

Aylesbury Climbing Club

News



Issue 117 August 2011

News

Welcome to this long overdue edition of the ACC newsletter which was originally due out in May! We've not, however, been sitting idle and the first version of the new club web site is now up and running at www.acc.org.uk. This isn't the finished article and there will be some tweaking and new features added over the coming months. It would be great to hear what you think and we would welcome any suggestions or ideas.



As with all the activities of the committee, be they organising meets and social events, this newsletter and the web site, they are done for the benefit of our club and therefore your support and feedback is very important. Whilst on the subject of the committee there are a couple of changes to report following the AGM back in April. Bob Lee has now formally taken on the role of secretary although the social secretary role remains vacant. Diccon also wishes to stand down from his post of meets secretary and whilst there are no volunteers to take over, the tasks of booking and coordinating meets will be shared amongst the remaining committee members.

Climb & BBQ

The annual 'climb and BBQ' will take place on Sunday 4th of September with the usual format of climbing at Green Park followed by a barbeque at Wendover Woods. There will be bit of a competition at the climbing wall but this will be a light hearted affair with something for everyone! The climbing wall will be available from 12-3pm with the BBQ being fired up from 3-7pm. Families welcome although normal Green Park rules apply. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Meets & Events

2011

September	4th	Climb and BBQ Green Park & Wendover Woods	
	16th-18th	Raven Crag Gt Langdale Lake District	
October	14th-16th	Millennium Hostel Lawrenny Pembrokeshire	
	24th	Last Green Park Session	
	31st	Slide Show - Aylesbury Squash Club	
November	11th-13th	Tan-y-Garth Capel Curig North Wales	
	6th	Chiltern Chase: walk, run or cycle	
December	9th-11th	Falcliffe Cottage Peak District	
	16th	Christmas Dinner	

2012

January	20th-22nd	Robertson Lamb Hut Langdale, Lake District	
February	17th-19th	Stair Hut Newlands Valley Lake District	
March	16th-18th	Bryn Brethnau Capel Curig Snowdonia	
April	TBC	Peak District Venue TBC	
May	11th-13th	Glan Dena Ogwen Valley North Wales	
June	2nd-9th	Lochinver Mission Assynt, Scotland TBC	
	15th-17th	Camping Meet Pembroke?	
July	TBC	Caseg Fraith Ogwen Valley Snowdonia	

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"In your own time take-off when ready!"



Nervous? Damn right I was nervous, I hadn't flown since that beautiful yet tragic day in Morocco nine months ago. For reasons we will never know a pilot on the same trip as me was involved in a fatal accident crashing into a rock buttress on the side of the hill at Aguer gour. Moments before a small group of pilots including me, had been waiting our turn to take off when we gradually became aware that something had gone horribly wrong a few hundred yards along the ridge. Since then I've been through the incident in my mind dozens of times and spoken to a number of flying instructors and pilots trying to reconcile what happened. Was it avoidable? Could it happen to me? Is this sport too dangerous? The general consensus seemed to be that, like most flying accidents, it was simply down to pilot error and in theory at least was avoidable. Gliders don't just fall out of the sky! Provided you take sensible precautions and fly with equipment and in weather conditions that suit your ability you should be able to manage most of the risks involved. The conclusion I came to was that I needed to have another go before I made any permanent decisions.

... and so there I was, standing on the ridge at the top of la Chabre in the Provence, Alpes, Cote d'Azur region of France more generally known in the free-flying world as Laragne. I had booked a week long introduction to XC (cross country) flying course with Judy Leden and Chris Dawes from Airways Air Sports based near Ashbourne in Derbyshire. Two weeks before the trip I was getting cold feet and nearly cried off completely, but after a long chat with Judy she convinced me that I could take things at my own speed

and that they would be there to coach me through. She had clearly been through this before with other pilots and could empathise with how I felt.

Meanwhile back at la Chabre, with my pre-flight checks all done, harness checked and re-checked, I was running out of excuses not to go for it. After a couple of tentative attempts I had my glider cleanly up over my head and with few paces was airborne. This first flight was a simple top to bottom down to the "fish" landing field we had reconnoitred on the drive up, it's name becoming clearer as I circled over the oddly shaped clearing. The warm air was comfortingly calm and after a ten minute glide I landed, dry mouthed but a lot happier.

Myself and the two other students on the course were soon picked up by Dave who with his partner Rachel run the gite we were staying in as well as providing an excellent retrieve service and after a 20 minute drive we were back on the top of the ridge discussing plans for the next flight.

The course was aimed at low airtime Club pilots wanting to learn some XC and thermalling skills to break away from the take-off hill and venture further afield. Chris briefed our little group plus a couple of more experienced pilots who had joined us, pointing away North across the valley towards Orpierre and beyond discussing possible trigger points for thermals and pointing out potential landing fields if the all important lift didn't appear. Over dinner the night before we had discussed the option of a tandem flight which I had happily accepted and so I wasn't too intimidated by all this brave talk. I had heard a number of instructors extolling

the benefits of tandem flying as a teaching tool, so the opportunity to settle my nerves and get some one on one instruction from a world class pilot seemed a perfect idea.

The way Judy and Chris worked was that one of them would get airborne and assess the general conditions and give us the nod when they felt it was good to go. As the aim of the course was to get in XC flights we needed to have enough lift to get up and away from ridge and to avoid "bombing out", so after Judy had given the conditions a hesitant thumbs up the other pilots started to get away with Chris and I following on as the last ones off. The conditions turned out to be marginal with only limited patches of lift and a couple of the pilots soon pushed away to the safety of the "fish" field. Having gained a reasonable amount of height above the ridge Chris and I turned north to make the run across the valley to the next ridge and (hopefully) source of lift. Only one other pilot joined us as the others had by now all dropped out.

It was a real lesson in flying skill for me with Chris working every ounce of lift and pointing out what he could see and how to "read" the air conditions. Looking all around for signs of lift be it birds or the tell tale sign of trees moving around below us, I was amazed how Chris managed to keep us aloft when the others had failed but then I guess that's how you get to win world championships! It wasn't long before the other glider had also dropped out and so we headed further north alone with Chris skilfully working ridge after ridge. On occasions I took the controls with Chris pointing out what I was "feeling" through them and how movements in the glider were being fed back down the lines, it certainly was true, a tandem flight is an excellent classroom.

After about two hours we finally landed, rather ironically at Serres airfield, about 40km north of la Chabre. Having radioed our position back to Dave we promised to try and hitch a lift nearer to base and promptly went into the bar for a much needed beer. Unfortunately even after a second beer no-one in the bar had offered us a lift and the retrieve vehicle picked us up. What a day!

Day two was blown out and despite reconnaissance trips to a couple of take-off sites no-one got airborne. The next day dawned a lot calmer and after our morning briefing we headed out to the Montagne du Bergies a mountain about 45 minutes drive west of the gite. On the drive over we checked out the various options for landing should we be able to get away from the hill and venture back down the valley and after a brief look at the "official" landing field at the foot of the hill we headed up the zig zag dirt road to the top. At 1367m Bergies has a broad and grassy take off slope and commands a good position looking west over the Montagne du Buc to the radio mast on Mont Ventoux beyond. Our intended flight plan was to head east back down the broken ridge towards home. Judy pointed out our likely trigger points for lift and roughly how much height we would need at various stages in order to make the glide between them or to make a break for the various landing options in the valley. An impromptu landing part way down would lead to a long and hot walk out back to a road!

With the wind still quite weak we laid our gliders out and waited. After half an hour or so the wind picked up and Judy took to the air to assess the lift. If we took off too soon and bombed out it would take about an hour to get us retrieved from the bottom landing and back up the hill, so having an experienced wind "dummy" was a bonus. "Good to go guys, let's have everyone in the air", Judy's voice came through on the radio and so we all took it in turns to get airborne.

There were about a dozen gliders in the air, soaring the summit ridge in a seemingly abstract dance, waiting for the tell-tale "beeping" of their variometer indicating they were in some lift. It was the busiest conditions I had flown in and it was quite a job keeping a 360° look out on all the others, whilst trying to see if anyone else was in better air. "Beep .. beep ... beep", check the

air space, lean over and put in a left hand turn, try to stay in lift and catch the thermal.

After about half an hour soaring above the summit we had worked our way up to about 1,500ft above take off and Judy came on the radio giving us the nod to turn east and work along the ridge. So our little group of five gliders headed away from the security of the lift above Bergies in search of more lift further along the valley. As we headed east, trying to maintain an efficient glide and on the look out for lift we were gradually losing altitude. A paraglider has a glide angle of about 1:8 so is actually always losing height, the trick is to get into air rising quicker than you're going down! Every now and again we would hit little patches of lift and make a few 360's to try and top up some height hoping to have enough to make the gap to the next main section of ridge. "Beep ... beep" turn, turn, concentrate, concentrate! After about another half hour we had worked our way a few kilometres along the ridge and were quite spread out as a group. We had excellent air to air communication with Judy and Chris via our radios and push to talk headsets and their coaching and encouragement was welcomed. "Peter, look to your left, Chris in better lift than you", how on earth they managed to monitor everyone was beyond me but that's where their experience pays off.

After an hour and a quarter I was exhausted and losing height so decided to push out into the valley to find a safe landing field. Now heading slightly into wind I was wondering if I would make it, or would I end up with a bit of a walk out. At times I wasn't sure if I was even making any forward movement even with my speed bar fully on, then I remembered a tip from Chris's briefing to look for your shadow and see if it's moving along the ground. Where's the sun, OK so my shadow should be ... ah there I am, quick wave of the legs, yep that's me and better still I am moving forwards!

At about a 1,000ft I started to check my landing options and picked a nice grassy field that looked comfortably within reach, looking beyond I could see a farm track leading away to a village and no sign of any telegraph poles or power cables, that'll do me. I circled a few times to lose a bit more height and then set myself up for a final approach into wind. Move your weight forward, legs out of the harness, 50 foot, 30 foot, wait, wait, now, gently flare the glider to brake and "touch down". Phew! Bunching my glider up I walked to the edge of the field to pack up, looking back along the valley towards the now quite distant summit of Bergies. Bloody hell ... I'd just done my first solo XC!

I got on the radio to say I was down safe and to let the retrieve driver know I was headed towards the small village of Lachau about a kilometre away. As I walked down the track in the sunshine I heard Judy on the radio saying the rest our group were also down safely about half a kilometre south of the same village. We were picked up by Dave and headed down the road for a well earned ice-cream and debrief on our flight. Looking at the map afterwards we worked out we had flown about 11km cross country reaching a maximum altitude of about 3,500ft above the valley floor.

The rest of the week went well although we didn't manage any other cross country flights. I came home with a renewed enthusiasm for flying and having put some of my fears behind me. As one of my flying instructors used to say he would be more worried when pilots weren't nervous!

The excellent gite "Allez-Up" is close to the village of Ribiers a few miles north of Sisteron. There is lots to do in the event of non-flying days with walking, cycling, via ferrata and climbing all nearby.

Peter Anderson – March 2011

GEAR

2 person 4 season tents

Sally Woodbridge

We were looking for a 2 person tent (admittedly two pretty long people), lightweight enough to backpack with but strong enough and bug / weather proof enough for camping on the plateaus of Norway in the summer. Our Terra Nova Laser Large is exceptionally light but, as was proved on one wet Wales weekend, the groundsheet, due to its relatively low rise up the sides of the inner, proved unequal to some proper rain. Our Quasar has sadly reached the end of its days, and was a bit on the heavy side anyway.

I looked at the following candidates (in order of price):

North Face Tadpole 2

Weight: 2.44kg

Sleeping compartment dimensions: 217cm x 114cm

Maximum headroom: 103cm

Length of largest porch space: 99cm

SRP: £170

A great little tent. I've spent a month trekking round Africa in one of these. I had it all to myself though – it would be a bit cramped with two (long) people plus kit. The porch space is OK and the tent fly can be tabbed back very effectively if you are cooking in the porch. Sitting up at the front of the sleeping compartment is fine, but it does tail down quickly at the back.

Terra Nova Voyager 2.2

Weight: 2.49kg

Sleeping compartment dimensions: 224cm x 126cm

Maximum headroom: 102cm

Length of largest porch space: 70cm

SRP: £360

You sleep parallel to the front entrance, so if there are any nocturnal manoeuvres one person is going to get a bit trampled. There was bit more sitting around room than the Tadpole and an OK porch space but again nothing amazing, especially as it shelves down very steeply. This was the lightest one I checked out, a pretty impressive amount of tent for the weight, weatherproofness of groundsheet and tent stability.

Mountain Equipment Dragonfly 2 XT

Weight: 2.84kg

Sleeping compartment dimensions: 220cm x 125cm

Maximum headroom: 120cm

Length of largest porch space: 120cm

SRP: £450

My favourite! A little bit heavier but a huge amount of porch space is maximized by the pole at the far end of it and would be great for storing kit and brewing up out of the rain. The sleeping area wasn't the biggest but the headroom available in the tent was definitely the best. There were plenty of ventilation panels as well as decent anti-bug mesh. I know it's up to wet weather as one of our Saturday assistants in the shop used it on his Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition which was almost cancelled due to unseasonal weather conditions.

Terra Nova Ultra Quasar

Weight: 3.12kg

Sleeping compartment dimensions: 217cm x 136cm

Maximum headroom: 105cm

Length of largest porch space: 72cm

SRP: £600

The classic quasar design which is very stable, with a decent sleeping compartment size and a bit of porch space at each end. Excellent materials and well made, but so it should be at that price! It ultimately lost out to the Dragonfly due to porch and sitting up space and price but Quasars would be right at the top of my list for a full-on mountain tent.

Conclusions

There are some excellent tents out there. All the tents in this review are rated as 4 season tents, I'd envisage using them pretty much year round in the UK, possibly in the snow as well, but you would have to be aware of the potential build-up of snow on the flat tops of all except the Terra Novas, plus there aren't any snow skirts and they won't be quite as stable in the wind as a 5 season tent. All the tents with a siliconised flysheet will need seam sealing before use, you do get a bit more condensation in these, but that's the price you pay for going lightweight. Footprints are also a good idea as they will protect the inner groundsheet, plus provide something to place kit on in the porch. I've quoted the SRP of the tents, but look around and you should find them cheaper. I've also used the manufacturer's estimate of the weight of the whole tent including stuff sacks, tent pegs etc.



The Mountain Equipment Dragonfly being put through its paces in the Jotunheimen

Sardinia - May 2011

Mick Barnes

With the bonus of missing the Royal wedding on 29th April, eleven of us jetted off to Sardinia for ten days sports climbing. After an "easy" flight to Olbia on the NE. side of the Island, we collected our hire cars and did a 90 minute drive to Cala Gonone which is half way down the island on the east side and looking out over the Tyrrhenian Sea.

We had booked two houses and after collecting provisions on our way to them, we got settled in and went to our local crag, La Poltrona, to see what we could look forward to. We all agreed that it looked good and couldn't wait for the morning to arrive and get climbing. It rained that night; and rained; and rained. Thirty hours later, it stopped raining and although we didn't know it then the rest of the week was going to be dry and sunny.

La Poltrona was five minutes from the house and proved to have plenty of climbing to keep us amused on several days with climbing being available in grades to suit all tastes. Although this was our local crag, it wasn't the only

climbing in the area. We could choose from caves, sea cliffs and other inland crags. The choices were many and varied and allowed us to climb every day in some wonderfully scenic positions. During the week we also managed to fit in a trad. climb mountain day, a boat trip to some interesting limestone caves and then on to a beach and more crags, a trip to a pre-historic cave dwelling in the mountains called Tiscali which has an ISP connection; talk about ancient and modern! and finally plenty of the local hostelries. We only saw a small part of the island, which is the second largest in the Mediterranean, but it is very attractive and can be recommended to other members who would like this type of holiday/climbing venture.

Because we were located in two houses, we tended to do our "own thing" in the evenings but generally spent the days together on the various crags we visited. Without doubt our climbing standards improved through the week with lots of routes graded 5c/6a being achieved. Without singling out individuals, I

would like to make an exception in the case of Bob's niece Jo Lee. Jo climbed outside for the first time at Buis les Baronnies last year and this year managed to second a 6a.

All in all a very good break with some excellent climbing in a lovely situation. The group on this trip were Mike and Lyn, Bob and Pam, Jon, Bill, Jo, Mick, John K. Pete and Paul. As I have already stated, it was a great trip but if you want to know any more details, I am sure that you can get more details from anyone of the attendees.



Scrambling up the Spout

Diccon Proctor

Five years ago I walked up alongside the well known local tourist attraction Cautley Spout whilst on a family holiday to the Howgills in Cumbria. It is a river gorge cutting steeply up the flank of the hillside over a series of waterfalls, the lowest of which is fairly vertical. I pondered on whether it ever froze and it's potential as a winter route (Ok I know Bad Dad not paying the kids enough attention!). Back home a check of the guidebook revealed it was a known route: four pitches, 250m, grade 111. However it rarely came into condition due to its low lying position (250m altitude) and its southerly aspect. A prolonged freeze of one to two weeks duration with subzero temperatures to valley level was required, and this had to co-incide with just the right day off work. The radar was switched on and five years went by.....

Mid-December 2010. "Diccon we don't need you Tuesday or Wednesday" – by chance our normal conservation work had been suspended because of the heavy snow at the weekend. An early cold spell just before Christmas, a post on a UKClimbing thread saying it had been climbed, and a pleading email to ACC Yahoo ended up with Mike and myself setting off on Tuesday evening once the roads were clear enough to travel. That night we chose luxury lodgings - the boot of the Galaxy - right by the start of the footpath. We didn't dash to get off in the morning as we figured there wouldn't be anyone around in mid week (Doh!!). By 7.15am, just as we were leisurely getting stuff ready, the first car rolled in. At 7.30am four more carloads arrived and by 8am, our departure time, there must have been close to ten parties already in front of us. Ah well no point getting riled, might as well relax and enjoy the day even if it meant queuing. Mike had never done a long ice route before so being at the back would allow us to take things as they came.



The walk in is an easy 45 minute stroll by the river emerging from The Spout. At the foot of the gorge there's a gearing up point just to one side of where the hillside steepens considerably. Tooled up and crampons on we scrambled along the easy-angled bed of the gorge. Very quickly we were surrounded by a fabulous winter scene: the river was completely frozen: the way was interspersed with ice-crusting pools and ice steps of varying height (5-20 feet); and icicles dangled from the vegetated banks. No ropes were needed and it was a sheer delight to partake in what felt like a new sport – ice scrambling! After 200m we came round a corner and glimpsed a short ice wall leading to a raised platform and a crowd of ten or so people waiting at the foot of a 40m icefall. This was well formed, very stepped and wide enough to accommodate two lines, although it tapered to a single exit point at the top. The top half was in the sun but despite a little running water it was nowhere near collapsing. A couple of practice top ropes on the lower ice wall while we were waiting

warmed us up nicely, and then it was our turn. There were a reasonable number of ramps, bulges and cauliflowers for footholds, but it still felt steeper than it looked and got increasingly steep at the top. A dislodged loaf-sized chunk of ice threatened to drop on the crowd below so I disposed of it in a convenient pool at the foot of some running water. The last twenty feet had formed into thin flutes and columns of clear water ice: these were brittle and they didn't support screws. The flutings had to be bridged delicately as the axe placements were shallow and insecure. The moves felt stiff for grade 111 and I think bordered on 1V. Solid peg and rock anchors allowed me to adequately protect Mike as he unflappably seconded his first ever true ice pitch.

At the back of the bay we were belaying in another grade 11 wall, about twenty metres high, brought us to more level ground. We thought this was the end of the route and so we de-roped and carried on winding our way along the gorge. More delightful ice scrambling followed for another 1-200m. Dawdling, another pair got ahead of us and beat us to a second hidden frozen waterfall. The latter was also large enough for two ropes to climb alongside each other but we chose to wait and rest to get a go on the "juicy-looking" left side. After 30-40m of good grade 111 ice, steep at first then comfortable, I skirted a pool and then up a second incline to a stance.

Mike followed on but decided to go for a little detour and inadvertently went for "a swim": as he crested the first wall and edged round the pool using the same tracks as everyone else, the crust broke and in he went right up to his hips. S**t, double s**t! "Hold tight" came the anguished cry as he flailed around struggling for a foothold on the bottom of the pool. Tight it was until Mike eventually scabbled clear and joined me. I've heard of athletes taking ice baths after their events but not half way through. Despite being pretty cold Mike bravely elected to continue.

Yet more scrambling along the twisting river and round another bend we caught sight of the last and highest waterfall pitch. This had the steepest start yet but eased after 20 feet to a great grade 11 slabby slope. Again this fall was very wide and you could pick a line just about anywhere. It entailed a full ropes length of climbing satisfyingly good quality ice with a slight break at three-quarter height. A short distance further and it was all over. The walk off was easy with care down the initial steep soft snow slope and back to the car in only an hour or so.

It's probably one of the best winter routes I've done and has a totally different feel to any of the mountain gullies or ridges. The combination of lengthy steep ice pitches and gorge scrambling was excellent fun. I loved winding my way up the course of a frozen river not knowing what was round the next bend, surrounded by gorgeous scenery, and following a completely natural feature. Difficulty isn't everything!



trip reports

19th-20th February 2011

Glan Dena, North Wales

Mick and Pete made the best of an early start on Friday and stopped off en-route to Glan Dena to bag the less frequented Cader Berwyn. On Saturday Diccon and Paul Nurse had intended to climb on Cwn Silyn but due to the weather decided that a scramble was the better option and ended up doing the Central Ridge of the South Face on Mynydd Mawr. Despite not having a guidebook this turned out to be surprisingly good. A larger group of Jackie, Kay, Nick H and Paul Turton did the grand tour of the Carneddau picking up Pete C and Mick Barnes just over the top of Pen yr Ole Wen. Rather than take the pleasant scramble up the ridge, Pete had lead Mick into the Cwm and then taken the direct route up a rather grim slope. Geoff Bowles finally got around to exploring the ridge North of Y Garn.

On Sunday Diccon, the Pauls (Nurse and Turton) and Nick H scrambled up the East Ridge of Y Garn which despite some loose rock proved very entertaining with some very exposed sections.

5th-6th March 2011

High House, Borrowdale

A disappointingly low turn out for what proved to be an excellent weekend in the Lakes. On Saturday Alex, Jackie, Nick H, Nick L and Sally set off on what turned out to be a bit of a monster walk, taking in Grey Knotts, Brandreth, Ennerdale, Black Sail Pass, Pillar, Kirk Fell and Styhead tarn.



Nick Lovell on 'Route 2', Steel Knotts

Sunday was a beautifully clear, crisp winter day albeit with a cold wind. Jackie walked the ridge from Maiden Moor back to the hut whilst the Nick's and Sally searched out a sheltered south facing crag called Steel Knotts which is basically the toe end of Goat Crag.

It's fairly small but provided more than enough to keep us occupied whilst the sun shone. Nick H lead 'Ambling Ant' MVS followed by Nick L taking the lead on 'Route 2' also MVS but suprisingly tricky.

9th-10th April 2011

Homestead Bunkhouse, Peak District

There is nothing in the log book for this weekend so this report is purely from memory! Saturday saw everyone enjoying the sun up at Stanage (very very popular end). Lots of routes although the highlight was possibly watching Nikki attempting to second 'The Unprintable' (a gnarly overhanging jamming crack). Sunday was also a great day although I'm not entirely sure where the climbing group ended up. A walking group of Barry, Jackie, Kay and Nick H did a circuit of Win Hill, Lose Hill and Mam Tor before dropping down Cave Dale into Castleton and returning to Hope along the valley.

13th-15th May 2011

Pen Ceunant Uchaf, Llanberis

Another poorly attended meet with those that made the effort rewarded with some particularly foul weather. Saturday started off OK with Diccon and Paul Day managing to tick off Spiral Stairs and Dives / Better Things on Dinas Cromlech. Both Val and Phil and Paul T and Alan went up and down Snowdon via various routes trying to avoid the main tourist route. Nick and Sally arrived late on Saturday and went for a quick trip up Snowdon (not avoiding the tourist path). By this time the weather had taken a turn for the worse and it was scary to see the state of some of the woefully ill equipped punters on the tourist path. On Sunday the weather was if anything worse than on Saturday. Alan, Paul T, Val and Phil went to Anglesey in search of something better but were ultimately disappointed. Diccon and Paul Day headed up Crib Goch whilst Nick and Sally got a soaking whilst doing a circuit of Y Gribin and Lliwedd.

11th-12th June 2011

Torver, Lake District

On Saturday all the climbers headed to Wallabarrow with various routes climbed including Wall & Corner, Trinity Slabs, The Leaf and Digitation. A walking group consisting of Jenny, Petra and Kay did a circuit of Dow Crag, Coniston, Swirl How, Lowes Water and two pub stops! Sunday was apparently very wet, cold and windy. Jenny and 'Big Jon' had a good walk over to Dunnerdale whilst the remainder went for a gentle stroll up the Old Man via the tourist route.

25th June - 2nd July 2011

Glenbrittle, Skye

Another memorable week with only one day of awful weather, when most of us did silly things on a wild and wet beach including building stone Roman arches (not very successfully) until Richard nearly became an expsoure case. Memorable week for me for taking the Skye 'virgins' up Bruach na Frithe and Blaven, and a great day in Richards car with Jon and Amy to Raasay. The ridge kept itself hidden on and off until the Saturday which of course dawned with cloudless skies. Amy arrived via running up and down Ben Nevis in an indecent time which sadly wrecked her legs for the rest of the week. John King joined us mid week and he and Bill visited Sandy at Staffin who's boat had broken down and sadly lost him several days tourist trips. Memorable week also for our hut warden, Ruth. We will never, ever complain about Nicks views on rubbish recycling again.

Jenny Walker

23rd-24th July

Caseg Fraith, North Wales

Something a bit new for the family meet this year in the form of the 'Committee Challenge'. Prizes were on offer to both climbers and walkers for the total length of 'Classic Rock' routes climbed in a day or the number of 3000' summits reached in a day. Pete Templar and Tom took the climbing challenge very seriously and apparently left the hut at 3am and headed to Idwal to climb Ordinary Route, Faith, Hope and Charity followed by Lazarus and The Arete. A grand total of 2,055 feet. Pete and Chris Anderson could have challenged for both awards by climbing Amphitheatre Buttress and returning over the Carneddau taking in three 3,000' summits, but the walkers award went to Jackie Verrinder and Martyn Jones for their tour of the Glyders. Other achievements include Bob and Mick who did First Pinnacle Rib on Tryan - a ten hour round trip that left them both knackered! The Lovells plus Barry and Kay were at Bochlwyd Buttress, climbing most of the routes. Amy took on a slightly different challenge by entering the International Snowdon Race completing the trip up and down in 2 hours although she required the attention of the St Johns Ambulance following a tumble. There was also a childrens climbing group at Little Tryfan and another family group consisting of the Proctors and the Matthews that headed up Glyder Fach and had their photo taken on the Cantilever. Thanks to Bob for organising the challenges and to all those who contributed to the food on Saturday evening.

committee news

Report of committee meeting on 8th March 2011

Present: - Paul, Jenny, Sally, Nick, Diccon, Bob, Pete

Apologies for absence: -Sue

Matters Arising

Chiltern Chase, outstanding action on Bob from last meeting :-In view of the declining attendance at the Chiltern Chase over the last few years, Bob took the action to come up with an alternative to the current event that will attract more people The Whillan's hut is unavailable for the proposed date

Meets report

Poor attendance at the recent meets:-

Jan, less than 10 people, Feb, 15 people, March, 9 people.

At the last committee meeting the idea of charging for huts such that assuming an 80% occupancy would cover the full cost was discussed. Diccon took the action to compare the losses we have just made with the situation had that idea been in place.

Nick pointed out that this idea penalises those actually attending. The other option discussed was to put up the subscriptions to cover the losses. The general feeling was that we need to book fewer places or smaller huts in the foreseeable future. The idea of a booking co-ordinators for meets was discussed and it was decided to make this something to be discussed at the AGM

Finance

In order to be able to recommend a subscription level at the AGM, we will need Sue and Pete Anderson to study the accounts and present a summary to the committee. The committee's initial thoughts were £25 plus £5 late joining/initial joining fee.

Membership

Sally reported that there are three new members waiting to join after the AGM

Newsletter and Website

Bob has approached Terry Sambrooks about developing a new website and presented his response, also presented the site he did for John King as an example of his work. Nick took the action to produce a spec for the website

AGM

Committee post nominations have been received for:-

Secretary - Bob Lee, nominated, Nick Haine, Seconded, Diccon Proctor

Treasurer - Pete Anderson, nominated Jenny

Walker, seconded Alan Wilkinson

Social Secretary - no nomination received

No proposals have been received from the membership

The commit need to propose a subscription level.

It was agreed to recommend from that Phil Parry be co-opted to help with the treasurers role

Date of Next meeting

17th May at Bob's house. The following meeting will be July 12th

Report of committee meeting on 6th July 2011

Present: - Paul Turton, Jenny Walker, Nick Haine, Bob Lee, Pete Anderson, Diccon Proctor

Apologies for absence: - Sally Woodbridge, Phil Parry

Matters Arising from last meeting

The idea, suggested by Bob, of opening meet bookings 4 weeks in advance and allocating hut spaces on a first paid basis was discussed again and it was decided to put this idea on hold at this time.

Aligning the club membership year with the BMC year was discussed. Pete has talked to the BMC and they are happy to refund any excess payments. This resolves the issue and hence there is no need to change the club year. Xmas dinner, this has been booked but we don't seem to have a menu or costs.

Committee Challenge. Bob suggested that this be run at the family/dinner meet and Bob will put together details of the challenge and post them on Yahoo

Meets report

Diccon reported that the average attendance this year is 12 per meet and is trying to reduce the spaces already booked in huts to reduce losses For the Pembroke meet (Oct 2011), spaces have been reduced to 12

Dec 2011-trying to get Fallcliffe Cottage

Jan 2012 - Robertson Lamb in Langdale is booked (10 places)

Feb 2012 - The Stair hut is booked and has 21 places but the total cost is only £210 so leave as is

March 2012 -North London hut is booked and is a fixed price, irrespective of the number of places used

April - Diccon was trying to get Bamford but this is booked for the weekend he wanted. Earlier gets too close to Easter and later gets too close to the bank holiday. He will try other huts but failing that we will push camping meets for Easter and the Bank Holiday and not have a hut meet in April

May 2012- Glan Dena is booked

June 2012 - camping

July 2012 - Family Meet, Caseg Fraith(TBA)

Sept 2012 - Count House, Bosigran(TBC)

Nov 2012 - Ryth Du(TBC)

Dec 2012- Bamford

Diccon said that he must hand over to someone else in August/Sept. By then he will have most of 2012 booked. If nobody else can be found then the job will have to be split between several people. Bob offered to book 3 meets.

Finance

Currently 59 paid up members

The loss on meets so far this year is £174

Membership

No report since Sally wasn't at the meeting

Newsletter and Website

The new website is up and running.

The committee offered a vote of thanks to Nick for his work on this.

AOB

Green Park payments are now up to date

The BBQ and Green Park for 4 Sept has been arranged by Bob

Family meet/dinner meet. Bob to put a note on Yahoo to push this and make people aware that even if they plan to camp, we need to know for the numbers for the meal. Jenny will arrange the meal but needs people to offer to bring food. Bob to speak to Pete Templar and check that the room is booked for the slide show on Oct 31

Date of Next meeting

Then meeting set for 8th Sept was moved to the 13th Sept and will be at Jenny's

The following meeting will be 1st Nov

Continued from front page

Lesley Evans

It is with great sadness that I have to tell those of you who remember the Evans family that Lesley died on 4th July. John and Lesley were almost founder members of the ACC; they were not only accomplished mountaineers and skiers but played and sang folk music for many years at our family meets at Caseg Fraith. I wrote to John and their son David (who recently climbed the north face of the Eiger, much to Lesley's pride). I went to the funeral with six other members of the ACC at Wrexham on 20th July, which was a beautiful celebration of Lesley's life. I have also written a letter to her family on behalf of the ACC.

Jenny Walker

Prize!

Caption Competition

Once again there has been a staggering response to the caption comp in the last newsletter (if only). The prize however goes to Diccon for the following....



Sales Rep Richard: "Its got 42 gears, super-delux padded seats, high spec antishock suspension, hypertensile puncture-resistant self-repairing tyres, cruise control, autopilot, free saddle bags with an automatic fold-out rainshield,"

Customer Claire: "Yes, yes, yes, but does it come in Pink!"



Here is another one for you to try, and yes there will be a prize for the best offering.

Recycling on Meets

Many of the huts that we visit do not have refuse collections and therefore we have to remove any rubbish generated during our stay which over a weekend can amount to a considerable quantity. It's not, however, just about convenience and as a group of people who have a common interest in the wild natural environment then we should have a greater awareness of our environmental impact. If a hut does not have dedicated recycling facilities then it would be good if all club members would take responsibility for their own recyclables. If you had room to bring it then you should have room to take it home! This applies to **glass bottles, steel and aluminium cans, plastics and cardboard.**

Newsletter Contributions

Please send all newsletter contributions (news, articles, meet reports, reviews, photos etc..) to nick.haine@talktalk.net. Can accept most formats, including legible hand writing. If sending photos please do not place in a word document. Please do your best to check spellings, especially of route or place names.

Feedback?

The editor and committee are very keen to receive comments feedback and ideas regarding all aspects of club activities. It would help us to run the club in the way that suits you if we are made aware of any views, gripes and groans.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not represent the views or ethos of the editor, the committee or the Aylesbury Climbing Club as a whole.

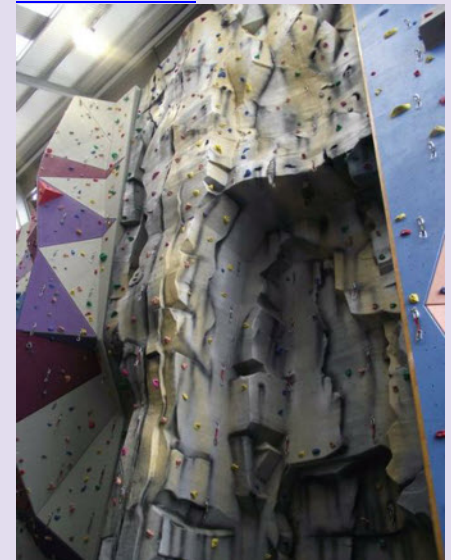
Committee Members		
Chairman	Paul Turton	01844 238518
President	Jenny Walker	01296 713269
Secretary	Bob Lee	01296 651308
Meets	Vacancy	
Membership	Sally Woodbridge	01525 385810
Treasurer	Pete Anderson	01844 260712
Social	Vacancy	
Communications	Nick Haine	01525 385810

Climbing Walls



Various members of the club climb at local climbing walls on weekday evenings. On Thursdays a regular group can be found at Oxford Brookes and club members are also visiting Milton Keynes on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in joining us then post a message on the Yahoo group to find out who's going where.

Whilst on the subject of indoor climbing we now have another new wall in the area following the opening of 'Extreme Connexions' in Hemel Hempstead. The wall is in new centre that includes a skate park, and an indoor caving system so expect lots of youths wearing poorly fitting trousers calling eachother 'dude', and fat blokes with beards and personal hygiene issues. There is also a high ropes course. For more info see www.thexc.co.uk



Club Discounts

Cotswold

(Milton Keynes, Bicester, St Albans)



www.cotswoldoutdoor.co.uk

Use your club membership card for 15% discount. The card is registered under the club chairman's name (Paul Turton).

The Outdoor Shop, Stony Stratford,



www.theoutdoorshop.com

Your club card entitles you to approximately 20% off the SRP off most items (excluding maps, books or fuel).