



Cutting steps on glacier ice—Grindelwald Glacier. The guide at work in characteristic attitude is Christian Jossi.

Ed Speak...



Ok guys send the lynching party back, the newsletter has arrived! Apologies for the delay but this has been an extremely busy summer, both work wise and with unforeseen personal commitments. That much said article submissions and meet write-ups are pretty thin on the ground these days and generally arrive in the winter months, so come on walkers and rock stars get yourself a good pen for Christmas.

News

Good news for the Club is lots of new members. Not so good news is that evening meets and socials have been poorly attended. Can the former remedy the latter?

Social events have dominated the late summer. Glenn and Lou tied the knot in fine style during a memorable day in Portpatrick. Fine weather and beautiful settings (a castle no less!) contributed to the merriment and the wee hangovers that some took home as souvenirs the next day. Soon the happy couple were off to sample the delights of Iceland while we went back to work. But not for long for the very next week Nob 1, Mr. D'Ale, celebrated his BIG 40! The back

room of the Golden Rule was filled to capacity as we saw our boy move inexorably to his next major hangover. Remarkably the following day saw the old fellow leading his very own route 'Darklands' in the Black Hole. Numerous ropes dangled to tempt likely seconders. Way gnarly dude, Jerry Evans managed some serious knitting, followed by Mike Tolley in better style. In the end it took Martin Bennett to show the crowd a clean pair of heels.

Seemingly 'wetting agent' is the term of choice in greenkeeper circles these days. Well we certainly had plenty of that through the year starting with Pembroke which was wetter than usual. Fighting the elements, the nobs got plenty done and Dave Westby, back in action after a lay off, has been inspired to write an article. Lundy was almost washed out with the worst conditions in twenty years..... the week before we went! We got blistering sunshine for most of the week and despite some crag seepage, we got plenty done and had the usual good time

Dogs have been in great evidence this year- on the crag and elsewhere. One little mutt found its way into Glenn and Lou's wedding. Just as the reverend was giving the usual words of advice up trotted our little friend to pay his respects, fortunately not to be seen by the happy couple. On the later Pembroke meet another hound, keen for breakfast, made off with a bag of raw pasta from the tent flysheet and sat gorging the stuff at a respectful distance. A sorry sight.

Finally congratulations to Glenn and Lou, to Al and Mandy Peel (and their new baby Thomas James) and to Sean and Jane Smith on their new offspring.

Dave Wood Editor. Dec 97

Update

Membership

Full Members

Mari Angeles Solera
Flat 6, 29 Cecil St,
Lytham
FY8 5NN

Chris Southern
22 Devona Avenue
Marton
Blackpool
01253 769187

Introductory Members

*The Club welcomes
the following
introductory
members:-*

Calum Berry
52 Sefton Avenue
Poulton-Le-Fylde
Blackpool
01253 899242

Dr.E.Borrino
16 Mereland Rd
Blackpool. FY3 9NF
01253 767132

Susan Coffey
89 Poulton Old Rd
Blackpool. FY3 7LJ
01253 394796

Phil Collinson
3 Brunton Rd
Lancaster
LA1 4UQ
01524 841603

John & Sue Denmark
128 Watling St Rd
Fulwood
Preston PR2 8AH
01772 700327

Chris Davies
38 Cross Street
St.Annes. FY8 2HU
01253 787873

David Donaldson
Reeves
1 Fenton Rd
Blackpool. FY1 3RT
01253 294479

Derek Harrison
35 Roseberry Ave
Blackpool. FY1 1LA
01253 311472 or
403518

Steve Holloway
54 Westby Street
Lytham St Annes
FY8 5JG

Rae Hughes
240 Central Drive
Blackpool
01253 24330

Stephen Maher
7 Artlebeck Rd
Caton
Lancaster LA2 9RQ
01524 771541

Kathleen Malloy
5 Fraser Ave.
Penwortham
Preston PR1 9RA
Robert Scott
15 Vermont Grove
Thornton Cleveleys
FY5 3RL
01253 867027

Paul Simpson
32 Borrowdale Road
Lancaster LA13 EU
01524 32340

Changes of Address

Chairman
Steve Wrigley
Flat 6, 29 Cecil Street
Lytham
FY8 5NN
01253 731710

Dave Ball
43 Blackburne Close
Warrington
WA2 0PH
01925 811853

Glenn Brookes & Lou
Walker
11 The Drive
Walton Le Dale
Preston. PR5 4BL
01772 828110
Work 01772 751234

Chris Bell
2 Arnott Rd
Ashton
Preston PR2 2GB
01772 723682

Dennis Carrigan
Capoley
Port Laoise
County Laoise
Ireland (Eire)
0035350220348
work 003535529200

Barry Crook
Now at 9 Denbigh
Drive. Clitheroe
BB7 2BH

Dave Cundy
6 St. Johns Court
87 Clarence Rd
Fleet. Hampshire
GU13 9RS
01252 810852
work 374030

54 ^{Phil Lee} ~~Lansford~~ 01977 702024
Ponlefoot west Yorks

Jerry Evans
35 Keppel Road
Manchester M21 0BP
0161 811 075

Pete Lattimer
47 Hamilton Terrace
Otley
W.Yorks. LS21 1AN

Phil Lee
12 Archers Court
Crawley. West Sussex.
RH10 2DW
01293 527867

Peter & Gillian
Llewellyn
1 Greenside House
Hincaster. Milnthorpe
Cumbria LA7 7NA
01539 62369

Frank Lord
8 Lord Street
Stacksteads
Bacup. Lancs
OL13 0RY
01706 874594

Al & Mandy Peel
9 Rundle Rd
Sheffield. S7 1NW

Paul & Irene Taylor
In Italy until Jan 98
temp postal address:-
52 Court Drive
Shenstone
Lichfield, Staffs
WS14 0JD
01543 480709

Avril Whittaker
2 Elmwood Avenue
Lytham.

Dave Greenhalgh
Ellerburn, Doctors Hill
Burton Rd.
Lower Bentham
via Lancaster
LA2 7OZ

Discounts

'Out 'N 'About' Outdoor Specialists, Breck Road, Poulton, are now able to offer a range of climbing hardware in addition to their usual selection of outdoor gear. Members are entitled to 10% discount on most items (excluding sale / reduced goods) on production of a valid membership card.

Compass Point. Lytham, are also able to offer Club members 5% discount

Peak District - Places to Stay

Camping

A new campsite has opened up in the peaks: - Roy and Vernon Ashby Chamber Knowle Farm, Peak Forest, Derbyshire, SK17 8EG 01298 25914 (£2.50 per night)

Huts

Oread Mountaineering Club, Heathy Lee, Baslow, Derbyshire. Members & clubs with reciprocal rights -£1.75 per night. Cottage for 12 costs £66 per week. Barn £48.00 per wk (has 8 beds), Tel . C.Hobday 01332 551594

Other Accommodation - Bangor

Be a student again !! Go stay at the University over New Year (27.12.97-10.1.98) Approx £10 per night (01248 382560)

Access

Because members now receive the BMC's 'Summit' Magazine, there is little point in covering all the access arrangements. By way of a summary, members will be aware that White Scar has access problems (just in case if you ever wanted to go), there is a problem with the application of resin at Bridestones and the ferry Stena HHS Explorer is reported to be creating a bit of a wave hazard to South and North stack, Gogarth (see High, Oct 97 page 53 for details).

Also, Witches Quarry is now open for climbing but cars should be parked in the quarry. This may be difficult when the approach track is muddy. If you go there you are supposed to ask permission but be warned at the time of writing the rock is very loose and belays extremely difficult to find.

Badges, Stickers & Journals

Enamelled Club Badges bearing the Club's insignia are still available at £4. Also a supply of Club car stickers has been produced and these sell at £1.50 each. For members who do not possess the Club's 40th anniversary journal, a copy can be bought for £3. Malta guide Books still available !! Contact Les Ward.

Climbing Walls

We understand that discussions are well underway about extending Preston climbing wall to include more lead wall space.

Members who find themselves in S.Wales on a rainy day might like to know that the 'Welsh International Climbing Centre' near Merthyr Tydfil is now open (sorry no tel no. contact Ed for details)

Trowbarrow

Trowbarrow has been purchased for the use of climbers by donations (including our own) and was officially opened in the June with Les Ainsworth doing the inaugural climb of 'Jean Jeannie'

Found

In Langdale @ Spring Bank: one watch, one pair of sports sandals and one pair of undies - all together. Contact Steve Wrigley

For Sale

The following items may still be for sale:

- Matched pair Hyper Couloir Axes, pair Grivel 2F Crampons + assorted pegs and screws. £140 the lot. Frank Towne (01253 779471)
- 1x 45cm Simond Barracuda (£60) + 1 Vertige 45 cm axe and spare pick (£40) + Grivel 2F (a bit blunt) crampons £20. Phil Lee (01293 527867)

Committee Business

The Committee has met on several occasions since the last newsletter. In addition to approving applications, responding to requests for donations (£50 to Patterdale MRO), the following matters have received attention:-

♦Trustees - Many of the existing trustees for the huts are no longer available or willing to act as such. Therefore the Committee is steering the Club through the legal loopholes of the process and will report to the AGM

♦Questionnaires - Mike Tolley has sent these to outside users of huts and to date has had favourable replies.

♦50th celebration - The Club will be 50 at the millennium. In addition to other ways of marking this event, a photo history of the Club is proposed. Work will be ongoing

♦Langdale Alterations -A feasibility study is being undertaken to see if the shower and washing facilities can be upgraded. Proposals go to AGM

In Search of H. T. Jackson

Does anyone know where HT is ? Captain Jackson who is a trustee of one of our huts was 88 in 1985. Any information to John Wiseman please.

'T' Shirt Competition

Mike Sissons has negotiated a good deal on good quality T shirts and sweatshirts. He is looking for good designs for the back/front. Prizes include free T shirts and Malta guide Books ! Ideas to Mike ASAP.

Free Climbing Mags

Bernard Skiterall has a collection of Climber and High magazines dating back to the 1960s (+ some maps) which he is willing to donate to a good home (tel 01253 823300).

Dodgy Friends

RECALL

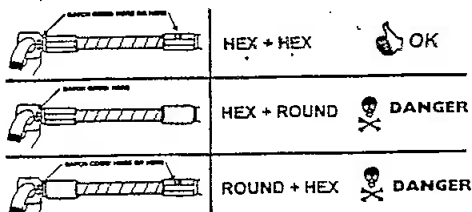
Batch No. 639

Wild Country

Flexible Friend Size: 0.5

Wild Country would like to recall for inspection all Friends stamped with batch number 639. There is a remote chance that Friends from this batch have been assembled incorrectly.

If you have a Friend stamped as shown in the attached diagram please return it at once directly to Wild Country. Your Friend will be inspected and returned to you immediately at our expense.



This recall notice applies to 485 units, of which 465 units were sold in the United Kingdom. The remaining 20 Units were exported to Korea.

If you have any questions regarding Friends please telephone Wild Country at the number below.

WILDCOUNTRY

Meverill Road, Tideswell, nr Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8PY
Tel: 01298 871010 Fax: 01298 872077

Equipment Failure

The picture below shows a figure of 8 in an 'abnormal configuration'. The locking karabiner failed leading to fatal injuries. Tests show that krabs which are loaded then unloaded can fail under heavy load (See Summit Issue 8 pages 34 & 35).

Reminder:- It is not good practice to abseil or belay with the screw gate through the waist belt and leg loops. This puts a 3 way strain on the krab. Better to use an alternative (eg Mallon Rapide) as used in caving).



Figure-of-Eight in 'abnormal configuration'

Winter Socials

A recent talk on Mountain First Aid given by Bowland Mountain Rescue proved a well attended event. Future social events include:-

Dec 3 (Wed) - Print and Slide Comp.

Dec 11 (Thurs) - Kendal Climbing Wall

Jan 7 (Wed) - Slide Quiz -

Jan 22 (Thurs) - Ingleton Wall

Feb 4 (Wed) Iceland Extravaganza - Glenn & Lou

Feb 11 (Wed) Warrington North Face

We are hoping to book Simon Yates in the New Year if the price is right.

Slide shows start at 8.30 pm at the Castle Gardens, Carleton. Any Queries contact Mike Sissons on 01253 857929.

Wednesday Night Pub Meet

New members and those who haven't been down the Thatched House for a while may have difficulty in finding each other. This is because the Club has moved its meeting point to the back of the pub - that is the small room / snug on the far right of the bar. If your a new member you will probably find someone there late on Wednesday night but give someone on the committee a call if you're unsure.

Hut Availability

Langdale :- December 13/14th.
January 10/11, Jan 24/25, Feb 7/8,
Feb 21/22, Mar 7/8, Mar 21/22,
April 4/5, April 18/19, May 2/3,
May 16/17, May 30/31,

Stair:- Dec 6/7 (Club Dinner),
Jan 3/4, Jan 17/18, Jan 31/ 1 Feb,
Feb 14/15, Mar 14/15, Mar 28/29,
April 11/12 (Easter), April 25/26,
May 9/10, May 23/24, June 6/7,
June 27/28.

Both:- Dec 20/21 Christmas & New Year. June 13/14, June 20/21

Guiding Skills or Legal Bills???

Many members will have been following the press coverage of the civil proceedings against David (Smiler) Cuthbertson. Smiler, who is well respected in the climbing fraternity, was involved in an accident several years ago on the north face of the Tour Ronde, in which his client lost his life.

After listening to expert witness testimonies from both sides, the judge's verdict was that Smiler was negligent and therefore had to pay damages to the deceased client's son. Smiler's insurers decided not to appeal against the decision. The outcome of the case meant that the guide had to await investigation from his professional association before taking clients again.

The verdict has caused considerable controversy in the climbing fraternity. The latest news is that Smiler has been found "not at fault" by the Guides Professional Standards Committee of causing the death of a client.

We live in an increasingly litigious world in which 'ambulance chasing' has become popular. Members who would like to consider the issues arising from this case and the possible implications for themselves as clients or amateur 'guides', might wish to read the letters in the October '97 issue of High Magazine.

Further background information about technical aspects of the case can be found in the previous issue of BMC's Summit Magazine.

Annual General Meeting

Please note that 1998 AGM will be held at the Castle Gardens on the 11 Feb at 8 pm. This year any club member wishing to propose a change to club policy must submit it in writing to the club secretary no later than 31 Dec 1997. The chairman will not accept any motions from the floor on the night of the meeting.

The committee reports, the accounts and any proposed motions will then be circulated not less than fourteen days prior to the AGM in accordance with the Club rules. In this way members can ensure they are present at the AGM if there is a motion they approve or disapprove of (eg. building bike sheds !!!)

S.Wrigley.

Articles

- Andy Dunhill and Christine visit Tats in Hong Kong and survive the experience!
- Dave Westby:- His first Club trip to Pembroke and a digest of climbing walls
- Dave Earle - Wobbly, wizened old git on the wander.
- Dave Wood - What is the right age to start climbing?

Ed.

Club Books

Dave Earle keeps the following books in trust for the Club. Any Member wishing to borrow one should contact Dave.

F S Smythe	The Mountain Scene and Alpine Ways and Flowers
Dr J Kugy	Alpine Pilgrimage
H Rutledge	Everest 1933
T Weir	Camps and Climbs in Arctic Norway and East of Katmandu
L Stephen	Playground of Europe
S Gordon	Cairngorm Hills of Scotland (<u>not</u> a guide), and Highways and Byeways in Central Scotland
G W Young	On High Hills, and Mountaineering with a difference and Mountain Craft
A F Mummery	My Climbs in Alps and Caucases
F Younghusbaid	Epic on Everest
C Benson	Mountaineering Ventures
C F Kirkus	Let's go Climbing
T Howard Summerville	.After Everest
H W Tilman	Snow on Equator and Nanda Devi
S Clark	The Puma's Claw
P Elek	Swiss Life
M Jackson	Tent in Clouds
SMC	Southern Highlands and Isle of Skye
F Spencer Chapman	Memoirs of a Mountaineer
J Prebble	Highlands Clearances
J Westberg	Avalanche
John Jackson	More than Mountains
B & T G Brown	Brenva
E Hilary	High Adventure
G Moffat	Space Below my Feet
J Ullman	Man of Everest
V Firsoff	On Ski in Cairngorms
Manning	Mountaineering
W Sayle	4 against Everest
C Houston	K2
J Hunt	Ascent of Everest
E Newby	A Short Walk in Hindu Kush
J Franco	Makalu
W Noyce	South Col
C Bonnington	Anna Purna South Face
Mountain World	1953-1956 and 1958-1969
W Larden	Recollections of a Mountaineer
R Irvine	10 Great Mountains
D Busk	The Delectable Mountains
Lonsdale Library	Mountaineering
P Bauer	Kanchenchungee Challenge
SMC	Cairngorms, Skye, Central Highlands
W H Murray	Story of Everest and Scottish Himalayan Expedition
E Shipton	Mountains of Tartar and Upon that Mountain

R Fison-Roche	First on The Rope (novel)
County Books	The Western Isles
C F Meade	Approach to the Hills
A W Moore	The Alps in 1864 Vol 2
TAH Peacock	Mountaineering
H Horner	7 Years in Tibet
Portrait of Islands :	Various Isles and Authors, from Cornwall to St Kilda
D Haston	Eiger Direct
C D Milner	Mountain Photography
E Whympere	Zermatt
H Lunn	Zermatt
W Poucher	Lakeland Peaks and Scottish Peaks
W March	Modern Snow Techniques
E W Tyndal	Glaciers of Alps in 1861
G Abraham	British Mountain Climbs
FMC	Hagshu Valley Exp. 1993
E W Pyatt	Where to Climb in the British Isles
Guides to Berner, V., Mt Blanc 3, + 1, + 2 Valais IIIb + IIIa + II	
Foreign and Selected Climbs Mt Blanc and Selected Climbs in Pennine Alps	
Old guides to Tryfan, Idwal, Pillar and Gable, Scafell, Kinder, Lancs, Ben Nevis and Glencoe, Arrochar, Arran, Laddow, Cairngorms Vol I and II, Skye, Cleveland, Snowdon South; Eastern Ross	

OBITUARY

Long-standing members will be saddened to hear of the tragically early death of Lynne Lockett, younger sister of Cherry Earle, after a short and painful illness.

Emerging in the Fylde via the Old Kent Road and Sutherland she eventually married Keith Lockett, the FMC/s Himalayan pioneer and lived at St Annes before moving to Germany with British Aerospace, where she died.

Her happy, affable and easy-going nature, always willing to lend a hand, will be missed by all who knew her. Almost single-handedly, she bailed out the Duck after the last floods, ably assisted by Bruen her eldest son, who featured regularly on family weekends.

The Club sends its deepest sympathy to Keith, Bruen, Alan, her youngest son, Cherry and her immediate family and friends.

D.A.Earle

Meets

Rhyd Du Meet 25/26 April 1997

Despite the poor weather, ten members enjoyed this meet at what was a new venue for the Club. Although a little removed from the main climbing areas, the well appointed Oread M.C. hut is ideally situated for walking parties - several routes starting from the front door. The pub is only ten minutes away and the walking party called at the nearby delightful Bedgelart Warehouse on Saturday's walk. Hopefully we can book this hut again.

George Parker

Corris May 1997

Once again, the Slater's Arms provided a warm welcome and a difficult choice as to what to drink - they are all good.

Saturday started damp, so a leisurely start during which time George Parker spoke about Wales and the Welsh and nearly converted me to the Nationalist cause. Get him on Welsh TV and the vote for a Welsh assembly will be assured.

The rain having cleared, a good long day was enjoyed, Barry Crook entertaining us with his comments, and tales of his work.

Sunday was another day of heavy showers.

John Wiseman

The Lundy Trip

I'd never been to Lundy before. The Club always booked September and I had to return to school. I'd seen an awful lot of Lundy when Mike and I did a section of the South West Way. From Minehead to Bude it was always there. We seemed to walk for days and never seemed to make any progress - I was sure Lundy was swimming. I think what I liked best about Lundy is that you can walk anywhere. The only restriction being to shut any gates behind you.

I did wonder at one time how I would occupy myself for a week on an island 3 x 1/2 mile, but it was no problem. For 5 days the weather was hot and sunny. Mike had saved Devil's Slide to climb with me. An enjoyable route - the warm rock was so enticing - I did another 2 routes Quadratus Lumborum and Integrity, thereby spoiling my routine of one route a year - or maybe I'm just 2 years in hand!

I think that when you get to the stage of planning to write a postcard on a particular day but are so busy doing other things you don't have time - then you are truly on holiday.

I'd like to go back to Lundy.

Jennie Tolley

Fallcliff - 27-29 September 1997

The club haven't used this hut for a few years after various problems and it was decided we should give it another try after a change of hut custodian. Although I haven't stayed in this hut before, I was quite impressed with its condition and had no complaints.

Six people attended the meet - me, Dave Earle, Steve, Marianne, Chris and his friend Adrian. On Saturday, we all went off to Rivelin Edge where Steve made various ascents of the superb Needle. Dave also reminded us all of what climbing was like in the good old days with his waist belays, lack of harness and chunky pair of gardening gloves.

On Sunday, Kevin appeared followed by Les equipped with his list of Classic Rock climbs on Stanage. The morning was spent around the High Neb Buttress area while the afternoon saw the team attacking the classics around the Flying Buttress and the Black Slab areas.

Good weather, good company, gritstone and friends produced an excellent weekend's climbing.

Joanna Goorney

Chester Hut Swap - 31 Oct - 1 Nov 1997

Despite variable weather forecast, we had a good turn out, 16 members and 3 guests. On Saturday, in spite of inclement weather, a varied selection of activities was accomplished. Climbs at PenTrwyn, Idwall Slabs and Gogarth including an ascent of Dream of White Horses. Scramble up to Glyder Fawr from the Llanberis Valley and a walk around the coast at Morfa Nefyn.

Sunday dawned with low clouds everywhere but a scout in the form of Ali Welsh had been up to the summit of Snowdon and back before many had left their pits and reported that he broke through the clouds at Clogwyn station and into clear blue skies. Consequently walkers ascended Snowdon and experienced a Brocken Spectre along with many other tourists! And descended by way of Cloggy to the hut.

Climbs were done on Carreg Wastad, walks near Llandudno and indoor climbing at Caernarvon.

Plenty of liquid refreshment in various hostelries and whilst conditions for climbing could have been better, everybody appeared to have an enjoyable weekend.

Les Ward

Tremadog - the real story (based on fact)

The weekend started innocently enough, we had the usual Friday night. one or two rushed 4 thumbs after which we returned to the hunt. After watching Martin Dale show his excellence and his natural style and balance on a skateboard, we, Phil "ss" Lee ("ss" = southern softie), Martin Bennett, Mike Tolley, Martin Dale and myself decided to go for a curry, or should I say a Christmas Curry, (Severe), leaving George Nesbitt in the luxury of the hut painting his nails

Martin Dale, the Testosterone Kid, decided to solo it - he was obviously still buzzing from his skateboarding antics. The 'Old Gits' teamed up together leaving me to climb with moaning Lee. Testosterone Dale had reached the top before the rest of us slipped and slid our way to the bottom of the climb. We all crocheted (knit one purl one) our way up to the first pitch, while singing in the pub style such classics as "It's not unusual," "Starry starry night," and "Viva Las Vegas." But the jovialities soon ended in a mind-numbing scream. The scream of a man that had just had the very fibre of his soul ripped into shreds. Who was making that blood curdling noise? Then it dawned on me, the person who had brought the fear of God into everyone, including campers several miles away, was me! The reason I had made the noise was that the whole stance was covered in a seething mass of *SLUGS!* These weren't just ordinary slugs but slugs the size of housebricks, their slime glistening in the moonlight. The "Old Gits" had scarpered off gripped in a frenzy, leaving Phil and I to fight our way to the top.

Phil led off, slugs were falling off the trees, landing on his head. He just about held himself together to place a wire in a slugfilled crack and make a couple more moves. Above the tree line the slugs seemed to disperse. This gave Phil a false sense of security. His fear continued to subside as he carried on with the climb. He reached the crux only 40 feet from the top, side pull from that hold over there and a rock onto that biggish black foothold and, *OH NO!* echoed across the crag as he suddenly plummeted down the crag. The big black foothold *wasn't*, it was slug - it's adhesion was not enough to hold Phil. Luckily his gear held. I lowered him down to the stance, the pair of us whimpering.

That is all I remember of the night. I heard afterwards we were both found the next day unconscious on the stance by the rescue team but absolutely no slugs around anywhere.

I still haven't come to terms with the horror and the perpetual nightmares. The desire to climb again and enjoy life has died out and I hope it rests in peace.

*R.I.P.
Climbing.*

Mike Sissons

Articles

Hong Kong - New Year 97

If climbing up the outside of skyscrapers turns you on, then Hong Kong is the place to go. The new route potential is vast and increasing. Things seem generally sound, but there are definitively some very loose looking areas - buildings that seem to defy gravity.

Hong Kong is a fascinating experience. There appears to be little open concern about the return to China in June. The territory comprises: Hong Kong Island, which is all hills; Kowloon and the New Territories on the main land, much of which is mountains up to 3,500ft and protected by Country Park designation; and the Outlying Islands.

There is an extensive coastline offering numerous sea cliff opportunities, some of which have been developed. There are also many outcrops in the mountains.

Walking trails are well developed but the going can be difficult on steep ground, as they tend to build steps which is hard on the knees. The impenetrable foliage means that you must keep to the paths.

We arrived at 9am on New Years Eve after a 20 hour journey, to be told by John Tattersall that we would be drinking until the early hours the next day to celebrate New Year. Our first real experience of downtown Hong Kong was therefore like being thrown in at the deep end. It is an unbelievably busy place, but a lasting impression is a feeling of safety. The atmosphere, although electric, was not at all threatening.

New Year's afternoon saw us touching rock at Shek'O, a small but good quality sea cliff on the east side of Hong Kong Island. John and Andy did a one pitch V.Diff./Severe, then explored the other cliffs in the area. It's a very pleasant and scenic place with a good beach and lots of restaurants nearby.

The next few days were spent walking and exploring both Hong Kong Island and some of the Outlying Islands. Public transport is excellent and cheap. You can easily get away from the busy areas.

Kowloon is a major urban conurbation on the mainland, which has a superb back drop of mountains. The highest is Kowloon Peak, which has various crags on its southern flank. We did two Severes which finished at the summit of this 2,000ft mountain. The view looking over Hong Kong is superb, but the main attraction is to watch the constant procession of planes landing at and taking off from the airport. The cliffs are in direct line with the runway, and it is, to say the least, impressive.

Another day John, Christine and Andy caught a ferry (just) to Tung Lung Chau island and climbed on some superb sea cliffs. The first route was a two

pitch Severe in an impressive situation reminiscent of Cornwall. We then moved onto the more popular cliff on the island which has been bolted. It offers around 20 high quality routes, many of which are very hard. We did three of the easier ones. It was busy with local Chinese climbers, most of whom were very good. This cliff was very similar to Sennen in Cornwall, both in its position and the relative severity of its climbs, although not as extensive.

Perhaps the best days climbing was on the last day when John and Andy visited Promontory Point in Clearwater Bay, in the New Territories. This is a substantial 300ft granite sea cliff slab. We hired a Sampan to take us into the zawn which was an experience in itself.

We had to walk to the top of the cliff and abseil to 40ft above the sea level. The route was two pitches of reasonable quality granite in a superb setting. It was hot and we had a taste of dehydration, which is a major factor with climbing in these latitudes.

Overall the climbing was good. Most is one pitch and the rock can be of variable quality. Two or three places are very popular but on most cliffs you will be alone. There is a lot of potential for further development.

The new guide isn't. It is a guide to the routes done by the English author and his friends. It makes almost no reference to the many routes done by local Chinese climbers. There are many established bolt routes that it completely ignores. It is also written on the assumption that you are a Hong Kong resident and have a car. The access directions are weak. We could go on. It does take you to many good climbing areas, but really it is a weak and sub standard guide by Cordee.

We spent as much time walking as climbing, which is excellent and far better than we had anticipated. Virge accompanied us on some of the walks. The best was perhaps a ridge walk we did on Lantau Island. Approached by ferry and bus, this 10 mile walk took in 2 main summits and an excellent ridge with superb views. At the start was a highly impressive Buddhist monastery, and 40 foot high Buddha statue.

Overall the walking and climbing was far better than we had thought and we thoroughly recommend Hong Kong as a place to spend a few weeks if you plan to visit South East Asia. It is a place where you can spend vast amounts of money but with a little care it is not too bad. The best time to visit is November to March.

Another lasting memory is the meal we had with John and Virge on the evening before we flew out. We went to a revolving restaurant on the 34th floor of an office building overlooking Victoria Harbour and downtown Hong Kong. The views were stunning, as was the bill, but it was worth every penny.

Our thanks go to John, Virge and young John, whose bedroom we used. It was a memorable trip.

Andy Dunhill & Christine Barbier

Pembrokeshire 97

What gorgeous weather. Friday am. all packed and ready to go , or are we The new three piece suit is a bit late coming, why did they want to deliver today of all days. Just as I was settling down to a third cuppa the van turned up. A couple of burly blokes soon unloaded grabbed my money and went. So were we.

The journey down the A49 was great. Sun cracking the flags etc. etc.

Di reminded me that we needed to find a bank for some beer money, so a slight detour through Tenby and its five arches was called for, very nice.

We found the camp site OK. and soon got organised. A quick look through the camp log book showed there were no other FMC. people about, are we going to be the only ones there after all.?

We hopped into the car and soon found Jameston and the marvellous chalets. The chalets were open and deserted so we had a quick nosey, too Posh for the FMC. went through my mind casting further doubts, then, "bloody ell, ello knob". Looking around I saw Andy Dunhill. "Well bless my blurter, long time no see knob, you alright etc. etc...." many years had passed and it was great to see a familiar face again (reminisce, reminisce)

Later in the pub, more catching up with news as more familiar faces showed up. Good night, not too much beer though, got to climb in the morning, early start, long drive and tired eyes. "Old sod" said Andy as we bid goodnight.

Cold shower in the morning mist, camp site gas goes out in a strong wind.

Soon, at the chalet, Dave Cundy was still 'ZZ'ing, so we woke him with a sharp kick. "Bloody ell, a bit early knob" said he. A couple of brews later we were ready, but guess what, yes, the mist had turned to drizzle and looked very uninviting. "Another brew", Woody offered, yes that'll do it. "A shopping trip I think" said Di. "Let's see if we can find a big overhang with a good traverse line" says I, thumbing through the guide after seeing Martin Dale disappearing into the mist in his car, trying as usual to be the first on the crag, even in the wet.

Actually, when we arrived at the crag, only the East side was wet, although you had to be careful not to disappear over the edge in the mist.

As it was my first visit, it took a while to 'suss' out where we were and the mist wasn't helping much either. I lost sight of Dave C a few times, but after a while a call from somewhere in the mist "over ere knob"... "I think this is Senit, I seem to recognise that wave, it took me off the stance last time I was here" (that's another story).

Wow! what a place. What luck the weather was damp but not a wash out. We soon got to grips with a good HVS. 'Rides The Waves'. I led, cos. Dave

was still recovering from a touch of Flu. (I think his heart was still in his sleeping bag).

A traverse line left from just above sea level and then a very nice climb straight up to the top. What an atmosphere, calm sea, thick mist. Next route please.

Back down to the sacks, a quick slug on Energy Lucozade and five Sanatogen's later.

'Cool For Cats' E1 5b. Yes well have a do at that. "Somebody on it mate" says a voice from behind me. "Bloody hell, Hi mate, your here too" I said to the young ginger haired guy from the Kendal wall. "Hi mate. Yes, there's half of Lancashire down here, just done that route mate, it's a classic". "Cheers mate, see ya". "Lets try the right hand one instead, there's no one on it and it saves us waiting" says Dave. "OK".

Minutes later, Dave led off. At a short wall, his Flu got the better of him. He came down and I took over the hot end. Dave had put plenty of good gear in so when I got there, a quick check, a short pull and up.... more gear, a short step up and left then, "Shit, what's happened to the rope knob". "Think its jamming on this lower bit" says Dave.

Problems, problems. I hate it when a plan goes wrong. Tugging and heaving on the rope all the way up the last twenty foot or so, sweating like a bull on heat. Belay... a beauty, big fat iron stake. Still one rope refused to yield without a fight. Soon after though, Dave joined me on the top wondering why he had found a problem with that bit down there, "it wasn't that bad after making the pull, was it"..

We called it a day and went to find Di. Back at the car park, Di. was chatting with Phil Caley, Stuart and Al. The "Hi Knob" bit started over..... and then "see you in the pub". Dave had forgotten to bring his grub from home so we drove into Pembroke to re stock his larder and to stock up with paracetamols and tissues for his runny nose.

A good day was rounded off by a hot shower and a hot curry back at the tent.

An excellent night was had in the pub later on with the lads, their wives/partners, plenty of good ale which helped us both to sleep like babies though that nights pouring rain and wind. (from the weather as well as the curry).

Sunday, Di and I decided to head back in the rain and do some sight seeing if we could find a break in the weather.

Summary

A damn good break, only two routes but the company was even better. Nice to see you all again lads and thanks for the company

Dave Westby.

The Wanderings Of A Wizeded And Wobbly Old Git

Staggering off the Maiden, under the weight of a couple of sleeping bags and a caggy, it seemed I was very much in need of a plan B. The results of a broken back and broken leg was a stunning loss of mountain fitness reinforced when a little old lady with white hair asked me if I was alright as I tottered past en route to Poolewe, about 20 minutes behind the others.

The Isle of Wight beckoned. Set in a silver sea and bathed in warmth, it had simple walking and delightful views, but it was an awfully long way to get to it. With a good forecast locally, however, I settled for Islay, with little idea of what I would find except that it was Scotland so the chances of liking it were fairly high.

Sweeping down the Knapdale peninsular I was stunned to discover that the ferry terminal at Kennacraig on West Loch Tarbert was both locked up for the evening and had absolutely no timetable on display. A retreat to Tarbert was necessary, where the local police referred me to a timetable on display in the local sub-post office. Islay does not welcome on spec travellers.

Parking in a place calculated to cause the maximum inconvenience to the management proved successful and I was soon sailing into a tranquil dawn, clutching my recently purchased ticket. The cruise down West Loch Tarbert and out past Gigha was particularly delightful, after which the Paps of Jura, at 2500 ft high, dominated the trip, with a wild remainder of the Isle of Jura straggling out to the north.

Squeezing past McArthurs head on Islay and Claig castle on Jura, we entered the Narrow Sound of Jura. Hidden from view until the last possible moment Port Askaig at last burst into view, shoe horned into a tiny cove. A shop, pub, ferry office complete with timetable, and a pier looked across the Sound to the western aspects of the Paps rising above the rugged coast, well worthy of an expedition in its own right.

The road North to Bunnahab and Iainn gave access to a damp track to the lighthouse at Rubh' A' Mhail giving a worthwhile half day walk with super views of the Jura coast. History buffs would enjoy a trip to Loch Finlaggan where its castle once housed the Lords of the Isles. The major road across the island divides at Bridgend, with its delightful sands.

To the south lies Bowmore, a dump but with a fine circular church and pleasant coastal rambles in and around. The sands of Laggan bay are delightful and at the south end is Kintra-a with its camp site and pub. Jutting out S.W. from here is the rocky peninsular of Oa culminating in the Mull of Oa with its giant memorial cairn. Two American troopships were torpedoed here

towards the end of that most pointless of human conflicts, the First World War. Out and back along the cliff edge from Kintra made a full day, at least for a cripple. The memorial can also be visited by car giving a chance to walk east along the cliffs for a fair bit. There is no obvious path.

At the opposite end of the neck of Oa is Port Ellen, delightfully situated. The stroll to the lighthouse is a must, and can be extended along the Oa cliffs as far as you want. To the east coastal walking gives rise to the distilleries of Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg. Lagavulin is especially pretty, reflected in its quiet bay. Some driving takes you past Kildalton House and a series of beautiful bays to Kildalton Cross, a superb piece of carving.

Beyond here the road stops at Claggain Bay giving the opportunity for a half day coastal walk to McArthurs point. You may be lucky to spot a Glen Shirley, resplendent in Eddie Stobart Tee Shirt, on his way off the highest hill in Islay. Probably the only hill he has climbed not on a list. By now he has done all the Munroes, Corbetts, Donalds, Browns, all the promotees and demotees, and all the Morylins besides. But has he tackled all the AA British Villages? I bet not and I have a 820 start on him.

West of Bridgend the road hugs the coast to Port Charlotte with its excellent Youth Hostel, to Portna haven, which I thought was particularly fine. The opposite coast is rugged but can be visited at Lossit and Machir Bay. Sanaigmore is a super spot and gives rugged coastal walking in each direction before Loch Gruinart is visited. There are plenty of places to stop over on the eastern shore and is wild grandeur reminded me a bit of Sutherland.

Having trained up on the tops of Islay it seemed a shame to miss out on the Paps of Jura, as they are on a list and the return fare from Kenna Craig to their foot was astronomical. I delayed my crossing for a day due to thousands of fell runners ruining both the scenery and tranquility. I made a note not to buy anything marked Lowe/Alpine and was particularly pleased to hear the organisers complaining later that the John Muir Trust will not let them use their land for events. Good old Mr Muir I say. We can stand a lot less of this vandalism in wild places.

As I was in considerable pain from my injuries, the twisting and turning necessary to reverse my car on to the ferry was carried out by the ferryman which was very kind of him. Craighouse seemed to be the centre of the universe as far as Jura was concerned and I set up camp on the sands at the North end of the bay before exploring the beautiful coast road northwards. The bays at Lagg, Tarbent and Lussagiven were beautiful in the early evening light, and across the still waters the mountains of Arran bulked hugely.

The next day it was time for "the big one." With 18 hours of daylight to play with even I should be able to make a worthwhile attempt on the Paps, variously listed as a 4-6 hour walk. Perversely, there are three or even four of

these paps, which certainly underlines my inexperience with women, but undaunted I set off at 7 am picking off the most easterly one first, followed by the two main peaks before finishing over every other top in sight. Nothing as going to be promoted that I had not been up.

The weather was superb, as it had been throughout, with stunning views from all summits all day long, but it was 5 pm as I staggered back down the Corran River, resting tired legs frequently. The hills are basically quartzite slag heaps but the position makes them worthwhile.

The next day I drove as far as possible northwards to the Gulf of Corrievreckan, walking the rest and passing en route the big house of Barnwood where George Orwell wrote "1984." Boats punched their way through the gulf with impunity though it still looked pretty serious stuff to me, and the coastal scenery all around was of a high order.

The last full day found me pottering along part of the west coast but with no direct and firm aim. It had been an intensive trip so far for an invalid with no let up allowed by the continuously superb weather and I allowed myself an afternoon of sunbathing and general festering. The following morning was dull and I drove round to Feolin Ferry after a leisurely breakfast and shopping spree to await the first ferry back to the mainland.

After this temporary blip in the weather, Ardnamurchan, Sunart and Ardyour beckoned. There might even be some Corbetts to climb. But I would not miss the Jura midges which rose out of the Vegetation even on the edge of the beach at 8 pm and devoured everything in sight.

It was these creatures that eventually dictated when I came home from Ardgour, towards the end of June in time for my next hospital appointment.

My Recent Visits to Climbing Walls

Blackpool (Tel. 01253 699900) run by the Blackpool Borough Council. *Good*

Very easy to find and only a few minutes away for the Fylde lads located at Stanley Park. Entrance fee is £2:00 for locals and £2:20 for others. Open Mon. to Sun. 09:30 to 22:30 with a licensed bar inside. Showers available in the leisure centre. A small compact safe wall having varying grades of bouldering with featured panels and moulded concrete lead/bouldering wall by Bendcrete. A cave/grotto area provides good hard bouldering for the energetic amongst us (not me). Many visits have been very enjoyable, but because of its size it can get rather repetitive.

Good for a quick pump out.

Preston West View Leisure Centre (Tel. 01772 796788) *Not bad*

Managed by Phil Walsh climbs arranged by Mick Lovatt. Very easy to find and only a short journey from Blackpool.

Up to 10 metre high featured panel bolt-on hold steep and strenuous lead wall. Has a smaller easier lead top rope wall with interesting problems on featured panel and bolt-on holds. A long breeze block/concrete traverse wall and concrete type bouldering. I find it limited and pumpy, preferring the easier routes up high lead walls to short pumpy stuff. Usual leisure facilities including pool and bar available. Ok for occasional visit, but prefer to travel to better walls although this wall has won a lottery grant for extensive improvements which are scheduled to start in January. The grant is for £140,000. for modernisation to the wall and fitness studio. Entrance £2:40

Ormskirk - Cliff's Barn (Tel. 01704 822 644) *Poor*

On the club meet early this year, Rob Lewis, Kevin Osborne and I paid a visit to this establishment. It was easily found but took nearly an hour to get there because of the narrow country lanes not made for my usual eighties (mph not age Martin).

My first impression was, that it is rather a nice spot to have a climbing wall, a bit out in the sticks but with some really good pubs nearby and built in a converted barn as the name suggests. We went in and because it looked promising, paid our joining fee's. Exploring around a bit and doing a bit of bouldering on the smaller walls to "get into" the feel of the place was rather good although we found the non bolt on holds were rather polished. All the leading wall climbs have a big jug to finish on, so that was good. The main wall area has a very large, very thick mattress type landing. This was causing problems with the old respiratory gear. Judging by the amount of dust being raised as you 'plod' or land upon it, I doubt this has ever been swept or vacuumed.

The main wall was tackled, I pulled up the steep bit and started up the over vertical section, a foot hold broke off. After a serious wobble I carried on to the near horizontal bit and right on the overhang edge, clipping the bolted

runner it swivelled, unscrewed and fell to the floor. At the same instance another hold took a scary swivel. Just in time, I managed to clip another bolt around the corner before falling off. On the further side of the main wall area similar things were happening to other climbers bouldering around. Lots of cracked and swivelling holds were discovered and reported to a rather unconcerned 'youth in charge' who's only comment was "yes there are a few knackered holds around you need to be careful". "I think we may be fixing a few later this week".

Not impressed we agreed the best thing was an early pint in the local where we vowed never to return.

Warrington - The North West Face St Annes Church (Tel. 01925 560022)

Owned and run by 4 experienced climbers. Highly recommended.

Easily found and although a little further to travel is a quicker journey (40 minutes) travel south down the M6 to junction 22. M62 and exit to Newton. Situated in an old Church. Has a climbers shop cafe and courses, no showers. Large (750 sq Metres) very safe 13 metre high lead wall with extensive roped up and bouldering areas which are changed frequently. Undergoing extension for the Winter season. Entrance is £4:00 for members.

Kendal - The Lakeland Climbing Centre Cumbria (Tel. 01539 721766)

Managed by Kate Philips and Mark Holt. Excellent.

Easily found and although a little further to travel is a good journey (40-45 minutes) travel up the M6 and turn right through Kendal to the Lake District Business Park. Situated in an old, very large mill. Excellent. up to 20 metre high wall area with various types of surfaces. Has a unique (I think?) climbable stalactite made of wire frame and resin. Very friendly staff, Cafe and shower available. Gear can be hired for a small fee. Entrance £4:50. £4:00 for members. Off peak £2:50 Can get very busy on a wet day.

Leeds - The Leeds Wall (Tel. 0113234 1554)

Easily found and although a little further to travel is a good journey of 1Hr 10 minutes on the M6 and M62, M621 around 70 to 80 miles but worthwhile. Follow the signs for Leeds United football Ground, at the cross-roads with a pub across the road on the left, turn right down Gelderd Rd. (A62) towards Leeds centre. The purpose built building is across a small roundabout and on the left. A dedicated climbing centre up to 13 metres high coated and featured ply with bolt-on holds overhanging up to 6 metres. and up to 850 sq metres of wall surface. Excellent facilities including a viewing balcony with cafe plus a large well stocked climbers shop showers and changing. Well worth a trip in the wetter months with a car full to share Xs. Entrance £5:00 and £4:00 off peak. If any one has visited other really good walls worth a day out please let me know.

I have heard the Ingleton wall is pretty good.

Dave Westby

The TimesThey Are A Changin'

A sideways look at historic and contemporary views of climbing.

Number 1 - AGE

"Of equal and even greater importance is the climber himself - his individual equipment, both mental and physical. The writer holds strong views that climbing is only suitable for those who have reached an age of discretion. Boys may be taken out by their experienced elders, but before the age of twenty-one serious work such as leading, should not be undertaken. The question of over-straining the bodily powers, though this may prove serious, is not in mind here, but rather the youthful lack of responsibility. The sad records of any public school which has bird-nesting crags within convenient reach will accentuate this. On rock boys will be boys and the spirit of competition cannot be eradicated. Amongst those of a saner age, even to the years of second childhood, this same tendency is prone to emerge. Lucky the man or woman who is equipped with enough discretion to keep it under control." *Extract From 'First Steps to Climbing' by George D. Abraham (1923)*

"The age at which young climbers start leading should depend upon their own attitudes and ambitions. Choosing grades is also a personal choice and no-one should be brow beaten into top roping or leading anything they don't want to climb. There should be no stigma in not leading, or leading only indoors. Get climbing and climb what you feel comfortable doing - no more, no less.

If youngsters decide to lead there are some sensible steps to taken to help. Youngsters may be happy clipping bolts on walls or sport routes, but having traditional protection, and knowing how to place it effectively and securely, is another story. We can see if a bolt's clipped but we can't see if a cammed hex is going to pop. With 'trad' gear particularly, caution must be the watchword and the only sure way to learn is from experience.

.....Whatever else parents and adults feel they should or should not do, there are two absolute 'NoNo's'. Don't pressurise kids to climb - they will not thank you for it and will almost certainly rebel. Remember to that although many kids want to enter competitions they should never be pushed into them against their will.....If you don't climb yourself try to introduce them to a club or to responsible and competent adult climbers. Remember though that those adults may be wary of the potential risk from ambulance chasing lawyers.

.....Our young climbers are our future. They will be the next generation of ordinary climbers, mountaineers and maybe national and international competition climbers. Adults, younger competent climbers and club members please forego a little of your own time and pleasure, help the next generation and so secure the future of our sport." *Extract From 'Gripped' - Climbing Kids by David France. BMC Summit Magazine. Winter 1997*

Dave Wood

AND FINALLY.

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

(Affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council)



14 Bagot St.,
Blackpool,
FY1 6EZ.

24/9/97

**A Drought That
is Not Yet Over**

Letter to Swinside >>>

TEARS IN OUR BEERS

The 17th of January was a sad day indeed for many of our club members it was on that day we discovered that our favourite Lakeland pint was no longer being served in the Swinside. Some had even traveled from as far as Durham and London expecting to refresh themselves after their long drive north with a smooth pint of Jennings Bitter.

All weekend the talk in the hut and on the hill was of the demise of Jennings at our favourite watering hole. Indeed the climbs and walks performed that weekend were done with heavy hearts and a certain melancholy.

Our members have urged us, the committee, to send you this letter and implore that you reconsider your decision not to serve Jennings Bitter. We look forward to the day when we can once again relax in your wonderful hostelry, pint of Jennings in hand recounting our tales of daring deeds on the crags and hills of the Lakes.

Top Tips

This months Tip:-
If stuck in a hut in the Alps
in a sudden heavy snowfall
without snow shoes.....
.....Simply take the grills
from the grill pans and strap
them to your boots ..Hey
presto works a treat!
..Courtesy Phil Caley

Yours Faithfully

S. Wrigley

S. Wrigley
Chairman.

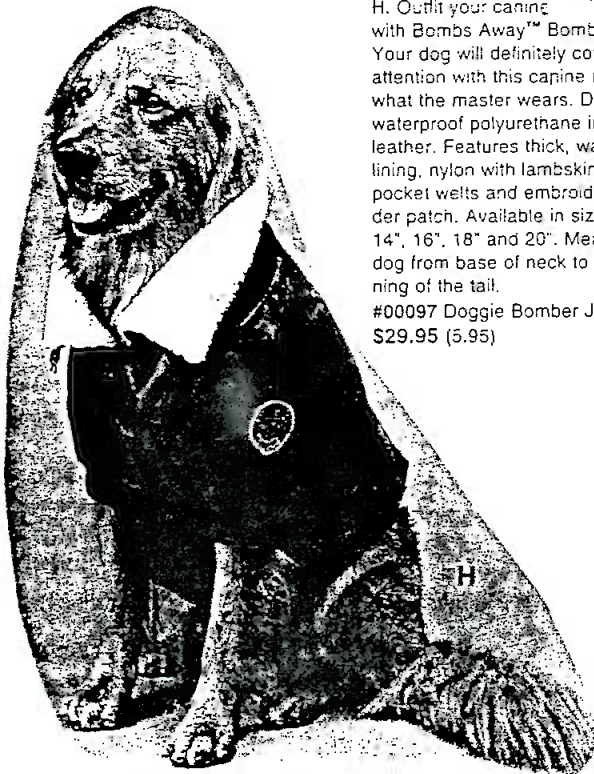
AND FOR CHRISTMAS...

Thinking of Taking your dog on the Crag ?
Why have the little mutt whining in the cold
when you can get it.....

Doggie Bomber Jacket

H. Outfit your caning
with Bombs Away™ Bomber Jacket.
Your dog will definitely command
attention with this canine rendition of
what the master wears. Designed of
waterproof polyurethane imitation
leather. Features thick, warm flannel
lining, nylon with lambskin collars,
pocket welts and embroidered shoulder
patch. Available in sizes 10", 12",
14", 16", 18" and 20". Measure your
dog from base of neck to the begin-
ning of the tail.

#00097 Doggie Bomber Jacket
\$29.95 (5.95)



Poocho Poncho™ Pet Raincoat

B. The Poocho Poncho™ will keep man's best friend dry in
wet weather. Made of red PVC laminated to a woven back-
ing. Features include a drawstring hood, adjustable waist-
band, a windproof tail strap and a removable visor. Sizes
S(14-16"), M(18-20"), L(22-24"), and XL(26-30"). To deter-
mine size, measure your pet from the base of the neck to
the base of the tail. Specify size when ordering.

#00074 Poocho Poncho™ Pet Raincoat \$29.95 (5.95)

>>>> **HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE...BYE BYE NOW...** Watch you don't drink too much
and be horribly sick all over the place just like last Christmas. always the same F.M.C. always getting buzzed