

SPELEOSPORTS SPELEOTEC '87

C. Rothery

Pain, agony, side splitting laughter.... it's all yours at Speleosports, and Speleosports Speleotec was no exception.

The course was designed and created by the devious minds of David Rothery, Jeanette Jordt, and David Hamilton. It was a short course involving 7 obstacles to enable many (fools) teams to compete.

1. The first obstacle was a short 10 metre abseil through 3 tyres.

2. Then there was a short run to the Beer Can Crawl. A penalty point was given for each can (formation) knocked over. The passage was on "S" shape about half a metre high. The N.S.A. team with Brendan Ferrari lost 100 points out of a total possible of 100, plus a further penalty for the unsafe practice of taking Brendan Ferrari caving. (Not a formation was left standing!!). The Queensland team had similar difficulties, losing 100 points, but I think they were ensuring that all the "formations" were actually empty.

The next part of this obstacle was a set of monkey bars with a difference. Entrance was head first through 2 tyres at the top, entering into a corkscrew crawl made possible by a series of wooden platforms. The way out was through a watersprayed sump (a series of 2 bath tubs with a cover).

3. Next was a short wet 3 metre climb down using a handline, and then up a 3 metre ladder to...

4. a 4 metre long narrow ledge with a handline (not for those on the tinnies!)

5. Then up and over a 1.5 metre ledge to...

6. a series of tyre crawls _

7. and a race to the fence for the duck-under crawl for the finish.

Teams consisted of 4 people, helmets had to be worn throughout the course and abseiling gear could be left at the bottom of the pitch. There were 14 teams altogether that managed not only to start but to finish as well.

Teams consisted of children (whose size was an obvious advantage in the crawly sections), the most honourable Carina Armchair Covers' who stopped for a spot of tea, played ball and sat out each obstacle, NSA team which degenerated into a water fight at the Monkey Bars when Brendan couldn't fit through the squeeze and then those who tried to win the pinnacle of caving awards the "Golfen Carabiner".

Blood sport was also a feature with the crowds demanding a Speleotec Organizers Team along with a Speleosport Designers Team to enter Revenge was sweet.

On the corrected times the prizes were awarded to

1. M.U.C.G. (Macquarie Uni Caving Group) Team, the Golden Carabiner
2. Feral Females and Matthew (token Male)

The prize was to be beer but due to the average age being 9, it was changed to Chocolates.

The organizers would like to thank all those who pitched in to help set up the course and then later to pack up gear. A special "Thanks" to all those who either participated or spectated as it was you who helped make the day the success it was.

