

MEETS REPORT

Error - The report of the Ladies Meet at Edale earlier this year had Ian & Una Laing as attending. In reality it was Iain and Sarah Gilmour

THE LAKES 2000'S

11-12-13 May 2007

A considerable amount of planning went into the meet and true to YRC tradition the odd withdrawal led to some rapid and largely successful rejigging. The stamina of members in their 60s and 70s was much in evidence and impressive including some members who did a hard 2 days and then mopped up the Caldbeck group after some confusion as to who was doing what. Bravo. Mercifully the bathing in all tarns above 2000 was dropped earlier. This would have been a commitment too far, although certainly novel. Weather throughout was varied. Some very poor; but usually improving and occasionally good.

The Achille Ratti Hut provided some very good accommodation and the location was nigh on perfect for most. From 5 am on Saturday 3000 charity walkers passed the hut on a route from Keswick to Barrow much to the disbelief of those lying in bed and being appraised of the fact.

The first "incident" of the weekend was on Friday when a member trapped his finger in a turning bicycle wheel and needed treatment at Keswick A & E.

The definition of the Lakes 2000's was based on Dawson's "The Relative Hills of Britain." He proposed that a 2000 mountain should have a minimum drop of 500' between mountains. There are 110 such tops in Lakeland. All these peaks were scaled, sometimes more than once by a combined effort of 40 members and 1 guest. It was a fine, whole club effort which confirms that although the Club membership is ageing it is still in good heart. When last did we have so many members on a meet? One participant was a new face to many having not been seen for the past 20 years! We hope he has recreated the bond and will be with us rather more frequently in the future.

Only Saturday dinner was catered. This was a fine affair, masterminded by Richard Kirby to whom we are indebted.

Catered meets remain a hugely popular and possibly unique characteristic of the YRC. Long may they continue. Thanks as well to our Director of Communications, Chris Renton.

Munro's 1983
Corbetts 2000
Lakes 2000s 2007
? 2010

Inspiration needed for a proposal for a whole club event in 2010. Any ideas?

In attendance at the Achille Ratti:

President Mike Godden
Bush, Campion, Welch, Lomas, Dover P, Handley, Crowther I, Lovett, Smithson, Wood A, Wood M, Platt, Smith D, Ibberson, Robinson, Dix, Aldred, Selby, Dootson, Linford, Renton C, Collins, English, Josephy R, Edkins, Kirby, Dover R, Chapman, Hick, Hooper, Gilmour, Josephy T,

Based elsewhere:

Hartland, Kinder, Casperson, Coot (G), Schofield, Farrant, Todd.

Visiting:
Gordon Humphreys and Fiona

DJH

DONEGAL: DERRYLAHAN HOSTEL, KILCAR

24-29 May 2007

This Irish meet was based in the Gaelic-speaking 'Gaeltacht' area of southern Donegal to the west of Donegal Town and Killybegs. Renowned for its spectacular coastline, mountainous interior and its traditional music, we were not disappointed!

We were given a warm welcome from Shaun McCloskey and his staff at Derrylahan and the assorted hostel buildings offered bunkhouse, family and self-catering accommodation. The communal kitchen proved a fine international meeting place and information exchange with acquaintanceships being reinforced over evenings in the peat-fire-heated sitting rooms.

Thu 24th

Most members travelled over by ferry to Donegal, with the route from Dublin north of Lough Nigh being declared the faster. Two parties took the opportunity to visit a rain-swept Giants Causeway en route and some to dry out in front of a welcoming peat fire followed by lunch in the Bushmills Hotel, not far from the famous distillery of the same name.

Paul, having arrived early by bus, had a wet walk from Derrylahan to Dundawoona Point and Tawny Hill.

Fri 25th

Dominating the view westwards from our accommodation, Slieve League is claimed to have the highest marine cliffs in Europe. Different parties made the ascent to the summit, with an arête providing some mild scrambling on the direct route.

Dave Hick traversed onto Lachen, the next summit, via coastal approach missing Mick, Adrian Dixon and the two Dovers who took a direct line to the top, finishing at the perfectly named Silver Strand near Malin Beg in glorious sunshine and deep blue seas.

After walking with Flic near Malin Beg, Adrian and Tim escaped for some climbing at Skelpoonagh Bay. Meanwhile Hilary erected her new collapsible canoe for its inaugural marine expedition and paddled the length of Teelin Bay from slipway at Teelin, which was just below the ruins of a coastguard station blown up by the IRA in the twenties.

Sat 26th

Mick, Adrian Dixon, Tim and Paul took off into the Bluestacks Mountains for a round of Lough Belshade, taking in Croaghanirwore, Croaghbarnes (Cruach an Bhearnais) and Ardnageer from the north end of Lough Eske. The going was wet underfoot in the valleys, but lots of splendid granite on the tops with some mild scrambling. Fortunately all the showers that soaked Donegal Town and Sligo passed well to the south allowing us to almost get back to the car without getting wet.

Most other members and guests headed over to the Glencolumbkille peninsula to venture along the spectacular coastline studded with signal towers.

Adrian and Flic ascended Slieve League from Teelin. Adrian and Tim then went down to Muckcross Head to get a couple more routes in.

Later a larger party went into Kilcar to attend the village ceiladh, followed by a session with some excellent musicians and some traditional Irish dancing in Rory O'Connor's Bar in Meananeary.

Sun 27th

Tim took his turn to climb Slieve League while Mike and John visited St John's Point the long peninsular protruding south-west below Killybegs.

On Sunday Dave H walked with Helen and Mike round the Glencolumbkille peninsula with its many ancient crosses and a signal tower. Later visiting Malin Beg's tower and down out of the strong winds to frisbee on the sands with jetsam lid.

Alan and Angie ventured over to the Silver Strand and Malin Beg while Adrian and Mick helped Hilary on another paddle around Kiltyfanned Lough near Port, after deciding that wind and waves in Loughros Bay were a bit too epic for a solo kayaker.

One group headed over to Ardara for dinner followed by a session in the Corner House Bar.

Mon 28th

Another stunning day of weather. Mike and John set off to catch their ferry back to England. Mick, Adrian Dixon, Tim and Dave Hick got dropped off south of Slievetooley on the northern side of the Glencolumbkille peninsula and traversed its two western tops and on down to the sea cliffs near Gull Island. The cliff top path afforded spectacular views past jagged pinnacles to Tormore and Toralaydan islands and were followed west to Port, meeting Paul, Adrian and Flic part way. Afterwards, Adrian, Tim and Paul went to Muckcross Head for spot of climbing.

Mike and Helen Smith did the Slieve League round. In the evening we all met up for a final meal and the odd Guinness together.

Tue 29th

While most of the party were crossing Eire to catch various ferries back to England and Wales, Helen and Mike crossed three of the Blue Stack

tops as we all left - encountering brief hail shower as they started to descend.

They later visited the Maghera (sea) Caves, the Machair sand dunes at Meenlaragh, Hornes Head, Malin Head (basking sharks), Derry, Giant's Causeway, and the waterfalls in Glen Dun in Antrim before heading back to the ferry at Larne.

Richard Ann and Paul went to the Giants Causeway in glorious weather.

Directly below the hostel was a beach offering some several hours of harmless amusement searching for otters. Two holts were identified by Mike and Helen - fresh prints abounded but the otters kept out of sight.

All in all we enjoyed an excellent meet, mostly in stunning weather with some seriously fine coastal and mountain scenery explored, some good music and not a bad drop of Guinness to be found anywhere, despite an extensive search! MB



LONG WALK, LOW WHITA June 22-24

The meet 'The Long Walk' has its origins in the sixties. Not that there weren't such walks before, for example the first recorded one was perhaps the 'Seven Peaks Walk' in 1953 which Cliff Large describes in our journal. The first time the term 'Long Walk' was used was in 1966 when the average age of walkers was about 35. Now the average is 61. Four members completing the walk had an average age of 75.

Ian Crowther the meet organiser can be relied upon to devise a testing and interesting walk. This one was no exception; it clearly revealed the splendour of Swaledale, arguably the most beautiful of all the dales in Yorkshire and perhaps England. However walkers concluded that he had not 'walked' the Sleighmoor section recently, which was waterlogged, indeed we can now claim to be able to 'walk on water'.

From the barn the walk took us along the Swale, Arkle Beck, Cuckoo Hill and Framigton Edge to Langthwaite, a most beautiful section; trees at their best, fast flowing streams and characteristic dales buildings. The shower at this stage perhaps



Adrian Dixon, Tim, David, Paul, Adrian Bridge and Mick, the meet leader.

Attending:

Mick Borroff and Hilary Tearle, Adrian Dixon
Adrian and Felicity Bridge, Tim Josephy
Richard and Ann Dover, Alan and Angie Linford
Mike Godden, David Hick, John Lovett
David Martindale, Mike and Helen Smith
Paul Dover

wakened us properly after our noisy 3am roll call by Ian. After the rain we enjoy an ideal day for walking with wonderful distant views. Despite regular consultation of maps a number of groups went astray on the Pennine Way. GPS to the rescue, not too much energy was wasted.

At Tan Hill we encountered literally hundreds of immaculate Lambretta motor scooters with their appropriately dressed, middle aged owners and their molls. The section via Tongue onto Roberts' Seat and Ravenseat was steady going enabling us to take in the scenery. This was followed by another scenic section from Park Bridge to Gunnerside, the rocky beck Swinner Gill, along the paths along the Swale to Kisdon Hill via Muker. Finally back to Low Whita Camping Barn, now renamed Low Row Camping Barn; crossing the Swale to the south side via Spring End, Haverdale House Low Houses and Feetham Holme.

We are as usual indebted to a valiant support party, Ian, John and Chris who not only fed us so well but also recovered any stragglers.

Sunday dawn another nice day, various groups made full use of being in Swaledale. One group of three completed a ten miles walk around Gibbon Hill and Apedale to the SW of Reeth.