

## **LMC MEET - PEMBROKE**

Kate Hawkins

### **AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 2011**

Attempting to make the most of the British summer, 10 keen LMC climbers chased the sunshine down to Pembroke in Wales over the August Bank Holiday weekend. And what a beautiful weekend it was! 3 days of sunshine enabled us 3 days of fantastic climbing on what I think is one of the best climbing venues in UK.



**Photographer - Simon Withington**

Our campsite at St. Petrox was established by Anne's battle-tank and we all dripped in over Friday evening to late into the night, all with a few curse words of the speed of caravans. Morning kicked off with the sizzle of bacon and much deliberation over which crag to head to. Indecisive and confused by the endless choice of 3 star routes to go at, conversation went round and round in circles. The tides were on our side this weekend, so no sector was ruled out. "Shall we just decide when we get to the car park?", "Yes, good one, excellent decision" And so it all started again.



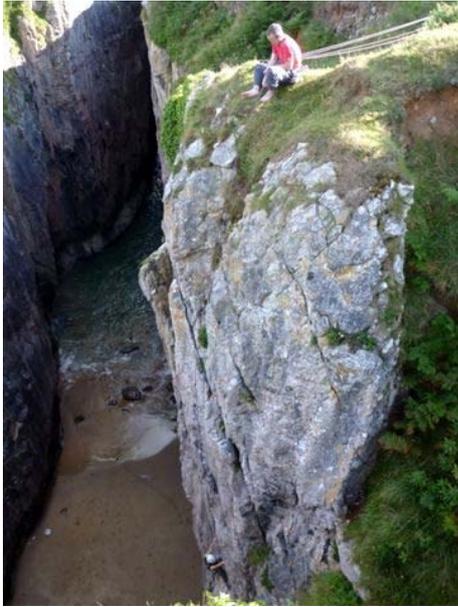
And I say the tides were on our side, yet wet legs were still had by Nigel and I. Despite rising water levels and yelps from Nigel on belay, I don't think anything was going to hasten Richards climbing speed. With waves crashing in, Nigel's superior rope-work enabled the ropes to stay dry. Richard's favourite routes for the weekend were 'B team Buttress' E1 5b at Crickmail Point and 'Seal Hunt' E1 5b at Mowing Word.

**Sea Goon, Mowing Word, HVS 4C,  
Climber - Nigel Lyle,  
Photographer - Richard Toon**

More adventurous times were had by Dan and Simon. It was Simon's first sea-cliff experience and he was put in the deep end, or should I say short end, with one abseil falling short of the belay. And then another little adventure when they abseiled into the wrong place. Oh what fun is to be had on sea-cliffs! Simon's favourite route for the weekend was 'Myola' (HS 4b) Stuntman's Buttress.



**Riders on the Storm, Stennis Head, HVS 5a, Climber-  
Dan Baron, Photographer - Simon Withington**



Saturday night dinner out in Pembroke was a tad delayed thanks to me. Late in the day I decided to take on an E3 6a pitch at Mowing Word, 'Ice Breaker'. This little-climbed crack proved to be more like a stiff E4 6a with a complex sequence that stumped both Dave and I. In all my efforts, I managed to 'throw' a cam and 3 wires into the sea. One big wire 'bopping' on the head another belayer sharing the stance with David. It was none other than the LCCC president Pete Nugent! Whoops! As the sun was setting, I finally cracked the sequence and topped out. I felt like I'd been beaten up in a fight. I had fight with a crack! My favourite route for the weekend was 'Widowmaker' (E3 5c) Mowing Word and David's was 'The Fascist and Me' (E4 6a) Trevallan Point.

**Just Another Day/Scorched the Earth, Huntsman's Leap, E4 6a, Climber- Kate Hawkins, Belayer- David Toon, Photographer – Richard Toon**

Whilst Anne went exploring the coastline by bike, John Burrows enjoyed the scenery by foot. Stu paired up with Joe and sent him up some limestone beauties. He loved it! "I've lead more routes this weekend than I have in my life!" Monday saw Stu pal up with Martin and with a team effort they climbed 'The Butcher' on St Govan's Head (E3 5c) Sarah lapped up the sunshine and favourite routes were 'The Arrow' HVS 5a at St Govans and 'B team Buttress' E1 5b at Crickmail Point.



**Cool for Cats, Stennis Head, E1 5b, Climber – Stuart Knott, Photographer- Martin Jolly**



**Climber – Richard Toon, Photographer – Martin Jolly**

Despite a 5 hour journey home ahead of us, we dragged out the long weekend to the end. I didn't start my last route until 5:30pm. The 3 days was concluded with a much deserved ice cream at the car park. Hope that more climbers, walkers and beach-lovers join us down at Pembroke next year for the August Bank Holiday.



**The Great British BBQ, Anne Waggot (Note the layers of clothing!)**