

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1999

FMC FELL RACE 1998

This years race was very well supported with twenty competitors many of whom were taking the race a lot more seriously than they let on. Our most excellent fell running champion for 1998 is Jenny Tolley, which must prove something but I'm not sure what! Chris Thistlethwaite was fastest for the third year running and posted a new record

time (32.35). Many runners improved on previous best times and there were some hard fought battles with runners finishing close together. Mike Sissons took handicap bullshit to a new level by turning up on Friday night with his arm in a sling and a not very convincing tale of an accident at work. He continued with the subterfuge right up to his start time on Saturday, took off the sling

the second he started and finished seven minutes faster than his previous best!

Thanks to all those who turned up for the race, (including bogus Mike), the more that turn up the more fun it is and the more friendly rivalry develops.

Thanks also to Andy Dunhill for the excellent curry on Saturday night, he maintained his usual high standards.

WANTED

2nd hand pair of rock boots (about size 9). Contact Joanna on 01253 826080.

FOR SALE

Salopettes Berghaus Goretex Extrem 7000. Black/purple, small. Cost £190, accept £90.

Ladies leather walking boots "loveson" size 5 or 38, used twice. £25. Call Les Ward on 01772 684681.

Position	Time	Scratch position
1 Jenny Tolley	63.16	17
2 Mike Sissons	45.10	9
3 Phil Lee	37.22	2
4 Dave Earle	52.50	15
5 Andy Dunhill	43.08	8
6 Tom Thistlethwaite	42.16	7
7 Chris Thistlethwaite	32.35	1
8 Mike Tolley	51.13	12
9 Steve Wrigley	42.15	6
10 Dave Ball	51.20	13
11 Vivienne Broughton	48.23	10
12 Martin Dale	51.52	14
13 Les Ward	49.00	11
14 Marian Solera	73.27	19
15 Clive Bell	63.30	18
16 Mark Broughton	37.37	3
17 Henry Iddon	38.11	4
18 Clare Kenny	39.22	5
19 Melissa Bock	56.24	16
20 Christine Barbier	75.18	20

WARNING!!

For all those keen new members who would like to attend the Intro members meet on 24/25th April. It won't take place at Stair as it is already booked (old lags meet). For a change it will be in North Wales, stopping at the Chester Hut. Call Rae Hughes on 01253 624330 for details.

50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Just a reminder. Dave Earle is still collecting photos and slides from members for possible inclusion in The Book. Anything to do with club activities in the last 50 years is welcome: climbing, walking, mountaineering.. in any part of the world.

YES, there is a poet amongst us...

WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTRO MEMBERS

Neil Brown
41 Wades Croft
Freckleton, Preston
PR4 1SU
Tel. 01772 631216

Tiki Hurley & Andy Oddie
28 Victoria Avenue
Lancaster
LA1 4SY
Tel. 01524 32719

David Walker
7 The Avenue
Ingol, Preston
PR2 7AX
Tel. 01772 734666

Mark Chatburn
33 Abercrombie Rd
Fleetwood
FY7 7AU
Tel. 01253 876043

Rachel Payne
117 Bournes Row
Hoghton
Preston
Tel. 01254 853331

Duncan Hogg
17 Compton Green
Fulwood, Preston
PR2 3UT
Tel. 01772 863590

Why ?

*Chomolungma,
five miles high.
Misunderstood,
they asked him "Why ?"
His thoughts so deep,
just words to share,
he proffered back
".....Because it's there"*

*Who knows what toil
this game will bring.
Who knows the prize
we strive to win.
But climbing binds us all as one,
through journeys past
and those to come.*

Dave Cundy October 1998

If you liked this,
turn to the next page
for more!

HUT AVAILABILITY 1999

3/4 April	Stair
10/11 April	Langdale
17/18 April	Stair
1/2/3 May	Stair
8/9 May	Langdale
15/16 May	Stair
22/23 May	Langdale
29/30 May	Stair
5/6 June	Langdale
12/13 June	Langdale &Stair
19/20 June	Langdale &Stair
26/27 June	Stair

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Jonathan Fail
50 Lowick Drive
Poulton-le-Fylde
FY6 8HB

Dave Ball
Flat 4
13 Froghall Lane
Warrington
Tel. 07971 875660

LAGANGARTH FEBRUARY 1999

Our annual trip to Glencoe was a huge success again. 16 members eventually arrived. We were blessed with good weather and Mike Tolley and Phil Lee made an early start climbing on Creag Meagaidh on Friday. On Saturday routes from grade 5 down were done on the Ben, Creag Meagaidh, Stob Coire Nan Lochan, Stob Coire, Nan Beith and a big team led by our new chairman traversed the Aonach Eagach ridge. There were one or two late returns which caused some concern but eventually all returned safe.

Sunday was milder and consequently ice was being replaced by water but routes were still done in the Coe, although many members did nothing or went shopping.

A good weekend, book early for 2000.

Les Ward.

PREPOSTEROUS TALES

A Pembroke meet in early May,
consult the guidebook where to play
It says a novel route's been found
that does its climbing underground

Down a cliff and out of sight,
a sea cave of tremendous height.
Just HVS it gives the grade
sounds just the job (we'll not need aid).

With harness on, festooned with tat,
and head-torch, clipped in place on hat,
we set off late from too much ale.
(we're FMC, we cannot fail !)

A tricky lead across a wall,
so near the waves you dare not fall.
Yet belayed safe I start to fear,
as Denis fails to place much gear.

Traversing in above the waves,
it all goes dark inside our cave.
So head-torch on to pierce the gloom
and try to find a way out soon.

Changing leads I start to climb
bridging wide on walls of slime,
But searching right and searching left,
I cannot figure out this cleft.

That Denis boy's a troglodyte,
he's found a ramp that leads off right.
And climbing in a pool of light,
he picks his way up walls of *****.

They sound the same those muffled calls,
Just echos from surrounding walls.
Is my leader home and dry,
or is he just about to fly ?

I guess he's safe so start to climb,
bridging wide on walls of slime.
Up the ramp that leads off right.
Across a drop that's dark as night.
Can't see the gear (no time for fright).
Just struggle on towards the light.

Emerging slowly from the hole,
embracing sunshine lifts the soul.
The day's past by (it's nearly seven).
Just four hours drinking 'til eleven

Dave Cundy October 1998

CLUB NEWS

Alan Bell has volunteered to organise an event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Club.

The refurbishment at Langdale is complete. There is now a tiled drying room with a new dehumidifier, 1 shower room with wash basin, 1 shower cubicle and 1 basin. The hut was left full of dust and with a need of a good clean up. Rae has already made a list of jobs for the next working w/e in May. Try to attend and don't forget that there is also a BBQ. All

those helping out will get their food FREE.

The winter socials are now finished and we will soon (hopefully) have the list of summer socials. Mike has promised to have it ready after Easter. By the way, he will also have the new T-shirts and sweatshirts ready by the end of the week, although I am not sure to what week he is referring to.

T-shirts £7. Long sleeve T-shirts £8 and sweatshirts £12.

P&P £1.50. They are all available in grey, blue and forest green. S, M, L & XL. Place your orders now, Mike is waiting for your calls on 01253 857929.

As you might already know there is a group of FMC members heading for Spain in Easter, Sierra de Prades in Tarragona, organised by Andy Dunhill. Andy has also organised a trip to the Isle of Lewis in Scotland for Spring Bank Holiday. There is only room for 1 more person in the cottages, but anyone is welcome to come and camp. Call Andy on 01434 682018 if you want any details.

Andy & Christine have also planned to go to the Pyrenees the last week in July and the first week in August. Steve and myself will be going as well. The venue for the first week at least is Aigues Tortes in Lerida, Cataluña. Again you can call Andy if you want any information.

There is still 1 camping place left for the Lundy trip in August. Contact Martin on 01253 772073.

Don't forget the Pembroke meet in May, there are still some places left. Call Dave Wood to book. Tel. 01772 684969.

CHESTER HUT FEB 1999

12 people enjoyed a wet Saturday on the hills with added shopping for some.

Saturday night we were invited into the disco at the Victoria and woke up to find snow outside the cottage.

Clouds were being pushed across the sky by a strong wind and it was a nice dry day to be out in the hills.

John Wiseman.

ONICH MARCH 1999

Eight gnarly ice dudes had a fabulous time doing gnarly things all over The Ben . Vanishing Gully, Waterfall Gully, Zero Gully and something totally unpronounceable, were all ascended in fine style. Most teams also managed to get back down before dusk as well! Except that is for the Alpine Start team who clocked up 26 Hrs on the hill (Chris This & Adrian).

Sunday was windier and warmer and the most energetic thing done was Phil Lee's solo traverse of the Aonach Eagach ridge.

S. Wrigley (Stand in Meet Leader)

SCOTTISH WINTER 1999 Part 1 – MEAGAI DH MEMORIES

Our new editor is really taking her job too seriously. Hanging around Tolley's abode in early evening in an attempt to blagg an article from me is really going too far. So here it is, the true story of making the most of a Scottish winter's day. You know, last man off the crag and all that.

Perhaps leaving Langangarbh at 7.00am was a little late. We were in fact first out but then again we were driving to Creag Meagaidh, a hill I'd heard so much about but never seen, let alone been on.

A long but steady march in glorious sunshine brought us third team in line at the bottom of South Post Direct. I was the team and Adrian my trusty leader, not that it needed saying. It was Adrian's suggestion for the hill and route. Centre Post was vacant and looked OK to me but was discounted by my leader as a boring snow plod and the others in view looked most intimidating as in fact did the one I was at the bottom of.

We waited perhaps 30 minutes after gearing up before it was Adrian's turn to set off up the first near vertical ice pitch. He climbed confidently but a little slow for the team behind who were itching to get going and making hints about benightment etc. Well you know my speed of climbing and never having successfully negotiated an ice pitch of this calibre before and being ever the gentleman I said go ahead. Perhaps our second mistake. So much spindrift and ice was being deposited on us from above and this got worse throughout the climb.

I was so chuffed at getting up this first pitch without falling off. A full rope length as well. Having climbed the next two or three pitches of steep frozen snow, including a short ice wall we arrived at the bottom of the crux ice pitch. We had now become the fourth team on the route and seemed to have to wait for ages before we could get going again. Neither my leader nor I for that matter had any real problem it was just the continual clouds of spindrift that engulfed us and me climbing very slowly, worrying whether or not my front points and gently curved ice axe pick would stay in place.

Well we topped out in a howling gale, near white out with all the spindrift swirling around and it just about to go dark. My calves were pumping and I was knackered absolutely. We got out our head torches, Adrian's was on the blink despite a new battery he had just fitted. With Phil Lee's 1:25000 map I had aquired with surprising forethought and my compass we planned our descent. Adrian argued for the descent gully that he knew from previous visits but I was a little anxious about this. I lost my compass whilst trying to sort out the ropes and other clutter that was slowly strangling us and as I did not have my spectacles (age now definitely showing) Adrian took over the navigation.

(Continued from page 4)

With his headtorch working intermittently and the occasional flash from the camera swinging from his harness we skirted the crags westwards. We actually found a gully but with visibility down to only a few metres we weren't sure if this was the descent gully or not so we carried on our bearing west eventually finding a line of posts. We rested a while here to remove the ropes which were continually wrapping themselves around us, and to have our lunch. Undoing frozen knots wearing mitts in a mighty wind is quite an absorbing task.

At this point three Scottish lads appeared out of the gloom having just climbed Smiths Route. They were following the same bearing as us but didn't have a map. Between us we reached (as Blair later informed me) the window and we dropped down to the valley and stream and another rest. All we now needed to do was to pick up the path a short distance above the other side of the stream and we'd be back in no time for a well - earned pint. Could we find the blessed path? As we weren't exactly sure of our position we had to make do with following the stream down to where we parked the car (and a hell of a slog it was too).

We reached the car at about 12.15am knowing that there'd be no beer for us that night. In Fort William we stopped for petrol and discovered that the pubs close at 1.00am on a Saturday night. We had passed a number of hostelryes and now we had only 3 minutes to find somewhere, typical. We headed back to Langangarbh to find ourselves locked out. Five minutes of banging and shouting brought Blair, the culprit, to the door. At about 3.00am and after some food we crawled to our pits. A 23 hour day complete, on what I only learned on the descent to be a grade V,4 route. My first big mountain route and good training it was for our next day out.

Chris Thistlethwaite

To be continued...
Part 2 in your next newsletter

LAKE DISTRICT BIRD NESTING RESTRICTIONS 1999 (Source BMC)

1st MARCH to 30th JUNE

Long Crag, Bowness Knott
Chapel Head Scar
Heron Crag
Raven Crag
Upper Falcon Crag
Upper Thrang Crag
Wallowbarrow Gorge

Ennerdale
Whitbarrow
Eskdale
Yewdale
Borrowdale
Martindale
Duddon Valley

Any articles, com-
 ments, suggestions,
 complaints, thoughts,
 etc that you might want
 to see published, send
 them to me.

1st MARCH to 31st MAY

Swarthbeck Gill
Buckbarrow
Lower Thrang Crag (not including Farm Buttress)
Raven Crag

Howtown
Longsleddale
Martindale
Threshwaite Cove

Marian Solera

