

Roo Walters, YUCPC,
91, The Village,
Stockton on the Forest,
York, N.Yorks.
31st Jan 1984.

Phil Rose,
Exeter Coll.,
Oxford.

Dear OUCC,

whilst not wanting to appear alarmist,
or even slightly panic stricken, I do feel that my news
is of the up most urgency, considering the summer
expeditions are nearly upon us again. (Thank God!)

Some recent tests on the Marlow SRT rope, of
which I beleive OUCC has large supplies of, which were
performed by YUCPC and Dave Elliot of the National Cave
Centre, showed that this rope is potentially LETHAL.
Basically, we drop tested, always to fall factor one,
some samples of Marlow that we bought from OUCC after
the Xitu trip. All samples failed on the first test.
The rope has not been used much, and all samples didn't
look worn. Marlow that was less than a year old also
always failed on the first test, but brand new stuff
lasted until the 7th. The message is that this rope
cannot be trusted to survive a fall factor one test

after as little as ten trips. Considering the dubious nature of a lot off spanish rock and Graham's notorious bolting, there is an increased risk of FF1 situations, and with this in mind YUCPC has scrapped all of its marlow, in favour of Edelreid static DRylong-life.

Should OUCC come to the same conclusion, which I hope it will, then if you have any samples (rope!) of which the history is well known (like: how old, how many man-trips, or even no of abs and prussiks.) then please can we have them to complete tests on the rates of deterioration of the different ropes.

Please answer, so that I at least know that you've got this letter. My phone numbers are,

work - York 53071 ext. 2871

home - " 400273 (never in!)

very best for the summer, and what's happened to that piss up in Oxford you were going to arrange!

may your FF1s ⁿcontinue to be very rare ^r

Chris
RCS

Roo Walters,
91, The Village,
Stockton on the Forest,
York.

Dear Steve,

Tel 400273

I fear that you are missing the point. This is that the tests have shown that there is a very fast deterioration in Marlow's strength over a short period of time. You ask whether Marlow's static strength deteriorates as well. In dynamic FF1 tests, the rope will break when it reaches the static strength. The breaking load of the rope is the same, it is just that with a ~~sixtix~~ static rope, such as Marlow, as any fall is stopped more quickly, the resulting force will be much greater. Remember your ~~XX~~ O-level physics days and

$Ft = Mv$ and all that.

On the subject of FF1s, yes I ~~agxx~~ agree that there is a lot wrong with them, but they do represent the max situation that might arise with good rigging. (FF2 is the absolute maximum.) Testing a rope to FF1 is a reasonable safety margin to test to, though I agree that or in practice would be rare. At the moment we are trying to develop some more meaningful tests, but one of the principles behind them, is that any club can set up a rig to test their ropes; an FF1 rig, you have to admit is very simple to set up.

You say that you don't think that any SRT rope will stand up to FF1 tests very well. Here, whilst still not as good as climbing rope, other SRT ropes do at least stand up to 2 or 3 falls. ~~Remember~~ Remember also the effect ~~of~~ on a person that being stopped by a highly static rope will have. A fall of only 5 feet onto Marlow runs serious risk of breaking the victims back, whereas on others he (or she , would be ok.

Thanks for your comments, much more discussion such as this is needed before we can all get this subject right and satisfactory for all ropes;

cheers

Rob

PS. Have you received your spanish permits yet - every indication is that you should have.

York is going to Picos next summer, with the SEI and a Polish Group as well I hope they don't bring any rope!

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Dear Phil:

14/3/87

P.F. Enc. copies of the Walters/Robert correspondence on subject of copies. 2 copies of my replies, one set for Bill. If he could wish me his results, as soon as they get into any sort of shape, would be well appreciated.

Did you recall Dave Elliot on 'knots' in C=C? He actually does seem to have his head screwed well on about this - (I don't think (from Ross) that D.E. didn't really know what he was doing, but he does seem to recognize the limitations (& virtues) of his & others' testing methods, and also how