



Mar. 2013 NEXT CLUB EVENTS

14-16 March	Little Cottages, Roy Bridge – Tony Morley
14-16 March	3 Places left – now £27 each
Sun 6 th April	Newcomers meet – Shepherds - Dorine
Thurs 17 th Apr	Shepherds Crag – Mike Tinnion
Thurs 24 th Apr	Castle Rock – Dorine Tinnion
Thurs 1 st May	Black Crag, Borrowdale – Harmony Smith

OTHER EVENTS

Eden Rock	10% discount on entry fee with CMC card
Thurs. nights	Penrith climbing wall 6.30pm if it's wet
NOTE	See page 4 for meets contact info.

Chairman's notes chair@carlislemc.co.uk

Newcomers meet

Any new members should try to make it to the newcomers meet on 6th April & get to meet some of the regular members at A very nice location (Shepherds Crag) with a cafe to meet at prior to climbing.

Club Hut Meet!!!

Radical I know but a proposal has been made by Dave Ferguson to have a club meet at the club hut, 14th 15th June. The plan would be to clean up a section of the local crags & then do some climbing. If anyone would be interested in this, please let a member of the committee or Dave know.

Meets list

The meets list has now either been emailed to you or is attached to this newsletter.

Club Hut

Finally we have the technical drawings to submit to Allerdale for approval. It's been a long road but we are hopeful of getting on with it all soon.

David Ward is getting on with the legal process of registering our mutual status & CASC registration.

Newsletter articles

Thank you to those who keep sending them in. Keep up the good work & anyone else who has anything to report, please get in touch.

newsletter@carlislemc.co.uk

Winter meets

The last few places at Roy Bridge are available. Send your cheque for £27 to Tony Morley & let him know you are going and pay online. Contact any of the committee for the bank details.

You are only considered to have booked on a meet when you have paid the full cost.

March 14th – 16th

Roy Bridge – Staying at the Little Cottages which is within walking distance of the pub and a short drive

from the Ben or Creag Meagaidh. We have two Cottages booked giving us 16 places.

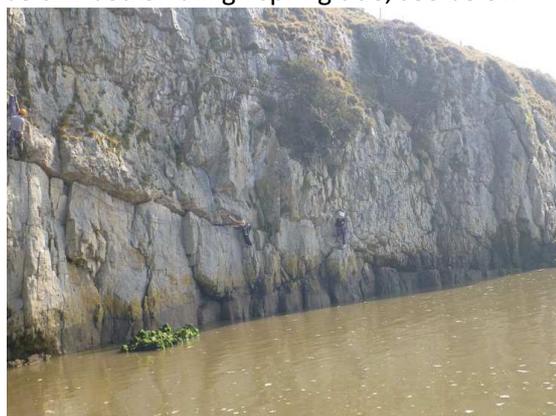
Esoteric Rock Volume 2 - The Lancashire Traverses.

By Dave Ferguson

OK so winter is almost over, what snow there is remains soggy and although you've sharpened your crampons the "conditions" are just a little pants. You've been training at the bouldering wall by working sideways on big jugs to work up your stamina, how can this possibly help your winter climbing? you may ask. Well, not all white stuff has to be cold and involve long walks with a heavy sack, what you need is some sun-baked Lancashire limestone. A great day can be had by driving an hour down the motorway to the south facing limestone at Jack Scout Cove and Trowbarrow.

Now limestone has a reputation for being steep, hard and technical. Yorkshire certainly has this in abundance with its bolted winter venues, however the following routes are graded Hard Severe to HVS and can all be done in a day to give 5 long traverse pitches with appropriate excitement for both leader and second.

The first route is actually on Lancashire's premier sea cliff, Jack Scout Cove. OK its Lancashire's only sea cliff but as any Lancastrian will tell you that's one more than Yorkshire has. It can be found in the Lancs guidebook although the line is so obvious that you only really need the guide to find the crag which can feel a little bit hidden on first acquaintance. For maximum excitement it should be climbed on a high spring tide, see below:



The Onedin Line pitch one at high tide, VS 4b

A scramble along the beach leads to a rising traverse where it is wise to rope up. The route follows the obvious break with plenty of cam placements to a hanging belay on the prow, the climbing is nice and steady at 4b and there is a nice shiny bolt to belay from. Pitch 2 takes a continuation of the break which continues to provide big jugs and good gear to a belay on a tree. It is possible to top out from here but probably easier and safer to abseil from the tree onto a rocky promontory.



Tony on the Onedin Line pitch two, VS 4c

There are other routes on the crag but they are really not worth the effort so an adjournment to Trowbarrow Quarry can see the traverse theme continue. The Quarry has a reputation for polished routes and looseness and certainly if you get yourself on Jean Jeanie or Coral Sea, both classic VS's you'll be able to see your face in some of the footholds, however, look outside the box and there are some fantastic routes which are generally well protected and due to their lack of popularity not remotely polished. This combined with the truly amazing drying qualities and sunny aspect mean Trowbarrow can easily save the day when the Lakes are shrouded in clag and Shepherds is dripping wet.

The Assagai Wall contains some great traversing lines and the signature route Assagai, although not entirely a traverse gets you to the right place to do the other routes. A scramble up a ramp leads to a big block belay, from there a traverse out into the middle of the wall with instant exposure and a quickening of the pulse is made bearable by solid protection and positive holds.



Dave on the traverse of Assagai – HVS, 5a

The traversing now finishes and a technical move up with good gear leads to a fantastic series of flutings. The gear is good included slings over some spikes and the runnels and flutings are climbed by some fine bridging moves to the top of the crag which has a fine collection of tree belays.



Steve on the flutings at the top of Assagai

The next route takes a long traverse across Assagai Wall from left to right and starts halfway up the crag from a large ledge system. This can be gained by a careful scramble (or abseil if nervous) from the top of the crag. The route, called Rupal can be gained from the ground but the approach to the ledge is very loose and not at all recommended. The start is a bit of a shock as its straight into the crux but luckily protection is plentiful and at least you are close to your belayer. After the hard move the rest is a delight, hands on a big break with a bit of technical footwork and really good protection all the way.



Dave on Rumal, HVS 5a

The traverse lands you on another big ledge and by belaying close to the edge you can keep a close eye on your second doing the crux. From this ledge a short scramble up leads to the next traverse line which is actually only a few feet from the top of the crag. Although because of this the route is a little contrived the climbing is easily the best you'll do all day and at the wonderfully modest grade of Hard Severe.

The route is called Truffle and definitely deserves more traffic. You can approach it from the top of the crag or via the fine line of Jomo at V Diff. You could also do it left to right by starting from the same ledge of Rumal and climbing up to the traverse. It climbs across the various runnels that form at the top of the crag. Handholds and footholds are plentiful and the gear once again is really good. This makes a great route to learn the intricacies of twin ropework on traverses and is pretty much in balance all the way.



Tony on the fine traverse of Truffle HS, 4b

There are many other fine routes at Trowbarrow of all grades so its definitely worth a visit. On the Main Wall Jean Jeanie is the obvious 3 star classic but is really showing signs of wear and tear and has become a polished struggle. Harijan at VS and Hollow Earth at HVS are much better experiences with Cracked Actor at E2 providing a test for those with steelfingers. There are good easy routes too with Jomo, Ramp Ant and Barrier Reef all

between V Diff and Severe. So don't think winter is all about stomping about in the clag looking for a bit of slush, the Lancashire Traverses will give a particularly original and fine day out.



Tony enjoying the exposure on Truffle

Rjukan Feb 2-9th 2014

By Sue Greenwood

Eight of us set out for Norway to the Gjestegard Hostel and ice climbing with some doubts after reading gloomy things on UK Climbing. But...all was well! Despite only rain and wind at Christmas in Rjukan, by Feb 3rd there was more than enough ice for excellent climbing all the week, with only one very snowy less pleasant day. Temperatures at minus 5 or above were good and though there were patches of thick, deep soft snow on some upper pitches, these routes could be avoided. You will probably have been dazzled by facebook photos but nothing does justice to the grandeur of these magnificent ice falls and beautiful snowy surroundings. I think this is my 9th and final visit but it is still as impressive as the 1st time and equally challenging.

Sabotorfossen, W15 in the Upper Gorge, ably led by my trusty leader, Phil, has to be the peak for me. I thought the 1st pitch might be enough and then I saw the 2nd one, through a gully and thought....welll.. I'll try and then we were up to the last long splendid pitch and it was beautiful. Always is in retrospect!

It was amazing to see what Ian and Jenny accomplished in the 1st 4 days. Pete, now answering to Pinnacle Pete stormed up everything with much strength, encouraged by John, who is climbing just as nimbly. Dan led up a steep route on Ozzimosis with style and lots of other routes and Steve got courageous as a leader but still very safe as the week progressed. Phil and I adopted a measured approach (me...careful and slow!) but enjoyed a multipitch on Rjukan Central which was new to us as well as some tried and tested routes, like Vemorkbrufoss Vest, in view of the bridge and people so it does not feel quite so scary and yet looks incredible from the bridge. Hard to believe you have done it when you look down!

Well...there it is...all well and survived another year, ready for Scotland now!

If you haven't yet sampled Rjukan, I hope you will get the chance sometime soon.

Sue Greenwood

(Aged and intrepid hon. Pres)

Coran Ferry Meet Feb 28th-March 2nd

By Phil Wilkinson

When Hamish McInnes remarked that he had never seen so much snow since 1945, you knew that conditions were going to be a bit unique. Members on the Newtonmore meet in January certainly had a flavour of it, leaving the climbing to those brave enough to operate in the higher grades.

But Sue and Phil decided T-Sneachda was worth a second look in February, so on Friday headed in. It looked much the same but with a lighter wind and so we felt more optimistic. A couple of lads down climbing out of the bottom of Patey's Route wasn't encouraging, but a closer look revealed good snow ice. With sufficient ice on the cruxes we thought it a pleasant Grade 4. Strangely enough the rib on the right (Terms of Endearment) proved to be more popular with four teams strung along it, but only one other pair on Patey's.

Evening at Coran and 12 members began to arrive at the well-appointed Bunk House (en-suite showers no less!). After a quick re-arrangement of the dining area under Tony's guidance, plans were hatched for Saturday with the prospect of good weather.



Sue Walker on the Aonach Eagach Ridge Picture by Dorine Tinnion

Dorine and young Sue had a stupendous day on the Aonach Eagach Ridge. Full on winter conditions bordering on Grade 3 climbing and blessed with all the sunshine going. A great achievement! Well done , you two!

John Holden and Pete, plus John Wilson and Dave Rice made a huge effort slogging through tons of snow and topping out on Dorsal Arete before dropping down Broad Gully....expending enough energy to keep the lights on in Fort William for a week!

Tony, Ian and Jenny did Scabbard Chimney, then after a quick abseil added the tougher Spectre, both weighing in at Grade v.6. Apparently the climbing was technically easier due to the good build up but protection was hard to find.

Lindie skied at Nevis Range in connection with an Instructor's award, whilst Phil and Sue trekked up to the C.I.C. hut, chilled out, enjoyed the views and walked back out. Nuff said!

Sunday.....Eager to salvage some pride, Phil and Sue climbed Dinnertime Buttress 11 in Glencoe. Although having one longish "chimney" pitch, add to this the exposed scrambling on the lower section and the wonderful Alpinesque upper slopes on good neve, then it was quite exciting and well worth the effort.

Coming down from Coire nan Lochan, we were overtaken by Tony and Ian. They had gone off route (on the "adventure" bit) ending up on Innuendo V.6.....more poorly protected hard moves....arrghh!

The girls went skiing at Nevis Range with conditions being described as awesome.

John H and co went sightseeing around Inchree, then took in the delights of Glasgow.

So that wraps it up, now get yourself booked on the next meet `cos there`s going to be some stonking ice around!

P.S. Can we book this luxury hostel again next year?!



Sue Walker on the Aonach Eagach Ridge Picture by Dorine Tinnion

Meets contacts for meets shown on page 1

Tony Morley (tel. numbers removed for web copy)

Dorine Tinnion

Mike Tinnion

Harmony Smith