

EDITOR'S NOTES

DEBBIE

In the last issue of this newsletter I had to record the fact that Debbie Mabbett was badly injured in a climbing accident on Tryfan.

Sadly it is now known that Debbie's spinal injuries were extremely severe and she is unlikely to walk in the foreseeable future.

However in no way is the spirit and enthusiasm of the remarkable Miss Mabbett diminished and as always her outlook on life is one of eagerness and optimism. (Wheelchair tracks on Everest will come as no surprise.) Her many friends wish to give her every assistance in any future endeavours she may undertake and to this end Peter Roscoe is arranging a sponsored road run/walk from Blackpool to Southport with a shorter alternative starting from the Lea Gate.

If you feel fit, take part, if not please try to sponsor someone who is.

Details as follows:-

BLACKPOOL/SOUTHPORT MARATHON

THE DATE: Saturday, 5th December 1981  
 THE DISTANCE: 35 Miles  
 THE COURSE: Blackpool South Pier - Freckleton - Clifton - Volkswagon House Preston - Tarleton - Southport Hospital.  
 THE AIM: To raise funds for Debbie Mabbett, for invalid aids etc.

Debbie is hospitalised in Southport Hospital Spinal Injuries Unit.

Entry fee: £2.00 Limited amount of entries  
 Certificates To all who complete 20 and 35 miles  
 Starting 9.00 am South Pier (35 miles)  
 Times: 11.00 am Lea Gate (20 miles) transport arranged  
 Feeding Lytham - Preston - Hutton - Southport Road etc.  
 Stations:

THE RULES Entrants will observe the Highway Code, keeping to footpaths, verges, traffic lights, pedestrian crossings etc.

ENTRIES TO: Mr. P.H. Roscoe, Note (See also \*  
 22, Carlyle Avenue, on Page 7 -  
 South Shore, Late Extra)  
 BLACKPOOL. Tel: 43970.

THE CLUB DINNER

A reminder that the only square meal Dave Earle ever gets, The Club Dinner will be served at 7 pm on Sat. 28th November at the Derwentwater Hotel, Portinscale.

This year's menu:

Cream of Mushroom Soup  
 Roast Turkey, Chipolata Sausages, Cranberry Sauce,  
 Peas a la Flamande, glazed Carrots  
 Parmentiere and Parsley Potatoes  
 Christmas Pudding  
 Coffee with Cream, and Mints.

And two thirds of the world starving! Anyway as if that wasn't enough the meal will be followed by the usual disco, carousing, debauchery and licentious behaviour. What a bargain at six quid.

Book with Dave Earle, 31 Chester Ave., Poulton-le-Fylde, Tel.890283.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following are welcomed as introductory members:-

Andrew OLLIFFTON	298 Blackpool Old Road, Poulton.
Ian EASTHAM	48, Longfield, Preston.
Nicholas HARRIS	32, Brough Avenue, Blackpool.

## SOCIALS - BUCCANEER, 8.30pm

25th November	Travel (Alps, Ireland & Scotland) Rick Reeve
2nd December	"Our Alpine Adventures" Dave's Earle & Greenhalgh
16th December	Slide Competition. Two categories - Scenic and climbing. Three slides each category. Judged on the night.

## FUTURE MEETS

Nov. 21/22nd	Foot Holing, Bull Post Farm. Pete Llewellyn.
Nov. 23th	Club Dinner, Parmentwater Hotel, Portinscale.
Dec. 19/20th	Played-Out Members meet, stair. Pete Roscoe (tel. Blackpool 43970)
Dec. 23rd to Jan. 2nd	Stair - available to members.
Jan. 16th	Coach meet Bookings to John Wiseman (Tel. Cleveleys 821594) or at the Buccaneer on Wednesdays.
Jan. 16th/17th	Ladies Weekend - Stair Kath Fielding (tel. Clev 821944)
Jan. 23rd/24th	Family Weekend - Stair

## CLUB LIBRARY

Members are reminded or informed that the Club has its very own library of mountain literature, and many a classic, in the safe keeping of the ubiquitous Dave Earle. Recent additions are:-

Swiss Life and Landscape	
Mountain Scene & Alpine Ways	F. Baytho
Annapurna	H. Herzog
Pumas Claw	
Scottish Peaks	Faucher
Eiger Direct	
Conquistadors of the Useless	H. Ferray
Ascend of Nanda Devi	W. Tilman
Brenva	C. Brown
Cairngorms	Bekou Gordon
Zermatten - Matterhorn	Vhympor
Space Below My Feet	Gesa Soffat

This is an excellent facility and should be used more. If you wish to borrow any of the above or others in the collection, please contact Dave. You may, however, have to wait until the editor returns them, as he likes to pinch them first.

## CHANGE AT THE TOP

Roger Brookes left the area in September to attend Sheffield Polytechnic. Thanks to Roger for his work on behalf of the Club and good luck with the studies.

(Donald Duck)

He is replaced on the committee by Don Nicholl/who knows almost as much about mountaineering as he does about St. Bruno.

## SUBS

Finally a reminder that subs are due on the 1st. January and should be paid by the A.G.M. or we can only assume you no longer wish to remain a member of the Club.

The rates are £4. single and £7. family and can be paid either by banker's order or direct to the Treasurer - George Parker, 143 Warren Drive, Cleveleys (Tel: Clev. 856425). Please try to renew as soon as possible; it helps a great deal.

Edie Craig

CROSSWORD

Yes folks, another one. Mediocrity is again the keynote. If you take more than five minutes, shoot yourself.

1	W			2		3		4	R		5	
												L
6										7		
		8						9				
		10								11		12
13												
										14		
15								16				
				17	L	S	S	F	B			
18												

Clues Across

- 1. .... the storm (7)
- 4. Climbers Music (4)
- 6. Pass through 8 Across (6 & 4)
- 8. Highland Hills (10)
- 11. Prominent but vaguely vulgar (3)
- 13. Good companion for mountaineers this girl (8)
- 14. .... Crag (3)
- 15. Make a fuss (4)
- 17. Controlled Slide (8)
- 18. Father (3)

Clues Down

- 1. Pedestrian is urged on (6 & 4)
- 2. Second ascent of 3 down (6)
- 3. Big North Wall (9)
- 5. Climbers Shoes (5)
- 7. Not fettered (7)
- 9. Breezy large Ale (4)
- 10. .... Ridge. The Buachaille (6)
- 12. For Puffs & Skiers (6)
- 16. River of Lakes & Scotland (3)

.....

LUNDY: 30th August to 6th September.

After a considerable amount of last minute recruiting, the fourteen places we had been allocated on the island were finally filled. The party consisted of seven climbers from the F.M.C., and seven non-F.M.C. friends. We reached the island by helicopter, which takes about ten minutes from Hartland Point in North Devon. Mike Lynch from Ulvertston arrived about half an hour before the helicopter was due to leave, after an epic piece of hitchhiking from the Lake District.

Arriving on the island, we made our way to the Barn which was our accommodation for the week. With a name like "the Barn", we were expecting

conditions to be somewhat spartan. However, we were pleasantly surprised; the Barn is a large stone building, wood panelled throughout, with fourteen single beds, 2 flush WCs, a shower, gas cooker, fridge, and a large stone fireplace. Due to a water shortage, however, the shower was turned off.

For the whole of our stay we had glorious weather, and a considerable number of routes were climbed.

Paul Clarke and Mike Lynch ticked off many of the harder routes on the island.

The west coast of Lundy is very impressive, with granite cliffs running the whole three mile length of the island. There are plenty of climbs of all standards, and providing you get reasonable weather, it is an idyllic place for a holiday.

There are no cars or roads on the island, only about twentyfive residents and no queuing for routes.

The island's one and only pub is pretty basic, but very friendly. Those expecting late drinking sessions were disappointed, the pub closed at 11 pm.

It was a very enjoyable relaxed sort of holiday and it was with some reluctance that we left the island.

Phil Caley

#### WORKING WEEKENDS: LITTLE LANGDALE 26/27th September & 3/4th October

An impressive number of twenty people turned up at the cottage for the first working weekend. Due to the atrocious weather, it didn't stop raining all weekend, we had to concentrate our efforts on the inside of the hut. With so many people, it got rather congested and if you didn't keep moving you were in danger of being painted. Practically all of the interior of the cottage was painted, clothes racks fixed in the drying room, a new draining board installed and a concrete base laid at the back of the cottage for the gas cylinders, as well as other smaller jobs being done. Andy Dunhill made a superb curry on the Saturday night for all present. A new electric kettle has been purchased for the cottage, and John Wiseman obtained a dozen new mugs.

The second working weekend we were blessed with beautiful weather. A much smaller team was present this time. A new window frame was fixed in the back of the kitchen, and one in the WC, some more painting was done including the back door, the draining board was finished, and a small wall was built to contain the dustbins.

Many thanks to all those who supported the working weekends, and helped with the much needed work on the cottage.

Phil Caley

#### HUT MEET, WALES September 18/19th.

Three car loads of hardy souls made their way to Pant Y Fron and one car load, taking fright at the weather forecast didn't.

Saturday dawned fairly bright for Wales with non-continuous rain and occasional flickerings of sun along the coast.

The meet leader, against his better judgement, was bullied into going up the hill by the ever enthusiastic new lady member present and led his team up Moel Siabod on the grounds that you can get up and down it quicker than most peaks in the area and it is not conducive to long ridge walks.

The scrambly ridge to the summit is quite fine and all had a very pleasant day considering. Arriving at the pub is time for an afternoon pint and just before the heavens opened for the next 12 hours.

Most rock climbers found themselves at Frenadoc where they spent the day

dodging the showers, except the Leeds contingent, who, Big Mountain Men of the True Breed that they are, found themselves committed to Gashed Crag on the Tryfan for the afternoon, acquiring a certain dampness therefrom.

Sunday dawned as bad but steadily improved to give a fine day. The climbers went to Craig Y Forwen, east of the Conway, where they enjoyed dry crags and hot sunshine. Many hard routes were thus accomplished, in ideal conditions.

The walkers scrambled up the north ridge of Tryfan and then up Bristly Ridge on to the Glyders. Views were extensive and a thoroughly good day was terminated by a descent of the Devil's Kitchen into Cwm Idwal and the consumption of a large ice cream each. The second best fell walking day in Wales, enjoyed in above average weather.

D.A. Earle

### CONCRETE CORNER

#### LES ROCHERS DES RED BANK

"Bispham Cliffs? Ee I walked up em last weekend wi' me 'ands in me pockets." Most people think you're mad when they hear that you've seriously been climbing on Bispham seacliffs, but much to their surprise reasonably good quality climbing actually does exist down there. For the past few months now people have been disappearing down off the Prom, sporting EB's and chalk bags. Tourists have been scared out of their wits as pairs of white hands and then bodies have appeared over the top. Joggers have stopped their jogging, staring in disbelief, often turning round and running backwards. The Council workmen who work there during the day must have been baffled by all the little white marks appearing high up the walls. Regulars at the Bispham Hotel must fear that the pub lounge is turning into a climbers' bar!

At the top of Red Bank Road, Bispham, cross the Prom. and go down a car ramp to the left of the toilet block as you look out to sea. At the bottom of the ramp turn left and there you are. A wonderful escarpment reaching 20ft in height. Its no Gogarth, no Tides or Abseil descents here, but it does give excellent Fingery climbing. A good training ground. However, under heavy seas the crag is affected by spray and oversize waves. The cliff is actually just a wall. Nicely off vertical, it is made up of various sized blocks of rock giving quite a lot of small natural holds. The gaps between the blocks also give small holds in places. A low profile is best kept when approaching the cliff, although no-one has been reprimanded yet. The best times to go are usually at night but, now the nights are drawing in, this is a bit silly. Due to the usually nasty wet and windy weather, tourists are very few and far between. Even during the day the only people about are the odd pensioner walking the dog and may be a jogger or two. Courting couples and sun bathers only come out when the sun shines!

The climbing is really of a go anywhere nature. Traversing moves tend to be hardest so if you're looking for hard stuff try traverses. There are recognised routes but I won't bore you with descriptions because they all look the same until you've been a few times. Chalk seems to be a necessity especially as your finger ends soon wear thin and sweat alot. There are problems all the way along the wall but the harder, better ones are found on the three highest sections with the best ones on the highest area. "Tension" takes the left hand side of this wall and is probably the hardest route here at 5C. A more reasonable alternative is the right hand side, just left of a thin crack in the upper wall. This is "Sigh and Explode" and it actually has a couple of big holds on it. The hard move is still about 5A and its right at the top. This route has been done using only 1 leg (foot). Between the two is another hard but straight forward route technically. "Dark Thing" is just pulling on finger ends and no move is harder than the next. 5B seems right. At the right side of the wall are some of the longest routes. Starting on the ground and then venturing rightwards above the steps. "Go Go Muck" 5C (the thin crack) and "Heaven Up Here" 5C are bicepsabouts and have not yet had second ascents.

There are lots more routes worthy of mention but many are just variations and they are purely climbing by numbers. The finest expedition on the crag is definitely the traverse. The 7,000ft of Wah! is sheer digit torture. Fingers soon turn to butter. It is pretty sustained with the hard bit at 5C and has not yet had a complete crossing. Two falls seem usual. No need to worry though, your feet are never much more than two inches above the ground. More serious stuff is "Martian Dance" 5C which is a right to left diagonal line on the highest section. Also unrepeatable; it took lots of falls before it was done.

I don't think the regulars at the Bispam Hotel have to fear an invasion by climbers unless the crag gets over exposure in the climbing mags. It has given us a lot of fun and friendly competition this summer but over indulgence does have its pitfalls. Finger ends become very painful and blood has been drawn on several occasions. It can make picking one's nose a very painful task.

(Guidebook/Diagrams available from the author.

Price - 1 or 2 pints.

Martin Dale

COACH MEET, 11th October 1981. Coniston to New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel.

My first Fylde Mountaineering Club Coach Meet was from Coniston to the New D.G. Hotel. It was, therefore, a pleasurable experience to organise this particular Coach Meet for Club members and their children plus a few guests.

The beauty of this walk is the great diversity of routes which may be selected between the two points. From gentle wanderings through Yewdale and Tilberthwaite Woods to Little Langdale and then on to Great Langdale. To the Peak Bashers who managed the Old Man, Swirl How, Three Shire's Stone and then on to Red Tarn, the Crinkle's, Bow Fell and on home down The Band. Brian Wilkinson and Martin Pickup did their usual insane fell running between the two points, they claimed to have enjoyed it - I think they should be banned from the Club!!

The weather throughout the day was showery with clear periods of quite bright sunshine. During these periods, the Fells (usually on the opposite side of the valley) were illuminated in dramatic fashion, thereby enabling the photographers to simulate Pouchard!

Yours truly and several other brave souls decided to attempt the very severe ascent of Wetherlam via Lad Stones, Shallow Bear, Hen Crag and so to the summit where fine views were enjoyed of all the surrounding fells. That is, until a heavy hill shower and very high winds motivated the F.M.C. spirit, at which point a unanimous decision was reached and a picturesque route to the New D.G. selected. This was via Wetherlam Edge to Birk Fell House, Greenburn Beck, and Little Langdale. Followed after the obligatory stop at the Cottage, by a walk to Hese Panks, through the woods to Chapel Stile, with a most enjoyable and leisurely day completed by strolling down the banks of Great Langdale Beck to the coach.

The day was rounded off with the usual stop-over at the New Holly pub. I would like to thank all concerned for the support on this particular Meet. I think, once again, it has been proved that Coach Meets can be an integral activity of the Fylde Mountaineering Club and only require a little effort to ensure that they can be run successfully and consistently throughout most seasons of the year.

Gerry Senior.

PS. For those interested, a total of 48 people supported the Meet - It would have been 52 but I was unfortunately let down by four people which, in turn, meant four other bodies were prevented from having a great day out. If you have agreed to participate in a Club Meet and for some reason cannot make it on the day, please let the Meet Leader know, if at all possible.

LATE EXTRA \*

TUPPERWARE PARTY IN AID OF BESSIE BARBETT will be held at Chris Ikin's at 3 Shore Green, off West Drive, Cleveleys on November 18th 1981, 8.30 pm. All are welcome.

HUT AVAILABILITY

4th-5th December	Stair
11-12th "	Langdale
18-19th "	Stair (played out members)
24-27th "	Langdale
24th Dec to 3rd January	Stair
1-2nd January	Langdale
8-9th "	Langdale
15-16th "	Stair (Ladies)
22-23rd "	Langdale
22-23rd "	Stair (Family weekend)
29-30th "	Langdale
5-6th February	Langdale
12-13th "	Stair
19-20th "	Langdale
19-20th "	Stair (Family weekend)
26-27th "	Stair (Ladies)

\*\*\*\*\*

CLUB DINNER

As a special treat a screen and projector will be set up in a room at the hotel so that people can bore old friends and anyone else with their holiday slides.

If you wish, feel free to bring along any slides you would like to show people you never see from one year to the next and find out why it is you never see them from one year to the next.