

SPELEOSPORTS

Stephen Bunton



Speleosports winners (L to R) Matt Cracknell, Dane Evans, Rhys Evans and Grace Bunton (front).

Host club Southern Tasmanian Caverneers is only small and with limited manpower available to organise the Conference, it looked as though it would not be possible to stage Speleosports as part of CaveMania. Speleosports is a very cherished tradition at all ASF Biennial Conferences and there was nearly outrage when it looked like not being included in the programme. As a result Greg Thomas offered the expertise of the West Australians, gained as hosts at the last ASF conference UnderWay.

Greg and his team of Darren Brooks, Ian Colette and John Cugley, took just one look at the top playground behind Dover District High School and in a short morning transformed it into a series of imaginative cave obstacles. There was a rope course across the swings, a sandpit maze-squeeze beneath a sheet of black polythene, left over from the blacking-out of the auditorium. The black plastic also proved useful to wrap sections of the playground's climbing frame to make it very cave like. Spaghetti straws were added for greater realism. The final obstacle was a flattener through the playground's old rowboat, which when lined with plastic ensured a nice deep puddle to wet the knees and elbows. The flattener also contained a few helictites to slow people down and ensure

they showed respect for the cave environment. Touching or breaking straws or helictites incurred time penalties. Each of the four team members also carried one egg which had to be carried the whole way and could not be put on the ground. Considerable time penalties were incurred for dropping and breaking the egg.



Speleosports girls (L to R) Jay Anderson, Cathie Plowman, Jessica Wools-Cobb and Janice March.

The West Australians then undertook the course as a demonstration team. They came very close to posting the fastest time of 6 minutes 30 seconds with no time penalties, until the "Ferals", an STC team, of Matt Cracknell, Grace Bunton, Dane Evans and Rhys Evans eclipsed them with a time of 5 minutes 37 seconds including a 30 second time penalty for touching a straw. Eight teams competed in the event including a very fashionable all female team. It must be noted that the teams that performed best in this event were those who had perfected their teamwork.



Negotiating the ropes course.

CaveMania Speleosports was certainly a great success, despite being held under conditions of intermittent rain and drizzle, which added just that little bit of authenticity to the Tasmanian caving experience. On behalf of everyone I would like to extend my thanks to the organisers and judges for their efforts. ■



PHOTO: GARRY K SMITH

The sandpit maze-squeeze.

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The final obstacle – the wet rowboat flattener.

PRUSIKING RACE

MEN

Placing	Entrant	Time
1st	Greg Thomas	1:48
2nd	Darren Brooks	2:21
3rd	Gerrard Collins	2:22
4th	Al Warild	2:36
5th	Matt Fischer	2:40.5
6th	Gary Whitby	2:41
7th	Yoav Barr-Ness	2:45
8th	Paul Brooker	2.56
9th	Tim Moulds	3.06
10th	Reto Zollinger	3.11
11th	Michael Bates	3.29
12th	Alan Caton	3.37
13th	Ian McCulloch	3.43
14th	Ken Hosking	3.47
15th	Ian Binnie	4.34
16th	Michael Wasmund	4.42
17th	David Wools-Cobb	4.44
18th	Jason Cockayne	5.31
19th	Henry Shannon	5.39
20th	Saeid Hakimi Asiabar	6.30
21st	Miles Pierce	11.26

WOMEN

1st	Matilda Thomas	3:07
2nd	Jenny Whitby	4:07
3rd	Janice March	4:16
4th	Amy Ware	4.50
5th	Vicki Bresnan	6.08
6th	Jessica Wools-Cobb	6.23

PRUSIK LOOPS DEMONSTRATION

Garry K. Smith	7.03
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ROPEWALK DEMONSTRATION

Tom Porritt	1.51
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OVER 60s (THOSE WHO DECLARED IT!)

1st	Vicki Bresnan	6:08
2nd	Miles Pierce	11:26



PHOTO: GARRY K SMITH

Jessica Wools-Cobb in action.