

# SOCIAL CLIMBING

JUNE 1990

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

8 - 9 June Llanberis Pass John Salmon  
Could this be the meet everyone will be talking about? Classic mountain routes, balmy summer evenings, monster omelettes and banana splits at Pete's Eats? This one you cannot afford to miss. We will be meeting in the Vaynol Arms in Nant Peris and camping in the field opposite the pub. (Pub - campsite transit time ~3 minutes). For details of camping and travel arrangements contact me on 0332 762491.

Saturday 16 June Local long walk John Gresty  
A hard walk should be like a hard climb - its outcome uncertain until the very end. Last year's walk was successful, therefore this year the walk will be longer - approximately 50 miles.

From a 5 a.m. start at Heathy Lea the route meanders north, avoiding the edges, eventually turning east, via Hathersage and Bradwell to Peak Forest. Here we will head south through limestone dales. The final change of direction will be at Monyash where a left turn takes the route back to the start.

Hopefully there will be a support vehicle to provide aid, sustenance and rescue. Sunday to recover! For more details ring me on 0332 518450.

15 - 16 June Tan-yr-Wyddfa WF Chuck Hooley  
The last working party at the Welsh hut was very successful. The external wall of the dining room was covered with matchboarding. The exterior painting which was scheduled for this WF will not now take place but there are a number of other jobs which need to be done. So, if you want to help (usual free travel, kudos and halos) please contact Chuck on 0335 70463.

Wed 20 June Dovedale

22 - 23 June Eskdale Bobbie Gilbert  
Prologue (June 89). A small team comprising some pretty average rock athletes and some fairly mediocre alpinists decided to combine their incompetence for a weekend in the Lakes. The resulting fiasco ensured that the weekend was remembered as a "classic" (whatever that means). This year the event will be repeated, giving you a chance to have a memorable weekend.  
Venue Sampson Stones below Cam Spout Crag. Map ref NY218054. Near the top of Eskdale, a short walk from Esk Buttress (Dow Crag on OS map) and Scafell East.

The Route In M6 - Lakes - Wrynose - Hardknott. Two E points available for each car successfully over the two passes (handbrake on counts as a rest; stalling counts as a fall). The track up Eskdale starts at the bottom of Hardknott (NY212012). Head NE for 2 miles to Lingcove Bridge, across this and NW for a mile to the boulders which teams should reach shortly after midnight. Be warned: the boulders are just N of a very boggy patch of ground. Last year Mike Moss was saved only by virtue of a large sombrero with a strong chinstrap.

Equipment Some wine and food. A bivvy bag (available at your local climbing emporium for a couple of quid), a small tent for the unadventurous, more wine, all the usual bits and pieces you normally bring plus some wine. Perhaps everybody could throw something extra in as well to make up for all the things Gary Burgess will forget.

Activities Climbing on Scafell, Dow(?vs - ed.), Raven (?!! - ed). Cam Spout (very esoteric). Swimming in the River Esk. Sunbathing in the scorching sun. Drinking wine etc in the evenings.

For more (! - ed) information contact me on 0332 365058 or in The Brunswick (Tu) or The Black's Head (W).

Sun 1 July Derbyshire Amble Colin Hobday  
At the time of writing, there is a fire risk on the moors resulting in many areas being closed, so with this in mind, we shall try a new venue and a walk I did a few weeks ago!  
Meet at the "small" car park in the centre of Monyash for a 1000 start. Then Deep Dale, Monsal Dale, to Little Longstone for a pub lunch. There is a beer garden behind though watch out for the goat - it even ate Reg Squires' jacket. Suitably refreshed we will return via Ashford-in-the-Water and Sheldon. Distance: approx. 10 miles.  
Further info from me in The Brunswick (Tu) or ring 0332 551594. See you there.

6 - 7 July Anglesey Brian West  
After several false starts, Gogarth seems to have established itself in the Dread calendar. The climbing is superb and the weather better than average for North Wales.  
Camping will, I hope, be at the site which used to be called "The Valley of the Rocks", now the Anglesey School of Sea Canoeing, SH 237805 - not in the place indicated on the map by the OS campsite symbol. There are good facilities, and Porth Dafarch, an excellent little beach, is within bucket and spade distance.

Albert  
All the climbing is within easy reach, and so is Holyhead itself. If you have ever wondered what a Wild West town was really like, then Holyhead on a Saturday night should give you a pretty fair idea.

If you intend to come, please get in touch on 0332 880034. The site is being developed and I have to ring up beforehand to make sure that there is somewhere for us to camp!

21/22 July

Derbyshire night walk

Peter Amour

## P A S T E V E N T S A N D A N C I E N T H I S T O R Y

1990 Fell Race. I have received a charming and grovelling letter from Fred Phillips regarding Pete Lancaster's fell race result. Security conscious Fred has shredded all original documents but it is known that Pete visited all checkpoints in quite a fast time probably placing fourth. ed

John Linney's Ullapool meet at Easter.

A party of eight Dreads and friends (John Linney, Colin Barnard, Jack Ashcroft, Gordon Wright, Colin Hobday, Peter Amour, Dave Jeffries and Roger Chapman) stayed in two excellent cottages in Liechmeln booked by Colin Barnard.

The weather at the start of the week was very unsettled with frequent heavy snow showers, the snow level being down to 1500 feet. Despite the weather, the party was very active. Peaks climbed were Cul Mor (in a blizzard), while Cul Beag provided a steep snow climb to the summit with fine views across to Suilven and Stac Pollaidh. A day was spent walking up Glen Oykel and in the Ben More forest. John, Colin B, Roger and Dave tried their luck on Stac Pollaidh but were defeated by snow on the summit rocks. Gordon looked after the wellbeing of the party by making sure we were always off the hills in time for a beer in Ullapool!

Our last day, Friday, proved to be the best with blue skies and snow covered mountains. John, Colin B and Dave went to the Coigach and had an excellent day. Gordon, Colin H and Peter went round to Dundonnell and traversed An Teallach in Alpine conditions, descending to the track which leads to Shenavail and back to the Dundonnell Hotel so ending a perfect week in the hills. CH

Lisa Welbourn's Lakes meet (Mayday weekend).

"DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE ROPE STRETCH"

A fairly remote but individual campsite, with tents nestling among mounds of bed rock. A pub within walking distance and easy walks to places like Dow and Esk Buttress (or so we were told!).

Saturday morning dawned clear and fine. We set off for one of the easy walks up to Dow. Perhaps it is an easy walk if you're one of those hard walkers we hear so much about! However, for us climbers carrying all the gear and ropes, with the sun blazing down, it was tiring to say the least. The destination attained, the climbing began, for some more quickly than others. Two Dreads were overheard to say that they were just not "born leaders"!

Sunday turned out to be slightly less hot, but still fine. We took another of those easy strolls over to Esk Buttress. This walk seemed to go up and down for hours and then through a huge bog. Some fine climbing was done when we eventually motivated ourselves: Bridge's Route and Red Edge being the best of the day. The walk back to the car was interrupted by a refreshing stop at a remote stream for photographs and a paddle.

Once back at the campsite, it was a quick rush down to the pub for something to eat. Some had used so much energy they found room for two main meals of Cumberland sausage and chips.

Monday was hindered by overnight and early rain, but climbing was still possible at Wallowbarrow, amongst other places. On an interesting trip to Hodge Close Quarry, an amusing story was related: the place attracts all sorts from divers to climbers, from abseilers to bikers. One Sunday a rope had been placed to allow the bolting of a new route. The rope hung down the rock above one of the tunnels and out on to the jetty over the lake. One of the heavy leather and chain clad bikers thought it would be a laugh to use the rope and hurl himself out across the lake. Only on return journey across the lake did this "egor" (who he? - ed) type discover the stretching properties of climbing rope. A dramatic rescue was performed by the climbers to retrieve the sinking he-man from the depths - his attire just would not let him swim. His friends? Much to the amusement of the climbers, a roar of engines was heard and the rest of the tribe sped off into the distance leaving behind one very damp biker. NF

#### COMMITTEE MEETING 15 May at The Brunswick

Eight members attended the meeting. After the usual formalities, there was lively discussion and some decisions were taken. A £55 cancellation fee has been paid in respect of the barn dance. It was reported that Dennis Gray had offered to come and speak to the club as part of the promotion of his forthcoming autobiography. He would charge £100 plus expenses. A French cragging meet in the early autumn was mooted as was a trip to "the greater ranges". It was decided to re-vamp the list of members to omit titles and include first names and dial codes. It was reported that there had been a successful working party at Tan-yr-Wyddfa but the painting work scheduled for the next WP was in some doubt on account of the poor state of some of the external render. The meets secretary reported a very healthy attendance and outlined his plans for 1991 which include retaining treasured traditional occasions and at the same time bringing in some new venues. Huts have been booked for two winter meets in Wales and two in the Lakes. He felt that there were too many formal walks in the summer and that the autumn might be a better time for some of these. The cost of printing the newsletter was discussed with some widely divergent opinions expressed. Richard Coghlan reported on his investigations into bulk buying of equipment. Rock Hudson reported back from BMC Peak District that there was now a notice at Rainster announcing a charge of £5 for use of the crag. He reported on friction between climbers and anglers below Rubicon Wall in Water-cum-Jolly. The fishermen are keen to co-exist with climbers but also

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wish to continue to use a facility for which they, incidentally, have to pay. Some climbers are reported to have been uncooperative and even abusive. Rock also reported on the BMC's plans to end club membership (see separate note and fill in and return questionnaire). It was decided after all these years that the club's profile is too low so the local authorities will be reminded of our existence and we will insert a notice in the bi-annual clubs list published by the BMC in High. Discussion of the application by Rob Tresidder and Robin Beadle for support for their Nilkanta expedition was deferred to the next meeting which will be held on 12 June.

#### Peter Scott's Swaledale meet

Of course, Pete looks as though he has never eaten a cream tea in his life, but I was prepared not to judge by appearances...

This joint meet with the Derwent MC kicked off at Almscliff with fine displays by the famous Leeds University double act while some of us nursed our swollen fists and screaming forearms.

Saturday morning found the campsite alive with mountain bikes of various vintages and serviceability and ditto mountain bikers. Much sartorial interest in whether helmets were de rigueur or not. In the end no-one did. In the morning to Tan Hill and back on part of the Pennine Way where Pete's mountain biking lieutenant fell in a bog. In the afternoon, he lost his team on a tour of Gunnerside Gill - but helped us all enjoy ourselves, though we did get down after all the teashops had closed. Some wisely had walked, climbed or caved.

Sunday saw a return to common sense as parties headed for home: some via Attermire, others to Brimham. The meet leader went flying - perhaps in search of the great cream tea in the sky. I certainly never got one. RT

#### C H A N G E S   O F   A D D R E S S

Steve Bissell  
28 St James' Road, Derby DE3 8QX  
tel 0332 381738

Bev Abley  
47 Priory Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1LL  
tel 0926 53882

#### H A N D B O O K

The new handbook was first available at the AGM. All full members should have received a copy by the time they get this newsletter. If you have not yet had yours please contact me. Unfortunately, it is possible that some people may have received binders without the coloured printed sheets to put in them. One member thought the binder was for storing newsletters! Well, no; but that's terribly flattering of you Robin. ed

#### H U T   B O O K I N G S   Tan-y-Wyddfa

June 8/9	Vibram MC 16 beds
15/16	Hut working party
22/23	? Oread meet
29/30	Bob Wade 16 beds

July 6/7 SAC 16 beds  
13/14 Derby MC 16 beds  
July 20 - Sept 1 Summer holiday - Oread use only

#### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

An application for full membership has been received from Gary Burgess. Will anyone who has any views as to the suitability of the candidate please write to the secretary, Steve Bashforth, 14 Farneworth Road, Mickleover, Derby.

#### CONTRACT ORDER FOR EQUIPMENT

At this year's AGM a point was raised about the bulk purchase of equipment. I have made some rather belated preliminary enquiries and it would seem that a price reduction of some 15 - 20% is possible. The price reduction varies from item to item, which complicates the procedure, but some suppliers do not require a minimum order. For such suppliers ordering in the name of a club rather than an individual is sufficient to obtain the discount.

Before proceeding further I need to know the level of support from Oreads. If you are planning to buy a piece of gear in the next month then phone me on Derby 753807 or see me at the Brunswick. I shall compile a list of requirements and, based on the total cost and nature of the goods, choose a supplier. The supplier should then give a quote for each item on the list and I can get back to the members concerned to see whether they wish to go ahead. Up to this point there will be no commitment required of members.

A really big order, £2500 plus, might give me the power to negotiate further discounts, but the order list must be compiled quickly. The list will close on 19 June.

Richard Coghlan

#### NEXT EDITION

I intend to publish the next edition on Tuesday 3 July. Please send all written material (pithier the better) to me at 61 West End, Wirksworth DE4 4EG to arrive by Monday 25 June. I especially look forward to hearing from Keith Gregson.  
Rob Tresidder

BMC RE-STRUCTURING

It is proposed that the BMC abolish group membership and that climbers should join as individuals only.

At the last BMC area meeting the committee thought that ideas on the above change would best be obtained by asking clubs to organise questionnaires.

The BMC, whatever you believe, tries hard to work in the best interests of mountaineers and rock climbers and in the future will be more and more in the forefront of providing access, protection, safety, a pressure group etc. It is becoming aware that a high profile will be needed along with higher membership levels. A strong national voice is required for dealing with the many different bodies which can affect our interests. Without the BMC your long fought for freedoms can be lost. That affects you, so give a thought to the future. In 1991, group membership will be £ 2 per head and individual membership will be £8. Please fill in the questionnaire and hand it back to me or any other committee member as soon as possible.  
Rock Hudson

Name (not compulsory!).....

1. Do you feel it is important for your mountaineering activities that you belong to a national organisation (like the BMC) which can represent your interests?

(Please circle one) YES NO

2. Would you become an individual member if group membership were abolished?

(Please circle one) YES NO

3. What subscription would you be prepared to pay for being a member (either group or individual) of the BMC?

(Please circle one) <£5 £5-£10 £10-£15 >£15

4. What other clubs are you a member of?

5. Which of these activities are you actively interested in?

(Tick one or more) rock climbing  
mountaineering (graded routes) UK  
ditto overseas  
mountain walking/travel

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