

BMC continued

International Youth Meet

Peak District 21-26 July 1987

"They came in droves, camped in the woods and listened to welling music ..."

This was the biggest jamboree of international youth climbing ever held in Britain. Bigger in numbers even than last years national event which spurred us to repeat the event with the international element. Descending on North Lees Campsite underneath Stanage Edge were 80 young rock climbers from 11 countries - USA, Finland, Greece, Yugoslavia, Israel, Sud Tyrol, Eire, Sweden, Malta, Switzerland, and even 7 Scots. Despite characteristic showery weather (though "it was beautiful in the Coe") much climbing was achieved.

Tuesday was the chaotic day we all envisaged. Erecting the 60ft by 20ft marquee "on-sight" provided an effective ice breaker. Without Chris Williams initiative I doubt we would have got the show off the ground at all! By about 7pm we had gathered most people at N Lees and in good time to grab some food before the evening in the pub. The Scotsmans Pack proved a good venue for each of the five evening's entertainment.

In all, 5 superb lectures were delivered to an appreciative and awe-struck audience and our speakers must be applauded for their efforts. From the smallest of gritstone edges to the 5000ft Nameless Tower in Pakistan the talks touched on such widely varied and interesting aspects of rock climbing and mountaineering.

The climbing, too, was interesting and varied for our visitors. Different crags that were visited by various groups in the 4 full days number 8. Many youngsters were quite obviously superb climbers and the near perfect on sight ascent of London Wall on Millstone by 16 year old American Jason Stern really just speaks for itself. What was however regrettable (and

the participants (particularly the British) rose to. Some of the soloing on Froggatt and Millstone, such as Hairless heart, Heartless Hair, Oedipus and Edge Lane were impressive indeed but it is fair to say that many of these ascents seemed rather reckless and not in the fullest of control. This is the one main subject that we feel we need to address ourselves to when organising these events again.

But of course a great deal of very steady, rewarding and enjoyable climbing was had by all. It would be too long a task to touch on all events of the week but the perhaps most notable climbing of the event was achieved by Jason Stern who amassed several E5's in the week including Millers Tale and Jaws on the Rubicon Wall, Sardine on Ravens Tor and London Wall on Millstone. Young Israeli hot-shot, Yoav Nir (17) also accomplished some impressive leads - his phenomenal strength taking him up Strapdictomy among other routes. However Yoav suffered a tendon injury early in the week in his fingers and very wisely laid off the harder routes. There were many more British girls on this years meet but interestingly no girls attended from overseas. Whilst most visitors climbed with their own countrymen there was a good deal of social mixing on the Campsite and in the pub. The sight of climbers exchanging addresses on the final day was common and some lasting friendships have been made.

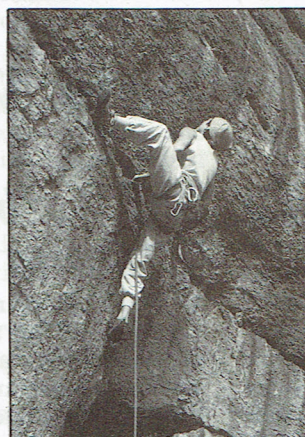
On the final evening we chaired a small and somewhat rowdy debate on the meet and Dennis, Bill and I have since met many of the youths on the crags. The overall impression we are receiving is that the meet should be continued, with all its international flavour, on a regular basis. The actual cost of putting a youth meet together is small compared to an official visit from Russians or Poles, etc. Many thought that a North Wales venue (Nant Peris?) would be the best and for a slightly longer duration - one full week for instance.

There are many to thank in making this meet possible. The Sports Council supported us again financially but also the following sponsors - High Magazine, Climber Magazine, Devitt (Midland), Berghaus, Karrimor, Cordee, Troll and Robert Saunders. The mar-

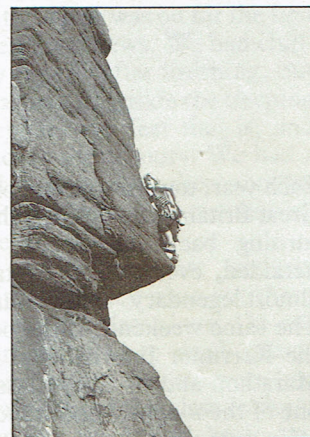
Ann Harris kindly gave up some of their own time to help with the running of the meet. The Peak Park gave us a discount on our booking for the entire camp-site and they are thanked for their interest and co-operation. The Scotsmans Pack management are acknowledged for allowing us the upstairs rooms for lectures, etc.

Finally Ian Smith, John Beatty, Paul Williams, Andy Perkins and Ian Lonsdale are warmly thanked for their enthusiastic lectures and slide shows. Ian Lonsdale also gave up a week of his valuable time to help wherever he could on the meet and it is to Ian that our special thanks are due.

Andy Fanshawe



Above: Jason Stern (USA) on 'A Miller's Tale', Rubicon Wall. Photo: Paul Figg.



Above: Anna Wood (UK) on Chequers Buttress, Froggatt Edge. Photo: Ian Smith.



Above: Yoav Nir (Israel) on Strapdictomy, Froggatt. Photo: Ian Smith.
Below: Upstairs at the Scotsmans. Photo: Ian Smith.



Diary

28th September
Yorkshire & Humberside,
7pm, Yorkshire Ramblers'
Room, Leeds Library.
30th September
North East, 7.15pm,
Ellison Building,
Newcastle Polytechnic.
2nd October
Peak District, 7.30pm,
Scotsman's Pack,
Hathersage.
2nd October
Lake District, 7.30pm, The
Golden Rule, Ambleside
10th October
South West and
Southern, 7pm,
Coachhouse, Upper
Maudlin Street, Bristol.