

# Lincoln Mountaineering Club Pembroke and St David's Meet

## August 2018

A quick thanks to all those who attended:

Ron Crowe  
Pip McCarthy  
Hannah Watson  
Matt Roope  
Marie Skinner  
Kian Potter  
Joe Mills (Gunter)  
Tom Redwood (Lord Admiral Faffington)  
Eugenie Blyth  
Michael Teanby

I hope you all had a brilliant time, and for those of you who hadn't already visited these cliffs I hope this trip has whetted your appetite for more! I apologise for any missing details, I wasn't there for all of the week's events but I hope this report captures the best bits.

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

The meet started on Friday as Eugenie and Michael travelled down to Bosherton in hope of getting a good start on the week. Met by drizzle and fog and misled by Michael's dodgy 'shortcut' they remained undeterred. Upon arriving at St Govan's Head, sea fog was blanketing the cliff however after a quick abseil down, Michael was soon firing up *Cupid's Bow*, only to discover that it refused any cam smaller than a size 5 Dragon and those pleasant looking jams turned out to be too big even for fists! A lot of cam shuffling and traditional techniques later, he arrived at the top, agreeing with the guide book that it was a bit of sandbag at HVS (unless you borrow your mate's cams).

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

Saturday dawned and a small team from Lincoln eventually awoke to find some "proper hard climbers" had chosen to pitch up next to them (a sign of respect they were sure). Much later they ambled back to St Govan's to get going for the week with ascents of *Hangover 77* and *The Arrow*. Time seemed to melt away and they soon found themselves supping rather good pints of black IPA at the Inn.

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

Another late start (it became a theme) brought Eugenie and Michael to St Govan's East for a warm up on *Calisto*, a lovely broad arête with good gear if you have invested in small enough cams (and ball nuts). They then headed to St Govan's Head for a shot at *Depraved*. Michael slipped of the still wet and greasy finger locks at the start before lowering off and going again, finally pulling through to the rest ledge he arranged some good gear. The sun by this point was making the face unbearably hot and he was convinced his toes were melting in their black rubber trappings, finally after some time he pulled over the top dripping in sweat and unsure if his toes would ever recover, Eugenie soon followed in good style and the pair agreed that due to tides and the heat it was not a day to be on the cliffs until it had cooled off.

Meanwhile on the way to Saint David's, Marie, Kian, Matt and Hannah ended up driving in convoy (despite the fact that Hannah had driven up from Cornwall) a quick reccy was then made from the Porth Clais campsite to plan the next day's climbing.

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

Up in St David's, the week's adventure was getting underway at Porth-y-Ffynnon with ascents of *The Crack*, *Apex Arete* and *Rising Damp*. During this Hannah was kind enough to take her time on her pitch, allowing Marie to have a sit down, enjoy the view and glance occasionally at the rising tide!

Feeling that they should make a little more of the following day, an earlier start was made. The Pembroke Team marched out to Stennis Head where Eugenie warmed up on the pleasant corner of *Hercules* before flying up *Cool for Cats*. In fact she enjoyed it so much she placed her last runner 2 meters before the crux, swiftly moved through the crux (which barely registered) and finally realised she should probably place some more gear 5 or 6 meters later! Michael followed and enjoyed every move.

Once at the top Eugenie asked Michael if he wanted to get on the coveted *Pleasure Dome* as the conditions were perfect; how could he refuse? He set off along the traverse, pulled through the thin crux to what is certainly the epitome of non-rests and raced the rising pump up the head wall. Eugenie followed finding the moves easy until the crux where she was presented with the conundrum of being able to use either the foot or the hand holds. What followed was the greatest test of stamina Michael had ever witnessed. She worked the crux moves for an hour before finally making what must have been a 6a move to the post crux "jug" and then pulling off something that resembled a one armed pull-up! Unfortunately she then followed the wrong set of chalked holds and peeled off before pulling back on and finishing the route, exclaiming with joy that it a great adventure.

As evening approached, Pip and Ron pulled up and mentioned that they might set up camp next to Nick Bullock to which the younger generation asked "who?" before pointing out their neighbour was Michaela Tracy who was working *Point Blank (E8 6c)*, to which the older generation responded "who and what?" With the game of "who's your neighbour Top Trumps" over and unsure who had won, the players settled down for evening and huddled round their guide books searching for inspiration.

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

The St David's crew headed to White Sands Bay, and though they took some time to find the crag (eventually resorting to a compass), came home with a good haul of routes, in particular Hannah fared well negotiating the difficulties of the not so staircase *Staircase*.

Ron and Pip headed straight out to the impressive face that is Stennis Head, where they went on to open the week's account with *Stennis Arête*, *The Bludgeon* and *Painted Face*, the last of which created dreaded rope drag and communication difficulties, leaving Ron at the top tugging on the rope trying to remember if 4 or 5 tugs signalled "on belay".

Eugenie and Michael headed to Crickmail Point and after some searching for the abseil point headed down for *Aero* which Eugenie made her way up in good style, but it was a little over grown and after throwing every ounce of her strength and a power scream at *Pleasure Dome* the previous day she was "not feeling it" and called for a more restful afternoon.

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

The dawn brought rain and some strays to Simon's Field. After setting off a little late, Joe and Tom finally turned up bleary eyed and a little damp around 7am, Tom sporting a straw hat, red Hawaiian shirt, shorts and brown leather shoes. After a brief interrogation it turned out that they had found the campsite at about 11pm the previous night but couldn't be sure it was the correct one (also blaming in part Michael's dodgy shortcut) so instead decided to slum it down the road in a car park. They bedded down next to the car beneath a clear night sky, the Milky Way stretched out in all its glory above them with Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Venus hugging the horizon (all a little romantic). Sadly they were rudely awoken in the early hours by a torrential downpour!

Hannah and her posse headed out to Porth-Clais for another day of good weather. Marie started with *Diagonal Crack*, but not liking the look of the pull around the corner instead finished up the crack on the headwall to be congratulated at the top by a nearby instructor for climbing *Dreamboat Annie* at HVS 4c. Meanwhile, Matt and Kian, hoping to have a more relaxed day, started up a VD on Red Wall. Matt, not finding anything resembling a V Diff on route, retreated, Kian took the lead only later realising they'd done *Dickus Majoris* HVS 4c. Marie and Hannah

intended to climb Inset, but after abbing down and finding the belay submerged, made a speedy escape up Sea Rider.

Ron and Pip headed to Mowingword with Tom's alter ego Admiral Faffington (named after the eternity it took him to get ready), Joe's alter ego Gunter (a German climber enjoying a cheap holiday due to the weak Pound), Eugenie and Michael. Pip made quick work of *Logos* before abseiling down so Ron could rocket up the classic *Deidre Sud* and finish off on the hidden gem that is *Seal*. Not being content with the routes they had a quick swim in Broadhaven Bay, Pip giving the experience at VS however Ron stayed in for a good while longer earning him a solid E1 tick! Meanwhile Admiral Faffington and Gunter warmed up on *Logos* before taking on the *impressive Heart of Darkness / New Morning Connection*, a lead that tested Tom in all the right ways. As there was a considerable queue for *Logos*, Eugenie and Michael "warmed up" (never has something been so understated) on *Charenton Crack* before also flying up *Logos* and finishing on *Sealhunt*.

### Thursday 9th

Thursday started in St David's, where Hannah's rock shoes took a dip in the rock pools at the Initiation Slabs as she slipped of the barnical encrusted start of *Aquarian*, she eventually pulled through the move, well was push through it with a helping hand from Marie. Matt and Marie instead chose to put their shoes through their paces on *Vanishing Crack*, *Gemini*, *Blunt Arête* and *White Wall*. Hoping to meet up with the St David's crew, Ron and Pip headed up north. However communication issues meant that the teams never quite got together, but they did make it to one of the finest crags in the area, Carreg y Barcud, where they netted a fine catch of routes including *Metamorphosis*, *Be Brave*, *Yellow Edge* and *Gentlemen's Corner*.

After a drawn out belay setup Tom was promoted to Lord Admiral Faffington and he once again headed out with Gunter, Eugenie and Michael to Stennis Head where he got lost in the groove of *Cool for Cats* and mentioned he found it a bit naff (at which point Eugenie considered washing his mouth out with soap). Eugenie had her sights set on *Riders on the Storm*, a stunning traverse just above the waves, however she traversed a little too far and rather than taking the rising line of jugs post-crux, moved across the blank wall that followed to the base of the next route *Pugwash*, which she then finished up. With the tide receding, the team headed to St Govan's Head where Tom nipped up *The Arrow* and took a detour mid route into some XS territory to avoid damp holds (the group took this as an excuse for getting lost again). Around the corner Michael was setting off up *Space Cadet* which he soon realised that despite its grade there was so much gear he could basically top rope the entire pitch!

### Friday 10th

The Northern Crew returned to Porth Clais, where Hannah and Marie climbed several fine routes including *Harbour Crack*, *Inset*, and *Against the Grain*. However Marie might disagree as she suffered from a moderate case of "the barnacles ate my trousers", convinced that Hannah has chosen the barnacle-infested route on purpose! They then headed to Red Wall (the cliff), where Marie got even when she marooned Hannah on the belay ledge of *Red Wall* (the route). Meanwhile Matt and Kian nipped up Inset before dropping a top rope down *Dreamboat Annie* to see what all the fuss was about. Due to the weather forecast for Saturday and with work looming on Sunday, Marie & Kian headed home Friday night.

Friday morning brought rain for the Pembroke crowd, so yet another slow start was called for while it cleared up and a stop off for a warm breakfast on the way to Mother Carey's was thus made. On arrival Eugenie jumped straight on one of her main objectives for the week, the imposing *Rock Idol*, an overhanging 45 meter pitch. By the time she had ambled her way up, the tide had come in, forcing Michael to assemble a semi-hanging stance. Michael later grinned like a goon whilst enjoying the intricacies of *Wraith*. Lord Admiral Faffington and Gunter warmed up on *Joyous Gard* and *The Cracks* before the Admiral bagged his first 'proper' E2 with an ascent of the sustained *Brazen Buttress*. Not buying into this late start business Ron and Pip started their day with a good 7 mile walk to Stackpole Quay and back before returning to Stennis Head for *Quickstep* and the cruxy *Hercules*.

## Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

Having rained during the night and looking like it was going to set in for the day the team decided to pack up and head home, Ron and Pip being first up and off in short order. Eugenie and Michael had the camper ready to travel not long after, however Lord Admiral Faffington was doing what he does best and Gunter was pointing out that the tent which the Admiral had declared ship shape had turned his sleeping quarters into a swimming pool.



*The St David's Crew: Kian, Matt, Marie and Hannah*



*Eugenie seconding on Wraith E3 5c*





*Admiral Faffington and his First Mate Gunter*



*Eugenie and Michael at Mowingword East*



*Gunter eyeing up his next route*





*Gunter looking dynamic on Logos E1 5b*



*"Joe, where's that boulder gone"? A creeping tide waits for no-one, at Mother Carey's Kitchen*



*Matt on Inset*



*Marie attempting to save her trousers and her dignity from the ferocious Barnacles*

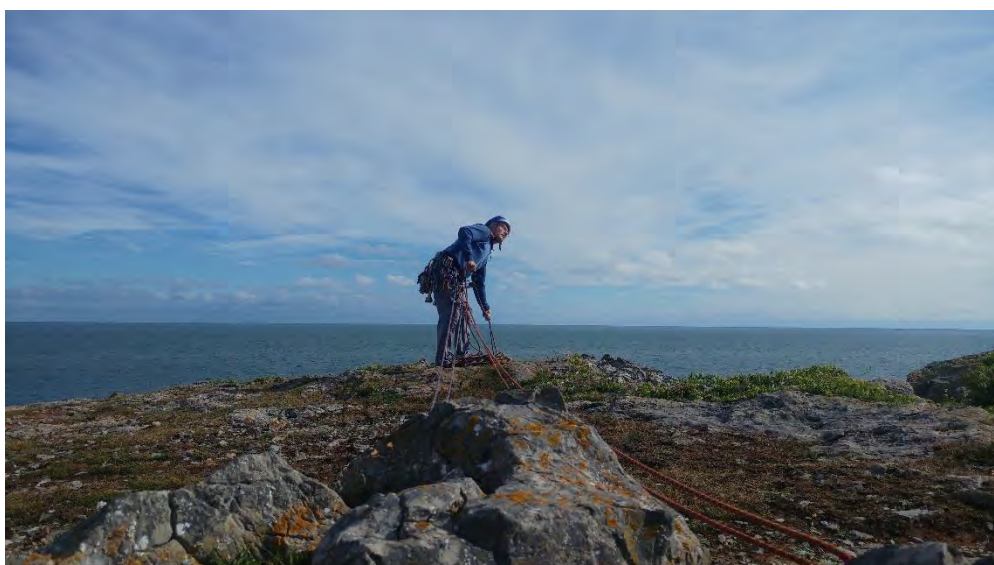




*Hannah and Kian enjoying yet another fine day at St David's*



*Admiral Faffington and Gunter on Heart of Darkness / New Morning*



*Ron at the top of Painted Head, "was on belay 4 tugs or 5"?*