

Sussex Mountaineering Federation.

Newsletter



Issue 0550

Winter 2013

Editors Ramble.

Very best wishes for a happy and successful 2013 to all our members.

Printed within this Newsletter is the programme of meets for 2013 as agreed at the AGM. You will note that there are two brand new venues arranged, namely, Thetford Forest, Norfolk and Brompton on Swale, Yorkshire (just off the A1(M) at Catterick Bridge. The latter is a camping barn booked for our sole use.

Despite the weather the AGM went ahead at Neils home and some important decisions were made which can be read about further on. Thanks Neil for your hospitality.

One of the major items was an increase in the annual subscription, from £7.00 to £8.00. This is to cover the huge rise in postage and printing for the Newsletter. If you have not yet paid your subs for 2013 now is the time to get your cheque off to Ron.

As for the past year, well attendance was down, however all the meets took place and despite the generally poor weather we only experienced one wet weekend, on all the others we were lucky enough to encounter some good fine weather and tents were packed dry !. We did have to turn away some members on the Loweswater meet as it was fully booked, so if you want to be sure of a place book early with Clive, especially on the Camping Barn trips and the new Norfolk campsite. The latter is a small friendly site but limited for numbers.

The SMF Christmas social was again a huge success with some 28 members enjoying the convivial atmosphere and once again the superb buffet. Our thanks once again go to Clive for providing such a super evening

During the year a major event took place in the form of a wedding. John and Betty are now Mr & Mrs Walsh and the club wish them every success and happiness for the future. Although John will spend more time in France he assures us that he will still be attending some of the meets

Also looking to the future:- **NOW** is the time to book your accommodation for the SMF dinner to be held again at the Little John, Hathersage on Sat 23rd Feb, some ideas are suggested further on.

See you there.....Frank

Cover Photo

Taken on the recent Loweswater Meet, from the left, Jack Wennington (Probably our youngest member), Phil Boxall and our doughty chairman, Paul Giles take a breather above Crummock Water.

PHOTO by Andy Bailey

AGM Report Jan 2013

As there weren't any offers forthcoming to help run the club the existing positions were taken as re-elected.

It was agreed that the subscriptions which had been held at the same level for many years now be raised to £8.00 to cover the ever increasing costs particularly postage. The proposed programme of meets compiled by Clive as Secretary was discussed and agreed upon

It was also suggested that perhaps we should be more pro-active in trying to increase the membership. We will attempt to have our Newsletter more widely distributed in areas where there may be interest and it was agreed that a small committee consisting of Clive, Frank, Sully and Louise should investigate the possibility of setting up and maintaining a new web site. In the event of interest from young rock climbers, Neil and Paul have offered to help coach on the relevant meets. The prudent time to start this campaign will be further into the spring when the better weather should prove more attractive. If anyone can help please let one of us know. Ron circulated the accounts for 2012 and they are printed below. Our thanks to Ron who uncomplainingly carries out the task of treasurer each year.

Paul, our chairman closed the meeting soon after 9pm when Neil generously distributed mugs of tea.

SMF Accounts 2012

Income		Expenditure		
2011	2012	2011	2012	
154.00	105.00			Mem Subs
		32.64	57.84	Postage
		37.00	44.80	Printing
	(20.60)		(20.60)	BBQ(2011)
50.00	100.00	140.00	150.00	Cam/bn Oct
100.00	75.00	204.00	125.00	Cam/bn Nov
0.54p	0.42p			Interest
6.00	6.00			Donation
310.54	284.42	413.64	398.24	Totals

Balance 9/01/12	707.50	
Add Income	284.42	
Less Expenditure	398.24	
Balance 12/01/13	593.68	Plus 650.00 held in premium Bonds

Meets for 2013.

26 - 28 January	Swanage.
22 - 24 February	Dinner - Hathersage.
29 - 01 Mar/April (Easter)	Bosherston, Pembroke.
03 - 06 May (Bank Hol)	Halse Farm, Exmoor.
24 - 27 May (Bank Hol)	Buckfastleigh. Devon.
28 - 30 June	Bishops Castle, Salop.
13 July	BBQ. Sayers Common.
26 - 28 July	Breckles, Norfolk.
19 - 26 August (Bank Hol)	St Minver, Cornwall.
27 - 29 September	Cheddar.
25 - 27 October	Brompton on Swale, Yorkshire, (Barn)
21 - 24 November	St John in the Vale, Lakes (Barn)
30 November	SMF Christmas Social. (The Brewers) Lewes.

Please book at least two weeks in advance with Clive Jackson or if booking direct advise Clive that you are doing so to avoid any mis-understandings .

Clives Phone No. 01273 478941 (Mob 07710 724018.

Suggested Accommodation for the Annual dinner:-

The Little John. Has en-suite bedrooms and self catering cottages, contact:-
www.littlejohnhotel.co.uk Tele 01433 650225, Dogs welcome (accompanied by a human) when booking check whether you require breakfast or board only.
approx tariff room rate £50.00 single, £70.00 Double.

The Scotsmans Pack

www.scotsmanspack.com Tel 01433 650253. On a dry night within walking distance. Singles approx 45.00 Twin/doubles £60/75.00

Millstone Country Inn www.millstoneinn.co.uk Tel 01433 650276 Singles £45.00
Twin/Doubles Approx £75.00

The George Hotel (opposite the Little John)

Prices on application, probably more expensive than the above but seasonal deals may be available

Thorpe Bunk Houses www.thorpe-bunk.co.uk

Extremely well equipped, Kitchens, bunk beds with mattresses, £12.00pn located en-route to North Lees camp site. Tel 01433 650659

Hathersage YHA (Just down the road within 3/4 mins walking.

May need to be a member (but not necessarily - check) Approx £10.00pn

North Lees Camp site (open all year) Tel 01433 650838

Free hot showers, washing up facilities etc. If possible speak to Flo.

Non suitable !!, Then Google Hathersage Hotels & BB there are loads available

Please let Clive know that you are attending so that we can advise Stephanie of the catering numbers required. Although not essential it helps everyone if you would do this sooner rather than later.

Contact Numbers

**Treasurer/Membership:- Ron Scroggins, Upper Flat, 3, Tennis Road,
Hove, E.Sussex BN3 4LR Tel 01273 419377**

**Secretary:- Clive Jackson, 2, Valence Cottages, Valence Road, Lewes,
E.Sussex, BN7 1SA. Tel 01273478941 (Mob 07710 724018**

**Chairman:- Paul Giles, Fairstead, Coopers Green, Uckfield E.Sussex
Tel 01825 733358**

**Newsletter:- Frank Edwards, 7, Stirling Court Road, Burgess Hill,
E.Sussex RH15 0PS Tel 01444 247249**

Proposed Climbing Wall.

A disused warehouse on the Victoria Road industrial estate in Portslade is to be developed into Brighton & Hove's first dedicated climbing wall.

Expecting to attract 170 customers per day it will provide crash mats, climbs of all grades, changing rooms, refreshment area etc. Pitch 9

Climbing Ltd expect to have the project up and running by next year.

Warning !! re via Ferrata security sets.

Following a fatal accident in 2012 on a Via Ferrata in the Tirol a dangerous flaw has been discovered. The climber fell several metres only and yet both lanyards snapped. The system is designed to absorb the kinetic energy on the short length of lanyard in the event of a fall, ie between the karabiner clipped to the cable and the harness. The type in question is manufactured by Austrialpin, Edelrid, Edelweiss and Singing Rock and consists of an element of elastic fibre in the element. Apparently the elastic stretches in normal use and in doing so rubs against the strength bearing threads, weakening them. Unlike a climbing rope it does not need a fall for this to happen. Systems without elastic fibres are not effected but it would be expedient to ensure that yours is listed as Nicht Betroffen (Not affected).

Hastings Rock & Fell Club.

February Meets:

03 Castle climbing wall

23 - 02 March, Stathfillan, Scotland (A fully equipped Lodge)

The club are considering a trip to the Ecrins National Park in the French Alps this summer

. The area includes the challenges of La MMeije, Mt. Pelvoux & Les Barres des Ecrin plus some spectacular walking and rock climbing.

If you are interest and Hastings always make SMF members welcome on their trips please contact either Dick or Nick (See below).

Hastings contact numbers:-

Dick 01424 215478 Nick 01424 813678 (Mob 07799 868539)

Items for the next SMF Newsletter

are urgently required also photographs particularly ones suitable for the front page. Have you been on a trip over the winter months, even the South Downs in the snow ?, write and let us know.

Edutoirs E Mail address if preferred

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