

# West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



October 2016

This month's photo: The Isle of Skye, by Dave Jones

Hello readers

Autumn is here, and with it comes the year's first indoor evening meet - Ann Parrot will be doing a slideshow on her trip to Everest Base Camp!

This month we have Dave's write-up of the coach meet to Aber & Ogwen, John's report of the the BMC meeting following its proposed rebranding, and a writeup by Dave on the weekend trip to the Isle of Skye. After the coach meet pages, Richard Cooksey has provided all the information on this year's annual away dinner - around half the rooms have been taken already and deposits must be paid in November, so please book soon!

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Dave Jones, Alison Whitehead, John Edwards, Ken Priest, Nigel Tarr, and Richard Cooksey.

If you have anything that you'd like to be featured in next month's newsletter - whether you're selling gear, looking for a climbing or walking partner, you've seen an event that members might be interested in, anything at all - send it to [newsletter@wbmc.org](mailto:newsletter@wbmc.org) (or through our website if it's an article) before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Cheers,  
Joe

- 2 Noticeboard
- 3 Coming up
- 4 Coach Meet - Aber/Ogwen  
Dave Jones
- 6 The BMC Rebranding Saga  
John Edwards
- 8 Isle of Skye Weekend  
Dave Jones
- 11 Coach meets  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Coniston  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Moelwyns
- 13 Annual Away Dinner Richard Cooksey

## The WBMC meeting place



The Wheatsheaf  
379 High Street,  
West Bromwich,  
B70 9QW

Join us every Thursday  
night from 9.00pm in  
The Wheatsheaf for a  
chat and a drink.



2016 Cotswold  
Discount Code:  
AF-WBMC-M8



[www.wbmc.org](http://www.wbmc.org)

# Noticeboard

## In Memoriam

Sad news about a life member: Jack Dodd, who emigrated to the USA back in the 1970s, passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> August. He served on the committee as Hut secretary for some years and was active with the club throughout the 60's and early 70's.

## Hut Availability

Here is the current hut availability for the next few weekends:

23/09 - 8 places booked  
 30/09 - 0 places booked  
 07/10 - 0 places booked  
 14/10 - Mountain Biking weekend – 8 places  
 21/10 - Family Weekend - 4 places booked  
 28/10 - Marathon Weekend - 15 places booked  
 04/11- 15 places booked

*Availability is subject to change at short notice and members should always contact the hut secretary to book.*

## Meet up

WBMC committee are trying to bring new members into the club, in doing so the club is advertising on Meet Up, which is a social media website for clubs/groups and events. Within just a few days of joining up we have over 180 members connected.

We require existing members to join WBMC on meet up and click to state that they are going to a meet or event. If members do this it will hopefully attract new members.

Members can download the app on their phones or visit the Meet Up website. If anyone is unsure please contact Dave Jones on davidjones840@gmail.com or 07759 259163.

## Paramo jacket for sale



Ken Priest is selling a Paramo Velex light smock. 12 months old, only worn a few times, for £165.

If you're interested, get in touch with Ken:  
 07779 908708 or  
[ken.priest@live.co.uk](mailto:ken.priest@live.co.uk)

## Portway climbing nights

Unfortunately climbing nights at the Portway lifestyle centre are no more. Boulder Central have signed it back over to the leisure centre today and it is closed to the public until further notice. WBMC are getting a full refund for all pre-booked sessions. The Redpoint climbing wall in Worcester has been suggested as a replacement, as a few club members already meet there most Tuesday evenings.



## Hut donations

Members - £4.00  
 Guests - £7.00  
 (Max. two guests per member)  
 16 & under - £1.50

Stamped addressed envelopes are provided in the hut for payment.

## To book

Phone or email Alison Whitehead:  
 07530644874  
[hut-secretary@wbmc.org](mailto:hut-secretary@wbmc.org)

Please contact Alison *before* going to the hut.

WBMC members can purchase a hut key from Alison at a donation of £4

# Coming up

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

## Indoor Evening Meet

Our first indoor meet of the year and our first slide show looks an epic.

Ann Parrot will be doing a slideshow on her trip to Everest Base Camp, come along and show your support.

The slideshow will commence at 8pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

## Social Evening

Tables for 40 people have been booked at the Akash Resturant:

385 High Street,  
West Bromwich,  
B70 9QW

If you're interested in going, the menu is available at <https://akashbalti-westbromwich.co.uk>

To book contact Nigel: 07703 345729. Book early dont miss out on a great venue and a great evening

18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## Scottish Week

After another successful visit this year, WBMC will be revisiting the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William next February.

Twin and double rooms are £34 per person per night, and a single supplement is an extra £12 per night. It's half price for under 14s and under 5s go free!. These prices include free usage of the fitness centre facilities.

To book please contact Jonathan:  
Mobile: 07821 544407

Email: [merapeak@talktalk.net](mailto:merapeak@talktalk.net)

Twitter: @howellsmerapeak

Or he'll be on the Coniston coach meet this Sunday if you'd like to talk to him in person.

A deposit of one night is required to secure a place.



4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November

## Sheen Bunkhouse Weekend

£16 per person per night. Come to cycle Tissington, High Peak or Manifold Valley trails, or walk or run. Option of running in the famed Dovedale Dash on

Sunday morning – 4.6 miles of fun. Good company guaranteed.

Contact Sue Goddard to reserve a place – a £5 deposit secures it.



Photo from strathmorehotels.com



# Coach Meet – Aber/Ogwen

*Saturday 10th September*

Words and pictures  
By Dave Jones



I had been checking with the coach secretary some days prior to the meet to see how many individuals had booked. It was extremely disappointing come the meet to see only 18 people present, one was a potential new member (more to follow) bearing in mind that the previous months meet to Cadar Idris/Barmouth was the club's most successful meet of the year so far, also the club had some no shows on the day of this meet.

For the individuals that did turn out a good day was had by all, it seemed we left the wet weather back in the Midlands and headed to sunnier pastures.

Members on the coach were, Mark Stephens, Hilary Jones, Nigel Tarr, Nick Piotrowski, John Edwards, Dee Sehdeva, John Dale, Steve Cartridge, Andrew Brown, Fred Hammond's, Rob Thomas, Adrian Shaw, Dave Heylar, Jo Cheung, Janet Dawes, Darren Groutage, Dave Jones, and we also had a new individual on the coach, welcome Glen Mountfort who was on his first club meet, we hope to see you on many more meets and we hope you enjoyed your day.

On route we had a brief stop at Corwen, a pre-order had been made to the local café to supply some unhealthy butties, we ate them outside, the weather at this time was a little overcast with a little nip in the air feeling when you know you are coming into Autumn.

Some individuals were heading into Caernarfon to do some "tumps" etc and there plan was to then catch a train back into Betwys-y-Coed

The drop off today was Abergwyngregyn, with this being a long meet we had opted to do route 5 Abergwyngregyn to Capel Curig, the route states (14km – 9 miles more to follow) by the time we got off the coach the sun had come out, we started to take our rucksacks out of the hold some rucksacks felt wet, I thought my bladder within my rucksack had leaked, but further investigation confirmed that it was another rucksack. The group consisted of Dee Sehdeva, Jo Cheung, Adrian Shaw, Hilary Jones, John Dale, Rob Thomas, Janet Dawes, Glen Mountfort, Nick Piotrowski, and myself.

We started from the lay-by on the A55 and followed a minor road through the village SE, staying on the minor road we crossed the bridge and started ascending steeply for just over 1km heading towards the higher car park, where a rock defines you are entering the Snowdonia national park. We now followed the North Wales path east, which took us across open moorland, we came across some wild ponies that didn't seemed to be fazed with us passing beside them.

Our first destination was to reach the pass of Bwlch Ddeufaen, we came to a large iron gate and at this point the wind had picked up a little so some opted to put on an extra layer of clothing prior to starting to head SW and ascend parallel to the wall to reach Carneddy Ddelw. From this point a steep a gentle walk up to reach the rocky outcrop, we clambered across the rocks to reach the trig point of Drum. The wall to the side was a good wind shield and we opted for a lunch stop, at this point Nick & Glen headed into a different direction and Rob Thomas had dropped off from the rest of the group. The sunshine had come out and additional layers that had been put on earlier were now removed. Fed and watered, we continued SW to reach Foel- Fras at 942m, from here the highest point we was heading for was Carnedd Llewelyn, this is one of the Ogwen Valleys 3000ft (1064m) peaks and myself and Adrian have fond memories on summiting this peak just under a year ago, on the 08.08.2015 we were part of a WBMC team that did the Oggie 8 challenge, so we were laughing at good and painful moments from this event.

After reaching Carnedd Llewelyn we descended along the ridge SE, heading steeply down the well defined path with some stunning views overlooking Ffynnon Llugwy Reservoir which is a natural reservoir the surface area covers 40 acres, some stunning views heading down the path overlooking this, this reservoir supplies Bangor and eastern Anglesey.

The path drops down to reach reservoir level and we started the long path. Heading towards Capel Curig, just before getting to the A5 there were some stunning views of the north face of Tryfan glistening in the afternoon sunshine. We passed the Ogwen Mountain rescue base and opted to take the road walk back into Capel, when in a car you know this is a long winding road, but when walking you keep thinking that Capel is around the next bend, before bend upon bend encounters you, as mentioned previously the route stated 9 miles, I had worn my pedometer and when reaching the post office at Capel the Ped read 16.6 miles, myself and Adrian had reached the post office first followed by Jo & Dee, we were greeted by a lovely husky dog that was making attempts to steal our Solero ice creams.

*Coach Meet – Aber/Ogwen*

We had contacted Nigel Tarr and requested that the coach to pick us up from Moel Siabod café, so we headed into there and rested on the very comfortable leather settees, when the coach picked us up when then headed back into Betwys-y-coed and headed for the Royal Oak Hotel, we heard that some had encountered issues with their train heading from Caernarfon back into Betwys, resulting in the group having to catch a taxi back. The group had attempted what they had set out to achieve, but apparently when trying to find out the issue with the train, their telephone call went to an overseas operator, trying to update them of the situation, the majority of people had ordered food at the hotel and by now everyone had started to socialise in a very popular eating/drinking establishment, just before 21:00 hours everyone headed back to the coach to start the journey back to the Midlands.



A very good day was had by all, it was good to see a new individual on the coach and we look forward to seeing you on further meets Glen.



I hope to see increased numbers on the next coach meet to Coniston, if you're not doing anything ring Nigel and reserve your seat, also if anyone wants to take their bicycles, the club reserves room on the coach for up to four bicycles on a first come first served basis. The date for Coniston is October 9th, there will be a birthday on the coach so there may be some cakes passed around. I wonder who that could be???

I hope I have to buy more than 18 cakes.

# The BMC Rebranding Saga

Words and pictures  
By John Edwards



On 25<sup>th</sup> July a piece was posted on the British Mountaineering Council website by Peter Burnside entitled "BMC to change its name to Climb Britain". The fact that there had been no prior consultation or warning meant that shocked BMC members all over the world emailed and tweeted their horror at the loss of their well-respected brand name which was established in 1944. The strength of this response apparently surprised and shocked the National Executive, so much so that within 3 days they put out another statement suspending the change of name, saying they "didn't quite anticipate the level of interest there would be in the Climb Britain announcement". They accepted there was need for wider debate and a period of discussion & consultation was announced, which would feed back to the National Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September. So it was that 49 club reps and individual members met up at a rugby club in Shirley for the Midland Area meeting. As current Secretary I had to write up the minutes and thought it might be useful to summarise these, to let members of this BMC-affiliated club the why's and wherefores of the debacle.

Nick Colton, the Deputy CEO, started things off by going through the BMC's Powerpoint presentation. He said that rebranding had not featured on any BMC's agenda until some of the Directors attended a Sport England conference in March 2015. There they learned that Sport England funding was likely to be cut around 2017 and that body was offering no-strings-attached funding to all the sports they give money to, in order to pay for consultants to look at all aspects of the organisations. The idea was to make them more commercially appealing, because increased sponsorship & membership and / or a hike in membership fees will be needed to cover the forthcoming cuts. So it was that sports marketing specialists 'Thinkfarm' were invited by the BMC to conduct a 9-month independent study. No money from the membership was involved and they could ignore any suggestions if they wished. Surveys & interviews by the consultants suggested the BMC was not seen as relevant to many hillwalkers, boulderers & indoor climbers. The idea of a 'Council' was outdated and the name was felt to be a barrier to recruiting new, particularly young, members.

Thinkfarm thought they'd found a common core to all BMC activities i.e. "All BMC members climb stuff, whether it's hills, mountains, rocks, ice or indoor walls." So came their brainstorming to turn this idea into a new name and logo. The "Climb Britain" idea was presented to the BMC Board on 18<sup>th</sup> May this year and, as it was commercially sensitive, they decided to tell the area representatives about it at the National Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June, rather than make any announcement to the membership directly. Possibly this was a mistake, as was the decision to allow a vote at the Council meeting, which came out 18 For, 0 Against & just 1 Abstention. Only vague hints about some possible rebranding had been mentioned at the Midland Area Meeting, eleven days earlier, yet there it was, *fait accompli* just over a month later, and seemingly supported by the Hill Walking Officer and Patrons such as Bonnington. Nick stressed that "name change was not a done deal" and stressed that there were no links to sport climbing in the 2020 Olympics, which are funded through the totally separate organisation, UK Sport.

Roger Fanner, one of the 2 Midland BMC representatives, who could not make the June meeting, then presented the case against the name change, summarising all the negative things he had read or heard. He pointed out that of the 284 comments on the BMC website, only 4 were in favour of the change and the vast majority of the 350 posts on UKClimbing were also unfavourable, as they were on Facebook. Most reflected hurt at the lack of consultation with the membership, especially as National Councillors are there to represent members' views. He argued that the BMC name was the 'brand leader' in the UK and that the real issue wasn't the name but reaching the people we don't currently reach - hillwalkers, indoor climbers and the under 25s. The proposed new name was seen as naff / childish / dumbing down by many and wrongly reinforces the impression that it excludes hill walkers. He pointed out that we get away with being the British Mountaineering Council because we'd had the name for a long time. We do not have representation from Northern Ireland or Scotland and in light of the new politics of devolution any new name couldn't really claim to cover more than England & Wales. The new name also suggests we don't climb outside Britain and is grammatically dubious.



Working for climbers, hill walkers & mountaineers

climb hills / climb rocks / climb indoors / climb ice / climb mountains

*The BMC Rebranding Saga*

continued...

Surveys since the rebrand announcement by UKClimbing suggested 94% of people are against the name change and when MY Outdoors asked 216 people dressed in walking kit at Manchester, Edale & Castleton which name was more appealing, 32 expressed no preference but of the 184 who did, 91.3% chose British Mountaineering Council.

Roger also felt the new logo was almost universally disliked and he finished by demonstrating how you could make your own version by folding 2 French *tricolor* napkins, wondering if by chance the consultants had Gallic connections.

I will not go through all the points that were made from the floor during the ensuing discussion but will state my hunch that the final rebrand will be similar to an idea from the floor and we will end up being called "British Mountaineering" and that '#climb' & '@ClimbBritain' will be used for Twitter, Facebook and other advertising. Someone wondered what was wrong with "Working for climbers, hill walkers & mountaineers."

The formal part of the evening ended with people being asked to vote on each of the 4 options presented by the BMC. These straw polls are to be carried out in each of the different BMC area meetings. Midlands went as follows:-

Full rebrand to "Climb Britain"

For	Against	Abstain
3	29	7

Remain as "BMC"

For	Against	Abstain
12	0	Lots*

\*as there was some confusion whether this meant ditching 'Climb' idea altogether

So members were asked would they be happy to....

Remain as "BMC" with some rebrand

For	Against	Abstain
32	2	0

Seek alternative uses of "Climb Britain"

For	Against	Abstain
38	1	4

Following the meeting refreshments were taken and then attendees enjoyed some spectacular images from Tajikistan presented by George Cave. We learned that taking a big box of chocolates direct to an Embassy could be a rapid & effective way to secure an entry visa, how not to pitch a tent (who would think of setting it on top of a rock on an ice boss?!) and how to enjoy 2 weeks of remote mountaineering for just £60 (by getting funding from various foundations)





# Isle of Skye Long Weekend

23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> September

Words and pictures  
By Dave Jones



Always very popular with WBMC is the Isle of Skye, the plan for the weekend was to go up the on the Cuillin Ridge and have an attempt at Sgurr Dearg which is topped by the inaccessible pinnacle a fin of rock measuring 150 feet along its longest edge, common abbreviated term is the in pin, which is the second highest summit on the Skye Cuillin.

It is described as the most difficult of the Munros, requiring a rock climb and an abseil to complete the ascent. On that note I had only been down the climbing wall on a couple of occasions, but had not done any abseil techniques, so some days prior to the trip, Andy Brown had organised an evening's event at Wolf Mountain Wolverhampton to become familiar with rope techniques and abseiling, those present consisted of Oliver Stephenson, Paul Brindley, Darren Groutage, Mike Smith, Andy Brown, I was shown how to do my figure of 8 knot and the securing of my harness, my first climb was what I have been used to previously at the Portway Climbing Wall, climb and belay, this time Andy belayed me, the more I done my knots the more I could remember how to do it.

We then went over to the abseil wall, had a climb up, came down and then the group decided it was time to have a go at abseiling, Oliver went up first doing the lead climb, when he was up the top I was told to go up and then unclip the rope from the carabiners on my way up, very difficult holding on with one arm them trying to unclip, I got to the top and Oliver started explaining how we clip in at the top, also explaining the safety rope etc, Darren Groutage then followed up with him abseiling first from the wall, then it was my turn, the hardest thing for me is the original step off, once you are off the rest looks after itself, as long as you don't let go of the rope which was in my right hand, reassuringly the safety rope was present and Oliver explained everything in depth.

Paul Brindley also did a session at the top of the wall explaining various techniques, many thanks lads for taking the time, even though only a couple of hours training it gave me the reassurance on how it may feel on the exposed Cuillin Ridge.

We started our journey promptly at 07:00am, Andy picked Mike Smith and Nigel Tarr up followed by myself, we started the long journey North, having a brief stop at Todhills and Fort William for fuel and to pick up food for breakfasts in the morning.

The other party travelling up for the weekend was Paul Brindley, Dave Nock & Oliver Stephenson, they were a little behind ourselves due to hitting traffic around the Stoke area.

Our base for the weekend was the Skyewalker Hostel based in Portnalong, the hostel was a former school, this is the highest rated hostel in Skye and awarded best in Scotland by Hostelworld and upon arrival I would totally agree with those comments, definitely one of if not the best bunkhouse I have stayed in by far.



The hostel lies on the Minginish peninsula, it was constructed in the 1920s almost entirely out of wrought iron, it was a junior secondary school for the area until it closed in the 1970s, In the 80s it was converted to offer fantastic hostel accommodation for hill walkers and island visitors alike. The hostel can sleep up to 40 people, from private two bunks beds (Nigel & Mike) to eight an eight bed dorm which housed, all the above apart from Nigel & Mike.

In the lounge guitars are in abundance due to the folklore evenings that are held, I did have a tinker, I did my slash impersonation, it was my best tune ever, but no one was present to witness this (how unfortunate) in the garden you can watch spectacular sunsets from a glass solar dome to relax in, the hostel came across as a spiritual place, I know someone who would have liked this. As there is little light pollution you can see the most awesome starry sky on a clear night with views of the Milky Way and even chance to catch the Northern Lights if lucky. (More to Follow)

Also in the garden is a giant chess set which is apparently popular with guests, there is a pub just down the road which is the Taigh Ailean Hotel which has a bar called Munros (how appropriate for WBMC) the name for this place is Gaelic for Allan's house.

The pub overlooked Loch Harport, apparently along the loch you can spot sea otters and sea eagles. So that was our location sorted and now for the walking. The plan was to get up on Saturday or Sunday and head to Glen Brittle and from the camp site head up onto the Cuillin Ridge and attempt the in-pin

Darren Groutage had kindly offered to take numerous luggage up on the Thursday (thanks Darren) and Geoff Hill had travelled up on the Wednesday.



*Isle of Skye Long Weekend*

It was a good journey up and the weather had been relatively good as we passed through Tyntrum, Glen Coe, Fort William etc, however the weather forecast for the weekend looked pretty grim, hopefully the forecasters may be wrong!

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The Friday night we headed down to Taigh Ailean Hotel and ordered food which was exceptional (anyone who sees Nigel ask him how the mussels were) watered and fed we headed back to the hostel by now it was torrential rain and high winds, hopefully the storm would blow over and Saturday would be glorious, how wrong, I woke early on Saturday morning hearing high wind and torrential rain hitting the hostel window, I got back in bed thinking I will wait for the others to wake and make a decision, currently with this weather there was no way we was going to get up the Cuillins and attempt the in-pin, it would eat us up and swallow us alive.

After breakfast everyone had decided to make different plans there was no way we was going to able to do the Challenge today. Andy and Mike had decided to do some "tumps" just across the road from the hostel, Darren Nigel and myself decided on a trip to see the fairy pools and then into the camp site at Glen Brittle were we met up with Paul, Oliver & Dave, we decided to have a coffee only to be informed that the machine was not working and they could sell us a camping pitch, we declined that offer due to the severe weather, Nigel, Darren and I then headed to Portree which is sort of the "Capitol" of the island, which revolved around going into a coffee shop and into an outdoor shop and then we headed back to the Sligachan Hotel, the weather was that bad, Darren dropped Nigel and myself by the main entrance door. We sat there had a couple of pints and connected to the Internet, signal is not that good on the island, it seemed the best coverage was with O2, we sat there looking at the horizontal rain in the driving wind.

On the way back we stopped at the New Inn based in Carbost were we had meet up with everyone else, and the afternoon revolved around me and Paul commenting on how the baggies was doing against Stoke City. We headed back for showers and then went out for an evening meal at the Taigh Ailean, again more mussels for Nigel (tomorrow was going to be Nigel's Throne Day)

At the end of the night we walked back the short distance with our head torches on due to there being no street lighting, hopefully Sunday will be much better weather wise!!

I woke to the alarm on my phone on Sunday morning, I shot up to save the alarm going on for a period of time and "crack I hit my head on the above bunk" one lump or two!!!

Again heavy rain and high wind, again back in bed lying on my lumpy head, when we got up, Paul, Oliver and Dave had made the decision to head back to home, the weather had won this time around, Geoff was also heading back due to going out to Spain within a day or so, surely it will be warmer there for you Geoff. Andy stated that we would have a group discussion to see what the four of us wanted to do, we opted to stay and try and go out and do something, we opted to have an attempt at a Corbett. Glamaig was the choice 775m (2,543ft) We had left Nigel at the bunkhouse due to him having sickness and diarrhoea, there was a shortage of mussels on the island due to them being all eaten by Nige.

Glamaig is the northernmost of the Red Hills, which lies east of Sligachan, and one of only two Corbett on Sky, we had decided to do the longer route, which consisted of going onto An Coileach and then Sgurr Mhari and over the whaleback ridge and finally onto Glamaig.

*Isle of Skye Long Weekend*

We parked just over the road from the famous Sligachan Bridge where tourists take photos, at present it had just started to rain, but the sun was out and we headed off along the path, to the right was the Cuillin Ridge covered in cloud, occasionally it became clear and you could clearly see the Basteir Tooth, after a short distance we came off the track and started heading over boggy ground, it looked like there was sheep on the path up, but as we got near these were white bags containing large rocks that had been air lifted in to repair the eroded path, we got over the first ridge line, then from the east, this black cloud was upon us in seconds hitting us with torrential rain and gusting wind, at times nearly blowing us off our feet, my rucksack cover was blown off, and was being held by a small rock, I ran after it and was nearly airlifted by the wind, at this stage one of us decided to turn back due to the appalling weather.

Two of us decided to head on a little further, Andy stopped to get his poles out, I stood behind him trying to cover the wind, we made a decision that we were not going to be allowed to go up onto the ridge, and if we got onto the ridge we could be blown off in those conditions, so we headed back down and caught up with Mike who was eating his sandwiches, we got back down and took our gear back to the bunkhouse and then headed to the New Inn at Carlost for an afternoon beer.

I was trying to find a shop to try and obtain some Imodium for Nigel, the only shop closed at 1:00pm, when we got back to the bunkhouse, Nigel had been in/out of bed all day, there was a group of gents from Glasgow who I had spoken with during the weekend

and I explained Nigel's condition and that we required Imodium for him, he stated he thought his mate may have some, within five minutes we had hopefully got the remedy (chairman to the rescue) these were given to Nigel immediately, which worked as quick as the mussels did on him.

Our last evening was spent at Taigh Ailean, just myself Andy and Mike, I promised to make Nigel toast on my return due to him recovering back at the bunkhouse, at the end of the evening Mike and myself headed back and we had a fantastic view of the stars, Mike spotted the Milky Way I informed I had left mine at the lodge, when we got back Nigel was up and was talking to other hostel guests and looked much better and had his toast as promised.

The following day we departed at 08:00am, the weekend had not gone as planned, but that means we will have to go back and do it all over again.

Just to end, thank you to Andy Brown for driving and doing the logistics of booking etc., Darren Groutage for taking luggage ahead, Paul, Oliver & Andy for doing an abseil evening prior to going to Skye and I would like to thank everyone who attended the weekend, I'm sure that this long weekend will be on a future calendar meet, and lastly to Nigel who was very brave due to feeling a little under the weather, I know you were the butt of a lot of jokes, but I'm sure you will agree that we did look out for you in your moment of need.



# Coach Meet – Coniston

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October

## Depart

07:00 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8NL)

07:20 – Penkrigde

(Brief toilet stop at the M6 Services)

## Drop off

Torver (284942)

Coniston (303975)

## Pick up

Coniston (303975)

## Required maps

OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure The Lakes No6 and No7 South Western and South Eastern areas

## Suggested routes

From Torver

1 (19km - 12miles) Leave the coach and head north to old quarries (278960) and on to the old Walna Scar Road (274965) Head on up The Cove to Goats Water. You could go up the right side of the tarn to Goat's Hause (265983) but a more spectacular route is to take the path on the left side and head up to the Mountain Rescue post and the foot of Easy Gully (263977). The east face of Dow Crag is very spectacular and not for walkers except this steep but relatively easy breach which heads diagonally upwards to exit a little to the south of the summit of Dow Crag (262978). Then it's north and then east to Goat's Hause and uphill in a SE direction to the summit of Coniston Old Man (272978). From summit head E then NE (273977) descend to Low's Water (275981) through old mine workings cross path junction (284981) continue to Miners Bridge (293980) keep on RHS of beck through farm pass the Sun Inn !!! down to Coniston.

If you wish to bypass Easy Gully continue along Walna Scar Road cross stream (271964) to path junction on RHS (258964) follow path over Brown Pike (260966) Buck Pike (262972) to summit of Dow Crag

From Coniston

2 (16km/10miles ) From Coniston follow the paths to the Miners Bridge (293980) and continue past Crowberry Haws to Low's Water (275981) A steep



Photo from [www.english-lakes.com](http://www.english-lakes.com)

## Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

Under 16's and full-time students – £8.00

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

£5.00 pp cancellation charges apply: you must cancel at least 7 days in advance.

path now leads to the summit of Coniston Old Man (272978) From the summit head N along the ridge to Swirl How (273005) Descend steeply to the E down the rocky Prison Band and continue onto Weatherlam (288011) Descend the grassy ridge to Furness Fells (292000) and continue on vague paths to Hole Rake (293991) From here good paths lead down into Coppermines Valley and back towards Coniston.

3 (11km – 7 miles) Proceed as route 2 along the main Coniston ridge to Swirl How (273005) then descend steeply to the E down the rocky Prison Band to Swirl Hause (278008) From here take a more direct route S past Levers Water (282994) and along the Coppermines Valley into Coniston.

4 (10km – 6miles) Head on the roads to Shepherds Bridge (304976) and then hit the Cumbria Way to Tarn How's Hit the A593 at Oxen Fell High Cross (328017) and return to Coniston by paths that run to the right of the road.

5 (14km – 9 miles) Head NW to Miners Bridge (294980) and then take the path through the disused quarries that lead to Hole Rake (293991) Reverse route 1 to the summit of Weatherlam (288011) Leave the summit along NE ridge and descend until you hit the path in Greenburn (295023) which heads off E then S to Tiberthwaite (306010) Minor roads lead to the A593 and a footpath running parallel to this takes you back to Coniston About 14km/9miles



# Coach Meet – Moelwyns

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November

## Depart

07:00 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8HU)

07:20 – Service road just off M54 Junct. 2 island

## Drop off

Dolwyddelan (735524)

Tanygrisiau (690452)

Club Hut (627507)

## Pick up

Club Hut (627507)

Pen-y- Gwryd (660558)

Capel Curig (721582)

## Required maps

OS. 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure OL17 Snowdon & Conway Valley, OL18 Harlech & Bala

## Suggested routes

1 From Dolwyddelan (~ 23km - 14miles)

Head North into the forested area and follow the forestry paths to bring you to (724545) where a smaller path takes you to Llyn-y-Foel (716548). Turn W skirting the lake and head up the eastern ridge of Moel Siabod (Daear Ddu) to the summit. (705547). Head W over Moel Gid following the remnant of a boundary fence W then S to Carnedd-y-Cribau(676537). Continue with your fence S towards Moel Meirch then pick up the path (663501) to take you to the Nantmor Road and Plas Gwynant

2 Moelwyns (~ 20km - 12miles)

Head SW to the Stwlan Dam, then S over Carreg Blaen-Llyn to climb Moelwyn Bach (660437) from the South. Then down to Bwlch Stwlan, up over Craigysgafyn and onto Moelwyn Mawr(658448). Descend NE aiming for Llyn Croesor (661457). Follow paths through disused quarries and head N to pass Llyn yr Adar (657477). The path descends to the Nantmoor Road and Plas Gwynant



Photo from Wikipedia.org

## Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

Under 16's and full-time students – £8.00

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

£5.00 pp cancellation charges apply: you must cancel at least 7 days in advance.

3 Cnicht (~ 18km - 11miles)

Follow the track to the head of Llyn Cwmorthin (678460), cross a slate bridge and climb to the disused quarry (665462). Head N until just before reaching Llyn yr Adar turning SW up the ridge to the summit (646466). Head back the way the way you came to Llyn yr Adar then follow the paths as route 2

4

Pick any of the "Trade Routes" from Beddgelert or The Hut

# WBMC Annual Away Dinner

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Following very positive feedback from this year's event we are returning to Briery Wood with a similar package. *To get the prices we have agreed deposits must be paid in November 2016 so please book ASAP.*

Moments from the eastern shores of Lake Windermere and set in seven acres of beautiful secluded gardens and woodland lies Briery Wood Country House Hotel. Briery Wood was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and housed the Earl of Lonsdale's Estates main gardener who developed the stunning grounds that we still enjoy today.

Briery Wood is within easy reach of the popular villages of Ambleside, Bowness and Windermere, so it's a great base for exploring the Lake District. Walking options directly from the hotel include Wansfell, Baystones and Troutbeck. Being close to the A591 also opens up many other walking options and the nearby Brockhole, The Lake District Visitor Centre also offers a wide variety of options for all ages including taking a boat on Windermere giving other options including different walks. As in previous years the weekend therefore offers the opportunity to climb different peaks that you would not be able to do on coach meets.

Here's a link to the hotel's brochure: [lakedistrictcountryhotels.co.uk/briery-wood-hotel](http://lakedistrictcountryhotels.co.uk/briery-wood-hotel) and it has a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on Trip Advisor: [tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel\\_Review-g186330-d574824](http://tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel_Review-g186330-d574824)

We have a similar deal to previous years – Bed and Breakfast on the Friday night; Dinner, Bed and Breakfast on the Saturday night:

- The price is £130.50 plus disco contribution (see below) per adult for the weekend in a twin or double room.
- The hotel has 43 twin or double rooms including some which can also accommodate families.
- Children in a room with adults would be charged £20 per night Bed and Breakfast and £15 for a half portion of the Saturday meal or £7.50 for a children's meal.
- Dinner only price on application plus share of the disco cost.
- The hotel will give 2 single rooms for £130.50 for the weekend and 3 single rooms for £151 for the weekend. Any further singles would be £199 for the weekend. If people could share where possible that would allow the maximum amount of people to go.

We have to pay for the disco ourselves and this cost would just be divided between everyone who attends the meal.

Please call me to ask for details about the cost of extra nights on 07950 087911. A non-refundable deposit is required (£25 per person) by 11<sup>th</sup> November, payable to West Bromwich Mountaineering Club, the balance is payable by you before leaving the hotel.

Send the booking form (on the next page) with a deposit cheque to:

Richard Cooksey,  
24 Lydford Road,  
Bloxwich,  
Walsall,  
West Midlands,  
WS3 3NT

To make things easier please could you put menu choices (also on the next page) in the booking form too.

# WBMC Annual Away Dinner

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## Menu

### Starters

- Roast vine tomato soup with golden croutons
- Duck leg pressing with fresh fig and toasted brioche

### Main Courses

- Roast breast of chicken with dauphinoise potato and wild mushroom sauce
- Seared fillet of sea bream with saffron crushed potato and champagne sauce
- Potato rosti with rosemary lentils, broccoli and hazelnut

### Desserts

- Sticky toffee pudding with roast almond ice cream butterscotch sauce
- Lemon tart with fresh raspberries



Photos from TripAdvisor

## Booking form

Please send the following booking form with a deposit cheque to: Richard Cooksey, 24 Lydford Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 3NT.

Party leader's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of room: single / twin / double / family

Guest Names	Adult/Child	£	Starter	Main	Dessert
Total					
Deposit (£25 pp)*					

\*WBMC takes no financial responsibility for this event