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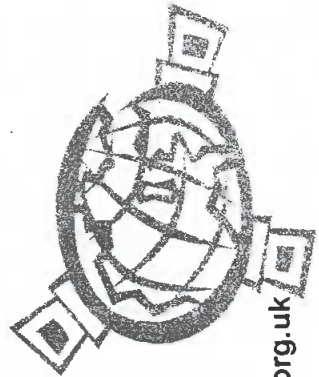
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[www.fyldemc.org.uk](http://www.fyldemc.org.uk)



## NEWSLETTER

October 2003

# SUBS RENEWAL TIME HERE AGAIN

2004 Subs are due on the 1st of October, so the renewal notice is getting to you all a little late this year as it was decided at the last Committee meeting that I send it out with the Newsletter.

The current fees are:

Single membership £20  
Joint Membership £30

Club members are reminded that late payment will result in lapsed membership and a £5 rejoining fee. Under the circumstances of the enclosed notice going out late with this publication ('cause I was on my holidays in the Alps), I'm sure that the Membership Secretary will extend the deadline to the 1st of November, but no later.

There are two important points to note with the issuing of this renewal notice. The first is that those members who pay by **Standing Order** need to contact their bank to change the order to the new amount. Most of you will probably know to do this already but for the uninformed

among us, Standing Orders are not the same as Direct Debits and can only be altered by the account holder, not the payee.

The second point is that club members are insured through the BMC for third party liability. This cover is paid for by part of the Club's BMC Affiliation fee and is obligatory. Therefore, non or underpayment of the appropriate fee results in lapsed membership and may result in this cover not being available to the member concerned. It will only be guaranteed by FULL payment of the subscription.

This sounds a bit Draconian, I know, but efficient and prompt payment will greatly reduce the administrative load on Honourable Membership Secretary. (Bless her little cotton socks).

### Next copy date

I could get an edition out before Christmas, so I'll make the date 1/12/03

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If there are any omissions, wrong spellings, incorrect addresses or telephone numbers, or any other grumbles, please contact me and I'll correct them/apologise in the next publication.

After three years of editing I still have only had one "letter to the Editor". Unfortunately this was not suitable for publication. JD

### Michelle Stevenson

It is with sorrow that I report the death of Michelle Stevenson, beloved daughter of Stan and Liz and sister of Nicola Stevenson. With her parents Michelle enjoyed many club holidays in her early years.

Michelle, aged 34 years, lost a short battle against cancer and died on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2003. She leaves her husband Richard and daughters Ellie 3 years and Jessica 20 months.

Our sympathy and thoughts are with her family.

# ANNUAL DINNER

This year's Annual dinner will take place at the Middle Ruddings Hotel in Braithwaite on December 6th 2003.

The menu is below and the booking form is included with the newsletter as an insert

## Fylde Mountaineering Club Annual Dinner 6.12.03 Menu

### Starters

*Crown of melons: Half melon crowned with lychees and drizzled with a midori liqueur*

*Seafood Galette: Prawns, Mussels, Tuna and Squid bound in a fresh chive and lemon mayonnaise*

*Asparagus spears: Whole asparagus spears wrapped in Parma Ham coated in rich cream cheese sauce*

*Waldorf salad: Walnuts, grapes and celery tossed with continental lettuces in classic vinaigrette*

### Main Course

*Chicken Riesling: Pump chicken breast overcoated in a ham, cheese and white wine cheese sauce*

*Shark Steak: 10oz seared shark steak accompanied with a lemon and lime butter cream*

*Filet steak Stroganoff: 8oz filet steak cooked with diced mushrooms in a creamy paprika sauce*

*Wild Mushroom Strudel: Wild mushrooms cooked in a dry sherry and tarragon liqueur set upon a roasted red pepper sauce*

*All served with the Chef's Selection of fresh Vegetables & Potatoes*

### Sweets

*Your host will offer you a selection of sweets on the evening*

*Fresh Ground Coffee*

*Would guests please refrain from smoking until after the Loyal Toast*

# Fylde Mountaineering Club Annual Dinner 2003

## Middle Ruddings Hotel Braithwaite

7.00 for 7.30  
Saturday 6.12.03

**Menu:** See attached sheet. Please state choice of starter and main course **NOTE: Yates beer will be on hand pump at the pay bar**

**Cost:** £17.50 per person (including late disco)

**Accommodation:** Discount rate of £32 per person for B&B

Bookings should be made direct with Middle Ruddings Hotel

### New Venue for 2003 !! Middle Ruddings Hotel Braithwaite

The Middle Ruddings is the sister hotel of The Cloedale and it is run by the same family. It can easily be found by following the A68 from Keswick heading towards Cockerthouth. About 1.3 miles out of Keswick is the first sign for Braithwaite DO NOT TURN HERE 150 yds further on is another left turn, TURN HERE, and the hotel is in front of you.  
The venue may be different but the booking instructions are just the same!

- Complete and return the attached booking form, together with a cheque made payable to Fylde Mountaineering Club to...

Mark Harding,  
8, Saint John's Ave.,  
Silverdale,  
Carnforth,  
Lancs.,  
telephone/ e-mail bookings not accepted

LA5 0SU

- If you require confirmation of a place please include a S.A.E. Otherwise, if you do not hear from me assume that you have been successful.
- If your application is too late and all the places have been taken, I will contact you by phone that day or as soon as possible afterwards. There are then two possible courses of action.
  - a) Your cheque will be returned.
  - b) Your cheque will be retained and you will be placed on the reserve list. If anyone drops out you will be notified that you have a place. If no place becomes available then your cheque will be returned.
- Dinner places are not transferable. If you cannot attend let me know immediately and your place will be allocated to someone on the reserve list. If you find that you cannot attend on the day, phone the hotel and leave a message for Mark Harding. If someone can take your place your money will be refunded.
- Do not hand booking forms or money to any other committee member (they will only spend it on beer)
- All members forms were dispatched with the autumn 2003 Newsletter. Dinner places are only available to FMC members (full and intro.) and their partners. After 29.11.03 any remaining places are available for friends. Please don't sneak your mates in before time!
- All accommodation must be booked direct with The Middle Ruddings Hotel Tel. 017887 78438 e-mail: [MiddleRuddings@aol.com](mailto:MiddleRuddings@aol.com) (Web site: [www.middle Ruddings.com](http://www.middle Ruddings.com))
- Please do not stay at Stair hut without first booking a place with Chris Thistlethwaite Tel. 01282 844668
- If after all that you fail to get a place at the dinner you are, of course, welcome to come to the speeches and disco afterwards.

*Cheers, Mark*

## FMC ORIENTEERING CHALLENGE WEEKEND October 25-26 STAIR

This year's format will be similar to last year's. That is I expect the race to start early on Saturday afternoon as I will have to run round the area placing the control flags and check that everything is correct before the off.

The format will be that of a standard orienteering competition: a timed start and finish with the competitors starting at intervals. Pairs or groups are allowed, although going as an individual usually speeds up the decision-making process. There are other formats but they are not quite the classic orienteering race so I'll keep them under my hat for this year.

This year I have found a nice area, a little less technically and physically demanding than Colwith last year, but good enough to provide a test of map interpretation and navigational skill. (the ability to be able to run like the wind whilst doing this are an advantage—orienteering has been likened to doing a crossword whilst running hard!). I would expect the winning time to be around an hour this time and the course to be 3 to 4 k and a technical difficulty of medium to difficult (with one or two easy ones)

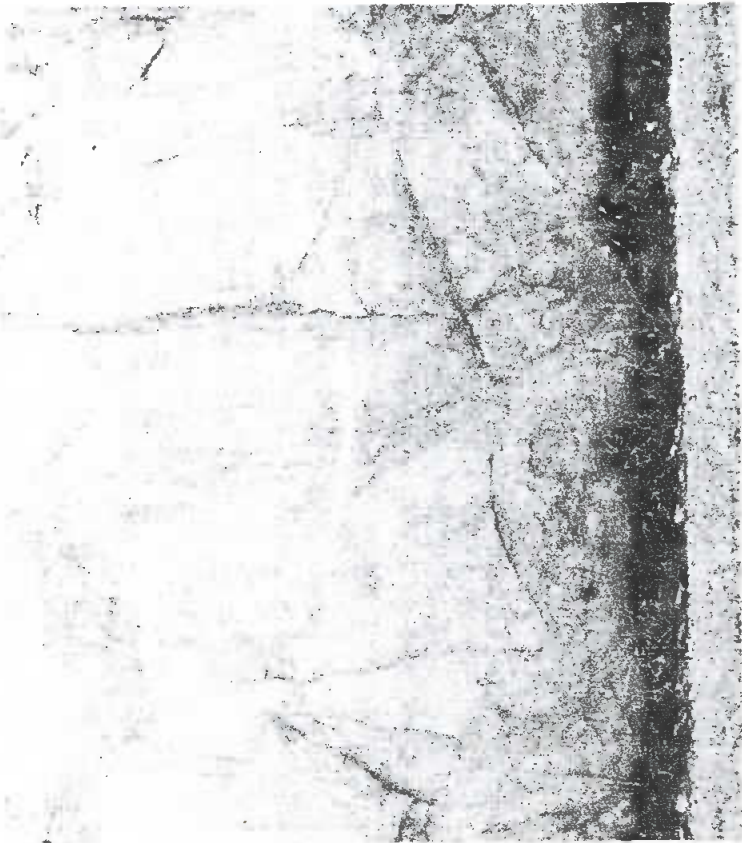


I would be grateful of the members as much in advance as possible as I have to order the maps (and draw the course on them), and Sue would like to know if she is required to provide an evening meal.

I could provide some armchair (probably pub armchair) tuition on the Friday night for the uninitiated or completely clueless as I have thousands of orienteering maps from competitions I have taken part in around the globe. On Saturday you are on your own.

It's too labour intensive to organise, plan, run and control more than one of these events on a weekend, so the Sunday is a free day for members to do their own thing. I might be able to introduce a little electronic wizardry into the proceedings but that is adding a layer of complication to the event. So it may well be just the mini kites and pin punches like last year with a manual results system. This year I promise not to lose the results!

Please contact John Denmark on 01772 700327 or email [John@denmark.demon.co.uk](mailto:John@denmark.demon.co.uk)



I spotted this about 50m from the top of the Col de la Croix de Fer. This is an evil little climb from St Jean-de-Mauriette of about 1200m and I couldn't believe that those FMC graffiti artists (or is it p\*\*\* artists) Penn and Earle had got there before me! I nearly fell off my bike when I saw it and had to have a picture of it for the newsletter.

I guess they ran out of paint and couldn't finish it. Any suggestions?

This was about midway on my latest epic bike ride, Le Route des Grandes Alpes, which starts at Thonon-les-Bains on the south side of Lake Geneva and ends at Menton on the French Riviera. An interesting little cycle of 560 miles and 62160 feet of ascent. This includes a little side trip up Alp d'Huez on the rest day for an hour and a half or so. I was a bit tired at the end but slimmer and browner, especially after sunbathing on the Col de la Bonnette, the highest road in Europe at 2715 metres

This is the latest bulletin on hut usage and meets on the next syllabus. Members are invited to offer to lead meets or provide ideas for meets.

This sheet is also included as a separate insert, along with the dinner booking form and subs renewal (I had two blank pages so I thought I'd duplicate some of the info here)

DATE	HUT	MEET DETAILS	DATE	HUT	MEET DETAILS
March 6/7 04	Stair	Ladies meet	Sept 25/26 04	Lang.	
13/14	Lang	Lagengalbh	Oct 2/3 04	Stair	
20/21	Stair	Working Weekend	9/10	Lang.	
27/28	Lang		16/17	Stair	
April 3/4 04	Stair	Roybridge	23/24	Lang.	
10/11	Lang.		30/31	Stair	One Logram Stair
17/18	Stair		Nov 6/7 04	Lang.	
24/25	Lang.	Working Weekend	13/14	Stair	Chester swap
May 1/2 04	Stair		20/21	Lang.	
8/9	Lang.		27/28	Stair	
15/16	Stair		Dec 4/5 04	Lang.	
22/23	Lang.		11/12	Both	Christmas dinner?
29/30	Stair		18 19	Stair	
June 5/6 04	Lang.		25/26	Stair	
12/13	Both	Hut to Hut	Jan 1/2 05	Stair	
19/20	Lang.		8/9	Lang.	
26/27	Stair		15/16	Stair	
July 3/4 04	Lang.		22/23	Lang.	
10/11	Stair		29/30	Stair	
17/18	Lang.		Feb 5/6 05	Lang.	
24/25	Stair		12/13	Stair	
31/1	Lang.		19/20	Lang.	
Aug 7/8 04	Stair		26/27	Stair	
14/15	Lang.	Chester swap	March 5/6 05	Lang.	
21/22	Stair		12/13	Stair	
28/29	Lang.		19/20	Lang.	
Sept 4/5 04	Stair		26/27	Stair	
11/12	Lang.		April 2/3 05	Lang.	
18/19	Stair		9/10	Stair	

I was now somewhat run out above my 0 RP and facing a biggie. I somehow managed the move to stand on the flat hold and breathed a sigh of relief. Good gear, more green rock, a hand jamming crack and I was up. Kevin followed making the long reaches look easy for someone who hasn't got one. We abbed back down the gully from a convenient sling. What a great route!!

We sauntered over to Flat Crag, where Keith was just abbing down having dispatched "1984". A top effort. We had no time to try the stunning looking "Exposure". Keith had tried to blag me into it, but Hub was quick to point out that it was actually probably E5. Maybe next time.

Down in the Shires, Woody, John Hickman and Alan Blackburn had turned up. They had kept the ethos of the meet going by climbing obscure

up on Gunson Knott on the Crinkles. With the arrival of the harbinger of doom things were not looking good for the morrow. John and Alan were up at some god-awful time in the morning to go up Scafell. They got as far as the top of Hardknott before the Blackburn magic worked. A weak front was expected but would not contain any rain. We sat in the hut watching it for a couple of hours. This put paid to our grandiose plans. After numerous brews we decided to go up to Lighthouse Crag on Pike O'Blisco. More relative obscurity. However, the sun came out and it got rather hot. Kevin did battle with "Fat Boys Crack" E1. Fat Boy won. The other E1 "Amina" proved only slightly more amenable. John was running up the VS's but all that harbinger stuff had worn poor Alan out, and he wasn't! Woody sunbathed, took pictures and pointed at holds.

On the way down, I tried my hardest to get the lads to have a look at my

### Anyone interested in Ice Climbing?

Kevin Stephens sent an email round earlier this summer to see if anyone was interested in a trip to Cogne or La Grave next January. If you are interested give Kevin a buzz on 01942 606186 or email kevin.stephens@blueyonder.co.uk

Just a little footnote here. I've just cycled Le Grande Route des Alpes from Thonon-les Bains to Nice and there was very little snow on the Alps. The local papers are full of stuff about the effect the hot summer is having on the state of the glaciers. There wasn't a jot on the Cime de la Bonnette at 2860m (9461 feet) which we were expecting. In fact I cycled all the way up there without a shirt on it was so hot! Flying back from Nice I had a clear view of the Alps and even Mont Blanc was barely recognisable. I suppose this could impinge directly on future activities in the Alps if the balance isn't redressed. Ed.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

It's amazing but true that Jenny and I had never set foot on the Hadrian's Wall Walk before. As we found out when we got there, it has now been designated as a multi-day trek and it's only 2 1/2 hours away. Not much further than going to Stair.

To put this omission right, and now having a little more time, we combined a couple of days on the walk with North East meet. This decision made, we set off on Thursday morning and drove up to Greenhead (which seemed to be in the middle of the two days of walking we fancied). There is a really nice campsite here and it's also on the Hadrian's Wall bus route. (I found this on the web) and it runs along the line of the walk. Having set up camp, we jumped on the bus and set off west to the start of our first day's walk at Lancroft Priory, where we picked up the line of the wall and set off back. The wall is non-existent in places with sometimes only the ditch left, but in other places there are lots of remains and things to see.

Starting the walk at this end means you get a gradual build up of interest. The wall runs along the ridges of the hills in an impressive position and impressively bridged over rivers, which I hadn't realized. After about 5 hours we arrived back at the campsite and got out the Real Ale Guide.

The next day we were back on the bus and setting off east to a few miles past Housesteads where we again walked back. This section is the most popular and impressive part of the walk, where the wall is in amazing condition and runs along the top of Crag Lough. We spotted Kevin Costner's tree in "Robin Hood" where he first meets the bad guys. Again about 6 hours later we arrived back at the campsite. The bus really does make doing parts of the walk easy as linear walks can be a logistic nightmare.

The evening was again checking out the local hostels with the best one being The Black Bull in Haltwhistle - a top 4 star tick.

Saturday morning we drove to Andy Dunhill's to meet up with the rest of the team, these being Martin Dale and Allan Blackburn (who as usual brought the bad weather!). We headed north to Bowden Doors where it was dry and we could climb whilst watching black skies and lightning south over Newcastle. This is a nice spot and protected by the Cheviot Hills to the west, so this part of the North East, Lindesfarne and the Farne Islands, can be sheltered when the weather comes from the west. Several routes were done and most seemed hard for the grade. Both Andy and Martin failed on a slabby E2, which does not happen often. The rock is very good with a unique wave formation at its northern end, well worth a visit just to

(Continued on page 12)

see this and it's only 5 minutes from the road.

We camped on Andy's floor, as there were only a few of us. Cheers nob.

On Sunday the weather was better, so off to Gt. Wanney- a 20 min walk through the woods to a surprisingly good crag. Only 12 to 15 m high but quality rock and routes makes this a place to visit. Andy then took the lads of to some other overhanging crag but Jenny and I set off to Kielder Water to set up camp for the night. This is a Forestry Commission

spot, so well sorted and we spent the next morning visiting various mazes and sculptures in the forest, all well signed. A mountain bike would be good around here. In the afternoon back to Gt. Wanney to do some of the easier routes with Jen but they didn't seem that easy!

We didn't get chance to do any of the coastal walks or hill walks but Andy says they are good, so next year don't miss out come and sample the delights of the North East.

**MIKE TOLLEY**

bypass op.)

## LUNDY 2003

For the second consecutive trip the Landmark Trust played it's dirty tricks by trying to reduce the number of places and increasing the cost by 50%! After much argument we had 5 places in a revamped part of the Quarters with 5 camping and at the original price (thanks to Mike Penn for arguing with this particularly arrogant organisation).

In the end it was difficult to fill all 10 places but we succeeded with 3 non-members. It was an excellent week with good weather and lots of climbing done. Clive Bell, Les Ward, Alan Blackburn and new member John Kilbride made an early attempt for mug of the year by being caught in traffic on the M5 & only just making it in time for the ferry (Clive may need another heart

## Obscure Crags and Boulder-ing Little Langdale

This was a well attended meet! I met new member, John Kilbride in the Three Shires on Friday night. For a while I thought that that might be it, then in breezed Roy "the fishmonger" Nisbet. And mingling he was!

Some problem with his fish round meant that Roy was running late and had not had a shower. Kevin Stephens also arrived too late for a pint.

Due to the superb weather and dry condition of all the crags we decided to forgo any obscurity and head high to Bowfell. John and Roy went for a walk up Blencathra via Sharp Edge, followed by a real ale crawl back to the hut. Up on Bowfell, we bumped into the Barrow Lads who'd been doing everyone a great service by cleaning most of the harder routes on Flat Crags. Keith Phizacklea pronounced the crag to be "snuff dry". Our proposed route kicked off with a bold starter pitch rising out of North Gully to the right of the classic Buttress complete with queue. "Heads Call" E3, is really just a first pitch but gets full route billing in the guide. Kevin had a poke at it but really never got going, passing the lead over to me. Fresh from three weeks climbing in the States/Canada, I was feeling confident and

was soon on the stance. The next objective was "Hope Beyond Hoping" E3. Kevin was up for a try at the first pitch, an innocuous looking crack. At first he seemed to be making progress but

then he had a battle with a friend and just to show that he hasn't lost his touch, dropped it down the crag. That was the end of his attempt, mainly because he had to go and rescue the friend. With a bit of shuffling of gear and a superior reach, I defeated the

stubborn crack. The final crux pitch was my lead. A thin crack soars up the wall over several steepening

for 30 metres. The first steepening was passed without too much of a problem. This lead to a very thin crack snaking up a rather green wall. The gear was small, very small. So, I had to back up my bomber No 0

RP with about seven other small wires and RP's of dubious quality, all extended with Kevin's over long quick-drawers. Further to fall, I reckoned. Kevin says that they're better because your nuts don't lift out.

Really, falling wasn't an option I had in mind, having previously snapped an RP 0 falling about 3 inches onto it! The green rock suddenly felt greasy too. I had lingered too long on my edges, and things were starting to get tired. I committed to a foothold in the thin crack and reached over to an undercut edge.

My foot felt good so I continued my arching movement to latch the good hold at the top of the crack. No gear!

(Continued from page 9)

well as many others, around 2600m to 2800m altitude. The map was good, and the views were clear for the whole week. The Som Garret area provided easy rambling lower several tops, and east of the road, the Tête de Sanquiniere and the Tête la Gipièrre provided more interesting sport. Sufficient but not in excess of our needs. Ramblers hoping for the odd top may find the area enjoyable.

Camping en route for home our attention was drawn by fellow campers

### Ennerdale Horseshoe 16/17 August

Dave Earle and Mike Penn shot off to Stair on the Friday night, with the object of doing the Ennerdale Horseshoe. A convivial evening was had in the Swinside along with Roy Nisbett. Regrettably, the alarm going off at the early hour of 5.30am brought us both back to reality with a vengeance, in order to get organised for the serious business of the day. The drive round to Ennerdale was beautiful in the early morning sun and mist, and by 7.15am we were away.

The Ennerdale Horseshoe is 22 miles long, with a total ascent of some 7000 feet, taking in the summits of Starling Dodd, Red Pike, High Stile, High Pike, Brandreth, The Gables, Kirk Fell, Pillar, Steeple and Haycock.

#### FOR SALE

Martin Dale has a comprehensive, good quality rack of gear for sale. If anyone is interested please give Martin a call

to the large number of wasps around us. Tipping the last of the Trangia fuel down the hole from which these monsters were emerging and setting fire to it eliminated half the problem, but brought on increased aggressiveness in the surviving half. Thereupon the ice axes were brought into play for the first time on the holiday, to chop a suitably sized turf in order to cap their hole, until the local fire brigade arrived with the right stuff.

### Dave Earle

The weather was kind the whole way round, and 12 hours and 40 minutes later two exhausted and highly dehydrated walkers staggered back to the car, absolutely knackered! Two pints of shandy each in the pub at Ennerdale Bridge solved the dehydration problem, and we then drove gently back to Stair. Neither of us made it to the Swinside that evening, which in itself speaks volumes.

The following morning our two intrepid walkers were seen staggering around Stair with all the dash of the inhabitants of an old folk's home, given the imminent arrival of their annual euthanasia day! It was great walk with stunning views, but not one to be done too often.

Mike Penn

(Continued from page 6)

Taylor's Italian partner. A few days later the same team went to do Cable Way, a V. Diff. on Montague Buttriss only to discover later that they had done a different route! Maybe old age enables you to fit any description to any climb? Paul and Christina later did the correct route.

Several of the classics were done by various teams including - Devil's Slide and Albion (all bar me); Quadratus Lumborum on Threquarter Buttriss (all bar Andy and I); Indie 500 (Dave and Christian). Other cliffs visited included Beaufort Buttriss, Crenellation Buttriss, Old Light, Devil's Chimney Cliff. The Constable and Flying Buttriss.

Andy Drinkall and John teamed up to do a few Severes and VSs until John's knee gave up whereupon he retired to the pub and drank lots of beer - he should have no problem getting full membership. Andy and I then climbed together for a day with Andy leading his first HVS of the trip - Albercore.

On the first day Alan showed his confidence at VS by leading the classic Eclipse on Sunset Promontory. He lead several other VSs during the week and really should push himself on an easy HVS - go for it Alan! Surprisingly no black clouds followed him on this trip?

The two main routes for me were Jetset E2 on Bomber Buttriss and

Quatermass E2 in Deep Zawn. The first is an uncompromising vertical crack with no rests for 60-70 feet. Dave and I were both sweating a bit at the top! Deep Zawn is a sombre place on a dull day with some superb committing routes. Unfortunately the first pitch of Quatermass was damp and very greasy making it much harder than normal - this was the case on the climbs done by the others that day. Mick and I both struggled and had a sleep at the top before moving onto the Pyramid.

We all ate together - meatheads and veggies (the meat and 2 veg men moaned a bit!) and the evening meals were highly sociable affairs with tales of daring deeds and wimpouts! There were no real hangovers or attempts at Lush of the Year (Melissa still seems to be in pole position for what is really the Les Ward Award). All in all it was a spot on week.

### Andy Dunhill

PS On reflection there was one amusing tale. On returning to Ilfracombe Mick Tolleytubbie discovered that he left the keys to his precious motorbike in the ignition of the bike whilst on Lundy. Amazingly they and the bike were still there! North Devon folk must be honest or blind.

# FOR SALE VW GOLF

**£100 on0**

One careful owner

Low mileage (less than 1 million anyway)

Original rust combined with paint

Reluctant sale due to arrival of new wheels

Homing device defaults to Golden Rule at present but could be reset

Contact M Dale

## Ladies' Weekend 21-22 June 2003

Yet another successful Ladies' Weekend happened on 21-22 June. On this occasion we had a BBQ planned for Saturday evening. The weather was perfect and we had two enjoyable walking days. On Saturday we did Red Pike, High Stile and High Crag. We would have continued a bit further but it was a hot day and the bar of the Fish was beckoning.

Unfortunately all the midges from Glencoe were on an away day in the Lakes and attacked us every time we stopped. They also invited

themselves to our BBQ.

On Sunday we went by boat from Glenridding to Howtown (FMC Boating Section) and walked back (FMC Miracle Section). Seriously though, we had wonderful low level views over Ullswater. It was a very enjoyable 'easier' day with a difference.

The next Ladies' Weekend will be the Christmas meet, 13-14 of December. All women members and their guests are very welcome. Please book with Pat Bennett.

## Liz Rawcliffe

## Fylde Heroes Rescued by French Fire Brigade in Dramatic

### Wasp Horror

Six days after returning from a month in Brittany, I was repacking on the orders of Mr. Le Penn and heading back across France. Apparently the Wisepersons had spoken well of the Chartreuse, and as it as on the way to anywhere else but Mont Blanc, it needed checking out en route.

A comfortable camp site on the 512 was found, on a mile south of St Pierre and the map studied. Grand Som was selected, starting from the Col de Cucheron. Scrambling sections were protected here and there by cable. Scenery was excellent throughout, and the walk extended northwards off the edge of the map.

Chamechaud, to the south was the next peak deemed suitable for our talents, but the cable protected final pitch was declined on health grounds, added to which it was covered in cloud. Afterwards the party enjoyed a ramble over and around Charmant Som, starting from the road end at 1700 metres.

The Dent de Crolles and the Rochers de Bellfont loomed over the

area from the east and were ascended from the Col du Coq. The GR9 ascends to the plateau via a cable way, leading to a large area for easy rambling and superb views towards Mont Blanc, the dômes de Bellcote, and directly down onto Grenoble.

Considered by some to be climbed out, we now went to the nearby Ecrins (S.E. of Grenoble) and camped at the end of a 22 Km cul de sac at La Barrade, a busy but adequate site. Not for walkers wanting summits, it never the less provides excellent mountain walking in superb proper mountain scenery. Ascents up to tile nearby Refuge Pilate, Refuge Chatteret and beyond, Selle, from nearby St Christophe are fine trips, as is the final walk that we did up to the summit of the Tête de la Maye, the only "walkable" peak in the area and a superb all round view point. The path is interesting and is protected by several cables and various stanchions.

With some of the party demanding summits we set off towards the Marième Alps, dimly remembered from a picture book. Camping to the South of the Col de la Cayolle, 15 miles to the south of Barcelonnette we found the area ideal. Although most days started with a long drive back up to the col from an excellent camping site at Entraunes, we were able to ascend two 3000 metre peaks, Mont Pelat (3050m. Ed) and Mont Cimet, as

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