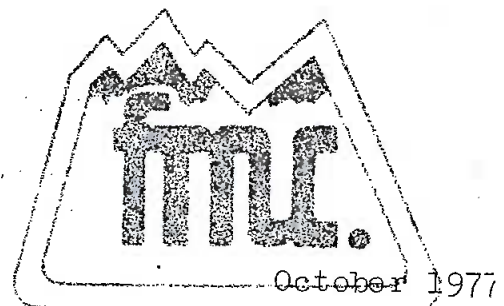


NEWSLETTER

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



This edition of the Newsletter has been held up by the New Dungeon Gyll management being slow in quoting a price for our Annual Club Dinner to be held there on December 3rd. The price will be approximately £3.50 and a booking form will be found in this Newsletter - so, get yours off to Dave Sharples as soon as possible.

GROVEL

There is plenty of grovelling to be done as the club rock-climbers continue to bag hard routes and, maintaining a long established tradition, little of this news finds its way to me. Noteable ascents have been EROICA (Cornwall) BIG GROOVE (Anglesey) SIRDLUM (Derbyshire EMPIRE (Lakes LEFT WALL (Wales).

In the Alps Fred and Rupert climbed the TRIOLET, NORTH FACE by the 1931 route. Fred went on to climb the SWISS ROUTE on the COURTES with Barrow Fred. Several other things were done but little has been submitted. Fred also did a route with John Hamilton which he regards as a classic; it's called LA PELLE and is in the Vercouss Alps.

COMMENT

Most members will be aware of the recent events which have led to the expulsion from the Club of three people and, regrettably, the voluntary resignation of a further two.

It must be said that the three people expelled received at various times, notice that their actions had contravened basic Club rules but rather than accept these admonishments they chose a course of confrontation leaving the Committee with only one choice.

A belief which appears to have a strong following at the present time is that the Committee is persuing a vendetta against certain members. This is not true. I have had the honour to serve continuously as Club Treasurer for the past eight years and during that time the various Committees of which I have been a member have had to take some difficult and sometimes distasteful decisions. It is my firm belief that at all times these decisions were taken with the wellbeing of the Club as the prime consideration.

If members have complaints or suggestions to air these should be made known in the usual democratic ways, for example, by lobbying a Committee member on the Hill or at the Clubhouse on a Wednesday evening or by writing to the Secretary when the point would be discussed in Committee.

Belonging to any organisation is two sided. In return for the benefits of membership an individual may have to give up certain personal preferences. Membership of F.M.C. carries a great many benefits. In return, for the sake of good order, certain rules require observance.

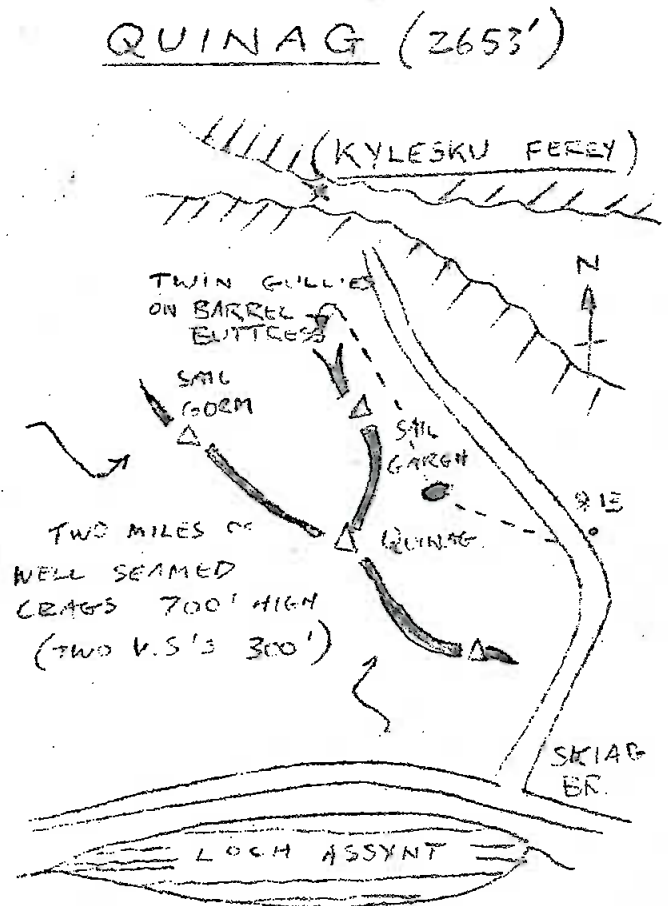
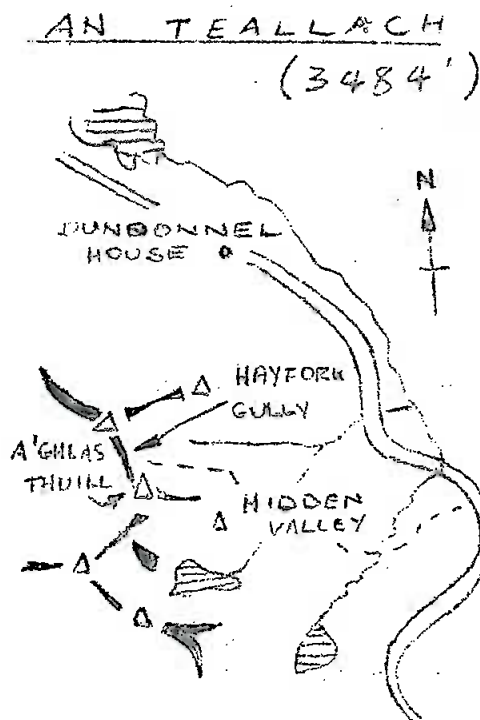
Your Committee is elected to administer these rules and to serve all the members. I would ask all the members to help the Committee in this work and to put behind them the recent unhappy events.

Let us strive to see F.M.C. progress from a mature club to a great club.

GEORGE PARKER

The following extracts from Fred Snalam's diary are reproduced for those with an interest in the North West Highlands of Sutherland and Caithness. He visited the area with John 'Banjo' Hargreaves during the last week of February 1977.

- 1) "Ullapool used as base camp, offers hospitality and mountains whichever way you look, as well as interesting sea cliff climbing nearby."
- 2) "CUL MOIR North of the Old Drumrunic Lodge (ruin) and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles S of Elphin on the A835 is a good place to park (where it says No parking!) Walked up the summit of CUL MOR (2786') 3 miles, involving easy climbing up the West Buttress for 700' from the plateau. Very unusual snow/wind formations on the summit. To the west STAC POLLAIDH (2009') and beyond the Summer Isles. Over the ridge and down to the col leading back to the road. GOOD SNOW. (3-4 hrs) Good for an afternoon."
- 3) "AN TEALLACH (3484') (produced ANTSHELLAC)
Leave Ullapool and drive S to Lael Forrest passing Beina Dearg (3547') on the left. Turn R onto A832 and head for Dundonnell. Stop 1 mile before Dundonnell House and follow track by river that comes from Loch coire Chaschain. Within 1 mile cross river and ascend up hillside (W. direction) following 'rock pavement' for a further mile. Then descend into hidden valley and once more upwards. White Rabbit! We made for Northern corrie. Soon saw the obvious Hayfork Gully. Began solo - and continued. Grade III. Once on the summit ridge (3 miles long) things took on an alpine outlook. Surely one of the finest mountain ridges in Scotland. Descent down the steep, yet easy W flank of the mount. Plenty of Snow not cold enough (6-7 hrs.)



4) "TARBET (N of Scourie) Small bay worth visiting. Private boat will take you across to Isle of Handa (Bird sanctuary and home of the Great Sea Stack at Handa resembling an over-fed old man of hoy on three legs*) Also from the beach at Tarbet it is possible to look down the Sound of Handa and view the old man of Stoer (captured by ourselves along with Rick R and Colin Hardie last year)."

5) "SANDWOOD BAY The most remote beach in Britain. Home of Am Buachaille.

Attempts at this sea stack were foiled by the low tide being at the wrong time of day. A very impressive sea stack with a hard looking route to the top!

From Kinlochbervie drive 4 miles as far as Balchreik and it's the end of the road. Sandwood Bay has a signposted track and it is possible to take a vehicle (dormobile) as far as Loch A'mhullinn (saying 3 miles of walking!) Follow the track to the L of two smaller tarns then climb over a fence and walk up the hill at 90° to the fence. Both the bay (2 miles long) and the sea stack (200') soon come into view (3 mile walk).

We climbed a nearby stack Rubh'a Bhuachaille (150') which gave us enough to think about for a few hours. Necessary to hold your breath whilst abseiling off!"

6) "QUINAG (2653') Splendid view of this mountain from the Kylesku ferry. Has twin N. Buttresses. LH one, Sail Gharbh contains two impressive gullies leading 1,200' all the way to the summit. Drive 4 mile South of Unapool along the A894 park in lay-by (marked .813 on O.S. maps) From here a track leads up to the Lochan tucked away in the hillside. At the 1250' contour mark, a rising traverse, over rough ground is made to reach a path which goes round the mountain. The gully doesn't have an impressive start but later becomes very interesting. Overall grade II/III with at least one pitch of IV. Walked over 2 miles of the Y-shaped summit ridge. Glad to be back at the van. 5 hrs. SUPERB CONDITIONS.

7) "SEA CLIFFS OF CAMAS MOR These lie immediately S of Ben More Coigach and only a few miles N of Ullapool, near Blugasary. 180' max. height worth exploring. Also the sea cliffs near the lighthouse of the entrance to Loch Broom. Basil will publish his interim guide soon in AMATURE GARDENER. Look out for it!

8) So many other mountains to explore like Beinn Eighe, Beinn Dearg(s), Liathach, The Fannichs, Arkle, etc..... It calls for a return visit....."

PIC DU MILI D'OSSAU

Chris Heald

Staring into the first brew of the day, the lumps of Marvel revolving slowly in the torchlight, thoughts being collected when a sudden and dramatic interuption - the gas system in the kitcehn explodes and there are cries of "Is he dead" as the guardian is dragged from the debris. But fortunately all is well and we set off hoping that nothing as dramatic will happen on the route.

A short walk beneath the towering Pombie wall and as we reach the start of the climbing the run rises and we bask in instant warmth.

The easiest route up the mountain (facile sup.) consists of three chimneys connected by scrambling and walking for two and a half thousand feet. An easy route up a beautiful mountain which stands alone like a smaller version of the Matterhorn.

/The route

The route is busy with French, large parties all with guides, who are still intrigued to see the English roped together and using belays. (A definite improvement on their method of hanging a rope down the pitch to be grabbed by anyone falling off!) The chimneys go easily and soon we reach the shoulder of the mountain and are able to look down the Pomlie wall to see Spanish climbers exiting after a bivouac near the top of the superb looking two thousand foot sweep of granite. A long walk across the first snow of the day and a scramble leads to the summit and superb views all around.

We sunbathe for a while and then descend, collect the food from the refuge and pass on to Gavarnie and Vignemale.

For those who have not been to the Pyrenees - it's unspoilt, quiet, friendly; the refuges have real self cooking facilities, the climate is Mediteranean and there are hardly any crevasses to fall into.

LITTLE LANGDALE WORKING WEEKEND

As New Hut Sec. Little Langdale, I would like to thank all those whose enthusiastic efforts transformed the cottage from a slum to a place the club can be proud of once more. There is still much work to be carried out there yet but vast improvements have been made, notably a new door and step, fluorescent lighting in common room and kitchen and a new interior colour scheme (I'll not mention the colours - take a look for yourselves but I can only state that they are really 'different'!) Also the window slot has been 'completed' at last and the place tidied up.

Special thanks to Barbara Sealey for the brews and snacks which kept us all going throughout the weekend! (in addition to the usual Hot Pot and 'Flonk').

I would at this point like to launch an appeal to members for SOUP BOWLS, FRYING PANDS and MUGS, all of which are in short supply at Langdale, if you can spare any please contact me or any Committee member or, simply take them up with you on your next visit.

DON NICHOL

(Address 46 Rookwood Avenue, Anchorsholme, Blackpool.
Tel. Cleveleys 79950)

New Keys are now required at Little Langdale. These may be purchased from Dave Walton, price 50p. each.

The Committee have been trying unsuccessfully to obtain metal spring bases or heavy duty bunks to replace those now worn out. Would anyone able to advise where we can get hold of these or alternatives please get in touch with the Committee, Thanks.

CHESTER HUT: To book - Dave Walton. Keys - Dave Walton, John Sealey. See to it that you "sign-in" on arrival.

SOCIALS

26th October	Lecture by Liz Rawcliffe	8 p.m. Rangers
9th November	Bob Millward Lecture:	The Dru and the Alps
23rd November	Club slides	
rd December	Annual Club Dinner,	Stickle Barn, New Dungeon Gyll.