

Report on Checc Basic SRT training event

16th to 18th March 2012

Run by Ben Wright and Tony Seddon

As Checc training officer I was asked to run a basic SRT training event by members of Plymouth University Caving Club as they were struggling with basic skills. As The training was being held at the Wessex Cave Clubs training tower, Tony Seddon offered to help run it as he was around selling caving gear. A total of 15 attended the course from a mixture of UBSS, MUSC and Plymouth University. Chris Belton from the BEC and Cat Hulse from UBSS also assisted us with the training.

On the Saturday morning we set up the tower with a mixture of straight hangs, deviations and rebelays for the trainees to practice on. We split them into two groups with Tony taking one, and me the other and taught them how to go up, go down, changeovers in both directions as well as how to pass deviations and rebelays. We spent the afternoon practising these manoeuvres until they were perfect with a few people getting strung up along the way. Once this was all complete I taught a few of the more keen people how to pass a simple knot, which they mastered fairly quickly, with one person even passing a very large knot made with 5 krabs and 2 alpine butterflies!

Saturday evening was mostly spent in the Hunters, discussing plans on how Plymouth University could extend their experience base by reaching out to both other local clubs and CHECC and discussing future training for the club.

Sunday was spent putting the skills learned the day before into practice in Hunters Hole. We rigged three different routes down the main 20m shaft, one a straight hang, one with a deviation and one with a free-hanging rebelay. Time was spent going up and down these three routes practising the required manoeuvres. The trainees then did a brilliant job of derigging the cave while we kept an eye on them.

Overall this course was a great success and I believe that everybody who attended generally improved their basic SRT skills. The plan is to run a similar course again next year assuming there is enough demand.

The following is a breakdown of the costs associated with the course:

Instructors Travel Costs: £100
Accommodation and use of Tower: £150
Tea/Coffee £15
Total: £265

With a BCA contribution of £88.33 this gave a trainee contribution of £11.78. Overall I charged them £15 each, with included dinner on the Saturday evening, and breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday Morning.

