



This month's Cover photo is from Dave Coats' Instagram post taken in Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri -Eryri National Park. It shows Yr Wyddfa above a cloud inversion. Note the names we should all be using in future: there'll be no more "trips to Snowdon"! Or will there?

	Contents	<p><b><u>COMMITTEE'S CORNER:</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman, Editor &amp; all the Committee would like to wish all members &amp; readers all the very best for 2023. As can be seen inside this issue an attempt is being made to continue the timeline for major West Brom MC events but to bring this up-to-date and make it as accurate as possible we need information out there that has not been recorded in the 50 Years book nor in our Wikipedia entry, especially happenings post 1990. Therefore it would be extremely helpful if people could email <a href="mailto:jaejed@hotmail.com">jaejed@hotmail.com</a> with details of any special ascents or trips / expeditions they have made alone or with other WBMC or non-WBMC companions. Dates &amp; brief information about it, with a photo if you want to. Also any dates when you reached a major milestone like Munro completion, gaining ML qualification etc. Treasurer's reports, balance sheet &amp; income/expenditure information for 1969, 1970, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2009, 2010, 2011 &amp; 2012 would also be useful &amp; the editor would be grateful for scanned or photographed copies should you have these.</p>
2-3	Noticeboard / Future Events	
4	Mitch's Meet: Little Stretton	
5	January Coach Meet: Ogwen	
6	February Coach: Thirlmere	
7	March Coach Meet: Hawes	
8	Berwyns Meet Report	
9	Skills Weekend Report	
9 - 11	Dovedale Meet Report	
11	B123 Walks	
11 - 12	Mt Snowdon Namechange	
12 - 13	WBMC Timeline Part 7	
14 - 15	Coach King & Queen 2022	
15	Reminders of Benefits	
16	Committee Meeting Minutes	
<p>This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. Thanks to everyone who sent material for inclusion. If you would like to write an article or spot something interesting about the mountains please get in touch with John via <a href="mailto:jaejed@hotmail.com">jaejed@hotmail.com</a></p>		

**NOTICEBOARD****PROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:****COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS & MOUNTAINS:-**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Mitch's Meet : Little Stretton *These leave W. Brom at 7am & usually return around 9 – 9.30 pm giving ~7 hrs on the hills with linear walks often possible.*  
 Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January – Ogwen, North Wales *If you don't fancy a long walk why not come along for a social day out in interesting villages & beautiful scenery?*  
 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Thirlmere, Lake District  
 Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Hawes, North Yorkshire  
 Reserve your seat with Nigel (07703 345729) and be guaranteed a great day on the hills.

**INDOOR MEETS :-**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Members' Night with an Illustrated Mountain Talk at the Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 7.30pm start.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January – Indoor Climbing at “High Places” (Kidderminster Climbing Wall)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Members' Night with an Illustrated Talk on “Scrambling” by Tony Emms at the Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 7.30pm start.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Indoor Climbing at “High Places” (Kidderminster Climbing Wall)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Members' Night with an Illustrated Talk on at “The Manaslu Circuit” by Hilary Jones at the Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 7.30pm start.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – **AGM 2023 @ The Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 7.30pm start. Please try to attend and make this crucial meeting quorate. Also please consider standing for one of the Committee posts – several are becoming vacant including Chair, Membership Secretary & Treasurer, or you might think you can do better than a present incumbent!**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Indoor Climbing at “High Places” (Kidderminster Climbing Wall)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS & SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION (B71 1RH) :-**

19<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> February & 16<sup>th</sup> March. Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at around 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal.

**WEEKENDS & OTHER MEETS :-****SCOTTISH WINTER WEEK AT A LUXURY HOTEL IN FORT WILLIAM**

**Saturdays 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023**

Jonathan Howells has the Ben Nevis Hotel booked for the last full week in February so if you want to get away during half term, with a chance to use their pool, jacuzzi, sauna, turkish steam room & gym, plus climb some snowy Munros, contact Jon asap via 07859 932389 or [jhowells42@gmail.com](mailto:jhowells42@gmail.com) (apologies, the email address given in the last newsletter no longer exists) to let him know the dates you would like to attend and whether you are wanting to room share. The cost is £37.50 per person in twin & double rooms with £16 single supplement. It's half price for 5 – 14 year olds and 0-4 go free. Fantastic value for bed, breakfast & evening meal!! Please make a bank transfer for one night's accommodation to the WBMC Co-op Account No 6548 7846 (Sort Code 08-92-99) to secure your place, with the reference “Ben Nevis”.

**\*\* REMEMBER WBMC 2023 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE FROM 1ST JANUARY \*\***

See next page for details

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2023

Dear Members,

Thank you for your support throughout 2022. For supporting the Coach and outdoor evening meets, the Slide shows at the Red Lion and for staying at the Hut.

A special thank you to our Club members who have organised numerous week and weekend activities. We hope you've enjoyed your adventures and looking forward to more in 2023.

Membership fees for next year are:-

**Adult £37, this includes your BMC fee of £22.25**

**Students to pay BMC fee £18.35**

**11 to 18 to pay BMC fee £16.45**

**Under 11 are Free**

You can pay by cheque payable to WBMC and send to Wendy Morris at 32 Essex Drive, Rugeley, Staffordshire. WS15 1JX.

Should you wish to pay by Bank Transfer the details have changed to the following:

**CO-OP Bank A/C 65487846 Sort Code 08-92-99**

Subscriptions should be paid by end of January 2023 at the latest

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and an exciting 2023

Yours Wendy (Membership Sec)

AWAY DINNER WEEKEND 2023 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March

The Club Away Dinner 2023 will once again be held at the Briary Wood Country Hotel, Windermere on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Nigel Tarr has made the booking so all reservations for rooms need to go through him so please text or call him on [07703345729](tel:07703345729) to reserve a room.

The cost is:- Twin/double room including Saturday night dinner £358

Single room including Saturday night dinner £308

Extra nights: Twin/double Thursday &/or Sunday £129 per night

Single room Thursday &/or Sunday £119 per night.

There are 19 rooms available and any not taken up by the Club could be taken by the general public. For the first time Nigel is being required to sign a contract on behalf of the Club so he is "Looking forward to all the rooms being taken and as usual, having a good weekend away."

On reserving a room the hotel requires a 50% deposit!

Cheques should be made payable to "WBMC" and sent to the Club Treasurer, Liz Reynolds at [43 Ascot Drive, Dudley, DY1 2SN](mailto:liz@wbmc.org.uk)

or Bank transfers to the Club account and please reference "Away Dinner".

Co-Op Sort Code [08-92-99](https://www.co-opbank.co.uk)

Account number [65487846](https://www.co-opbank.co.uk)

The Club Away Dinner 2023 will once again be held at the Briary Wood Country Hotel, Windermere on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Contact Nigel Tarr ([07703345729](tel:07703345729)) for more details or to reserve a room.

CHAPEL STILE WEEKEND 2023 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

The Toc H Weirside Climbing Hut in Langdale has again been booked by Rob Cox for those who fancy some more Lakeland adventure. More details in next Newsletter or you can message Rob via [07847 315302](tel:07847315302)

**GPX FILES**

Thanks to Sophie Kallaway there are now gpx files for some of the routes on the coach meets. These can be uploaded to a GPS device, viewed on the OS app (which is great but costs money) or viewed on sites such as <https://www.osola.org.uk/rides/gpsuploader.htm> using "View British GPX files in OS Maps. She's already loaded the one for Moel Siabod there but is not sure how long it stays saved on the site. Or you can use this site <https://www.gpxeditor.co.uk?location=53.088612,-3.912828&zoom=13&mapType=roadmap>

**SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 2023: MITCH'S MEET TO LITTLE STRETTON & THE GREEN DRAGON (Ludlow Road, Little Stretton SY6 6RE)**

The club meet card kicks off 2023 with a CAR MEET to Little Stretton, Shropshire. What better way to start the year with a gentle walk to start losing the pounds put on over the Christmas period?

What better way to put the pounds back on after a walk with a meal in the Green Dragon, a fine eatery with excellent real ales as well as Peroni?

There will be a Led Walk starting from the Green Dragon at 9.45am or you can plan your own route across the Shropshire hills & valleys.



*View from summit of Ragleth Hill (photo: Mike Knipe)  
At 398 m (1,306 ft) it's an English "Bridget": a hill that fails to meet the criteria for any other reasonable and sensible Hill Classification System!!*

A room has been reserved at the pub for a meal at 3.30pm. For anybody wanted to eat please go to their website [www.thegreendragonpub.co.uk](http://www.thegreendragonpub.co.uk) and make your choice from either the Food Menu or the Sunday Lunch Menu (You can't mix) AND, by the 31<sup>st</sup> December, contact Andy Brown and let him know what you want. Please e-mail your choice to [andrewbrown6419@gmail.com](mailto:andrewbrown6419@gmail.com) or text/WhatsApp to [07870 145026](tel:07870145026)

You don't have to come on the led walk to eat with the rest of the group at 3.30pm however if you want to eat with the group, please make sure you let Andy have your choice by the 31st December.

N.B. The pub has asked us NOT to use their car park prior to 3.00pm so as customers eating earlier will not be put off eating. However, there is ample parking on the roads in Little Stretton.

If you want some ideas and practice your self-navigation why not try the 13.2 km LONG MYND CIRCULAR, a moderately challenging route with 510 m of ascent which takes an average of 4 hr 6 mins to complete.

<https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb/trail/england/shropshire/long-mynd-circular>

OR there's the 9.5 km CARDING MILL VALLEY & LONG MYND CIRCULAR which has less ascent (406m) and takes 3 hr 5 mins on average.

<https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb/trail/england/shropshire/carding-mill-valley-and-the-long-mynd>

OR the much shorter (5.5km) 2 hour walk to LIGHTSPOUT WATERFALL VIA CARDINGMILL VALLEY – a lovely route popular with bird-watchers & folk who like a tea room nearby. NT Parking regs / fees apply

<https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb/trail/england/shropshire/lightspout-waterfall-via-carding-mill-valley>

**SUNDAY 15th JANUARY: OGWEN & ERYRI (= official new name for Snowdonia)**

**Depart :** 07: 00 –West Bromwich.  
Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)  
07: 20 –Service Road M54 Junction 2  
**Drop offs :** Pont Cyfyng (735572)  
Capel Curig (721582 )  
Ogwen (656603 )  
**Pick up :** Ogwen 656603 )  
Capel Curig (721582 )  
**Required map :** OS 1:25000 Outdoor  
Leisure Map No 17 Snowdon (or Yr  
Wyddfa as it is to be known from now)



*Photo : Tryfan East Face by Daily Post Wales*

**Suggested Routes :****FROM PONT CYFYNG**

**Route 1: Moel Siabod** (9.5km / 6 miles) Follow the track to a disused quarry (717555) then continue to Llyn y Foel (713547) from where you can climb the SE ridge of Moel Siabod (Grade1 scramble of Dear Ddu) . From the summit (705546) descend via the NE ridge to GR 713565. Then continue through the forest to Plas y Brenin & the Capel Curig pick-up. <https://www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=moel-siabod-via-daer-ddu.gpx&t=moel-siabod-via-daer-ddu.gpx>

**FROM CAPEL CURIG**

**Route2 : Galt yr Ogof, Foel Goch & Tryfan (9km / 6miles)** Head W & follow the ridge to Galt yr Ogoff (685586) & continue over Foel Goch (678582) to Llyn Caseg-Fraith (670584) and find a cairn at the col marking the Miners Track. Follow the track to Bwch Tryfan (662588) and ascend Tryfan (664594) via the South Ridge. Descend via the West gully to Ogwen. [www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=ogwen-route-2.gpx&t=ogwen-route-2.gpx](http://www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=ogwen-route-2.gpx&t=ogwen-route-2.gpx)

**Route3 : The Glyders (13km / 8miles)** Follow route 2 to Llyn Caseg-Fraith (670585), then climb to the summit of Glyder Fach (656583) Continue along the plateau to Glyder Fawr (642579) and descend to Llyn y Cwn (638584) . Then take path to right of the Devils Kitchen to Llyn Idwal back to Ogwen.

<https://www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=ogwen-route-2.gpx&t=ogwen-route-2.gpx>

**Route 4: Pen Llithrig y Wrach (13km / 8 miles 1200 m ascent)** Leaving the coach at Capel Curig, the route takes footpaths North to steadily climb to the summit of Pen Llithrig y Wrach, then follow the tops to complete a clockwise circuit around Llyn Cowlyd Reservoir before returning to Capel Curig, with the option of a little scramble to the top of Y Pincin.

**FROM A5 NEAR LLYN OGWEN**

**Route 5: North Ridge of Tryfan & Bristly Ridge (7km / 5miles)** Follow the road to GR 663603 & tackle the N Ridge of Tryfan (a Grade 1 scramble). At the summit (664594) jump from Adam to Eve and back if you dare! (weather permitting) and then descend the South Ridge to Bwlch Tryfan (662588) and continue up the Bristly Ridge (another Grade 1 scramble) to the summit plateau of Glyder Fach (656583). A less exposed alternative is to climb the scree slope to the left of the ridge. Scramble over the Castell Y Gwynt (654582) and follow the plateau edge NW to the top of Y Gribin (651582) . Descend this fine ridge back to Ogwen. Short distance but maybe not in high winds

**Route 6 : Y Garn (631596) ± Foel Goch (629612) from the 'Old A5' road (8km / 5 miles)**

**Route 7 : Easy walking up Cwm Idwal to the base of Devil's Kitchen (5km / 3miles)**

**Route 8 : Try some scrambling up the easy angled slabs of Little Tryfan**

**N.B. Winter gear should be worn & carried. Depending on the snow conditions, and ice axe & crampons may be required for these walks. Alternatively stay on lower slopes and off the tops THERE WILL BE A LED WALK DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS ON THE DAY.**

**Fares: Members £23, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10**

**To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729**

*Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £10.00 fee will be charged.*

*Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.*

**SUNDAY 12th FEBRUARY: THIRLMERE & GRASMERE****Depart :** 07: 00 –West Bromwich.

Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)

07: 20 – Penkridge

**Drop offs :** Threlkeld (325254)

Thirlmere Reservoir (316169)

Travellers' Rest (336089)

Grasmere (339073)

**Pick up :** Grasmere (339073)

Ambleside (376047)

**Required map/s:** OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure Maps No 5 & 7 English Lakes NE & SE Areas (& maybe 4 NW Area depending on route.)**Suggested Routes:****FROM THRELKELD****Route 1: Helvellyn N/S Traverse (13 miles / 22 km)**

From Threlkeld work your way S to Clough Head (334225). A grassy path south takes you over rocky Cvalfhow Pike (331211), then change direction slightly SE to Great Dodd (342345). From here a lovely but quite demanding ridge walk takes you over the summits of Watsons Dodd, Stybarrow Dodd, Raise (343175), Whiteside, Bank, Lower Man and finally Helvellyn (342152). The high level ridge continues S and ends at Grisedale Tarn (352122). An easy path then gets you back to the road (335092) but it's still some way to Grasmere (339073)

**FROM THIRLMERE RESERVOIR****Route2 : Helvellyn & Dollywaggon Pike (8 miles / 11.5 km)**

Leave the A591 adjacent to Thirlmere Reservoir 586) & follow the ridge passing Helvellyn Gill (325165) and on to the summit of Helvellyn (342152). Pleasant walking S leads over Dollywaggon Pike (346131) then descend steeply to Grisedale Tarn (352122). An easy path then gets you back to the road (335092) but it's still some way to Grasmere (339073)

**Route3 : Helvellyn & Fairfield, descending to Ambleside (11 miles / 17 km)**

Follow route 2 to Grisedale Tarn (352122) but then ascend Fairfield (359117) and follow the ridge S to Great Rigg (356104), then descend SW to craggy Stone Arthur (347092). From here a good path leads down to the road (338085)

**FROM THE TRAVELLERS' REST****Route4 : Seat Sandal & Fairfield (6.5 miles / 10.5 km)**

From the Travellers' Rest follow the bridle path up to Little Tongue Gill (342105) and then climb steeply W to 338106 to the ridge and on to the summit of isolated Seat Sandal (344115). Descend east to Grisedale Hause and continue on to the summit of Fairfield (359117). Follow the ridge S to Great Rigg (356104), then descend SW to craggy Stone Arthur (347092). From here a good path leads down to the road (338085)

**N.B. Winter gear should be worn & carried. Depending on the snow conditions, and ice axe & crampons may be required for these walks. Alternatively stay on lower slopes and off the tops THERE WILL BE A LED WALK DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS ON THE DAY.**

**Fares: Members £23, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10**

**To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729**

*Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £10.00 fee will be charged.*

*Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.*



*Seat Sandal beyond Grisedale Tarn (Photo by Joe Jackson)*

**SATURDAY 11th MARCH: HAWES & THE N. YORKS PENNINES****Join us at Hawes and go to see the Highest Free Falling Waterfall in England****Depart:** 07: 00 –West Bromwich. Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN) NB Charges apply on Saturdays !

07: 20 –Penkridge

**Drop offs:** Hawes (874898)

Possibly Ingleton &amp; / or Garsdale Head?

**Pick up:** Hawes (874898)**Required map:** OS 1:25000 Outdoor

Leisure Map No 30 Yorkshire Dales N &amp; Central Areas &amp; maybe No 2 Yorkshire Dales Western Area

OS 1:50000 Landranger 98

*Right: Hardraw Force with its sheer 100ft drop***Suggested Routes:****Route 1. Great Shunner Fell & Lovely Seat (14 miles / 23 km & 2050 ft ascent)**

Follow Pennine Way out of Hawes on road to Hardraw and after crossing pastures call in to see Hardraw Force (Entry via Green Dragon Pub!!!) After leaving continue on Pennine Way to top of Great Shunner Fell (849974) Leave Pennine Way and drop down to Little Shunner Fell (858970) and then continue SE to Grimy Gutter Hags (869963) & then southerly to the road cattle grid. Cross the road here and climb up to Lovely Seat (878950), then head E to Coghill Beck and follow Beck down to track at (900942). Follow track S for 2 Km when track turns SW towards Smuker Hill (889923) where it turns S to join Shutt Lane (889916). Follow Shutt Lane into Sedbusk and then cross fields to join Hardraw Rd at (877905) and back to coach.

**Route 2 Great Shunner Fell ((12 miles / & ~1500 ft ascent)** As Route 1 to cattle grid and then follow road S to just below Sweet Hill where we leave road left (865936) and follow path in S Easterly direction via Pike Hill towards North Rakes Hill where we leave track and turn S (884924) on path and then SE to join Shutt Lane and then as Route 1.

**Route 3 Dodd Fell Hill & Drumaldrace (11 miles / 18 km & 1,600 ft ascent)**

Follow Pennine Way to Gayle and onwards SW. After a couple of miles Cam Road come in from the right & around 837850 strike off left up over rough moor to the trig point (841846) of the flat, featurless top. Descend due SE to the head of Sleddale (845841) & on to Cam High Rd. At 862853 veer off right through a gate & up to Drumaldrace summit (874867). Return to the 'road' and at 882870 take the track which leads N down to Burtersett or Gaylle, thence Hawes.

**Route 4 (Bad weather routes)** Follow Pennine Way in South Westerly direction out of Hawes towards Gayle. After leaving houses and road the PW takes a 90 degree right turn in field. (868890). Leave the PW here and head towards Gayle Beck which is followed to just above Aysgill Waterfall where you cross a footbridge & head up to road. Turn right up Beggernans Rd to meet Cam High Rd (862853) and turn left to Weather fell. From Weather Fell turn left on path (882870) to descend back into Gayle tuning left at (883879) on way down. (7 miles) (12.5 miles if PW followed to Cam High Rd)

**Route 4 Hardrow Force (3 or 5 miles / 5 or 8 km)** Take a leisurely stroll over to Hardraw and after enjoying the pleasures of the Green Dragon pub wander up to see Hardraw Force and picnic in the natural amphitheatre before returning to coach (3 miles) If this is too short a walk, leave pub left and take footpath to West House and turn right to Sedbusk and then cross fields to coach.

**THERE WILL BE A LED WALK DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS ON THE DAY.****Fares: Members £23, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10****To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729***Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £10.00 fee will be charged.**Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.*

**WHAT HAPPENED ON THE BERWYNS COACH MEET!!** by John Edwards

The Club's 5th visit to the Berwyns since 1991 proved to be one of the toughest days of the year for most people on the coach, with wet, slippery, squelchy-peat conditions underfoot most of the way and sadly few views.

There were 26 people of the coach and, for possibly the first time ever, everyone plumped to do the same route - in this case the full traverse! The last time so many from WBMC did this was 20 years ago on the October 2002 Coach meet when (according to my notes) we were above the mist early on thanks to a temperature inversion, but surrounded by it on Cadair Berwyn. It was similar in Feb 2010 (see photo)



This time the promised sunshine never came to burn off the mist so we couldn't verify John & Anne Nuttall's claim that Moel Sych was one of the "finest viewpoint in Wales". We got off the coach and started walking at 9.30 and did get views early on but by the time we hit the railway sleepers across the boggy moorland we were in the mist. Ken P, Graeme S, Hannes T & Andy B shot off to do their own minor variations but the rest continued to reach Cadair Berwyn in around 2 hours, before splitting. None of us wanted to hang around to have a bite to eat as the surprisingly cold wind meant the day didn't feel one of the warmest November days on record, in spite of what the Met Office had said. Fred & Clare H, Wendy M & Stewart S, Imogen H & Sophie K, Oliver S & Paul B, Dave Coats, Suzanne Byrne & Adrian Shaw all decided to drop off east to take in Tomle (742m). I'll let Sophie Kellaway take up the story, as she thought Tomle deserved it's own Instagram post: "*You know when someone suggests a small out & back to bag a bonus hill. Then you go down a sharp slippery descent to the first (literally) man-eating bog of the day. But it's all worth it because the summit is so impressive. Well the mighty cairn at the summit sure was ..... Something!* (Ed: i.e. almost non-existent). *Zero views of course due to the fog & it apparently was a Nuttall not a nothing. You could have me fooled. It's all part of the fun though!*" (Ed: I've since looked it up and it's name means "The Mire"! Maybe I should have put that in the Newsletter route description!!)

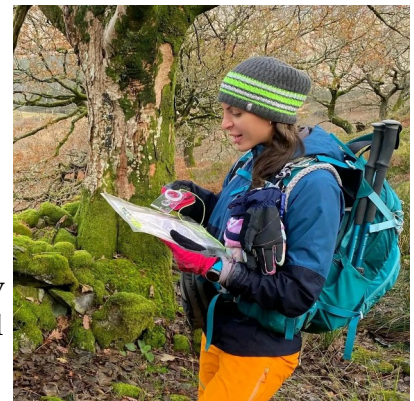
Darren Groutage, Jan Cox, Martin Conway, Rob Allen, Steve Wilkins, Stuart Fellows, Phil Smith, Mel Evans, Geordie Hind & myself continued north westwards to Cadair Bronwen & its N.E top before dropping down to snatch a bite to eat in a hollow just before the memorial to the rough-stuff cyclist "Wayfarer". We then took in the summits of Pen Bwlch Llandrillo (a Nuttall), Cerrig Coediog (a Dewey) and finally, via the best track of the day - stones & bedrock!!, Moel Fferna (a Nuttall that is shown on maps to have a trig point) We found no trace of a trig and this isn't too surprising for it apparently went missing between 1989 & 1999 according to the Nuttalls. Descending north, then eastwards we reached "The Berwyn Arms" as it was getting dark (5pm), just as driver Gary & Nigel arrived with the coach, having spent the day at Corwen. We were joined by the Tomle group around 25 minutes later and everyone enjoyed the warmth & refreshments in the pub (& they seemed pleased to have us) until 6pm when we set off back for the Midlands. According to Graeme's Strava we'd done around 13.5 miles, climbed 2,516 feet & burned 2,364 Calories during the 5.5 - 7 or so hours we had been moving and it decided to flag up "*Congratulations, this activity is your longest walk on Strava!*" And to cap off a great day, the winner of Nigel's raffle for a fine bottle of wine was the coach 'first timer' Suzanne!!



**SKILLS WEEKEND 19/20 NOVEMBER: Report by Jan Cox**

Geordie Hind once again led this event, ably assisted by Graeme Stanford and Dave Kirk. A 'knowledge assessment', which involved the use of a towel and bits of paper, was followed by route plotting. After some cake, four intrepid explorers (Anthenia, Jan, Tom & Martin) set out in fine weather to find the plots. The weather stayed fine and the plots found. The route was punctuated with useful top tips from our leaders and we eventually headed back to our base at the hut with more knowledge and skills than we started with. Home-work on Saturday night was route plotting Sunday's adventures. After an early start in dry weather we headed for the hills at the back of the hut. This involved a bit of bog trotting and agile (not) leaping across streams. There was more good advice and instances of debate accompanied by a bit of good-natured squabbling over the exact route (Graeme was right) and we arrived near the top as the wind and rain started. We got out an emergency shelter and made complimentary noises about how warm it was before starting our damp descent back to the hut and cups of tea.

We all learned loads, made possible by Geordie's pre-prepared resoUrces and activities. Many thanks to him, Graeme and Dave. This course is highly recommended to anybody who wants to be in the hills and be able to use a map and compass to know where they are and how to get back. As Anthenia put it on Facebook "Navigation, orientation, map reading, route planning, emergency procedures, lots of pissing (Geordie's way of saying "pacing") and plenty of delish food – a great skills weekend".

**ANDY & DARREN TAKE THE DOVEDALE COACH TO NEW HEIGHTS!! by the editor**

The 41 people on the December meet to the White Peak of Derbyshire experienced a coach meet unlike anything for many years. In the "old days" folk would bring sheets with the words of Christmas carols so we could all have a sing-song on the way home but what happened on this meet was, I think, totally unexpected by everyone! But to start at the beginning .....

There was a dusting of snow on the ground as we boarded the coach in West Brom, but less at the Penkrige pick-up and none at all as we alighted at Hartington at the unusually early time of 9am. Having put on our boots, Andy then led a massed group walk across the village square to the public loos. Then it was off across the fields and onto the beautifully surfaced path down Beresford Dale NNR. After passing the entrance to Biggin Dale and the old Iron Tors Ram Pump House in Wolfscote Dale we reached Mill Dale, where we all halted for a brief drinks stop. Then it was on down Dovedale proper passing Raven's Tor, Dove Holes, Ilam Rock, Reynard's Cave, Tissington Spires, Lover's Leap and the Twelve Apostles. Julie, Tony, Bill, Hannes & Jerry Lo made some detours up the sides and over the tops (eg to visit Reynard's Cave) but we all met up again later. Most climbed Thorpe Cloud, many by routes that we shouldn't have according to the NT signs on





the top, and by 1.15pm we were mostly and heading back to cross the Stepping Stones towards the Izaak Walton Hotel where the beer was surprisingly reasonably priced. Most dined en masse in a very warm side room and then Nigel was on the receiving end of some verbals when he brought forward the departure time by 30 minutes to 6pm. And so the coach set off and soon the hits of the '60's and '70's were booming out from Darren's mobile phone via his son's blue-toothed 'Ultimate Ear' speaker and we were singing along to It's Only Make Believe, Only the Lonely, Delilah, Halfway to Paradise, Is This The Way to Amarillo and many more. It helped if you were sitting in the rear half of the coach but



several semi-inebriated folk (OK me & a couple of others) tried to bring the musical vibes to the folk in the front few rows of coach seats, while not distracting driver Gary too much. We all sang and boogied for 2 memorable hours on the way home, fuelled by tots of Port, courtesy of Wendy & Oliver, Sloe Port from Fred & Clarie, Whisky from Andy, chocolates from Mike S & mince pies from Nigel. Suffice it to say that thanks to Darren's tour-de-force I was hoarse the next day.

Some of the principal 'moovers & groovers' were Dave Hellyar & Anthenia and a straw poll of folk in the rear seats declared Anthenia as the 'best mover' by 10 votes to 8! Best Christmas snuzzle went to Tony Emms. It all goes to show that you never know what to expect on a WBMC coach meet – it could be the weather, the scenery or some totally unexpected craic on the way home.



Many thanks to committee members Andy Brown & Jan Cox for organising the excellent walk and delicious food respectively and also to Darren Groutage for a coach meet I'll never forget!!

Certain members may also be interested to know that I was able to collect data and photos to enable me to use up my spare "credit" to build a new Adventure Lab called "Dovedale Delights" which is viewable at <https://adventurelab.page.link/efnu> It features the main beauty spots as well as Fred Hammonds' video of our group walking across the Stepping Stones. Made me wonder if we shouldn't create our own YouTube channel for the Club, like the group below has?

Or maybe TikTok is simpler?

### **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK: B123walks**

Readers will be familiar with the WBMC coach meets, which have been running for over 50 years now, and some may be aware of the mid-week WBMC Boots & Beers events. However, I recently learned about a group called B123 WALKS organised by Phil Base.

Based mainly in the West Midlands their walks start 8am Saturdays & Sundays and are described as "a bit out of the normal park walk". Phil has kindly let me advertise our December coach on their Facebook page (which has 2764 followers!) so it seems only fair to give his group some publicity here. I can't see any walks later than 17<sup>th</sup> Dec at the moment on their Facebook page but you can find out more if you are interested by joining the (private) group on F'book, signing up for a newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/h8Qqhr> or emailing [b123walks@gmail.com](mailto:b123walks@gmail.com) You can also see them in action on their You Tube channel at <https://YouTube.com/@B123Walks>

### **MOUNT SNOWDON'S NAME OFFICIALLY CHANGED!!**

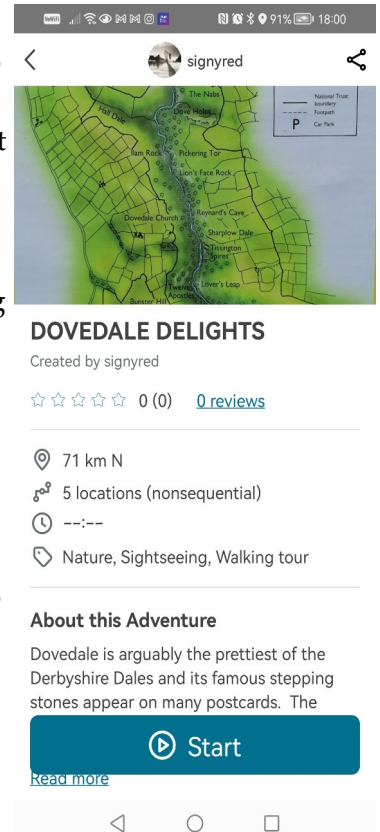
On 17<sup>th</sup> November several daily newspapers reported the fact that the highest mountain in Wales, Mount Snowdon, will now be officially known by its Welsh title after thousands signed a petition backing the switch.

Its English name will no longer be used to refer to the mountain and the national park it sits in after Snowdonia National Park authorities voted the previous day to use Yr Wyddfa rather than Snowdon and Eryri rather than Snowdonia.

The vote came after a petition calling on the National Park Authority to formalise the use of the Welsh names was signed by over 5,000 people last year. Gwynedd councillor John Pughe Roberts put forward a motion in April 2021 asking the park to stop using the English names, but it was not considered at the time on the basis that a group was already looking at a future policy on Welsh language names.

**Yr Wyddfa** stands at 3,560ft (1,085m) and attracts around 400,000 walkers from all over the world every year. It is located within the **Eryri National Park** which covers a total of 823 square miles and is visited by nearly four million people annually.

Naomi Jones, head of cultural heritage at the Snowdonia National Park Authority said that the change would allow people from across the globe to "engage with the Welsh language" and its "special qualities". "By referring to our most renowned landmarks



by their Welsh names, we give people from all over the world the opportunity to engage with the Welsh language and its rich culture." She also said that the use of the new names had already started, adding: "Many public bodies across Wales have moved to use both the Welsh and English names, or the Welsh name only, when referring to Yr Wyddfa and Eryri, as have many of the mainstream English-language press and filming companies. This is very encouraging, and gives us confidence that this change in the authority's approach will be accepted for the benefit of the Welsh language and as a mark of respect to our cultural heritage."

The vote to change the names to their Welsh versions comes shortly after it was revealed that Wales' national football team will also consider changing its name after the World Cup. The national team is known as Wales in international competitions, but plans to speak to various stakeholders in Welsh football about switching to their Welsh name, Cymru. The Football Association of Wales already uses Cymru in its internal and external communications.

In recent Newsletters the "Winter Weather" series of articles has taken the place of the WBMC Timeline that started during COVID. In the July/ Aug 2021 issue we left things in 1968 with an intrepid group of members going off to climb Mt. Ararat.....

**A WEST BROM MOUNTAINEERING CLUB TIMELINE : Part 7 compiled by John Edwards**

**1969: 1<sup>st</sup> Jan:** The YHA published the first issue of "Mountain" magazine. Edited by Ken Wilson, with a team of special advisors that included C. Bonington, M.Burke, L.Dickinson, D. Haston & D. Scott, this bi-monthly publication brought news of new climbing routes on UK crags and climbs & expeditions worldwide to the notice of the general British public for the first time. Wonderfully illustrated, with some quirky sexist ads, it brought the dramas enacted on Cerro Torre, Yosemite & the Dru into everyday households and stimulated interest in climbing, hill-walking and mountaineering.



**June:** A certain Mike Thompson (our current President)

held his Stag Party at the Hut. Someone found out that John (Mitch) Mitchell had been a chef in the Army & the TA so he did the catering – a role he continued at Old Timers' Weekends until his death in the mid 1990's. In those early days an "Old Timer" was an original founder member of the Club - folk such as Bert Wright, Hughie Young, Geoff Robinson, Ray Mullett, Ray Highfield, Peter Woodward, Glyn Hughes, Ted Hutton, John Henk, Frank Thompson, Peter Henk, Fred Purcell, Harry Barlow, Wally Cheeseborough and Pat Tweedale, who is still alive today.

**1970: 10<sup>th</sup> March:** The committee again discussed "conduct at the Hut"! They appreciated "it was not their duty to teach morals but ....." What was that all about?! Maybe someone can tell us in the next Newsletter? The committee minutes state they also agreed that plans should be drawn up for a toilet block.

**27<sup>th</sup> May:** A British team under the leadership of Chris Bonington made the first ascent of Annapurna South Face, heralding an era of big expeditions to hard Himalayan routes.

April, May & June: More discussion, planning and costings for the toilet block, culminating in discussion with Caernarvon County Council. Delays & alterations meant that the construction of the facilities we now have to “nip outside” to enjoy, didn’t start until 1974!

**1971: 19<sup>th</sup> January:** The death of farmer John Watson meant the end of the £5 honorarium we paid for the use of the Hut.

**July:** Bob Duncan, Alan Plant, Len York & Graham Parkes holiday at Zermatt and climb Monte Rosa and, on 29<sup>th</sup> July, reach the summit of the Matterhorn. *Right Bob’s photo “50 Years” book p 186*

**1972: 13<sup>th</sup> Jan:** A letter from John Henk indicates a major fall out with Dartmouth Cricket Club.

Two years before, Mr James of the Cricket Club “realising their club room was not paying its way, asked WBMC if it would care to use the Cricket Club premises for their Thursday Evening meetings.” At the time

WBMC “was comfortably established in a local “pub” where they had free use of an assembly room whenever it was required. “The move from there to the Cricket Club was rather stormy, it being no means unanimous that we do so.” Apparently the arrangement was that WBMC used the room at the Cricket Club “on the basis of the bar takings, with the hope that a few members would take out Cricket Club membership.” Around 10 members and their wives did in fact pay for Cricket Club membership, however, after the death of Mr James, the club received a letter in Dec 1971, saying “that we could no longer use the premises without first taking out individual membership of the Cricket Club”. John’s letter of reply says “this decision came as a shock to us and has in fact caused a certain amount of resentment amongst our members who feel they have been ‘sold down the river.’ Your ultimatum..... is unacceptable. In closing, may I thank your committee for the occasional use of your hut, I’m sorry that this matter could not have been discussed before your Committee’s decision, but trust I have made our position clear” The Club went back to using “The Globe” in Reform St (now “The Indian SmokeHouse Bar & Grill”)

**July:** Len Yorke returned to the Alps with 3 others. After retreating from the Rock Band on the North Wall of the Eiger due to deep snow & uncertain route-finding, they successfully climbed the Matterhorn on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. They had descended to the Solvay hut by 1800 hrs but Len & his friend George still felt fresh so, at 730pm, they decided to start down to the Hornli hut. Somewhere along the route Len was jerked off the mountain and, falling around 100 feet, was badly injured. George managed to secure him to a slab above a 2,000 ft drop before descending to raise the alarm. Len was tended & kept warm by Swiss guides until he was taken off to hospital by helicopter at 4.30am the following day. With injuries to both legs, a broken neck & a head wound needing 16 stiches, Len remained in hospital in Switzerland for 2 weeks before being flown back to the UK with his wife, where he remained in hospital until March 1973. It seems he may not have been insured as p 173 of the Club says the whole episode cost him £863 – not far off a year’s salary for most people back then. He was forever grateful to WBMC members who rallied round and managed to raise around £300 to cover some of his expenses. Len was never able to walk properly again but returned to Zermatt several times, had a biography “A Long Way From Clent” written by Brian Drew, and gave many talks about his accident & paraplegia.



Len York and Alan Plant triumphant on the summit of the Matterhorn, 29 July 1971  
(photo by Bob Duncan)

**COACH STATISTICS FOR 2022 ..... compiled by the Editor**

For the first time in 3 years we were able to run a full programme of 12 coaches to the hills, all lovingly provided by Robinsons, and three individuals managed to go on all the meets.



Apart from Coach Secretary Nigel Tarr, **Martin Conway** (right) and **Oliver Stephenson** (left) had 100% attendance and so receive a round of applause & gratitude as they are crowned “**Coach Kings**” for the forthcoming 12 months. Of the 6 people who missed just a solitary meet, one was a lady so it’s also great to be able to announce that **Claire Hammonds** is the “**2022 Coach Queen**” – a title she will be able to use to pull rank with throughout 2023. The 5 gentlemen who narrowly missed out on honours were Rob Allen, Paul Brindley, Andy Brown, Fred Hammonds & Steve Wilkins. Well done and thanks to all the above.



Dave Hellyar, Wendy Morris, Stuart Shaw & Phil Williams were the 4 people who missed just 2 meets and the 4 members with 75% attendance were Jan Cox, John Edwards, Mike Smith & Hannes Truter. The 5 members who were passengers on 8 of the coaches were Julie Atkinson, Dave Coats, Tony Emms, Darren Groutage & Geordie Hind and, unusually, there was only one individual that attended 7 coaches : that was Phil Smith.

Another 5 went on half the coach meets:- Mel Evans, Imogen Harley, David Kirk, Adrian Shaw & Emily Smith. The 7 who went on 5 coach meets were George Allen, John Dale, Chris Dean, Anthenia Dimitriu, Stuart Fellows, Hilary Jones & Graeme Stanford and the trio who attended one third of the meets were Annette Cope, Ken Priest & Lynn Wainwright. Only 2 people managed a quarter of the meets, but what a pair - Bill Douglas and Liz Perks!!

Now the numbers start to get bigger! The lucky 14 who went on a couple of coaches were Philip Allen, Mark Andar, Chris Banks, Martin Bolton, Suzanne Byrne, Steve Harris, Steve Heywood, Suki Kaur, Ian Kirk, Andy Morley, Raman Patel, Pete Poultney, Mark Stephens & Hazel Webb. And a massive total of 40 people came on a solitary coach meet. They were Svetlana Andar, Mandy Belshaw, Matt Baker, Adrian Bates, Sasha Bowen, Sam Bramley, Sam Breen, Donny Chima, Doug D’Aubrey, Irene Davis, Bob Duncan, Pamela Emms, Geraldine Evans, Dave Ferrett, Alex Hargrove, Connor Harper, Greg Heeley, Jerry Ho, Sophie Kellaway, Ethan Kirk, Alarna & Aleisha Lawley, John Lee, Will Lord, Sarah McBreary, Dawn Picken, Nick Piotrowski, Al Pounder, Jess Priest, Dave Randle, Liz Reynolds, Dee Sendeva, Iain Symon, Yarmin Tassi, Chloe Tidmus, Allan Walsh, Darren & Nicki Wilkes and Steve Williams.

Jan	Ogwen	28	July	Llanberis	33
Feb	Braithwaite	28	Aug	Ingleton	33
March	Cader Idris	30	Sept	Coniston	26
April	Grasmere	28	Oct	Howgill Fells	24
May	Brecon Beacons	43	Nov	The Berwyns	26
June	Borrowdale	35	Dec	Dovedale	40

Numbers on individual coaches ranged from 24 (the Howgills Meet) to 43 (the Brecon Beacons Meet) and the only other one over 40 was the Christmas one to Dovedale. 375 seats were paid for (sometimes just £10 if they were a coach “newbie”) and 93 different

individuals paid for them, although only 53 of these used the coach for more than a single trip. Numbers fluctuated widely during the year and we still need to publicize the coach meets more effectively as an average of just 31.25 seats were occupied per coach.

**REMINDER: BENEFITS OF BEING A WEST BROM MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MEMBER**

- Opportunity to use the Club's hut in Snowdonia – just a few ££ a night.
- Reduced priced seat on the monthly coach meet.
- Opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor & indoor social events, including camping trips in the UK & abroad.
- The chance to learn new skills from others without having to attend expensive courses eg winter mountaineering skills, including use of crampons & ice axe on the Scottish Winter Week or navigation &/or scrambling skills at special weekends at the Hut.
- You get a 15% discount off gear you buy at Cotswold Outdoor.
- As a member of WBMC you immediately become an associate member of the British Mountaineering Council and, as such, you have valuable insurance cover should you unintentionally do something which injures, disables or kills a third party on the crags or hills – very important!
- You have access to the BMC's personal worldwide travel insurance, which covers adventurous activities and trips at high altitudes.
- You receive the Spring copy of "Summit", the British Mountaineering Council's full colour magazine, packed with interesting articles on climbing, scrambling & hill walking, plus the opportunity to receive Summer, Autumn & Winter editions if you pay a small upgrade fee to full BMC membership.
- Opportunity to stay at the huts of certain other BMC-affiliated clubs in the Pennines, Wales or Scotland.
- Opportunity to make new friends with similar interests.

**REMINDER: WHAT DOES COMBINED LIABILITY INSURANCE MEAN FOR ME?**

- The policy protects you (as an individual) for legal liability following injury or damage to third parties, arising in connection with hill walking, climbing and mountaineering (including ski mountaineering). A full list of activities is contained in the Confirmation of Liability Cover.
- The limit of indemnity in respect of any claim made during the period of insurance is £10 million and increases to £15 million in respect of claims for bodily injury, and there is no excess applicable.
- The cover operates worldwide with the exception of claims brought in the USA/Canada.
- The cover does not apply to people who are being paid as professional instructors, guides or in a similar professional business or commercial capacity.
- Liability protection covers you for claims against you for injury or damage caused. You and your assets are protected if you are taken to court, for example, for dislodging a rock that caused injury to someone else and that person sues you.
- Club cover includes Directors' and Officers' liability, which protects Committee Members in the event of a negligent decision, for which in law they will be personally liable. This is something that the BMC has specifically sought out as standard Public Liability insurance does not include this protection!
- Cover includes protection for Trustees of clubs, including trustees of hut trusts. Premises liability in respect of club huts and property owned by the club is automatically included.
- Building and/or content insurance is not provided but can be arranged via Howden.

For more details go to <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/club-support-renewing-club-members#comment> and click on the two links at the bottom of the screen [Insurance & Clubs – FAQ's & Summary](#)

**MINUTES OF WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 17th November 2022 @The Red Lion**

**Present:** Andy Brown, Jan Cox, Geordie Hind, Rob Allen, Wendy Morris, Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar, Mike Smith, Mel Evans (chair), Jonathan Howells, John Edwards, Pete Poultney

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Liz Reynolds, Chris Dean

2. **Acceptance of October Minutes:** (modified to include all present) proposed by Andy and seconded by Dave H

3. **Matters Arising:** Club income is only £2,000 pa once the £4,000 BMC fees are paid (all Club members pay BMC fees). This provides directors and officers liability and protection for trustees and premises liability. Club fees for 2023 were set at the 2022 AGM. Fees for 2024 will be set at the 2023 AGM.

4. **Officer updates :** **Treasurer** No report **Membership Secretary** There are 3 new prospective members

**Newsletter** Jan/Feb newsletter will be a bit shorter (and earlier) and articles need to be in advance. John has more stuff for the Archives. Sophie has agreed to produce gpx files for walks and Paul has offered to produce a story video for meets. John to contact Paul and Chris to liaise re visuals and advertise the Club. Sandwell Archives plan to continue to scan old WBMC documents. There is potential to use this for a 75th anniversary yearbook. John advertised the Dovedale meet on B123 site.

**Website/Publicity** No report

**Hut Secretary** £56 in donations has been received. Pete surveyed hut users regarding internet, 43 for, 23 against and 7 not bothered. The price per month via BT would be £15. How this is managed on agenda for December. Wood delivery £110 hardwood and £80 softwood. Using a new contractor. No objections from the Committee.

**Coach Secretary** The Berwyn coach was attended by 26 and made a loss of £230.

5. **BMC:** No report

3. **Matters Arising:** Andy produced a 2023 meet card draft plan. Dates and venues were discussed. On the 2023 card there needs to be a pointer or link indicating the newsletter are of the website for event information.

6. **AOB:** Jonathan's email (for Nev's Week) is incorrect. Jan to chimp correction. The Christmas Social is after the Committee Meet on 15th December. Jan to order snacks.

**Meeting finished** 20.45 **Date of next meeting** 16/12/2022 - The Red Lion. **Carried over agenda items** Internet at the hut

**MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 15th December 2022 @The Red Lion 7pm start**

**Present:** Andy Brown, Jan Cox, Geordie Hind, Rob Allen, Wendy Morris, Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar, Mike Smith, Mel Evans (chair), Liz Reynolds, Pete Poultney, Mike Thompson

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Chris Dean, John Edwards, Jonathan Howells

2. **Acceptance of November Minutes** proposed by Dave H and seconded by Andy

3. **Matters Arising** See later

4. **Officer updates Treasurer** Hiscox have sent £591.14 in lieu of lost earnings during Covid 19. Club balance is £41,435.36 (£30,000 ringfenced and includes monies paid in for Nev's Week and 2023 subscriptions.

**Membership Secretary** To date, 9 members have paid 2023 subscriptions. Suzanne Byrne & Annette Cope were voted in as full members after completing the requirements. The is still one prospective member and an enquirer.

**Newsletter** No report

**Website/Publicity** No report but once again the topic of a paid and Club controlled website was raised. To be discussed further in January.

**Hut Secretary** Currents costs for at the hut would be £15 per month on top of the £32.14 line rental. Pete to investigate contract length. A vote was taken in favour of the internet 8 for, 1 abstention and 2 against (one person not counted).

**Coach Secretary** The Dovedale coach was attended by 41 and made a gain of £61. So far 15 have booked for the Ogwen meet in January.

**Meets** Outdoor meets for 2023 not finalised. Andy volunteered to organise. Dave is investigating a Morecambe Bay crossing. The Chairman's Challenge is on the calendar. Mel to invite Sasha et al to a linear meet. Jan to contact Worcester and MAM to advertise coach meets.

5. **BMC** No report

3. **Matters Arising** Andy produced an updated meet schedule for 2023

**AOB** The Away Dinner already has 17 of the 19 available rooms booked

**Meeting finished** 19.45 pm **Date of next meeting** 19/1/2023 The Red Lion. (Apologies in advance from Jan and Geordie) **Carried over agenda items** Internet at the hut Paying for a self managed website

**HERE'S TO A HEALTHY &  
HAPPY 2023 FOR ALL  
WBMC MEMBERS**