

# Spring 2014 Newsletter



SOUTH WALES

**MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**

**CLWB MYNYDDA**

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Couple of articles this time round. Firstly one from Christian. Christian climbed with us all last year in Swansea. He's a lovely chap and he's kindly written a few words about his time with us. Then secondly, there's the annual committee spotting article. Matt Dix has written a good bouldering article, which rounds us up.

We have the normal advert from Up and Under. Don't forget we have a great discount with them. Also we now get a discount when climbing at Spot Bouldering Wall. There is an advert for them as well. But basically show your membership card and you'll get Concessionary rates. So if you're a Spot member it's £5.50 (plus £15 for membership) or £7 for non Spot members.

## SWMC Meets 2014

10th - 11th May    Yorkshire Grit - Almscliffe

25th - 27th May    Lake District

7th June        New Leaders Day - venue TBC

14th - 21st June    Isle of Skye

June    Bosriggan - Cornwall

11th - 12th July    North Pembrokeshire

8th - 9th August    Sout Pembrokeshire

August Bank holiday weekend    North Wales

13th - 14th September    Gower - joint meet with Coventry MC

October TBC Hut Work weekend

Winter 2014/15    Scottish winter trip, Italy (Cogne) Ice Climbing and Spanish Hot rock

# Thanks South Wales Mountaineering Club!

After more than 3 months living and working at a school in Tenby I must say I had a great time, which is also due to some very special people... Ward for assisting me while leading my first trad climb at Three Cliffs Bay.

Nigel for chasing me up "Under Milk Wood". Tim for your refreshing British breakfast and accompanying me to my first amazing multi-pitch route at Great Tor. Tim and Becky for organizing the amazing trip to South Pembrokeshire. Gary for being good company both on the crags and on the water. Matthew for teaching me all the good old English swear words.

Joe - I cannot thank you enough for being the best trad teacher I could have imagined of, for giving me lifts and for making my stay even more pleasurable than it was. I will not forget our look for direction heading Dinas Rock, meeting your warm-hearted family, our climb of "Sea Mist" while watching the sunset or scaling Great Tor up the East Ridge.

And all the other very kind and friendly members I have met - You helped a lot to make my day stay!

Once I am back in your beautiful country I will be more than happy to join you again, the same I'd be glad to welcome one or two of you in Heidelberg/Germany,

Cheers and All the best,

Christian





# Committee Spotting 2014

The article you've all been waiting for! How to find the Greater Crested Committee Member when at the crag.



Name - John Custance

Committee Position - Membership Secretary East (Cardiff)

Climbing for - 25 years

Favourite climbing type (was) trad. now has to be indoors because of injury

Time in club 25 years, time on committee about 18 years, done most Wainwright's, a few Munro's, Three Peaks (twice) and high ridge walking (summer) in Austria. Soloed Little Chamonix on Shepard's Crag, plus other Lake District climbs, Grooved Arrete, Tremadog, plus others and ice and winter in N. Wales, Gritstone, many routes in S. Wales, Wye valley, Gower, Pembroke and Marmolada - Dolomites and high level trekking in Nepal. Not a lot or hard but it's kept me busy over the years! Sure to have missed some from list.



Tim Boothby - Membership East

The Lesser Spotted Tim can be sometimes seen at the crag.

Gordon Anderson - Ordinary Member West  
Member for 18 months,

Climbing for 18 months

I am wrong side of 40 but right side of 50

Previously enjoyed surfing and still enjoy trekking, Nepal and Alps.

I enjoy inside and outside Trad, made a few leads and just been down Porth Clais for some sea wall lead climbing on VD and second VS

Favourite routes are wherever the club takes me.....



Mary Eggins - Ordinary Member East  
Joined the club may 2011 so climbing since 2010 really !

Loved Agags grove on Buachaile Etive Mor, crack stone rib on the pass. And of course the multi pitches on Tryfan & the severes on Tremadog. Love costal climbing as its beautiful and peaceful esp, its great when the seals around watching too.

Had a great mutli pitch climb on atlantic slab last week and want to go back there to do the 2 star v diff !!! Not been climbing much recently !!! Need to get out and get my confidence back. Like climbing with people i know well and trust !! Lisa and i climbed lots together, ahe then left me for the BiG Smoke !!!

Had a great hot rock holiday in both Sella and Elchorro :-)



Joe Gallacher , Club Chairman (3rd year of office)

Club member for 4 years

Scrambling around the West highlands for 35 year

Climbing for around 4 & 1/2

Favourite type of climbing is multi pitch Trad but Scottish winter climbing and Water Ice Climbing may nudge that choice if next winter is a good'n. Favourite Route...The next one on my tick-list.

Favourite Venue... ?? Kalymnos , Cogne , Lundy were all very different and very good but Idwal/Tryfan/Llanberis will always rank top of the list as a collective .

Next adventures...Morocco/Norway/Scottish Sea Stacks all in the frame for 2014 & I plan to do a month on the Rock Bus 2015 if I can pull it off...if not it'll be two or three weeks in a camper doing my own version

Ambition for the club...To put back in more than i've taken out BUT that'll be impossible because week after week i still get loads of help and inspiration from the Top Guns and the newbies alike.

Matthew Moore

Climbing for 5 years, member for most of that  
Favourite Climbing Style - Alpine

I joined the club shortly after starting to climb in May 2009. I quickly taught myself to lead both on club nights and when out and about on my own. Rock climbing was initially just something to do so I knew all the ropework when I got out to the Alps. However I've quickly become obsessed with all forms of climbing. I enjoy mountaineering most, especially in the Alps, but also in Scotland. . I do quite a bit of hillwalking with my wonderful wife, mainly in the Lake District, we're working our way through the Wainwrights. Locally I prefer trad and bouldering. Ogmre is just down the road, so it's a convenient way to get an hours bouldering in. I'm hoping to climb harder over the next few years. HVS last year, so E1 this year. Hope to get into the mid E grades, E4/5 with the odd harder headpoint. To speed that along I'm doing a lot more sport climbing, the aim for the year is a redpoint somewhere in the 7s. I've always done a lot of bouldering and that really helps with being able to climb harder.





Steve Kedward - Secretary

Bio - Outdoors enthusiast with too many hobbies, some of which include rock climbing, hillwalking, mountaineering, mountain biking, cycling, climbing the occasional patch of ice and drinking green tea. I love solo challenges and pushing myself to my limits but have found it better to have someone to reflect on a shared experience with.

Climbing bio - Been climbing for around 7 years and met some great people in some great places along the way. Climbing has also taken me to some amazing locations.

Favourite route/problem - The problem of how to get down off the Matterhorn on a pitch black night. Other hobbies/interests - Enjoy taking a photograph or two when out in the hills or something that challenges my psychological and physical limits (such as food shopping), I love food.

Missing in Action (i.e. they didn't send me a bio), Gareth (Hut Warden) and Paul G (Treasurer).

#### Committee Contact Details

Joe Gallacher - Chairman - [chairman@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:chairman@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

Paul Griffith - Treasurer - [treasurer@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

John Custance - Membership Secretary (East) - [membership.east@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:membership.east@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

Tim Boothby - Membership Secretary (West) - [membership.west@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:membership.west@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

Steve Kedward - Secretary - [secretary@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:secretary@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

Matthew Moore - Communications Officer - [comms@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:comms@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

Gareth Thomas - Hut Warden - [hut.warden@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:hut.warden@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

Mary Eggins- Ordinary Member East - [ordinary.east@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk](mailto:ordinary.east@southwalesmountaineering.org.uk)

Membership forms go to the following address:

John Custance, 35 Gwenfo Drive, Wenvoe, Cardiff, CF5 6BR.



# Fontainebleau Something For Everyone

Everyone who is into climbing must have heard about font. We all hear people saying ‘it’s amazing’ or ‘I really want to go’. Well, Font itself, I can’t explain, but for some strange reason, since the first time I came to the forest of sandstone boulders about 3 years ago, I have been totally addicted. I’ve been to other bouldering destinations, even climbing destinations around Europe and in the UK, but Fontainebleau in my opinion absolutely trumps the lot of it, and totally lives up to the hype.



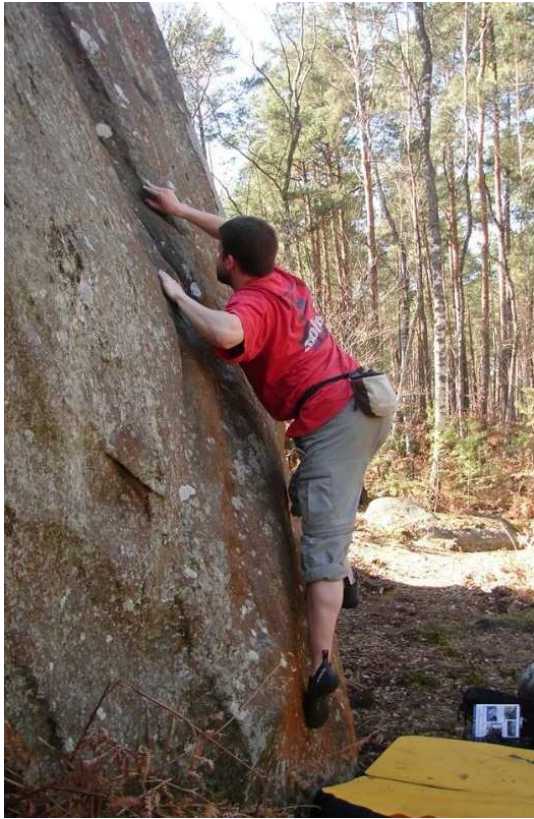
A lot of people tend to shy away from bouldering, and I can see why. In south wales many of the venues start at V1/Font 5 (which doesn’t sound that hard, but it is to somebody that’s new to bouldering). Which means south wales doesn’t have the quantity at this level to help beginners learn and progress. Dinas is a great example, there’s only 3 problems under V2 on kennelgarth wall and they’re all pretty hard. This is where Font is a bit different.

I could brag about what all of us have done, however, to be honest there’s no point and generally people don’t really care. Ok, I will say that Tim and Abi totally crushed it out there (they must have done over 100 problems each, at least, and I put together my best tick list from a trip yet) but, at the end of the day, we all had an awesome time and this is because Font has something for everyone.



Abi topping out.





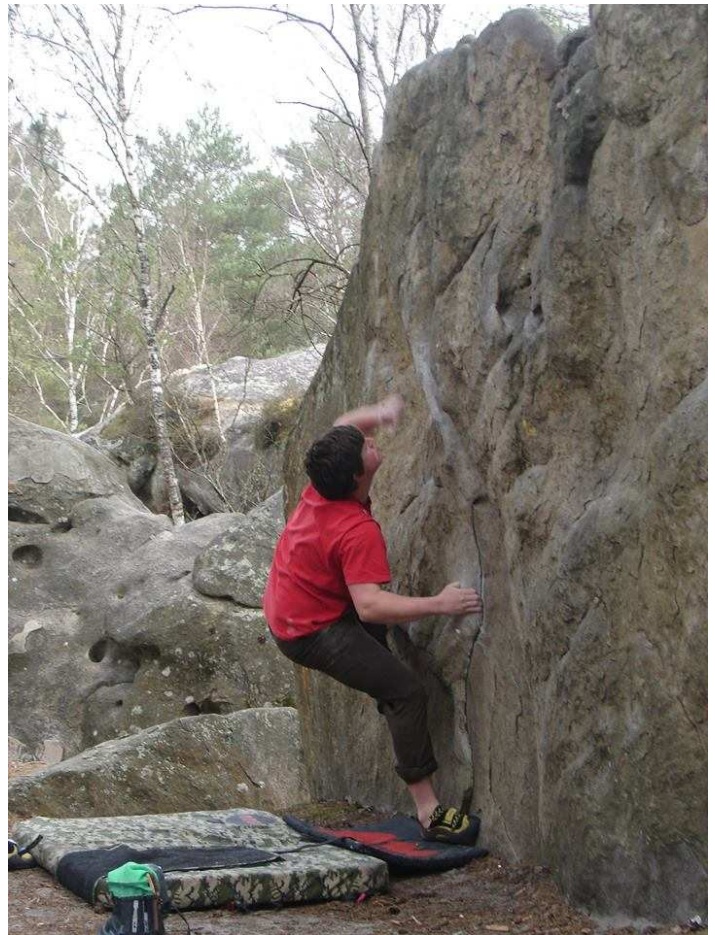
Tim onsighting Font 5A at Isatis.

have a lot to do, or if you want something a bit more challenging, go for the blue or red circuit. The great thing is; they are all good. To be honest, I don't know a crag in the UK that has 40 boulder problems under Font 5a it's mad even having 40 good quality problems in one area. The great thing about doing quantity is that you gain a lot of experience and you learn a lot of different techniques.

To be honest I can't put the experience into words. People who go have a totally new perspective of bouldering, and even climbing in general. To be honest, people who say they don't like bouldering obviously haven't been to Font. If there's an opportunity for you to go, go. You

About 98% of font is world class, seriously, I can't remember doing a bad problem there, it's all good, unlike the crags here; where you may get maybe a handful of good routes or problems. Also, here in the UK, quality generally goes up with difficulty. Font is completely different. There is a system known as 'circuits'. Circuits generally contain about 30 to 40 problems, depending on the size of the area. In Bois Rond there are 6 different circuits; a yellow circuit for children, an orange circuit which range from font 1a to 4b, a blue circuit; which ranges from 4a to 6a, a red circuit; which ranges from 5a to 7a, and a white/purple circuit which contain problems 7a and up for the wads. They are all marked with an arrow painted in the respective colour of the circuit with a number next to it on the rock. So if you are new to bouldering pick

an orange circuit and you'll



Dixie (Myself) On No Mojo font 6C At Rocher aux sabots

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Available in-store at Up and Under on production of your membership card

You can also view the prices that you will pay in-store by logging onto your B2B account at [www.upandunder.co.uk](http://www.upandunder.co.uk)

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