

20th November 1988
Goldscope Meet Report – Yewthwaite

Seventeen attended the meet. Because of the large number attending and the distance apart of the mines it was decided to split into two groups. Four people led by P Fleming assisted by W Allison, went to Yewthwaite. The other thirteen went to Goldscope to explore the wheelpit chamber area and the back copper shaft.

Various people disappeared beneath the stacked deads in the wheel pit chamber and tried to make contact with day via the stope in the Back Level. After some sustained digging, little progress was made.

Meanwhile, M Mitchell and others scaled the wheelpit chamber stope and up the incline where positive voice contact was made with the other party who in the meantime had descended the Back Copper Shaft, it is thought that a proper working party could make a full passage through, (a new through trip?). It should be noted that “John Hool” was the only one with the nerve to make his exit from the back copper shaft via the “boulder choke” (which has still not mellowed with time). The other eight members of the party elected to prussick out.

I feel it should be recorded that whilst “A Sibbald” was just starting his ascent a stone descended the full height to the shaft striking him on the shoulder. This could have been avoided!!, this is a clean shaft, the rock was dislodged by members at the shaft top watching their colleagues below.

Fortunately Mr Sibbald was not seriously hurt – but it did come down with some force and it certainly hurt sufficiently for a bad bruise and a rather unnerving experience.

All members of the party returned to Little Town Bridge car park at 5:45pm. The Yewthwaite party had all returned. P Fleming, W Allison, A Wilson, D Bridge, all descended the open stope down the 50’ pitch to the sub level, which only goes south. Off the sub level an angled shaft descended 30’ to a rubble cone – here the pitch descended a further 45’ to the main level. The level extended in fairly sound ground north for 150 yards until a major collapse is encountered. South the level enters through very bad ground for 30 yards from the point of descent. Beyond this area of dubious ground the level continues for 60 yards to twin foreheads during the exploration. P Fleming found a “clay pipe” in a back filled drive. All stopes were climbed. It should be made clear that the 45’ descent from the “rubble cone” down to the main level below is adjacent to stacked deads on timber for the full length of the descent. These are in a somewhat dubious condition “extra care is needed”.

All members left Littletown 6:00pm.

Meet Leader: Ian Tyler, J Helme, J Helme, Anton C.P.T, D Borthwick, M Mitchell, C Jones, A Cameron, J Hool, S Fleming, A Sibbald, C Brown, C Barrow, Paul Timewell.

Sub Leader: P Fleming, W Allison, D Bridges, A Wilson.