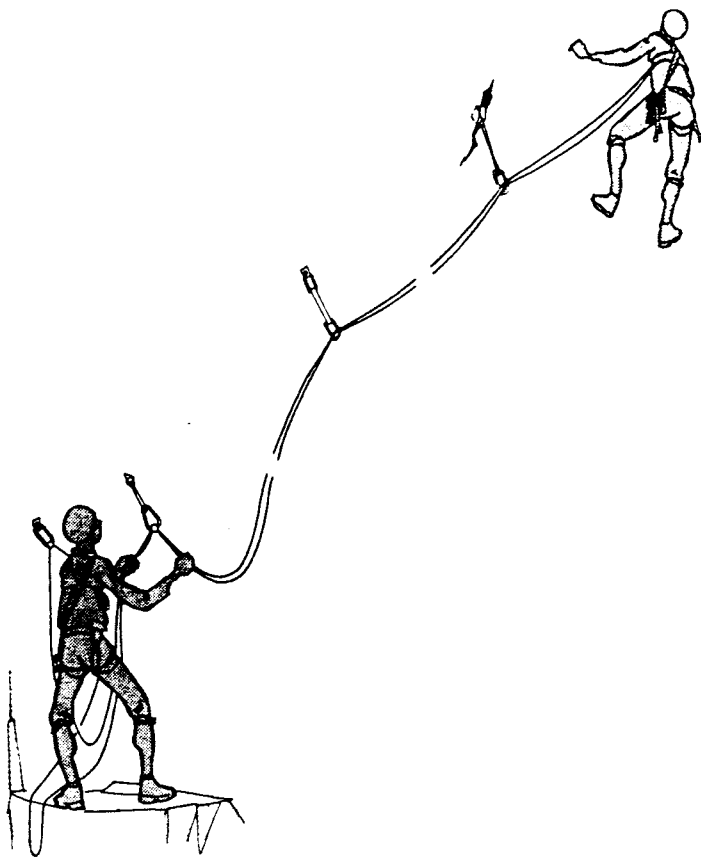


Ceunant Newsletter

May-95



Chairpersons message

Hello ! Welcome to the first newsletter of the new climbing year of 1995. Hope you're all keen to get your sticky boots on the hard stuff !

I'm sure that you will find the newsletter very informative thanks to Paul Green and Danny O'Keeffe for their hard work putting it together. Dont forget to send in any items that you think will be useful for other members. The magazine will be following shortly.

Special thanks to Mark Hellewell and Tony Millichope for their superb meets list this year - please come along and support your club !

The Ceunant M.C. will be **forty years old** next year. The Committee has some things in mind, but we want your ideas as soon as possible. Send your suggestions to Adrian Casey - Gen. Secretary.

Finally, remember there's a European meet this year to the Dolomites (last two weeks of July and first week of August) - I'd really like to see as many members as possible, even if its only for a week. Here's to some mass Ceunant ascents.

Hope to see you soon

Julie Duggan

Chairperson - Ceunant M.C.

Notes and notices

New Members

Congratulations to Adam Livett who became a full member in April, and welcome to recent new provisional members Azara Bibi and Hazel Preece. We look forward to seeing you on forthcoming meets.

Telephone list

Attached is a copy of the new address list printed on yellow paper to make it harder to lose !. There has been a considerable number of changes since the last version and an attempt has been made to update telephone numbers following the recent BT changes. If you find information to be inaccurate, whether it be yours or that of another member please forward details of the required amendment to Paul Green or any other member of the Committee.

Puzzle

Please insert letters into the following to identify an important future event:

• T • • I • • • O • • M • T • S •

For answer see " Other matters " below.

Indoor Meets Update

You should have recently received the 1995 Indoor Meets schedule. These have been based on the events of 1994 together with a number of additional suggestions. Please note that the first indoor meet is scheduled for **Thursday 25th May**. This is an evening pub to pub cycle ride commencing at 7pm in Stourton. We look forward to seeing you there. Further details of this and other indoor meets can be obtained from **Tony Millichope**.

Lundy Update

For those of you signed up for the Lundy meet this year the following was extracted from the Daily Mirror on Friday 10 March 1995:

"Chief quits love island - Romeo John Puddy, 47, has resigned from his job as guardian of tiny Lundy island after an affair with a barmaid. His fling with flame-haired Caitlin Scanlon, 26, shot Lundy, a three mile rock in the Bristol Channel with a population of 12, into the headlines."

All we can say Caitlin is "watch out Danny is on his way"

Review of meets since Christmas

New Years Eve

The new years eve party at Tyn Lon was extremely well attended and every available mattress and floor space was taken in addition to a number of tents in the garden. It was good to see so many members at one meet. Led by the Gwynedd contingent, drinking started very early in the Vaynol and in the usual manner continued until the early hours. As you would expect, not much climbing was done the following day. However a dedicated team in the form of Adrian, Paul, Trevor, Jan and Julia made a night ascent of Snowdon, battling against deep powder snow, blizzards, and worst of all, the effect on Paul of a rather dodgy curry. Leaving a very inhospitable summit at midnight they returned around 3.30 am to join in the celebrations.

CIC meet - 12 to 16 February

Eight people went, braving continuous rain from Birmingham to Fort William. The walk up with two rucksacks was absolute hell, and we all had to stop and rest before the first tourist view admiring bench was reached. Needless to say it had been dark for over an hour before the last straggler reached the hut.

Next day was fine and crisp so Nick, Adrian, Trevor and Tony set off to do Ledge Route while the others planned a more leisurely start to the day. However, cries of help had been heard from the Mantrap on the North East Buttress and the rescue teams alerted. When the team arrived Paul G and Andy were unceremoniously press ganged. "You and you, up there and start digging". Off they went to the foot of the Orion face whilst Paul H manned the radio. One bloke was lifted off the other could not be found.

Meanwhile Roger was in Coire Leis searching for *Rangifer Tarandus*. No not a new grade VII mixed ice route but a type of deer. He later returned to the hut despondent being approximately 2000 miles off track. Elsewhere, the weather had closed in and for the four on Ledge Route escaping the ridge for the descent was becoming interesting.

The rescue came back in the night and located the other casualty. In an attempt to lower him down the Orion face we were delegated to take the stretcher to meet them. All of twelve of us (four from the Chamois Club) were tooled up in five minutes, despite being dragged from a whiskython, only to be told that the rescue teams had lifted the casualty to the top.

If only we had known that was the best day. We managed to get out for a bit of trudging around and Paul G and Tony practised on one or two frozen water ice patches in the Coire. Following his reconnaissance the day before Roger offered to lead an expedition to the top of Coire Leis and skilfully took us up the start of north East Buttress. We then crossed the Douglas gap from East to West, Trevor doing the last bit "freestyle" having practised by numerous falls in the river on the way up. Paul H's worried look as Trevor sped down the West Gully at mach one was a mixture of all those things he wanted to say to him, ie., "Out of my way bogey face" and "Oh no there goes my Ceunant downhill record" Fortunately Trevor was fine and luckily for him saved us from practising our new first aid skills on him.

Those of you unfamiliar with the CIC hut may not know that the toilet facilities involve the judicious use of a spade. The ideal opportunity to resurrect our store of Captain Oates jokes honed on the Easter meet. One poor soul (surname can be derived from the clue "medieval pastures") suffered the double tragedy of head torch failure and loss of toilet roll and consequently had to improvise with snowballs.

Annual General Meeting - 4 March

Another success and 72 people attended. Despite enthusiastic use of water pistols the management are happy to have us back. Apparently the locals are much worse. **Prizes were awarded to:**

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| • Mick and Tim | Rucksack locator balloons |
| • Trevor | An anchor for those embarrassing head first incidents |
| • Bill | Incontinence pads |
| • Helena | Muddy, snake infested knickers in honour of her exploits in America |
| • James | His very own beer glass in memory of all those he smashed on Lundy |
| • Maggie | Water wings for those sub-aqua sea cliff starts |
| • Nick | A helicopter to carry his rucksack up to the CIC hut |
| • Danny | Totally opaque anti exposure glasses for use on the Gervasutti Pillar (his first Alpine route) |
| • Junior | Handcuffs to prevent "sleep driving" |

The tankard for Ceunant person of the year was awarded to Danny in recognition of the massive improvement he has made by an enthusiastic attendance on meets.

The country dancing was characterised more by enthusiasm than accuracy. The committee is looking into the possibility of organising regular practice in the garden at Tyn Lon. Not really. If you have any suggestions for next year's dinner please relay them to any committee member.

Welsh Winter Meet

March 18th

Perfect weather conditions had been promised and to everyone's amazement they actually materialised. Because of this the keen element had mentioned something about getting up at 7 o'clock. Nobody believed this would happen but when someone made an early morning visit to the toilet with lots of crashing about everyone was galvanised into activity, fearful of being left behind.

9 o'clock saw us in the car park at Pen y Pass and by 11 we were at the bottom of the routes. Elsewhere in Wales it was a case of stretch, yawn, fart, and "I s'pose I'd better get up and go to Pete's". Andy, Sue, Maggie, and Keith did Central Trinity followed by chips, tea and a healthy portion of cake at Pete's while Nick, Adrian and Tony did Ladies Route. An easy day for the ladies? I think not. Tony got the crux pitch through a chimney and over chockstones. Fortunately there was still plenty of ice on it when it came to Nick's turn despite the odd ice cube attack.

There was just time to do another route so we ran back down the zig-zags scattering tourists in our wake as they struggled up cramponless - objective Right Hand Trinity. As the rabbit of the party Nick was assigned the first, easiest, pitch at about grade 2. When Nick left the stance, straight into a narrow cleft, it soon dawned on him that the group had actually soloed his pitch and that he was onto the meat of the route. Still the ice was good, the protection was good and he had Spear of Destiny on the mental walkman. Pretty soon he reached a decent ledge with a bit of bare rock above, time for Adrian's lead. The only slightly hairy bit of the route was sparked into submission and yes, yours truly, Nick, wobbled his way up with a tight-ish rope onto the now very windswept railway track. Tony had climbed both of his main Welsh winter ticks and Adrian and Nick had done our first Welsh winter routes. All in not a bad day. Now we just had to trudge back in the dark.

March 19th

Objective - Upper Cwm Glas. Adrian, Paul, Tim, Nick, Sue, Hazel, Andy, Keith and Tony set off mid morning for a mass ascent of Parsley Fern Gully. However a relatively unprepared (no gear!) team in the form of Adrian and Tony, on noting the good conditions, reset their sights on Sinister Gully, a popular grade III to the left of Parsley Fern Gully. This was climbed relatively speedily Alpine style with only a heavier concentration of runners on the steep ice fall section. Meanwhile, those on Parsley Fern split into groups. Nick, Andy, and Keith speedily soloed the route. Following were Sue and Hazel who adopted a moving together Alpine style avoiding numerous chunks of ice raining from above. This was Hazel's first experience on snow and ice. The 850ft gully consisted of well packed and reasonably solid powder all the way making a pleasant climb. The main difficulties centered on the last 50ft. where the gully steepened considerably before the final exciting move over or through the cornice. A slot had been nicely excavated through the cornice by Nick, Andy, and Keith which was gratefully used by the rest of the party. Paul and Tim, with Tim on his first winter route, decided to pitch it to practise their winter techniques. Seven pitches later at around 5pm, and hours after everyone else, they reached the misty and blowy summit returning in the dark down the PYG track. Tim had one good attempt, approximately 100ft. from the top, at joining the exclusive Paul H and Trevor "fast descent" club but managed to fortunately self-arrest. Again, an excellent day was had by all and a fitting finish to the Winter meet.

Other matters

Magazine articles

We intend to issue the much awaited magazine shortly. As you are aware this is being coordinated by James Walker following the groundwork which has been carried out by Sue Traynor. Should you have any articles you wish to include or have any ideas or suggestions for the format please get in contact with James as soon as possible.

1996 Celebrations

1996 will be the 40th anniversary of the club. The committee would be grateful of any suggestions as to how we may celebrate this. In addition, it is currently intended to produce a special anniversary magazine and again if there are articles of a special or historical nature which you believe may be appropriate then please contact a member of the committee.

List of shame

The following people have yet to pay their subs, so if your name is on this list do the decent thing and send your subs to: Nick Oldfield, 2 Milford Avenue, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. B12 8UZ Or, alternatively bring the money to the pub on Wednesday. subs are currently £12 single, £18 Joint, £6 students/unemployed. Cheques should be made payable to "Ceunant Mountaineering Club".

Gerald Adams, John Bartlam, Jeff Brown, Theresa Cartland, Keith Earnshaw, Jim & Jane Fairey, Derrick Grimmit, John Hart, Stuart Haycock, Helena Holmes, Patrick Keeley, Simon Lambert, Gary Macauley, Derry Machin, Pete & Sandy Meese, Brian Mullan, Ray Siseman, Tony Tohill, Dawn Walker, Adrian Wilkinson, Chris Wilkinson.

Hut bookings

The following hut bookings have been made:

April 24-27	West Midlands Fire Service
June 3/4	Southampton Rats
June 9/10	Wanney's CC Northumberland
June 16/18	Bury MC
June 23/24	Tyn Lon Bar-b-cue
June 30-Jul 1	Mossley Scout Group
July 2-7	Haydon Bridge High School
July 22-25	Duke of Edinburgh Group
August 9-12	Duke of Edinburgh Group
October 20/21	London MC
October 22/23	J Stiffin

Puzzle

Yes - you got it - **ITALIAN DOLOMITES.**

Please remember that three sunbaked weeks in the Italian Dolomites (at Canazei) has been arranged for July 15 to August 6. Towering limestone faces amongst spectacular scenery with climbing at all grades promises to make a memorable grand spectacular summer alpine overseas meet. Most of you should have received brief meet notes already, however should you require additional information please contact **Mark Hellewell.**

To recap, other outdoor meets scheduled for the next six months are:

May 26-29	Borrowdale
June 23/24	Tyn Lon Bar-b-cue
July 7-9	Yorkshire Dales
Aug 12-19	Lundy
Aug 18-20	North Devon
Aug 25-28	Northumberland
Sept 8-10	Langdale
Oct 7-8	North Pembroke

We look forward to seeing you there.

Stop Press

The recent Cornwall meet was extremely well attended by old and new members alike and with perfect weather. A detailed account will be included in the next newsletter of the following:

“What on earth is that thing lying on the beach” - A friendly Basking Shark referring to Steve Coughlan ,

“I think I've forgotten how to use these” - John Petit referring to his stickies !

“Two cream teas please” - Andy Ring and Julie Duggan

“Can someone extract this no. 7 hex from my head” , and “Has anyone seen a tent pole ?” - Nick Oldfield,

“Are you sure this is only VS ?” - Joe Brennan and James Kennedy,

“Thats not a tent - this is a tent !” - Mark & Zoe Mitchell

“Which bugger rocked my rucksac ?” - Sue Traynor

“Mine's factor 15, what your's ?” - Helena Holmes to Alison Crunden

“Has anyone seen a dog ?” - Joe Brennan