

Fylde Mountaineering Club

January 2014



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Editorial

Winter is here....but somebody has forgotten to tell the weather. Although it is a little smaller than usual, big hint for more articles, hopefully the club mag will help to while away some time whilst we are all sitting waiting for the snow and ice to arrive.

The big news in this edition is the mysterious winner of the annual fell race....just who did shock the bookies , turn to page to find out...or take a wild guess



In recent months I have been digitising the FMC archive of previous minutes and newsletters as far back as 1974. So if you ever want to know what stupid things the club did back then let me know, although at a glance it seems to have been the same stupid things as we do now! Certain members may have grown older but they haven't grown any wiser it would seem.....and just why did one member ask for the installation of water beds in the huts???

It hardly seems it but I've been in the club for 13 years now and the club has had it's ups and downs but I'm sure you'll all agree that it remains an excellent group to be a member of, and I look forward to the next 13 years.

Caroline

Chairman's Remarks

As I write the end of 2013 draws near, an opportunity to look back and reflect on how active we have been over the last year, I guess this flurry of activity is largely down to the good weather we have been able to enjoy in the UK, successful meets have been hosted in Pembroke, Ireland, North Wales, and of course the Lakes. The more adventurous going further a field to Kalymnos (twice!!), Morocco and the Alps. The evening climbers made the most of the great weather as well, the high point finishing at Denham followed by an authentic curry night at the Top Lock!

On a different note may I thank Steve Longworth for his efforts in organising so many great events over the past year, socials, evening climbing and the club dinner to name but a few, Steve has put his all into the role of Social Secretary and is doing a damn fine job, no stone is left unturned in his bid to communicate events far and wide, the rewards being reaped by us all by having great turnouts.

The club dinner was a first for me and a great evening was enjoyed by all, saddened only by the absence of Alan Bell due to illness. Alan incidentally had not until this year missed a club dinner for 52 years an outstanding achievement well worthy of recognition.

I learnt recently that a valued member of our club Les Ward had not been feeling well. I visited him just before Christmas and it was great to catch up and recount one or two tales of our adventures, Glovers Chimney on Ben Nevis being one never to forget!

Finally let's look forward to 2014, and hopefully the fine conditions enjoyed last year will continue, the storms we have experienced over the festive period should provide all the ingredients for a good winter once things settle down!

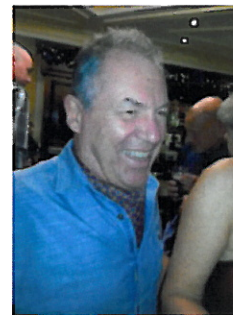
Darren Hartley

Annual Dinner

On behalf of the Club I would like to offer a much belated vote of thanks to all those who turned out for the Clubs Annual Dinner last weekend. The event proved to be fantastic success because of the contribution of each and every individual that attended, a total of 46 in all.

We were saddened by the fact that Alan and Christine Bell were unable to make it as planned due to the fact that Alan had unfortunately, and unexpectedly, ended up in hospital. I understand that he is now home and much recovered, we wish them well.

Special recognition must be made of the effort made by Paul Taylor and Christine Prada who flew in from Milan especially for the occasion. It was a sterling effort well worth an 'award' in its own right (*Ed: but we already have a Mug of the Year award!!*).



Even Lord Hicks attended this year's dinner....



...whilst Karen put in an early bid for next year's Lush award

Talking of awards, the much cherished and sought after awards were made after the usual finger pointing and hilarity. The 'Lush' of the year was eventually taken by intro member Matt Reed, but not without substantial efforts by numerous serious contenders (*Ed: or should that be "serial offenders"*). A fine effort Matt in your first year, obviously you have much to offer the club and we look forward with much anticipation

to great things!! Thanks to Chris Thistlethwaite for his contribution to the evening by entertaining us with the various drunken contenders tales.

The 'Mug' of the year was taken by, of all people, our esteemed Secretary Mike Howe!! (*Ed: crikey, all this time and I thought he was our treasurer - original versions are always best Steve*) Who would have thought it?, yet the 'clapometer' vote for him was thunderous and left Andy Dunhill in no doubt as to where the Mug was to spend the next year, and of course the fact that Mike's name could be added to the illustrious list of previous holders. Thanks to Andy for relating the numerous entertaining and hilarious tales from the prime contenders.

In his first year as Chairman Darren Hartley regaled us with a fine speech as he looked at the state of the club and its many achievements. In it he paid tribute to those that help make the club as successful as it is.

I am sure that all those that attended the event had a great time and will already be looking forward to next year with anticipation. If for some reason you couldn't attend or maybe thought it wasn't worth the effort you missed out on so much but in particular you missed out on the 'real' benefit of such an event, the camaraderie!! It's all about catching up with members old and new and having the time to enjoy their company in a great atmosphere.

Next years event will take place in the same splendid venue, The Skiddaw Hotel in the heart of Keswick on Saturday the 15th of November 2014. I would urge you to put the date in your diary now and make 2014 the year that you attend and make your personal contribution to the success of the event.

Steve Longworth

Evening Climbing report 2013

What a difference 12 months makes! Who could have imagined that the summer of 2013 would be so much better than 2012? It also saw an increase in members getting out regularly on the crags.

The Towers at Blackpool provided the first meet of the summer in May. The weather was lovely and the place was mobbed! We were queuing for routes! Things did not continue in the same vein though as bad weather forced us inside again for the Denham meet on the 9th of May. We all thought we'd seen the back of West View. Trowbarrow was therefore the first proper outdoor meet. Seven of us headed up there for a great night. I think that this was the night that Anne Pickup was introduced to trad climbing. After a brief warm-up she ably followed Assagai without a hitch. Beer was had as usual in the quirky Woodlands in Silverdale. The last meet I attended in May was at Anglezarke where it was unseasonably cold, so no midges! Another big turn-out saw ten of us enjoy the midge-free conditions. The last meet of May was switched from Wilton to Giggleswick because of crag conditions. Four attended.



June started well with a big team enjoying Witches. Pete Stridgeon experiencing the Nick Hepburn effect and only just making the pub! Robin Proctor was cancelled due to rain. The Towers were visited as an alternative by eight of us but rain there too proved frustrating with only a couple of faces being climbable on. We were soon in the pub! The summer had not really started yet and we had to switch the next meet to a different night to avoid getting a wetting. The venue was also changed. Nine of us visited Robin Proctor. I had a good night, managing "Tangled up in glue" 6C+ and "Phone Booth Connection" 6C in reasonable style. Nick Hepburn made a bid for mug when he arrived late, as usual but then realised he'd forgotten his harness and had to return swiftly to his car. On return he subjected Pete Stridgeon to another late one. The weather had improved and six members visited a dry Trow Gill. The midges however had other

ideas and came out in force and we soon had to make an early retreat to the pub.

The first meet of July was moved due to inclement weather inland. Trowbarrow proved as popular as ever with the best attendance of the summer. It also proved that the use of social media in the form of Facebook as a method of publicising meets or changes to meets is very effective. 14 members enjoyed a great evening in the sun. Members visited Panorama/Moughton the week after in great weather. The inclusion of Humphrey Head on the syllabus was a bit of a gamble. It was not a good choice as the base of the crag was overgrown and the suggested re-bolting of routes was non-existent. We won't be going again in a hurry.



The week after Giggleswick North was visited by an optimistic team of four. The weather was iffy but was fine and dry until we got within 200 metres of the crag. It then proceeded to rain. We sat it out and moved over to Gigg South. The rain stopped and the sun came out and we were rewarded with a couple of hours of climbing. Liam nearly managed to behead me when pulling off a loose hold. Thankfully, he was on a top rope at the time and he missed!

It was decided that Chapel Head may be a little on the hard side for most of the members, so an alternative plan was

hatched. Denham had been cancelled earlier in the season so we needed to visit at least once during the summer if only for a pint in the Top Lock at Heapey. A good turnout was made special by the attendance of Simon Fenna, his first appearance for some time. John Hickman also made his only appearance of the summer. The "Charlie's Angels" of the Top Lock did not disappoint! Langcliffe was also a new addition to the syllabus in

2013. On the night the weather was a bit dodgy. Four of us just had time to get up the two bolted routes on the main slab before rain set in. We had a look at the newly bolted Skyline Buttress but it was so gloomy up there that you'd have needed a head torch to climb. The next two meets fell foul of the weather. Warton Main and Witches were both replaced by visits to the Towers in Blackpool. Only three of us braved the return visit to Trowbarrow. Matt Reed and Darren Hartley needed rescuing off Harijan. Darren ended up seconding it with a headtorch. (*Ed: It wouldn't*

be an FMC meet without some headtorch action)



The Denham meet in September again proved popular. Maybe it was those barmaids in the Top Lock? I had noticed that several routes above the pond had been recently cleaned. They still needed an inspection and a further brushing though. I soloed the V.Diff up the corner, Wet, and then led the VS up the middle, Damp. This was not without interest with a dodgy unprotected mantleshelf move at the bottom. I then turned my attention to the E2, Acapulco, to the left. This required a skyhook for protection at the start. Sadly, I was beaten by the clock. Too late to mount a serious attempt.

In the pub, Dave Hicks had spotted that they did a curry night on a Tuesday, so he suggested we return the following week, just for a curry really, but the excuse was to do a climb in the quarry first. Tuesday arrived and with it a chance to get the E2 done. Matt Reed did the honours with the belaying. With the skyhook in place and weighted, I tackled the first moves which I wrongly surmised to be the crux. These led to some dodgy gear at the base of a shallow groove. The moves into the groove were precarious, scary and committing, however once in there a small hidden hold provided just enough to



enable moves to be made to gain the half height ledge. A fall from the top moves would not have been a nice experience! I gathered myself then attacked the top wall. Slightly overhanging but with good, if a little crumbly, pockets lead to a problem finish up a slab. I had taken the wrong sized friends so had to retreat and haul some more up from Matt below. Up the pockets again and I managed to get a couple of half decent friends in and then another in a break to the left. Time to try the problem slab! After a couple of forays I committed. No chance! I couldn't climb back down so was looking at a fall onto the untested slightly dodgy friends. I shouted Matt to get ready. He couldn't see me because of the ledge. Heart in mouth, I took the fall. After what seemed like an age, I stopped just short of the ledge, suspended between the friends. They'd held! After a rest I went back up. This time I got my right toe into the same pocket I had my right hand in and rocked up to glory – just! By the skin of my teeth! The grade was more like E3 5C and worth a couple of stars, however it is likely to return to its dirty state and may not be climbed again until someone else like me comes along and gives it another clean. It did feel like doing a new route and also was a fitting finale to the years evening outdoor climbing. Matt followed superbly but did kind of side stepped the top crux. Pete Stridgeon also made a good lead of Time, his first E1 lead! A good few of us enjoyed a curry afterwards in the Top Lock.

So a much better year than 2012. More members involved and much improved organisation due to the use of social media. Are you in for 2014? If so, have you any idea's for venues you'd like to visit? Let me know!!

Martin Dale



Kalymnos – The Sequel

The Word was out. This glistening gem of an island in the Aegean was indeed a climber's playground. The six climbers of May were now the fourteen of October - one of the largest club trips in recent years.

The plane delivered us on time but we could see that white horses were riding the waves making our voyage from Kos to Kalymnos a uncertain passage. We would be the first for three days to ride by the main ferries. We were 13 club members on the crossing with Paul to join us later in the week. Not really superstitious. ..but there you go on the way down the taxi had a puncture and the driver wasn't so handy with a jack. We make it in time to be all shook up.



October, warm seas and busy, busy, busy with a North Face international climbing comp attracting the top jocks and **us**. Despite the ridiculously early start, the adrenalin is flowing and we head up to Sector Poets on foot where we ...climb for a while... in moderate style...overcoming our fear...until in need of a beer ... we set off down the hill ...to consume our fill...etc. etc. etc.



Hal and I are with our landlord, Saw and this was his second instalment so it had to be Saw 2. All the others are with Demetri just down the road. He has come out of retirement to help us with our accommodation problem. But old habits die hard and only after three days do the nobs and nobettes suspect that the 83 year old had been secretly nipping into Martin's apartment (where the lecky switch was) to turn it off during the day, thereby ensuring that everyone gets back to a refreshingly cold

shower. I suggest that Martin puts a hair across the door like in the Bond films to see if it's broken, but he hasn't got any so that won't work.

At the bars they tell us it has been blowin' a hooli but we see only sun and same the day after and the day after. It goes like this: Tues, Wed, and Thurs, - Sea Breeze, Illadia, and Kastri. Friday was Ghost Kitchen, so called, we thought because the grossly overhanging stalactites could resemble ghostly figures. Tony and I have an appointment with a mean looking tufa called Remember Wadi Rum (6C) which we manage with some grunting. Then between us we all but clean a 6B+ and a 6C+. But they do say that the grades are a touch soft on the island so we'll all go home struggling on hard 5s.

Back at Arhi the team were taking on all angles with Matt giving a lesson in precarious 6A slab climbing and Pete upping his grade on the steeper stuff. Somewhere in between it all the team fitted in Argonita and Summertime. This gave Dave Hicks time to regain his mojo and he was soon ticking off routes in quick succession. Chris, Paul and Geoff were doing a good job of hoovering the crag as well, but Geoff seemed to be losing his mojo from time to time as he had to frequently go off for a swim to find it. Alongside this, Mr Cundy was rehabilitating himself from his injury Meanwhile all the ladies were pushing their grades and their drinks.



Saturday is the Grand Grotto and an initiation to the steep stuff for Matt, Pete and Anne. All coped very well with Pete and Anne giving the 6A+ tufa a good seeing to. Just along from our party was a blind man belaying his partner up a 7A+. It gave me a whole new perspective on "Watch Me". He then commenced the climb and took quite some time but he got there. His friend said he

had lost his sight 15 years ago and was doing well but was not on form recently! All very humbling and not least his descent down the gravel path with his friend guiding him only by a bell.

There are those that say that Sport Climbing is very safe and although the bolting is good in Kalymnos, the rock is sharp and it doesn't pay to drop off at the wrong time. One competent climber was spending his entire holiday in the local hospital because he fell off on the first day on a warm up 5B. He pulled a block off before decking it having not quite clipped the first bolt.

We move around to Spartan Wall where Martin was giving a 6C a look at. Not long after after I had the pleasure of meeting Dave Musgove, who was taking part in the North Face marathon competition. This is where you climb as many routes as you can from a given list over a period of 2 days with points deducted for resting etc. We subsequently found out from him that the winners did 60 routes. Anyway at the time, Dave just happened to be doing one of his own routes and was still climbing well despite losing all the finger ends up to first joint of one hand in a climbing accident several years ago. He reckoned it helped him on some climbs but definitely not on others. This was the second disabled climber of the day. So immersed was I in this that I managed to leave my guidebook behind a boulder, never to find it again.



We rotated our restaurants trying to reach a consensus as to which was best. I was impressed with one right over the beach where the food was excellent and the waiter remembered 12 names after just one visit! Back at the Fatalotis bar it was 'Spot the

Name' which Martin does with consummate ease (too much time on UK climber I say). About half the party were leaving the following day and the last night party atmosphere kicked in. Fortunately or not, North Face were hosting an end of competition party night with beer that



appeared from nowhere. It's 4.00am and a noisy Martin Dale is swaying up the road, helped by Anne. He is singing - badly. The morning was not so kind to others either. We have a picture of the Stridge that shouldn't really see light of day and so it goes that Matt had to spend the ferry crossing literally decked out.

With half the team gone we have to tolerate a rest day before taking in Belgian Chocolates, the island of Telendos and Panorama – all yielding excellent but different climbing. One highlight was Pallonisos Bay tucked away on the east coast. Hal and I had good reason to remember this as in 2003 (and before the road was built) we had slogged up a track and made the mistake of taking a short cut past some beehives. The bees were unhappy and attacked us in great numbers leaving multiple stings. We had carried on weaving down a long footpath which took us past a community of very old women all dressed in black, to meet Nikolas at his container 'Taverna'. He plied us with Retsina taking all the pain away. Back in Pallonisos, now by scooter, we meet Nikolas again, now 10 years on with a proper taverna and not a shack on the beach. How things had changed. The climbing was of interest and in a beautiful, tranquil setting. Martin had a look at a 7A and almost pulled it off. It was not to be but we all did something of merit.

All too soon it was time to depart. We planned to return in May 2014

Dave Wood



Fell Race and Curry Meet 2013

With a few regulars away in the sun, numbers were slightly down this year but the weather was excellent for fell running and several records were broken. The first three runners finished within a minute of each other with Caroline Webb triumphant and Chris Peed out sprinting Mark Broughton for second place. Chris could easily have been the overall winner but he was having a dump when his start time arrived and started late. The fastest male with a time of 46.34 was Steve Wrigley, the first record breaker of the day with the slowest ever winning time. Vivienne Broughton was fastest of the women and the second record breaker of the day with the slowest ever women's winning time. Martin Dale started 7 minutes late (probably another record) due to other commitments (bottom trouble). Clive Bell went round in 2 hours 20 minutes, the slowest ever time – but to be fair, he was acting as official photographer.

As usual Andy provided hot soup after the race and an excellent veggie curry in the evening, including the 'heinous looking but very tasty' concrete curry.

Results

Position	Name	Time	Scratch position	Handicap
				plus or minus
1	Caroline Webb	71.18	8	-42 Seconds
2	Chris Peed	50.05	3	+5 Seconds
3	Mark Broughton	47.06	2	+6 Seconds
4	Andy Dunhill	53.11	4	2
5	Steve Wrigley	46.34	1	3
6	Vivienne Broughton	64.4	6	3
7	Kevan Ebbrell	60.26	5	4
8	Martin Dale	77.11	9	11
9	Simon Fenna	70.35	7	14
10	Dave Earle	100	10	20
11	Clive Bell	140.1	11	50



Caroline Webb or a ringer dressed in a Caroline suit? You decide
This may have been the most elaborate handicapper blag of all time.
(Ed: *Simply the best, but I was amazed when Mo Farah agreed to do it*)



Chris Peed - could have won
but chose to go to the
toilet!!



Steve Wrigley - the slowest fastest time
ever



Andy the fell pixie – almost
running!



The infamous Cumbria Grey Grout
curry - it honestly tasted better
than it looked...and yes this is a
colour picture

Ladies Christmas Meet, Dec 2013

As usual this meet was well attended with seventeen Ladies sitting down for the meal. However, the weather was diabolical! Three parties left the hut on Saturday morning to attempt different walks. Only C party heading straight for Keswick were successful. The three parties walked together 'til Skelwith Farm where C party peeled off, the other two groups headed along the path under CatBells. At this point it was merely windy, within ten minutes it was persisting it down and not long after that B party headed back towards the hut. The intrepid members of A party continued, huddled in their waterproofs unable to communicate over the wind and rain. Finally, someone bottled and suggested heading back with immediate agreement from all. Back at the hut the drying room was going full tilt and various Ladies were making plans for the rest of the day – most heading to Keswick. The evening meal was superb with meat and veggie options, carol singing and much wine. Sunday saw people heading home or going out for low level walks in much improved weather conditions.

Liz Hird

Family Meet, January 2014

Another well attended meet in dire weather conditions! On Saturday we attempted a low level walk along the old railway path before giving up and retiring to the swimming pool. Some late afternoon drinking in both the Coledale and the Swinside took us through to evening. This meet is now traditionally our Burns Night celebration so we had two sittings of haggis, neeps and tatties (kids then adults). A great weekend socialising but a little bit disappointing as the weather stopped us achieving very much.

Andy, Liz and Ed Hird (Jess was at Brownie camp!)

Notices

Mountain Literature Library

Mark Lambert has recently joined the FMC and has been a book collector all his life. He currently has an extensive mountaineering library of some 1600 titles, many of them early and Victorian classics, as well as most of the classic guidebooks. He has very kindly offered to make his library available to FMC members and can be contacted on 01995 670123. An Ecatalogue is be available on request.

FMC on Facebook

The club now has two presences on Facebook. There is a public facing group which anybody can see and request membership off, and there is also a private group that can be used to co-ordinate meetings. This private group is only visible to members of the group and membership is restricted to current FMC members. If you wish to join this private group then please let myself or Dave Wood know so that we can issue an invite. Although a relatively recent addition, this has proven to be a very useful tool for coordinating outings, and it allows sharing of contact details without showing them to the whole world.

FMC Annual Dinner

THE club event of the year will take place on Saturday November 16th 2014 at the Skiddaw Hotel in Keswick - it's the clubs annual dinner and awards ceremony, the official invite is enclosed with this newsletter.

It's an excellent do and a chance to catch up with friends both old and new, so get the date booked into your diaries and we'll see you all there.

FMC Upcoming Trips

The Hot Rock team are heading to Calpe in April for fun in the sun, contact Dave Wood or Chris This for info.

Plans are progressing for another Kalymnos visit at the start of May, let Dave Wood know if you are interested as soon as possible.

