

BULL POT and YORDAS CAVE

Apparently not The End of the Road..

Date : 6th April 2013

Present : Darren Jarvis, Don Miller

Weather : warming up..

Daz and I met up at Inglesport on Saturday morning. After a hearty breakfast and a lengthy discussion (during which Daz listed all 143 caves that he wanted to visit) we finally decided on Bull Pot, followed by a visit to either nearby Heron or Yordas if time permitted (Daz had to head off by 3pm). Once parked at Kingsdale we packed the ropes and got changed. We then watched as the farmer from Braida Garth drove his four-wheeler into the field adjacent to our cars, watching in amazement as literally 150+ sheep ran up to him. Did they plan on attacking him? Or did they just have a great fondness for Farmer Brown? We didn't stick around long enough to find out.

At the end of an uneventful hike uphill we finally reached Bull Pot's gaping opening. Daz rigged the first pitch. Once at the bottom he narrowly missed being taken out by a sudden avalanche from above, undoubtedly caused by the warm weather melting the snow overhanging the pitch. Luckily Daz escaped physically unharmed, though somewhat emotionally scarred. I then rigged the second pitch, at the bottom of which we debated on whether to rig slot pitch, gulley pitch, or both. We settled on slot, with me rigging and Daz close behind. Once at the bottom, fourth pitch was quickly reached. Again, I rigged, remembering this time not to miss the rebelay. It was the first time that I'd ever pendulumed to put in a rebelay. Took me several attempts to reach it, but lots of fun! Once at the bottom Daz and I headed for the fifth pitch, with Daz leading the way, checking out every nook and cranny he could find. We decided not to do the last pitch, mainly for two reasons: a) I was completely spent from doing Diccan the night before, and b) the last pitch is a pain in the ass to rig. And as Alex had already proven several weeks earlier, you don't need a rope to get down the last pitch, just one to get back up it.

A hasty exit was made, with Daz derigging all the pitches. Unfortunately, more snow melt caused another horrendous avalanche to crash down while Daz was getting ready to climb up the entrance pitch. He wasn't so lucky avoiding the snow this time. Once out we found a middle-aged couple (traditional man and woman, not a progressive couple) sitting in the sun, waiting for us to derig so they could enter Bull Pot. They were very friendly.

After a quick discussion Daz and I decided we would head over to Yordas and rig the top and middle entrances. We took the middle route first, with Daz free climbing the first pitch while I in my tired state opted instead to rig it (knowing I'd probably be too tired to climb out when we came back this way). Daz rigged the second pitch and once down we headed for the Chapter House waterfall. Two options were available here: the Chapter House roof traverse (involving 12 anchors and one deviation), or a belay and y-hang directly into the first waterfall, followed immediately by another y-hang directly into the second waterfall. I chose to rig the roof traverse while Daz decided to rig the more direct route.

I can't describe how much fun it was to watch Daz being slowly drowned to death as he descended both pitches (sorry Daz, but it's true - nothing personal). He kept making whooping and hollering noises the entire time down like he was having a great time, but I know secretly that he was just on the verge of drowning. Being the stoic individual that he is, however, Daz never showed any visible signs of fear. Black Rose all the way! After rigging the roof traverse and making my way to the other side of the waterfall (without getting wet!) I quickly checked out the main chamber of Yordas

before heading back up the traverse and out the middle entrance with Daz. Once out Daz and I took a look at the top entrance but abandoned our earlier idea of descending it because we were running out of time (it was already past 3pm) and I was too tired to do anything but go back to the car. Once changed we said our goodbyes and headed off in different directions back to our respective homes.

I highly recommend the Chapter House Roof Traverse, by the way. It was lot of fun to rig and even more fun to go down. Not so much fun coming back up though as I left out the deviation and forgot the final rebelay and so got soaked on the way back up (managed to avoid getting wet on the way down by penduluming away from the waterfall and dropping down quickly).

P.S. I would like to add that we both entered Bull Pot and Yordas as men, and that we both exited the aforementioned caves as men as well. Regardless of what Daz suggested, I can safely say that no hanky panky took place.

Don Miller

A Black Rose Caving Club trip report.