

End of June 2009 Bulletin.

Note from myself, Madam Chairman.

Hi everyone,

The first two weeks in June saw fifteen GMC members out in force in the Lauterbrunnen valley in Switzerland, a trip organised by Sue, with three Gourmet Trekkers joining them for the second week. It sounds like there was a very active fortnight's walking of high level walks (including a white-out walk to the Monch Hut) and 'gentle' valley walks but there was still some time left to take the Glacier Express from Zermatt to St. Moritz with a fine dining experience and even a cruise on the lake at Interlaken. Some also managed a whistle-stop tour of Bern on their way back to Geneva.

Dave has been up in Scotland again – it seems to have been a popular destination for him this year (watch out for any change in accent) – and many more Corbetts have been conquered. His trip at the end of May was to Lochaber and then the Fisherfield Forest where he backpacked from Dundonnell to Poolewe over five days. He did three Munros including Sgurr Eilde Mor (Bob's last Munro), and eight Corbetts. He is looking well on it (not that I'm looking !!!).

The middle of June saw a group of us staying at Nuala, Chris & Patrick's place in Bryncreg near to Tywyn. Their garden became a campsite and the venue for a barbecue on the Saturday night. Throughout the weekend various groups did activities including rock climbing, ascents of Cader Idris and other walks. Nuala, Patrick & I walked up to the lake in Cwm Cau in glorious weather, having a picnic and a paddle. The area was very busy as there was an event on – The Welsh Three Peaks (Snowdon, Cader Idris and Pen-y-Fan) with about eighty groups entering – as well as sore muscles by the end of the day I think many will have had too much sun. Paul, Chris and Mab (the newish Dunn 4-legged family member) did a long walk as training for the Welsh Three Thousands – we drove for miles and then dropped them off to walk back over mountains - they arrived at the other side of the estuary from the house as the barbecue was in progress, shouted over, and Andy Chapman canoed over and picked them up. Sunday saw a group of us walking up Bird rock – fantastic views – and then down to the beach. No cozzzy but had to go for a dip in shorts and t-shirt (of course, Dave went in as usual) – it's been a while since I have been in the sea off Britain – the surf was great, and the Dunns and the Jemmett-Stones took the opportunity to do some surfing. The ice-cream parlour was paid a visit at the end of the day, Turkish Delight flavoured.

As usual, day walks have been popular. Mark's Lyme Park walk on Saturday 20th June sounded good, and Huxley joined them afterwards in the pub – so a good day had by all.

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Mike Mac's Thursday day walk on 25th June was up Snowdon to include a visit to the new café. There were fifteen people on the walk, starting from Sue's place at Nant Gwynant (a very low start!) up the south ridge and then down the Miners/PYG track to the Pen-y-Gwryd. The general opinion seemed to be that the café was certainly an improvement from the previous building on the site. I haven't seen it myself so looking forward to chatting to all on their thoughts of the new building, and then getting to see it myself soon.

The last weekend in June saw the Welsh Three Thousands (cheers to Hux for reviving the traditional name) event. There were five entrants (six entrants if you include Geoff who was entering until he left the Hut at 5am to go in the car to the start and decided against it (RTL went by his name on the list – retired through lethargy). The weather was damp and warm with poor visibility.

When meeting up with Support at Nant Peris all those doing the walk said that it was damp, warm and slippery up in the mountains. Chris Harris said that when he saw the ridge of Crib Goch protruding above the mist he felt like he was standing on the wing tip of a plane. This gave him a touch of vertigo as he felt he was at 30,000 feet (although 3,000 feet is still pretty high if you fall off).

Andy Chapman won in 11 hours 12 minutes. Chris Harris finished in 15 hours 35 minutes, and Paul Smyth and Chris Dunn finished together in 19 hours and 30 minutes, after taking a nap on the Glyders!!!. Dave Cole decided to rest on last year's victory and descended to Ogwen after Glyder Fach.

Many thanks to the excellent support group headed by Huxley and including Geoff, Helen Avison, Pete Mann, Dave Gray, Janet Harris and myself. Had more people entered there were more people at the Hut who would have been happy to help with the Support. As it happened, these people were able to get a day out on the hill themselves. It was a really good club weekend at the Hut.

As a postscript, it was great to see so many entries and I look forward to seeing more next year. I welcome your thoughts on also having 3-person relay teams entering to make the event more accessible to all.

Hope you are all enjoying the good weather.

Regards
Christine