

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1983.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

The new traffic regulations concerning tachometers can have repercussions for our coach meets. To give us more flexibility the Committee has eliminated most of the picking-up points but there still comes a time when the coach driver has no option but to set off home regardless of whether all persons have returned.

On the recent Broughton to Coniston coach meet four climbers were very late down from the crag, two arriving back at the car park with only minutes to spare before the coach driver would have had no option but to set off home.

Whilst it is impossible to legislate for these unforeseen circumstances the Committee do urge people to have regard for the time they have to be back at the coach before undertaking another route and to get out their compasses before they get lost, rather than when they arrive at Brotherellkell Farm because under today's regulations, the coach driver will not be able to wait for ever. It was perhaps due to the stress of the occasion that some of the persons concerned failed to apologise for the inconvenience caused. Would those concerned please consider themselves reprimanded.

Whilst on this topic, it may also be appropriate to remind members that a meet leader's life is not always a happy or an easy one, especially when incidents such as that just recounted occur. We would simply point out therefore that at such times the responsibility rests with the meet leader and ask that they be allowed to deal with the matter as they think best and that others refrain from offering advice or direction unless specifically requested to do so, thank you.

Also the previous newsletter mentions that the new members are expected to attend at least four meets a year. This rule was not instituted out of pique by the Committee but as a move to try to encourage people, especially new members, to come out on the hill with us. We are after all a mountaineering club! It never ceases to amaze us how many people thrust money into our grubby paws and then never ever gain any benefit from it. The opportunities are legion. The club runs some excellent shows on Wednesdays during the winter months. All those so far this year have been of extremely high quality and well attended, but there have still been 120 or so people who have missed out, (though what we would do if they all turned up I don't know!). We are hoping to maintain the momentum with outdoor meets during the summer months and Dave Westby or Martin Dale can advise on the Thursday night rock climbing scene.

The outdoor syllabus too has picked up and many excellent well-attended meets have taken place in recent months and there is plenty more to go at during the coming year. Family meets are also very popular.

D. EARLE,
Club Secretary.

NEW MEMBERS

Chris Wade.	Alan Blackburn
Mr & Mrs. Nash	Miss Trudy Hoyle
Mike Donnelly	George Banks
Miss Lesley Days	Andrew Ollerton
Mr & Mrs. Hope	Mr. A. Peel
Mr. A. Dunhill	

are welcomed into the club as full members. Please keep in touch with us.

SOCIALS

May 25th Get out of that! Donald Duck demonstrates beginner's ropework at Denham Quarry. Contact Don on Cleveleys 669950

June 22nd Annual Football Match FMC v Ski Club. Usual venue Rangers' Ground 7.30 pm.

July 20th Annual Rounders Match FMC v Ski Club. Usual venue Rangers' Ground 7.30 pm.

BEGINNERS' ROCK CLIMBING

Quarry climbing Thursday evenings.
Contact Dave Westby on Blackpool 31806 or Martin Dale.

FUTURE MEETS

28th - 30th May	Arran, Camping	Phil Caley on Clev. 854521
5th June	Coach Hadrian's Wall	D. Nichol Clev. 869950
11-12th June	Hut to Hut	Barbara Sealey St. Annes 72905
13-14th June	Ladies W/E Langdale	K. Fielding Clev. 821944
2-3rd July	Family W/E Langdale	
9th July	Raft Race, Langdale	John Sealey, Clev 72905
10th July	Fell Race, Langdale	Barry Crook, Clitheroe 24629

HUT AVAILABILITY

June 3-4th	Langdale
10-11th	Both Hut to Hut
17-18th	Langdale
24-25th	Stair
July 1-2nd	Langdale Families
1-2nd	Stair
8-9th	Langdale
15-16th	Stair
22-23rd	Langdale
29-30th	Stair
August 5-6th	Langdale
12-13th	Chester Hut Llanberis
19-20th	Langdale

THE ADVERTISES

Wanted - Walking Boots, size 8. Contact M. Felley on Preston 713817.

RECIPROCAL RIGHTS

Members are reminded of the need to book with the secretary of the appropriate club before staying at their huts. See your club card for details.

Chester M.C. have requested that should their hut secretary not be available, our members should contact Pam Burton, Fairholme, Castle Street, Holt, Wrexham Tel Farndon 270386.

BEING THERE

Mr. John Porter, Millon Project Officer, Advice Centre, St. George's Road, Millon, Cumbria, has written informing us that his recently established office has been formed to advise people wishing to move to the Lake District about business opportunities in the area. The service is aimed specifically at those who would like to set up a business in Cumbria or move an established business to the area.

John can be contacted at the above address; Telephone 0657 3070.

LITHIUM CELL BATTERIES

Some members may be familiar with this new high capacity, high performance battery recently marketed in this country and used as a headlamp power source. There is concern, however, that in certain conditions these batteries may vent, releasing poisonous sulphur dioxide. The batteries are marketed under the brand name Eternacell and the following points should be noted:-

1. The cells are 3 volt not 1.5
2. Do not recharge
3. Do not short circuit
4. Do not overheat or dispose of in a fire.

Should anyone encounter problems with the batteries, they may care to contact the B.M.C. who would be interested to hear of their experiences.

B.M.C. NEWSOnich Hut - Alex MacIntyre Memorial

The Onich Hut is to be purchased jointly by the B.M.C. and the Mountaineering Council of Scotland. It will be dedicated as a memorial to Alex, former B.M.C. National Officer, who was killed attempting a new route on the South Face of Annapurna last October.

Repairs and renovations are urgently required at an estimated cost of £5,000.

It is hoped to raise this sum by an appeal throughout the climbing world. All donations should be made payable to B.M.C./Alex MacIntyre Memorial Fund and sent to:-

The B.M.C.
Crawford House,
Booth Street East,
Manchester,
M13 9AZ.

TRAINING COURSES

Rock Climbing, 3 day course, Peak District Age Limit: over 16
 Dates: July 17-19th, 20-22nd.
 Hut Accommodation
 Cost: £39.

Mountaineering on Skye, one week course.
 Sept. 3-10th and 10-17th.
 Glen Brittle Hut
 Cost £39.
 Book with Crawford House 061 273 5639.

A FURTHER MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

However amicably, and for whatever honourable reasons, one arranges with outside parties to share "their" hut, rather than go to the hut reserved for club members, there is almost always a come-back. Also the Club can lose considerable revenue through members arriving at the "wrong" hut and being cordially invited in. Instead of paying £14.00. per night the visiting club use our members presence as an excuse to pay only for beds occupied; a very useful expedient when they have had a poor turnout on their meet. A visit last year to the "wrong" hut by two Chester M.C. members cost us £20. in lost revenue.

Members are thus cordially reminded that failure to book a bed with the booking secretary can result in penalties being applied up to and including being banned from the huts.

DAVID EARLE,
 Club Secretary

HIGH ON ICE

The 1982/83 winter season again consisted mostly of disappointing forays to look at collapsing ice pitches which is both frustrating and does nothing to improve one's technique. Thus it happened that Joe Gibbin and myself found ourselves in Hollow Stones, looking at Moss Ghyll which, from a distance, was plastered, and with the only team on it at the foot of the last pitch. Now between us, Joe and I have accounted for perhaps 2 or 3 grade Vs but neither of us had led one, so the projected Gr IV which can in lean condition reach V, without any preliminary practice seemed a little ambitious but it was there, and not falling down, and so were we, so we decided to GO FOR IT. Garry who had come with us to do his first ice route, was hastily tied onto an accommodating party from Bristol and we set off.

Solo-ing up to the start with crampons on felt decidedly odd and I kept falling over my feet. 'Great' I thought. Now having done the route in summer I knew where the steep bits were so I hastily tied on for the first pitch. Up and out, right on really soggy snow with practically no help from the terra's, the normal point, to more left was completely blank of ice and footprints led rightwards further so follow them until a ramp led back left. Up this a little and place a wobbly friend - the ice had run out again - so a balance up and left on scratching crampons, that sound does nothing for my bottle, and a quick swash and grab onto a higher snowed-up ledge. The friend had come out!! And the wall I was now on was not far off vertical. A placement in a frozen sod, more rock scratching, and the angle eases a little, still no protection. I shout down to see how much rope there is and hear Joe shout 'O.K., I'm climbing!' - 'Steady Hella!' - and another 30' of frozen

turf and I'm there, tied down to a huge spike.

Joe creams it..... but he can't see the next pitch. I can and well pleased with having got my pitch in. His is about 40' long with only a smear of ice. Joe starts up by awkward chimneying for about 15' where with the tools biting into about 1/8th" of ice glaze ^{has to} hezhang off them to get past a slight bulge. More frantic scratching of crampon points and he is back on his feet, just. A peg on the right is lassoed and offers marginal protection for the last steep section. I blinked and Joe was up. By this time Paul Clark and mate have joined us and Paul is amazed at Joe's lead so much so he asks me to take his rope up and clip the peg. Joe is made up! I follow and am also very impressed. My lead again and its Collies Step. In normal winter conditions, I believe you climb a snow cone but there isn't one so up round the back of the chockstone, again with much grating. At this rate if we come across any hard ice the points will be so blunt they won't bite. At this point the party above us come abseiling down muttering about the lack of ice and how desperate it was. My resolve falters and I can only muster about 5% push. The lads get impatient so place a friend (the only thing that's going in!) and tension out across the wall heading for a patch of snow. More scraping, a totter and thud - the axe goes in superbly. Joe lowers me down onto it and a few quick moves up and the angle eases and I'm up. Everyone follows swinging across the tension move. All other parties by this time have abseiled off but we carry on; we still have about 1 1/2 hours of daylight!! The exit slabs are snow covered but no ice. Joe sets off climbing using his front points on small ledges and handholds with an occasional axe placement. He's going really well and is soon on top. 'Absolutely great', the pitch is really pleasant with just enough difficulty to make it interesting but not desperate, that is for the second. Joe only had two runners in 140'.

We'd done it and the view was great, a few snaps of Joe with a grin from bald patch to bald patch and then off down to Mickledore. That's about Gr III in reverse, solo.

As we tramp back over Seafell it goes dark but we just don't care; we are well pleased.

As it turned out that was the only route we did this winter but what a route. Absolutely five star and to be recommended.

M. TOLLEY.

CAIRNGORM MEET - EASTER 1983.

Early Easters are noted for being fairly unsettled so, bearing in mind the time and the place, the Cairngorms, we were fairly fortunate in the weather we enjoyed on the Muir of Inverey meet.

The hut is an excellent, very spacious affair with superb facilities and a much needed open coal/log fire as the temperature was well below freezing for most of the weekend. We shared the facilities with another club whose "Cordon Bleu" cooking utilised much more of the kitchen facilities than they should have, unlike the Editor's tin of sausage and beans, which provided very little drain on our combined resources.

Friday was very windy up top with snow showers. The extremely beautiful Dee valley was explored on foot with the ascent of some minor peaks thrown in. The atmosphere of remote and aloof grandeur of our surroundings impressed all those present on the meet.

Saturday's snow showers were of much briefer duration. Most of the meet elected to go to the pistes of Glenshee whilst the mountaineers chose the high tops. The 3pm snow shower consolidated into a blizzard however, and closed down the lifts but not before everyone had enjoyed a sunny days skiing. We declined to include Cairn Toul on the agenda and beat a retreat in the face of the crippling wind.

The drive to the pub Saturday night proved to be epic; crashing through the drifts with fingers crossed hoping not to get stuck, whilst outside a white maelstrom raged.

Sunday dawned quiet and sunny. All but one repaired to Glen Shee for sunshine and snow but not before Chris "Don Quixote" Ikin had tilted at the advancing snow plough and lost, fortunately not too heavily.

The Skiing Grastronome continued to build on his previous experience in France and the Chairman made rapid progress in his foray into "planking". With the warm sun and lack of crowds a good day was had by all, with the exception of Tom's landrover.

Monday dawned perfect. All, with the exception of the meet leader, elected for an easy day's fell walking. A hurried drive back to Glen Shee and such waving of spanners effected a repair of sorts and after a tow life was restored. Back at the hut 11.30 am seemed a late time to be starting anything serious. Derry Cairngorm was reached by late afternoon before it seemed sensible to return via the Leibeig Valley and the Lairig Chru. The air was warm and windless. The Devil's Point reared up opposite, guarding the southern entrance to the Lairig proper, and led the eye to the graceful peak of Cairn Toul and its elegant cup-shaped corrie. Next came the magnificent huge Garbh Coire of Braeriach whilst in front the cliffs of Coire Sputan Dearg cleared the sky to the summit of Ben Mac Dui. From this a delicate snow arête led due south to the Leibeig river. Approaching darkness and the long drive home reluctantly won the day.

D. EARLE.
Club Secretary.