

## TITAN – JAMES HALLS (JH) EXCHANGE

It's huge!!!!

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12th October 2003

People present - Duncan Jones, Pete Dale, Simon Halliday, Rupert Reynolds, Lee, Dave Thompson, Beryl (Dominick) Mennie, Gemma Jones, Colin Pryer, Paul Griffiths, \*still one or two names to be added..

Well, it certainly pays to book in advance, Pete had arranged this trip a few years back - before they had even got anywhere near finishing the entrance shaft to Titan!! With a healthy team assembled things started to get easier, we heard that JH was rigged apart from the entrance shaft and we could use their ropes and then a short while after a two man digging team that was going down Titan said we could use there ropes, luxury..



With that in mind we split up with nine of us going down Titan and the other four going down JH. As we parted at JH we followed the diggers along to Titan and when you get there you suddenly realise the effort that has gone into digging the entrance shaft. The spoil heap, which is apparently only part of it as some has been taken away was huge. The entrance starts with some nice concrete rings before hitting some solid rock, Dave went first followed by Beryl then me, a pleasant abseil down and once off I stood around taking pictures back up the shaft, it was tempting to follow

the passage and sod the pictures (the echo I could hear from shouts of rope free and ok sounded bloody good!).

Once Gemma was nearly at the bottom I made a dash along the passage, through a pool and at the far side of which is a rather black space... I shuffled forward, clipped in and looked out, wow! It was bloody huge, I peered over the edge to see a distant spot of light from Dave and that was only the halfway point he was at.

After Dom had gone down I hopped onto the rope (not literally) and made my way down, it's a long way down and the far wall seemed even further away, slowly the shaft narrowed so you could actually see all the walls but not touch them.. The rebelay is quite an impressive spot, you look up about 60m and see small lights of people waiting to come down and you look down and see small lights of those that are 60m below you, superb. At the bottom Pete joined us and then we waited and waited, Gemma had some trouble at the rebelay and after well over 30minutes she did make it down, with her gloves in tatters from her battle with the belay beast.

At this point Dave quickly followed by myself dived into the choke, a call of nature and a the idea of getting up JH seemed logical, it was just along the passage at the bottom we met up with the JH team who had rigged the entrance shaft, gone down to find the rope 15ft short so had to go back out to get another one! From departing we followed some slightly muddy passages to some climbs up ladders followed by a traverse over numerous holes in the floor to another ladder up. A pleasant passage took us to a junction, we went right and looked at the bottom of Calcite Aven before

heading back to the crawls that lead to the bottom of JH.

From here we nipped into the Speedwell Streamway which was fairly dry before returning and finding a few had caught up with us. We sat at the bottom waiting for some people to come down Leviathan before we made our way up. At the top of the first part we did a small climb and then the rope went up somewhere different, I'm used to the direct way up Leviathan and this was an alternative route which was interesting (very useful route in wet weather I would think). It was this point that everyone split up, Dave disappeared up Bitch Pitch and made his own way out followed by me. Pete started up Bitch but then that was the last we saw of him until he surfaced a while later.

Going along the passage towards the entrance I became confused, I found myself looking down a hole in the floor, funny I thought, can't remember this before.. Puzzled I carried on before I reached another hole where it suddenly dawned on me why I didn't recognise them, these were the flooded stopes that weren't flooded! Mystery solved I plodded along to catch Dave making his ascent up the entrance, when he was clear I hopped onto one of the other ropes and made my way up too.



Pete and Colin came out a while after us and apparently, the rest of the team emerged sometime much later on, stories of Beryl losing his wellies in mud (this proved highly amusing and I'm sure will provide further amusement in the future!!!) and Gemmas jammers getting clogged up with mud were being passed along the gossip lines very soon after after they had exited (its amazing how quick gossip like this spreads!).. Perhaps a visit to the mud extruder was had by them? Maybe all will be revealed one day..

All in all it's a superb trip, Titan is certainly a bloody big and impressive shaft and considering where it is and how close to the surface it is, its unexpected. The diggers told us the entrance shaft will be bigger next time, another three concrete rings are being placed on it to level it off with the surrounding area. A big thanks to the Titan team for allowing us to be the first club to do the exchange (apart from diggers, tsg etc) and for the use of their ropes and to others/diving team for allowing the use of their ropes in JH which made life so much easier.



*Duncan Jones*

*A [Black Rose Caving Club](#) trip report.*