



Hi again everyone. Caira, David and Jorge have been doing their best to put a stop to any sort of outdoor activity during February, which turned out to be one of the wettest on record! And so our 2020 meets did not exactly get off to a flying start, with the Yorkshire party meet and the North Wales mid-Feb meets both cancelled. Nevertheless there have been some excellent meets and folks have been out grabbing odd days where they can. Let's hope for a brighter Spring to usher in the new 2020/21 meets programme. Best wishes

In this edition!

This month's cover pics, from the top: amazing weather on January's Capel meet; view from Trevor quarry Llangollen the same weekend; Phil, TT and Jim on the Cantilever, Glyder Fach; Ryan climbing at Wharnclyff; the Thompson boys fly the Polaris flag in the high Tatras, Slovakia; Tom about to BASE jump (yes, really) at Ariege, France.



Hot off the press – the 2020/21 meets programme

Date	Venue	Leader
Apr 10 - 13 BH	North Devon	Al
Apr 25/26	Yorkshire	Dan
May 8 - 10 BH	Peak South	Martin
May 23 - 25 BH	Scotland	Bob
June 6/7	Lakes North	Phil S
Jun 20/21	Northumberland	TT
Jul 4/5	North Wales	Heather
Jul 18/19	Peak North BBQ	Al/TT
Aug 8/9	Llangollen	Ryan
Aug 29 - 31 BH	Pembroke	Lucy
Sept 12/13	Lancashire	Col
Sept 26/27	Lakes South	Georgi
Oct 10/11	Anglesey	Col
Oct 24/25	Swanage	John
Nov 14/15	Staveley Hut	Ian
Nov 28/29	Dinner / AGM Peak	Al/TT
Jan 9/10	N Wales Party Hut	Lucy
Jan 23/24	Lakes Hut	Tom
Feb 13/14	N Wales Hut	Bob
Feb 27- Mar 6	Torridon Hut	Col
Mar 20/21	Lakes Hut	Phil S
Apr 2 - 5 BH	Hot Rock?	Al

A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to lead meets on the new programme, and special thanks to TT for doing the coordinating, chasing and cajoling required.



Lakes, Coniston

<http://www.bmasc.org.uk/cottage.htm>

21/22nd March 2020

This meet will take place at the Barrow MC hut at Coniston Coppermines.

<http://www.bmasc.org.uk/cottage.htm> This is a very well appointed hut and is next to the Youth Hostel at Coniston Coppermines GR 289 986. Post code is LA21 8HX. You get to it by following the rough track at the back of the Black Bull in Coniston up into the cwm between the Old Man and Wetherlam. The hut is situated in a wonderful position right in among the mountains, where all the usual treats are on offer; great scrambling and walking on the southern fells, and climbing on Dow Crag, Coniston Old Man and Wetherlam



Please let me know if you are coming.

Please contact Polaris for further information – links at foot of page 1

North Devon, Morteheo

Easter BH 10th – 13th April 2020

Come and join us for the first Bank Holiday weekend of the year in sunny North Devon!

We'll be staying in Morteheo, just north of Woolacombe and its amazing beach. We will be a small (but dynamic!) team - 6 or 7 of us at the last count – staying at North Morte Farm

<https://www.northmortefarm.co.uk/> and nearby Easewell Farm <https://www.woolacombe.co.uk/devon-holiday-parks/easewell-farm> where, at the time of writing, there are still pitches with electric hook-ups available.



It's a short drive to the excellent climbing at Baggy Point, with loads of other atmospheric crags and climbing in both directions. That plus coast path walking, cycling, surfing, tea shops and sand castles... what more could you want?!*

Please give AP a shout if you decide to come and join us; the more the merrier!

Please contact Polaris for further information – links at foot of page 1

*OK, sunshine please!

Yorkshire

<http://www.manorhousecaravans.co.uk>

25/26th April 2020

Come and stay at the Manor House!¹



Hi all, so by popular request the Yorkshire meet scheduled for the end of April will be taking place at Summerbridge near Harrogate to give people the chance to visit the amazing rock formations at Brimham Rocks. For the climber the Rocks are a whole series of blocks, towers and buttresses with gazillions of routes on them but they hold strong appeal for anyone who just wants to visit and see them and it would be perfectly possible to walk or cycle there from the campsite. By then we will have reached the end of the storm alphabet, so no more pants weather will be allowed and it'll be back to quintessential gorgeous Spring sunshine and balmy conditions .

Of course Brimham is famous in its own right but in Nidderdale and the surrounding area there is an abundance of other attractions such as Fountains Abbey and Studley Park, Stump Cross Caverns, How Stean Gorge, Ripley Castle & Park and failing all of that the spa town of Harrogate. For climbers there are other famous crags nearby such as Ilkley and Almscliff as well as less well-known ones such as Simon's Seat. The site is next to the Nidderdale Way giving multiple walking opportunities and for anyone on two wheels there is also a wealth of on- and off-road options, with National Cycle Route 688 a brief spin of the cranks away

The recommended campsite for visiting Brimham is Manor House Farm, <http://www.manorhousecaravans.co.uk>. This is well-located for the crags and they are well-used to having climbing clubs stay with them. It's not far from Summerbridge where there is a shop, chippy etc and other pubs

¹ Farm ☺

are in walking distance. Just one small problem ... they are waterlogged at the moment and not taking bookings! However they assure me that they will do so as soon as they are able. So for now let's work on this basis and I will book us in as soon as I can if you let me know you are coming. If they can't take us then I'll sort something else out. Either way it's gonner be reet grand! DD

Please contact Polaris for further information – links at foot of page 1

Peak District South

<https://www.ukcampsite.co.uk/sites/details.asp?revid=13631>

Early May BH 8th – 11th May



We are booked in at Big Hillsdale Farm campsite, Grindon, Leek, ST13 7PE
Tel: 01538 304458 or 07971412101. The site is near Butterton – not far from Beeston Tor and the Dove and Manifold valleys. I have reserved 8 pitches, including the only 3 with electric hook-ups. This is a great location for the limestone crags of Beeston Tor, Alderey Cliff, Dovedale and a few more esoteric gems. There is some splendid walking and cycling in the rolling limestone dales and valley trails. Please let me know if you are coming. Martin.

Please contact Polaris for further information – links at foot of page 1

Capel Curig, 17-19th Jan 2020

Stereo meet reports for this one, folks!

Friday's report - TT

For the first time in a long time it looked as if the weekend would coincide with a spell of dry, bright and sunny weather (surprisingly enough we haven't had one since) and so decided that I would try to get on a hill somewhere along the way on Friday to make the most of it. Joined forces with Phil and decided we would stop off at the Cat and Fiddle and have a day on either Shining Tor or Shuttingsloe. After a frustrating drive full of road closures, diversions and the diversion to the diversion closed we were even more frustrated to find our chosen hills cloaked in cloud and mist. The weather man had stated that everything would be improving from the west so we decided to continue onward towards Wales and hope that he was telling the truth. By Chester things were looking much brighter and we decided on an afternoon in the Clwydian Hills.

We arrived at a car park with an unpronounceable name and had lunch watching the weather rapidly improve which gave us the incentive to get boots on. From the car park we set off across the top of the forest to the Iron Age fort of Penycloddiau which gave spectacular views in all directions from the hills of the Carneddau in the west to the Pennines in the east and north across the Mersey estuary. From here we followed the interesting but very wet and muddy ridge past the farms at Nant Coed y Mynydd almost to the summit of Moel y Parc. I say almost to the summit as the trig point is surrounded by a potentially coat-ripping trouser-destroying barbed wire fence so we settled for being nearly at the summit. We descended to Aifft [*Bless you! Ed*] and then followed the world's muddiest lane for what seemed like forever (only 2 miles in fact) dodging huge puddles and deep mud to arrive back at the forest where a gentle ascent up through the trees saw us back at the car just as the sun was about to dip below the horizon to end a very pleasant afternoon on new-to-us hills.

Friday's report – Bob

We had a few beers late in the evening as usual 😊 😊 😊

Saturday's report – TT

The day dawned with sunshine, no wind, and wall to wall blue skies – hurrah! Jim arrived with potential new member Lucy and along with Phil we hatched a plan to traverse the Glyders from Ogwyn Cottage back to the hut. Things were looking up from the word go as the hills revealed themselves with snow covered summits gleaming white against a pure blue sky – stunning.



It was cold as we fell into the shadow of the mountains at the Idwal Slabs but this didn't deter a few hardy souls who were just setting off up Ordinary Route. We continued on to the foot of the Devil's Kitchen – no ice routes there today just a brooding deep cleft and waterfall - and then headed up the well-constructed path to Llyn y Cwr sitting pretty under the snow covered west flank of Glyder Fawr. A slip slidey ascent on fresh soft snow took us to the rocky summit where we were presented with the most fantastic views of almost all of Snowdonia and right out to the tip of the Llyn Peninsula. The way onward to the summit of Glyder Fach is a moonscape of monolithic blocks, clusters of upright standing stones and rocky tors the most famous (and photogenic) being the cantilever stone which looks as if it should



topple from its fulcrum if you stand enough people at the end of it. The summit itself is a huge pile of blocks and boulders which took some effort and a lot of slipping and sliding on snow and verglassed rock to reach and a lot more slipping and sliding – mostly on backsides – to get back down. We had lunch here in the lee of the summit before heading on over to Foel Goch and the stunning view of Tryfan reflected in the waters of Llyn y Caseg Fraith. Onward from here across the ridge of Cefn y Capel we dropped below the snowline and the new challenge became remaining upright on the steep wet grass and one which I failed at miserably just 100 yards before the hillside ended at the track into Capel Curig. From here a 20 minute walk through the village saw us back at the hut in daylight to end what had been a great day on the hill.

Saturday's report – Bob

Roger, Ian, Tom, Jonathan and I took two cars and played a car swapping game at Bethania, my car dropped off at the western end of Llyn Dinas. We set off up the rocky but good Watkin Path, in the direction of Snowdon. At the 300 metre level we left the path to climb the east ridge of Yr Aran. It was steep and with no real path, this made it interesting as we stopped to look down an inclined plane used by the miners to deliver their material to the bottom of the hill from the hill side, very steep!

As we reached 600 metres there were clumps of snow and a sort of layer on the summit at 747 metres. Great views from the summit. We descended along the ridge in a south west direction going over Craig Wen at 580 metres. Then started what I can only call a "walled descent", mainly as we had to get over a number of walls. I think it was three or four, and they were not low walls! For at least one member of the party this was too much and he threw his "teddy over the wall" or in this case, his poles. Next time we will let him navigate, though he may have been right near the bottom... We got down and survived the "wailing" or was it "wailing" and what a great day it was....13.5 kilometres and 600 metres of ascent.



Sunday's report – TT

Again the day dawned bright and sunny and so the same 4 of us made plans for a trip into the Carneddys via the east ridge of Pen Yr Ole Wen. We set off up the track to Tal y Llyn Ogwen before heading up alongside the Afon Lloer and into the beautiful corrie of the Ffynnon Lloer to meet the foot of the east ridge. This provides a wonderful way up the mountain with plenty of scrambling and places you right on the summit of Pen Yr Ole Wen. Again the views were stunning in all directions with snow topped mountains wherever you looked. We continued onward from here over the summit of Carnedd Dafydd and then across the top of the magnificent Black Ladders and on to Carnedd Llewelyn. Here we hunkered down amongst the rocks just beyond the summit for lunch. This proved to be a rather cold affair even under sun and blue skies and so we hastened on along the ridge towards Craig y Ysfa. As we reached the edge of the crag we were rewarded



with views of the stunning main wall and could pick out the lines both Mur y Niwl and Pinnacle Wall – routes I had done with Col a few years previously.

A short sharp rocky and scrambly descent took us down to the col followed by an equally short sharp ascent which placed us at the summit of Pen Yr Helgi Du. A debate ensued as to the best way down from here - do we descend to the reservoir access road for an easy way off on tarmac or do we continue along the ridge to Tal y Braich and out to the road opposite Helyg. In the end we compromised and did a little bit of each reaching the road at Gwern Gof Isaf where a short walk along the track under Little Tryfan took us back to the car. Here Lucy took us all by surprise by announcing that she was going for a swim! What? Are you right sharp? it's bloody freezing! Undaunted she donned swimming costume and in she went – I have no idea how cold it was and I had no intention of finding out and surprisingly enough neither myself Jim or Phil were of a mind to join her!

We had a fabulous weekend made all the better by the stunning weather, and thank goodness we went as unbeknown to us at the time the weather on the next meet was to be the absolute opposite with leaden skies, gale force winds and heavy rain. Not only that but I sit here writing this when I should be in N Wales but the current meet has been cancelled as the appalling weather of Storm Dennis hammers the UK.

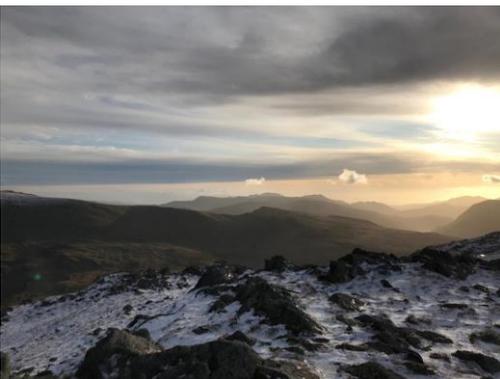


Sunday's report – Bob

Roger, Ian, Tom, Jonathan and I started from the hut. The aim was Moel Siabod, which I had never climbed, to the surprise of the rest of the party. As we set off behind the hut up the rough track through the woods, we encountered a surprise substance, which is getting quite rare in a 21st century winter, ice!! Though it was quite soft.

It was a bright blue sky day as we headed towards the east ridge, Daear Ddu of Moel Siabod. The views became better and better as we climbed up to 500 metres. At this point someone decided to calculate the combined age of the party, and it came to an astonishing 348 years, from 5 climbers an average age of 69 years, we need some younger members.... Also explains why we were going so slowly, but it was a beautiful day.

On to the ridge scramble and what a superb route it is to the summit. We temporarily lost Jonathan at the bottom as he moved from the classic grade 1 scramble line to something harder 2 or 3 and then had to retreat. As we reached the top section of the ridge there was added interest made by a touch of snow, lovely. And then the magnificent summit views, brilliant. The snow and that rarity again ice made it quite tricky to move through the boulders. We stopped on the summit for a drink and snack before heading in a north east direction off the mountain, down towards the forest.



Tom was determined to investigate a gully further along the summit ridge, looked a difficult quest given the boulders were coated in snow and ice. Anyway down we went, Tom catching up far more quickly than expected having abandoned his gully quest due to the dangerous ground.

What a fantastic day on the hill. We left Wales quite late, but the day had being well worth the effort. Thanks to all in the party for a great day. 780 metres ascent and 11 kilometres distance.

Thanks to everyone for a great weekend.

Bob Power, Meet Leader

Lakes, Little Langdale 1/2nd Feb 2020

With a damp weekend forecast, Phil and TT managed to stay dry on a circuit of Lathkill Dale and Youlgreave en route to Little Langdale, via Ambleside Chip Shop. On arriving at the hut on a dark Friday evening with an interesting last mile, (anyone previously visiting this hut will probably remember that lane!), a little door knocking to get abandoned cars correctly parked, and Jonathan, Bob and Steve arrived perfectly on cue. A chat and a beer and all retired to bunks.

Saturday morning with a forecast of strong winds and rain, TT and Phil ditched the NE ridge of Wetherlam plan,

and we all set off for a valley walk from the hut. By Hodge Close to Tilberthwaite, Tarn Hows, Low Arnside and a drenching back to the hut via the magnificent Cathedral Quarry. A quick change of clothes, a few beers in the



Three Shires Inn, and back to the hut for a few more and dinner. A good evening was had by all.

Another poor forecast on Sunday saw Phil and TT do a loop of Langdale from the hut via Baysbrown and Blea Tarn, whilst the other guys headed over to Ambleside for some retail therapy. Thanks guys for another very enjoyable weekend. **Phil Stewart**

A note from President Bob. "Three events this year in my calendar that anyone can join if they wish"

26-29th June - Dales Cycle Way 140 miles – On the road ride through the magnificent Yorkshire Dales taking in great places like Malham, Ingleton, Hawes, Swaledale, Reeth and Kettlewell

https://cycledales.org.uk/route/yorkshire_dales_cycleway/

18-24th July – French Pyrenees Hut to Hut – 6 days walking and 1 climbing day over 80 kilometres distance with 5600 metres of ascent and a climb of the highest mountain in the French Pyrenees, Vignemale 3260 metres.

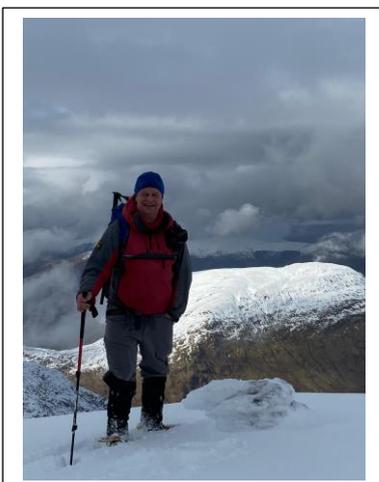
<https://1iuvrm4emucl48rfpi1335nf-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/CMH-Hut-to-Hut/French-Pyrenees-7n-Factsheet-2020-V2.pdf>

18-22th September – Pennine Bridleway 170 miles mainly off road from Middleton to Kirkby Stephen. This trip is still in the early planning stage, so work in progress... **Bob Power**

And finally...

Your Committee has voted to make long-standing member Pam Summers an Honorary Member of Polaris.

Ryan is organising has been in touch with the BMC and is organising a crag clean-up for Beeston Tor. Please contact Ryan for details



STOP PRESS... Steve Wright has *just* completed his Munros with the ascent of Sgurr na h-Ulaidh 994m on 4th March. He was joined on the summit Phil Stewart, Elt, TT, Jonathan, Bob, Ian Johnson and Sip. Congratulations Steve, that's a great achievement!

