

OCTOBER 2008

EDINBURGH JMCS CLUB MEETS REPORT

Winter 2007/08

The winter meets were very well attended with additional places arranged for three meets to accommodate demand. The weather contained all the constituents required to make a good Scottish winter season (although not always all at the same time!).

Kinlochleven 7th to 9th December

Gill, Robert, Terry, Sue, Bryan, Charles, Archie & Archie (guest).



Archie on Sgur Eide Mor

Great start to winter with most members attempting various Munros and Corberts in the Mamores and surrounding area. Others climbed in more stable conditions at the Ice Factor. Learning point from this weekend - best not to rely on the local chip shop being open for tea!

Muir of Inverey, Deeside 18th to 20th January

Dave, Ruth, Stewart, Thomas, Gill, Robert, Bryan, Sue, Charles.



Glen Ey

Great climbing conditions this weekend if a fair bit of fresh snow. There was a lot of interest in the meet and several additional places were booked at Inverey resulting in another good turnout. Over the weekend climbs on Sunset Buttress III*** and Shadow Buttress A IV,5*** on Lochnager, and Stuic Buttress I*** on Carn, a' Choire Bheidheach as well as walks up Carn an-t-Sagairt Mor and hills round Glen Ey.

CIC, Ben Nevis 15th to 17th February

Stewart, Thomas, Dave, David, Ruth, Richard, Francis & Patrick.

More great climbing conditions and a high pressure rolling in meant a wonderful weekend on the Ben. Routes ascended included Comb Gully IV, 4***, Ledge Route II**, Gorillas in the Mist - Little Brenva Face, Good Friday Climb III*** and Final Buttress III.



Approaching Good Friday Climb



Good Friday Climb



After Good Friday Climb



CIC kitchen before renovation

Inver Croft House, Achnasheen 29th February to 2nd March

Dave, Patrick, Gill, Robert, Eddie, Ruth, Sue, Bryan & Charles.

We arrived at the hut in vast amounts of rain and a full on gale. One member summed up the “5 minute approach” across the duck boards to the hut as harder than the 2 hour walk in to the CIC meet on the dark on the previous meet! It was quite a relief to arrive at the hut and the efforts those arriving earlier to get the gas lamps and log fire going were very much appreciated. The hut is in a remote location and emerging next day to the snow topped surrounding hills made the trials of the previous night worth all that effort. Plans gradually materialised with ascents of Moruisg and Sgur nan Ceannaichean over the remainder of the weekend and a cosy Saturday night in the hut.



Footbridge across Loch Gowan to the hut



Moruisg

Smiddy, Dundonnell 14th to 16th March

Helen, John, Ruth, Graeme (guest), Sue & Charles.

The weather was very pleasant and settled with spring sunshine and clear spells. On Saturday Helen and John headed for An Teallach but found soft, snowy conditions in the corries that required a good freeze for any worthwhile climbing. Ruth and Graeme climbed The Silken Ladder III on Beinn Dearg but found snow conditions very soft too. Charles and Sue made a trip to the south facing Glass Crag to clip some bolts in the sun. On Sunday Ruth and Graham headed for the Northern Corries, while the others climbed on Loch Tollie crag.

Overall a great weekend at the Smiddy, which really is looking lovely these days. One of the highlights was the taking in of a very weak orphaned kid goat found by the roadside near the hut. Before we headed home, it was great to see her adopted by another goat in the herd. There's not much that diverts some members' attention from climbing but this little character certainly did! So.....if you're up at the Smiddy and a goat with a slight limp appears on the doorstep, say 'hi'..... that's her!



Beinn Dearg



Loch Tolly Crag

Summer Meets 2008

The weather was not always in our favour (to put it mildly) and a few meets even coincided with severe weather warnings! That said we had some fantastic meets with lots of members coming along.

Buttermere, Lake District 25th to 27th April

The considerable interest in the first meet of the summer season disappeared away with the forecast of rain all weekend. Note the word *forecast* as, in the event, the weather (as seen from the indoor wall at Ratho) was actually quite nice.

Kyloe, Northumberland 3rd May

Linda, David, Ruth, Bryan, Sue, Charles, Francis & Patrick.

Great climbing on a lovely spring day in Northumberland. Stopped off at The Bridgend Hotel in East Linton for a pint or two on the way home.



Kyloe Crag

Inbhirfhaolain, Glen Etive 16th to 18th May

Chris & Frederike.

Fred and Chris enjoyed hill walking in the fine weather – although a bit chilly for rock climbing.

Arran 27th to 29th June

In keeping with tradition it rained all weekend on the weekend of the JMCS camping meet!

Glen Brittle Hut & Talisker, Skye 18th to 21st July

Eddie, Liz, Ruth, Bryan, Sue, Charles, Gillian (guest), Mike, Archie & Susie (guest).

Over the course of the meet the weather was generally dry, although with a fairly stiff NW wind. Several trips were made by Susie and Archie up into various corries of the Cuillin. On the Saturday Eddie, Liz, Mike, Gillian, Charles and Sue visited the Flodigarry Sea cliffs. Bryan and Ruth climbed at Kilt Rock and at the Flodigarry Sea Cliffs later in the weekend. Flodigarry is a great alternative to the Cuillin if the weather is not good in the hills, with routes of 40m plus and a fun sea stack. Bryan and Ruth climbed Spantastic HVS* described in the guide as “perhaps the only route in the country which attracts a weight limit” due to the suspect pillar at its base. The crags of Glen Nevis proved popular with a couple of parties on the road home.

You may have read Mike’s emails about his and Gillian’s accident at Flodigarry on the Saturday. Mike asked me to include a note of thanks to all who helped, your help is very much appreciated by Mike and Gillian. Glad to hear they are both ok and Mike’s foot is well on the mend.



Kilt Rock



Flodigarry climbing on the sea stack with Spantastic in the background

Lagangarbh, Glen Coe 15th to 17th August

Forecast was pretty awful and despite some interest at the start of the week, the thought of damp rock didn't appeal come the weekend.

Great Wanney, Northumberland 6th September

A severe weather warning was issued for Northumberland on the day of the meet. At this stage I was beginning to wonder if we would ever see dry rock again this year!

Smiddy, Dundonnell 12th to 15th September

Helen & John.

The NW had been one of the few places in Scotland to have drier than usual weather this summer, apparently the previous weekend the weather had been glorious (isn't that just so annoying!). Report received from John:

"A fine weekend greatly savoured to the full by those who attended. Saturday morning it is admitted was a little misty and we headed for Poolewe to be midged off our chosen crag good and pronto. And so we headed for the coast and walked to the wreck site of the William H Walsh - a liberty ship lost in WW2 with a poignant story of loss and survival. Rusting lifeboats,

sadly unused are all that remain. Not climbing I know but worth a trip for a short day if you are in the area.

Sunday had been given over to surveying the hut site in connection with the lease extension and this was duly accomplished. However determined to get in a route we headed in the afternoon for a few hours on the coastal slabs at Opinan near Laide - pleasant enough climbing in a stunning setting with the hills of the North West lined up along the coast, a whale we think sporting in the distance and a sea-eagle overhead. It's always worth going to the North-West."

John & Helen

R.O. Downes Hut and Hathersage, Peak District 26th to 29th September

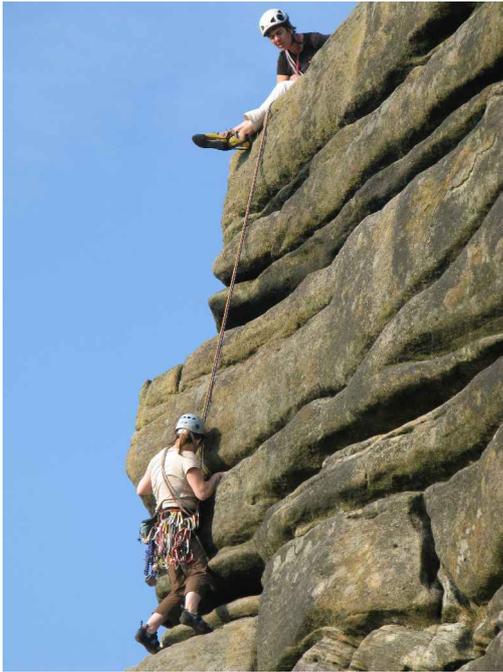
Dave, Sandy, Dave, Pat, Sally, Ruth, Rachel, Brian, Terry, Bryan, Sue & Charles.



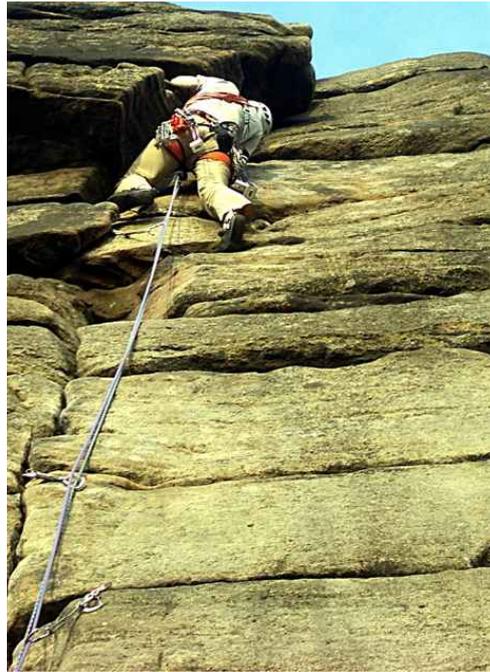
Stanage

Members travelled to the Peak District over the course of Thursday evening to Friday night and stayed for varying numbers of days up until the Monday evening. Over the course of the weekend members climbed at the major Peak District venues including Froggatt, Stanage, Lawrencefield and Birchen Edge and between them climbed over 50 three-star routes. Saturday was gloriously warm and sunny with bright blue skies. Stanage looked stunning: over 5 miles long and thousands of routes and, to quote one member, *"is the best rock in the world!"*

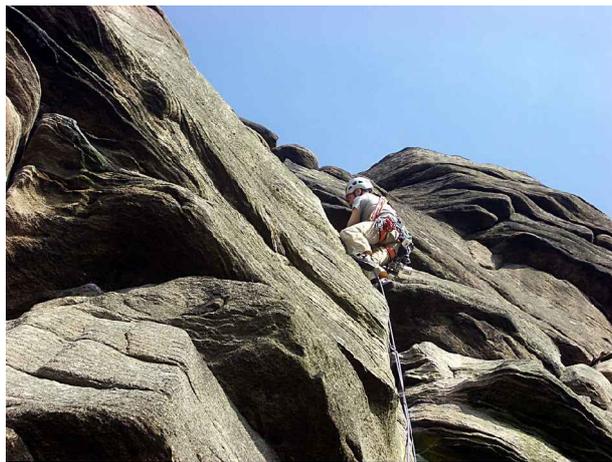
So, of the 1000's of routes at Stanage alone, the club ascended only a tiny percentage of them over the course of the meet. Just some of the most memorable routes climbed were: - Flying Buttress VD***, Flying Buttress Direct E1 5b***, Mississippi Buttress Direct VS4c***, Congo Corner HVS5b***, Hargreaves' Original Route VS4c***, Christmas Crack HS4a***, Heaven Crack VD***, Holly Bush Crack VD***, October Slab HS4b**, Martello Buttress VS4c**, Twisting Crack S4a*** and many many more. Despite the list going on and on this has left plenty for a return visit sometime.



Christmas Crack



Martello Buttress



Mississippi Buttress Direct

Mountain Bike Meet, Lowther Hills, Southern Uplands 25th October

A severe weather warning (sounds familiar!) was issued for the area and day of this meet. Cycling in severe gale force winds and lashing rain did not appeal to even our hardest bikers! The meet was deferred to a later date. Thanks to Charlie for organising this meet, hopefully better weather next time.

And finally.....

Many thanks to all those who came on the meets and made them such fun. Thanks also to Bryan, Charles and Richard for providing photos and to John for his report of the Smiddy meet. Look forward to seeing you at the coming meets.

Susan
