

Craven
Mountaineering Club



2020 AGM
COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

When this committee first met in March 2019, we set a number of objectives for the forthcoming year and have been working hard to make them happen. We not only wanted to revive enthusiasm and support for club activities by providing an active programme of events but also recognised the importance of communicating information to members. Over the year, the events calendar has been kept up to date on the website with prompts about forthcoming events, and members have received an email bulletin of monthly events. In addition, the quarterly newsletter with updates from each committee member, meet reports, photos and quizzes has been circulated and has had a lot of positive feedback.

Aside from arranging the more enjoyable fun events, we also spent time looking into some club policies that needed updating. There are now published documents on the website relating to the Privacy Notice, Guests and BMC insurance, Guidance notes of walk co-ordinators and groups and Dogs on meets. Minutes of all our meetings are in the members section on the website.

Membership, as always, has fluctuated and efforts to promote the club through Facebook and google searches attracted some interest. We currently have a membership of just over 61 people.

Whilst attendance on walking, climbing and hut meets has always been variable, the greatest consistency of interest and attendance last summer had been in support of evening climbing at local crags. Unfortunately, a number of the weekend outings to the lakes were rained off! This had raised the question of whether we were providing a programme suited to the current membership and it was a topic planned for discussion in more detail at the AGM planned in March.

Since then of course, as a result of lockdown, the club has faced a completely different and unexpected challenge. Hut meets planned months in advance (and years in some cases) have had to be cancelled or rearranged causing great disappointment for those booked.

Although forward planning for group activities remains uncertain as we ease out of lockdown, we favoured holding a virtual AGM to elect new committee members and be prepared for action when possible.

I have really enjoyed working with an amazing committee and have great respect for their ideas, organisation, guidance, help and support over the year. Please take time to read all their reports in advance of our meeting and I look forward to seeing you at our virtual AGM on 1st July.

Shirley Emptage
Chairperson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 2019/20 year was a busy one as Secretary.

Concerns were raised at the 2019 AGM regarding the accuracy of the minutes of the 2018 meeting. As Secretary, I was tasked with updating those minutes and sending to members for approval. These were approved by the 7 committee members present at our first committee meeting and then by a further 7 members who responded to the emailed copy. No one disagreed with the final document. This would be sufficient members to constitute a quorum at a meeting.

We were also tasked with reviewing and updating the club's privacy and GDPR policy. At the same time, we reviewed various other policies such as guests on meets and dogs on meets. It was all a major task but fortunately the committee worked well together on these, drawing on their experience and knowledge either from the workplace or other organisations to which they belong, as well as studying the various documents produced by the BMC. Not only did we have to ensure that they are legally correct but also, they needed to be workable in the club context. All of the documents are now in the members section of the website.

We held 7 committee meetings over the year up to the originally planned AGM. The minutes of all of these are published in the members section of the website. Due to the cancellation of the original AGM, the committee held a further meeting on Zoom on 29 May to discuss how to move the club forward in the light of some easing of the lockdown measures. Minutes of that meeting are also on the website.

61 members re-joined the club in 2020. Renewal forms were emailed to members to be completed as part of the re-joining process requiring members to acknowledge their acceptance of risk, understanding of the aforementioned policies and reconfirming their GDPR consents. Although there were issues completing the document on some devices, everyone persevered and returned a completed form; so, thanks to everyone for that.

I have changed my mind a few times over the past couple of months with regard to whether or not I wish to stand for re-election at this AGM. I have finally decided that, in the absence of a volunteer for the role, I would be happy to stay on for one additional term but, if elected, will not stand again in 2021.

Martin Heming
CMC General Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please refer to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Michael Faulkner
Treasurer

CMC WALKING REPORT

NUMBERS ATTENDING AND AREA COVERED. 11th April 2019 till 4th March 2020

Walk Description	Number of Committee Members	Number of Club Members	Number of Prospective members	Date Mid-week Weekend
Crummockdale	3	3	0	MW
Littondale	4	2	0	WE
Whernside	2	2	1	MW
Howgills	3	2	0	WE
Drumaldrace	1	1	0	WE
Fountains Fell	1	0	1	MW
Hawswick	1	1	0	WE
Pendle Hill	2	2	1	MW
Kentmere	3	2	0	WE
Great Shunner	3	2	0	MW
Weasdale	2	1	0	WE
Ingleborough	2	0	2	MW
Fairfield alternative	3	0	0	WE
Hesketh Newmarket	2	0	0	WE
Bowland Knotts	1 expressed interest	0	0	MW
Selside	0	0	0	MW
Simons Seat	4	0	0	WE
Malham	2	2	0	MW
Settle	4	2	0	WE
Wharfedale	1 expressed interest	0	0	MW
Gragareth	0	1 expressed interest	0	WE
Barbon	2	3	0	MW

Walk Description	Number of Committee Members	Number of Club Members	Number of Prospective members	Date Mid-week Weekend
Buckden Pike	3	1	0	WE
Horsehead Moor	2	2	0	MW

There have been 24 walks on the club's programme covering the period 11th April 2019 to 4th March 2020. With a half and half split between mid-week and weekend walks covering a variety of locations from Lakes, Dales, Howgills and Trough of Bowland.

The most we have ever had is 3 non committee club members on a walk and this would seem to indicate that only a limited number of members are interested in attending such meets. (approx. 5.8% based on to the best of my knowledge a current membership of 59 with 8 of those being on the committee)

The CMC Walking What's App Group created on the 26th September 2019 has 13 participants. (This represents approx. 22% of the membership with an approx. 50% split between committee members and non-committee members). It has proved popular with those using it to make arrangements around specific meets.

Non committee members offering to coordinate a walk four. Special thanks to Chris Heald for coordinating more than one walk and to Simon Concannon on doing his first since becoming a member.

Unless anyone comes forward to take on the role of Walking Meet Coordinator, I am happy to stand for election for one more term. However, I would like to make it clear that I will not stand for election in 2021 and a volunteer for my role will be required at the next AGM.

Should I get elected to continue in the position of Walking Meet Coordinator it goes without saying that I would be very grateful for volunteers to come forward and coordinate a meet when the Coronavirus restrictions are lifted and allow us to put a programme together.

Fiona Burnett
Walking Meets Secretary
31 May 2020

HUT MEETS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Report on Hut Meets for the twelve-month period from AGM March 2019

We have had some excellent meets that have been sociable and have provided opportunity for some excellent climbing, walking, and cycling beyond that which is possible on day meets. During this period, a total of 9 meets with accommodation were scheduled in the programme and are in the table below. The only camping meet was cancelled due to a weekend of very bad weather in early June. The October trip to The Whillans Hut was cancelled as numbers were too low and no coordinator could be found for this meet. However, I was able to arrange the trip to the Northern Lakes for an alternative date in October without financial risk. The February trip to Crianlarich was cancelled due to insufficient numbers, resulting in loss limited to the £50 deposit.

It is disappointing that three scheduled meets were cancelled. I would comment as follows. Camping meets are always vulnerable to the weather. If we can find coordinators for more camping meets, I think more should be included, as in most years some will fail due to weather in the same way that day climbing meets do. The Whillans and Crianlarich meets are examples of huts where we have to commit to numbers in advance and cancel early if members do not make personal commitments to the meet. They illustrate that, at present, we must be careful when making this sort of commitment and that a meet coordinator and a few members who “want” the meet before it is booked is much to be desired.

The six successful meets covered a wide variety. The Easter trip to Arran was a great success. We seem to be able to get a good number of members booked well in advance for an extended spring trip to Scotland. The Tranearth trip was a weekend booked at shorter notice. It is one of a few Huts where we do not have to make a significant commitment in advance and do not therefore risk a loss. It was very enjoyable but only moderately attended. The trip to Hesketh Newmarket was successful in a new area for the 6 people who attended with the club taking no risk. The Little Langdale, Stair and Smithy meets were typical lakes hut meets in Nov, Dec (Christmas) and Jan (Burns). Whilst the club made a significant commitment in advance for these, it was always clear that attendance would be adequate, and each was profitable.

Overall, the Hut meets in this twelve-month period have shown a moderate monetary surplus (£149) but this could easily change. For example, the main contributor to this surplus was the 2019 Christmas Hut meet at Stair, with a surplus of £106. Currently the Starkey Hut in Patterdale is booked for the 2020 Christmas Hut meet. Booking and payment arrangements make it likely that we will have a super meet, well attended but with no monetary surplus.

Whilst the Corvid 19 situation has interfered with things subsequently, a very encouraging situation occurred in early 2020. Kara Heald spotted the opportunity for clubs to book discounted accommodation in the bunkhouse at Plas y Brenin. She has promoted this amongst members, a very good number of members responded positively, and the club then booked the bunkhouse for late June 2020. This shows the benefit that a member putting forward the ideas they are keen on and being willing to encourage others can have.

My view on the Hut Meet Programme going forward from March 2020 was that we should not have as large a programme booked well in advance with significant financial commitment in the same way that we have had in the past. I think a programme of about four main meets with accommodation booked well in advance is possibly the ideal. (e.g. A spring week in Scotland, an October lakes weekend, an Xmas hut meet and one other.) It would be up to the members to provide ideas for additional meets and to the Hut Sec to programme these and provide assistance in organising if that would be helpful.

My own wishes for the year from March 2020 was for someone else to take the role of Hut Meets Sec at the March AGM which had to be cancelled. As a member, I will remain keen on hut meets, camping meets, barn meets, possible hotel meets and will be willing to assist in organising occasional meets based on my ideas, if they find their way into the programme organised by the new Hut Sec.

The period March 2020 onwards

This is written assuming that the Corvid 19 situation becomes controlled sufficiently to permit Clubs to start to function again and that most or all of our previous activities can be pursued, even if some of them have to be modified.

My view on the way forward for Hut Meets within Craven M.C. in the longer term has not changed from that expressed in the paragraph above regarding what I thought in March 2020. My personal position on wanting another member to take on this role has also not changed. However, the information below will make it clear that the Hut Sec role will be affected as a result of the Corvid 19 situation in ways that are not yet known.

The current situation: - We currently have three meets booked. The first at Plas y Brenin in late June 2020 is certain to be cancelled or put back and the committee decided to seek a new revised booking in June 2021 if that is available and to offer places in 2021 or a refund to members who had booked for June 2020. The second at Starkey Hut in Dec 2020 will be a standard Xmas hut meet if the Corvid 19 situation permits. The third is something for us all to look forward to. We have a five-night booking of the Glen Brittle Hut for the week of Mayday 2021.

A possible way forward – due to Covid 19

In terms of what else can be booked for meets, when it can be booked, when the accommodation can be used and even whether members might be concerned about the risk of attending, there is much that we do not know. Hut type accommodation with group sleeping accommodation and shared kitchens is probably the accommodation type with most risk of virus transmission. (e.g. Whilst some youth hostels are looking forward to opening alongside hotels, they are only taking bookings for private bedrooms.) Camping appears to be the accommodation with least risk. We had been looking at the possibility of an occasional hotel-based meet before the virus situation arose. I had thought it might be a way forward as accommodation starts to be “unlocked”. The most likely type of hotel to be useful appeared to be those used by the big coach holiday operators. Following recent collapse of some of these companies it is not clear if this will become more or less available.

My suggestion would be that we make a commitment to a few meet hut bookings (3) for the next year. Other overnight meets could be arranged via members suggestions and willingness to be the key person and as the situation becomes clearer with regard to Covid19 restrictions and risk. Also, a specific WhatsApp group could be set up for all those members who may be interested in meets that involved an overnight stay to gauge interest in a suggestion. This would give rapid feedback; it could also be made available on the website.

It is clearly not the most encouraging situation in which to recruit a new Hut Sec. but things will get better and there may be opportunities arise for meets as things change that would not normally occur. It may be that a new hut sec would have little to do but wait. It may be just the opposite. If you want to take on the role of Hut Sec, please do. If you are interested in the role but not sure about it or if you are interested in putting forward one or two of your ideas that you are willing to work on, please have a chat with me.

If no other member wishes to take on this role at present, I will offer to continue for the part of the year until but not after the March 2021 AGM. I would only feel able to carry this out based on my suggested way forward above.

TABLE OF HUT MEETS

Meet	Comment	No. of People	£ (Net)
18 – 22 April 2019 Arran	Successful. Members booked far in advance	10	0
7 – 9 June 2019 Borrowdale Camp	Cancelled due to bad weather. Climbing meet also cancelled.	-	-
28 – 30 June 2019 Tranearth Hut Meet. Coniston	Booked at fairly short notice. Good walking and Climbing	8	+32
11 – 13 Oct 2019 Hudscapes Barn, Hesketh Newmarket	Short notice after cancellation of Whillans Hut	6	+5
Oct 2019 Whillans Hut, Roaches	Cancelled due to insufficient member bookings.	-	-
8 – 10 Nov 2019. Fylde Hut, Little Langdale	Successful Meet	10	+26
13 – 15 Dec Fylde Hut, Stair	Xmas Hut Meet	13	+106
17 – 19 Jan 2020 Smithy Hut, Lakes	Burns Night	9	+30
28 Feb – 1 Mar 2020 Ochills Hut, Crianlarich	Cancelled due to insufficient member bookings	-	-50
Total Surplus			£149
Easter 2020 Braemar Y.H	Cancelled due to Corvid 19. All money refunded (5 disappointed)	-	-
May 2020 Kintail Bunkhouse	Cancelled due to Corvid 19. All money refunded. (11 disappointed)	-	-
26 – 28 June 2020 Plas y Brenin	Expect to be cancelled due to Corvid 19. Expect to offer next year or refund		

Dick Winslow
Hut Secretary
6 June 2020

CLIMBING MEET SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi all!

I hope that you are all keeping well.

It feels such a long time ago that we were together as a group on the crag, and sadly, it feels like a long time until we'll be there all together again.

It feels strange to think back to last year now but when I do, I remember happy times in the sometimes sun and often chilly evening with friends. Brave members had an early start to the year with weekend meets to Twis and Gigg starting as early as February – brave souls!

We kicked off the Tuesday meets in early March with the traditional Eastby gathering, the first meet always seems to be very well attended, even though we all know it's guaranteed to be windy and cold and we'll most likely be in the pub for 7pm!

Aside from our usual Tuesday local favourites, we've had mid-week and weekend meets further afield such as Stanage and the Lakes, as well as local ones too.

Looking back at last year's climbing calendar, I must extend a massive THANK YOU. To all the members who came forward to lead the mid-week and weekend meets, we had a great programme and that was down to you

Thanks also to all of you who attended a climbing meet, it's always great to see you turn up, and we're usually pretty good at getting "something" done even if the weather is bad.

I will be stepping down this year and have found a marvellous replacement, when the time is right there will be a programme produced and of course we'd welcome any members to come forward to lead meets.

See you on the crag! (socially distanced of course!)

Vikki

Vikki Bassek
Climbing Meets Secretary

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the last AGM the role of communications secretary was, after being dormant for a few years, "revived" with the idea of producing a quarterly newsletter so as to keep members up to date with news of meets both past and more importantly forthcoming meets as well as reports from the committee.

The newsletters have gone out pretty much on time and thanks goes to both the committee for their contributions and also to members who sent photos and reports in. In addition to the newsletter a monthly bulletin was also introduced with a summary of the next month's meets and updates on hut meets etc. If you would like to see any particular content added to the newsletters or bulletins or if for any reason you do not receive newsletters or monthly bulletins, please let the communications secretary know.

In addition to producing a newsletter and bulletin and I am still not sure how it happened (I think I said I knew a little bit about WordPress.....well I know more now than I did a year ago) but I also took over the role of looking after the website. The website was already well established, and thanks once again goes to Steve Wilson who designed it and got it up and running. The website is the “Hub of the club” and has amongst other things details of upcoming meets, reports from past meets, and the newsletter can also be viewed from the website so please visit the website to keep up to date with what is happening. For those that have social media accounts we also have a Facebook and twitter page and posts (but not meets as yet) are automatically posted onto these pages and of course if you choose to share these postings more people become aware of our club and its activities.

Like all of us I am hoping we can soon return to the crags and mountains we love, and we still have some of our summer left.

Andy Hudson
Communications Secretary

SOCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT

We had a shorter social program this year. All of the socials were well supported. We started off in November with Gareth Jones physiotherapist and researcher from Leeds university talking about common climbing injuries, prevention and treatment.

December was John Brayshaw’s Christmas quiz, which is always a popular event.

January was annual photo competition. This year it was supported by a good range of entries. The final one in February was by a guest speaker Adrian Pilling. He gave an interesting talk to a packed room on the 2019 expedition to the Goufre Berger cave system in France, one of the deepest caves in the world and a major undertaking.

John Ward
Social Secretary

NEW MEMBERS SECRETARY REPORT

Since the 2019 AGM we have received 26 prospective members’ applications, 6 of which have become full members and 5 remain on the prospects list.

Name	Date Applied	Attended
Tony Gruszczynski	25-02-20	Old Member re-joined
Andrew Wilkins	24-02-20	0 (Retained Prospect) C19 extension
Kevin Cook	01-01-20	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Chloe Thwaites	15-11-19	1 (retained prospect) – C19 Extension
Bern Hardman	23-10-19	1 (retained prospect) - payment
Claire Hodgson	06-10-19	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Steve Prior	18-09-19	1 (retained prospect) - payment

Name	Date Applied	Attended
Ben Aspinall	09-09-19	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Andy Mackintosh	05-09-19	1 (Lapsed Prospect) - Old member
Matt Gordon	06-08-19	2 (Lapsed Prospect)
Steve Webb	27-07-19	Became member
Mike Hartley	26-07-19	Became member
Lorna Weaver	20-07-19	Became member
Mark Kent	15-07-19	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Simon Dockray	08-07-19	1 (Lapsed Prospect)
Lin Patrick	23-06-19	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Roland Parker	18-06-19	2 but 1 official (Lapsed Prospect)
Frank Ramsden	05-06-19	became full member and then did not renew
Ian Colledge	14-05-19	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Simon Concannon	09-05-19	Became member
Edward Ryder	05-05-19	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Danny Fitzgerald	04-05-19	1 (Lapsed Prospect)
Josh Laverty	25-04-19	1 (Lapsed Prospect)
Anne Heald	16-04-19	Became member
Mike Ferguson	28-03-19	0 (Lapsed Prospect)
Maria Dixon	26-03-19	2 (retained prospect) payment

Of those prospective members at the time of the 2019 AGM, 2 have become full members.



Andy Barton
New Members Secretary