

# West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



April 2019

This month's photo: Chris in the Cairngorms, by Graeme Stanford

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Hello readers,

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Nigel Tarr, John Edwards, Graeme Stanford, Ken Priest, Mike Smith, Phil Matthews, and Dave Jones.

If you have anything that you'd like to be featured in next month's newsletter – whether you're selling gear, looking for a climbing or walking partner, you've seen an event that members might be interested in, anything at all – send it to [newsletter@wbmc.org](mailto:newsletter@wbmc.org) (or through our website if it's an article) before the 6<sup>th</sup> of the month.

If you've never written an article before, why not give it a go?

Cheers,  
Joe

## The WBMC meeting place



**Horse & Jockey**  
49 Stoney Ln,  
West Bromwich  
B71 4EZ

Join us every Thursday night from 9pm for a chat and a drink.

Note that indoor meets are still at The Cricketer's Arms



*The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions.*

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

Cotswold Discount Code: AF-WBMC -K3

# Noticeboard

## BMC Membership Subscription

By Dave Jones

At the WBMC AGM the club advised that there could be a potential increase in relation to BMC subscriptions. I want to update our members in relation to the BMC AGM that I attended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at Buxton.

For anyone that is not aware, the BMC have had a >£5 million pound claim following a belaying accident to an individual in a mountaineering club. The BMC's annual premium is set to increase significantly to £450k over 2019 and 2020. A £6 subscription increase was proposed to cover this cost and fund wider organisational development work. Please note this will also affect what WBMC have to pay the BMC to insure club members.

As mentioned at the BMC AGM, the wording of the AGM resolution was as follows:

*The board in consultation with National Council, recommends annual subscriptions for all categories of membership are raised by £6.00 (£12.00 for family membership) in order to address the substantial increase in combined liability insurance premiums, sustain and develop the BMC's services to members and maintain a level of financial reserve in line with policy. Increases to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 for individuals (including families, students, under 18s & unsaved) 1<sup>st</sup> October for student clubs and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 for all other clubs.*

Please note it was agreed to assist cash flow in clubs with an AGM scheduled before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 that there will be an option to defer payment of all or part of the subscriptions up to January 2021. This information was mentioned at the club's AGM in March informing of the potential increase which was then voted at the BMC AGM.

If anyone has any questions please contact the Committee.

## New Committee

By Dave Jones

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> March. I would like to thank former Committee members for their hard work and I would like to welcome the new Committee (below) – we look forward to 2019/2020.

Chair – Dave Jones

Vice chair – David Hind

Treasurer – Elizabeth Reynolds

Secretary – Jan Cox

Membership Secretary – Hazel Webb

Coach Secretary – Nigel Tarr

Hut Secretary – Peter Poultney

Newsletter Editor – Joe Priest

Committee – Phil Matthews, Mike Thompson, Alison Whitehead, Paul Brindley (co-opted after AGM)

## West Brom Clothing & other Useful Gear

By John Edwards

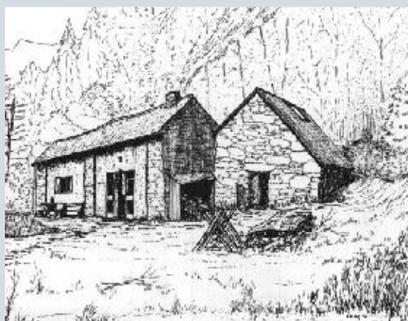
Summer is almost upon us so now could be just the time to check out WBMC's special site on Acorn Printing's [www.tshirtuk.com](http://www.tshirtuk.com) and buy a summer T shirt, polo shirt or cap, complete with WBMC logo, for when it's hot and the sun can get into your eyes.

If you scroll down the left hand "Categories" panel you will find West Bromwich MC and if you click on this to enter the site you can choose which piece of kit you'd like and how much personalisation you'd like on it – as well as the West Brom logo you can add your name or initials if you so wish. Their fleeces & sweatshirts are also excellent quality & not unduly expensive if you want to be prepared for next winter.

And of course, by purchasing and wearing these products you will be advertising the club and never be at a loss for a way to 'break the ice' with strangers.



## Hut donations



*Note the new prices:*

Members - £6.00

Guests - £10.00

5-17 - £4.00

Under 5s - Free

Stamped addressed envelopes are provided in the hut for payment.

## To book

Email our new Hut Secretary Pete Poultney:

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

Please contact Pete *before* going to the hut.

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

# Coming up

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Outdoor Evening Meet

Ken Priest and Mike Smith will be leading a walk over Clent. Meet at 18:30 ready for an 18:45 start:

The Hill Tavern, Adam's Hill, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9PS

The pub is staying open especially for us, and preparing some cobs, but they need to know numbers in advance.

Please text Ken Priest on 07779 908 708 to let him know how many are coming and how many cobs you would like.



17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
Family Weekend

Limited space available – contact Hut Secretary Pete Poultney on [peterpoultney@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterpoultney@hotmail.co.uk) for more information or to book your place.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019

*Note the date is different to the meet card*

## Gower Weekend

Come along to the annual WBMC trip to the Gower Peninsula for a weekend of climbing, walking, bodyboarding and more. A group of around 25 members will be staying at the Rhossili bunkhouse, with a few camping in the attached garden.

There are only a few places left for this year, and as we can't accommodate that many people, please book now to avoid disappointment!

£15 per person per night (£5 for children and students).

Contact Ken Priest ([ken.priest@live.co.uk](mailto:ken.priest@live.co.uk)) to find out more and to book your place.



# Coming up

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Snowdonia Cycling Weekend

This will be road biased but open to someone running an off-road route too if they wish.

The Circuit of Snowdonia is 107 miles from the hut and 10,000ft if you think you're up for it! Easy to cut short and do parts of it, or an easier route.

Phil Matthews is organising it, contact him for details:  
07977 260028 or [oilphiluk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oilphiluk@yahoo.co.uk)

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# Cairngorms Trip

March 2019

By Graeme Stanford

With photos by Graeme, and Pete Poultney



For the fourth year in a row a few club members (new and old members) headed for the Cairngorms to make the most of the winter weather, at least that was the plan. We were joined by a smattering of members of Bromsgrove, Worcester and Banbury mountaineering clubs.

Our normal base for this trip is the RAF's bunkhouse at Feshiebridge but that is closed this year as it's being completely re-built. Instead we had booked space in the Army's facility, Rothiemurchus Lodge, which is deep in the Rothiemurchus forest not far from the Charlemaigne Gap. We had a self-contained 24 bed wing to ourselves and although it's a little dated we had plenty of room to spread out. The only real negative to this location was the two and a half miles of forest track to get there. It can become impassable, for your average car, in snow and they recommend snow chains.



Chris and I travelled a day early and spent a night in the well-known Ben Nevis hotel in Fort William. Our plan being to spend the next day and night high on Creag Meagaidh. We left a route card etc with Fort William police and headed off into the wilds. Sadly, the weather wasn't with us and the higher we got the more challenging it became. Eventually, after what can only be described as a 'demonstration of the dangers of windslab' we retreated. It was snowing low down as well by now and we chose to give up on the wild camping plan and head for Rothiemurchus a day early. Obviously, we remembered to phone the police to clear our route card.

When we got to the Aviemore area we discovered that we couldn't get down the forest track to Rothiemurchus and we once again had to re-think our plans. We ended up in Glenmore youth hostel for the night. This turned out to be a pleasant evening as we were soon joined by four more of the party, Ken Priest, Pete Poultney, Dave Holland and Mark Bathe. We all walked up to Glenmore Lodge for a meal and a few tall stories.



The next morning the sun was shining, and we headed up to the Cairngorm ski centre. The four musketeers were heading into Coire an Sneachda to have a look at climbing conditions. Chris and I headed up over Cairngorm and then descended to the plateau and followed the Coire rim, eventually descending from Cairn Lochan. The weather up high was clear and cold but very windy. On arrival back at the car park we again met 'the other four' who had gone up a grade 1 gully, Jacobs Ladder, having tired of the queues on the honey pot climbs. We all enjoyed a coffee (very civilised this mountaineering lark) before heading to Rothiemurchus to see if we could get through to the lodge.

By the end of the day pretty much everyone had arrived safely at the lodge and planning for the next day's adventures was well under way. Obviously, this was aided by the all-important malt whisky and a few beers. The weather, and avalanche risk, wasn't looking promising. Unfortunately, our week had begun with a lot of snow falling on clear ground. As the club had discovered on Nev's Scottish Week it had been a bit thin up to that point. There had been no freeze thaw and consolidation, so conditions weren't the best. That having been said we all came up with plans for the day and they varied from gentle walking in the valley to climbing.



## Cairngorms Trip (continued)

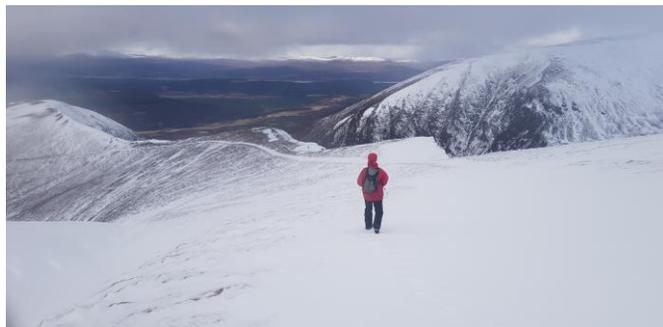


Snow was falling quite profusely the next morning, so Chris and I decided not to risk driving out and not being able to return. We walked to Glenmore through the forest and then climbed a Corbett, Meall a bhuachaille, before a spot of lunch in the Ryvoan Bothy where we met three more of our group. We then stopped at the ski hire shop for a beer before the return walk through the forest. It had been cold and windy on the tops again but the last mile approaching the lodge was the worst. A very dramatic, windy, snow flurry came in and made the last bit of the walk pretty miserable. Everyone else had returned from similar days and the climbers had retreated without putting on harnesses.



This was the theme for the rest of the week. We all got out and did 'something' every day, but the perfect winter mountaineering weather never appeared until after we'd all headed home. The only Munro height Chris and I achieved was Cairngorm on the second day. We tried to get up to Mullach Clach a Bhlair later in the week. Once we were up at 1000 metres we were in a complete whiteout and after nearly 4km navigating in those conditions we decided to give the summit a miss and descend into Coire Caol. The highlight of that day was visiting the bothy at Ruigh-aiteachain. It's a good way along Glen Feshie (NN 8471 9279) and is absolutely beautiful. It's been completely refurbished and is all wood panelling with a staircase that you'd be proud to have in your house. Well worth a visit. We'd actually planned to visit the day before and we got within a kilometre... but...

we'd come down the other side of the valley with the intention of crossing the bridge which is clearly marked on the current OS map at NN 8461 9374... the bridge which was washed away in 2009... Made even more annoying by the sign, which was on a gate we'd walked through near the car but hadn't read, telling us that the bridge was no longer there. DOH!!



Anyway... Another successful trip to the area and as always, a good time was had by all. We will be returning next March. Construction is almost complete at Feshiebridge and the intention is to block book it for the club once again. It is a set of four self-contained, 6-berth, chalets with a fifth building that also acts a communal area, so everyone can socialise. More information will follow once planning begins. Why not come and join us? It's not just a climbing trip as the options for walking, scrambling, climbing etc in the area are endless. Watch this space.

# “A great day with heads in the clouds”

An article from the archives

By John Edwards



Llyn (lake) Ogwen from about 1,500 feet up on Glyder Fawr a panoramic scene by photographer Mick Cramer.

## A great day with heads in the clouds



In the picture above, are, from left, Stan Cox, Ian Haddon, club chairman Jake Shaw and John Haddon. Eight a climbing party on their way to the top of Glyder Fawr. Below Lisa Smith, aged 13, pauses for refreshment.



IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED that it is not only the experienced members of the club who are taking part in the ascent of the top of Glyder Fawr. It has proved to be a most successful day for the club as a whole. The party consisted of 12 members and 13 children. The day was most successful and the party was most enjoyable. The day was most successful and the party was most enjoyable.

INCEAD MORIS They counted through the number of rocks they had to climb and it was found that there were 100 in all. The day was most successful and the party was most enjoyable.

CRACKING gear The party started at 10.30 and it was found that there were 100 in all. The day was most successful and the party was most enjoyable.

snow-capped peak of Glyder Fach. It took more than the black rocky cauldron of the Devil's Kitchen to turn them back. Because at the top of a near-vertical climb was a magnificent view not to be missed. "I was determined to reach the top," said 25 year old Frances Rogers of Tibberton Close, Halesowen., who was on her first jaunt with the club.



A climbing party on their way to the top of Glyder Fawr

The Sandwell Evening Mail article dates from Valentine's Day 1977 which was way before I joined the club but I discovered it in some old records. The text reads:

It might not seem everyone's idea of an afternoon stroll. But there is nothing the members of West Bromwich Mountaineering Club like better than Sunday lunch with their head in the clouds. This weekend 42 of them scrambled their way up the giddy heights of the Welsh mountains where the snow lay 6ft deep in places. Their aim was to cover 10 miles across 4 North Wales peaks, each more than 3,000ft high . . . Y Garn, Glyder Fawr, Glyder Fach & Tryfarn (sic), their tops covered in a film of cloud, were the targets set by the team.

The trip to Snowdonia was just one of the club's mountaineering jaunts. Members, ages ranging from 13 to 60, experienced climbers and raw recruits, set off towards the

The team from West Bromwich split into 3 groups for the ascent. The more experienced members set off at a cracking pace with the beginners climbing cautiously under supervision. They scrambled through icy torrents of water, across rocky scree and sank up to their knees in snow as they neared the top. "Although this is not a particularly difficult climb we like to keep an eye on the beginner," said Major Baz Farmer of Kiniths Way, one of the organisers. "Usually they do very well indeed," he added.

Major Farmer explained that Wales was only one of the venues for the enthusiastic mountaineers from West Bromwich. "We go to the Lake District & Scotland frequently, and members organise trips abroad on an individual basis. This year we are going to Corsica," he said. But Wales remains one of the most popular training grounds for the keen amateurs and more experienced climbers at the same time. The West Bromwich Mountaineering Club meets on Thursday evenings at the Glove Inn (sic) in Reform Street, West Bromwich.



Stan Cox, Ian Haddon, chairman Jake Shaw, and John Haddon



Lisa Smith, aged 13, pauses for refreshment

# Coach Meet – Peak District

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Depart

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

07:20 – Penkridge

(Short stop at Charnock Richard Services)

## Drop off

Hayfield (036869)

## Pick up

Hayfield (036869)

Edale (124853)

## Required maps

OS 1:25.000 Outdoor Leisure Map 1: The Peak District  
Dark Peak Area

## Suggested routes

### ROUTE 1 (~15km / 9.5 miles)

From Hayfield follow the Snake path starting at (041868) and walk N then NE above the Kinder Reservoir (058885). Continue up the beautiful valley of William Clough to the boggy co; (064901). From here follow the Pennine Way SE and climb steeply to the plateau. Stay on the south edge to Kinder downfall (083889) for an ideal place for a food stop. Stay on the Pennine Way walking southward over rocky outcrops to Kinder Low (079871). Descend to Edale Cross (077861) and follow a path west to Coldwell Clough (856858) and finally follow good paths back into Hayfield.

### ROUTE 2 (~15km / 9 miles)

Follow route 1 to Kinder Low (079871) and then follow your compass east past the shapely rocky outcrops of Crowden Tower (093871). Continue over the head of Crowden Brook (095873) to the top of Grindsbrook Clough (115872). It's all down hill now via Grindsbrook Clough (115872) into Edale to find the coach.



Photo from [visitpeakdistrict.com](http://visitpeakdistrict.com)

## Fares

Members – £20.00

Guests – £22.00

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

To book contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

Should you need to cancel do so no later than the Wednesday prior to the coach date or a £5.00 fee will be charged. Fail to turn up and the full coach fare will be expected.

### ROUTES 3 & 4 (~23km / 14 miles)

For those of you who like to stretch your legs why not follow route 1 to the col above Willian Clough (064901) but then descend past Ashop Head (066905) and down Ashop Clough (087905) to the Snake Inn (112905) for a quick drink. Cross the River Ashop at the footbridge (114902) and climb the valley to the plateau (093891). Cross the not-so-flat plateau to Kinder Downfall (083889) and on to Kinder Low (079871). Descend to the coach as Route 1 (Distance 23km / 14 miles) or as Route 2 (Distance 23km / 14 miles).

# Long Coach Meet – Nantlle Ridge

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Depart

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

07:20 – Service Road Junc 2 M 54

(Short stop at Welshpool)

## Drop off

A487 Nebo (467508)

Rhyd Ddu (571526)

Beddgelert (591481)

## Pick up

Rhyd Ddu (571526)

Beddgelert (591481)

## Required maps

OS 1:25.000 Outdoor Leisure Map 17 Snowdon

OS 1:50.000 Landranger No 115 (For Nesbo Drop Off)



Photo from visitpeakdistrict.com

## Fares

Members – £20.00      Guests – £22.00

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

To book contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

Should you need to cancel do so no later than the Wednesday prior to the coach date or a £5.00 fee will be charged. Fail to turn up and the full coach fare will be expected.

## Suggested routes

### Route 1 (~13.5km / 8.5 miles)

The feature walk of this meet is a linear traverse of the Nantlle Ridge. From the drop off walk through Nebo and head for Garnedd Goch (512495). This is the start of an interesting ridge offering a variety of terrains (quite narrow and impressive in places) leading NE over Craig Cmw Silyn (526503) Mynydd Taly - Mynydd (536514) and ending up on Y Garn (552526). Descend to Rhyd Ddu.

### Route 2 (~11.5km / 7 miles)

Leave the coach in Beddgelert and follow the footpath to some old building (578480) and ascend a good path, steep in places, to the summit of Moel Hebog (565469). Descend very steeply NW to Bwlch Meillion (560475) and then climb to Moel Yr Ogof (556478) and continue to Moel Lefn (554485). Follow the ridge on a good path (not marked on most maps) to a disused tip (553495) and into a disused quarry (551500). Climb over Bwlch-Y-Ddwy-Elor and descend through the forest to Rhyd Ddu.

### Route 3 (~10.3km / 6.5 miles)

Leave the coach at Rhyd Ddu and walk up the road to a sharp right hand bend (567527) then follow a climb steeply to the summit of Y Garn (552526). The fun now begins via the grade 1 scramble to Mynydd Drws-Coed (549518) then continue along the narrow grassy ridge to Trum Y Ddysgl (545516). Descend from the summit to a narrow rocky section with a few exposed steps before a grassy ascent of Mynydd Tal-Y-Mignedd (535515). Retrace your steps back along the ridge to grid ref (543515) then descend the south ridge to Bwlch-Y-Ddwy-Elor (553504). Follow a good path through the forest to Rhyd Ddu.

### Route 4 (~10.6km / 6.6 miles)

From Rhyd Ddu follow a track through the forest to Bwlch-Y-Moch (561540) Then follow the ridge E to Foel Rudd (549544) continuing along the narrow ridge above Craig-Y-Bera to the summit of Mynydd Mawr (540546). Retrace your steps back to Rhyd Ddu.