

The WAY OUT

Winter 2004

Volume 1 Issue 10

The Newsletter of the
West Brecon Cave Rescue Team
Registered Charity No 1016463

Supported by
The Sports Council for Wales
and **Dragon Caving Gear**



The Way Out is distributed freely but a donation to the team would be very welcome

Please accept my apologies for the delay in producing WAY OUT 10. The pressure of organising RESCON03 and work left little time. However it means WO 10 is a bumper issue!

Jopo, Editor.

WBCRT Annual General Meeting 2004

Officers, Wardens & representatives.

WARDENS

Gary Evans	
Toby Dryden	
Pete Dobson	
Ali Garman	
Jules Carter	
Rhys Williams	
Idris Williams	Mid-Wales Warden
John Lister	Mid-Wales Warden
Alan Braybrooke	Mid Wales Warden
Clive Edwards	Mid Wales Warden

Brian Jopling	Chairman	jopo@freenetname.co.uk
Vince Allkins	Secretary	vince.allkins@lineone.net
Rhys Williams	Treasurer/Call-Out co-ordinator	
Gary Evans	First Aid Officer & First Aid Training	
John Roe	Equipment Development Officer	
Ali Garman	Equipment Officer	
Keith Goodhead	SWCC Rescue Officer	
Ian Pinkstone	Welsh CDG Rep.	
Pat Hall	Fundraising Officer	
Martyn Farr	Cave Diver Rescue co-ordinator	
Pete Dobson	Communications Officer	
Julian Carter	Training Officer	
Fred Levett	Ordinary Member	
Janine Graham	Ordinary Member	
Laura Trowbridge	Ordinary Member	
Ian Thompson	Ordinary Member	

TRAINING

If you feel that you would benefit from a particular aspect of cave rescue training, practical or technical, please contact the Training Officer, Jules, who will ensure that the relevant training is arranged, including on a one to one basis if requested.

Jules can be contacted on: julescarter4@hotmail.com

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Bob Radcliffe retired as a WBCRT warden. Bob was our longest serving officer and had played a pivotal role in the SWCRO/WBCRT, serving in most roles and taking part in many cave rescues. Bob has moved to Manchester and we wish him well. We have also lost some of the original Soup Dragons. Marj Jopling, Heather Eteen and Les Cardy have finally hung up their aprons after more than 25 years of fundraising for the team. The SD's have been an important part of fundraising and often the

main year on year fundraisers. Judy Day, Marijke and Les Davies are still in place.



'RETIRING' SOUP DRAGONS

2003 was a busy year. The major event was RESCON03 which coincided with the years major rescue – Otter Hole.

I rate RESCON03 as a partial success. The foreign and WBCRT representation was excellent but the UK CR Team representation left a lot to be desired. On reflection it was a mistake to try and run the BCRC conference on the last weekend of RESCON03. Thanks to all those who helped and made RESCON03 a success even though I did manage to choose the only wet week of the 2003 summer!

The dissolution of the SWCRO, as agreed by the membership and executive last year is almost complete.

Advanced First Aid. Due to the continued efforts of all of those involved with first aid training the WBCRT ranks as one with the highest proportion of advanced first aiders in the country. Outside of the WBCRT the first aid crew are also contributing to the national scene.

We have seen a few new faces on the WBCRT exec. this year, I hope the trend continues.

Finally. The executive has decided it is time to create a new badge. We have decided that a tee shirt and sew on patches will be available very soon for members to purchase. The executive feels that, apart from being proud to belong to the WBCRT, there is a need to identify ourselves to others – in particular on away from home callouts. The new WBCRT badge is reproduced in the top right corner of this page in B/W and can be seen in living colour on the WBCRT notice board and website.

Jopo.

ANIMAL RESCUE

INCIDENTS:	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Cave Rescues	38	38	36	41	36	34	18	19	19
Animal Rescues	18	18	21	13	14	12	7	12	12

Introduction/background

People that know me through the rescue committee, will know that I prefer the practical hands on stuff to paperwork. I particularly hate having to use "the C-word". However, to demonstrate a point I will use it now...

Below is a quote from the WBCRT Constitution:

"2. Objects

a. The objects of the Team shall be to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons or animals endangered by accident or natural hazards underground by the provision, at the request of the police, of search and rescue for any persons or animals endangered."

As the above paragraph shows, rescuing animals in peril underground is an important part of why we exist as a rescue team. Statistics also show that animal rescue forms a significant proportion of the work we undertake. A brief analysis of the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC) statistics for the 9 years of 1995-2003 inclusive is given below:

It may come as some surprise that, nationally, animals account for almost a third of all surface and underground work. In South Wales Cave Rescue Organisation (WBCRT and Gwent CRT figures combined) the figure of 23% represents almost a quarter of all our surface and underground work.

In recent years we have been called to the assistance of many varieties of our furry and feathery friends; Dogs, cows, geese, sheep... One of the problems we have, as a team, is the sheer range of animals and situations we can encounter. Every one is different, their bodies are different shapes and sizes, and the caves they get stuck in are different every time as well. Due to this diversity it is very difficult to provide training on rescuing animals (which I had been asked to do), so I have opted for recording a few hints, tips and pointers which have been gained by the team over the years, as well as a bit of advice gleaned from professionals.

Pointers

- **Your safety comes first:** As in all branches of rescue, don't put yourself in a dangerous position. Always make an assessment of the risks and bear in mind that animals can be unpredictable – our team members have been bitten by dogs, had teeth kicked out by a calf and been chased down an underground boulder slope by a cow on a rescue in New Zealand!
- **Seek advice:** When we attend an animal incident, there may often already be people on the scene with lots of knowledge of animals; Farmers, RSPCA, Vets... Use their knowledge on how to safely handle the beast. Also, some team members have attended many animal rescues and gained experience - ask them too.
- **Aim to minimise stress:** With a large animal, experts may be on hand who can sedate it. If not, reassure it; speak calmly and quietly and perhaps give it a stroke.

Hauling Harnesses

Much has been talked about harnessing animals for hauling and various commercial harnesses are available. However, as mentioned before, we can expect to deal with anything from a small dog right up to a cow and inevitably, we are probably never going to have exactly the right piece kit on hand for the job. It always comes down to improvisation. In at least one calf rescue

it would have been impossible to get a proper harness on in any case, due to the fact that the poor thing had sunk up to its middle in mud.

Large Animals

Generally, for large animals (cows and horses) we will be looking at improvising with slings. We have padded lifting slings in our animal rescue kit as well as our standard rope slings. The padded slings will be more comfortable for the animal, but perhaps less versatile. Basically, what we are attempting to do is spread the load across the animal's body so as to reduce undue pain/damage and stress. Getting the slings arranged so that the centre of gravity of the animal is directly below the haul point, so that it lifts in a stable fashion is not easy though. In the event, the quicker the animal can be securely harnessed up the better. For this reason I would recommend that the team invests in "adjustable slings", these could consist of extra long belay belts. Adjusting a buckle is far quicker than having to tie and untie knots in slings whilst in a combined space and trying to hold a moving animal. As an aside, In the New Zealand cow rescue I mentioned earlier, the harnessing method was simply a rope around the neck. The haul was exceedingly quick and the animal did not suffocate, however, if something had got snagged or gone wrong, the animal would probably not have survived. Consequently, I really would not recommend that approach. I have also been advised by a vet friend of mine that there are a couple other things that you really should not do to a cow. The reason for these two things is due to the extraordinary weight of a cow's gut full of grass and grass products. Lifting the cow with its head lower than its rear end means that the weight of guts pushes onto the chest cavity and can cause serious problems with breathing. So, head-down hauls should be avoided. The second thing to avoid is rapidly rolling the cow about the axis of its torso. The inertia of the gut contents can induce a twisting of the poor beast's internal bits, which can get quite problematical.

Small Animals

For small animals (dogs, lambs, poultry) forget slings and harnesses. Get them into a suitably sized tackle bag. Do not forget that you have something fragile in there though. You cannot haul it as roughly as you would 100m of rope or a club drill! Some animals might prefer to have a head sticking out of the top whilst others might find it altogether less stressful if they cannot see what is going on. It has been suggested that we obtain a couple of the 1 tonne bags that builders' merchants deliver sand and gravel in. These are ideal for lifting sheep. You just coax it in and then lift away. There is no way it will be able to climb out of that. I believe that we should carry a couple of these bags in our animal rescue kit.



Lifelines

When subjecting humans to a vertical haul (or lower), we use both a haul line and a lifeline. This gives us a margin of safety; if one line fails, the other is still in place and a fall should not occur. In the case of animals, I would leave it up to the people at the scene to decide whether it is appropriate to use two lines. It may be decided that speed and simplicity is more important than that extra margin of safety – really it depends on the situation.

Slip Rifts

A recurring problem we have in the South Wales coalfield/Valleys area is with pet dogs falling down the rifts that are formed by landslips. These rifts are often not known about by local dog walkers and can open unexpectedly. They are often too tight or barely large enough for a human to enter and can be 10m or more deep. In these rifts, a dog may fall down and become physically wedged or may land on a ledge or a solid floor. We have attempted to use dog-catching tools in the form of nets and nooses, however, unless the dog is physically wedged these are unlikely to be much use. Despite much trying we have not managed to coax a nervous dog into one yet! At a recent incident in the Rhondda, we tried all sorts of remote techniques but at the end of the day had to get a rescuer (me) right down to the dog and put it into a tackle bag. This is often likely to be the only option. The rift had to be enlarged on that occasion with careful use of Hilti caps and micro blasting – taking enormous care not to drop debris down onto the dog. The historically suggested method of retrieving a long haired dog was to lower a piece of barbed wire on a rod, spin the rod to tangle in the hair and then pull up. Frankly I cannot see this technique doing much other than causing the animal a lot of discomfort; I would not recommend it.

Conclusion

Animal rescues are all different, so use a bit of common sense and do the best you can without exposing yourself to undue risk.

Rhys Williams.

FLECTALON

The truth, almost.

What do lager chillers, cave rescue, premature babies, a bothy in Scotland, Christmas tinsel and second hand mangles have in common?

Read on. This story will make the tales of Jeffery Archer seem like a Salvation Army newsletter. (No disrespect, I consider the Salvation Army to be one of the religious organisations worthy of support. Please buy the War Cry.) Do I digress?

To begin at the beginning, where else? In a past prosperous period I was concerned with a joint project (nothing to do with drugs) involving the University at Cardiff and a company called Porth Textiles in the Rhondda Valley. Porth Textiles had as much to do with the garment industry as the Penwyllt regulars have to do with caving. Christmas decorations were their business with tinsel as a main stay of that activity.

My task was to find other applications for tinsel. This fitted in nicely with my ambition to put the world right and to at least get on the short list for a Nobel Prize. I looked at a range of uses including toilet paper for fairies, radar interference and packaging. However thermal insulation seemed the way forward. The tinsel, when bulked could trap air and provide reflecting surfaces and perhaps give a superior insulation material. The problem was that tinsel was produced on a very precise machine giving clear cut edges. The resulting product was flat and lay comfortably layer on layer with little or no air gaps. No good for insulation.



They don't know how, they don't know why and most importantly they don't know who. But they do know when and they do know where a bastard file fell into the feed to the jaws of the university shredder. Accident is often the mother and father of invention and for some reason, better known to those familiar with the art of engineering the characteristics of the University's security equipment was altered beyond all recognition

Some how or other, sheets of aluminised PVC (the raw material of tinsel) found its way into the modified shredder. Lo and behold the edges of the resulting strips were crinkled and the strips did not lay flat one upon the other (unlike club member at past parties) They bulked, creating air spaces. So Flectalon was born.

The chief executive of Porth Textiles, one Clause Benedict, was overjoyed. This is probably an overstatement as joy only came to Clause when the tills tinkled.

He assembled experts under his guidance to turn this fortunate discovery into a commercial process. Soon they concluded, as only experts can that this was not possible as the output from the shredder could not pass through rollers on a quilting machine without becoming tangled.

The opinion of experts to some people is like a Welsh Dragon to members of the League of Empire Loyalists.

Two second hand mangles were acquired (I have since made it up to the little old lady down the road by introducing her to the local launderette).

Scaffolding poles (probably taken from the club, every body does it so I'm told) were used to hold the mangles in a pilot plant in my garage at Aberdare. A few sacks of shredded aluminised PVC were produced and using Clare and Owain as power on the mangles the shredded material was fed from roller to roller. This was on a Sunday morning.

Early on the Monday morning the prototype production plant of mangled scaffolding was assembled in the corridor outside the office of Clause Benedict. Frightened staff were trained to use it and then told to lie low.

Clause was a big man, a very big man. When he strode down the corridor at 9am, it was as if the sun had gone down (it only rarely comes up anyway in the Rhondda). The glowing tip of a fat cigar preceded him. The daily onslaught of smoke, sweat and superiority kept the staff in the places to which they had become accustomed. However on this day in history the warm front came to a furious halt. "What the hell is this".

A whistle blew. Two terrified typists tiptoed to turn the mangle handles. Flectalon flowed like the waters of Babylon from roller to roller.

The look of anger on the face of the chief executive slowly turned to a sly grin of joy as the sound of creaking mangles became the music of tinkling tills.

Time passed and the Flectalon production line became a reality turning flat aluminised film into bulky thermal insulation.

We knew it was good. How? we scientifically tested it using C.O.D.C. members. The first was Bill Clark who slept in a Flectalon sleeping bag night after winter night, including nights of freezing rain. The only ill effect being divorce proceedings. Sleeping bags were tested in Artic Norway and Canada and Phill (Don) Rust was given one to test in Scotland. He slept on the stone floor of a Bothy one winters night.

He failed to report back on the performance of the sleeping bag. Later we found that he and others had slept on a cold wet floor. Came the dawn they awoke and rolled up their sleeping bags, that is except Phill as his had frozen to the ground. The sleepers in the down bags had lost body heat to the ground which prevented freezing to the stone floor. The Flectalon had not. Phill had torn the bag when trying to roll it up and had been afraid to report its destruction.

Stories of dogs going to ground at Dan yr Ogof and re appearing singed and demented at Porth yr Ogof will seem like fairy tales compared to this next bit of the saga. But unlike dog stories of Dan yr Ogof there is evidence. Please read Archives in

Childhood Volume 60 pages 47 – 50 January 1985. “New insulating material in maintenance of body temperature”.

We all react differently to thermal stress. This reaction is based on our physique and our experience of thermal stress. To compare the effectiveness of insulating materials requires a number of bodies with the same physique and with no experience of thermal stress. The RAF had an instrumented aluminium man. We were not allowed to use him, pity, could have been fun.

We used premature babies in incubators with larger chillers to lower the temperature. They were all of about the same physique and all had only one and the same experience of thermal stress, that is, until now.

When they felt discomfort, because of the cold, their oxygen take up rapidly increased and this point was called the critical temperature.

I now quote from the afore mentioned paper.

“The critical temperature for a baby 2 to 10 days old was 31C when naked and 23C when wrapped in a Silver Swaddler or a sheet and two blankets. The use of a quilt made with Thinsulate or Holofil with a mass per unit area of 160 to 180 g/m2 reduced the critical temperature to 19.5C while Flectalon of comparable weight reduced the critical temperature to 13.8C. Flectalon is thus an efficient insulator”.

At the time we had to have approval of various ethical committees and other checks and quite right too. Today experimentation of any kind is stifled by the Sir Humphries of this world who cling to a false feeling of power by stopping every thing to suit their own hidden agendas. The country goes down the plug hole through lack of innovation whilst the pen pushing stoppers sit back and collect honours.

Clive Jones.

Flectalon is still used by WBCRT in a cas bag - **Ed.**

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE SWCRO

Over the last couple of years it became obvious that the SWCRO had served it's purpose and become an obstacle to the development of the Gwent CRT and WBCRT. The original purpose, to ensure compatibility of equipment and a knowledge of the sister teams techniques and personnel, had run it's course and the SWCRO had become in reality an extra bureaucratic layer that duplicated effort and required the attendance at meetings of cave rescuers who could spend their limited time more effectively. We also had the rather strange situation of both teams being charities belonging to another charitable body. Whilst not wishing to force a change, the Charities Commission was not really happy with the set-up. The changes in grant availability meant that it was more efficient for the teams to approach direct.

Detailed discussions took place between the executives of both teams and in 2003 the AGM's of both teams were presented with the proposed dissolution of the SWCRO and the measures that were to be included in each teams constitution to ensure that the original aims of the SWCRO where met. Both AGM's approved the changes which were then presented to the Charities Commission together with a motion from the SWCRO AGM to dissolve. To date, Jan 2004, the WBCRT changes have been accepted, the SWCRO dissolved and the Charities Commission approval for the Gwent team is imminent.

The British Cave Rescue Council AGM in 2003 approved the application of both teams to become individual members of the BCRC

As one of the founder members of the SWCRO I was sad to see it dissolved but remembered well the seemingly pointless meetings—at least 4 a year + an AGM - that always struggled to be quorate. The constitutions of each team means that joint practices are now formalised and each team has the right to send an observer to the others executive meeting.

Jopo.

WBCRT RESCUES IN 2003/04

Porth yr Ogof Rescue Practice

A WBCRT Rescue Practice took place at Porth yr Ogof on Saturday 22nd March, 2003. This was the first practice of 2003 and was aimed at covering basic skills for newer team members and as a refresher for existing members. The excellent turn out of 31 people included around 15 new members who have either recently joined the team or were attending as a means of joining the team for the first time.

Following an introduction and welcome by the WBCRT Training Officer, three groups were formed to commence the practice.

One group were trained in the use of the new HeyPhones and then split up, forming a surface and underground team to implement what they had learned.

The second group took the new Long Slix Drag Stretcher to the bedding plane crawls to undergo the delights of moving a loaded stretcher through tight passages.

The third group took the React stretcher to the main entrance and then were trained in the art of stretcher packaging and carrying over rough terrain. Once at the 'Letter Box', the carry was converted to a pre-rigged haul system and the stretcher was hauled up the diagonal shaft leading to the surface by means of a haul team on the surface working closely with the stretcher support team.

After a lunch break in the glorious sunshine, the teams swapped over and the process was repeated in the afternoon.

The day was finished with a session using the floating stretcher down at the entrance pool. Those (fools) with wetsuits with them were encouraged to change and get involved and the unfortunate Paul Craddy was conned into taking the part of casualty for the launch of the always alarming looking floating stretcher set-up. Despite the cold water and inevitable cajoling from the now numerous onlookers, the system worked well and a relieved and mostly dry casualty was released from his bindings having traversed the pool both ways.



The Floating Stretcher at Porth yr Ogof Practice.

All in all a relaxed and enjoyable day for everyone and a great chance to learn about the equipment and techniques. Thanks to all who attended, to the trainers and especially to the various 'casualties' who were willing to be pulled and pushed around all day.

Gary Evans.

OTTER HOLE - THE WBCRT CALLOUT

This article is only about the WBCRT callout. There is a full report available from GCRG.

At about 5.35pm on the 22 July 2003, I took a call at Penwyllt. RESCON03 was in full swing with Steve Thomas giving a talk on cave diving rescue in the Long Common room. The call was from Brian Prewer—until recently a Mendip CRO warden.

Brian had received a call from the car park at Otter informing him of an accident in Otter Hole. He had been called because the callers had dialled 999 on a cellphone and upon being connected to the police control centre*, were not happy that the operator had done the right thing with a cave rescue call—she put them straight through to the Fire service. So they decided to call someone they knew would have contact numbers.

Brian informed me of the details of the accident; a female caver had fallen onto her bum the other side of the tidal sump, was in enough back and pelvic pain to prevent her from caving and that a carry would be very likely.

What must be one of the easiest call outs I have conducted then took place. I opened the Long Common room door and counted out 15 of the A team! Within a very short space of time they had been briefed, fed, changed and away. Speed was critical as we did not know the state of the tide. I phoned the Dyfed Powys police to update them and get an incident number.

At 5.50pm we had a call from the South Wales Fire Service informing us that the Fire Service, Mines Rescue, Severn Estuary and Cliff rescue had been alerted. No mention of GCRG, a bit worrying!.

I decided to take a bit of a stand and asked the Fire Brigade controller if she was in contact with the above bodies. When she replied yes I gave her my name and status, informed her that cave rescue personnel had been deployed and asked her to inform all of the non cave rescue teams that on no account should any of their personnel enter the cave as it was extremely dangerous and they could be seriously injured within the first 100 meters.

Within a few minutes she called back to say that the message had been passed and only cave rescuers would be allowed to enter the cave.

Meanwhile I had managed to get Steve Tomalin, GCRG warden, to tell the GCRG what the WBCRT was doing, (at this stage we thought that the GCRG had been alerted). Steve had heard nothing and said that he would call the other GCRG wardens.

So what happened to the initial 999 call?

The Gwent police operator had said she did not know what to do with a cave rescue request and put the caller through to the Fire Brigade. What should have happened is that she should have followed standard procedure, which would have resulted in a police initiated cave rescue callout. So the Gwent police did not callout the GCRG, we did. A subsequent Gwent police investigation has corrected the error.

Otter Hole is a bit of an anomaly. Normally the cave rescue team in a police area is the one responsible for rescue from that cave. However, because of the location of Otter, it was agreed a long time ago that it would be the responsibility of the GCRG. The fact that there has not been a callout to Otter in thirty years added to the potential for a cock-up.

When Brian Prewer took the call from Otter he was asked to call Penwyllt because Gavin, who was in the stricken party, knew that RESCON03 was taking place, having been to give delegates a preview of his new diving film. We acted quickly to get a strong team away within 30 minutes of the initial call. Strictly by the book I should have called GCRG first or waited for an official callout. But events were happening pretty quick, we believed that the GCRG had been called out and having personally done a rescue practice from the Hall of Thirty to the Tidal Sump, albeit 25 years ago, I knew that on a Tuesday evening we would be needed.

As it transpired we did the right thing. The first rescue party consisted mainly of WBCRT members, GCRG not having the advantage of RESCON03, and they managed to get beyond the Tidal Sump before it closed.

The circumstances allowing such a rapid response are unlikely to be repeated. A callout at that time on a Tuesday evening would have found many WBCRT members at work, travelling home or on holiday. To get 15 members to Otter would normally take at least a couple of hours, by which time the sump would have been closed, delaying the evacuation by 7-8 hours.

*We originally believed that the 999 had gone to a cellphone call centre.

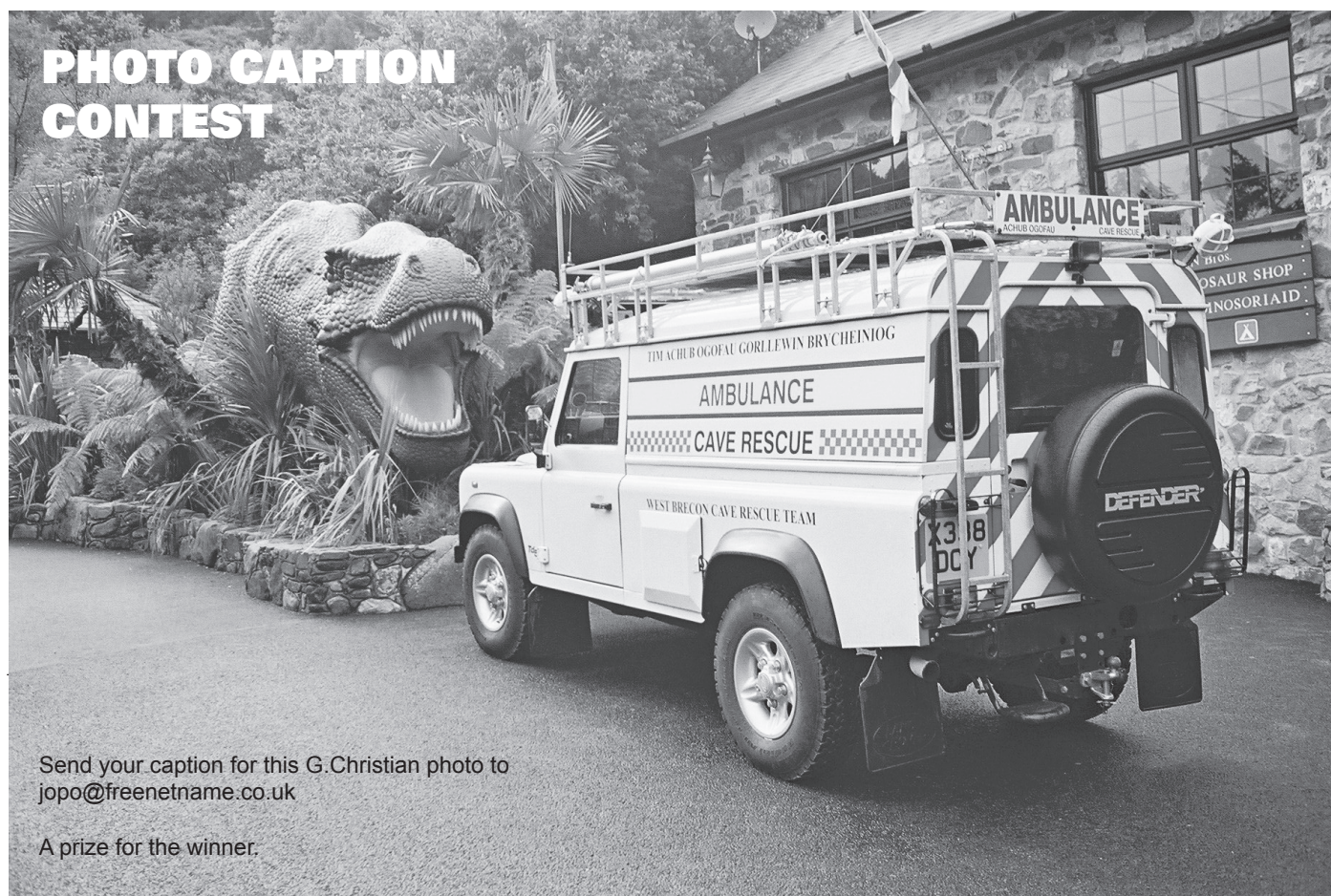
Jopo.

WARNING!

IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT SOME LED LIGHTS
CAN CAUSE SEVERE INTERFERENCE WITH THE
HEYPHONE.

ANY LED WITH A MICROPROCESSOR MUST BE
SUSPECT AND MUST BE TESTED AGAINST A WORKING
HEYPHONE.

PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST



Send your caption for this G.Christian photo to
jopo@freenetname.co.uk

A prize for the winner.

WBCRT – RESCUE AND THE MEDIA

The press, radio and TV are quick to be involved when there is an incident. For both the casualty and the Team the way we respond is critical.

The team conducts any rescue on behalf of the Police. The Controller will agree with the Police the extent of our media involvement, and anyway will appoint a liaison officer to make sure that relations with the media are managed as the Team would wish.

Please support our efforts to ensure cave rescue and the Team's work is seen in a positive light. Most importantly we want to respect the privacy of the casualty and relatives.

You can help by avoiding giving comment or information to the media. Instead direct the media to the liaison officer. His or her job is to make sure we stand by our 4 principles set out below. You may be asked by the liaison officer to give interviews or information or provide photo opportunities.

In certain circumstances especially after an incident the BCRC solicitor may deal with our press comment.

The Team's 4 principles for working with the media;

1. It will co-operate with the media to improve the public's perception of cavers and our sport as far as reasonably practical.
2. It will release accurate information as soon as possible during an incident, subject to protecting the identity of the casualty if necessary.
3. Recognise that both words and pictures are needed.

4. However it will not comment on the actions of any of those being rescued or rescued by the Team, nor take money for any 'copy'

Remember, if you speak to the media without the agreement of the liaison officer you may say things that are factually wrong or offend others. Please don't take the risk.

Fred Levett.

WBCRT WEBSITE

West Brecon Cave rescue Team now have a website at
www.wbcrt.org

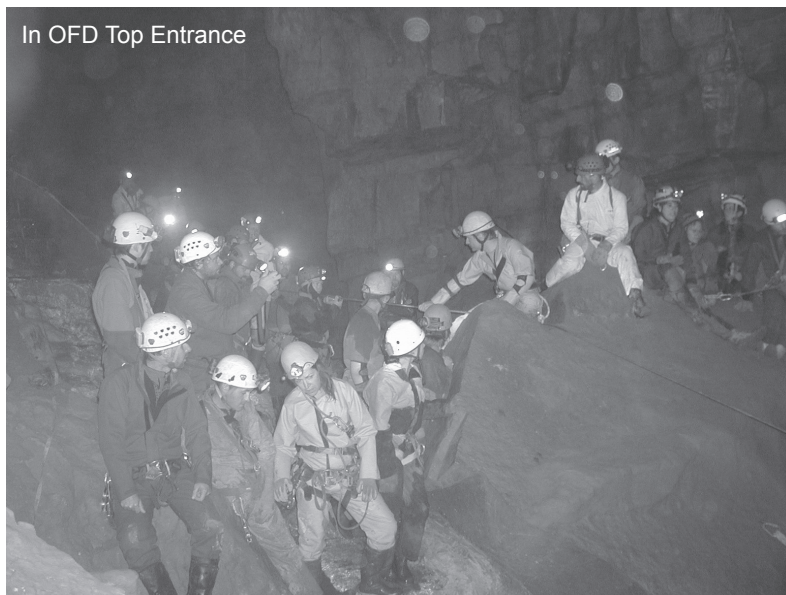
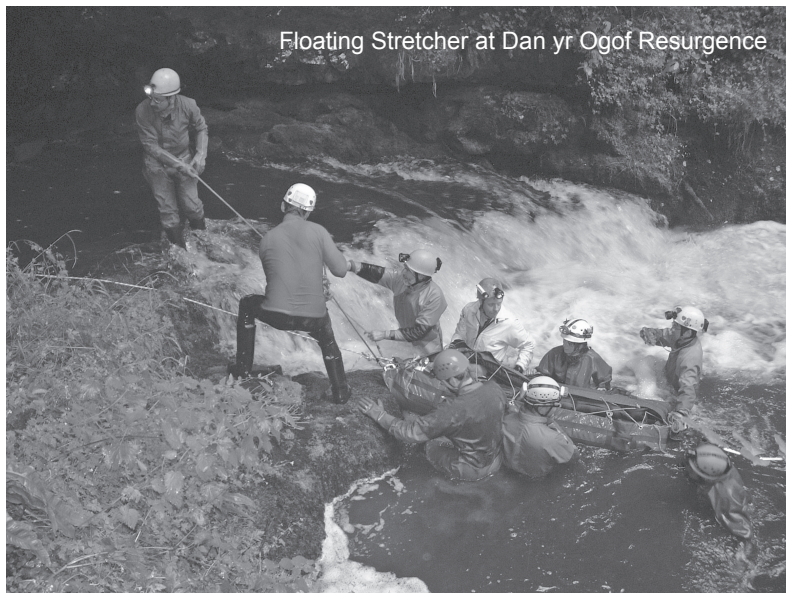
We welcome your feedback on the site and any suggestions for improvements or additions.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE WAY OUT

Articles from ALL those interested in cave rescue are welcome for consideration.

Send articles to: Brian Jopling, Owl Barn Cottage, Duntisbourne Rouse, Cirencester, GLOS. GL7 7LG.
email jopo@freenetname.co.uk. Text files, JPEG photo's, GIF sketches please.

You do not have to be a member of WBCRT - just interested in cave rescue.



FROM RESCON03

Pictures by:

G. Christian
 Alex Maier
 Pete Allwright
 B. Jopling
 Chris Pepper
 P. Buckberry
 C. Grimmett

CAVE RESCUE CALLOUT PROCEDURE

DIAL 999 AND ASK FOR POLICE

ASK POLICE FOR CAVE RESCUE

HAVE READY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

YOUR LOCATION AND TEL. NUMBER

CAVE LOCATION AND NAME OF CAVE

NUMBER IN PARTY

DETAILS OF TYPE OF INCIDENT (INJURY, OVERDUE, MISSING)

IF AN ACCIDENT, AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON ANY INJURIES

STAY BY THE PHONE AND A CAVE RESCUE WARDEN WILL CONTACT YOU

IF CALLING FROM A CELLPHONE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE BATTERY LIFE

If you are connected to a cellphone call centre tell the operator to connect you to the police.

It is important that you stay contactable as the cave rescue warden will need as much information as possible.

WBCRT CALLOUTS IN 2003

Date	Location	Duration	Description
18/01/03	OFD 2	2 hours	Member of party on through trip became exhausted and was assisted out by members of WBCRT.
22/07/03	Otter Hole	20 hours	Member of a Filming party fell and injured pelvis and back. Members of WBCRT and GCRG worked through the night to bring casualty out of cave. Second Rescue party had to wait for tide to turn and for sump to open before being able to assist first party.
19/08/03 20/08/03 23/08/03	Gelli Mountain, Tonypandy	22 hours	Dog Rescue from Rift on Mountainside. 6 WBCRT Team Members attended and after 3 days and over 12 hours of rock removal, one team member finally managed to reach dog around 20ft down. Jack Russell Rescued Successfully.
25/10/03	OFD 2	1.5 hours	Party of 3 from UBSS on through trip from Cwm Dwr to Top Entrance Overdue. Party of 6 WBCRT began search of Top Entrance and found missing cavers in Gnome Passage. They had got lost in Cwm Dwr and again in Top Entrance.
15/11/03	Pant Mawr Pot	2 hours	Party of 3 from UWCMCC (Cardiff Medics) overdue from Pant Mawr Pot. 5 WBCRT took Landrover to Pant Mawr and found party bivvied on hillside. Leaving cave in the dark, the party had got lost and decide to wait for Rescue.
28/12/03	Mynydd Brith Weunydd – Rhondda	4.5 hours	Dog Rescue from Rift on Mountainside. 6 WBCRT Team Members attended and one was able to reach the dog around 15ft down. Jack Russell Rescued Successfully.
25/02/04	Pant Mawr Pot	1.5 hours	Party of 5 from Aberystwyth Caving Club overdue from Pant Mawr Pot. On exiting cave, they became lost in the dark on moor. Called Police from farmhouse as Team mobilised and Police requested WBCRT to collect them and return them to their vehicles.
01/05/04	Pant Mawr – Byfre	1.5 hours	DofE group camping on Pant Mawr moor. One member of party reported as hypothermic to WBCRT Team members who were at Team HQ at Penwyllt. Immediate response in Landrover Ambulance determined that the unwell individual was in fact very warm and appeared to be looking for a way to get of the hill. Lack of responsiveness resulted in transfer to Ambulance at Penwyllt.

Thanks to all the contributors to Way Out 10.

Send your donations to: WBCRT c/o Rhys Williams, 10 Beda Rd., Canton, Cardiff, CF5 1LW

The WAY OUT

WBCRT RESCUES IN 2004

Volume 1 Issue 10

The Newsletter of the
West Brecon Cave Rescue Team
Registered Charity No 1016463

Supported by
The Sports Council for Wales
and **Dragon Caving Gear**



The Way Out is distributed freely but a donation to the team would be very welcome

WBCRT RESCUES IN 2004

Date	Location	Duration	N°	Description
25/02/04	Pant Mawr Pot	1.5 hours	7	Party of 5 from Aberystwyth Caving Club overdue from Pant Mawr Pot. On exiting cave, they became lost in the dark on moor. Called Police from farmhouse as Team mobilised and Police requested WBCRT to collect them and return them to their vehicles.
01/05/04	Pant Mawr – Byfre	1.5 hours	4	DofE group camping on Pant Mawr moor. One member of party reported as hypothermic to WBCRT Team members who were at Team HQ at Penwyllt. Immediate response in Landrover Ambulance determined that the unwell individual was in fact very warm and appeared to be looking for a way to get of the hill. Lack of responsiveness resulted in transfer to Ambulance at Penwyllt.
11/05/04	Clydach Vale, Tonypany	4 hours	3	Lamb had fallen down 'slip rift' on hillside. Fire service called for assistance and WBCRT Team member managed to descend to reach and rescue the lamb successfully.
12/06/04	Slaughter Stream Cave	14 hours	20	Male, 55 years, fell in Zurry Aven and suffered a broken head of Femur. WBCRT assisted GCRG by providing a Doctor, Advanced First Aider and 18 Team members for Rigging, Carrying and Hauling. Police Helicopter deployed to collect WBCRT Hare Splint. A technically tricky rescue with an excellent outcome.
26/07/04	Cwmparc, Treorchy	1 hours	4	Dog had fallen down 'slip rift' on hillside near Treorchy. WBCRT called by RSPCA and then stood down en-route as Fire Service had managed to catch the dog with a noose on a pole.
09/10/04	Ogof Pasg	2 hours	25	Exhausted casualty unable to climb pitch on way out of cave. Assisted out by WBCRT Team members.
09/10/04	Daren Cilau	1 hour	5	Team on standby to incident at Llangattock to assist GCRT. Stood down as overdue cavers returned.
16/10/04	Pwll Dyfn	1 hour	11	Police requested attendance to locate cavers who they believed to be overdue. Cavers returned as Team was mobilising.
03/01/05	Dare Valley Country Park	8 hours	5	Staffordshire Bull Terrier had fallen down 'slip rift' on hillside in Dare Valley Country Park. WBCRT called by RSPCA and recovered dog by lowering a Team member down the rift. The tightest section was widened by chiselling.

West Brecon Cave Rescue Team

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