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SOCIETY NEWS

CAVING OFFICERS REPORT

Goyden Pot.

5th July

An uneventful trip down the Main River Passage to the sump, then along the Labyrinth Passage with return via Cap Left Crawl. Water samples were taken.

Notts Pot.

12th July

The right-hand series (sometimes called B.T. series) was taken. [24] There is a considerable amount of water in the cave, and the second pitch was wet, but the water was left behind on the crawl from Three Ways chamber. The 50' pitch was negotiated, also proving rather wet, and then the fissure, as far as a small chamber about half way along its length. The two leading members of the party were using carbide and having lamp trouble, so Joan Guthrie, who had a good light, was asked to proceed to the head of the next pitch.

This pitch was laddered by Joan and Mike Thornton while the rest of the party remained in the small chamber, there being no room for more than one or two at the head of the pitch. As the pitch was only 25' deep, it was decided not to use a life-line.

Suddenly the party waiting in the small chamber were shocked by a large crash, as though a rook had fallen. Seconds later Mike Thornton called out that Joan had come off the ladder. Bob Guthrie and myself went down the pitch to join Mike and Joan who was where she had fallen, head downwards in a fissure.

When it was ascertained that Joan was able to move, and nothing appeared to be broken, it was decided not to call out the C.R.O.

A rope harness was dropped from above, and when this was tied on, Joan started the climb back. Her father climbed below, putting her feet in the rungs, and giving encouragement. This was a very long job, and Joan was in a lot of pain. The greatest difficulty was experienced at the top of this pitch, it being necessary to traverse back along the fissure before one could rest on solid ground. Similar difficulties were encountered along the fissure leading to the 50 ft. pitch, and by the time Joan had been got up this pitch it was decided to send for the C.R.O. as progress was much slower than expected, and the wear and tear on Joan and the rest of the party was becoming excessive.

Joan was brought through the extremely tight crawl, and up the 15 ft. pitch before the C.R.O. arrived. She was then put on a stretcher and carried along the remaining passage and up the 50 ft. entrance pitch. From here she was taken over the fell to an ambulance, and then to Lancaster Infirmary.

SOCIETY NEWS

I'm happy to say that Joan is doing well, and hopes to be caving again by Christmas. She was suffering from a fractured pelvis, broken thumb and numerous cuts and bruises, and in view of this she did very well indeed to come out of the pot as far as she did, more or less under her own steam.

I would also like to express thanks to the members of the Northern Counties Caving Federation, who were our guests on this trip, and who did so much of the hard work involved in getting Joan out, and to the Yorkshire Ramblers Association for their kind co-operation the following weekend when we had to go back to Notts to retrieve tackle. Last but by no means least we would like to thank the C.R.O. who did their usual [25] efficient job, and whom we were very glad to see.

This was the first accident sustained by one of our members, and we sincerely hope that it will be the last.

Ireby Fell Cavern

16th August.

A brief look round in this system, the bottom not being reached due to a late start, and too large a party.

Goyden Pot

6th September.

A very enjoyable day's caving, and a good turnout on this occasion. The Main River Passage was followed and then New Stream Passage entered via 20 ft. pot, and the sump visited. Return as on previous occasion via Cap Left Crawl. One party was to have done Gaskall's Passage, but being unable to find the way, followed the New Stream Passage party.

Grange Rigg Pot

13th September

A party of six made good time on this trip. The pot was bottomed, and conditions were very favourable. It is hoped next year to do a Christmas Pot - Grange Rigg exchange. Return this time was over the same route as taken on the way in.