

# West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



September 2015

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This month's photo: "Captain Cag turns up again on Horseshoe Island", by John Edwards

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Hi folks,

Sorry about the slight delay in getting this month's newsletter out! Hopefully I can make it up to you by including several quite excellent articles. We've created a new poster to advertise the club, which I've included at the end of the newsletter so please feel free to print a few off to distribute at work or give to friends - anyone who you think might be interested.

Another apology - next month's coach meet information isn't here yet, but I can tell you it's going to Rhinogs and will be on Saturday 10th October - more information in the next newsletter.

My thanks to this month's contributors: John Edwards, Hilary Jones, Dave Jones, Richard Cooksey, and Jonathan Howells.

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 me at [joe.priest@live.co.uk](mailto:joe.priest@live.co.uk) (or through our website if it's an article) before 15<sup>th</sup> September.

Cheers,  
Joe Priest

## 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.



2015 Cotswold  
Discount Code:  
AF-WBMC-M8



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

# Noticeboard

## EmergencySMS Service

Did you know that you can register your smartphone with the emergency services, for free, in case of an emergency? Then, should you ever have to call them out, you are easier to find. The emergency services will pick up your phone and GPS location, not just using your provider but the strongest signal available in the area.

To register, simply send a text message with the word register to 999. A message comes back, asking you to reply YES to 999 to complete your registration, then a second message confirms that your telephone number is registered.

Sometimes it's not possible to make a phone call but a text message can be sent. Even if there is no reception, you can text 999. Even if your battery is flat, there is a reserve in the phone, and you can still text 999.

I have this on the authority and recommendation of an International Mountain Guide.

Hilary Jones

For further information, go to [emergencySMS.org.uk](http://emergencySMS.org.uk)

## Coach Information

John Edwards has got the Coach King & Queen stats up to date, and so far 91 different people have used the coach and 248 seats have been taken and paid for.

Excluding Mitch's Meet (for which he doesn't have a record of the passengers) and the cancelled August coach, that gives an average of 35.4 passengers per coach.

The ever-presents are Nigel Tarr, John Dale. Mike Smith and Hilary Jones - well done!

## 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.

## First ascent of the Matterhorn

This summer Zermatt is celebrating 150 years since Edward Whymper first ascended the Matterhorn via the Hoernli Ridge on 14th July 1865.



Photo from Wikipedia

Below: New life for old walking poles - growing peas, alpine-style in Zermatt!



## 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 £4.50





## Coming up

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September

### Fundraiser at the Pie Factory, Tipton

The club is asking for your support in raising money for a family in Nepal who have had their lives devastated by the recent earthquakes. One club member has agreed to pay for a band to support the evening at the Pie Factory, and with the excellent reputation the pub has for quality meals and beers, it should be an excellent opportunity to tell people about your holiday adventures or just catch up.

On the night we will auction off two holidays that have been very kindly donated by two club members. Ron and Jo Puncheon have offered a week's stay in their self catering cottage on the Isle of Skye (see [alltmor.co.uk](http://alltmor.co.uk) for details) and Sue Goddard has offered a week in her apartment in the French Pyrenees. There will also be a raffle with the club donating some prizes. If anybody else wants to donate any raffle prizes please speak to Paul Brindley.

If you can't make the night but want to bid for one of the two holidays, sealed bids can be sent to Paul Brindley by post or e-mail. Alternatively you can ask somebody who will be there on the night to bid for you. No excuse for not making a generous bid.

All this and all the club ask is that you make a donation so we can help a family that have had their lives devastated by something out of their control. Your support will be greatly appreciated by a family who deserve it.

If you want any more information about the night, what we're doing or how you can help, just get in touch with Paul Brindley, who can be contacted on 07813 102014 or [paulbrindley@aol.com](mailto:paulbrindley@aol.com). *Note that this event replaces the evening walk that was on the meet card.*

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – 8:00pm

### BMC Area Meeting

Old Edwardians Sports Club, Streetsbrook Road, SOLIHULL B90 3PE

There will be complimentary refreshments after the meeting, followed by what looks to be a great talk by guest speaker George Cave on expedition planning with the help of Google Earth.

For more information about the talk you can visit [www.67hours.co.uk](http://www.67hours.co.uk) and [www.thebmc.co.uk/using-free-online-mapping-for-expedition-planning](http://www.thebmc.co.uk/using-free-online-mapping-for-expedition-planning)



Photo from 67hours.co.uk

31<sup>st</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November

### Sheen Bunkhouse Weekend

If you're interested in the Bunkhouse Weekend, the cost is £16 per person, with a deposit of £5 required by the end of September to Sue.

There are great opportunities for walking and cycling, and even a chance to run the Dovedale dash!



Photo from Flickr

# Coming up

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November – 7:00pm  
Christmas Dinner and Dance

## MASQUERADE TILL MIDNIGHT PARTY MENU

### WEEKEND CHOICE MENU

#### Chicken and Duck Terrine

spiced plum chutney, roasted onion bread croutè and pea shoot salad

or

#### Leek and Potato Broth (V)

chive crème fraîche

#### Turkey Breast filled with Savoy Cabbage and Herb Stuffing

pigs in blankets and roast turkey jus

or

#### Sesame Seed Crusted Fillet of Salmon

citrus, ginger, herb and garlic dressing

or

#### Mushroom Cranberry and Brie Wellington (V)

sautéed mushrooms, cranberries, wilted spinach and creamed brie topped with toasted hazelnuts, encased in puff pastry with vegetarian herb gravy

all served with roast potatoes, brussels sprouts, honey glazed carrots and parsnips

#### Christmas Pudding Cheesecake

orange and cranberry purée

or

#### Salted Caramel and Chocolate Tart (V)

banana and butterscotch ice cream

or

#### Artisan British Cheese Board (V)

fruit and nut bread and fig chutney

I have an idea to save the club money and to bring the "Home Dinner" tradition back to the club, and that is to piggy back an already organised event, which means it does not matter whether 2 or 50 people go.

The event in question is the Masquerade ball held at the village hotel in Walsall (mask optional) 7pm till late, price £31.95 includes a 3 course meal (menu just to the left) and disco. All I require is a £10 non-refundable deposit per person to secure your place. Please note tickets will sell out quickly due to being a shared event, so get in quick. Final payment towards the end of September.

Please text me, or message me on Facebook or Twitter, and I will give you my bank account details for you to transfer the deposit over to me.

J Howells

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016  
Scottish Week

I have again secured a week at the popular venue, Ben Nevis Hotel and leisure centre in Fort William, Scotland.

Prices as follows:

- £33 per person for a Double or Twin room
- £11 single supplement
- children 5 to 14 half price - £16.50
- children 4 and under go free

As on previous occasions this includes a good full Scottish breakfast and evening meal. You also have free use of the leisure centre. All I ask is one night's deposit per person: £33 and £44 respectively and £16.50 for children under 14.

Please note this offer is open to non-members so you can invite partners and friends if you so wish. Please state any requests, like if you want the same room number as last year, and I will try to sort it out for you.



To book on either of these events contact Jonathan:

Home: 01922 278973 Mobile: 07739694079 Email: [merapeak@talktalk.net](mailto:merapeak@talktalk.net) Twitter: @howellsmerapeak

# National 3 Peaks Challenge

19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June

By Dave Jones



Firstly apologies for the delay on this write up, but I was on holiday for two weeks in July and then the Oggie 8 Challenge in August, so I'm sure that you can appreciate that time has been a little limited.

*"... We all set off on the long journey ahead up to Fort William, with excitement and anticipation..."*

For some months the National Three Peaks had been discussed and I was on the original list to attempt the challenge in under 24 hours (hopefully). The team consisted of myself, Dee Sehdeva, David Doherty, Andy Brown (driver), Paul Brindley, Liz Perks, Mike Smith, Neil Parsons, Hilary Jones & Nigel Tarr (support) who took surplus luggage and supplies down to the club hut in Nant Gwynant.

The Challenge is an event in which participants attempt to climb the highest mountains of Scotland, England and Wales. The plan is that you are driven from the foot of one mountain to the next. For the record the three peaks are:

- Ben Nevis (1,344m - 4,409 ft) the highest mountain in Scotland
- Scafell Pike (978m - 3,209 ft) the highest mountain in England
- Snowdon (1,085m - 3,560 ft) the highest mountain in Wales.

The total distance walked is estimated at 42 kilometres (26 miles) with a total ascent of 9,800 ft (3,000 m)

The WBMC had decided that we would attempt Ben Nevis from the Youth Hostel on the Nevis Range, Scafell Pike would be attempted from Seathwaite & Snowdon attempted from Pen y Pass car park.

The funny thing about this challenge is you have to be mindful on supplies that you have to take on the challenge like having to keep surplus food and drink on the mini bus. My concern was how many bottles of fluid do I need to take in relation to keep filling up my hydration bladder. In the end I got an eight litre empty bottle from work and filled this up and carried this on

the mini bus. If anyone was short of fluid this should be sufficient.

On the day of departure, Nigel picked me up from my home and the plan was to drive to Dee's home so that everyone can load their equipment into the mini bus which had been sourced by Andy from a local scout organisation. I think part of the agreement was that the scouts can use the club hut at a later date.

Everyone started to load equipment into the mini bus and also load equipment into Nigel's vehicle. I think more equipment was in Nigel's car due to food, clothing, & beer going to the hut, the boot, rear seats and passenger seat were completely full.

We all set off on the long journey ahead up to Fort William, with excitement and anticipation. Surprisingly we all had sufficient room in the mini bus so we hoped that some rest could be had on route. My plan was to try and sleep as much as possible prior to the Challenge commencing.

We had a couple of stops on route and one was at the famous Green Welly Shop in Tyndrum for refreshments. The weather was dull and it had started to rain, at this stage I had woken up and felt relatively ready for the challenge. We carried on North to arrive in Fort William parking up at Morrison's to pick up any supplies required and then we drove off down the nevis range for the challenge to start.



Andy parked up and everyone started to get ready and get their gear on. Couple of photos were taken outside the hostel and then the time check was confirmed as 18.30 hours, so we now have 24 hours to go and the clock was ticking down.

Continued overleaf...



*3 Peaks Challenge*

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A good pace was set by all, climbing up the numerous steps at the start from the Youth Hostel. We started to lose one of our team members after a while, but the rest of the group plodded on to try and support the other members of the team and to still try and achieve the goal.

The weather was very grey and as we got higher a light rain had started, as most of you may already know we started zig zagging around just after the lochan, gaining height. Talking to people coming down we knew that there was still snow on the summit. Numerous people were taking part in the Challenge all for a good cause, some people were struggling the higher they got up. We plodded on came to the snow line and made our way onto the summit. We had now walked through the cloud and the views at the top were totally clear, looking back down we could easily see the bad weather that we had walked through. Quick photos at the top and we started to descend. With this challenge every second counts. Myself and Neil Parsons had made it to the top, followed by other team members. From a team prospective everyone had walked very well on the first summit.

I got back down to the mini bus at 23.00 hours, passing Andy who had walked up to encourage the team. It was just starting to go dark, so I had got down without the need for my head torch. When sitting on the mini bus waiting for other team members it was great to see the mountain lit up with head torches with people descending.

Everyone got back and into the mini bus at it was decided that we go to Macdonald's in Fort William to stock up on carbohydrates (yeah whatever) when we arrived there they had closed, so we stopped in the centre of Fort William for Fish & Chips, etc.



We all got into the mini bus and started to our journey south towards Cumbria & the Lake District.

After food and a change of clothes and general chat about the first ascent we started to try and get some sleep and gear ourselves up for Scafell Pike.

*"... for the last few hours the weather had been pretty atrocious with zero visibility"*

I woke up in the early hours and time is of the utmost essence on this Challenge, Andy had got his foot on the gas trying to get us to Seathwaite in good time. I think we arrived around 4.30/5.00am to start our route up Scafell Pike.

We started from the small hamlet of Seathwaite at the end of a minor road in the Borrowdale Valley, this is the most common route on the three peak challenge. Of the three peaks on the Challenge Scafell Pike is actually the most technical and often considered the hardest (on reflection for me this was the case). Our route heads over Stockley Bridge above Seathwaite then takes a fairly straightforward ascent up Grains Gill to reach Esk Hause. The route then takes on a high level traverse of the Great End, ill crag & Broad Crag ridge involving navigation of a tricky boulder field, then onto a steep climb of stone chute, which I swore on numerous times (1 foot forward 3 backwards). Navigating on the higher parts of Scafell Pike can be difficult in bad weather (more to follow).

Unfortunately we lost another member of the team on this ascent due to an injury, but we moved on to support the team and to hopefully achieve our goal.

We arrived at the summit of Scafell Pike and for the last few hours the weather had been pretty atrocious with zero visibility. Again quick photos and then descend.

We encountered some navigational issues and at one stage were on the wrong path. Great perseverance from Hilary Jones & Mike Smith was shown, we climbed back up and finally got back onto the correct path and headed down, as mentioned this is the most technical walk on the three peak challenge and we had not had the best of weather, however I got towards the foot of the path and again was greeted by Andy who stated that due to losing about one hour the Challenge may now be out of reach.

Continued overleaf...

*3 Peaks Challenge*

continued...

We all got back to the mini bus, and we headed towards North Wales, I was trying to dry socks on the sky light and trying to change clothes, personally I feel that Scafell Pike had given been our greatest challenge and certainly the most demanding.

Again we all tried to have some rest and Andy would always let us know when we were getting near to our destination, when this occurred everyone would start to get ready and get boots on.

On the way to North Wales we encountered a traffic jam and Andy made a quick decision and made a detour, if the weather and terrain didn't test us the traffic certainly would. With the three peak challenge you are actually travelling more than you are walking.

We arrived at the Pen Y Pass car park to be greeted by Nigel, everyone had said that if we were going to complete we really needed to get moving. Myself & Neil had a discussion and said it was achievable, but we would need to speed walk on our ascent and perhaps do a run on the descent.

We stated that we would summit with as little gear as possible and due to the weather being very sunny at this particular time, the challenge may still be on. The other team members also decided to give it their best and go for it.

Travelling as light as possible for me was to just use my walking poles. No rucksack and Neil stated that he had an extra drinking bottle in his shoulder pack for me so we started out in glorious sunshine with minimal gear.

The first section of the pyg track climbs quite steeply over rough and rocky terrain, we had to speed walk to achieve our time. We got to the fork in the path with one route leading up to Crib Goch, we went left and over the two adjacent stiles.

Great views of Snowdon could be seen just after crossing over the stiles. Myself and Neil really worked hard and pushed on with just the odd occasional drink and arrived at the summit. We touched the trig point and headed straight back down, as we started our descent Mike Smith had just arrived at the standing stone which joins up with the Llanberis path, so Mike was also making good time.

At this stage we were originally going to go back via the Miners path, but due to making good time on our ascent we thought that we would go back the same

route. At times we had a little jog, followed by speed walking, followed by normal walking. This actually had to be done to complete the challenge on time. On the way down we passed Dee, Liz & Hilary who continued to show great determination (well done ladies).

Paul & Andy went looking for Mike who had descended via the Miners track and when Mike came into sight they were shouting at Mike to make the time. Mike crossed the line spot on 18.30 hours. By this time we were sitting on the mini bus and had to close the doors and windows due to being eaten by midges.

We waited for the ladies to arrive prior to heading back to the hut for a celebration drink and a hot meal.

On Saturday evening we went to the Prince Llewelyn in Beddgelert for food and drink & pranks, anyone that knows Neil state that he his a dead ringer lookalike to the Little Britain character Daffyd Thomas the only gay in he village (no offence to anyone) so Neil was dressed up in a feather boa and the odd bit of lipstick from the ladies and looking the part he had to go to the bar dressed like this and had to obtain drinks. (Well done mate sooner you than me) Then back to the hut for a few more beers and hopefully a good nights rest. Hopefully no snoring.



So the outcome was three of us achieved the National Three Peaks in under 24 hours, and the remaining team still achieved the three peaks in our minds. What a great team we had!!! Special thanks to our driver Andy who got us to our Challenges and drove when the rest of us were sleeping. Also thanks to Nigel ensuring that all our food and luggage was at the hut when we arrived. Great team effort all around.

I look forward to further challenges with you all and hopefully another Challenge next year.

# WBMC Annual Away Dinner

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016

By Richard Cooksey



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 2015 and 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 19th century and housed the Earl of Lonsdale's Estates main gardener who developed the stunning grounds that we still enjoy today.



Photo from TripAdvisor

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.

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 £125 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 £30 plus share of the disco cost.
- The hotel will give 2 single rooms for £125 for the weekend and 3 single rooms for £145 for the weekend. Any further singles would be £195 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.

Here's a link to their 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)

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 10th November, payable to West Bromwich Mountaineering Club, the balance is payable individually before leaving the hotel.

## Booking form

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Type of room: single / twin / double / family

Any special requests (e.g. vegetarian meals):

Guest Names	Adult/Child	£
Total		



# Oggie 8 Challenge

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August

After completing the Oggie 8 Challenge last year, 2015 was going to be extra special due to it being the 50th year celebration for the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation (OVMRO). Being so close to WBMC hut I personally feel that it is good to support the OVMRO as a walker and member of WBMC we never know when we might require the services from the rescue team. I'm also a member of the 333 club which was set up in 1997. The purpose of the group is to help raise both the profile and funds for OVMRO. The enigmatic numbers were chosen as they are the last three digits of their telephone number and quite frankly they are reminiscent of 999.

OVMRO continue to be extremely busy. In 2014 the team had 117 incidents and 1567 member responses. Sadly three of these incidents have been fatalities. Half of their incidents were for people who had become lost or stuck.

Every year the OVMRO organise the Oggie 8 Challenge, this was also the 8th year of running this event. For the first team this year they are allowing teams of two to compete, but if one member drops out then for safety reasons the remaining member will not be able to continue alone. Also this year a shorter route option was available for those that want to take part, but are not confident tackling all 8 peaks, so the Oggie 4 has been set up.

There are eight 3,000 feet peaks based on the Challenge that have to be summited and are as follows:

- Yr Elen 962 metres, 3156 feet
- Carnedd Llewelyn 1064 metres, 3490 feet
- Carnedd Dafydd 1044 metres, 3425 feet
- Pen Yr Ole Wen 978 metres, 3208 feet
- Y Garn 947 metres, 3106 feet
- Glyder Fawr 999 metres, 3277 feet
- Glyder Fach 994 metres, 3261 feet
- Tryfan 917 metres, 3008 feet

The Oggie 8 is the main source of fundraising for the OVMRO, they are dependant upon every pound that is raised in sponsorship for the event. In 2014 the event raised a tremendous £6596 and the target for 2015 is to raise over £10,000.

WBMC entered yet another team this year which had been organised by Adrian Shaw, due to Graeme Stanford volunteering his services this year to be a

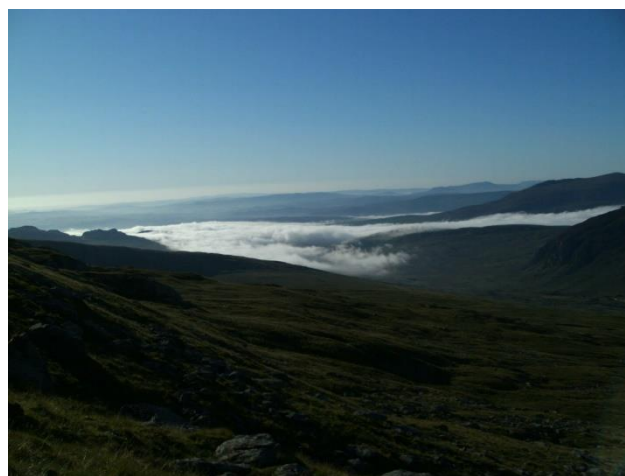
By Dave Jones



marshal. The team consisted of myself, Adrian Shaw, Neil Parsons, Simon Grove, St Jean Cooper & Graeme Stanford who was supporting both club & OVMRO.

The weekend commenced with me departing around 14.30 hours on the Friday afternoon due to getting half day holiday, this year was extra special for me as Jeanette & Lauren (daughter) were coming along for moral support or that could be a girlie day whilst we take on the 8 summits. We arrived at Bryn Poeth Capel Curig at around 17.00 hours and I went to register for the event, from here we went to the club hut to drop off food & bedding for the weekend.

The plan on Friday evening was to all meet at Plas Y Brenin, the national mountain sports centre, for evening meal and drinks. This was the first time that I have eaten here and I was very impressed with the quality and the quantity (very much a man size portion) the evening was spent socialising and talking about the following day's event. From here we went back to the hut and a relatively early night prior to a 05.00am start.



We woke at 05.00am and the plan was to leave at around 06.15am to drive to Oggie base, after a quick breakfast and gear check we all departed in various cars x 3, with one car being left at Ogwen Cottage for a half way check point and change of clothing. The morning was dry with little mist & dew, but the forecast was for a sunny clear day. I left with Simon & Graeme and as we got towards the top of Llyn Gwynant there was a fantastic cloud inversion looking back towards the hut & Beddgelert, a rustic red sunshine was towering over Snowdon and Crib Goch.

Continued overleaf...

*Oggie 8 Challenge*

continued...

The team all arrived at Oggie base and there had been a marquee set up for after celebrations and portable welfare facilities. We had a team photo with Tryfan standing proudly behind us in full clear view. We all registered and WBMC were ready to go. We all converted at the rear of the mountain rescue and dead on 07.00am we were off making our way up the Carnedd range.



The fell runners had got off to their normal quick pace, we were all separated but had a visibility of everyone, the views going up were fantastic and looking down the cloud inversion was still visible looking down towards Capel Curig.

Prior to getting to the top of Yr Elen & Carnedd range the fell runners had already summited the first two peaks. We were just getting near to our first summit. The start of the Oggie 8 can only be described as a plod in boggy conditions. We all arrived at the top knowing one down and seven to go (phew).

Yr Elen, Carnedd, and Pen Yr Ole Wen were under our belts and started our descent down to Ogwen Cottage, no real issues to report just the normal hotspots and apply compeed plasters and a little tiredness, but spirits were high.

We followed the contour of Llyn Ogwen and skirted around the lake to arrive at an over cramped Ogwen cottage car park. Quick change of clothing here, apply another compeed to my heel, talcum powder supplied by Adrian to dry my feet and as good as new to go again. Unfortunately one member of the team dropped out at this stage but the team know that you will be back next year and a big pat on the back for completing the Oggie 4.

I knew from the previous year that the pull up to Y Garn from Ogwen cottage is real hard work to gain

height again. We had discussed that we would all support each other and take regular & frequent quick drink stops. We called Y Garn another name: Y B.....D, everyone encouraged each other on this stage of the leg and we all got to the top had our cards stamped at checkpoint and on we moved to the Glyder range.

After Y Garn it is a nice descend to the foot of the Glyder range, with the marshals giving us lots of sweets, love hearts, haribo to name a few to keep the sugar levels up. We got to the foot of the Glyder range and started to climb up towards Glyder Fawr & Glyder Fach, this is the last real big climb with only Tryfan to follow.

We started on route to Glyder Fawr which is the highest in the Glyderau range and the 5th highest mountain in Wales. The summit lies on the ridge between Glyder Fach & Y Garn. The summit plateau is very rocky and making our progress was constant but steady, we arrived at the top of the rocky outcrop with pinnacle stones protruding out of the ground, we continued onto Glyder Fach treading precariously over the large boulders on route.

We were greeted by a friendly faces at one check point stage, Graeme was marshalling with Dave Worrall who is OVMRO team leader, quick chat and we moved on again onto our final summit. Prior to this Neil had decided that he was going to climb to Cantilever Stone and get his photo on top.

We skirted round towards Tryfan saw the checkpoint and were informed by the marshal which route to take and pointed the route direction. We arrived at Tryfan check point and requested if we could leave our rucksacks at the foot of the mountain, unfortunately they stated that we could not do this but said we could leave our walking poles, so we went with this option and started to climb up the South side of Tryfan. By now we were all starting to feel tired and were looking forward to a beer back at Oggie base.

Continued overleaf...

*3 Peaks Challenge*

continued...

We clambered up to Tryfan and by now the wind had started to pick up. The three marshals at the top of Tryfan looked like they really wanted to get out of the wind. Last tick on the card and we were on our way down, one last check to say that we had come off Tryfan and the marshals made the call to base to state that we were on route back.

Adrian located the path and we were on our way back, we had heard from Graeme that the winning team (Siabod Shifters) had finished in just over 5 hours, a truly remarkably effort. We got off the rough terrain and started descending the steps and made our way back across the camp site.

We wanted to achieve in under 12 hours and we came in at 11hrs 45 mins so we were very pleased with the timing. We crossed the road and started to walk up the path to Oggie Base, when teams come in they sound a horn, we were being encouraged to run and towards the end we did have a little jog. I know Adrian had to skip in because he had been sponsored to do this.

I was greeted with a hug from my daughter & Jeanette they had been into Betws y Coed shopping and had lunch. We were greeted with cheers from everyone and then it was a beer followed by jacket potato and curry. When all the teams had got back to base and the Marshals had come down off the hills it was time for the ceremony.



Andy Harbach, chairman of the OVMRO, thanked everyone for taking part and then presented the winning teams with their rewards.

WBMC team came in unscathed other than feeling tired and wanted to be watered & fed (not perhaps

water). The team had walked really well and friendship and companionship on route was second to none. The team were given a goodie bag which consisted of a certificate of achievement, mug, coaster, lucozade drink, little compass.

All the team then headed back to the hut, I arrived first and went for a well deserved shower, Richard Cooksey & Joe were also staying at the hut over the weekend and congratulated us in completing the challenge. Neil & St Jean had decided to go and soothe their feet in the river down the road from the hut.



The Saturday night consisted of all sitting around either the fire or the table and good conversation was had, also the cheese and biscuits came out Neil produced some Spam and a rather unusual lager drink that contained Rum. I don't think any of the team needed rocking that night.

We woke on Sunday morning and some opted to go down to the café, due to the weather being the total opposite to the previous day (low cloud and heavy rain) we opted to stay in the hut and have our own "fry up". It was then a general tidy up of the hut and replenish wood and everyone started to say their goodbyes.

The weekend was very successful and hopefully we can have more than one team in 2016 participating. Many thanks to Adrian for organising, Graeme showing support to OVMRO and to my fellow team colleagues and Jeanette & Lauren being there at the end to cheer the team on.

Watch out for Oggie 8 details for 2016 and there is some talk on completing the Welsh 15 peaks! More to follow.



# Coach Meet – Blencathra

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

## Depart

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

07:20 - Penkridge

(Brief toilet stop at the Charnock Richards services)

## Drop off

Scales (343269)

Threkeld (325254)

Keswick Coach Station

## Pick up

Keswick Coach station

Scales (343269)

## Required maps

OS 1:25 000 OL No.5 English Lakes North Eastern Area

OS 1:25 000 OL No. 4 English Lakes North Western Area

## Suggested routes

Route 1 (~15km - 9.5 miles) From Scales

From Scales Farm (340268), follow the path past Mousthwaite Comb (344275), then turn NE to Scales Tarn (329281). As you arrive Sharp Edge is the obvious Ridge on the skyline, this is your next destination, a grade 1 scramble. At the top an easy walk takes you to the summit of Blencathra, then continue along the grassy ridge to Knowe Crags (312270). Finally head NW to a footbridge over Glenderaterra Beck (296278), then climb to the path junction of the Cumbria Way (293279). Follow this South, past Lonscale Crags and eventually into Keswick.

Route 2 (~14km - 8.5 miles) From Scales

From Scales follow the footpath west and cross Scaley Beck and Doddick Gill until Gate Gill where a little path twists north up Hall's Fell right to the highest point of Blencathra, Hallsfell Top. Baggers might want to go south west for 600m to tick Gategill Fell Top. From Hallsfell Top follow the ridge north to Atkinson Pike and eventually to Bowscale Fell. Now head south, using the crags as a handrail to Bannerdale Crags before returning to the col at the head of the Glenderamackin River and following the stream south east back to Scales..

Route 3 (~20km - 12.5 miles) From Threkeld

Head up the road to Blencathra centre (304256)



Photo by Alan Novelli/Alamy

## 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 by 7pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> July.

around Blease Fell, up Glencathra and back to join the Cumbria Way (293279) up to Skiddaw Hause (297291). From here, the circuit of Great Calva (291312), Little Calva (282315), Knott (296330) and Coomb Height (311328) is possible before heading back to Skiddaw Hause then to the Cumbria Way back to Keswick.

Route 4 (~16km – 10 miles) From Keswick

From the coach station follows roads to Briar Rigg (267241) and then follow the Cumbria Way north east to a car park (280253). Start climbing steeply to the summit of Little Man (266278), continue on a good path to Skiddaw. Descend the very steep west face of Skiddaw to Carlside Tarn (256283), and if time permits walk out to Ullock Pike. Retracing your steps climb to the summit of Carlside and descend south to Millbeck (256262). Follow the road into Applethwaite and follow the Allerdale Ramble (265255) back into Keswick.

Route 5 (~20km – 12.5 miles) From Keswick

Follow the Allerdale Ramble NW through Thornthwaite Forest to eventually reach Ravenstone Hotel (236297). From the right side of the hotel, follow a steep path through a conifer wood then take the long heather-clad ridge to Ullock Pike (244287). This was Wainwright's favourite route up Skiddaw. Continue along the slate rocks of Longside Edge to Skiddaw and then descend via the Cumbria Way and the Allerdale Ramble back to Keswick.



# West Bromwich Mountaineering Club

We're a friendly club with over 250 members throughout the UK. We run events for almost every outdoor activity there is, and we put on monthly coach meets to great walking and climbing destinations in England and Wales.

We meet at The Wheatsheaf in West Bromwich every Thursday night from 9:00pm – come and say hello!

[membership-secretary@wbmc.org](mailto:membership-secretary@wbmc.org)

*We welcome complete beginners and experienced mountaineers alike.*



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

