

1995 / 6 Committee

Contact no:

Chairperson	Julie Duggan
Vice Chairman	Graham Sutton
General Secretary	Adrian Casey
Treasurer	Nick Oldfield
Hut Warden	Bill Beddard
Hut Secretary	Val Beddard
Membership Secretary	Paul Hennelly
Outdoor Meets	Mark Hellewell
Indoor Meets	Tony Millichope
Magazine Editor	James Walker
Ordinary Committee Member	Paul Green
Ordinary Committee Member	Danny O'Keefe

Chairpersons message

Yet another year has passed with everyone looking forward to the summer, hoping it'll be as good as Summer 1995.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

As you may know, 1996 is the 40th anniversary of the Ceunant Mountaineering Club. The committee is currently organising a lively celebration at Tyn Lon to be held this coming August. There will be a large marquee and food laid on with hopefully a live band, specially designed half tankards and T-shirts and a 40th anniversary magazine with "classic" articles from previous Ceunant magazines 1956 - 1996. All current, provisional and ex members and guests will be welcome. Further details will be forthcoming in the future.

By the way, does anyone out there have any copies of magazines 1976 onwards - it appears that the box of these back editions has gone "walkies" somewhere along the line. If you can help, please send photocopies to James Walker. If you have any articles that you would like to be considered for the anniversary magazine please send them to James as soon as possible.

1996 Annual General Meeting ("AGM")

The 1996 AGM will be held at The Goat, Beddgelert at 3.00pm on Saturday 16 March. The main item on the agenda is to update the current constitution. No doubt there will be a few contentious items, but not many I hope. Could you bear in mind that we will only have the room for two hours, so please, if you have any queries or questions you would like to ask, could you let me know as soon as possible so that I can structure the discussion at the meeting. Thank you.

Tyn Lon extension planning permission

After working with local council planners to submit a suitable planning application for extension works at Tyn Lon (on the assumption we get a Sports and Arts Foundation grant), Roger Stanton has informed me that local councillors turned down our application. However, all is not "doom and gloom" as after discussions with Roger, we have both agreed that we have good grounds for appeal to the Welsh Secretary of State. Roger will therefore be appealing on our behalf shortly.

1996 club dinner and live band

Accommodation is at The Goat, Beddgelert, or camping half mile up the road at the well equipped forestry commission site, or in one of lots of B & B's in Beddgelert. You could alternatively cadge a lift and sleep at Tyn Lon. In line with our anniversary year the theme is 1956! It can be anything from the year or era.

There are tickets left for the dinner - no excuses allowed (ie. it is not too close to the 40th anniversary celebrations in August) - so you can definitely come to both!

There are far too many of you out there that we rarely see. Make a change in the clubs' 40th year. There are older mountaineering clubs around but I believe our club has retained most of the original spirit and certainly over the last few years has persevered to make it one of the friendlier clubs to join, a point which several of the newer members, rejoining ex members and provisional members alike have commented upon. This must be a sign of a thriving club, so come along and support us at the AGM and dinner.

The Committee

May I take this opportunity to thank all my fellow committee members and Joe Brennan, John Pettet and Roger Stanton (for work on particular issues) for all their work during the year. It's been an interesting committee year with major items tackled and entertaining "discussions" along the way - in fact I've never met so many "devils advocates"!

Remember, the committee makes decisions on behalf of the members so if you want to be nominated or you know someone who would like to be nominated, let me know so that I can then outline the duties of particular positions, so you (or they) have some preparation. It has been commented in the past that the "swap overs" on the committee could be smoother - I agree!

Anyway, that's enough from me. Thanks again. See you at the Annual General Meeting on the 16th March.

Julie Duggan - Chairperson

Editorial

Thanks particularly to the following who have helped me by making contributions to this newsletter:

Sue Traynor (Pembroke meet), Julie Duggan (various), Adrian Casey (part Baggy Point meet and works meet), and Nick Oldfield (indoor ice). The committee would welcome any news from other members in the future. Should you have any interesting articles please do not hesitate to contact me.

Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.

Paul Green

Notes and notices

New members

Welcome to new members **David Evans** and **Brian Davies** (better known as **Leo**) who became a full members from January 1.

We also welcome the following provisional members: **John Bunney**, **Martyn Peters**, **Dave Michels**, and **Richard Garbett**. We look forward to seeing you on future meets.

We have currently exceeded the stipulated maximum number of members in accordance with the constitution. To enable the club to continue to develop and to attract enthusiastic members it is planned to pass a resolution to increase the number of members at the annual general meeting to 200. The Committee recommend that you vote in favour of this resolution.

Review of meets since last newsletter

St David's, North Pembroke - October 1995

The journey was infected with road cones and loads lost by lorries. It ended at the Farmer's Arms with the barman resolutely refusing to remove the towels he'd draped over the pumps only nanoseconds before we arrived. What's more, there were only five Ceunant present to commiserate smugly with us.

But we found 27 assorted members, old, now prospective and canine encamped with varying degrees of success at the Glan Y More site. The huge, hairy Brennan animal (Jack not Joe) briefly escaped from Katrina's control and herded us into a neat group in the middle of the field to exchange news of recent exploits, traffic jams and shredded flysheets. Then it began to rain.

In the morning, it was still raining; Kat and dogs and other Ceunant drifted around in the drizzle. Everyone hoped a consensus would crystallise about whether to walk right or left on reaching the sea. There was a pitiful lack of climbing commitment. The cliffs were running with rain water and battered by a big swell raised by gusts of Force 8. Strangely, even these ideally atmospheric conditions failed to enthuse. But only a tiny group lingered at the campsite until their shameful slope off to the pub would be unobserved. Most people were out doing something active.

Bill Beddard found a canoe and broken paddle washed up on a beach. With admirable disregard for the likely fate of the previous owners, he planned a crossing of the Irish Sea. Both ways, naturally and back in time for tea. Unfortunately, the tide was against him and the second wave he encountered capsized the gallant little craft. Then Bill discovered why canoeists don't wear mountain boots. Whilst unjamming his size tens from the pointy end, he was underwater for long enough for his life to flash before him complete with slow motion action replays. Not for long enough to worry the support team though. Val and Maggie headed for the nearest tea shop undeterred by its policy of not admitting dripping ex-seafarers.

The next day dawned bright, clear and breezy. Probably. How would we know? But everyone arrived at Porthclais well before midday.

Hurling ourselves repeatedly over the cliff edge, descendeurs red hot in our eagerness, we scuttled up the many routes on these beautiful red slabs. The wondrously stealth-grabbing rock gives crack, wall and corner variations on a severe-ish theme. *Dreamboat Annie* was rarely unoccupied; an elegant arete, sweet but short.

Some devious traversing added interesting twists to the intricate catscradle of ropes. The Yoyo Prize goes to Joe and Sully for their frenzied blitz of the whole crag. Maggie's record as Member Least Likely to Notice the State of the Tide remains unbroken and everyone else stayed dry. The abseil rope kindly provided by Nick suffered from the continuous abuse but happily we had all given up before it did.

At bit later we assembled in mellow evening sunshine around the cross in the square in St Davids for ice cream and team photos. The legend goes that St David arrived here in the fourteenth Century and carved this cross from an enormous rock as a penance for cursing the bastard who put it in the bottom of his rucksack. No wonder the Ceunant has an affinity for the place.

In spite of minor irritations like a little rain and traffic queues, there was an excellent turn out for this meet. Thanks to everyone who came and made it yet another successful do.

Baggy Point - August 1995

Those with a serious excess of holiday entitlement (and one or two without) had spent the previous week on that sunbaked rock off North Devon called Lundy - you remember, it was in the papers that the cattle were being evacuated because of the drought. See the last newsletter for a meet report. They had then met up with the rest of us at the corner of a field at Baggy Point. The Sgt Major type owner had compressed us into a small portion of his field - obviously seeing £ notes flashing before his eyes on what was to be a busy weekend. We did however have a nice sea view.

For those of you who cant remember the weather was absolutely glorious and it was too hot to climb. It was in the eighties all weekend with clear blue skies. We all had a good go despite these "adverse" conditions even though most of us had exhausted our day's water supply after the 1 mile walk to the crags. Adrian's lengthy tick list included *Chouinard's yard 1* (HVS 5a), *Chouinard's yard 2* (VS 4c), *Scrattling crack* (VD), *Lost Horizon* (VS 5a), *Urizen* (VS 4c), *Shangri-La* (S 4a), *Ben* (HS 4b), *Marion* (HS 4b), and *Kinkyboots* (VS 4c) and with members various as partners managed to climb the majority.

On Saturday, whilst a sweaty Trevor was battling it out on *Lost Horizon* Val, Alison, and Luke walked across the headlands prior to demolishing well earned ice creams.

On Sunday an attempt was made on the tricky *Midnight Cowboy* (HVS 5a) by Adrian, Azara, Paul (H), and Trevor but was abandoned after the first pitch. Mark and Sue talked about *Heart Of The Sun* (E2 5b) but were disappointed to find an excessive queue at the start.

The cream tea shop had many ascents by numerous parties, some finding it so good that certain parties repeated the ascent twice in one day! Most of us went swimming in the sea, having to dodge surfers as we frolicked in the waves. Sunday afternoon degenerated into a Ceunant sunbathing meet led by Alison, Paul, James, Andy, Julie, Nick, Dick, Vicky, Jan and Julia. Sully won the award for staying in longest and returned to the beach thoroughly chilled - never has there been such an excess amount of room in those shorts, if you get the picture!

On Monday, the hangers on went over to Long Rock Slab for a final session. Paul (G) led *Ben*, whilst Trevor and Tim tackled the unusual route *Kinky Boots*. This route is unusual as a result of the high entertainment value provided by the first move. This involves falling (hopefully in a reasonably controlled way) across a gap with a big drop into the sea separating the slabs.

A great weekend was had by all who attended, finishing off a fine week for the Lundyites. It was good to see Roger Stanton, Graham Spenceley and Julie Brady back on the rock. A rich thanks to Jan and Julia for organising this particular outside meet.

News from the log book

Sep 30 - Mark Helliwell and Danny O'Keefe take "victim" Steve Hotton on his first ever climb - *Slanting Buttress Ridge Route (D)* on Llewedd

Oct 14 - The works meet followed by an excellent party.

Oct. 15 - 2pm. Graham Spenceley still in bed recovering from the party of the night before.

Oct 21 - Keith Willington and Hazel Preece undertake a twelve hour Glyder Fawr outing taking in *Hope (VD)* on the Slabs, *Lazarus (HS)* on Holly Tree Wall, and *The Arete* on Continuation Wall. Followed up with *Grey Rib* on Main Cliff which is supposed to be HS but turned out to be a "no gear, near death 5b" !

Oct 24 - Hut occupants up at 5.00am to return to work - however it was actually 4.00am as Keith forgets to amend his watch to GMT. Needless to say the M6 was clear !

Nov 3 - Joe Brennan chooses Spruce for his new kitchen furniture having negotiated several of them on his walk in the forest above Cwm Penmachmo.

Nov 4 - A day on slate for Nick, Andy, and Julie. Nick led *Equinox*, Andy led *Solstice*. Julie decided to top rope *Holy Holy Holy (E3 6a)* and Nick was heard to say after a short distance "you may as well lower me off now. I can't do it".

Nov 10 - Katie Millichope's first visit to the cottage.

Nov 24 - A bunch of "sailors"

stormed up Y Garn observing three Broken Spectres - John, Margaret, John, Laura, Sue, Alex, Keith, Zlata, Derek, Tony, and Bill Crew.

Dec 2 - Bill, Joe, Val and friends follow a circuit in the forests above Betws. This was followed by "simulated high altitude training in the evening via several gallons of Vaynol bitter - the nearest thing to cerebral odema you can get at sea level"

Dec 9 - the lethargy brothers Andy and Nick climb the remaining ice and frozen sods of *Left Hand Trinity (I/II)* and gaining further experience in "carrying loads of kit which you never use".

Dec 16 - Joe Brennan establishes the true cause of his red nose having been "shot blasted with hoar frost crystals in hurricane Llewellyn" on the Carneddau.

Dec 24 - Mick Carr and Sirch guide "Sally" the dog in driving snow to the summit of Cnicht using a road map!

Dec 29 - Andy and Nick set up a top rope on an ice fall on Craig Dhu after a lead attempt where - "Andy pushed into the lead and set off up in a shower of ice cubes. He soon came back down"! Later they found out it was *Crown Of Thorns (IV)*

Dec 30 - A busy day, largely in *Seargents Gully*, with Bill Beddard, Joe Brennan, Tony Millichope, Paul Collis, Andy Ring, and Nick ("have another pickled chilli") Oldfield. It was in excellent condition. Overtook "well disguised" Paul and Val Hennelly en-route who were apparently ashamed to be associated with the seige tactics

of the Ceunant.

Navigation - Joe Brennan in an effort to lead a party up *Parsley Fern Gully (I)* got lost and descended down the railway line in a white out. He subsequently accurately "located the door of the Vic, had great difficulty in locating the exit, and had extreme difficulty in locating his wallet" !

Dec 31 - Julie Duggan manages on impressive on site of a whole Christmas Pudding. John Haine and Paul Collis (again!) spent the day working *Seargents Gully*. Paul, "hopefull of a redpoint ascent soon, and having most of the moves wiredwas experiencing difficulty with a particularly trying sequence : wake up, eyes open, exit sleeping bag, exit hut". Nick, Andy, Tony, and Maggie climb *Introductory Gully* and *The Idwal Stream*.

Jan 1 - Paul Collis considers yet another ascent of *Seargents Gully* - third day in a row !

Jan 13 - Paul Green, Alison, Martin and Noreen inspect the now sub-tropical Upper Cwm Glas and torrential waterfalls starting with *Seargents Gully*. Two weeks earlier this area was deeply ice-encrusted.

Jan 14 - Martin Riley breaks the record for "the Cuenant Challenge" (Cottage to Pen-y-Pass and back) previously held by Tony Millichope. New time is 41 minutes 27 seconds. Interestingly, both Martin and Tony have trained at the same running club in Sutton in the past. Later in the day, Tony, Bob, Paul, Alison, Martin and Noreen set off for a walk in the forest opposite Lyn Gwynant.

Indoor ice - January

Six of us made it to the Rope Race in Stockport, in appropriately cold conditions. Paul was in his element as the reception on Jazz FM got better as we got nearer to Manchester. Cost was £10 per hour for a party of two so we got three hours which with rotation and climbing worked out just right. The polystyrene has been there nearly a year and was beginning to show signs of wear. First into the fray was Nick who suffered balling up due to a big lump stuck in the front points. A few swift cracks with an axe were sufficient to dislodge an ill-fitting crampon. Putting it back on made one appreciate the benefits of being on a top rope. Dick was there with a wagon load of pristine sling gear then he ruined the effect by piping up with "Give me a few tips on how to use this stuff". Ade was seen climbing topless. Not something seen very often on the Ben. We finished our day on their rock routes. The consensus was that they were applying Peak District, ie. *Sandbag*, grades.

Tyn lon work force

Various pressed men and women turned up for a stretch of manual labour at Tyn-Lon. Super-duper visor Bill Beddard brought along a huge array of tools in a trailer attached to the rear of the car. This was duly opened on Saturday under a cloudless sky (remember the summer). The main jobs included re-hanging the gate - so you didn't need to be Geoff Capes to close it; putting wire across the top of the newly constructed wall to keep the hairy critters out (Clive Powell and Joe Brennan can still get through the gate); and, general tidying up of the inside of Tyn-Lon.

The gate had the most activity around it, as firstly a concrete plinth was put in to prevent rain water entering the gardens. Next 2 huge bolts were attached to the slate upright and the cottage from which to hang the gate on. Finally Tarmac was added on the ramp to give it that professional look.

Bill supervised well, we all worked well and the only thing that needs to be said is "what did you do?"

See you at the next one!

Places to visit

Skyline area - the Roaches, Staffordshire

As the new season is fast approaching you might be looking for some routes to put on your tick list. As an alternative to the Welsh or sea cliff crags we suggest a trip to a "local" gritstone crag.

The Skyline area, next to the Roaches is a crag providing great opportunities and has a number of qualities. It avoids the noisy crowds and queue's on the Upper and Lower tiers. The routes on the Skyline are small, but they offer instead a wealth of variety with technical interest in all grades from Mod to E7. It's a good place for both beginners and experts. Those who wish to top rope routes of greater difficulty usually have no problem in arranging good anchor points. On the whole there is quite a high proportion of starred routes in the guidebook. In addition, being in the Peak District National Park and at the top of a hill, the scenery is superb. Most days there are panoramic views from which you can see (amongst other things) Jodrell Bank in the Cheshire Plain, and apparently on a particularly good day, you can see the mountains of North Wales! Consequently there are plenty of opportunities for the walking contingent in the club. There are of course the Wallabies - they do exist - however remember that they generally see you well before you see them, and they don't respond well to raised and nervous shouts of "take in"!

Facts:

Location: After leaving the A53 Northbound from Leek turn left into the village of Upper Hulme and on up to the Roaches - grid reference SK 007621 to 002633.

Parking: OK if you get there early - otherwise park'n'ride from Leek.

Pub: Excellent beer and food at "Ye Olde Rock Inn" in Upper Hulme.

Guidebook: Staffordshire Gritstone (BMC 1989)

Access: As Roaches - find your way to the top left hand point of the Upper Tier - look to your left and about 200yards away you will see Condor Buttress, the first section of the Skyline.

Routes:

Jonny and Andrew Woodward referred to a number of routes at the Skyline as gritstone classics. There are some excellent routes to try of all different grades. Easier and difficult routes are often adjacent which allows a lead on one and perhaps a top rope on the other. Consequently there are usually routes to suit all individuals in one location. The crag is separated into a number of buttresses and with patience are easily located from the path spanning the top of the crag. During a good day's climbing it should be possible to climb at all the main areas.

Whilst there are many routes of each grade the following should be on any tick list:

Condor Buttress			
Bruno Flake	S	Star	Excellent flake crack climbing - fights back if you make a hash of it!
Condor Slab	VS4b	2Stars	Classic and bold slab climbing with a high and airy (& hairy) crux
Cracked Arete	HVD	Star	A polished arete, and well protected slab and crack
The Trio			
Safety Net	E1 5b	3Stars	A steep undercut followed by a slabby arete and tricky finish on an overhanging crack - superb
Tower Buttress			
Thrug	VS4c	2Stars	Absolutely wild! Power up the overhanging and leaning crack - without swearing if you can!
Tower Chimney	D	Star	Good 55ft beginners route with solid gear placements
Cave Buttress			
Cave Crack	HVS5a	Star	A mini <i>Sloth</i> - bags of fun in a central roof crack
Skyline Buttress			
Slab and Arete	S	3Stars	The definitive gritstone severe? A rising rightward traverse leads to an arete
Acid Drop	E4 5c	3Stars	Regarded as "magnificent" - climbs a large slab and improbable roof
Alpha Buttress			
Mantis	HVS5b	2Stars	Very good fun. Improbable moves are made in the lower sections of the arete - only if you pretend to be a Praying Mantis! If you can't, take a cricket box!
San Melas	E3 5c	2Stars	Monstrous - Airy and delicate technical smearing with rising interest on a smooth slab make you take your time - top rope inspection recommended.
Far Skyline Buttress			
Art Nouveau	E6 6c	3Stars	Outrageous - a powerfull and complex overlap for technicians.
Hard Very Far Skyline Buttress			
Track of the Cat	E5 6a	3Stars	"The best of all that is wicked on grit" - On Peak Rock

One or two members of the club have expressed interest in an informal meet at the Skyline during April. If you are interested please call Paul Green or Adrian Casey.

Other matters

Telephone list

Attached is an up to date version of the telephone list. Please forward any amendments to Paul Green or Adrian Casey.

Upkeep of Tyn-Lon

The committee would like to remind all members using the hut that it is up to each of us to keep it tidy. There are regular instances where certain individuals appear to expect used pots and cutlery to be washed and the hut tidied by others. Please would everyone make an effort to play their part in the future upkeep of the cottage.

Outdoor meets

The 1996 outdoor meet list will be issued in due course. As this goes to print the annual winter Scottish meet is taking place. As in 1995 the current venue is the CIC hut at Ben Nevis. If you have any specific requests for outdoor meet venues for 1996 please contact Mark Helliwell.

Paul & Val Hennelly are planning a trip to the Matterhorn area of the Alps in the three weeks commencing 6th July 1996. Anyone in the club is welcome to join them so if you are interested please do not hesitate to contact either of them.

Indoor meets

The 1996 indoor meets schedule will be issued in the Spring. If we can have as much success this year as in 1995 (thanks to Tony Millichope) we all have something to look forward to. Again if you have any special requests please contact Tony.

In November a very successful ropework course was held with Andy Newton at the Beacon Climbing centre. This was attended by Paul, Adrian, Tony, Andy, Julie, Nick, Hazel, Maggie (I) and Keith who all commented upon it very highly. There are a number of individuals who have expressed interest in this course and Tony is to arrange another date shortly. The maximum number is ten. If you are interested please let Tony know.

Hut bookings

The following hut bookings have been made:

March 22/23	Solihull Mountaineering Club
March 29/30	Coventry Mountaineering Club
April 14/15	Southampton Rats

Library

At long last, and after a great deal of effort you will find attached a comprehensive list of the library. The books are currently being held by Adrian Casey for safe keeping. As you are aware, the aim is to allow all members the privilege of borrowing books from the library on request. To date there have not been an awful lot of requests. Consequently, as decided at last year's AGM, if the library continues not to be used the books will be sold off six months from now by auction, thereby raising money for the club. The library is currently there if you want it - so use it!