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CRACKPOT CAVE SURVEY

by

R.G. Guthrie.

F. Hall: R.G. Guthrie: Joan Guthrie.

Frank Hall obtained surveying equipment from the Tackle Manager, and on Sunday the 24th. March, 1963, a cold and windy day he began the survey with the help of my daughter and myself.

The water level was surprisingly low, so we decided to survey the stream passage first and continue from there as far as possible. The stream passage was fully surveyed also through the dig into the large chamber, then down to the stream again. It was a very satisfactory day except that we lost numerous pencils and two cones down a hole, just too deep to reach them. After washing the tape we found the winder missing because the locking screw was apparently non-existent when we received the tape, and our own temporary screw had worked loose.

The following Sunday (31st. March) the stream was in flood, and needless to say were the first crawls. Conditions were atrocious for surveying the entrance crawl, which would be difficult enough anyway. After one and a half hours of wet agony the mission was accomplished [19] and we quickly crawled out, changed and drank hot soup.

The survey so far has been plotted by Mr Hall and Joan. A big surprise was in store for us; the cave does not go to the sink holes by the sheepfold on the other side of the track as expected, it swings back presumably under the valley, and probably takes some of its water from this stream near the waterfall - this has yet to be checked by surface survey.

On Sunday 7th. April 1963 we went to complete the survey, Frank wading up to his neck, in the again flooded stream, as usual! We took soil samples, p.H. values air and water temperatures and made notes on the main formations and physical features. We packed up and went out getting muddier than ever before trying to keep the notes and instruments dry and clean. (By the way we would like the Society to procure a compass with a built in windscreen wiper – please!)

The cave was quite populous on this occasion, Earby Pothole Club went through with us in the most awkward places, i.e. the puddle; Northern Pennine were also represented. Members of a mountaineering club met us as we came out, too cold to switch off our lights. Finally to crown it all a host of ramblers or some other such

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bods tracked across our field while we were changing. Joan of course had hogged the caravan.

P.S. To all valiant Northern Cavern and Mine Research Society members who groaned their way through Crackpot last year, and called us all sorts of names afterwards - I would have loved to have seen you going through it last week!

Joan Guthrie.