

11th January 1987
Coniston Simons Nick

COMRU Meet Stabilising Simons Nick / Top Level Connection

Peter Fleming, Mike Mitchell, Angela Wilson, Anne Danson, Allan McFadzean, Alistair Lings, Dave Bridge, and Ian Matheson.

Most vehicles were unable to pass the ice on Coppermines track and had to be left at Miners Bridge. Mike Mitchell had brought a quantity of timber and scaffold poles, which Alastair drove up to Levers Water.

Mike and Peter went into the through trip stopes. Ian rigged the Simons Nick pitch, and then went down to the cross cut with some smoke pellets to try to make contact. He was held up as some stones fell from the false floor below the ten foot drop, and when he arrived at the cross cut he could see them on the other side of the stope near the T junction. They were about 20' higher and had got there from Arête Chamber. Voice contact was also made through Angela's dig to the end of the passage into which the ladder way rises from Lake Stope.

With some difficulty Mike and Peter fixed a rope and threw the end across to Ian. He fixed his end and they both came across by abseiling partway down the rope and then prussicking up the other side. Whilst this was going on the others were hard at work passing the timber, poles, etc down to Dead Dog Passage. The whole group then spent about three hours stabilising the slope to the blockage and digging at the bottom, deepening the hole by about six feet. About six o'clock Fleming and Matheson went down to Top Level to make voice contact again. The diggers above sounded well forward of the blockage on Top Level, but not far above. It was easy to converse, and a few hours more should suffice to make the connection. At this point the group retired for the day, having used up all the timber. Mike, Allan, Anne and Ian went out via Arête Chamber and the through trip stopes, whilst Dave, Angela, Alistair and Peter departed up through the Simons Nick Shaft.