

**FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**  
**NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST '90

### The Happenings of the summer.

There is a lot of activity again this summer in the club, climbing evenings during the week, weekends, walking in the Lakes and in Wales, along with official meets in the syllabus. Trips to the Alps and the States and all. So no shortage on the energy front this year and don't forget the low down on all activities can be obtained on Wednesday nights at the Thatched House at Poulton—le—fylde, Members are usually there from 10pm.

### Dave Whitmore.

It is with sadness that we have learned that Dave Whitmore died in June after a long illness due to his head injuries sustained while climbing in Derbyshire. Dave is a sad loss. He was a great character, a very genuine person and a good personal friend to me and many members of the FMC. His enthusiasm for climbing had to be admired. I remember the weekend in the Lakes before his accident, he had just come back from the Alps. It was a very wet weekend, he went searching for a dry crag to go climbing on Sunday before going back to sheffield. His accident the next day was a great shock and he will be sadly missed.

### Little Langdales Face Lift.

Huge amounts of work was ticked off at Little Langdale the other week, with a brand new car park floor being laid by courtesy of our friendly neighbourhood car park construction man — Phil Morris. We have a new Signal Toothpaste shower room (the one with the red stripes!), a revolutionary new door step that collects water when it rains and becomes a puddle!! (all great fun) and new windows and ledges and all sorts of new things to confuse the local mice population as they return home after the working weekend!! Anyway I've had a go on the runaway dog (the gravel compressing machine) and its boring!

### John Charles and the Unsubstantial Bottom.

Those who know John Charles Hickman well have recently been somewhat intrigued in what can only be described as his avid, keen interest in members of the opposite sex (ie ladies).

Tentative enquiries have been made into the more personal aspect of Johns life, but his denial that he is a toy boy to several local ladies and has become the Fylde and District local gigolo has forced your editor to keep on the trail, and report any irregularities in his behavior!!!

John recently announced after climbing with Claire that she has an unsubstantial bottom!! After asking John about his preferences of the female anatomy he said that he was only concerned that her bottom would fall through her harness if she fell off a route!!! .....minds have been boggling ever since!

### Hero of the Year.

Yes! Johnny Tats is back from overseas with a bang! (a very big bang if he comes off a route!). Sporting a very generous waist line, John is now scampering (scampering?) up anything from V.Diffs to E1's and even attempting the odd E2! and all in his non sticky EB's. This must be included in Mick Tolleys Hero of the Year List!!

John has a unique method of ascending hard routes.....he swears at them until they yield and he gets to the top! an amazing and somewhat daunting experience if your holding his rope!! John is currently leading the FMC Snoring Stakes this summer amid strong opposition. (Long live Martin Bennet!!)

### Rock Athlete.

Those of us who believe that a rock athletes career peaks at his or her early 20's have had to think again!

Dave Wood is beginning to turn on the heat this year and collecting copious amounts of E'pts lately. Dave.....who is in his very very late 20's is introducing Jan up some interesting stuff too, she was last seen on an E4 in Hodge Close!!!! the other week (sorry Jan!). Nils, not to be outdone donned his boots and was elevated to the top by the rest of us barracking and heckling him until he had to do it, or never show his face again!

### Mug of the Year.

Some early entrants to the mug of the year competition this year (and I can't present it to myself!), with Dave Cundy's close encounters with overhead power lines while Paragliding, and his superb lift arranging for Phil Morris to get down to Wales in my car (he didn't tell me!). Andy Dunhill may be worth a mention, as he was setting off to get back home in Newcastle from Little Langdale the other week, he discovered that all his climbing gear, sack and clothes had just arrived in Macclesfield!!! (in Stuart Gascoine's car!) But all was not lost because Stuart's little baby daughter Anne left her baby walker for him as compensation!! very thoughtfull. (He still hasn't mastered it yet!). I have been reliably informed that Donald has done something this year, I will investigate!

### Henry Diversifies.

Henry Iddon, our very own competition skier, has over the last few years developed into a world class speed skier, competing for England last year at Les Arcs, and obtaining very respectable placings, the best in the England team in actual fact (and he was only a last minute replacement).

He has recently however been showing interest in shot putting! His technique in this sport has not been as good as one would have hoped, and accidents have been occurring. The sport is also very expensive!

### INTRO MEMBERS.

Janet Connolly  
10 Windsor Gardens  
Garstang  
Tel Garstang 6632

Darren John Thornton  
18 Broadlands Place  
Lytham St Annes  
Lancs FY8 4PX

Garry Bird  
15 Willow Grove  
Hambleton  
Blackpool FY6 9ED  
Tel 701176

Michael Stuart Parkison  
16 Longfield Ave  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
Lancs Tel 886692

Mr & Mrs William Stables  
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Tel Preston 684681

NEW MEMBERS Cont :

Peter N Thomas  
18 Eastbourne Close  
Ingol  
Preston PR2 3YR  
Tel Preston 725934

Paula Helsby  
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Fleetwood  
Tel Fleetwood 79368

FULL MEMBERS

Mary Pauline Kindred. Rebecca Hargreaves. Jimmy Greaves. John & Virg Tattersall

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John & Virg Tattersall  
3 The Fulmars  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
FY6 7UL  
Tel 894741

Sean Smith  
12 Fifth St  
Scarborough  
NSW 2515  
Tel Home 042 675125  
Work 025252811  
(10am in B/pool 7pm in Sydney)

HUT AVAILABILITY

Aug 17-18th Stair. Big Crags Meet. Martin Dale.  
24-26th L.Lang. Members.  
Stair. Families.  
Aug 31-Sept 1st Stair  
Sept 7-8th L.Lang  
14-15th Stair  
21-22nd L.Lang. Intro Members Meet. Nils Tremmel.  
Stair. Families.  
28-29th Stair.  
Oct 5-6th L.Lang. Ducks Grub Up.

OUTDOOR MEETS

August 18-19th Big Crags Meet. Stair Hut. Martin Dale.

This meet involves Martin taking us to the big crags of the Lakes and ordering the good weather to go with it. If we get the weather it'll be a good un.

August 25-27th Fair Head (N. Ireland). Phil Morris.

Get in touch with Phil about this one on 0524 382532

September 8-14th Glenbrittle, Sky. Steve Halton.

The BMC hut at Glenbrittle has been booked for a week for six places. All these places have been provisionally booked but if anybody is interested for all or part of the week get intouch with me on 0772 267236 (during the day) or see me on Wednesday nights at the Thatched in Poulton. I can book more places.

September 22-23rd Inro Members Meet. L.Langdale. Nils Tremmel.

See Nils on the Wednesday night before the meet at the Thatched to reserve your place on this potentially historic meet!

September 29-30th Fallcliffe Cottage Meet. Don Nichol.

Still good weather this time of year to power up the grit or limestone. and the Grindleford Cafe is nearby to sort out the hangovers in the morning. What more could one ask for?

October 13-14th Tremadog Meet. John Parker.

Always a good meet, if there is going to be decent weather it will be here. Tons of climbing to go at, even the chairman hasn't done them all!

October 21st Roaches - Car Meet. Martin Dale.

This gritstone wonderland is just near enough for the day out. Brilliant climbing!

November 3-4th Chester Hut. Llanberis. Dave Earle.

This ever popular meet is hosted by Dave this time. Could sneak in a few end of season routes or pump up the legs and join Dave on a little jaunt on the Welsh tops.

## FOR SALE

Scarpa Walking Boots Size 5 (38)  
Very Good Condition. Almost New.  
Rebecca Hargreaves. 0254 678877

## ROCK BOOT BONANZA.

La Sportiva Megas (size 41 OK for size 8). Hardly used, in good nick!  
Fire's (size 8). Complete with brand new re-sole hardly used!  
Lince Camals (size 8+). Lots of use in these yet!  
Megas £25 Fire's £10 Lince £10  
And the person to contact for these (as if you couldn't guess) is:  
Martin Dale Tel 33479

## 40th Anniversary.

On Wednesday the 3rd of October there will be a night of celebration to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the F.M.C.

This will take place at the Conservative Club in Poulton-le-Fylde. The evening will take place for both old and new members and will hopefully coincide with the publication of the FMC 40th Anniversary Journal.

This very special event is looking to make a very enjoyable evening for everybody and more details will be sent out to everyone in a Fact Sheet more nearer the time.

## Gary Standish.

For those who know Gary Standish and would like to visit him, Dave Earle has the latest information on where he is and how he is doing. The latest information I received was that he is at a nursing home in St Annes and is very happy to see anybody who knows him.

Gary suffers from a form of M.E. and cannot get about, sometimes not even from his chair, so visitors are very welcome.

## Dave Whitmore.

It is with much sadness that I have to announce the loss of another FMC member in unfortunate circumstances. Dave died suddenly on 2nd June 1990 as a result of the injuries sustained in his climbing accident three years ago. John Hickman, Andy Blaylock and I attended the funeral in Coventry five days later.

Many will fondly remember Dave during the three years he spent with the Club. A tall lean build, he would shake his way up routes and inadvertently invent the art of climbing with 'disco knees'! Never-the-less he was not without talent, his climbing progressed from VS to E3 during his time with the FMC.

I first met him in 1985 when he turned up one Friday evening offering me a lift to Wales — I can't remember why I didn't go then but we did manage to get down there shortly after, he took me up Graig Dhu Wall and Salix at Tremadog. I then dropped out of the climbing scene for much of that summer (I was trying to bash out/straighten my cars roof) and didn't climb with him again until Easter '86 in Pembroke. I'm sure several of us still remember the bedraggled figure returning from Saddle Head after he had almost been washed out to sea by a freak wave! He had cuts and bruises all over him so Dave Wood took him to a nearby hospital to be tidied up — when asked by nurse to undress Dave was more worried by the state of his 'shreddies' than his physical condition!

After much heart searching he left BAe that August (in some style) for Sheffield University — he gave his boss four weeks notice one Friday afternoon and then promptly took that year's four weeks holiday!! He never did tell me what his boss said. Although his leisurely manner of speaking hid a great intellect, he sailed through the first year exams of his electronics course. His mother was as proud as any of her son's achievements.

All the more tragic it was then when we heard that Dave had received severe head injuries after inverting during a fall at Millstone Edge just a few months later — he was not wearing a hat. He was rushed to hospital where he underwent brain surgery and lay in a coma for several weeks. The consequences of his injuries were partial paralysis and epilepsy.

His injury was unfortunate in that it exposed how little follow-up care was available to rehabilitate Dave. Only after great effort did his mother secure him a place in a specialist hospital in Wimblton — there, with constant attention, he learned to walk (with aid). Alas Wimblton could not offer him indefinite help and he came home to Coventry six months later. His prospects seemed better but without physiotherapy his condition began to deteriorate once more. The authorities simply weren't geared up to help people like Dave.

Many of his friends visited him both in Sheffield and in Coventry where

his mother lived. These visits were much appreciated because Dave still remembered the good times he'd had before the accident.

After representations by his friends, the FMC Committee organised some fund raising for his benefit — this culminated in a cheque for five hundred pounds being presented to his mother when we last saw him in April. It was hoped that she could use it perhaps to buy physiotherapy specialised equipment or to help with visiting Dave during his periodic stays in hospital. It was to have been a Christmas present to him last year but unforeseen events conspired against this. Luckily, Claire, John and I were able to visit him in April and give him the money raised by the Club — he was glad to see us and both he and his mother were overwhelmed by the generosity of the club's gift to him.

I hope he has at last found peace after suffering from his debilitating condition these last years. He both gained much pleasure from climbing and will be remembered for his contribution to the life of the club.

Dave Cundy.

#### Climbing Hats.

As recorded in this issue, Dave Whitmore died recently from his climbing injuries. The fact that Dave Wasn't wearing a helmet undoubtedly contributed to the severity of his injuries but most climbers in the FMC still don't use helmets. Why is this when it is standard practice for ice climbing, are you too vain to realise that you are putting your own life in jeopardy? Have you thought about who would look after you in the event of an accident? Do they want their life blighted looking after you?

After Daves accident you can't justify not bothering with a helmet any longer, there simply isn't an excuse any more. Don't let Dave's death be in vain, learn the lesson.

#### WEAR A HELMET

Don't just decide that you ought to buy one at some stage, do it!

Dave Cundy.

This meet threatened to re—define the meaning of the word 'obscure'. On the Saturday, the well attended meet attempted to class Castle Rock of Triemain as obscure. In excellent weather for march the die hards, Dale, Tolley and Morris went real obscure. Iron Crag behind Raven, Thirlmere is a strange cliff. The lower are overhangs desperatley including several E5s and one of the Lakes few E6s. The middle and longest buttress is loose as hell and sure dry stone wall fodder. The upper one is solid and well worth the walk. I had been there before so we plumped for Hiddenite E2 5c up a groove on the right. This proved exciting with bold and blind moves with a strenuous climax. A well recommended route. Phil then had a go at one of the E1s on the left. Granolithic Groove E1 5b , comments like, "Kevin soloed that one" etc could not stir him to shed his early season nerves. I ended up leading it again. Excellent it was. The sun had now gone so we decided to make it a two crag day. We trundled (Tolley especially) off down the road.

A quick drive and we were off again to visit swirl Crag, above the trees on the east side of Thirlmere. I had been here before as well, so Morris had to show his stuff again on the E1 I had not done. Californian Wierdo. Tolley laid back comfortably in the evening sun as the Wierdo in his Grateful dead T—shirt tried to make progress. Unfortunately Phils clock was well passed beer—time and his mind wasn't on the job. I took over the reigns once again. Thin pinkie jams lead out of the niche with excellent protection. A wonderful little pitch (only 40—50 ft). One more had to be done and a corner round to the left fit the bill, besides I fancied A Burger E1. However it turned out to be a bit short of relish. A fall would have been nasty. We retired to the Rule, a good day was had. I wont to tell you about the Castle Rock boys exploits as they aren't obscurists.

Sunday was again sunny and the sun brought out that obscure king from the North East, andy Dunhill. Phil Caley also appeared. I was most impressed when the majority decided to come with us to the crags above Seathwaite Tarn below Dow Crag on the Duddon Valley side. Unfortunately some classed Gimmer Grag as obscure, "Wheres that one?" I enquired. We drove up the track which Tony Greenbank had said was tarmaced. After lifting one gate off its hinges we drove torturously up the dirt track, not an inch of tarmac in sight. Great Blake Rigg was th first crag. Andy led off up 'Against All Odds' E1 5c. A very pokey lead. To the right Phil Morris was leading Phil Caley up Thor HVS, closely followed by Dave Wood and Dave Cundy. A good looking route. The upper route was supposed to be the place. "The Duddon Digger", Al Phizacklea had been at work creating a dozen extremes. Andy and Phil tackled the obvious central line at E2 whilst I had a go at a right hand

one. Andy succeeded but I backed off due to lack of bottle. Woodsy had a go at the central one and we left for crag No 3 across the valley. A short walk and we were at the bottom of Far Hill Crag, a steep compact little bugger. I had a go at the route of crag, Drum Roll E2 which was well and truly fringed into submission. Two little routes to the left proved popular named Left and Right Wall, at HVS. Most people soloed them. Phil said "It's not every day you can go off bragging to have soloed Left and Right Wall!". Andy had not had enough so played on his Piccolo E1 5c, a tuneful little ditty, before we left for the car and the excellent Newfield Inn in the Duddon where the Cumberland Sausages are as big as — no better stop there, we don't want to get rude!

An excellent meet.

Martin Dale.

### EASTER AT MUIR OF INVEREY

It's a bank holiday, the weather forecast looks mediocre, and it's a Dave Earle meet; therefore it must be Easter in Scotland.

On the Thursday before Easter five intrepid travellers made the long journey to the land of fizzy beer, Blair Rogers, Sue Davis, Bob Travis, Dave Earle and Mike Penn. Donald Duck and John Parker turned up twenty four hours later. I made no comment other than to observe that in a changing world some things remain constant.

On Good Friday with the cloud down below 3000 feet and a strong wind on the tops, Blair and Mike did Ben McDhui, whilst the others had a potter towards Ben a Bhuirre.

Saturday saw Blair hiring a mountain cycle and pedalling up Carn Liath, whilst the rest of the party walked round Lock Muick in a severe gale, with Bob attempting Broad Cairn for good measure. Saturday night in the pub was amazing, with what appeared to be a saga Holidays Reunion Meet (Scottish Section), together with a Jimmy Shand type band. And was the band painful! Requests by the party for them to do a rendition of Old Shep could unfortunately not be met.

Sunday found Sue pottering, Bob on Ben Brotaine, Blair bicycling to Carn Mor and Sgur Mor, the Duck supposed to be going to Ben McDhui and Dave, John and Mike setting off for an assault on Ben Avon. However, at the first sound of the car engine starting, the Duck came hurtling out of the cottage complete with a piece of toast in one hand and tea in the other, wanting to know why we weren't waiting for him!

Two minutes later after a severe shouting at, the Duck complete with gear and toast was on board and we were off.

Ben Avon is a long walk in and out, but was worth it for the good views from the summit ridge. On the final summit a hail storm with some fairly nasty size ice crystals wizzing around developed, and as one man the party grabbed their gear and legged it to the safety of a nearby gully. Mr Earle had good reason to be proud of his mountaineering club.

On the way back to the cottage the general feeling was that rather than go to the pub and drink fizzy beer, we would get some bottles of wine from the Spar shop and have an evening in the hut. Our amazement on being told that off licence sales were forbidden in Scotland on a Sunday needed to be seen to be believed.

Monday found Dave, Sue, Bob and Donald on a medium level walk in Killikrankie Pass. The Duck true to form bought postcards and books. Anybody care to guess the size of the Duck's overdraft?

Blair and Mike went to the hills on the east side of Glenshee, where the former tried to wind the latter into the ground, and nearly succeeding, by doing five Munros in four hours.

In general a good time was had by all. The hut was very well equipped, and it was a pity that more members did not make the trip.

Mike Pen.

### SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited for the post of FMC 'Club Bunny'. Duties of the Club Bunny include providing morning tea and toast in the Club huts, and generally ministering to the needs of the membership.

Applicants for this prestigious position should be personable, of attractive appearance and over 5'4" in height. Whilst this vacancy is open to persons of either sex, preference is given to those applicants from minority, gay or single parent backgrounds.

A smart uniform consisting of basque, tights, high heels, ears and tail will be provided.

Applicants should apply in the first instance in person to:—

Mr D. Earle  
31 Chester Ave  
Poulton-le-Fylde  
Nr Blackpool  
Lancs

The FMC is an equal opportunities employer.

### THE BENT GONG LETTER.

The letter that 'Neil and Jane' sent (the present managers of The Old D.G.) earlier this year after the dinner meet is an absolute gem, so here it is with Johns reply.

By the way, a few weeks ago Judith and I were coming down from Raven Langdale and just passing the Old D.G. and what could we hear? .....Yes! the good old faithful dinner gong from the hotel, so as everybody will be pleased to know it has made a complete recovery and is back at work, fully fit after its traumatic experiences!!

Dear Mr Cundy & Mr Parker.

8-1-90

Re: Fylde Annual Dinner 1990.

It is with regret that I write to say that this year Neil and Jane would rather not accept Fylde's booking due to the following points.

1. Someone from your party smashed up the dinner gong in the hallway.
2. Jane did request that no one should sleep in the lounge or hallway prior to the night of the dinner, but people still did, and more upsetting was that there was rooms upstairs.
3. The number of people — we can only just manage your eighty in the dining room and several people complained about the chairs we used to accommodate this number several members of your party also stood talking in the passage way around the table in between courses, making service difficult.

Therefore all these points taken into consideration Neil and Jane feel you need a larger hotel to accommodate you. They thank you for your

past custom, and wish the Club every success in the future.

Yours Sincerely U Denye  
P.P. N&J Walmley.

And John Parker's reply:

Fylde Mountaineering Club.

Dear Neil & Jane.

I am in receipt of a letter written on your behalf declining the club's reservation for our Annual Dinner in December 1990. It is regretted that the Fylde's long-established association and involvement with the Langdales has been tarnished by misconduct by any of our members. It is unfortunate that the committee should have come by this information so belatedly. As culpability concerning the damage to the Hotel's gong has been established the FMC of course will defray any costs of restoration by a suitable dealer or repairer.

Greater rapport, however might have obviated upsets stemming from the 'floor and breakfast' arrangements. Any provisos could have been emphasised by the Chairman at table or through prior Club notices. The situation was predictably exacerbated by the increase in the Bed and Breakfast charge of £17 from the previous year's concessionary rate of £12 per head.

We fully appreciate a larger premises might better accommodate our membership. We drastically reduced previous attendances of 120-130 to the numbers you specified in 1987 in order to an old venue with a climbing tradition and spirit.

I trust you received your cheque for £960 safely? Mr Cundy would appreciate a receipt as the Club's account for 1989 is currently undergoing audit.

Yours Sincerely

John Wilson Parker

Hon. Sec. 11th Jan 1990

This years Annual Club Dinner will be at the Scafell Hotel. Borrowdale.

Ed.