

19th July 1907

Coniston Copper Mines

Grade D & Exp.

Meet Leader - Pete Fleming

Thirteen members and one guest attended this meet. Top Level Extension was entered by what has now been adopted as the normal route - that is the traverse line (MAGs Catwalk) across the stemples from Arête Chamber. It is a relatively easy and safe way to visit this most interesting and recently discovered part of the mines, involving no abseiling.

Those members who were making their first visit were given an escorted tour of the "sights" whilst Ian Matheson and Anne Danson descended the deep stope at the end of the "cracked" passage and were bolting the pitches. Mike Mitchell and Pete Fleming Free climbed down the shattered stope to reach Middle Level Horizon and did some more digging at the collapse under Brow Stope at the Four Way Junction. By now there must be a fairly deep crater in the rubble at the bottom of the stope.

Most of the others then visited Woodends Level to see the Famous wooden plug under Levers water. Some descended to Middle Level via the normal route on the Paddy End through trip. Pete and Mike then joined Ian and Anne who were about 140 ft down in the Deep Stope standing on a steeply inclined rubble slope. By now we had reached the conclusion that we were not in the stope which drops from Levers Water Mine, called Avalanche Stope. We were in new ground. After deciding that a pile of hanging deads immediately overhead would remain there for a few more hours, Ian descended the next pitch which soon landed him on the continuation of the steep slope and could be scrambled down to the lowest point. The rest soon joined him. I estimate the vertical descent From Top Level must in all be no more than 260 ft. This would be equal to the distance down to Grey Crag Level. Mike and Ian attempted to climb over a 15ft blockage to reach the continuation of the stope as it turned right in a northerly direction, but this failed. However stones thrown over the top were heard to roll down into the water. Could this be Grey Crag Level? There is a good chance it could be and all we needed were three or four climbing stemples to wedge across the stope.

We all prussiked back up to Top Level, retrieved the 300ft rope and made our way out, where we met most of the others at MAGs Catwalk. We were soon back at Coppermines Cottage For a quick wash and change then on to the Crown at Coniston. .

Those attending were

Don Borthwick
Alaster Cameron
Anne Danson
Pete Fleming
Brian James

Chris Jones
Guy Jones
Alastair Ling
Mike Mitchell
Ian Matheson
Sharon Murphy
Paul Timewell
Anton Thomas
Alan Charlesworth (Guest)