

Members Out & About MAY 2007

Members have been very busy since the last newsletter, enjoying the early summer.

On Easter Day, Ed, Sue, Harry, Stef, Dave P and Nick Barr headed to Chee Dale.

On Sunday 29th April, there was a day walk in the Peak, when members, including Carolyn and Sinc, went for a 10 mile stroll around Hayfield, calling for a well earned beer and ice cream stop at The Lantern Pike Inn. Views were great, as was the sun—there were a few burnt necks at the end of the day!

Elsewhere, climbers have been going wild! With Andy T and Richard E having a 'season tickets' to Burbage North, it seems like there aren't many routes that they haven't done!

One day at Stanage, they were joined by Lee "Barra", and ticked off 7 routes including Plate Grass HS4b and Mantelpiece Buttress D*. Richard was joined by Tracy on 14th April at Burbage North where they completed Black Slab VS4b and Bilberry Wall VD amongst others before the call of the ice cream van became too hard to resist!

An excellent day on 18th April saw Rich and Kev T tick off 15 routes between them, again at Burbage North, including Scarred Buttress VD, End Slab M, Black Slab * VS4b and Triangle Buttress Direct.

Swampy and the Hardys joined Andy T and Rich on the 22nd April at Birchins where all did a solo of Tar's Gully and Stoker's Wall D, and climbed others such as Pigtail HVD4a and Tar's Arête HVD4a.

On Fri 27th April, new girl Alison R had her first climbing experience at Lawrencefield, climbing Ant's Crack VD* and Snail's Crack VD* with Andy T and Rich, who were joined by Tracy and Pete B who did Knight's Move HVS5a among many others! Well done all, hope the weather stays good for more trips out!

Thanks to all those who wrote articles for this edition, if anyone has any write ups, please email me (edwardsandi@hotmail.com) or take it to the Holywell on a Thursday night.

Ted's Press Release...

I have been conned into cycling from London to Paris at the end of May (not in one day) in aid of schools in Zambia, a charity based in Hinckley (the U Foundation, its on the web)

Any sponsorship welcome - its 300 miles, but I doubt if I make it to Dover the first day as that's 95 miles! Oh why do I do these things?!

Thanks.

Ted.

Brecon Beacons hut weekend

On arrival at the Penstar Bunkhouse, I was pleased to feel the warmth of the hut - it hit me as I walked inside. Others felt it was a bit like a furnace, but for me, it was perfect! The hut was big, and the rooms were immaculate. On Saturday morning, Ed, Sue, Andy T, Harry, Stef and myself headed out from the hut up Cefn Cwm Lluch onto Pen Y Fan. The weather was glorious, with a 'slight breeze' to make things more exciting. After sheltering on the top, we walked over to Corn Du to take in the stunning views, and then made the decent past little Tommy Jones' obelisk - erected in memory of the five year old who lost his way in August 1900. His body was discovered at this spot a month later. Following the path down past the Llyn (Cwm Llych), we arrived back at the hut for a cuppa and a nice hot shower.

Brian G & Dave P had completed the same walk as us, but were a good hour in front whilst Brian K, Dave T and Paul J extended the stroll a long this splendid high-level walk, taking in Crybyn and Fan y Big.

That evening, we took a ride into the "chav" town of Brecon to find some food in the Wellington Hotel. After a lovely meal, and a few beers, we set out to drive back to the hut...this is where you discover the effects of alcohol...after leading the walk with no wrong turns, Ed then led us

on a half hour, circular walk of Brecon in search of the car, only to end up back at the pub!! We then found the car a mere two minutes away in the opposite direction! He said it was unintentional, but I'm not so sure...

On Sunday, there was a mass ascent of Table Mountain, and Brian K and Dave T went for a stroll around the Llangorse Lake area

An excellent weekend was had by all, with great weather once again- those who didn't go missed out - get yourselves on the next one!!

Nant Gwynant hut weekend

Ted says: Drove up on the already warm Saturday morning past Bala to the start of a Nuttall's route over and beyond Arenig Fawr, Tim: that's 2,801ft. Shorts and T Shirt for Ted but neither of us had sunhats, pleasant stroll to the top where we met the only other walkers of the day. There is a memorial at the summit shelter to the crew of a WW2 Flying Fortress. Continued along the ridge to the south top before turning south, down and up to Moel Llyfnant (2464ft). Another descent and rise took us the final Nuttalls of the day, Foel Boeth (2021ft) and Gallt Daren (2031ft). A direct descent lead us to the railway line between Bala and Blaneau Ffestiniog only to find we had missed the last train...by about forty years. Very warm and dehydrating day, Tim, a Pete's hut virgin looked forward to a shower!!!

Sunday. The early summer came to an end with rain and clag, no shorts today. More Nuttelling, this time the Rhinogs. Joined by Dave T for a Tim led walk. Approached from the east to the Roman Steps and then on to Rhiniog Fawr (2362ft). Unlike the previous day, lots of folk around despite the weather. The steep descent into the pass Bwlch Drws-Ardudwy, between the two hills was achieved more easily by Tim and Dave who took the path but not by Ted who tried the direct way down. Not a good idea. Rhiniog Fach at 2336ft, the lower but more impressive peak was ascended with a bit of a wet slog. Decided that was enough for one soggy day so followed the stone walls down to the forest, and took a trail back to the car, another good if damp day.

Ed says: Billed as the International Hut Meet, the club welcomed Stanislaus from Poland, Melanie from France and her boyfriend Lee, from Devon. Mel & Lee climbed on Little Tryfan on Saturday whilst "Stan" teamed up with Richard and Elvyn to do a 350' ft multi-pitch route (7 pitches) on the Glyders.

Ted & Tim completed a 13 miler on the Arenigs and Dave T, Dave P, Brian G and Ed ticked off Crib Goch, Crib y Ddysgl and Snowdon before returning to Pete's hut via the south ridge. An excellent day for all.

Saturday nights refuelling was taken at the Tanronnen Inn in Bedgelert and later on, at the hut, Pete treated us to a medley of his favourite tunes, and the rest of us "harmonised" as only HMC members can!

I awoke in the early hours for a jimmy, only to find Richard staring at the ceiling. Apparently, he thought the velux window above him was a wide screen TV.

Must have been watching Sky!

Anyway, Sunday dawned and Pete & Brian went off to Bedgelert, Dave, Elvyn & me went up Cnicht and the rest went climbing.

Not sure what happened on the Monday, but Mel & Lea have since posted a note on the Forum, which sums it up really: *"what a great weekend - so, there was no shower but who cares when the view is that gorgeous. The people were so nice and welcoming - great singers too!"*

Ah, makes it all worthwhile.

Easter Hols in Schwangau, Bavaria by Ted

To the north of our apartment, was 500 miles or so of undulating Germany all the way to the Baltic, one mile to the south, the Bavarian Alps rose straight from the flat meadows to jagged

snow covered peaks of around 6000ft. A few miles behind them lay Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze, 9717ft and Austria.

However first things first, nearby nestling under the alps and built on an outcrop was the fairy tale castle, the Schloss Neuschwanstein, built by mad King Ludwig. Film buffs will of course know that it was the castle visited by that magic flying car Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Many years ago I had a ride in the car, doing what is now called a glamour shoot, although in those days we called it snapping totty. Having ridden in the car it was essential to visit the castle. That done we wandered on the well marked footpaths above the castle noting the signs, "Danger path blocked by snow ahead", yes some of the signs were in English

On our return to the village a bit of shopping in the village "gear shop" re-equipped me with walking poles as I had lost one on the Ballachulish ridge at the Glencoe meet.

The following day was a mountain day, and the mountain was the Tegelberg, 6164ft, straight out of our front door and up...in the cable car of course which took us up into the snowline in ten minutes. Here we watched one of the local sports, hang gliding. They come up in the cable car with a rucksack the size of a small car, assemble this fragile contraption of string and nylon, tie themselves to it and run down a prepared slope and throw themselves lemming like over a 2000ft cliff hoping that the thing would fly. They did, mostly, one or two had a quick rethink and stopped before the edge, only to go back again and try once more. We counted 35 in the air all at once.

Leaving the lemmings we found a well-marked path in the snow leading upwards beyond the tree line to a viewpoint and a picnic bench. Beyond this point the mountaineering became somewhat serious. A notice in German, English and French warned, "**DANGER ahead, from this point for experts only**". Its all relative, we left the ladies at the picnic spot and continued up to a sharp ridge with a drop of 1000ft on either side, a bit like Striding Edge but with no easy option path at the side. There were steel cables and chains to help but these were designed for summer use and were embedded in thick snow and ice. None the less with a bit of a thrutch we got to the top. Ice axes would have been useful but my new poles did the job. The descent, as descents often are, to the picnic spot was even more hairy, au cheval for most of the way.

So that was the summit done, but it rankled with me somewhat that most of the ascent was by the cable car...so a few days later we started from the bottom and walked up at first through the woods and then for the last 2000ft up a steep snow slope finally passing under the cable car and arrived at mad King Ludwig's mountain hunting lodge, now a café and mountain hut. A few beers were enjoyed before the descent. Job Done.

Zugspitze 9717ft. A two-day climb in the summer, with a hut half way up - but on the train...45 minutes and a short cable car ride to the summit. It is the highest summit in Germany but shares the summit ridge and complex with Austria, which has its own cable car. We descend by the main cable car back to valley, returning to Schwangau via Garmish Partenkirchen and Oberammergau, site of the world famous passion play.

That evening we sat outside on the patio with our wine and beer and enjoyed the evening sunshine.

The following morning, it was all covered in snow. So plans A, B and C went out of the window and plan WWW was used. You all know what www stands for...it always Wet & Windy in Wales, the Wild Weddington Walkers and of course der Winter Wander Weg. Trails designed for use in winter. Going back to the castle, many of the paths, opened a few days earlier were physically closed off but the WWWs were open and a trek through the snow covered woods brought us after a few miles to the King's House (mad King Ludwig again) at 3800ft for coffee and food. The sun returned for the next day's visit to Oberstdorf, the most southerly town in Germany, surrounded mostly by Austria. Very much a place for hikers, although being Good Friday most of it was closed. Although the one gear shop that was open had an interesting selection of nailed vibram soled boots. The cable car to the nearby Nebelhorn 7,296ft was open and taken for our final day of the holiday.

Presidents Meet 2007

Plans are already underway for this years President's Meet and the menus will be out in the next newsletter. There will be a **photo competition** at the President's Meet, with great prizes and the possibility of using the best photos for HMC desktop calendars. You will only be able to enter a maximum of **6 photos per person**, with photos of members (past or present) doing things.

There will be more info in the next newsletter, so until then, have a think and see what you can come up with!

Monty cracks a 1000

Retired teacher, Dave P, has clocked up an amazing 1000 miles walking so far this year (with Jake the dog doing around 900 of those miles with him!)

Dave goes out walking most days, regularly attends hut meets, and goes on the 'Saga Louts' walks. All this walking adds up, and by last week, he had 1000 miles under his belt.

Keep it up Dave, what an excellent achievement!

Events

On Sunday 13th May, Burbage Common will be having their open day for clubs to go along and promote their activities. We will have a stall there, with various members on hand to give people information about what we do.

If anyone will be available to help out that day, for the morning, afternoon, a couple of hours or even the whole day (10.30-16.30) we would appreciate it . It is a great day out, and an ideal opportunity to speak to people and encourage them to come along and have a go. If people don't know we exist, they'll miss out on seeing the things we do, and the experiences we have...and the most important thing, our friendship...so come along and help us spread the Word!!

ENCLOSED ARE SOME CARDS TO HAND OUT TO ANYONE YOU THINK MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE CLUB

Skittles

Our annual skittles match against Rugby MC has been scheduled for **Thurs 14th June**. It will be held at the Heathcote Arms, Croft, starting at 7.30pm.

Last year we managed to win back our trophy, so lets show 'em we're not one hit wonders...!! The cost of the evening will be £5, including a meal—bargain! Those interested should contact Andy T. See you there!

Your Club. Our History: *Jottings from old Log Books*

1995

Climbing from our hut at Bethesda in March, Pete L & Lee S did B C Gully II on Y Garn whilst Dave G dashed up the Kitchen and down the Gribin - excellent, kickable snow slope up to Glyder Fawr and meeting Pete & Lee in the Kitchen and Boff & Steve on the summit. The Coniston hut in April was full and Ian B, Teeth and 'Beastly' climbed Digitation MVS* (175 ft) on Wallowbarrow Crag.

Andy D, Matt B & Lucy E completed 10 days climbing in the Montenejos, Spain. Having had their money stolen, they commented that the refuge they were staying in was "a little unpleasant" with around 60 sleeping there, and as the guardian didn't wake 'til 10, it was easy to do a runner - but noted they wouldn't be going back there - ever!

In November, Trowie, Nigel, Steve O & Ed did the first ever inter-hostel in Yorkshire (Grassington/Kettlewell) downing a whole bottle of Polish Cherry Vodka between them in the hostel. Introduced to it by Steve, they prompted ordered a case from the offy, which was delivered 3 days later, unscathed.

1991

ICE in January? You bet. Harry, Stacey, Brian C & Andy D departed from our hut at 5:00 am to do Sinister Gully. Having worked their way up a natural line, including several fine ice-falls,

climbing together most of the time, the route turned out to be a new line, which they duly called ICE IS NICE III/IV.

Sinister Gully was completed on the following day in 45 mins.

In February, on what should have been a working weekend at our hut, ended up with Simon J and Andy attempting South Gully IV*** in Idwal but better conditions were found on Chicane Gully III* . They also completed Central Route III & The Screen.

Our club hut in Bethesda had various bookings throughout the year, including Hinckley Squash Club, Nuneaton Art Teachers, Hinckley 18+ and Huncote Harriers.

Phil N spent 2 full days there carrying out improvements and Richard had installed pipe work for the cooker and sinks. It was extensively used by our own members, who could go at the drop of a hat, paying around £3 a night for the privilege. Throughout the year the club did organise the usual "hut suppers" as well as some BBQ's over the summer and the "Turkey Trot" meet in December.

Saga Louts

Early March saw the boys including Stuart, John, Elvyn, Brian G, Dave & Ed in the Cotswolds.

Starting from your typical stoney village, Stanton in brilliant sunshine, the boys had a stiff pull out of the valley before a brilliant ridge walk led them to the Snowhill Arms where, apparently, the film Bridget Jones was shot. A chick flick I believe. Anyway, the pub served beer at £2 a pint and the food was excellent. Thanks Dave, a real gem of a walk.

Eight of us went on April's 13 miler around Chatsworth in brilliant spring weather that included hill pastures, woodland, lakes, open moor and riverside - with the pub stop at The Robin Hood and a *Last of the Summer Wine* moment at the Hunting Tower (*see right*).

Our next outing is Monday 14 May to the Cotswolds again. Contact any of the usual crowd if you want to go.

You Could Be Here

Our next weekend away is at the **Crainlairich Youth Hoatel** in the southern highlands.

There are two pubs about 5 mins walk serving excellent beer and food. No doubt there will be some Munro bagging going on, but still plenty to do if you're not a bagger. If you want to go you must **contact ED immediately** as these bank holiday weekends tend to be very popular. Nant Gwynant for instance.

Looking further ahead, we've got **Coniston** in the Lakes June 29/30. Always a favourite hut, it has excellent facilities and is handy for the Black Bull in the centre, not to mention The Old Man and Dow Crag of course.

Summer is fast approaching and I had left July free of huts due to the "holiday season" but if any of you want me to book a hostel, please let me know ASAP.

Even further ahead, don't forget the ultimate in hut luxury—Grasmere (Sept). Don't leave it too late to book on this, as I'm off on me hols soon! **See you there!** ED