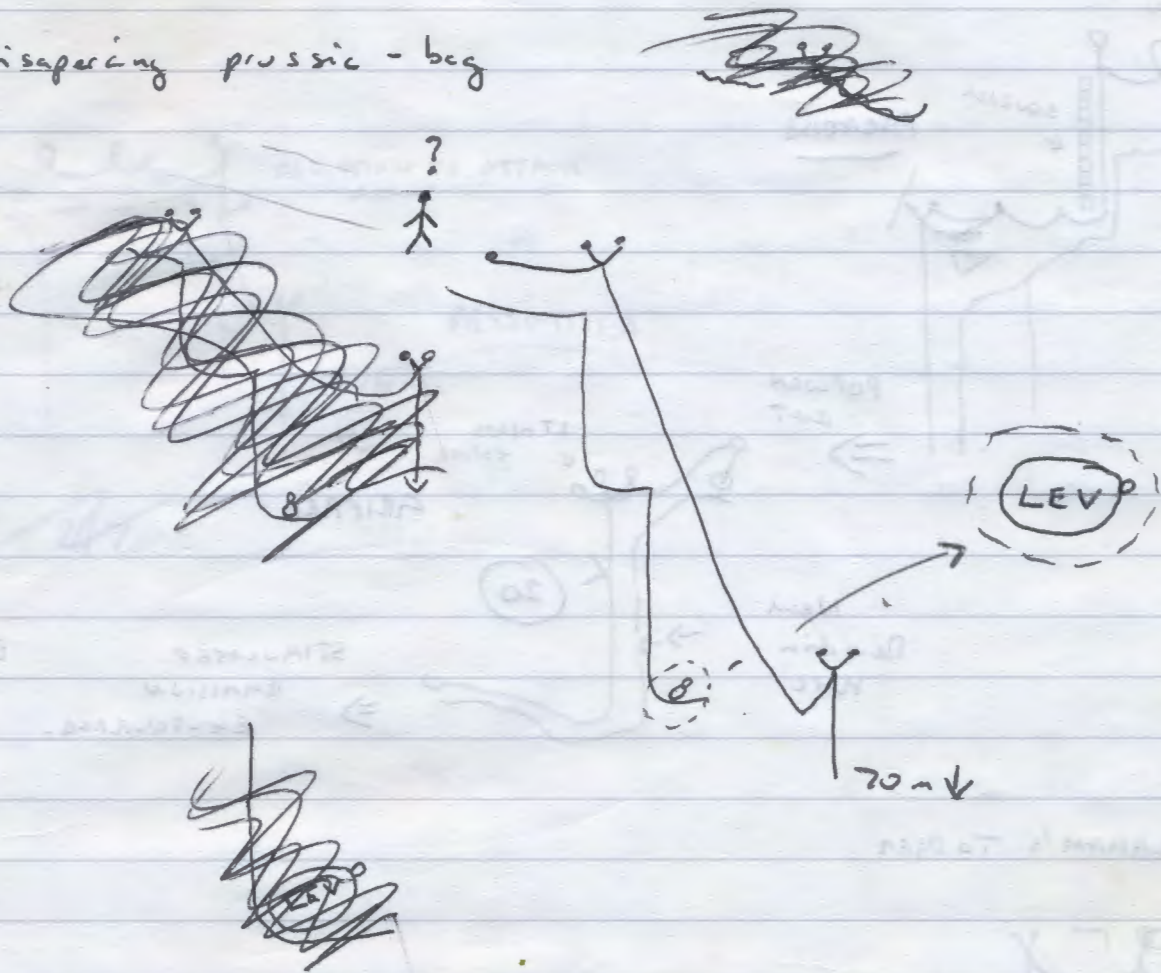
JC: "I hung by my helmet in paradise" Sounds good!

Hills: "That's good as long as you can keep it up" to Rich.



Lev's cock-ups.

* The disappearing prussic - bag



Apart from the above events everything was lovely.

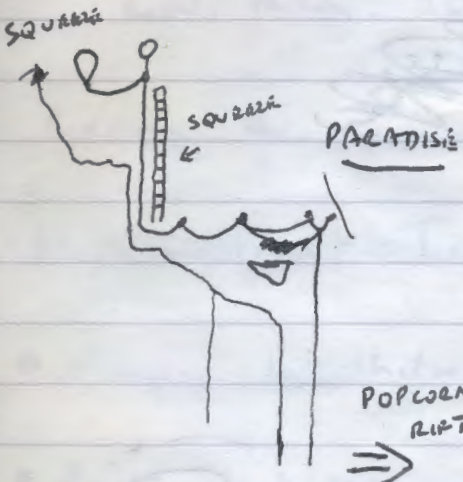
Next trip

- * Pick up bin above Paradise + leave at bottom of Flying Rebellies
- * Division in RH wall of Gripper. Two are threads about 1/2 way down.
- * ^{On} ~~Area~~ division between T-hooks at top of Passimisti.

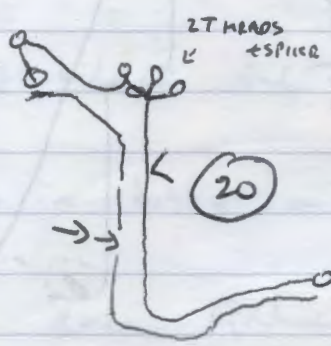
We have rigged Gripper, Graham's Toolbag + top of Passimisti. Tackle bags 7 (Sigs: The Devil) + 8 (The Balls) at head of Passimisti. Bag 9 (Armededder) at base of S.T.P.

9

47 Topo Part 2.



POPCORN RIFT

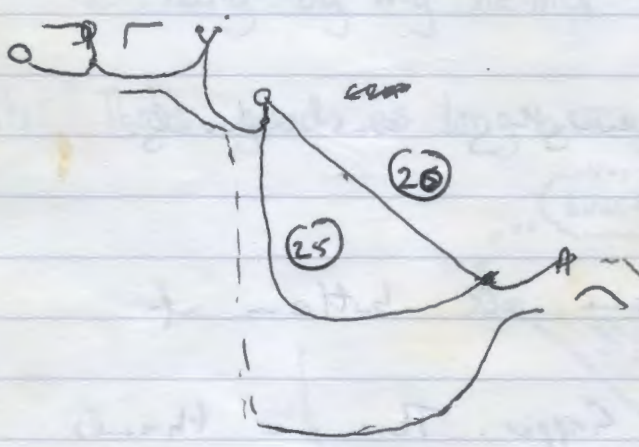


Need Revision Here

STIMULATED EMISSION EX-SQUAMAE.

BLANK ESTIM RMT

GRAHAM'S TO DGAR



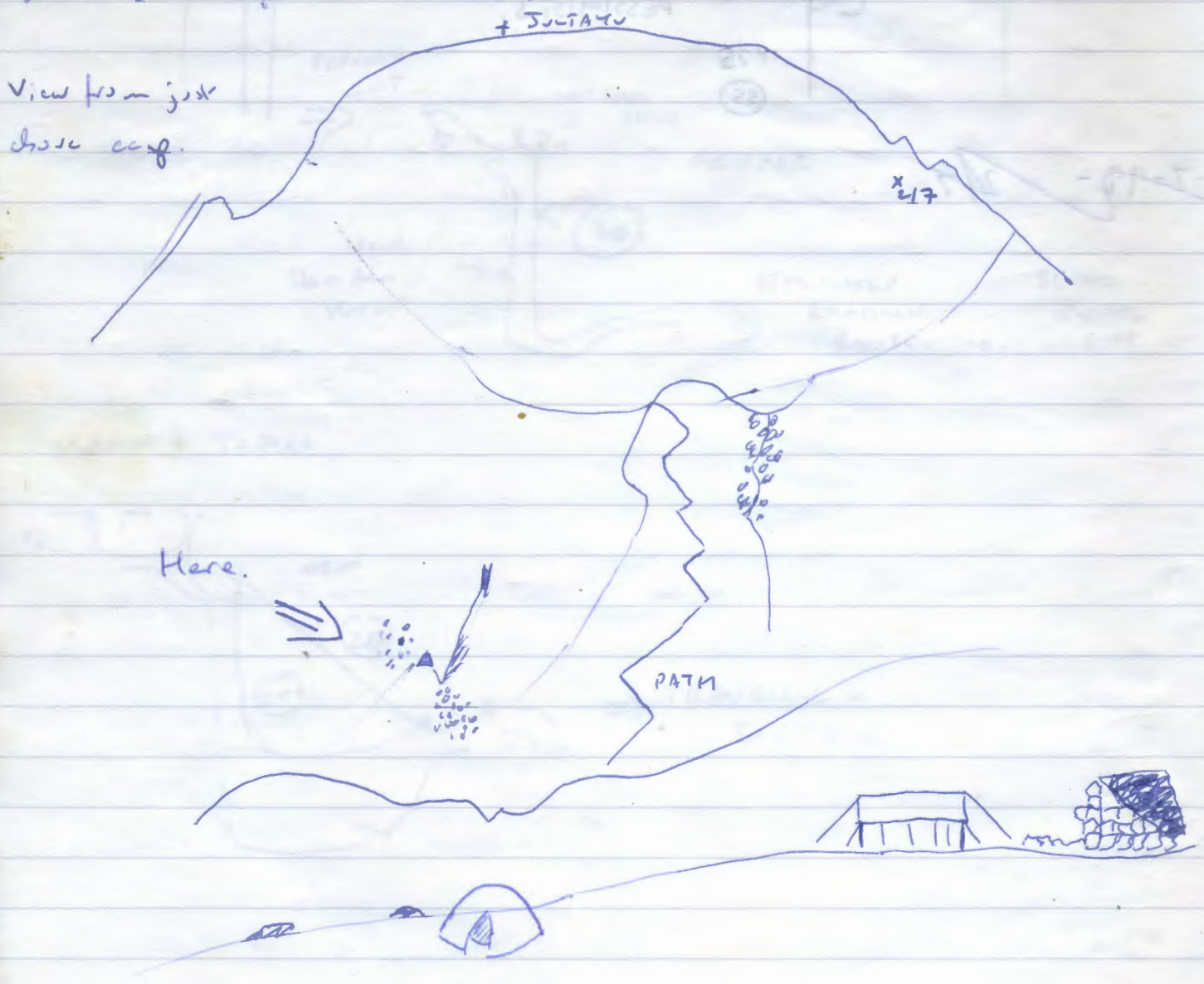
TRAVELLER'S SCLABOUE.

(11)

7743
7744
7745

Shattbashing! 12/7/99 Lev. JC.

Obvious triangular shaped entrance, visible from Aris and the path down to the Trea junction, on slopes of Jullaga 200m E (Left as you go uphill) of the path to 217. 0° to Aris i.e. 180° from Aris to Core. At top of steep grassy ridge with slight sence slope to the West.



Difficult to believe this has not been seen, wandered about district before. Walk in entrance 2m wide + 5m high. Narrows after 10m to greasy 5m climb. Choked at top. Could be Cowstick one 8/7, but seems too high up for this, if not then it shall be 49/7.

Shuttle-bus 2. 10/7/99 Lew, J.C.

Visited 717, Cross-rift cave on the way back from 417.
Snow levels looked pretty high.

2/7

13-7-99

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Dick 'n' Pip.

A leisurely start for a portering / acclimatisation trip. Quick progress was made down to 7th Heaven where the fat bastard status of one of the tackle bags first became apparent. Paradise Rift was the real test and required the combined tactics of yanking from below and stamping from above to force the reluctant bag through.

After a quick discussion and experimentation of the merits of the various types of chocolate bar we ditched the bags at the top of Gripper and headed out. Pip was so keen to practice passing Paradise Rift that she did every move twice, slipping back each time for another attempt, accompanied by a little yelp but never coaxing a harsher word than "drat" from her lips.

7th Heaven continued its campaign of destruction on my Carbide Lamp. This time attacking the generator and forcibly removing the pipe whilst I was being distracted by another part of the squeeze that insisted on a much closer inspection of my Croll.

A very successful trip whose research will prove invaluable to future generations of cavers.

- (VFG) 1. Thorntons Special Fudge.
- (PFG) 2. Milk Chocolate with Smarties.
- (NFB) 3. Milk Chocolate.

(B)

"You've just put about twenty things into my mouth"
- JC (to Rick)

15/7 Goat Attack!

Ario camp got raided by goats last night (they got into the rubbish). Now they know there's food in the shelter they are likely to try the same trick again. Therefore, please lock the entrance with the water containers or similar if you are the last to bed/leave.
Thanks! Jo

PS & Latine put in black container 8:40 am. About not yet added.

2/7 14-7-99 Lynn & Lev

Another efficient start and we were underground by 10:30. Lev treated me as a competent caver rather than a novice and we reached the end of the rifts in ~~in~~ a $\frac{1}{3}$ of the time that it took me last year. It was a really pleasant trip, the rifts seemed friendlier and much shorter than last year.

Pessimists is great. I am beginning to believe that 2/4 is actually a big cave and not just nasty rifts!

Lev rigged the bottom of Pessimists, Sing to the Devil and The Bells surprisingly quickly. I also got to do a little rigging when Lev missed a bolt on the traverse at the top of The Bells.

The way out started off well. Pessimists was long but not exhausting. Going through the rifts started off quite slow as I was tired but then I had an Asthma attack at the bottom of Gripper. I rested a bit while Lev went up and then followed very slowly trying not to make my breathing any worse. I was quite keen to make my way out but Lev made me rest and put on thermals for a while. This was definitely a good idea and the rest of the trip was better if a little slow. Despite this I really enjoyed the trip and got deeper than I've been before in pretty good time.

LSM

10/9

15/7/99

LSB

Took the Hilti-capping system for it's just use underground to walk on the terminal squeeze. Got Lynn & Pip to porter the gear to the entrance for me (thanks!). Found the rift between the 2nd pitch and the limit of exploration rather more spitting than I remembered, and I had to move the drill, battery, Hilti BDM, and bit of camp through separately. One hole, two black magnum caps, and a bit of hammering later I had a nice Lev-shaped hole and was able to retrieve the hammer Dave dropped last year. There followed another squeeze followed by a pitch of indeterminate depth (anywhere from 10 to 40 m!). The best lead in the Picos still lives up to its reputation!

LSB

PS: We left a container at the Mentini pool.

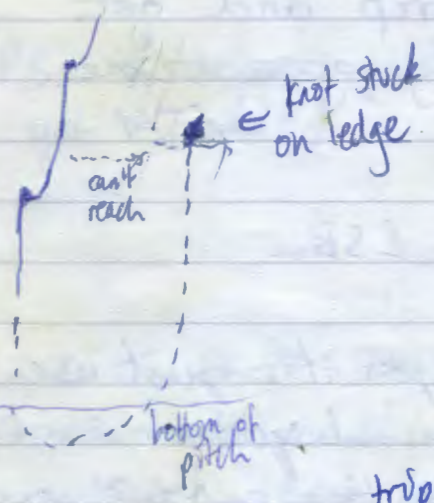
15

mm

"Alvin Par; a pantomime of incontinence" Lew Bishop.

2/7 14-7-99 Another Rigging Trip - JC + Hilary

Continued the pottering/rigging effort, rigging from Armageddon Ledge to pitch through the 1st false floor. The rigging went fine - we ~~had~~ ^{didn't} initially put a traverse line between the bottom of the Hundred and the pitch down to the 1st false floor, because the ^{end of the} rope got caught on a ledge as we threw it down. Luckily I had carefully picked exactly the right irritatingly inaccessible ledge to get it stuck on, so the "middle" of the ample-length rope just reached the bottom of the pitch + no further. (Having established the excessiveness of the rope length maybe undoing the knot would have been a good plan)



Later addition though - I retrieved the rope on the way back up + JC has rigged the traverse.

Having spent (intermittently) the entire trip, and the best part of the last 2 days, pestering JC to let me do some rigging, I was (reluctantly?) permitted to go down the 22m pitch that seems to have no name, between the bottom of the 100 and the 1st False Floor. I think JC might have been hoping I'd be so fucked by the time I got this far down the cave that I would abandon my foolish claim to want to rig, but no, it was not to be.

(As I was absceiling down the 100: "Do you still want to do some rigging?" "Yeahyeahyeah..." (pause) "Oh".)

I left JC at the top of the Pitch Through the First False Floor + began the astonishingly-not-as-long-and-tortuous-as-I-had-been-thinking-as-I-absceiled-down-it prussik

out.

A relatively smooth + uneventful trip, all in all. We left the last 3 tackle bags to get down to JA 2 at various points: (13) ^{bottom of} Graham's Todger (14) ^{Top of} Gripper (15) ^{bottom of} F. Rebelles (I think)

Although I have to correct the ridiculously inaccurate chocolate assessment. The smartie chocolate is the absolute muth's'nuts, as long as your tongue is long enough to retrieve the goo it transforms to at the bottom of your prussik bag (and ^{you} are not too averse to blobs of soggy paper)

PS. we missed our callout, by (me) being slow on the way out. Thanks to Pip, Lynn + Lev for taking this seriously + starting a prompt & efficient rescue. Especially to Rich who met us on the path carrying loads of rescue gear, in the heat of the day.

2/7 15/7/17 - Rich & Jo "It took the piss"

I started the trip feeling very uncoordinated but we made good speed through the rifts, ~~and~~ picking one tacklebag up at the bottom of Flying Rebelles, one at the top of Gripper & a third at the bottom of Graham's Todger Pitch. It felt great to be descending the shaft series once again, & it wasn't long before we reached the first false floor, the limit of rigging. Rich & I shared the rigging, heading out at around 7pm. Reached the surface at 1:40am - lovely to be able to crawl into a warm pit instead of walking down to Aris

I enjoyed the trip, despite the excessive amount of prussiking (Rich, partway up The 100: "It takes the piss"). Paradise Rift submitted with an unusually small amount of effort which was just as well as we were pretty knackered. Great trip!

PS. The deviation on Gripper flew off & hit my nose! Jo.

PPS. DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES open the blue bin bag at the bottom of Cemetery Gates (just before Guzano Grotto). I was caught short, so will add the bag to a shit BDH if no one else does so before me.

17

17-7-99. Saturday 6 a.m.

Arrived here last night after 10 hour walk from Vega reddonda, via Punta Gregoriana, FUSE, Old and new top camp and C9. No booze at the bar! (The Refugio that is) but managed to survive with four Vino Tintos and half a bottle of whiskey. Fantastic camp, shame I can't stay.

Hope camping, pushing, Surveying goes well in 2/7 and I WRITE UP THE LOG BOOK! Take care, yours to the (terminal?) Scrap,

James Hoop

16-7-99 Shaft bashing - Rich, Pip, Hilary

After legging it down to Lagos + back to pick up some rope + rigging gear, I set about a thorough festering session at Ario while Rich + Pip went up to 2/7 to pick up the caving gear. Our plan to meet @ 5pm on the ridge was thwarted by the minor hiccup of me not being there. I was busy upgrading the team's bolting competence from Rich's "seen it done, how hard can it be", putting in a bolt @ Ario under Lev's expert supervision (thanks Lev!). However a bit of standing on the ridge shouting was all that was needed + I made my way over to the Pip head/shoulder combination poking out of a distant shakehole.

Pip found 40/7, our target cave, shortly afterwards + we set about rigging the cave from surface natural fast even dodgy ones. At this point I noticed that everything around the entrance looked set to fall down

the shaft at an instant's notice. Pip + I had a quick rationalising discussion and decided that the victim should be the one of us whose untimely death would constitute the least loss to humanity. We sold this to Rich on the persuasive grounds that he was wearing caving gear and that after all his rigging was, as always, so good he would probably have to beat himself. This even turned out to be true, with a first class spike deviation giving a perfect hang down the 16m entrance shaft.

Rich went through the "squeeze" from the chamber at the bottom of the 1st pitch, rigged the 2nd "undescribed" 10m pitch and descended it, but it didn't go. So: 40/7 ⊗

Meanwhile I went to check out an apparently unmarked entrance in the rift just uphill from 40/7. This involved a traverse over a 2-3m deep hole (around 2m diameter) to the entrance, a smallish hole going diagonally downwards along the line of the rift. Once inside I crawled around in a small maze of boulders. There was another person-sized hole to daylight; I didn't look where this came out on the surface. The only way on led to a rift which can be free-climbed down for around 10m to a floor of gravel. In the direction doubling back under the entrance, the rift seems to continue ~~but becomes~~ and (I think) was draughtily outwards slightly, but quickly becomes impenetrably narrow. Need to return to tag the cave, assuming it isn't ^{the} existing log, + get a better description of the location.

Hills

10/9 16/7/99 Lynn & Lev

To stop Lev blowing himself up on his own I agreed to go with him down 'the best lead in the Picos'. While he went down to base to carry up underground camping equipment I was left to walk up to 2/7 on my own. It was actually a very pleasant walk and the solitude gave me the freedom to loose the T-shirt for most of the walk.

Back at Arid there was no sign of Lev, so I festered pleasantly for a while. Eventually him and JC arrived looking quite knackered after a very heavy carry. I think Lev would have been happy to abandon the planned trip down 10/9 but since I had gone to the effort of collecting my kit for him we eventually set off.

The cave was much nicer than I had expected although the Lev sized squeeze was just that. I started to go through it and then decided that actually I wasn't very happy about it so tried to get out. I appeared to be completely stuck, the viscious walls biting at my oversuit. I started to slip through so the best thing to do seemed to be to continue. Lev managed to undo my delay belt and I suddenly found myself on the wrong side of a squeeze I knew I couldn't reverse!

Between us we managed to hammer off the more offensive bits of rock until I was

happy that I could get back up through it. So now I am afraid that the cave is a little less exclusive with now only a 'Lynn sized squeeze'.

At this point time was getting on and I didn't fancy trying the next squeeze. Lev continued on and climbed down to the undescended pitch head for another look. With a session already in progress at Arico we decided to make our way out and leave the desert for another day.

Despite thinking that I was never ever going to put myself in that situation and also believing that I hated tight caves I actually enjoyed the trip and it won't take much to get me to have a look at that tantalizingly echoy pitch.

LJM

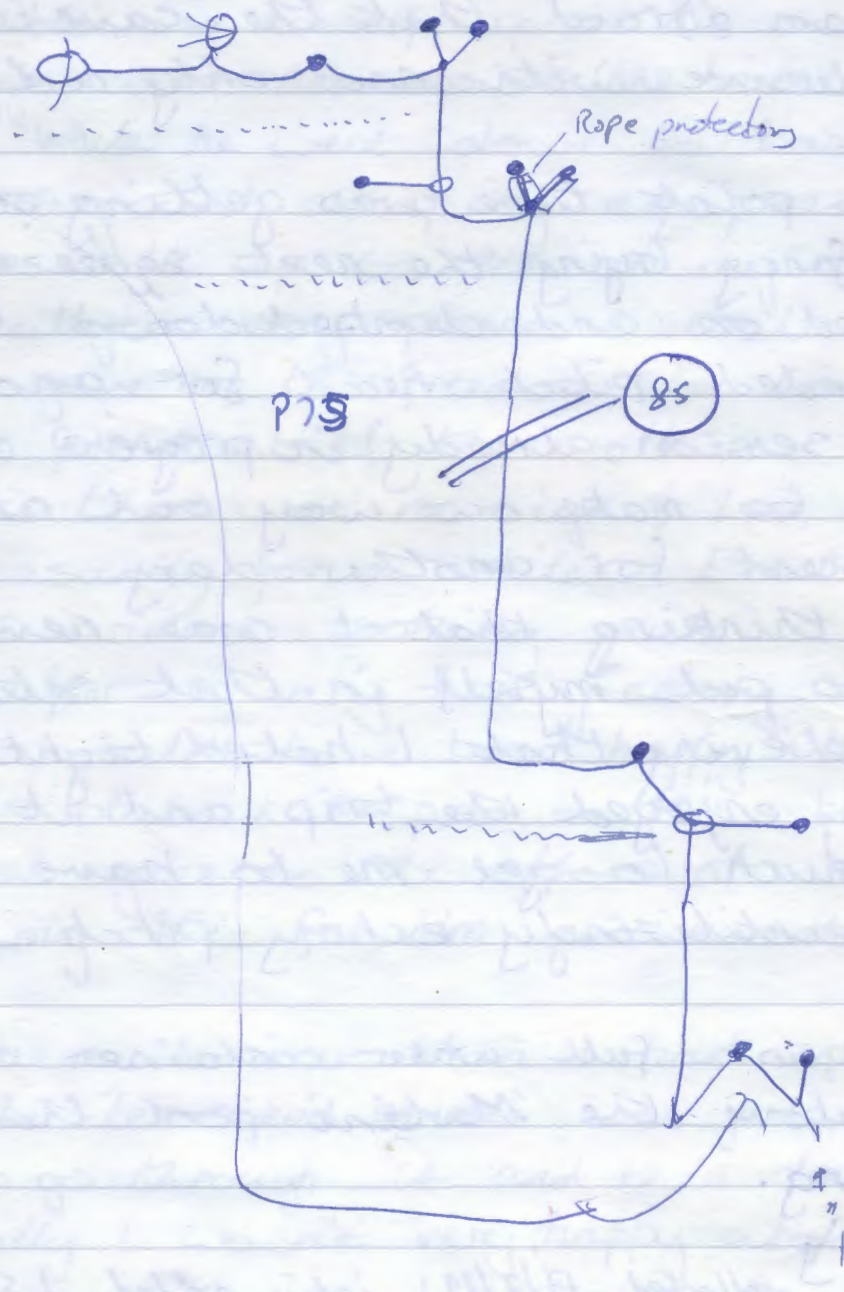
PS There is a full water container on the slope above the Martini pool that needs collecting.

↓ collected. 17/7/99. iodine added 1.50pm - HG
Next empty container in place 1.30pm (17/9).

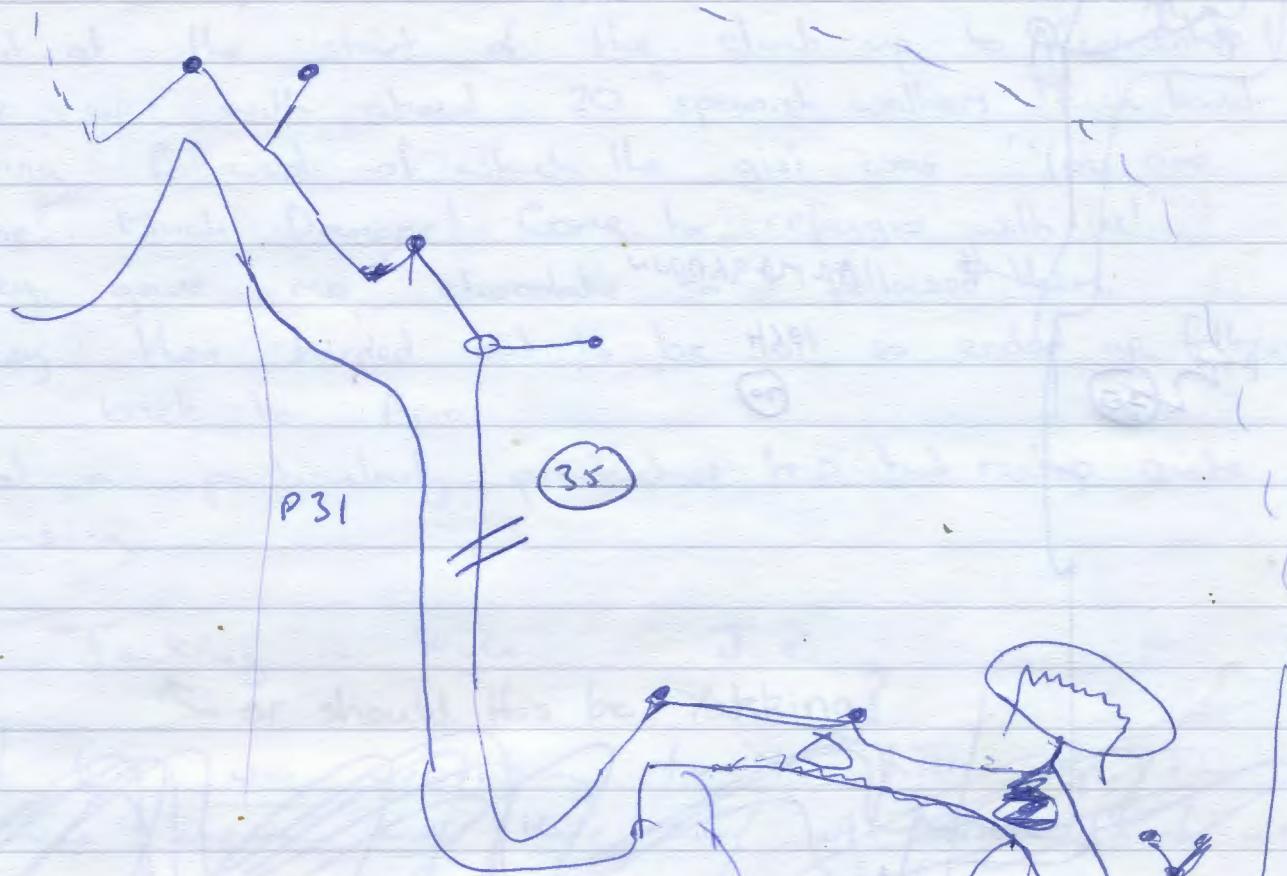
21

2/7 topo (cont.)

Pessimist



Sing to the devil

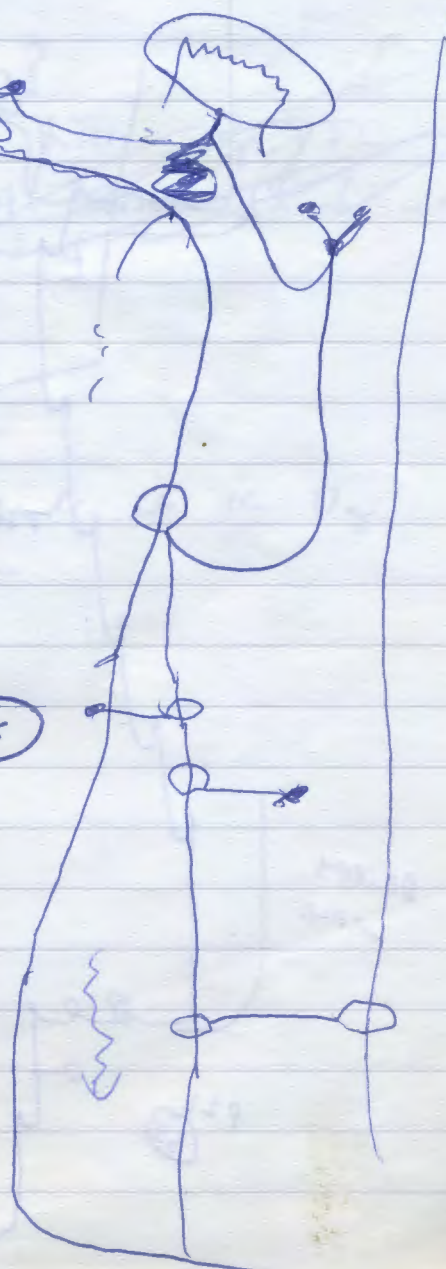


The bell's

P37

(45)

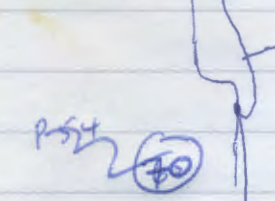
Armageddon Ledge. →



Topo 3 Armageddon + The Hundred.

(73)

Best view on the water



ARMAGEDDON

014

(70)

THE HUNDRED

P70

(90)

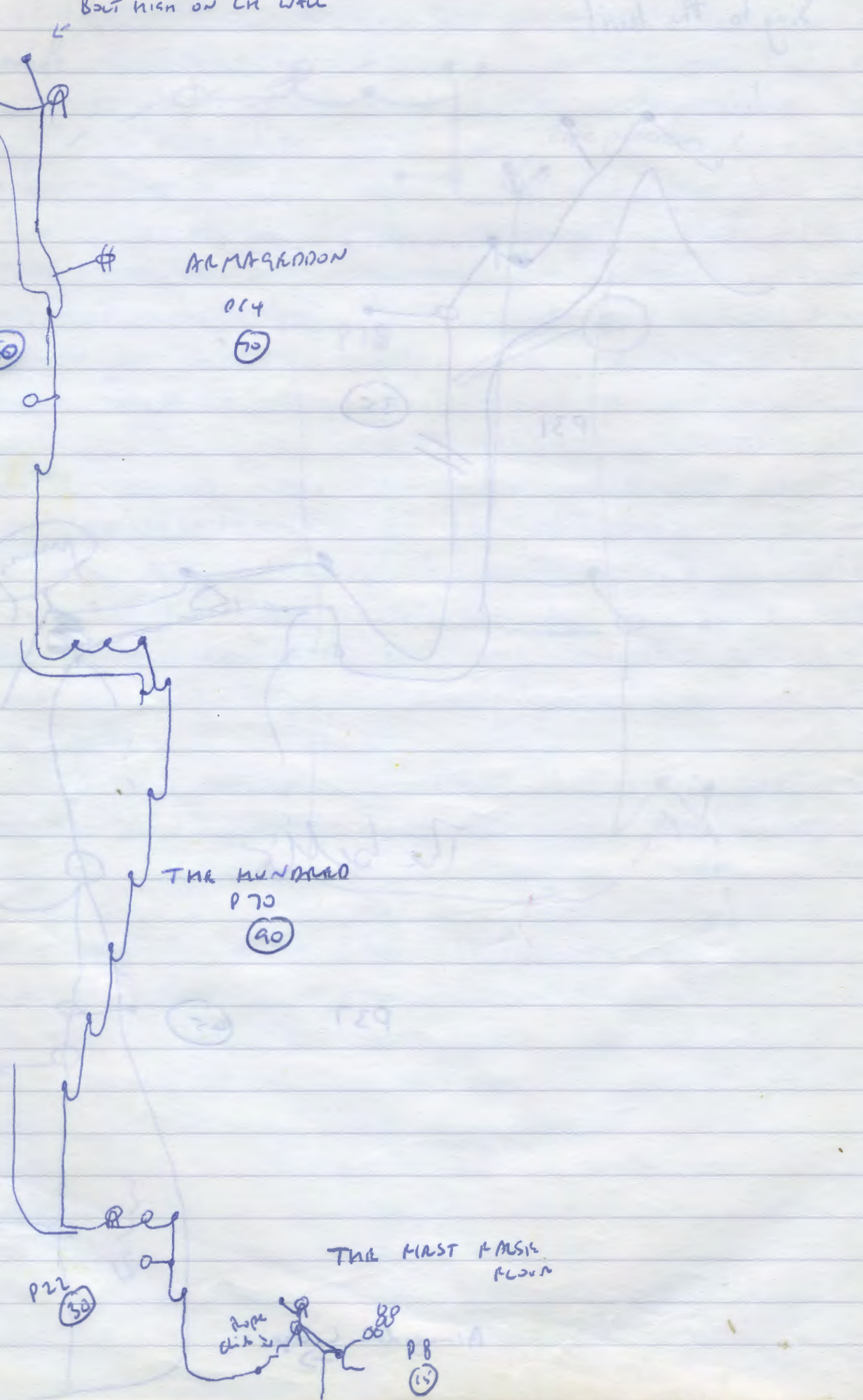
DAVEY
LADGE

P22
(50)

THE LAST PMSH
FLOOR

Some
ditch

P8
(15)



17.7.99 Shaft bashing on Cuvicente - Pip

After finally making my way onto the ridge path (finding 2/7 was quite an epic), the mist set in in earnest. Just at the start of the climb up to Cuvicente, I met up with about 20 spanish walkers. Much hand-waving followed, of which the gist was 'You are alone? Much Danger! Come to refugio with us!' They gave me chocolate, so I followed them. They then turned out to be lost, so ended up following me back to Aric. Not a particularly productive trip, but really quite amusing.

17/7. Jacking in Skyle. J.C.

or should this be Yacking?

~~The trip was approaching for the third day. The
of water was chosen and their horse at descent announced.
But all was not well.~~

Sore foot. Bruised heel.
Dehydration from walk up in heat at the Day.
Chucking up Breakfast cup at tea.
Ball generally poorly.

(25)

10/9

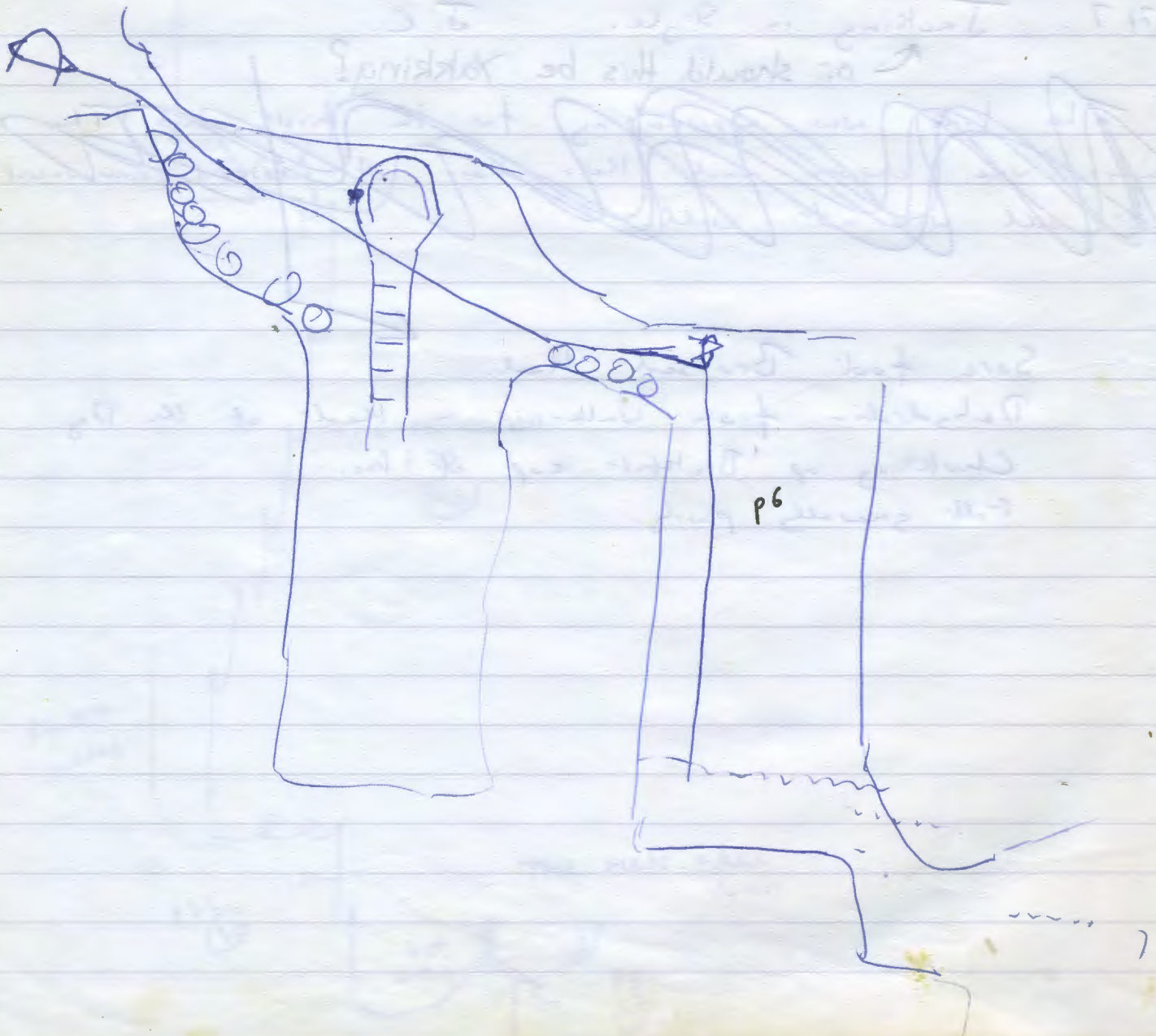
LSB, LJM

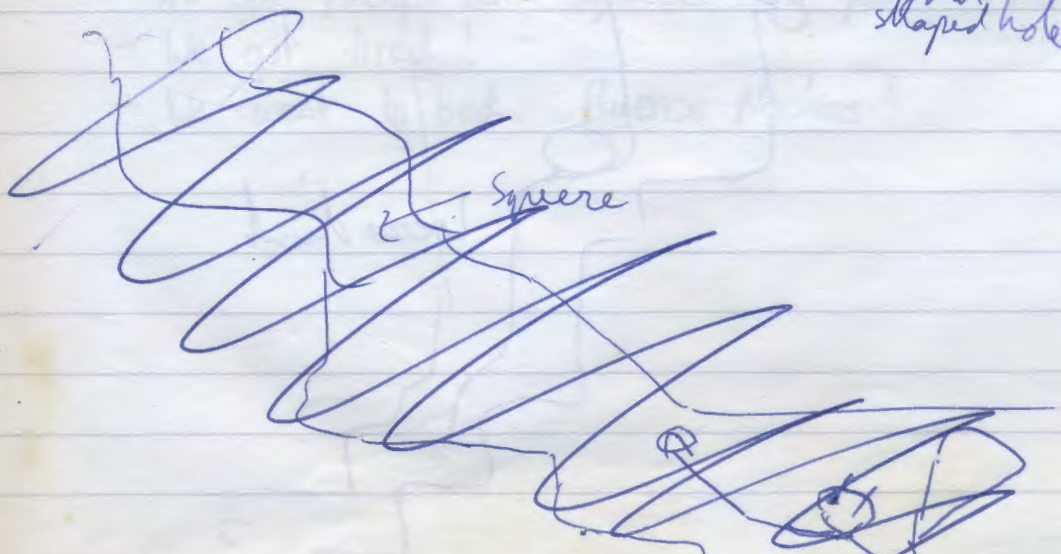
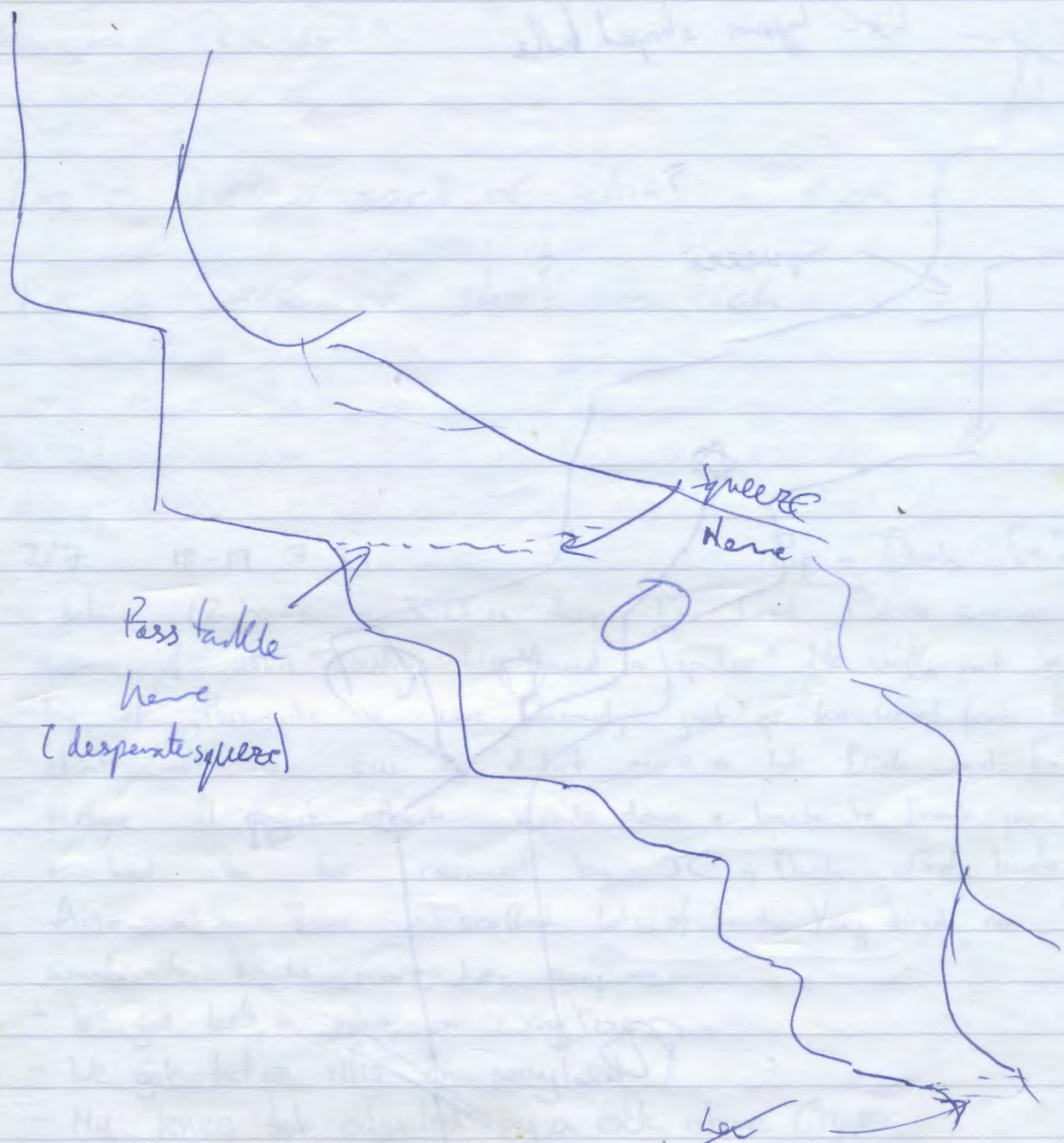
17/02/99

Another successful trip. Descended the pit, which turned out to be about 20m or so deep. Contrary to expectations we did not find ourselves in 27/9. Instead I found two loose clumps, followed by another deep, with a potentially larger one round the corner.

Grade 2 survey so far

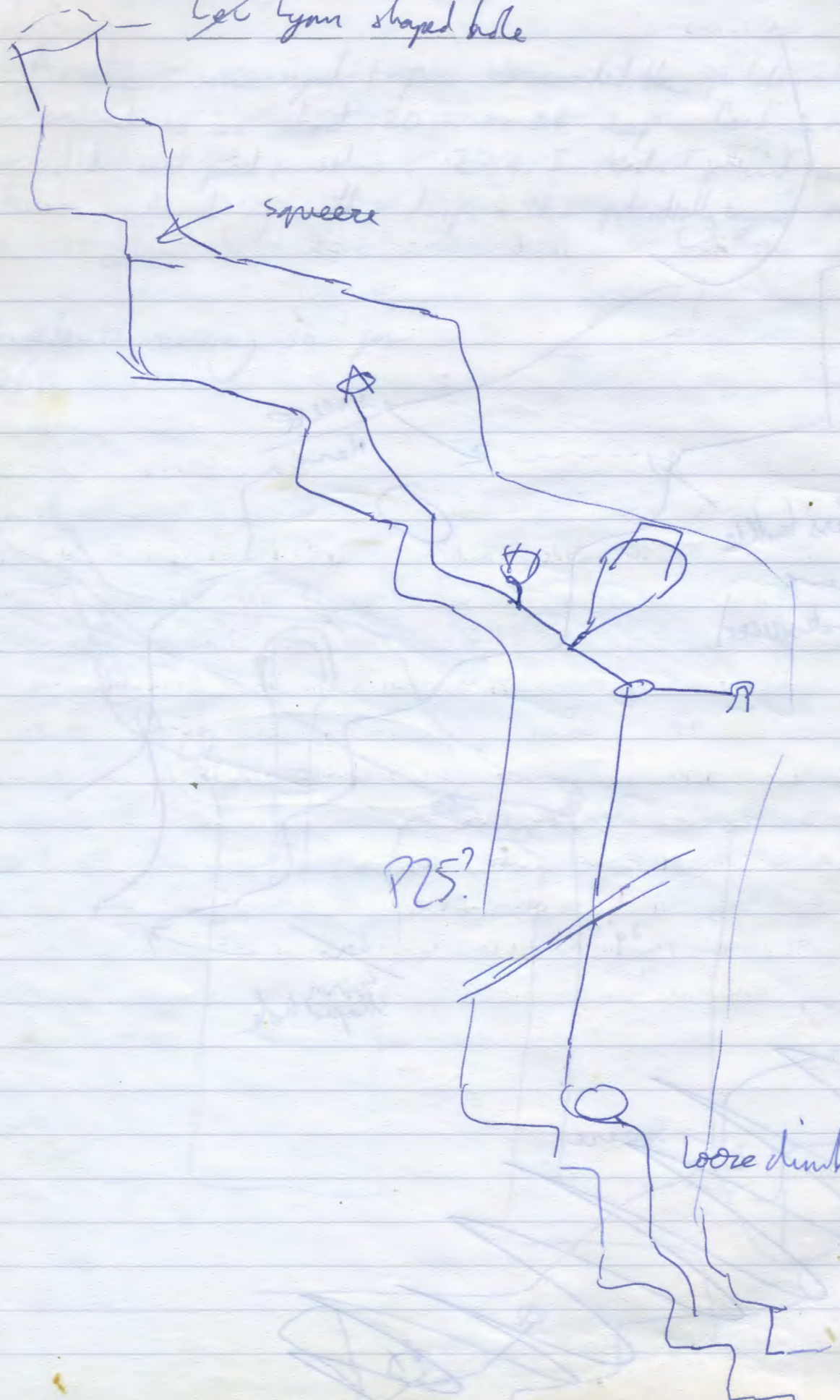
10/9





27

Let your shaped hole



Jo "I've got some carrots" - Mick + Pat

Miley "What are they?"

Everyone "Carrots!"

"I'm a useless sack of shit?" - Rich

"I'm a sack of shit?" - Rich

"I'm a sack of shit?" - Rich

2/7 18-19. 7. 99

Pip + Dick (+JC + Hil)

Wow 12 hours + 350 m deep. I'm tired. Please excuse random nature of this entry. We found a spider! He was just at the top of Perismuts + was obviously just as knackered from the climb as us cuz he didn't move a lot. Dick wants to call him Helga. I got stuck upside down + back to front in the rifts + had to be rescued by JC + Dick. Got back to Arco at 3am + scoffed lots of food. Very tired now. If Dick wants to write more, he can.

- We got lost in clag on way up.
- We got lost in rifts on way out.
- My knee got adjusted by a rock above Gripper.
- We got pinched and squeezed by paradise.
- We got tired!
- We went to bed. Buenos Nochas!

24

Shaft Bashing - South East Area 5

Gorm

Walked past 29/5 (tight rift at the bottom - might be worth Hilti capping) and 64/5 (dropping stakeholder - probably needs scaffolding). Found a new potential entrance:

077/5

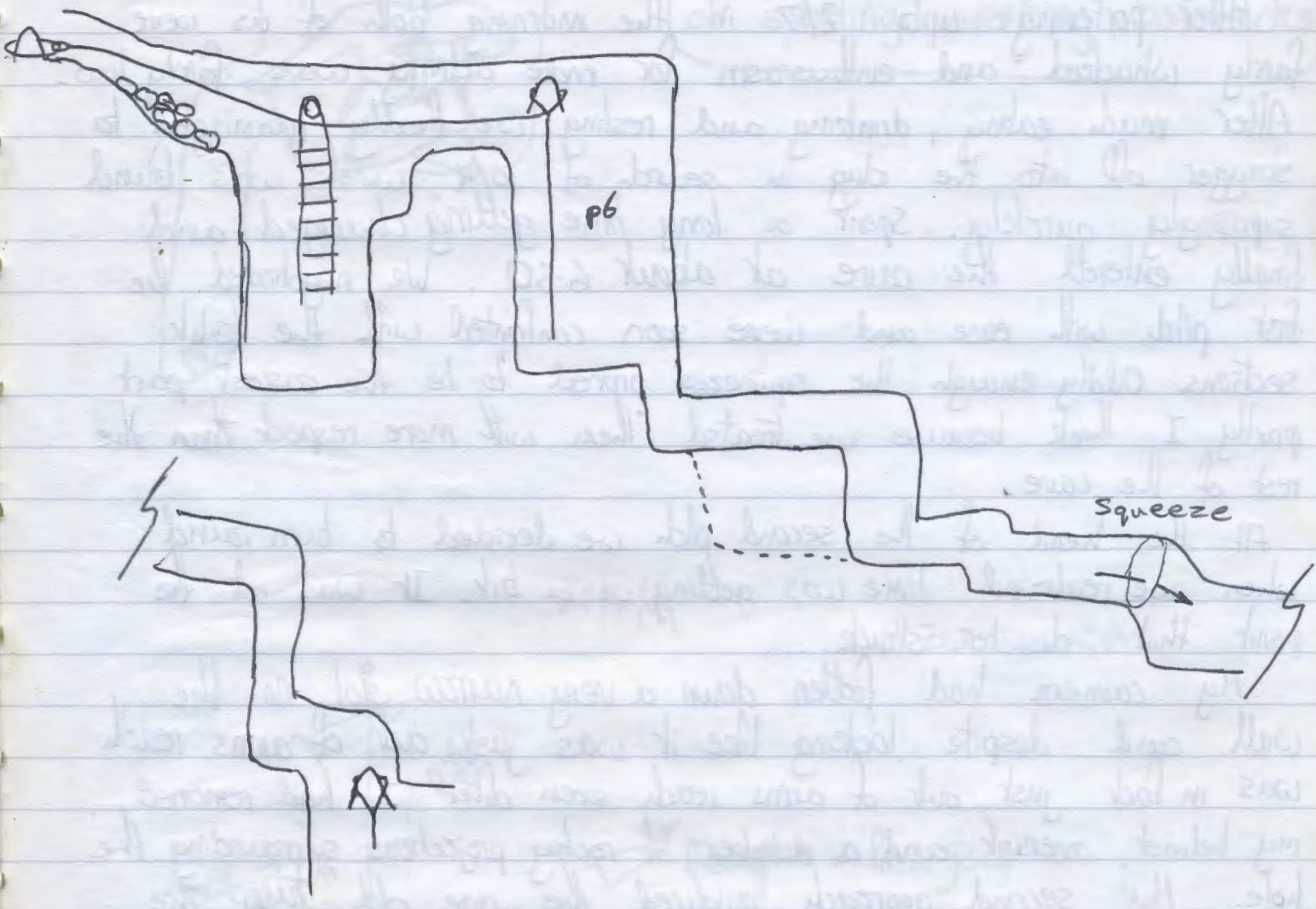
Go past 29/5, and continue along the edge overlooking the Valle Extremera. Cave is in a shallow rocky valley heading on bearing of 60° . Bearings: Cabeza Verde 30° ; Cabeza Lombardia, 64° ; start of prow sticking out into Trea Valley, 116° . ~10m shaft; needs medium sized rock removing to gain entry. Well placed but doesn't look massively promising.

There doesn't appear to be much more in this area.

2/7/99.

Pippa + Rich - Tim has gone to 2/7 entrance carrying gear. Back before 1 pm. Please wait for me - I don't know the way to 10/9 !!

10/9



31

20/7/99

Pip 'n' Dick

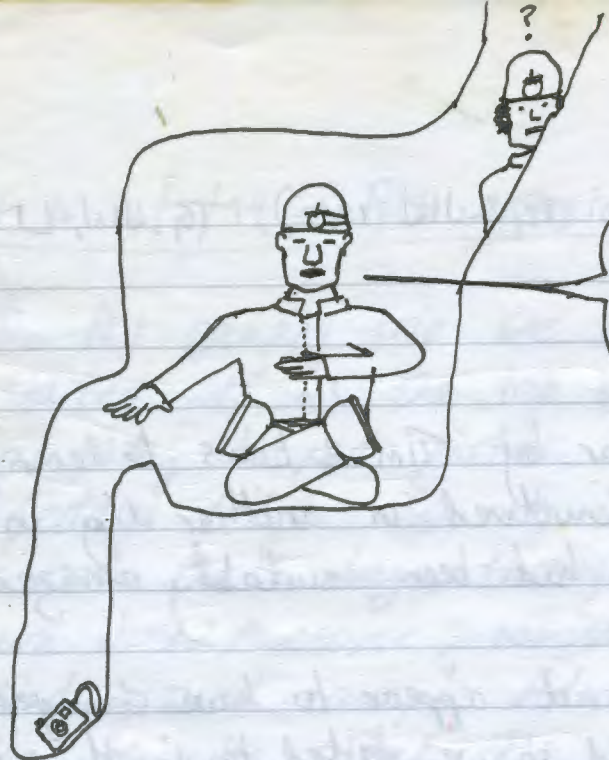
10/9

After portering upto 2/7 in the morning both of us were fairly whacked and enthusiasm for more activity was fairly low. After much eating, drinking and resting we finally managed to stagger off into the clog in search of 10/9, which was found surprisingly quickly. Spent a long time getting changed and finally entered the cave at about 6.30. We negotiated the first pitch with ease and were soon confronted with the tight sections. Oddly enough the squeezes proved to be the easiest part partly I think because we treated them with more respect than the rest of the cave.

At the head of the second pitch we decided to turn round when we realized time was getting on a bit. It was at this point that disaster struck...

My camera had fallen down a very narrow slot in the wall and despite looking like it was just out of arms reach was in fact just out of arms reach even after I had removed my helmet, overcoat and a number of rocky projections surrounding the hole. My second approach involved the age old "turn the air blue levitation trick" and this too failed miserably. Finally a combined effort involving Pip providing light from above and me launching a surprise attack from the side armed with a Hilti rod thingy we finally managed to retrieve the sacred chalice of Dobar...? I mean my camera! We then returned to the clog and approaching darkness to make our way back to Anjo.

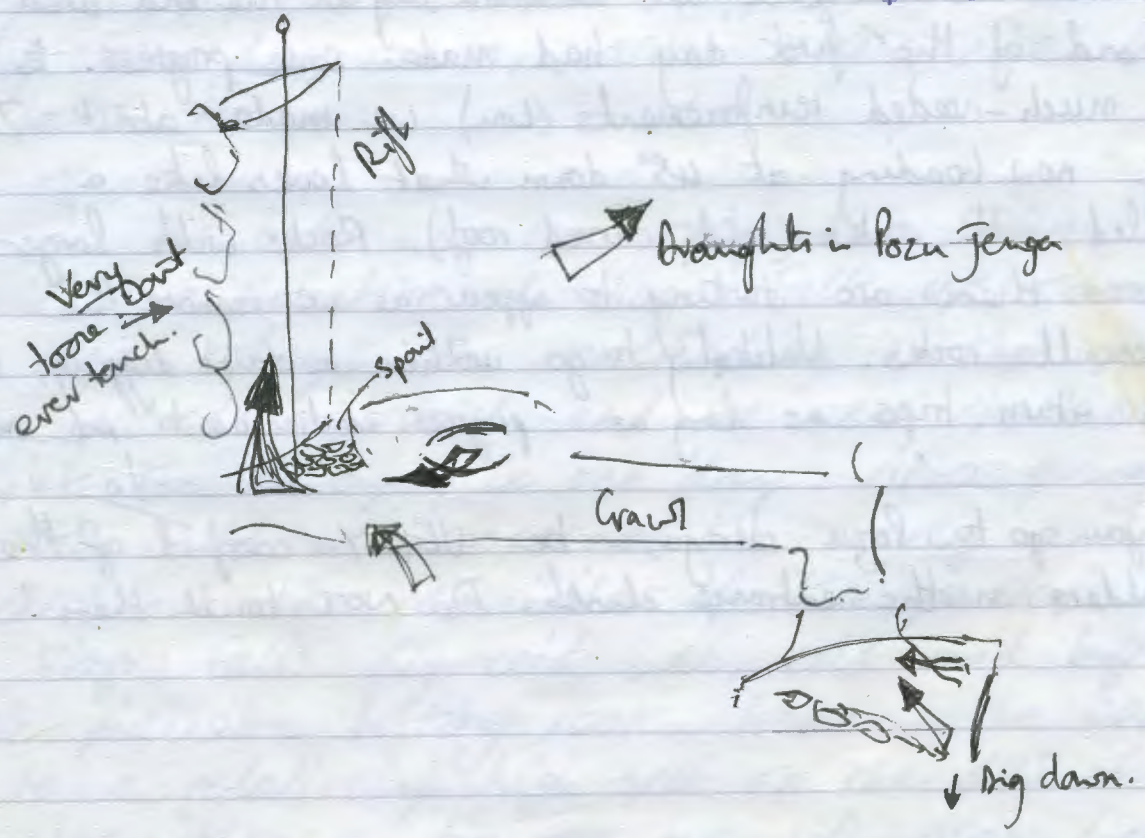
RG



F**king, B***ard, C**ting piece of s**ting, w**king, bo***cks!

21/7/99.

POZU JENGA



TK.

(m?)
19-20/7/99 - Pozu Jenga. TG&JW (19/7), TG, JW, LM (20/7)

See diagram on previous page.

I had been intrigued all year by Tim & Louis's descriptions of Pozu Jenga. I had been involved in another dig in the Valley of the Dry Bones and had been suitably amazed by the stonking draught.

The entrance climb did not appear to have changed significantly (according to Tim) and so we started to dig the most promising ^{lead} ~~dig~~. This first possible way on heads under the cliff that Jenga is at the base of. The situation and draught were promising, but a few hours' excavation later it was looking rather less hopeful. We turned ~~our~~ our attentions to a flat-out crawl with an awkward dig at the end and at the end of the first day had made some progress.

With much-needed reinforcements (Lou) we made about 2m of progress, now heading at 45° down what looks like a passage filled with rocks (solid, curved roof). Rocks with larger spaces between them are starting to appear as we remove the gravel & small rocks. Unlikely to go within a day's digging, but well worth return trips as long as progress continues to be made.

PS. If you go to Pozu Jenga, be VERY careful of the loose boulders on the entrance climb. Do NOT touch them!

18/7/99 to 21/7/99 - first camping trip down 2/7

JC + Hilary

Day 1

The first camping trip. We were the Chosen Ones. Wooooo. This started off as the trip written up by Pip + Rich 6 pages ago, as they helped porter the camping gear down to Armageddon ledge. Beyond this our load increased slightly as we took the 5 bags through Guzano's (!) Grovel, then 7 down Just Awesome, which was aptly named.

Underground camp? Advisors had told me you can't possibly imagine what it's like till you've been there. As a general sceptic I reckoned - been camping, been underground, stick two together, how much else can it be? This was about right. The only bit I wasn't sure what to expect from was the actual sleeping bit, which could have been (a) cold, wet, muddy, squalid and miserable or (b) warm, dry, warm, warm, snug + nice. It was the latter. 😊

Day 2

Our task was to survey the 500m up to the limit of exploration at Viagra Falls upstream, which we began today. The route finding on the upstream route proved nontrivial and we were short of time to complete the surveying in one day. After going as far as we could we suspended the survey and quickly checked out the remainder of the passage to look at Viagra Falls. Big, cold, wet, cold and big. The most plausible bolting route looks to be easy walking up to a relatively high spot on the RHS of the chamber, then a traverse out leftwards (needs bolting). The traverse ends about 10ft below the waterfall and this last bit could be bolted straight upwards - a much shorter easier task than trying to bolt up from floor level. However this place is, as

mentioned, cold, wet & draughty, so you probably wouldn't want to hang around here (long enough to put bolts in by hand - better to use drill).

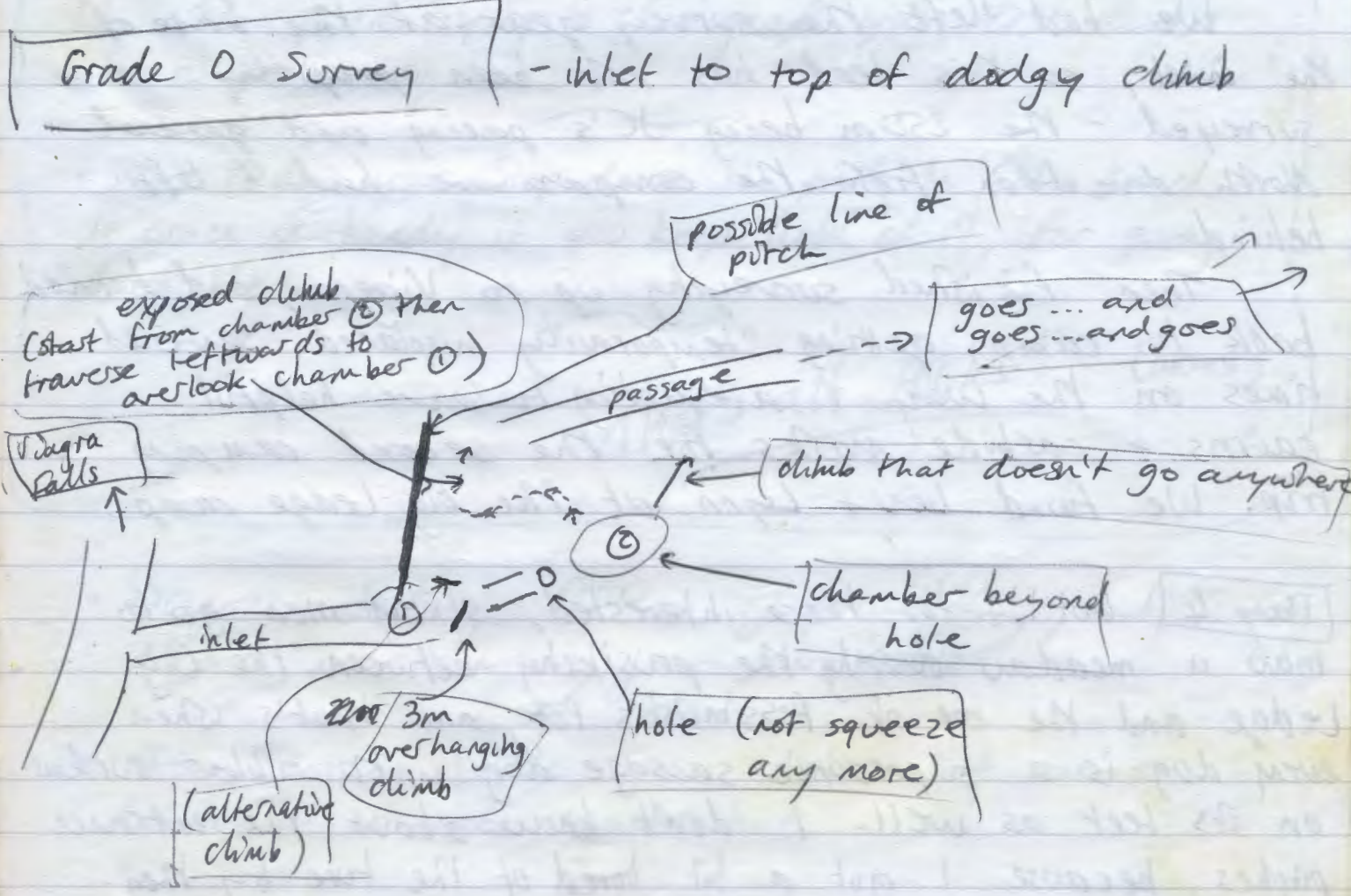
Day 3 finished the surveying up the main stream. We also ~~pushed a couple of inlets~~ and had a closer look at "Fear and Loathing in las Brujas" to see if any other leads went off it. We found a dubious-looking climb down 5m or so (didn't push it) and surveyed up the chamber to a big boulder. Then pushed a couple of inlets on the upstream route. Save the best for last...

(1) Cold feet - so named because we'd been standing around surveying for a while and were ~~F~~ING FREEZING, particularly in the foot region. (JC had no wetsuit socks and had just made himself the survey station by the inlet, standing in just-over-welly-deep water. I had a few minutes earlier been traversing over a bit of rift with a metre or so of water when a crucial foothold went and I found myself lying in a COLD stream saying some very naughty words.) So anyway - cold feet. It didn't go - just ~ m or so, through a brief bit of narrow rift to a chamber. Surveyed.

(2) Stairway to Heaven - God, this is the good bit. Inlet on RHS looking upstream, 50-60 m before Viagra Falls. Walk up inlet 30m or so to a slightly overhanging climb up 3m. We had had a look at this the day before & didn't fancy it, but this time JC was armed with a shing which provided the crucial foothold. I went up the climb and found the water coming out of a small hole, with what appeared to be a chamber beyond. Knocked some shit out of the edges of the hole, to make it squeezable (and fuck - I - wish - I'd - either - persevered - a - bit - more - or - taken -

my-harness-off-able). The chamber beyond had a couple of promising-looking leads, so JC came up to join me, making the wise decision to hammer the living bollocks out of my squeeze before attempting to fit his arse through it.

A climb up a rift ahead ended at roof level and didn't go anywhere. We went up the somewhat more exposed climb overlooking the original inlet chamber. A planned climb up here would definitely warrant a rope, either as a line or to make the whole effort into an SRT pitch.



At the top of the climb a passage led to a dry chamber. A lead up and leftwards was left untouched. We chose a smaller passage ahead and found ourselves

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in a series of phreatic tubes. The line we chose headed more or less North for 250m from top of original climb and ended in a rising sump, viewed as a pool 3m-ish in diameter, with deep, clear green water, draughting towards us. JC's guess is that this could well be the other side of the C4 sinking sump.

As we chose only one line through this series of passages, ignoring leads at several junctions, it is quite possible other routes may go somewhere (even) more interesting - definitely worth a look.

We had left the survey gear at the base of the inlet, so this lead has not been properly surveyed - the 250m being JC's pacing and general North direction from the compass we hadn't left behind.

Then finished surveying up to Viagra, and headed back to camp, getting "temporarily misplaced" several times on the way & attempting to leave helpful cairns + carbide marks for the second camping trip. We found Lev + Lynn at the Big Ledge camp.

Day 4 Out!!! For those interested, sixty men go to mow a meadow during the prositing between the Big Ledge and the top of Pessimist's Pot, and that's when every dog is a supersonic sausage dog with rubber suckers on its feet as well. I don't know about the entrance pitches, because I got a bit bored of the tune by then.

Ace trip. Absolutely fantastic. Big smiley face.

Hilary

TOP TIPS

FOR UNDERGROUND CAMP

So you've heard the ones about drying your furry by wearing it over your Alpinex, and eating lots of food, but did you get the really important stuff??

- When going on a trip orders of magnitude deeper than anything you've ever done before, take your Croll with you.

- If camping with JC, take lots of bogroll. If the stress doesn't make you physically sick, it'll give you a nose bleed (a profuse one) at a really inopportune moment, like when you're trying to choreograph your first dump into a plastic bag.

- Don't throw your Stop down the pitch to Echo Beach. It comes in handy if you keep hold of it, for going down the rope.

That's all folks! (honest)

- Before starting 800m of prussiking, make sure you are wearing your ownivellies.

- After camping fettle your carbide generator before it cements itself shut.

- Make sure you have spare pair of knickers, so that no-one sees your bum should you rip your overalls + furry.

- Before attempting 800m of prussiking, make sure your furry is clean & dry.

~~CAMP~~
CAMP
8 B

BOULDER
CLIMB
DRAG
CLIMB

MAIN TRAVEL ROUTE
SPITUM CLIMB
STAIRS

TRAVEL TO STREAM
STAIRS

SMOOT CLIMB TO CLIMB
INLET

PANS
METRO
BIB
BOUNDARY PASSAGE

BLOW MOUTH

BLOWMOUTH
MUSIC ROOM

LOUSE
ASSAIL

FOLLOW
FOOT PRINTS ON BEACH
LM
INSIDE
FOUR

CAMP TO BLOWMOUTH
CAMP
MOUNTAIN
CAMP

DRAG SEA

CLIMB DOWN
DEAD SEA STROLLS

VIASNA
ON SMOOT

OMEGA AND PITCH

SCHEEY-PICKLES
CAMP COUNCIL

DEEP WATER

BLUWLUKE TO DEEP SEA STROLLS
PS
MACH
IRON
TRAVEL

VIASNA
ON SMOOT
CASCADIA
PSS ON LM SMOOT

CL INLET
WATER

VIASNA
ON SMOOT

CASCADES
"STAIR WAY TO MOUNTAIN"
CASCADIA
WANE
PANTONS

CLIMB
DRAG
CLIMB
SQUIGGLE
PSS
SUMMIT
CLIMB

PHRATIC

OMEGA TO VIASNA

STAIRS
"CL" INLET

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VIASNA
ON SMOOT

Diye - Rededars.

"Contracts" Pto

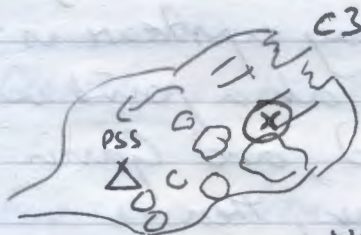
Diye 18/7/99 Time 24:00 pm Place BL Contract / Boat Number C 1

BAG	POSITION	In	OUT	Notes
1	Big Ledge	24:00, 18/7/99	10:00 20/7/99	
2	"C4 INLET"	18:00 19/7/99	18:00 20/7/99	
3	VIAGRA	18:00 19/7/99	19:00 20/7/99	
4	Big Ledge	10:00 20/7/99	12:00 28/7/99	(Two Ties)
5	C4 INLET	18:00 20/7/99	20 26/7/99	(Odd Bag)
6	VIAGRA	19:00 20/7/99	22:00 26/7/99	(as Day Knotted)



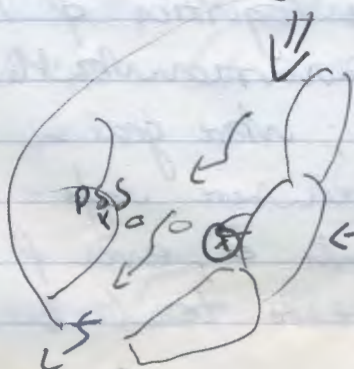
BIG LEDGE. (4)

DIYE BAG LOCATIONS



C4 INLET (5)

WATER FALL



VIAGRA (6)

41

22/7

TG, LM camping 2/7. Gear taken in:

6x Radan detectors to place

2x Radan detectors to wear

1x 15m rope

1x 20m rope

1x bolting kit

25x bolts + nuts.

3x hangers + mallets

8m rising tape

3m deviation string.

(Food, gear, clothes!)

22/7/99.

An open letter.

W
K

~~Dear~~ Estimado Señora Expedite Leader,

I think you are fab! Now that's the obsequious bit over with, I ~~to~~ have a suggestion. If you don't have a strong team for derigging, the pushing upstream is going well but being cut short at a point where not much has been achieved, and Gavin wants to push Egbert next year, then I have a solution to your derigging nightmare: don't. The logistics of leaving gear in situ are not ~~too~~ insurmountable (tie up ropes; grease anchors; store gear in dry places; pack the camp somewhere safe - like where it is...), and the costs ~~a~~, even if writing off some gear, ~~are~~ have to be balanced

go against the opportunity costs ~~to~~ paid otherwise.
Think about all of you, and argue about it.
Lunchy will be well out of range....

go deep Tim.

P.S. I am serious.

24/7/99 HG, RG camping 2/7.

Note to Jo + Pip: We've taken food + gas for ourselves only, you need your own. We have enough washing up liquid + bin liners for all 4 of us. We are short of carbide - have only 2 pigs. Alison will bring some more up from Lagos today if Jo + JC haven't, could you please bring in some extra for us. (an extra 3 pigs?)

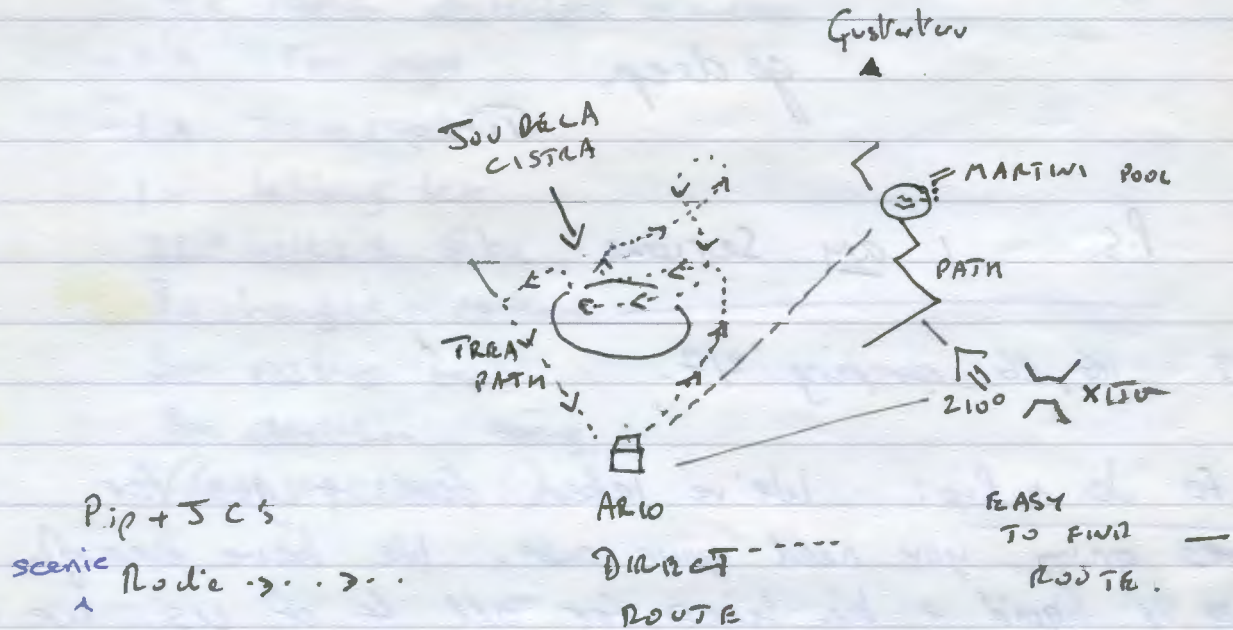
List of pushing gear (bolts etc) we've taken is in back of book. In addition to our rope there is a 30m 11 mil rope already in cave, plus what Tim + Lou took, so I don't think you need to bring any more rope.

General plan: Saturday - down to camp
Sunday - push Viagra bolting project, taking over from whatever Tim + Lou did (if any)
Mon/Tue - continue Viagra // push leads up Stairway to Heaven + 1 lead off Fear + Loathing in Las Brujas (if Coral Corner if still going) - the 4 of us in 2 pairs
Wed - out (if derig?)

See you down there,

Hitary

Not finding the Marini Pool by Committee
Present. Pip + JC.



Pip + JC's

scenic route → → →

10/19 21.7 Pip, Dick + Tim.
I've been forced into writing this up coz everyone else is underground. We got down to the undescended pitch without incident (that I can remember, anyway) + Tim + Dick decided that I should go down first, ostensibly as I hadn't ever been down unexplored passage before, but more probably because the rigging was dodgy. At the bottom of the pitch was a smallish hole with a drop beyond which I made Tim go through first. This lead to a section of rift that was too small (even for Lex, I reckon) for anyone to fit through. Tim + Dick decided to hammer it, while I told them what to do. I went through the squeeze + found a T-junction, one way leading to a nice aven + the other leading to a narsty section of rift which Dick went through + shredded his TSA. Tim didn't get through the squeeze. Ha ha! ← evil cackle.

Shaft Bashing

23/7/99

Gavin

(44)

○ 12/8 This is an old cave. Just upslope from the Martin's pool, ~~on~~ by the route to the top of Cusotatem. Well positioned to drop into upstream 2/7, and the description sounds like it might be easy to force a way on. Worth a visit?

○ 35/9 Approx 50m S of the large stakehole, ~ 50m SE of La Joyada. Alternatively, skirt round from 25/9 to the E. Near the bottom of a karstic area, sloping at $\sim 30^\circ$. 10m shaft

○ 36/9 Near lower end of valley running down from Verdelluenga, containing many stakeholes. Verdelluenga 232° . 5m shaft to snow

○ 37/9 In valley roughly 200m E of twin peak of Cusotatem (called Cabeza del Burro on the Mapa Topografico Nacional). Verdelluenga 220° , Curriente 150° (as far as peaks are visible from the entrance). Walk down to snowplug; two daylight shafts enter from above. There might be a way on past the snow.

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On Names

I've noticed a number of discrepancies in naming between the Advados and Mappa Topográfica Nacional maps:

- MTN's Cabeza del Burro is Guatitero's twin peak, whereas Advados's Cabeza del Burro is further west.
- MTN uses the name Los Salmontas for the ridge marking the southern edge of the Top Camp area, whereas Advados calls it Los Cabrones; MTN's Cabrones is further west.
- MTN calls the F7 bowl Jons de Peña Blanca, whereas Advados calls it Jons de Jorcada; Advados uses the name Jons de Peña Blanca for the bowl to the south of F2.

When describing locations of camps, please make clear which map you are working from to avoid ambiguity.

GSP 25.7

Pip + Gavin.

Good trip. Found another 10m pitch.

New GSP Rigging Guide

P15 Pendula

20m rope

2 bolts at top of Flying Rebellés; deviation at -5; bolt for pull onto ledge; thread backup.

P10 ascent

15m rope

ladder useful

3 spike belays; a bolt at the top would be useful

P4G

Serendipity

55m rope

Spike backup; 2-bolt Y-hang; bolt repleat at -10m; spike deviation at -25m; spike deviation at -30m

thread belay at start of traverse; two spike belays on traverse; thread belay at end of traverse.

P810 35m rope Bolt and spike Y-hang; deviation at -7m

P6 Blind Pat  Spike belay

P6  Spike and thread Y-hang

P30, Tumbling Dice I 40m rope Chockstone backup; thread for traverse; Z-bolt Y-hang; deviation at -10m; deviation at -15m.

P70, Tumbling Dice II 80m rope Spike belay; spike belay; bolt belay; deviation at -2m; deviation at -4m; spike belay for scramble down boulder at bottom

P5 10m rope Spike backup; ~~bolt belay with rope protector -> needs a second bolt for Y-hang~~ -> Z-bolt Y-hang

(47)

20/7/99 to 23/7/99 Second Camping Trip down 2/7 Lynn & Lev

Day 1

Finally I am capable of making it on a 2/7 camping trip. My desires to do so had matured somewhat into actually wanting to do some pushing at the bottom, but basically I just wanted to go down such a deep and legendary cave.

Unfortunately pushing new cave was not to be, but the novelty of camping underground kept at least me entertained.

Our passage through the familiar rifts was slow, hampered by the four tackle sacks, one of which was Satan's own. Eventually we were beyond the cave I knew and pitch followed pitch followed pitch until I arrived in a heap on the Big Ledge.

Camping underground was not nearly as unpleasant as Lev had led me to believe. As Hilary said I've been underground and I've been camping - just stick the two together. Okay you do go to bed expecting everything to be brighter and warmer in the morning, but the food is better than on the surface and you couldn't wish for warmer, snuggler pits.

Day 2

After eating lots for breakfast we started the journey upstream and after 3 hours got as far as Echo Beach. Several hours and several lunches later we had still not been able to find the way on and had to return to camp hoping that Tim and Lou had arrived to share the responsibility of the next day's route finding.

Day 3

Alas no visitors, we would have to face Echo Beach without reinforcements.

We worked systematically around Echo Beach in search of the Dead Sea or a reasonable 'bold step' and eventually found a route that lead through the boulders. The static pool was much further than we had expected and the 'bold step' was not bold, especially compared to the bloody scary leaps that Lev had been contemplating the day before.

The rest of the route finding was slow, but eventually we managed to reach the end of the cave. Well nearly the end, neither of us had the energy or desire ~~to~~ confirm by sight that the roar we could hear was indeed Viagra Falls. Lev climbed Stairway to Heaven while I tried to avoid the rocks and rope that he kept throwing at me. After he had descended the rope that he had rigged we decided that was quite enough caving for one day and started back for camp. Deep Waters was deeper than advertised but the return route finding was not too bad, and Tim & Lou had the kettle on when we arrived at camp.

Day 4

We tried to talk Tim & Lou through our route finding mistakes in the hope that they might have a more productive camp and started to prussik our way out of the cave. By the time we reached Gusano Grovel my shoulders were too painful to move and I had to dose myself

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with painkillers and fail to help Lev with the tackle bag from hell. I will leave him to describe their route through the rifts. Despite not finding any new cave (except mistaken deviations from the route) I really enjoyed the trip and look forward to pushing deep caves in the future.

LSM

While not finding any new cave (except perhaps one beautiful little descent to the stream at the 2nd inlet in the Dead Sea Strolls), I did manage to find two completely novel ways of hanging oneself up:

1. Elbow pad clipped through prussik bag krabin tight squeeze in the rift series.
2. Footloops clipped through 7th Heaven deviation Krab.

I also discovered that just because you managed to get a tackle bag through the 1st squeeze in paradise rift it doesn't mean it will fit through the 2nd, and you may well have to unspool it in between the two.

Also, I discovered a new way to get an uncooperative tackle sack through 7th Heaven squeeze - clip a jammer to the 2nd pitch rope with a pulley on it and run your long constraint through the pulley to the tackle bag, then jump off the ledge into the little hollow there until the bag comes through.

or it rips to shreds in a satisfying manner.

Upstream route finding tips:

Edro beach: For "route down through boulders" read "climb down through boulders and several climbs up" & for "bold step (worse on the return)" read "easy step across".

Read sea stralls (2nd inlet): For "traverse along the rift" read "walk along the passage."

Lei

22/7/99 to 25/7/99 camping down 217 Tim + Lei.

Thursday -> Over-planned late start went wonderfully according to plan and at 5-30 pm loaded up with food, rope and dunes drums full of warm clothing we headed in. An uneventful trip in landed us on the big ledge in good time for food. The last two pitches down from the crash pad did not disappoint my memory from last year - observing down in the darkness and huge space is still the most fantastic piece of canyoning EVER.

We hadn't really decided what to do - I don't like streamways - (especially when they are 24 hours away from knowing what the weather is doing) and the prospect of spending two days cold and wet hollering up a waterfall definitely did not appeal.

Consequently we had half decided to look at coral corner the first day and if I could get used to the stream, go to viagra the second.

It turned out that Lynn and Lei had had a lot of trouble route finding

(5)

so we spent as long as possible discussing the difficulties with even in the hope that we would have more success.

Friday - A fantastically early start for us meant we left camp at 12.30pm armed with ^{the} route description and Lynn and Lewis advice (as well as rope and descending drums full of Buffalo Jackets + binoculars!)

The route finding went surprisingly well and the coming was fun and spectacular although as expected I felt uneasy about the water. Echo beach was wonderful and ~~us~~ thanks to Lynn + Lewis advice we found the way to the Dead Sea with no problems.

The streamway beyond Oregon pitch really intimidated me and it was with great relief that we left it at Carl corner.

Turn ~~over~~ Tim easily climbed the pitch and put the 30metre rope on for me. At the top the passage was beautifully decorated with popcorn and unusually for the pitch - stalagmites. We rigged the short pitch down and Tim let me go first.

This was the first time I had been ~~the~~ the first down a pitch and landing on the proboscis mud was amazing. I walked ~~around~~ ^{around} into tall, wide, decorated rifts, passing a crack on the right. Tim followed and we explored + surveyed 120 metres of passage. A stream rift ~~led~~ led back to the main passage with pneumatic tubes above. A side passage led back to the ground at the base of the pitch.

The large rift passage ended in an over with a waterfall. After surveying Tim attempted to climb it. There was no protection and my belaying was pointless which soon became a cause for concern when the climb became harder 2 metres above the ground. In a bold attempt ^{to} reach easy climbing Tim raised higher, realising that it didn't get ~~any~~ easier a desperate attempt was

made to place a sling which ended with the sling at the bottom of the waterfall. I don't think I have ever seen Tim so worried.

I directed him down 5 metres of desperate down climbing with a confidence I certainly did not feel. We were both extremely relieved when he reached the ground safely. Bolting not needed.

The top of ^{the} waterfall ~~is~~ does look good - we could clearly see a rift passage continuing ~~at the top~~.

We had noticed a large passage above the first climb and I spotted a crack up through ~~the~~ boulders into it. It turned out to be an enormous alcove with really spectacular views, and well worth the effort. In addition, from the alcove, looking up, we identified a large passage at an even higher level, and realised that coral corner was actually 2 inlets; one coming directly into the chamber from high up and one coming down the waterfall. We are also fairly certain that bolting up the waterfall (4 bolts) will lead to the connect with the large passage we saw from the alcove. All in all we were pretty excited about coral corner and decided to return to it if we had time.

It was getting late so we placed radar detectors (1st set in the entrance rifts), and returned to camp, late, exhausted, but happy.

Saturday / Sunday

Despite having felt slightly less intimidated by the stream on the way back, the last thing I wanted to do was go on up the water, watery stream passage to vicreg. In fact after the long day spent at coral corner and the late night I didn't really want to go upstream at all!

We both felt tired from the previous day and knowing the physical and mental demands that going to attempt bolting up vicreg would be, felt very tempted to return instead to the promising lead at coral corner.

We also knew that everyone else would feel the same and that

(53)

if we didn't at least look at viagra and if ~~to~~ possible, start boiling it, it would probably ~~not~~ ^{not} be done.

So, it was with a great deal of reluctance that I put my canvas kit on and at 12.45 (rather remarkably early start,) we set out.

An hour and a quarters ~~later~~ ^{earlier} we arrived at road corner to pick up all the gear. For the hot blue (I wasn't intimidated by the stream although I was decidedly nervous about going on upstream.

(The route finding ~~wasn't until~~ ~~the route~~)

We reached Deep Waters and Tim made an instant decision that he did not want to set wet. After a little deliberation he was tetering on two boulders in the middle of the stream and hammering in a bolt on the far wall. Next followed a mad (American) lassoing (how do you spell that?) session until he hooked a spike with a sling and Tim ~~set~~ scrambled/climbed elegantly up to 'safety'. A spike was rigged with ~~our~~ ^{our} one rope and I prussiked up; dry! We traversed over the wet rift and continued, dry, up the stream. I still felt uneasy about the stream and then we had our first route finding problem looking too early for the way up into fear + looking in Las Brujas. 15 minutes later it was sorted and soon we were passing the ch inlet and despite the water I enjoyed climbing the cascades ~~into the chamber~~ ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~Viagra~~. The chamber was fantastic, and the waterfall really impressive. My fee forgotten I concentrated on helping Tim work out the best way up.

I halt on how of shining my powerful electric light, looking at the fall from different angles suggested that the left side looked the best, ~~dry~~. Before making a final decision we went back and tried climbing up ~~before~~ ^{before} the chamber in case there was an ~~easy~~ easier way up and round.

A quick assessment suggested that it could take time and already it was getting late - if we were to have any chance of getting to the top we would have to start soon.

We decided on the left side, accessible by walking behind Viagra and scrambling up to a dry relatively undraining ledge. We dressed warmly; knives and buffalo jackets and boots in addition to normal caving gear, and at 7:00 p.m. Tim ~~started~~ used a sling for his first gear and then started on the first bolt. I ~~can't~~ describe the next 8 hours, at least not easily. I think it was probably one of the most intense 8 hours either of us have spent underground. The bolting was very very difficult. The rock wasn't always good, the angle ^{was} awkward, the decisions were difficult and crucial, and the waterfall was right there. We had two breaks, but basically Tim worked consistently and I belayed, concentrating intensely at crucial moments, and during the 10 to 30 ~~minutes~~ minutes that each bolt took to hammer, ~~and~~ welding and listening to Viagra, using ridiculous measures to keep warm despite all the layers of clothing. We could not hear each other ~~at 3 a.m. Tim disappeared~~. Other because of the roar of the waterfall but managed to communicate with hand ~~signals~~ signals and one or two word instructions of "slack" or "take in".

At 3 a.m. Tim disappeared over the top following a mad lassoing of what I found out later was an out^{er} right spike that he pulled up on to reach the top. It took an hour to get down, and at one point I had to lower Tim down to collect a blender as he had run out.

Eventually Tim came down, and we both decided we were too exhausted to go up and push it. Tim had looked at the top to see a cascade that could be crossed but needed a line, and beyond - bell spiney rift passage going into the distance.

We stopped in the left inlet on the way back to cut the bottom

(55)

off the rope to put on Deep Waters, and at Coral corner to sort out gear.

We woke Rich and Kiley up at about 7.30 (or was it 8.00?) and they were very excited.

We slept 3 hours and then started eating, deciding perhaps stupidly that it was better to go out during the day than at night. We left camp at 3.30 p.m. for what has to be one of the most ~~exhausting~~ ^{exhausting} trips out, and the walk down was pretty miserable too. But it has to have been ~~one~~ the best trip I've ever done and on the way back from Niagra I was even convinced that the streamway in upstream 2/2 is the most fantastic piece of cave passage EVER. After 4 days intense canyoning the cave inlet leads had been left ~~untouched~~ untouched and still going, Coral corner was looking really good and the ^{end} of upstream 2/7 ~~is~~ now an open lead at the top of Niagra, but most importantly Deep Waters can now be avoided and it is possible to get to the end dry.

Happy Pushing. Cri. (Lou Maurice).

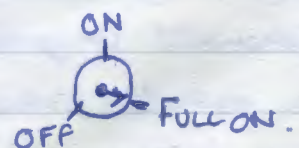
26/7/94 Lev & Granish down GSP

Good trip. Found another 90m pitch.

Lev

Brilliant Expedition week - Thanks everyone, and Bye!
Bolting up Niagra falls? Very Very Very Very Intense.

Tom.



25/7/00 Cave Radio test - Systeme Nicola (aka 'Dolophone').

At 7:30pm the surface party (Lee, Lynn) started listening at the bottom of the TON del Tullayer which was expected to give the best results (shortest distance through rock to the underground set). At 8:15 after no contact ~~was made~~ (agreed rendez-vous time was 8pm) we started to wander around and at around 8:45 started to pick up signals from the underground party (Do). These were fairly clear but not far above the background noise (mainly ~~receiver~~ receiver noise not Loran or lightning). At this point we switched from the portable magnetic dipole loop antenna to the earth current injection system. Four wires of unspun 40m were run out in approximately perpendicular directions and connected to pegs which were ~~was~~ hammered about 15cm into ~~the~~ the most convenient patch of vegetation & watered with about 250ml of water. As soon as the 1st pair was connected immediate 2-way communication was achieved, which was very clear and intelligible in both directions. On the surface the only impediment to reception was the occasional lightning strike which lost the odd word. I'll have to let Jo add her ^{impressions} ~~side~~ but I think any problems she had receiving me were due to my poor radio manner and not the sets themselves. Acceptable results were achieved on all settings but best results occurred with the underground transmitter coupling transformer in position 2 (indicating ^{reasonably} ~~good~~ ~~coupling~~ diode conductance) and the surface one in position 1 (indicating good conductivity, surprising under the circumstances).

If turns out B was late in for the rendez-vous

52

and seems likely we started picking her up as soon as she began transmissions. This is ~~quite~~ impressive as we were not near the bottom of the sea at that time and it seems likely we would have ~~been~~ been able to communicate from any part of the sea, and possibly from even further afield.

These were only prototype units for the new design - later models should be even easier to set up and more cave-proof, and extra features such as talk-through box interlocking are planned. With these ~~improvements~~ ^{improvements} I would say the radios would be a great help with our explorations in the area.

Lev.

ESP

Lev & Gavin 28/7/99

Bad trip. Jacked because of high water levels.

10/9

Alison + Lynn

26/7/99

My first trip of expedition this year. We got underground just as a thunderstorm was starting. We reached the ~~the~~ squeeze at the bottom (rip squeak?) but decided against going through. We hammered it for a bit, but then decided neither us really knew how to hammer + headed back to the surface. We reached the surface to find wet rucksacks (& clothes in Lynn's case). As soon as we walked over the first rise we both got a big shock. Something very

odd had happened to Anio! It looked like it had suffered a huge mud slide or ~~etc~~ something similarly extreme. Eventually as we began to walk back up the hill to Anio we noticed small patches of white pellets - ice! As we got closer to Anio it became clear it had been hit by a huge hailstorm, ~~etc~~ + the maltoser size hail stones were now lying like snow everywhere. It was an amazing sight.

Alison

Random note: Z/S sounded like it was talking quite a lot of water during the recent wet weather.
 Len

Rich to Hilary "So, are we going to see your knickers?"
 Hilary "I wish".

To help place this in context:

The predictive "C4" inlet is up to ream Z/7 now has some suitable names:

The passage is a whole is "Bare Arse Inlet"
 and the song at the L.O.R. is "Full Moon Rising".
 and the climb/pitch itself is still "Stairway to Heaven"

Even though this has no Ben Exposure co-notations.

(58)

Find (Derigging / Pushing / Surveying) Camp. JC, Rich, Pip, Mils, Jo.

Day 1: Blagged my way onto Pip + Jo's Big Ledge carrying trip, as I was keen to tie up the "C4 Inlet" by surveying and looking for continuations. The passage ends in a rising slope "Full Moon Rising" and is incredibly windy for much of the way suggesting there's something big in the area. Both Pip + Jo seemed glad to have me along, which would make a BC party of 5.

In the rifts it became clear that Pip and I were going to dangle between one picnic site and the next so Jo shuttled off with the radios (See elsewhere), No red leadlines before camp except from the hang-ups on the main leg of Sudr Avenue 2, where Pip's Stry was converted into a "Go" and the re-division on 7th Heaven mysterious moving to the bottom of the pitch. I talked Pip through placing a keyway replacement from a ledge just after the pitch breaks out of the choss. This may warrant a return visit as there seemed to be ^{passage way} ^{upstream} of this ledge. CDROPS INTO TOP AND OF THE HEAVEN DOWNED SCUMPS MAY BE POSSIBLE TO GET TO TOP OF MOUNT-MAN CANS BUT NOT V. PROMISING

MW Tim + Lou at Arranged down with their tools at clearing-do, which were captured by Rich + Miley at camp then they muddled in a 4 am with a couple of hundred metres of passage upstream of Uvagra under their belts.

Day 2. Survey "C4 Inlet".

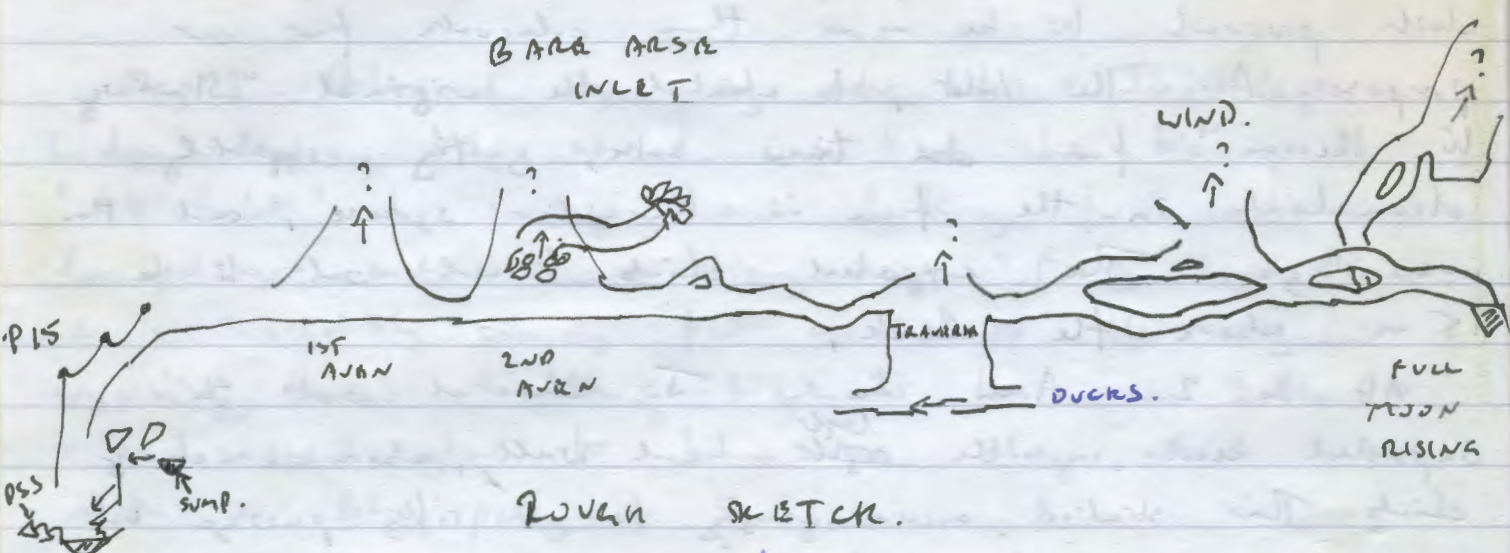
Early start (4 am!), and a showish walk in to the end. Pip took a serious dunking at the Blow-hole but still did not swear. Found the survey instruments at Far + Laalking, but as neither Jo nor Pip could read

the instruments, To get a quick idea in "Boots" which proved to be more than adequate for our purposes. At the inlet, I climbed the original "Striving to Heaven" for old times sake, getting completely stranded in the face in the water squeeze, and then we began. The exposed climb proved out to be 15m above the deck.

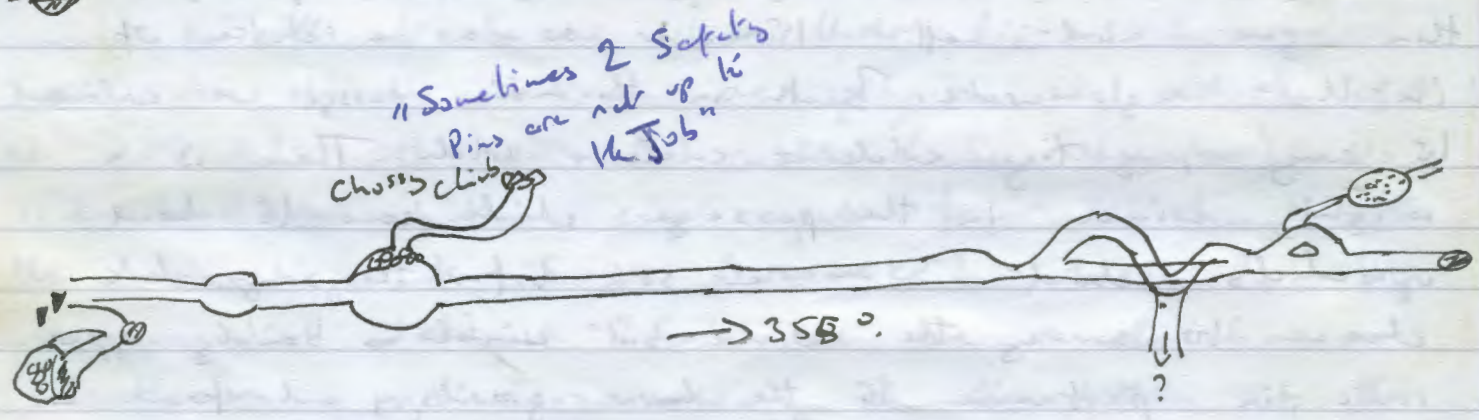
At the 2nd Arm chamber To checked out the unposted level on the ~~right~~^{left} hand wall, above a chossy climb. This started encouragingly as a rilly passage but then gave out after 15m or so as a choke of infill + conglomerate. Back in the main passage we continued to swing, getting colder + colder + colder. There is a mighty wind in the passage which runs to level upwards about 30m or so before the swing. We chose to survey the wider, but windier + bendy upper route, in preference to the lower grounds, and found 2 routes to even higher levels which were not pushed to conclusions. These lie about 20 and 40m back from the swing and could be with further investigation. The -20m climb is a muddy ground ~~leading~~ from the lower passage, leading to a clean-washed climb (despardon), then a squeeze down into a mud floored chamber. This could be climbed further into rilly passage above. A squeeze under a flake (the despardon climb) bypasses the grey about 10m to the chamber.

The other level was at -40m was a sloping upwards passage I found when trying to locate a good survey station. This is directly above the point where the upper level narrows to pass on either side of a flake in the middle of the passage. We did not investigate the stream level (-5m) below main passage, but this looked pretty horrid on the night party trip.

(61)



ROUGH SKETCH.



On the way back to camp, we braved Tim's Bypass to Reef under that vein out to be fairly tricky if you have nice pads to pull you onto dry land. Fortunately Rich + Nily were waiting for us on water to the right still up Virginia to help us out.

Day 3: We hired our ^{water} trip to coincide with the Uigra veins return. Sounded like a promising combination but too long a trip from Big Ledge and a substantial goal for future expeditions. Instead we turned our plans to the "Respectable Chubs" off level down. I should know by now that if Tim fails to push something then it's all probability it's a bit rough, and so it proved to be, possibly even more so with the rising water levels. A couple of

well placed ropes got me about 1/2 way up, but I was heavily gripped, so I got my first chance to bolt climb.

Using the tried and tested ~~new~~ technique of making it up as you go along I soon had a pair of rope chokers, and to the ~~as~~ choral accompaniment of Jo and Pip I merrily started placing bolts. Bolt no. 1 was pretty good, Bolt number 2 had a beautiful surround of cracks, Bolt number 3 was also good. At this point I was about to jack as we could not locate any more hangers, where-upon a brain wave struck me, Use the hanger from the 1st bolt. The added bonus with this was that I also used the rope strikers from this bolt so I what else you did not need to tie new ones for each bolt.

By now I was really into the swing of things, but the ringing and the enquiries about my stroke were annoying, so on the placing of the 5th bolt, when I was about 1/2 way up and maybe could place to move over to the chock proper, I decided off to stare off Jo's hypothermia. The trip out was lovely with the others sprinting off to pick up chock donations, and me hilly up the rigging.

Upstream rigging (in addition to last year) in situ include.

Oregano pitch: Bolt back-up, large round spike, beta round spike for 6m main body: Probably needs wire in main hang.

Card Case - Up pitch ~ 20m, Wire round houlder.

Down pitch ~ 6m, Tape round houlder, large round spike.

Wharfall pitch - 8m, Rope on bolt. &

Strawberry to Meana, P15. - Tape main hang (rubs) 2 large back-ups.

Viagra Falls. 40m rope on pitch + traverse.

(63)

Day 4 = Rigging Camp, Rigging to 1st Edge Floor → To be
continued.

Mode of this is described elsewhere.

Current Status of Rigging.

Upstream & All ropes left in
See Letter for details

Camp. Pile out.

Food, Fuel, Pans, + Kerosene can.

See Letter for details

Pilchus Rerigged + checked up to Cemetery Gates

Rossy Crucifixion derigged + Ropes at Pilchus - level.

Details of ropes + rigging Letter.

Tackle Bags.

→ First Edge Floor 2 medium + 1 light
+ Bag needed for Ropes.

Armageddon Lady 1 bag + fettle.

Pessimists Top 4 Bags.

Gripper Top 2 Bags.

1 Bag at extreme.

JL

Radio

Just a brief note, since Lev has described in a fair amount of detail what happened. I spent some time (after arriving at around 7:45pm) investigating where would be the best place to (a) sit & (b) put the ~~the~~ wires. In the end (after much faffing) I settled on the pool below (rather ~~than~~ than at) camp, and the other site was the pool above camp (where water is collected). As directed, I weighted the ~~the~~ electric fence tape down with stones, & connected the wires to the radio and talked rubbish into it for a while. It was around 8:25 before I had everything set up, so there was some delay before Lev & Lynn started to pick up my belongings at about 8:45. Lev came through loud & clear and I was very impressed with the sound quality. Lev could hear me best with the switch on setting 2. Lev's voice was clear on settings 1 & 2, with a significant loss of clarity on setting 3. Setting 1 was marginally better than setting 2.

Thanks, Lev, ~~see~~ for sorting out the kit. A successful experiment!

Radon

There is ~~one~~ one last detector left to ~~be~~ collect: the control in the shakshale. If Lev could collect this & seal it & record the times ^{& date} that would be great - otherwise please delegate someone else to do so (letting them know exactly where it is!) Thanks to Lev, Lynn, Tim & Lou for helping with the experiment.

Other bits & pieces

i) Paul's tent is in the gear store, wrapped in blue bin liners &

(65)

sealed with gaffa tape. I think he's willing for it to be used if it's needed, so long as it's taken care of.

2) Drawings! I'd like these for the log book so please keep them safe.

3) Thanks to everyone who has been here during the first half of expedition. The hard work and enthusiasm of everyone has paid off, with hundreds of metres of new passage! Thanks for calming me down when I got too stressed.

4) There are various installments of survey notes in Daven drums still down the cave. Please be aware that these need extracting & keeping in a very safe place!

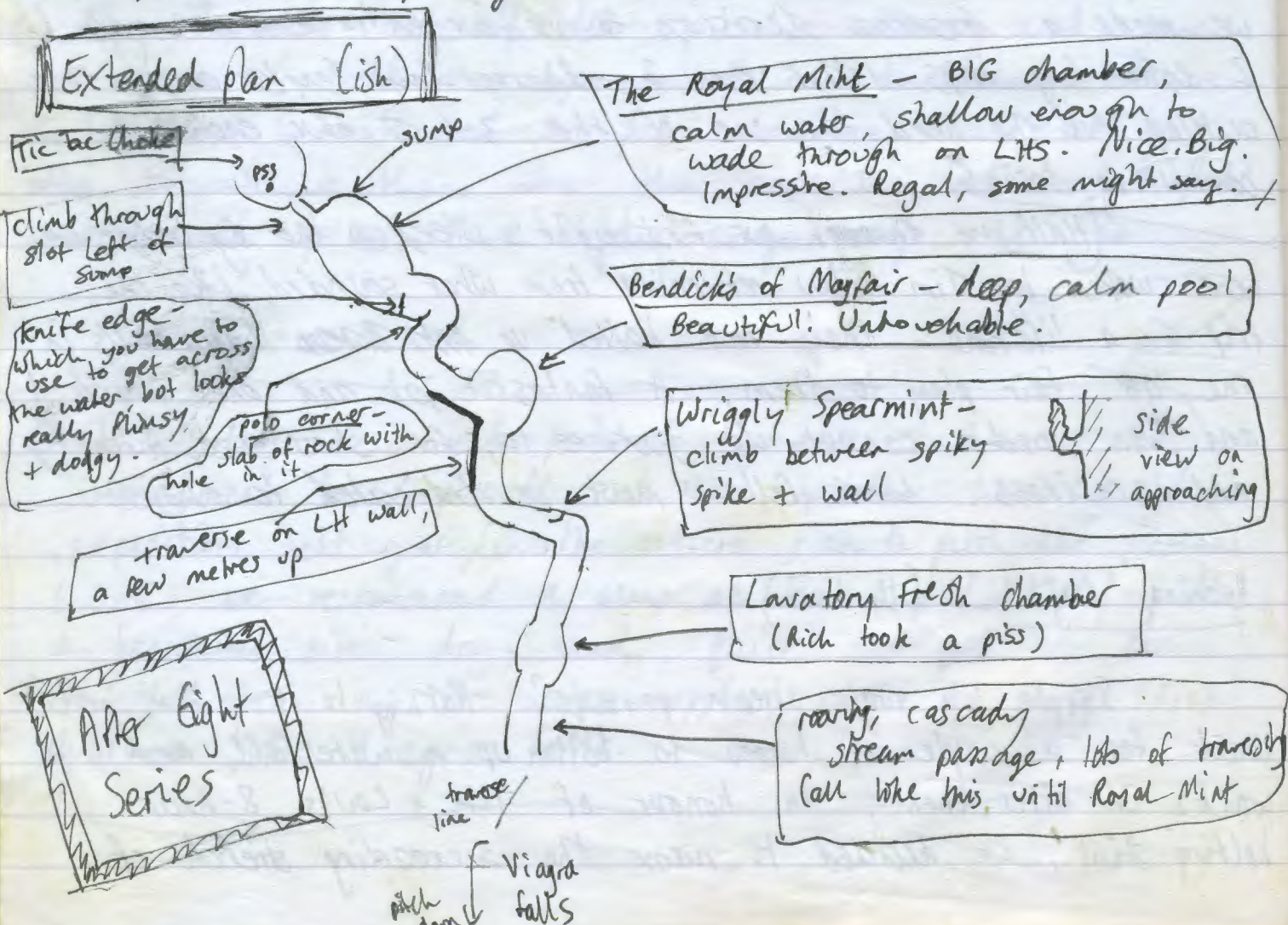
5) Poo. There is a Daven drum still down 2/7 that has been "sacrificed" to be a shit container. When it has been emptied, please disinfect & mark as contaminated so it ~~is~~ can be thoroughly dealt with back in Oxford.

6) My thermals (blue top with zip, blue bottoms) and a pair of red socks (all named) are still in a tacklebag. Please could these be extracted & put somewhere where I'll be able to retrieve them when the expedition returns to Oxford?
That's all folks. Cave safely, & go deep. Jo

* This distance is a real pain in the arse and a serious impediment to exploration at the upstream limit. If expeditions next year / in the future plan to push the upstream L.O.E., we recommend a camp at Fear and Loathing - it's a beautiful site, dry, sandy, quiet and yet not far from the streamway for water supply, and a very short distance before Viagra Falls.

passage "After Eight" - and a misty theme was born for naming various features along the way.

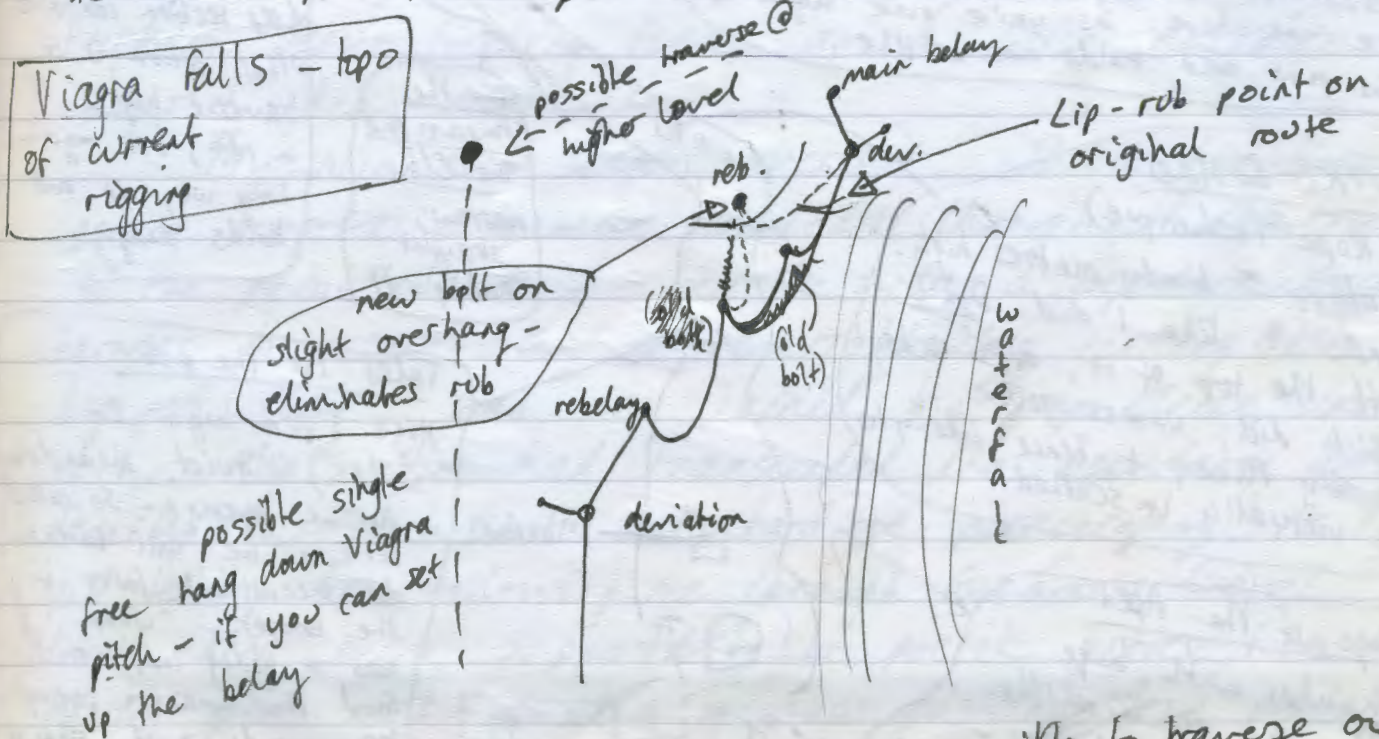
This is a beautiful stretch of passage, "quite possibly" (definitely in Rich's opinion) the nicest of any we have seen in 2/7. This first day we surveyed 220m of passage to a short boulder choke. The first section was roaring streamway, really sporting, with most progress made by traversing and climbing up cascades. This then gives out into a huge tranquil chamber where the waterway is wide enough to be calm + sedate. The Royal Mint. The water emerges from a short sump at the far end of the chamber, but a slot on the left can be climbed into Tic Tac Choke. Here we checked out a route through the choke, left a P.S.S. and proclaimed it an appropriate temporary L.O.E.



Pushing "day" 2 (20 hours)

With a mammoth trip in mind, we were on a mission to stoke ourselves with as much food as it was possible to consume, humanly or otherwise, before leaving. This was helped by the fact that we'd made our 4 night into 3 & hence had an extra dinner - and the soon-to-be-immortalised (as soon as we work out the missing verses) lines "Italian herbs and garlic / Pasta 'n' Sauce for tea (and breakfast)" were born. (it goes to the tune of the lumberjack song) Rich was completely unimpressed by my failure to pack more varied flavours of the "repulsive mshg" that is Pasta 'n' Sauce, but I told him to shut the fuck up and eat, which he did because he's so scared of me.

Arriving at Viagra Falls once more, our first task was to eliminate a bad rub point at the top, choosing a better route for the rope.



NB for a more straightforward pitch, it may be possible to traverse out above the current main belay to a nice-looking free-hang site - however we didn't fancy the climb, so went for the minor-alteration option.

I owe one to Rich for shivering his nuts off in an apparently completely ineffective orange survival bag, while he let me rig the traverse + pitch using the 40m rope, hammer in an extra bolt + denig the old rope to tape traverse - knowing how keen I am to get some rigging done + build up my experience. I had a fantastic time indulging my riglust, and dangling off a bolt I had just hammered in myself while hanging off the belay above was something else.

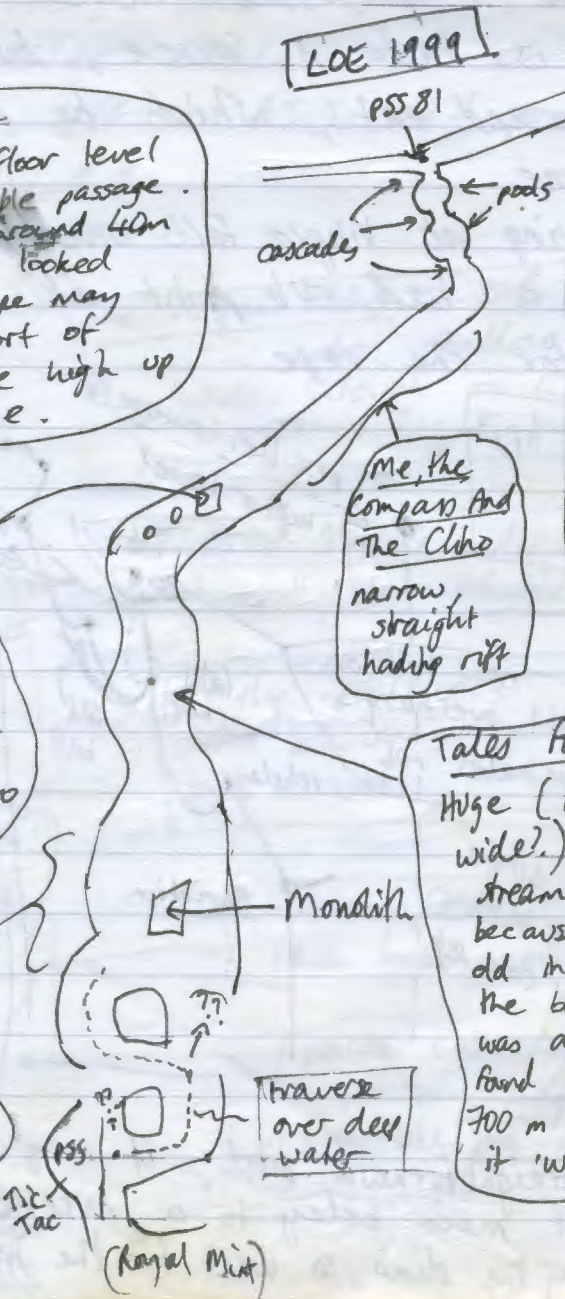
We quickly headed on upstream to our PSS, and found

Extended Plan (ish)

Vanilla Inlet
 Narrow rift. Becomes too tight @ floor level but can be climbed up to more passable passage. I traversed upwards + onwards for around 40m to a tightish section ahead which looked loose + more challenging. A rope may be useful for sorting out some sort of traverse line here, as you're quite high up by this point and holds are brittle.

NRT Boulder
 (No Rope Technique)
 It's about 5 bloody metres high. go under it, like I did. Don't fall off the top of it, onto rocks, like Rich did, unless you're unbelievably Pukey + hence likely to escape virtually unscathed.

Revenge of The Apes
 Big chamber with huge mondith-like rock in middle. (Ref. 2001 A Space Odyssey - come on then, you bloody game playing aliens, you come chasing after THIS one)



Catheter Canal
 traversing at stream level becomes impossible, water at least waist deep. Wade through water if you are hard/imature to hypothermia/have a wet- or drysuit. Don't know how long deep section continues. other option is to traverse higher up in rift, but again, long way up and holds dodgy.

Tales for the pub
 Huge (10m high, 8m wide?), quiet, meandering stream passage. So called because we will be those old incontinent farts in the boozier... "when I was a young lad/lar I found this amazing passage, 700 m underground, amazing it was, THIS big..."

It takes the piss. It really does. Get to the LOE, decide not to push Catheter Canal because it would involve getting wet and hence very fucking cold, so turn around, and a mere 5m down the passage, Fuckwit here goes + falls into the first cascade pool. I expressed my disappointment by saying "fuck", very loudly, lots of times, to safety and beyond. Rich was in hysterics at my plight, so I told him to stop fucking laughing, you fucking bastard, because it wasn't fucking funny. it was fucking cold fuck fuck.

Got back to camp around 2pm, surprisingly fresh, lively + enthusiastic, then promptly slept until 9am the next morning.

The Long Prussik Out. - with tackle...

So I thought I had it bad last time. This time I had the tackle sack from way beyond hell. Satan's own just doesn't adequately describe it. Fucking Jesus fucking fuck, as a wise northern carver I know might say.

My nice new Dragon oversuit, which had been getting progressively more comical throughout the trip, to the point where I had to wear a tape-reinforced harness to prevent the entire right leg turning into a big red flag, was now joined by my fleece undersuit. My attire had transcended the boundary between family entertainment and hardcore pornography. As Pip will testify from following me through Guzano's Grovel. I think this was supposed to be poetic justice for me having spent most of the previous pushing trip proclaiming that I wanted a caring knob so I could have a piss as easily as Rich persisted in doing. I was now fully

able to piss, shit, urinate, you name it, with no fabric obstruction whatsoever. I got away with this until Arrangeddon ledge, where JC, Rich, Pip + I congregated for a big chocolate/fettle/foot-repair/sing session, and it was my destiny to piss off first. You just do not want to know... but I'm sure you'll find out anyway on the grapevine sometime.
 fucking bastards...

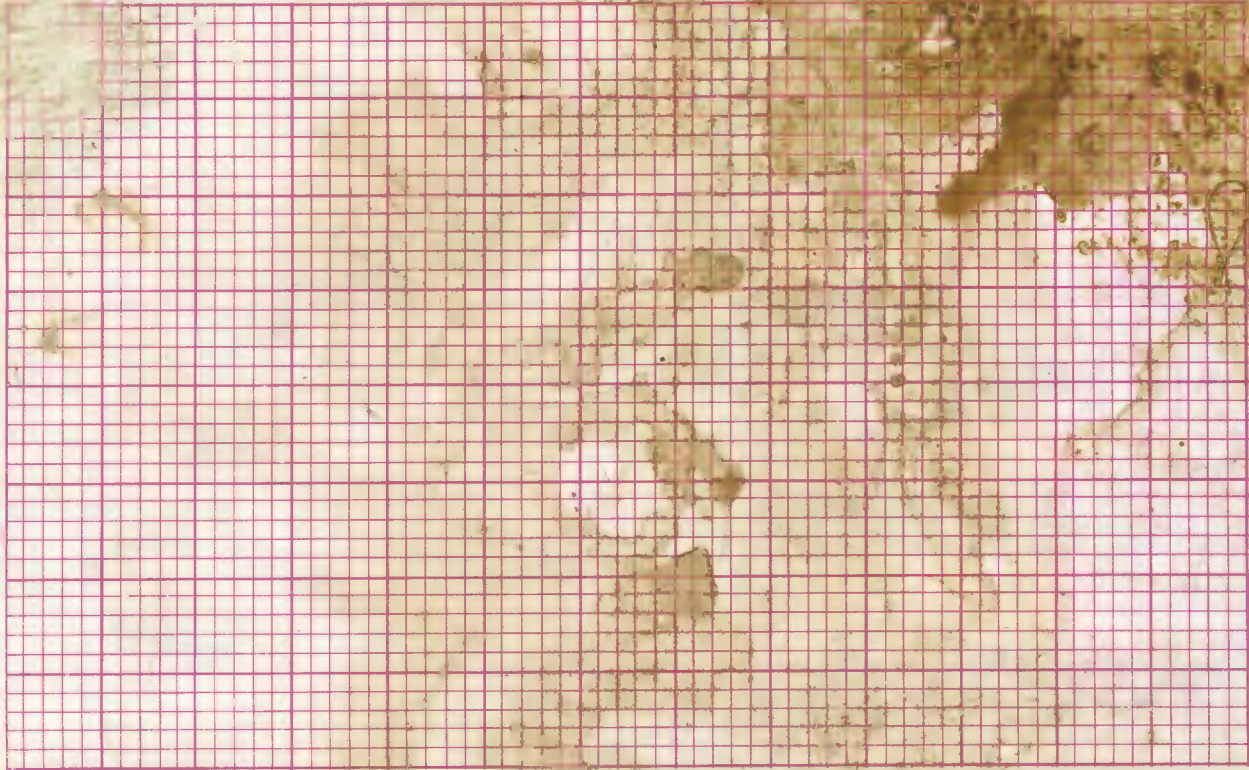
Henry



Camp Diaries

~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~

1817 → 2117	5c + nls Ccamp 1
2017 → 2317	Lor + Lynn Ccamp 2
2217 → 2517	Tim + Lou Ccamp 3
2417 → 2917	R.A. + nls Ccamp 4
2517 → 2917	5c, Pip + 5c Ccamp 5



Saturday 24/7/99

Hubbly

"New Year Saturday" "No fangs!"

Yesterday we pushed and

unwound 150 metres of (Crotty
rearranged) cable

porridge at over 1000m are

also checked up with about a
team of high level paragliders which

turned out to be a huge task
there is still a paraglidge even

higher which might be ground
by climbing a good 100m

up the ridge - Both needed 7-8m
ready fall of trying to free climb

it by ~~the~~ bigging gear now
new! for onward to com!

Now Dju on climbing,
in article (+) down are one

the 2000 up to top Virginia looking
and down at 4 miles of Virginia

beams
try to look

STATION	L	R	U	D	CAVE?			
					DISTANCE	MAGNETIC BEARING	VERT. ANGLE	VERT. RANGE
1m 400-						Saturday		
Hello! Thanks for the notes								
Hope lots of exciting stuff happened today. We've nicked								
a short bit's by our heads - if you need it tonight, please get								
back where it is as we are								
wusses with a coming plan								
not to get out of bed to make								
coffee in the morning in								
we'll probably be off upstream around								
11 tomorrow, hope you will be awake								
to give us the latest news?								
DATE?					WHO?	Rick's		Wils

10510E DP57R AM
 TD SURETY
 SIEG TO U
 AT 101514
 DC/MS
 20171021

BIG LEEDGE

STATION	L	R	U	D	CAVE?			
					DISTANCE	MAGNETIC BEARING	VERT. ANGLE	VERT. RANGE
4	K	M	A	M				
1	GROUND							
3	Large							
2	cup							
5x	BLK							
	BLK							
	SMALL							
9	SHARDS							
5	ST							
2	BOWLS							
5	CUPS							
	SEWING KIT							
	SALT (LEADS)							

SUNNY BOON

STAIRS
WINDSHY (PINE)
BLANK PAPER
TABASCO
WASHING UP BOWL
DETTOL
DISINFECTANT
3 BODY ROLLS
1 DUNACELL
OUTLINED WASHING
BOWLS + SALT
2 DARK DRUM
5 FOOD, 3 TUNA
4x WIDE BANDS

Gear Lett'r at Big Ledge.

Sleeping Gear: 4 Hammocks
1 Groundsheet.

Cooking: 2 Pans / Lids + 5 Bklys.
1 plate + 5 Cups
9 Spoons + 2 forks
Pen holder + Lil gripper.

Food: Fudge (1 bar) Chocolate (4 bars) Tuna (4 Tins)
3 Soups + 2 Cup-a-soups.
Tee
Salt
Tobacco + Black pepper
Whisky.

Cleaning: Orkline's Washing Bowl + Scrubber.
Wash up liquid
Disinfectant.

Sanitation: 3 Bug rolls
Dettol
Many plastic Bags

Univ.: 1 Survey Book + 3 Pencils
String
1 Paracell
3 Dorn-Pruns.
1 Large Pig of Carbide

ML

Perigging Park 1.

Just Awesome II : Main hang, Hanger greased
 Rope = 55m of 10.5mm Edelrid.
 Checked + Bessed at Bolt back up at
 head of pitch.
 Removed - Long Wire + Very Long Wire
 + Tape sling hot loop on main hang.

Traverse to : Not derigged.
 Crack Pad 10m + 15m ropes in place + 3 Hangers / Maillans.

Just Awesome I : Deviations & fixed in place.
 : Hangers greased for main hang.
 : Rope = 35m of 10.5mm Edelrid.
 Checked + 2 rts found ^{4m from} ~~near~~ end
 Cut out + 3m used as a back-up baly.
 ∴ 30m of rope bessed at head of pitch.
 Removed - Short wire for last hang

Genevieve Gates: Hangers (Rabaly, 7 Hg, Rabaly) Greased
 Ropes = 30m + 40m Checked + Bessed
 at head of pitch.
 All ropes + wires removed.

Ross Crucifixion: Deviation at head of pitch in place +
 3 Hangers at head of pitch + 2 hangers
 for 7-Hg (needs 2 maillans on each)
 Greased.
 Rope coiled at head of pitch
 Needs to be removed from cave.

(27)
Leaving note from someone too incompetent to tie up own loose ends.

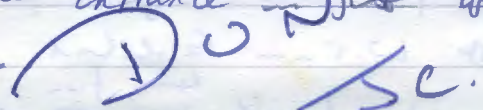
1) In 2/7, in various tackle sacks, there is...

(i) my green thermal

✓ (ii) my Britany ferries small carrier bag, with some batteries, my knife etc in it. IN KITCHEN? GO TO LMS.

If the above could be retrieved for me somehow, I'd really appreciate it.

✓ Also in the carrier bag are my survey notes from the upstream exploration. Can explain if bits are unintelligible. DON'T SAY.

✓ 2) should anyone pass near 40/7, my coat might be at the entrance ~~with~~ if you happen to be round that way. 

3) The cave I found across the path from 60/7 remains unbagged. (description earlier in book)

And then:

God, it's been a fantastic 3 weeks. I've had an amazing time, brilliant caving, brilliant people. And no prussik out of a Yorkshire cave will ever scare me again. What can I say, I hope the 2nd half of the expedition has as good a time as I have. Have to dash now -

Hilary

~~Down~~ Up stream Rigging.

① Climb out at camp

Dubious rope in place.

② First headline climb, 11mm rope in place. OK

Bold traverse above it may need rope.

1 Hanger in place.

③ Berne's Loop the Loop.

3 Hangs. 2nd hang has rub point knistled out.

May need 9mm rope replacing.

④ Blowhole

Rope ladder etc.

⑤ Climb above Blowhole.

11mm Rope OK.

⑥ Abseil to Echo Beach.

9mm rope muddy but seems OK.

May need to be rigged from higher up.

⑦ Traverse in Dead Sea Stralls.

9mm Rope ok. All Belts ok.

? Has anyone dropped the pitch?

⑧ Oregono Pitch.

11/13mm (1981) White Marlow / ~~for that time~~.

Very thick. Needs thinner rope.

Tape on main hang? Wire better.

⑨ Lead Corner Climb - P11?

11mm rope ok. Wire belly at Pitch lead.

⑩ Coral Pitch P7?

Rigged on 10.5mm Edelrid.

Tape backup, Main Hang rope on spike.

Backup need chabranig

Main hang should be wire.

^{Coral} ⑪ Water fall. A

11mm rope still rigged from 5th Bolt up Bolt climb.



(A)

(12) Deep Water Bypass

9mm rope

• Hanger at chest height, under at top(?)
Still rigged. → (Bit tricky)

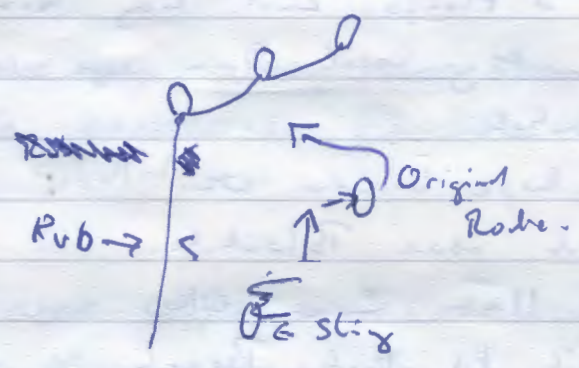
(13) Stairway to Heaven

20m rope (9mm)

Rigged from spike (kay) with 2 laced back-eyes.

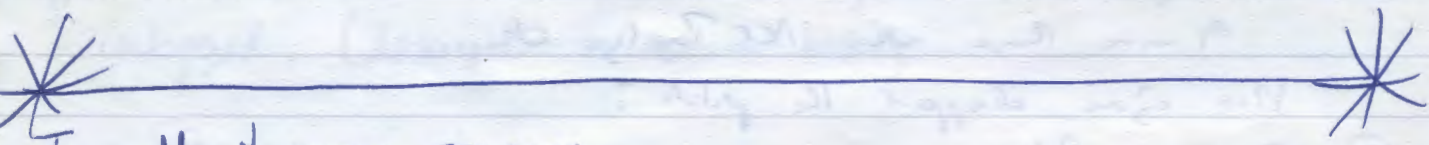
Main hang abs.

Possible to bypass via original dist.



(14) Victoria Falls: See Hilary's write-up.

SC



To all it may concern

Cheers for an absolutely, wickedly, blindingly awesome 3 1/2 weeks, it has been the dogs bollox! I think my camera, a 35mm silver Nikon is in a Darren Drum at some point within the cave, could somebody, anybody please ensure its safe return because it still contains a used film !!! Also I have a missing book "The Tesseract" by Alex Garland if this is found could I have it back too, I havnt finished it yet.

Once again, thanks happy caving and try to keep a minimum amount of blood in the ~~sting~~ alcohol stream.

Viva Vmo Tinto!!!

Rich

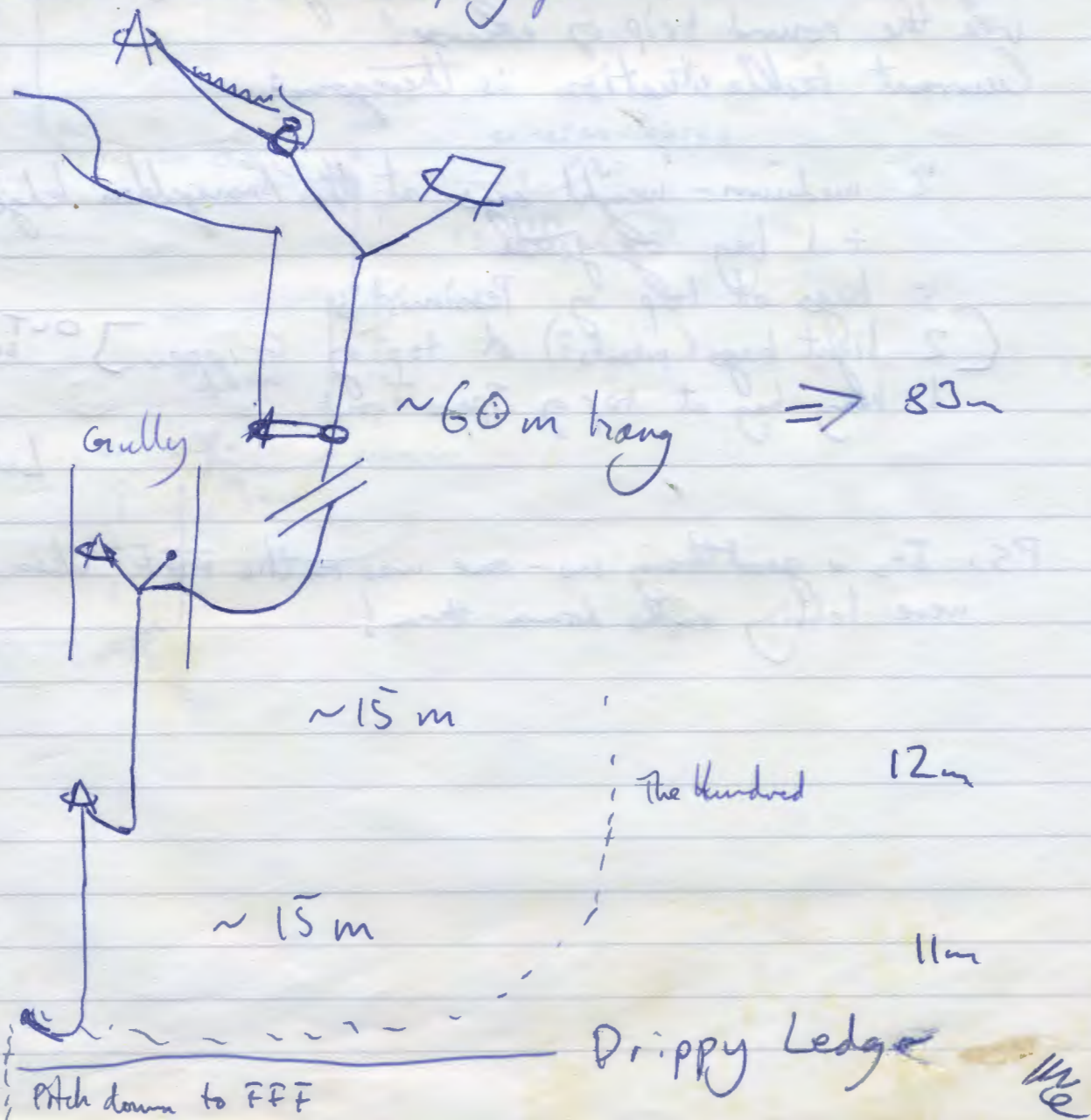
29/7/99

GSP

Len, Gavin

Managed to make the connection from the bottom of Tumbling Dice to the far side of the two squeezes by having Gavin at the bottom & me at the top and lots of shouting. Cairred a route through the choke but a ball of string would be better. This saves 1/2 hour on the trip out by removing need to dekit.

Rigged the big pitch "Space Trout" with 110m of 9mm and found ourselves at the ~~to~~ drippy ledge at the bottom of the hundred - a much easier way of getting to this point in the cave, but not the short cut to Heathrow we were hoping for...



(8)

Rigging Guide:

Space Trout: $\frac{3}{4}$ Tape backup round spike
Two wires for thread & spike Y-hang
Derivation tape ~ 15m down
Wire & bolt Y-hang in gully
Vine for last rebelay
110m rope

Then we carried on and derigged the pitches down to & through the FFF & brought 1 bag to Armageddon ledge, 1 to the end of the rifts, & 2 to the surface via the round trip, of course!

Current tackle situation is therefore:

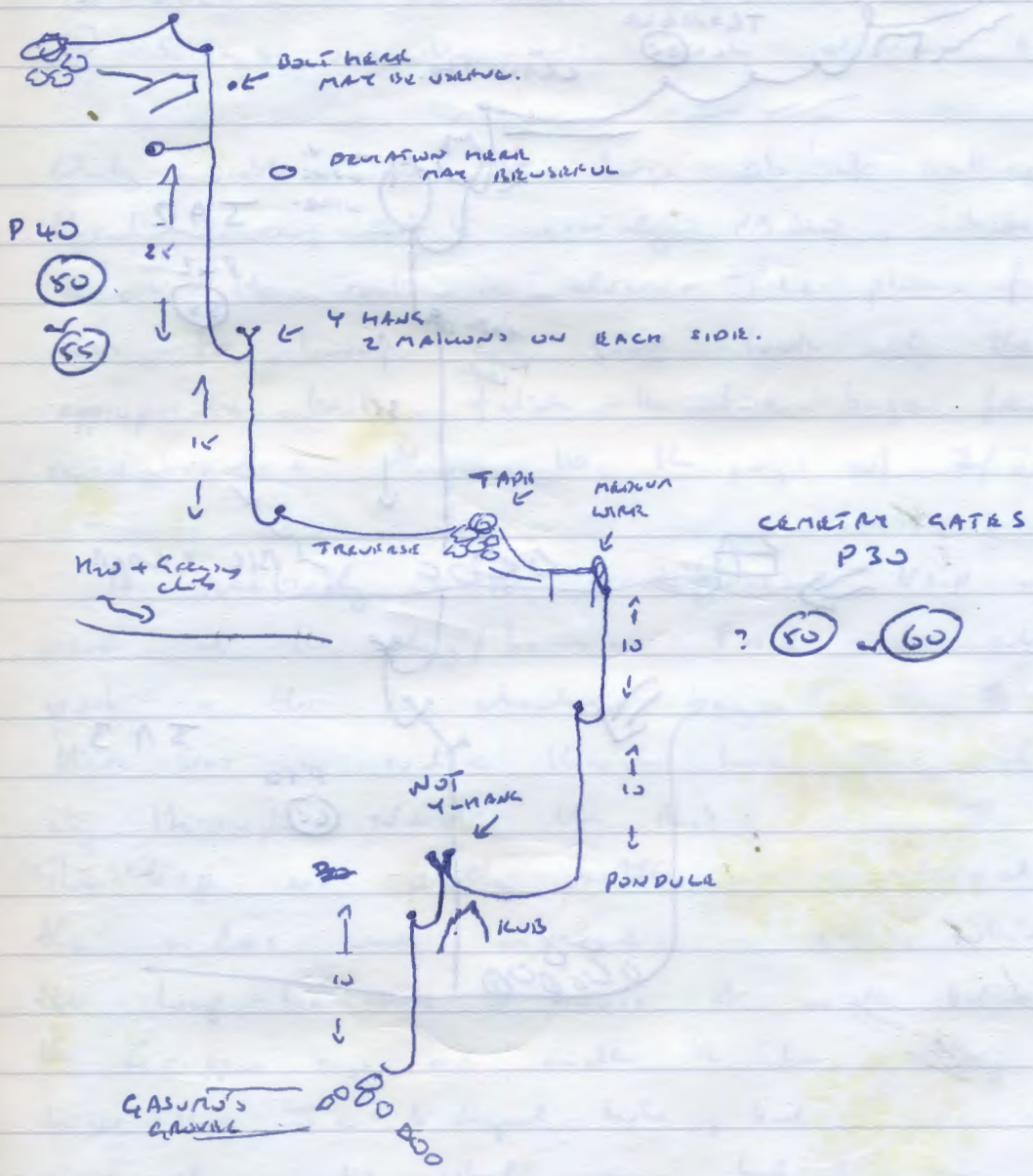
2 medium-weight bags at the Armageddon ledge
+ 1 bag of jettie
5 bags at top of Pessimist's
[2 light bags (pitsets?) at top of Gripper.] ^{OUT} 3/7/99.
1 heavy bag at top of Space Trout.

Lev

PS: It's a good thing no-one was on the FFF when we were lobbing rocks down there!

2/7 Topo Plot 4. Igneous Poles 3 as we go layer go
that way.

Rosy Crucifixion

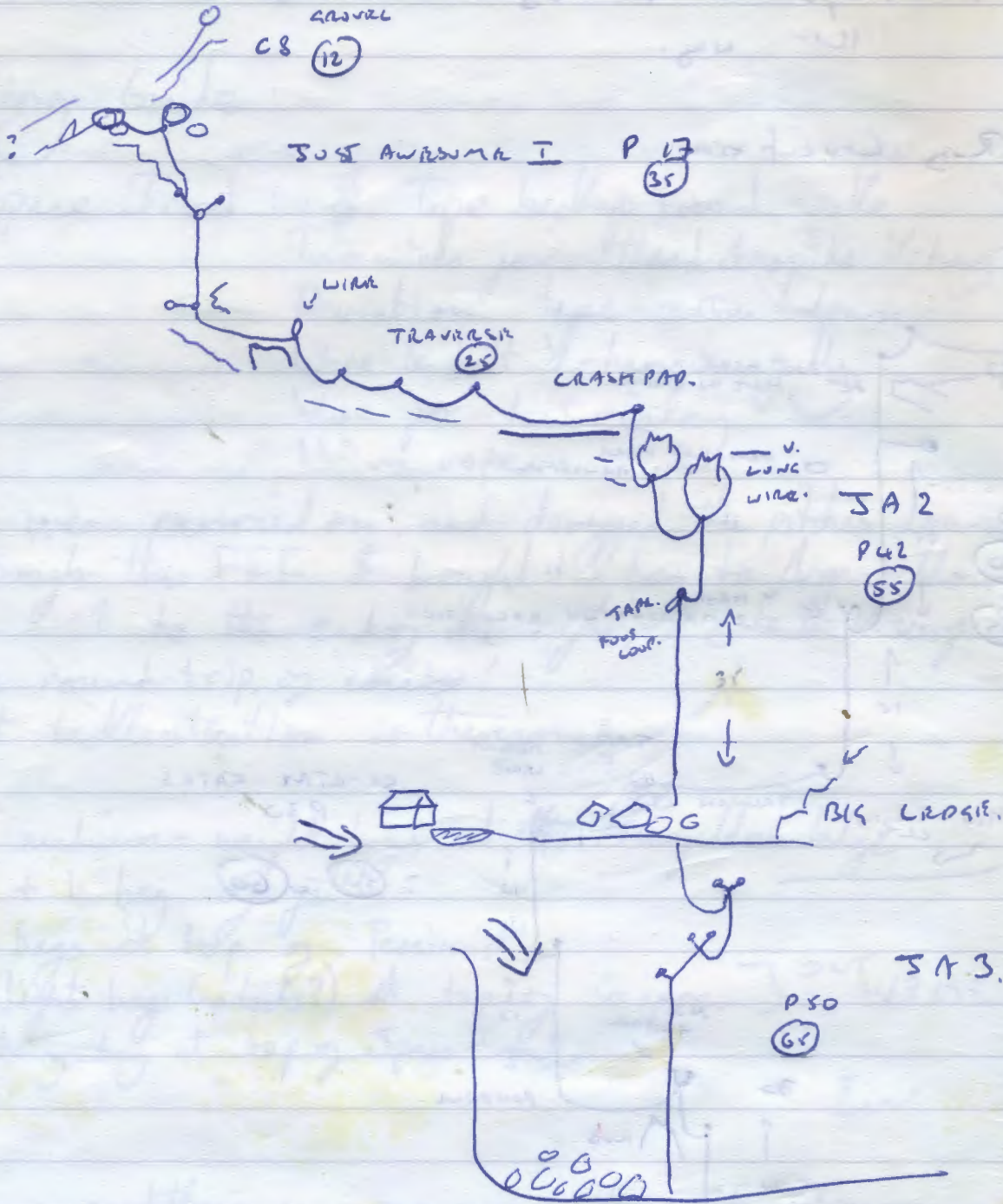


83

JUST AWESOME 2.

CASUMU'S
C8 (12)

JUST AWESOME I P 17
(35)



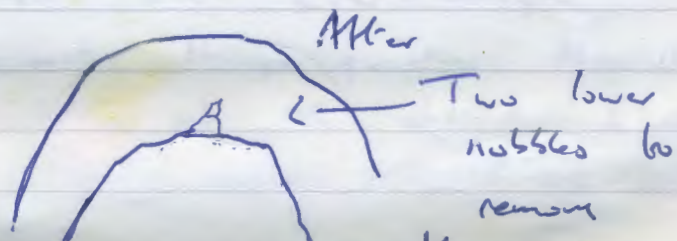
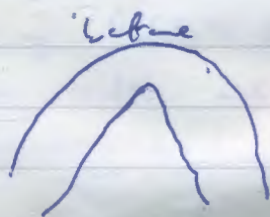
31/7/99. Hammering Potential Shale Cdr to G.S.P.

Parway through the PABW Bypass, & where the water from the Rebillie's disappears has been thought of for some time as a potential route into G.S.P.

- ① Water appears in G.S.P. at about the right place.
- ② Good connection at about right place.
- ③ Surveys suggest not much distance between.

Only problem is the large rib of rock, that you throught our whilst arriving PABW, which happens to block the route on down. The plan for the trip was to have a good look at the rib, with appropriate tools, fetch the two bags from gripper and re-introduce them to the jigs of 2/7.

A relatively swift straightforward trip down and we were at the shig/hammer. First of all along our route in the 2 chambers beyond the R. there was a route through but things were not well. Next the R. things were well. The top was pretty brittle and the sides were covered in cross which marked under the long-hammer. 2 hours of work before fishing out the Gripper bags and under the hammer produced a slightly larger than J.C. to shig hole, but we were encouraging a view down to what was beyond, an opening in the rock about 2 ft wide, by 6 ft deep, so not much more work to get further.



then you can...

(85)

Trip out slightly less efficient. Left Flyg Aleds at 8:30 with 2 lightish bags from Gripper including Selvan, the Redwood bag from back and a third bag of Fettle. (All fettle removed from bottom of F.B. New bag left in situ.) Managed to get there through Paradise with few difficulties, though Alison made up for this by taking the right near ladder route with gear on.

No real difficulties on route at all, just a bit slow as Alison ~~eventually~~ decided that she was really a horizontal crawler. Out at 9:40 / 9:50 but not in time to reach Ario for Call-out. Thanks to Gavin and Lew for so efficiently running up the hill to meet us. Walk back was an episode on a minor scale (if there is not a contradiction) with frequent wrong turnings in the thick clay / darkness.

32.



Radon : Control removed from 2/7
shallehole & sealed at 13:00
on 01/08/99.

Lev

2/8 @ The 2/7 ROUND TRIP.

SL, Lev → GSP → She Hts / R.Hts

Gavin → GSP only.

Once in a lifetime opportunity. Too good to miss.
Never to be repeated. Only drawback someone has to
climb the shafts. A plan was hatched, the final ^{BIG!} pitch
of the new route was rigged on super-swift, mega-bouncy
quilt, so how about replacing that with some totally friendly
Wool from the shaft, say for the 10m rope on The Hundred,
which so conveniently landed on The Driffls Ledge just
like Span Trout.

First impressions of the New 2 were pretty favourable.
Not sure if it saves masses of time on the R.Hts / She.Hts
but this was my first time (I felt the need
for extra caution. Nice passage through with R.Hts and P.Hts
interspersed so it has a more less intimidating feel
to it than the old route. Some awkward spots, but these
are usually very short and with good pitch to get hung
up than little horrors like Stimulated Emission. The
first section was interesting, but with threatening cliffs the
wrong way and a more direct route (for example
-removing Poble's R.Hts) will make things quicker. Also the
a new route and quite a lot of the obstacles, (loose
rock, dodgy holds, sticky-ole, eddy rubble) will go with
time.

87

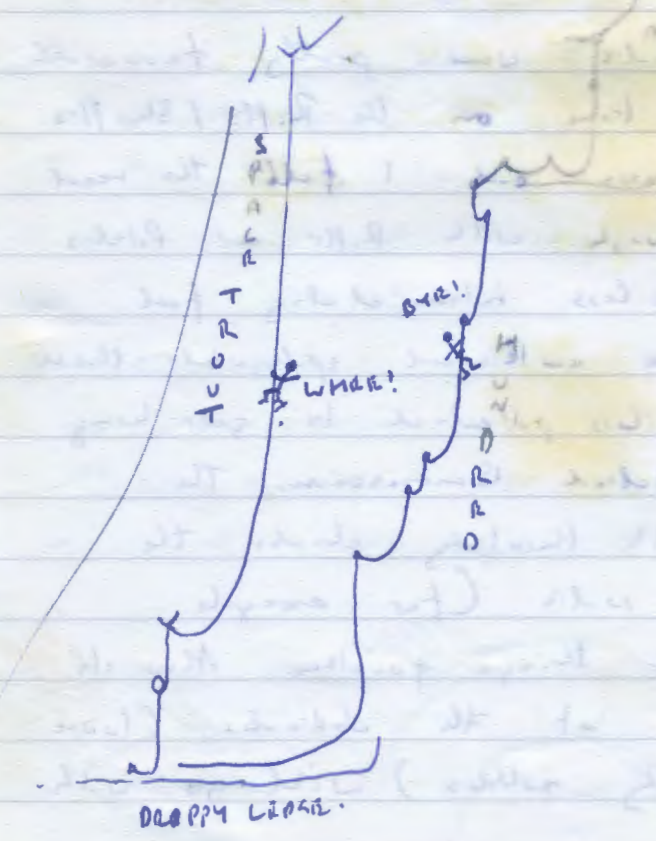
Gain forget dead on the trip, and Lee hung around with suitably bounding into for me. "This is the bit of the case going the wrong way": The bit of the case going the wrong way.

"This is where we turned back in flood": Top of Tumble
Dive

"This is the kind of explanation" etc.

At the top of Spine Track we started swinging with Lee sent down with a piece of string, down to the first rocky. The leg turned out to be a massive (and underestimated) 83m, with 12.5 and 11.5 m legs for the 2nd hangs and 3rd hangs to the Drippy Ledge bulls, so about 105m (!!!) in total.

At this point our way parted with Savin taking both the Spine Track + The Horizontal ropes and we doing the horizontal. The pillars run pretty well in parallel for a 100m or so with Spine Track emerging from a slot about 2/3 of the way up. Arrangement below.



After the plotting of the way with Sam it was time to say a fond farewell to the Pitules. Armaggeddon above I nearly lost contact with the rope. The Belles and Sing to the Devil Club no great consequence to me) regarded by The Spiky Ledge with its buckle by trammes and finally pessimists, so easily underestimated where I'd hang in space at the end of a 40m rope with 30m between me and the floor, better undring my ~~can~~ Δ mailon in order to do a J-crossover.

I would have got quite emotional if it were not for propping with a couple of killer buckle sees and a harness from hell. By the time we'd derigged the Belles we'd ^{have full} ~~filled~~ 4 buckle-sees, so it was decided to bundle all the ropes to the top of pessimists and passie with lightish buss. This was achieved with some discomfort for me, but more for Leo as his crutch-ette bit in.

After the shells, saying good-bye to the litters was no kinder party. I'd selected a inch-^{1/2} weight, but well packed see, who soon ~~was~~ derigged C*²T and made my life a misery for that a period of time. I'd initially loved the rills when we first found them, scooting through with short ropes and a little rigging gear, but when 2/7 went and made buckle was needed at the bottom and I began to loath them, and so it was as I bade them farewell, crossing away last corner, hand and square.

We did, however, make good time and were soon extracting ourselves and our buckle from Paradise having completed the ~~first~~ ~~21st~~ 800m deep road trip. The entire series was a positive joy, knowing we'd be back in time for our call-out, it was being

84

night-fall.

All in all quite a tough trip, and amazing that we all packed in to a mere 12 hours. I guess I'll look back on it with fondness, just as one day I miss prospecting up Passimids (probably as I go up the Space Trade or Tumbly Pine main hangs which are bigger), but for now I'm satisfied the trip makes an excellent punchline to my evening for this year.

SC.

Vital Info: Sticks are now derigged from Passimids to The Dippy Ledge.

: The hangs have all been removed

: Deviation still in place (without cables)

: Passimids bit 7-hy + traverse still rigged.

: Ropes from Armasson (20m), The Bells (45m) Sig to the Dard (45m), Traverse (35m) and Passimids (80m) are in a loose coil at the head of Passimids.

: These can either be parallel through the cables or bagged and carried. There are ^{empty} bags at the Passimids and at the bottom of Graham's Todgey Plate.

: The end of the Cables is clipped to a yellow trackle sac.

Tackle bags.

Gear in Cave.

Passimids: 2 full bags + 2 ^{half-} full bags ~ 2 empty sacs

5 Ropes. 2

Graham's Todgey: 2 empty bags.

Flying Rebels: 1 full bag

Shackhole: 1 full bag + 1 1/2 full bags.

Potential Plans.

More Diggins Info

→ (1) Rust certification work OUT!

(2) 15/20m rope for piton through FFR coiled at top of piton.

Bolt + rope in situ + Revider

Needs Wire + 2 maillans + Crab.

(3) ~~110m~~^{100m} (10 mil Kadeid) at Head of Space Track

will NOT reach Driggs Ledge

Need 15 or 20m for final hang. Might not reach 2nd rebelay

(4) Rigging for Space Track.

Tape bump (round spike), (in situ)

2 wire Y-log (spike + hand) Needed.

Bolt Tape divider (in situ) Needs crab.

? Extra divider to avoid water.

Bolt + Wire Y log reliability

(in situ) "lead"

Wire rebely (Needed).

(5) 20m Rope needed for piton from ~~pit~~ Driggs Ledge to FFR.

Bolt/hogone in situ

Tape divider in situ

Bolt rebely in situ.

} Needs crab
maillans.

(a)
Juan - José visit. / sneak attack

Juan - José dropped in on the Lago Rend camp site looking for "dirty English cavers". Could they mean us? He brought with him the head of the Spanish Caving Federation (or so he said) - So we shook hands.

Juan - José's news: Maybe they chose the Lago Rend camp-site next year - Fuck!

He has a bad foot.

He is rubbish with pencil.

There will be a caving conference in Oviedo next year and he'd like some of us to attend.

There is a group from Barcelona who are attempting a tourist trip down Xiv. (They are caved round the corner)

We told him about the new stuff on 2/7 (he liked that)

We told him about R.S.P.

He estimated 2/7 to be 13-14 km long (the lakes length)

I reckoned 11 km.

They said bye and we shook hands around.

Expedition Glossary: Do not take offence. We love you all really.

To hilarity (v) to care such that you trash your gear or more usually the gear of others.

As in: on reaching the surface I found my wellies had been hilaried.

Alu (n): A measure of carry. ~~Equivalent to~~ the Russian so heavy that it can not be lifted, but still possible to carry between camps. Equivalent to 1/2 a kee or 5 Pips.

To Jo (v): to dump underground in inappropriate locations, i.e. no where near camp.

As in: Steve began to feel quite ill and ~~just~~ just on the way out of Brown hill.

To JC (v): to make fundamental errors underground which would result in fatality in others, but somehow get away with it scot-free.

As in: I JCd my rack and proceeded to descend the pitch.

To alism: to apologise when not necessary.

As in: I alised for getting stuck in the ^{Perchase.} square.

To gerrish: to swear profusely for no apparent reason.

To Lynn: to only-go ^{carry} ~~carry~~ with Lou.

As in: JC Lynned the 217 round trip.

To Lou: to always find your most recent trip the best ever.

As in: we limmed for several hours before the Viagra
balking trip, but still loved^(ct) on reaching the surface.

↑ **03**

To Kim: to dither about a totally fantastic trip as
if the world revolves around you.

To pip: to become pissed on half a pint of shandy
(or very pissed on a gin:ton).

Also: to pull back from a trip for sensible reasons

As in: despite the need to pip in order not to nobby (ct)
we continued to hammer the 10/2 squeeze.

To Gavin: to ~~be a trip~~ ^{do a trip} ever so slightly faster than
the last time.

As in: I gained the Aris pole by five minutes but I only
had a 1/4 battery (ct).

To Lew: to blag cuddles on the pretence of warming up
the recipients.

As in: whilst hugging, I was loved several times.

From Yvonne's pitch

To nobby: to set impossible call-outs that you barely
make. As in: We had nobbied, but still no-one came
^{down} to rescue us as they could hear us singing.

To rhye: to remove vital items of caving gear ⁱⁿ the most
inappropriate situations.

As in: the chakra looked pretty unstable, so I ^{rhyesed} ~~removed~~ my
helmet

Or: on passing the rebelog on the 176m pitch I ^{rhyesed} ~~removed~~ my
sit-harness.

or:

To Lecky: to wear revealing evening attire.
As in: having on collectively a suitably large and fine tiling
located off up above Aranged on ledge.

To Gerratt: to attempt unfeasibly small squeezes lead first.
As in: Bob began to regret gerrattin when his
helmet caught fire.

Also (n): A squeeze you are convinced you can pass,
so long as you "get it right", but clearly never will.

As in: It was a gerratt, so we tried to pass it my
differed eyes, but eventually had to pip (off).

To seddan: to rig little vinked pads with much less trackle
than should be required.

As in: On pushing the trackle-see into the terminal surge,
I realised we'd seddanned the trip

To demshem: to eat all the underground ^{-camp} food in one
sitting.

As in: on finding the food stash, we congratulated
ourselves by demsheming the lot.

or: The walk downen reserve charge was swiftly
demshemed before we moved on.

To doyle: to JC but with more style and less concern

As in: rather than chip ~~in~~ his cow-sticks ^{into} the Danstons
Devious Death slide, Rich hand-over-hand doyled to
~~avoid a dunking~~ reach the other side.

To Wilcock: to ruin a perfectly good stew with the
excessive use of a single ingredient.

Also (n): a stew ruined by the addition of a single ingredient

As in: If you thought the salty Wilcock was bad, you should have
tried the spilt Wilcock.

(ok)

+ rules

To mean: to make lists which everyone ignores.
As in: despite ^{the} considerable meaning the expedition found a further one.

To hobble: to lose condition on expedition.
As in: This case is so easy, I'm hobbled.

To fud-smith: to believe that you are much larger than you actually are.

As in: the 10/4 square had already been passed, but we fud-smithed, called it a gerrule and pipped.

To keith: to ~~find~~ ~~come~~, that to give cave lodges that no-one can follow.

As in: it was classy so we keithed the co-ordinates.

Also (n): a general scape-goat.

As in: some-one had used my wotke to wash the hands so I sought out a keith.

See Mrs Aren k: covers entire over even + most of surrounding only soil.
All cases seen once, and never rechecked.

To phipp: to be impossible to move in rift-like passage.

Mrs (n): a kettle size of human dimensions or any kettle size that is tricky to move.

As in we left a couple of phippeds at the head of pessimists.

To pybus: to show great enthusiasm for seeing but rarely venture underground.

To hollin: to mistake some pildas for perched soap.

~~As in~~

To jerony: to prossik off the top end of the rope.

To staid: to take impossibly long periods of time over fairly single decisions.

As in: the weather looked fine for Dow: Pro but still we were staiding.

To pacy: to turn sandy digs into squelch, porridgy digs.

To how: to take on pointless solo digging projects in the Pines, then fill them in in disgust.

As in: To ker: to enjoy carries.

As in: Whilst gaining the Arab path I kicked my hilly.

As in: we hauled the bag for several hours, but eventually pipped as it began to pacy.

12/8

Garin, 5/8/99

Rigged a handline down the 10m pitch. The "crawl blocked by a single boulder" described in the staff bashing guide is, in fact, a boulder choke. ⊗

6/8/99

Richard D... "I'll do it to JC"

(92)

7 Aug 99.

Carrying Bags Through Riffs

William, Simon

Arrived at entrance 12:10, somewhat after Gavin & Alison - who can do their own write up. Underground to 1pm, having shown Simon how to work a carbide man slowly down, showing Simon how to get through Paradise & on to ... Pabb Pot (unrigged). Rather than attempt a 1987 style preclimb down, we went back & jugged in the rift until we found the way on reaching Graham's Todge Pitch at 3:30pm, where we crossed Gavin & Alison. They had 3 tackle bags between them. Reached the end of the rifts 6:20pm, my memory holding up tolerably well, but taking time. Found an old chest harness in the mud. Set off out with a bag each, but it soon became clear that one bag between two was enough, so we left one on one of the traverse lines ^{above} Travellers' Scramble. On Simon finally got back to Flying Reclays at 8:15pm feeling very hot & thirsty, where we dropped the remaining bag. - I was absolutely clear that I did not want to take a bag through Paradise, not having been up it since 1991. U, Paradise, where we both got stuck in the final squeeze (Gavin says it's easier ^{upwards} if you fall the other way) & finally reached the surface at quarter to midnight - 15min before Colloset. The entrance sounded ominously drippy, but the night turned out clear, so we had a relatively straightforward walk down in spite of the lack of cairns, then went back ^{blown} in stopping off to pick ^{blown} over Thompson & getting sidetracked into the valley Extremes. Felt harder than it should, considering what we did. Time Underground 10 ³/₄ hrs.

William

7th August

Gavin, Alison

217 Carrying bags from ~~the~~ pessimists

Good trip. Out at a sensible time. Carried a tackle bag to the bottom of Paradise, Gavin carried 2 to the bottom of Paradise, + 1 to the entrance. - Alison

8th August

Alison, Simon & Rich meanwhile...

had been down to base for bocadilla de teneras, patatas fritas, cerveza etc. Then we discovered the visitors centre at Lago Enol which was great fun including the fake cave and trees, a nice toilet and a film.

On returning to Lago de La Ercina, we found a load of people "coat-surfing" - obviously the local craze.



Verses for "Oh you'll never get to Ario/Heaven"
made up on the Ario^{Am} by persons who wish to remain
anonymous (I wonder why...)

Oh you'll never ~~to~~ get to Ario/heaven
= OYNGTA / OYNGTH

Verse 1: OYNGTA
in Hilary's Kit
'cos Hilary's Kit's
got no coll in it (say quickly to fit in)

continued overleaf
(unfortunately)

Verse 2: OYNGTH
in Gavin's tent,
'cos Gavin's tent
is far too bent (ask Gavin)

Verse 3: OYNGTA
with Williom
'cos Williom's
drunk on Don Simon

Verse 4: OYNGTH
with Tim & Lou
'cos Tim & Lou
are Flying above you

(alternative last line for those with poor sense of humour: are in the zoo)

Verse 5: OYNGTH
from Ario
'cos you've got to do
another carryo

(or: 'cos Ario
is too claggy-o)



Verse 6: OYNGTA

on a Giraffe,
cos it won't like
the Ario path ~~£~~

Verse 7: OYNGTA

with Kev's rucksac
cos kev's rucksac
won't fit your back

Verse 8: OYNGTH

in Doyle's beard
cos Doyle's beard
is far too weird

~~Verse 9:~~ I think that's enough for now...

This verse is actually quite good. Sing to the tune of "I love to go a-wondering along the mountain track..."

I love to go a-caving
with my carbide lamp
I use it's light
to show the way
to underground camp

Chorus: Abseil in, Prussik out
Abseil in, then Prussik-Prussik-Prussik
Abseil in, Prussik out
~~at camp~~ from underground camp.

9th 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.

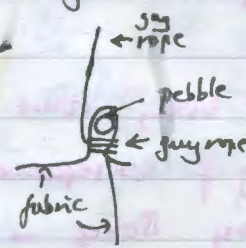
In the morning we were really efficient, sorted out all the kit, fixed the broken guys, and re-pitched the tent (in a more sheltered hollow - we hope!)

"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 or stone 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

(103)

Cooking.

Lentils

pressure Cook 30 mins

Beans

Soak old water 4 hrs.
or hot soak (pressure) 1 hr
with kitchen soap

then pressure Cook 12 mins

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

Tuesday 10th 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 unprotected & 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 unisort meat stored like this (no fridge) & yesterday what 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 old extra course. 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.

103

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 Marini pool + what looked like a possible entrance which we found to be marked 6/9. Rich from shaft bashing guide this is worth another look. 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 30ft down. Headed 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 right (true 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 ^{ridge} 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

107

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 !!!

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^o (large shaft w/ 36/9).

Full details in shaft-busting book

W.

16/8/99.

Decided to do washing up with ^{use} ~~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 Bugger - 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)

210
Tuesday 17th August

Arrived here just after 7pm last night to find the others just leaving. Considering I'd done a detour from the Maria Rosa to base camp to fetch Suncream (!), petrol & wine, I had the distinct feel of a wasted journey. Set about collecting water from the dizzle (we now have an extra carabiner) & made supper. Big mistake. Adding asparagus soup to spaghetti gave a totally inedible result. I'd have been better off with bread & tuna. To be offered a large mug of Cola Cao laced with Spanish whisky from a fancy bottle (not single malt), which, I think, kept me awake somewhat.

SNI cloudy this morning. Others due up ca lunchtime. Trying to decide whether to wait for them or to do a carry down.

W.

We can't really shift bushes until the weather improves. Richard's gear is still at 41/9.

Rich D: "Don't touch that, it's William's personal Sausage".

William: "I'm not sure if I want that one to go in."

Wednesday 18th August

Met a German trapper called Christoph about 3pm yesterday, just as I was about to go down & gave him some tea. Did carry down, meeting the others on Sod I, then had a beer & a localillo in the Maria Rosa & came back up empty. Clag all the way both ways. Nice cleared at sunset, while we worked for Cabeza Coua.

Aurora this morning full of high lumps, Steve & Richard going to do 10/9 photo & detackle on ~~Widder~~ (via 41/9 to pick up Richard's carrying gear) & Simon & William going shaft - basing starting at 41/9. 100 yards after we'd left the Xitu path, I realised just how thick the mist had become & that I wasn't sure about the best way on. Heeded back to the Xitu path where we met Christoph walking down. Quick decision - decided I wasn't confident in finding 41/9 in the mist & that I also wasn't confident we'd walk ^{up} out of it either, given how wet it was. Decided to return to camp, where I drink a cup of tea in case it cleared.

Felt a bit dryer, so walked up Cabeza del Goro to see if it was clear at the top - it wasn't. Came down, drank tea & ate peanuts while the mist got thicker & darker, feeling halfway between wings & sunny. I wonder how the others are getting on?

W.

Thursday 19th August

Pozo de Jeyu Photograph & Dig
Steve, William

Woke up dull & late to find the weather still claggy but not actually raining like yesterday, so Richard & Simon went to finish detailing 10/19 while Steve & I set off for Pozo del Jeyu, which I assumed to be the rigged hole in the valley of Dry Bones. Steve took photo of me at the entrance in my shorts & jersey, then went down on a stop, emerging to say the entrance was tight & he'd put the stop on a cow's tail. I carried on getting changed until I heard a rumble of moving rocks to be followed not long afterwards by a rather white faced Steve who asserted in no uncertain terms that he wasn't going back down again. I poked my nose in the entrance - it didn't look much tighter but I also decided that it wasn't worth risking a serious accident for the sake of whatever digging you may (or may not) be at the bottom. So we pulled the rope up & left.

T

Ⓢ If you do a dig, please stabilize the entrance properly before you ask other people to go down. A warning note in the log isn't sufficient.

W.

This cave is very loose. Several cubic feet of one of the walls became dislodged while I was down there when, at most, all I'd done was brush against it with one of my feet. It seems to be that the entrance should have either been gardened or stabilised. It isn't enough to merely have notes in the log book saying

(113)

'Don't touch' when people can and will brush against things unintentionally.

Didn't take any shots within the cave as it was too small and way too loose anyway. Got various shots of the entrance and derigged it, which was enough. Everything should be derigged by the end of today.
Steve.

Wednesday 18/8/99

10/9 Photo + de-ig

I am now very familiar with the entrance of 10/9, having spent four hours there waiting for Richard. He'd left me there on the way to collect his gear from 41/9, proceeding to get lost in the dense drag instead. Eventually he arrived, via the bottom of Sod 4 and Aris (!).

Quick entry as far as the rift at the base of the ^{2nd} pitch. I take various shots of Richard in the rift. He then goes through to pull the rope up the 20m pitch, only to find that it's tied off lower down. I pass his SRT gear to him through the rift and he then disappears for at least an hour.

When he reappears, he announces that he has found at least four more rigged pitches below the 20m pitch. WHY ISN'T THIS WRITTEN UP? He'd pulled the rope up the bottom two pitches before deciding to come back up.

I take a few sponsorship shots of Richard eating a Thornton's fudge bar (which will almost certainly look very posed indeed) and we exit, as it was by now getting late.

This cave will require another trip to complete the derigging.
Steve.

Thursday 19 Aug On the point of setting out for 4/9 (after our break with Jerry) when the weather closes in totally & it starts raining. This is the second time in two days it's done this. Very frustrating.

W.

Thursday 19 August 10/9 proper de-rigg...

This time it was Richard and myself to de-rigg 10/9 completely. After Rich and Steve's attempted trip yesterday. A walk up in the clag. Clag that seems to ^{have} been here all week. Change on the surface and down the entrance series. Through the rifts and on to the shaft series. I really like this cave... The squeezes are enjoyable and the cave's great! Chained the first lot of rope and out we went. Back through the squeezes. (I like the "lev, lynn shaped hole").

"I really like this cave" Simon

"So do I. Let's push it next year." Rich D

Richard: "William, I think you've filled Steve's hole"

Richard "how many points do you get on your licence. if drinking while drunk?"

Thursday 19/8/99 'Sesh' at Ario

A brave attempt to drink the entire stockpile of alcohol at Ario (unsuccessful) was undertaken to celebrate the completion of derigging. It fused it down outside.

An increasingly drunken game of Black Maria resulted in the above quotes, amongst others.

Pass the wine, vicar.

(115)

Friday 20th

Rich & Si go shaftbashing (Area 9).

Found a fuck-off huge great open shaft. No marks. Our 30m rope was nowhere near long enough. Stones rattle for \approx 10-12 secs! However, we found some bolts (at the bottom of our pitch)! I'm pretty certain that this is tras La Jayada. (300m deep, last looked at in 1986). Oh well.

Also found 6/9 (what we were looking for originally). Rigged the 5m pitch, and Simon went down to the rift where we found an obvious ~~big~~ boulder blocking progress. After some huffing and puffing, the boulder was pulled out (using tapes looped around it). The resulting squeeze was tested by Simon, who thought he could get through, but wasn't sure about getting back! The rift is very tight and goes out of sight round a corner to the left. Unfortunately we ran out of time and decided not to push further. This cave may well go, and should definitely receive some attention next year (Si & Myself are very keen!) It would be worth clearing some of the rubble at the bottom of the pitch (use a spoil tray that can be hauled out by someone above). Si reckons that the pitch is actually a climb and would be best down-prussiked in and self-lined out. "Like, totally outrageous dude!"

p.s. the snow mentioned in the shaftbashing guide has now disappeared.

Summary:

Found 6/9 ⊗

Found Tras La Jajada first ⊗ !!

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We are currently awaiting the return of William & Steve from 41/9

Friday 20th August

William & Steve Phipps

Shaft-boring Area 9

Set off for 41/9 with Steve, heading up ^{into clay} Gustukou. After a few metres, we recognised the entrance to 10/9 & carried on traversing round Gustukou as I had done with Richard a few days ago. 41/9 proved to be just above the clay & we reached near after 45 metres. A quick bolt by Steve & I was down the pitch. This led to ~~the~~ a rubble floor, the remains of a snow plug & 2 small cracks which immediately stopped. Shifted a few rocks at the foot of the rope to reveal a (just) too tight squeeze leading to a body sized cavity. ~~At~~ Might have been it had I not seen it's worth it. Steve then suggested looking a bit further down the hill without gear as the time was moving on. We quickly located 37/9 (N.B. This shows the value of the tags) & Steve went round the corner - where it choked. Nevertheless, Steve's first sunshine & first pushing this expedition (and last!).

A suggestion: A ^{Small} Cairn round this area would be a good idea to look at leads. There's a fair amount of flat grass & you could get snow from 37/9 without gear.

Walked down back into the clay, reaching camp about 5:15.

Summary: 41/9 ⊗ } Full details in shaft boring guide.
 37/9 ⊗ }

W.

115
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Saturday 21st August

Striking Aio Camp.

Perfect weather - no cloud at any level!

H Steve says "Having had carrying weather for the shaft backing we now have shaft backing weather for the carrying".

W.

"I have a platypus, pocket Dragon, and a Donkey's Dick"
(Simon)

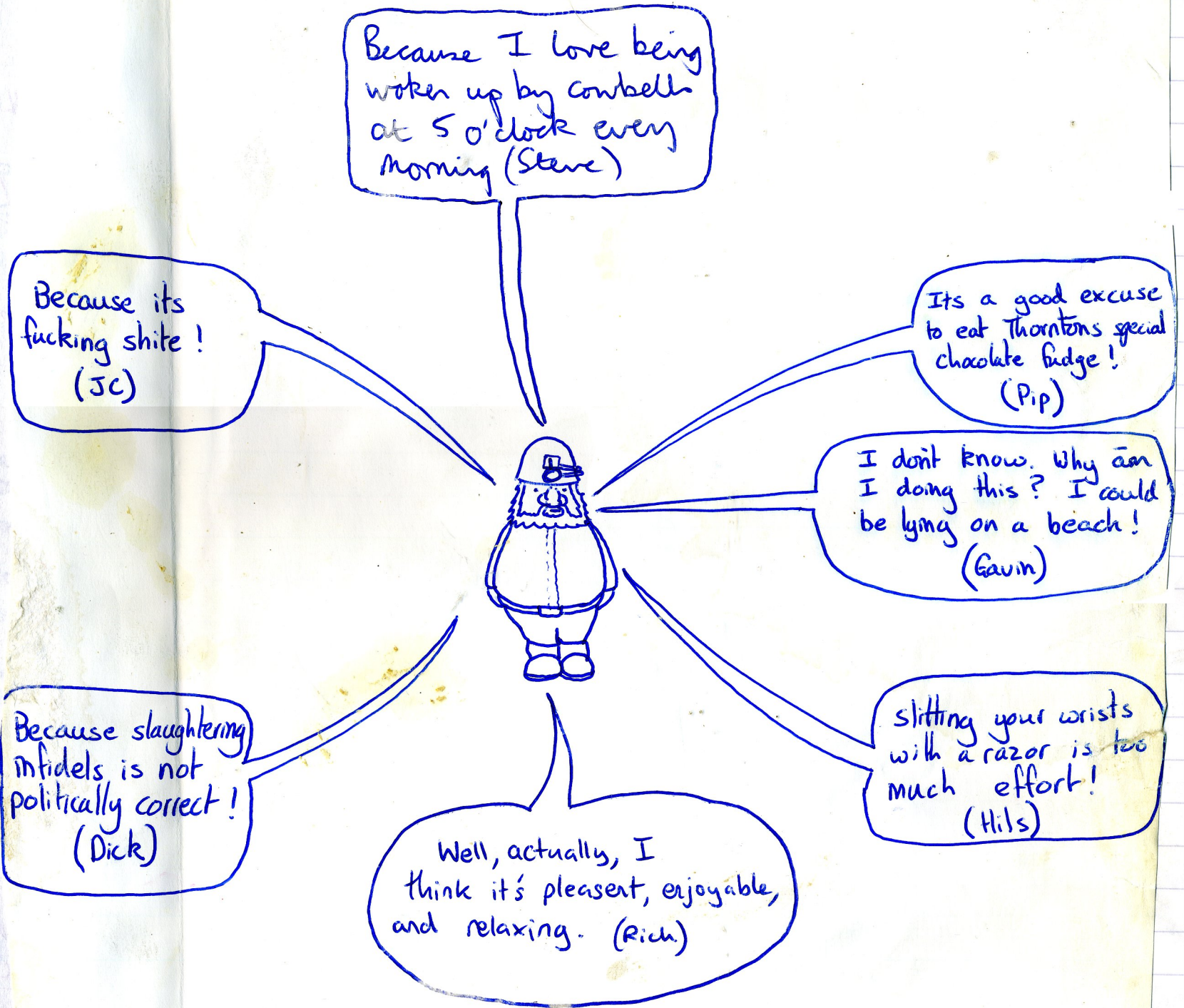
Take two bottles into the shower?
What shower?
I just Smell 'n' Go! - Steve

Walked back to Lagos today via Belbin to check it out. It's a large village with lots of houses and people, and one solar-powered spring. Presumably if ICONA want us to camp there, they will communicate with the locals first(?) ~~The road looks like the~~ ~~road~~ The van could easily reach the village on the road, but we would need permission. Not far out of the village, towards the lakes, is ~~an~~ a very good camping spot, next to a spring. I'd feel better camping here than in Belbin itself.

Rich D

p.s. Someone (maybe me) should write to Huan José asking about the camping problems and enquiring about the possibility of us using Bar Entre Lagos. Also say that if we are at Belbin, we need to be able to drive on the track.

Alternative reasons to why we go caving



ART AT ARIO. . .

Pip + Dick at Hil's Cave

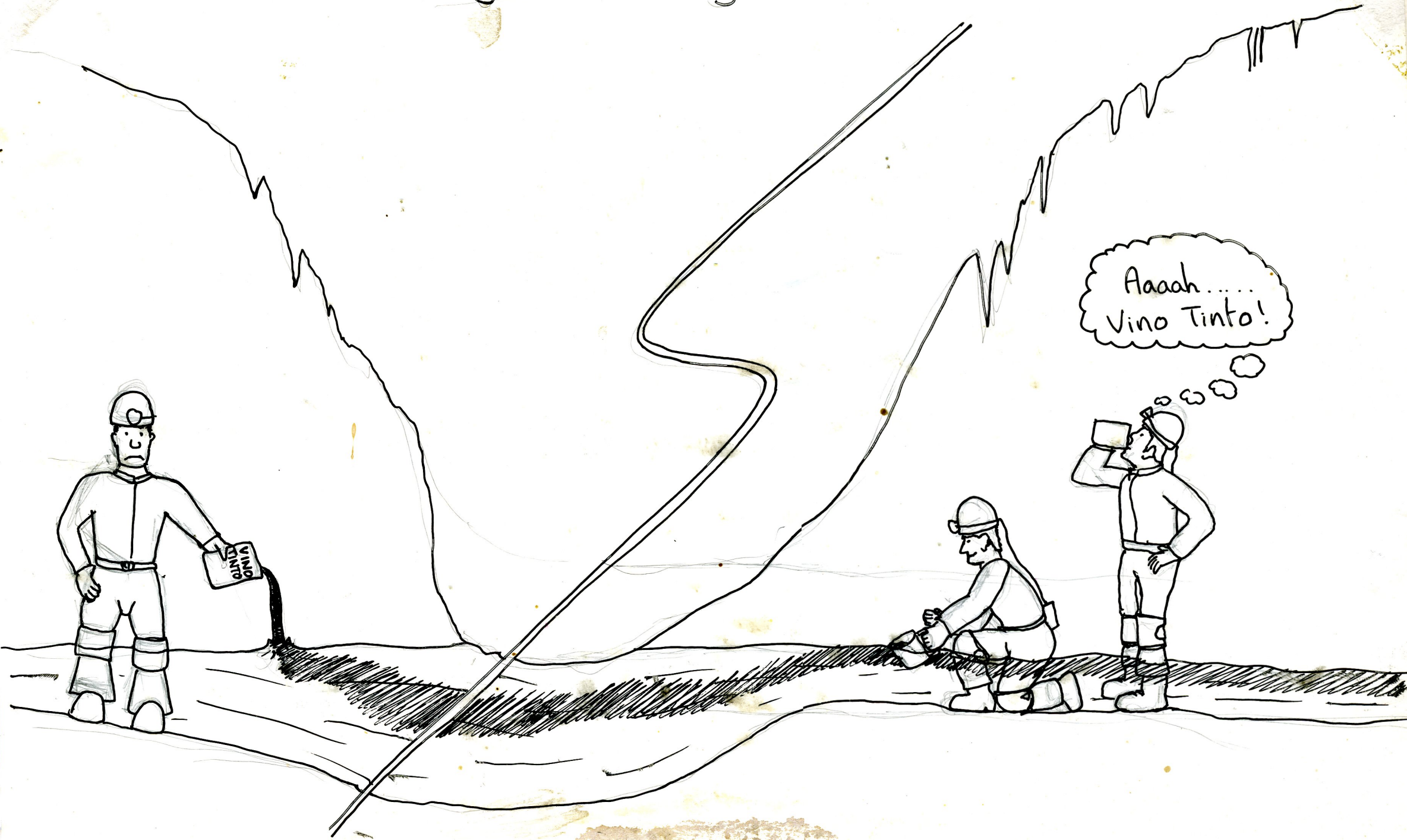




TREA

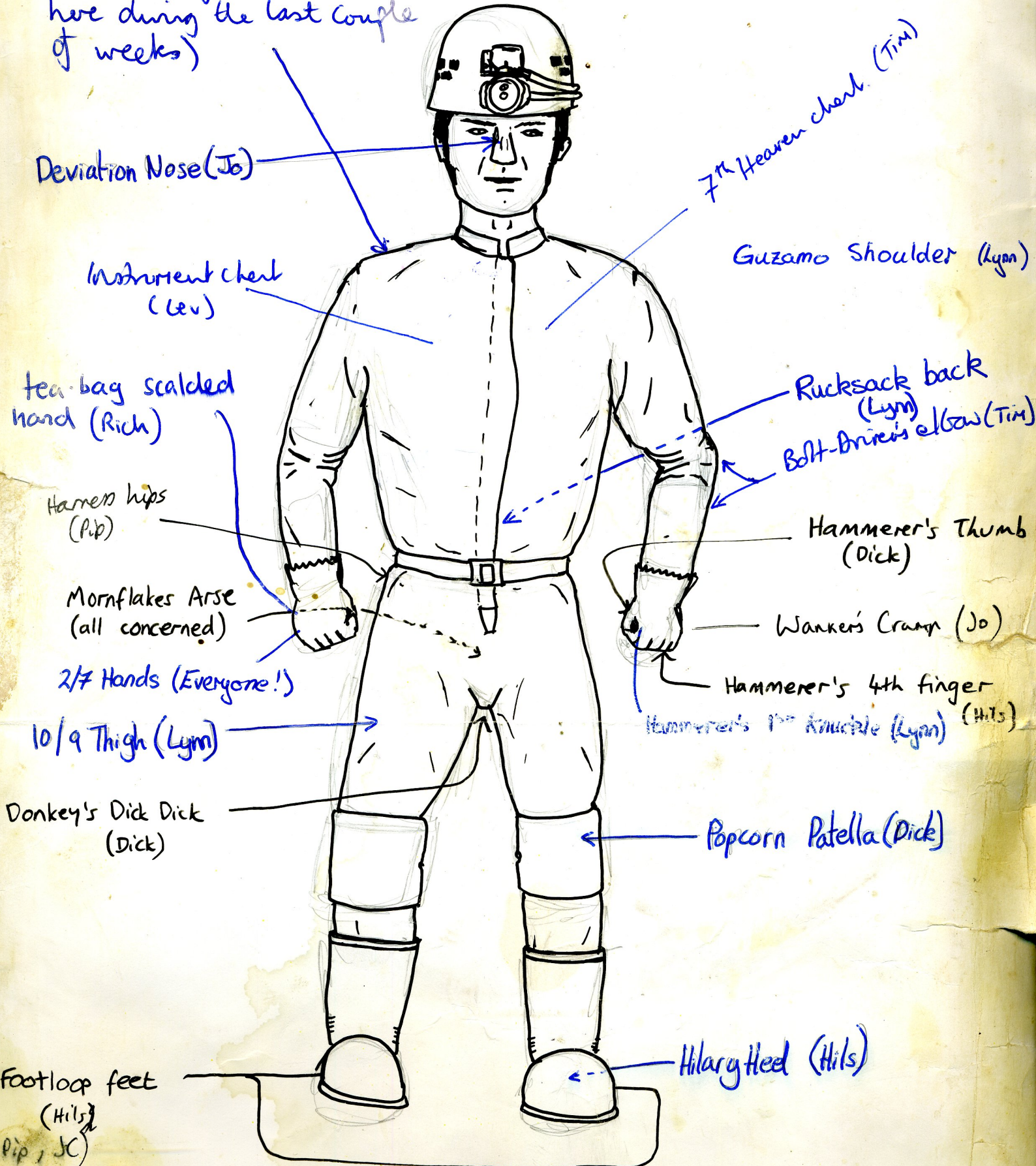
Vino Tinto!

Dye Testing?

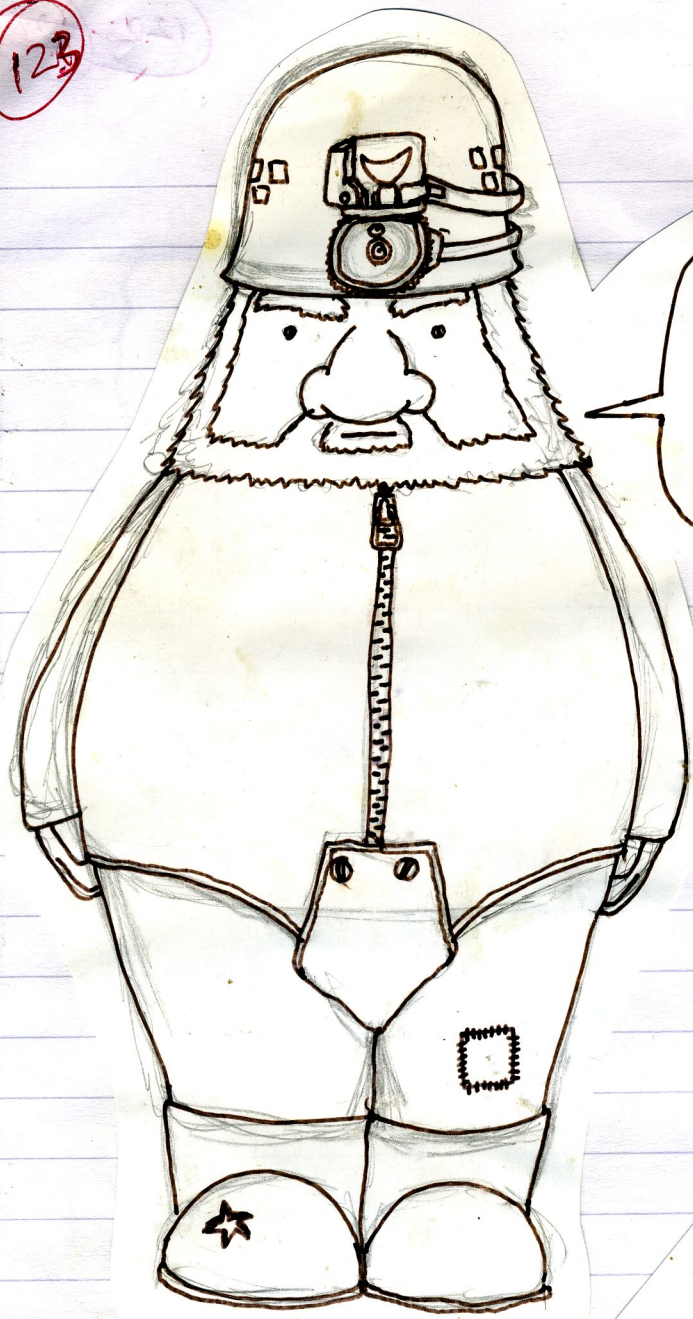


Medical Disorders Particular To Extremers

Soaked through to the skin (everyone who was here during the last couple of weeks)

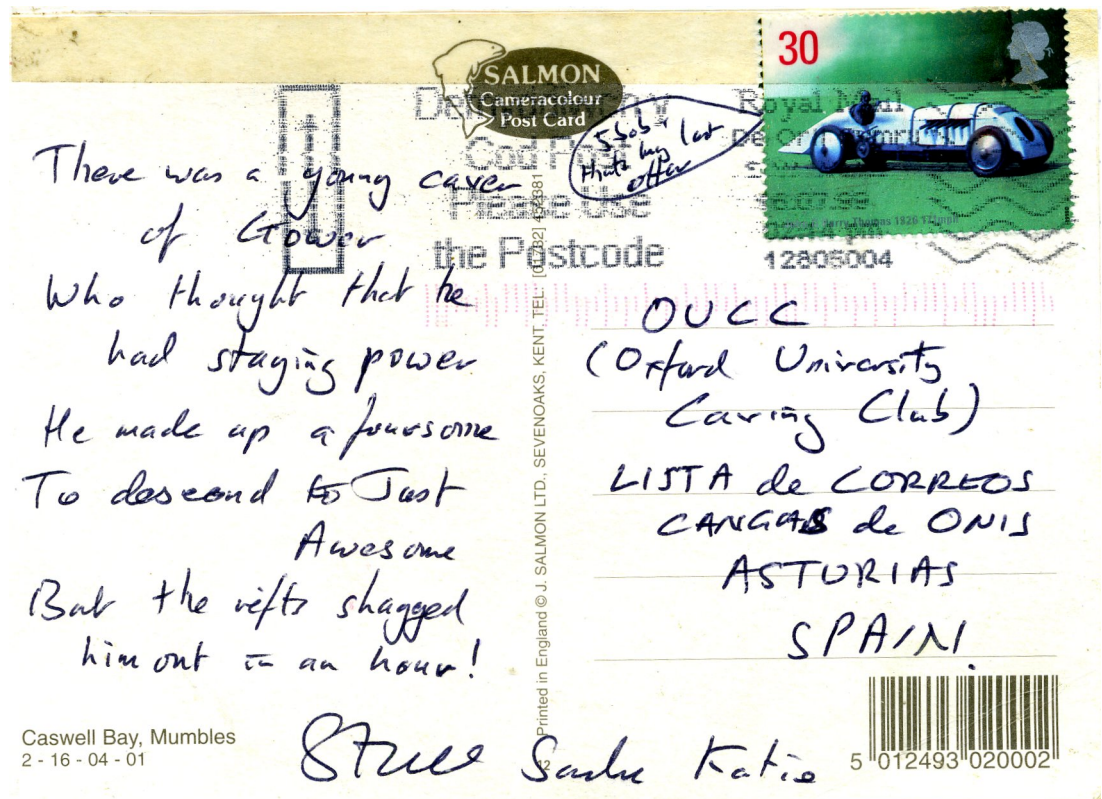
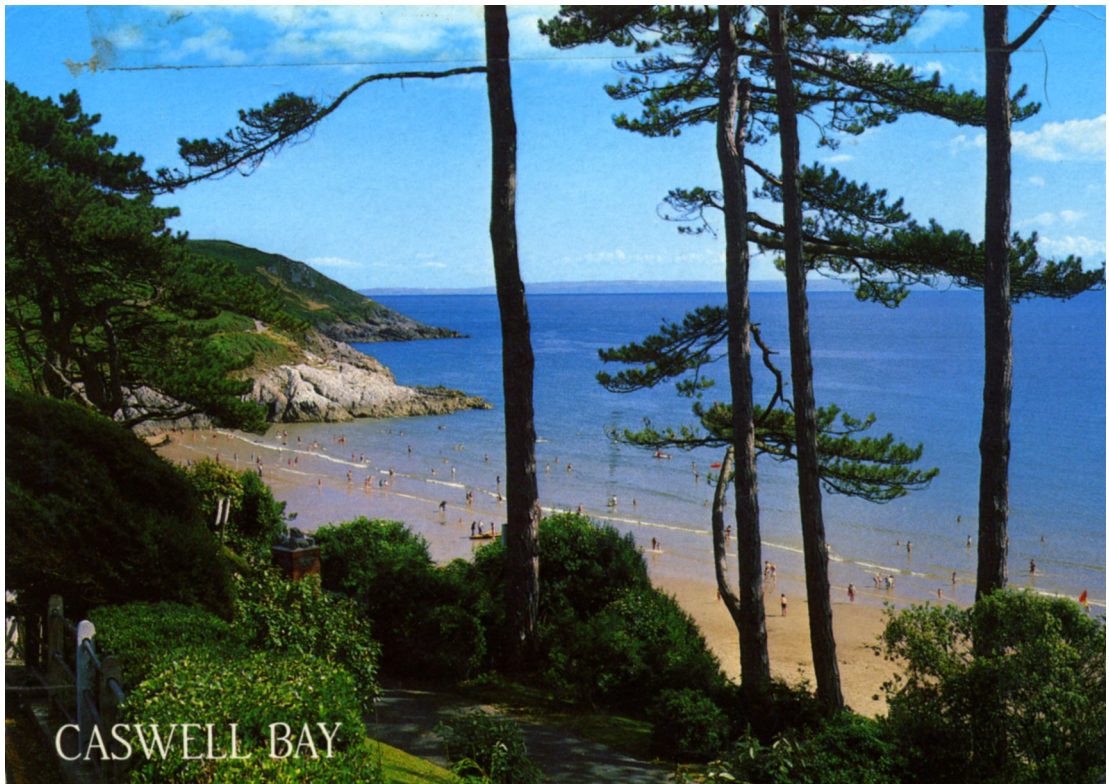


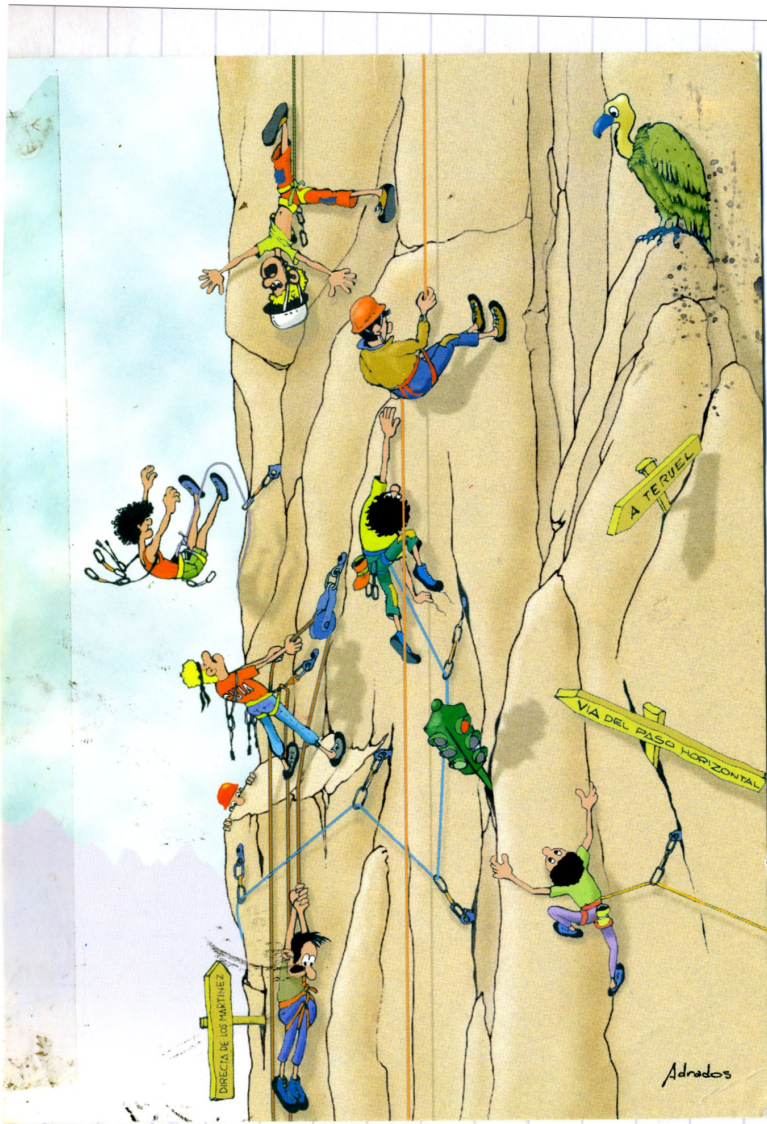
123



Do ya want to see where I keep my Chocolate Mornflakes?!







21/7/99.
 Dear OUCG,
 "Having a great
 the Picos with my
 boys" (see diagram
 over leaf). Preparing for
 4-days in the rental
 (others in bed, I'm in the
 bar). Hope 2/7 is going.
 Have a good expedition.
 Yours to



OXFORD UNIVERSITY CALE CLUB
 LISTA DE CORREOS
 LANGAS DE ONIS
 ASTURIAS.

Lev,

Well I mounted up a couple of new boards but had some trouble de-bugging the first one - what with some 96 hour long experiments at work - there were some delays. Anyway in order to get something out to you, I have sent you the first of the new batch (complete with a few teething problems!) and the prototype (which works of a fashion). We tested them in the field yesterday and had clear communications - we haven't had time to test them underground. Hope they work OK! - anyway there are still various straps at board level so try not to bang them around too much and don't count on them being waterproof at this stage. I suggest you use the prototype on the surface (the one that looks like a proto with only 2 LED's and a slot in the lid). Use the β test version underground - This has 3 LED's

✓ Red/green - TX/RX indicator 2/ Red carrier detect - you won't be able to use this facility as the button (carrier emit) on the proto. doesn't work 3/ Orange signal emission strength (this doesn't work properly yet either!

So to recap ; setup should be simple (have a go on the surface first!). Pull out the antennas with electrodes, push black & red buttons down fully to insert the ends of the wires. There are two adjustments on the radio sets - ✓ volume on receive (easy) 2/ 3 way switch for emission power - Always start at minimum (anticlockwise) and try to get a voice contact ("Hello this is xxx calling from xxxxx do you read me OVER" or "1, 2, 3, 4 ... 20") try higher levels if the other side don't receive too well. If you turn up too high depending on the coupling resistance it may feedback spoiling the modulation (though there should be no damage to the set so don't hesitate to try position 3) say ("This is position 1, This is position 1, This is position 2, This ...")

So in principle they should work - though they are not yet in final form for ease of use and case proofness!

Equally I didn't have time to build the beacon so you will have to be reasonable about your rendez-vous timings. When making first contact I suggest each party tries trial speech emissions (something like 10-15 seconds emission and 30s-60s pause listening). Remember the autonomy on reception is about 100 times that on emission!

Good luck

Graham:

PS - I include some adaptor leads for the batteries - don't forget to disconnect when not in use!