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10/10/51

As we had to be up quite early on the Saturday morning, we decided to spend the W/E in Maynes Barn. Despite our late arrival we were up at 9.30 and only 1 1/2 hr. late at the entrance. But in keeping with M.N.R.C. traditions, their leader, Peter Venus, arrived late as well. We were soon ready and he led us down the 60ft. entrance pitch (fixed ladder) which everyone found quite easy. A brisk walk soon brought us to the Beehive - the largest stalagmite boss in the country, and finally to the winch at the top of the 70ft. pitch. This is the most difficult pitch on Mendip, being completely exposed apart from the 5ft. Leading down the pitch, I wondered why the pitch was so severe, as I found the climb relatively easy. At the bottom of the Main Chamber, (110ft. high, 100ft. long, 110ft. wide), we spent another hour or so exploring all the passages and digs, including Beaumont's drive and Valentine's landing. On the way up, everyone found why the pitch was so notorious, many of us only just managing it.

Next morning, with the sun again blazing down, we took a quiet walk over to Swildons Hole, where we reached the 20ft. pitch in a very quick time. This was rapidly climbed and we soon reached Sump 1, which was not too much above its normal level of 6ft. A few of us had a splash about in the pool, but as I was the only one to have an effectively working wet-suit, we decided not to leave the Sump. The journey to the surface was just as quick, and we found we had done the series in just under 3hrs.

D.L.W.

I.B. CAVERN

Altitude 830ft. Length 4,500ft. Height 430ft.

Tight entrance to First Grotto, which has 3 routes to Main Chamber

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Mud passage route | E.S. |
| (b) Revill's Elbow Route | D.C. |
| (c) The Gole | S.C. (Floods in wet). |

Main Chamber

500ft X 500ft X 75ft. high.

Upper part is false flooring to a natural area, the Bridge, leading to the Gallery, from which the formations can be better seen. Below Gallery, slide leads to 40ft. fixed ladder to Sump Dig extension.

A Visit to Lamb Leer

March 6/7/8.

As we had to be up quite early on the Saturday morning, we decided to spend the W/E in Maynes Barn. Despite our late arrival we were up at 9.30 and only ½ hr late at the entrance. But in keeping with M.N.R.C. traditions, their leader, Peter Venus, arrived late as well. We were soon ready and he led us down the 60ft entrance pitch (fixed ladder) which everyone found quite easy. A brisk walk soon brought us to the Beehive – the largest stalagmite boss in the country, and finally to the winch at the top of the 70ft. pitch. This is the most difficult pitch on Mendip, being completely exposed apart from the 5ft.

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D.L.W.

G.B. CAVERN

Altitude 830ft. Length 4,500ft. Depth 430ft.

Tight entrance to First Grotto, which has 3 routes to Main Chamber.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Mud passage route | E.C |
| (b) Devil's Elbow Route | D.C |
| (c) The Oose | S.C (Floods in wet). |

Main Chamber 500ft. X 500ft. X 75ft. high.

Upper part is false flooring to a natural arch, The Bridge, leading to the Gallery, from which the formations can be better seen.

Below Gallery, slide leads to 40ft. fixed ladder to Sump Dig extension.