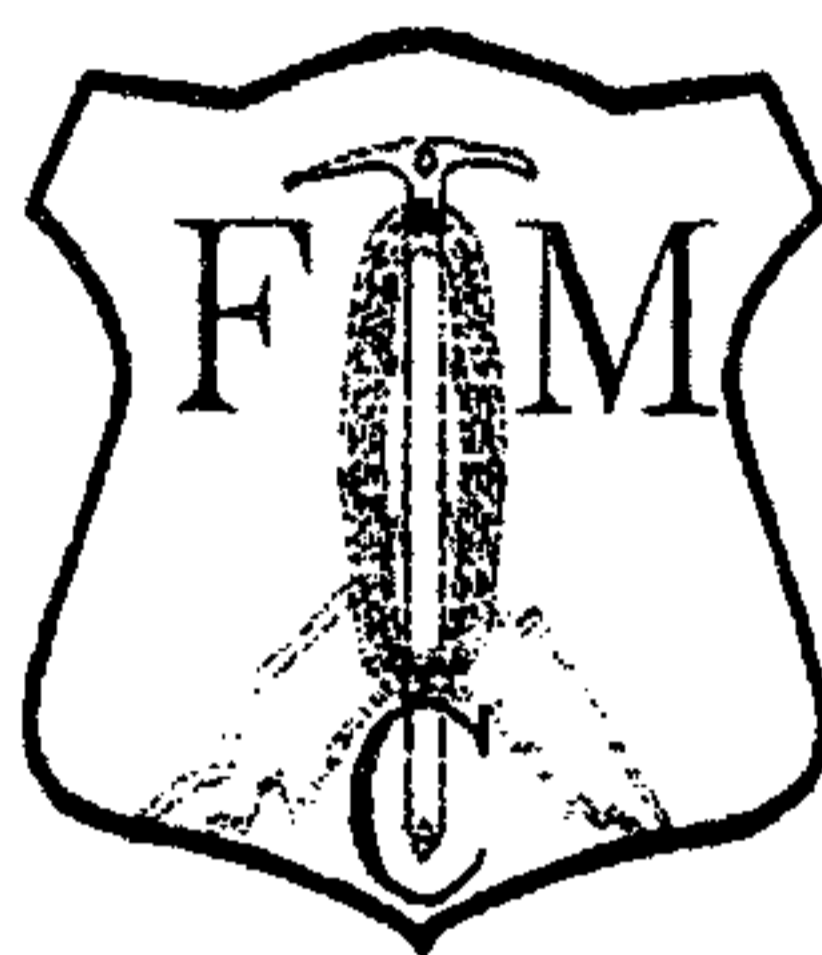


FYLDE
MOUNTAINEERING
CLUB



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 93

EDITORS BIT

Greetings to all club members from your new newsletter editor. This first edition may be a little disjointed and there may be quite a few spelling mistakes but you'll just have to bear with me until I find my feet. Hopefully I'll get four newsletters out a year with the emphasis on news. So if you've got any news/gossip/info that you think other club members would be interested in please send it to me.

Of course I still want your articles about the things your all getting up to both on club meets and on "non club meets". Don't leave it just to the meet leaders to write about your epics.

Anyway enough of the preamble let's get down to business.

EDITOR: S. WRIGLEY
14 BAGOT ST
BLACKPOOL
FY1 6EZ

NEW AND INTRODUCTORY MEMBERS

The following people were made full members of the club at the last committee meeting :

Steve Wrigley
Philip Lee

The following have rejoined after a small relapse:

Gorden & Mary Aspin 2 Caton Ave. Larkholme.

The following people have been accepted as introductory members and the club extends a warm welcome to them all.

Iggi & Cathy More , Shambala, 50 Woodland Grove, Blackpool.

Malcomb Waddington The Byne, Greenhalge Lane, Greenhalge, Kirkham,
PR4 3HL Tel: 836642

David Ball 7 Lime Grove, Thornton Cleveleys, FY5 4DE , Tel: 869247.

Chris Latherman 37 Lord St. Blackpool. FY1 2BD Tel: 21854

John Hollings 1a Park Lane, Wesham, Preston, PR4 3HG Tel: 683435.

Susan Regan 1a Park Lane, Wesham, Preston, PR4 3HG Tel: 683435.

Darren Morrison 64a Adelaide St. Fleetwood, FY4 6EE. Tel: 779956.

George Nisbet 36 Pilling Cres. Grange Park, FY3 7TP Tel: 393604.

Michael Sissons 87 Warley Rd. Blackpool FY1 2LN Tel: 751249

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Peter Collard 7 Medina Gardens, Oakley, Hants, RG23 7AY.

SUMMER SOCIALS (Rebecca Hargreaves)

Due to popular demand we now have a fuller diary of summer social events. Each month there will be a walkers/climbers meet with a pub venue associated with it, one boozy bike ride and three other crag meets (usually in areas suitable for walking also).

The contact for crag meets is Martin Dale whilst walkers/climbers meets and boozy bike rides have their own dedicated leaders listed in the diary below.

The day on which these events will occur will vary throughout the month usually 2 Wednesdays, 1 Tuesday and 1 Thursday this should mean that everyone should be able to attend some of the summer meets.

I hope there is something here for everyone. Have a good summer and we'll be back at the Con. club on Sept. 8.

DIARY

APRIL

Wed 21 Crag Meet: Bridestones
Wed 28 Crag Meet: Wilton / Brownstones

MAY

Wed 5 Con Club 8.30 Members slides.
Tues 11 Boozy Bike Ride 6.30 Thatched John Wiseman.
Thurs 13 Crag Meet: Farleton
Wed 19 Walkers/climbers Anglezarke Pub "Dressers Arms" Frank Towne
Tues 25 Crag meet or Boozy Bike Ride contact Martin Dale

JUNE

Thurs 10 Crag meet: Crookrise
Wed 16 Crag meet: Attermire
Thurs 17 Boozy Bike Ride 6.30 Thatched Judith Swift.
Wed 23 Walkers /climbers, Malham Pub after, Steve Wrigley
Tues 29 Crag meet: Twistleton

JULY

Tues 6 Crag meet: Earl Crag
Wed 7 Boozy Bike Ride 6.30 Thatched Brian Osborne
Wed 14 Walkers/climbers, Trowbarrow, Pub "New Inn" Kevin Hindle.
Thur 15 Robin Hood The DUKES Promenade play at Lancaster.
(see additional info in news letter)
Thur 22 Crag meet: Troy Quarry
Wed 28 Crag Meet: Pot Scar.

AUGUST

Tues 3 Crag meet: Eastby
Wed 4 Boozy Bike Ride 6.30 Thatched Gordon Heywood
Wed 11 Walkers/climbers, Farleton, Pub Kings Arms, Gary Bird.
Thur 19 Crag meet: Warton
Wed 25 Crag meet: Bridestones

SEPTEMBER

Wed 8 Social Con Club "Antipodean Ice" Steve Wrigley

AGM NEWS

For anyone who missed the AGM here's a few important bits of news

1. It was decided to alter the club year to start on the 1st of Oct with membership fees due on that date. The old system created a problem with BMC subscriptions giving the membership secretary an increased workload. So for 1993 and subsequent years your membership fees will be due on the 1st Oct.

2. There have been a few changes to committee posts these are detailed on the new syllabus. The important ones to note are :

Cherry Earle hut booking secretary

Dave Cundy Stair hut custodian

Will all members please note that they MUST book in with the booking secretary before visiting a hut.

GENERAL CLUB NEWS

Stair Hut :

A lot of work has been done at stair recently. Following a good rub down with wire wool the floor has had a coat of sealant which should make it a lot easier to clean. Creepy crawly maggots were discovered in the bunks feeding on crumbs left by "midnight feast" eaters, these were dispatched by Christine meanwhile Martin and Tatts gave a new meaning to the phrase "having a blow job" when they unblocked the urinals.

Two new cookers have now been installed each with two burners and the essential grill for those after pub cheese on toast sessions. Each cooker has been mounted on a new worksurface ; so we don't want hot pans being put straight onto these surfaces now do we?

Langdale hut :

Lots of work has also been done at Langdale thanks to Donald and Roy Nisbit; fireproofing the stairwell, removing dry rot and woodworm. Mice are also causing a few problems so if you've got any sure fire mouse eradication methods or you fancy giving your cat a short holiday at the hut please contact Donald.

Congratulations to Mike and Carol Penn on their recent nuptials. The Duck acting as best man said that the "grub" was excellent.

Congratulations also to Dave Cundy, no he hasn't got married but he did manage to complete a sponsored assault course at Preston Barracks in aid of charity. The course provided tooobdurate and assaulted him and his arm is now well plastered. (although he may have had it off by now !)

MUGS of the YEAR were presented to Don and Dave for their contribution to world peace. In the celebrations that followed the MUG was lost. If you happen across it whilst wandering around Borrowdale could you please return it, your anonimity will be guaranteed by our discreet committee.

MEET LEADERS REPORTS

Below are a couple of reports received since I took office. If there are any more lurking around I apologize to their authors but I haven't seen them. It would help the editor if meet leaders could scribble down a few jottings about the meet nothing too long winded and the more embarrassing / humorous the better. Donations that are neatly typed would be received ecstaticly by your editor who is a crap typist, hates FC's but who is quite good at "Playschool" stick and paste techniques.

Caseg Fraith Jan 1993 J. Wiseman

A select party went to Wales to this well equipped hut which had improved since our last visit. "Select" is the FMC euphemism for small as most people couldn't be bothered to shake off the New Year hangovers. They missed an atmospheric Saturday which was spent on Moel Siabod and a wet and windy Sunday with floodwater spreading over paths and roads.

Obscure crags meet M. Dale

A good turnout gathered on Friday night in the Golden Rule. However, Saturday's forecast was very poor. We decided to keep local and near to the road. So the obscurity for the day turned out to be Tilberthwaite Quarry, much to Tat's disgust "Bloody slate, not real rock", he grumbled.

When we got there it was dry but it didn't stay that way for long. The Fenna's kicked off with KICK OFF HVS, closely followed by many other members. Meanwhile Phil and Tony did CHRISTMAS CRACKER HS. I enlisted the services of the redundant Tats and attempted SPLIT WET BEAVER E2. Tats decided to have a go but nearly cut me in two. Don't worry Mick Tolley, you're a lightweight! Glenn Brookes followed as it started to rain. This turned persistent as we scurried back to the hut. Phil and Tony stayed to do battle with the slippery slate. The rest of us retired to Ambleside for shopping, beer and brews in the new Wilf's Cafe.

The night was spent in the Golden Rule drinking the excellent XB. The cars were left and a very cheap taxi ride was taken back to the hut. Something worth noting if you wish to escape the confines of the "DRY SHITS".

Sunday was a much better day but the crags were very wet following Saturday's monsoon. The meet split, half going to Great Langdale and the rest to Wallabarrow. Glenn, Lou, the Fennas and their guest from Tenerife climbed there all day whilst I took Paula for a walk round the back of the crag and then through Wallabarrow Gorge which was in full flood ideal for a canoe trip. The fungi was also amazing.

The weekend was pleasant but the OBSCURE CRAGS will have to wait for another day.

The Signal Box

We disembarked from the train on a February day and were greeted by the warden. Nobody else got on or off. By evening we had traversed Leum Uilleim and were viewing the station broadside across the moor, the definitive model railway station, a tree at each end of the platform, three white destination signs, a small house across the track and in the middle of the platform a cluster of buildings dominated by a signal box. There was nothing else in sight.

It was in 1894 that the West Highland Railway pioneered a railway across the wilds of Rannoch to Lochaber and at the highest remotest wildest point on the line Corroul station was born at 1380 feet. Since then many fierce stories have been acted out here but now the station is unmanned and the station master and his family somehow survive winter in this desolate situation. Survival has necessitated the station becoming an independent bunkhouse, and the signal box provides the wanderer with a dining room with a unique 360 degree panoramic view to some of Scotland's grandest scenery. Particularly striking is the view towards Loch Ossian with the majestic Ben Alder in the distance.

To Irvine Butterfield the Munroes around Loch Ossian are featureless lumps. We found Carn Dearg beautifully snow and ice clad in sunshine, on leaving Sgor Gaibhre we were desparately using compasses in a blizzard and relieved to find shelter in the woods around the Shooting Lodge. We trailed back along the loch in the gloom and sleet and eventually a solitary light appeared, the signal box. Our room was a definition of homeliness, three cosy twin bunks and a coal fire already lit and awaiting us. No room has ever been more hospitable.

Dinner in the signal box was an experience, howling gales and snow building up on the windows gave the threat or thrill of being snowbound. The station master was once snowbound here for 14 weeks. The infrequent trains run on time. Occasionally people arrive from nowhere out of the dark and embark. One arrived having booked a seat on the nine o' clock sleeper for Euston. To our surprise it actually stopped.

A stormy night ensued, sometimes the gale awoke you but even more terrifying were the freight trains carrying aluminium and paper from Lochaber (yes there still is freight on British Rail) which sped past without warning a few feet from our heads.

Scottish weather is unpredictable. The next day dawned with brilliant sunshine and a train journey to Tulloch and a walk back over Stob Coire Sgriodain and Chno Dearg appealed. (A harder day would be returning by traversing the Easains). From the former magnificent views along Loch Tieg to the distant Aonach Eagach kept the photographer in us occupied and Chno Dearg has a satellite Meall Garbh whose East face rivals Ben Nevis in winter grandeur. Truly a magnificent day with blue sky and frozen snow everywhere. We finished the day in the dark wandering along the railway track, why are the sleepers placed too close to walk on?.

The final excursion was a supposedly easy half day on Beinn na Lap. In gale force winds we rested behind a shelter before the final 'over the top' dash for the summit. It is necessary to descend one mile in a northwards direction to avoid the corniced drops before returning to the eastern end of Loch Ossian. By the time we reached the signal box it was snowing heavily and again there was the prospect of being snowbound.

With regret at leaving such an elemental place we caught the one Sunday train at 6 in the evening. The Sprinter was like the time machine, it was warm and light and the first offence was an over noisy 'personal' stereo. We were back in civilisation.

HALF A GULLY!

Winter is here again. A joy!! Bed at 1pm up at 5.00 and start off up the ben at 6.00. The not much used plastic boots feel stiff and rocky, I feel slightly sick, breakfast at 5.00 does not sit well. Its dark, not particularly cold and I feel still and awkward. An hour or so later its light and the sick feeling has gone but I still feel tired and awkward. Gerry and Glen rush off towards a mass of vertical ice whilst Simon and I wander a little higher, knowing what we want to do but nervous about it, as we have been winter climbing together for 18 months and so far only solo'ed a Grade II. Crampons on, extra clothes, helmet and the final struggle up Gardyloo Gully. Huge amounts of ice everywhere tempt one to try something harder but with the lack of practice caution says something easy to get back into it! Its the same every year of lately every other year (global warming). Finally here we are Hadrians Wall to our left, which would be the sensible thing to do and straight ahead what we really came to do. Decision made go for it. A bit of jockeying for position as neither of us wants to really load the first pitch, I lead off following two scotch lads in front, about 70' superb ice and just off vertical. The lads in front have stopped as the leaders crampons are falling off!! Two ice screws in for the belay kick out a small ledge for my foot and I'm ready for Simon as he comes up my belay plate gets lower and lower and I realise my harness has fallen down!! Such mature competence on the hill is what its all about. The next pitch is a full rope length which Simon deals with without looking worried, a few screw runners and up through the narrows and out of sight. I follow its brilliant, the narrows section is mildly overhanging for about 20' but the angle is eased by kicking out the left foot. Again superb conditions. Every placement is good, Simon is on a high, my pitch, again a steep section above a screw with spindrift now making it more difficult. I get over this section with arm muscles starting to complain that was quite steep as well. I look and woop, we are above the hard section. Another screw belay and Simon comes up with quite heavy spindrift now. The final 600' is hard work, full run outs on crampon points with calf muscles aching. I go wrong on the final pitch and finish up in powder below a high cornice, a dodgy dead man and Simon traverses right about 50' below me and turns the overhang with a rope running 80' horizontally to him. The rope is flicked along and I traverse felling very exposed but glad its clagged so I can't see the 1000' below me. Then its all over. Finally Simon and I have done a good route and point 5 is in the bag. Bloody great if I wasn't so tired I would have leapt with joy. Now down, where's that John Parker map.

Mike Tolley

HUT AVAILABILITY

MAY

1-2 L
8-9 S
15-16 L
22-23 S (working w/e)
29-31 L

JUNE

5-6 L & S (Big crags meet Langdale)
12-13 L
19-20 L & S (working w/e Langdale, family w/e Stair)
26-27 L & S (Hut to Hut)

JULY

3-4 NO HUT
10-11 L (Intro members meet)
17-18 S
24-25 L

AUG

31-1 S
7-8 L (Fell race meet)
14-15 S (Obscure crags / pubs meet)
21-22 L
28-30 L & S (Family meet at Stair)

SEPT

4-5 L (Ducks Grub meet)
11-12 No Hut
18-19 L & S (family w/e Stair)
25-26 S (intro members meet)

ADVERTS

For Sale : SCARPA FITZROY Leather winter boots. Hardly used.
size 43 (8 3/4) cost 150 will accept 70 o.n.o.
Les Ward 0772 684681.