

## **CRAVEN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**

### **2015 AGM**

#### **HUT SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Over the last 12 months there have been 8 hut meets. The huts were as follows:

##### **Easter 2014**

A change from the usual Scotland, this meet was in North Wales. I had other plans for that weekend so was unable to attend. 8 people did go and by all accounts had a good time.

##### **Summer 2014**

Historically, the club has only had hut meets in the winter and choosing to camp in the summer months. It was decided to experiment with a summer hut meet. Booking proved difficult at such a late stage but I did manage to secure a booking at a National Trust bunkhouse next door to Wasdale youth hostel. The hut only held 9 people and places were soon booked up. 2 additional people attended the weekend meet – Erica stayed at Eskdale Youth Hostel and JW camped nearby in his van. The meet was hugely successful and there has been demand for another summer hut meet in 2015.

##### **October 2014**

This meet was in the Peak District and 9 people attended. 12 places were available. Despite a wet start on Saturday everyone enjoyed an active weekend of either climbing or cycling.

##### **November 2014**

Again, a bit of an experimental weekend by youth hostelling in Swaledale. A 6 bedded room was booked which was eventually filled. 2 other people made enquiries so this type of meet seems to have potential.

##### **Christmas 2014**

Held at High Moss in the Dudden Valley. This is a fantastic hut for our Christmas celebrations. 14 people attended. This is possibly slightly fewer than previous years but a great weekend was had by all. 2 good days walking. Special thanks to Sylvia for her invaluable assistance in helping coordinate the Saturday evening feast.

##### **January 2015**

Gritstone hut at Thirlspot. The 9 bedded bunk room was soon fully booked. This is a particular favourite of the club being in a good central location as well as being warm, comfortable and welcoming after a day on the hill. J W & Martyn Lock also attended as Gritstone members and Sylvia attended as a guest of JW making a total of 12 people on the Saturday. It was a particularly wintry weekend with challenging but rewarding days on the high tops. Being close to Burns day, Dick & Barbara organised a Burns supper. Particular thanks to them for volunteering and putting in the work to organise the evening but thanks also to everyone else who entered into the spirit of the occasion to make it an enjoyable evening.

##### **February 2015**

Held at the Ochills MC hut in Crainlarich. We have visited this hut on a number of occasions. It is a good location for a weekend as it's not too far to drive after work on a Friday but gives excellent mountaineering opportunities in Scotland. 10 places were booked and all eventually taken by 6 CMC members, 3 prospectives and 1 guest. I was slightly surprised by the slow take up and it gives concern for future Scottish weekend meets as many huts require us to book more spaces which

would have financial implications for the club. Feedback from members as to what they would like to see in future winter programs would be welcome.

### **March 2015**

There was no take up by members for this meet which is somewhat disappointing. Admittedly a small number of us who regularly attend hut meets were on holiday that weekend. However given the number of members in the club, I am surprised that no one wanted to go. Perhaps it may be that the venue was unsuitable for the time of year and again some feedback would be welcome to avoid this problem in future.

Fortunately, I have been able to transfer our booking to 31 July so this will be our summer venue. Although bookings are not open until after Easter, people are already making enquiries about extended stays so hopefully it will prove to be a popular summer meet.

### **Easter 2015**

Although this meet is in the future, I would like to give it a mention. The hut is the Raeburn hut in Dalwhinnie. It is a hut that has been visited by us in the past and is in a good location for heading either East or West to enable us to make the most of where the best conditions are.

However, so far, I only have 2 confirmed booking and expressions of interest from 2 others. Again I am surprised by the lack of interest. In years gone by, the Easter meet was very popular. If only 2 people go, not only do they lose out on some of the benefits of a hut meet, the club would be on target to lose £400 on the weekend.

### **Summary**

The Treasurer's report makes reference to the financial profit made on huts. However for me, the mark of success of the hut program is whether or not they have been popular and enjoyed by those who attend. I have never heard of anyone not enjoying a hut meet – they provide opportunity for activity in areas not easily accessible for single day outings as well as having a sociable time with fellow members. For me, they are the highlight of the club program. There does seem to be some variation in popularity with a particular reduction this spring. I feel this is something that should be discussed during any other business.

Finally thanks to all who have supported the meets, assisted with some of the organisation and helped with hut duties such as cleaning up after our stay.

Martin Heming