

MARCH 2019



60 years 1959 - 2019



Was it a real Winter ?

What a contrast to last year. At the same time in the calendar as the 'Beast from the East' visited in 2018 we were basking in record February temperatures this time round. A disappointing winter for those members who travelled with ice axes, crampons and skis hoping for better.

Having said that Scott Pardoe, Adrian Wilcock and Tony Mills did get some proper winter conditions on Scott's meet in Snowdonia on March 10th. Hopefully there will be an meet report of their ascent up Parsley-Fern Gully to Crib-y-Ddysgl in the snow in next issue.

Don't forget 'Phil's Hills' anniversary challenge. I myself have only managed a modest dozen so far. However Larry King is probably leading the pack, impressively clocking up over forty of the sixty even before the clocks change.

Please see opposite for a call for volunteers at the upcoming hut maintenance weekend early next month'

Thanks as always to all this month's contributors.



Graham Daly, Editor

Cover photo:

Not really representative of the mild winter just experienced. This picture was taken in the previous year (2018).

It shows Scott Pardoe in the North Gulley on Tryfan and was captured by Steve Lowe.

Chosen by members attending the AGM in January this photo was voted the winner in the 'Mountaineering' category of the 2018 Photo Competition.

Congratulations to Steve on his accomplishment.

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Deadline for the next newsletter is 12th May 2019. Any photographs should be a separate JPEG.

Hut maintenance 5th & 6th April

A hut maintenance weekend is coming up soon and **volunteers** are needed!

In return for a free lunch on the Saturday you have to help with one or some of the following tasks depending on your skills! Specifically it looks like plumbing and carpentry skills would be useful.

Please let me (campj1@btinternet.com) know if you are coming so I can organise lunch.

Also, if you have specific skills or wish to consult with Rog Edenborough about the jobs please contact him to talk about it (07528 631837).

Jan Campbell

Task list

- Stain porch.
- Stain shed.
- Painting, dining room, kitchen, bed rooms; details on the day.
- Water supply: Change to far stream supply, replace leaking ball valve under window, clean all filters and replace 5 micron filter.
- Seal cooker hood flue and roof slates.
- Replace cooker hood.
- Sort out shed and dispose of unwanted materials.
- Smart meter being fitted on the Friday morning.
- Fit new frame and fire door to drying room.
- Cleaning

Prizewinners at AGM

Harry Gregory Trophy Winner

The Harry Gregory Trophy, awarded annually to a member for outstanding achievement or personal best was this year presented to Stuart Altman. Announced at the Annual General Meeting at the Cock Inn Hanwood on January 22nd Stuart received the award for undertaking an epic trek in the southern hemisphere.

Together with an old school friend Stuart completed almost half of the Te Araroa Trail in New Zealand in 2018. There was no half measure about their achievement as the pair completed the entire South Island section, a distance of 1,400km (870 miles) down the middle of the island including a negotiation of the Southern Alps.

If you've never heard of the Te Araroa Trail that's probably because it was only officially opened in 2011. It is however growing rapidly in both profile and popularity. Dubbed the Kiwi 'Pennine Way' the full route extends the length of the country from the top of North Island to the tip of South Island.

Describing it as a great walk , great adventure' Stuart said he met people from all over the world on the route.

Undertaking the adventure at 60 years of age, 60 was also the number of days required to complete the 1,400km. It seems appropriate, therefore that Stuart received the award in the Club's 60th year. The Trophy was presented by last year's winner Grahame James.

Note Stuart may give a presentation on his adventure (tbc) at the 'Slide Night' on March 19th



Stuart with the Trophy

2018 Photo Competition Winners

Steve Lowe won the 'mountaineering' category with his picture taken on Tryfan (see cover). Catherine Allen was peerless in the 'landscape' category winning with a Shropshire hills view (see below) and also taking second place. Congratulations to both.

Thanks to Gareth for organising the competition. Early fears of a lack of interest were dispelled when around 20 members eventually submitted a total of approximately 70 photos.

Thanks also to Steve Hughes who had the unenviable task of whittling the seventy down to two shortlists of six which were subsequently voted on at the AGM.



Catherine's winning entry in the 'landscape' category with 'The Lawley' illuminated by sunshine in the middle distance and a rainbow making an appearance top right. Pic: Catherine Allen

25th and 26th January 2019 Langdale, Lake District

Around 20 of us made it to Robertson Lamb hut for the Langdale meet. Some optimistically bringing sets of skis along for the ride which lay redundant for the duration, the snow being replaced with forecasts of strong winds and rain.



Group photo near Side Pike

The main event for the evening was the Burns supper. A plentiful banquet of haggis, neeps and tatties prepared by Brenda along with a memorised rendition of the "Address to a Haggis" by Phil. All supplemented by trifles and puddings to replace the day's calories. As is tradition on Burns night, bottles of whisky were opened and stories of the day's adventures shared by the fire.

Saturday morning saw a number of groups heading out into the valley. Some running a circuit of the Langdale hills, some staying low level to avoid the winds, others doing a walk to Grasmere via Stickle Tarn (and the garden centre coffee shop). There was even a scramble of Jack's Rake. All had a great day out, most ended up wet.



Burns Supper (not the full line up – there was another table off-camera)



*Braving the wind
on Lingmoor Fell*

*With thanks to Brenda for
coordinating the meet and
Cheryl for providing the
photographs of the gathering
-Ed*

Sunday again saw a number of groups stretching their legs before the drive home. The weather was bright but still windy. On the top of Lingmoor Fell it was sometimes difficult to stand but the views were glorious and we can all take heart that no one failed to negotiate "fat mans agony" despite the size of the previous night's meal!

Adam James

10th February 2019

Moel Siabod, Snowdonia

Four vehicles containing nine members and two dogs converged on the car park off the A5 by the Bryn Glo cafe for an ascent of Moel Siabod. The full roll call was Jan, Jean Bollom (with dog Ross), Heather, Mark Bayliss, Sean Toms (with dog Lola), Kevin Draper, Steve Lowe, Graham Daly and meet coordinator Clive Dean.

We did a clockwise loop skirting a couple of lakes initially before the grade really steepened with a scramble up the east ridge to the summit. The scramble was made more challenging by the wintry conditions, with the rock somewhat slippery. Conditions on the summit were raw with buffeting winds.



Taking a break by Llyn y Foel Picture: Heather Smith

Lunch was taken in the shelter of a walled refuge on the summit. Being last to take my place I was somewhat startled when some of the SMC group opposite seemingly started to speak welsh. However it began to make sense when the three welsh speakers departed separately into the wind. The SMC personnel on arrival had sat closely either side of the Welshmen giving the appearance of one group. Everyone was so hooded and wrapped up for the conditions I couldn't tell who was who.



View east from East ridge



Meet coordinator Clive at summit, 2861 ft



Descending on the gentler northern slopes

Descent was on the gentler northern slopes. The last mile or so back to the car park was a pleasant riverside stroll beside the Afon Llugwy, a world away from the harsh conditions on the summit. Post walk refreshments were appropriately taken in the pleasant ambience of the Moel Siabod cafe. Thanks to Clive for coordinating an enjoyable meet. He will even start doing meet reports one day.

Editor

16th to 23rd January 2019

The Scottish Meet, Inver Lodge, near Braemar

Having enjoyed Inver Lodge so much in 2017 we decided to return to this comfortable accommodation with en suite rooms for only £140 each for the week which is amazing value. Word must have got out as we had 21 members there plus Amy Blakemore in her Dad's van and Tim Tindle stayed at a guest house in Braemar for two nights in the middle of the week. The 'masterchefs' with their sous chefs rose to the occasion of catering for 21-23 and we enjoyed fabulous meals each night including a reprise of the Burns night supper in Langdale with Phil giving a word perfect rendition of the 'Ode to the Haggis'.



Burns night supper time again (and in Scotland this time !). Most of the gang parade their attire

But what of the outdoors? Following weeks of discussion about skis and some people having acquired new ones, there was NO SNOW and tracks which should have been covered with the stuff became great for the 11 who had brought mountain bikes. Temperatures ranged from 10-14C each day and although it was a bit too breezy for the summits early in the week loads of tops were eventually reached including a few Munros such as An Socach, Lochnagar, Derry Cairngorm and Ben McDui. To be fair there was a slight sprinkling of snow and a bit of ice on the Munro summits.

In previous years we have had the occasional song but Jane appealed to our creative instincts by encouraging a few of us to write a haiku which were read out one evening, some of which appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks to all for their good company on a meet to suit everyone from 26 to 80 years old!!!! Jan Campbell



Ellis Blower on the summit of Lochnagar, a Munro at 3,789 ft, 1,155 metres. Ellis is a new member and this was his first winter mountaineering day.

February Meet, Scotland Haiku

Warming wintertime
A *highest* great mountain breaks
In spite of the grouse

Path takes natural line
But footprints are cloven hoofs
Deer thinking the same

Black water like silk
Cold, caressing, dark, deep, clear
The moon and I swim

Wild, windswept oasis of calm
Among ancient trees and lichen blue
We laughed together

Wind blows, boughs break
In this the world is changed
And oft it is lost

Among ancient trees
And blue lichen blooms we laughed
Wild windswept haven

On a mountain top
The white hare is running free
Thoughts cleared by the wind

Wind, waves, sun and earth
Wild, wonderful elements
Warmth, fun and laughter

Bare winter mountains
A wrong-colour hare sees us
Are we the wrong colour here?

On the lower slopes
The white hare bounds through brown grass
And I am at peace

The cheesecake erupts and turns
Upon this all is changed
Ending never and always

Dark foreboding clouds
Wind lifting spray from the lock
Sun warming our soul

Walking wild Scotland
Soothing sound of the river
The moment is now

Rescuing corgis
From under the waterfall
Fearless mountaineers

Walking with laughter
Wind blown waves, lichen blue
Here comes the sunshine!

Water whispering
My wounds are healing easy
Time teaches me the way

Popadom, Raita
Curry, Curry, Dhal, Naan
Cheesecake and melon

Lying in water
Clinging to a mossy rock
The moon is rising

Walking through heather
The disturbed call of the grouse
My mind is now clear

Sunday 24th February 2019

Five go mad in Scotland

The planning had been on-going for years. The route had been identified and recce trips undertaken. A crack team had been assembled and a logistics manager recruited.

The expedition goal was to cycle from the West Coast of mainland Britain to the East Coast in a day.

Following the final training week in Deeside (the only training injury was a sore bum) the final team was selected: Jan Campbell, Penny Tindle, Mike Blakemore, Dave Stanley & Tim Tindle assembled at Base Camp in the Trossachs for the final briefing and substantial calorific intake.



Glasgow start : the sailing ship in the background is the 'Glenlee' launched in 1896.

Continuing east at a steady state with 17km covered bladders were calling so the team stopped by the Antonine Wall and re-enacted the ancient rituals of the Picts and the Scots by relieving themselves on a roman structure! Renewed in spirit they sprinted into Kirkintilloch where coffee and cake were taken. The team then continued battle with a easterly headwind until the Falkirk Wheel, which was on Mike's must see list (alas it was closed for repairs and the lock pool drained but it was an excuse for more coffee) then on to the Kelpies at the Carron sea-lock which opens onto the Firth of Forth.

We had done it - the coast to coast was conquered in some 4.5 hours including coffee breaks, pee breaks and sight seeing with some 45km covered in total. And seeing as it was end to end, with tidal mud and water in front of us and Pete had the transport waiting Mike couldn't suggest "just one more loop"!

Tim Tindle

The next day the team met up with Pete McAree (logistics) at the Riverside Museum in Glasgow on the Clyde. Leaving Pete with the transfer leg the team set off heading north up the Kelvin Valley. Gaining height steadily the team split into two to conquer the west and east routes of Glasgow's Botanical gardens and were safely reunited upon gaining the ridgeline of the Forth and Clyde canal at Maryhill Locks. Turning east they soon reached the summit plateau.



At the Kelpies near Falkirk

Notes from the AGM, held at the Cock Inn and attended by 35 members

The full minutes will be distributed prior to next year's AGM but in the meantime you may like to know who is on the committee the only change being that Scott Pardoe stood down after 4 years of good service and Catherine Allen has taken his place.

	Main role (but obviously do loads more)
Roger Skews	Chairman
Mike Blakemore	Treasurer
Jan Campbell	Secretary
Brenda Duffy	In charge of subscriptions/liaising with BMC re membership
Andy Bentley	SMC website
Tony Mills	Climbing expert!
Cheryl Foster	Hut bookings
Catherine Allen	T-shirts and fleeces
Gareth Egarr	Hut trustee & Tuesday evening programme.

The Harry Gregory Trophy was awarded Stuart Altman for completing a 61 day backpacking trip on the long distance trail Te Araroa, in South Island New Zealand. Stuart gave us a brief insight into his trip which sounded very much like an endurance event with a lot of tricky river crossings (see also page four).

T-shirts and fleeces of various sizes and colours were on display and several orders were submitted. Thanks to Catherine for organising this.

Photo competition is covered elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Cock Inn has a much improved meeting room (warm!) and the chip butties at half time gave an opportunity for a trip to the bar and to socialise. A good evening.

Jan Campbell

Upcoming Meets / Events

Sunday March 24th, Rhinogs

A 9 mile walk in the northern part of the Rhinogs, Snowdonia to take in Clip, Craig Ddrug ,Moel Ysgyfarnogod and Bryn Cader Faner

Meet Co-op car park, Bank Farm Road , Radbrook at 8.00am **or** Field car park at Cwm Bychan GR 646314 at 10.00 am (£3 charge for the car park)

Meet coordinator Gareth Egarr

April 5-6th Clwt y Bel maintenance

Do jobs on the Saturday (details elsewhere in this newsletter) ; go on the hills Sunday.

Lunch provided on the Saturday.

Contact Jan re lunch numbers

Sunday April 14th Cader Idris area

An exhilarating one way ridge walk of about 12 miles via the Minfford path to the summir of Cadair then west to Craig las and Craig y llyn before descending to Castell y Bere.

Meet Radbrook Co-op car park, Bank Farm Rd 8.00am or Minfford car park (732115) at 9.30am

Meet coordinator Dave Baldock

Sunday April 28th Moel Hebog.

It was called off last year due to high winds and snow so here is a second attempt. Meet Co-op car park Bank Farm Road at 8.00am or car park in Beddgelert at 10.00am

Meet coordinator, Kevin Draper

Sunday May 12th Capel Curig area

Meet Radbrook Co-op car park at 8.00am or car park behind the shops at Capel Curig at 10.00am Meet coordinator Larry King

May 17th-18th Stoney Middleton

The annual trip to the Peak District for climbing on grit or limestone. Staying in a small hut near the pub in the village. Only 10 bunks so book your place asap or find yourself alternative accommodation. It's also an option to just come for the day on either the Saturday or Sunday.

Meet co-ordinator : Tracy Whyte

May 25th-June 1st, Cannich,Scotland

Near Glen Affric, about 1 hour from Inverness. Camping at the Cannich Camping Park which has a small onsite café and does bike hire. Lots of Munros, bike rides and lower level trails in the area. Some of you may wish to book a spot for a campervan if you want an electric hook up. Adjacent is 'Cannich holiday Caravans' should some of you want to get together to hire a static caravan.

Please e mail Jan to confirm if and when you will be there.

*Upcoming Meets / Events is compiled by
Jan Campbell*

Upcoming Meets / Events concluded

Sunday June 9th Tremadog

An opportunity to rock climb at Tremadog under the guidance of Allan who has been there more times than most have had hot dinners.

Meet coordinator Allan Day

(For non-climbers, Jan is also prepared to lead an exploratory lowish level walk in the area).

Tuesday Evening Walking Programme

Meet at 7.30pm or 9.00pm onwards at the pub. Contact Gareth Egarr for further details

Date	Meeting Place	Grid Ref	Pub afterwards
02/04/2019	Nesscliffe Country Park (Oak car park) *	383199	The Wingfield Arms, Montford Bridge
09/04/2019	Llanymynech public car park *	267209	The Dolphin, Llanymynech
16/04/2019	Womerton	458972	The Horseshoes, Dorrington
23/04/2019	Cranberry Rocks, Stiperstones *	369976	Bridges
30/04/2019	Gliding Station, Long Mynd *	404919	The Crown Inn, Wentnor
07/05/2019	The Bog car park *	357978	The Stiperstones Inn
14/05/2019	Lee Brockhurst	548268	New Inn, Hadnall
21/05/2019	Motte & Bailey, Pulverbatch	422022	The White Horse, Pulverbatch
28/05/2019	Snailbeach Village Hall	373022	The Horseshoes, Pontesbury

* Walk will include one of Phil's 60 hills for the Club's 60th anniversary

Thursday Evening Climbing Programme

Date	Venue	Location
	Please contact Dan Williamson for the most up-to-date information.	