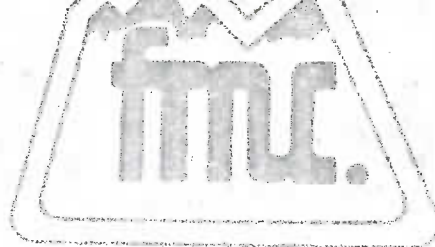


NEWSLETTER

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Wartin



From the Editor

April 1975

The AGM has seen some dramatic changes on the Committee as will be seen from the syllabus. A big thank you is due to all those retiring members but especially to Peter Ray who, as secretary from the conception of Stair Hut put in a tremendous amount of work for the club over and above the normal onerous tasks of secretary. I find it particularly refreshing to see so many young and very active club members now on the Committee and they have already made an excellent contribution to the running of the club.

Much store was set by the fact that this is the club's 25th year and many special efforts have been arranged to mark this special event. Already a considerable number of highly successful socials have taken place and there are many more to follow. In order to defray the cost of outside speakers a number of events will be organised involving club members for which a small charge will be made. Hopefully members will continue to support these events in the excellent way they have done so far. Certainly the Alpine Slides night had a bumper attendance. The club's thanks are extended to all those present and taking part. Incidentally, so far as these socials are concerned, unless you are on the committee it is probably not worth buying a raffle ticket. The Rangers Bar, too, is now in the hands of a full-time bar man. The beer is in good health, the service excellent and the whole place much cleaner and tidier.

The Treasurer implored the meeting to consider the raising of hut dues. Inflation, which had been fought off by increased hut use, now finally looked as though it would catch up with us. Rates and electricity accounting for the greatest amount of running costs had doubled in the last year or two. The meeting voted, however, to keep Stair hut charges as they were and to bring Little Langdale into line to compensate for increased facilities and the expected dramatic jump in electricity consumption from the new drying room.

Country membership was abolished, mainly on account of the huge rises in postal charges. The late fee for subs. paid after 31st March was increased to £1. However, because of the short notice, you will be let off till the end of May this year. Pay up!

The club seems committed to further increases in the use of the huts, maximum economies in electricity etc. and whole hearted support in the fund raising activities that will be organised in the coming year. Hopefully this can be achieved.

The AGM showed that there was still some confusion over ladies weekends. The dates of these meets are entered on the syllabus to give the ladies a date to work and aim for and an "official" excuse for a weekend off from household chores. There is absolutely no bar on any other club member booking to stay at the huts in the normal way. A call for official family weekends was turned down but the option of organising weekends without excluding others applies to owners of families, as any one who went to Little Langdale at Easter will have found out with millions of screaming kids everywhere (presumably, as this was written before the event.)

A complaint was made concerning the disappearance of the epic book from Stair. A new book was promised but members were asked to keep the contents clean, pure, and wholesome so the little darlings from approved schools etc. who unfortunately use the hut and help keep the fees down do not become contaminated and corrupted by the naughty writings of nasty climbers.

You should receive the new syllabus with this issue - if you have not already had one. One or two changes in dates have had to be made as follows:-

Cwm Cowarch Meet - now a camping meet

Club Dinner - 20th December NOT 6th December (at Stickle Barn Langdale)

Settle Coach Meet - 7th December NOT 21st December

Wasdale Meet - 17/18 May NOT 10/11 May

Laddow Coach Meet - 11 May NOT 18 May

A new Mountain weather forecast is available for the Lakes by phoning Windermere 5151.

The following are welcomed into the club:

Michael Huntington, Richard Croasdale, Miss Pat Pinfold, Mr John Dowell, Mr Peter Midgley, Mr Garry Mullett, Mr David Finsley, Mr Alan Foulds, Mr Neil Bailey, Mr David Clark, Mr John Higgins, Miss Avril Powell.

The new lock has now been fitted to Stair.

SOCIALS

23rd April (Wednesday)

'Hot Pot & Disco Do' at the Rangers.

Following the success of the Big Boot Ball this should be a good do! Happy Hour 8 - 9 p.m. Bar Extension till 12. Music, Dancing, Food. Tickets 55p. from Keith Lockett or other committee members.

Wednesday, 7th May

Jumble Sale at Raides Parade Church Hall.

Contact Keith about collecting jumble beforehand. Helpers wanted from 5.30 p.m. to arrange hall. Your chance to help raise money.

Information Required during Spring 1975 - Bird of Prey Census

The up to date information of any possible nesting territory of the following species of raptors are required for census purposes: Eagle, Peregrine Falcon (British Isles in particular N.W. England) Any relevant information i.e. birds observed screaming over crags or nest locations should be passed on to Peter Latimer within one week or sooner if at all possible.

Any information received will be treated in strict confidence and mainly used for conservation of the species.

T. R. Pickford

North Western Protection Group (RSPB)

Alcoholics Anonymous Coach Meet to Malham - 15.12.74

Conceived in the alcoholic euphoria of the club dinner and acted out in the bleak aftermath of the Sealey party the club can be proud of the fact that everybody turned up for the coach on Sunday morning against the most phenomenal odds, a fact which boomeranged slightly against the meet leader who had cunningly overbooked the coach.

I do not really know what went on during the day but I was informed from usually reliable sources that a large party of youngsters went fossil hunting and the climbers stationed themselves at the foot of various crags in Malham Cove and Gordale between copious brews at the cafe. Some even got off the ground and an extraordinary number of half routes were apparently achieved that day, mainly of the artificial type, although in fairness I do vaguely remember seeing Ken Martin going well at one point.

The walkers either visited Gordale and Malham Tarn, returning to the coach, or pushed on over trackless wastes to Horton, at one point foolishly following a Pennine Way Man (J.J.J.) along the wrong path.

I do remember sobering up on the top of Pen Y Ghent as it got dark and having a large brew at Horton.

I am sorry for any unrecorded epics and adventures and thank everybody taking part on the meet for being so quiet throughout the trip. Fortunately we were all sufficiently recovered to insist on a stop at the Black Horse at Rirkham on the way back to finish the meet as most of us had started it.

D. A. Earle

Cook at Christmas 74

(From our Roving Correspondent RAFF)

The weather which had been churning out cold fronts for two weeks solid finally abated and the Southern Tasman filled with an Anti-cyclone on December 23rd. To avoid the drudgery of sloggng up the Tasman Glacier and up through the bush to reach the hut, we flew up to the Grand Plateau by ski plane (lazy kiwi habit). Twenty-five minutes after leaving the valley 5,500 feet below, we reached the Plateau Hut to find it full of Japs practising seige tactics? After a sleepless night spent listening to avalanches peeling off Caroline and the East Face we left the hut at 4 a.m. with the Japs beseiged in their bunks. It was far too bloody warm, the route across the Plateau and up the Linda Glacier though straightforward was a real grind in deep wet snow. From the head of the glacier a traverse across a snow shelf beneath huge dubious ice cliff (cruz) led to a mixed ridge which with only minor difficulties led us to the summit at 10.45 a.m. Superb views from the top of the Pacific, the Tasman, the Southern Alps and the Canterbury Plains. An uneventful descent straight past the seiging Japs and down to the valley for Christmas, warm beer and young nubile Aussie tourists. During a later clearing in the weather we did a traverse of Mount Sealey (not named after Mr Guinness/Cider himself)

Lochnagar

From Rick Beave

The summit of Cac Carn Mor (3700 odd feet) can be seen, weather permitting, from the edge of the pine-wood near to the car-park at the spittal of Glenmuick (pron: mick); yet it takes nearly two hours of a gentle plod to the col between Weikle Pap and Red Spout to view an ice-climbing area second only, I'd say, to Ben Nevis. Lochnagar is, in size, small yet it leaves just as big an impression on the proverbial imagination as does the Cylon Face, Creag Meagaidh, or, for that matter, the White Cliffs of

On close inspection every route seems to have its own irresistible challenge with the possible exception of Black Spout which is the best looking load of old cobblers I've seen and is usually reserved for descent. In the Barrell Public House, Ballater, English as well as Scottish Aberdonians wax lyrically over Lochnagar's harder routes. Eagle Ridge Direct (5) seems utterly attractive mainly due, I think, to its gentle beginning up grade 3 ledges; Parallel Buttress (5) has the technical appeal of a frozen rock-route; Parallel Gully B (5) having had very few ascents over the past seventeen years, looks deceptively straightforward backing-and-footing to a spine-chilling exit. Polyphemus Gully (4) is in the opinion of many, a classic hard ice-route and was ascended only recently by Messrs. Snalam and Hargreaves. Conditions on that day were phenomenally good due to a prolonged weather system of high pressure; the neve was crisp and firm enabling climbers to complete daring manoeuvres with their equipment. And, on that vexed but talking point, I heard another interesting theory recently which had been tried and tested on Polyphemus that the advantages of double Terodactyl's with adzes were greater than two individual TD's (one adze type, one hammer type); generally speaking, the TD droop pick will stick where all others won't and in certain types of ice, the drooped adze offers an alternative choice when negotiating bulges above 600 feet drops. The only drawback is the weight of the peg-hammer that has to be carried along in case you should be fortunate enough to stumble across a decent crack. However, here is the opportunity to use your redundant Salewa or Chouinard, enabling you, therefore, to risk taking direct aid off two well placed axes whilst you hang back and bang in an ice-peg - or write your last will and testament, whichever the case may be.

There must be no other area where the grading question so often rears itself as in winter climbing. The problem has been made worse since Hamish MacPiton chose to confuse every interested party by using labels one automatically associates with a completely different game - rock climbing. The Scottish system, used by Clough, works pretty well but like any system it is subject to mis-use - see the Rocksport photo page 11 No. 3 recent issue; Polyphemus is more probably 4 not 5; Douglas-Gibson likewise; Parallel Gully A 3 not 4; Raeburn's Gully a 2/3 and not 3/4; West Gully a 3 not 5; Black Spout a 1 not 2; Tough Brown Traverse 2/3 not 3/4 - well it is called Rock sport. Of the easier routes Central Buttress Original (2) is pleasant with its unique rock gendarmes mid-way; and Raeburn's Gully 2/3, a little steeper with an interesting pitch in a relatively safe spot, is good. (There are more difficult exits to be found to the right). Finally, a good way back down is via the north-east facing snow-slope on Cruide Crom (Quite steep).

Logongorble, 21st February

P. H. Roscoe

Numerous brews were the order of the night as the fifteen members of the Club arrived at Glencoe. Plans were formed for the following day and alarm clock set for an early start.

Into thick mist at 2,000 ft. on the Saturday and a great deal of toing and froing before Twisting Gully (Coire Lochin) was located.

Most of the party decided on Twisting whilst Paul and myself elected for South Central and its awkward icy start which succumbed to the onslaught of axes and crampons and led to a rocky bay.

The second pitch fell quickly to Paul as he traversed out over a bulge and onto a steep snow-ice slope to be followed by two more rope lengths of front pointing and the top of the Gully

A quick return to Twisting to find that Keith, over anxious to hold on to his Mug award had modified the awkward mantle shelf which is one of the highlights of the route, making the route measurably harder by sending a huge block in the direction of the valley.

Smooth snow slopes led towards the final pitches and a water-ice pitch led to the gully exist where the group gathered in the cold winds before returning for more brews.

Other parties had visited Boomerang Gully and spoke highly of the route recommending it for a fine way to the summit of Stob Coire Lochan.

Sunday was Buichille day as a mass gathering visited Curved Ridge and North Buttress. Occasional sunshine highlighted the snow on this most pleasurable route and a traverse of the Crowbury Tower was the order of the day. Magnificent views from the summit across to Bideau with double rainbows and Bracken Spectres adding a glorious touch of colour to a fine day. A lingering reluctant return made to Logangorble more brews than the long journey South and plans formed for future meets to the snowy regions of Scotland.

A Day at Malham

Andy Dunhill

Martin, Mick, John (Mick's brother in law) and myself set off one Saturday morning for Malham. A brew in the cafe to let the rock warm up and then the mud track up to the right wing of the cove. Martin and John did Clubfoot - M.V.S., John fell off, the first of many that day. Meanwhile Lurch arrived. Mick and myself did Kirby wall V.S., Lurch tried it but he couldn't do it. His excuse was that two of his fingers were bandaged together - so he left for the pub amidst his usual utterances.

Martin and John then did Kilyn and two other V.S., John leaving the rock on each route. Mick and myself did Wambat, a hard H.V.S. The crux pitch is 60' and becomes progressively more strenuous. I led it, just, and Mick had his perennial problems. After many 'pull, pull' or 'its strenuous' and some well practised winching tactics Mick flaunted his body on the flat ground at the top. A brew and then back to the boring Blue Room.