



EDINBURGH JMCS CLUB MEETS REPORT

November 2011

Winter 2010/11

Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven 10th to 12th December



Crux corner on Moonshadow, Stob Coire nan Lochan.

Bruce, David, Alan, guest.

Cold weather welcomed the first winter meet of the season. Alan provided this account of one of his days out over the weekend.

“On Sunday we went up Boomerang Gully (solo) and over onto Bidian nam Bian, (stunning views, calm & sunny), then down the Lost Valley path, which was very icy in places above the upper gorge.”

Monday Alan and his guest headed for Meall a' Bhuiridh, by crossing below Stob a' Ghlais Choire. Hoping to cross the

gorge higher up, but hampered by it becoming ever-deeper, they cramponed up steep slopes to reach the summit of Meall a' Bhuiridh where they again enjoyed calm conditions and a great outlook. In Stob Coire nan Lochan on the Saturday, David and Bruce climb Moonshadow IV, 5*** via the 1st pitch of Twisting Gully (left fork) as the normal 1st pitch, Twisting Gully (right fork), wasn't in condition.

The Cabin, Laggan 31st December to 3rd January

Christmas and New Year brought much wanted cold weather – so cold in fact that it froze the pipes in our hut rendering it out of action and this meet did not go ahead.

The Cabin, Laggan 14th to 16th January

Despite best efforts our hut remained out of action.

The Smiddy, Dundonnell 25th to 27th February

Francis, Patrick.

Francis and Patrick enjoyed good conditions for their winter traverse of An Teallach II***.

Mar Lodge, Inverey 4th to 6th March

Dave, Francis, Stewart, Thomas, Rachel, Gavin, Susan, Charles.



NE Corrie of Lochnagar - with the top pitches of Polyphemus Gully just visible (far left) and Parallel A (centre).

Cold crisp weather with blue skies and perfect climbing conditions – good things certainly are worth waiting for and Lochnagar could not have been more wonderful this weekend. Every placement was either perfect white ice or neve - you could not have wished for better. Dave and Francis climbed Polyphemus Gully V,5*** on Saturday and Stewart and Thomas climbed it on Sunday. *“It’s like the Ben but without the people”* – Thomas. Charles and Susan climbed Parallel A III*** – great route with fantastic ice and quite alpine in places. Rachel was busy orienteering south of Glenshee on both days. Gavin enjoyed good winter walking on Beinn Bhreac.



At the Head wall on Parallel A, just before the “Traverse of the Gods” pitch (left)
Big T bludgeoning Polyphemus into submission (right)

The Cabin, Laggan, 11th to 13th March

Patrick.

With the hut still not up to full strength, Patrick was the lone member on this meet, using his time to do some maintenance and investigate the water situation.

CIC, 25th to 27th March

Dave, Alan, Bruce, David, Stewart, Francis, Patrick.

Alan and Dave climbed The White Line III**: *“A pretty stiff Grade III, more or less complete with softish ice (lots of it) and a couple of rather melted-out sections which caused a little trouble: a pull-over onto a ledge lined with large loose stones, and a fragile short but vertical and delicately thin tongue of ice.”* – Alan. David and Stewart climbed Comb Gully IV,4*** and South Gully RH Branch III*. Francis and Patrick had a great day out climbing Tower Ridge IV,3*** in fairly benign conditions. On Sunday, everyone hummed and hawed and then went down.

The Cabin, Laggan 15th to 18th April

Eddie, Ruth, Simon, Davey, Bryan, Alan.

Report by Alan: *“It was a good trip, a chilly but enjoyable 3 routes at Glen Nevis (Pinnacle Ridge S*, Flying Dutchman S**, Pine Wall HS***) with Eddie, a warm and sunny 3 routes with Bryan at Creag Dubh (King Bee VS 4c**, Take Off VS 4b, Tip Off VS 4c*) and a solo 3 Munros day (Beinn Eibhinn, Aonach Beag & Gael Charn), with a bike approach from Loch Laggan.”*

Bryan ticked a metric Munro and a two Grahams in the area. Ruth and Simon took the opportunity for a spot of bird watching and Davey did some work at the hut.

Summer 2011

Bowden Doors, Northumberland (formerly Salving House, Borrowdale) 6th to 8th May

James, Susan, Nils, Bryan, Francis, Patrick.

Due to forecasts of rain in the Lakes for most of the weekend we all diverted to Bowden Doors. Good day's climbing but even Northumberland can't escape the rain all the time and it arrived as predicted late afternoon.



Triple Cracks



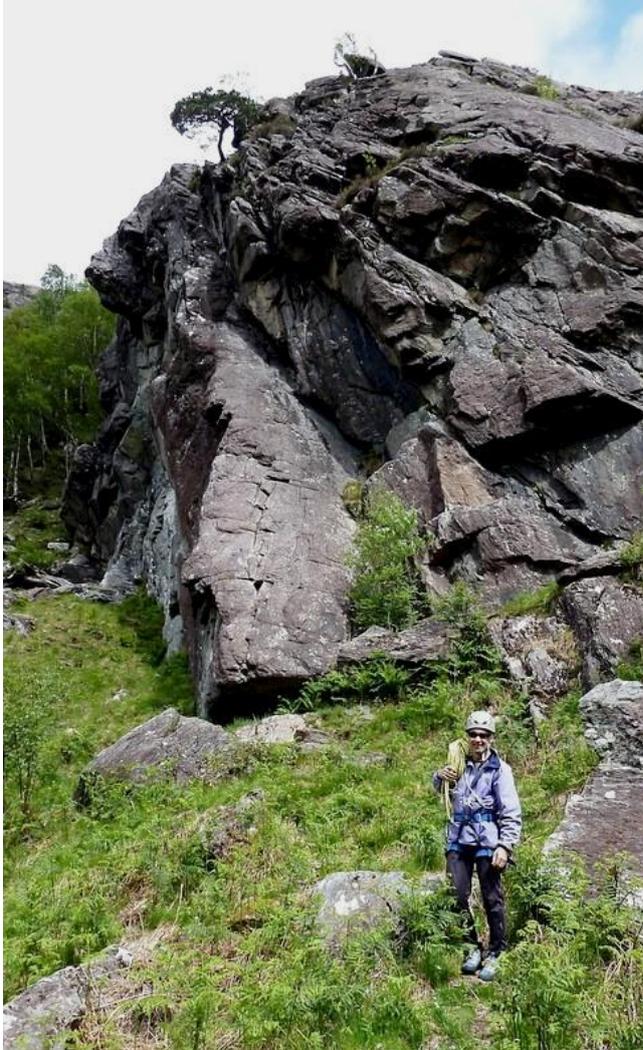
Tiger's Wall

Loudoun Hill, Ayrshire 14th May

The lovely weather of the previous few weeks was not with us for this meet so no-one attended.

Waters Cottage, Kinlochleven 3rd to 5th June

James, Bryan.



Below the tapering ramp of the Polldubh classic, Resurrection on Styx Buttress

The weather worked out better than forecast with Bryan and James climbing Beinn Suidhe and Meall Tairbh – two Grahams near Bridge of Orchy on Saturday, and rock climbing at Polldubh on Sunday.

Climbed were:

Damnation VS 4b **

Resurrection VS 4c ***

Storm HVS 5a ***

Pine Wall HS 4a ***

Vampire HS 4b **

Secretaries' Direct Route S ***.

The Cabin, Laggan 24th to 26th June

Eddie.

After considerable interest the wet weather forecast deterred most members. Hardy soul Eddie, wasn't deterred though, and had a good trip with some local hill walking.

Birkness, Buttermere 5th to 7th August

James, Bryan, John, Nils, Nigel.

Despite a less than promising forecast, the weather turned out ok for most of the time, and a bit cold and wet at others – you'll know the cold and wet bits from the list of routes climbed. James and Bryan climbed two very good HVSs: Cleopatra HVS 5a ** and Groove Two HVS 5a ** on Buckstone How at the top of Honister on Friday. Bryan, James, Nigel and Nils then made a mass assault on Corvus on Saturday ...no doubt you can guess why! Then a visit by all to Castle Rock on Sunday, climbing Slab Climb S**, Via Media (also S**, but reported as quite steep for the grade).



Slab Climb



Castle Rocks & Thirlmere

Rawhead Barn, Langdale 2nd to 4th September and Kirrie Hill, Angus

Nils, Nigel, Susan, Bryan, Francis, Patrick.



Dry rock, sunshine & bolts at Kirriehill.

With the weather looking sort-of promising, Nils and Nigel headed to Rawhead where they climbed Middlefell Buttress on Raven Crag, a four pitch three star Diff.

The following morning with no prospect of the weather improving they decided to bail out and returned to Edinburgh.

On Sunday the meet's fair weather climbers, Bryan, Francis, Patrick and Susan emerged at Kirrie Hill for some hot rock and bolt clipping – yes it was lovely and warm!

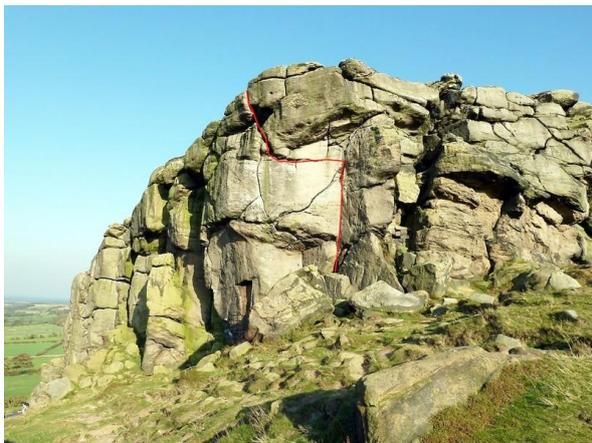
The Smiddy, Dundonnell 23rd to 25th September

Tim, guest.

After a late night (but that's another story...) Tim and his friend had a great day out with a ridge traverse of majestic An Teallach.

North Yorkshire, 30th September to 3rd October

Bryan, Sandy.



The Line of Great Western – perhaps Almscliff's most famous classic (left)
Malham Cove (right)

Less than 4 hours drive and 200 miles down the road from Edinburgh, the North Yorkshire meet based itself at the Manor House Farm campsite near Brimham Rocks. The weekend brought the long awaited dry sunny weather in the right place at the right time – almost too hot to climb said one of the members. Bryan and Sandy made the most of the conditions and climbed many fantastic gritstone and limestone classics.



Bryan & Sandy on Kirkby Wall Malham Cove

Almscliff:

Overhanging Groove HVS 5a ***

Great Western HVS 5a***

Square Chimney & Whisky Crack VS 4b***

Black Wall VS 5a*

Malham Cove:

Kirkby Wall HVS 5b*

The Cavern HVS 5a*

Pikedaw Wall HVS 5a***

Clubfoot VS 4c ***

Swingover VS 5a**

Brimham Rocks:

Maloja VS4c**

Jabberwok VS 4b**

Parallel Cracks VS 4c*

Lancet Crack VS 5a**

Thanks Bryan and Sandy for all the info for this meet. Really glad you were rewarded with such a great weekend, certainly

one for a return trip.

Kirrie Hill, Angus 22nd October

Forecast of rain meant that no one attended this meet.

Mountain Bike Meet Pentland Hills, 29th October

Thomas, Dave, Charles.

Our local range of hills provided a fine venue for what was a demanding 40 km cycle, much of it off road, between Bonaly and Carlops. Autumnal conditions; beautiful colours and blustery winds are a common theme of these meets at this time of year and this was no exception. The strong westerly provided a great boost on the return trip to Bonaly as was the beer and soup at the pub in Carlops.



A well deserved rest after the steep cycle up from Redmoss (left)
Big T thinking about the pub and “Ein grossen bier bitte- danker” (right)



Pentland mud

All good things....

This has been another year of great meets not just the ones written up here, but the mid week meets to local crags too. We've had some great times on and off the rock and ice. Once again, thanks to Helen and Ali our hut custodians, for making the huts so comfortable for us. Thanks too to Alan for his reports and to Bryan, Charles, Dave, David and Stewart for their photos.

I'm about to step down as Meets Secretary; I've really enjoyed doing this and all the contact with the members that comes with the job. Huge thanks to all who have been in touch and who have come on the meets over the last few years and made it all such fun – really appreciate your company and support. It's been a pleasure and an adventure!

Happy ☺ climbing

SUSAN XXX

Susan, Meets Secretary Edinburgh JMCS.
