

# 1987

2<sup>nd</sup> January Penmorfa adit, Llandudno  
Steve Milner, Mike McDonald, Chris Smart

This level unwaters many of the workings within the headland. Located adjacent terraced houses, the adit is gated; squeezing beneath, accesses an arched passage, this runs for some twenty metres into the steepening hillside, here flagstone lintels form part of the roof. Perhaps cut and cover? An airshaft, some one hundred metres from the portal, is choked about ten metres up; possibly from fallen debris bridging lateral passages. About another twenty metres is a collapse, the left side of the passage has slumped, which has partly blocked the adit. Beyond is open with an impressive echo returning from the tiny airspace. Three hours lowered the elongated, compacted collapse debris by almost a foot. Suffering the cold, decided enough; planning to return tomorrow and push on. Exited to find the large boating pond, on the sea front, turning dirty grey from the discharging adit water. In the awful weather, few about to notice it or the culprits; will likely not return too soon: washed off in the stream, had nothing else to lose.

Business manic.

20<sup>th</sup> January Box Stone Mines  
Steve Milner, Chris Smart, Mike McDonald, Martin Grass  
Normal tour around the sights; the place continues to slowly deteriorate.

Undated (21<sup>st</sup>) February Llygad Llchwyr  
Martin Bishop,  
Aim: to dig at the slot; each used 2 x 7s. Strong current, flying gravel almost painful. No visible progress; divers surfaced, cold.

Undated (7<sup>th</sup>) March Swildons  
James Cobbett, Stuart McManus  
Completed the Short Round; a minor delay at Bang Squeeze, but, as it says in the song,

*“There’s a place they call Bang Squeeze, Down Below.  
Most of us get through with ease, Down Below.  
If you ever go that way,  
On a trip with Cobbett J,  
You’ll be there all Fucking day, Down Below”*

20<sup>th</sup> March British Virgin Islands  
Mike McDonald  
Dived the RMS Rhone -15m to -35m; superb. Small cavity in the reef the ship rests upon. Followed a one-metre-wide rift for six metres to an abrupt end; appears to be limestone.

22<sup>nd</sup> March British Virgin Islands  
Mike McDonald  
Dived off Cooper Island to -16m; caves rumoured here by fishermen, encountered many small crevices, none large enough to enter; doesn’t appear to be limestone.

24<sup>th</sup> March Norman Island Cave, British Virgin Islands

Mike McDonald

Sailing past Norman Island noted a semi-submerged cave entrance; anchored, took inflatable over to check. Found a two-metre-wide rift which increased in width below the surface to five metres wide. Returned with kit; followed a smooth walled passage, -4m for thirty metres, (no line reel), here it surfaced sloping steeply upwards; unable to climb the smooth barrelled tube. Tumbled about by the incoming surges. This is not limestone.

26<sup>th</sup> March Virgin Gorda

Mike McDonald

Dropped ashore by dingy, from the yacht on the small beach near Copper Point; agreed meet in port, "The Bitter End", the other side of the hills; maybe some ten miles away. Chart shows a copper mine; hence Copper Point. Surprized to see two halves of a cast iron steam engine beam in the shingle; dated 1836; made in Perran Porth, Cornwall. Directed along a track, by a pleasant local, found mine buildings and a chimney. Many ruins; something that looks like a large water tank. Believe to have found at least two shafts. Would like to have spent more time there, but the mine covers a wide area. Headed north toward the meeting point, noted the high ridge between. Hitched a lift on a wreck of a lorry; the heat sizzling. Dropped at the port; driver would not take any cash. Met Pauline and "Captain Bones" in the bar; drank lots of much needed beer.

16<sup>th</sup> April S4, Ballyryan Td

Solo

Tried to clear previously excavated hole of collapsed boulders, along with flotsam and jetsam; tough going. Unable to move the large boulder now occupying the dug hole.

17<sup>th</sup> April S4, Ballyryan Td

Solo

Tried going down the south side of the boulder, below a layer of smaller ones are even bigger ones. A lot of effort, with little to show for it.

18<sup>th</sup> April Fisherman's Walk, Ballyryan, Td

Solo

Told by Jack Garrihy of a big cave entrance near sea level, near the base of Mirror Wall; AKA Fisherman's Walk. Eventually found the place; the base of the thirty-metre cliff has been eroded by the sea, creating a rock shelter, some twenty odd metres long and five deep; a nice example of the sea developing a cave by erosion. No potential.

19<sup>th</sup> April Cullaun IV, Cahermaan Td – Cullaun II, Cullaun Td

Solo

Relocated the stream gully, then entrance among the foliage. Low water; managed to get a good distance along the low crawl; dug through several gravel heaps; stacking spoil awkward in limited space. Abandoned task; exited for a swift trip to the sump, Cullaun II. The dead thing, found last time, all but disappeared; nice ribs.

23<sup>rd</sup> May Cwmystwyth, Mid Wales

Nigel Burns, Mike McDonald

Evening walk, found Bonsal Level, high on Copa Hill. Descending the mountain found four quern stones and many more stone malls amongst the old dressing floors.

24<sup>th</sup> May Herbert's Stope – King and Queen's levels- Bonsal level, Cwmystwyth  
Nigel Burns, Mike McDonald  
The mountain is slowly squeezing adits and stopes, major collapses will occur. Queen's stope an example. Found a possible 17<sup>th</sup> century level, cut into by later works, stoped into from below.

25<sup>th</sup> May Graig Fawr, Cwmystwyth, Mid Wales  
Nigel Burns, Mike McDonald  
Climbed west of Graig Fawr; checking for upper levels, revisiting the superb hand-picked level to the right side of the stream channel, about a hundred metres above the mill site.

29<sup>th</sup> May Bowery Corner Swallet  
Solo  
Cut and trimmed flat the shale bottom of the entrance on which to lay concrete blocks, to accept concrete pipes.

31<sup>st</sup> May Bowery Corner Swallet  
Jarratt, Garry Jago, (Nigel Jago's boy), Mark Lumley, Keith Bentham  
Constructed south wall of concrete blocks to accept concrete pipes; TJ delivery boy with GJ and KB assisting; ML assisting PC finish south wall; started on the north side.

2<sup>nd</sup> June Bowery Corner Swallet  
Solo  
9am. Jarratt rang; the pipes are being collected the weekend. 6pm sped to the dig to finish the north wall; giving the mortar time to set: a long evening's work.

6<sup>th</sup> June Bowery Corner Swallet  
Chris, (Blitz) & Karen Smart, Pete Hopkin, Mark Lumley, Arthur Millet, Jarratt, Richard Neville-Dove, and many, many watchers. The plan; install two concrete pipes. Tied the pipes, one at a time, to the front of Toes Landrover. Wrestled the first into position, by swinging it side to side, as it would not roll. Directed idle observers to back fill the gaps. The second pipe followed; a fine job. Wessex Challenge, a fine event.

17<sup>th</sup> June Lamb Leer – Bowery Corner  
Mark Lumley, Steve Milner  
As CSCC conservation officer visited to confirm disappearance of the gate/lid; it is gone. Afternoon trip to BC; two hours clearing debris.

20<sup>th</sup> June Lamb Leer, Owner visit  
Solo  
Visited Mr Burge to inform of situation; he is not bothered the shaft is uncovered. He has stopped all caving access to his land. Unsure how things will develop. Mr Burge intends develop the land for use by 4x4 clubs and motocross: as it brings in significant income.

24<sup>th</sup> June Bowery Corner  
Solo  
Used hammer and ½ inch chisel to cut an 8-inch diameter hole through the upper concrete pipe to bring in the field stream pipe.

28<sup>th</sup> June Bower Corner  
Stuart MacManus, Jarratt,  
Completed securing and cementing the pipework, finished the session digging.

11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July James Cobbett's First Housewarming, Passfield  
Paul & Judd Thompson, Phil & Geraldine Collett, Stuart and Marilyn McManus, Alan & Sue Harrison, Cheg & Aileen Chester, Pauline Cronin and many more A fine Pig Roast followed the afternoon in the bar next door, a crazy evening session; suggested to James it become an annual event.

15<sup>th</sup> July Bowery Corner  
Steve Milner, Richard Neville-Dove  
The six-inch field pipe secured in position, final concrete pipe installed, Lintel to the rear of the pipe required to accommodate back filling.

19<sup>th</sup> July Hunter's Hole  
Steve Milner, Jarratt, Jarratt, Richard Neville-Dove  
Toe had previously set a bang; went to see the effects and clear the debris. The boulder had gone, and a hole created in a false floor! Toe delighted; potential good.

20<sup>th</sup> July Lost Norbert Casteret

22<sup>nd</sup> July Bowery Corner  
Steve Milner, Richard Neville-Dove  
Pressed on clearing debris; a short, excellent session

29<sup>th</sup> July Bowery Corner  
Steve Milner, Mark Lumley  
Another fine session, a little more of the sides removed

31<sup>st</sup> July Wookey  
Martin Bishop  
Very pleasant late afternoon – early evening dive to 24; passing 23 MB developed low pressure leak on his first stage; an "O" ring issue. Unfortunately, PC's keyset was metric, but with small pliers, managed to grip the low profiled, domed head, O ring replaced; hooray. Left kit to explore, ambled along the magnificent stream passage. Had informed management of a potentially late exit, (2am); changing in the car park approached by security man, John, asking if we were all done; a nice man.

2<sup>nd</sup> August Bowery Corner  
Solo  
Set several concrete lintels on top the concrete block walls, covering the gap between the wall of the passage and the concrete pipes. Back packed the gaps inbetween; nice job.

4<sup>th</sup> August Bowery Corner Swallet  
Pete Eckford, Terry Edwards, Steve Milner, Jarratt  
Erected tripod over the shaft, removed some spoil.

7<sup>th</sup> August Wookey Hole  
Martin Bishop

As the visibility was good, searched the boulder floor between 20 and 22; a great time ferreting about; evening trips result in enjoyable diving; a chance to study the place.

8<sup>th</sup> August Hunter's Hole

Steve Milner, Jarratt, Mark Lumley

SM was to "dive" the sump within the CO<sub>2</sub> zone, three 4s were taken in as the plan was PC would back up SM. SM had issues at the squeeze, being too tight; couldn't get to the actual pool. Work needed on squeeze.

16<sup>th</sup> August Bowery Corner Swallet

Jarratt, Richard, (Mongo), Neville-Dove, Mark, (Gonzo), Lumley

Removed spoil and a fence was erected adjacent the road. Returning to the car ML found potential car thieves sniffing about and saw them off; down boy!

30<sup>th</sup> August Bowery Corner Swallet

Pete Slater, Ted Humphries, Kevin? Mike Duck, Nick Gaymer, Jarratt

Much effort lowering the floor with hammers and chisels; slow progress.

4<sup>th</sup> September Wookey Pool

Bob Drake, examiner;

BD insisted PC take the CDG Part I test; though passed some fifteen years previously at the Fishponds Lido. After demands from BD to fulfil various, multiple tasks and answer a range of technical questions, awarded a pass.

5<sup>th</sup> September Radstock, Chris Batstone's and Liz's Wedding

A superb, protracted, liver crippling session: great fun.

6<sup>th</sup> September Bowery Corner Swallet

Mark Lumley, Pete (Snablet) McNab), Henry Bennett, Jingles, Babs, Nick?, Simon?, Jenny?

Jarratt banged the place, vaporizing the adjacent wall, behind which was a twenty-five-foot-long rift; spoil removed making much more room to dig forward. Delight.

12<sup>th</sup> September Bridge Cave – Little Neath River Cave, Ystradfellte

Mike McDonald

Aim: dive sump I into Little Neath River Cave. Water levels high; eventually found dive line; visibility superb. Uneventful round trip, though air space in the canal was a little small; dry entrance completely flooded. MM appears too focused on the line, potentially missing other factors or navigation features; it is, as yet, early days.

19<sup>th</sup> September Wookey Hole

Bob Drake, examiner

Conducted, with Alan Downton through the CDG Part II test; both awarded a pass.

Encountered Martin Bishop, Pete Eckford, Ken James and Charlie Watkins at the BEC, insisting celebrating the test results. Drove over to the Churchill to start, on to the Star, Shipham, the Plume, Rickford; into Wells for a curry; finishing in the "Christine Keeler" AKA "The Men-Dip In", of all places: a cracking session: crashed at the MNRC.

20<sup>th</sup> September Wookey Hole

Martin Bishop

Swiftly to Bishops, assembled kit and made for Wookey. MB wanted continue searching the shallow route. Visibility of one metre didn't help at all; saw little. A very fine session in the evening with Cheg Chester, Jarratt etc

4<sup>th</sup> October Wookey Hole CDG training meet

Bob Drake etc.

Requested take on the jobs of Somerset section Training Officer and an Examiner by BD. Pointed out unable to swim; excuse dismissed.

6<sup>th</sup> October Jubilee Swimming Baths

Solo

Baths located fifty metres from home. Should know how to swim. Spoke to receptionist; watched techniques of lunchtime swimmers from the poolside, entered, copied same. Replicated breathing sequence for breast stroke in twenty-minutes. Delighted.

24<sup>th</sup> October Swildons

Solo

No one at the BEC. To sump II, up Valentine's, completing the Round Trip in reverse, yet again, but love the trip; Troubles a bit high, no issues. Enroute home sought out Jarratt to collect gear; found him at Bowery Corner; assisted removing several buckets of spoil.

8<sup>th</sup> November Wookey Hole – Longwood rescue

Martin Bishop

Controller Bob Drake

Pleasant dive with MB through to Chamber 20; had a look at another climb MB fancies. En-route MB played with a new light he'd made; it's a fussy bit of engineering. Suggested a simpler case of waste pipe; with screwed ends and glands? Surfacing in 9:2, found it flooded. Passing the Hunters, Roger informed of a rescue at Longwood; arrived, told by Jim Hanwell, the casualty was approaching the entrance; please wait until she exited. Helped clear the site, wash, clean and stow equipment in the store.

Illegible entries

18<sup>th</sup> November Wookey Hole (not present at incident)

Almost, lost Dave Pike to Wookey

Swift action by Richard West and Bob Drake successfully revived a very dead DP.

"The one that got away".

25<sup>th</sup> November Bowery Corner Swallet

Jarratt, Mark Lumley, Steve Milner

Removed more of the roof: strong draught inwards.

28<sup>th</sup> November Dallimores Cave

Police Constable Jerry Brice & colleague, Jarratt, Mark Lumley, Mike McDonald, Gaymer & Gymer, Brian Prewer, and many others.

As CSCC Officer, arranged with the Feds, the use of explosives to install concrete pipes in the entrance. While JB stopped the traffic, Toe fired a charge demolishing an obstructing boulder. Next the concrete pipe was manoeuvred and set in place on drystone walling and steel joists. The ground that had slumped removed and used to back fill said pipe.

December Undated, (4<sup>th</sup>?) Somerset Section CDG, AGM, Richmond Spring, Clifton  
Voted in as Section Training Officer and an Examiner.

6<sup>th</sup> December Wookey Hole

Martin Bishop

Somerset Training session

Bob Drake controller

Several new faces present. MB and PC to chamber 20: en-route testing PC's alternate battery container. Weighted the experimental 12-inch-long waste pipe with screwed ends, sealed with rubber washers: left at the Slot for the duration, (3hrs). In 20 assisted MB scale a climb to another potential passage; in fact a shadow. Opened tube in the car park, the paper tissue inside, bone dry.

Business manic

29<sup>th</sup> December Doolin River Cave, Doolin Td

Richard, (Mongoo), Neville-Dove, Mike McDonald, Steve Milner

A really warm, bright, sunny day: river level quite high. SM and PC rigged Fisherstreet; concern for airspace, RND and MM descended, informing the air space was a passable twelve inches. SM and PC to St. Catherines: stream high. Approaching Fisherstreet Pot SM was washed off his feet. Carrying a kit bag and one of SM's ammo cans, also washed off the feet in the current, bouncing along the left side of the passage. Exited. Walking across the field SM pointed out blood issuing from PC's leg. Examination revealed the oversuit, undersuit and knee professionally slashed open; used electrical tape to seal the two inch long, deep gash. Standing at the bar, customer's drew Doll's attention to the blood stain on the floor. After a bollocking from Doll; told to go to O'Dea in Ballyvaghan, for stitches. Returning to Doolin met Pauline sprinting up the road toward Ballyvaghan, searching for the wounded husband: yet another massive bollocking. Into the bar for a "rest", piss taking by the customers, as Doll and Pauline fussed about over the casualty. Delivering bollockings, between delivering drinks.

31<sup>st</sup> December Polldonough, Ballynahown Td – Poulanian, Craggycorrada East Td

Martin Becket, Richard (Mongoo) Neville-Dove, Mike McDonald, Steve Milner

Polldonough submerged; Poulagrinn taking a huge stream; confirming Gus Curtin's observations; *"It takes a lot of water"*. To the Cliffs for RND to enjoy them and the affects of the gale; met Martin and Alison Becket, joined them for a trip down Poulanian. Knee a little stiff. Had previously met Mick Durdy in O'Connor's: after an hour of him being really fucking unpleasant, suggested it best he not to turn up for the New Year, if still in the same foul fucking mood. Arriving from Clahane, Sean O'Connor reported MD reported being too ill to attend tonight...