



NEWSLETTER

A CLASSIC TALE... *LIPSTICK ON YOUR COLLAR*

Dave Balchin proves his memory is in tact with this tale, circa 1969.



Typical Friday night in the Vaynol, Ceunant and Vags massed around the dartboard to find top killer for the evening. Weather looking set fair for the next day, then I hears it "Hey Dave, what you doin' tonight?" No need to look around to see who's demanding my attention, it can only be the one with the voice like *The Crack of Doom*, Clive Powell Esq.!!!

He's in the company of Eddy Plum, Black Ron and soon to be the first Mrs. Powell, the ever suffering Pam. It's obvious they're cooking up something. "What's to do then?" says I. "Well" says he, "Me and Pam are off to Ireland tonight and wondered if you could drop us off at Holyhead?" I did think it a strange request since I had no intention of going anywhere near Anglesey never mind Holyhead, then they hit me with it, the Black one and Plum (Strange how you become popular when you're the only motorized person.

Powell hadn't got a license (never mind a car) "*What we could do*" says Ron, prompted by the Plum "*is to drop the happy couple off at the boat (or is it a ship), have a beer, a cliff top kip and do Lighthouse Arête early in the a.m.*"

Another pint and a packet of crisps appeared and the idea seemed to be making more sense. "*We should be back in the pass for tenish*" says Eddy. "OK" says I. "*Ready when you are.*"

Sleeping bags and gear are quickly assembled and off we go in the powder blue, cable clutched, Vauxhall Viva Passion Van. Dropped Clive and Pam off, wished them bon voyage, had more beer, not too much mind bearing in mind we were sleeping on the cliff top, found a soft spot to settle down on all agreeing that we would be up at dawn.



LIPSTICK ON YOUR COLLAR

Needless to say, the best laid plans...Next thing I'm aware of is the sonic boom of an English Electric Lightning (that's a pretty impressive jet fighter) flying out of Valley and doing sky wheelies within touching distance and it's 8.00am. Pointless rushing now, up to the cafe for breakfast, tea 'n toast for me and Ron, dunked Mars Bar in tea for Plum. Beautiful morning, still very quiet at that time. The rock already warm from the early morning sun, no wind to speak of.



"Ok, let's get off then and back to the cottage to see what's to do."

Our late start had somewhat messed our timings up so when we got back to T'yn Lon all had disappeared. Time for a pint. Those two layabouts disappeared, it was almost certainly their round. Wandered into the Vaynol as you do. ***"Hey youth, how are you? You climbing?"*** One Ian Cambell of the Oggy Cot team, big mucker of "H" Richards.

Before I can answer, ***"come on I***

fancy the Clogg, you've no time for beer." Slogged it up to that big lump of black granite in a daze and somehow followed Cam up Vember. (Great name for a climb 'cause I always thought it was named after a Bull Terrier from Wordsley*) Eventually got to Nant and obviously had to pass the Vaynol. Did I go in for a beer? To tell you the truth I can't remember. And yes, *it truly was a day of days.*



Foot Note: 'LIPSTICK ON YOUR COLLAR'



Now what you might ask "Lipstick on your Collar"? What's that all about?

Connie Francis, (for all the readers of more tender years she wasn't a member of the Ceunant) she had a No. 1 hit with the song 'Lipstick On Your Collar' which Clive was fascinated with and insisted on singing it, ably assisted by the assembled company all the way across Anglesey.

*Read Joe Browns "The Hard Years" for the origin of Vember .

THE CEUNANT GREAT ADVENTURES

A Sunny, Fun Packed, Easter Dartmoor Meet April

2012

A jolly good time was had by all over Easter at the fantastic **Runnage Farm Campsite** and the weather was kinder to us than had been expected. Saturday saw the whole team go for a walk to explore the Tors with a view to checking out routes for the following day as it was drizzling a little bit. A major added bonus was Holly discovering a rope swing across the river which caused much hilarity for all and only a couple of wet boots. The burger/tea/ice cream van, aptly named *The Hound of the Basket Meals*, also went down well!



Saturday saw pretty much the whole team heading out together but this time to the **Dewerstone** to get some climbing done. Most parties climbed **Central Groove** and **Mucky Gully** got quite a few ticks. This was Michael's first ever outdoor route – an



achievement he can apparently share with James Walker.



Richard also did a lead under the expert tutelage of Ian. Kevin set off on a 13 mile circular walk from the campsite taking in the reservoir and forest and was waiting for us on our return so he must have made good time.

The evenings were enjoyed sitting around the campfire under the group shelter, collecting wood from the forest and all successfully managed the river crossing apart from James who definitely got wet feet on Saturday night after delighting the

group with his dancing!

All awoke to a very damp camp on Monday morning, thanks to a heavy downpour. After managing to dry the tents out, we packed up and headed off to Ashbourn for some breakfast (meaning lunch in true Ceunant style), followed by a *trip to Buckfast Abbey so that Bob could worship at the holy font of Buckfast*. A bit of shopping later and a trip around the Abbey, which is well worth a visit.

Attendees: Emma & Ellie Bastock, John Beddard, Ian Smith, Jules Cahill, Martin Jolley, Nik Howard, Stew Moody, Naomi, Fiona & Kevin Devine, James & Catherine Walker, Elly Holmes & Richard, Holly Beckett, Bob Ellis & Michael Peerless

THE CEUNANT GREAT ADVENTURES

Stew Moody, rough, tough, mountaineering bachelor braves THE FAMILY MEET!

I always thought the first time I saw someone bundled into a car and rushed from T'yn Lon to A&E would be as the closing chapter to a crisis on the mountains. Of course, in those days I thought that a climbing meet was about as hazardous as a Ceunant weekend could get. I was wrong.

Friday night, within 5 minutes of turning up for the December family meet Lewis Jepson toppled off a stool, bumped his head on the floor with an awful thud, and was promptly shuttled off to Bangor's A&E. Moments later I took 2 well aimed nerf bullets to the chest from a concealed sniper in the library (who might have been Ellie Bastock).

Saturday passed nicely, with an wander around the grounds of the salt museum (it was shut to visitors), followed by a drink in the Electric Mountain café where I was helping Lucy Ring decide what to spend her pocket money on. Then it was back

to T'yn Lon for cookie decorating. Much to my chagrin, and despite my A-level in art, the cookie that I so loving decorated was beaten in artistic merit by the kids. I was later joined by Catherine Walker in goal during a football match in the car park – for the record it was a 3-3 draw. The kids rounded the day off by turning the big bedroom into a British Bulldog arena. Oren Jepson was enjoying himself so much that he declined to come downstairs to add the topping to his pizza base, and entrusted the job to us adults.

Once the kids went to bed the adults made our own pizzas, and chatted over a glass of wine.

Sunday morning and, despite the heavy rain being driven horizontally by strong winds I braved the slate quarries, and found my way to the gear shops and Pete's for a selfish bit of 'me' time.

A BIG DAY FOR A BIG BIRTHDAY

SLANTING BUTTRESS RIDGE ROUTE, LLIWEDD

Ceunant Summer BBQ at Ty'n Lon: 20th August 2011

“It will be a long mountain day so we will have to start early...”

When going out in the hills with Ian I reckoned it would make my life easier to shut up and do as I was told. Despite alcohol and a late night I was up and ready to go by 8am (on my birthday!) for our long mountain day on Lliwedd. After Ian and Jules finally got up and Carl had given Ian a massage, I thought they would be ready to go. No! ***Another hour of faffing*** and *“you’ve got far too much in your rucksack Naomi”*. We eventually started our walk in from the top of Pen-y-Pass at 10am but it was okay, it was August and sunny! By the time we were gearing up the drizzle had set in and was not going anywhere but we were!

Undeterred by the weather, Ian led all nine pitches, followed by Jules with me bringing up the rear. As water flowed down the rock, Jules suggested that ***“we were no longer rock climbing but were actually waterfall climbing”***. Feet squelching in rock shoes, being cold and wet with ropes that wouldn’t move through the belay device added to the character building day that it was turning out to be. Continuing to look on the bright side, Jules commented at the penultimate pitch how clean the ropes were...that was before her turn to climb when her foothold collapsed, sending mud and grass cascading down the rock and into every hand and foothold that I was about to use and, finally landing on my head. ***Suddenly my sense of humour eluded me*** and I will now apologise to Jules for losing it with her.

We finally reached the top to face rain falling so hard in such strong wind that it felt like hail. A difficult descent in the circumstances but still we had daylight...until we hit the main path at least.

Getting to Pen-y-Pass by head torch, I secured a lift down to the cottage with a couple of strangers. We were safely back by 10pm. Ceunant members greeted us with relief that they didn’t have to call mountain rescue after all. A hot shower and some left over sausages and I was ready to party. Well it was my 40th birthday after all. ***Would I have spent in any other way? Absolutely not!!***

AGM Report

This year's AGM, was held in March at Baskerville Hall Hotel, Hay-on-Wye. 32 people attended.

With both Jim Brady and Maggie McAndrew not able to make it Stewart Moody acted as Chair and Holly Beckett gave the financial report.

Stewart opened by thanking the committee for all their hard work and support. Special thanks were extended to Natalie Davies and Stewart Haycock who have stepped down from the committee this year along with Hazel for auditing the accounts.

At the last AGM, it was resolved that a tree should be planted at Ty'n Lon. A Rowan tree has been planted, which has been dedicated to the memory of Dave Rothman, a long standing member tragically killed in a climbing wall accident.

Also last years meeting resolved that a review of finances relating to Ty'n Lon should be done with a view to a long term maintenance plan. The review has highlighted that while the cottage is in good condition, if it is to be maintained as such, money will need to be invested year on year.

Finances:

Of particular note was that our finances have been healthy with £1950 more in the bank than last year, giving a total of £15.7k, our cottage income has been falling by 5% year on year. This has been offset slightly with a rates holiday from Gwynedd Council worth £1k per annum. The entire surplus was accrued by the Ty'n Lon account, resulted in our general fund making a very small loss.

A note was made by Hazel the auditor to the accounts stating that it would be prudent to address this sooner rather than later with an increase in membership and/or hut fees, or reduction in expenditure. This was considered by the committee and we are raising the fees for using Ty'n Lon.

Huts fees to go up:

Members £5 (Prospective & Full)

Guests £8

Outside Bookings £10 affiliated to BMC or £12

We thought that this was fairer than raising the membership, as it would more reflect a member's use of the club's facilities. This did provoke a debate at the meeting with a few opposed to this, a few wanted a membership rise to £30, but generally our proposal was well received and accepted.

We are looking to maintain a permanent balance of at least £10k in the bank as a buffer against future urgent repairs or possible downturns in the club's finances. It was also felt that over the next 5 years that £3k a year over and above routine maintenance may need to be spent refurbishing some of the major elements of the building, it is intended that the future committee will prioritise these and determine the order in which these should be done. As an example the external render needs to be urgently attended to while the boiler may need replacing within 5 years. The committee will continue to review our finances including subscriptions.

AGM Report

Club Meets:

The club continues to attract a steady flow of new active members, due in no small measure to the full and well attended program of meets organised by Emma Bastock, including this year a revival of indoor meets by Holly Beckett.

We have run two highly successful training programmes, a climbing course part funded by the BMC focused on leading and a very well received first aid course which was also supported by the club.

We also heard from Elly that the use of Ty'n Lon by outside groups is steady, and thanks to not one but two well attended work meets lots of effort has been put into maintenance. As you can see 2011 has been a bumper year for the club, thanks to the efforts of all of the committee.

The new committee was appointed. See 2012/2013 Committee pages for details.

Finally, our current membership stands at a record of 176. (159 full members affiliated to the BMC). So, if you are good at maths you will see that there are few full members that still need to pay their annual subscriptions.

Constitutionally, any non-payment by 31st of March means that a 50% surcharge can be levied. Non-payment by the 30th of June results in a termination of membership. The member would then have to reapply to become a member once again, in the usual way.

Membership News

CONGRATULATIONS to HENRY FOLKARD



We are please to report and extend our congratulations to Henry Folkard a longstanding member of the Ceunant.

Many will know that he is an energetic access and conservation activist in the Peak District. Well his sterling work has been duly recognised by the BMC and has just received the *George Band Award* for his exceptional effort as a BMC volunteer.

New Members:

This year the club has had 7 new prospective members join. They are Magdalena Slupska, Richard Hubbard, Jo Wheatley, Ander Broadman, Kerstin Voelz, Serena Bacuzzi and Giulio Curioni, with Jules Cahill & Claire O'Reilly becoming full members this year.

THE 2012 / 2013 COMMITTEE

The committee are buzzing with energy and ideas to keep T'yn Lon and the club activities brimming with life and putting other clubs to shame. All contributions and feedback are welcomed so please do contact any committee member via their club email address, Facebook or in person. The tasks of the committee often mean giving up personal time and money for their commitment to the club so, a big thanks go to this year's team.

IAN SMITH - CHAIRMAN chairman@ceunant.org

"I'm a keen rock climber, leading in the severe grades and preferring long mountain routes and anything on gritstone, have been known to enjoy mountain biking, recently biked off Snowdon."

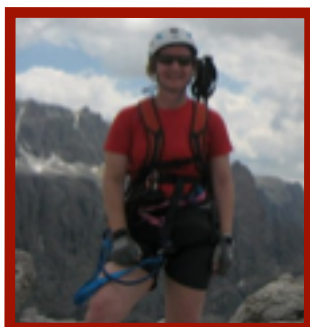


STEWART MOODY - VICE CHAIRMAN ViceChairman@ceunant.org



As an active member of the club I am looking forward to this new role. Supporting the committee and all club members. I became the West Mids rep on the BMC Clubs Committee, which involves meetings at BMC HQ, Manchester where we debate, and draft guidance documents for clubs, courses for the year, and eat pizza (amongst other things). I then report back to the Midlands BMC committee, and generally field any questions, which often relate to insurance or legal conundrums. When it comes to climbing I love big mountain multi-pitch routes, cragging comes in close

FIONA DEVINE - CLUB SECRETARY Secretary@ceunant.org



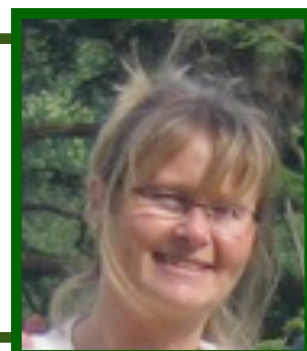
"I'm looking forward to my 7th year as the club secretary. I think by now I have a handle on things.

Being the main point of contact for the club means I get to hear of news from members old and new.

I love hearing of house moves especially if it's a lifestyle change... fancy taking redundancy and relocating from the West Midlands to Lakes. I also get to talk the big boys at the BMC - no wonder I keep volunteering!"

MAGGIE - TREASURER Treasurer@ceunant.org

Maggie remains our finance star for another year. Our thanks go to Maggie for all her hard work and Maggie has a plea for everyone to pay their hut and membership fees without delay.



THE 2012 / 2013 COMMITTEE



JOHN BEDDARD - HUT WARDEN hut@ceunant.org

John has proved himself to be as good as hut warden as he is at home on a mountain. Taking his second year with hammer in hand John is keen to keep T'yn Lon in tip top condition.

Please join the work meets that John has organised in June and Nov this year.

EMMA BASTOCK - OUTDOOR MEETS outdoormeets@ceunant.org

Where would we be without Emma organising all the fabulous meets? We'd be up a creek I suspect! Emma has more great meets planned for 2012 and always welcomes ideas and feedback for next year.



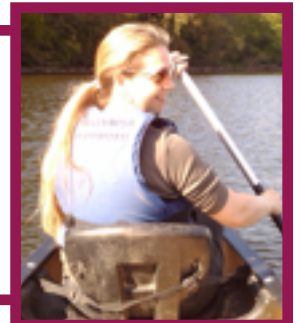
HOLLY BECKETT - INDOOR MEETS indoormeets@ceunant.org

Full of energy and ideas Holly has brought oodles of great social events and activities to the club and now in her second year on the committee she's really making sure there's something for everyone to get involved in throughout the year.



ELLIE HOLMES - HUT SECRETARY hutsec@ceunant.org

Ellie always has a smile, is an active member and brings wonderful calm and great organisation to managing the hut bookings. You can find details of the bookings on google calendar via www.Ceunant.org



BOB ELLIS AKA THE GINGER AVENGER - ORDINARY MEMBER om2@ceunant.org

Ginger, Scottish and loves Buckfast, arguably as much as he loves mountaineering. He makes the ideal addition to this years committee!



NAOMI WALKER - ORDINARY MEMBER om1@ceunant.org

Naomi is a fully active member of the club, likes purple, has a great rack, likes to get stuck in and is possibly the most determined woman in the Ceunant.

'Ordinary Member'? Yeah right!



DATES & REMINDERS

INTERESTED IN GAINING ML AND/OR SPA QUALIFICATIONS IN 2012?

We are hoping to arrange courses in 2012 at a discounted price to members of the club.

The **Mountain Leader** training is a 5 day course and the **Single Pitch Award** is a 2 day course.

Contact Emma Bastock if you're interested.

CHANGED CONTACT DETAILS?

If you've moved house or changed any contact details? Please send your update to the Club Secretary.

HUT FEES

A polite reminder to please ensure you've settled Hut Fees.

YOU CAN PAY ONLINE...

It's easy peasy, just contact Maggie and she'll be able to give you all the bank info.



A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank all the members who have made such great contributions to this newsletter, I think it's my favourite edition so far. I love writing up all your stories & tips to share with everyone and especially when they have great pics too.

The newsletters are only as good as the info I get to put in them so I hope you like this one as much as I do.

To contribute to the next newsletter please email me either via Facebook or to magazine@ceunant.org

CLUB MEETS



MONTH	DATE	WHAT & WHERE
JUN	Sat 16th	SUMMER WORK MEET, T'YN LON
JUL	7th & 8th	WILD CAMP - BOCHLWYD
	Sat 21st	SPORTS DAY, T'YN LON
AUG	Sat 1st	SUMMER BBQ, SPOTTED DOG
	18th & 19th	SUMMER PARTY, T'YN LON
	25th & 26th	SOUTH PEMBROKE, WALES
SEPT	8th & 9th	LLANGOLLEN
	Sat 13th	DOG RACING, HALL GREEN
OCT	6th & 7th	WYE VALLEY
	Fri pm 26th	MOSELEY 'HALF MARATHON'
NOV	3rd & 4th	THE ROACHES, PEAK DISTRICT
	Weds 14th	TEN PIN BOWLING
	17th & 18th	WORK MEET - T'YN LON
DEC	1st & 2nd	FAMILY & MOUNTAIN BIKE MEET

Check out the website and Facebook for updates and additions to our activities for the year.

You can also find details of the club meets, bookings and latest info in Google Calendar www.ceunant.org