

Hoyuca Sloppy Inlet 05/08/2011

Paul Dold/ Neil (Slim) McCallum

The aim was to bolt the 6m pitch and progress the exploration from 2010 done by Paul Dold and Footleg.

Following a whistle stop tour to and including the Astradome for the benefit of those who have not seen it before, Slim and I entered the inlet and assembled the kit.

Neil bolted the aven whilst I belayed; once he was up I followed de-rigging as Neil had a look round the corner. We both continued up stream in a rift passage approximately 0.75m wide, a climb of 3m may require a short rope in the future then after a few meters another climb is encountered of about 10m. This part of the passage is a roomy 4m wide with a pool in the middle.

Neil used me as a ladder to aid his climb up, then temporally secured the ladder with a sling round a lump of rock to allow me to climb up 2/3rds of the climb, I then passed the ladder up and Neil again found a lump of rock that only required a little adjustment with a hammer to allow the sling to stay in place for me to climb up, this will need a rope for the future.

From this point the passage continues for about 60m to a 7m x 5m aven. The water falling from the aven is that of the stream as no other inlets were found. None of our lights were powerful enough to penetrate far up the aven; a good shout gives a similar echo to that of the Astradome!!!!

We exited the inlet, to find the rest of the team, leaving a rope on the first pitch and the ladder on the higher pitch which requires extreme care as it is poorly anchored.

Tackle required for return:

50m of rope to cut to length

15 bolts and hangers

Survey Kit

Huge aven would require substantially more in the way of kit and cojones!!!!

Paul Dold (Mr. Eddy Sharp Pencil)

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Paul Dold/ Neil (Slim) McCallum/ Diane Arthurs

Slim rigged the pitches and climbs whilst Di and me surveyed. Once Slim was done, he took over the Disto and I progressed to the aven where I took photos using very powerful lights supplied by Footleg. The aven looks impressive and is disto'd to a height of 48m. At the top, an original winding stream passage can be seen and water still flows down the centre of the aven. The lime stone is of a light colour and has lots of fossils of shells and coral in it. Looks a great bolting project.

I took a photo of Slim on the *Combined Tactics Pitch* and then we decided to have a look at the passage over the top of the 3m climb. The passage continues for 200m approximately on mostly dry sandy floor apart from a short 30m section where the floor is wet and muddy, there are a few short climbs and one required us to place a bolt for a ladder (Ladder now removed and a rope will be required for the return surveying trip). The passage finally dropped into a 2m wide passage with dry mud floor with a 6" wide stream and FOOT PRINTS. We followed the passage downstream to a corner with large rocks and stall the area was mud covered, feels like Armageddon series?

Due to the expedition dinner in the evening we decided to exit the cave and return in the future to bolt the aven and survey the dry passage.

Paul Dold (Mr. Eddy Sharp Pencil)