

# That's Me!

THAT'S ME – THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE LOUGHTON MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

SPRING 2003

## Helen's yarn of Bleary Tarn

The weather forecast wasn't good, but that didn't stop fourteen of us heading to Blea Tarn for the weekend.

The last to set off, Peter H, Helen and Ian Weeks made it to Ambleside for 10.30, the question was would we make it to the ODG for last orders and would everyone else be there? True to form they were.

Back at the hut Glen and Jeff kept everyone amused with a game of celebrity squares – the bed arrangements being suited to this.

Saturday morning dawned (mid-dayed) and a number of different walks were discussed. Many hours, breakfast and cups of tea later we all headed to the NDG to walk to Stickle Tarn before dividing and doing a number of routes.

It got wetter and wetter. By the time we got to the tarn (via a number of ascents) we couldn't even see it. A decision was made to walk round the tarn but anything more strenuous was beyond us and anyway the rugby started at 2.30 and there were shops in Ambleside. Needless

to say the boys stayed in the pub whilst the girls headed towards the shops.

Back at the hut, the wine and beer was opened whilst Leigh cooked a spectacular evening meal.

A new card/drinking game was introduced and I deny all allegations of cheating – the cards were never fixed!

By 8.30 we were off to the pub, Leigh polishing off a bottle of bubbly on the way.

Martin was insistent we should go to the NDG for the live music – so we took over one end – of course nearest the bar!

Dancing the night away was a must and Martin joined in along with some random people who seemed to sit back down as soon as possible.

A pub crawl was even managed, in the form of a trip across the car park and back!

The description of the walk back to the hut will have to be done by someone else as I don't seem to have all the facts...

Back again in the hut the drinking continued till 4am. Helen (me) fell off (slid

down) from the top bunk and squirted everyone with water.

Leigh was put to bed by Duncan!! The rest played Up Jenkins...

The night was punctuated by two memorable moments – Steve throwing magnificent-ly up and Duncan announcing he was sleeping in his car.

Sunday morning and the cows were back licking the cars whilst Joe practiced his shepherding skills, scaring the sheep to the far side of the field.

We did redeem ourselves on the Sunday by walking from the Three Shires Stone up Wetside Edge to Wetherlam and then taking a cross country route home again.

The walk itself was lacking in views for much of the way, every so often a bit of blue sky peeking through.

Andy shot off ahead (with the map) whilst the rest of us trailed along behind.

Once we hit the ridge line a top was reached, Leigh recognised the cairn and later confirmed the location (Swirl How) with her GPS

proving she was the only one who really knew where we were.

A sudden realisation dawned after we dropped down the Prison Band to the col and Ian realised he hadn't just been hear once, but twice before and on the same weekend!

We soon reached Wetherlam summit and instead of retracing our steps we decided on a circular walk to include scree running, river crossing and a traverse along and up Wrynose Pass.

An excellent bit of navigation brought us back at the stepping stones on which we set out!

## Snow...

Last Thursday (11/12/02) saw the freezing level drop below 3000ft. Since then it has progressively dropped lower and lower giving us now a whole week of consistently cold conditions. Tonight the temperature is forecast to be minus 5 deg C at the base of the climbs in Coire an Lochain. The climbing conditions where a bit on the marginal side over the weekend though a number of routes were completed. The turf was partially frozen on Saturday so things should be pretty solid by now.

Since then conditions have got steadily better with hopefully a bit of ice on routes noted for their seepage - Red Gully. There have been no heavy falls of snow this week, only light ones on relatively light winds but none the less there was a good deal of snow being blown into the corries on Sunday. The avalanche probability in localised areas on the Cas headwall on Sat was, I reckon, 3, maybe higher on Sunday. Weather conditions have remained very stable, as one would expect with a Scandinavian High, with winds blowing from a S.E. and Easterly direction causing steady drifting onto the N. Corries routes.

The N. Corries are now producing some good climbing and are a definite yes for this weekend.

Creag Meagaidh could be a good possibility also. There was plenty of seepage when I was on the mountain last Thursday (5th) with some routes running with water and ice forming high up in the Window. There should be some good water ice forming by now, if only higher up.

[www.scotmountain.co.uk](http://www.scotmountain.co.uk)

## Poof! God give us strength...

One day, three men were hiking and unexpectedly came upon a large raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so.

The first man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, after almost drowning a couple of times.

Seeing this, the second man prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools to cross this river." Poof! God gave him a

rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about 8 an hour, after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times.

The third man had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, "Please God,

give me the strength and the tools-and the intelligence-to cross this river." And Poof! God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, then walked across the bridge.

## First edition...

This is the first edition of the LMC Newsletter, the editors hope it is liked. If not the publishers are more than willing to print any readers letters and then to sack the current editorial staff.

Contributions are also hoped for, articles, pictures,

things of interest, hints and tips, in fact anything you think may be of interest to other club members will be welcomed and published.

The LMC is your club and this is your newsletter – send us your thoughts, let your imagination take flight.



## Early birds get more than a worm...

Out on the hill early one morning some female members of the club were alarmed when they stumbled across Peter Deeks washing his mountaineering equipment in a clear mountain stream.

The women alarmed about pollution verbally chastised poor Mr Deeks.

Swamped with abuse and derision Peter rose to the occasion and gave as good as he got and was said to have waved his equipment at the

women in an offensive manner.

One plucky girl who said "If you have seen one you may as well have seen them all, regardless of size", managed to snap a picture of the offending equipment. She went on to say "a zoom would have been useful but I just couldn't lay my hands on it".

After the event all returned home safely but unfortunately Kate has not been the same since.

## LMC MEETS LIST 2003

Jan 17/18	3 Gefnan Llandegai, Wellingborough MC	Nr Bethesda GR 607654
Feb 21/22	George Starkey Hut ABMSAC	Patterdale GR 396160
Mar 28/29 or Apr 3/4	Annual Dinner	TBA
Apr 25/26	3 Irish Row Yorkshire MC	Coniston GR 293685
May 23/24	Bryn Brethynau North London MC	Capel Curig GR 737572
Jun 27/28	Newlands Carlisle MC	Newlands Valley GR 229177
July 25/26	Cwm Eigiau Rugby MC	Above Dolgarrog GR 714638
Aug 22/23/24	Camping Meet	TBA
Aug 29/30	Bowderstone Cottage Northumbrian MC	Borrowdale GR 255164
Sep 26/27	Bryn Hafod The Mountain Club	Dinas Mawddy GR 850194
Oct 24/25	Tranearth Lancashire C & CC	Torver GR 281957
Nov 21/22	Tan y Wyddfa Oread MC	Rhyd Ddu GR 571527
Dec 19/20	High House K Fellfarers	Seathwaite, Borrowdale GR 235119

## NEWS IN BRIEFS

### Peace in our time...

The harassed shop keepers of Betws-e-Coed were last night holding their breaths in the hope that a rumour of a blonde shop-a-holic, who had been terrorising their lives has at last found the boots she was seeking, was in fact true and that peace would at last return to the valleys.

### All is revealed...

Vietnam is still recovering from a recent invasion, the worst since its problems with Uncle Sam.

This in-depth probing and revelation of the country's most intimate parts was done with the laser like precision of a smart bomb but strangely in the very best of taste. Some

interesting images are available and Melinda, it is said, is more than willing to reveal all she has.

### Jerry gets a bullseye...

Jerry has recently made fifty. Normally his darts miss the board and end up causing havoc in the saloon bar, but this time he came up with the goods.

All who witnessed the event stood around open mouthed in disbelief.

### A vain attempt...

Jeff in an attempt to shed the unwanted years and to get back to being as smooth as a babies bottom has had his assets stripped.

The new look caused quite a stir and turned many heads at a recent Salsa Festival in Spain as Jeff and Esta were tipped to win 1st prize as they strutted their stuff to a local latin funky jazz combo to much acclaim.

## HINTS & TIPS & TINTS & HIPS

### Boots...

Having spent six months hunting for some new clogs. Talked to many nice male assistants, and then purchased several other items, I've learnt much about boot care.

Do you look after your boots properly? The insides are as important as the outsides...apparently.

Once every three months You should completely fill your boots with water to clean and proof them from the inside.

Sweaty feet (not that I have sweaty feet) and salt deposits damage the linings, leather and fabric from the inside and speed up the rot of your boots – and even quicker when you wear the same festering socks all weekend!

So, here's what to do. Buy some TX-proofer, put half a cupful in each boot...and fill with water. Leave them over night.

In the morning, tip out, stuff with paper, to take up the excess water, then leave

to dry naturally. I would advise tho that you don't do this the night before a meet! (I'll have to forward this info on to my dad too! As dear old dad has been known to clean my boots for me).

### Ladies...and others

It is so important to look your best at all times...

Did you know that if you wet your eyelashes before putting on mascara, it makes it apply evenly and separates the eyelashes better! No unflattering lumps and clogs. Try it...

...Ye Gods!!! Ed



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