

**13-14<sup>th</sup> July 1985**  
**Coniston Copper Mines**

**Exploration work in Paddy End**

A McFadzean & P. Fleming

Four members turned up on Saturday – Mike Mitchell, Peter Fleming, Ian Matheson, and myself – and carried a great deal of tackle, which included the maypole, all the way up to Levers Water. The plan was to attempt to climb over the huge boulder choke which is to the west of the entrance dig into the Boxing Day Stopes on Top Level.

After abandoning an attempt to lower the tackle down to Top Level by means of the shaft which drops onto the four-crag junction, we resorted to the orthodox route via the Through Trip Stope which, although longer, proved to be less of a headache.

The maypole was erected near the choke and Fleming ascended up to find it was not long enough, so we decided to leave this venture till the following day when Mike would bring an extra length of pipe.

All four of us then abseiled down to the platform above the pinnacle rock, from the eastern-most stope on the Top Level main road, which we proved, with the aid of a tape measure, was situated on the Middle Level horizon. We noted a previously unseen stope glancing way from the main vein at this point, which is directly below the stope on the Belman Hole Vein, but we couldn't get into it. Also noted the window out of which Phil Merrin had shone his light on a rescue meet last winter.

On Sunday there was a better turn out. The original four were supplemented by Chris Jones, Dan Jones, Mark Wickenden, Dennis Webb, Tim Clarke and Chris Gordon. Down on Top Level we re-erected the maypole with its extra section and Dennis and Ian made a successful ascent. Above the choke they discovered a long and unstable boulder slope which terminated at the head of the stope. No way on, so we packed up and returned to the surface.

It was still early afternoon so we split into two groups to complete an exchange trip through Levers Water Mine and Brow Stope. This trip was abruptly terminated when Dan Jones tripped and fell head long into a hole in the level, saved only by falling across a stemple. If he had missed the stemple he would have ended up at the foot of Brow Stope, nearly 200ft below, and not the mere 40' which we thought at the time and which was reported in the Newsletter No 10, (subsequently learnt on a later visit by Mitchell, Fleming and myself, when we descended through the stopes of Levers Water Mine to the foot of Brow Stope).

Though we did not know it at the time, Dan had broken his leg. Mike Mitchell organised a stretcher, which was constructed from slings and maypole parts, and within the hour Dan was safely out in the sunshine. Chris Jones took him to the Furness General, where he was kept in overnight.

Alen McFadzean

I am glad to point out that Dan has made a full recovery and can't wait to get back underground.