

OUTSIDE NOW!



"One wheel good...two wheels better" see page 4



Dave D waits for Pete H and Brian K at the top of the Coire na Tulaiche during the Glencoe meet
Pages 2-3

VOTES for NEW PRESIDENT

President Harry steps down shortly. He has served the club in this position for four years and his term now finishes in May.

This is nothing to do with the Middle East so there will be no need for riots, protests or civil disobedience in Hinckley Market Place, just nominate a member for the post.

The nominations for president need to be supported by 10 members and handed to chairman Dave before the May 19th committee meeting.

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz
I know not where dem birdes is,
The little birds on on the wing,
Ain't that absurd!
The little wings are on the bird.

And so we welcome spring after what has been for some, a disappointing winter despite the pre christmas promise of snow and ice. None the less it seems as though everyone has been out either ice climbing or snow walking especially in Wales and Scotland. Tim N seems to be climbing non stop. Going to Scotland before the Glencoe Meet to get some routes in and pulling in a winter ML refresher course at Glenmore Lodge.

Both Rhydd Ddu and the Glencoe meets were well attended although most of the climbers left early from Glencoe due to the deteriorating ice conditions, ie: it was too warm. And congrats to Stacey for her first ice climb and to Nathan, much praised by his fellow climbers at Glencoe for his first ice lead.

Paying us a visit at the Clachaig pub was Ronnie Bennie who longer serving members will remember, Sinc and Carolyn were also spotted.

Dave and Julie have been exploring Masham, Geoff and Kate forsook the buses for a day out out in Dovedale, Andy T has been up on Axe Edge. Mark Hardy has been making a tour of hospitals...but thats another story.

Looking a bit further back, Christmas Nibbles night was well attended with a quiz thrown in..and yes Rumdoodle mountain is 40000ft 6ins high.

The Christmas Pud Walk at Repton was ably led by John T and Stuart with an excellent dinner afterwards.

To come, a hot dry summer and more than ten meets including a week in Torridon and two-three weeks in Chamonix.

Also a couple of family friendly weekends, one camping. Presidents meet will be held again in Ingleton Oct 14/16.

We now have 72 paid up members 7 of which are new.

If you are reading this and haven't paid up, now is the time to do so, members get BMC insurance and 15% discount at Cotswold and 10% at some other stores.

Don Ward has presented some of his equipment to the club one of which, a wooden ice axe, suitable engraved will be given by the Club to a member for Outstanding Achievement .

Tim goes North of Scotland before the Glencoe Meet

15th Feb. seconded zig zags direct on Gearr Aonach III,4 with Roger Chaldecott.

16th Sgurr Choinnich mor from Glen Nevis. forgot my compass which made it interesting at times considering there was some white out.

17th Stob a Choire Mheadhoin and Stob Coire Easain (west of Loch Trieg) in the sun, mostly.

18th 5 Sisters of Glen Shiel. quite a long day considering I was half way back along the road before a family in a campervan gave me a lift.

More from Tim Page 2

Mon 28th Feb Stacey and Chris at the Roaches

The cripple (Chris) and I went to the Roaches, parked up at the bottom, walked through the lower tier, through to the upper Tier, followed the Roaches Ridge and down to Roach End, walked down to Lud's Church where we had a bit of lunch and watched the snow trying to come down, before heading back to the road and walking back to the car.

7.5 miles in total, took us around 4 hours, Chris's knee held up really well until the last leg down the road.

More from Stacey Page 8



Gianluca on SC Gully pic by Nathan

20th Feb. **The Pumpkin V,4.**
alternate lead, **Creag Meagaidh.**

Barra, Kev and I walked into the corrie which was quite busy. many people had also come to climb the pumpkin, but there was thick cloud which made finding it hard. We got lucky and found it with only one team already on it. I even got rid of the team below us by accidentally knocking off some ice onto one of there faces, after which they abbed off (not too hurt.) Barra lead the first pitch with the crux ice wall at the top with continual spindrift pouring down it. A couple more ice pitches and a fun chimney groove brought us onto a windy plateau.

21st Feb. **Vanishing gully V,5.**
alternate lead, **Ben Nevis.**

Kev had blisters, so Barra and i did another early start and wandered up the ben. Again lots of people had come to climb vanishing gully, and we waited for an hour in the

queue. The route was in great condition and the weather became quite nice. I lead the first pitch and Barra lead the second, before us abbing and down climbing the 1934 route to the left.

22nd Feb. **Scabbard chimney V,6.**
alternate lead, **Stob Coire nan Lochan.**

7 HMC'ers went up to the corrie this day. Barra and i did scabbard chimney which has 3 main pitches, all mixed grade 5. Barra lead the first which was a wide crack that you could jam a leg in with a fairly featureless slab to the right, the second had an awkward chimney which i nearly fell off, and the third was the crux corner crack. after that an easy gully lead to the crest of the buttress. The temperature was above zero and we were both absolutely soaked. It was a brilliant day and route though.

Tim N

SC GULLY

22nd Feb. Walked into Stob Coire Nan Lochan. Whilst Tim and Barra headed for Scabbard Chimney, Claire and I followed Nigel, Kev and Gianluca up to SC Gully.

I led the first two pitches and Claire the third. The first pitch was straightforward with an initial steep icefall followed by easier-angled snow-ice leading to good rock belays on the left wall. The crux was straight after the belay, with a very steep traverse right, initially on poorly consolidated snow for the axes before the angle eased off and the ice improved to allow access to a steep ice-ramp leading into the easier upper gully. With 60 m ropes I reached a good rock belay on the right wall and Claire came up then led on through the cornice to a big block belay well-back from the edge. We were followed by a father and son pair with 50m ropes which ran out just short of the second belay and compelled them to use a poor, steeply sloping spike as their top belay.

Nathan

Sunday

Ted, Pete H, Dave T, Julie, Ed, Brian K, Brian G, Dave D



Ed, Ted, Brian K, Julie, Dave T and Pete H at the summit of Beinn a' Chaoruinn

Beinn a' Chaoruinn 3437ft 9 miles

While the climbers headed for Craig Meaghaidh about a mile away before the crack of dawn, the walkers opted for a later start for this munro. Sadly as with the rest of the week, the weather was unkind with clag above 2000ft needing care as the hill was known for its cornices. After crossing soft wet ground, ice was encountered and most put on crampons for the pull to the ridge. Here Ed was sent ahead to check for cornices! Despite going round in a circle at one point with a little bit of compass work we were able to keep clear of the edge and found the summit and met another couple of parties. Plan A was to continue to Beinn Teallach at just 3001ft another munro on the other side of the Glen but sanity prevailed and descent down the glen was made crossing a few burns on the way. An interesting day.

Monday

Pete H, Brian K, Ted.

Meall Lighiche 2468ft 10 miles

An easy day, straight from the cottage, cross the River Coe by the footbridge by the pub. Not so, the bridge was closed for repairs so a two mile detour via the road bridge was taken before we could ascend the hill. Taking the track more or less opposite the cottage but the other side of the river we made good progress until another diversion was found, the good track was blocked to walkers and we were sent on to a path made through the bog so sparing the site of walkers walking past the gardens of some cottages which lay astride the path. Not sure the legality of that. None the less we pressed on to the open hillside where without a path, a steep wet grassy ascent (this was a Pete H route!) was made to the snow line. A choice now Brian in the soft snow, left or



Coire na Tulaiche

right in a small corrie. We went right...wrong, we soon floundered in deep soft snow at an unfortunate angle hanging on to ice axes for dear life. We reached the ridge and despite the strong wind which blew Ted's hat off for it to disappear in the murky mist not to be seen again. Descended using the next Glen back to the track and the diversion through the bog. Reaching the road, not fancying another two miles of road walking, we took a look at the closed bridge and decided it was no more than a grade one bridge scramble, avoiding the missing planks, screws sticking up, scaffolding and red tape. Soon back at base.

Tuesday

Pete H, Brian K, Dave T, Julie, Ted,

A mass ascent of Buchaille Etive Mor 3352ft Another claggy day. 7.5miles

Crampons and ice axes used to climb the steep Coire na Tulaiche where an arctic hare was seen in full winter white and we were all grateful and thankful to reach the top where there was no tottering cornices. Having a rest and a second breakfast we headed off through the mist and were soon at the summit of Stob Dearg. We returned to the gully and continued along the ridge to Stob na Doire 3065ft, Stob Coire Altruim 3065ft and the final peak of Stob no Broige 3120ft, all done in thick mist, soft



Jane and Roger in the Boulder Field

slushy snow and a fire bit of compass work. All the time looking for the descent route which some of us had used a few years earlier. But the entire ridge had cornices either side and

in near white out conditions we pressed on on as daylight faded to the end of the high ground and dropped out of the mist. Now to find a way off, crags barred most ways but we found a deep loose gully which led down a few hundred feet to less steep ground. It doesn't have a name on the map so we shall call it Innominate Gully. Finally we arrived at the Larig Gartain but still the wrong side of the watershed meaning we now had to go uphill before the long descent to the car parks at the head of Glencoe. We stopped for a bite to eat, not so much breakfast this time but an early evening meal. Looking back up our gully another walker, an Aston Villa fan from Hertfordshire, came out of it,

only the second person we had seen all day. He joined us and had done the same route as we had. By now the light had virtually gone but without using head-torches and using night vision we stumbled back to the cars. Looking back up the Coire na Tulaiche, lots of head torches were seen coming down, they were later than us and as we drove down the glen, lines of lights were coming down the Stone Shoot off Aonach Eagach, not something to be recommended.

Wild, Wet, Windy Wednesday.

Most took a day off, some going to Mallaig, where a hour of unexpected near sunshine allowed Ted to make a sandcastle on the "Silver Beach"

Thursday

Looking for the **Lost Valley of Glen Coe** and finding it.

Brian G, Jane W, Roger P and Ted

Another damp day for this traditional trip, as we entered the narrow gorge it was soon obvious that the burn exiting the valley was too full to cross to the easier left hand pass so we made our way through the boulder field. Always interesting. A couple of climbing parties overtook and were out of sight when

we reached the top of the boulder field. After wandering across the water logged and now very flat valley we returned to the descent where we came across Vanessa and friend Kim and their five young children having a picnic, albeit in the rain. We all descended together for an early finish.

Friday

Pete H, Brian K and Ted
Stob a Ghrianain 2420ft, North of Loch Eil. 10.5miles

Parked up in Glen Loy where the first obstacle was found, another road blocked off and we were sent uphill through the woods with no path to guide us. Eventually we had to climb two deer fences to get out on to the open hill side. The ascent in reasonable visibility was fairly easy and a long ridge beckoned towards Coille Mhor 2082. Rain and wind with flurries of stinging sleet finally gave way to a hint of sunshine and we descended to the bothy at Glensulaig. Once again we were on the wrong side of the watershed so it was another epic trudge up and over before we reached the end of the tarmac road which took us back to the Bongo.

Ted

Two wheels are better than one.

As most of the club headed to Glencoe I was heading for a weekend in Keswick mountain biking with a group from North Manchester for a 40th birthday weekend. I arrived at Whinlatter at 10am on the Saturday morning to receive a phone message to say that the guys I was meeting were running late. No surprise that others can faff as much as HMC members. I also learned that we were riding from Keswick! So back to Keswick I travelled.



When riding with any new group there is always a bit of apprehension about keeping up, skill level and the acceptable level of banter. I need not have worried as I was first up the hill to the trail centre and fitted in with the group in the other two areas. After yet more faffing at the shop when I decided that £40 for knee/shin protectors seemed excessive we set off to ride the North Loop of Whinlatter's Altura Trail. I have ridden this a couple of times before so looked forward to it as it has some stunning features, not least the final descent back to the car park.

My new bike was riding well. I had spent the last few rides tweaking the suspension to my satisfaction and today was a shakedown proper. The climb was dispatched and the descent started with growing confidence in the bike. By now I was more attuned to the gear setup and had become familiar with the brakes. A brief pause before the final section had us all enthusing about aspects of the descent so far. I was riding third in the group and was considerably in front of the next rider behind me as I left the trees for the last section of berms.

The culmination of this section comprises 7 small jumps before a left handed 180 drops you to the road. As I landed the last one I felt the back of the bike twitch as if I'd punctured and then the whole world went a bit wonky as the back wheel came round to my left and I dropped onto my right knee. When I stopped sliding I realised that I'd injured myself in a more substantial way than previously experienced. As I looked through the hole in my trousers at my knee I identified that I was going to need stitches. Next job was to move, I didn't want to get run over. I tested that I could stand – good nothing broken! I jumped on the bike and started to roll out. Having gone about 5 yards I stopped to remove my over trousers from my rear wheel. I reached the road to the enquiries of the guys riding with me who all looked quite ill when we looked at the knee with the trousers rolled back. An ambulance was called and after a while I found myself in Carlisle A&E with my cycling bottoms cut away from the thigh down, two holes in my knee and a raging hunger. 7 stitches and 5 hours later I was dispatched back into the world with a heavily bandaged knee, elsewhere still covered in mud and cycling kit.

One of guys from the group came and collected me from the hospital and took me back to Keswick where we went out for a curry before I phoned the AA to get me and the campervan relayed back home. As I was sitting in the hospital pondering events I realised that I hadn't punctured at all. I started to wonder how my over trousers had ended up in my back wheel. It occurred to me that I had come to grief because I had slipped my over trousers under the bungee on the side of my rucksack and they had fallen into my back wheel.

It would be easy to sit here with my leg up thinking "what if" or "if only", but there is no point. Talking about the K2 tragedy that befell the American team in the 50s Charles Houston said *"To live is to venture. He who does not venture does not really live"*.

It is this philosophy that leads most of us to do daft things in our leisure time.

I think that when misfortune hits, it is best to learn from it and move on. I learned the following truths:

- Don't bungee things to your bag if you're bike ride involves jumps
- Leg armour may be expensive, but it's cheaper than a new knee
- Looking at your own knee-cap is an over-rated experience
- Keswick A&E has no resident doctor

Take care, get out and venture on the rock, on ice, on your bike, running or whatever takes your fancy. I'll see you in the hills when I'm mended, perhaps a little slower, but with no less joy.

Mark Hardy

Dec 7th A last minute ice trip.

Steve P and a stranger called Graeme.

Left Leicester at 0430hrs with the car showing -9°C outside and seeing -13°C en-route we were pleasantly surprised by a mild -3°C at 0730am in the Ogwen Cottage car park. The approach walk was iced up and very slippery in places until we reached Cwm Idwal where the path had a light dusting of snow.

Idwal Stream II/III

In fantastic condition and with a spectacular view across to Pen yr Olwen Graeme lead the first two pitches, this being my first outing on ice. Having found my feet I lead the third pitch before moving together on the upper snow gully.

We descended via the path above 'The Curtain' all routes on the crag appeared to be in fine condition with climbers on most of them.

Central Route III, 4

Although this route looked a bit thin and was beginning to melt at the lower levels, I felt encouraged as it looked like it might be possible to place some rock protection off to the flanks.

I lead off on the first pitch (4) and placed a low short screw that went in far too easily. The slope eased a little to become steep snow before rising again, this time as thin but more consolidated ice. The much hoped for rock protection failed to materialise as the rock is so compressed that I was forced to re-use an ice screw hole through which I could see the stream flowing underneath. This marked the proposed start of the second pitch (3) but with poor (none) anchors at that point and standing on steep snow I chose to climb on, protected by a marginal tied-off long screw, in the hope of finding something better soon and before I ran out of gear!



Steve on Central Gully

A short steep ice section protected by a Bulldog that proved to be so well placed my partner had to dig it out, put me on another section of steep snow. Running out of 60m of rope and with only two long screws left I built the best belay available; one point equalised between an axe and a screw.

Graeme lead through on what should be the third pitch and sprinted up the first section of ice before making-off up the snow ramp to a full ropes length. A short scramble over the last of the ice saw us on the upper snow gangway where we unroped and made for the top as darkness fell.

After the remnants of what remained in my flask we descended by head torch arriving back at the car at 1830hrs, stopping for petrol, cola and sandwiches in Betws-y-Coed we arrived in Leicester about 2130hrs having had an excellent and very full day!

The final words must be a thank you to Masa, an unknown third party, who lent us his screws and a pair of DMM Rebels making the whole day possible.

Steve P

The Leicestershire Round by Bus

After completing the Ivanhoe Way by bus;



what could I do next?

After a few days I decided to push the boat out and try to complete the Round by bus. The Leicestershire Round is a circular walk around Leicestershire covering in total 110 miles. Compared to the Ivanhoe Way I had now increased my mileage by a factor of three.

It was now down to the planning and researching bus timetables to see how the walk would fit together, just like a jigsaw. I ended up by splitting the Round into 12 sections, the shortest being 7 miles whilst the longest being 11 miles. The 12 sections were related to the ease-ability of the bus times at the start and finish of each section. My aim was to start the walk in early Spring but with all the involvement and days spent planning the walk, I felt like a coiled spring; I just had to get out there and start walking.

Day 1: Home to Market Bosworth 7 miles

Monday 22nd November. Kate was going to clean the house so it was a good day for me to get out. What better than to begin the Round. A short walk from my house down Barwell Lane to the River Tweed is where the Round starts for me.

At 0930 I was at the river (it is really only a small stream but on the OS map is called the River Tweed) So now only 100 miles to go, all journeys no matter how short or long always starts with one single step and this was my step. Forward to Barwell!

At Barwell the Round passes through Moat Industrial Estate. At the far end is the motor cycle retailer Windy Corner. Outside there were motor cycles on display ranging in price from £12000 to £15000. (This is when I could have done with Brian Gilletts cheque book). Just around the corner of the motor cycle shop the Round crosses a small bridge over the Tweed, it then heads across open fields to the main A447. At this point I am still only about a mile and half from home.

My direction is now towards Daddlington, again crossing fields and tracks. I soon arrived at the place where the Round meets the Ambion Way from Hinckley. Here there is a stile with a brass plate on it. This is in memory of John Bright 1983 who was the Clubs Treasurer before his untimely death. From the stile the route crosses two fields to meet the River Tweed at the road, for the last time. After three more fields I had reached the canal tow path, heading towards Sutton Wharf. I arrive here at 1100 and quickly moved on to the Bosworth trail which goes up through the Ambion Woods to the Battlefield Centre. From the Centre a bridle-path is walked towards Sutton Cheney. At Sutton, the road is followed to the Royal Arms Pub, here the Round now takes more or less a direct line to Market Bosworth passing through woodlands and finally Bosworth Park. The time was now 1230, my bus would arrive at 1306 in the Square and Hinckley, the final destination at 1325.

The Leicestershire Round by Bus

Day 2: Market Bosworth to Nailstone 7 miles

Tuesday 30th November. The ground was frozen solid, covered by snow with low cloud all around. Kate had decided to walk with me

because there would be no sticky mud in the fields today.

The bus was 10 minutes late, mainly due to the weather but we arrived at Market Bosworth just after 1005. A quick trip into the Late Shop to buy lunch and drinks and then on are way down Back Street. At the bottom is a T junction and the Round goes straight across over a stile to follow a footpath which skirts around the village to the right. This leads to a track which heads out towards Carlton. Along this track the snow began to fall quite heavily. Through the snow flakes I could see flags waving at me. What's going on? Then I realised that we were walking through a golf course.

At Carlton a left and right turn is made along the road before heading out towards Shackerstone across open fields. At 1130 we had arrived at Shackerstone station in heavy snow to find the station cafe closed! So off we walked down the track by the canal to the road. Suddenly we saw a fox walking across the field heading towards us; the fox came wandering towards the bridge where we sat. Ten metres from the bridge the fox stopped and stared at us for a moment, then swiftly turned tail and shot off across the field to disappear some distance away in a small copse.

After this excitement it was time to continue the walk. Before long a Green road is reached, this goes all the way to Odstone. Half way along this track the Ivanhoe Way joins the Round and they both share the same route to Bagworth.

We arrived at Nailstone in the snow at 1300, the bus was due at 1346 so to help the time go by we went into The Squirrel and Nut Pub to thaw out and have a drink; two pints of pedigree and one packet of crisps (living on a shoe string and buying lunch out is no joke, this is where I really could have done with Brian Gilletts cheque book)

We waited for the bus looking like two snowpersons as the snowflakes starts falling heavily. The bus was late but once on board the warm was like meeting along lost friend. Day 3: Nailstone to Newtown Linford 9 miles

Monday 6th December. Again due the recent bad weather the bus was late but once on board it was nice and warm and one could settle down for the long ride ahead to Nailstone.

The roads were more like an Olympic skating rink and it was difficult to walk up right on the thick solid smooth ice that covered the road. Although once the field was reached the walking became easier. Kate and I had walked this section of the Round to Bagworth back in April. Today it was a winter wonderland of snow, ice and clear blue sky, although very cold.

By 1120 we had reached Bagworth and easily found the continuation of the route by the church, which then passes through the graveyard, followed by open countryside and new plantations. This area use to be one of the coal mines but is now been given back to the natural environment.

We arrived at Thornton at 1200 and made it the lunch stop; we sat on a seat with views across the reservoir. Hot coffee and frozen sandwiches, what a combination! Ten minutes later we were on the move crossing the top end of the reservoir and then heading up the hill towards Markfield. By this time the sun was fully out but due to its declination this time of

year there was very little heat coming from its rays.

Markfield was reached by 1300 and with a quick stroll up the Main St and onto the Leicester road we turned down a path to pass under the main A50. From here the Round heads off to open fields with fine views of Bradgate Park. Then coming along the path towards us was a fox. We stopped; the fox kept coming towards us until it became aware of us. It then suddenly reared up and shot off at right angles to disappear into the undergrowth and trees.

It was not long before we were walking through John Lee wood and within a short time we were again crossing open fields to arrive at Netown Linford. The bus was due in 45 minutes time so off to the cafe for tea and toasted tea cakes, not shared but one each. (Brian's cheque book would had been useful here)

Day 4: Newtown Linford to Mountsorrel 8.5 miles

Tuesday 14th December. By this time the weather had turned mild, there was low cloud, not particular warm and the fields would be quite muddy, so Kate decided to stay at home. At 1050 I was walking along the road by the river in Bradgate Park heading towards the ruins of the house. The mist was down covering all the tops, it felt like walking inside an egg shell. The ruins of the house soon appeared out of the mist and this is where the Round turns from the road to head up into the back country and finally the Tower. Working my way up hill I was eventually greeted by the Tower as it loomed out of the mist. This was an amazing piece of navigation as I had left my compass back home. To play safe and to miss the crags on the way down to the top car park I 'aimed off' the path at right angles to pick up the main track leading to the car park. I was soon at the top car park heading towards Woodhouse Eaves.

At Woodhouse, a quick trip into the shop for a drink and choc bar. I had already purchased my lunch from Greggs in Coalville and with the bought breakfast I honestly could have done with Brian's cheque book.

After leaving the shop it was down the lane to begin walking through muddy fields towards Swithland reservoir. The reservoir was frozen, the wild fowl stood on the ice looking absolutely fed-up. At the corner of the reservoir by Craig Buddon, I stopped here for lunch. This crag in my experience is one of the best in Leicestershire. Back in the nineteen sixties as a young lad I had spent many hours climbing routes here. Without the use of friends and micro chocks, there were some very long and serious lead outs. (but what the hell, in those days we were all going to live forever!)

The Round continues along the reservoir road to meet the Quorn to Rothley road. From here another road and a bridle track leads into Mountsorrel. Then up to the war memorial, which is on a hill high above the village, giving excellent views over the Soar valley. This would be my next part of the Round but now it was a decent to The Green to where I would catch my buses back home. **Geoff K**

Rhydd Ddu Meet January

John B and Dave D

Circular Walk - Saturday 22nd January 2011 - Just north of Dinas Mawddwy

Parked at the public car park at the end of the road through Cwm Cywarch and set off at around 10am. Did the walk clockwise starting from Fawnog Fawr heading west up the zig zags towards Craig Cywarch. Very steep and hard going – especially due to a lazy Xmas and a few additional pounds.

Followed the fence up towards Glasgwm and had short lunch and a quick ice slide on the frozen Llyn y Fign. Head off down the steep northern slope (very slippery – bruises to prove it) and onwards towards the Aran Fawddwy ridge line. Clear skies and good views of Crib Goch and the Snowdon summit in the far distance to the north west.

After a good pull up towards the trig point at 907m, a quick retrace of our steps towards Aran Fawddwy, under the crags through Drws Bach and around the ridge to Drysgol before heading up through the bogs towards Pen yr Allt Uchaf and a summit of 616m.

A very steep descent down towards the car finished a good day out at around 5pm. Around 9 miles at a gentle stroll and approx 4600 ft of ascent.

Dave D

Saturday 22nd January 2011
Sentries Ridge ***3, Mynydd Mawr
Mark T, Steve P

Climbed in 7 pitches. An excellent route up an exposed ridge line. Some steep parts and a few tricky moves combined with very loose, shattered rock made this feel much more like a climb than a scramble. Well worth 3 stars!

Steve P

SAGA LOUTS OUT and ABOUT

A seven mile walk starting from outside The Brewery Tap at Ridge Lane on the Nuneaton side of the A5. Being in that delightful cold spell just before Christmas, the walking was easy on the snow and frost covered



Ray

ground.

A stop for coffee and sarnies was made at Hoar Park Farm where there is a set of crafty shops and a kiddies farm. Farm diversification Nigel. Set off again back to the Brewery Tap which being a weekday was closed **Ted**

Friday 21st January 2011.

On arrival in Rhyd-Ddu, we (Brian K, Pete H, Steve P & Myself) immediately set off from arriving at the hut towards Mynydd Mawr – 698M.

Mynydd Mawr (Welsh for *big mountain*) is situated approximately 7 km west of Snowdon and is a northern outlier of the Moel Hebog group overlooking Llyn Cwellyn . A popular ascent

starts from Rhyd Ddu, heading down the road towards the bridge at the Llyn inflow, turning left through a gate 'Don't Feed The Bears' into the entrance for the campsite before turning left through a gate and ascending to the forest.

A short and pleasant walk through the trees brings you out to a ladder stile and the open views across to Craig Y Bera (where Saturday's adventure would take place). A steep walk pulls you onto Foel Rudd then a gentle walk along the top edge of Craig Y Bera took us to the summit.

Time for lunch at the summit cairn, in crystal clear cold blue skies with grand views all around.

To the south a great aspect of Nantle Ridge, to the East the Snowdon escarpment and to the North a rolling bank of sea mist, that failed to break land. Return route almost retraced our steps, but took in the biggest challenge of all 'The Pub'.

Locally the hill is also known as "Elephant Mountain".

Saturday 22nd January 2011
Sentries Ridge ***3, Mynydd Mawr
Steve P & Myself.

We headed out toward Mynedd Mawr again! This time via Sentries Ridge & Continuation.

Yet again superb weather for Jan, especially on a south facing ridge with no wind - Warm :) Steve took the first Pitch of 7 in a 300 Mtr Scramble / Climb.

Second pitch I took lead & for me a bold move with a fist jam, small mantle shelf before reaching safe ground back on the crest of the ridge line. Steve took pitches 3 & 4 which was a choshy affair over loose friable rock & dodgy placement; with a good hanging drop from a pinnacle onto a 2ft sq landing (glad Steve took this lead). Next was a garden climb up a heather gully, which deceptively needed gear placement for safety & peace of mind.

Continuation followed, my second pitch. This looked easy! But the exposure!!!! Was amazing especially as it took a 30 Mtr run out from the last protection (all on very good holds). The adventure culminated with Steve leading the last 2 pitches (My Shattered Nerves) A great day. We retraced our decent from the previous day & curiously enough the pub was visited again.

Interestingly the route is named in two different guides, one from Bob Allen & another from Steve Ashton, both these however put the route in very different locations. Bob Allen describes the route starting on the far side (West) of a prominent buttress and calls it a walk & Steve Ashton states it as starting on the near side (east) of the buttress and gives it a Grade 3(***) scramble, also both topographs are different.

Sunday 23rd January 2011

Cnicht 689m

5.7 miles

Brian K, Pete H, Roger, Mark T, Steve P

Today was an ascent of 'The Welsh Matterhorn' (if viewed from a north easterly direction).

The start was from the car park at Gelli-Lago quarry. Not wanting to be traditional, we reversed the normal route direction.

Due to the good weather, conversation and complete lack of concentration we ended up missing the right turn that should have brought us out at Llyn yr Adar and ended up at Llynau'r Cwm. A quick map check and off we set, picking up the summit ridge from an easterly direction.

After reaching Cnicht's windy summit and taking in the 360 Degree views, we down scrambled the steep section of the route to reach the path back to the van in the quarry car park.

Another fine day over and the end of another great HMC weekend.

Must just say again thanks to Ed & Sue for the Meal & those who helped prepare & tidy up afterwards. **Mark T**



Glencoe



Roger at the top of the Lost Valley boulder field



Kim, Vanessa and their children picnic in the Lost Valley



Unknown walkers climb a deer fence



One of the Glencoe Cottages

Over the Garden Wall

from the Gutter Press

did you hear about the pub that ran out of beer during the a beer festival, well three days after HMC arrived in Glencoe, The Clachaig Hotel ran dry apart from a barrel of ‘heavy’ which it seems was only drunk by Brian K. Normal service was however resumed the following night.



Chairman Dave with an empty glass in the pub with no beer

Dear deer

Sadly the portions of venison at the Clachaig seems to have grown smaller and more expensive (£11.00) since last year. Brian K and Ted tried out the Kingshouse on Rannoch Moor, a bit of a drive, but the venison there was only £8 and a larger portion, sadly you get out for nowt and the only draught beer there were two varieties of ‘heavy’. Back to the now fully stocked Clachaig for beer.



Frozen eyebrow
A snap by Julie



MIDGE ALERT

The Scottish Midge forecast forecasts an 800 times increase in midges this summer due to the cold weather. Apparently the snow before Christmas insulated the midge larvae from frost and so not killing them off.

Be warned.



A ruthless mask for an anonymous member at the dinner following the Christmas Pud Walk

CAMERA, a good beer guide by Ted.

Clachaig and Kingshouse already mentioned but locally, The Barn at Upton has usually a couple of draught beers, and good food and not expensive. Not always open on a Monday. The Brewery Tap at Ridge brews its own beer and only open Fri, Sat and Sunday....but has taken over the George and Dragon at Stoke Golding. It will be checked out. The Bulls Head in Repton, good food and food, where we had Christmas Pud Walk dinner. All have footpaths nearby.

Know a good pub with good beer near a walk let this column know.



Birthday boy Rich celebrates his *? Birthday at the Brewery Tap with members of HMC

After missing the unusually good early-season ice in December due to work and family commitments and with a big thaw forecast for Monday 10th, when Barra called me on Saturday 8th to say he was going to North Wales in the morning to take Stacey on her first winter climb, I jumped at the chance to go along. At 5:30 the next morning as I left my family (warm and asleep) to go and scrape the ice off the car, I wasn't so sure I had made the right choice but our early start was rewarded by clear roads and well before 9:00 we had met up with Ewan at Idwal Cottage.

It was quite warm, a couple of degrees above freezing so, based on the weather forecast and reports on UKC, we decided to go high up in Cwm Cneifon. Just after going through the gate to Llyn Idwal, we made a rising traverse over unfrozen and often slippery ground, below the end of the Gribbin Ridge towards the Cwm. Despite a bit of a breeze, it was warm work and Stacey - who had been taking no chances with the winter cold - was soon down to only five or six layers.

Once in the Cwm, as often happens it all changed - the ground was frozen and the snow had turned to rock hard neve. There were also quite a few other people carrying ice axes.

We geared up and whilst Stacey took the opportunity of the hard neve slopes to practice walking in crampons for the first time, Ewan and I carried on to the foot of Tower Slabs, a grade II/III (Stacey seemed to have gained the impression it was grade I) ice fall at the head of the Cwm.

Tower Slabs usually forms with a short and quite broad main ice fall on the right, narrower one just left of that and sometimes an even thinner one further left. They are all about about the same grade (at the easy end of grade 3) and height (around 10 m) before the angle eases off. There was already a party on the main start so we headed round the corner for the alternative start and Ewan gave me the first (and really the only significant) pitch.

It was the first time I had climbed leashes (though with a Black Diamond spinner in case I dropped an axe) and it was a revelation; so much less faff when placing gear and so much more natural. I'd worried that it would feel less secure but actually with the fear of getting caught up in the leashes gone and the ability to shake out whenever I wanted, that was not the case.

After the first steepish bit with excellent plastic ice, the angle eased, but (as is often the case) the ice got much worse and began dinner plating quite badly. After a short section for which I'm sure Ewan was glad to be out of the fall-line as I bashed away to get decent placements, I was on easy angled neve and I ran out the rest of the rope length to a block belay above the main start. Ewan quickly joined me and carried on for another rope length before we un-roped for the easy ground to the top.

When the others joined us we enjoyed our lunch in the shelter of a rock and then carried on over the top of Glyder Fawr before descending the steep slope to Llyn y Cwm. With rock hard neve this was not really a good place for a first day using crampons but Stacey managed admirably and we were soon taking crampons off for the rocky path down through the Devil's Kitchen. Inevitably, after a few meters of rocky path, we had to cross a patch of hard packed snow before the final rocky steps down to the path beneath the cliffs. None of the ice routes were anything like in condition;

we saw a big icicle fall from the Curtain as we passed by and the Idwal Stream was, well, stream but we spent a lot of time looking up at where the routes should be and dreaming of better conditions.

Back at the car park, I was so glad that I'd made the effort of an early start and been rewarded with an excellent climbing and mountain day with good company. Next morning, the forecast thaw took hold and sent most of the remaining snow and ice flowing down hill to the sea. Now, three weeks later, I just hope that day marked the beginning and not the end of the winter climbing season.

Nathan



Pic by Nathan

MY FIRST ICE CLIMB

Thanks goes to Sarah, boots are brill, cosy warm feet and pain free for around 6 hours, then the usual ache started to settle in.

Anyway:
Sunday 10th January 2011
Barra, Stacey, Nathan and Ewan.

Cwm Cneifion

Tower Slabs II/III * Barra led, I seconded.

I loved the ice but hated the approach and the descent, apparently I might enjoy it more if I was more hill fit!!

Stacey

Christmas Pudding Walk



John and Stuart find the way out of the car park
Below, Steph shows she has style and leads the way



Passing Foremark church

Led by the intrepid John T and Stuart more than 20 members left the car park of the Bulls Head in Repton for a five mile ramble to work off the excesses of the festive season.

The previous weeks snow was now melting but there were enough few patches of snow and ice to give a winter feel to the walk. After a couple of miles a stop was made for "breakfast part 2" in a small copse before continuing the rest of the circular trip arriving back at the pub car park. A quick change of boots and into the bar for a well earned pint or two. And good beer it was. Dinner in the large well heated marquee at the rear of the pub was excellent followed by some more beer. Well done John and Stuart.

Ted

The view from t'up North

January 11 various dates.

We are continuing to enjoy some modest local walks in and around Masham. A particular favourite is the route over the golf course and across Roomer Common-which recently was smothered with locals armed with shot guns. It was a little anxiety provoking as a mortally wounded pheasant hit the deck about 10metres away and later when it seemed to be raining lead shot on to the trees above our heads. But we trudged on and down into Hackfall woods. The view from up here is splendid, taking in a broad sweep of the River Ure with the Hambleton Hills in the background. The final stretch then follows the river back to its confluence with the River Burn and so into Masham. If you can return to Masham before 4.30pm (as we did) then so much the better because you can refresh yourself in the Black Bull in Paradise-the aptly named Theakston brewery tap!

On another Saturday we started at Kettlewell, just up Coverdale and over into Wharfedale and trod the ancient Cam Road up onto the high ground below Buckden Pike dropping down into Starbotton. Uncharacteristically passing by the Fox and Hounds without sampling its wares we crossed the Wharfe and climbed the fellside before walking back to Kettlewell.

The route from West Scafton past Swineside and down to Horsehouse is a pleasant afternoon stroll-particularly if the delightfully unspoilt Thwaite Arms has opened its doors. Horsehouse is an ancient settlement in this most remote of dales and was once surprisingly a major stop off on the coach route to York. It boasted 3 pubs! It is amazing that one still makes a living.

Modest routes and no real training for Glencoe!
We need to get active.

Dave T



After dinner at the Bulls Head, Repton, Jane, Sue and Kate get a surprise as they look at a special Presidents edition of Outside Now showing the real winning picture of the photo comp.

Hinckley Mountaineering Club

Affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council



Holywell Inn
London Road
Hinckley

Every Thursday 9.00pm

hinckleymountaineering@hotmail.com
www.hinckleymc.org

Go to the web site to check the Forum

OUTSIDENOW! contributions to
tedcottrell@mac.com

Meets

In addition to the monthly meets, There are a range of activities including climbing, walking and mountain biking, all arranged on an ad-hoc basis at the Holywell Pub on Thursday evenings or on the club Forum. And don't forget the "Saga Louts" for midweek walking. To book a hut, contact Ed on 01455 274174 and pay a deposit of £5.

Huts

Unless told otherwise, you will need a sleeping bag and food for the weekend and your kit. All huts and hostels have cooking facilities although some members use the local hostelry. All huts have showers with the exception of one, are heated and where possible, ladies have a room to themselves.

Please note that most of the properties are mountaineering club huts and not Holiday Cottages. Some are suitable for family groups, some are not. Check with Ed on this one.

Be Green.. try and share cars, again check with Ed to see who is going.

And don't forget the earplugs...or an iPod

Kit.

If you need to borrow kit, the club has some harnesses, crampons, ice axes and helmets. Members of this club are renowned for hanging on to kit, sacs, waterproofs and even boots. Ask!

Climbing

Climbing takes place most Tuesday evenings at the wall at Warwick: Thursdays evenings at The Tower, Beaumont Leys, and at other times at Red Point, Creation etc and on real rock if the weather allows.

Check the forum for details



Dave T, Pete H, Julie, Dave D and Brian K on the summit of Buachaille Etive Mor

HUT MEETS

140 Hinckley Road

Stoney Stanton

Leics LE9 4LN

Email: inedwards@hotmail.com

Tel: 01455 274174

April 1/2/3 Seathwaite Lakes www.k-fellarers.homecall.co.uk

High House is situated at the head of the popular valley of Borrowdale in the Lake District. It offers a high standard of bunkhouse selfcatering accommodation, and is considered to be one of the best in the Lakes. It is a converted stone built 16/17C farmhouse in its own grounds, with car access and parking.

NOTE: Three nights for the price of two. We have secured an extra night (Sun). Sleeps 25

Apr 29/30 & May 1 Bank Hol Nant Gwynant N Wales

As usual, Pete's hut in the Gwynant valley provides a spectacular setting for a spring meet, with easy access to both climbing and walking areas. N.B. Additional bank-hol (avoid that wedding and have a long w/e!) Sleeps 14

May 13-15 Family camping weekend at Stange

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/northlees.

Secluded little site, just a 20 minute walk away from Hathersage, and ideal for both walkers and climbers. This tents only campsite occupies a sloping grassy site near North Lees Hall, Hathersage. Although a few pitches can be parked alongside, most cars have to be left some distance from the tents.

Excellent weekend for anyone wishing to try out some climbing, with Stange Edge just a short stroll.

May 29 – Jun 5 Torridon NW Highlands www.bendamph.com

Situated at the old township of Badan Mhugaidh and completed in 1992, the Ben Damph New Lodge is a hand-crafted construction made entirely of 100 year-old Scots pine, Douglas fir and European larch. From the terrace one can see the entire sweep of Loch Torridon with Ben Alligin behind. More climbing and walking than you can handle! A £50 deposit required on booking, balance due at the end of April. Sleeps 12

Jun 17/19 Coniston, Lakes www.theymc.org.uk

The Hut is of Lakeland stone construction and is part of a row of what were miners bunkhouses, situated overlooking the Coppermines Valley and below The Old Man. The Black Bull is a twenty-minute walk. Sleeps 20

July 9 onwards: Chamonix

Chamonix Chalet. We have some interest in going to Chamonix Sat 9 July for two or three weeks. If you are interested, please contact Ed ASAP so that he can decide whether it's a goer! Sleeps 10/12

Aug 5/6 Roaches, Peak www.mountain-house.co.uk

According to the BMC website: "The best located climbing hut in the Universe – probably"

The cottage sleeps a maximum of 12 people, in 2 first floor rooms reached by a spiral staircase. The 2 bunkrooms sleep 4 and 8 people respectively on "alpine style" bunks with mattresses. What is now the kitchen area of the hut was the original cave where Bess Bowyer lived into the 1800's!

A splendid location, with climbing and walking literally from the door. Pub down in the village.

(BBQ at the hut Sat night, weather permitting). Sleeps 12

Aug Bank Hol 26/27/28 Stair Lakes www.fyldemountaineeringclub

Stair Cottage, situated in the Newlands Valley near Keswick was built by the FMC in 1969. The hut has accommodation for up to 21 people (dorms of 6, 7 and 8) and ample parking. In addition to the Bank holiday dates, we have the opportunity to book extra nights either side, but I need to know well in advance if you are interested. The Swinside Inn is but a five-minute walk. Sleeps 21

Sep 16/18 Nant Gwynant N Wales

As requested, a family specific weekend, again using Pete's hut but with additional camping spaces available at the hut. Possible BBQ on the Sat night. All welcome. Excellent area for walking & climbing. Pub in Bedgelert.

Oct 14/16 Presidents Meet Ingleton www.pine-croft.co.uk

After a very successful trip in 2010, we're going back to this excellent venue.

The local area offers a range of spectacular natural wonders, modern amenities and magnificent scenery including the famous Three Peaks of Ingleborough, Pen y ghent and Wharfedale.

Local pubs and a climbing wall if it rains. Sleeps 48 plus additional accommodation in timber lodges (these should be booked independently).