



SWMC Newsletter

Autumn '09

www.southwalesmountainreering.co.uk



This issue we have some important information from Chris about the clubs structure, and an update on the forthcoming guidebooks. There are also trip reports from current SWMC members, as well as articles from former members who've now left South Wales. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is December 31st

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Deadly important stuff....

By Chris Wyatt

As we engage in a dangerous sport and all members sign the BMC participation statement, we are basically covered against anyone making a claim for a climbing accident. However, perversely this does not apply if someone were to trip over a step in the hut (without a 'mind the step sign'), or indeed if someone were to get brain damaged by choking on an almond at the annual dinner (without 'warning: danger of choking!' written in an icing sugar stencil over the pudding)

It could be argued that the risks of an accident like these happening are quite low and that the chance of a good and upright climber suing the club is also pretty low. But if you ask yourself 'what would I do if I suffered a permanent injury?' you might reconsider.

The way the club is currently set up, every member of the club is jointly and severally liable for any debts incurred in such an action. This means that if we were to suffer a multi million pound lawsuit you could all be paying for the rest of your lives!

I do not want to be alarmist as this has not yet happened to any club in the UK but I personally would feel much more relaxed being a member of the club if I did not have this even as a remote possibility.

With this in mind and following legal advice, the committee will be recommending to AGM that we change the set-up of the club in law. We would like the club to become a not for profit limited company. The key word here is 'limited'. This means that a claim against the club can only go against the assets of the club - not the assets of its members.

What does this mean in practice? Not much in terms of the day to day activities of the club - but we do need to re-write the constitution of the club.

Currently our constitution governs how the finances are managed, membership, committee structure etc. Our committee runs the club on behalf of the membership while our trustees are the names which legally own the club's assets.

In the proposed new company these things will be subject to 2 documents, the articles of association and the executive committee rules. The club will be legally run by three directors but with the support of an executive committee. The directors will be taken from the executive committee and the role of trustee will become redundant.

It is envisaged that the articles will be a legal document, 'written in stone'. They govern finances, membership and conduct of the directors of the company vis-à-vis the membership. The rules, however, will be much easier to change and will govern the makeup and job descriptions of members of the committee, events and so on.

Our aim in writing the legal articles is to ensure that

- Nobody can 'carpet bag' the club and its assets
- The directors and committee are genuinely accountable to the membership
- That as much flexibility as possible is given to the directors and committee regarding committee structure, events etc.
- That the directors will not personally profit in their role as directors of the club

We have also drafted a set of rules for the executive committee. We will be posting the draft articles and rules on the web site well in advance of our next AGM where a motion to change the legal make up of the club will be put forward.

Please engage constructively with this process as you see fit - preferably before the AGM via the bulletin board.

Asian Vulture Conservation Work in Nepal

by Stephen Lucocq

Hi, I thought I would write a bit about the project I have just been a part of. I was working out in Nepal with the RSPB and Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN). I was involved with a project to take into captivity Asian vulture chicks where they would be a part of a captive breeding program. It seems like a very harsh thing to do to take these chicks from nature where they will be kept in captivity for many years but they have little chance of a future out in the wild. Their numbers have decreased from around 40 million in the 1990's to now shockingly a few thousand. The reason is due to a drug they give to live stock called Diclofenac that is fatal to vultures if consumed in a treated animal. Diclofenac is an anti-inflammatory drug used for pain relief in livestock. There are now systems in place banning the use of the veterinary drug Diclofenac but things are slow to change in Asia and the use of the human form of the drug is commonly used in livestock. There are alternative drugs available that work as well and without harming vultures. The use of these drugs are heavily supported and campaigned by the RSPB and BCN.

My involvement in the project was with the tree climbing to gain access to the vulture's nest. I say tree climbing but this was more of a mixture of single rope technique (SRT), conventional tree surgery climbing techniques, aid climbing and a bit of rock climbing all used in some shape or form to gain access to the nests. The nests were situated in three types of tree being Sal, Saj and Kapok trees ranging from 15 metres to 40 metres high.



Aaawh isn't he cute

One of the trickiest tasks was getting a static climbing line high into the tree. Some of the trees first branches were 25 metres from the ground. I knew this would be a problem so I managed to borrow a big shot catapult from my employers (City and County of Swansea – Tree Service Unit). This is a catapult on a long pole and is designed for the purpose of firing a small 16 ozs lead shot pouch high up into the tree. So with this line in place high in the tree a 12mm static line can be pulled up and then used to ascend using rope-climbing ascenders (Jumars etc). We could not fire the lead pouch anywhere near the nest for fear of hurting the vulture chicks. So from the high point of the line we would use different climbing techniques to gain access to the nests. Some of the nests were on the very top of the trees on partial dead branches so great care had to be taken for the chicks and ourselves. Also many of the Sal and Saj trees had many ants nest so we had to where possible climb around these nests as the ants had a nasty bite.

The whole trip was an amazing challenge and extremely rewarding. At times our target of 30 vulture chicks did not seem possible as at many of the sites we were visiting the numbers of chicks were a lot lower than expected (A further sign of the decline). But somehow we all pulled together and on the very last day of catching we achieved our goal of 30 vulture chicks. At the end of the project we were pleased but the team knew that this was just a small start to the huge amount of work that is to follow to prevent the extinction of the Asian Vultures.

If interested in finding out more about the project please visit:

<http://www.vulturerescue.org/>

Or making a donation:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/supporting/campaigns/vultures/>

Or reading more about the trip visit my online blog at:

www.slucocq.blogspot.com

Winter Adventures

A Group of five Short Articles about Winter Climbing

By Andy Watkins

Do you have climbing memories? I do. I can remember some climbs, the most hairiest, the sketchiest, the best, classic conditions, or the worst, very vividly sometimes. At other times, I struggle to piece together the details. But my climbing memories are important to me, and so there are times I rehearse particular memories, actively trying to remember what it was I did on a certain day.

There are old climbers, and there are bold ones, the saying goes, but few who are both, and so all climbers who don't die get old and have memories. There are lots of climbers. That's a lot of climbing memories. What happens to all those memories if we don't actively remember them? Do they just get erased, like the old messages on our message machines?

If I write down my best climbing memories, will I remember them better? Will you help me remember them? Here are five of my best:

A Day at the Races (setting the record straight)

My first story starts, as do all good stories, with a failure. At the end of March, it must have been 1992 or 1993, Nick Clement, Phil Caesley and myself failed in our first attempt to climb the four ridges of Ben Nevis in a day, managing only Castle Ridge, in foul weather, before admitting defeat and skulking off down the Tourist track. There was a big avalanche in Castle gully, which I remember as a cautionary signal for the day.

In good weather, Phil and I returned to Ben Nevis the following weekend. We intended to climb all four ridges un-rope to save time. We had in our bags a spare jumper, a Gore-tex suit and some Twixes and Phil had a "gopping" Cream egg which was a real struggle to get down with a dry mouth. It was the first time I had taken a litre of water on the hill. On previous visits to hills I had carried a much smaller water bottle. Phil admits the dehydration training seemed to work though.

We carried a single 9mm rope but, in the event, did not use it. I had done them all before but Phil had only done Tower Ridge, Castle Ridge and NE Buttress leaving Observatory Ridge for this event. We were both experienced winter climbers but Phil had only done a dozen routes. This included a solo of Point 5 gully so he was not a novice!

We started on Castle Ridge, which we despatched in double quick time, descending via the abseil posts, which we did every time due to the avalanche risk. We then ascended Observatory Ridge with the Zero Gully finish, for speed reasons, as cramponing on steep neve is fast. Phil commented on the sustained nature of the route, what he actually said was very rude saying the route was ----- hard but this is a family magazine and the actual words are unprintable.

Then we turned our attentions to NE Buttress, which we despatched in a very quick time. The only pitch that I remember is the 40ft corner pitch at the top of NE Buttress, and I've got a picture of Phil on the traverse in, the rest is a blur.

We descended via the Abseil posts for the last time to the foot of Tower Ridge for our "piece de resistance". The average time is 5 hours. The first ascent, by Norman Collie, took 5 hours in 1894, a good time today. It was our last route and we did it in 56 minutes, not our best time, we had done it in 53 minutes after doing Hadrian's Wall, but we were too tired this day, hence the longer time.

We topped out to meet two climbers who'd just done Tower Ridge and said they'd just seen two climbers on Observatory Ridge and were suitably amazed when we told them it was us. The looks on their faces when we told them we'd done 4 ridges in a day had to be seen to be believed. They shared a can of Guinness with us to celebrate our achievement.

We descended the Tourist Track just as it was getting dark and drove to Onich, where the RAF Mountain Rescue team, from RAF Kinloss, were staying and I drank beer out of tins long into the night, while Phil slept like the dead.

"Heavy" Whalley, the Team Leader, said that he thought it was the first time that it had been done and I should write an article about it. It must be emphasised that conditions were perfect, we just followed in the footsteps of those that had gone before and we didn't jump the Tower Gap, climbing down into it instead, but it was still a good day, especially as we descended via the Abseil Posts and not number 4 gully. We only took 13 hours, from car to car, more time spent in ascent of the mountain, descent and walking across the top than in ascent. I hope this sets the record straight.



Mike Dudley and Gareth Tucker enjoying tower ridge at a more leisurely pace (Nik Goile)

Dicing With Death

The phone rang on the Thursday night. Nick Clements, my partner on this escapade, was free for the weekend. I finished at 12 o'clock, lunchtime, but Nick had to work until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It was February 1990 and we arranged to go to BheinnEighe to do the Central Buttress of CoireMhicFheachair.

It was featured in cold climbs but would it be in condition? We decided to go anyway, I'd never been in to CoireMhicFheachair and the walk would do us good.

After driving across to Torridon, from Morayshire, on the Friday night, we had a drink in the Loch Maree hotel, before driving a short distance down the road and turning in for the night. There was no snow by the side of the road, and our prospects looked bleak. At the time, I was driving a Lada Niva, a hopelessly unreliable beast, which insisted on overheating given half a chance. It had the advantage however of the seats folding flat so that you could use them as a bed.

We woke the next morning to find a warm wind blowing. But this is Torridon, and you walk in from sea level. It might still be frozen higher up. We decided to look, and decide when we got there. We started walking. Initially there was no snow and it was not until just below the first tier, that we encountered any, and that was melting fast. Having walked in we were loath, not to try it. Accordingly, we set out on the first pitch.

The Triple Buttress of BheinnEighe can be divided into three tiers. The top two were covered in ice but the lower tier was bare. We roped up and started climbing. Initially the rock was bare and we climbed in boots, only putting on crampons on the second tier.

On the first tier, I was lay backing a crack, when the whole boulder came away and, bouncing over me, fell to the screes below. Nick was sure that I had fallen, but I managed to step back onto the ledge below. It was the size of a small car and it would have crushed me if it had hit me.

At the second tier, we had to put on crampons and, as we'd hoped, ice abounded. Nick led off in the gathering gloom. The second tier is made of quartz, the water flowing out over the non-permeable rock to form a series of iced grooves.

We climbed on, dispatching this section in two long pitches. It became fully dark, and we had to put on head torches.

The last tier is sandstone and provided the crux. Nick led this bit and I led the last pitch to the, perfectly flat, summit. Here there was a moon, among scudding clouds, and we didn't need our head torches.

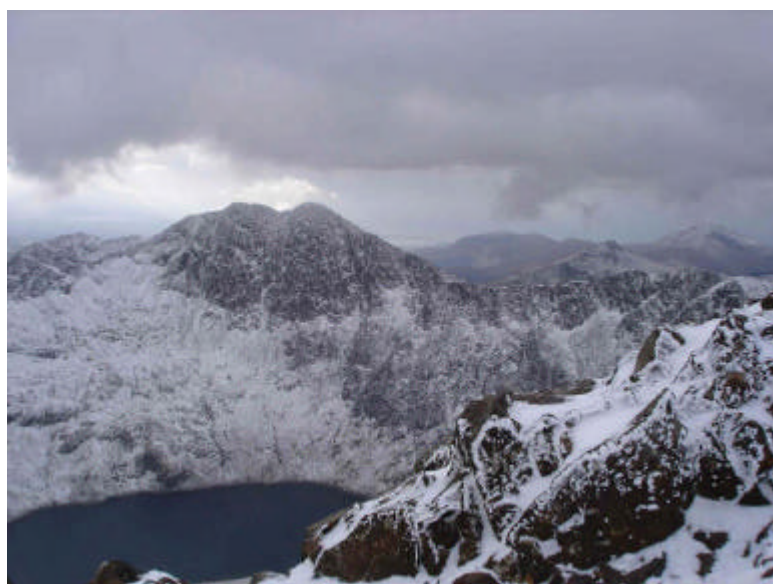
We headed down to the Loch Maree hotel and had a well-earned drink. It was before the days of 24 hour pubs, and I seem to remember having a lock in, drinking with the guests and talking to a man, still buzzing from doing the route. He just couldn't understand what made us do it.

Only twenty hours before, when I had pulled off the big boulder, I had asked myself the same question. Was it in full winter condition? Decide for yourself. It was harder if anything. All I know is I'd come very close to being crushed.

An Ascent of Central Gully Direct on Lliwedd, A Memorable Day.

It must have been February 1987 when we drove, Gary Lewis and I, S. Wales to N. Wales in my 2cv. The forecast was good but there was no snow at the edge of the road.

I planned to do Central Gully Direct but there was no snow at Pen-Y-Pass, in the morning, so I thought my luck had deserted me. There was snow below Lliwedd though and things looked more promising. When we got to below the Direct there was a thin covering of ice and I decided to try it. The problem was that the ice was too soft to enable a secure placement. I led and got a poor runner at 50 ft. I advanced another 60 ft until I came to a steep slab beneath an overhang.



Lliwedd (Steve Luko)

Here, the snow was even softer but I managed to get one placement with my trusty SimondChacal, which I managed to mantelshelf onto. This put me below the overhang. I had just surmounted this when the rope came tight. The belay was 10 ft above me. There I was 100ft above a poor runner and I'd run out of rope.

What could I do but shouted down "Climb when you're ready". After a short interlude, Gary started climbing and I got to the, loose, spike for a welcome belay. Luckily neither of us fell off! The gradient of the gully eased after this and we soloed to the top. Gary was effusive in his praise and said "that had been a lead that Mick Fowler would have been proud of".

We returned to the SWMC hut in Deniolen and I basked in adulation. The next day Gary dragged me up Vector and some other E2s at Tremadoc, I forget which ones, but I will always remember that climb.

Kept In the Dark, **A Night time Ascent of Route Major**

Phil Eastwood came in at the right time. I had done Route Major on Carn Etchachan three times before, so I knew the route well. However I'd never climbed it at night. We decided to climb it that very Friday night and collected our gear together accordingly; fitting new batteries into our head torches and making sure we had spares.

So that night we started walking at 5 o'clock, just as it was getting dark, it was February, so it got dark early.

We met the RAF Mountain Rescue Winter Course, and they were most surprised to see us going in at that time. They asked us if we were going to bivouac and were amazed we were going to climb a grade IV at night.

The first pitches of Route Major are up two snow ramps, which we soloed to save time. It was fully dark by then as we geared up and put our head torches on, at the start of the difficulties.

The next pitch is up a thinly iced corner. This is mixed climbing at its best and we enjoyed it thoroughly. Then, with few problems route finding, we found ourselves below the crux. It is formed by a stepped, leftwards leaning, corner. This went OK and we soon found ourselves on the final pitches. From the top of the stepped corner, you traverse left, until the exit gully is reached and we were on top.

There was a moon and broken cloud as we walked out, and we drove back, more than ready for a long sleep.

Each to Their Own **The First Ascent of a New Route on Pen-Y-Fan**

The story starts on the Tuesday night. Dave Parsons, the owner of Outdoor Action, a climbing shop in Cardiff, had asked if he could borrow an ice tool, for a friend. I said he could and to take the pterodactyl ice hammer from my car, which was unlocked. He promptly took my SimondChacal, which I was going to need, as I was going to Scotland that weekend. I was therefore climbing with two pterodactyl ice hammers.

I thought I'd get some practice in so I rang Mick Leroyd. He said he couldn't come but gave me a phone number of someone who probably would. I phoned Roy Thomas and he said he would come. I had the Wednesday off so we drove up Wednesday morning. My partner in this escapade was a teacher from Bridgend who, climbing on rock, climbed much harder than me. We walked up the tourist track to where you traverse in, with the aim of repeating a route by Pat Littlejohn.



*Ice in the Brecon Beacons
(Nik Goile)*

Suffice to say, the routes are short. One pitch is all you get, that is really hard headwall. Tom Macdonald, the MR DTL, from RAF St Athan, had climbed it, at about Scottish grade III but had traversed off below the headwall. Pat Littlejohn had climbed the central corner, but had traversed in from the ridge that we were now on.

We traversed in and there was a waterfall of frozen moss, to the right of the Pat Littlejohn route. I decided to try it, so we belayed and roped up.

The moss provided ideal placements and I made swift progress until I reached the ledge below the final wall. It was only about 20 feet of climbing, but it looked impossible. Closer inspection revealed fine cracks with frozen moss in, ideal for a pterodactyl. I climbed up, it was only a few moves, and embraced the triangulation pillar with a sling, for a fine belay.

My partner appeared over the top, covered in mud. I asked him what he'd been doing. He said, "Good lead youth, that finger jamming was quite hard!" I realized he had climbed the cracks without using his ice tools, something I would never have contemplated! Each to their own! I called the route, "The Watkin Path", grade III, IV.

It was written up in High magazine as if he'd led it! Like I said, each to their own!

The Post Script to this is that I did get my SimondChacal back that night, and did go to Scotland.

I don't climb any more because I was knocked off my bicycle in the year 2000, and I can no longer walk. I'm in a wheelchair. All I've got are these memories now. But I can remember, and that at least is something.

East Beginners Day, Porthcawl, Box Bay –Sat 21st April 2009

By Samantha Hay & Neil Emery

As is often the way with these things, we left the sunshine in Cardiff and drove towards very dark skies over Porthcawl. The morning began with a false start as we walked down to Box Bay only to be greeted by a downpour at the top, so we retreated to the coffee shop to dry off and re-fuel briefly before heading back down again.

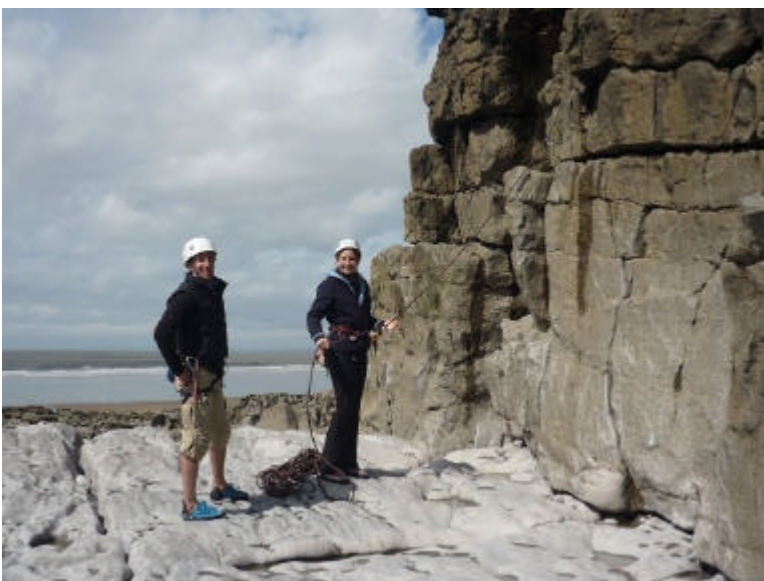
As we got to the top of the bay, the rock had begun to dry out and the sun was desperately trying to shine, so things were looking up. Rhys Jones made a beeline for us and took us down to a very easy climb to talk us through the various gear and basics of placement.



Some of the gang! (Christos Gauci)

The lead was easy for Rhys and we both followed shortly after. We would both admit to feeling the fear initially! Being outside, exposed to the elements of wind and wet rock and also dealing with a completely new feel on the rock was so different from indoor climbing. In spite of all this, Rhys was very encouraging and his own unique humour helped to deflect from the nerves! As we made it to the top, the rain appeared again and we quickly headed back down to the bay to find a sheltered spot in a convenient cave.

By now it was lunchtime and we had the very welcome arrival of Fi Taylor's husband, Mark, who appeared with barbeques, burgers and sausages, which were gratefully received! The lunchtime entertainment was provided by Chris Jones, belayed by Rhys Jones, as Chris managed to bring half a route down with him as he fell, landing in a rather compromising position over Rhys's belaying arm! It has to be added that Chris completed the route shortly after!!



Neil Emery and Sam Hay (Christos Gauci)

After lunch, we decided to attempt some more top-roped climbs and encourage by Lowri, we managed to a lot of the routes that had been set up earlier that day.

A BIG thank you must go out to Lowri Roberts for organising the beginners' day and also to all the experienced climbers who set up the routes and generously lent us their time, equipment and support that day. It was a great introduction to climbing outside and since then, we have both been out on Wednesday night and can't wait for the 1st lead weekend!!

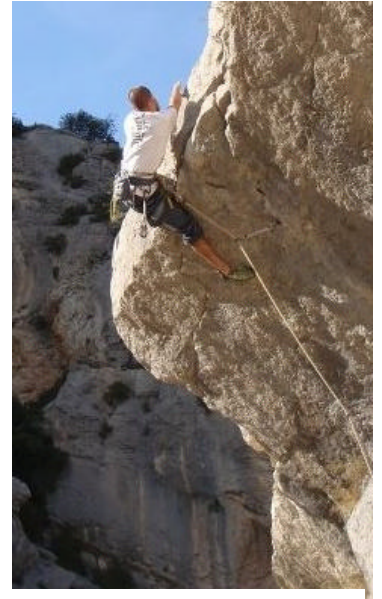
Living the Dream

By Dylan Tompkins

[Ed: Dylan took a climbing trip to France in summer 2007 and never came back! His career currently seems to involve either climbing every day or living in a ski resort. So if you're wondering what he's been up to he's sent us a few highlights below...]

Looking out of the window at the pouring rain I wonder whether it will ever stop. All I need is a 10 minute window to make the dash to my local wall without drowning. I'm in Oslo visiting friends and although I've been here for a month I'm yet to see dry rock. Since moving from Swansea to France I may well have had my fair share of dry rock but that doesn't stop me longing to get on some of the Norwegian granite only a stones throw from the city. I start to think back to some of my previous climbing adventures and of the people with who I enjoyed those times.

In June 2007 I spend a summer in the Alps, during which I met up with Nik Goile and Rob Howell in Ailefroide and climbed "La vie devant soi", a classic. Having somehow missed the penultimate belay I struggled against a very tight rope and barely managed to clip a long sling into the final chain, scary times. On our descent Rob pointed out a hideously loose looking block with some tat around it, which some friends of ours (who shall stay unnamed...) had been forced to abseil from the previous year after having gone off route.



Dylan in Action

At the end of that summer my climbing partner and boss to be Alex took me to Buis Les Barronies in the La Drome region of Provence to meet a friend of his Ollie Ryall. Ollie runs coaching holidays and accommodation for climbers called Climb France. Along with Ollie we climbed some fantastic routes on the Roche de Saint Julien, a 150m fin of limestone that protrudes almost right from the town center. I loved Buis and I knew that I would return.

I moved back to the Alps that winter to work for Alex in one of his bar/restaurants in Alpe D'Huez, Lounge 21 and after a winter of snowboarding and the occasional sunny multi-pitch day I was psyched to get back to Buis Les Barronies. I had received a call from Ollie asking if I would like to spend the summer working with him, I jumped at the opportunity and was there in a flash (well, 4 hours of hitchhiking). During my first few weeks I arranged for some friends (Gareth Tucker, Nik



Goile, Dave Payne, Matt Thompson, and Mike Barclay) to come and spend a week climbing. We climbed some amazing routes with the high points being: Gnocchi on Heavens Door and Ravioles de l'enfer at Baume Rousse, Papillon and Touché Pas ma Belle mere at Malucene, The super exposed 4 pitch Grande Arête at Bellecombe-Tarendol (on our "rest day") and a whole day of tufa pulling at the fantastic location of Saint Leger du Ventoux. The whole summer was spent climbing and working in this limestone paradise.

The following spring myself and 10 French friends made the trip to Kalymnos for two weeks, for anyone that hasn't been then I seriously recommend it. Never have I seen such an impressive concentration of good quality climbing, with slabs, caves and tufas that you can actually sit on! Ghost Kitchen was one of my favourite crags along with the Grande Grotta.

I came back from Kalymnos to Provence where I now work catering for the many climbing courses and holidays that we run at Climb France. Every spring we have courses including a beginners course suitable for complete beginners and people who may have had an introduction to climbing, a multi-pitch week, a sport climbing week for climbers looking to improve their climbing technique and the rock trip, a guided climbing holiday with a weeks accommodation, breakfast, lunch, three course dinner, and a rest day with a trip to a thermal spa and wine tasting at a local vineyard. Would be great to see some more South Wales climbers out here! 😊

I'm so lucky to be living in such an amazing place, great weather, great people, great food and drink and most importantly great climbing. The crags are so varied that you can always find something for everyone, from the gentle slabs of Ubrieux to the pocketed walls of Malucene right through to the steep and intimidating tufa streaked walls at the world class Saint Leger. I'm loving things here, and with the rockfax guide coming out this will become an increasing popular destination for British climbers in the next couple of years. I can't see things slowing up any time soon.

With these thoughts and memories fresh in my mind I grab my bag and head out into the never-ending rain, with a smile on my face I make my way to the wall for yet another indoor session...

SWMC Guidebook Update

by Al Rosier

Following guidebook committee discussions it has been determined that the next SWMC guidebook will be split into two volumes and contain only selected crags. The main reasons for this decision are that the current guidebook is too large and does not contain any photo topos. The list of crags for inclusion will be fairly comprehensive, but for the seekers of esoterica the SWMC guidebook wiki will ultimately be the comprehensive source of information.

The guidebooks publication will only follow after there has been a complete transfer of all the current guidebook information and any updates onto the wiki.

At present the wiki is a skeleton of the guidebook with a few completed crags. The style and formatting has largely been determined through trial and error of a few contributors and can be seen by following the wiki links to Navigation Quarry - Cilfynydd, Sirhowy - Quarry Mawr and Dinas Rock.

Photographs of climbers, line drawings onto crag shots to create photo-topos and wiki formatting are all required in abundance. So if you think you can add your bit to the ongoing process and help the guidebook get to the printing press then get in touch via the bulletin board.

http://www.southwalesmountaineering.org.uk/g_book/index.php/South_Wales_Mountaineering_Club_-_Guidebook_Wiki

Rockfax Guide

by Mark Glasier

[Ed: There is also a Rockfax guide for the area which is due to be published 2010. Some SWMC members have voiced concern over a commercial 'rival' guidebook reducing sales of the SWMC guide, so I had a chat with Mark Glasier from Rockfax about both guidebooks. The impression I got is that the Rockfax guide, which will only cover a small number of sports crags, is unlikely to compete significantly with the SWMC guide, and may well benefit the area through helping increase traffic on our often dirty sports crags. The guide will be written by Roy Thomas, Goi Ashmore and Gary Gibson, who have all been active in S Wales for a number of years. Mark gives an overview of the guide below.]

Talking with Alan Rosier and yourself it is fairly clear that the guides are going to be pretty different in both design and content and there should be plenty of room for both. The rockfax guidebook will be written by Goi, Roy and Gary and put together and photographed by myself (although I will also be involved in some of the writing). The RF guide will cover a selected number of sport crags only, (about 20-25) covering both limestone and sandstone. The coverage of the crags included will be comprehensive and key trad lines will be described so that confusion (re retrobolting etc) is avoided where possible. The guidebook will hopefully be out next year (2010) and will be aimed at visitor and local alike, with a good deal of emphasis being given to approach, accommodation and eating and drinking out etc.

With the publication of both the Rockfax and the SWMC books and Wiki etc the area should receive a good deal more traffic from those within a day or weekends reach and go a long way to getting new climbers from the wall to the crag. Whilst some will not welcome increased traffic on the crags the benefits (as seen in Dorset and Cheddar etc) are high with regard to keeping routes and crags clean and boosting bolt funds and some local businesses.

Dates for the diary

In addition to the meets listed below, club members are active throughout the year. Look at the SWMC bulletin board www.southwalesmountaineering.org.uk for more details

Annual General Meeting

Boulders

11th November 2009, 7pm

please check the bulletin board for further details and confirmation of time

Annual Dinner

Fairways Hotel, Porthcawl

20th/21st November 2009

Contact Dan at daniel_cook631@hotmail.com for tickets

BMC AGM

Gower Peninsula

23rd – 25th April 2010

If you have anything to contribute to the newsletter, email tuckergd@hotmail.com

As it's the clubs anniversary next year, I'd be interested in articles about past trips, epics and adventures that people are happy to dig out or write up, to give a flavour of what club members have been up to throughout the last 50 years.

And Finally...

I received the following email recently, about a petition that may be of particular interest to those who visit North Wales regularly:

"I have put together a petition, asking for the Snowdon Railway and summit building to be kept closed on one day per week, in order to give walkers an opportunity to enjoy the mountain in a more natural form. This can be found in the e-petitions section of the website of the National Assembly. As the URL is rather long, here is a shortcut that redirects to it:

<http://snowdon.notlong.com/>

Although Snowdon is not directly in your area of course, it is obviously still a very popular destination for any walkers based in South Wales, which is why I believe it may be of interest.

Many thanks,

Alan"

alan01235@gmail.com