



THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue 371

May 2017

FORTHCOMING MEETS

May	20	Pen y Ghent – Novice Members – Mountaineering Introduction Meet Horton Car Park SD807727 – Jonathan Carter: jonathan.carter1973@hotmail.co.uk 20
	21	Twistleton Scar (Ingleton) – “Progression to Rock” – Roadside Parking SD717477 Jonathan Carter: jonathan.carter1973@hotmail.co.uk
	26/28	Conistون Hut – Spring Break – Booking: ymchut@gmail.com
	27 - June 3	Scotland (Assynt) – Naismith Hut, Elphin NC216118 Sean Kelly: sean@phukawi.com
June	2/3	Wales – Beddgelert Hut – Joint Meet with West Bromwich M.C. SH625502 Jonathan Carter: jonathan.carter1973@hotmail.co.uk
	16/17	Conistون Hut – Novice Members “Progression to Rock” consolidation weekend Jonathan Carter: jonathan.carter1973@hotmail.co.uk
	23/24	Conistون Hut – Housekeeping Meet – Booking: ymchut@gmail.com
July	2	Dent – Car Park SD703871 – Laurie Morse and Graham Willis lauriemorse@hotmail.co.uk gcw@dial.pipex.com
	16	Stanage – Climb/Walk – Car Park SK 245830 – Graham & Kath Willis gcw@dial.pipex.com
	21/22	Conistون Hut – Joint Meet with West Bromwich M.C. – Jonathan Carter Jonathan Carter: jonathan.carter1973@hotmail.co.uk
August	HOLIDAY PERIOD. NO OFFICIAL MEETS	

TUESDAY LUNCH MEETS

May 9 - Hare & Hounds, Menston
June 13 - The Stubbing Wharf, King St, Hebden Bridge
July 11 - The Hermit Inn, Burley Woodhead
Aug 8 - The White House, Blackstone Edge
Sept 12 - Hare & hounds, Mewnston

Meet at noon for an afternoon of gourmet eating and scintillating conversation.

For further information, please contact Derek Field on 0113 2351332

EDITORIAL

In the last issue of the Newsletter, 370, there was considerable optimism that most of the vacant Officer/Committee posts would be filled and this has proved correct. Only the three posts stated in that issue remain to be filled. We have temporary stewardship of TYM but the roles of President and Vice President are still open to offers, These are not the onerous roles they were in the past so if anyone fancies lending a hand to the cause please contact the Club Secretary.

The AGM at Thornfield House Morley was the first to take place there and went well, It seemed a little strange to have a different venue after over thirty years at Birstall.

The continuing success of the YMC Meetup Group is welcome and has resulted in an influx of Aspirant members and the meets have been well attended. However, the group has only one Organiser, Jonathan Carter who is doing a splendid job but the more successful the scheme is, the more intensive the organising becomes. As these notes are compiled we understand that an Event Organiser has been appointed to share the workload. A positive step.

Following the non-receipt of articles meant for TYM, please be aware that the address to be used is ymcsec2016@gmail.com

Have a good spring/early summer.

YOUNG PERSONS REGULATION

It has been brought to our attention that Club regulations regarding the attendance of children at the Hut has not been adhered to. Whilst staying at the Club Hut, all young persons under the age of 18 must be under the supervision of a responsible adult i.e parent/guardian or a person nominated as such.

The entry in the Hut Register for all young persons must be endorsed by the responsible adult.

This is not being done so if the situation arises, please sign in the attendance Register. Your signature confirms that authorisation has been given by the young person's parent/guardian.

FOR YOUR DIARY



We have been asked to make members aware of the Club's Wales Meet taking place on October 20/21. This will be at the Tan y Garth hut (above) in the Capel Curig area.

10 places have been booked in this well-appointed hut, with the fee being £10 p.p.p.n.

Bookings will **not** be taken before September 8th and a reminder will be posted in the next issue of T.Y.M.

WELCOME

Since the last issue of The Yorkshire Mountaineer several more people have joined the Club, mostly as Aspirant members. They are listed below and we would like to give them a warm welcome.

Amy Fulford
Joe Carroll
Jacob Oakley
Elizabeth [Liz] Osbourn
John Beacroft-Mitchell

We hope they enjoy their association with the club.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

One of the benefits of club membership is Third Party Liability insurance and since the BMC published Club Guidelines on the subject back in January, a summary is included for the benefit of old and new members alike. This appears on page 12.

YMC MEETUP GROUP

On January 3rd 2017 this group was activated and straight away demand for membership was surprising given the plethora of Meetup Groups in existence. There was an initial limit of 50 members – governed by the fee paid to activate – and this was reached within the first two hours. A further 50 were on the reserve list. The decision to supplement the initial establishment was supplemented to allow for unlimited members. At the time of writing, membership totalled 244. New applications are received virtually every day, mainly from the local area.

The Group's programme is based on the YMC Meets List and as a result has provided a welcome boost to attendances on weekend meets. The weekly visits to climbing walls, mainly Leeds and Sheffield, not on the club's meet card, have also proved successful. We have Jonathan to thank for that.

There have been some meet reports submitted by YMC members who have led specific meets and it would be nice to have something to publish about the specific Novice Members meets but the demands of organising such events are great, particularly the constant task of updating the Meetup website.

It has been mentioned on occasions that Jonathan might appreciate some assistance, more so now that membership has risen and the preference for existing members is for 'organised meets.' Graham Willis was recently added to the team as Meets Organiser and this can only be beneficial in the overall scheme of things. Other YMC members are welcome to give assistance when ever they can.

Quite a number of Meetup members have subsequently joined as Aspirant Members so they must be pleased with the way things are turning out. Our task is to persuade them to join the Club permanently and that is why assistance in any shape or form is more than welcome.

There may be an absence of reports for current Meetups but lots of photographs have been taken, so featured below are just a few random shots to give a flavour of the activities.



KETTLEWELL MEET

Sunday February 26th – by Graham Willis



Present: Graham Willis, Kath Willis, Steve Bartlett, Eve Bartlett, Geoff Hiser, Jonathan Carter, Steph and Shoaib (both of the YMC Meetup Group).

With the meet taking place twixt storms 'Doris' and 'Ewan' we expected wet and windy weather and weren't disappointed but the hills were free of any snow or ice. The weather forecast having warned of deteriorating conditions 9 hardy souls turned up at Kettlewell village car park. Steph joining us for her second meet of the year and Shoaib on his first outing, both from the YMC Meetup Group.

The meet coordinator having changed a few times prior to the day due to illness and incapacity it was generally agreed that we'd follow an anticlockwise route up and over Great Whernside and take in Buckden Pike if we felt like it in the afternoon.

Steve kept us entertained on the walk up Dowber Gill with his involuntary back flip off the footpath into the swollen gill but no lasting damage ensued. After spending time at the entrance of Providence Pot and sheltering by Hag Dyke Scout Hostel we got the full force of the wind as we crested the rise above the hostel. The fell side hereabouts is boggy even in mid-summer so after a few days of rain it looked uninviting and circuitous routes were forged to try to maintain dry feet. So far we'd had more in the way of wind than rain but with the cloud base about 550m and dropping we were quickly into the wet as well.

Some shelter was obtained in the crevices of the summit rocks but with the wind seemingly coming from every direction we headed off to the hollowed out cairn and shelter on Blackfell Top which likewise wasn't an attractive proposition as a lunch stop either, so we continued down to Tor Dyke to find cover out of the cloud and wind by the intake wall. Like the ascent route this part of the fell is just a large expanse of bog being part of the watershed into Park Gill Beck. Shoaib taking over from Steve showed us all how to get some involuntary body surfing done.

After a quick lunch and in deteriorating conditions we decided to save Buckden Pike for another day and head off over Cam Head to pick up the Top Mere Road green lane back to Kettlewell.



About 13k /8m & 570m ascent.

Refreshment was taken at the Blue Bell Inn drying out in front of the fire where we were joined by the cast and crew of the Bollywood film production washed out from the filming of a horror movie in the village.





The Raeburn Hut sheltered by Scots pines

Present : Ralph Crouch [RC], Malcolm Lomas [ML], Caroline Phillips [CP], William Stevenson [WS], Jane Wainwright [JW], Kath and Graham Willis [K & GW].

The Raeburn is situated in the former Halfway House 2/3 of the way between Dalwhinnie and Laggan. It was inhabited in the 30s by a novelist who wrote a book about a war breaking out with Germany in 1944. It's a bit out of the way for winter climbing in the Northern Cairngorms but fairly handy for Creag Meagidh.

Friday 10th

RC and WS walked on the trackless low hills east of the hut because there was low cloud and sporadic light rain, Craig na Sanais, Meallach Chaitrine and Meall Ruigh nam Bibrag. In the afternoon WS went to try to find Cluny's Cave (tiny layby at Lochan Uvie, by a gate through the fence, judging by the internet I didn't find it) and the nearby Lady Cluny Memorial.



FaraEilde: view Sw from Creag na Sanais 2km NE of the hut. Ralph Crouch on the photo.

Saturday 11th:

CP climbed Corbett Beinn a' Chuallaich and ML and JW went to nearby Loch Caillich. They discovered a beautifully maintained open bothy by the forest on the way up. The future Lairds o' Balsporran K&GW went from the eponymous cottages up Creagan Mòr then down to an unmarked quad bike track on the NE ridge of Geal-Charn and through some snow to the summit. They then adjourned to spend the remainder of the day more profitably at a hostelry in Newtonmore, surrounded by morose Scots watching the England-Scotland rugby. RC went to Ruthven Barracks at Kingussie then to the top of Croidh-la east of Glen Tromie. He descended to the track just by the river, crossed it at Glentromie Lodge and returned to the road. WS struggled through whiteout and soft snow to A' Bhuidheanach Bheag then the cloud miraculously cleared and it was an easy trip to Carn na Caim, followed by a surprisingly easy descent SW then W then NW through short and boulder free heather back to the A9.



Left to right:

NE ridge of Beinn a Clachair

Creagan Mor

Geal Charn (the other one)

Sunday 12th:

JW ML K&GW to Blair Atholl, Old Blair then NNW by Glen Banvie to Meall Tionail bothy, and back the same way. CP went via Blair Atholl, Gilbert's Bridge to Beinn Mheadhonach, one of the highest Corbetts at 901m. RC attempted some slush climbing from Coire Cas up the North Ridge past the Ptarmigan restaurant to Cairngorm Summit. He returned via Stob Coire an t-Sneachda and the Coire. WS walked up the Sow of Atholl in a very strong wind and low cloud followed by the Boar of Badenoch and saw 4 Arctic Hares and many stoat traps.

Monday 13th:

Ralph went home to prepare for his epic retirement trip round the National Parks of the Western USA and JW CP ML K&GW WS enjoyed a sunny but windy ascent to the coire below Creag Meaghaidh on the excellent track. WS had hoped to ascend via an easy ramp to the top of the crags but abandoned because of the strong wind. CP returned to Spean Bridge and the others returned to the hut for an early bath. WS went on another short walk east from the hut to a locked fishing hut on Loch Caoldair, then up Creag na Doire Duibhe.



Graham and Kath Willis, Caroline Phillips are in almost centre foreground.

Tuesday 14th:

JW ML K&GW went for some extra days in Aviemore, and WS battled against very strong winds up to the monument south of Drumgask Farm near Laggan. The plaque is illegible due to coverage by lichen, but this large cairn could be a memorial to the Laird of Cluny as the line of sight to the Lady Cluny monument passes very close to Cluny Castle.

Despite the unseasonably warm weather, a convivial meet at a cosy hut with communal meals.

Some SMC members we met in the hut said this had been the worst winter season in years for climbing and skiing.

THRUSCROSS MEET

Sunday March 26th – by Graham Willis



Present: Laurie Morse, Kath Willis, Graham Willis

It was always going to be pot luck with the meet taking place on Mothering Sunday, along with the clocks changing. However, in the end three YMC members turned up at starting point at Thruscross reservoir car park in the Yorkshire Dales, a number of members and guests having sent their apologies at short notice.

It was a bright cool'ish morning as we left the almost empty car park and headed out along the southern edge of the reservoir before climbing away from the water to join the Duke's Lane on to Rocking Moor and up on to Rocking Hall (Shooting Lodge) to spend some time investigating the building with all three rooms accessible to the public.

Having made good time we decided to head north across the Great Stray to pick up the green lane track crossing Pock Stones Moor and after passing the farms at Bramley Head, Lane Bottom and Duke's Hill we headed across Whit Moor to have lunch in brilliant sunshine on a conveniently placed seat overlooking the River Washburn's entry into Thruscross reservoir.

After lunch we followed the permissive path around the northern edge of the reservoir back to the start point and a very full car park.

About 15k /9m & 300m ascent.

I have entered twice before but this was the first time I've actually attended the competition and photo show. What follows are the stories behind the three photos that I entered for last year's competition.

Shot 1: Ben Hirst on The Great Santini, E4 6a.



I called it “Ben Hirst - cool, calm and on sight on The Great Santini (E4 6a)” on UK Climbing. Taken in November, 2011. We had a great day up at Dovestones (aka Raven Peak) that day with quite a big team out. Before moving round to the front face, facing the mighty A59 Harrogate - Skipton Road, we “made a train” (as the young people say) on a classic E1 – just a bit too high for bouldering and proper E1 in difficulty – Coin for a Beggar E1 6a, 8m. I might mostly be a boulderer but I’ll never really understand how something 8 metres high can be seen as “highball” however fashionable the term becomes.

Other things were climbed but the standout climb was the one in the picture. Ben led it first; he was very cool and collected. He is a real all-rounder, which people might find unusual for someone in his twenties when today most seem to restrict themselves to a greater or lesser extent. Ben works in outdoor education and his climbing CV is diverse: hard trad and eye-wateringly hard bouldering added to mad-keenness for Scottish Winter climbing and the Alps.

Keith Morgan (pictured on belay) followed and he battled, and battled some more. Granted, Keith is a little older (he is actually Ben’s mum’s partner). He gave the assembled team a master-class on sheer bloody mindedness and hanging on.

It was getting pretty cold by this point so I elected to go for the “Yorkshire Lead” (or “Pinkpoint”) on Ben’s gear so asked Keith to leave it in place (though I did port a couple of extra bits). A check of UK Climbing shows that many people take this slightly softer option. One trick I (mostly) remember is to cut your cloth according to the conditions. *Santini* gives classy, in-your-face climbing.



Shot 2: Ben Clarke doing a new problem at Great Wolfrey, March 2016

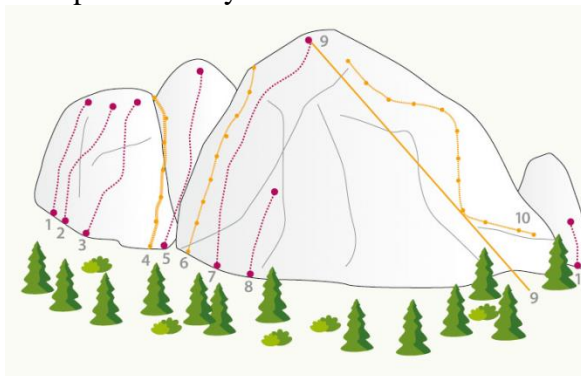
There were some comments from the assembled YMC members about the number of “mattresses” and how low the problem was. Let’s not dice words – those views are **error**. All the best Yorkshire climbers from the 19th Century onwards have bouldered. Also, for many of the under 30s (and many older climbers) bouldering is climbing. Ben’s father, Paul Clarke wrote up

Great Wolfrey for the latest guide. He is pretty comprehensive at most crags but the long walk-in and the necessary focus on biggish E-number checking left a few plumbs to be picked – this shot is a new one, *Running with the Pack* 6b+. *Clarkie Junior* is another talented climber in his twenties.



Shot 3: Tyrolean Shadows – William Hunt then aged 10, July 2016

The final boy is my own son. William has been dragged climbing from the time before he could walk but mostly prefers football or scootering (though he has admitted that he is going to love climbing when he is older). He likes indoor bouldering, tending to find routes a bit of a faff but he loved this little training via ferrata in the Austrian Alps; he did laps on this Tyrolean traverse.



Kletterpark Jerzins-Hochzeiger is in a forest next to a load of ski runs at 1845 metres above sea level. It has a handful of Sports routes, two via ferratas, a Tyrolean

traverse and a flying fox (we didn't have the kit for this / William's Mummy was present). A topo is available from www.climbers-paradise.com, www.pitzhal.com and local tourist information offices (the topo is from those sites). We got a cable car half way up the mountain and walked down to the "climbing garden".

It is hard to make climbing sound exciting unless it is about people having an epic in the greater ranges. The magic of climbing is in the doing of it and in the reliving of your own experience. Hopefully, these snippets give people ideas for their own adventures.

I only entered to regain the Golden Peg that I'd won the year before last – it is a really nice trophy. I was a bit embarrassed to walk away with the Overall Winner as well.

Return to Assynt - Steve Bostock

As a previous Editor of the Newsletter I am very aware that a lack of articles as the publication date approaches can be very stressful. So having been back to Assynt as part of the YMC meet at the SMC Naismith Hut for Half Term week, I thought I would put some of the events down on paper.

Having been to the Ullapool area on several previous occasions, usually on trips organised by Sam and Cozi, my targets for this trip were unambitious and limited to the few summits that I hadn't yet bagged, viz: Ben Hope, the Old Man of Stoer and Ben More Coigach. A severe lack of cragging in recent years meant that the Old Man of Stoer (at VS 5a) would be a tough ask and I'd be lucky to bag that. Equally, a total lack of fitness cast doubt on my abilities to get up the other two.



[Suilven sunset from the front door of the Hut \(Sunday, 29th May\)](#)

To gauge the enormity of my lack of fitness, I took myself off alone to Breabag (a Corbett adjacent to Ben More Assynt) on Sunday, safe in the knowledge that only I would witness my stumblings and bumbings. In the end I got onto the final ridge before turning back, having taken far too long on the approach; losing the path on the way up and having to tramp across deep heather didn't help. Nonetheless I had a grand day out and remained dry, which is always a bonus in Scotland. Total solitude and silence for much of the day, I didn't see a soul until returning to the glen where a couple of groups were visiting the Bone Caves and being very noisy about it. Other people on the trip were more successful with Suilven, a scramble on Quinag and a number of routes on Stac Pollaidh all being ticked off.

I planned a quiet day on Monday but that was scuppered when Sean said a group were heading up Gleann Dubh to have a look at the Traligill caves. It was warm, sunny, relaxing and the caves are well worth a visit. What more could you want from an easy day.



Smoo Cave (Tuesday, 31st May)

Ben Hope was the aim for Tuesday as two cars set off on the long drive north. A stop at Smoo Cave, in Durness, where access has been improved vastly since my last visit, meant we were fairly late setting off up the hill.

If you've done Ben Hope, you'll know that it's straight up from the car with no opportunity to get into a decent stride and I struggled. At about 700 feet we entered the cloud cover, fully expecting to have the usual Scottish view when we reached the summit. How wrong we were. At about 2000 we climbed out of the cloud to clear blue sky and very little but the last 1000 feet of Ben Hope visible. A stonking day on the hill and the most northerly Munro finally ticked off; also my first in well over 10 years and my first with an artificial hip. Returning via Lairg, we had the bonus of seeing a Golden Eagle at fairly close

range, in Glen Oykel. Tuesday also saw a number of routes done at Ardmair, Suilven done solo and all the tops on Ben More Coigach.

The climbing team (Andrew, Matt and Liz) set off to the coast to do the Old Man of Stoer on Wednesday and most of the rest of us followed to spectate and take pictures. On arrival at the Point of Stoer it was clearly too windy to tackle the Old Man and the team abandoned to a local crag for some sport. The rest of us had a pleasant stroll over the headland to enjoy lunch (purchased at the best Pie Shop in Scotland) with a view of the Old Man. Sun block on and top down for the drive back to Elphin.

Thursday was another easyish day as most of us did Stac Pollaidh with high winds on the summit ridge, while Sean and Sally went paddling (in kayaks not bare feet) around nearby Loch Sionasgaig.

I left on Friday with the weather due to deteriorate, having had a great time yet again in Assynt and with things still to do, an excuse for a return trip some time. I understand the rest of the team had a grand day on Quinag.

Thanks to everyone for waiting around for me on the hill and for your good company. A special thanks to Sean for organising.



The Old Man of Stoer (Wednesday, 1st June)

BMC INSURANCE

Club Guidelines

BMC membership/affiliation includes the following insurance benefits:

- ✓ Combined Liability Insurance for the club and all of its members, including directors, trustees, Officers, honorary members, life members and social members, up to a value of £10,000,000.

The BMC Combined Liability Insurance policy has been specially developed by Perkins Slade and protects clubs against legal liability under Civil Law.

The main features of the Combined Liability Insurance are:

Public Liability

Accidental bodily injury to third parties and/or damage to third party property. This section of the policy provides cover for (a) member to member liability and (b) liability arising out of the sharing of knowledge.

Products Liability

Accidental bodily injury to third parties and/or damage to third party property arising out of any goods lent to another person by an Individual or club member or sold or supplied by the club.

Libel and Slander

Includes defamation, which is vital in relation to allegations of child abuse.

What Combined Liability Insurance means for you

The policy protects you for legal liability following injury or damage to third parties arising in connection with hill walking, climbing and mountaineering (including ski mountaineering). The limit of indemnity in respect of any claim made during the period of insurance is £10 million.

Liability protection covers you for claims against you for injury or damages caused. You and your assets are protected if you are taken to court.

New and Prospective Club Members

New members are insured from the day they pay membership to the club, provided that the club clearly records the date of payment. A prospective club member, who may not have paid for club membership, will be insured through the Combined Liability Insurance policy when engaging in a club's activities, for a maximum trial membership period of three months, provided that the club has a record of that person's details.

To remain insured beyond a trial membership, that person must appear on the club's next quarterly declaration and the appropriate subscription paid to the BMC.

Reporting an Incident

All incidents involving injury or damage to a BMC member or a third party must be reported to Perkins Slade as soon as is reasonably practical. This is a requirement under the Civil Justice System in the UK. Also, you need to supply the BMC office with a copy of your notification.

The following are recognised by the BMC and its insurers as authorised activities which are covered under this policy.

Mountaineering Activities

- Winter and summer mountaineering
- Ski mountaineering, ski touring
- Scrambling and via ferrata
- Rock climbing and bouldering
- Climbing on artificial climbing walls Indoor and outdoor, including competition climbing, Using climbing specific training apparatus (campus and finger boards) in public climbing wall facilities, route setting and abseiling.
- Hill walking, low level walking, guided walks, fell and mountain running, navigation, orienteering, gorge-walking, canyoning and camping.
- Tyrolean traversing, coasteering, slack lining (excluding high lining), emergency first aid in the outdoors and dry tooling.

Note: club members are covered for these activities whether undertaken as part of a club meet or on an individual/personal basis.

Secondary Activities (i.e. activities which are not the main activities of the Club).

These include:

- Cycling, mountain biking.
- Canoeing, kayaking.
- Caving and potholing (excluding underwater exploration).
- Mine exploration of an existing mine (subject to the appropriate legal permission)

Note: club members are covered for these activities in the context of club meets only.