



This month's atmospheric Welsh 2020 photos: "A shot from the hut in early spring" by Pete Poultney and "Ogwen Valley 8pm 28th August" by Phil Matthews

+x#@~YULETIDE SPECIAL EDITION~@#*x+*

1	Picture/s of the Month	<p>EDITORIAL: Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2021 which we all hope will be a better year than 2020. It could be a year when we see actually see Natural Selection in action as all the anti-vaxxers get hit by the coronavirus! However, that's actually an impossibility for as long as the majority are sensible and have the vaccine when it is offered, "herd" or as I prefer to call it "community immunity" kicks in. So, like mask-wearing, taking action not only gives you some personal protection but helps to keep the doubters from getting sick. Not that they necessarily seem to appreciate this! A HUGE, SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS and a Happy New Year to you all.</p> <p>CHAIRMAN'S CORNER: May I wish all our members a belated Happy New Year and hope that you are able to enjoy the hills more normally this year, be it from the hut, through coach meets, or trips in the car with your friends. I hope everyone will try and support our coach meets once they are allowed to re-start as Robinsons have had a tough time the last 12 months or so and we wouldn't want to lose them through business collapse. If you haven't been on the coach for a while, please give it a try even if you only use it for a day out in the countryside.</p>
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NOTICEBOARD

IMPORTANT: Can members **please** update Wendy Morris (07950 836862) with your latest email address or mobile phone number if you have changed either in the last 3 or so years? Some people are still getting MailChimps from Jan but not Joe, and vice versa, in spite of all the hard work they did phoning people last year.

REMINDER 2021 WBMC MEMBERSHIP FEES: On behalf of the Membership Secretary, a reminder that membership fees for 2021 are now due. As a one-off, this year these are set at £10 per adult and £0 (ie free) for students, children, Veterans & Life members. However, anyone who wishes can still pay or donate the full, normal sub of £36! Indeed the committee are grateful to the 50% of early 'renewers' who did just this.

Any individuals joining as new members during 2021 will be required to pay this full subscription amount. Subscriptions should be paid **by end of January at the latest** either by bank transfer / standing order to A/C 93802159 Sort Code 40-47-11 or a cheque payable to 'WBMC' posted to Wendy Morris, 32 Essex Drive, Rugeley, WS15 1JX

Early in the year you should receive a sticker with your name, membership number & new 2021 date to be stuck in place of the 2020 one on your old card from last year. If you have misplaced your card contact Wendy Morris, at membership-secretary@wbmc.org

PROVISIONAL MEET 'CARD' Confirmation of events will be by MailChimp:

Sat 9th Jan: **Car / coach meet** (perhaps optimistic)

18/19th Jan: **Glencoe w/e at Kingshouse Bunkhouse** (£35/night). Contact Nick Piotrowski (07710 924555) for details

Sun 7th Feb: **Car Meet, possibly to The Roaches** led by Mel Evans

13th -20th Feb: **Nev's Winter Week at Fort William Hotel** Contact Jonathan (07821 54407) for details or to book your place. An alternative **Winter Week: Camping at Port a Bhaigh, Inverpollly Nature Reserve** is available. Contact John Edwards (07837 198355) for details.

Sat 13th March: **Car Meet, possibly to the Briedden Hills** led by John Edwards

Fri 19th – Sun 21st March: **Away Dinner in the Lake District**. Details from Nigel (07703 345729) It is hoped that COVID restrictions will still allow this to go ahead.

Wed 24th March: **AGM ONLINE via ZOOM (or mail for those without internet)**

Sun 11th April: **Car / coach meet**

16/18th April: **Skills Weekend at the Hut** led by Geordie Hinds (07505 364318)

23/25th April: **Introduction to Scrambling w/e at the Hut** led by Pete & Mel (07845 060043)

Sat 8th May: **Coach meet** (hopefully by now vaccines will have changed the picture)

Sun 13th June: **Coach meet** (or maybe car meet if above has proved over-optimistic)

18/20th June: **Midsummer Activities W/e at The Gower!** Or why not go Thurs to Wed & really celebrate the Summer Solstice with a week of walking, climbing, boarding, swimming, canoeing, running, drinking, socialising but still no hugging?! Pete P (07753 959770) is co-ordinator but everyone is responsible for booking their own pitch.

2/4th July: **Chairman's Challenge w/e**. Details to follow in the next Newsletter.....

DONATIONS: The Club has recently given donations to Coniston and Llanberis Mountain Rescue teams and has a £20 standing order to The Snowdonia Society, the charity working to protect & enhance the beauty and special qualities of Snowdonia. See www.snowdonia-society.org.uk where you can listen to the Director, John Harold's talk for the RGS on the sweeping conservation trend known as "Rewilding"

CONGRATULATIONS:

Many congratulations to Sue Goddard & Rob Cox on their recent engagement and also to John & Linda Howells who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in December.

COMMITTEE NEWS & REPORT:

The 2020 AGM planned for 26th March had to be cancelled because of the COVID lockdown and there will be no 2020 Minutes as a proper AGM never happened. However, a Calling Notice along with an Agenda & the 2019 Minutes had been circulated and nominations for all the 20/21 committee posts & the Malcolm Collins Award were received by the stated deadline and all were published in the April Newsletter. Eventually, the 2019/20 committee agreed to try and get the new Committee & 2019 minutes ratified by the membership and hope that other business could be conducted at a re-arranged AGM later in the year. Accordingly from 12th May, members received the 2020 AGM Reports plus details of how they could signal their agreement to the 2019 minutes and Club officers, all of whom were uncontested. A minimum of 25 responses were needed and these were received by post or email by 4th June.

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The constitution states that nominees for the 5 Ordinary member posts and the Malcolm Collins award can be proposed from the floor 'on the night' at an AGM so, as an interim measure it was decided that the current elected Ordinary committee members retain their positions until an actual AGM was possible. The Malcolm Collins award was also held over until the AGM could be re-arranged, optimistically in September. Alas this proved impossible with the COVID restrictions, so the persons in the table below served as the 2020/21 Committee and the Malcolm Collins Award was never awarded, even though there were citations for one nominee received by the Secretary in writing before the AGM.

President: Mike Thompson	07773 944316 sir.m.thompson1940@icloud.com	35 Seven Acres, Aldridge WS 0EX9
Chair: Mel Evans	07845 060043 mel.gel@hotmail.co.uk	42 Summerfield Rd Wall Heath DY6 8HY
Vice Chair: David Hind	07505 364318 geordiehind@gmail.com	Redditch
Secretary: Jan Cox	secretary@wbmc.org	Stourbridge
Treasurer: Liz Reynolds	07906 351167 treasurer@wbmc.org	Dudley
Membership Sec: Wendy Morris	membership@wbmc.org	32 Essex Drive, Rugeley WS15 1JX
Hut Secretary: Pete Poultney	07779 366905 hut-secretary@wbmc.org	9 Sandpiper Close, Stourbridge DY9 8TD
Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr	07703 345729 tarnigel@gmail.com	46 Camberley, Beaconview Rd, B71 3PE
Newsletter Editor: Joe Priest	07791 338 798 newsletter@wbmc.org	Bromsgrove
Ordinary Member: Mary Duncan	01384 256733 mary.duncan8@btinternet.com	1 Dundas Avenue, Dudley DY2 7TJ
Ordinary Member: John Edwards	07871 98355 jaejed@hotmail.com	157 Welford Road, Solihull B90 3HT
Ordinary Member: Phil Matthews	07977 260028 oilphiluk@yahoo.co.uk	Kidderminster

Going forward the Committee have taken up a recent offer from the BMC to use their professional Zoom facility to hold our 2021 AGM online on 24th March. This will give an opportunity for voting and discussion as well as electing your committee. A Calling Notice will be sent by email or post nearer the time. Please let the committee know if you would like to stand for one of the places on the committee; we're short of 2 Ordinary Members!

CALLING ALL MEMBERS WITH CHILDREN / TEENAGERS: Please think about joining your offspring up with WBMC. If we have an email for them, they will get MailChimps & the Newsletter plus BMC membership & 3rd party insurance FOR FREE!!

"THAT WAS A YEAR THAT WAS!! IT'S OVER – LET IT GO":**a headline for our "more mature" readers who remember Millicent Martin & TW3 !
THE EDITOR TAKES A BRIEF LOOK BACK A WBMC's 2020**

For the sake of posterity more than anything else it might be good to summarise in a Newsletter just how COVID-19 affected the club in 2020. Who knows if it will be of interest to historians of the future? There's never been a year like it, that's for sure!

It got off to a conventional start with the first 3 coach meets going as planned. After 'Mitch's Meet' to the Long Mynd in cars, the following Saturday a coach took us to Llanberis, then February's coach went to Langdale but the March coach to Patterdale turned out to be the last of the year! Also in January Nick Piotrowski's Winter climbing weekend at the Kingshouse bunkhouse in Glencoe went ahead, as did a rainy Chapel Stile weekend in the Lakes organised by Rob Cox. In February, shortly before Italy went into lockdown, Graeme Stanford & a few others from West Brom joined folk from 4 other mountaineering clubs for a week in Cogne, below Gran Paradiso, for a week of skiing and climbing. Other Club members went on "Nev's Scottish Week" in Fort William at half term, organised by Jonathan Howells. The last winter 'Away Week' was to the Cairngorms in March, organised by Graeme Stanford where members of other W. Midland mountaineering clubs again joined WBMC at Aviemore YH.

There were also a few Indoor Meets at The Cricketers Arms. In January Sue Goddard & Rob Cox showed photos of their week "Walking in the Jotunheimen" – the 'Home of the Giants' in Norway. Come February it was "A Cheap Long Weekend to Spitzbergen" by John Edwards, then in March Nick Piotrowski showed slides of the club's "Triglav Ascent in 2018" and treated us all to samosas! Those who attended the Away Dinner at Ambleside in early March felt it was a great success but then things started to go pear-shaped.

In February we started to hear stories about a virus spreading, but it was on the other side of the world and we'd never heard of it before. March arrives and the world changes! We're told a National Lockdown will start on 23rd March and last for 3 months. This results in huge crowds on Snowdon on 22nd March as people take their chance to do something they would not be allowed to do again until 6th June at the earliest. And so the Hut was closed and all indoor & outdoor Meets cancelled, including the WBMC AGM scheduled for 26th March. This eventually was arranged via email between 22nd May & 5th June and saw David Jones hand over to Mel Evans as Chairman after a successful 4 years at the helm and Nigel Tarr virtually collect the Malcolm Collins Award for his 'sterling' work for the Club over the years, latterly as Coach Secretary.

In the event 'hospitality' venues like huts and campsites were not allowed to re-open until 4th July and our Hut finally did so on 16th July. Things seemed to be getting back to a 'new normal' and the Committee were able to re-start the Club's walking programme in August, although small groups of friends had been walking and climbing together as "bubbles" during the previous months. On 9th July Ken Priest & Pete Poultney led the first Outdoor Evening Meet of the year over Clent and on 6th Aug around 30 met up for an evening walk in Sandwell Valley led by Mike Smith & Nigel Tarr. Three days later a similar number met at Edale car park for a walk on Kinder Scout led by Andy Brown. There was an evening walk in September at Wombourne, and another car meet near the Long Mynd, again led by Andy, which was followed by a pub meal and several members camped over. Climbing on Thursday nights re-started at Kidderminster under new social distancing rules

and a few other events like the Women's Weekend got off the ground, thanks to Vanessa Biddulph and others.

Then on 14th September the "Rule of 6" was introduced! It took agitation from the BMC, Ramblers & LDWA for the Government to allow a special exemption so that "organised walking in groups of up to 30" could continue. This enabled the Committee to plan car meets at Abergavenny in October and Ogwen in November, although, in the end, neither of these were able to go ahead because of the introduction of new restrictions including the Welsh "Fire-break". However, the Camping / Climbing Week at the Gower did go ahead, organised by Pete Poultney before, on 12th October, a 3-tier system of restrictions was introduced in England with West Midlands in Tier 2, although Wales had different rules and didn't want the English crossing the border – nothing new there then: just like in 11th Century! Sadly, this meant the Hut had to close again so Phil Matthews was still legally able to run a cycling day, although this was along the lanes of Worcestershire and not from the Hut. Finally, just a few weeks later, on 31st October English Lockdown 2.0 commenced and, although this ended as planned on 2nd Dec, when the West Midlands emerged it found itself re-classified in Tier 3. All this meant that the Hut remained closed & all group events until the end of the year, including the Christmas Social, were cancelled.

The committee are grateful to everyone who worked hard to put on events during this very difficult year, apologies if you did but didn't get a mention. We all hope that 2021 will be a more successful and happier year for everybody.

SOME MEMORIES OF JACK DODD & OWEN TANDY from Mike Alldritt, Chris



Shinton, Chrissy Burnett & Sarah Wheatcroft

Mike Alldritt, who now lives in Canada, recalled that he worked at the same place as Baz Farmer and that they would walk home after work, talking all the way to his house. It was through these conversations with Baz that Mike learnt about WBMC and, although he'd been into the countryside Youth Hostelling, this seemed something new so he joined up and through becoming a member got to know Jack Dodd, Owen Tandy (*left as a young man on a coach meet*) Mick O'Neil & Dave Tart. Mike writes: "This was the very early '60's, a time of Sunday coach meets and bi-weekly trips to North Wales, stopping in Llangollen until the pub closed before getting fish, chips

& mushy peas before continuing westwards, arriving at the hut in the very early morning. The roads weren't what they are today and neither was the Hut which was just concrete floors and an upstairs for sleeping. In those times we all hiked and rock climbed and on one trip to Stanage Edge Owen was hit by a falling rock. Luckily he was on the ground at the time but it did knock him out for a second or two! In those days we were not well off and equipment was in short supply :- a nylon rope, 3 slings & karabiners and a 'harness' comprising a thinner rope wrapped several times around the waist. Add a woolly hat balaclava and that was it!

On our trips to North Wales we planned our weekends around climbing the 72 peaks listed in W.A. Poucher's "The Welsh Peaks" [Ed: 1st published in 1962 @ 18/- !] Because we didn't always go on the same weekends Jack Dodd was the first to climb them all. On one of the weekends Jack brought along his girlfriend, so Jack plus friend, Baz & I went rock climbing in the Llanberis Pass. Jack led off with his lady friend on the one rope while Baz led me on a second rope. Partway up we heard a scream from above. Jack had fallen off but luckily his girl friend manage to hold him but I was left dangling while Baz went to see what happened. Fortunately Jack was OK.



Baz, Waggy, Owen & Les at Foel Fras trig point having just completed the '14 Peaks Walk' around late '60's

Our lives were intertwined for several years but I was a bit younger than Baz, Jack & Dave so Mick O'Neil & I myself hung out together. But he eventually moved to college in Nottingham. Jack moved to the USA and I went to live in Cardiff, sadly only returning to West Brom or the Hut occasionally.



Interestingly, we always talked about going around the world together, seeking adventure, but in the end I was the only one that did spend a couple of years travelling around the world. I met my Canadian wife on that trip and when we married in the UK, Owen & Dawn attended the wedding (Right with Dawn behind)

Chris Shinton, who emigrated to Australia in 1982, said that Owen was a well-established member when he joined WBMC around 1967 and remembers him as a warm & friendly guy. He recalls a group at an Away Dinner at Wasdale Head, or maybe Haweswater, sneaking in to his hotel bedroom to sleep on the floor when they had elected to sleep for free in a garage, which turned out to be freezing! Chrissy Burnett was one of that group and remembers it well, as it was a time when no one had much money. She recalled that someone put her make-up onto Owen's bearded face while he slept! She also remembers Owen, a married man, sleeping in a tent between Barbara Challinor and herself saying something like "this'll probably never happen again!" In those days everyone was friendly, sociable & trustworthy but today it might have caused ructions on social media! Her daughter, Sarah Shinton writes "my parents [Chris and Christine Shinton (Burnett)] are both long time members of WBMC and for all of my life the club has been a steadfast, much loved community, more than that actually! Family.



Some of the WBMC Family enjoying fish & chips



My 'Uncle' Owen, as I have always known him, has always been there: a friend of my parents, very much loved by us all, and there for all of my 46 years until recently.

One of my own memories is of us all getting snowed in at the Away Dinner. We did have a great time - no electricity so we lit candles and all packed the bar out! Owen was also a spiritual man and I believe that he once rescued a group of people in difficulties on Snowdon because a voice told him to go after them. I'm not sure how I know that but it has stayed with me for years. I would like to pay tribute to not just Owen, but to Les Elsmore, my Godfather, Baz Farmer, "Waggie" and all of the 'Old Timers' that have influenced my love of the mountains and the outdoors."

Owen lighting up at the Hut

[Ed: my thanks to Chris & Sarah for the lovely B&W photos]

IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY(actually 21 years)

Some photos of the Millennium celebrations in North Wales taken by guest Tim Wood, discovered in the Club's One Drive files.



(L to R) Henry Smith, Nev Tandy, John Eadon, Ann Tandy, Ann Thorn, Kate Wood, Claire & Fred Hammonds, Vanessa & Jonathan Howells, Chris White, John Jackson, Sophie White, Mike Johnson, Rod Ellitts, Richard Cooksey & Chris Ellitts. The hut was full and many of the above stayed in the school building at Plas Gwynant, where they ate and had a disco (DJ Jonathan I think) . On the 1st day of 2000 most climbed Snowdon and found the summit littered with champagne corks!



Left: We're the Hellarwil!
Below: Kate & Tim Wood and Ann & Alvar Thorn in Millennium party mode



THE "OLD TIMERS" by Mel Evans (ME)

In normal times prospective members are often introduced to West Bromwich Mountaineering Club via a coach meet. From then on, with just a little effort on their part, they can very quickly become familiar with the inner workings of our Club. After the first few coach meets the 'coach characters' will slowly, or in some cases not so slowly, reveal themselves. As new members they will be introduced to favourite post-walk pubs where they will listen to comical tall stories involving certain members until they too are able to repeat these stories verbatim! Soon they will be encouraged to participate in different types of Club meet and, in doing so, they will be introduced to different sections of the membership. Until recent years they would eventually be persuaded to pop into the Thursday night pub meet for a slide show or simply for a chat. This is where they would first become aware of a rather mysterious group generally referred to as, The Old Timers.

When I joined the Club I was fortunate to not only experience the induction process outlined above but also to receive an invite to join this mysterious group of 'Old Timers' for a weekend of mountain activities. Being a relatively new member I was somewhat amazed at this invite, I think they had a spare bed and I just happened along, however, I did accept the invitation and arrived at the Club Hut feeling a little unsure of what to expect. It is no exaggeration to say that I was gobsmacked! I was introduced to characters from all parts of the country each with interesting stories of early adventures. It was during this first weekend that I began to appreciate exactly what a special Club I had accidentally joined. I realised that for a small local club to generate the strong, almost illogical, bond these older members had with the Club and with the Gwynant Valley, then the Club had to be a very special one indeed.

It has always been difficult to create opportunities for present and past generations of Club members to meet and exchange stories but the present health worries are increasing this difficulty. This interview article is my attempt at introducing just one of 'The Old Timers' to newer members of West Bromwich Mountaineering Club. Hopefully I (ME) will be able to highlight other members of this group in future newsletters.

"The Old Timers" No 1 Bob Duncan :**Former Chairperson (1973/74) and President (2005/10) of West Bromwich MC.**

ME.....Bob, how on earth did a Black Country boy become involved in mountaineering?

BD.....While still at school, I must have been twelve or thirteen years old, I joined a type youth club come bible class which, by sheer luck, happened to have as one of its leaders the local Dudley legend, Bert Bissell.

ME.....Isn't he the Dudley character closely associated with a Peace Cairn on the summit of Ben Nevis?

BD.....That's him. During the annual summer holiday he took groups of about twenty kids from the Dudley area for a holiday week in Scotland. He took us walking and sightseeing in and around the Fort William area. Looking back I now realise what a wonderful experience this was for a group of Black Country youngsters. We were so lucky. We travelled by train and on one particular journey, on the train north of Glasgow, I remember the train stopping to allow the driver to jump out and gather some white heather. Apparently this was destined for a flower shop in Fort William.

Another memorable adventure with Bert Bissell was when he took a group of us to climb Snowdon in winter via the PYG Track. The safety rope used to negotiate a cornice was an old clothes-line! In those days the summit cafe was open all through the Year with a very welcoming hot coke stove in one corner. I can still remember the intense pain as warmed blood returned to my frozen fingers. I doubt that either of these adventures would be allowed in today's ultra cautious climate.

At that time in my life I was also into cycling and one summer, rather than travel with the main

party to Scotland by train, three of us cycled and met up with them in Fort William. What made this adventure particularly memorable was the return journey. The weather was absolutely atrocious and so, rather than camp on-route, we ended up cycling the two hundred miles from Carlisle to Dudley in one push! They were great days.

ME.....Okay, so you obviously enjoyed the outdoor life and also a physical challenge but how on earth did you get into mountaineering?

BD *It's difficult to believe but in those days Wednesbury Technical College ran a night school class in 'Mountaineering'. I actually learnt to abseil from the top of the College fire escape. It was through this class that I became aware of Wednesbury Climbing Club and this group had access to a minibus. This transport was used to organise weekend camping trips to North Wales where we tended to set up camp near the Cromlech Boulders in Llanberis Pass. In those less health conscious times the day nearly always started with a fry-up of sausage, eggs and bacon. It was during this period that I teamed up with Jake Shaw and got more into climbing.*

ME.....In those days what did your climbing gear look like?

BD.....*When I started climbing we used a hemp rope. We did not wear a harness but tied directly to the rope by using three or four turns of a shorter rope tied round our waist. In fact I bought my first waist harness only a couple of years ago in order to belay the grandchildren when the Club organised climbing nights at the Portway Climbing Wall. I remember drilling out engineering nuts and threading them with rope to provide simple running belays. When I think back we had a very little protection.*

ME.....How did you get involved with West Bromwich Mountaineering Club?

BD.....*After a few years some members of the Wednesbury Club paired up and got married. This was when, together with Jake, I joined West Bromwich Mountaineering Club.*

ME.....What year was that?

BD.....*It was sometime in the early seventies. Initially I enjoyed many coach meets but I continued to enjoy climbing with small groups. From that period of my life the trip I remember most was a trip to the Alps*

ME.....I've noticed the couple of photographs in your house. Are they from that trip?

BD.....*Yes, that's a photograph of me, together with Alan Plant and Len Yorke on the summit of the Matterhorn. One summer a group of about ten, all Club members, drove to Switzerland and camped in the most perfect meadow above the Swiss village of Zermatt and enjoyed two weeks of glorious alpine weather. It was an unforgettable holiday. The day after setting up camp we set out to climb Monte Rosa, the second highest mountain in the Alps at 4634m. After spending that night in a refuge the next day saw us enjoying lunch on the summit before descending all the way to our campsite. We were very fit but I do remember struggling to keep up with parties of French and Italian climbers on this first climb. We just needed to acclimatise. Later in the week as we began to get acclimatised it was extremely satisfying to reveal our true fitness. Alan was only with us for the first week so after Monte Rosa we rested for just a day and then left for the Matterhorn's North-East ridge, also called the Hornli ridge,*



and the Hornli Hut at 3260m. The following morning after a quick breakfast of Alpen and orange juice we put on crampons, roped up and at 3am left for the summit. For this climb I also wore a chest harness and a helmet. The first section of the climb was slow going, the climbing was technical and at that hour it was still dark but the sunrise was glorious and we were soon on the 4478m summit. The descent proved a little tricky with a few hairy moments but, after pausing for photographs at the emergency hut, we arrived back at the Hornli hut for lunch and at the campsite for an evening meal. It had been an unforgettable day.

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ME.....I got to know Len Yorke through Tipton Harriers and then through inviting him into school to talk to pupils. He was such an inspirational character. He had his accident on the Matterhorn during the following summer.

BD.....Yes, Len had enjoyed our adventure so much he made his mind to revisit the Matterhorn the following year to repeat the climb. When it became obvious that no members of WBMC were in a position to partner him he joined a party from the Coventry Climbing Club and once again made the summit. While descending he slipped and spent the night tied to rocks on the mountainside at 12000ft. The following day a



helicopter rescue was made but the accident affected him for the remainder of his life. The biography, 'A Long Way From Clent' by Brian W Drew gives a detailed account of Len and his inspirational life. ME.....Now tell me about Scotland.

BD.....With a growing family summer adventures became increasingly difficult so I started going to Scotland in winter. I always went in February, initially by myself, to either Glen Coe or Glen Nevis but as the years went by others joined me and we explored different areas of the Highlands. One particular adventure that sticks in the memory was a day in Torridon with John Wagstaff on Liathach in full winter conditions. The exposure, as we front pointed our way round at a succession of pinnacles with no rope, on the narrow ridge between the two principle summits, remains in my memory to this day. What a fantastic outing that was.

ME.....I know that the Club Hut in Nantgwynant is close to your heart. What was it like when you first stayed there?

BD.....Electricity had just been installed; this improvement generated huge discussion, very similar to the discussions surrounding more recent improvements to the Hut. In that respect nothing much has changed. We used three discarded primary school desks as tables and cooked on tabletop burners. There were two double bunk beds along one wall and a three tier bunk across the back wall. A wigwam type structure and a plastic sheet were used to create a basic toilet tent. At the end of a stay emptying that toilet tent bucket into a freshly dug hole was, let's just say, memorable!

Bob has a fantastic store of memories, far too many for a short article like this so, when present restrictions are eased and the opportunity presents itself, New Members do introduce yourself to Bob and have a chat. I can guarantee a most enjoyable few hours.

Many thanks to Bob Duncan for this brief insight into his past adventures. Mel Evans

MORE ON THE CAIRNGORMS TRIP IN MARCH 2020 from Graeme Stanford

As reported in April's Newsletter, a few of our members plus some from Bromsgrove MC & Banbury MC stayed in Aviemore youth hostel from 9th – 14th March and had a great week of walking, climbing plus a night snowholing above Coire an Sneachda ! On the first night Chris Dean and I night-walked to the bothy at the end of Glen Feshie, then tagged two Munro's walking back to the car the next day. The rest of the gang arrived on that second day. Here are some of the photos that didn't feature in the April issue to whet your appetite for what we'll hopefully be enjoying come January & February at Fort William, the Far North West of Scotland, or wherever we are allowed to travel to!

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**R.I.P. DOUGLAS KEITH SCOTT (29 MAY 1941 – 7 DECEMBER 2020)**

In a career spanning 60 years, Doug Scott was recognised worldwide as one of the greatest mountaineers of the post-war era. Over 40 expeditions to Central Asia, countless first ascents worldwide, including the 1st British ascent of Mt Everest with Haston. When they prudently made the world's highest bivouac on the South Summit, he avoided frostbite without a down jacket. What made Doug special was how he made all those ascents!

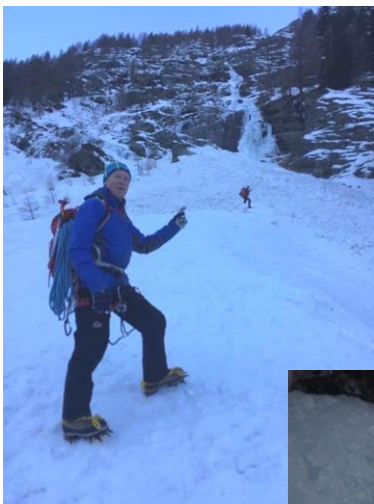
A WEEK IN COGNE, ITALY : Some photos from February 2020 from Graeme Stanford



For the 3rd year in a row some WBMC members joined others from Banbury, Bromsgrove, Vagabond & Worcester Mountaineering Clubs to spend the first week of February at a hostel in the very picturesque little alpine town of Cogne, enjoying various winter activities lots of skiing and climbing, mainly ice climbing. It is a winter sports mecca and they had great fun in this beautiful location in the Aosta

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Valley, Grand Paradiso National Park as you can see from the photos taken in all weathers below:



A WEST BROM MOUNTAINEERING CLUB TIMELINE : Part 4 by John Edwards

1964 Continued: Page 174 of the Club book says "the first trip abroad by members of the club for several years" was to the Pyrenees when 6 club members crossed from France to Spain and back whilst climbing the range's highest peak Mt Aneto (3404m). By happy coincidence, at just the right time, Mike in Canada has sent me 2 photos of their trip that summer. The first is as they were about to set off to hike and shows (left to right) Dave Tart, Derek Cooke, Baz Farmer, Owen Tandy, Mike Alldritt and Bob Pinkney. Mike confirms that, as the books says, "Dave, Baz and myself had built Yukon Packs - basically a wooded frame with canvas and an old army kit bag tied on to the frame to hold our stuff as we had insufficient funds to buy rucksacks. We hiked in from the French side and crossed into Spain illegally to climb the Pic, since we hadn't realized that we needed our passports stamped at the town on the French side before setting off up the mountain. On the way down we were caught by the Spanish police Guardia and sent back to the French side! From there we headed to San Sebastian for a vacation by the sea." His 2nd photo (right) shows then on the summit of what is the 3rd highest peak in Spain - Pic Aneto.



One wonders who in the club made earlier trips abroad, and where did they venture back in those days when money was tight and aircraft flights were few?

An undated letter from 1964 Club Sec written to a (school?) enquirer states "As Mr Wright mentioned, we have just had a Barn converted into a Club Hut. Unfortunately, the premises belong to the Council and when we recently negotiated the terms of the lease of the Hut with the Corporation, they rejected our clause giving us permission to offer the use of the Hut to other Clubs and organisations. In certain circumstances this may be waived but we must first obtain the written permission of the Council and in this event our Hut Booking Regulations require that 4 weeks notice in writing is given to all our club members." It appears that the enquirer wanted to use sooner and so didn't get permission.



The "Sam & Ernie" Away Dinner Nov 1964 was an especially memorable one. It was at Bunty's (Prince Llewelyn Hotel) at Beddgelert and Don Simpson & John Henk tell the tale on pages 28-30 of the Club book. Don was climbing on the Saturday on Moel Hebog with Mike Powell, Ernie Picard & Sam Sylvester and held Ernie when he had a fall ca. 130 ft up the cliff at 3pm. It was dark by the time they got him down onto a ledge and Mike set off for help. Sam & Don lay down either side of Ernie to keep him warm during what would be a long wait, especially as they had no lights between them! Mal Vaughan, who himself had just retreated down from a climb on Lliwedd with Mitch & Brian Harteshorne by the light of the former's cigarettes & matches, recalls someone bursting in on the just-seated diners exclaiming "Ernie's fallen off Hebog and broken his arm. Who's going to fetch him off?" It seems the mountain rescue at Pen-y-Gwryd was informed & they, plus volunteers from the Club who had not changed for dinner, managed to find the group by light reflected from Don's glasses around 9.30pm! Many of the rescue team were from St Bartholomews Hospital MC so there were lots of medical opinions given and finally a badly damaged (broken) elbow was diagnosed. They strapped Ernie to a stretcher and brought him safely down and took him off to Bangor hospital around 11pm.

THE WBMC CONSTITUTION - A Brief History as understood by John Edwards

Like most constitutions, West Brom M C's has evolved over a long period, with discussions on precise wording & minutiae of meaning involving considerable amounts of time, during which copious volumes of hot air must have been expounded. So it does not seem a very exciting topic! However, when someone I was chatting to, who had joined the club back in 1962 when the Hut fee was around £0/2/6, told me that they thought the Club's first constitution came into being in 2005, I thought that an article like this might be useful.

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The Club's 50 Years book says very little about the early meetings or AGM's and makes no mention of any constitution but Nigel has confirmed that one was drafted by member Tom Offer in the very early days, ca 1953. The earliest WBMC Constitution that I have seen dates from 20th July 1967 at a time when Wally Cheesbrough was Chairman and Nigel Tarr the Hon Sec! It stated that it had been revised in accordance with the 1963 & 1967 AGM's so there was obviously an older version in existence before 1963. At that time there were only 3 classes of Membership:- Life, Annual plus up to 5 Honorary members who had to be re-approved each year. The Executive Officer structure was also much simpler – just Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Hut Secretary – and at committee meetings they were joined by the Immediate Past Chairman and 4 committee members elected annually at the AGM. For the AGM to be quorate 1/3rd of the membership had to be present and for committee meetings 5 out of 9.

A couple of years later in Feb 1969 when the Chairman was A. Walker and John Henk the Secretary there were 4 additions to the constitution that allowed the committee to invest surplus funds in a Unit Trust and specified that Life members must have been Ordinary members for 5 consecutive years and then pay just 5 times the current annual subscription! Although the Club has had a President since 1956, this position was not mentioned in the constitution until around 1975, when a copy with John Henk's annotation shows that it was agreed to change what had previously been an honour for life to a 5 year term.

By 1998 the Constitution looked a lot more like it does today, with 6 categories of membership including a slightly cheaper Joint membership for two people living at the same address. By then Life membership had gone up to 10 times the annual fee but there is no mention of Veteran membership. The committee places had grown to 13 with the addition of a Coach Sec, a Membership Sec and a Newsletter Editor plus an extra Ordinary committee member who, like the other 4, had no specified roll. Accordingly the quorum had increased to 7 at a committee meeting, but decreased to 25 or 20% of the full membership (whichever is the smaller) at an AGM.

In 2003 a move to allow a member to hold two posts simultaneously on committee was defeated but at the same AGM the Club finally voted to affiliate to the British Mountaineering Council, something Chairman Nev Tandy & others had for a long time felt appropriate for a club of our size and stature. One of the things that played strongly in the decision to affiliate was the Third Party Insurance cover that would help protect members financially in increasing litigious times. This is especially vital for committee members who possibly are at the greatest risk of being sued. To cover most of the cost of affiliating, the membership fee (which was £12 in 1992 and had only risen by £3 in the following 11 years) was increased by £6 to £21. Inflation, falling interest rates on the Club's savings and a reluctance to increase membership fees again so soon meant that within 2 years the Treasurer at the time, John Eadon, was becoming concerned about the annual balance sheet. The committee agreed to try and get some additional income in the form of Gift Aid from HMRC by becoming a Community Association Sports Club (CASC), something financially akin to a charity.

A letter from the Inland Revenue dated 26th September 1966 shows that WBMC had applied for charitable status almost 40 years previously but had been rejected after the objects of the club as set out in the Constitution & Rules showed it was not legally charitable. So at the 2005 AGM the most major overhaul of the Constitution to date was attempted by the committee. This involved drafting 5 new sections to re-state the Objects of the Club, Funding arrangements, Non discrimination policy, Prospective membership and Procedures for Winding up and Distribution of Assets. I remember helping draft these and the "Proposed Changes to the Constitution" explanatory notes, but John

Eadon as Treasurer formally proposed the changes, with 8 committee members seconded the motion. I seem to recall it was passed pretty much unanimously at the AGM.

So essentially, in spite of the seemingly large changes of 2005, the wording of the constitution has remained essentially the same for most of the last 3 decades. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" seems to be the motto as there have been only 4 Special Resolutions to change it in the last 15 years. In 2007 the AGM was moved from January back to March and it was at that AGM that the committee were charged with the duty of setting up a notional 'Hut Fund', as one had existed in earlier times in case we were ever given the opportunity to purchase the one at Plas G or elsewhere. In 2009 the section on Auditors was changed to allow an ordinary club member to do the job if a non-member could not be found and, at the 2010 AGM, the membership section of the constitution was amended to remove Joint Membership category. The aim was not to raise extra money overall but rather it was intended that relatively affluent married couples paying a little more would enable the Junior fees to be reduced to help teenagers and impecunious students.

For most of the club's existence, the Immediate Last Chairman was included as one of the committee, the idea being that this would give some continuity and also they could serve as a Vice Chairman when needed. This produced some unintended consequences such as when Peter Goddard spent a year as Chairman and then 12 years as 'Vice' during Nev's long 'reign'. The most recent and last constitutional change came in 2012 when the Vice Chairman became an elected position, with a view to them possibly becoming Chairman in the future. **So any Constitution you see that mentions 'Immediate last Chairman' in Section 28 is NOT the up-to-date one!** Veteran membership remains something of an enigma with regards to the Constitution. It is not mentioned as a category of membership in the 1998 and 2005 constitutions, yet it is there in 2010, although undefined. However, it seems to have been around since the turn of the millennium as the March 2003 Newsletter states.... "Note: Anyone with excess of 20 years membership please contact Jonathan as the membership fee is waived". So it may be that Veteran Membership was a creation of the committee rather than an AGM decision! And that's how the Constitution came to be - unless anyone knows different..... A copy of the Current 2020 Version is attached as an appendix to this Newsletter. It may be useful for the next AGM if everyone is referring to the same one!!

WEST BROMWICH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB CONSTITUTION AS AT 2020

Preliminary

1. **Name:** The club shall be called "The West Bromwich Mountaineering Club".
2. **Objects:** The main object of the club is to promote the amateur sports of mountaineering, climbing and hill walking and participation by members of the West Midlands community in the same by:-
 - (a) Providing facilities that enable members to come together and engage in mountaineering activities.
 - (b) Enabling members to meet together for the discussion of matters relating to mountaineering and the interchange of opinions, knowledge and experiences relating thereto.
 - (c) Providing from time to time opportunities for members who so wish to improve their navigation and/or climbing and/or leadership skills.
 - (d) Doing any such lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects.
3. **Income & Property** The income and property of the Club whensoever desired shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Club hereinbefore referred to. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of the Club, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any members or servants of the Club, or other persons in return for services actually rendered to the Club, nor prevent they payment of interest at a rate not exceeding five per cent on money borrowed from any Member of the Club.
4. **Club Hut:** Without prejudice to the generality of Clause 3 however, the funds of the Club may be used for the acquisition, erection, maintenance, improvement or extension of any building or buildings with or without other land, in recognised mountain areas, as a "Club Hut" for the use and convenience of members engaging in mountaineering or other Club activities.
5. **Funds:** The Club may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, provide mountaineering equipment, coaching, courses, insurance cover, medical treatment, expenses, related social

facilities and refreshments and other ordinary benefits of Community Amateur Sports Clubs as provided for in the Finance Act 2002.

The Club may also in connection with the mountaineering purposes of the Club:

- (a) sell and supply food, drink and related mountaineering clothing and equipment.
- (b) employ members and remunerate them for providing goods and services, on fair terms set by the Management Committee without the person concerned being present.
- (c) on special occasions pay for reasonable hospitality for visitors and guests.
- (d) indemnify the Management Committee and members acting properly in the course of the running of the Club against any liability incurred in the proper running of the Club (but only to the extent of its assets).

Membership

6. **Non-discrimination:** Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in mountaineering, climbing or hill walking on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. However, limitation of membership according to available facilities is allowable on a non discriminatory basis. The Management Committee will have due regard to the law on disability discrimination and child protection.
7. **Classes of Membership:** Membership of the Club shall consist of:-
 - (a) Ordinary members aged over 21 years.
 - (b) Junior members aged 16 to 21 years
 - (c) Young members aged under 16 years who have a parent/ guardian who is a Full Member.
 - (d) Life members
 - (e) Veteran members
 - (f) Honorary members
 - (g) Prospective Members

Hereinto except where contrary intention is expressed, Ordinary, Life and Veteran Members are collectively referred to as Full Members.
8. **Prospective, Junior and Ordinary Members:**
 - (a) Persons interested in the objects of the Club shall be eligible to become Prospective Members.
 - (b) Prospective members can apply for Ordinary Membership or Junior Membership as appropriate after a period of 6 months, during which time they must have been present at not less than two of the Club's mountaineering meets & one of the social meets listed on the meets card.
 - (c) Applications from Prospective Members for Ordinary Membership or Junior Membership must be in writing on a form obtainable from the Membership Secretary and must be supported and proposed by two Full Members of the Club. Such applications must be submitted to the Management Committee who, bearing in mind Clause 6, shall have power to approve, reject or defer any application as they think fit. The Management Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or mountaineering, climbing or hill walking into disrepute. Appeal against refusal or removal may be made to the members of the Club as detailed in Clause 14.
 - (d) Any Young member who, on reaching 16 years of age, has met the Membership requirements in 8 (b) may submit an application for Junior Membership.
9. **Young Members:**
 - (a) Young Membership shall be open only to anyone under 16 years who has a parent/guardian who is a Full Member and who guarantees to take full responsibility for the Young Member at all times.
 - (b) Applicants must be proposed by their Full Member parent/guardian on a form obtainable from the Membership Secretary. Such proposals must be submitted to the Management Committee who shall have power to approve, reject or defer any proposal as they see fit.
10. **Life Members:** Life membership of the Club shall be open to any person having been a Full Member for five consecutive years.
11. **Honorary Members:**
 - (a) The Management Committee may by a resolution passed by a majority of three-fourths at least of the whole number present at any Management Committee Meeting elect a person as an Honorary Member of the Club without entrance fee or subscription, but no such election shall take place unless notice of the proposal to elect has been given to all members of the Management Committee at least seven days before the date of the meeting at which the election is to be voted on.
 - (b) An Honorary Member shall be a person who:
 - (i) By reason of his/her position or experience may in the opinion of the Management Committee, be able to render assistance in promoting the objects of the Club, or

- (ii) By reason of his/her services to the Club should in the opinion of the Management Committee, be elected an Honorary Member. He/she shall have the right to attend all indoor and outdoor meets and social functions of the Club and to attend and speak at all General Meetings, but he/she shall have no right to vote.
- (c) The total number of Honorary Members of the Club shall not at any time exceed five.
- (d) Unless the resolution for the election of an Honorary Member otherwise provides, a person shall remain an Honorary Member for a term of one year but shall be eligible for re-election.

Cessation of Membership

- 12. **Resignation of Membership:** If any Member shall notify the Honorary Secretary in writing stating that he/she wishes to resign his/her membership of the Club, he/she shall thereupon cease to be a Member.
- 13. **Forfeiture of Membership:** Any person shall cease to be a Member of the Club in the event of his/her annual subscription remaining unpaid on the 31st of March after it becomes due.
- 14. **Expulsion of a Member:**
 - (a) If in the opinion of the Management Committee any Member has been guilty of serious misconduct or of a serious breach of the Club rules for the time being in force or if for any other reason the Management Committee feels that it would be contrary to the interests of the Club or to the promotion of its objects for any person's membership to continue, the Management Committee may by a majority of three-fourths at least of those present and voting at the meeting resolve that such person's membership shall thereupon cease.
 - (b) No such resolution shall have effect unless notice of the proposal to expel a member has been given in writing to all members of the Management Committee and to the member concerned at least twenty one days before the date of the meeting at which the resolution is to be voted on.
 - (c) The Member concerned shall have the right to attend any such meeting of the Management Committee whilst the resolution is being discussed and to speak thereon but shall not have any right to vote.
 - (d) Any person whose membership is discontinued under this provision shall be notified of the Management Committee's decision and shall have the right within fourteen days of such notification to indicate in writing to the Honorary Secretary his/her intention to appeal against that decision to the next General Meeting of the Club. It will be the duty of the Honorary Secretary to include the appeal on the agenda of the next General Meeting as special business.
 - (e) Where such an appeal is lodged the membership of the person concerned shall continue pending the decision of the General Meeting thereon.
- 15. **Debts on Cessation of Membership:** Any member who resigns or ceases to be a member under these provisions or otherwise shall remain liable to pay any sums due to the Club.

Entrance Fees and Subscriptions

- 16. **Amounts When Due:**
 - (a) The entrance fees and annual subscriptions shall be of such amounts as may from time to time be determined by resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Club or at a General Meeting called for this purpose. Every annual subscription shall become due on the first day of February in each year.
 - (b) The Club will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating.
 - (c) The Life Membership fee shall be ten times the amount of the current annual subscription.
 - (d) Provisional Membership fee shall be half the current relevant annual subscription. The balance for that year shall become payable if the Provisional Member gains Ordinary or Junior Membership on or before the 30th day of June but shall be waived if this occurs after the 30th day of June in any year.
- 17. **Time of Payment:** A member shall pay the entrance fee and the subscription for the first year within one month after being notified of his/her gaining Ordinary or Junior Membership, such membership being meanwhile subject to such payment.
- 18. **Waiver Reduction or Postponement:** Notwithstanding the provisions of Clauses 15, 16 & 17, the Management Committee shall in such special cases as they think fit be empowered to waive, reduce or postpone the payment of any sums provided for by any such rules. All such waivers shall be reported to the first General Meeting following the waivers.

Officers of the Club

- 19. **The President:** The President is elected for a period of 5 years by the appropriate Annual General Meeting and is entitled to attend and vote at any meeting of the Club and its Management Committee.

20. **Executive Officers:** The Executive Officers of the Club shall be:
- (a) The Chairman
 - (b) The Vice-Chairman
 - (c) The Honorary Secretary
 - (d) The Honorary Treasurer
 - (e) The Hut Secretary
 - (f) The Coach Secretary
 - (g) The Membership Secretary
 - (h) The News Letter Editor
- who shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
21. **The Chairman:** The Chairman shall take the chair at all General Meetings of the Club and at all Management Committee meetings and when possible preside at all social and other functions of the Club.
22. **The Honorary Secretary:** The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for the books, records and documents of the Club under the control of the Management Committee; he/she shall conduct all the correspondence of the Club and of the Management Committee, make all the necessary arrangements for Management Committee meetings, and keep a correct record of the proceedings, and see that all the prescribed notices are duly sent to the members of the Club and the Management Committee.
23. **The Honorary Treasurer:** The Honorary Treasurer shall receive all moneys due to the Club, keep the same in a separate banking account and make all payments on behalf of the Club. He/she shall keep a proper account of the income and expenditure of the Club and prepare a Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts made up to the 31st December in each year and submit such Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts to the next following Annual General Meeting. The balance sheet and statement of accounts are to be audited preferably by a non-member of the Club approved by the management committee, but failing that, by a current member of the Club who does not serve on the management committee.
24. **The Hut Secretary:** The Hut Secretary shall be responsible to the Management Committee for all matters pertaining to the running of the Hut including bookings, collection of fees and for the provision of certain basic supplies. He/she shall also, at his/her discretion, organise working weekends at the Hut.
25. **The Coach Secretary:** The Coach Secretary shall be responsible to the Management Committee for the general oversight of all matters associated with coach meets including bookings and the collection of fares.
26. **The Membership Secretary:** The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for the distribution and collation of application forms for membership of the Club and also for maintaining a list of current members. He/she will also assist the Honorary Treasurer in the collection of entrance fees and annual subscriptions.
27. **The News Letter Editor:** The News Letter Editor shall be responsible for the collation and distribution of a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter informing the membership of the Coach Meets, social functions and any other such matters as designated by the Committee. He/she shall also distribute copies to local schools and community organisations and other bodies as and when relevant to promote and encourage participation in the mountaineering activities of the Club.
- The Management Committee**
28. **Constitution:** The affairs of the Club shall be controlled by a Management Committee consisting of:
- (a) The Chairman
 - (b) The Vice Chairman
 - (c) The Honorary Secretary
 - (d) The Honorary Treasurer
 - (e) The Hut secretary
 - (f) The Coach Secretary
 - (g) The Membership Secretary
 - (i) The News Letter Editor
 - (j) Five Committee Members elected annually by the Annual General Meeting.
- No member shall hold more than one position on the Management Committee.
29. **Casual Vacancies:** If there should be any casual vacancies in the Membership of the Management Committee the Committee may during their term of office nominate Members to fill them.
30. **Meetings:**
- (a) The Management Committee shall meet at least 4 times in each year.
 - (b) They may meet for despatch of business, adjourn, and subject these rules of procedure, may regulate their meetings as they think fit.
 - (c) At all such meetings the Chairman and in his/her absence the Vice- Chairman shall take the chair. In the absence of both, a Chairman for that meeting shall be elected from amongst those present.
 - (d) The Honorary Secretary, on the requisition of the Chairman or any two members of the Management Committee, shall at any time summon a meeting of the

- Management Committee.
31. **Quorum:** The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Management Committee shall be 7.
32. **Voting:** Except where herein otherwise provided, all questions at a Management Committee meeting shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting. Every member shall have one vote and in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman for the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
33. **Resignation:** A member of the Management Committee may at any time resign by giving notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary and thereupon his/her office shall be vacated.

General Meetings

34. **Annual General Meeting:** An Annual General Meeting shall be held once every calendar year in the month of March. This meeting shall be held in West Bromwich.
35. **Extraordinary General Meeting:**
- (a) The Management Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held in West Bromwich whensoever they consider it necessary or desirable to do so.
 - (b) Extraordinary General Meetings shall also be convened on requisition of any 12 Full Members of the Club.
36. **Notice of Meetings:**
- (a) The Honorary Secretary shall notify members in writing of the convening of a general meeting at least 14 days and not more than 40 days before the date of the meeting.
 - (b) The notice shall specify the place, the day and the hour of meetings, and in the case of special business, the general nature of that business, subject however to the rules governing a special resolution to alter the Constitution and rules of procedure of the Club as hereinafter provided.
 - (c) The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.
37. **Business at General Meetings:** Any business transacted at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be deemed special business, as shall all business transacted at Annual General Meetings with the exception of:
- (a) The consideration of the Accounts and Balance Sheets.
 - (b) The ordinary reports of the Officers and of the Management Committee.
 - (c) The election of Officers and Committee members.
 - (d) The fixing of the annual subscription for the ensuing year.
 - (e) The discussion of questions relating to mountaineering.
38. **Quorum:** Except as hereinafter provided, the quorum necessary for the transaction of business at a General Meeting shall be 25, or 20% of the total number of Full Members, whichever is the smaller for the time being.
If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting if convened under rule 35 (b) shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall stand adjourned to such time and place as the Management Committee shall determine, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall form a quorum.
39. **Conduct:**
- (a) The Chairman, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman shall take the chair at all General Meetings of the Club. In the absence of both, the Members present shall choose one of their number to be Chairman for the meeting. In the event that a new Chairman is elected during the course of the meeting, the meeting should continue to be chaired by the retiring Chairman unless he requests otherwise.
 - (b) Except as herein otherwise provided, all elections, motions and questions whatsoever arising at a General Meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the Full Members present and voting. Every Full Member shall have one vote and in the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. Voting may be by a show of hands or by ballot at the discretion of the Chairman.

Nominations

40. **Eligibility:** Any Full Member of the Club shall be eligible for nomination for election as President, as an Executive Officer of the Club, or as a member of the Management Committee.
41. **Nomination of Officers:** Nominations for the election of President and the Executive Officers may be made in writing by any two Members of the Club. Such nominations must be received by the Honorary Secretary at least 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting and be accompanied by an expression of willingness by the nominee to serve if elected.
42. **Nomination of Committee Members:** Nominations for the 5 elective seats on the Management Committee may be made in a manner similar to that set out in Clause 41 or may be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting by any two Full Members of the Club. In the latter case the nominee must be present in person and express his/her willingness to serve if elected or a written expression of such

willingness made by him/her must be produced to the Chairman.

- Alteration of Constitution & Rules**
43. **Special Resolution:** (a) The Constitution and Rules of Procedure herein set out may only be altered by a special resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of votes at an Annual General Meeting.
(b) Such a special resolution may be moved by any 7 Full Members who must submit the terms thereof in writing to the Honorary Secretary not later than the 31st January preceding the Annual General Meeting.
44. **Notice of Special Resolution:** The precise terms of such a special resolution must be incorporated in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting sent to the Members by the Honorary Secretary.
45. **Proxy Votes:** Full Members shall be entitled to vote by proxy on any special resolutions to amend the Constitution and Rules of Procedure.

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- Provision on Winding up or Dissolution**
46. **Winding up and Distribution of Assets:** (a) The members may vote to wind up the Club if not less than three quarters of those present and voting support that proposal at a properly convened General Meeting.
(b) The Management Committee will then be responsible for the orderly winding up of the Club's affairs.
(c) After settling all liabilities of the Club, the Management Committee shall dispose of the net assets remaining to one or more of the following:
(i) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered charity and/or
(ii) to another Club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC and/or
(iii) to the British Mountaineering Council for use by them for related community sports.
47. **Liability of Members of the Club:** Full Members of the Club shall contribute to the assets of the Club in the event of it being wound up during the time they are Members or within one year afterwards for the payment of debts and liabilities of the Club contracted before the time when he/she ceased to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of such winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributions amongst themselves, such amount as may be required.

And Finally.....

IT'S A SMALL WORLD, ESPECIALLY ON GREAT DUN FELL by Vanessa Biddulph

In October Jonathan and myself went on a cycling and walking holiday to the Lakes & the Dale's, instead of Majorca as we'd hoped but COVID prevented. On our way from lakes to North Yorkshire we stayed at Appleby Castle in Westmorland, somewhere we've never been before, with the aim of cycling up the highest cycling-hill, Great Dun Fell, 835m. [Ed: *hardest climb in England according to cyclinguphill.com*] On our bikes going up we were alone apart from one couple walking up to the summit. The hill was so steep that often they overtook us on foot as we stopped for a pant! I commented on how fit they must be and they told me they did a lot of walking. We got talking to the couple, having passed them so often. At the top we were elated that we have beaten them as the road goes much longer route than the footpath. They soon arrived though and we were able to have a longer chat. We told them we were members of the WBMC and they said that they knew of it, having been walking with the Club and mentioned with affection, Ursula Woodhouse, John Eadon, Mitch & Vilma and the Cookseys amongst many others. Originally from Shropshire, they now live in Harrogate and love walking in the north of England. Their names?? Cheryl & Phil Johnston and they asked me to pass on their best wishes to all at the Club.



R.I.P. HAMISH MACINNES OBE FRSGS (7 JULY 1930 – 22 NOVEMBER 2020)

Did you know in May 1953, aged 22, he and John Cunningham (25) hiked to the Everest base camp hoping to become the first men to reach the summit. All their equipment was in the rucksacks on their backs, they had no authorization from the Nepalese authorities and they couldn't afford a Sherpa, a local mountain guide. That's the mountaineering spirit!