

Matienzo Caves Project planning meeting No 2 2015
3pm Dalesbridge, 11 July 2015
Notes

1. **Welcome** – Chair welcomed all to the meeting. 14 people present
2. **Approval of agenda and points for AOB**
Added points on dye testing, camp toilet block and expedition dinner.
3. **Brief review of activity at Easter 2015**
Phil gave a short summary of the main work done at Easter, the key item was the successful dye test between Vallina and Reñada showing that a positive link exists which gives us an incentive to do more work in these two caves to try and link the systems. The problems of collapse in BigMat Calf Hole and Giant Panda were explained and the need for work to rectify the problem. The finds in Not Too Bad Pot; Torca la Vaca; Cueva del Ciervo; Reñada finds and survey and Yo-Yo were explained. Due to the work in carrying out the dye test and digging out the connection in BigMat Calf hole no pushing or significant survey work was done in Cueva Vallina or Cueva de Carcavuezo and this was left for work in the summer period.
4. **Matienzo Cave Project report** – see separate paper from Juan.
Phil emphasised the need for good recording and survey work. One of the main issues was that we need to make it easier to identify and provide passage descriptions. These short descriptions should be separate to the description of what went on during the trip, so as to make it easy to identify and select. It was explained that this should not be very onerous as only a fairly brief description is needed on the type of passage, key features and helpful notes to aid route finding.
It was explained that on the three computers that will be available in Matienzo (at the back of Pablo's restaurant) there will be a spreadsheet where new finds can be entered and this will indicate the information needed i.e. location (GPS), photos of entrance, type of site, if draughting, outside temp estimate, survey or estimate of length and sketch of site if not surveyed. There will be paper copies that can be used to record the details if people prefer.
The way that the "server" works with the three computers was explained and that only one computer can work on the spreadsheet, AutoCAD Map etc. at any one time. Others can look at these as "read only" files. This should help to ensure that we have only one version of the various files and so avoid missing or losing data. To this end it was explained that on the AutoCAD map we will have an active layer of new sites for 2015 with the main cave layer being locked. This should help to avoid deleting or moving existing sites in error (as Phil and Jim managed to do at Easter) taking time to correct.
5. **Expedition Equipment officer's report** – Big Steve

MCP is well equipped with fully sufficient gear available for the summer. Of note was that Yoy-Yoy was left rigged; new rope and hangers and through bolts have been purchased – a list of gear was circulated, at the end of the expedition all rope etc. will be checked and some (older) will be scrapped. The Diving Compressor will come out now Jim has serviced it. He has also donated a Tirfor that can be used in major surface digs. In addition the expedition has been gifted some tools etc. from the estate of Lea Ziebold, a good friend of the expedition who died in May.

In Matienzo there are now sufficient dye testing materials for our and other needs in the foreseeable future. There are sufficient Snappers and the new ones from Gillrange seem to go down a 10mm hole making drilling much easier.

6. Expedition Treasurer's report – Susie

Finances are sufficient at £500 with some £2000 in the reserve account plus some money in Euros that will be used to pay Pablo in the Summer – see accounts on the website. Phil explained that it had been intended to purchase some Nicola III cave radios from the reserve account but this has been put on hold as Ron Taylor is making some similar radios and we will have a prototype one in the summer to test. The initial tests on these look good and will be better for location purposes. The cost of these is likely to be a lot cheaper than the Nicola sets. Susie asked if people could pay in UK pounds as most of our spend tends to be in the UK.

7. People planning to go in Summer and when – this detail is on the website but at the meeting the following was noted:

John S, Phil Goodwin; Dave Milner, Alf Latham etc. are going on September 13th

Most other cavers are going at the end of July, including Pete O'Neil, Squirrel and 12 from DCC for the first two weeks of August (some only for first week – due to work commitments); Chris Cam and Phil Parker 27th July; Terry W 18th August. Black Rose incl Carol – 29th July and Harry and two from White Rose in the first two weeks in August.

8. Primary objectives for summer 2015 and who will take on these? -

The following objectives were noted and generally agreed – it was not known if Ali is coming and if so when and this could affect when the work in Vallina and the resurvey of Reñada is done:

1st Objectives Summer 2015 – names are people who are contacts for the objective

- Cueva Vallina II – push (tight section needs work) –Ali
- Torca la Vaca via BigMat Calf Hole and for engineering work on entrance to make safe and secure for the future – PP/DCC to organise the work on the entrance.
- Giant Panda Entrance – to clear blockage, secure entrance and make safe- PP after work on BigMat Calf hole.
- Cueva del Ciervo (4117) – push for connection to Vaca – Alex Richie
- Riocueva / Torca de los Caños – Complete survey and push – Juan
- YoYo Cave – push, survey and de-tackle - DCC

- Cueva de Carcavuezo re-survey and push and locate in Western Series below water sink – Footleg/PP
- Torca Mostajo - MUSC
- 415 – resurvey and push –Carolina
- Continue to find and explore new caves including in new area to north and north/west - All
- Cueva del Orillón (23) – resurvey and possible dye test if wet enough, - Pete Smith

2nd Objectives Summer 2015 – contacts have not been listed PP or Juan can advise on work needed.

- Not too bad a pot
- Simas del Picón
- Cubio de la Reñada – continue resurvey also push crawl at side of Sump 1
- Torca del Regaton – far end check out dive sites and push
- Torca de Lastrilla – open up and push tight slot at bottom of new pitches
- Washing Machine Hole
- Cueva Hoyuca via Giant Panda Entrance, to push
- Cueva Llueva – push new passages found at Easter 2014
- Torca de Peña Encaramada to Wild Mare Cave– try to connect
- Route into Cueva Hoyuca) via Carcavuezo – look to see if easy route is possible
- Sumidero de Cobadal – push and blast choke
- Cueva de Fresnedo 2 – push
- Fuente Aguanaz – push
- Cueva de Lolo – dive (likely to be short)

9. **Surveying** – is practice session required in Matienzo? If so when and where? Not needed as a separate session but survey work in 415, Orillón etc. will be used to give members practice and coaching as required.

10. **AOB**

Dye testing and grant – Terry and PP will put together grant application for this work in next week or so.

Likely to be too dry to do much dye testing in the summer, but if not some local tests may be undertaken including a retest of Orillón. When Terry arrives a meeting will be arranged to plan out future dye testing in the Alto Asón area for later in 2015 but probably in 2016.

Shower block – It was agreed some work is needed to improve the block but this needs to be done in conjunction with Pablo including the need to ensure the block is clean. The expedition is prepared to put in some work as part of a joint effort. No decision was taken but the matter will be discussed with Pablo at a suitable point in the summer.

Expedition meal – to be arranged but likely to be in the first week of August when most people are in Matienzo – possibly the 4th or 5th.