



Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland
Edinburgh Section

Edinburgh
23rd April 2007

Edinburgh JMCS Members,

Newsletter – Spring 2007

welcome to the spring newsletter. Enclosed are reports on the winter meets, details of forthcoming midweek and weekend meets (including the AGM), and an update on “The Cabin.”

2006/7 Winter Meet Reports

Summary

Apart from the CIC Hut meet in late March which was from all accounts a great meet, we have not enjoyed a particularly successful winter season due to mainly to poor weather and conditions. It has not been entirely uneventful however....

15/16 December 2006: Beetham Cottage, Patterdale - Lake District

Planned as a pre- Christmas winter hill walking meet, it was a shame that more folk did not come along as the weather was quite benign.

Saturday: The high ridges around **Deepdale** including Fairfield.

Sunday: Francis and Patrick walked the high Ridges around **Coledale**, which includes the pyramidal **Grisedale Pike** (somewhat extravagantly known as the 'Lakeland Matterhorn')

19/20 January 2007: Raeburn Hut, Laggan

Very wild and windy weather. Winter climbing prospects looked very doubtful but on Saturday Stuart and his friend made an ascent of **Iron Butterfly (III)** on No 1 Buttress in **Coire an Lochain**. On **Coire an t Sneachda**, Patrick and Stewart made a half hearted attempt at **Crotched Gully** but were repulsed by strong winds and poor snow / ice conditions. Meanwhile, still recovering from a dislocated shoulder, Robert cycled and then walked to Culra bothy.

Patrick and Stewart returned South on Saturday night, and on Sunday Stuart and his friend explored the West Face of Aonach Mor, while Robert went for another (shorter) bike ride.

9/10 February 2007: Ling Hut, Torridon

On Friday night the Ling Hut was buzzing and full to the gunnels. There was a promising forecast for the weekend – we were expecting cold, crisp and clear conditions. Saturday dawned but quite windy and cloudy. Stewart and Susan were first up at some ungodly hour to walk in to **Beinn Eighe's Coire Mhic Fhearchair** with designs on **East Buttress**. However they abseiled off after the first pitch because conditions were poor and the weather was looking increasingly iffy.

Meanwhile the other two teams headed off towards **Coireag Dubh Mor**, on **Liathach**. Eddie and Thomas were considering **Over Sixties Icefall** but thought better of it and walked back. Francis and Patrick plumped for **George (III)**, apparently the best climb of its grade in the corrie. An initial inspection revealed ice in quantity at the base of the gully but this got quite a bit thinner further up!

As a consequence the climb took a long time to complete and at the top poor visibility due to benightment and clag was compounded by a foul south westerly wind. Unable to locate the descent gully with certainty and unwilling to risk venturing as far as the summer descent route the pair reluctantly decided to take shelter for the night under the cover of a bothy bag. No signal was available on the mobile phones so colleagues at the hut could not be reassured about their relative safety. After a cold and uncomfortable night the pair set out to find the descent gully and satisfied that they were in the right place began their descent. About two thirds of the way down shouts were heard followed by an encounter with the Torridon Mountain Rescue

Team. Although more than willing to walk back it would have been churlish to have refused the offer of a lift back in the waiting helicopter..!

Readers of these club circulars may recall an entertaining article by Stewart a couple of years ago that gave an account of an epic on this climb entitled 'An Evening with George' A sequel to this could be entitled 'An Evening with George followed by a Night on Liathach'!

Many thanks to the Torridon Mountain Rescue Team and to all colleagues on the meet for their succour.

9/10 March 2007: Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe

A poor weather forecast meant that only half of the expected ten members made it to Glencoe for this meet, so there was plenty of space in the hut. The weather on Saturday was at least as bad as predicted with strong winds and lashing rain. Rachel went home in disgust, while Robert and Gill walked over the Devil's staircase to Kinlochleven. They returned after lunch in the Ice Factor, where they met David and Linda who had driven round to use the climbing wall. Only Robert and Gill stayed on until Sunday, when they went for a short walk to Black Corries lodge in similarly poor weather conditions.

23/24 March 2007: CIC Hut, Ben Nevis

Rare combination of good settled weather (blue skies, virtually no wind, sunshine), superb ice (well higher up anyway) – and the CIC booking.

Probably in excess of 200 climbers on the Ben - an almost carnival atmosphere pervaded despite the queues.

Our guys did:

Susan and Stewart: **Wendigo (IV, 4)** on Saturday. Walked up to Cascade area on Sunday, only to discover that they had left a rope behind!

David and Linda: **Comb Gully (IV, 4)** on Saturday and leisurely walk back on Sunday.

Eddie and Ruth: **Thompson's Route (IV, 4)** on Saturday and **Comb Gully (IV 4)** on Sunday.

Fran and Dave: **Two Step Corner (V,5)** and **North Gully, Left Fork (IV, 5)** on Saturday and **Green Gully (IV, 3)** and **South Gully (III)** on Sunday

Forthcoming Midweek Meets

Wednesday ...	Venue*	Notes/further info
11 th April	Salisbury Crags	Climbing followed by meal at Pizza Express, Holyrood to kick off the summer climbing season.
18 th April	Rosyth Quarry	
25 th April	The Hawkcraig, Aberdour	LT 16.53
2 nd May	Traprain Law	
9 th May	North Berwick Law	
16 th May	Rosyth Quarry	
23 rd May	Traprain Law	
30 th May	The Hawkcraig, Aberdour	LT 20.28
6 th June	Northumberland – Kylee	
13 th June	The Hawkcraig, Aberdour	LT 19.58
20 th June	Northumberland – Bowden Doors	
27 th June	The Hawkcraig, Aberdour	LT 19.19
4 th July	Benny Beg	
11 th July	The Hawkcraig, Aberdour	LT 18.44
18 th July	Dunkeld	
25 th July	The Hawkcraig, Aberdour	LT 17.55
1 st August	Auchinstarry	
8 th August	The Hawkcraig, Aberdour	LT 17.20
15 th August	Traprain Law	
22 nd August	Auchinstarry	
29 th August	Rosyth Quarry	
5 th September	Salisbury Crags	Climbing followed by a meal to round off the summer mid week season.

* Wet weather alternative – Ratho

Thanks once again to Tom and Beryl for providing the tide tables.

Tiso discount nights (115 Rose Street) – Tuesday 1st May and Tuesday 8th May 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Forthcoming Weekend Meets

When	Length	Where	Co-ordinator	Notes / Further Info
Fri 20th April – Sun 22nd April	Weekend	Salving House Hut Borrowdale Lake District	Susan	3 Female Places 5 Male Places £4ppn www.frcc.co.uk/rock/index.htm Sample some great climbing at one of the best rock climbing areas in the Lakes.
Sat 28th April	Day only	Benny Beg Crieff	Susan	Sport climbing. http://wiki.scottishclimbs.com/wiki/Benny_Beg Grades from 3 to 6a+. The Costa Blanca comes to Scotland! Meet at the crag from 11.00am.
Fri 1st June – Sun 3rd June	Weekend	Blackrock Cottage Glencoe	Susan	8 Places £4ppn www.ladiesscottishclimbingclub.org/html/huts.htm The Buchaille and Eive slabs, all close to hand for some classic rock climbing with many wonderful three star routes. Lots of hill walking opportunities too.
Fri 22nd June – Sun 24th June	Weekend	Ben Nevis CIC hut	Susan	6 Places (more available if need be) £7ppn www.smc.org.uk/Huts/CIC.htm Close to mid summer provides opportunity to make the most of this historic venue and climb long classic routes.
Fri 20th July – Mon 23rd July	Weekend/ ong weekend	Cairngorms Camping	Susan	The idea is to make the most of the weather combined with a trip to somewhere remote. Beinn A'Bhuird is the preferred venue – great

				wild camping with classic climbs in a remote setting.
Sun 19th August	Day only	Glen Clova	Susan	Crag climbing with a range of quality pitches in a mountain environment. also a chance to explore the Angus hills. Meet for a pint afterwards at the Clova Hotel.
Fri 14th September – Mon 17th September	Long Weekend Edinburgh Holiday	Cwm Glas Mawr Llanberis North Wales	Susan	www.climbers-club.co.uk/huts.html#cwmglas_mawr 11 places £6ppn Exclusive use of Cwm Glas Mawr (Climbers Club hut) in the heart of the Llanberis Pass. Ideal for such classic routes as Main Wall (Cyn Las), Diagonal (Dinas Mot) and Cenotaph Corner and lots of other Classic Rock & Hard Rock ticks. If weather is bad then Gogarth and Tremadog are a short drive.
Sat 6th October	Day only followed by evening meal	Dunkeld	Susan	South facing crag with a range of routes giving opportunity for late season climbing.
Sat 27th October	Day only	Mountain bike meet – venue to be confirmed	Charles	The circuit will be a combination of on and off-road cycling. Further details available nearer the time.

Other Events...	
<p>Sat 9th June and Sun 10th June and daily till Sat 16th June</p> <p>Edinburgh Art Exhibition Mountain Landscapes (well mostly!)</p> <p>Private View Sat 9th June 11am – 4pm</p>	<p>Contact Helen for further details.</p>
<p>Sat 26th May pm</p>	<p>Bouldering, Gullane beach, East Lothian Small bouldering crag with soft sandy landing. The plan is to have a fun day out on the beach! Partners and other friends welcome.</p> <p>Meet at the crag from 2pm</p> <p>Contact Terry</p>

AGM 2007 Details

The 2007 AGM and Annual Dinner will be held at the Kenmore Hotel on Saturday the 24th November.

The cost for dinner, bed and breakfast will be £65 per person per night, for 2 sharing.

Members wishing to book should phone the hotel directly, on tel. 01887 830 205.

The Cabin

Introduction

We are continuing to make progress with The Cabin. A summary of the current position follows.

Funding/External work

Our application to Awards for All (part of the National Lottery) has been successful and all the funding for the external works is now in place. We expect the contractor to start building the car park and access path and installing the new septic tank within the next few weeks.

Internal Work

We have started work on the interior of the building, including replacing sections of rotten floor, installing a new water system and fitting the heating stove. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done on the interior. Once water, drainage and car parking facilities are available it is planned to organise work meets and we hope that members will be enthusiastic about helping to make the hut ready for use.