

SUMMER FUN EDITION

THE EDITOR SPEAKS!

"Summer? It were more like middle o'March!" I heard one climber say the other day.

In this hot issue we have two warming articles from Dave Earle. Guaranteed to bring out the sun, and one from Terry O'Neill which will have you reaching for that suntan cream!! Back in the dullest parts of England, someone calling him or herself Juggy McThuggery or something like that tries to let us know what the Fylde members have been doing, or not doing, in deepest Sheffield.

We have newsletter debuts from the wonderful Mary Aspin, Mark Harding and one from Sean "Psycho" Smith on the delights of drinking on the Isle of Arran, so let's don the shades, climb on the surfboard and hang ten on the crest of a fun-packed newsletter!

Martin Dale

NEW MEMBERS

The following are welcomed as introductory members:

M.J. Penn	74 Beech Avenue, Warton.
(Big Bad)John J.Crahan	20 Victoria Road, Poulton-le-Fylde.
David Wood	8A Lowther Terrace, Lytham.
Jeremy P.Levey	c/o School Psychological Service, Central School Clinic, Whitegate Drive, Blackpool.

FULL MEMBERS:

Stuart Gascoyne & Yvonne Williams	40 South View Road, Sheffield.
Steve Swindells	149 Marsden Road, Blackpool, FY4 3DT. (Tel. 67867)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Carol Waterhouse	15 Highfield Avenue, Headington, Oxford.
Tom Carroll	Sower Carr Farm, Hambleton. Tel. 701344.
Rob Lewis	139 Speakman Road, Dentons Green, St.Helens, Merseyside, WA10 6TF.
Paul Clarke & Trudy Hoyle	10 Cardigan Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 3AG. Tel.740903.
Andy Dunhill	49 Wolseley Gardens, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Martin Dale can be contacted on Ext. 6402 at Blackpool 856123 from 22.7.85 (Different Ext. No. than on syllabus)

All members are requested to notify as soon as possible the Secretary when changing addresses; if they are going to at all, as an up-to-date Members' Address List is imminent. Please notify the Secretary of any changes, wrong spellings etc..

HUT AVAILABILITY.

2-3	August	Stair
9-10	"	Langdale & Stair
16-17	"	Chester Hut
23-25	"	Langdale
23-25	"	Stair, families
30-31	"	Stair
6-7	Sept.	Langdale
13-14	"	Stair
20-21	"	Langdale
27-28	"	Stair
27-28	"	Langdale, families
4-5	Oct.	Langdale
11-12	"	Stair
18-19	"	Langdale
25-26	"	Stair

School Holidays

The hut is available mid-week as follows:

Mon. 29	July	-	Thurs	1st	August	Stair
Mon. 5	Aug	-	Thurs	15	August	Stair
Mon. 12	Aug	-	Tues.	13	August	Langdale
Mon. 19	Aug	-	Thurs	22	August	both Huts
Mon. 26	Aug	-	Thurs	29	August	both Huts
Mon. 1	Sept.	-	Thurs	5	Sept.	both Huts

Always book with John Wiseman - Tel.826594.

NEW LOCKS FOR BOTH HUTS.

Please Note: New Locks are to be fitted to both Huts in the near future. The provisional weekend for change is 28/29th September. This will leave you only needing one key for both Huts. Check that you have got your new key with John Wiseman after that date. For further details watch these pages.

SOCIALS

Boozing Bike Ride - 15th August, Wednesday, at 7 pm. in the Buccaneer Car Park

(if the weather is bad the meet will run on 21st August at same time and same place) Any queries ring: Kath Fielding (821944)

Wed. 18th September - "Alpine Slides" Pete Roscoe at the Buccaneer, 8.30 pm.

Wed. 2nd October - Lakeland Rock Videos.

Your chance to see the lakeland rock series again, or for the first time. At the Buccaneer, 8.30 pm.

FUTURE OUTDOOR MEETS

Aug. 3-4th PILLAR MEET Camping/Bivi. Meet Leader: Al Peel Tel. 51334 (or work no. 856161, Ext.5030)

Here's a weekend for the real climber. Two days up at Pillar Rock, Ennerdale but only one walk in and one out. What's the point of slogging back to the hut? Why not bivi out in the romantic atmosphere overlooking Ennerdale. A meet for climbers of all grades due to a multitude of classic routes throughout the grades. (Stair Hut is free for the wimps-ed)

Aug. 17 - 18th CHESTER HUT, LLANBERIS. Meet Leader: Kevin Stephens Tel. Freckleton 634189.

A magnificent hut where we've already had one successful meet this year. A report on this will be found in these pages. Is there enough summer left for us to get on Cloggy? Will Kevin go for a finger on his other finger - or will someone do it for him?

Loads of brilliant walking abounds in Snowdonia. Here's your chance to break away from the good old Lake District and sample some different territory.

Aug. 24-26th FAMILY WEEKEND Stair Hut. Beat on the Brat, with Dave Earle.

Aug. 24-30th LUNDY

Fully subscribed. (some people still owe me some money, Ed.)

Sept 7-8th "GOURMET" MEMBERS' MEET Little Langdale Hut.
Meet Leader: Dave Earle, Tel.890283,
or Fleetwood 77123 during the day, Ext.337)

You've seen his emaciated frame. You've marvelled at his consumption of lemon curd and chocolate spread butties. How does he do it? Why doesn't he put on weight? Find out the answers to these questions, and to many more besides by coming along to the members' meet at Little Langdale over the weekend of Sept 7th and 8th (The Ed.'s birthday!!)

These meets have certainly proved popular and have brought the various factions of the Club together for some very convivial evenings. The only regret is that Andy Dunhill (and his famous curry) will not be leading the meet but a meal of sorts will be produced somehow by someone. Soup, and the wine will be provided by Peter Roscoe so at least two courses will be palatable. Bookings to Dave Earle. Phone number is as above. Please don't leave it to the last minute to book as the food has to be sorted out beforehand and besides you may even be lucky enough to be too late.

Dave Earle (the fastest thing
in Poulton with two
legs!)

Sept. 14-15th Derbyshire, Alstonfield.

Meet Leader: Phil Caley, Tel.854521.

A chance to sample the delights of Dovedale and Derbyshire. Beautiful walking country in the valleys and tors of this part of the Peak District. Accommodation in what must be a new hut (the old one was demolished last year). Just a stagger across the court yard from the George. A pub where licencing laws don't seem to exist; sells good ale too.

Sept. 22nd COACH MEET : MALHAM TO HORTON.

Meet Leader: Pete Roscoe, Tel.43970

The coach will stop at Malham for the climbers and any one who wishes to walk in the area. A good opportunity to tick off a good part of the Pennine Way. The new Yorkshire Guide Book may have had something to do with making Malham "the crag of the year" but it does hold some of 'the best routes in the world'. Book early to avoid disappointment with the Bergfuhrer!

Sept. 28-29th FAMILY WEEKEND: LITTLE LANGDALE.

ADVERT: FOR SALE. Dolomite Moac Climbing Boots. Never worn.
Size 42 - £25.
Apply Chris Ikin on Tel.866698 (work: on
786999, Ext. 323).

EPIC BOOKS

New epic books have recently been installed at both Huts. It is hoped that these will fill up with constructive relevant accounts of what we all are up to on't hill and when full, not just disappear, but be left there for others in the future to read and see what active souls we old buggers were back in the old days of "friends" and "chalk bags".

FIRES AT THE HUTS

It has come to the notice of the committee that fires have been lit outside the huts recently (mostly at Stair). This activity must be frowned upon. Given a hot dry summer like last year, these fires could easily get out of hand. We don't want to return from the pub to find that our hut has burnt down!

HOUSE IN THE HOUSE

A mouse, tentatively called Norman, has been roaming about Little Langdale recently. The committee did think of getting a club cat to deal with the situation but settled for a "Little Nipper" instead.

Reports have recently filtered through that Norman has bit the cheese but he may well be still at large. Any sightings should be reported to Chief Cat, Phil Caley.

EVEN MORE CHEAP GEAR

The Editor holds a price list for Gocle Outdoor Pursuits who sell climbing gear etc. at reasonable prices and also sell Berghaus seconds and discontinued lines cheap.

CAREFUL WITH THAT AXE, KEVIN!

On the recent Vagabonds Hut meet young Kevin Stephens made an audacious attempt to retain the mug of the year for the second year running. Kevin was chopping wood for the fire when he realised one of his fingers was missing!! Thankfully the missing bit was found and has now been grafted back on (You thought Psycho was bad with an axe?!)

Another candidate for the mug must be Bill Macrae. Bill, being a Scot, was interested whilst in Fishers at Keswick by a climbing guidebook to the southern Grampians. Having no price on it Bill offered the shop assistant two quid for it. The assistant agreed and Bill raced out of the shop with his prize find. It was not until later that Bill discovered that the southern Grampians are actually in Australia!

Mick Tolley must also get a mention for his full body flop in to the ocean when sea level traversing recently in Scotland with Andy Dunhill and Tony Welsh.

MANAGER SACKED, COACH LEAVES IN DISGUST AS TEAM LOSES AGAIN!

The F.M.C. have done it again! After leading one-nil in the first half thanks to a goal from a young fielding, they threw it away first one-all then two-one. By half-time they still looked in command but Ski Club reinforcements in the second half soon had the score looking more reasonable 7-1!! A late consolation goal from Smith could not lift the Fylde to a late rally. Final score

THE 3-EYED SPY (incorporating Peak District News)

The appalling weather experienced by the Easter Pembroke Team has been typical of this year's cragging season so far. As soon as you go back to work after a weekend or a trip, the weather improves only to get worse again by the following Friday. The Paul Clarke/Greenland Team managed very little in their week in Pembroke and soon scuttled off back to Yorkshire where the pickings were a little more ripe. The Blackpool team hung on and eventually the weather got a bit better allowing Phil Caley, Sean Smith and Simon Whittaker to get some VS's in on St. Govan's Head, the best being Frontline. Martin Dale and Al Peel managed an ascent of the Brilliant Surprise Attack E2 at Mewsford, sharing the loads. They also did some easier classics before leaving in disgust a day early.

The first Wales meet to the Vags Hut resulted in little else except Kevin Stephens' amazing feats with an axe. Several routes were done on Tremadoc by the eleven strong team including Technical Master E3 6A. Tall Dwarfs E3 6A Pincushion E2 5C and Terragua E2 6A. Craigy Forwen was visited on Sunday but was too cold. The Beginners' Meet in late April produced some new keen climbers who coped well with the blizzards and freezing weather. New boys Paul Taylor and Dave Woods both did well doing Shepherds Chimney (Severe) in fine style. John Crahan did the hardest route of its grade in the world on Saturday at Castle Rock in No Name (Mod.) and consequently was so pumped out that he didn't bother with any more. Chris Wade coped like a veteran both days. Sunday saw Eagle Front VS climbed by Martin Dale, Tom Knowles and Al Peel with Mick Van Gulik finishing in a white-out. The others also retreated off Grey Crags. The man who suggested the venue, Pete Roscoe, was not to be found!! Neither was Bill Peascod's champagne.

May Day was again poor with only one decent day spent on Castle Rock of Triermain with almost every one else in the Lakes. Paul Clarke climbing with Mick Tolley did Harley Face E1, Ted Cheasby E2 and Gazebo HVS.

Kevin Stephens climbed Agony HVS with one finger! less than everyone else and Martin Dale got some flak for missing the bottom pitch off Last Laugh E3 6B; the crux on which he climbed clean.

The next weekend made up for it for the Lakes Lads. Al Peel and Sean Smith climbed Last Rites, E1 and the Lastest HVS on Black Crag whilst Martin Dale led a Preston youth up Grand Alliance E3 6A. On the Sunday Martin and Al swapped leads on Athanor E3 6A, 5C, 5B and Al led Go Between E2 5C on Quayfoot. Obviously going well Al also led Brackenclock E2 5C on Pavey Ark the weekend after. Kevin Stephens got a little higher on Eastern Hammer E3 6A before admitting defeat in adverse conditions. Al Peel and Martin Dale slipped out midweek and grabbed a good haul of "E" points clocking up ascents of Paladin E3 5C, on White Ghyll, Astra E2 5B and Eclipse E4 6A on Pavey Ark. They also bumped into Steve McDonald being dragged around White Ghyll by a suntanned Mick Hulme!

It rained on Arran but down in Wales, Paul Clarke and Paul Greenland knocked off Mayfair E3/5 6B and the Bloods E5 6B at Pen Trwyn and Great Wall E4 6A at Forwyn. Also in attendance were Roger Brookes, Andy Dunhill, Mick Tolley and James Greaves who were not idle. In fact Mick Tolley gained Paul's recommendation for "Sweaty Head of the Year" for a fine froth on Mojo E1 at Forwyn. Paul doesn't reckon that this fine jibber will be beaten this year.

On the limestone front the two Pauls have been knocking on dead in Yorkshire where "all the best routes in the World" are. At Malham they did Yosemite Wall E5 6A, Gorgon Direct E4 6B, Friday 13th E3 6A, Warspite E3 6A, Going Dutch E3 6A, Ship of Fools E4 6B and Doubting Thomas E5 6B. The Jim Grin E4 6B at Trollers Gill and a lot of routes on Kilnsey including Balas E4 6B and Talons E4 6B. All this activity enticed Martin, Al and Mick Tolley to spend a day on Attermire where the grades were found to be "a bit stiff". Not put off by this Martin returned and with the Guru himself, Paul Clarke and Roger Brookes climbing Face Route E3 6A at Gordale and also Crossbones E25C at Malham with Roger in the lead. The day after Paul Trudy and Martin went on the FMC Bruce Springsteen Meet, also attended by Steve Wall.

Back in the Lakes Mark and Viv Broughton had a good week knocking off some good E1s. Also there that week was Bob Henson and partner who had also done some impressive E1s and 2s. Martin Dale and James Greaves did Humdrum E3 5C and Central Pillar E2 5B on Esk as did Kevin making his comeback from the bad finger injury. However, he had to have the next day off through bad sunburn!! Andy Dunhill hit the scene with a dodgy set of knees again and proceeded to go for the newly developed small crags such as the excellent Bleak How down Langstrath. Martin Dale joined in visiting Mart Grag, Deepdale with a revitalised Steve Swindells. Other crags visited included Grange Crags, Bowrowdale, Burnt Crags, Duddon, where Dave Sharples made a reappearance, Swirl Crags, Thirlmere and Blea Crag, Basedale where had Martin soloed a new route and an E4! Martin with Al Peel and Roger Brookes spent a rather poor week in the Lakes in June climbing Nagasaki Grooves E4 6B. Al and Roger fared better doing Rain Maker E1, Aardwark E1 and Kudos E2 on Pavey, Exclusion Zone E2 on Gt. End and Voyage E3 5C on Goat. Mark Harding hit Lakes Rock at last climbing Vertigo E2 5C and Prana E3 5C with Al Peel. Alan Blackburn, Bob (Mr. Chalk) Killen, Simon Whittaker and John Hickman have also been beavering away on the VS's.

Falling off seems to be back in fashion. Paul Clarke does it all the time! Roger Brookes is also doing a bit taking a good 20ft off the first bit of Footless Crow E4 6B Goat Crag. During an abortive attempt with Martin Dale, Phil Caley has been getting in some practice, going a few feet off Samson HVS on High Crag, Buttermore. Even newcomers take lobs! Paul Taylor took his first leader fall off a V. Diff. in Wilton 3 recently. Talking of Wilton, regular trips have been made this summer with Dave Woods and Jeremy Levey leading the charge along with John Hickman and Alan Blackburn who managed a seized ascent of Thresher VS in Wilton 2. Paul Reid has put in an appearance seconding Martin Dale up several E1s and E2s. Martin also soloed the Swine E3 6B.

In the other areas it's the women who have been getting up the routes. Carol Bamber led Jean Jeanie Vs at and Trudy Hoyle a 5B V. Diff. at Attermire! Anne Goward has also been out doing some bouldering up in the north east where the biggest woman of them all, Andy Dunhill, has been doing a bit, Sandy Crack I believe.

New route fever has hit the Club! Paul Clarke and Paul Greenland have put up a route at Malham. On the Left Wing, left of Ship of Fools it weighs in at E3 6A and is called Box of Tools. Martin Dale soloed a new route on Blea Crag, Basedale called No Flange for the Poor E1 5B. It involved a bit of cleaning (Wire brush in teeth) but has no protection. Martin also spent 6 hours on the end of a rope cleaning up a route on Pavey Ark. Climbed with

Roger Brookes; the route takes the slab left of Brackenclocks' second pitch and then a direct line up the wall above. No name has been decided on yet but the grade is E3 6A, 5C, 5B. It was apparently on Rick Graham's list, so it was definitely thieved from under the locals' noses. Roger himself has just returned from Malta where he climbed a whole stack of new routes. Roger reports that there are still hundreds of new routes ready for the picking on completely virgin cliffs. He is also in the process of writing a new route supplement to the island, and hopefully an article for this rag! Also on the foreign front Andy Blaylock has been hitting the 'Piles' (Arapiles, Ed) with the best of em down under. Andy has been dossing at top Aussie climber, Kim Carrigan's house and has done a few routes. Chris Thistlethwaite has also been active climbing in the Danube Valley.

Boring this lot isn't it? Hey well, here comes some more drivel from our Peak District correspondent, Jug Thugnasty. I'll see you next time, you ballet tighted weirdos.

Your French correspondent,

Jean Marc - Flared Trouser.

PEAK DISTRICT NEWS

Whilst there is no doubt that the majority of the club's climbers have their activities centred around Lakeland rock and the golden rule there is a small, but not inconsequential, group of devotees who have made Sheffield their base. These notes are intended to keep people on the other side of the Yorks/Lancs border in touch with what has been going on over here in the last few months.

The rockclimbing year started poorly with much rain and then snow and ice; the latter enabling Roger Brookes to make his annual solo ascent of Kinder Downfall. Andy Lewandowski meanwhile got a few days, or rather nights, in cross country skiing. In the absence of an indoor climbing wall others had to be content with bouldering on Red Lane, though recent arrival James Greaves has developed his own circuit round the outside of his student house. (very handy for a brew, eh Phil?)

The bad weather continued well into the spring, but those in the know left for the sunnier climes of Malta, much to the chagrin of those left behind who got dumped on by another lot of snow! Eventually the weather began to improve in May and people started getting out more. James Greaves led Long Tall Salley at Burbage - his first extreme lead, a creditable effort even with his enormous reach. Meanwhile Mark Jackson who had been building on a number of good H.V.S. leads also did his first E1 on the sharp end, Yosemite Wall at Stanage. Not an easy route in anyone's book - it found Stuart Gascoyne failing on it a few days later.

Speaking of Monsieur Gascoyne it is rumoured that he is trying to make a comeback into 'the Big Time'. He's currently engaged in a strict dieting routine involving no cheese or beer, and just half a lager per round! Some say he is modelling himself on Geraldine Taylor, but he will have to do some more jaw exercises if he is to get into her league. (Ask Mick Tolley, he had his ear bent for half an hour on Carnage)

Visiting German climber, Stefan Shiltner, was banished to the Peak after being overheard to say that he thought that Malham, Yorkshire's new 'supercrag', was not as good as Stanage Edge! His first port of call though was High Tor at Matlock where he enjoyed ascents of Original Route and Debauchery in blazing sunshine which made the cliff seem even more like the south of France than it usually is. On the same day, Stuart Gascoyne and Paul Greenland had to be top roped out of trouble on Darius E2 and Bastille E5 respectively by 'International Rescues' - Roger 'Scott' Brookes (T bird 1) and Paul 'Virgil' Clarke (T bird 2).

The weekend saw the continuance of the first hot spell this summer and attention became focussed on the eastern edges due to the recent publication of the new Derwent Gritstone guide. Curbar provided its usual problems for a large team of nobs; namely unrelenting steepness, strenuousness and excruciating roughness. Pauls - Clarke and Greenland - had a hard time on MoonWalk (E4 6A) and Moon Crack (E4 6B), whilst after struggling on a desperate H.V.S. Roger Brookes and Andy Lewandowski failed to lead Fidgit (E1 6A). A top rope was set up and the trick was found, a poor horizontal jam was discovered where a friend had been which enabled one to make a mighty reach for a good hold. (The grade was found to vary according to one's height: Paul G, E2 5C, Roger B. E2 6A, Andy Lev. E? 6B').

Sunday saw a happier team of sun worshippers and icecream lickers descend on that esoteric edge - Gardoms. Here Stefan, Andy, Roger and Mark ascended Crottle and Whillans Blind Variant to Gardoms Unconquerable, both E1 5B. Andy then talked a reluctant Mr. Brookes into leading Crocodile, a bold and poorly protected E3 with a snappy landing, which had everyone else jumping at the chance of a top rope. A mass ascent of the Classic Moyers' Buttress with Mark, Roger and Stuart leading was only interrupted by a break for icecreams. Roger and Andy finished the day off and themselves with an ascent of Four Horse Men (E2).

The following evening saw the last of the sunshine for a while but gave Roger and Andy just enough time to climb Quietus (E2), a spectacular Joe Brown roof route and a long held ambition for this pair.

The return of the rains put a damper on the rest of the week and such things as examinations interrupted some people's climbing activity. Andy and Roger managed to achieve another long awaited ascent by doing Adjudicator Wall (E3) in Dovedale, and more recently have been ticking off a long list of good routes on Stanage including Archangel (E3), Stanleyville, (E3) Censor (E3), and Calvary (E4). Stuart has also been going well leading The Dangler (E2) and Billy Whizz (E2) at Lawrencefield.

At the moment Mark Jackson is away mountaineering in the Bregalia and Paul Greenland is getting set to leave Sheffield and move up to Leeds. Stuart Gascoyne is also planning to leave some time in September as is Roger Brookes. However, Andy Lewandowski, James Greaves and Mark should be remaining and next year hopefully will see the return of Alan Peel (if he passed his exams that is) to keep alive the Sheffield section of the F.M.C..

From your Peak correspondent,

Jus Thugnasty.

DON'T JUST THINK, FOLLOW ME. (Easter Meet 1985)

For those who weren't rock gymnasts ensconced in Pembroke the Club arranged a hut swap with the Gloucester M.C. which resulted in their Deiniolen hut being made available to us over the 4 day Easter Bank Holiday. With the days lengthening, and spring in the air what could be better than all that rock to go at, vastly superior in every way shape and form to Lakeland rock climbing. Alas, reality proved somewhat different. The hut itself is somewhat difficult to find. The rest of the meet were duly grateful to have arrived during daylight on Friday or were escorted direct from the pub Friday night. They might otherwise still be looking for it at May Day! However, once found it proved adequate. The canoeists moved in at one end, the Warnsleys, direct from a week on Anglesey, took up residence in the Bridal Suite and the rock tigers slept nearest the real fire. The drying room fortunately proved adequate to the task. Friday was terrible, and a retreat to Joe Browns cost the meet leader an arm and a leg. He even ended up buying a pair of double boots for some one with no money and no hair. The rock climbing was no better with the crags continually swept by icy winds and hail showers. Ogwen was looked at, climbed upon, but not enjoyed. The canoeists presumably had a good time.

Saturday was no better. The Bridal Suite went tramping big hills, as they did on Sunday too, and the rock tigers accepted a lift to Twarddur Bay on Anglesey where they gratefully walked round the coast and were picked up at Holyhead. Even the Bergfuhrer wasn't consigning his home made boat to those waters and set off in search of calmer climes. Even the moderate improvement on the other side of the island didn't prevent him disappearing into a huge wave with the classic remark: 'heads this time'.

Sunday was definitely a rock day. A weather pattern had been sussed out and it was definitely better in the afternoon. Minor skirmishing took us up to the early afternoon and then it was a quick dash and total commitment to the route. We were then hosed down by hailstones for about a quarter of an hour quite unable to do anything about it. Hysterical laughter followed us back to the car. We found even the canoeists had been able to remain drier.

Monday saw the parting of the ways. Gary stayed on hoping for better things, two went walking round Llangollen where the weather was a little kinder and everyone else got wet again.

A meet noted for its good companionship, unfailing good humour, crowded pubs, the Bergfuhrer's dislike of live music and his ability to con us into our own private bar in the middle of Llanberis, but precious little good weather.

Dave Earle.

CORRIS MEET May 10/11th

This has become a bit of a pilgrimage, what with having an excellent hut in good surroundings, quiet and unspoiled, and one of the finest pubs in Wales within easy walking distance. The usual team set off, minus the meet leader who was nursing his poorly sick wife. We all hope she is up and fighting fit soon. Heroic driving got us dinner at Llandogla and the last few pints at Corris where we teamed up with the rest of the party.

Saturday was excellent and we were soon on our way to making the slowest ever ascent of Cader Idris. A cold wind kept us moving once on the top however and we were coming off the eastern end of the main ridge within the hour from the main summit. Views were a little hazy but still none the less very enjoyable. We made our way back to the hut down a subsidiary valley which makes a pleasant change, and is quite sylvan in places, and later went round to pick up the vehicles.

Saturday night in the Slaters Arms brought us face to face with a real 'blast from the past' in the shape of Peter Marcus Ray, apparently without whip, and without his Austin A55 which must have been a million years old when I last saw it. The 'best beer in Wales' and convivial company ensured an enjoyable night all round.

Sunday dawned even better and a trip to the Rhinogs from the Harlech side was decided upon. The temperature change between Barmouth and Nant col was quite stunning and in fact the bitter wind stayed with us but the clouds remained high and hazy views were the order throughout the day.

After Tryfan the Rhinogs must give the roughest walking in Wales and with some savage descents and vicious climbs. Not without reason did we stumble across a sign on which some wag had deleted Rhinogs and inserted 'purgatory'. All in all a tough day was enjoyed or endured by all. The slabs of Y Letthr and Llyn Y Hiewel came at the right time to lift the spirits and the cars were eventually regained. Two people were seen reasonably close to and three were seen in the far distance during the whole day so remote and extremely rugged is the terrain.

The customary stop at Llandegla for excellent food and beer rounded off a perfect weekend in fine style.

Dave Earle.

SKYE May 1985.

"Oh the far Cuillins are pulling me away
As step I with the sunlight for my load"

The writer of that old song would be amazed to know how many the Cuillin now attract to Skye. In spite of the long distances most parties have to travel, the uncertain weather and the paucity of fleshpots, early summer sees crowds of devotees irresistibly drawn by the magnetic rocks. The members of the F.M.C. are no exception to this rule, and May 1985 saw six members comfortably ensconced in a cottage at Dunan, a couple of miles west of Broadford.

On this occasion they were very lucky with the weather, every day except the last, favouring excursions. On Sunday an ascent of Bruach na Frithe was made, with some of the party returning by Sgurr a' Bhasteir, others continuing over Am Basteir via Callie's Ledge and descending into Coire a' Bhasteir. On Monday the party traversed Sgurr Nan Each, Clach Glas, and Blaven, a wonderful expedition, highly recommended to those not fortunate enough to have experienced it. It truly reflects the guide book description of the most enjoyable excursions on Skye, in places even more exposed than the main Cuillin ridge. Christine Ikin really came into her own on this expedition, revealing an unsuspected ability to skip over the rock with nonchalant ease, seemingly indifferent to the voids all around her. Three members continued down the south ridge of Blaven, returning over the bealach into Coire Uaigneich, whilst the remainder descended via the tourist route.

Tuesday proved the hottest day of all with a cloudless sky, views to the Outer Hebrides, and the rock so hot it seemed to scorch the fingers. In these circumstances Barry Crook made a fine lead of Naismith's route (V.Diff.), despite the propensity of his second, who had never used a sticht plate before, to get the rope into a tangled web of knitting on every opportunity. Inspired by this, a party of four decided to attempt Sgurr Alasdair, the highest mountain in the Cuillin, via Abraham's route (Diff.) the following day. Unfortunately part of this route has been carried away by a rockfall, but this fact was only discovered belatedly. In the event the guide book description took the party too far to the left, overlooking the Alasdair stone shoot, and they finished up on Stone Shoot Face (Very Severe). This route was eventually forced, thanks again to a courageous lead by Barry, all the more commendable since the boots he was wearing appeared to date from the time of the first ascent (1937)!

All members should note the "disappearance" of part of Abraham's route, since it is very easy to take a wrong line and find oneself in difficulties. Attempting to reverse Stone Shoot Face would present real problems. An abseil into the stone shoot itself does not appear feasible, since the face overhangs alarmingly, and the drop is in excess of any normal rope length.

On Thursday an ascent of the Pinnacle Ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean was accomplished, some again including Am Basteir, before descending from the Bealach a' Bhasteir.

Unfortunately the final day proved very wet and conditions did not permit climbing. A visit to Portree is all that can be claimed, but no one can grumble if a visit to Skye produces five climbing days out of six.

The cottage at which the party stayed was first class, with all mod. cons and shore line to boot, with a beautiful view towards Scalpay. Although not ideally situated for Glen Brittle it is very conveniently placed for the northern end of the main Cuillin ridge, and the Blaven area can be reached quite easily.

Truly a holiday to remember.

Terry O'Neill

RAINING PLEASURE

Arran is an interesting and beautiful island and though small has plenty to offer - golf, walking, climbing, deer-stalking, cycling, geological nirvana and beer drinking. Not that this last sport has any prevalence in anybody's plans when they go to Arran; not when there are ridge walks connecting excellent hills like Goat Fell, Cir Mhor, Beinn Tarsuinn and others or climbing on the Rosa Slabs, the cliffs of Cir Mhor or Glenn Sannox. No, members of the F.M.C. don't waste their time in dingy, smoky bars while there is still a chance to get bonighted or lost in the hills. They're out there!

Arranging a meet is usually a case of finding out who wants to go, who has cars, who lives where and then fixing it so everybody is happy, more or less. In this case there were about ten people to one car and so people turned up at Glenn Rosa campsite in dribs and drabs over a few days, the transport problem being half

sorted by loads of people suddenly having cars but living all over the Fylde and only a day to go.

Dave Woods and I arrived in Brodick at 2pm on the Friday afternoon thinking of hiring the obligatory push bikes to ride to the campsite and then go walking. We started off down the main street and were confronted by a team of nobs on scooters who had arrived hours before we had and who were thinking that it might rain and anyway, there were some good pubs over the other side of the island.

Our thoughts turned this way too, but after reflecting we wouldn't have time - maybe tomorrow! Shortly after this we were in a taxi being driven to the Rosa campsite after finding out that hiring bicycles to climbers on Arran is not a going concern because bikes either don't return or they return in disguise as bits of scrap metal.

This could have really us up as we were relying on transport to get food and sustenance in the village. So upon returning to Brodick we lied to a small man that we were staying at a hotel down the road and that the rucksacks full of food were really full of rocks. He believed us and only charged us four times the normal deposit and also gave us the worst bikes. We were really getting into the swing of things!

The next day we awoke with thick heads and it was decided to walk down Glenn Rosa and do loads of routes on Cir Mhor. The day was warm and close, and large clouds - black ones? - threatened ominously in the south. By the time we had all walked/cycled our ways down the Glenn and to the foot of the crags, the said clouds had taken pity on us and were cooling us down with rain. There we were, twelve of us sat under a boulder staring dismally at the ground. "Well, what shall we do then?" says a voice. "Er, it's too wet to climb", says another. "Well, we can't walk up here and not do anything", says the first voice. Everybody looks at each other and eventually there are five of us slowly scrabbling our way up. Sou'wester Slabs in the pouring rain, everyone else having retreated back to the tents.

Despite the inclement weather the route was very enjoyable having the feeling of a big mountain route somewhere abroad (I'm not saying where because I don't think there's anything else like it) what with mist and clag encircling the crag.

After a very wet, uncomfortable walk back down the valley to the pushbikes and a wet ride back to the campsite I was amazed to find that six more members had arrived - Big Nob and wife and B.M.W., Paul Taylor and his brother (who'd crossed a river to get to the campsite due to mis-directions) and Tom and Chris Walmsley. After tea everyone made for the Ormidale and the "Disco" and managed to make complete fools of themselves on the dance floor.

Saturday morning was grim. It looked to be worse than the previous day and already there was rain in the air. The Nobs decided to go on a bike ride whilst Heven and Co. drove round the island and the other teams either went walking or hunting cream tea shops. The weather didn't know what to do and our little team ended up in a thirteen hour session in some of the local Bars. It's good to think that everybody else did their little bit though, getting soaked again down Glenn Rosa. The night time frivolities were similar to the previous one except for the hogs everyone copped for!

Tuesday proved the hottest day of all with a cloudless sky, views to the Outer Hebrides, and the rock so hot it seemed to scorch the fingers. In these circumstances Barry Crook made a fine lead of Malsmith's route (V.Diff.), despite the propensity of his second, who had never used a sticht plate before, to get the rope into a tangled web of knitting on every opportunity. Inspired by this, a party of four decided to attempt Sgurr Alasdair, the highest mountain in the Cuillin, via Abraham's route (Diff.) the following day. Unfortunately part of this route has been carried away by a rockfall, but this fact was only discovered belatedly. In the event the guide book description took the party too far to the left, overlooking the Alasdair stone shoot, and they finished up on Stone Shoot Face (Very Severe). This route was eventually forced, thanks again to a courageous lead by Barry, all the more commendable since the boots he was wearing appeared to date from the time of the first ascent (1937)!

All members should note the "disappearance" of part of Abraham's route, since it is very easy to take a wrong line and find oneself in difficulties. Attempting to reverse Stone Shoot Face would present real problems. An abseil into the stone shoot itself does not appear feasible, since the face overhangs alarmingly, and the drop is in excess of any normal rope length.

On Thursday an ascent of the Pinnacle Ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean was accomplished, some again including Am Basteir, before descending from the Bealach a' Bhasteir.

Unfortunately the final day proved very wet and conditions did not permit climbing. A visit to Portree is all that can be claimed, but no one can grumble if a visit to Skye produces five climbing days out of six.

The cottage at which the party stayed was first class, with all mod. cons and shore line to boot, with a beautiful view towards Scalpay. Although not ideally situated for Glen Brittle it is very conveniently placed for the northern end of the main Cuillin ridge, and the Blaven area can be reached quite easily.

Truly a holiday to remember.

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Monday morning arrived all too quickly along with the rain and most people were glad to be on the ferry going back to sanity and sobriety. A few people stayed on and braved the weather but overall the meet was somewhat of a wash-out in more ways than one.

If the weather ever bucks up I think Arran is a definite next time.

The Meet Leader (Sixteen Pint Smith)

HUT EXCHANGE MEET TO LLANBERIS 14-16th June.

The trip started well, a sunny Friday afternoon and Dave Woods John Hickman and Mark Harding could all escape from work early. The initial euphoria came to an abrupt halt with a forty minute jam on the M.6; "essential" major road works and not a workman in sight! Eventually they arrived at Dinbren crag in the Eglwysey valley. Mark nipped down a grass bank to avoid the tourist traffic whilst relieving himself. How unfortunate, a sheep had got its head caught in a wire fence. The poor animal flew into a state of frenzied panic as Mark got there. Fortunately, John obviously experienced in these matters, straddled the stricken sheep from behind and with a hefty pull, released it. By the time Dave arrived with his wellies it was all over. A few routes were ascended; Sally in Pink V.S., Astrola V.S. and Mark finished off with Waltz in Black E4.

The hut in Llanberis was well packed. Kevin Stephens, Sean Smith and Steve Swindells arrived, having refused a "look in" at the Bryn Trych. Dave Earle's passengers were Donald Duck, Christine Walmsley and Steve Sherrington.

Saturday arrived and the Earle team set off on a mega walk comprising four or five of the fourteen 3,000ft peaks. Don became separated from the group after the slog up to Tryfan from Ogwen but using his formidable, natural sense of direction he steamed off, head down, back towards the A5. The others watched in amazement as he wandered in ever-decreasing circles over the slopes of Tryfan. John and Dave armed with a copy of Classic Rock shot up the Pass to ascend Dives and Better Things H.S., Spiral Stairs V.D., Crackstone Rib S, and Wrinkle V.D.. Mark, stuck without a partner, met up with a Yank from New York. Curfew E1 and Cemetery Gates HVS were completed, Mark also soled Ribstone Crack V.S.. Over at Gogarth Sean and Steve climbed every possible combination of Rap, Pel and Lighthouse Arete V.S.. Kevin and his mate Phil had a quick stab at The Syringe but were more successful on Kalahari E2.

The evenings "session" started early in The Vaynol and after a short break for tea, continued in the Padorn. The dormitory next morning was a paragon of squalor, well-matured socks and grounds strewn amongst half drunk cups of coffee. The air was heavy with an aroma that only Robinson's Bitter and E.coli can produce. It required considerable effort to get Sundays show on the road. The walkers team set off for the remaining 3,000ft. peaks while the climbers returned to the pass. John and Dave continued their assault on classic rock routes with The Cracks H.V.S.. Kevin, joined by another mate called Dave, nipped up Memory Lane E.3 while Mark and Phil did Crucifix Direct E.4. Steve and Sean, after a false start on Holly Buttress then completed Noahs Warning. Mark and Kevin finished off on The Nubian E.1 (at least that's what some joker graded it). Late afternoon saw the climbers back in

Petes Eats, perhaps it was something to do with the previous night's frivolities (or maybe they are just idle?). A brief debate solved the last vital problem, - the pub stop would be in Preston and so the hut exchange trip to North Wales came to an end.

The Meet Leader.

3 PEAKS COACH

Against all odds (inclement weather aiding and abetting human apathy) 22 members managed to bestir themselves to catch the coach and head for the Yorkshire Dales. The challenge of completing the Three Peaks abated somewhat due to the weather, most people settling for two. Notable exceptions were two supermen who ran the three with apparent ease; although one of these was reported to be suffering from a heavy cold all the following week. Most of the ladies of the meet thought one peak was quite enough for them. They were saved from the necessity of navigating themselves through the mist over Wharfedale by Jack Jowett and Derek Smith who shepherded them safely back to the coach at Horton. This omission of duty by a certain honorary lady member has been duly noted. However such were the charms of the walk that a record must have been set for taking the longest time over the shortest route.

Despite all everyone declared (over the beer in the Hollies) that it had been a good day. There's no accounting for taste!

Mary Aspin