

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1986**  
**Coniston Copper Mines – Exploration**

M.L McF.

Twelve members turned up at the climbing hut in the pouring rain and after getting changed set off up the track to Paddy End and Levers Water.

The objective was to reach the four-way junction on the Paddy End Old Vein / Middle Level crosscut and try and push on into new ground in any way possible.

All twelve members reached the junction in good time and without mishaps, descending the through trip from Levers Water to Top Level, Orange Box Corner to the foot of the Funnel on the Windy Stope, then climbing up the 25' of rope at the western extremity of the Windy Stope into the Middle Level crosscut. The only tricky bit was manoeuvring the rope to the top of the 25' climb. I was first on the scene and had a devil of a job pulling through the prussicking rope with the bit of old twine that had been left in for the purpose. I suggest that a short length of SRT rope should be left in here as a permanent feature.

Once at the four way junction we crawled into the left hand stope of the Paddy End Old Vein through a dig we had opened up some time ago. The only obvious way on from here, we knew from our last visit, was through a man way in the false floor to water some forty feet below, then to try and swim along the stope.

To our surprise the water had risen to about ten feet below the false floor. Martin Maher dropped into it and swam in both directions, left to the end of the stope, then back towards the junction where the way on was immediately barred by a solid wall. I suggest this wall is a pillar left in there to give the floor of the junction stability and that the stope will in fact resume a few feet further down.

The remainder of the day was spent digging at the junction trying to force an entry into the right hand branch of the Paddy End Old Vein stopes and also straight ahead into the continuation of the crosscut then the stopes of Stephens Vein. We succeeded in shifting several tons of muck and this was walled up neatly back along the crosscut. We never got into new ground but things look extremely promising and certainly worth another days work.

Members Present

A.McFadzean M.L.

P.Fleming

A.Wilson

D.Bridge

A.Lings

I.Matheson

M.Mitchell

T.Keats

P.Merrin

E.Brown

M.Maher

A.Danson