

CEUNANT NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 1994

Hello again, and welcome to another newsletter. Hope you've had a good summer and "ticked" few more of those elusive routes.

Meets have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all who made the effort. Many thanks to Mark for a good outdoor meets list with good maps, information and friendly harassment!

Look out for the First Aid course available in December. There are only 15 places available - book up as soon as possible so that Tony Millichope can attain exact numbers. Its taken a lot of organising so please support this course if you can. I'm sure you won't regret it.

Some of you may have heard that one of our members, Derek Grimmit recently had a stroke. Thankfully he's making a good recovery. Hope you're well again soon Derek - the Club and Committee sent their best wishes.

Club members have been active again this year with visits to USA, Ecuador, Lundy and Alps to name but a few places - so read on and remember to submit lots of articles for the next newsletter!!!

Regards

JULES (General Secretary)

The Hard Men: Tenacious

Some of the British climbers developed huge bulging muscles. These men were tough as nails. The bigger they were, the harder they fell. Because of this they were called the hard men.

Everything these men did was hard. They liked their eggs hard-boiled and their women hardhearted. Instead of underwear they wore hardware. These men were hard to believe.

One of the hardest of these climbers was Joe Brown. He had great courage and long arms. Brown invented the justly famous 'fist jam,' a sticky substance similar to strawberry jam which when applied to the fist caused a climber to adhere to the rock. Many British cracks became clogged with this substance, including the most famous, now known affectionately as 'Cloggy'. A few climbers, horrified at the thought of all those gooey cracks, refused to carry hand jam. These men were called clean climbers.

For some reason the typical hard man never ventured far from home. He was shortsighted, unable to see beyond his local crag. He had no vision. Some critics said he lacked idealism, others said he lacked purpose. All agreed that he could use a good pair of glasses.

But Joe Brown was different. His long arms enabled him to branch out. He was a cut above the other hard men. From that altitude he was able to see considerably farther than they could. Brown decided to venture abroad. He needed a climbing partner and luckily discovered Don Willing, who was willing to try anything. The two ranged far and wide. They climbed here, there and everywhere. After a time, however, they grew weary of all this activity and only climbed here and there. Willing settled down and invented a Willing Harness which his friend Brown used to capture a huge horse named Mustang Tower.

NEW AND PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

Welcome to new member **PAUL GREEN** - [REDACTED]

Provisional members are as follows;

GERALD ADAMS - [REDACTED]

DERRY MACHIN - [REDACTED]

TIM SLATER - [REDACTED]

FIONA MCINTOSH - [REDACTED]

VICKY WHITTLE - [REDACTED]

RICHARD HARRIS - [REDACTED]

KEITH WILLINGTON - [REDACTED]

TYN LON IMPROVEMENTS

No doubt many of you have already seen the many improvements to Tyn Lon recently, notably pine cladding of the common room, benches installed, new floor tiles and a second fridge. Many thanks are extended to all who helped especially Bill for the arranging of improvements and Adrian for the fridge.

The road side wall will be rebuilt shortly with a slope back at the entrance into the garden by 2 to 3 feet to enable a safer exit/entry.

WORK MEET - 6TH NOVEMBER 1994

A work meet at Tyn Lon has been organised for the fireworks weekend Sunday 6th November. Members required with good brush strokes and handyperson aspirations! All welcome - please come along and help with the maintenance of the club hut.

HUT BOOKINGS - FORTHCOMING

October 22nd - 23rd	-	London Mountaineering Club
October 28th - 29th	-	Snowdon Marathon (11) John Owen
November 5th - 6th	-	Tyn Lon Fireworks and Works Meet
November 13th - 14th	-	Pauline Rooker (6)
December 3/4th - 10/11th	-	First Aid Course (15)

CLUB TRUSTEES

The committee is currently looking into changing the current trustees of Tyn Lon to current established active members. If you have any comments to make, please contact the General Secretary (Julie Duggan [REDACTED])

BLACK ROCKS INFORMATION

Please note that car break ins are becoming prevalent at Black Rocks. Take care not to leave anything valuable in your vehicle.

RECENT CANOEING MEET

There was only one word for it - WET! If you haven't tried this yet, give it a go next year, you won't regret it!

TYN LON BAR-B-QUE

As usual it was copious amounts of meat, alcohol and "water" (about a foot of it) I'm not sure who ate the most, the Ceunant food monsters or the masses of midges present! The band played well into the night/morning - they arrived through the window and left the same way!

1995 SUGGESTED VENTURES

There's talk of the Verdon Gorge at Easter and the Dolomites in June/July - watch this space for further information. Lundy will be visited again August/September; remember to book your place early with Mark Helliwell - information to follow in the next newsletter.

AGM/DINNER - MARCH 1995

Please let the Committee have your ideas on venues and especially ideas for the fancy dress theme.

ADDRESS LIST UPDATE

THIRTEEN GO TO USA - SEPTEMBER 1994

It all started in Yosemite with a visit to Tuolumne and a walk on the wild side where Helena found out that an essential part of kit was a hot water bottle (-10 C!). Matthes Crest was ticked, with a touch of "winter" on the way down.

Sequya (ie. 'Dogs Wonderland') boasted the biggest living thing on earth - The General. Imagine that delivered to Tyn Lon! Kings Canyon was explored and climbed (a bit anyway).

Las Vegas! except the Luxor Hotel didn't know we were coming - no room at the Inn! Anyway, we survived and went on to Zion National Park (Pariah Buckskin Canyon) and the wet and "cesspit" of a walk through a gorge.

A split in the party at Page, but only momentarily as one of the vans blew up (no one told me it was leaking water!), hence back to Page where we sniffed the other party out at a local boozerie (Surprise, Surprise!).

Split Mark II occurred, with 7 of us ascending Castleton Tower and then back to Vegas where it was an all night session in the dirtiest bar in town.

At this point, 8 went back home whilst "5 went to Canyon Lands and Arches National Park" - Black Canyon and Fisher Towers climbing frivolities finished with a hike (26 miles) down the Grand Canyon itself. Then back to Vegas for three relatively sleepless nights. Finally Red Rocks were visited where we only just scratched the surface of the climbing potential before unhappily making our way back to Britain. But you haven't escaped yet, hopefully a slide show will visit the Queens shortly!!

MICK CARR

CEUNANT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB OCCASIONAL RUNNING TEAM

Maggie McAndrew is co-ordinating a team for Birmingham's Halloween 10k run. Race starts from Centenary Square in Birmingham on Sunday 30th October. Anyone in the club interested in this wonderful opportunity to demonstrate their fitness, or as in Maggie's case, interesting lack of it! - £6.00 per entry, and we'll try and arrange to borrow a few slightly used Club T-Shirts.

Fit or even merely mobile persons, contact Maggie on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NON PAYERS

The people listed below have not paid their subs for this year. If your name is on this list this is the last newsletter you will receive. If you wish to remain a member please send £12.00 per single membership or £18.00 per joint membership to:

Nick Oldfield



Payable to "CEUNANT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB"

THE LIST!!

*Mark Applegate
Rimsky Bailey
Dave Baldwin
Roxanne Beeton
Richard and Sue Daldorph
Andrew Davey
Ian Derbyshire
John Hart
Mick James
Catherine Kuhn
Roger Lavill
Gary MacCauley
Charles Maddocks
Ian McCann
Roger and Barbara Newman
Andrew Phipps
Peter Sargent
Graham and Kate Spenceley
Dave Tonks
Maxine Wallis
Ann Wooley*

LUNDY MEET - 20TH - 27TH AUGUST

Nine of us made the trip; Mark, Sue, Danny, Fiona, Keith, Julie, Maggie, James and Nick. Those with the king of jobs that give loads of annual leave left earlier for a warm up on Baggy Point. Twelve routes were done in a mixture of sun, rain and wind.

On the Saturday thanks to large amounts of pills, Danny "sick on a canal barge" O'Keefe failed to perform and we all made the transfer from ferry to island by inflatable dinghy without mishap.

After a night of rain, we woke to find Mark and Sue had got up early and set the abseil ropes up for us on Sunset Promontary. This proved an ideal introduction to Lundy climbing, a three rope expedition to sea level to be rewarded with brilliant atmospheric three star routes. Everyone did Eclipse, the classic VS of the crag as well as ascents of Black Hand, Occidental Groove with a top rope (sandbagged rip off!)

On the way back we had a mushroom picking extravaganza (pity the poor sods who bought theirs in the shop!) The evening saw the return of that traditional Marisco

Tavern sport- table traversing. Only Mark succeeded!

On Monday, the intrepid team set out for the Devils Chimney - a sea stack - which would be a first for all of us. The grown ups in the party had given this some thought and despite the boulder hop(which was supposed to take us conveniently to the start ledge, having been washed away), we got nine people to the top in two teams and we got back down again and prusicked up the collapsing promontary to our sacks! Mark and Sue stayed to do Space Walk E2 - looks more like E5; Danny and Keith went to Beaufort Buttress where they got stuck behind the Saga Holidays Climbing Club. The rest of us to our shame, sunbathed. James went skinny dipping and while he seemed OK at the time it must have had a delayed effect because after five hours in the pub he suddenly fell over taking half the taverns glasses with him.

By now, we reckoned those on the Island who were going to would have been to the Devils Slide, so next day we set off. Lead of the day was Keith on Satans Slip - woefully unprotected it says in the guide book - they aren't joking. Everyone did Devils Slide; most did Albion - only the best route in the world at VS, and Mark and Sue did Shark a lovely "furry" route! Mrs O'Keefes cakes got the Ceunant seal of approval when Danny handed them round. She worries that he is so thin and had loaded him down with cakes. Half way into the trip they were all gone....

Wednesday dawned showery, unknown to the "its 11.30 I suppose we'd better do something team" of Nick, James, Julie, Fiona and Maggie one of those showers contained a very wet and muddy Keith and Danny. Mark and Sue had got to the top of Asafoetida E1 5B, just in time. They retired to the Cafe for cakes, lunch and more cakes, while the late squad was at the battery doing dangerous cannon traversing until the rain stopped long enough to do Diamond Solitaire and Horseman's Route. A quick sunbathe and back off down to do Double Diamond where we joined by Keith, Mark and Sue. Danny was in his tent in a cake induced slumber. Things started going wrong - our intrepid leader was delayed by rain which meant that the sea was coming dangerously close - Julie was treated to a brine jacuzzi. Maggie fell off and scraged her knee, eventually we reached the top safely - more epics before tea time than Tolstoy. Thursday looked another unpromising day but between showers the two teams into which we had split managed 50 pumps and Admirals Arete, Stuka and Mine Sweeper on Beaufort Buttress, Diamond Solitaire and a top rope on Cuillinan E5 6A by Mark.

That evening in the pub, the "big wall" look was in - bandana's and goaties(the rest of the pub didn't know what to make of these crazy Ceunant dudes Danny and Keith)

Our final day was the real scorcher we so richly deserved. Sue, Maggie and Danny did Shamrock. James, Nick, Julie and Fiona did Formula One, led in style by James -most definitiely a Lundtastick lead there mate!!. Nick led Road Runner with a hanging belay of such complexity Bill March would have been proud. Mark and Keith had a real adventure climbing day on the "Ocean", believed to be Lundy's longest route. Packed lunch obligatory; they finally returned at 7.45pm. This was to be our last night in the pub and we had a reputation to uphold. So far we had been last out of the pub on every night thanks to the Julie Duggan whist school sponsored by Petzl. This was one Ceunant record which was 100% maintained.

Our final day was spent on a tour of the Island for our luggage had been collected at 9.30am in the morning. Mark and Sue were the only ones prepared to carry climbing gear as hand luggage and get a couple of routes in; - Formula One and Ice.

In the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger "WE'LL BE BACK!"

P.S. - ask Maggie about her relationship with slugs!!!!!!!!!!!!

NICK

WINTER MEET BEN NEVIS - 12TH TO 16TH FEBRUARY

The club has booked the CIC hut on Ben Nevis for the above dates. The hut is at the top of the Allt a mhuilinn, a prime location to be first on all the classic routes (once you've done a mega carry up there of course). The hut has cooking facilities, crockery etc. and a large scenic outdoor toilet. In addition to sleeping bag, food and climbing kit, I would recommend a bottle of whisky as a nearest pub is a good four hour walk. Cost is £20.00 per person and we have eight places. Contact Nick Oldfield to book your place. Cheques should be made payable to Ceunant Mountaineering Club.

B.M.C. NEWS - 08/09/94

Recently I attended the B.M.C. Regional West Midlands Meeting, on behalf of the Ceunant M.C. Several issues will be of interest to many of you, so read on!

1. West Midlands Guidebook

The scripts and slides have recently been sent to Cicerone (the publishers) so hopefully the updated guide with important information on access to various crags will be issued in the New Year.

2. B.M.C. New Headquarters

The issue of the site for the new B.M.C. headquarters has brought forward a strong opposition against being linked with any commercial concern or ventures. A consultant was appointed to propose suitable sites. It appears Sheffield has fallen from favour but it hasn't been totally rejected. Four alternative sites around Manchester are currently being investigated.

3. Sports Council Funding

Funding for Cumbrian bolting has proved to be a contentious issue. The B.M.C. is seeking legal advice because of the possible future liability.

4. Access - Criminal Justice Bill

The B.M.C. has been looking into this issue and attempting talks with the Government. However, the Government will not accept any relevant changes to the Bill. Due to possible catastrophic impact in the future to access for climbing and walking, the B.M.C. will be producing a leaflet giving appropriate advice to members and will also fund and support the fight against any prosecutions of hill walkers or climbers.

5. Committee Representation

The MLTB has recent been co-opted onto the B.M.C. Committee. It has also been agreed that there should be representatives of competition climbers to each meeting.

6. B.M.C. Membership Rates

Currently there is an approximate 10% unemployment rate amongst B.M.C. members. The B.M.C. Committee is considering reducing the membership fees for the unemployed to a half. This will cost the B.M.C. approximately £3,700.

7. B.M.C. - Climbing Walls Developments

There is concern at B.M.C. that newcomers to climbing are only getting indoor climbing wall experience and not adequately learning how to do the 'real thing'. They are looking into how to encourage these newcomers to join local climbing clubs and building specific types of walls to prepare beginners for outside crags.

Suggestions for professional coaches for British Competition climbers and training posters for climbing walls in general have been put forward at Committee.

The option for funding from the Sports Council is still open via the new lottery but the B.M.C. requires a national and regional strategy in order to bid for monies for the provision of new walls. Therefore, a questionnaire on all aspects of the use of climbing walls will be circulated to local club secretaries in the near future for Club discussion. Hopefully, this will arrive in time for the Christmas newsletter.

There was strong debate at the Regional meeting regarding how many indoor climbing walls the West Midlands area could support. The new Wolverhampton climbing wall and the three quarters of a million Gloucester wall, will add to the many indoor walls that already exist in the region. One of the "rock face" owners pointed out that the danger of increased competition between walls may lead eventually to a reduction in safety practices - decreasing throughflow of climbers leading to increased costs (though not at the 'rock face' he added!).

"How many climbers to support a wall financially" will be one of the questions that will hopefully be answered via the aforementioned BMC sponsored questionnaire, along with questions on the number and type of sports injuries being attained and how to prevent them. If you would like a personal copy of the questionnaire please contact Julie Duggan - General Secretary [REDACTED]

Access

Nesscliffe - access has now been agreed with Shropshire County Council (owners). Parking is half a mile up the road. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE LAYBY - IT WILL JEOPARDISE THE ARRANGEMENT. Climbing around the cave is prohibited. Signs will be put up in the future but negotiations on wording is still continuing.

Llan y Middach (quarry) - draft access agreed with Redland(owners) and conservation groups. Seasonal ban on the Black and Red walls. There will information boards at the car park.

Marhill Quarry - junction 22, M1 - Tarmac(owners) are currently exploring 'regulated activities'(whatever that means!) They are apparently rather jumpy about liability. The local council may buy the quarry off them but their motives may not include climbing activities. Ongoing negotiations - watch this space.

COMPETITION HELPERS

The International Climbing Competition is to be held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham on the 25th - 27th November '94. Lots of help is needed. Interested? - then ring Hugh Harris on 061 273 5835. Freebies include T-shirt and free entry.

TO BMC OR NOT TO BMC

Why don't you represent the Ceunant at the BMC Regional Committee?

Bolts, access, competitions, policy - lots of controversial topics crucial to the future of our sport. The BMC is a democratic organisation. Power lies effectively in the Regional Committees whos views feed into the General Council. Who dominates the Regional Councils? - it should be local climbing clubs so why not come along and express your views. You have just missed the 8th September meeting at the Rock Face in Birmingham so what about the 3rd November, 8pm at the Ackers Outdoor Centre, Small Heath, B'ham. Please let me know if you're coming - Jules.

[REDACTED]