

Carlisle Mountaineering Club

Newsletter – March 2008

Meets Report February 2008

The winter monsoon eventually broke in February but alas we did not return to winter conditions! However there were a couple of weekends when the weather was distinctly spring like and various members got out on the crags.

Roy Bridge Feb 23rd-24th

Fired with enthusiasm for ice, we tried to find it on Ben Nevis and in Glencoe but were defeated by huge gusts, rain blowing upwards on the slabs and swollen streams. Warned by a team of lucky Frenchmen who had climbed for 5 days from the CC Hut, retreat was not exciting but sensible. “Ah” they said with a French shrug “Now we see what the real Scottish weather is like!” A “severe” climb in Glen Nevis was some compensation in big boots, wind and a blizzard at the top. 14 out of the 24 who had booked The Little Houses actually ignored the forecast and turned up. Some embarked on longish lower walks (Jackie was nearly blown down as she left the train which rapidly decided her route!) or cycled or did an easy Munro or managed the corrie up to the top of the Ben.(Dave Rice and Pete).On Sunday, on A`Mharconaich, conveniently near to the A9, we found a snow slope to justify carrying the axes and crampons for 3 days. Helen’s party captured 2 Munros near Roy Bridge, while Jane and Simon found another one before returning to Edinburgh We made the best of it, enjoying the blizzards and found it all very atmospheric. Maybe next time??? **Sue**

Sunday 10th February, Raven Crag, Langdale.

The two Johns, Watson and Holden met up at Penrith Leisure centre at a frosty 9 o’clock and enjoyed a wonderful drive round to Langdale in fine temperature inversion conditions, glimpses through the fog to the sun-soaked tops along Thirlmere being particularly lovely and bagging the last parking space in the ODG NT carpark.

By now the mist had cleared and the crag was bathed in glorious sunshine so by the time we touched the rock it was pleasantly warm. Holly Bush Traverse was our first outdoor route of the year, followed by Centipede (now climbing in T shirts!), John W was not entirely

Free Tickets

I was sent 2 free tickets for the Outdoors Show in Birmingham at the NEC on the 14th- 16th March so if you are in the area and can use the tickets, ring me.
Sue

Coming Events

Members’ slide night Weds
April 9th

At Morton 7.30 p.m starting with coffee and biscuits. Please bring your best shots.

Club Website

The club website is now up and running! It’s got all the meets reports, newsletters, latest news, weather and members’ articles. Find it at:

www.carlislemc.co.uk

If you have any photographs or articles you would like to see on the website, please email them to:

feedback@carlislemc.co.uk

Joe Miller

Newsletter update:

This month we are trying sending newsletters by email to those of you who have said you’d like to receive it that way, so some of you may get two newsletters. If you would like to get an email newsletter, and help the club save money, please let Ray Cassidy know, at:

membership@carlislemc.co.uk

Thanks



John on Centipede

convinced by my assurance that, “you will enjoy this”, as he started the traverse out to the arête on pitch 3 but I think he quite liked it really, what do you think?

After lunch we followed Steve Broatch and Jim Fotheringham over to Raven Crag East, ending our day with the very pleasant single pitch of Mamba. Jim and Steve also had a good day on Odin and Kneewrecker Chimney on the main crag and Ophidia and Jingo over on the East Buttress.

Weekend of 22nd – 24th Feb. Roy Bridge.

Yet again the weather played its wild card and conspired to strip all the good snow and ice below about 4000ft so it was not surprising that no less than 10 folks dropped out of this meet. The folks who did turn up had a varied weekend, the walkers seeming to have the best of it, thanks to Helen for the following report of their weekend : -

Saturday

Helen & Peter set off from Kinloch Laggan on their mountain bikes and cycled into a head wind to the Youth Hostel at the end of Loch Ossian 15 miles away. Here they met Matt B & Matt E who had caught the train to Corroul station and climbed Beinn Na Lap (935m/3068ft). The ride back with a tail wind was much easier (and even easier for Matt B & Matt E as they caught the train!).

Sunday

Matt B & Matt E left Roy Bridge at 5.30am and headed South to knock off a couple of munros in the Glen Etive hills and hoped to arrive home mid afternoon. Helen, Peter, Dave R & Pete S (who had climbed Ben Nevis on the Saturday) drove to Fersit and climbed Stob Coire Sgriodain (979m/3212ft) and Chno Dearg (1046m/3432ft) which overlook Loch Treig (which they occasionally got views of). They had a mixture of sun, rain, snow & high winds and terrain that ranged from bogs & rock to snow & ice.

And this from Sue Greenwood :

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And finally, this from Pete who, with Dave were heroes of the weekend : -

Dave and myself pushed our boundaries a bit more this weekend. We managed to get up onto Ben Nevis via the Allt a Mhuillinn past the CIC Hut and around to a snow slope at Coire Leis then up onto the Carn Mor Dearg Arete ridge and onto the Summit. We planned to descend via the Dearg Arete Ridge but the wind was too strong so we chose the Tourist Route back down.

Sunday, Pete, Helen, Dave & myself went up onto Stob Coire Sgriodain and onto Chno Dearg just behind Loch Treag. A very wet and boggy route in which we experienced Sunshine, Snow, Fog, Rain and some very pleasing views when the weather allowed.

All in all a very hard but enjoyable weekend, and I was really impressed with the quality of the Chalet at the Little Houses, very good indeed. My hearty congratulations to everyone who turned up and seem to have made the best of a very rough weekend.

Future Meets

Sunday March 9th, Joe's meet, nominally in the Lakes, if it's dry perhaps a bit of Lakeland rock, if it's dubious maybe a bit of Yorkshire Limestone and if its icy....well slap me down with a wet kipper! Contact Joe Miller for info near the day.

March 14th – 16th Roy Bridge, keep your fingers crossed. We currently have just one place left at the bargain rate of £20, so if you want to go get in touch with John Holden as soon as possible! The weather in Scotland at the moment is "promising" so who knows, it could be a good 'un.

Sunday March 30th Sees the Newcomers meet based on Wodens face as last year. Helen Costello is the contact for this meet, any new members to the club, novices or expert are particularly invited to this meet to get to know the club. Helen will need the help of a few good climbing leaders, so please come and give her your support.

I am now taking reservations for the Skye meet (May 2nd – 5th) in Carbost, a very popular venue from last year, I will put details of the hostel and the cost in the next Newsletter.

EVENING MEETS START OFFICIALLY NEXT MONTH....WHOOPEE

John Holden, Meets Secretary

Rjukan, Norway Feb 10th-17th

12 of us ventured forth on to the ice crags and some longer routes in Rjukan again, finding conditions different from last year, with lots of soft snow and glassier ice this time. An occasional bit of plastic ice was greeted with joy! No wind and ideal temperatures ranging from minus 12 to plus 5 as we left meant that we could not have asked for better weather. The sun shone above the gorge every day and the pointed Gausstoppen towered pink at sunset. The industrial area looked far less forbidding and the ice was blue and sparkling., and flying around freely, requiring much ducking from belayers, if they were quick enough. Greg now has another new 60-foot rope and so is equipped for dozens of trips. Ray has some young Norwegian contacts from the late night when as he says he forgot he was not a teenager. The Ggjestegard Hostel was comfortable and slightly modernised with enough utensils if we were cunning and Tony as Master Chef supervised amazing meals, quickly in a tiny kitchen. Very friendly. We met the Man Beast, a huge and capable climber whose adage "Trust your 1st pick", we certainly did not follow! Ian Armstrong's "Monsters" were much envied and admired for their sinister beauty and sharpness. He and his friend Bruce conquered some excellent routes. The visit surpassed all expectations and there is still masses to do there if the routes are in condition. **Sue**