

Thanks to those of you who responded to Pete Latimer's request, in his final Newsletter, for more articles. There seems to be a core of fairly regular contributors (very welcome) but the rest of the Club tends to fall into the "silent majority" category. Having taken over from Pete I shall be playing a similar tune in hoping for more articles not just on meet reports etc., but also for articles of a serious/humorous/critical or general nature - anything to do with the Club or with Mountaineers and their environment etc.

As a relatively new member myself I would appreciate approaches from any of you with something to say. (I can be recognised on Wednesday evenings by my empty glass).

Chris Heald.

News and Views:

: The Annual General Meeting: (full minutes of which will be sent to all Members) Those who were present will know that some fairly radical changes have occurred. The Juniors have been incorporated into the main body of the Club, the feasibility of revamping the Little Langdale hut is being examined, and a new venue, with increased "atmosphere", is to be found for Wednesday evenings. We'll be at the Rangers until March 14th, when the scene will change to the Raikes Hotel as the first alternative. Jack Jowett will be providing a very interesting Italian evening - see the social calendar for details and news of future venues. Hopefully we'll soon be able to find a permanent alternative to the Rangers.

: North Wales (Hydro Electricity) Protection Committee:

The Club has received a circular letter from this organisation asking us to lobby our M.P. to oppose the third reading of a Bill being introduced in the Commons this month which would give the C.E.G.B. power to go ahead with their Llanberis scheme. The more individuals who write the better. So if you do oppose this kind of development in the National Park, send something like - "As one of your constituents I am opposed to the North Wales Hydro Electric Power Bill now before Parliament and the threat this poses to National Parks. Will you please let me know if you intend to oppose this Bill at its third reading." -

Address is: Your local M.P., House of Commons, London, S.W.1 (no stamp needed!)

: New Members:

The Club welcomes new members - Michael Barnes, Christine and Margaret Jowett, Barrie Stott and John Wren. Ian Sharpe has been elected to full membership.

FUTURE MEETS:

- 3-4 March: Langdale. Beginners rock meet to Little Langdale Hut. New members especially welcome. Meet Leader - John Sealey Own transport.
10-11 March: Stair Hut. Working week-end - Rick Reeves Own transport.
18 March: Coniston to Old Dungeon Ghyll. Coach Meet -
Leader - Peter Roscoe (A prize of a pint to anyone who can burn him off!)
31 March - Nant Mor, Wales. Meet Leader - Mike Tolley Own transport
1 April (fine hut accommodation)
7-8 April: Pot holing. Meet Leader Mike Tolley - details will be announced later
20-23 April: (Easter): Inverey. Meet Leader Dave Earle. Hut accommodation
Own transport.

SOCIALS:

- Tuesday February 27: A new venture - "a night at the Ice Rink" or "Skating for beginners." Meet inside at 7.30 p.m.
- Tuesday March 6: Derby Baths Gymnasium. Get a new spring figure - from 7.00 to 9.00. Regretfully the rules allow men only - Gynn Hotel afterwards.
- Wednesday March 7: Rangers as usual.
- Wednesday March 14: To help you all recover from last Tuesday night - an evening at the "Raikes Hotel" (Liverpool Road - just behind the old Tech. College on Church St.) This is the first of the alternatives to the Rangers so do lend your support to what will be an exceptional event - an Italian evening presented by Jack Jowett with slides, music and - yes you've guessed it - hotpot.
- Wednesday March 21: Rangers again
- Wednesday March 28: Raikes Hotel
- Wednesday April 4: Rangers
- Friday April 13: Tombola at the Lion Hotel, South Promenade, 9.00 p.m. 20p. Late Bar! Refreshments. The Social Sec. would be grateful to receive any articles that could be used for prizes.

Forthcoming Attractions:

The Club is hoping to hold a "Snow and Rock Bath" on April 25th, possibly with other Fylde Clubs of a similar bent. More of that later

CLUB HUTS:

Advance news - to help the Club finances the Committee has agreed to try and let Stair Hut for the whole of August and to keep Little Langdale free for the same month for Members and Guests. In the meantime the huts are NOT available to Members on the following weekends:-

Little Langdale
16/17 March
6/7 April
4/5 May
18/19 May
25/26 May

Stair
23/24 February
23/24 March
20/22 April (Easter)
11/12 May

Malham Coach meet - Sept. 17th

I am stung into action by Mr. Latimer's comments in the last Newsletter and must also express my apologies to those whose daring doings I failed to report. It appears that enthusiasm for the Pennine Way has declined, but those put off by reports of plaintive curlews missed a most interesting section of the Way.

Whilst the "Bang and Dangle" brigade visited Malham Cove the walkers set off for Gordale. This magnificent Scar is hidden from view until one turns an abrupt corner to find towering walls frowning down in an impressive vista. An easy scramble leads the walker past a waterfall, framed on its right by a natural portal which gives dramatic views to the stream bed far below. From here the party made its way to Malham Tarn Nature Reserve with its diverse spectacles of birds on the tarn and feeding grounds, and thermometers strapped to nearby rocks.

A steady plod led us to the top of Fountains Fell with its many fine cairns. Following contemplation of the verdant valley below we set off in pursuit of Jack Fairburn. A long time admirer of Bill Teasdale, Jack showed us a fine pair of heels as he pounded down the hill, casually smoking a ciggy en route.

Pen-y-Ghent was as windy as ever but has much to offer in the way of Gritstone, sink holes and the ever impressive Hunt and Hull potholes. Following a spell of fossil searching we dropped down into Horton to quaff pints of tea before a fast trip along the very humpy Ribble Head road.

P.H.Roscoe.

WORKING WEEKENDS:-

Stair: November 5th

The working weekend was brought forward to allow members to do a little work in the grounds and put on a small bonfire for the children. New fences were erected hedges tidied, common room cleaned, scrubbed and painted, and toilets, kitchen (with its new cooker) and drying room washed out.

Saturday evening was celebrated with a bonfire, followed by roast potatoes, treacle toffee and home brewed plonk all accompanied by pyrotechnic displays laid on by the kids.

After an early working start on Sunday the afternoon was free for attempts on the local summits (Grizedale Pike), with the big mountain men going across to Shepherd's to do Fisher's Folley, Little Chamonix, Shepherd's Chimney, Scorpion and then to Brown Slabs to witness various trials of ability in the failing light.

Thanks are recorded to those people whose conscientious efforts contribute to an ever improving standard of accommodation.

P. H. Roscoe

Little Langdale:

The usual party of the Earles, the Sealeys and friend (perm any one or two from about four; in this case it was P. Clarke) worked very hard to bring the cottage up to scratch and to commence the substantial improvements which the place deserves (denied for so long by the great, but diminishing, debt). It seems a pity the Club can't summon a bit more enthusiasm, but I suppose as we seem to be practically the only people who use the hut regularly its only fair that we do all the work. The particularly dirty jobs of course fell to the Junior section, who were also in attendance.

The car park was tidied up and vast quantities of kindling acquired as a result of Mr. Sharples's pollarding (that sounds nasty Dave) last year. Each bed now has a new mattress; all the old ones were burnt in a magnificent blaze. Members will not be surprised to learn that "Pyro Sealey" failed to ignite the pile, even with a blow lamp. However, combustion was eventually achieved with the aid of a few sticks - I should have been a boy scout. The men's dormitory was cleaned, and three walls and the ceiling of the other dormitory painted. The fourth wall was demolished prior to its reconstruction on a sounder basis. In the meantime, it will be known as the Bam-Boo room, for obvious reasons.

Dave Earle

Stair Hut Meet: 6/7 January

In view of the meet leader's impending parenthood again, I was promoted to the exalted position of deputy meet leader; a lonely post for only one other couple and a Mr. P. Clarke disturbed the peace of Stair.

Saturday saw the most fabulous weather for months, with blue skies above and mist lingering below. Derwentwater lay under a great sea of cotton wool which lapped silently against the hills.

Down into the mist and onto Seathwaite, from where an hour's hard work brought us to the sun and breathless air again. All around the mist was breaking revealing the patchwork of fields still white with frost and the lakes blue and still

Along the Gable traverse we went, with Snaefell sticking out of the sea of clouds, until we reached Napes Needle. Here Paul gleefully produced a rope from his sack and with John did Needle Arete before progressing to the summit. We followed the traverse further round and scrambled up Sphinx ridge, revelling in the panorama which extended from the Scottish mountains protruding through their mist, down to the clag of Blackpool.

Sunday's weather was terrible with very low cloud. It was so low that I felt we must break through it but the others remained unconvinced. The weather at the top of Helvellyn was ten times worse than fog shrouded Dunmail, so we consoled ourselves with a lunch time pint instead.

Dave Earle.

IF YOU LIKE GRITSTONE, THEN READ ON

The act of thinking about enjoyable activities in the hills at about this time of year is a meaningless indulgence that housebound climbers go in for. Seeking each other's company, in bars with flowing beer, revives the jaded memory of that outdoor activity which all of us share. Polishing crabs and adjusting tapes; the gear that unlocked White Ghylls' secret paradises last summer now makes mystics of us all. And yet there is a place that should have been consecrated long ago Brimham Rocks.

ACCESS: The rocks stand out above the idyllic pastures fed by the river Nidd which may be responsible for the fine beer of the area. From Blackpool take the road to Clitheroe via Broughton and Hurst Green, thence by the A59 through Clitheroe and Skipton; turn left 3 miles east of Blubberhouses along the B.6451, then in 5 miles turn right onto the B.6165. A steep track leads from the village of Summerbridge up to the rocks. At weekends a parking fee is usually demanded by the natives (friendly). Total distance 55 miles.

QUALITY: An excellent millstone grit with superb friction, strenuous routes and "grippers" both on short and long climbs, with mostly jamming but also delicate walls and slabs. A tape sling for the odd chockstone and a number of Clog hexagons nearly always suffice to maintain an even flow of adrenalin - even when they don't softish ground is always, well nearly always, close at hand. In the old days those Britannic little mini vans used to provide direct aid for starting some of the numerous Goulder problems, whilst Boulder Slab requires a 10 yard run up which provides momentum enough to grab the first hold. The main climbs (average 40') occur on the edge itself, or above this on numerous pinnacles.

With over 100 routes to choose from this must be one of the best substitutes for the high crags. Though a comparison could be misguided for Brimham has other qualities which make it unique. It has a very English atmosphere with barking dogs, Sunday strollers and, on a crisp Winter's day, fine views across Nidderdale.

CHOICE ROUTES:

Allan's Crack	V.S.	Owl Chimney	S.
Hatter's Groove	V.S.	Jabberwok	S.
Birch Tree Wall	V.S.	Cakewalk	H.S.

R. Reeve

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