

**THE ASSOCIATION
OF BRITISH MEMBERS
OF THE
SWISS ALPINE CLUB**



JOURNAL 2011

ABMSAC JOURNAL 2011

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MEETS PROGRAMME 2011

Dates	Meet / Venue	Organiser
Jan 14-15	Loch Tay, Machuim Farm Cottage	Peter Goodwin
Feb 4-6	Patterdale – Annual Dinner	Brooke Midgley
Feb 25-27	Onich – Inchree Chalets	John Dempster
Mar 18-20	Braemar - Invercauld Hotel	Margaret Strachan
April 1-3	Mid Wales – Corris	Dick Yorke
April 14 -30	Bhutan	Pamela Harris-Andrews
April 29– 2 May	Camping Barn, Hardlow, Derbyshire	Andy Burton
May 7-14	Ullapool (book-your-own, or possibly self catering depending on numbers)	Peter Farrington
June 24-25	Rhyd Ddu, North Wales	Ed Bramley
July 2 - 16	Fiesch, Switzerland	Alasdair Andrews
July 16-30	Ailefroide – Joint Meet	Mike Pinney
Aug 24-26	Patterdale – Hut Maintenance Meet	Don Hodge
Sept 3 – 11	Trek – Pyrennes, N Spain	Ed Bramley
Sept 23-24	Patterdale – Buffet party	Mike Pinney
Oct 21 - 24	Tarbet Hotel, Loch Lomondside (book your own)	John Foster
London Joint Lectures		
February 9	Some African Hills and Mountains of Zambia, Kenya and the Cape	Stewart Fisher, FRCC
March 9	Climbing 'The Shield' in Yosemite	Dominic Oughton & Bill Deakin, RC

Editorial

Welcome to this years Journal. In addition to the regular meet reports there are contributions from several members, which include articles from the Dolomites, Tuscany and Hadrian's Wall – an Italian theme emerging. I have also included a black and white pictorial account of an ascent of Corda Molla on Monte Disgrazia by the President, Mike Pinney (*the full colour version is available on the web site*).

This is my second year since I took over the editing of both the Newsletter and Journal. The e-Newsletter has continued to increase in popularity with around 75% of the membership receiving updates by e mail.

Improvements in technology continue to help us reduce our costs. The modern printing facilities that we use have allowed us to increase the number of photographs in the Journal this year, both black and white in the articles and colour in the centrefolds. However as we are still limited to the number of photographs we can add to the Journal, we continue to add many more photos to the website (www.abmsac.org.uk). Meet reports and photos are added to the website during the year. A printed copy of the Journal will still be issued at the end of each year for your personal record.

The Meets Programme for this year, presented on the opposite page, shows the extent of this year's activity with many good meets still to come. Thanks to Marion, the Meets Secretary, and the Meet leaders for putting this programme together. I hope that you all get to attend the meets of your choice and a look forward to seeing you out on the hills. It looks like next years Journal will have some good articles as well.

I would like to thank all the members who have sent me copy, photos and support to help compile this Journal and to keep the website up to date. I hope you enjoy the Journal this year.

M J Goodyer June 2011

OBITUARY

Tony Oakes
1929 – 2010

We were sad to hear of the death of Tony Oakes a long standing member of the Association. His widow, Jenny Oakes, has kindly sent the following few words.

My husband, who had been a member of the ABMSAC for many years (since 1957) died at the end of a September 2010 day in the mountains in North Wales. He was 81 and whilst on holiday we had a very good day walking and remembering climbs in the Snowdon Horseshoe which we could see from Moel Sengli by Harlech. The conditions were beautiful the coast and mountains looking superb. We had a wonderful day. The unkempt path down through slate slopes and scrubby undergrowth was challenging and finally it was too much for his poorly heart. A fitting day and end for a man who loved the mountains; I was privileged to share it with him.

Tony loved reading Les Alpes, he preferred French to German for reading. Looking at the marvellous photographs evoked memories of mountain trips and landscapes.

Tony was no longer in touch with any other members as most of he knew had died or finished with climbing. He did most of his activities with the Cave and Crag Club of which he was once Chairman. He also climbed and visited mountains with the family which meant that most of our mountaineering was of the walking variety. He also sailed when we lived in Somerset and Cornwall. I do remember that we climbed the highest "mountain" in Brittany from the sailing cruiser and also the highest peak in Denmark from the motorhome!

Tony had been an RAF National Service pilot, flying Vampires. We used to see many Vampires as gate guards in Switzerland as I believe that used them for some time. There was even one as a climbing structure in a children's playground, painted in psychedelic colours and patterns.

I plan to go to Switzerland still to see and walk amongst the big mountains.

Jenny Oakes.

Members Articles

Review of 2010

James and Belinda Baldwin

February - A lovely Snowy Northern Dinner Meet. We even did a new route from Grasmere in slippery and slidy conditions.

March - We had a week completing the Pembrokeshire Coastal path from Milford Haven to Amroth. Compared to the northern section done previously, where each part was picturesque, this bit was only good in parts. There was much tedious road walking, industrial areas and military installations to mar the walk. It is a walk for the purist, who wishes to complete the path. Nonetheless we enjoyed ourselves but cannot recommend it as a 'must do' unlike the stretch from Poppet Sands to Milford Haven.

May - James went to Cumbria with a pal in his campervan and trekked up Scafell, Cat Bells, High Spy and The Old Man of Coniston.

Belinda went to Cornwall with her sister to look at gardens and found the coast in the environs of Boscastle YHA marvellous. It is one of the few parts of the South West Coast path not walked and requires further exploration.

June – We drove to Brittany in the MG with lots of interesting and beautiful coastal walking plus a disastrous 18 mile walk where the best bit was out of bounds and entailed a five mile road walk. The village destination had nowhere for refreshment so that we could not drown our sorrows and our dinner back at the hotel *a la* Faulty Towers.

Rhyd Ddu meet - This was all it should be with its customary Saturday night courtesy of Ed. We had a challenging walk with Sheila and Heather around Cnicht. Just keep to the main route as the paths on the map are elusive. We had a long and wet time.

July - We had a week at Kaprun including ascending the Imbachorn in thick mist before joining the ABM at Neustift.

August - James walked from St Bees to Richmond with a friend in lots of rain and completed the Coast to Coast walk having done the second part in 2002. A bit like when we saw films in a similar mode during our childhood going in midway and staying for the first half having seen the finale.

September - Meet at the George Starkey Hut. Another excellent ABM meet enhanced with the Buffet Party.

There was a long weekend at the Snowdon Ranger YHA with the East Devon Ramblers. It included ascending Snowdon from the hostel via Rhyd Ddu and the Watkin Path and Moel Hebog with a return on the steam train from Bedgellert.

October - Beer Meet - We ended our times with the ABM for 2010 here except for later attendances at the London lectures.

We have continued our biweekly jaunts from home. There is an ongoing project to cover all the tors on Dartmoor and we are getting there but hardly on a par with the Munroes. We have got to the point when we must have walked every footpath in East Devon and most in West Dorset. Our mileage is maintained although we are finding it is taking longer to get there.

Hadrian's Wall Path - the easy way

Mike and Anne Goodyer

We had walked many national trails in day-size pieces but walking for several days on end - that was another thing altogether. The idea to walk Hadrian's Wall path came from recent publicity, a fondness of that part of the country but most of all because we discovered a company able to take our overnight bags from one destination to the next. This meant clean clothes every day and even changing for evening meal – luxury.

The first decision to make was did we walk the whole path? The company offered "The Best of Hadrian's Wall Path" it missed out the first part through Newcastle's industrial heritage and the final dull bit along the Solway Firth so, job done, we would embark on "The Best".

It seemed a shame to miss out the delight of Tyneside altogether so, after a leisurely night in Durham we started our adventure at the Wallsend Segedunum fort. Depending on your view it is either a Millennium funded folly or a modern educational facility with a decent cafe. Either way its startling tower gave us a great view over the start of the path hidden amongst the remains of Wallsend dockyards. Following the footsteps of Hadrian we caught the Metro train to Newcastle, crossed the Millennium Bridge to the Baltic Art Gallery and then had Geordie tapas on the bank of the Tyne. (Note Anne's influence on this trip).

We chose to walk the path from east to west, into the prevailing winds. This proved to be the right decision. The gradual slope up from Heddon-on-the-wall,

the first sight of the spectacular vallum (big ditch for non-Latin scholars) and the gradually emerging milecastles all built up the anticipation for the wall proper. I also think that prevailing winds in this part of the world is something of a misnomer. It is windy all the time and comes from all different directions!



Marching along the wall

The overnight stops were pre-booked by our travel firm. They varied from inns, to a B&B above a country teashop to a sort of bunkhouse (Anne's view – to Mike it was sophisticated farm accommodation). All were of roughly the same standard but very different, part of the excitement was never being sure what to expect. Without exception the hospitality was excellent and the food just what was needed after a day walking.

On a less touristy note this area has few means of income and the wall path has been welcomed as a great new source of visitors. The general tourist facilities are best described as patchy. We were well prepared but in many stages there were few places to buy food or drink. Campsites were also few and far between, we saw a few instances when walkers planning to camp, got a bit of a surprise by the lack of facilities. It's a very fine balance between the number of visitors, facilities and of course maintaining the wonderful environment that they have come to see. So far, so good but many of our hosts really needed a steadier income than they were achieving.

There is obviously a choice of how far you walk in one day. The first day we walked for 17 miles (several miles beyond Anne's comfort zone). After that it varied between 10 and 12 miles. There is so much to see that there is no point in rushing so we spent plenty of time exploring parts of the wall and the remains of forts and temples. A good guide book is a must to appreciate what you are looking at although the ubiquitous interpretative board does help at many sites (*we used Hadrian's Wall Path by Antony Burton, National Trail Guides and Hadrian's Wall Path by Mark Richards, Cicerone Guides*).

In the summer the central part of the wall is served by the aptly named AD121 bus, this sturdy little vehicle offers a lifeline for those overcome by blisters or other misfortunes. Happily its services were not needed by the Goodyers.

So what were the highlights:

Chollerford Fort was fascinating, nestling in its tranquil setting but with so much left to see and even more to imagine. Altogether it is a cosier proposition than its showier neighbours like Housesteads.

The amazing view from Sewingshields Crags with miles of nothingness spreading north – clearly still the haunt of uncouth barbarians.

The altar still in place at Aesica fort with modern offerings still acknowledged by the relief of a roman soldier carved on an adjacent block of stone.

Lunch at Lannercost Priory - which is just off the path, but well worth a detour.

Rabbit Pie at the Samson Inn at Gilshead

Homemade gooseberry crumble with custard at a farmhouse near Walton

All in all a great walk that we would well recommend. Just to show how well it worked we're doing the best of the Dales Way in 2011 with the same company!

Ten Days in Northern Tuscany

Morag MacDonald

The July 2009 issue of 'The Great Outdoors' (TGO) contained an interesting article on the Apuane Alps by Editor Cameron McNeish (1). Sourcing it retrospectively, there is total agreement with his enthusiastic descriptions of the Garfagnana area visited in May 2010. The *modus operandi* was renting a house from a friend who also led several walks. Without her help, there would have been considerable difficulty finding the paths since the valleys, as those in most mountainous regions, are complex with the inevitable tortuous, narrow roads and awkward passing places. This was an invaluable introduction to the area including its food and wine, villages and architecture, geology and vegetation. We were lucky with sunny not too warm weather after a wet period.

The Garfagnana region is defined by the valley of the River Serchio flowing between the Apennines to the East and the Apuane Alps to the West both rising

to approximately 2,000m. The house, with a balcony facing the Apuanes and the river valley far below, has one of the best views experienced making it difficult to leave after a lazy outdoor breakfast. The same was true of evenings lost in the wonder of mountain sunsets in varying shades of pink, violets, blues and purples.

The area has unique Scottish connections, particularly with the beautiful hill town of Barga, 35 km. north of Lucca. Many Italian emigrants left to find work in Scotland in the late 19th Century often starting ice-cream parlours. This has resulted in a constant stream of Italian/Scots coming and going ever since and Scottish accents abound. We stayed in the Fosciandora area where Scottish artist John Bellany has a house. Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, an attractive market town at the confluence of the rivers Serchio and Torrite, is the main local shopping and information centre. The town was badly damaged in WW11 but retains its character.

The walking consisted of: two excursions into the Apuane; two walks high above the valley on the Apennine side including the circuit to Barga; and one linking the vine-terraced villages in the Comune of Fosciandora. Visits to Lucca, Pisa and Florence added cultural interest.

The Apuane were a revelation, partly due to their unique vegetation which makes walks a joy. Lower down, apart from the olive groves and vineyards, acacia trees are rampant. Higher up, paths wander through oak, rowan, and chestnut. The latter grows to approximately 1000m with beech trees above this mark. Chestnut trees have been especially valuable over the centuries as a building material, and for furniture, chestnut flour and firewood. The easy walk to the summit of Monte Croce, after cappuccino in a bar at the start, was memorable for its gentians, small tulips and the iron-cross, Tibetan-flagged summit flanked by slopes of Easter Lilies. The summit views towards the higher jagged Apuanes encompassed dense forests and terracotta red-roofed villages with picturesque honey-coloured stone buildings tucked into the hillside. Churches crowned winding passages and steep steps to the summit cross and tower dominating every village. All contributed towards a unique mountain experience.

The walk to Monte Altissimo (yes again a cappuccino first!), allowed exceptional views of the higher Apuanes and the Versilian coast. The many Carrara marble quarries of Michaelangelo fame both scar and dominate the landscape. Sadly, the summit eluded us due to some exposure and the Karst (2) rock which although sure under foot unless wet, is jagged on the hands and can make for difficult walking. Inevitably too, *anno domini* takes its toll where some exposure is involved. On the descent, we passed a deep fenced-off hole with

short hand-hold chains. The Karst has led to the formation of some spectacular chasms and caves and the area is quite well known amongst speleologists.



Across the Karst to the Versilian coast – Ian Brebner

The paths to Barga with its fine Romanesque architecture and 12th Century cathedral and those linking seven villages in the Fosciandora area contoured high above the valley with ever changing views of villages set amid forests and vineyards. Wild woodland flowers abounded, especially bells and poppies. Perhaps wrongly, we visited wall-encircled Lucca on a Sunday when it lacked some of the life which characterises Florence. The traffic in the latter is unavoidable, noisy and often dangerous in the narrow streets. Seeing the World's art is getting more and more arduous although it is enriching to have the option of cultural visits as part of a walking holiday. To savour both experiences, particularly when they are accompanied by Italian food and wine, makes for a very special atmosphere and a memorable holiday.

¹ *CN stayed with a Scottish couple who have developed a holiday business for groups including accommodation, food, and led walks*

² *According to Wikipedia, Karst topography, found worldwide, is a landscape shaped by the dissolution of a layer or layers of soluble rock usually carbonate rock such as limestone or dolomite.*

Acknowledgement: Grateful thanks go to Laura Stevenson for help with everything

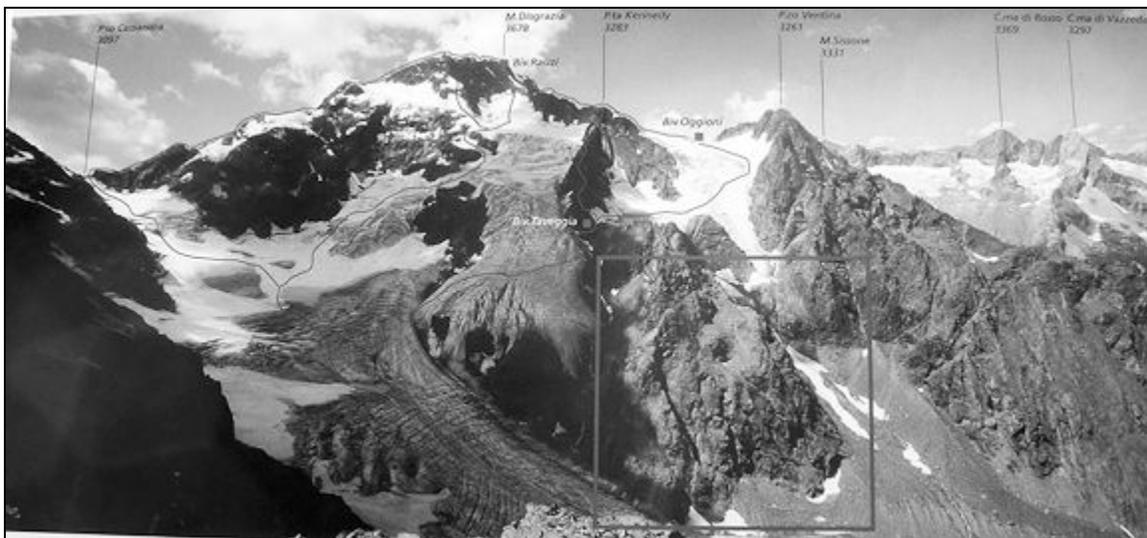
Disgrazia via the Corda Molla

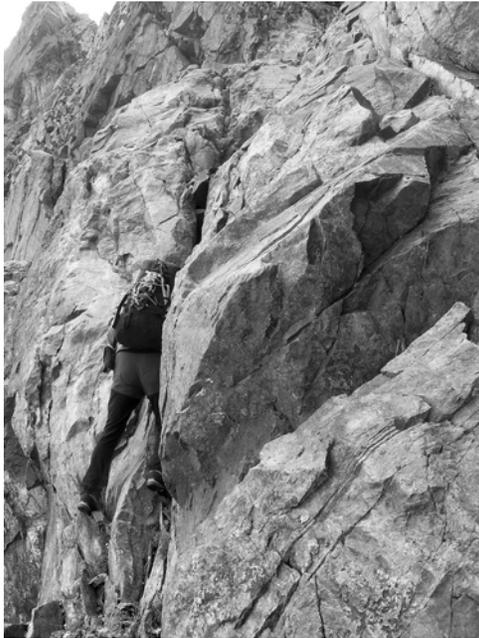
Mike Pinney

The Corda Molla, the NNE ridge, had been on my hit list from my previous 2 visits to the Bregaglia but had proved elusive, although I had ascended the mountain by the NW ridge. It is a magnificent mountain (3678m) sandwiched between the Bernina & the Bregaglia.



In week 2 there was a good weather window forecast for the Tuesday and Wednesday. Thus away early on the Tuesday morning, leaving one vehicle at the Preda Rossa before continuing round to Chiareggio and a 6.5 hr approach to the Oggioni biv. Hut on Colletto del Disgrazia.





We started on one ramp then realized we were too low & a few nerve racking moves were required to bring us onto a higher ramp.



This was not without interest! The guide book describes an easy fault line leading in the rock slanting up right to the first bivouac hut, Taveggia.

The hut looked very tidy but after a quick inspection we moved round and back onto the snow and an icy slope which led us up to the 2nd bivouac hut.



Another well maintained hut with a very interesting feature of a glass inner door. From the comfort of the hut we could inspect the first difficulty, an icy slope that led to point 3295m which looked steep and uninviting.



We started at first light, the icy slope was not as steep as it had appeared and we were soon established on the rocky ridge which we followed to the start of the snow slope that leads to the final head wall, the Corda Molla. Crampons on and we climbed up the edge of the north face.



Too soon, it was crampons off and having to find a way up the rock.



From the summit a descent via the NW ridge & past the Ponti hut to Preda Rossa.

After collecting the other vehicle it was after midnight before we got back to the campsite. During the night the precipitation started, with new snow down to 2000 metres.

Mullach

J M Scarr (personal reflection of the Strontian Meet)

Although with the trouble in Glencoe it took all day, eventually I did get home. And after supper I finished that wine; glad to be back.

I left early on a day of occasional sunny intervals and frequent showers. The Miners track to the col wound pleasantly up beside the stream. Just beyond the col a faint but useful path led over rough ground to the flank of the mountain from where the ascent was now over easy turf. Go where one will, heading hopefully towards the cloud obscured summit. The final ridge is lumpy, but the path goes round most. On the summit it was snowing lightly.

Ben Resipol is famed for its views, particularly towards the west, Skye and the Hebrides. But there was no view this day. On descent, Peter Farrington hove out of the mist searching for the summit, having come up from Pollach. But I chose to return by the way I had come.

Next morning I left the bunkhouse in rain intending to walk through Glen Gour to Corron. "He won't get over the first stream" said the owner. Once there had been a bridge. The view through the narrow defile to Glen Gour looked dark, gloomy and not altogether inviting in these conditions. Impressive and rather intimidating. Defeated by the stream, I retreated to explore the paths of the Ariundle oak woods, thick with moss covered boulders and lichen. Veritable Scottish rain forest.

By afternoon it had become dry and the dark conical summits of Sgurr Dhomhnuill were revealed; had I set out later I might well have climbed them. As it was I enjoyed a beer at Strontian, sitting outside in the sun with a grand view down Loch Sunart. Later back at the bunkhouse, I dined alone in an isolation accentuated by the vastness of the barn-like room. Fortunately the wine I ordered was screw top.

Next day the weather was superb. Being early at the bus stop I climbed a short way up the hillside and was surprised by a view of Resipol, the bumpy summit ridge clear, now with a light covering of snow. Not a cloud in sight. I was tempted! But I had to leave.



View from the Mullach towards Stob Ban by Mike Scarr (taken circa 1957 with a plastic camera, 25 shillings from Boots and printed by Mike)

From the bus the view across Loch Linnhe to the Glencoe hills was magnificent. If only I was over there! By Fort William I had decided to walk the West Highland Way to Kinlochleven. Climbing up out of Glen Nevis I recalled a hill overlooking Loch Leven with a stalking path at each end. I could at least take in a minor summit. It was while going through the endless woods that I first thought of Mullach. Mullach nan Coirean is the most westerly Munro of the Mamores.

Once out of the woods it was still difficult on the hill with new planting. Native trees are being planted up to 2500 feet. After three deer fences I at last gained the ridge. What a view of upper Glen Nevis! Snow capped peaks resplendent under a cloudless blue sky. Nevis, Aouach Beg, Sgurr a Mhaimm and Am Bodach. Then up the ridge to the summit plateau, two or three inches of new snow, occasional thicker patches of old snow beneath.

Only at the summit did I suddenly become aware that surreptitiously within the last half hour the sky had become completely overcast. And it didn't look good.

Descent: the tedious track of the West Highland Way until the relief of the path down through the woods to Kinlochleven. Tired I recovered quickly with a beer. Later I returned for a bar meal; when I left it had already begun to rain.

Next morning was horrendous, with gale-force wind, heavy rain and snow down to 200 foot. Eventually I did get home. And after supper I finished that wine, reflecting on an excursion that turned out better than initially seemed probable.

Climbing the Via Ferrata of Cortina D'Ampezzo, September 2010

Marcus Tierney and Ian Mateer

The area of Cortina D'Ampezzo has a reputation for fantastic scenery and top quality mountaineering. Our plan was to sample some of the quality Via Ferrata routes (VF) and explore remnants of the WWI front line which passed through the area.

Flying from Leeds Bradford airport we joined the herd onto our budget airline flight to Treviso and from there a Fiat Panda hire car took us the 2 hour drive to Meuble Astoria in Cortina D Ampezzo. The hotel was relatively cheap (for Cortina) and the staff were very friendly. Best of all, our room had a balcony where we could enjoy a late afternoon beer whilst watching the world go by below.

Day 1: Punta Fiames and VF Michielli Strobel grade 3B

The car park near Hotel Fiames was only a short five minute drive from Cortina. The start of the VF is a steep 500m walk up the hillside. Initially the route is fairly gentle with the difficulties gradually increasing but never serious. This was a great first route as it gave wonderful views over Cortina and across to the Tofana Peaks, the highlight of the climb being a steep exposed 20m ladder section above a bottomless gully. At the end of the wires a short walk led to the pleasant summit of Punta Fiames. The decent was via a long, but worn, scree shoot and a path leading back to the starting point. Overall this was a good introduction to the area and a steady five hour day.

Day 2: Tofana De Rozes VF Giovanni Lippela grade 4C

Our second day saw us driving up towards the Passo Falzarago before heading off up a gradually deteriorating road until a car park is reached at Rif Dibona. The approach zigzags up towards the huge eastern face of Tofana de Rozes before contouring along the bottom of the face until the 'gear up' area at the start of the tunnel section. Head torches on, we entered the cold depths of the tunnel which were dug by the Italians in order to explode a mine under the subsidiary peak of Il Castelletto in an attempt to blow the Austrians off this strategic point. The explosion was timed to allow the King of Italy to observe it from the other side of the valley!

Upon emerging from the tunnel there is a steep descent followed by a walking traverse to the start of the VF proper. The first part of the VF towards Tre Dita is actually a huge traverse of the north side of the mountain. The VF just keeps going and going. At a couple of points the route does take drainage and we

found the cables and holds were encased in about an inch of ice which made for some absorbing climbing!

We left the VF at Tre Dita which then allowed us to continue the traverse around the mountain and back to the car in a total time of about 6 hours. Continuing up the second part of the VF and to the summit and would have added at least another 2-3 hours on very iced up wires. We'll do the whole route next time!

Day 3: Sas Stria rest day

On this day we drove to the Passo Falzarago and had a short walk up the Sas Stria. During the ascent we followed WWI trenches, which were mostly held by the Austrians, giving them a commanding position at the top of the valley looking towards Cortina. At the top we enjoyed panoramic views in all directions. We had intended visiting the museum at the top of the pass which occupies the WWI fort but it had just shut for lunch when we returned from the summit!

Day 4: Col Rosa VF Ettore Bovero grade 3B

When walking up the main street of Cortina an attractive pyramidal peak can be seen to the north. The Col Rosa called out to be climbed! Starting close to where we started the VF Michiella Strobel a pleasant walk in leads to the start of the VF. Whilst the steep sections are quite short in length the exposure and quality of the climbing on the main arête more than made up for the lack of length. At the steepest section it started raining briefly, which added a sense of urgency to the climb. Once the top was reached we were able to explore the gun emplacements which had been created directly underneath the summit. As we descended the rain returned and we beat a hasty retreat back to the valley.

Day 5: Col De Bos VF Degli Alpini

This is a modern Via Ferrata made by the local guides in 2007. A short walk from the Bar Strobel on the SS 48 road near to Passo Falzarago leads past an old hospital building used by the 5th Alpini Brigade during the war. Being Sunday, the route was very busy, but there was a friendly atmosphere and we were able to pass a few slower parties. The best part of the route was a steep exposed traverse high on the route. The descent passed a wooden cross with barbed wire entangled all around, a stark reminder of the sacrifices made by the soldiers during the two World Wars.



Restored WW1 trenches at Cinque Torre – Marcus Tierney

Not wanting to waste the rest of the day we drove across to the popular climbing area of Cinque Torre and explored the open air museum where many of the Italian trenches have been restored. The exhibited photos and personal accounts of war were very poignant.

During our visit we did some superb routes and there are many more to do. The VFs are a great way of exploring rock faces with the minimum of gear and in relative safety. The area also offers much of historic interest so there are things to do even if the weather makes climbing unattractive. We will return especially as we have unfinished business on the Tofana De Rozes!

MEET REPORTS

February 26 – March 1 - Fort William Meet

Report by Jim Strachan

The meet was based at the Caledonian Hotel in Fort William. The drive up on Friday was uneventful in spite of repeated reports in the media that the snow gates were closed at Tyndrum. Had this been the case a diversion out to the west using the coast road via Connel Ferry and Appin would have been required.

On Saturday, due to the amount of snow and high avalanche risk present in the mountains, we decided against attempting any tops, just getting on to the hills was going to be a problem enough.

The whole party set off on Saturday morning with the intention of doing a nine mile walk up the Arkaig Glens starting just beyond the Dark Mile. Fortunately someone had started before us making tracks in the correct direction. The going was still tough, with knee-high snow up through the forest. It soon became obvious with the heavy going that the full round was not on. After a couple of miles we cleared the tree line and decided to contour round and back on the opposite hillside. Ian and Morag, probably wiser, returned by the way up.

On the Sunday Morag & Ian headed off in the direction of Glen Nevis with the intention of doing a low level walk while John and Marj made for the old military road above Fort William. The rest of the group determined to get on to the hills headed for Bheinn a' Beithir on the south side of the Ballachulish bridge. We thought that the East Ridge, which is easily accessed from the village, might be wind swept and relatively snow free. This was the case, so the four of us headed off up the lower slopes, which had a fairly good snow cover. It was obviously a popular route as there were several large parties ahead of us on the ridge. After a couple of hours, as the ridge steepened and narrowed, Margaret and I turned leaving John and Peter to push on up over the two rocky buttresses to try and reach the first lower top. As Margaret and I reached the foot of the ridge we met John & Marj who, due to deep snow, had failed to get the car far enough up to make the Military road a possibility. We then set off to walk up the track towards Glen Creran. Meanwhile John and Peter using crampons reached the foot of the final steeper buttress, on which a leader with a party of five using ropes were struggling. Feeling very cold and mindful of time, they decided to call it a day and head down. The whole group met up in the local pub before returning to the hotel.

Monday was the best day weather wise, with blue skies and sunshine. Peter

headed off north up Glengarry with the intention of bagging Gairich (919m). Ian and Morag also headed north to do some visiting in Dornoch. John and Marj disappeared in the direction of Aviemore hoping to visit the wildlife park leaving John D, Margaret and myself to ascend the Pap of Glencoe (Sgorr na Ciche 742m) which appeared relatively low in snow cover. The first section was up fairly steep snow which had already been tracked and the final section up a steep rocky and at places ice covered track. The views from the summit were magnificent in every direction, snow clad hills to every horizon with brilliant sunshine giving absolute clarity. On the descent Margaret and John did some sitting glissades on steeper sections of snow saving the tiring plodding and occasional break through of the crust.

Driving home, south, over the Rannoch Moor a panorama of snow covered landscape opened up as far as one could see, with no break in the white except for the road ahead.

Present: John & Marj Foster, John Dempster, Peter Farrington, Morag MacDonald, Ian Brebner, Jim & Margaret Strachan

Footnote: Peter did succeed on Gairich reducing his Munro count by one. His family count was increased by one with the arrival of a new Grandson in the early hours of Tuesday morning. Our congratulations go to Peter and family.

March 26-28 - Strontian Meet

Report by Jim Strachan.

This meet was centred on the Ariundle Bunkhouse and Outdoor Centre about a mile out of the village of Strontian. The area has no Munros but boasts several good Corbets and plenty good walking routes and points of interest.

Peters Farrigton and Goodwin met up in Glenfinnan on Thursday and spent the night in the Railway Carriage bunkhouse at Glenfinnan Station. On the Friday they received a good soaking whilst ascending Beinn Odhar Mhor (870m). Although the summit was reached I understand there was little in the way of views, and they arrived at the Ariundle bunkhouse rather damp and looking to dry out their gear. Mike, Margaret and I paid a short visit to the Woodland Trust site overlooking Loch Sunart. However on a damp dreich day there was little in the way of wildlife to be seen. That evening the five of us dined on good pub food at the Strontian Inn and were regaled by a fairly good ceilidh band.

Saturday dawned with slightly improved weather, so Peter Goodwin, Margaret and I set out to do Garbh Bheinn (885m) by the long southwest ridge starting from the road just north of Ardgour. Good conditions held as we gained height

and extensive views opened to the islands in the west and south over Ballahullish up Loch Leven. On reaching the ridge, we had a good view of the massive rock buttress and cliffs forming the summit massif, before the weather closed in and we had to complete the route to the top in driving snow and sleet. On the descent we had some sunny breaks and a couple of very heavy showers before returning to the cars.

Peter Farrinton and Mike Scarr decided on Bheinn Resipol (845m) for the day, attacking it from different directions, Mike from the east walking from the bunkhouse (*see personal account in members articles*) and Peter going round by car and approaching from the west. They met on the summit and returned by their respective up routes faring no better than us with respect to the weather.

Having read good reviews regarding the standard of the food available at the centre restaurant we booked for seven and were joined by John Dempster and Phillip Draper for a relaxing pleasant evening.

Sunday was no better weather wise and another damp sojourn was not enticing so most headed home. Mike Scarr set off to walk through the hills to Ardgour with the intention of staying the next night at the Corran Bunkhouse on the South side of the Ferry crossing. Peter Farrington always keen to bag a Munro, drove back round to Glenfinnan and walked three miles up Gleann Fionnlighe to view Gulvain (987m) which was clear and sported some snow on its summit ridge, but lacking the motivation he turned and headed for the Islay ferry and home.

Those present included Peter Farrington, Peter Goodwin, Mike Scarr, Margaret and Jim Strachan, with John Dempster and Phillip Draper joining for dinner on Saturday evening. John and Marj Foster giving apologies for absence due to illness.

May 12 – 26 - Trekking with the Berbers in the Atlas Mountains.

Report and photographs by Ed Bramley

We cheered as the plane landed. After Morocco airports being shut by the volcanic ash cloud the day before, they were now open again, and we were on the eve of a new adventure, on a new continent, bound for the Atlas Mountains. Following our overnight stop in Marrakech, the mini-bus took the eleven of us to Arba Tighedouine, where the trek started.

Our guide, Hassan took us into his house for mint tea and pancakes, lovely dipped in either honey or olive oil. Already, a short walk round his village was

confirming this was not Europe, whether it was the butchers meat hanging up in the open, the tarmac road that quickly gave way to hard earth, or the people labouring in the fields. The afternoon was a gentle warm up of a walk, pitching overnight camp at one of the few flat areas just off the valley floor. The muleteers had already organised the tents, and chef was busy with the evening meal, a routine that would repeat itself for the fortnight we were trekking.



Mules fording river

That night, there was a severe thunderstorm right overhead in the valley, which set a number of rock falls off, thankfully sufficiently far away from where we had stopped. The next morning, the river had risen markedly, and we spent a couple of hours anxiously awaiting it subsiding. After a few nervous and cold minutes, we were all safely back across the river, and on our way again. With the rain soaking the tents, we needed to change our plans to get them dry, so we arranged to spend the next evening in a couple of rooms in the next village. In the afternoon we walked further up the Zat valley, to see a number of hillside villages with terraces, growing a whole range of trees including walnuts, figs and olives as well as a vast array of root vegetables. We were even more amazed by the fact that one of the villages had its own hospital with a nurse, and also regular visits from a mobile doctor.

Next day, we pulled out of the valley, up onto the Yagour Plateau via the village of Ouarzazt. Here we first encountered Hassan's trail mix, a sustaining concoction of dates, peanuts, brittle and mini breadsticks.

The plateau extended for miles, and in mid May was a profusion of flowers, almost reminiscent of parts of the Yorkshire Dales. Lunchtime we found shade and a halt out of the midday sun. And what a lunch! A mixture of rice, tomatoes, onions, cucumber, peppers and olives, with flatbread and hot, very sweet mint tea, with fresh melon for afters. Very different to what we were used to. As we journeyed across the plateau in the afternoon, with distant view of the snow capped hills, we could pick out the occasional summer village, with its typical

red earth and flat roof construction. That evening, we stopped in a lovely flat meadow, in which the mules could roll around, and the night brought clear skies and panoply of stars.

The highlight of the next day was the village of Setti Fatima, which is very much a tourist destination for Moroccans themselves, and was surely trying to compete with Blackpool for the number of cheap tacky ornaments on sale. In Agadir Ait Boulmane, we secured the good campsite location, underneath a cherry orchard, complete with its own bird scaring man who, at regular intervals, set about rattling cans in the trees to scare off birds.



Village in Zat valley

The pattern over the next few days was to cross a number of mountain passes, with descents into river gorges, and either following the gorges along, or with steep pulls up the other side. As little of the Atlas was ever glaciated, the steep interlocking valley spurs are a feature of the region, and make it meaningless to think in terms of miles covered in a day. We traversed a number of valley slopes, with breathtaking views into the valleys, and towards the plains beyond. Several times, we were surprised as we turned a corner on a seemingly desolate hillside, to find a large village with lush green terraces and the ubiquitous goat herd. The children of the village would spot us and cheekily ask for Stilo, their equivalent of a biro.

In the evenings, we would set up camp on one of the flatter areas near water, avoiding the many stony patches that existed. Each night Hussein, the chef, would produce a great evening meal to round off the day. The menu was varied, but generally started with soup, followed by a tagine of one of many varieties, including goat, with fruit for dessert and hot drinks to finish. Temperatures dropped quickly in the evenings, particularly with some of the breezes that sprang up, which meant that a couple of mornings we had to shake the ice from the tents.

Eventually we dropped down into another valley system and its villages and greenery, this time at Amsouzart. As we went into the door of the gite we were staying in, all we could see were red earth walls closing in on us and steep stairs, but nothing else. We followed them up in the gloom and turned a corner to find a lovely cool airy landing with settees and tables, and a great outlook over the valleys. Even more important was the hot shower and toilet, luxuries we had been missing over the last few days. We stayed at Amsouzart for a couple of nights, making an excursion up to Lake Ifni. The whole area around Amsouzart is a profusion of terraces, trees and cultivation. On the descent from Lake Ifni we are even fortunate enough to spot a pair of lammergeier circling in the sky. They are very graceful as they soar on the thermal currents.



Lake Ifni

Our comparative rest in Amsouzart concludes all too quickly as we head off up further valley systems higher into the mountains, to cross more and higher passes over the next few days. The passes are now well over 3,000m, but we are well impressed by how well the mules handle even the steepest descents, including those we have to work at! Each day brings new vistas, and several times we get stunning views across to the Anti Atlas, over 50 miles away. One of the longest descents is to Sidi Chamharouch, which is well known locally as the massive rock (now painted white), that a spirit hid under. Many Moroccans make a pilgrimage to the village, which is also on the main route up to the refuge under Mount Toubkal, so we experience a significant number of other trekkers for the first time.

We pull up the valley to just short of the Neltner refuge, ready for ascending Mount Toubkal the next day. When we awake, the weather is kind to us, and we set off to ascend slowly, but surely, to the top of North Africa. As we climb up, we spot a butterfly not far from the summit at over 4,000 metres. What a pretty sight it makes. On the top, the weather is perfect, and we slowly rotate in all directions, looking at where we've been over the last fortnight, and way out into the distance, to far away plains.



The team on Toubkal summit

The descent is straightforward, and the boy in us takes over. We glissade several short snow slopes to descend quickly to the valley. You would think we were all teenagers, the simple enjoyment we take from this.

All too soon, the trek is drawing to a close as we descend into the valley, civilization and people. Before our last night gite, there is another treat in store. We are invited to the chef's house in Imlil, and not only enjoy tea and pancakes with him, but also get to meet his father, who is a wonderful sagely old man. The fact that we don't speak the same language does not seem to be a barrier to us.



Last view of mountains from Imlil

We all enjoy and have a respect for the land we have just travelled through and the people we have met and made our friends. Definitely somewhere we want to return to.

Participants: Ed Bramley, Andy Burton, Steve Caulton, Steve Creasey, Bill Jeffries, Myles O'Reilly, Jon and Rowena Mellor, Peggy Stiller, Rob Thornton, Richard Winter.

June 11 – 13 - North Wales meet - Climbing on the edge

Report by Ed Bramley

It was such a great day with blue, almost cloudless skies; but where to climb. Then the suggestion came - there's a great V.Diff half way down Nant Francon. Initially not sure of the name, but further investigation revealed the details - Left Edge - Carnedd y Filiant. Not all that much to go on, but we packed the gear early on Saturday morning and headed round to Ogwen Cottage. There was still space in the car park, so we weren't likely to be embarrassed this year by the tourist police.

A steady walk down the valley, on a very minor metalled road took us for about two miles down the valley, to the start of the climb up to the crag. A defined, but only occasionally used path took us up to where we thought the crag was, but not exactly clear until we got close, when the layout of the crag and our route became clear. Imagine a water worn slab of rock, complete with ripples, tiled up at an angle, with then another slab about 20 feet thick, laid on top of it. That was our route, doing exactly what its name suggested. Following the left edge of the one slab, at the point it drops onto the next. Six hundred feet of nicely angled slab, working its way up the mountain. Nowhere too steep or technically difficult, but some engrossing moves, and the slabby nature often meant that the protection had a goodly spacing. All too soon, we had arrived at the top and incredible views of mountains and features we knew all too well, but from other angles. Whether it was the Dinorwic pumped storage reservoir or Snowdon from across several valleys, the views kept coming.



Ed on the slabs – Marcus Tierney

The walk back was tiring at the end of the day, but took us over great scenery. The top of Mynedd Perfedd and skirting Foel Goch, before a strenuous pull up to the top of Y Garn. I'd forgotten what it was like to do a mountain walk with a sack full of climbing gear, but the views and the company made it another special day. Late back to Ogwen cottage, we then set off back for the

customary communal meal at the hut. The team had been busy getting the food ready, so it made another good evening to unwind to good food, wine and company.

July 17 – 31 - Pitztal and Stubaital, Austria

Report by Pamela Harris-Andrews

It was decided that this year's hotel meet would be shared between the same two centres as in 2008, using the same hotels, the Riffelsee in Mandarfen and the Bellevue in Neustift. We were looked after as well as we were two years ago, with welcoming hosts and delicious and plentiful food in both - though most of us still found room for the more than the occasional apfel strudel.

This time we started in the Pitztal, and after an initial day of torrential rain which caused a landslide lower down the valley, preventing five members from joining the meet until the following day, the weather was hot and sunny until the last afternoon. We were out every day on a variety of walks, the most popular destination being the Riffelsee and the various Höhenweg or high-level paths which started from there. Our objectives were mostly huts, some of which like the Russelsheimer, the Kaunergrat and the Braunschweiger necessitated a steep and stony ascent, others like the Taschachhaus with a gentler walk-in. Walks lower down the valley were also taken, around Jerzens, Wald and the Benni-Rauch suspension bridge, as well as in the neighbouring Kaunertal.

Most of us used the underground funicular from Mittelberg for various exploits, and an early start on this enabled Dick Murton and our new member Dave Aitkenhead to ascend the highest peak of the meet, the Wildspitze, 3772 metres. They reported frequently sinking up to their waists in the soft snow, though they did manage to avoid the crevasses. Dave felt so guilty at taking the Gletscher express for this that a few days later he walked up from the hotel, emulating the Baldwins' feat of 2008 and giving him the record for distance walked and height gained during the week.

We were not so lucky with the weather in the Stubaital, with cloud on most days, but much less rain than in 2008. Despite this we were out in the hills every day, though the weather prevented the ascent of any peaks higher than the Elferspitze and the Grosse Trögler, and our main objectives again were huts, with several of the group walking up –or down - to the Starkenburger and up to the Franz Senn, with the Baldwins repeating their 2008 walk up to the Innsbrucker.

On the sunniest day of the week most of us went to Mutterberg at the southern end of the valley to get the views. John and Sylvia walked up to the Dresdner hut, others walked to the lovely Muttersee, while Wendell made the most of his free ticket on the lifts (given to 80 year olds on the assumption that none would be fit enough to avail themselves of the offer) to get as high as possible on the glacier then walk further up to the Eisjoch. Four of us took an adventurous route from the Dresdner hut to the Sulzenau hut, either via the steep, rocky Peiljoch or via the higher Grosser Trögler, both with glorious views of the Zuckerhütl and the surrounding peaks and glaciers.



Pam on Peiljoch

Other scenic objectives on different occasions during the week were the Pinnistal, the Maria Waldrast convent from Mieders, the Neue Regensburger hut, the Alpine Garden above Fulpmes, and the tiny church at Santa Magdalena on a cliff high above the adjoining Gschnitztal. A good time was had by all, and both valleys provided plenty of variety for walks and climbs.

Participants on both weeks: Alasdair & Pamela Andrews, John Brooks, Ron Hextall, Wendell Jones, John & Sylvia Mercer, Mike Scarr

Pitztal only: Dave Aitkenhead, Antonia Barlen, Peter & Dominic Goodwin, Caroline Higgitt, Ann Liddell, Dick & Lin Murton, Bill Parish, Roger Robertson, Ursula Woodhouse

Stubaital only: James & Belinda Baldwin, Sheila Coates, John Dempster, Morag Macdonald, Roger Newson, Bill Peebles, Terry Shaw, Elizabeth Wells

July 24 – August 7 - Bregaglia Camping Meet, Switzerland

Report by Mike Pinney

The meet was held jointly with the AC, CC & FRCC and as in 1995 was based at Camping Mulina, just outside Vicosoprano. Over the period of the meet there were over 60 in attendance (members & guests) although at no point was



Via Ferrata - Marcus on Col Rosa



Via Ferrata – Ian on Tofana De Rozes



*Tuscany – view towards the Apuane Alps from
the lilies of Monte Croce – Ian Brebner*



Dresdner Hut in the Stubaital – Pamela Harris –Andrews

High Atlas Trek – photos by Ed Bramley



Day 2 - Crossing after the flood



Day 3 – Trekking over the slabs



Day 5 – Above the Ourika Gorge



Day 5 – tucking into lunch



Day 5 – pack mules



Day 10 – View from Tifilit Col



Day 11- The team on Toubkal summit



Day 11 – Neltner Refuge and the surrounding hills



Hadrian's Wall and the "military road" – Mike Goodyer



*Approaching Eagle Rock, Grisedale,
Buffet Party – Mike Pinney*



Monte Disgrazia – Mike Pinney



On the Corda Molla – Mike Pinney

everybody on the camp site. We were made very welcome with aperitifs laid on for Swiss National day.

Vicosoprano is a good location for the full spectrum of aspirations in both the Bernina and the Bregaglia. Although most arrived on the Saturday evening, a number had arrived early either to get fit in advance of the meet or those were the only dates they could manage. Of particular note one team had spent a few days at the Gianetti Hut to the south of the Badile, climbing on Cengalo before returning to the camp site via Porcellizzo & Trubinasca passes. They reported very poor conditions, loose rock on top of black ice, information taken into account by those planning to climb the North ridge of the Badile.

There is a free guide to the bolted climbs in Valchiavenna, just over border in Italy, with a slightly greater selection than plaisir sud. These proved popular, either to unwind following the drive from the UK or as short day together with a visit to the Italian supermarket.

For those after mixed routes a visit to the Forno hut with its excellent meals was a first outing for some attendees. The guardian was confident of the weather so agreeing to arrange an early breakfast. However when we got up there was a light snow fall and low cloud. We were somewhat hesitant about setting off. However, perhaps because he had made the effort to get up, the guardian assured us that it would clear and that we should set off. There is now a new path down onto the glacier but it still takes quite a while and all the height lost must be regained. Half the team managed a crossing of the Passo dal Cantun and although they missed out on the Cima di Castello, they did manage to get down to the Albigna dam and a late cable car. So much for the "well beaten track". The others returned to the hut, the following day traversing Monte del Forno on their way back to the valley. This was a cloud less day and they had a good panoramic view not least of Disgrazia and its Corda Molla. Although the south ridge was well trodden and has now acquired a short section of chains, the East Ridge was more problematic with less and less signs of previous traffic. The team was quite relieved when an abseil from near the end of the ridge led to an easy descent on to a way marked path. A number of other teams stayed at the Forno hut during the meet, concurring with the observation that very few hut users were attempting the peaks above the Forno glacier.

In the Albigna valley a number of multi pitch rock routes were climbed on Spazzacaldeira, Piz Frachiccio and Punta Albigna, together with the Vergine- Al Gal and Piz Balzet traverses. Most teams used an early cable car to get to the dam.

In Val Bondasca the Flat Iron route on Gemelli and the North ridge of Badile

were popular choices. Traversing the Badile was considered a more satisfying experience than a long abseil down the ridge. Acting on the advice of the party who had come back over the 2 passes, all teams descended to the Gianetti hut some spending the night there but all ending up in the Masino valley.

In the Bernina a number of teams traversed Bernina via the Biancograt from the Tschierva hut with one team climbing Piz Roseg from the same hut. Piz Palu was traversed in both directions again by several parties.

In week 2 there was a good weather window forecast for the Tuesday and Wednesday and hence a mass exodus from the campsite with several teams on the Biancograt, Piz Palu and the Badile. One team was away early Tuesday morning (*see Mikes pictorial account in the members articles*), leaving one vehicle at the Preda Rossa before continuing round to Chiareggio and a 6.5 hour approach to the Oggioni biv. Hut on Colletto del Disgrazia. At first light, they were on the icy slope which led onto the Corda Molla and its spectacular position overlooking the north face. From the summit a descent was made via the NW ridge and past the Ponti hut to Preda Rossa. After collecting the other vehicle it was after midnight before they got back to Vico.

Wednesday night the weather arrived, so most of those at the Marco Rosa hut headed out in the falling snow on the Thursday morning across the Bellavista terraces for civilization and to avoid being stranded at the hut for several days. Thus that evening 30 sat down to dinner at the Pizzeria at Crot. The weather in the valley on the Friday was still unsettled so whilst some were nursing hangovers, others headed round to the limestone at Barzio above Lecco.

September 24- 26 - Buffet Party, George Starkey Hut *Report by Mike Pinney*

Although there had been rain earlier in the week, by Friday it had cleared to give a generally clear sky, but a slightly northerly wind such that the early birds had a good day on the fells. Similar conditions were experienced on the Saturday and parties had a variety of excursions, Dow Crag & Coniston Old Man, a 14 mile circuit taking in High Street and a circuit starting with Striding Edge. One team headed for Eagle crag Grisedale climbing Sobreada and Kestrel Wall.

Twenty attended the buffet on the Saturday evening, of whom 16 were staying in the hut. My thanks to Marian Parsons & Pamela Harris-Andrews for the main course, Pam importing the raclette cheese, and to Lin Warriss, John Dempster & Marian for sweets. Thanks also to Mike Parsons for providing and setting up

the wide screen television, for easy viewing of pictures from the Summer meets and Heather Eddowes for the canton flags to decorate the inside of the hut.



Relaxing after a hard day – Mike Pinney

Sunday was overcast but most had a good day on the fells, one party starting with the ferry to Howtown & another finishing their walk at Howtown and getting the ferry back to Glenridding.

A good weekend. For those unable to attend in 2010 put the 22-24th September this year in your diary.

October 8 – 10 - Beer Meet, East Devon

Report by Belinda Baldwin

Called away for a funeral I arrived at Beer Hill on Friday evening just as Sheila, Marge, John and James were setting off for dinner at the Anchor Hotel. John and Rosemary were at the bar with John and Dinah. Heather met up with us there later. The Meet had begun.

On Saturday we set off having been joined by Mike for a loopy walk from Branscombe taking in steep paths to embrace the Donkey Sanctuary, not necessarily for the love of the beasts but for a hearty lunch. The point of the walk was to take in parts of the Jurassic Coast. Some wished to linger on the beach but the miles had to be done in order to be back in time for another Anchor dinner.

We were one down on Sunday as John P had parted to spend the remains of his trip with Rosemary. Cars were shuffled so that we could do a linear walk from Beer Hill to Lyme Regis along the Undercliff, immortalized in John Fowles *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. We fought our way up an unofficial track lush with vegetation. The day was hot and we had the feeling we were in a far off jungle rather than the South Coast. We eventually joined the Coast path, which meandered with less steep ups and downs and we did not cool off until we

walked the Cobb at Lyme Regis. The main meet came to and end on Sunday teatime but John and Marge stayed on but that was the finish of hearty exercise.

This part of the South West Coast stretched us physically just as much as if we were in the mountains with the second day managing to provide an extra bit of a challenge on our 'jungle' ascent. Apart from a few scratches no-one was hurt. I hope we are all up to a similar event in 2011.

Present: Dinah Nicholls, Sheila Coates, Heather Eddowes, Rosemary Percival (dinners only), Marge Foster, Belinda Baldwin, John Dempster, John Foster, John Percival, Mike Pinney and James Baldwin.

October 22 – 24 - Alpine Reunion Meet, George Starkey Hut
Report by Mike Pinney

The 2010 weather was not as good as in 2009. Under Marian's direction the early arrivals spent Thursday evening preparing the bolognaise sauce for Saturday's evening meal.

On the Friday we went for a shortened walk past Lanty's tarn and via the Travellers Rest to Glenridding Dodd and Sheffield Pike. We were going to continue but a heavy shower persuaded us of the need to attend to the hut's coal fire!

On the Saturday, 10 of us drove to Hartsop and did a scramble on Raven Crag Threshthwaite before continuing over Stoney Cove Pike and Thornthwaite to High Street and back to the hut. The scramble was cold and wet but it dried out during the day and the sun tried to break through. That evening nearly 40 sat down to dinner followed by a slide show covering attendees Alpine exploits.

Sunday was sunnier but a cold northerly wind so whilst some went round to climb on Castle rock (cold by all accounts), a number of did a scramble up the side of Eagle Rock Grisedale, over Nethermost and Helvellyn and down Striding Edge. Although Striding Edge was crowded we were against the flow and managed to weave our way through without too much difficulty. The rock on the scramble was somewhat more pleasant than the previous day.

February 4-6 2011 - Annual Dinner Meet
By Brooke Midgley & Mike Pinney

If there had been a wetter Annual (or even Northern) Dinner weekend, I don't remember it! 2011's was very, very wet. It started raining on the Thursday before the dinner and seemed to continue until the Monday when we departed.

The very heavy rain was bad enough but the gale force winds made it all rather just too, too much my Dears!! Folks went out on the hills and got very, very wet - even cars got drowned and abandoned. Just getting to the Hut or Hotel was rather unnecessarily exciting and wet!

In reality, the heavy rain on Thursday and during the day on Friday meant that the road from Hartsop to Patterdale was under water, the level rising by the hour. It looked more like a river than a road. At 9pm it was fun. At 1130pm it became serious with cars abandoned and getting buffeted by the passing water. Whilst trying to find a way through the abandoned vehicles, our late arrivals car stalled. Fortunately after a few nerve racking moments wondering how they were going to get all their clobber to the hut, the car started and they were able to continue to the hut. There was a second nerve racking moment when the water level went above the headlamps with visibility dropping dramatically.

During Saturday, it was almost dry enabling attendees to get out on the fells without resort to over-trousers. The "river" level dropped and abandoned cars were recovered/removed.

The Dinner went well, our guests were Paul Everett: President of SAC Geneva Section, Judy Renshaw and Don Hodge: TCC President and Marian Parsons, our hut warden.

Paul Everett gave a speech explaining the organisation and duties of the Geneva Section and their huts which includes the Britannia Hut. Our President (Mike) in his response mentioned the joint centenary celebration scheduled for 25th June 2012.

The Hotel and Staff did a good and efficient job and took our minds off the weather for a while.

Ed Bramley gave a preview of the club DVD after the Dinner. This captured attendees interest such that there was insufficient time for Paul's caving videos before the bar closed.

Sunday started dry and the early birds were able to get established on the fells before the rain started and the wind picked up. The President and party, been somewhat later setting off, got as far as the hole in the wall before deciding to turn right rather than left and made their way via Lanty's tarn to Greenside mine, then back to the hut via Glenridding. A welcome excursion before the journey south.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at the Glenridding Hotel, Patterdale on Saturday 5 February 2011

The President Mike Pinney was in the Chair. Thirty three members were present.

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from John & Silvia Mercer, Antonia Barlen, Bill Parrish, Morag McDonald, Bill Peebles and Ian Brebner.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6th February 2010:

These were proposed by Marian Parsons, seconded by Alasdair Andrews, agreed by the remainder of the members.

Matters arising:

None.

Election of Officers and Committee:

All current members of the committee had indicated they were prepared to stand again for the next year.

Four additional members could be elected. Marj Foster is currently the only elected committee member. Pam Harris has offered to serve, proposed by Terry Shaw, seconded by Andy Burton.

Hon Treasurer's report and subscription bands

James Baldwin presented the accounts. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Stephen Bowes, seconded by Heather Eddowes. The accounts were accepted unanimously.

- Newsletter costs have been reduced, due principally to the increasing use of email.
- The journal costs were reduced due to resizing following the centenary edition.
- Thanks were offered to Ed Bramley for his assistance and Mike Goodyer for reducing the costs of the newsletter by use of email.
- The costs of the centenary DVD will be seen in the 2011 – 2012 accounts.
- The subscription costs to the SAC have generally risen by 5 SF, though this varies widely from section to section. Diablerets for example have risen by considerably more than this. The subs are being paid up front, en bloc, so freezing the rate, but substantially reducing the currency transaction costs incurred if paying a number of smaller amounts.
- As a result it is proposed to maintain the subscription levels as currently.
 - Single Membership £22 – 25
 - Second member at same address £14 – 16
 - Junior membership £9 - 13

The auditor was re-appointed unanimously.

President's report:

Firstly, a thank you to all the Committee for the support they have given during the year. At the last AGM Belinda Baldwin took over as Vice President and Dick Murton as secretary and during the year Marian Parsons was co-opted in place of Jeff Harris as meets secretary. I hope they have enjoyed their first year.

Although Mike Goodyer took over as Editor in 2009, the 2010 journal was his first, a bumper edition. Of particular note, we received a letter of commendation from our longest standing Honorary Member, Hector Meir. Before writing back, I though some research was required. There is a complete set of Journals at the Alpine Club and members are reminded that they may use the library during normal opening hours free of charge. Hector is the first President of the SAC Central Committee to have attended our Annual Dinner in 1969 the 50th year of the Association.

In addition to storing a number of our valuable books, the AC stores 3 pictures. In 1987 it was not considered necessary to list these pictures, a dilemma for the AC library! When visiting the library for the above research, the 1969 journal listed the gifts that Hector had brought from all the sections with British members together with the bell that I hope to use later this evening. This listed 2 pictures, a lithograph by Ullrich of a scene near the Grand Mulets from Geneva Section and the North-west Face of Kingspitze in Engelhorner by Wunderlich from Alters Section. The president is reminded of his unsettled score with that face of the Kingspitze. By chance in the basement the 3rd picture was out, having been used in a recent AC exhibition. This was "The Jungfrau from Eigergletscher" by Francois Gos presented to the Association by the SAC at our 25th Anniversary in 1934. The mystery as to why the pictures had not been sold or specified in agreement with the AC has been unravelled. A job for the 2011 committee is to consider their future use.

Along with the treasures the pictures have been photographed for inclusion on the DVD which should be distributed later this year with a preview later this evening. Whilst at the AC, I also located 2 boxes of slides which dated from 1963 & 1968, taken I subsequently established by Vincent Cohen, a former President. When reading the meet report in the 1969 journal, of particular note was it was the first recorded Alpine meet to Austria, based at Obergurgl in the Otztal Alps & major consideration was the £50/year limit on foreign currency in place at that time.

I will cover the meet programme fully reported in the journal at the dinner but a thank-you to both meet co-ordinators & attendees.

Any other business:

Don Hodge enquired about the value of the artwork held by the club. Pamela Harris and Paul Everitt (Geneva President) will enquire in Switzerland about the value of the Gos painting and others, as these are likely to be of more interest and thus of greater value in Switzerland.

After the meeting was closed a vote of thanks was proposed by Alasdair Andrews

Next meeting: This will be held at the next Annual Dinner. Date 4th February 2012

Dick Murton, Hon Sec
10 April 2011

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB LTD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Glenridding Hotel, Ullswater, on Saturday February 5th, 2011.

Present: Directors J.W.S. Dempster (Chairman), J.A. Baldwin, E. Bramley, D. Buckley (Treasurer), R. Hodge, M. Pinney, T.J. Shaw (Secretary) and about 25 members.

Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from the directors, P. Clarkson and R. Winter.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Saturday February 6th 2010 and circulated in the 2010 ABMSAC Journal were approved and accepted without dissent on a proposal by A. Andrews, seconded by Mrs B. Baldwin.

Directors' Report and Accounts:

In introducing the accounts for the year ended June 30th 2010, the treasurer said income from hut fees had increased significantly to £18,864 and although rent for the hut had increased by 25 % in October 2010, the company seemed to be in a position to bear the increase. Heating costs had gone down and maintenance costs had remained roughly the same, resulting in a rise in profits for the year from £2,679 to £4,875. Adoption of the accounts was approved without dissent on a motion proposed by R. Hodge and seconded by S. Bowes.

Any other business:

The chairman said it had been agreed between the ABMSAC and the TCC to reduce the number of directors of the company from nine to six, with the ABMSAC providing four and the TCC providing two, the same proportion as before. The ABMSAC directors would be J.A. Baldwin, E. Bramley, D. Buckley and M. Pinney; the TCC directors would be P. Clarkson and D. Hodge. He, T. Shaw and R. Winter were retiring from the board. J. Baldwin would become chairman of the board and M. Pinney secretary. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the contribution which the retiring directors had made to the management of the company.

The chairman also said that following the resignation of Sarah Bridge as chair of the Hut Management Committee, there had been discussion whether the Committee should continue. It had been decided to retain it but with a more strategic role in relation to the maintenance of the hut. P. Clarkson and D. Hodge would be the TCC members. M. Pinney, J. Strachan and Mrs S. Mercer would represent the ABMSAC.

The meeting ended at about 6.35pm.

*T.J. Shaw,
Hon. Secretary.
12 February 2011*

LIST OF OFFICERS

List of Officers since the formation of the Association

PRESIDENTS

1909-1912	Clinton Dent
1913-1922	A E W Mason
1923-1926	Dr H L R Dent
1927-1930	Brig Gen The Hon C G Bruce CB MVO
1931-1933	W M Roberts OBE
1934-1936	A N Andrews
1937-1945	C T Lehmann
1946-1948	Dr N S Finzi
1949-1951	Gerald Steel CB
1952-1953	Col E R Culverwell MC
1954-1956	F R Crepin
1957-1959	George Starkey
1960-1962	B L Richards
1963-1965	Dr A W Barton
1966-1968	Vincent O Cohen MC
1969-1971	Frank Solari
1972-1974	D G Lambley FRCS
1975-1977	M Bennett
1978-1980	P S Boulter FRCS
1981-1984	J P Ledebøer
1985-1987	Wing Commander H D Archer DFC
1988-1990	J S Whyte CBE
1991-1993	A Ross Cameron ARC FEng
1994-1997	Mrs H M Eddowes
1997-2000	W B Midgley
2000-2003	M J Goodyer
2003-2006	A I Andrews
2006-2009	J W S Dempster CB
2009	M G Pinney

VICE PRESIDENTS

1948	Gerald Steel CV & Colonel E R Culverwell MC
1949	Colonel E R Culverwell MC & Brigadier E Gueterbock Colonel E R Culverwell MC, Rev G H Lancaster (died April 1950) & Dr C F Fothergill
1951-1952	Dr C F Fothergill & Lieut-Colonel A E Tydeman
1953	Lieut-Colonel A E Tydeman & J R Amphlett
1954-1955	J R Amphlett & Robert Creg
1956	Robert Creg & Dr J W Healy
1957-1958	Dr J W Healy & B L Richards GM
1959	B L Richards GM & Dr A W Barton
1960-1961	Dr A W Barton & D G Lambley FRCS
1962	D G Lambley, FRCS & V O Cohen MC
1963-1964	V O Cohen MC & F Solari
1965	F Solari & J G Broadbent
1966-1967	J G Broadbent & J S Byam-Grounds
1968	J S Byam-Grounds & W Kirstein
1969-1970	W Kirstein & Dr D R Riddell
1971	Dr D R Riddell & M Bennett
1972-1973	M Bennett & Rev F L Jenkins
1974	Rev F L Jenkins & P S Boulter FRCS
1975	P S Boulter FRCS & J S Whyte

1976-1977 J S Whyte & F E Smith
 1978 F E Smith & J P Ledeboer
 1979 J P Ledeboer & F P French
 1980-1982 F P French & S M Freeman
 1983-1984 S M Freeman & F A W Schweitzer FRCS
 1984 F A W Schweitzer FRCS & Wing Commander H D Archer DFC
 1985 F A W Schweitzer FRCS & A I Andrews
 1986-1987 A I Andrews & W B Midgley
 1988 W B Midgley & C G Armstrong
 1989-1990 C G Armstrong & R W Jones
 1991 R W Jones & G G Watkins
 1992 G S Watkins & F B Suter
 1993-1994 F B Suter & Commander J W Chapman OBE
 1994-1995 Commander J W Chapman OBE & D R Hodge
 1996-1997 D R Hodge & R N James
 1997-1999 R N James & M Pinney
 2000-2001 M Pinney & Dr D W Watts
 2001-2003 Dr D W Watts & D F Penlington
 2003 D F Penlington
 2004-2007 W L Peebles
 2007-2010 T J Shaw
 2010 Mrs B Baldwin

HONORARY SECRETARIES

1909-1911 J A B Bruce & Gerald Steel
 1912-1919 E B Harris & A N Andrews
 1920-1922 A N Andrews & N E Odell
 1919-1928 A N Andrews & W M Roberts
 1929-1930 W M Roberts & M N Clarke
 1931-1944 M N Clarke & F W Cavey
 1945-1948 M N Clarke & F P Crepin
 1949-1953 F R Crepin & George Starkey
 1954-1956 George Starkey & R C J Parker
 1957-1958 R C J Parker & H McArthur
 1958-1960 R C J Parker & F E Smith
 1960-1962 F E Smith & M Bennett
 1963-1970 M Bennett & J P Ledeboer
 1971-1972 J P Ledeboer
 1972-1976 F A W Schweitzer FRCS
 1976-1978 R A Coatsworth
 1978-1983 S N Beare
 1984-1986 A G Partridge
 1987-1988 S M Freeman
 1989-2000 H F Romer
 2000-2001 A I Andrews
 2001-2006 J W S Dempster
 2006-2010 Mrs A M Jago
 2010 D Murton

HONORARY MEMBER'S SECRETARIES

1965-1968 George Starkey
 1969-1971 F A W Schweitzer FRCS
 1972-1974 J E Jesson
 1975-1977 D J Abbott
 1978-1980 A N Sperryn

1980-1984 J W Eccles
1985-1997 T G B Howe MC

HONORARY MEETS SECRETARIES

1971-1974 S N Beare
1975-1979 A Strawther
1979-1983 A I Andrews
1984-1988 J C Berry
1989-1994 F B Suter
1994-2001 M J Goodyer
2001-2003 E A Bramley
2004-2009 J C Foster
2009-2010 J F Harris
2010 M Parsons

HONORARY SOCIAL SECRETARIES

1971-1977 P S Boulter
1978-1980 P V Andrews
1980-1983 F A W Schweitzer FRCS
1984 Professor E H Sondheimer
1985-1990 Mrs P M Boulter
1991-2001 J P Ledeboer
2001-2002 Wing Commander H D Archer DFC

HONORARY TREASURERS

1909-1911 C E King - Church
1912-1925 J A B Bruce
1926-1954 C T Lehmann
1954-1957 J A Amphlett
1957-1969 F R Crepin
1970-1978 R Wendell Jones
1978-1980 R A Coatsworth
1980-1997 M Pinney
1997-1999 K Dillon
1999-2005 A I Andrews
2005- J Baldwin

HON. CHAIRMAN - HUT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1974-1977 J P Ledeboer
1978-1980 D R Hodge
1980-1987 W B Midgley
1987-1990 D W Edwards
1991-1994 D Beer (TCC)
1995-1998 S Maudsley (TCC)
1999- 2005 W B Midgley
2005- 2010 S Bridge (TCC)

HONORARY LIBRARIANS

1909-1918 J A B Bruce
1919-1928 C T Lehmann
1929-1932 A N Andrews
1933-1938 George Anderson
1939-1952 S de V Merriman
1953-1963 C J France
1964-1966 J Kemsley
1966-1968 R Wendell Jones
1968-1970 S N Beare

1971-1974 W R H Jeudwine
1975-1979 H Flook
1979-1981 K J Baldry
1983-1984 Miss J Gamble
1985-1986 S N Beare

HONORARY SOLICITORS

1909-1932 E R Taylor
1933-1973 The Lord Tangley
1974 M Bennett
1991-1995 S N Beare
1996-2003 Mrs D K Lewis (nee Midgley)

HONORARY EDITORS

(The following officers carried out the duties of Hon. Editor until the post was created in 1949: 1909- 1911 J A B Bruce, 1912-1928 J A B Bruce and A N Andrews, 1929-1948 M N Clarke).

1949-1962 M N Clarke
1963-1964 W R H Jeudwine
1965-1968 G A Hutcheson
1968-1974 Graham A Daniels
1975-1986 S M Freeman
1987-1992 M R Loewy
1992-2002 M I C Baldwin
2002- 2009 R B Winter
2009 M J Goodyer

HONORARY EDITOR - NEWSLETTER

1992-1995 F B Suter

HONORARY AUDITORS

1909-1914 A B Challis
1915-1922 Reginald Graham
1923-1930 W LAdams
1931-1940 F Oughton
1941-1952 J A Marsden-Neye
1953-1956 S E Orchard
1957-1967 R A Tyssen-Gee
1968-1974 A Hart
1975-1977 J Llwyn - Jones
1978-1979 G A Daniels
1979-1980 C J Sandy
1981-1984 N Moore
1985-1999 D Bennett
1999-2005 K N Ballantine
2005-2009 P McCulloch
2009 N Harding

HONORARY MEMBERS SECRETARY (Formerly Honorary Registrar)

1991-1993 H M Eddowes
1994-2002 Dr M J Eddowes

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

2003 Dr M J Eddowes
2004- E A Bramley

Current Honorary Members

Hector Meir

Brooke Midgley

Wendell Jones

Alasdair Andrews

ABMSAC Office Holders and Useful Contacts

ABMSAC Committee 2011

OFFICE	HOLDER	ELECTED
President	M G Pinney	2009
Vice-President	Mrs B Baldwin	2010
Hon. Treasurer	J Baldwin	2005
Hon. Secretary	R W Murton	2010
Hon. Membership Secretary	E A Bramley	2004
Hon. Meets Secretary	M Parsons	2010
Hon. Editor	M J Goodyer	2009
Hon. HMC Representative	D R Hodge	1978
Committee Members	Mrs M Foster	2009
	Mrs P Harris-Andrews	2010

ABMSAC Ltd Directors

J Baldwin	Chairman
M G Pinney	Company Secretary
D Buckley	Treasurer
E Bramley	
D Hodge	
P Clarkson	

Hut Bookings Secretary

Mike Pinney
4 Arnewood Gardens, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2LQ
E-mail for bookings **ONLY**: hutbookings@abmsac.org.uk
Tel: 01935-428131

Hut Warden

Marian Parsons
Decollage, Patterdale, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0NL
Tel: 01768-482437

Secretary – Tuesday Climbing Club

Maureen Stiller
9 Nicola Close, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 6NA
Tel: 020-8680-1216

Hut Bookings Secretary – Oread Mountaineering Club

Colin Hobday
Einhorn, 28, Cornhill, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2FS
E-mail: colinanduschi@talktalk.net
Tel: 01332-551594