

14th May 1989
Force Crag

A superb turnout for the meet, a total of 21 members in all. In view of the large numbers it was decided that the meet would be split into two groups led by Anne Danson – Ian Tyler.

All members of the meet viewed No 1 level, some descending the ladderway down to '0' and looked at the new "Calvin barite stope".

Most people took advantage of the opportunity to climb the incline between No.1 and No.2. The final pitch was rigged for SRT, free climb, assisted climb and those who could not manage any of these were dragged up and then lowered down. It is now easy to see who they were as they have either wasp waists and squint or speak with high pitched voices or suffer all three symptoms. No.2 was explored to the full. Mike Mitchell descended a box hole from the stope down to No 2 level but alas the way on was collapsed. Numerous volunteers began a dig on an incline from No 2 stope up to No 3. This was unsuccessful on the day, but the following week we made the connection (I Tyler-W Allison).

The sporting side of this little escapade was dampened by the fact that the 5 week drought had reduced the 20' pitch to virtually a dry climb, this is definitely not so in ordinary weather.

Note: the fixed rope on this pitch belongs to me so leave it alone, anyway it is badly worn so beware heavy SRT Men!

All returned down to the mine manager's office for lunch.

In the afternoon the group proceeded up the fell to No 3 past No 2 (now partly dug open). Inside No 3 we launched ourselves up the Laporte incline, leaving the ropes at the trapdoor for the 200' pitch down to No 3.

At the top of the Laporte some people decided to climb the re instated ladder and up the mini incline and then on up to the 80' level. Others progressed onto a recently dug out level (1100), this was previously 4' deep in water at the forehead, then up the manway to the 80' level, meeting the others. Here the party were able to inspect the timber staging of the shaft up to the High Force.

Note: the manway is now totally unsafe.

Pete Fleming and Mike Mitchell took a party up to the High Force via the stopes, others returned down via the incline, some taking the ladderways.

I returned to the Laporte trapdoor and rigged the pitch for the descent. Alistair Cameron was the first to go, the pitch was slightly adjusted to get a cleaner hang and more people started to descend. People then started to arrive from High Force party who had managed to work their way through to the High Force from 80' via the 50' and out to day. The average time for descent was about 10mins, in all 7 or 8 members made the 200' pitch down to No 3.

Investigation of the 650' level revealed a large collapse in the stopes and now prevents further progress, (this has fallen in the last 8 weeks (future dig)).

We all returned to the mill site, thanks were given to the owners of the mine for their help and time which allowed the meet to go so well – thanks Anne.

Overheard on the 80',...."Has anyone seen Guy?"...."Lindsay saw him on zero, oh Guy apparently worked the mill by hand all day, complained that the hand crank on the fly wheel of the jaw crusher made his arms hurt and his eyes water".

EXPLORATION STILL GOING ON READY FOR NEXT MEET.

Members Present:

A Danson (ML)	I Tyler (ML)	D Borthwick	J Helm
P Timewell	J Helm (L)	C Barrow	M Mitchell
S Barker (L)	A Cameron	D Ramshaw	J Adams
A Lings	I Matheson	D J McCurdy	S J McCurdy
A Wilson (L)	P Fleming	D Webb	Guy Jones
W Allison			

Ian Tyler