

## Timeline

### In the beginning

- In 1930, the Liverpool University Rock-Climbing Club (LURCC) was founded by John Menlove Edwards<sup>1</sup>, his brother Hewlett Edwards<sup>2</sup> and friend Sandy Edge. Bill Stallybrass, Keith Geary, Hancox and Miss Wilkinson also served on the committee.
- No other such club existed within the British Isles at that time; it was meant to be distinct from a "mountaineering club". At the time, mountaineering was considered a sport for the upper-middle classes, so in the context of 1930, the LURCC was revolutionary.
- The Club's first meet was at the Ogwen Valley from 19-23 December 1930. Eight members attended. The first route climbed that day was Lot's Groove (<http://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/c.php?i=85404>) (HVS 5a) on Glyder Fach, by Menlove Edwards and Keith Geary.
- In January 1932, the club's application to be affiliated with the Liverpool Guild of Undergraduates was accepted by the guild council. The annual subscription to LURCC was 3 shillings and 6 pence.

### 1930-1940s

- Circuit training aimed at improving balance and strength was an important part of the LURCC training regime in the early 1930s. Although circuit-training in climbing was unheard of at the time, it is possible that Menlove Edwards had taken inspiration from Graham MacPhee<sup>3</sup>.
- The LURCC, because of its strong bias against accepting women members<sup>3</sup>, was made to close in 1934 by the University authorities.
- In 1936, led by George Graham MacPhee, the club was re-established at the Liverpool University Mountaineering Club (LUMC) and became affiliated with the Liverpool Guild of Undergraduates<sup>4</sup>.
- Activities in the club were suspended following the commencement of World War II in 1939.

### 1960s

- In the early 1960s, the LUMC was extremely successful, with a membership of around 50. There was a certain section of the club who were climbing hard routes, and making a number of first ascents. However, following the death of two LUMC climbers, Alban Crowther and Derek Turner, in 1962 membership dwindled somewhat. They were climbing on the Trinity route on the East Buttress of Scafell. It is believed the leader dislodged a rock, and fell 400-500 ft, taking his second with him (The Guardian, June 18, 1962).
- 62/63 - November meet at Stanage - "Our driver marred his reputation by getting nastily involved with the accelerator, brake, and clutch which resulted in our being involved in a minor collision in a busy street in Manchester"
- Jan 1 1963 - Death of John Gwynn Thomas, Lochnagar due to exposure - The Guardian, Jan 2 1963
- 63/64 - membership of nearly 100 (club journal). Freshers meet in Borrowdale - Shepherd's crag. 63/64 - first ascent of Waterloo Wall at Helsby - Bell
- 63-64 - First discussion of new climbing wall - "The former will make a change from the RC Cathedral wall traverse. Whilst on the subject, the new Cathedral has an

interesting slab route up to that perpendicular bit, but ...marvellous things these tungsten carbide tipped masonry drills!" - N.S. Edwards

- 63-64 - Talk of acquiring club hut 63/64 - still potholing
- Nov 7 1965 - Death of Alwyn John Slassor in Langdale. "He was pretty experienced and the freshers were pretty well supervised" - John Belton. Fell nearly 200 feet (The Guardian, Nov 8, 1965)
- 66/67 Annual club dinner Dolbadarn Hotel, Llanberis.
- 1966 - acquisition of club hut
- Jan 1966 - Clements / Osgathorpe Accident
- Early 60s - potholing was very prominent in the club.

### 1970s

- Club members' slide shows once or twice a term with a supply of free beers. Annual dinner at a hotel in North Wales. Rock climbing club in 1979/1980 - President- Mr Simon J. Hall. Hon President Mr Gordon Hall (Derby Hall warden) - free cheese and wine at Derby Hall reading room on Thursdays. Old campaigner - "Never in the history of climbing clubs, have so many people on so many climbs, had so few accidents" - 1979. £10 for trip to Cuillin Ridge of Skye (ferry and petrol costs). Most climbing centred on Pex Hill and Helsby.
- LUMC membership above 100 in 1979.
- Friction between two clubs: "First years and Germans were dragged up the rock and surprisingly few were put off for life or left to join LURCC" - LUMC 1st term report, 1978.
- Freshers' meet at Roaches.£1 for day trip to Roaches in 1978.
- LURCC - 1978 - Fresher letter - "I should also note that young ladies are particularly welcome, and of course experienced climbers of both gender"

### 2000s

- In 2007, the club moved from being a society within the Liverpool Guild of Students to a sports club within the Athletic Union of the University of Liverpool.
- In 2012, the club completed a merger with the now-defunct Liverpool University Open Air Club.

### References

1. <http://wbo.llgc.org.uk/en/s2-EDWA-MEN-1910.html>
2. Climbers' Club Journal (PDF) 20 (1): 95–123. 1986–87 <http://www.climbers-club.co.uk/journal/original/1986-87%20Journal-p95-123.pdf>. Retrieved 26 December 2012.
3. Perrin, Jim (1993). Menlove: the life of John Menlove Edwards. Holyhead: Ernest Press. p. 298. ISBN 0-948153-28-8.
4. Minutes from the council of the Liverpool Guild of Undergraduates. 1932-1937.