



Promoting Interest in Mountain Activities

## The Gwydyr Monthly Newsletter July 2015

Hello and welcome to the July edition of the monthly newsletter. Later this month I would like to publish an edition of the magazine. So **PLEASE** send me some articles for inclusion. These can be any length and on any topic. Photo articles with just some captions would be most welcome. As I stated in the last newsletter, we live in a digital era where people seem to want to photograph and record everything so it should not be that difficult to send something for the magazine. The deadline for this is 15<sup>th</sup> July but I can be flexible on this. The magazine will not happen without you, the members, supporting it. So please, if you can, send in a contribution.

### What's On This Month

3-4 Brynchrug Camping Meet (Nuala)

11 Saturday Walk: Sandstone Trail (Chris Harris)

17-18 Hut Weekend: Prospective Members Meet (Kevin McEvoy)

### Future Attractions!

#### August

1-2 Rhoscolyn Camping Meet (Kevin McEvoy).

7-8 Hut Weekend.

\*14-15 Additional Hut Weekend\*.

#### September

4-5 French Alps Week (Anna Roberts)

11-12 Lleyn Peninsular Camping (Dave Gray)

18-19 Hut Weekend

25-26 Chairman's Luxury Meet (Lin Jensen & Sue Taylor)



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## Recent Activity

### June

5-6 Patterdale Hut Meet (Kevin McEvoy).

A total of 23 members attended this meet which was last on the meets list two years ago. Kev had booked the George Starkey hut in Patterdale for the weekend. This hut is ideally situated to enable access to a range of Lakeland fells including Helvellyn. I had last stayed in this particular hut in the early 1990s when still a member of the Castle Club in Sheffield. Therefore I was really keen to return to a venue I had used on a number of occasions but quite some time ago!

The weather the previous week had been good, however it turned very wet on the journey up to the Lake District on Friday afternoon. Unfortunately the fine weather did not last and the BBC weather forecasters were warning of 65 miles per hour gusts on the Lakeland fells for Saturday. This did not deter GMC members and a large party set off from the hut to attempt Hart Crag. After a pleasant walk along the valley we then began the gradual climb on a good path up towards the summit of Hart Crag. The gusts of winds increased in strength as we ascended and some people were finding it difficult to stay on their feet and indeed move forward. At a shoulder about two hundred feet from the summit after a group discussion, the party split with the majority continuing on to the summit and a smaller group descended a good path into Dovedale and thence back to the hut. The summit party succeeded in reaching the top despite the wind and then followed the other group down the same route back to Patterdale. Despite the wind it was a good day out which was done largely in dry conditions.

Other groups were on Helvellyn and again suffered from the effects of the wind and plans were amended as appropriate.

On Saturday evening 20 members enjoyed a meal in the White Lion pub just along the road.

Sunday was much better as the wind had moderated considerably and the sun even came out. One group did Helvellyn via Striding Edge while others did various routes around or up Place Fell before heading home.

26-27 Welsh 3000s.

As has already been reported by the Secretary, this weekend marked the annual club



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event of tackling all 14 (or 15 if you count Carnedd Gwenlian) peaks in North Wales over 3,000 feet in one continuous journey. This year saw 6 members setting out from Pen y pass at various times early Saturday morning. While one, Dave Cole, deciding to spend the Friday night on the summit of Snowdon and start from there.

Unfortunately one member had a nasty fall on the descent to Nant Peris and had to retire. Two people decided to finish at Ogwen having completed the first two sections, no mean feat in its own right. So this year we had four people completing the whole challenge. Congratulations to Geoff Brierley who completed in eight hours thirty five minutes, a thoroughly deserved winning time, and John Simpson who completed in ten hours fifteen minutes. A special mention to Lyndsey Fooks and Fiona Langton who completed the whole challenge. They were accompanied by Bryn Roberts on the first section, Teresa Peddie on the second section and I met them on Carnedd Llywelyn to complete the final section having driven round to Two Stones. They may not have finished in the fastest time ever recorded but they showed remarkable determination and will power to keep going until the very end despite being on their feet for nearly twenty four hours. While conditions on the first two sections were very good, on the Carneddau they were certainly not. It was cold, very windy, raining and the final four peaks were done in darkness! It just goes to show that if you are determined enough, this challenge can be done. Perhaps their example will encourage other members to have a go in future years.

Thanks to Dave Edwards, David Lane-Joynt and Dave Gray for manning the support stations at Nant Peris and Ogwen and providing transport. Thanks to Kevin McEvoy, and Doug Florence for picking up finishers at Two Stones and also to Bryn and Teresa for accompanying the ladies on their respective sections. This event could not take place without members providing support and I hope that more members will consider taking on a supporting role in future years, particularly those members who have done the event and benefitted themselves from the support of others.

## Committee News

The next committee meeting is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## Other News

Remember that an extra member's only hut weekend has been added to the meets list in August for the weekend of 14-15.



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## **Chairman's Thoughts**

As I write this we are currently experiencing the hottest day of the year, indeed the hottest July day since records began. Summer has finally arrived! As reported earlier in this newsletter the month of June began with extremely high winds and cold temperatures and is ending with some welcome sunshine and heat. Summer brings very long hours of daylight which are great for tackling big challenges or long days. It also brings heat and the possibility of sunburn or indeed sunstroke. Therefore we need to take the necessary precautions and ensure we are properly hydrated before, during and after days in the hills. Summer also brings out insects. I wrote about ticks in the last newsletter. This last weekend during the Welsh 3000s we witnessed the worst incidence of midges at the Chapel that I can recall. Yes I am afraid they are not simply a Scottish phenomenon! As it was so hot people had left windows open especially in the showers. On Saturday morning the sinks and even the ceiling and walls were covered by the little demons. So be wary if you are out at the Chapel about leaving windows and doors open especially at night. I would also recommend packing some insect repellent!!

This month my book recommendation is *The Grahams and the Donalds*, Edited by Rab Anderson and Tom Prentice, Scottish Mountaineering Trust (Publications) Ltd, 2015. This is the latest in the Scottish Mountaineering Clubs' hillwalkers guides, following on from the Munro and the Corbett guides. The Grahams is a list of 224 Scottish hills between 2,000ft (610m) and 2,500ft (672m) first compiled in 1992. The Donalds is a list of 140 hill summits above 2,000ft (610m) in the Scottish Lowlands and was compiled by Percy Donald in 1935. I purchased a copy of this book on the way up to Ullapool at Whitsun and used it when ascending hills such as Suileven and Stac Pollaidh. The route descriptions and maps are very good and there are some exceptional photographs throughout the whole book. I have been critical of the SMC in the past but I believe that they have improved their game for this particular book. I know many members will wish to complete the Munros or Corbetts but don't ignore these hills. Those of you familiar with Assynt or Sutherland in the far north west of Scotland will be aware of the many spectacular hills that rise out of the surrounding countryside. This book covers many of these. The Donalds are often overlooked as people hurry north to the highlands. Once again there are some excellent days to be had out on these hills. I would recommend the hills around Glen Troll in Galloway. Also if you want to break your journey north with a quick walk then the hills around Moffat in the borders such as Hart Fell or White Coomb are not far from the M74 and well worth considering.

Enjoy summer while it lasts.

Pete