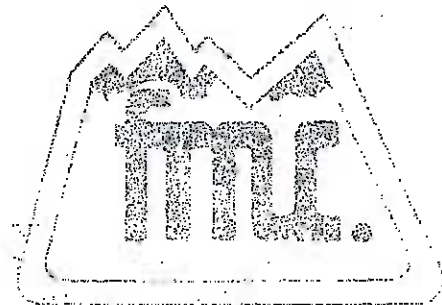


# NEWSLETTER

FIDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



GROVEL

You will be relieved to hear that the planned interview with note-worthy climber Robin Greenwood has had to be put off until a later date (unknown) - he's a bit pricey; you'll have to wait until he comes on offer before we can all sample those wonderful 'bon mots' for which he is justly famous.

Fred's account of climbing and kin-ship in Outer Sutherland will not be published indeed written, until he gets back.

Items of news: I have heard that a bastion of this club was seen using mineral substances, normally known as "ch---lk", whilst in the company of other members. The use of such agencies in so blatant a manner is corrupting and blaggardly. The words 'the hand that can drive a piton into English rock, could shoot a fox' have never reverberated so continuously in my ears since the black day this black news reached me. Does Moss Bros. tailors give you a clue as to who we are talking about.

And now onto lighter matters: Robin Norris. Making a brave attempt to become a patient himself Robin fell off the 'Barbarian' overhang at Tremadoc, on a recent visit there. However, such are the marvels of this climb in the way of good nut runners that attempts to sabotage the N.H.S. should be directed elsewhere. 'Barbarian' is a good climb in wonderful rock scenery (one of the beauties about Tremadoc are its slabs and sculpted overhangs), being a pleasant extreme when done free. For those who have not yet sampled its delights then I thoroughly recommend this route; the hard move where the peg used to be can be protected with a number 5 Chouinard wedge, so the move is virtually top-roped to the awkward "mantel up to heaven" stance. The peg that used to be there was a new Hiatt which was removed last March by abseil. I wonder who could do a thing like that.

The companion to this route is "Mangoletsi" somewhat harder in standard and even better in quality. The orange tape on the slab should be ignored for there are excellent quartz footholds up to the roof. Protection from small wire wedges is very good.

Phil Caley climbed "Pincushion", another fine slab route. In my opinion Tremadoc has been the best bet for dry rock during the past two months. In the Lakes the clouds have been low and the rock quite slippery; I believe Rupert nipped into Gimmer recently and climbed "Poacher" E.S.

In the interests of stimulating good, clean competition and not self-advertisement the Editor has, since Easter, led "DVM" HVS, 'DIADIC' ES, "VECTOR" ES, "NIMBUS" HVS, "PELLAGRA" ES, "MANGOLETSI" ES, and "GURSEAGLE" ES.

Other news: one party took seven and a half hours to do Vector quite recently; wayfarers Club member Ben Stroude (in his forties) led Hadrian's Wall and On: on Face Direct on the Ben this winter; the latter is a formidable problem. He was based at the Youth Hostel which makes for a healthy walk before and after dicing with blue ice, white death.

Robin and John Hamilton recently spent an afternoon on Brimham Rocks; they found "Hatter's Groove" and "Notice Board Crack" particularly good.

Langdale: end of April: Gerry Senior plus team of hardies set off and bagged peaks either side and including Crinkle Crags. Organizer George Parkcr was unable to attend. On Sunday the team set off for Gable with Dave and Cherry in support.

Jack Jowett and family visited Pike O'Blisco after spending Saturday looking round Ambleside shops in search of the perfect toilet seat. On the whole a successful weekend.

Finally, Teeside Stan is, I am reliably informed, training seriously for Joss Naylor's record of 9457 circuits of the Wasdale Head Hotel in 24 hours. To add to the difficulty Stan is making the attempt blindfold.

#### THE ENGLISH ARE COMING, 26 Dec '76 - 7 Jan '77

Dinner time sessions in the Swineside always seem to lead to some form of afternoon folly and this day in August proved to be no exception. Seven pints later and a decision was made, well forced upon us by the lack of English Licensing Laws, so "Fools Paradise" was an apt name under the circumstances. Tatts crosses the river OK but I manage to compliment the wetness of my insides, by falling in the torrent. Anyway the route proved to be much easier than we thought it would be, which inspired Tatts to say that winter climbing in the Pyrenees would be more of a challenge. Sounded good to me so New Year was chosen as a suitable time to go.

Well everybody knows by now of the events leading up to Christmas, the Club Dinner was a great success until Joe decided to dampen the late night spirits with a fire extinguisher. Fortunately he was apprehended before much damage could be done. He also collected a black eye in the fray. Poetic justice soon had Joe reeling - when a tree on the way back to Little Langdale left its morning and planted itself into Joe's path "Silly Tree".

Anyway the Christmas period was off with a bang - and various Christmas parties provided enough entertainment for everybody, except John Sealey who at Dave Archer's party could not take the pace and collapsed outside in his car, and then on Christmas Eve John obtained an unwelcomed Christmas present by having an out of control Tatts smashing windows. Boxing Day is time to seek emunity from John's wrath so me and Tatts are off to the Pyrenees.

#### The French Connection

After travelling day and night we wake up on Camp to sun, warm weather and mountains, the Christmas period had taken it's toll on fitness. So a day's sea cliff climbing was the call for the day. Of course, some form of stimulant was required, so wine was purchased, a cliff chosen, and a day's climbing took place, of course, by now we're extremely fit so off to the mountains we go.

The small mining road we take stops at about 4,000 ft. just below the snowline, and off we go on a reconouter in English bumbly style pumps and shoes. Well, the snow was great, incredibly hard and the summit looked good. So an early start in the morning was required and sure enough there we are bloody awful snow, storm clouds and wind. It didn't take long before we knew that any attempt on the summit would be lunacy, so off the hill we came just in time for New Year's Eve.

Well we tried to find some kind of evenings entertainment but we found the French in typical dry mood so back to camp we go to be greeted with plonk, fireworks, and dancing with the local Anglo French O.A.P. Club. Twelve o'clock arrives, and it's bon annee all round where upon Tatts is to be found kissing a poodle in French style. That's too much for me, so New Year's day we're off to Mount Canigou 10,000 ft. Very little is known of the hill, only that a refuge hut can be found just below the summit. We park the car and start a long slog up to the Col Marreliuse where we find a forestry hut. We keep going and low and behold get on the wrong path and lost. So back we go to the col to be welcomed by three French people and a snow cat who invite us to share our food and a bed in the forestry hut.

Morning dawns and after being put on the right path we slog on and two hours later we're up to our thighs in thick snow, but not to be put off on we go. And three hours later we're still going and breaking point is near. We were thrutching about in waste high snow, and more snow was falling we'd lost the path and God knows where the hut is. I reckon we should turn back but Tatts ses the huts not far away and I believe him, and sure enough 2 hours later we're there. Well a cold night ensued and bags more snow fell, and a decision was made whether to go on, or go back down so off the hill we go.

We'd been told that a maximum of 3 hours walking would bring us to the hut but it took 7 hours up and 7 hours down, so you can imagine what the condition of the snow was. Next stop Andorra where we got loglass on good cheap whisky in a diskotec. We stayed at a three star hotel which only cost three pounds each, Andorra itself is packed with plankers and the shops are full of duty free booze, ciggys, ski wear, cars, hifi and cameras, Andorra itself is a great place for drinking and the skiing is supposed to be excellent. It is comparatively cheap by French standards. Because we were English we didn't have any trouble with either the French or Spanish customs, but French and Spanish people get a good going over from them.

Anyway time soon passed and we had to be going home, at least we went and had a look, and we found loads of scope for excellent climbing, hill walking and skiing.

BILL CROSHAW      JOHN TATTERSALL

LANGANGARTH      Feb 11th - 12th

The long drive north to Glencoe was well behind most people as they peered from car windows attempting to penetrate the night in the fond hope of seeing snow filled gullies but it was not until the early daylight on Saturday that we were pleased to see the mountains plastered in snow.

Hastily packing gear the serious members made their way towards the high corries of Bidion Anoch Dubh and Stob Coire nam Bieth, these areas surprising the visitors with gullies laden with snow. Unique conditions prevailed, pitches obliterated by heavy snow fall and an almost complete absence of ice.

Arch Gulley was completed in something approaching half an hour being an almost continuous snow-slope by Dave and Phil, Central Gully yeilded to Mick and Robin, a fine ascent under trying conditions of Depp Cut was achieved by Mick H and Paul, with Pete L and Chris enjoying to the full the circuitous and rewarding ascent of North West Gully. Both Chris and Peter spoke highly of the route and recommend it as a fine climb with much variety.

Meanwhile back on Anoch Dubh John, Barbara and FHR were committed to the lower pitches of 4 gully and the exit by way of Christmas Couloir, superb scenery, steep snow and thoughtful situations filled the day, marred only by high winds which triggered off downpours of snow. Impressive views from the ridge down to the new bridge in the dusk!

And then back to the Hut for copious draughts of tea and plonk to hear of the Cream Teams efforts to avoid snow in order to ascend the Buichaille.

Some of the party were to embark for the Ben on the Sunday and depleted teams visited Stob coire lochan via the Zig-Zags to meet with white-out conditions thus hastening the return to the Hut.

Mick and Robin returned beaming great smiles following a trip up North Buttress whilst r mour has it that D Earle skied with the style and panache that has become his trademark.

## EASTER MEET MUIRE OF INVERAY

With only 5 beds allowed us this was going to be a fairly quiet weekend. Due to violent blizzards and heavy snow fall our arrival at the spacious Cairngorm Club Hut was in doubt all the way from Perth but the efforts were worthwhile.

Friday morning dawned clear and bright and we waded our way up Ben A Bhuirrdl, through splendid scenery and in excellent weather. Saturday, with the worst of the snow off the roads, was spent enjoying the Alpine splendour of Lochnager, the high spot of the day being the climb over the immense cornices at the top of Black Spout.

Sunday found most of us walking the Glen Callater hills whilst one hitched to Glen Shee for skiing, again in excellent weather. Monday found all of us at Glen Shee except one hardy soul who opted to traverse all the hills from Braemar to the ski area. It began to rain as we left.

Thanks to Cairngorm Club for the use of their hut and to the Mar Lodge hotel for their usual good hospitality.

### Mick Tolley - Fame at Last!

Will the new guide book for Anglesey, though not yet in the shops, contain our Mick's name in the list of first ascents? Way back in 1970, a mere youth at the time, Mick climbed Sun Stroke, a line between Diogenes and interpolator, with Dave Durkan, who, at that time, was Anglesey's resident climber. The route gave sustained Hard V.S. and Mick a week off work.

### CRAIG Y FORAYN - N. WALES

If in Wales and you get washed out of Snowdonia or blown off Anglesey, then try this place - it's on your way home. A few miles east of Colwyn Bay is the village of Llanddulas; from the church take a narrow road inland (south) keeping right at junctions (ignore the narrow road that comes in very sharply on the right at a rectangular sign board). After 2 or 3 miles a caravan sign appears on the left; park further on; obvious tracks lead up to the crag through the woods.

The rock is excellent mountain limestone affording a variety of superb routes up to 160' in length - all V.S. to extreme. There are a couple of rotten gullies at severe standard. The easier routes tend to be strenuous whilst the harder routes are both strenuous and technical; protection is good.

Mojo is a good introduction to the harder routes going at mild extreme. There is a worthwhile guide that includes this area: "Climbs on North Wales Limestone" by Rowland Edwards.

### ANGLESEY AND SEA BIRDS

R.S.P.B. wardens patrol certain areas of the Anglesey Cliffs: signs have been established to inform climbers of the protected areas (Mousetrap Zawn - Feb to July). If you ignore these signs and later spy a warden heading your way expect him to be as mad as hell.

### MESSAGE FROM GEORGE PARKLER - HON. TREAS.

My thanks to all members who have paid their subs promptly this year thus saving much work with reminders. Would those who wish to retain their membership but have not as yet paid please do so as soon as possible. Late fee, £1 (one pound) applicable.

Will members who pay by Bankers Order please amend them for the new subscriptions payable as from 1978 viz. £2.50 single: £4.00 Family.



## STAIR HUT

A considerable amount of interior construction work has taken place recently regarding extentions to the men's dormitory, thanks to Pete Roscoe. A partition wall has been erected to form the sleeping area which now requires electricity, beds and other services (blondes need only apply; no time wasters).

The Club will have to spend something in the region of £25 to replace a fire-extinguisher that has been wantonly knocked about by outside club hut users.

It would be a good idea if members regularly checked the huts for damage on their arrival then the offending parties can be traced and nailed.

At the last meeting the Committee discussed yet another member's complaint - this time regarding the deplorable state in which he found Stair cottage on Easter Monday. Failure to provide satisfactory explanations by those thought responsible will lead to their expulsion from the Club.

The Committee is determined to maintain the Club's properties for their original purpose i.e. as refuges for hill-goers and not as bear pits. Those who do not like this arrangement must seek alternative accommodation.

## PHOTO COMPETITION WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH 1977

An attendance of more than forty members ensured success for this meet, the first photo competition the club has held.

Initially, Frank Lord showed slides and gave a short chat about the group of Scottish Islands known as St. Kilda. This was followed by the competition.

Seventeen members entered slides in two categories: (a) best action photo and (b) best pictorial photo. The judging was done by Peter Horsley, who, of course, is a professional photographer. Unfortunately, Peter could not be present, but had previously seen all the slides, and had chosen the winners. He commented that the general standard of photography was very high, and that trying to isolate the best three photos in each category had proved quite difficult.

All the slides in the competition were projected (about ninety in total) and details of who, where and when were given by the owners. Most of the slides came in for the usual good-natured abuse and ribald comment from the audience, in particular the climbing shots. Accusations of tilting cameras to achieve perpendicular or over-hanging rock were bandied about. A beautiful slide of Cherry Earle, perched on a boulder, and looking like a mountaineering version of the Mermaid in Copenhagen Harbour came in for a bit of stick.

The winners were finally announced amidst cries of 'fix' and 'rubbish' and were as follows: Best action photo 1 Mick Tolley, 2 Dave Sharples 3 Dave Walton. Best pictorial photo 1 Rick Reeve 2 Derrick Smith 3 Pete Roscoe. The prizes were distributed and everyone enjoyed a plate of hot pot served by the ladies.

An extremely enjoyable evening with a very good atmosphere. We hope that this competition becomes an annual event, so keep taking the piccies. Who knows, you may be the winner of one of next year's valuable prizes.

ENNERDALE - VEHICLE ACCESS TO GILLERTHWAITE

Permission to drive vehicles along the road from Bowness Knott to Gillerthwaite has been given by the Forestry Commission specifically for the convenience of climbers visiting the Pillar Area. The use of the road is restricted to Permit Holders.

Permits are limited to a maximum of four cars on any one day. Application for permits, stating the date required, and the vehicle registration number can be obtained from:-

Colin Wornham, Dower Cottage, Fardshaw Hall, Cockermouth.

The permits will be posted if the applications are accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

Don't forget that excellent weather reports for the Lake District can be obtained by phoning Windermere 5151.

B.M.C. INSURANCE

Includes - Personal accident payment, medical, emergency travel and rescue costs, loss travel and accommodation expenses, baggage and personal liability.

Full cover - walking, climbing, ski mountaineering, rock climbing except in: Hymalaya, Andes, Arctic and Antarctic, Greenland, Baffin Land, U.S.A. and Canada, & "COMMIE" Ranges.

No trip of more than six weeks' duration is covered.

Rates - Full insurance £10 full insurance less baggage cover £7

Full insurance U.A. air only £8 - - - less baggage cover £5

Hill walking U.A. air £3.50 - - - less baggage cover £2.

Admn. charges 1-9 people £1 each, 10-19 people 50p. each, 20 or more nothing.

Members requiring insurance please contact Dave Earle who has all the details.

ITALIAN ALPINE CLUB APPLICATION (MAFIA SECTION)

WHATZA U NAME \_\_\_\_\_ U HAGE \_\_\_\_\_

WHATZA U HOWZA NUMERO \_\_\_\_\_ U STREETA \_\_\_\_\_

WHATZA U BAG: U ROPE BOYZE \_\_\_\_\_

U LIKKA TO CLIMBER IN ZE LEED \_\_\_\_\_

U PROVIDE ZE FUN ANDA ZE GAMZ \_\_\_\_\_

PUTTA DOWNNA WEARRA U SCROGGE NOW

AVE U EVA BEAN A MEMBER CP ANY UZZA ASSOZIATIONE \_\_\_\_\_

EFF ZO STATE: PINNACLE CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ K G B \_\_\_\_\_

AVE U EVVA SLEEPA AT ZE WAZZERGATE OTEL \_\_\_\_\_

EFF U BIN INNA JAIL U TELLA NOW \_\_\_\_\_

FOR WHATZA WAZZA U INNA DE JAIL

I SHOTTA ONE GUIZZ \_\_\_\_\_ I KIDNAP SUMBODYS' \_\_\_\_\_

PROTECKEZIONE RAGGETS \_\_\_\_\_ UDDER THINGZA \_\_\_\_\_

U WANNA BE DE BIGGA SHOTZ SUNDAZE, YASSE \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

U WANNA PROMICE NOTTA TO UZE ZE CHORRA \_\_\_\_\_

(NO FOOLA ROUNDE, CCS I SLAPPA U FACE)

WIDDE U ANTRY U GONNA GETTA SOMATING U REELY GCNNA LIRRE

1 CRANGE BORG SWETTA 1 lb MOZZURELLA CHEESE

1 FAIRA F.A.I.Z.A. 1 KLES (LATER ONNA U CHEEK)

1 PR MONTANE BOOTZ 1 WITE SVET SHGIT WIZ DE CLUB BADGE

1 CAN FACCON HAIRZ SLAYZ 8 x 10" PITCHER CVA FIONA REECHMOUND

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ (IN BLOOD)

## POTHOLING - April 25th

Having been pipped at the post at Ireby by a coachload, we set off post haste for Lost Johns to stake our claim. The happy band donned all the gear and followed the steam into the system via the Roof Traverse. The party, which consisted of 3 novices and 4 enthusiasts under the guidance of 3 experts, coped well with the ladder pitches. The awe inspiring Centipede Pitch proved well within the capabilities of the party; the experienced giving the others the necessary help and encouragement. We emerged into the evening sunlight re-charged and all agreed it had been a good trip. Is JDS leading the next one?

## FMC MEETS SYLLABUS (next 2 months)

May 20-21 - Brackenclose Hut, Wasdale; Leader Barbara Sealey  
June 3-6 Bank Holiday. Arran Camping; Leader Keith Lockett  
June 17-18 Hut to Hut; Leader George Parker  
June 25 Pillar Bivi; Leader Dave Walton  
June 24-25 Ladies Weekend L. Langdale; Leader Chris Ikin  
July 1-2 Kircudbrightshire, camping; Leader Dave Earle  
July 15-16 Cwm Cowarch Hut; Leader Dave Sharples  
Also Derrick Smith leads a Family Weekend at L Langdale.

## SOCIAL FMC

May 19 Climbing at Woodwell (Silverdale)  
25 Darts + food, Plough, Maves (Bods + Theakstons)  
26 Thurs. Anglezaike; Climbing  
June 2 Thurs. Warton for Beginners  
9 Thurs. Wilton Climbing  
15 Wed. Football at Rangers (V. Ski Club)  
16 Thurs Twistleton Scar, Climbing  
23 Thurs Farleton Crag, climbing  
29 Wed Treasure Hunt walking round Cock Robin Lane  
Catterall Bar-b-Q at Brooklyn.  
30 Thurs Filkington's Quarry, near Wilton.  
July 7 Thurs Fairy Steps - Beginners Meet Silverdale Area

## NEW MEMBERS

Mr G Morris, Mr C Thistlewaite, Miss J Hindley - introductory  
Miss L Waters, Mr E Craig Mr M Pickup - full

STOP PRESS - Liz Rawcliffe and Chris England have returned from their travels.

HUT AVAILABILITY - The huts are available to members as follows:

### NEWHOUSES

27 - 29 MAY  
10 - 12 JUNE  
17 - 19 JUNE  
24 - 26 JUNE  
8 - 10 JULY  
15 - 17 JULY

### STAIR

20 - 22 MAY  
3 - 5 JUNE  
17 - 19 JUNE  
1 - 3 JULY  
22 - 24 JULY