



Dec. 2016 NEXT CLUB EVENTS

26 th Dec.	Blencathra – Boxing day meet and White Horse at Scales afterwards
13-15 th Jan	Newtonmore hostel only 4 places booked and no more will be booked
10-12 th Feb	Corran bunkhouse
17-19 th Mar.	Roy Bridge – Little Houses
April	Possible extra winter meet if demand

OTHER EVENTS / INFO

Eden Rock	10% discount on entry fee with CMC card
King Kong	£6 with CMC card

Meets Bookings or “A President’s first week in the job”

Over the past few years there appears to have been a change in the pattern of bookings for weekend meets, particularly for the winter meets. Some time ago it was not uncommon for the meets in Scotland to book up very quickly, with almost full compliments of 18, 24 and 16 respectively for Newtonmore, Roy Bridge and Torren Cottages being taken most years. Yes there were always some late bookings from folks waiting to see what happened with the weather but this was reasonably predictable.

As happens, people move on, emigrate, retire from climbing etc. and for whatever reason we seem to have lost a core of the “old faithful”. Despite this we had continued to book largely the same venues, but it has become increasingly difficult to get commitment for and indeed to fill all of the places.

Over the years we have changed the Glencoe meet from Torren cottages, which while very comfortable had become very expensive, to the more reasonably priced Corran Bunkhouse, which has proved to be a popular move and we now use this venue for both winter and other meets.

The Strathspey Hostel at Newtonmore, is now one of the more expensive meets to book and, because of the uncertainty of the weather and climbing conditions also one of the hardest to get commitment for and it was in this light that the committee took the decision in October to not book for January, but with a commitment to monitor conditions and to book an additional meet in April if good conditions persist, as they have on The Ben for the last few years.

As most members are aware this decision was challenged by a small number of club members, the issue was raised at the AGM where the meeting supported the committee’s decision, never the less the meets secretary was asked to look at alternatives which would allow smaller bookings at a similar cost per head and after a few days of hard work by Tony, an alternative was found and the committee approved a booking for six places. The last date we could guarantee the booking with the new venue was SUNDAY 11th December, so time was tight.

In the end we had four confirmed bookings from members, Tony was able to negotiate the same cost per head for the reduced number and the booking has been approved, confirmed and paid for, the club will NOT be booking more spaces, but if there are any late takers they can contact the hostel direct, the details will be on the meets update on the club Facebook page.

Purely as an illustration, if we had booked the Strathspey Hostel for sole occupancy and with the current level of bookings the club would have subsidised that meet to a total of **£360**, which alone justifies the committee’s decision back in October.

The primary objective of the Club is to encourage, support and promote mountaineering for club members and in the wider community and the committee do not take decisions to “cancel” meets lightly.....we were perhaps remiss in not investigating alternatives sooner but I can assure you that we will be looking at ways to give more flexibility in meet numbers for the future, venues may change but when we find alternatives that are both popular and give us the flexibility we need then it is possible that we will be able to add more weekend meets to the calendar, which already

includes over forty evening, Sunday and weekend meets.

January is now settled and I sincerely hope that the four who have booked have a great weekend, with blue skies and ideal climbing conditions, bookings are being taken now for all the winter meets and take up seems to be quite good. I would like to remind all members that your place on meets is not confirmed until payment has been made and your place may be lost to later reservations that are prepared to pay up front.

I was delighted and honoured to be elected as President of the club at our AGM early in December, Saturday saw a good crowd enjoying the excellent food and dancing at the Annual dinner at the Borrowdale Hotel, brilliantly organised by the outgoing President, Dave Ferguson, and those who stopped over at the CC hut enjoyed a good walk up Maiden Moor.



Team B who slept in a little longer enjoyed a stomp up Castle Crag.



Other members were spotted climbing in the sunshine on Steel Knots.

So, what has my first week as President been like.....to be quite frank with you "absolutely awful".



There has been a great deal of work to arrange a meet for January (thanks Tony) and we have had to deal with the resignation of the club Chairman, who has taken personally unfair criticism of the committee he headed. We have managed to avert two further resignations and I believe that we can now move forward in a positive light. I am devastated at the resignation of one of the hardest workers for the club and would like to thank Mike Tinnion here for the great work he has put in over many years. Following our December committee meeting, I now have the dual roles of President and Chairman. Further good news is that Rob Hunter will be joining us on the committee, hopefully bringing a younger perspective to the club.

Moving on, in spite of a shaky start to my tenure, I am sure that the club will continue to go from strength to strength. We are already taking action to make all meets more flexible to catch the best conditions and hope that this will improve the already good support for evening and Sunday meets. We hope to improve awareness of the club in local colleges, retailers and leisure facilities by regularly providing new posters and will try to improve our presence in the local media, both press and on-line, all with the intention of attracting new members. We have already started to attend the BMC local area meetings and hope to become more involved with the National body in the future.

Membership Update 2017

Its January now and time to think about paying your subs, if you haven't done so already. A really big thank you to those who have arranged standing orders for 2017. This is the preferred method of payment as it means that payment is automatically taken each year and the club doesn't pay fees on this method of payment (unlike cheques which cost the club to process). A standing order is very easy to set up with your bank and can be done either online or at the branch. If you haven't done so already I would urge you to look into this as it makes life so much easier for the club. The club account details are as follows for those wanting to set this up:

Bank: **Barclays** Sort code: **Removed**
Account Number: **Removed. Please ask**

For those wanting to pay via BACS (Banking Automated Clearing Service) online the same bank details apply. Please email membership@carlislemc.co.uk when your standing order has been arranged or your BACS payment has been paid.

For those without access to internet banking and an aversion to standing orders we will still accept cheques made out to "Carlisle Mountaineering Club". I really don't want to accept cash unless you really don't have a bank account!

The benefits of the club of course are many and varied:

There is an active membership, who climb every week both indoors and out. There are regular Thursday evening and Sunday meets throughout the year and often impromptu meets through the week as well, for those wanting instant updates check our Facebook page for information. As a club member you will be added to the group and be able to communicate with other members about meets and availability. There are also regular weekend meets to Scotland, North Wales and The Peak District with accommodation subsidised by the club

Members are able to use our club hut in the Newlands Valley (free of charge as a member) subject to availability. Check with Clive Barnett for current bookings.

Discounts are available to club members in many local outdoor shops including: Needlesports (10%) Freetime (15%), Cotswold (15%), Go Outdoors (10%).

Discounts are also available with local climbing walls including Eden Rock in Carlisle and at King Kong Wall in Keswick.

BMC (club) membership, including 3rd party liability insurance is included in the price which can be upgraded to full BMC membership. This also gives you access to discounts in national chains of outdoor shops, including the BMC online shop and BMC travel insurance.

Membership fees have not gone up this year and remain really good value

Individual membership fee	£19.50
(£13.25 of which is paid to the BMC).	
Family/Partner membership	£33.00
(Covers two people)	
Additional family members	£12.75
Students (in full time education)	£16.00

Winter Meets Update

NEWTONMORE MEET: 13-15 January 2017

Is NOW FULLY BOOKED.

If, however, you have a change of heart and want to go along, then please get in touch with hostel direct: Phone - 01540 673360 and you will probably end up speaking to Neil or Sue. (NB, do not confuse this with where we have stayed in the past - it is somewhere different!). At present they still have beds available, but maybe not for long!

CORRAN BUNKHOUSE MEET: 10-12 February 2017

Have had 11 confirmed bookings already for this meet: John Holden, Dorine Tinnion, John Wilson, Ian Armstrong, Garry South, Jeffrey Ginger, Andy Howis, Rob Hunter, Dan and Ste Bulman, and Nikki.

That leaves 1 available bed (£30 for the weekend) - so be quick! (I should be able to negotiate some more bed spaces if needed).

ROYBRIDGE MEET: 17-19 MARCH 2017 (FULL UP)

But please don't despair just yet! There is still a little bit of wriggle room at the moment - please get in touch if you are interested and we might be able to squeeze in one or two more!

Have had 8 confirmed bookings for this weekend so far: John Holden, John Wilson, Ian Armstrong, Garry South, Jeffrey Ginger, Andy Howis, Dan and Ste Bulman (£30 for the weekend).

So, over to you - get your 'skates' on and get booking!



Finally...

A wee tale by Allan Grey which I'm sure many of us will be able to relate to...

Climbing – I could blame it all on the boy scouts who first got me interested in the great outdoors. Having some fell walking experience in the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District but camping down Gt Langdale and seeing some rock climbers on Raven Crag intrigued me. I got pals with the assistant campsite warden who took me up Bilberry Buttress, hopelessly struggling in my bendy boots. This however got me hooked in the climbing lark. Later, joining climbing clubs in different regions of Britain moving for jobs gave me a different perspective of areas and rock types.

Freezing to death on windswept moorland gritstone outcrops in early March / April is not much fun, but one has to take the bad with the good. Navigational skills to find ways off safely on big hills in stormy weather can be taxing.

Enjoying routes on sun-baked routes can be pleasurable.

Recommendations to purchase “magic boots” (EB's) where a god-sent it made routes easier. The ability to climb in stiff-soled mountain boots vastly improves foot techniques. Once watched some Scottish guys climb Gimmer Crack in such boots on their way to Alpine adventures!

Vast improvements in gear have been massive – boots, ropes, nuts, slings, camming devices and the like; winter climbing tools, better rope management skills as well as superior modern clothing to wear. But despite all the advancement in gear one has still to get up routes.

My hat goes off in admiration to those old timers with minimum equipment, instead full of natural ability, enthusiasm and determination to succeed. Have fun in the company of friends on the hills and crags – caving and potholing are pretty good too!

We hope you have all had a very pleasant and not too indulgent festive period and look forward to enjoying many adventures with you in 2017!!

