

# NEWSLETTER

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



## Report on Ladies Meet at Stair, 28th/29th September

Having discovered that one of our party could read a map we decided to embark on an ambitious day out. For the second time this year the gods smiled upon us - warm sun, crisp snow and a 'nip' (in the air).

From Honister we traversed across to Green Gable and Great Gable where we left our pregnant member to go back over Haystacks. The remaining group continued over Kirkfell to Black Sail Pass and Looking Stead where another member declined the opportunity to continue up to Pillar. The residue quickly completed the ascent of Pillar. The descent proved to be rather more difficult than anticipated. After reversing a 20ft. V.S. pitch, multitudinous waterfalls etc. we collected our other member at the Black Sail Youth Hostel a mere  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours later than promised. A welcome cup of tea was produced when they saw our bedraggled and wet condition. We returned in the dark over Grey Knotts to Honister Pass and rushed to the Pub. Dave Earle remarked that it was a good day's walk, on the strength of which we picked blackberries on the Sunday.

Shirl, Jennie, Sue and Kath.

P.S. The next Ladies Meet has been arranged for November 9th/10th at Little Langdale. Any interested LADIES please contact Chairman's wife.

## Pooley Bridge Meet, 22nd September

P.H. Roscoe

Following the entry in the last newsletter referring to riots on the Dovedale meet it was obvious from the lack of booking that Dave Earle's comments were taken seriously. We must ensure in future that his printed work must be heavily censored!

Meanwhile back at Pooley Bridge the rain paid a visit timed to coincide with our arrival but as avid readers of the newsletter will know a mere rain shower is as nothing to our stalwart members and we headed quickly to the nearest cafe up at Kirkstone Pass.

Regretfully the first part of the walk was undertaken in occasional showers and mist and it was with some relief when we looked for the summit of High Street to the hard contrasting colours showing bravely through over Patterdale. The High Street area is not one of the more densely populated areas in the Lake District and it was most pleasant to look down into the many quiet valleys which radiate away from High Street.

Dampened spirits were fired into action and we made our way down to Kirkstone to consume vast quantities of tea and to be joined later by the party who had walked along Ullswater Lakeshore and been reasonably successful in avoiding most of the bad weather.

Possibly on future meets members are advised to arm themselves with umbrellas and enjoy a "riot of fun". (Not one of my better puns). PHR.

Next Coach Meet - Brimham Rocks near Pateley Bridge of which Haskett Smith wrote:- "nowhere are the grotesque forms which millstone grit delights to assume more remarkable".

## Plas-y-Brenin

Following appeals by the British Mountaineering Council for finances which would be channelled in the direction of its member clubs, the Whitbread Foundation granted bursaries for four places on the Coaches Climbing Course held at Plas-y-Brenin to which the F.M.C. were able to send Colin Green and P.H.R.

The course which started on the Saturday evening quickly establishes a high priority on rope techniques and high standards on belaying practice and enforces this and with simulated falls on a piece of apparatus named the Weigh Drop Machine. The various types of harness in current use were discussed and when Colin was spun around on his belay he wasted no time in purchasing additional tape in order to improve his Whillows Harness.

The course moved out to a nearby outcrop in order to learn the instructor's approach to teaching the rudiments of climbing.

And then the weather started to Welsh on us! The Course was obliged to turn its attentions to Tremadoc where we displayed our talents in keeping with our ability, Colin fielding his leader on Stromboli whilst I fell off a footpath and tore ligaments in my knee.

Further visits to the Wenalt, Llanberis, Moelwyns and South Stock followed interspersed with self rescue techniques, prussicing, jumoring and an increasing amount of feats of strength and daring in a mind boggling confusion of rope and slings.

Fortunately, respite from the day's action was found in the evening lectures showing canoe trips down the Grand Canyon, winter camping in Wales, ski-ing, orienteering, ecology and that much maligned institution - Mountain Leadership, all undertaken by the resident instructors at Plas-y-Brenin.

The week's action culminated with a "Hey-nony" type interlude and dance where the climbers displayed their nifty footwork on the floor and gave vent to their vocal capabilities.

A fine end to a successful week's learning and our thanks are extended to all who made the week something to be remembered.

P.H.R.

"LINEAGE" A 500ft route, highly recommended for those like myself who view with alarm the difficulties at South Stock but would sample the easier delights of the crag.

Descent from the "Break in the Wall" on the footpath to South Stock Lighthouse and commence at a horizontal fault 50ft above highwater mark. (Northwest wall - mouse trap down)

Follow fault to huge ledge on belay. Continue to descending gangway and small block down, step awkwardly across slabs to fine belay below bulging corner and belay to iron stanchion. (Courtesy Bridge Builder) Take direct line up corner then step left to ascent diagonally to belay on bridge support.

## HO. TO BEAT DAVE EARLE AT HIS OWN GAME

This summer was explore your own country. The North of Scotland. Unperturbed at what the affects of the social fabric might be of repeated Earle visits Anne and I set off via the Cairngorms for Durness. All thoughts of climbing nasty hills vanished when we saw those white beaches. Instead we walked round the coast. Sandwood Bay was fantastic; miles of empty beach punctuated at one end by "Am Buchaille", a Patey climbed sea stack, and at the other by cliffs stretching away to Cape Wrath. Remembering the worst traditions of the F.M.C. we staggered up  
/Stac Polly.

Stac Polly. Enthused again we made for Torrison. Anne wandered off on her own and I climbed Liathach. Poucher reckons it to be one of the best ridges in the country. I wouldn't disagree. Five miles of sandstone scrambling with Ben Eithe beside you, fantastic views all ways and deer and hawk continually appearing.

Nevis and Coe were next but it rained and rained and the midge bites were getting midge bites so we retired to Edinburgh and the Festival.

Chris and Anne.

(Found out at last I can claim to have rested my posterior on every beach in Sutherland and Wester Ross, beats wacking up hill by a mile. ED)

N. Wales 13-15 Sept.

R. W. Reeve

Because of poor weather forecast for Ben Nevis a F.M.C. team of three, A. Dunhill, M. Tolley and R.W. Reeve, left the Fylde bound for the Vagabond Hut at Nant Peris. Saturday dawned bright and sunny and so something 'hard' was called for; and we got it - "Vector" on Bwlch Y Moch at Tremadoc.

This was Andy's route, who, fortified by some strange impotent concoction\* at a wayside hostelry the night before, spared no mercy and climbed the curx like a two-year old. Like all classic routes it wasn't desperate but, instead, required great nimble-footedness and confidence to work out the moves on the now famous "ochre-slab". Andy climbed this without the aid of the obligatory peg; a fine testimony to his present ability on granite.

The next serious pitch "went" at H.V.S.

Strengthened by brews we decided that "Pellagra", an extreme on Craig y Castell ought to be shown who's boss. Unfortunately, the ever threatening rain-clouds over-head drew these proceedings to a halt but only after the first 2 of the 3 pitches had been dealt with. Mick led up to the first stance magnificently; the grade was 'wettish mod.' I took the lead on the second pitch which was great fun for it had me guessing for quite a while. Persistence is required to work out the relatively easy escape from a seemingly impossible situation; the grade here, assuming you refuse to be deceived, is a safe H.V.S.

Next day, in search of definitive climbing conditions, the mousetrap Zawn at Anglesey, was visited. Temperature, humidity, prevailing winds, rock texture, were all 'sussed out' (Andy's phrase); but the colour wasn't quite right so we left to put Little Orme Cliffs on the F.M.C. map.

The low tide approach was submerged when we arrived so the high-level, cliff-top traverse 150ft. above the deep, was deemed necessary. This provided the biggest 'grip' of the weekend being throughout its entire 400 foot length, damp and nasty, and, in places, only 5 inches wide. An outstanding free abseil down to the rock pools landed us amongst a group of amused and wellington-booted youngsters who were out for an afternoon's paddle. Nevertheless, a look at "gemstone", K.S., made it all seem worthwhile.

#### FROM THE EDITOR

I have received the Inspector's Report on the proposals to construct an oil rig factory at Loch Kishorn. Anyone hoping that following the cancellation of the Drumbuie project the area was officially scenically sacrosanct will be sorely disappointed as the scheme has been approved. Apparently Drumbuie was thrown out because of the anticipated catastrophic withdrawal symptoms of the present limited industrial life when the scheme finally closed. There is no such industry at Kishorn. There is only peace.

"In an area of great natural beauty Loch Kishorn is quite unspoilt and has its own special character. It is flanked by the high and impressive mountains of Applecross to the North and by softer rising land above the Kishorn settlements to the South. From the Eastern head of the Loch there are fine views across the water to Syke and the Cuillens. (These will be totally destroyed by the development.) The whole area is of outstanding natural beauty. It is quite unspoilt and the small settlements hugging the water side emphasise the scale of the lochs and the hills rising from them."

Apart from their obnoxious ugliness the oil rigs would completely destroy the delicate scale of the whole district. Imagine driving to Wastdale and finding dozens of Blackpool Towers rising above the lake.

Strome ferry and Flockton come in for a bashing too - "quiet villages attracting only those who care to make the short detour. The activities and noise associated with shifting fairly large quantities of heavy materials would undoubtedly harm the amenities."

You're not kidding! Sounds as if we would all be better off spending our holidays watching the building of the Blackpool to Preston motorway.

As in all these schemes only the barest minimum is laid before the public gaze. Already there have been proposals for two quarries in the region. The power supply, although adequate for the present community, will not support Clyde-side type ship yards and proposals are already being rushed through to march the pylons down the glens.

In all 17 schemes along the West and North Coast are awaiting approval. It saddens me that my long holiday taken to pay my last respects to the West Highland Coast may indeed have proved necessary. Time is running out for what many consider to be the finest scenery in the world. The Scots intend following the traditions of the Welsh manifested in the creation of the Snowdonia Industrial Park. They may well heed the words of the Braham Seer who, among many other startling predictions accurately forecast the course of Scottish History describing the clearances and mass emigration to unknown islands (e.g. New Zealand), the coming of sheep and later deer on the hill and the loss of ownership of the land to foreign consortiums. Next we await the "coming of the horrid black rains", (Oil?) which will see the depopulation of the land by the forerunners of the Scots. These happen to be the Irish who will be packing the work camps of the West Highlands just as surely as they do the East. The local population are taken up with forestry, crofting and fishing anyway. The effect of these proposals on the inshore fishing has not been considered. Nor are there any firm proposals concerning the restoration of the site which is only necessary after 20 years and then only if the site is not being used.

#### NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Club Library is now housed under one roof at 31 Chester Avenue, Poulton, in the care of Mr D. Earle to whom all requests for the maps, guides and volumes as listed should be made.

It was considered that to encourage greater use the library should be housed at the huts but in view of the large number of irreplaceable Collectors Items involved it was felt unwise. Many monthly books are freely available so stop worrying about the latest pegs for aid and relive some of the epics of yesteryear when you had to unrope to put on a runner. Some of these books

To re-iterate my first point I should be grateful if you would all search your consciences and your bookshelves to inform me of the whereabouts of the following. No action will be taken against the present "owners", of course.

Mountaineering in Scotland	Murray
Mount-Blanc Photos	Tairraj
Our Everest Adventure	Hunt
Climbing in Britain	Banford
Norway	Tinders
Alps in 1864	Vol. 1
Walkers Guide to Valais.	

It is hoped to persuade J.J. to put on another one of his productions at the club dinner again. Anyone interested in taking part should make himself known to Jack.

The following members are welcomed into the club.

Dr R Murdock	Mr C Busby
Miss M J Cross	Mr G Hill
Mr T Welsh	Mr S Norwood
Mr J Ismay	Miss E Rawcliffe
Mr S Halton	Mr S Power
	Mr R Brookes

#### HINTS FOR HUT USERS

Please take away all your empty milk bottles. They are not collected locally as the bottle necks are a smaller size to the residential bottles. I found over 50 outside Langdale earlier this year. You would have thought the penny would have dropped with someone by then.

The club huts are NOT available on the following dates.

STAIR	LITTLE LANGDALE
25/27 October	18/20 October
8/10 November	1/3 November
22/24 November	15/17 November
13/15 December	6/8 December

John's new address and telephone number is:-  
24 Scot Close, Marton. Tel. Blackpool 08399

#### FUTURE EVENTS

October 19/20 Beginners rockclimbing. Stair.  
October 27 Coach Meet Brimham Rocks  
November 2/3 Work Weekend Stair  
November 16/17 Potholing Easegyll  
Nov. 30/Dec. 1 Work Weekend Langdale

#### SOCIAL SYLLABUS

October 16 PreBeginners Meet, Rangers  
November 13 Paul Nunn British Winter Climbing Raikes 8 p.m.  
Tickets 30p.  
November 20 Big Boot Ball Rangers Chicken Buffet, Bacon  
Butties, Reduced Beer prices, Disco. 8.30 p.m.  
to 9.30 p.m. Tickets 80p.

07 Members Slides