

Hidden Earth 2008: Competition Results

Speleo Olympics

Organised by Lee Hawkswell

First: Jeff Wade and Rob Eavis (1:52) won a bottle of champagne and 8 bednights at Whitewalls (Chelsea SS)

Second: Steve Gilbert & Ellie Jones (2:19)

Third: Andrew Snook & Adrian Fawcett (2:20)

SRT Races

Organised and judged by Mark Wright, Liam Wright, Dave Cowley

Men's 30m prusik – Jeff Wade (2:08) won a 50m rope (Inglesport)

Women's 30m prusik – Alisa Duncan (3:48) won a 50m rope (Caving Supplies)

Men's assault course – Steve Gilbert (2:49) won a £50 voucher (Total Access)

Women's assault course – Kate Nixon (5:59) won a Fenix torch and charger (Excellent Stuff)

Tackle bag stuffing – Dave Nixon (0:24) won a rope bag (ISCA Outdoors)

Men's 10m ladder climb – Henry Rockcliff (0:17) won a tackle sack and belt (Beast) and sweatshirt & T shirt (Speleo Labs)

Women's 10m ladder climb – Kate Nixon (0:32) won a tackle sack and belt (Beast Products) and duffel bag (Lyon)

Overall Winner – Henry Rockcliff won a 5-day industrial rope-access course, worth £650 (Mark Wright)

Best Club Stand

Judged by BCRA Chairman, Steve Whitlock

Bradford Pothole Club won 6 nights at Orpheus caving club (Orpheus CC), tackle bag, DVD and book (Bernie's) and £50 Books (Bat Products)

Surveying

Closed-Loop Surveying Contest

Organised by Juan Corrin

◆ Contestants must survey a course outside the conference building. The survey data is processed on a computer and the winner is the team that manages the loop with the smallest misclosure error. This was a keenly contested competition. The winners were keen enough to be surveying in the dark on Saturday night.

First: Graham Christian and Pete Burgess (misclosure 0.93%) won £50 cash (Pennine Property Studios)

Second: Mandy Fu and Jason Lyn (misclosure 1.05%) won a duffel bag (Lyon Equipment)

Arthur Butcher Award

Judges: Wookey, Phil Underwood

◆ This is BCRA's award for excellence in cave surveying. The winner receives the Arthur Butcher trophy to hold for a year and a cheque from BCRA for £100

This year's award goes to **Tim Allen and the Mulu team** for the Mulu master survey centreline and terrain model. Tim has spent countless hours re-generating over 100km of lost survey data from the original 1980s surveys and creating a terrain model covering the whole Mulu / Api / Benerat massif by hand from surface contours.
Citation by Wookey on behalf of BCRA.

Art Salon

Co-ordinated by Ceris Jones, Rhian Kendall & ISSA

Judged by Dave Ryall, Jerry Wooldridge, Ceris Jones

Judged Sections

◆ In addition to prizes shown, first/distinction winners received a small trophy/memento, and all winners received a certificate

First: Pete Martin – Fragments (Plaster casts from carved Bath stone originals) – won a set of Caran d'Ache pastels. (Jakar International)

Second (distinction): Robin Gray – In search of a new way (Oil Pastel) – won a set of Caran d'Ache watercolour crayons (Jakar International)

Third (merit): Pete McNab – Oparara Arch (Wax Encaustic) – won a year's subscription to Artists and Illustrators magazine. (Artists and Illustrators magazine)

St Cuthbert's Mill Prize for best art on paper:

Rhian Kendall – An illustration for the new edition of the Complete Caving Manual (Watercolour) – won a £65 voucher for St Cuthberts Mill watercolour paper (St. Cuthberts Mill)

Delegate votes

◆ In addition to prizes shown, winners received a small trophy/memento, and a certificate

Art Salon: Gonzo – Big Chamber pitch, Daren Cilau – won a set of Derwent coloursoft pencils and pencil wrap (Derwent)

Cartoon: Doug Lawrence – Lampfish – won a folio case and drawing equipment (Robin Gray Art Works)

T-Shirt Design: Deanne Wilkins and Emma Porter – So why the *@!# do I go caving? – won 6 bednights at Upper Pitts (Wessex Cave Club)

Video Media Salon

Co-ordinated by David Gibson

Judged by Glenn Jones, John Robinson, Martin (Basher) Baines and Pete Glanvill

◆ In addition to prizes shown, winners received a small trophy/memento, and a certificate

Joint Winner: Paul (Footleg) Fretwell & Paul Dold – Welcome to Hidden Earth 2008 (AV sequence with video clip) – won a waterproof zipper holdall (Lyon Equipment) and £50 voucher (Total Access)

Joint Winner: Imogen Furlong – Under Shongrind (DVD video) – won a Waterproof zipper holdall (Lyon Equip.)

Distinction: Steven Sharp – Daren Cilau (short version) (DVD video) – won a calendar (Speleo Projects)

☞ Video Media Salon – see notes on next page

Photo Salon

Co-ordinated by Paul (Footleg) Fretwell

Judged by Pete Martin, Robbie Shone, Jerry Wooldridge

Winners

◆ In addition to prizes shown, winners received a small trophy/memento, and a certificate

Premier Trophy: Rob Eavis – portfolio of five colour prints – won an engraved trophy to keep for the year, a limited edition print (The Creative Edge), dry bag (Bernies) and voucher for £50 (Total Access)

Best Colour Print: Footleg – Straw Curtains, Cueva Llueva, Matienzo – won a voucher for £50 (Jessops)

Best Monochrome Print: Rob Eavis – Sam Townsend in the Full Moon Series, Bagshaw Cavern – won a voucher for £50 (Jessops)

Best Projected Image: Ben Lovett – Lou Maurice in White Rhino Rift – won a voucher for £50 (Jessops)

Cave Life Award: Andy Rumming – Beautiful Demoiselle: damselfly colonised by fungus – won £50 cash

British Newcomer Award: Stuart Gardiner – won a book, Images Below (Wild Places Publishing) and slave unit (Firefly Electronics)

Merit and Distinction Awards

◆ Distinction winners received a small trophy/memento, and all winners received a certificate

Merit (projection): Ben Lovett – Lou Maurice under a Waterfall in Haciendas Salinas

Merit (projection): John Forder – Gaping Gill Main Chamber

Merit (projection): Ben Lovett – Tim Guilford filming in Haciendas Salinas

Distinction (projection): Ben Lovett – Simon Headford in Sump of Doom Series – Speleo Projects calendar

Distinction (colour print): Hugh Penney – Liat Prah, Meghalaya – won a Speleo Projects calendar

Distinction (colour print): Hugh Penney – Shynrong Shrieh Streamway, Meghalaya – won a Speleo Projects calendar

Distinction (colour print): Dave Ryall – Pat Cronin, Poulhagollum, Co. Clare – Speleo Projects calendar

Delegate Votes

◆ In addition to prizes shown, winners received a small trophy/memento, and a certificate

Delegate ballot: Rob Eavis – Curtain in Upper Flood – won a voucher for £50 (Jessops)

Fun Shot: John Forder – Oh my God, it's Even Bigger than XXXXX'S! – won a Fleece jacket (Shipsshape), Dinner and B&B for 2 at the Hard Rock Café (Daren Diggers)

☞ For 2009 we are replacing the **projected images** category in the Photo Salon with a **digital files** category. Entries will be viewed by the judges on a computer monitor and will not be projected.

☞ Don't forget, there is also a non-competition category to the Photo Salon – the **digital showcase**. Just bring along a CD-ROM of your photos and they will be displayed on a monitor in the exhibition area

Moore Books Prize

Moorebooks.co.uk offers prizes for the best colour or monochrome print with a mining or man-made underground theme. As well as mining in the strictest sense, this includes quarrying and other man-made tunnelling activities.

Judged by Steve Holding, Kelvin Lake, Simon Lowe

◆ In addition to prizes shown, first/distinction winners received a small trophy/memento, and all winners received a certificate

First: Barry Hill – Unstable timbers in silica mine – won a £100 voucher from Moore Books

Distinction: Tim Guilford – Stemples, Coniston Copper Mine – won a £20 voucher from Moore Books

Merit: Gary Douthwaite – The Crane, Swan Mine

Speleo Technics Prize

Speleo Technics, **speleo.co.uk**, manufacturers of high-performance caving lamps and chargers, offer a prize for the best colour photo (print, transparency or digital file) of a SpeleoTechnics product in use.

Judged by Keith Lewis of Speleo Technics

Footleg (Climb in Entrance Series Ogo Draenen) won a £100 cash prize from Speleo Technics

Giles Barker Award.

Awarded by Morgannwg CC and Red Rose CPC

◆ Giles Barker lost his life while caving in Spain in 1992. An accomplished cave photographer, Giles was a member of the Red Rose CPC and Morgannwg CC. These clubs have annually, since 1993, presented the Giles Barker Award in his memory. This prestigious award is given to a person connected with any aspect of cave photography in recognition of his or her excellence and contributions to the field.

In 2008 the award goes to **Paul 'Footleg' Fretwell** for the encouragement he has given to cave photographers over many years, through lectures and workshops on techniques to helping to run the Hidden Earth photo salon. In this he won the British Newcomer Award in 1999 and since then has produced an increasingly high quality of underground photographs and has begun working with inspirational audio-visual presentations. The award, a hand-crafted statue of a cave photographer, made by Ceris Jones and funded by Giles' old clubs, was presented at Hidden Earth.

Citation by Chris Howes on behalf of MCC and RRCPC.