

LOGBOOK

Year: 2016

Season: Christmas : New Year

Logbook pages scanned to jpg then combined into a pdf file using <http://smallpdf.com/>

Juan Corrin, January 2017

Di & Si + others Matienzo Log book – Christmas / New Year 2016

Diane Arthurs, Simon Cornhill, Tom Howard, Anton Petho, Neil McCallum, Luce Stodart

23rd December 2016

2691: Giant Panda - Si & Di

Entrance found to be in a very poor state, we decided it was too dangerous to use as a trade route into Uzeka in its current state. Having never been in the original Hoyuca entrance we went and located it, unfortunately we didn't have long to spend familiarising ourselves with it as we got a call from the Dingle's saying they had locked the key in their apartment and could we break in for them!

24th December 2016

107: Hoyuca entrance - Tom, Anton, Si & Di,

A back-breaking trip learning the route through Field Entrance and sampling the full delights of the Gorilla Walk. Si & Di went up Sloppy Inlet to Tixtu Aven where Simon changed the tatty rope on the big pitches for a nice new 11m one. We then rigged two short pitches that dropped into the passage off Diversion Chamber to avoid the Sloppy Inlet soaking.

Tom & Anton wandered down to the Astradome for a photography session then returned to wait for us for the exit out. They managed to amuse themselves to keep warm whilst waiting!

25th December 2016

Di & Si

As we had a dinner date and it was a gorgeous sunny day so decided to go for a walk and check out a few undescended pits in the area above Cobadol.

Dropped into **2718, 2719, 2720** they all choke up fairly quickly, nothing of interest found.

26th December 2016

2889: Torca La Vaca via Bigmat Calf Hole - Di & Si

Bottom of Scafell Aven to Penrith Historic Market Town Duck checking out for any prospective leads that have been missed. Nothing much found.

27th December 2016

128: Torca de La Espina – Di, Si, Tom. Surface - Big Steve, Susie and Anton

Big Steve was very keen for us to survey and checkout this cave. 3 avens were shown on the sketch. It is an impressive size, however bolt climbing anything would be difficult with the soft cheese nature of the rock. At the bottom of the cave all of the digs to try and find the way on all seem to be in sandstone, which could explain why the cave unfortunately ends.

28th December 2016

2691: Giant Panda – Slim, Tom, Si & Di

As Simon was the only one who had seen the state of Giant Panda and with tales of bad backs from the Gorilla Walk, we had a group decision to try and sneak down Giant Panda in its current state. Simon went first rigging a new rope to the bottom of the pitches. As advised the descent is fine so long as you can manage to avoid touching ANYTHING! However, the small void at the top of the pitches is now incredibly unstable, there is a high probability that a tired/unwary/clumsy potholer could dislodge one of the many keystones and initiate a full collapse of the roof and/or suspended floor. Where there used to be a wriggle onto the first pitch head this is now larger, there is a large loose gritstone cobble you have to get under which seems to be a major keystone for the floor,

which definitely doesn't want to be disturbed. This makes the current rotting surface shoring look absolutely bommer! Simon was called back up, derigged the rope and we left quietly in favour of a nice trip down BMCH.

2889: Torca La Vaca via Bigmat Calf Hole - Slim, Tom, Si & Di

As we were all kitted up for Uzeka (wetsocks included) we had a rather hot trip along the dry high level passages of Vaca, going as far as Spec Savers. Nothing new was found.

29th December 2016

0710: Sprog on a rock - Slim, Si & Di

The Sprog was recommended to us as worthy a revisit to check out the draughting rift half way down. After about half an hour of searching around the wider area, spotting two other cave entrances and working out the location, we stood directly over the GPS point saying it should be just here... looking beneath our feet we noticed a slightly 'out of place' boulder on top of a larger one covered in moss. Four and a half thousand sites in Matienzo and we decide to look at another body-sized hole in a field! We rolled the boulders aside and found the original capstone was wedged in the entrance, blocking the way on. Si and Slim attached a bolt to the giant boulder and after some fine manoeuvring managed to raise it and allow the trip to progress. Unfortunately the hot tip of 'rift that needs swinging into' was too tight and needed capping.

30th December 2016

0710: Sprog on a rock - Slim, Tom, Si & Di

Returned with capping gear to gain access to the space beyond the rift. Si capped the way on then Slim squeezed through to discover three pits. He descended the first two and reported no way on. Then we all came down onto a ledge part way. Tom dropped the third pit also found no way on. All shafts end at the same level and are blind. We completed the survey. A hole found on the surface which seems to be above the shafts could account for the draught.

31st December 2016

2889: Torca La Vaca via Bigmat Calf Hole - Tom, Si & Di

Resurveyed the area from the start of Fred Whitton series to just North of Scafell Aven, sorting out 'The Confused and Confusing' area that needs redrawing.

1st January 2017

0366: JR - Slim, Si, Di and surface support, Luce.

The weather was sunny but very cold on the surface and a few caves in this area were found to be draughting. JR was rigged for SRT and we started capping the draughting rift at the dig site wider - to sitting height and shoulder width to make progress easier to access. You can, indeed, hear the draught. At the dig face the hole is currently big enough to manoeuvre a GoPro through on a stick. The video footage possibly showed some sort of passage that could be big enough to get your hand in? ...without anything to show the scale it is difficult to tell.

From: Phil Papard <papard@easynet.co.uk>

To: 'Simon Cornhill' <simoncornhill@dsl.pipex.com>; 'Juan Corrin' <uzueka@aol.com>; 'Big Steve Martin' <big_stevemartin@hotmail.com>

Subject: RE:

Date: Tue, Jan 3, 2017 4:03 pm

Simon

Thanks for the information etc. Glad you had good weather for the trip.

The loose boulders above and over the first pitch in Giant Panda are not as unstable as they first appear! Why I say this is that we spent some time drilling and snapping several boulders resting on them and hammered some others into bits we could move them, as well as standing on the choke stone to move other rocks etc. But I fully agree it needs sorting out, with care i.e. not a quick fix. The rocks above, where it appears part of the wall has moved, is also of much concern. We started to wall it up, but it needs a lot of work and scaffolding to make secure.

Phil

From: Simon Cornhill [<mailto:simoncornhill@dsl.pipex.com>]

Sent: 03 January 2017 14:41

To: Juan Corrin <uzueka@aol.com>; 'Phil Papard' <papard@easynet.co.uk>; 'Big Steve Martin' <big_stevemartin@hotmail.com>

Subject:

Hi,

We are currently on the way home after fantastic weather for the whole trip. Attached is the logbook for the trips that we have been on. Unfortunately nearly no new passage has been found this time, although we have surveyed a few old caves which didn't have any centreline data. I will dropbox this information later.

Happy new Year!

Si & Di

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT