

29th September 1991
Coniston

Rather than an exploratory meet, this was more of a working meet. The object was to begin the project that has been talked about so long and which would take several meets to complete.

The idea is to establish a link across a gap in Taylor's Level within the Red Dell stopes. This would make access to or from the inner reaches of Taylor's Level easier and less time consuming. It would also make a through trip via Triddle Shaft and Fleming's Level more reasonable and interesting. A second new connection was to be investigated descending from the surface in Red Dell direct to the inner part of Taylor's Level via a very large jammed flat-topped block. Both these lines require a limited number of stemples to provide a catwalk.

Eleven members carried rope, timber and tools up to Taylor's Level entrance and Red Dell Stopes. Over the previous few weeks a small group of members had been bolting up and across the walls of the stope beyond the accessible part of Taylor's Level, past the two barrels. This route was progressed to the top of a large rubble slope supported on staging. Near here a short intermediate level was found. A number of members descended from the surface of the stope to establish contact, having already lowered the stemples and stowed them. Voice contact was made. After some time and more bolting and traversing, the two groups were only about twenty feet apart. A rope was thrown across and secured.

Having established the line of the proposed connection, the rope was left in position ready for use in fitting stemples on a future meet. The other route from the surface to the flat block will be relatively easy to install.

Members then returned to the comfort of their homes, showers and beds, only to be called back to Coniston (wearing COMRU hats) at midnight to search for and rescue three people missing in Paddy End workings.

They were found safe and well, having got lost in Top Level Extension.

P. FLEMING