(11)

It was a really fun trip with 7 hrs of caving. Got wet on Sunday but was totally worth it. Really enjoyed the wire traverse & the sliding. Steve and Rosa are good and nice leaders (Vlad as well) and I wish to go caving with them in the future.

The sky was so pretty when we came out the cave - the only similar place I could find in Oxford is Port Meadow, but that's just petite in comparison with the meadow here in South Wales.

No scary or claustrophobic moments at all this weekend. felt like I got a step closer to the heart of the Earth and myself too.

VIC

First time leading. All went well. People were very competent. Went to shatter pillar and back.

- Vlad

XETUL PKOW HGCVEPI LKQ! YWHN, TGQIJAU.
GZHHQTWZ PGO LCUKWIGK (HGHL)

- BKQFW

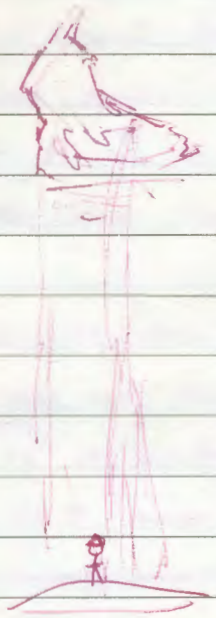
SWCC

YORKSHIRE WEEKEND 04/03/22 - 06/03/22

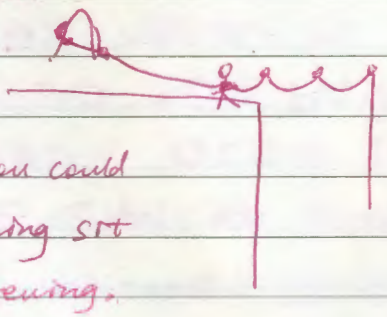
Rosa Clements, Tom Spriggs, Vlad Cătănea, Fiona Zhang, Máté Soós, Vlad Turcuman Avelina Kuenzel

Saturday:	Bar Pot	Flood Pot
	Avelina	Rosa
	Vlad.T	Tom
	Máté	Fiona
		Vlad.C

	Dolly Tubs	NorthWest route
Sunday.	Tom	Rosa
Alum Pot	Fiona	Vlad.C
	Vlad.T	Máté



Dolly Tubs was very crowded that day, we spent quite a lot of time waiting for other people to climb up the pit. While waiting Tom taught me rigging, it was fun. To making things faster. Tom did the rigging for the second pitch.



There was a giant opening, you could see the sky and other cavers doing SRT on the other side of the opening.

We saw Rosa's team ascending up the pitch, and took some wonderful photos of them.

— Fiona.

(13) 12th March — 13th March

Swildon (Mendip) Weekend

Fiona, Vlad.T, Vlad.C — swildon ~~to Sump~~ Sump I
(+Steve as driver. Thanks!)

The group was just us three (Vlad x2 + Fiona), so ~~we~~ it was quite fast. ~~to~~ We made ~~to~~ it ~~to~~ Sump I in like 2 hours, ~~but~~ climbed a ladder on our way. Everyone did well. I was the first to go down the ladder, Vlad.C ~~rebi~~ rebelayed ~~to~~ me, and ~~we~~ I did the same for him when he came down (~~we~~ using another ~~tech~~ technique, sorry I forget its name). The ladder was right next to a waterfall, so we all got showered.
We went through some slightly tricky climb. (great fun!) arrived at the end of Sump I at around 1pm. This was where the fun begins!
~~On the~~ It seems there ~~was~~ is no where to go but actually ~~there is~~ all we need to do is to swim through a short underwater tunnel. (8 seconds) (turned out you ~~don't really~~ need to hold your breath for like ~~10~~.

My first attempt was to reach out with my hand and see if I can feel the air on the other side, (well ~~its~~ it was ~~not~~ further than I expected.) Vlad.T offered to go first. (bravo!) ~~The signal to~~ He would send a "safty signal" once he made it by pulling the guide line 3 times. ~~Honestly, me I was~~ ~~little~~ slightly worried ~~seeing haven't~~ I ~~to~~ The water was very cold. It took me ~~to~~ 10 minutes to make the ~~fin~~ desi decision of diving. I don't like burying my head in cold water, ~~some~~ especially when water stuck in my ears after I resurfaced. ᒣᒪ ᓂᐯᒣᐯᒣᐱᐯ ᕆᑐᓂᑐᒧᒍ. I was the second to go in. followed by Vlad.C. ᕆᑕᑕᒣ ᐁᐯᒣᐱᐯ. ᑐᐯᒣ ᕀᕆᕘᐯᒣ ᓭᑐ ᒣᐯᓭᒣᐯᒣᕆᓭ ᐁ ᕘᒣᕆ ᓭᕀᕀᐯᒣ ᐱᕆᑕᒧᐯᒣ ᐱᐁᑐᒧᑐ, ᐱᐁᑐᗷᗷ = ᒧᒪᐱᐯᒣᒣᐁ!
ᘐ ᔑᕀᐅᐁᑐ ᕕᐁᗅᐧᐅᐁᒥᑐᐁ ~~Vlad~~ Vlad.T ᑐᐧᘐᑐᒪ ᕀ ᑐᒪᒧᘐᒥᑐᒪ ᑐᘐᐅᐁ ᑐᐧᐅᐁᒣᕀᐯᒣ ᕆ ᑐᒪᒣᒣᐯᒣᑐ. (Bravo again)

[illegible] Miraculous!

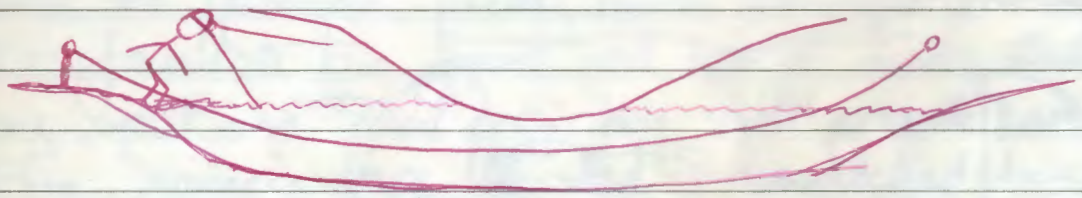
we got out the cave at around 3 pm. just in time! I got my own SRT kit from Tony. Yay!

Also, one more thing...

TSGNI [redacted] EHT ESU ELI! hahaha. Oh. They exist for a reason ya know

—Ainfo

Good trip anyway



MENDIP. 15th - 17th Apr.

Rosa Clements, Vlad Cătănea, Vlad Turcuman, Kelly Lee Frances Pope, Fiona Zhang, Rory Rose, Phil Rose, Alexander Heeres, Liv Farrar

Saturday

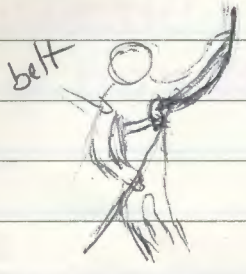
~~Swildons~~	GB
Phil	Rosa
Liv	Vlad T
Rory	Vlad C
~~Kelly~~	Fiona
Alexander	Frances

After GB



Italian hitch. (very useful. used it in a GB twice).





We also saw some bats! → 

Friday Hunters Hole

On Friday we faffed a lot as we thought it would be easy to get a GB permit and then it was not. We did get some SRT practice in (mostly Vlad T faffing with prussik knots). Eventually we decided to go to Hunters Hole so we did actually get underground. In the pub car park we met Steve and Arthur! They were coincidentally in the Mendips on the way back from relatives. We got underground! Vlad C did the rigging and did a good job of it. Although neither of us could figure out where the deviations were meant to go so we opted for the Sago Pot route instead. Luckily the rigging guide had given rope lengths quite a lot in excess of what was needed so there was plenty of rope for any route.

At the bottom we had a good explore both up and down the passage, pretty much everywhere except Gas Alley. We found a big fossil and lots of mud. ~~[illegible]~~ On the way up Fiona tried prussiking with prussik knots and discovered why jammers were invented. She switched back to jammers halfway up. Vlad T derigged and had no problems at all. We walked back in the sunshine.

Saturday GB

It's a long time since I've done GB, never mind the Devils Elbow route. It was good to get chance to do that again. There was a lot more to Devils elbow than I remembered, and it featured two bits where we had to abseil with Italian hitches on belts (one pull through, one fixed rope). I'm glad we didn't try it on the way out! We also had a bit. He did it very effectively. The duck was nowhere near as bad as I remembered, just a crawl through a puddle really. Then we saw Bat Passage which was very beautiful indeed. A shame the waterfall wasn't climbable so we couldn't do the round trip, but a great trip all the same.

Vlad T rigged the ladder, after I copped out of rhumba alley detour!

YORKSHIRE WEEKEND 06/05/22-08/05/22

Vlad Cabarea, Rory Rose, Mabe Soos, Alexander Heeres, Xilin Fan, Rosa Clements

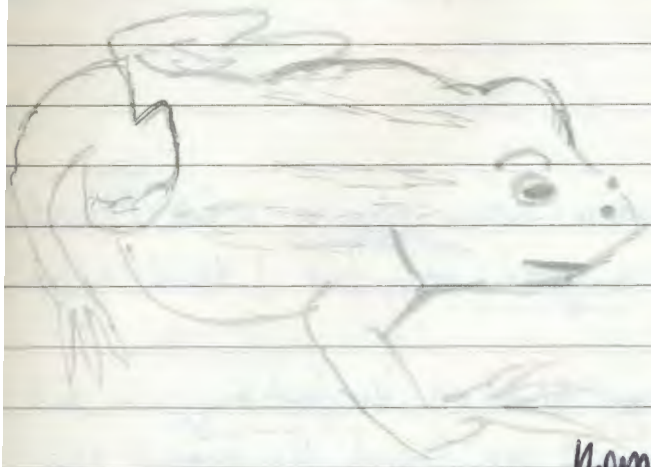
Pool Sink

We went to Pool Sink so Vlad could learn some rigging while Alexander and Xilin learnt some SRT. It wasn't a speedy trip but I think a fair bit of learning happened.

After the SRT, we found the streamway. Not on the first try we did have a particularly muppetish episode where we found the wrong way then all four of got the way we hadn't tried confused with the way we'd come and went right back to the bottom of the pitch. Second time lucky....

We were getting somewhat close to our callout and slightly embarrassed to see Rory coming to meet us having done a ~~[illegible]~~ much harder trip in less time. We would have got back on time really.

SLAUGHTER STREAM / WET SINK (DAY TRIP - 21/5/22)



Izzy Innes, Tom Shaw, Rosa clements, Arthur, Laura, Benoit, Matthew, Tulum Cruz, Rahima, Alexander.

we found a toad! & lots of bugs ^_^ good for a toad, not for us!

3 beginners on this trip, all of them did very well!

Tom's group (arthur, tulum, rahima & alexander) completed the round trip of the cave, using instructions from some local cave rescue (on a casual trip) members we bumped into at the bottom of the pitches.

Rosa's group (Izzy, Laura, matthew, benoit) potted around the streamway & explored some side passages, before turning back & pushing up to the entrance again.

All groups exited the cave by 9:30 pm, callout was at 10 so just as well! (sorry for worrying you, Rory ;))

WALES WEEKEND 27/05/22 - 28/05/22

Rory Rose, Tom Spriggs, Rosa Clements, Alexander Heeres, Ametha Steane, Steph Dudenberg, Maddy Torreggiani, Eliza White

OFD 1 → Top through trip

Tom and I embarked on a slightly ambitious attempt to learn the way for the through trip from OFD to Top. We invited Alexander to come with us, but he'd seen our attempts at routefinding on the North Wales trip and wasn't keen on a repeat. So Alexander joined the beginner trip and we tried to make our joint weekend with CUCC an actual joint weekend and invited some Cambridge cavers, acquiring Birk.

We got through OFD 1 efficiently, despite a brief stop to teach Birk about conservation tape (CUCC need to educate their Freshers better! Boo!) and actually got as far as the Letterbox without too much trouble. Then we explored every possible route between the Letterbox and Diver's Pitch, short of actually going down the Pit. Eventually we found that the tight well worn crawl was not too bad and was in fact the right way. We stayed on track for a good 5-10 minutes before spending about an hour getting lost and finding several ways of going round in circles in Cwm Dwr. Maybe Alexander made the right choice... We got back to the streamway and found that the stoopy/crawly bit we'd decided against long ago was the right way.

The streamway had lots of deep pots as expected, low water levels did not prevent everyone from getting soaked. It's a shame Mabel wasn't on the trip, she might have liked the swimming. We did a bit of abseiling coming out of the Oxbows because the traverse/climb looked dodgy.

When we reached Marble Steps, I thought we were done routefinding. No, we tried about 5 different climbs before we got the right one.

I was pretty tired by the end but I really enjoyed this trip. The streamway is fantastic. Not 100% sure I'd refind the route but it's a step in the right direction. Top trip!

Sumps count: 5