

NEWSLETTERED'S WINGE

Welcome to the first newsletter of 1986. Such is the pressure of all this serious training that us top rockclimbers have to do these days that there's not a lot of time left to compose things like newsletters. The recent AGM came and went - and I didn't lose my job! So some of you out there must be happy with this zine!

There was a good turn-out at this year's AGM (ale guzzling meeting) this year on a Thursday at the River Wyre Hotel, due to Boddingtons takeover at the Buccaneer. Quite a few changes too with Dave Earle, sporting a wonderful shirt, taking over as Chairman for the first time in his illustrious career. Also new were Paul Taylor taking over as Treasurer, John Parker as Secretary and Sean Smith as Stair Hut Secretary. It was a shame to see the meeting going into extra time for the Vice Chairman's job. It's about time some people put something back into the Club. Mark Harding finally accepted the post. New on the Committee were the token lady, Louise Fortune, Pete Roscoe (new?) Kevin Stephens and Eddie Craig. The other posts remained unchanged. The major talking points were the dreaded bog at Stair, mould at Little Langdale, Youth Policy and Scouting. And a possible new Club dinner venue in the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel. Oh, yes, and trips to.....Hell! You should have been there!

Martin Dale

THOM CARROLL

Again the beginning of a New Year has taken from us another of the Club's Greats. Thom Carroll passed away on the 21st of January unable to recover fully from an operation; the funeral and service, on the 29th, was attended by his family and many friends.

It was almost thirty years to the day since we had attended another sad loss. Mike Hornby and three other of the Wall Enders had been the victims of a winter storm on the Ben, struck down in terrible weather; the impact on mountaineering circles had been immense.

Thom was the only survivor, a tribute to his self survival. More remarkable was his further involvement with the hills for he continued to enjoy mountain days and was ever making plans for ski tours and days on the fells.

Scotland held great attraction for him and members will have memories of him holding sway at Lagangarbh.

He made a great contribution to the Club by being custodian at Little Langdale and it was at about this time that he was involved with a hair-raising brush with an electric cable.

The Achilli Ratti club held great attraction for Thom and early memories of Langdale involve the Bishops Scole; we were often invited to be guests there but the key was nearly always forgotten which resulted in our having to climb in through the windows.

A great story teller, complex, often on matters political but bold in the presentation of his telling and his efforts to return to his farming ilk make the loss to his family great and the Club's condolences are offered to his family.

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Thom's skiing companions will have occasion to remember days with him for his enthusiasm was infectious and his eye for boldness in a descent line a talking point for all.

Though others may have their own particular memories, I shall remember very well a major contributing factor to his survival from the Ben, when the winter winds moan and its cold on your own, I'll start the day by pulling on my long-johns and tip the lid to Thom Carroll.

PS. On the day Thom passed on, five climbers survived an accident on Ben Nevis.

P.H. Roscoe.

Someone announced that Thom Carroll wanted to join the F.M.C.. The reaction varied between ecstasy and stunned horror. One or two even turned white - who could cause such a contrast of reactions? Thom (as he had become by then) was indeed a man of contrasts. Big, jolly and larger than life, he could keep up with most at the bar and kept us entertained with his splendid repartee and daftness. Warm and friendly he was yet capable of holding very firm views and letting you know about them. His recent politics, somewhat to the right of Ghengis Khan, contrasted markedly with his socialist youth and always ensured a lively night out. Yet he was also a sensitive and artistic person. A very true friend when one was needed and a lover of fine music and poetry, able to quote at length from his favourite authors.

Whilst working from an industrial base he always had a love of the soil, working his allotments tirelessly. Quite outrageous at times he was nevertheless a devout Catholic which came in handy when there was much to be forgiven. He managed to contrast his catholicism with a protestant work ethic which some times defied belief.

We will all have our memories of Thom. Mine include boozing and disco-ing till 3 a.m. at the Chester Dinner and being got up at 7 a.m. to drive him to mass! Traversing the Ben Cruachan ridge without him going over a single top. He must have got the total traverse down to about 900ft of ascent from the dam. Regaling us with tales of skiing for his regiment, and chatting up two Danish birds at La Plagne by engaging them in a discussion about pig farming! Skiing into a ten foot wall of snow and finding it even funnier than we did. His closest friends will remember him out on the table at Little Langdale in a somewhat intoxicated state berating poor Ossie's lack of knowledge of the anatomy of goats. Always a believer in youth, he was especially thrilled to be taken up the legendary Slingsby's chimney by the club's hardmen, giving up a day to help geriatrics like us to gain a little more from life. Finally and most typical was a week at Carn Mor bothy which started by taking on the locals at the Poolewe hotel, leaving in the daylight. Once at Carn Mor his Wall End Barn experience came to the fore and great enhanced our stay in appalling weather. He enjoyed himself hugely constructing a gravity fed oil fired heating system which was a great asset, if not life saver, and took great pride in reaching the most remote munro. It was a week which summed up the measure of the man.

Some people leave a bigger gap than others when they are taken from us. Many of us who were especially fond of Thom

find ourselves staring into a bottomless chasm.

We all send our very deepest sympathy to Erica, Kathy, Paddy, Bridget and Tommy and will do whatever we can to ease their loss.

Dave Earle.

NEW MEMBERS

The following are welcomed as introductory members:
William Robert Barker, 182 Staining Road, Staining, FY3 0BB.
Bob has no sooner joined than left again! He is (Tel. 892265) working in New York!!
Mick Van Gulik Field Head House Hotel, Outgate, Hawkshead, Cumbria (Mick's Blackpool address is 21 Empress Drive (Tel 58785).
Rhona Giles "Toulouse" Garstang Road, Pilling, Preston, PR3 6AL (Tel. Pilling 590)
Linda Smithson 5 Tithebarn Place, Poulton-le-Fylde (Tel 890093).
Steve Sherrington 67 Washington Avenue, Bishpham, Blackpool (Tel 55588).

FULL MEMBERS

Louise Fortune Paul and Deb Greenland
Paul & Irene Taylor Bill McRae
Steve Wall Anne Goward.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Gerry and Barbara Senior 123 High Street, Stony Stratford (from March '86) Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK11 1AT. (Tel. 0908 562028)
Dave Cundy 93 St. Andrews Road South, St. Annes, Lancs.
Simon Fenna 478 Lytham Road, Blackpool. (Tel. 45411)
Ian Evans 10 Ribby Avenue, Wrea Green, Preston, PR4 2ND. (Tel. Kirkham 685951)
Barry and Kath Stott 42 Stony Lane, Eccleshill, Bradford, BD2 2HN (Tel. 0274 633496).
Kevin and Carol Stephens 143 Church Road, St. Annes, Lancs.

HUT AVAILABILITY

7/8th March	Langdale
14/15 "	Stair
14/15 "	Langdale, families
21/22 "	Langdale
28-30 "	Stair
28-30 "	Langdale
1-5th April	Langdale
11/12 "	Stair
18/19 "	Langdale
25/26 "	Stair
2-4th May	Langdale
2-4th "	Stair, families
9/10 "	Stair
16/17 "	Langdale
23-25 "	Stair.

* John Wiseman wishes to apologise about the recent "secret" Chester Hut swap weekend and says it won't happen again! (OK John! Put it was in the last Newsletter, Ed)

SOCIALS

At the Buccaneer 8.30 pm (unless otherwise stated)

12th March '86 1986 Slide Competition.
2 Categories: Landscape and Action. Let's see your best shots from 1985.

26th March Bob Wightman: Alpine North Faces. 8.00 pm.
 Al Phizackleas Mate from Ulverston is one of the new breed of young alpinists. Slides include ascents of the north face of the Eiger, Walker Spur etc..

9th April Slide Quiz.

Where is that dry stone wall? Well, Ok let's go for southern Eskdale, just above Great Overlarge Wotsit Hill!! - No Sorry - Ashness Bridge.

Well, you get the score, Members! Maybe you can do better than Johnny Plastic Map Case.

OUTDOOR MEETS

8/9th March Tremadoc and the Moelwyns.

Meet Leader: Mark Harding, Tel.52166

Your first chance to get on rock (maybe) this year. This fine hut is situated nearer to the crag than Eric Jones Cafe!!

It is also a good base for the Moelwyns and Snowdon itself.

And it hasn't been demolished by the recent rock fall.

It just missed!

15/16th March Family Weekend, Little Langdale

28/31st March Onich Hut, Scotland

Meet Leader: Dave Earle, Tel.890283

There's every possibility of there still being plenty of ice in them their gullies.

28/31st March South West Rock Climbing

Meet Leader: Martin Dale.

Still no concrete venue yet but possibly Pembroke or deepest Cornwall - camping.

12/13th April Members' Meet, On the Rocks.

Meet Leader: Sean Smith (Rocky V), Tel.866813.

Sean hopes to get us all "on the rocks". Beginners welcome. Get ready for the Rockin Season!

19/20th April Vass But, Nant Peris

Meet Leader: Dave Earle, Tel.890283.

Your new Chairman requests your company on this hut swap weekend. Last year Kevin cut off his finger on this meet so anything could happen. Turn up and see!!

26/27th April Broughton to Coniston Coach Meet

Meet Leader: Donald Nichol, Tel.869950.

Join the Duck on this fine outing. Where the hell's Coniston?? (Ed) It's below the Old Man! You Dummy!!

Sneak Preview of New Syllabus (Newsletter Exclusive!!)

3rd-5th May Family Weekend, Stair.

3rd-5th May Gloucester H.C. Hut, Denole.

Meet Leader: Dave Earle, Tel.890283

Pending the booking of the hut, this meet should be a good 'un, with several paddlers (canoeists) also expressing an interest.

It's also dangerously close to all that hot Llanberis slate - gulp!! (All you Hedge Close fanatics)..

10/11th May Corris Hut

Meet Leader: John Wiseman, Tel.826594.

Another Welsh one! Central Wales this time. Cader Idris and climbing at Cowarch; good local as well. And an obscure Lakeland crags adventure. There's also a couple of food meets for the pigs amongst us.

TRUSTEES

The Committee have agreed George Parker and Derek Smith to act as Trustees and they have both accepted.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1986

Yes Folks, it's insolvent pigs time again! Subscriptions are now due, so get those cheques off to the new Treasurer: Mr. Paul Taylor at 16 Upper Westby Street, Lytham St. Annes. Tel. 737180. And you may well inherit the kingdoms of Little Langdale and Stair for another 12 months.

CONGRATULATIONS

Yes, the FMC dateline service has done it again! There are two FMC marriages in the near future. Paul and Deb Greenland tie the knot officially on April 5th in Bradford and rumour has it that Kevin Stephens and Carol Bamber are to be wed on March 5th. Best wishes from the Club to both couples.

SPORTS QUIZ

Our Quiz Team in the recent match vs the Ski Club and Blackpool Cricket Club ended in defeat. We were narrowly beaten into third place behind the Ski Club. Your new Chairman displaying his darker side - starrng on the horse racing questions. The Cricket Club won easily.

CAR STICKERS

Don Nichol has some car stickers for sale at £1.50 each. They are a nice design based on the club badge. Handy for identifying club members' cars in the crowded car parks of Great Langdale.

CHRIS BONNINGTON

Old Bonners is doing a show at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood on Friday 14th March. The show is entitled 'Horizons' and tickets which cost £2.75 each, can be obtained from either Don Nichol or Dave Earle.

Christmas Bonus is being put on by a conglomeration of Fylde Photographic Societies - not the FMC.

ANDY DUNHILL

Old Mary Poppins is not being put on by the FMC either. Andy is having a unofficial Newcastle meet on 7/8th March which includes a curry and a party on the Saturday night and also climbing in Northumberland. It doesn't cost £2.75 and tickets are not available from Club officials. Just bring yourself and have a good time.

RON RUTLAND

Ron Rutland is leading a trekking/climbing trip to the Everest region. The cost is £1,400. and includes all sorts of goodies including insurance and your own sherpa. For 25 days in October 1986. For more details contact Ron Rutland on Clitheroe 28418.

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RICK REEVES

He just wants to sell some gear!!

ADVERTS

One pair Koflack Ski Boots Size 4 - any offers?
One pair Caber Ski Boots Size 6 - any offers?
One pair Rossignol Challenger Skis, Size 185, with Look N77 turntable bindings - suitable for a beginner or occasional skier: £35.00.
One pair Koflack Viva Soft Climbing Boots, size 10 : £50. ONO used once only - found to be too big. As new (Shop Price £72.50)
Contact: Rick Reeves (Tel.0695) 422966.
34 Noel Gate, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancs.

BMC NEWS

National Mountaineering Conference 21/22 March, Buxton

Trade Fair, Photographic displays, Artist Exhibitions and Films, even a second-hand gear stall!! (Plus Fireeaters and Platespinners, Ed.)

Speakers include Jean Claude Droyer, Ed. Drummond (and his 20ft stool), Rowland Edwards, Tony Howard, Doug. Scott, Tom Frost and Pat Ament from the U.S.A.. There's also a disco on Friday night with Eric and the Frantics!! Tickets are £7.50 each (£2.00 for the Disco) Available from the BMC, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Booth Street East, Manchester M13 9RZ. Hurry now!!

Mark Harding tells me his hero, John Gill (Boulderer) is now appearing so Mark is definitely going!

BMC ANNUAL DINNER, Sat. 26th April Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis.

AGM, Annual Dinner - Guest of Honour: Lord Hunt.
Price £8.50 (£8.00 each for a party of over 6 people). Includes Disco on Saturday night. The AGM begins at 4.30 pm in the hotel. Tickets available from above address: BMC HQ.
They're going fast so don't waste any time.

DON WHILLANS MEMORIAL

The BMC have set up a Memorial Fund with the aim of raising £100,000 plus to purchase a Valley Base in the Chamonix Valley as a fitting memorial to Don. The Club has sent a donation.

WARTON SMALL QUARRY

Following the appearance of a 'no climbing' sign and also a Sheds Breeding Ground, the Club has been assured by the Parish Council that they have no objection to our members climbing in the quarry so long as they are properly insured. Do not park cars too near to the Crag.

CRAIG Y FOMEN

After several of our members were kicked off last year by a couple of farmer's lads, there is now a total ban on climbing on this Crag. The BMC are at present trying to negotiate with the landowners. No attempt should be made to climb until further notice.

8 EYED ICE MAN - ICE SPURT SPECIAL

With one of the coldest Februarys on record, the boys have been shunning the climbing walls and have been staying in at nights sharpening their tools (painful, Ed.) ready for a weekend's battle with the white frozen stuff.

With every waterfall in the Lakes frozen, and the gullies full, there's been lots of action on the hill recently. The Lakes has been hardest hit with Scotland looking like taking a good bashing in March with the Lagangarbh and Onich meets. Up front have been the Sheffield team of Al Peel and Mark Jackson. They climbed Bowfell Buttress in perfect conditions. Earlier Mick Tolley with Andy Dunhill had climbed the route. Peel and Jackson then went on to do the Force, down Coledale in excellent nick. Again accompanying them was Andy Dunhill. Sean Smith and Simon Fenna with Dave Cundy in tow also accounted for the first pitch but ran out of light. The day after this Jackson led the desperate first pitch of Dove Crag Gully on Grasmoor. Al Peel and Kevin Stephens followed and then Al led the second pitch. A memorable ascent. The gully had defeated a strong Lakeland team the day before. Phil Caley and Mark Planner did Hells Ghyll which had a good 100ft pitch. Steve Swindells, Alan Blackburn, Andy Dunhill, Simon Fenna and Kev Stephens climbed several routes up Deepdale. Hen Crag Buttress has seen several ascents from Fylde teams, as have most of the gullies on Great Carrs. Pretty much every thing has been "in nick" at some time or another and a lot of other people as well as those mentioned have been out bashing the ice. Dave Earle, even, has done the odd vertical ice pitch. Mike Penn has been out clocking up the gullies as has Dave Whitmore and John Hickman. The Club has been hit by a burst of winter enthusiasm.

Dave Woods, Dave Whitmore, Jeremy Levey and Paul Taylor are, as I write, in Scotland learning how, so look out for Fylde domination of the Ben!! Glenn Brookes has even been out doing Little Gully on Pavey Ark with Sean Smith and Dave Whitmore. His brother, Roger has been active in North Wales climbing Western Gully on the Black Ladders with Al Peel, Stuart Gascoyne and Mark Jackson. On a less successful outing an epic ensued on the steep ice of Craig Y Rhaeder. Stu Gascoyne led up the first 50ft of vertical ice and began to tire. Placing both his tools, he lowered off, leaving them in place!! Up went Roger, who's arms also suffered. He placed a screw, removed the tools and gingerly lowered off. Then Stuart returned to his high point, removed the screw and then reversed the thing!?

Well, how's that for a day well spent! Me? I'll see you in the Rule at dinner! Roll on summer. Cheers, Snarg, the Barracuda Chacal.

PS: Lads, Good'uns in nick at the moment are Scale Force, Buttermere, Cautley Spout, Hoagills, and the Grey Mare's Tail, somewhere just north of the Border near Beattock? Also try Aira Force, Ullswater and my mate Tony Greenbank tells me that Stock Ghyll, Ambleside is OK on a cold night by head torch! (After the Rule? Ed.)

MALHAM-HORTON COACH MEET

The difficulties of arranging extended bouts of high volume intake of liquid refreshment in establishments whose purpose is the manufacture by ancient methods is as nothing compared to the odd hiccup encountered when organising F.M.C. coach meets!

Profuse and profound are the alternatives offered to the Meet Leader who phones for support but the persistent leader may be rewarded with sufficient names to run a meet.

The day dawned both bright and fresh but to a perplexed group at Devonshire Square no coach arrived, a most unusual occurrence and various reasons (some quite rude) were observed. Reluctant to spend the day in idle fashion cars were filled and the "alternative scheme" embarked upon.

Caustic comments prevailed at Poulton but cars were quickly marshalled and the 'own transport' meet headed for Malham.

Highlight on this normally placid trip was displayed when M. Tolley tested his tyres, brakes, the kerb edge and his passengers' nerve ends when fast approaching a vehicle obstructing his onward progress.

A hay wain effected problems for the Meet Leaser who arrived to find our man from Moscow organising a people's revolutionary party and sorting out lifts for all and sundry. True to the Party line a limousine carried a chosen few in the direction of Litton whilst all others wondered what the Lenin was going on.

Malham Cove and Gordale Scar provide scenes of monumental splendour and enticed groups to partake of their impressive scenery, including a rope intending to do things of algebraic proportions.

By use of the transport available parties either walked to or from Horton in Ribblesdale covering the summits of Pen-y-Ghent and Fountains Fell in spite of conditions which reduced to cloud and a chill wind.

The Roebuck at Malham offered refreshment and an opportunity to exchange experience of the day with the general concensus of a day well spent.

P.H. Roscoe.

VAGS HUT SWOP MEET, OCTOBER 13/14th.

In spite of the appalling summer every time this author paid a weekend visit to North Wales, the veritable home of bad weather he was blessed with the most perfect weather imaginable: 4 occasions in all.

The last of these trips was the F.M.C. meet to the Vagabond Mountaineering Club hut at Nant Peris. A smallish team found the hut very much improved and congratulations are in order to all those who have put in so much hard work over such a long period. The character and internal layout are very much as before but the building is weathertight, the kitchen much improved and very much cleaner and the bunks have been rebuilt.

We were not quite in time to enjoy the final improvement whereby all the lights can be turned off from one's pit!! but this has since been completed.

Saturday dawned fine, warm and clear. Something other than the usual plod was called for so a trip round to the Cwm Silyn ridge was made giving a day of superb walking and excellent views. One party made their way back along the ridge, the other descended into the Nantlle valley and were very late back to the cars.

Sunday, after an excellent night in the Vaynol was even better if anything. The new members, a little disgruntled at the author's tendency to lie in the sun for long periods on tops of hills, decided to tackle the Snowden Horseshoe on their own. The rest enjoyed the esoteric delights of the Big Elidyr, and the ridge to Y Garn, some visited the largest of the Glyders - the author visited both, perhaps in penance for so much lounging about.

All in all a superb meet wasted on only half a hut full of people.

D.A. Earle.

CHRISTMAS INSANITY

Beer, food, TV, presents, arguments, that's what Christmas Day's about. Thinking one day of this is enough, Mr. Dunhill, Mr. Swindells and myself headed for the Langdales on a cold (bloody freezing!), windy Boxing Day. In our minds were thoughts of "I wonder if Mr. Smith, Mr. Dale and Mr. Barker were ahead of us?" "They can't be" I thought, no one would get up earlier than what we just have to go and race up to Bowfell Buttress and climb the buttress and arrive at the summit of Bowfell before the other team, whatever the conditions.

Langdale arrived at 9.45 am a clear blue day with visible snow and ice above 2,500ft. Layers of clothing were donned and sacks filled with goodies from the day before, and off we set - stomachs filled with turkey mixed with beer and mince pie - scraping the frozen turf.

On reaching the climbers traverse path off the band it became evident that we were of a very small group of people that many a name would fit. While walking towards the buttress at a steady 30° to the ground we spotted other people, obviously of a similar mentality.

Harnesses, EB's and ropes were shaped to our bodies and sacks refrozen to our backs. As Andy led off up the 1st pitch, yells of "bloody hell, Nob, what's t'tale 'ere - there's bloody verglas and snow everywhere" drifted down. Steve laughed, looked at me and in turn my sight gazed down upon The Olde Dungeon Ghyll public house, where at this moment in time, a huge fire would be reflecting through a nice pint of larrup!

The first pitch went by without any major difficulty and it was when I was leading up on the second that a whoop echoed up from the bottom of the crag. Obviously someone from the Nob family! While my efforts concentrated on keeping in contact with this undesirable mixture of rock, snow and ice, Andy and Steve learned that this fellow at the bottom of the crag was in fact Sean Smith who seemed a little perturbed when the lads asked him if he would like to join them. He declined dismally and headed for the summit where he would meet us.

Whilst bringing up Andy and Steve it occurred to me that it was in fact very cold and not just cold; this fact was confirmed when the other two arrived complaining of cold pinkies. I also learnt that Mr. Dale, who had come up with Sean, had declined even Sean's whimperish attempts and gone blimping instead (sensible chap! Ed)

The next pitch took what seemed like eons to complete and one was very cold by the time one had started to climb this last pitch and which was more or less all ice and snow with the odd protruberance of rock. The summit was reached by just after 3.00pm where turkey butties, Christmas cake and a wee dram of whiskey were consumed before our descent took us down to Ore Gap and Angle Tarn and hence back down Langdale to the car.

Back at Little Langdale over several steaming brews we met Martin and Sean who agreed that several beers in the Golden Rule would round off a very good day.

Al Peel

NEWSLETTER ENVELOPES

Mrs Dale wishes to thank all club members for her box of chocolates. Received recently from the Committee for services to the newsletter editor. Mrs Dale says she will continue to write the newsletter envelopes.

Bye Folks.