



EDINBURGH JMCS SPRING NEWSLETTER 2006

Summer Wednesday evening meets 2006

Another round up of mid- week meets served up to the JMCS membership – let's hope for better weather than last year!

There are the usual suspects plus one or two 'new venues' this season which may appeal more to those members who are retired or have flexible working arrangements.

Hope to see as many of you as possible in the next few months. (I have excluded Ratho Quarry from the outdoor meets programme because the quarry lacks a good spread of grades – the wet weather alternative will be the Adventure Centre, Ratho again this year)

For all meets except Dunkeld, Kyloe and Bowden Doors the relevant guide book is *Lowland Outcrops*. (New edition now available). For Dunkeld, you need *Highland Outcrops*, and for the Northumbrian venues, *The Northumberland Climbing Guide*. (New edition also available)

Please feel free to contact Patrick Winter, by phone 0131 440 3183 or email patrick.climber@virgin.net for any information regarding these venues e.g. usual pub venue following the meet. Thanks are due once more to Tom and Beryl Leatherland for providing tide-tables.

19 April	Salisbury Crags (followed by meal @ Pizza Express, Holyrood Rd.)
26 April	Rosyth
3 May	Traprain
10 May	Hawkcraig Low Tide 19.57
17 May	Auchinstarry
24 May	Hawkcraig Low Tide 19.25
31 May	Loudoun Hill
7 June	Hawkcraig Low Tide 18.27
14 June	Traprain
21 June	Dunkeld
28 June	North Berwick Law Quarry
5 July	Kyloe - Northumberland
12 July	Traprain
19 July	Dunkeld
26 July	Auchinstarry
2 August	Fast Castle Sea Cliffs
9 August	Hawkcraig Low Tide 21.33
16 August	Traprain
23 August	North Berwick Law
30 August	Rosyth

6 September	Hawkcraig Low Tide 20.29
13 September	Salisbury Crags (followed by meal – venue TBA)

Summer weekend meets 2006

Please note the contact for all meets is Patrick Winter (phone 0131 440 3183 or email patrick.climber@virgin.net). Hyperlinks with further information to all the huts are available on the JMCS web site.

When	Length	Where	Notes
21-23 April	Weekend	Lake District Borrowdale Salving House Hut	Three female, five male places £5ppn. Sample some great climbing at one of the best rock climbing areas in the Lakes.
19-21 May	Weekend	Glencoe Kinlochleven Waters Cottage Garbheinn Road	Eight places, £5ppn Well situated for walking and climbing with plenty of scope for wet weather alternatives. Bring your ice axes!
16-18 June	Weekend	Cairngorms Mill Cottage	Six places (more available if need be), £5.50ppn Inspiring photos in Classic Rock of Savage Slit and Clean Sweep may whet your appetite for this meet!
30 June-Monday 3 July	Long Weekend	Skye Glenbrittle Memorial Hut	Six places, £3ppn A very popular venue for those walking and climbing in Skye.
21-23 July	Weekend	Dundonnell The Smiddy	Ten Places, £5ppn Great opportunity to visit our own charming hut in this most scenic area.
18-20 August	Weekend	Cairngorms – Camping at Creag An Dubh Loch	'...with over 60 routes of VS and above, many of outstanding quality. .' From Cairngorm guide book. Wet weather alternative: Ballater.
15-18 September	Long Weekend Edinburgh Holiday	Lake District – Buttermere Birkness	Three female, five male places, £5ppn. 'Buttermere is an idyllic but oft-forgotten valley on the north-west side of the Lake District'

When	Length	Where	Notes
			Plenty of climbing and walking opportunities. Pillar Rock for example 'offering superb climbs at all grades on impeccable rock'.
Saturday 7 October	Day Only	Borders Hill Walk	Details available nearer the time.
Saturday 4 November	Day only	Borders / Trossachs Mountain Bike Outing followed by meal	Details available nearer the time.

Winter Season Meets Reports 2005/2006

Inbhirfhaolain 9/10 December 2005

Robert Fox, Gill Dean, Patrick Winter, Francis Winter.

The weather for this meet was reminiscent of the previous one – wild and windy with a scattering of snow showers. Poor climbing conditions prevailed and the weather was sufficiently unpleasant on the Saturday that only low level walks were tackled. Francis and Patrick chose a section of the West Highland Way whilst Robert and Gill elected for a bog trot up to the head of Loch Etive. Chancing upon the Smiddy, a hut owned by Forventure, the duo were offered shelter and a welcome cup of tea by the group in residence. Next day the weather was marginally better. Francis and Patrick made an ascent of Ben Starav, while Robert and Gill made a local high level walk.

Muir of Inverey 13/14 January

Brian Finlayson, Brian Donaldson, Patrick Winter Stewart Bauchop

Pat and Stewart went to Stob coire Etchachan – “nothing to climb so continued on up to Coire Sputan Dearg. Descended an easy gully finding thin conditions and sugary snow so back up to the plateau for a walk over Derry Cairngorm instead.” The two Brians made a trip up the local Corbett, Sgor Mor. With wall to wall blue skies Saturday proved to be a fine clear day to be in the hills despite the lack of climbing available. Sunday brought mild weather and the inevitable low cloudbase. Stewart and Pat returned to town while the two Brians went off to prospect another Corbett – this one; Ben Gulabain overlooking the Spittal of Glenshee.

Blackrock Cottage 17/18 February

Stuart Buchanan, Robert Fox, Stewart Bauchop, Susan Jensen, Patrick Winter, Francis Winter, Eddie Gillespie Thomas Beutenmuller

On Saturday Francis and Patrick made “a tortuous ascent” through deep powder over the Aonachs. On Sunday the pair headed west for an “entertaining” traverse of Ben Cruachan.

Robert and Stuart made an attempt at “Crack climb” (III), in Stob Coire Nan Beith, unconsolidated conditions eventually forcing an abseil retreat. On the Sunday the duo went for a walk over Blackrocks’ local Munro, Meall a Bhuridh.

Eddie and Thomas reported a good day on the classic “Curved Ridge” (II), taking in the Crowberry Tower on route. On Sunday they chose another reliable standby in “Dorsal Arete” (II) again in reasonable condition.

Susan and Stewart walked up to the frost line under church door buttress on the Saturday to find deep snow and unconsolidated conditions. On Sunday Stewart took a wander over to the Ba Bridge with a camera whilst Susan made an ascent of “North Buttress” (IV/4) with SMC member Iain Small.

Invercroft 10/11 March

Ruth Love, Eddie Gillespie, Thomas Beutenmuller and Andy Robertson (guest)

The forecast for the far North West was somewhat foreboding with much snow forecast for the weekend.

Eddie and Ruth went to Ben Eithe for “Lawson, Ling and Glover’s Route” (II). A quick descent was made to avoid the incoming bad weather before returning to the hut to ‘batten down the hatches’ for a stormy night.

Thomas and guest made an ascent of the “North Gully” (II) on A’Chioch, Coire Na Poite in less than perfect condition finding much unconsolidated snow on route.

Next day brought an epic journey home for all following huge snow falls overnight. Both parties reported taking at least eight hours to get home.

CIC Hut 31 March/1 April

Ruth Love, David Small, Stewart Bauchop, Susan Jensen, Patrick Winter, Francis Winter

Saturday brought mild temperatures and a high avalanche risk with the corries being eerily quiet.

David, Ruth, Francis and Patrick made an ascent of Ben Nevis via the CMD Arete from the hut. Susan and Stewart attempted the “SW ridge of the Douglas Boulder” (III) eventually abseiling off due to poor conditions.

A sharp overnight frost allowed Francis and Patrick to make an ascent of “Ledge Route” (II) on the Sunday with “reasonable conditions and great views”. Stewart and Susan made a morning climb up “Green Gully” (IV/4), 100 years (to the month) after Raeburn’s first ascent.

David and Ruth elected for a “time consuming but enjoyable” ascent of the “North East Buttress” (IV/4).

Jock Spot's/the Cabin 8 April

Sue Marvell, John Fowler, Ali Borthwick, Stewart Bauchop, Patrick Winter, Francis Winter, Neil Cuthbert

Most Edinburgh JMCS committee members spent Saturday 8 April at Jock Spot's hut and the Cabin near Newtonmore.

The club originally took on the property of Jock Spot's in the late 1970s. After refurbishment and conversion to a climbing hut JMCS took a twenty one year lease on the property. This lease expired at the end of October 2004 and since then the club has had a six month tenancy.

The tenancy expires on 30 April 2006. JMCS has been offered use of the Cabin as an alternative hut by Mountaineering Council of Scotland Executive Committee members (and Munroist) Richard Spencer. The Cabin is located in the township of Balgowan near to the village of Laggan.

Our aim for the weekend was to clear out the contents of the Cabin and move fixtures and fittings (including two heavy wood burning stoves) from Jock Spot's to the new property. We were able to achieve this much quicker than we anticipated. This was largely due to the kind assistance of Richard Spencer with his quad bike and trailer!

After we had completed 'flitting' at Jock Spot's and the Cabin the Spencers very kindly provided a hearty venison stew as supper to the removal party. This was accompanied by some very nice wine and a wonderful home-made meringue dessert. JMCS offered to reciprocate once we are able to occupy the cabin and make suitable arrangements.

Overall a good day was had by all. Special thanks to Francis Winter for volunteering to help committee members at the work meet.

Planning permission for use of the cabin as a mountaineering hut is still to be approved. We hope this will be granted in the next few weeks. **In the meantime can all club members with keys for Jock Spot's please return them to hut custodian Ali Borthwick as soon as possible?**

Tiso Spring Discount Night

The dates and times of Tiso Rose Street spring discount night are as follows:

Rose St – Tuesday the 2nd of May from 6.30pm – 8.30pm & Tuesday the 9th of May from 6.30pm - 8.30pm

- 25% off mountaineering and climbing equipment
- 15% off clothing, footwear and equipment
- 10% off books, maps, GPS, canoes and kayaks