

Martin.

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

JAN 1977

(Affiliated to B.M.C.)

PATTERDALE MEET 2-4 JULY

What has happened to F.M.C. Meets? Three recent events were attended by members from Yorkshire or else no-one at all. Either meets are being organised to the wrong places at the wrong times or the meet leader is not advertising the attractions! Anyway, the weather was perfect for a summer weekend at Brotherswater and its palatial, if expensive (THERE'S THE RUB. ED) campsite. The total attendance was 3 members, 1 non-member and 2 children - all from Yorkshire!

The sun was already high in the sky as Chris and I toiled up Dovedale. The girls were making best use of the weather and took the kids swimming in Brotherswater. The top of Hart Crag was soon gained and five minutes more brought the impressive wall of Scrubby Crag into view. After a short blow, we negotiated the verdant shelf to find one party on Greudel and another waiting to start. In fact, it must have been one of the busiest days ever on this crag - four parties including ourselves! We moved left and found the start to Ringway - Hard Severe. This did not look very inspiring to start with but gave very steep open climbing on good but small holds. Most of the belays mentioned in the guide book did not exist so we had some impressive run-outs - a very worthwhile route.

It was very hot as we made our way back to the now deserted Greudel. This is a very impressive route for its standard (Mild V.S.). A long pitch leads up a steep corner (thankfully shaded) until an ominous bulge is reached. Completely unexpected, a line of excellent holds leads out to the very exposed last few feet of the right arete. I really enjoyed this pitch and from the belay I had a good view of a gripped second on the hard looking Hrothgar. Chris followed without much bother and led on up the top pitch - a fine groove and wall on superb rock with just enough protection - altogether a magnificent route. It was now far too hot to climb so we abandoned the crag for the pools of Dovedale where all the hard routes on Dove seemed busy.

It was even hotter on the Sunday and the attractions of swimming in Brotherswater and rowing on Ullswater won the day. We even found a superb tea place near Pockley Bridge to end an excellent weekend.

PETER LATIMER

FROM OUR SOUTH OF RIBBLE CORRESPONDENTS

Some of the further-flung members of the F.M.C. have been out-and-about doing this-and-that in Derbyshire. In May, Colin Green, with a Black and Tans M.C. member, climbed CHEF TOR GIRDLE (V.S.) and described it as a "genuine classic". More recently, C.G. returned with R.W. Reeve ready for sterner stuff. SIRI-LUM (4c, 5b) was climbed and was later described as "a really fine climb in an exceptionally exposed position; the hardest thing was getting committed to make the first very strenuous and blind move from the belay ledge above a 90 foot drop". Doug Scott, who followed the pair, is said to have worked up a good sweat seconding a chalk-handed youth from Estes Park, Colorado, who, in fact, rode up the pitch; at the top he uttered a predictable, but heart-felt - "Wow!" Later, too, late as it was, the Fylde team found themselves in Matlock at the foot of DEBAUCHERY (5b, 5a). In addition to the cherished thought of possibly doing two "book routes" in an

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afternoon, Rick, seeking to inspire his partner, is recorded as saying, dead norish-like, "God, if that old-codger Nat Allen razzes up it as part of his constitutional we should nab it before Evensong" (it was Sunday); however, the vision of the hotel door being flung back on Matlock promenade, two-hundred feet below, and the holdless white wall towering above, well the boys did not need much persuading as to which way they were going.

SIRPLUM on Plum Buttress is five minutes walk down Cheedale; Chee Tor is fifteen minutes further. To get to Cheedale: drive out of Buxton on the Matlock road for about four miles until Topley Pike Quarry entrance obtrusively appears at a bend on the right-hand side of the road; opposite, on the left, an unmetalled road leads alongside a river to a distinctive row of houses; park here. (There are plenty of sheep in the dale, so it is great country for having your dog shot.)

### KARRIMOR MOUNTAIN MARATHON GALLOWAY HIGHLANDS OCTOBER 23rd/24th '76

There was a short lull in the weather as Stan, I and 400 other competitors set off on the 2 day "marathon".

The first 2km of the race was a marked route with all of us jostling up forest fire-breaks to the "Dispersal point" where control points to be visited in the race were posted.

We were dispersed, some of us more than others, as the mist and rain came down. The first check-point should have been relatively easy to find, but numerous teams criss-crossed the fell, on various compass bearings, to find it.

With 3 minutes to spare before the control closed and we were disqualified, we found it; by this time we were hunting in a pack of 20 strung out across the fell. We left the control in about 150th place, over an hour behind the leaders.

The next 20 miles that day were a nightmare with freezing rain, thick mist, no paths, continuous mud and deep forestry ditches. But we kept on, hit all of the controls dead-centre and arrived at the overnight camp on a bog by Loch Dee in 16th place.

We had the tent up just before the hail and thunder started, and crept straight into our bags, not that they gave us much comfort as the tent condensation gradually soaked through them.

Little persuasion was needed to get up at 6 a.m. for a 7 a.m. start on the Sunday and we were off again with a packet of Dextrosol each to sustain us.

The days course was drier underfoot, but there were some very steep climbs involved.

Check point 2 was reached in 11th place but on the steep sections of the next 12 miles we were overhauled by some of the fresher teams.

The last 2 miles were the best, with 2 controls to find and a pleasant down-hill run through pines to Loch Trool; we regained several places here.

And there was the finish, cheering spectators and a brew. Heaven!

Our final position was 20th out of 200 teams and we will certainly be out to better that next year.

Karrimor did a good job organising the event and the mountain-rescue teams were quick in evacuating the 3 fractures and 5 cases of exposure during the race; numerous other teams even big names retired in the harsh conditions.

R. Norris

A very creditable performance indeed. I do not know anywhere in Scotland that provides worse going underfoot than Galloway. Little wonder that many of the rivers in the region are known as "Lanes", there being no more sensible way of travelling about than by boat. Also a new facet to the activities of the club which could quickly gather momentum. With John Hamilton joining forces we could soon field a pretty formidable team. Thank God I have become totally played out these last few months. FD

Brief notes on club meets that were rumoured to have taken place!

October 1,3. Bull Pot Farm - Potholing

An excellent meet, well supported but with not too many people present to turn each pitch into a night mare.

Just as well as there was plenty of water underground to make life interesting and speed was the essence of the day. So one group descended Count Pot and walked through to Lancaster Pot and vice versa. An admirable arrangement, with the added interest of working out whereabouts in the system we would pass each other.

On Sunday the hardmen did Bull Pot of the Witches. Some walked and some went on a geological expedition in search of the Dent Fault, which fortunately leads directly to the public bar of the Sun Inn at Dent itself.

October 8-10 Beginners Rock Climbing - Stair

I understand this was well attended by instructors and tryers alike and plenty of crag work was enjoyed by all. Miss Carole Waterhouse in particular climbed very well. Nice to see a few ladies on the crags now and again when they are not cooking our tea.

October 15-15 Tremadoc Hut

Another good meet, well attended, and with quite good weather. Many of the classic routes took a pounding on the Saturday whilst the walkers visited the Harlech Dome on Saturday and Cnicht on Sunday. In worsening weather, after a good night at the pub, most of the climbers disappeared towards Llanberis Pass Sunday much to the amazement of the writer.

October 31 Almscliffe

This coach meet was held as an own transport meet in view of the comparative numbers involved but nevertheless there was still a sizeable number of club members in action on this notable and very difficult cliff, no doubt cajoled, urged and even bullied into even greater feats of strength and daring by the effervescent presence of the meet leader, PHR. I believe our local contingent were also out in force, nice to see them in action again.

### Nov. 5/7 Working Weekend Stair

Only the meet leader seemed to do much work this weekend but failed to provide a hot pot as per the syllabus. In between everyone enjoying themselves on the hill and in the pub afterwards the hut got a good springclean and tidy up. A window was also replaced, but the fabled Mr Michael Tolly yet again failed to appear to construct the well in which to place the door mat which the club has owned since about 1969. With inflation we might even be able to sell it and buy a third hut.

### Nov. 14 Coach Meet

Sufficient people to run a coach at last but the bus company could not get over the shock and failed to appear so yet another own transport meet had to be rapidly organised by J.J. A lot of hard work gave quite a few people a day out and apologies to those who had their day spoilt

### Club Dinner Meet 4th December 1976

A full complement of members again enjoyed an excellent meal at the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel but had the advantage of dancing to an excellent live group who kept the evening bubbling along in fine style, and were a considerable improvement over the musical entertainment of the previous year. The usual ridiculously early packing up time was only too soon upon us. What happened to the Common Market licencing laws? A raffle, organised by Ray Varley, was held exclusive for members at the dinner so that the winners would be amongst those present. It also gave the rest of us the chance to join in their good fortune.

"Mug of the Year" was given away by Rupert, the then current holder who had a difficult choice from such a bevy of "non talent". Only Steve Halton could drive to the Lake District without his passengers. Gary Standidge was benighted on Heron Crag, Eskdale and Rich Reeve was similarly overcome by darkness in some equally daft place. But the choice was narrowed down to either Martin Dale or Joe Giblin who had recently very narrowly indeed avoided benightment on Stan-ge Edge, and would probably have had to stay there till the following weekend as they were soloing. Mr Gibbin won by a short head.

Disappointment snow conditions unfortunately curtailed much of the fun we were hoping for on the hill Saturday but those of us up early enough on Sunday were able to climb above the valley mist to gain excellent and unusual views of the Langdale Fells.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

It is proposed to hold a photographic competition early in the new year.

There will be two categories (1) Mountain Scenery and (2) Rock Climbers in Action; members may enter up to three SLIDES in each of the categories.

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Entries should be handed to a Committee member by the weekend of 16/18 February and the slides, having been judged by a photographically qualified person, will be shown at the Ranger Club on Wednesday, 23rd February, together with a special slide show and hot pot.

A suitable prize will be given to the winning slide in each competition.

In order to avoid confusion and to help the judge I would stress that in category one only photographs of mountain scenery will be eligible. Shots of daffodils supposedly by the side of Ullswater, sunsets over the sea, coastal views etc. are out. Category two is for shots of rock climbers in action on the crags. People stood about outside pubs or at the bottom of routes will not score too highly.

#### Leg Pull Time.

One advantage of the greatly increased size of the club is that it can support several factions within the whole without any polarisation.

One such group to newly emerge is the George Parker Climbing Group. Whilst the rest of us are festering in our pits wondering which pub to visit these iron men of British Mountaineering are powering their way across the hills of Britain, in all sorts of weather. Many a prospective hard man now awaits that valued invitation to join this exclusive band and to partake in a standard of mountaineering that is out of this world. Only persons who are both mountaineers and gentlemen can expect to receive the call.

Added advantages of being accepted into the G.P.C.G. could even include a trip in the club car! , though in view of George's position in the club only fully paid up hard men can expect to receive the vaunted invitation to join.

#### Club huts are free on the following dates:-

<u>Langdale</u>	<u>Stair</u>
21-23 Jan	7 - 9 Jan
4-6 Feb	14-16 Ladies W/E
18-20 Feb	28-30 Jan
4-6 March	4-6 Feb
18-20 Ladies W/E	11-13 Feb
25-27 Working "1"	25-27 Feb
1-3 April	11-13 March
7-11 Easter	25-27 March
15-17 Aprilg	7 -11 Easter
29-1 May	22-24 April

The proposed meet to Froggatt on February 25th - 27th 1977 has had to be cancelled due to non availability of the hut. No doubt, something else will be substituted in its place, and will be notified to members in a subsequent Newsletter.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS, AND MAY YOUR CRAMPONS MAKE HAPPY TRACKS IN MANY SNOWS.