



SWMC Newsletter Winter '07

www.southwalesmountaineering.org.uk

Welcome to your
new committee!



Chairman

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Ordinary Member East

Paul Rogers
[fathorsepig@yahoo.ie]

Chairman's message
Neges y cadeirydd

To me the club is all about assisting each other to make our ambitions reality. Whether it is maintaining the barn, developing youngsters, enhancing the crag environment or just going climbing with our mates – there is plenty to get us engaged and to learn from one another. Please get as involved as you can in whatever way you can.

I'd like to thank Nigel, Simon, Llio and Alan for the really hard work they have put in to the committee over the last few years. You're a tough act to follow!

Mae y gobaith bod ni 'n cwrdd at y craigiau cyn bo hir

Pob Hwyl, **Chris**

The Meets

Due to experience from last year, the Committee has decided to produce a list of meets that are more likely to be well attended.

Barn Cleanup ("Love the Hut") – North Wales

When: **March 10-11**

Organiser: Sara Davies

[saradavies50@hotmail.com]

Info: People who will give up at least 1 day of the weekend to work on the hut will get petrol money (only if at least 3 people in the car) and the club will provide beers in the evening.

Novice Day 1 – 3 Cliffs, Gower

When: **April 14**

Organiser: Chris Wyatt

[christopher.wyatt@majotech.com]

Novice Day 2 – Box Bay

When: **May 19**

Organiser: John Custance

[membership.east@tiscali.co.uk]

Crag Clean-up – to be decided

When: **June 9**

Organiser: Paul Rogers

[fathorsepig@yahoo.ie]

Info: Paul to decide on a suitable South Wales Valleys venue

First Lead Weekend – North Wales

When: **July 7-8**

Organiser: Nik Goile

[nikgoile@gmail.com]

Info: members attending this will be encouraged to have attended least a few Wednesday night and official club meets.

Slideshow Night

When: **October 24**

Organiser: Chris Wyatt

[christopher.wyatt@majotech.com]

Info: A chance for people to be introduced to the club by a slideshow of adventures different members got up to during the year.

Bulletin Board

Members are encouraged to use this forum to arrange meets and, like the "official" meets, they will receive the Committee's blessing and can be published in the newsletter, on the bulletin board and on the main website.

Calling all 2006 Members

Membership expired on 31 December 2006 for all. (Full payers on Standing Order, please ignore this reminder!) For those of you still to pay your membership fees, you need to send your cheques or cash to your membership secretary.

For Cardiff send to: 35 Gwenfo Drive, Wenvoe, Cardiff, CF5 6BR or see John Custance at the Wall.
For Swansea send to: Tim Hoddy, 41 Y Berllan, Dunvant, Swansea, SA2 7RW.

Please note that unless your contact or other details have changed then an application form is not necessary for re-joining.

Register Yourself!

All club communication with members takes place by email. To receive any communication (including this newsletter), all members **MUST** be registered on the bulletin board.

If you're still not registered go to **www.southwalesmountaineering.org.uk/bb/** and click the 'register' link.

Youth Group

The Junior Section of the SWMC has been up and running for the past year and a half. Run by parents and club members a great deal has been achieved, including Child Protection Policy & support for the British Regional Youth Climbing Competition Series.

Welsh Championships

SWMC member Gary Lewis worked hard last year to organise the first ever Welsh Indoor Youth Climbing Championships, held in November. With 70 youngsters from all over Wales took part and the BMC Deputy Chief Executive Nick Colton attended.

Linda Jensen tells us what's next for the youth section of the club

"Climbing is becoming more and more popular for young people, and new members continue to come forward to join. Existing members continue to improve and turn heads when they climb.

In the next few weeks we'll be arranging a programme of summer outdoor meets. We'd appreciate any help from the club's experienced members who could spare some time to lead a route or two. For many of the junior members, climbing outside is what they've joined the club for, and your help would be greatly appreciated!"

If you're interested in helping or want to find out more, contact linda.jensen@ntlworld.com or Roy Carr on nicola@harmer2.wanadoo.co.uk

Next issue...

The next newsletter will be Spring '07, due out in April. If you have anything to contribute, email Jane Brookes [swmcjane@ntlworld.com]

Annual Dinner

The party atmosphere was sizzling at the Discovery Inn and everyone made an effort to discard the climbing clothes and put on the glad rags!

Tony Penning provided an informative speech about the forthcoming Wye Valley Guide Book.



Tony Penning



The departing chairman Nigel was presented with an original ice-axe. We hope you're not going to use it on your next trip Nigel!

Thank you to Paul Rogers and Llio Elgar who organised an excellent evening: the food was good, the company great and the entertainment superb!



There were a couple of surprise stars supporting The Empire of the Clingons!



A royal day in Mother Carey's kitchen

As I descend
I trust my life
to this nylon thread.
Below the white foam hypnotises;
another world
where surface equals vertical,
green transforms to white and grey,
where gulls and jackdaws
wheel and screech
and tiny fish
weave their silver paths
through deep, purple pools
my universe collapsed to
seven feet of overhang
casting shadow.

I stretch, clasp, swing in space.
My heel curves around my
head.

I pull, slap, latch a pocket,
pull again and I can stand.

I breathe.

The last few feet go by with
ease, my sequenced
movements locked
in perfect choreography

I take my perch,
a grin across my face,
and my ankles dangling,
languid in the void.

The ballerina enters;
her dance, on fingers of wind,
her backdrop, sea, sky
welded;
Eyes lock, wings tuck
She stoops unseen.
A thud,
a flurry of feathers
and a pigeon for her table

I bow my head
in admiration.

Chris Wyatt

Lydstep

