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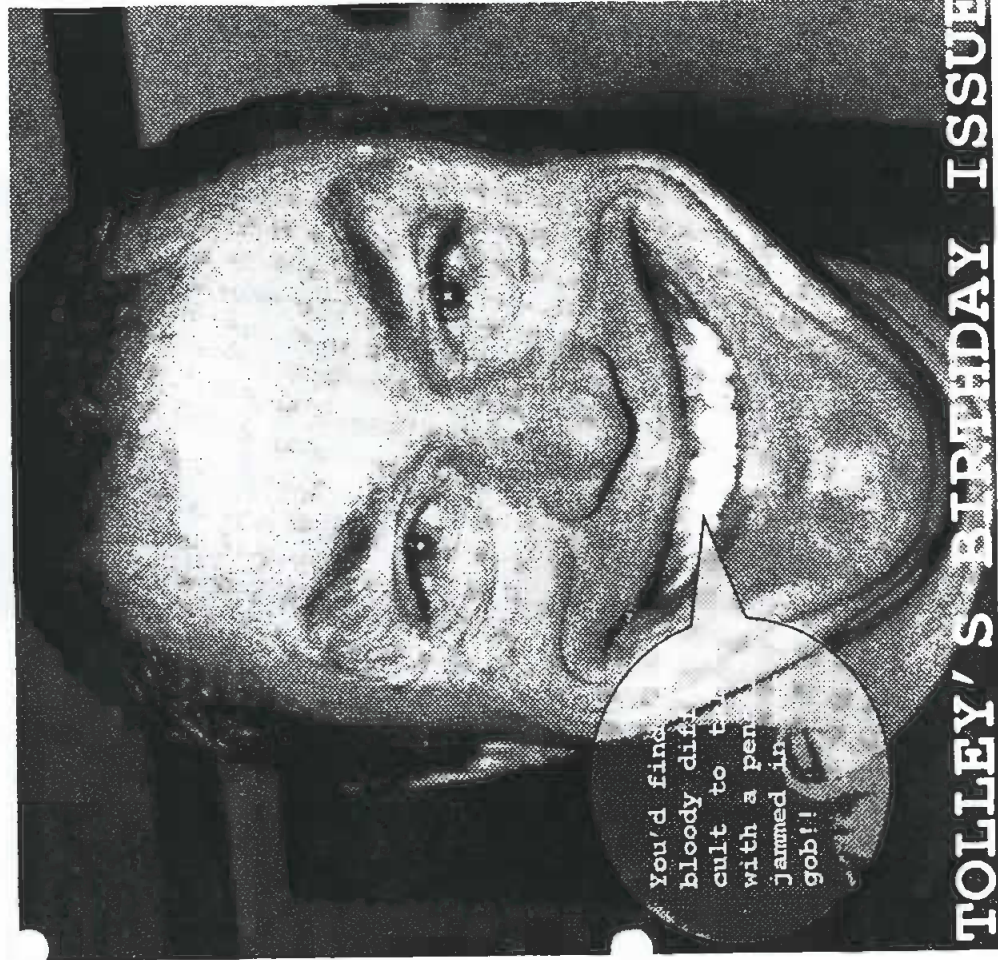
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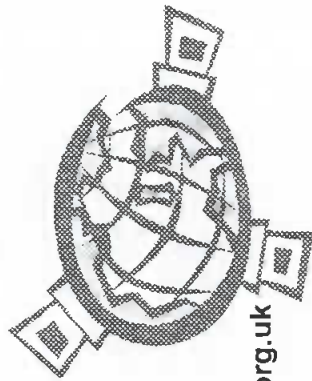
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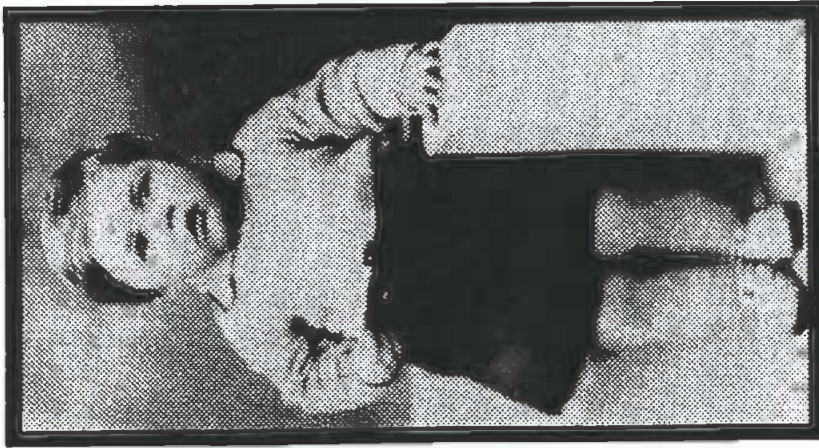
NEWSLETTER October 2001



TOLLEY'S BIRTHDAY ISSUE



There are no prizes for guessing that this is our birthday boy without the scars of life, although he looks like he might have lost his pencil. Just look at those chunky little legs!



Details of the old git's bash (his term, not mine, mine might not be publishable – Ed) are on the facing page and a location map is on page 4, together with an earthy link to accommodation

A chap called Philip has asked if I could include his advertisement. As my scanner isn't hooked up at present I have typed it as it came. Here it is

Would YOU like to LIVE in the MOUNTAINS?

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Vander Salopettes (large)	£60
Gri Gri (brand new)	£40

Contact: Michelle 01772 862503
masimey@excite.co.uk

New Bunkhouse opened in Pitlochry.

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Email: pitlochry@scottishlodge.com

Website: <http://www.scottishlodge.com>

In this edition

Lots of stuff about Mike's 60th birthday and retirement bash. You've seen some, more on **pages 4 and 5**.

Wordy stuff (eventually!) from the chairman and his adventures defying gravity on **pages 6 to 15**. (Thanks go to Mike Tolley for all the typing)

Lundy 2001 by Andy Dunhill is on **page 16**

Baslow by Joanna Goorney is on **page 19**

CHANGES to NOTE

In the syllabus the telephone number for Colin Hobday of OREAD MC is incorrect. It should read **01332 551594**

Roy Turner now resides at:
29 Gorse Road
Blackpool
FY3 9ED **01253 305759**

Chris and Rachel Bell have moved to:
10 Hall Road
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 2QD **01772 774072**

Intro member approved at the last committee meeting:

David Ward
65 School Lane
Newton
Preston
PR4 3R1

More stuff from the committee on **PAGE 20**

YIPPEE!

50 SION CLOSE,
RIBBLETON,
PRESTON
PR2 6RP

Phone: 01772 791121

IT'S OFFICIAL!

IN DECEMBER MIKE TOLLEY WILL BE AN

OLD GIT

TO HELP HIM CELEBRATE HIS COMBINED

60th BIRTHDAY AND RETIREMENT

YOU ARE INVITED TO BAC/EE SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

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ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 2001

FROM 6-30 UNTIL MIDNIGHT

GOOD BEER GOOD FOOD GOOD DISCO

GOOD COMPANY



NO REFUSALS PERMITTED

RSVP

(Continued from page 20)

Other dates for your Diary

October 20-21	Mountain Biking at Stair	M. Dale
October 27-28	Intro members at Langdale	C Bell
November 3-4	Bonfire Meet at Stair	J Wiseman
November 11	Grit Sunday	J Goorney
November 17-18	Fell Race & Curry at Stair	M Broughton
November 21	Winter Lecture: Kevin Thaw at Raikes pub	7.30
November 22	Warrington Climbing Wall	M Dale
November 24-25	Ladies Meet at Langdale	D Stockton
November 24-25	Caving Meet	M Tolley
December 1	Tolley's Retirement Party in Preston	
December 8-9	Dinner weekend	
December 19	Winter Lecture: Tim Emmett at Raikes pub	7.30
December 20	Wet View climbing wall, Preston	



Committee Snippets and Editor's stuff

The occupancy of the huts is beginning to rise again, and the committee wish to remind members that fees should be paid promptly and logged.

It should also be remembered that all meet leaders are required to submit a report to the newsletter editor. I am now using Microsoft Publisher 2002 and can import text in any format. At the time of publication Hewlett Packard still haven't managed to supply the new drivers for my scanner so I can't read printed pages. Hopefully the scanner will be fully operational before the next newsletter in December (a bumper Christmas issue I hope) and the OCR software will allow me to cope with printed pages. So, lots of articles and pictures please, on disk or by email please. I will, of course, return these with your newsletter if you request it.

AGM

Several long-serving members of the committee wish to stand down and the committee would like all members to consider whether they could fill one of the following posts:

- Secretary**
- Social Secretary**
- Langdate Hut Custodian**
- Booking Secretary**

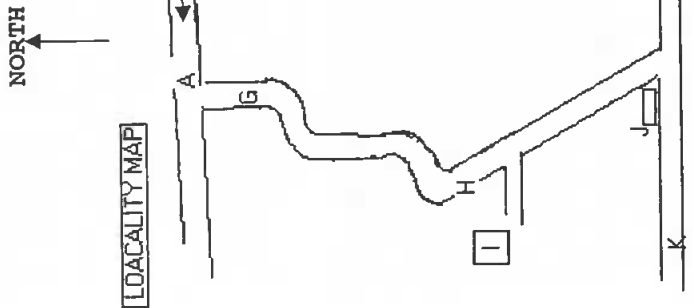
Sue and I are away from October 23rd until the first week in December but will be home for a few days in late November, just in case anyone is looking for us. Copy date for the next issue will be the date of the FMC dinner weekend, i.e. 8th December.

Annual Dinner

At the time of going to press the final details have not yet been finalised. Mark Harding will send out the info as soon as he has it. We can assume, however, that the venue and arrangements will be as last year and the date for your diaries is:

Saturday 8th December 2001

(Continued on page 21.)



For information on accommodation available in the Preston area near to the venue, contact **Mike Tolley** directly on **01772 791121**



Directions OS Grid Reference SD 531285

From the north and west - Leave M6/M55 at Junction 32/1. Travel south on A6 for 2.7 miles. At Post House Hotel turn right onto Ringway. At second set of lights bear left onto Corporation Street then right onto Fishergate by the station. Through one set of lights after station and South Meadow lane is 250 yards on left.

From M6 (south) and M65. Leave M6 at Junction 31. Follow A59 to junction with A6. Turn right onto Ringway. Then as above after Post House Hotel.

From West Lancs - Cross River Ribble by new Penwortham bridge. At second lights turn right. At next lights turn right again (County Hall is on your left). 200yds down Fishergate Hill to South Meadow Lane.

HOT FMC DUO IN OZ ROCK TOUR SHOCKER OR SMITH LIVES

I had not really been inspired to visit Australia, somehow it didn't appeal to me. It seemed a long way just to go to one crag, albeit "the best crag in the world".

It took the arrival in the FMC of a certain special person to convince me that there was more there than met the eye, and also a coffee table climbing book set the seal, I had to go and check it out. The 8th of April saw me flying out of Manchester on the first leg of the journey. Two days later I landed in Brisbane at 7-45 am. After a bit of a grilling going through customs, and a spraying of all my footwear, I met Melissa in the arrivals lounge.

As this is a mountaineering club, I will concentrate on the climbing. The first place we visited was Kangaroo Point. This crag lies by the river in the center of Brisbane City itself. After dark, it is floodlit so that climbing can continue 24 hours a day. I must admit to being a little tired when we were there, but the climbing in the dark by floodlight was a very unique experience, with amazing views over the river towards the city. It was here also that I was introduced to typical Ozzie protection, the carot bolt. These bolts are actually just literally bolts without their nuts, bashed into holes drilled into the rock. The climber places a bolt plate over the head of the bolt, and then clips a quickdraw through the plate, which stops it coming off. The hangers are usually carried in ones chalk bag. Three routes later, we had a barbeque on one of the free gas lit fires in the park below. Yes, I was definitely in Australia!

Our next port of call was Frog Buttress, which lies about 1½ hours from Brisbane. Frog consists of basalt

The usual walks around the island, bird & seal watching, & sun bathing were included in the sports plans on various days. Mark, Viv & Tom went on a fishing trip by boat & returned with 8 Mackerel for tea. We managed a few visits to the pub but relatively it was a low alcohol week by FMC standards. Everything went smoothly with no contenders for either Lush or Mug of the year, but I understand there are no shortages of attempts this year (Martin Dale's name has been mentioned but I forget by whom!)

Next visit summer 2003!

Andy Dunhill



Meet Report for Baslow 21-23/9/01

On Saturday morning, Les, Chris This, Paul Flux and myself headed for a damp Birchens Edge so Les could tick off his 'Classic Rock' routes. As the day wore on, the sun came out, drying the rock and providing a lovely Autumn afternoon. Unfortunately, an early evening departure had to be made because of some very hungry midges. The evening was spent in the Robin Hood despite the snotty landlord. Dave Woods and Martin Dale finally made an appearance having spent the day at Harper Hill. Sunday saw Les and Chris back on Birchens, Martin and Dave eventually heading for Blackwell Holt and I went for a walk through Chatsworth.

Joanna Goorney



sleeps 10 but unfortunately there were only 7 of us this year with one more who arrived on Tuesday. The team comprised; Mark & Viv Broughton, Paul Taylor (direct from Milan) & new Italian partner Christina (who provided some excellent Italian food – you can come again!), Tom Knowles, & Christine & I. Paul's brother, Tim, arrived on Tuesday.

Mark & Viv had not climbed for over a year, Paul was about the same, Christina & Tim had only done a few climbs before, Tom only does a few climbs each year anyway, & Christine & I had only started again in July following an operation I had in January. It was not going to be the most intense climbing trip! There was more of an emphasis on eating really!

A relatively late crossing meant that Mark & I only managed one climb on the Saturday, in Landing Craft Bay, but it was a good start. Throughout the week a variety of climbs were done including the usual classics for those who had not been before, or wanted to do them again. Devil's Slide, was of course, the scene of a team ascent. Mark did Diamond Solitaire twice on the same day, once with Viv & then with Tom (he obviously enjoys it!). At least two ascents of Battery Rib V Diff were made.

Five of us did Cable Way V Diff on Montagu Buttress which proved to be an excellent climb well worth more than the one star it gets. The climb takes in some very impressive rock for the grade & is highly atmospheric with a bit of a sea running! Mark & I did Fifth Appendix E1 in Devils Chimney area, which was excellent. Access to this & some of the other climbs nearby is best made by abseiling direct down to it rather than following the guide book which requires very, very low tide. Two abseil ropes are needed. The same applies to the climbs on the slabs to the right of Immaculate Slab where Paul & I did two climbs.

columns. Therefore, all the climbs follow cracks and corners, which is fine if you can jam and are into that sort of thing. We did about four very enjoyable routes, the most memorable probably being Paranoia which at 20 was probably English E2 5c. Tough moves off the deck up a thin finger crack lead into a stunning groove capped by a roof. Perfect protection leads you on, with some taxing moves round the roof onto a ledge from whence some technical barn door layback moves bring an easier finishing corner into reach. An absolute three star classic.

After spending Easter up at Melissa's parents in Central Queensland, I was fully over jet lag and ready for more. We headed south to Giraween, which is a beautiful granite wonderland, lots of domes, slabs and boulders scattered across a forested plain. It was here that the amazing bird life became apparent, not to mention the wild life! We spent only two days here when we could have spent two weeks exploring. It was reminiscent of Tuolomne Meadows in the States. There is no guidebook, so we were going off some stuff from the Internet. This made locating some routes difficult, especially at Turtle Rock, where we only found the classic New Paths as the sun went down. We did however manage Rourke's Rift 15 with a good lead by Melissa, and also the stunning Scimitar 21. This follows a sabre-like crack flashing across a steep dome in two thrilling pitches. Again, we only just escaped darkness. The next day we visited Sphinx Rock for shorter pitches and some blundering. We reluctantly had to leave to make the long drive south to Mount Buffalo. Up to now the weather had been perfect, Mount Buffalo was to be the only disappointment with rain and low cloud putting paid to any climbing. We eventually headed off to the Grampians and Mount Arapiles after a couple of days hanging around in the hope it would clear up.

As soon as we started heading west, the weather improved and when we hit Halls Gap in the Grampians, the

sun was well and truly out. We spent five days here visiting a different campground each night, and climbing at different crags every day. The highlights were the multi pitch route on Mt Difficult, Blimp 21 and Pathos 21 at a very cold Bundaleer and also Soweto 21 on the Wall of Fools at Summerday Valley. The Grampians has a bit of a Lake District feel to it with heaps of crags made up of variable quality red sandstone which changes colour as the sun goes down, to stunning oranges then pinks. There's so much to do here that we vowed to return on our way back. Next it was Australia's climbing mecca – Arapiles.

Arapiles is convenience climbing at its best. Like its American counterpart, Yosemite, it has routes and blundering only minutes from the campsite, which is invariably, stacked out with weirdo's playing bongos, didgeridoo's or slack lining between trees. It's a very similar scene in the Pines to that, which exists in Camp 4. There are only the big walls missing. There are over 2000 climbs at Arapiles, they are packed into gullies and on every conceivable face. It is quite complex and takes a bit of getting used to. You also have to get up early if you want to watch the crag change colour as it occurs in the morning, not the evening. There are heaps of classics of every grade, from the very easy to the very hard, so I guess it deserves its tag as the best crag in the world. We spent about a week there, others had spent months! We ticked some very classic routes, the best probably being Missing Link 17 on the Bluffs, Autodefe 21 on The Watchtower, Muldoon 13, which was Melissa's big lead, Wraith 21, Tannin 19, Bard 12, again which Melissa led most of it and finished off with Birdman of Alcatraz 23, which I finished just as the sun went down. Melissa managed to blag a passing Croatian climber to second it in the dark! Yes he had a bit of an epic but never the less he got up it with a little help from the moon. We could have stayed longer, but we only had

worth two stars. We quit the crag and headed down for a celebratory beer in the Brit. A good days work done. Now all I had to do was name it. As I pulled of my sweat-shirt in the Brit to reveal my T-shirt, Hal pointed to it and said, " Call it that ". Yes I was wearing my Golden Rule Tshirt, so, that was that.

Martin Dale

Summary – first ascent of Golden Rule E5 6a Pavey Ark Great Langdale.

Martin Dale, Dave Wood, Phil Lee, Hal Rzakiewicz

Worth 2 stars, and possibly due to the protection, E6.

Check out the full route description on the Fell and Rock website.

NB: on a recent visit to the hostelry in question, in some sort of celebration ritual, known as a piss up, the first ascensionist learned a new meaning of the term "carryout ". But that's another story.

Editors Note: Andy Dunhill and his long-suffering partner Christine Barbier, have also been getting in on the new routes bonanza. Andy has discovered a crag in Langstrath and developed five new routes, good stuff hey. He now has the problem of not only naming the routes but also the crag. Suggestion so far for the crag is Frog buttress but Christine doesn't seem to fancy this!! More info to follow.

LUNDY 2001

An intrepid team set sail for the magical island of Lundy & were blessed with excellent weather. We stayed in the Quarters again which is spot on for a large group. It

four weeks left to do the rest of Australia. It remains a must for anyone going to Oz.

After a rest day we found ourselves back in the Grampians. I was ready to throw myself at a route that had been recommended to me by Glen Brookes and Dave Wood, they had only stood at the bottom of it and looked up admiringly. Sandanista 23, takes a stunning line diagonally across a very overhanging wall, and looks awesome. A local had told me not to contemplate failure, as gear retrieval was almost impossible. Melissa was not going to be able to follow it, so it looked like I was going to climb it twice, however she remained open minded about it until she saw me actually on it. I could write a full article on the ensuing fight. Needless to say, it was very strenuous. The crux was at the top when you were almost spent. I'd done easier E 5s! I took flight on the crux, before I was successful and even then, when I finally grasped the jug, everything else came off wildly. I was able to hold the swing and finish it off, but it was enough to put Melissa off. I fell off the crux seconding, lost a nut, and spent some time looking at the view from the middle of a very blank piece of wall. We were rewarded at the top by some breathtaking views of the mighty Taipan Wall, and also the amazing Hollow Mountain Caves.

After that I needed another rest day, but settled for an easier route in a remote part of the Grampians. The next day we ticked another classic, Twentieth Century Fox 20 that climbs across "the silver screen" of Mt Fox. We then tried in vain to find another of Australia's famous crags – The Gallery. We must have been very close, but amazingly for such a popular crag, there was no sign of it. I guess it was our mug of the year attempt, but the guide does say that lots of people get lost on their first visit. We quit the mountains and headed for the coast to do the tourist stuff. We took three days to drive the Great Ocean Road and then stayed with a

Step right and attack the steepness. A couple of moves up and you hit a decent pocket and can stretch left and place another RP 2 or a DMM zero. When I placed it on the rope, it felt bomber, well as bomber as an RP 2 could be, but on the lead I opted for DMM zero and it just wouldn't sit properly. Anyway it would have to do, so I gritted my teeth and committed to the crux, only for my left foot to skid off the foothold (which was more of a smear). Somehow I managed to stay on and down climb; something which surprised me greatly. Maybe it was just my survival instinct kicking in! I retreated to the good runner slot and had a breather. I was on the verge of giving it a miss, was the distinct possibility that I could seriously hurt myself here really worth it!! Who else was likely to do the route? And was it really worth it.

Well after composing myself for a while, and with encouragement from below, and above, Phil was now in place with camera at the ready, I set of again? This time I pulled through the crux without incident but then started to get scared above where you move left under a bulge on side holds and smears. I reached the next runners and an absolutely sinker pocket. The two Rocks 1 and 2 aren't up to much really being in talcy rock but they act as a psychological weapon against fear for the next move. They would probably pull through if subjected to a fall of any length. The next move is a scary rock up on to the top of the bulge using just a vertical edge. It's a big step up and I was glad to be on top of the bulge. All that remained was about 15-20 feet of unprotected climbing up a faint groove line on more pockety rock with one hardish move right for a side hold.

The flake under the overhang signaled the end of the difficulties. It was in the bag. Just a finishing romp up the top section of Book of Reasons remained. I belayed and brought up Woody first, who thought the route was excellent and confirmed the grade at probably E5 6a. In fact both Phil and Hal seconded the route in good style and confirmed the quality of the climbing. Definitely

friend of Melissa's in Melbourne for a further three days. We needed to recharge our climbing batteries.

Soon we were on the road again, traveling back up to Sydney, but not without a stop at Bodroomba Rocks, outside of Canberra. We camped out the night before in freezing temperatures, and woke up to a frost. Thankfully the sun came out so we hurried up to the crag. With no guidebook we had to pick a suitable line and climb it. Three superb pitches later we were back on top of the crag, taking in the stunning views of Canberra below. I later found out that we'd ticked Nothing Left 23. We drove on into the night to arrive at Sean and Jane Smiths house at around 8 pm. We were welcomed with beers and a curry, just what you'd expect from Psycho. The next day we visited the local crag, Mt Kiera, which had some short bolted sandstone routes. Mr and Mrs Smith showed that they can still pass up rock in excellent style. Their kids, haven't yet shown any signs of following in their footsteps though.

The next couple of days were spent climbing at Nowra, about an hours drive south. This is the sports climbing area of New South Wales with stacks of routes to go at. Mostly all good quality and with good modern ringbolts. There are not to many easier grade routes though. On the second day, we got our first real rain for some time but still managed a couple of overhanging routes that stayed dry. We then met up with a keen again Sean at his local climbing wall for some real climbing!! A couple of days sightseeing followed in Sydney before we visited our final destination.

The Blue Mountains are about 2 hours from Sean's house and Sydney. It's a vast area of sandstone escarpments and valleys filled with eucalyptus trees. All the habitation is on the plateau above the crags. We chose to base ourselves in Katoomba and as it was too cold to camp we stayed in a very modern and posh Youth Hostel. The weather was very kind and was sunny every day bar one. A good job too as it was too cold to climb in the

whilst they joked their way up the new classic Capella. Then I went to work, this time actually cleaning from top to bottom. The amazing sabre tooth that I had found the previous year was still there and would probably have given the climb its name if I hadn't have broken it trying to place a rock 5 behind it. Further down I unearthed an RP 2 placement that was in good rock, and just on the crux. That spurred me on because I knew that a good RP 2 by your nose would certainly hold if you were to fall on it. I tried the crux that day with Mike holding the rope tight below so that my jumar would slide upwards, but couldn't do it. There was obviously more work to be done, so we headed of to the pub leaving it for another day, and hopefully not for someone else to nick.

Nearly two months later, after a few false starts, I found myself with another opportunity. Phil Lee was into going up to Langdale at the weekend, great stuff, now all we needed was the weather. Saturday was a bit showery, but Sunday the arrival of the sun, and also the arrival of Dave Wood and Hal. Phil was really great, agreeing to accompany Woody and Hal on Capella, again whilst I went about my business. More cleaning and then a serious look at the crux on my new mini traxion (like a shunt with teeth – brilliant). This time I'd got it sussed, so I just had to wait for my support team and we were on for an ascent, hopefully. I'd left the abb rope in situ, so Phil decided to go and retrieve it, and then he decided he was going to be the photographer, so off he went armed with my camera containing probably only one shot!

Woody held the ropes, and we were off. The route starts up Book of Reasons first pitch, which felt a bit alien after nearly 15 years since I'd done it last. I passed the belay, preferring to run the two pitches together as one. I got to the steepest part of the wall and sorted out the gear, friend 1 in a vertical slot, RP 2 above, then a good rock 2 on the right, a rock 1 in some dodgy rock and a rock 5 sideways in a pocket. Pretty poor really.

climb it without incident. Andy led the first pitch, and then I led the crux pitch. I named it Book of Reasons, mainly because when we were cleaning it, our sanity was questioned by some passing old stiff who thought that our efforts would be better focused elsewhere. They got the usual barrage of Dunhill abuse in reply.

Book of Reasons follows a groove after its short scary wall section. I was aware that to the left the wall was more continuous and blank, but it did have one or two features, and since finishing Book it had stuck in my mind, and was definitely in my "little black book" of new route possibilities.

Having exorcised the demon that was my longstanding project up Langstrath, I began to look around for something else to occupy my mind. A talk to Dave Birkett dismissed one possibility, mainly because he knew about it, and therefore it would be way to hard for me, mind you he hasn't done it yet! On another day when I was torn between just going bouldering or going for a walk, there was just time to nip up to Pavey and have a look. My cover was blown as I bumped into Steve Clegg and Harry Lambert coming down Stickle Ghyll. They knew I was up to something but I managed to avoid telling them exactly where I was going looking. They took the mick, but offered me good luck and wished me good passage. I didn't bother soloing Roundabout this time. Instead I traversed in along bilberry ledges. I set up the abseil and realized that the midges were particularly bad, so in 2000 I just had a quick look, uncovered some interesting pockets, removed a bit of moss, checked out the protection possibilities, or more to the point, the absolute lack of any! I then made my getaway whilst still alive. I lost my broddler somewhere in the process, I was in such a rush to escape "midge hell".

Back from Australia in June 2001, I was bored and wishing I was somewhere else, so I found myself up on Pavey with Mike Sissons and Phil Lee. I tagged along

shade. We visited Diamond Falls, Mt York, Mt Piddington, Shipley Upper, BOWENS Creek and Bardens Lookout. Again there's a lot of sports climbing, but some excellent trad routes especially at Mt York and Piddo. How the hell they found crags like BOWENS Creek is a mystery, hidden away as it is. There is so much rock in the Blueys that there are still acres of it that are unclimbed. We had a great time here and it was a fitting finale to the trip. The afternoon we had at Shipley Upper was truly memorable, finishing off with a couple of 23s as the rock turned orange then purple as the sunset.

A day or two remained which we spent swimming, eating pies and doing some shopping. A final cragging day to a rainy windy Point Perpendicular where we climbed the classic Gray Mist 17, above the sea. Too much like being back in the U K for me! A couple of days later, I was. Had it all been a dream?

MARTIN DALE

CHESTER SWAP AUGUST

A big team attended this meet, probably encouraged by the promise of a dry, sunny weekend. The first Chester swap meet with decent weather, where mountain crags would be in condition for nearly ten years!!

After a little sortie in the quarries on Friday night, it had to be Cloggy on Saturday for most of us. Kevin was without a partner but tied on to Dave Wood and Hal for an ascent of Shrike. I really wanted to get on Great Wall but try as we might, someone was always there before us. We started on the greasy Silhouette, then after lunch attacked the drainpipe crack, which lived up to its name and was running with water and

GOLDEN RULE

Once again I have a new route to report. This time it was a truly all F M C effort with no less than four of us getting in on the action. The route lies on Pavey Arc in Great Langdale and it takes a line directly up the wall left of another route of mine, Book of Answers, which is on the last wall above the rake before it turns into a gully and heads summit wards.

I first became interested in this bit of rock way back in 1978 when Paul Clarke blagged me and Mike Tolley to accompany him on a new route, left of Golden Slipper. At the time I said to him that one day I to would like to do a new route. He pointed to the blank wall left of Roundabout Direct and said "there you go Nob go and make a name for yourself". I remembered that wall and vowed to go and have a look someday. As for Paul's new route, we speculated on a name that night in the Rule, and numerous ones came up such as Desert Welly, Silver Sandal and, strangely, some other more derogatory ones too.

Eventually in 1986, bored and on Pavey, I decided to take a look. I soloed up Roundabout and noted there were some holds, so I abseiled down and checked it out. There was a definite lack of protection, but there were some holds and one or two small nut placements. At the end of September, I managed to talk Andy Dunhill into having a look. I was expecting to do all the cleaning myself whilst Andy went off and did something else but he insisted on giving me a hand, however, I only had one wire brush, so Andy concentrated on the lower pitch using only his hands and a tooth brush! By the time we'd finished, there wasn't time to do the route but we'd sussed it. There then followed a couple of weeks of frustrated waiting, then in the first week of October there was an Indian Summer weekend and we managed to

truly gross, and bloody hard! The upper pitches of Jelly Roll proved very memorable, however. It was mine and Mike Tolley's first routes on the cliff in a long time. In my case, at least ten years. The walk doesn't get any shorter either, as Mike, with his bad knee, will tell you. The other team members went up the Pass then retreated to the slate quarries again, for some reason.

Sunday was again nice, but Alan Blackburn had arrived so was it going to remain so, Alan, John Hickman and Clair went up to Cloggy whilst yesterday's Cloggy team caught the bus up the Pass. Definitely the way to go due to the car parking higher up. We visited Clogwyn Gafr or Craig Fach, which lies just below Pyg track about a mile up from the Pen y Pass Youth Hostel. Here we sampled the delights of The Slash, Buck and The Noise Boys and Pulsar before being driven off by ensuing drizzle. Yes, Alan's magic had worked again! The Cloggy team, speak of the devil, had a dampish ascent of Great Slab whilst the climbing wall team of Bill and Ashley Clarke, Dave Hicks, Elaine Scarles, James Smith and Sally Hicks took in more dark orifices of the slate quarries, which is where Mike myself and Kevin ended up to finish off the day with the interestingombat Rock above Twyll Mawr.

Me and Mike then sped off to the pub in Frodsham whilst Kevin remained to single handedly rescue a couple of tourists, or total plonkers, who had decided to kill themselves climbing out the big hole Twyll Mawr up the huge unstable rock fall slope at the back, but that's another story, soon to be told on the B B C s 999 program.

Martin Dale

