

6th February 1983
Force Crag Mine

Members present: - J. Crain, M. Maher, M. Maher, Chris Jones 1+2, D. Blundell, A. McFadzean, Max Dobie, Clair Divine, M. Wickenden, J Crain's mate and a selection of Northern Mines Bods.

Meeting at the crushing mill all members decided to go in at the number 7 level, descend the old stopes, laporte incline and out of no: 3 level. Various routes taken up to mine, some heavy snow on tops. Max unfortunately last up the aerial ropeway track was successfully bombed by large quantities of snowballs.

Once inside the mine, just before decent of first ladder Wickenden, Jones, Maher and Maher decide to go back out and look for open stopes. This was done most unsuccessfully as all we found was a 40' gully drifted with snow. Evidently open stopes are much higher, indeed right on the tops.

Everybody met up again in the Laporte incline where the party moved on slowly, down to no: 3 level and eventually out. Interesting enough for the ones who had not seen the mine before.

With a lot of time still on our hands we decided to have a look in the working mine, the lock from which was not on. The party entered at no: 0 level and climbed up, by various routes, one of which was a sporty incline full of water which ventured up way above no: 1 level to an eventual climb of about 15' which owing to the water could not be climbed on the day, to no:1 level. The others climbed up the escape ladder route left in as the mine shut down. No: 1 level had, we discovered collapsed very heavily beyond the new entrance installed last year. Plenty of ore tubs left in, however no signs of work on this level as the last company had concentrated on no: 00 level, now flooded. A well attended meet.

Meet Leader: Mark Wickenden