



Winter 2008/09

The winter meets were well attended with the main activity being winter hill walking.

Inbhirfhaolain, Glen Etive 12th to 14th December

Gill, Robert, Chris, Fred, Susan, Charles.



Heading up to Stob Coire Sgreamhach
with the Sron na Larig Ridge in profile

Suitably early winter season conditions provided a great start to the winter meets programme. On Saturday Gill and Robert ascended Ben Starav while Chris, Fred, Charles and Sue ascended the hut's nearest Munro, Stob Coire Sgreamhach. On Sunday Gill and Robert climbed Dorsal Arete in Stob Coire nan Lochan and Charles and Sue climbed at the Ice Factor.

Muir Cottage, Inverey, Deeside 16th to 18th January

Dave, Bryan, Gill, Robert, Eddie, Ruth.



Looking back from start of the final ascent to the summit of Cam Bhac

This meet saw more good weather for winter hill walking. Members ascended a number of Corbetts and Munros over the course of the weekend including Carn Bhac in Glen Ey and Monamenach.

Lagangarbh, Glen Coe 20th to 22nd February

Stuart, Ruth, Gill, Robert, Eddie, Liz.

Meet report received from Robert:

“In spite of the dismal weather forecast 5 people made it to the Lagangarbh hut on Friday night, the rain starting just as we reached Glencoe. Saturday dawned damp and windy. Stuart and Ruth headed round to Kinlochleven and the Ice Factor. Liz came up for the day and she and Eddie climbed the north top of Buachaille Etive Beag, giving the south top a miss due to the strong winds. Gill and Robert climbed Beinn a’Chrulaiste, with fleeting views of Buachaille Etive Mor through gaps in the cloud. On Sunday Stuart, Ruth Eddie, Gill and Robert climbed Beinn Iaruinn in Glen Roy. The weather was better than Saturday, with the cloud only just skimming the summit, and occasional patches of sun breaking through. A short rock scramble added interest to the ascent. A steep descent further round the corrie lead back to the road.”

Ling Hut, Torridon 13th to 15th March

Eddie, Ruth, Richard.

Weather forecast and climbing conditions for this meet were pretty wild with the result that the considerable interest in the meet waned as the weekend drew close. Never the less, three hardy souls made their way up to Ling. The forecast proved correct with gale force winds and driving rain. Members tried very hard to climb various hills in Torridon. Conditions were reported as: *“Atrocious with the only thing making any progress in an upward direction being the spray from the many torrential waterfalls!”* All in all though, great character building stuff, and a good sociable weekend was enjoyed by all.

The Cabin, Laggan 10th to 13th April

Chris, Fred.

The club’s new hut was still very much a building site at the time of this meet. That said Chris and Fred took advantage of the limited space available and enjoyed the hut’s first meet. So impressed with the venue, they stayed for nearly a week thoroughly enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the hut and, in addition to having a lovely time, some much needed chores and repairs were also carried out.

Summer 2009

The summer meets were very well attended, with several having great weather and climbing conditions.

Birkness, Buttermere, Lake District 24th to 26th April

Chris, Fred, Brian, Susan.



Buttermere with Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks

With drier weather forecast in the east, Brian and Sue climbed a few sunny routes at Bowden Doors on Saturday before heading down to Buttermere. Chris and Fred had a tougher time in Buttermere and, to quote Chris: *“Struggled up the first two pitches of Gradus Wall on Striddle Crag before escaping off in a thunderstorm!”* On

Sunday there was some sunshine but a bitterly cold wind on the tops. Chris and Fred walked to Scale Force and then up Red Pick, returning along the ridge via High Stile and High Crag. Brian and Sue, again opting for the fairest weather option, climbed in the sheltered Brown Slabs area of neighbouring Borrowdale.

Bowden Doors/Kyloe Crag, Northumberland 9th May

Ruth, Jo, Bryan, Susan, Charles, David, Richard.



Oversight



Meeny

This meet started off at Bowden Doors with some members climbing a few routes there. However, due to a strong westerly wind the meet relocated to the shelter of Kyloe. Great start to the season with routes climbed at both crags. The Linton Hotel at East Linton provided the venue for a few beers on the way home.

The Smiddy, Dundonnell 22nd to 25th May

Unfortunately despite some great plans, the weather had other ideas and members decided not to travel to The Smiddy this time.

Traprain Law, East Lothian 6th June

David, Alan, Brian, Ruairidh, Roy, Bryan, Ruth, Jo, Patrick, Bob, Susan, Charles.



Great Corner



Overhang Wall

The idea for this meet was to enjoy this south facing crag in daytime sunshine rather than the usual mid-week evening shade. We didn't quite find wall-to-wall sunshine as planned but there was a great turnout with just about all the routes on Overhang Wall and a few others climbed at some point during the day. According to tradition, members then retired to the local pub at East Linton.

The Cabin, Laggan 26th to 28th June

Chris, Fred.

Hut refurbishment was still in progress. Chris and Fred again visited the hut combining chores with the pleasure of staying at a by-now much loved venue.

Lammermuir Hills, Mountain Bike Meet 7th July (evening)

David, Brian, Chris, Fred, Helen, John, Stuart, Sonja, Rachel, John (guest), Ruth, Simon, Charles.



Members and their steeds on the summit of Lammer Law

Departing from the village square at Gifford, everyone ascended Lammer Law (527m) by a route using a combination of hill tracks, and B and C class roads in 2 hours. From the summit of Lammer Law the descent back to the Goblin Ha pub took a mere 30 minutes! This 12 mile circuit was the first mid week mountain bike meet and from all accounts was much enjoyed.

Lagangarbh, Glen Coe 10th to 12th July

Eddie, Susan, Ruth, Simon, Bryan.



Raven's Edge viewed from Slime Wall



Lagangarbh and The Buachaille at its best

This meet was blessed with sunshine and dry rock. Eddie and Sue climbed Red Slab VS* on Rannoch Wall on Friday afternoon. On Saturday Eddie and Sue took the opportunity of dry conditions on Cuneiform Buttress to climb the stunning Raven's Edge VS** while Bryan and Ruth climbed Bludger's Revelation HVS**** on the atmospheric Slime Wall. Simon continued to notch up his Corbetts ascending Beinn Iaruinn in Glen Roy, and the two Carn Deargs either side of Gleann Eachach. On Sunday, with cloud almost down to hut level and the Buachaille all but disappeared from view, members happily headed home after experiencing climbing conditions in Glen Coe at, what must have been, just about their best.



Great routes of the day discussed under Slime Wall

Raw Head, Langdale, Lake District 7th to 9th August

Linda, David, Robert, Bob, Tim, Eddie, Susan, Ruth, Bryan, Simon.



Approach to Gimmer Crag

On Saturday members headed up to Langdale's fine Gimmer Crag. Bryan and Ruth climbed The Crack VS*** and North West Arete VS***; Robert, Bob and Tim climbed Bracket and Slab Climb S*** including some of

the optional strenuous chimney pitch (described in the guide as: *"Best suited to thin masochists!"*). David and Linda climbed 'B' Route S***, Asterisk MVS*** and F Route VS***; Eddie and Sue climbed Asterisk MVS*** and F Route VS***.

Simon also visited Gimmer and after stopping by, ventured further afield enjoying other classic Lakeland Fells. He covered a fair bit of ground:- Pavey Arc via Jack's Rake, Harrison Stickle, Pike of Stickle, Gimmer Crag, Thunacar Knott, High Raise (762m), Sergeant Man and Blea Rigg.



Via Media, Castle Rock

On Sunday with the weather overcast at Langdale, 7 members headed northwards climbing in sunshine at Castle Rock of Triermain. Simon popped up Hart Fell (Corbett) on his way home.

Tan yr Wyddfa, Rhyd Ddu, Snowdonia, North Wales 4th to 7th September

Ruth, Bryan, Sally (JMCS and Oreads), Tim (Oreads), Simon (Oreads).



Crackstone Rib



Snowdon in the distance with Crib Coch on the right

A joint JMCS and Oreads meet to celebrate the new reciprocal hut booking arrangements between the two clubs. There was lots of interest in the meet which reduced with the forecast of rain all weekend. Some members from both clubs made the trip to North Wales though, and with the weather not as bad as forecast, climbed some great routes over the weekend. Highlights were Grim Wall Direct E1* (*“A very good climb despite the name.”* – Bryan), various other routes at Tremadog and Crackstone Rib S*** (in the damp) at Llanberis. All had a jolly evening in the hut which is recommended as: *“A very good hut well placed for Tremadog and Llanberis, and not bad for Gogarth.”*

Kirrie Hill, Kirriemuir 4th October

Brian, Brian, Alex (guest), Bob, Bryan, Susan, Ann-Marie (guest), Susan, Charles, Jane, Stuart.



The Bay area



The Mound

Main Wall area – a pause before another 6b+!

With the meet re-scheduled to the Sunday to avoid the cold and wet weather forecast for the Saturday, we enjoyed bolt clipping in the warm autumn sunshine at this great sports climbing venue. Routes from grade 4+ through to 6c were climbed from late morning to early evening. Stuart also provided an interesting and educational demo of the use and benefits of a 'clip stick' (not used in anger at this crag but useful particularly when the first bolt on a route is many metres away).

Lowther Hills, Southern Uplands, Mountain Bike Meet 24th October

David, Chris, Fred, Rachel, John (guest), Bryan, Charles, Richard.



Crossing the Mennock Water at Routin Linn

It was a blustery and wet autumn day that saw the eight mountain bikers complete this 22 mile circuit through the Lowther Hills. The route left the hill tracks behind as it crossed the Mennock Water at Routin Linn where the 6 mile climb up the Mennock Pass then commenced back to Wanlockhead. Here, a lunch of hot soup warmed the bikers after their 4 hours in the saddle.

And to close

It's been a great year of climbing, hill walking, mountain biking and getting together afterwards in the local pub/hut. We've had some great turnouts on the meets, many thanks to all who came along and making them such fun. Thanks also to Bryan, Charles, Chris and David for providing photos and to Robert for his report on the February Glen Coe meet. Look forward to seeing you on the coming meets.

Susan

Meets Organiser, Edinburgh JMCS.