

SHREWSBURY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB: COMMITTEE LIST

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HOUSENOTES

- We are coming to the climax of SMC's 50th year. By the time you read this, quite a few club members will be gathered in Argentiere, in the Fench Alps for a weekend/fortnight of walking climbing, and alpinism – as well as, no doubt, good timing and drinking etc. in Chamonix and nearby.
- And then....on the Bank Holiday weekend at Clwt y Bel, (28th/31st August) there will on the Saturday, be the Clwt y Bel Finale, and afterwards, the Cottage BBQ. On the Sunday and Monday, there will be opportunities for getting out in the hills with club members. The Clwt y Bel Finale (the last leg of the Clwt y Bel Way), will start on the Saturday at 9am at the Pinnacle Café in Capel Curig. The route, (which forms a really good day out in its own right), starts at Capel, traverses the spine of The Glyders, (passing Tryfan on the way), and carries on over Y Garn, Mynydd Perfedd and Carnedd y Filiast, before dropping down to Clwt y Bel. On arrival (all free), there will be Pete's Substantial Barbeque with copious amounts of burgers and sausages, and lots of other wonderful food provided by Rose. Then, on the Sunday and Monday you can crash out, or go walking, climbing, biking, sailing, or whatever takes your fancy. This should be a cracking weekend, so if you are free, make sure you come along. Oh, and if you have ambitions to do some unwalked legs of the CYB Way during the week running up to the Cottage Weekend, Jan and Jackie will be on hand to assist and provide backup as required. See their phone numbers at the top of this page.
-And when that's all over we can look forward to the Clubs 50th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 26th September at the Pro Star Stadium, Shrewsbury. So far, about 100 club members have booked their places, but there is still plenty of space, so, if you intend to come, (your partner will be welcome too) but haven't got round to booking yet, fill in the booking form on the rear page of the May newsletter, and send it with a cheque, (£20 per person) to Jackie as soon as you can....or if you have lost the form, just contact Jackie. If you hadn't considered coming - stop and think – this is a pretty important milestone in the clubs history to celebrate, be a part of it! The next such dinner will not be for another fifty years! As well as a meal, there will I suspect, be a lot of reminiscing and a short speech or two, and I know for certain that there will be hundreds of photos from the early days to 2009. You are bound to be on at least one of them! Hope to see you there.
- The 2010 meet card will be decided in the early autumn, so if you have any requests or ideas, or would be willing to run a meet, please contact someone on the committee.
- Shropshire Climbing Centre, at Newport, (on the industrial estate) has a huge bouldering area, and a small top roping area. Could be a good location for kids. See their website.

- If you have never been to the club cottage, August Bank Holiday weekend could be a good opportunity to check it out, now that the availability has been clarified in the May newsletter.

Dave Laddiman

Clwt-Y-Bel Way – Adjustment to Route

Since printing the guide book it has been brought to my attention that in Section 3 Nantmawr to Llanarmon DC on page 18, part of the right of way has been diverted to avoid walking through a farm yard. This is at Grid Ref 239252. It presently reads . . . “The path eventually crosses the river via a wooden fence and onto a track bearing left. Follow the track uphill, passing a farm on your right, . . .”.

I have been told that instead once you have crossed the river you should **NOT** take the farm track bearing left but turn left and go over a series of stiles which will bring you back onto the track once past the farm. Thus not annoying the farmer by going through his yard. It would be much appreciated if you could adhere to this change.

Many thanks.
Jackie

SNOWDON CLASSIC – MARCH 22 – ANNE YEELES

Matt, Pete, Anne and Jon, John H, Sue and John, Jeff, Annie, Andrew, Mike and Helen.

An excellent and little used track led us from Pen y Pass car park with superb views on both sides. Further up on Crib Goch however we were soon engulfed in mist which gave the place an eerie and forbidding atmosphere. Higher and higher we went. John Howard seemed to go a lot better after elevenses which he attributed to laxative chocolate! Everyone made up for any lack of aplomb with determination, and the sling which Annie brought was put to good use on at least one occasion. Sue mislaid her other half near the top but was fairly sure she knew where he had gone wrong. Her assumption proved correct when Anne described a near vertical scree slope up which she had been unwittingly led.

The designer of the new Snowdon café had inadvertently provided an outdoor climbing wall on one of the sides, which was too much for Pete Cooper to resist. Jon Yeeles, who is easily led astray by bad boys, followed until he remembered that –

A. What goes up must come down.

B. Old bones break more easily.

C. He's a crap climber.

After a blustery lunch Sue and John continued round the Horseshoe. The rest of us descended down the railway line as far as Clogwyn Station past some improbably large snowdrifts. From here we followed Matt down another little used track and the best views of the whole day opened up around us.

The choice of route and the clag on top gave the (false) impression that there were very few people on the mountain, and after a fairly challenging walk we were still back in time for pint mugs of tea in Llanberis.

ARENIG FAWR – MAY 10 – JAN CAMPBELL

This turned into quite a small meet with just Pete McAree and I turning up at Radbrook and then John and Sue Roberts at the Arenig Fawr end. Liz Carr and Jenny Howard had made it to the Bala end of the meet! Eventually we were all together and had a delightful fine day walking the 6th leg of the Clwt-y-Bel way over fields, small bogs and hills. A linear walk is very satisfying as you feel it is more of a journey and it was surprising that so few people took the opportunity to do another leg of the CBW.

SKYE – 23-30 MAY – DAVE LADDIMAN

The report on this week hasn't yet been completed, and as your editor is about to depart to Chamonix, it will have to wait until the September edition. A lot of club members attended, but had disappointing weather.

SNOWDONIA – JUNE 14 – HELEN HOLDEN

Or, "Nine men and their dog went to Mow and Meadow, 9 men, 8 men etc... Dave, John, Jenny, Liz, Jan, Alenka, Gareth, Mike, Helen, and Jess the dog; all met at the Pinnacle Café at Capel Curig. It was a beautiful sunny morning and some of us were brave enough to wear our shorts. After much deliberation and debate, and cups of coffee and cakes – it was decided to form two groups – John Jenny and Liz went off to Beddgelert to climb up Snowdon – and the rest of us headed up Moel Siabod via Plas y Brenin, and gradually walked diagonally up the side of the hill. Usually, people descend this way, but it is a really good and easy way up.

At the top, the view was amazing! We had a 360 degree view as far as the eye could see. Snowdon was very clear, but with a bit of cloud on the top. We could see all the way down the Conwy Valley and beyond, and we thought we could even see Llandudno on the coast. South towards Blaenau Ffestiniog, and North towards Carnedd Dafydd.. When you get a clear day on the top it really is one of the most undiscovered peaks in the Snowdonia range. Most of us spotted a yellow helicopter hopping around the tops of the forests beneath us, but failed to impress one of the party with our description of where it was by saying "It's down there – just near those green trees"!!!

We lingered awhile just taking in the view, and then four of us and Jess descended down the western side towards the Pen y Gwryd Hotel. It was an easy descent, although there was no clear path. However, it did get very boggy and there were many ladder stiles which Jess jumped over with no effort, in fact she jumped one just to prove she could at one stage. One good thing about boggy places is that you do get a lot of beautiful flowers, and Gareth named them as Milkworts and Tormentil. We also spotted some brown trout in the river Nant y Gwryd near the A4086.

We came out just short of the Pen y Gwryd Hotel and spotted yet another ladder stile, so over we went, heading NE up the side of Cefn y Capel. The start of the path was again a bit boggy, but as we climbed higher we soon left the bogs behind. The path was clear by now and although stony we made good progress and were soon at the top with tremendous views of Tryfan, with Adam and Eve rocks standing proud on the top. Here we parted company again, leaving Alenka and Gareth, so now it was down to two men and a dog.!!!

Mike and I took our time and marvelled at the views, Snowdon now completely clear, and the Carnedd Dafydd range and beyond just looked as if you could reach out and touch them. We were glad of our fleeces though, the sun was hot but the wind had picked up and it was feeling chilly. There really is no better place in the world on a day like this and it made you glad to be out on the tops. Near the end of the walk we looked down and could see the queue of traffic on the A5., it is amazing that up on the tops there was only us and the sheep. Nearing the end of the hill, Jess startled a family of grouse. I am not sure if the dog or

the grouse were more surprised. The male ran off in a different direction from the female with her young and gave us a marvellous display of the male protecting his brood
It was a lovely end to a delightful walk. It took about 8 hours, but we were quite slow getting up the hill, and we did do a lot of stopping and staring.

THE WELSH 3000s – 26-28 JUNE – JAN CAMPBELL

Four brave chaps decided to accept the challenge this year with three chappesses willing to hang around all day in support.

Active	Supporting
Mike Holden	Helen Holden
Dave Place	Annie Blayney
Dave Humphreys	Jan Campbell
Bryan Johnson	

After gathering at the cottage on Friday evening it was decided to set the alarm clocks for 4a.m. with all four lads hoping to start from Pen y Pass at 5 a.m.(ish). At 4.15 a.m. the support team plus Mike were up and the rest were in danger of staying in bed as the weather wasn't perfect, but being given a talking to and being called 'wimps' did the trick, temporarily. The upshot of all this was that Mike and Dave P were dropped off by Helen at Pen y Pass at 5.30a.m. and Annie and Jan took Bryan and Dave H to the start for 8.45 a.m.

Weather wise the temperature was described later by Bryan as 'perfect' and there was no wind BUT the visibility left much to be desired with the clag only clearing in the late afternoon ready for the last leg over the Carneddau. Mobile phones can be a blessing in circumstances such as these and whilst waiting in Ogwen the supporters received a call to say that Dave H was coming down to Ogwen Cottage from Y Garn having taken a fall on Elidir Fawr – a disappointing early shower for Dave H. Mike Holden reached Ogwen but opted for calling it a day at that point; Dave P and Bryan came through at various intervals and completed in good style. Bryan in particular had a very stylish finish with a ride in the back of a land rover down the track from Llyn Anafon – some would say this is cheating but the reality is that the challenge is from top to top and he made the traverse from Crib Goch to Foel Gras in 11 hours 50 mins. Bryan obviously wasn't tired enough as he came for a walk from Penmachno to Capel Curig with me the next day – this is leg 8 of the Clwt y Bel Way but we didn't bother with Moel Siabod – a peak too far for Bryan and I had only been up it two weeks before (and countless times before that).

This event, for anyone who wants to do it, remains a fixture on the club calendar but anyone can use the cottage that week end – as indeed did Joe North and Heather Smith who were doing their own thing. Let's hope that more take the opportunity next June.

SUMMER/AUTUMN EVENTS

31 JULY - 1 AUG	HARLECH	John Edwards – 01743 365766
	John's well loved camping weekend close to Harlech and lots of interesting walking in the pleasantly unfrequented Rhinogs. Also rock climbing nearby – you are interested see new Mid Wales and Tremadog guides).	
28 - 31 AUGUST	CLWT-Y-BEL WAY FINALE & BBQ	Jackie Eyre – 01743 236877
	This could be a big weekend. Have a few days away from the crowds at Clwt-y-Bel. Walk, climb, sail or whatever you fancy and join Jackie on the last leg of the Clwt-y-Bel Way to the cottage and a BBQ in the evening.	
6 SEPTEMBER	CLWYDIAN HILLS	Matt Akers – 01743 236441
	Come and explore the castles and valleys around Llangollen with a 8-12 mile walk through varied scenery including Castell Dinas Bran and World's End. Leaving the Co-op car park, Bank Farm Road, Radbrook (SY3 6DU,	

	GR 477112) at 8am prompt to drive to Market Street public car park, Llangollen (LL20 8PY, GR 215421)	
20 SEPTEMBER	CADAIR IDRIS	Steph Williams – 01743 235261
	Meet at 8am at Radbrook for car sharing, or 10am at the car park on the NORTH side of the hill. Subject to weather, walking options up Cadair and climbing on the classic Cyfrwy Arete or the harder Cyfrwy crags.	
26 SEPTEMBER	SMC 50TH BIRTHDAY DINNER	Jackie Eyre – 01743 236877
	The Birthday Dinner will take place at the Prostar Stadium, Shrewsbury Football Club. Book your place as soon as you can: remember there won't be another one for fifty years!!	
6-8 OCTOBER	LAKE DISTRICT	Mike Jones – 01743 884529
	Join Mike for the annual mid week gathering of those who are retired or can swing a few days off. It always seems popular so don't leave it too late to book your place. The venue might be different this year.	
18 OCTOBER	PEAK DISTRICT	Dave Carson – 01948 780423
	A day out in the Peak – location not yet decided but will have walking and climbing options.	
30 OCT-1 NOV	CHAIRMAN'S MEET, CLWT-Y-BEL	Mike Jones – 01743 884529
	Join Mike for a weekend (or a day) at the cottage, enjoying the delights of North Wales and our Chairman's hospitality on the Saturday night (not to be missed if you like malt whisky and cheese).	