



The AMAZING new bathroom facilities at Fallcliffe Cottage. What a transformation.

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Important Announcements

Subs time

'Tis the season to renew your ULGMC membership. Please send a cheque (payable to 'ULGMC'), make a bank transfer (acc no 04145127 and s/c 52-30-40) or set up an authorisation for a Direct Debit: <https://dashboard.gocardless.com/api/paylinks/0QNYCBJ71A>

Offer for new members: New members pay only £2 to join ULGMC, plus the BMC affiliation of £20.25. This applies to the first two years of membership.

Normal subs are £26.25 singles (incl. £20.25 for BMC affiliation), £50.50 joint (incl. £40.50 BMC affiliation) and £15 to add BMC liability insurance for children. Discounts for non-UK residents is £20.25 as BMC insurance doesn't cover them (overseas prices are £6 single, £10 joint).

The postal address is: 114 Barncroft Way, Havant, PO9 3AH

Volunteers Needed!

ULGMC needs an overhaul and a committee that has the vision to drive it into the future. We're currently looking for:

President | Treasurer | Secretary

These positions would really suit a group of friends that want to take on a new challenge.

We also need: Meet Leaders, London

Socialites/Climbers/Walkers

ULGMC is nothing without its members. Make it yours by helping decide the future of the club. Being a ULGMC committee member is a great way to boost your organisational, leadership, team-working and social skills. Email me: Stephan Tietz, for more details, president@ulgmc.org

Want to submit a report?

3rd May at the latest

Editor: Heather Rumble (interim)
Email: heather.rumble@gmail.com
Web: www.ulgmc.org.uk



2020 Expedition and Training Fund goes live

£200 is up for grabs to run an expedition or provide or receive training (£400 if contributing to the Alps Trip!). See the website for more details:

<https://www.ulgmc.org.uk/fund>

Upcoming Meets

9 Apr – 13 Apr, Easter Meet and AGM, Caseg Fraith

Our most popular meet of the year, Easter offers everything that Snowdonia can muster. Whether it snows or is brilliant sunshine, a great time can be guaranteed! Please keep a lookout in your email inboxes for an invitation; feel free to email me in advance to let me know you want to come on the meet.

Heather Rumble: heather.rumble@gmail.com



22 May – 29 May, Cornwall Meet

If you want to try: cliff climbing (easy or hard), pasties and pints (at various hostelryes), beautiful coastal walks (to bays, beaches and headlands), traditional cream teas, open studios showing art and crafts, swimming and surfing (cold water not withstanding), local caught crab and seafood (yummy) and the Minnack open air theatre, this meet is for you!

Members who have joined us on this meet before will know that we have to prebook our pitches for this event. So this is a request that if you are wanting to join in the camping event of the year, please let us know. Keith and I will be at Trevedra

Farm from Friday 22nd May to 29th May, do join us for all or some of the time.

Frances Mott: francesmott@gmail.com

Summer 2020 – Alps Expedition

This year the Alps Trip is probably going to be slightly earlier than usual (June/July) and is likely to take place in Chamonix or the Ecrin. It's a friendly and welcoming meet and offers activities for experienced mountaineers and newbies alike. There is also usually time for some beers around the campsite too. If you are interested in attending, or want to find out more, please request to join the Facebook page asap:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1526125070879583/>



Don't see something you fancy? Contact Graham, the Meets Secretary, to suggest your own meet.

The club offers financial support and helpful guidance to meet leaders: meets@ulgmc.org.uk

Meet Reports

New Year @ Caseg

Frances Mott

A smaller group than some years came together at Caseg over the New Year. We enjoyed much warmer weather than normal (some members bewailed the lack of snow). Several classic walks were undertaken by various members of the group, including The Carneddau, Tryfan, Moel Siabod, Cwm Idwal, and Snowdon. Other activities included walks on the beach, museums, and visits to club member who

lives locally. A communal meal on New Year's Eve came before Champers at midnight when the bongs sounded. We all look forward to 2020 and days in the mountains.

Inspired? Fancy running a new meet?

Contact the meets secretary:

meets@ulgmc.org.uk

Members Corner

Wanted: Your Stories of Adventure!

We know that ULGMC members get up to all sorts of exciting things during the year, from snow-shoeing to climbing inaccessible peaks and scaling rock in exotic locations. We would love to hear about these adventures, as they act as a source of inspiration for so many members. The Wadi Rum piece in the last newsletter got a particularly high volume of praise, so thanks to David Roche for the contribution.

Any contributions are welcome, whether you'd like to write a page or just a few lines with a photo.

Please send contributions to editor@ulgmc.org.uk

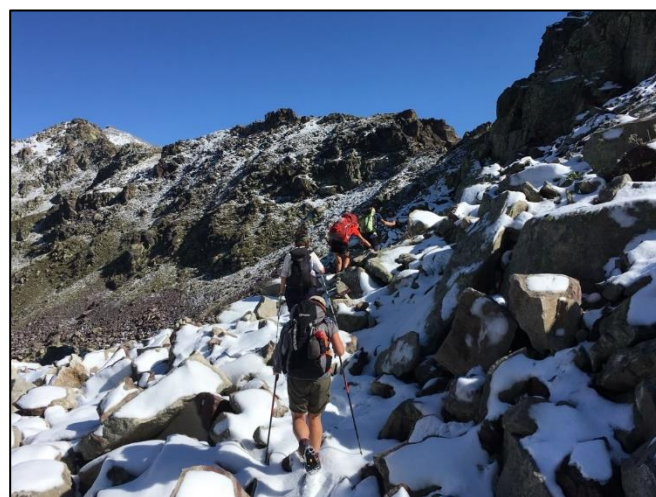
Grande Traversée du Mercantour

Stephen Olivant



Last September I was invited to join a really friendly group to trek a slightly shortened version of the 16 day Grand Traverse which runs along the central spine of the Alpes-Maritimes as it arcs southeastwards to Menton on the Mediterranean coast. The first half of GR 52 route follows the French-Italian border, and the second half runs through the French Mercantour National Park.

The Alpes-Maritimes are stunningly beautiful mountains and quiet in September because they are comparatively unknown, even in France. They also enjoy generally sunnier and warmer conditions than the central alps.



We had to cut a couple days off either end of the whole Grand Traverse to fit it into a two week holiday and we were happy to concentrate upon the high mountain sections for 13 days. The GR52 was well marked and the route obvious for most of the trip, although a couple of unmarked deviations were necessary to avoid temporary hazards.

Our overnight stays were in a mixture of French and Italian alpine club huts, plus a couple of small hotels and one huge Christian sanctuary. Having a fluent French-speaker amongst us helped a lot in a couple of the huts. All of them were very welcoming and provided good food for evening meals and packed lunches. As our party consisted of six attractive single women (plus me), we seemed to get extra attention and hospitality from the hut guardians.

The weather was wonderfully sunny for the trip until our penultimate day developed into a wet afternoon and overnight snowstorm. However, the next morning brought clear blue skies and crisp white snow underfoot for our long walk out of the high mountains to our taxi and celebration beers at a valley head.



If you are thinking about where to go for your next high mountain trekking trip in Europe, I would recommend looking at the Mercantour. Flights to Nice, car hire and public transport are all relatively easy and cheap. I loved this GR and would go back sometime.... but the Alta Via 2 in the Dolomites has caught my attention for this year.

Here's a good quick guide:

<https://randoxygene.departement06.fr/grande-traversee-dumercantour-11289.html>

Electric Cars at Caseg?

Tim Stats-Marshall

The government intends to ban the sale of petrol, diesel and hybrid cars from 2040 onwards. Then from 2035, and most recently from 2032. What impact is this likely to have on those of us wishing to visit Caseg, or Fallcliffe? Trying not to be parochial, the effects of such a ban will have a huge impact on anyone wanting to go away any distance for a weekend.

Let's get specific and talk about going from London to Caseg. As I understand it, the distance capacity of electric care is at a maximum about 250 miles. Doesn't leave much for running around from hut to crag - say, the Anglesey sea cliffs or Cwm Silyn. The ultimate prize is a battery that will do about 500 miles, but there seems little prospect of that as yet.

A w/e at Caseg can be divided into "getting there and back" and "being there"

"Getting there" It's approximately 200 miles from "London" - probably Marble Arch or Trafalgar Square - to Capel Curig and unless you're juiced up before you leave you'll need to do so en route. Adds time to the journey, and just think about all the cars queuing up at the Shell garage at the end of the Gobowen (Oswestry) bypass: Again, subject to advances in technology, it is likely to take at least 10 times as long to juice up as to fill with petrol. And it's far too soon to say where all the filling stations might be. It's possible, though, that juicing points can be developed which are completely independent of a human presence, which might be OK for the provider but wouldn't reduce the filling time.



Assuming you arrive there with the battery not totally exhausted, one of the first things to do would be to find a filling station. Again, we've no idea where these are likely to be, but just imagine the filling capacity needed for all the cars parked along the A5 in the Ogwen Valley, and at Pen y Pass, and

Nant Peris it doesn't take much imagining to see that places like these would do well out of creating a filling station, but someone will have to stay behind to supervise the filling of the tank, and then catch everyone else up - or just go to somewhere different for the day.

There's not much more to say, really. The problem isn't unique to the outdoor industry, and there must be people elsewhere who have begun to think about it. Does anyone have a view?

Editor's Comment

Since my real job involves trying to find ways for us all to be a bit more sustainable, I couldn't really not comment on this one.

I'm frustrated by how slow the development of the infrastructure for electric cars is taking, but also have to remind myself that uptake in buying them has also been reasonably slow; While electric car sales are growing, so too are the sales of gas guzzling SUVs. I suppose it is a chicken and egg problem, as Tim is pointing out, but I also think that lots of the problems we are currently pointing out would be solved if we supported the industry better early on. It's really difficult though; Personally, we would love an electric car but don't have a driveway where we could charge it and there are no charge points near us. So there are already significant barriers even for the dedicated.

That said, I'm not convinced that there is no way around this in what is a transitional time for the UK transport industry, and it is possible right now to get to Caseg without owning a carbon emitting vehicle, leaving budget to invest now in an electric car. For years we didn't own a car and instead rented one when we wanted to visit the mountains. It was actually pretty affordable and was a fun experience driving the most up to date (and fuel efficient!) motors; perhaps this is a solution for those with

shorter range electric cars in the interim. And over the years, as our guilt about the "love miles" we spend on mountaineering has increased, we've tried to do more on foot or by bus once we get to Caseg, or have tried to car share with others. We've had plenty of excellent weekends at Caseg without moving the car at all. Lastly, most Caseg meets have at least a few members arriving by train and bus, especially as Londoners give up their cars for public transport. I hope that with a few adjustments and a little inconvenience now, we might see a very different world in the next decade and I might be able to feel less guilty for driving seven hours North just to go for a walk! Electric cars are just part of the infrastructure that's needed to revolutionise UK transport, but without some open-mindedness now, it won't happen.

Devoured by the Dragon

Heather Rumble

Many of you will know that Stephan and I had been preparing for some years to pit our legs and navigation skills against The Dragon's Back Race this year. The race starts in Conwy and takes five days, following a 315km route across the Welsh mountains. It takes you over 15,500m of ascent before finishing in Llandeilo. We spent every bit of holiday in 2019 reccyng the route, running in frost at 6am, leaving hire cars all over remote parts of Wales and sometimes wild camping in waist high heather.

Anyway, the race finally came and we stood on the start line in Conwy Castle with lots of very serious-looking ultra runners. I felt totally sick with nerves, but we soon eased into it and tried to ignore all the people overtaking us. We did a good time on Day 1, reaching the camp after around 12 hours of running and a brilliant traverse over Crib Goch in the late evening sun. As sods law will enforce itself, a mystery knee injury presented itself right at the start

though and didn't budge (and it hasn't come back since), so every descent was a slow slog.

That knee injury was to prove our downfall on Day 2. We made good progress over the Moelwyns and Rhinogs, but descending down into Dollgellau was painfully slow and we limped into camp right against the 14 hour cut off. We made it, but only just and I didn't think we would be able to start Day 3.



As it happened, we were bullied by several support crew, including ULGMC's very own Sam, into starting Day 3 and were actually on really good form. There was mist over Cadair Idris, which really helped as the heat had been doing us no good. But at some point my body gave up and the miles took their toll; I could only walk and felt ill every time I ran. We got slower and slower until eventually we knew we wouldn't make the half-way point in time. As the course planner said, "The course closed on us" and we were forced to retire having made about half the distance and over half the ascent – crossing all of Snowdonia National Park.

We're not too disappointed as we think we gave it our absolute all. But it is unfinished business perhaps... The next edition is in September 2021; will we be any fitter by then?

I wrote a longer race report for this if anyone is interested. You can read it here: <http://www.harvestmice-adventures.org/blog/2019/05/24/dragons-back-race-report/>

Fancy joining us for an adventure-run?

We receive several emails throughout the year from members that want to get into fell running and mountain marathons. If you are interested in joining us, or would like some advice on how to start, send me an email (heather.rumble@gmail.com). We love all kinds of running and are not just into crazy multi-day ultras, promise!

The ULGMC Name

Tim Stats-Marshall

I first stayed at Casey in November 1964. I had gone there with the college club (LSE), using what was then the usual means of transport, a hired minibus. Always difficult, finding a driver old enough to satisfy the insurance conditions imposed by the hire companies - but that's another story.

The main reason for remembering the visit was the behaviour of our president. He was a committed socialist, a hard left-winger whose father had been black-listed from the north-eastern shipyards pre-war, and who had something of a log on his shoulder. What follows is from my fallible memory, but the notion must have come from somewhere, so this is as good as any other, and more likely than most.

On the notice-board was a bit of paper inviting you, when you graduated and left the university, to join the London Graduate Mountaineering Club. There followed details of the membership secretary, the meets programme, and so on. For some reason our president thought this was promoting elitism, and with some difficulty was dissuaded by more sober

members of the club from tearing it down and throwing it away.

However, the LGMC name has stuck in my mind. There have been informal discussions with current ULGMC members about how to get more members, and the name has been amongst the matters considered. It is my belief that the name is one of the more off-putting elements, and I want to suggest that the name is changed to the shorter, simpler version.

How, then, did it ever become ULGMC? This happened around the time I joined, I was living in France, and no, I don't remember the name of the organisation I joined, though I think it most likely that it was LGMC. I believe that when the club was thinking of buying a property in the Peak District, it approached the University and asked for a loan to help. The request reached the Senate, who pointed out that with a name of LGMC there was no apparent connection between the climbing club and the University of London. So we changed our name to ULGMC - and the Senate gave us the loan. Now this might be a complete figment of my imagination, though I think not; and in any case, doesn't weaken the case for a name change now.

The University of London is nowadays almost a figment of the imagination. People identify with the colleges, which nowadays award their own degrees - the larger ones at least - and public references to them, whether on University Challenge or elsewhere, are to 'Queen Mary University' or 'Royal Holloway University' with no mention of London at all.

A name change might make it easier to attract new members. We need to approach, in the Spring term, I think, all the colleges with their own clubs, with a flier about LGMC and the huts and a forthcoming meets list. The flier should be in two parts, one with long-term stability to it - the huts, trustees and

(probably) club officials, and one with more transitory information like the meets programme.

Changing the name shouldn't be that difficult, but will need to be done with care and after discussion with and agreement from the bank. When we changed the old constitution about 15 years ago, the bank wanted to see copies of the old and proposed new constitutions, the voting figures at the AGM and (maybe) what arrangements are being made for postal votes for non-attenders. These matters should be able to be cleared up by talking to the local manager. Come to think of it, if you send me account name, number and sort code - if you think changing the name is a good idea - then I'll see what I can do through our local NatWest branch.

Obituaries

Les Bailey

By Geof Batten

Les Bailey became Treasurer/Membership Secretary at the 1989 AGM, which was when I became Secretary. Both of us had to pick up the pieces after a somewhat chaotic period for the club and Les continued in his role until 2005. Many of us will have memories of his coming round the tables at the end of the annual dinner and collecting next year's subscriptions. Les came later into the club- through his son Martin- than some of us; his major commitment for many years was to the Scouts, particularly as a Duke of Edinburgh Award organiser and examiner. He was a man of strong opinions and could be difficult to deal with on occasions but could also be very kind and thoughtful. Margaret and I got to know Les well during my period as Secretary and we had many happy days with him in the mountains.

Humfrey Berkeley

By Geof Batten

Humfrey died on 12 May 2017 aged 94. He left his estate to the RNLI to fund a new lifeboat. Humfrey and Stella (Humfrey's wife, and a founding member) were experienced sailors in their 32 ft yacht- see Stella's obituary in ULGMC Newsletter 200, November 2003 for some of their exploits- and the new boat named 'Stella and Humfrey Berkeley' entered service in May 2018. It is based at Leverbugh at the southern end of the island of Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Humfrey had expressed the hope that the new boat would be located on the west coast of Scotland as this was one of his and Stella's favourite sailing areas. The naming ceremony was attended by Stella's and Humfrey's niece and her family. Here's a photo of the new boat:



Club News

Presidents Report

Stephan Tietz

How quickly a year flies by and life changes.

You will have noticed that club activities have been very quiet: fewer meets, fewer newsletters and delayed membership renewals. In short that's due to the lack of people volunteering to run meets and because the committee is now just myself and Graham, with Heather helping out occasionally by writing up the AGM minutes and preparing

newsletters. Ian stepped down, partially due to time commitments not permitting him to participate in the club and partially due to myself delaying the handover of the finance side (as I didn't want to lump him with unscrutinised accounts).

Anyway I have started working through the actions from the last AGM, preparing the accounts for 2019 and I will fully process renewals shortly. So, expect an update on the 2020 membership fees in your inbox and details of how I will attempt to correct the direct debits. Sort of luckily for me, the BMC had problems with their membership system, so clubs were not able to submit our membership lists until last week. This also means that membership cards will be sent out with the Summer Summit (and not the Spring Summit). You will be able to download a copy of your membership card in the meantime (explained further up in the newsletter).

Technically, I use the president's report to update on my agenda:

- Revisiting governance of club, particularly ensure the AGM works for members
- Engage the next generation of climbers, particularly ULMC
- Deal with increasing cost of BMC affiliation
- Support Fallcliffe, so it becomes a more welcoming and enjoyable hut

I guess it is clear that we have gone back on the first two items, mostly due to my inability to stay on top of club admin single-handedly. The increasing cost of the BMC affiliation was discussed at the last AGM at length and I encourage you to look at the attached minutes. The good news is that the trustees and hut wardens don't rely on me and have worked hard to make Fallcliffe more welcoming and you can read an update on their work they have done to the bathroom in this newsletter.

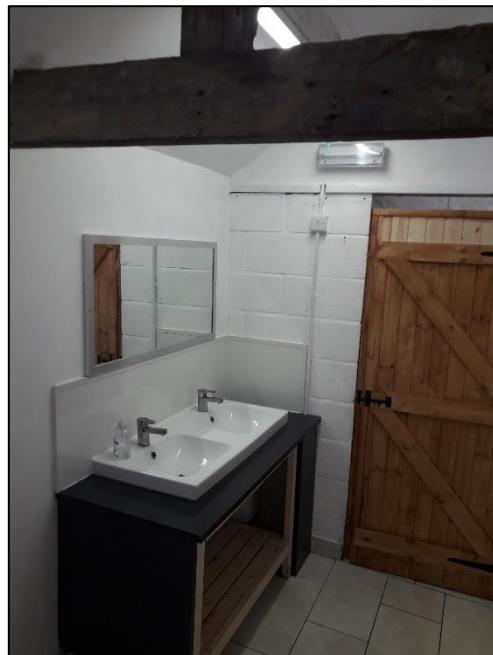
So, all that's left is for me to apologise that I have failed to make time for running the club and to recruit new committee members. What I have tried clearly wasn't enough. It is my intention to seek out an entirely new committee as soon as possible; we have said for some years now that we need a fresh injection of ideas to the club and, personally, life is moving on and I am unable to commit the time I once could to trying to move the club forward. Finally, I want to thank all the people who have been running meets in the Alps, Fallcliffe and Caseg Fraith as well as the hut trustees and wardens for keeping the show on the road.

If you do have any comments or queries, please email (president@ulgmc.org.uk) or telephone (07984 583146, evenings and weekends).

Fallcliffe Update

Dave Morley

The bathroom area at Fallcliffe is currently being updated. Although the work started late after the pre Christmas flooding the bathroom was ready for the clubs January meet. Thanks to local builder Andy Croft and the SEN students from Manor Academy who have helped with the decorating.



BMC News

Massive hike in BMC affiliation costs

Some of you may have heard that in 2019 the BMC raised its affiliation costs by a whopping 35%, raising our affiliation per member to £20.25 each. The reason given was that the BMC had, for the first time ever we believe, had to pay out on an insurance claim. There was a lively debate about this at the 2019 AGM and ULGMC are resigned that it will have to be paid, as it is our national body and provides us with a range of services, including insurance, that would be very difficult to obtain

elsewhere. So we have raised membership prices in accordance. As suggested at the AGM, we will be making it clearer on membership application forms and our membership cards how much of members subs go to us and how much go to the BMC. We would also encourage members to make full use of their BMC membership by visiting the website and seeing what they can offer you as individuals (e.g. training courses, Summit magazine, etc.): <https://www.thebmc.co.uk>

BMC members area, Summit magazine and lost membership cards

As ULGMC member (resident in the UK) you're covered by third-party liability insurance through the BMC and have access to Summit magazine and BMC discounts. Log in* via <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/login>. Click "Link your membership to this account today", entering your BMC membership number (on your ULGMC membership card) and your date of birth.

(*If you have never used the member area of the BMC webpage then you will need to register first. Visit <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/register>.)

You'll now be able to "View your online membership card", watch BMC documentaries and "BMC TV" and get access to exclusive offers.

As a club member, you receive the first annual issue of Summit magazine each year in print. But you can read the other issues online, in the BMC members area or via the app (Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.com.yudu.ReaderAIR4536603> iOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/summit-magazine-climbing-walking/id850480265?mt=8>)

ULMC News

ULMC Meets

ULMC members are welcome at ULGMC meets and ULGMC members are welcome at ULMC meets (although where accommodation is limited members of the hosting club have priority in booking.)

ULMC are always on the look-out for experienced climbers. **If you are interested to help out please get in contact with Francis, our ULMC rep francishardy.hardy@gmail.com).**

ULMC also climb every Tuesday during term time at Mile End climbing wall. If you'd like to join them, pop along and look out for their ULMC hoodies or t-shirts.

Interested in joining the committee?

Here's a brief description of the committee roles available at the moment in ULGMC.

The current committee do most of their "meetings" virtually at the moment, because we are quite geographically spread. Very occasionally, we will arrange a weekend away to discuss club issues. We all try to attend the AGM if possible. Each committee is different though, and finds their best way of working.

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

An hour a week, plus committee meetings (usually one or two per year, not including the AGM).

The treasurer and membership secretary's role is to collate and process membership requests and to supply our membership numbers quarterly to the BMC. In addition, the treasurer and membership secretary organises our expenditure, which is usually small amounts of money used to support meet leaders.

This job suits someone who can dedicate a small amount of time each week. There is not a huge

amount of work, but it comes in steadily throughout the year.

Secretary

An hour a month, plus committee meetings (usually one or two per year, not including the AGM).

The secretary's role is to organise the rest of the committee. This means keeping a calendar of events and reminding other committee members when deadlines are coming up. The secretary also organises committee meetings and takes notes at these and the AGM. Traditionally, the secretary has also been responsible for putting together the newsletter – however this varies from committee to committee.

Email Stephan for more information:
president@ulgmc.org

Committee Member without Portfolio

This is a role for anyone who is interested in helping out with the committee, but who doesn't want to be tied to a specific role. CMWP's attend committee meetings, helping make decisions on behalf of the club. They also take on ad-hoc roles to generally get stuff done – this could be a clothing order, helping out with the AGM, tidying bits of the website or just being a voice of wisdom. This role is ideal for those that think they might want to take on an officer position, but want a taster first. We also have CMWP's who have held officer roles in the past, to offer advice and to help out.

Email Stephan for more information:
president@ulgmc.org

We're also looking for meet leaders and people interested in organising socials, climbing and day walks in London/the South East

Committee 2019/20

Full officers



Stephan Tietz

President

president@ulgmc.org.uk

07984583146

Vacant

Recruiting!

Vice President

Vacant

Recruiting!

Treasurer & Membership Secretary

Please still email to:

members@ulgmc.org.uk

Vacant

Recruiting!

Secretary

Please still email to:

secretary@ulgmc.org.uk



Graham Cunningham

Meets Secretary

meets@ulgmc.org.uk

Officers without portfolio

YOU? We're looking for fresh ideas from members that are keen to get stuck in!

Recruiting!

4 positions

Scrutineer



Mark Stitson

mark@stitson.com

Non-committee roles



Jill Bennett

Club archivist

archivist@ulgmc.org.uk

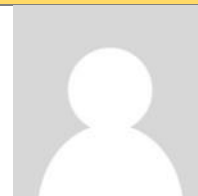


Heather Rumble (interim)

Newsletter editor

editor@ulgmc.org.uk

Recruiting!



Francis Hardy

ULMC liaison

francishardy.hardy@gmail.com

ULGMC Huts

Fallcliffe



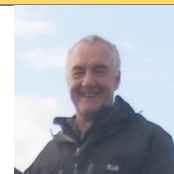
Lead Trustee

Mike Hale

Mikejhale+ulgmc@gmail.com


Trustee

Keith Mott

saymellon@gmail.com


Hut Warden

Dave Morley

fallcliffe@ulgmc.org.uk

Fees include fuel and electricity, and are £5.50 for ULGMC members and University of London students, £6.50 for other students and £9 for guests, per person per night. No individual bookings accepted except for ULMC & ULGMC members.

Bunk space available for parties of up to 15 people.

To book the hut visit: <https://www.ulgmc.org.uk/huts/fallcliffe/book>

Caseg Fraith



Lead Trustee

Mike Pollitt

pollitt@talk21.com

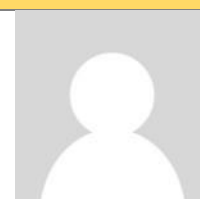

Trustee

Mark Stitson

mark@stitson.com


Hut Warden

Phil Tarr

caseg@ulgmc.org.uk


Hut Sub-Warden

Sally Brown

Fees, which include fuel and electricity, are £6 for ULGMC members and University of London students, £8 for other students and £10 for guests, per person per night. Bunk space is available for parties of up to 40 people.

Wifi Network: CasegFraith; Password: Tryf@n917

Strictly limited to 8 parking spaces.

To book the hut or check availability, visit: <https://www.ulgmc.org.uk/huts/caseg/book>

**PLAS Y BREININ**

National Mountain Sports Centre

70th ULGMC AGM**10th April 2020**

Dear ULGMC member,

You are warmly invited to the 2020 AGM, taking place at Plas y Brenin, the National Mountain Sports Centre, on the 10th of April 2020.

The AGM will start at 18:30 and includes a three course meal afterwards (for those that want it) from the excellent Plas y Brenin Servery. Plas y Brenin also has an excellent bar, stocking beers from the local area. All that, within a hop, skip and a jump of Caseg Fraith!

For those joining us for dinner, there will be a range of starters, mains and desserts. These will include vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options. If you have any other special dietary requirements, please let us know what these are via the RSVP below. All this for £17.40.

Plas-Y-Brenin also has accommodation on site for those who don't want to stay at Caseg Fraith. Rooms are £70 per room per night for a single or a twin. Please contact Plas y Brenin directly on 01690 720214 to book these rooms, or visit <https://www.pyb.co.uk/about-plas-y-brenin/accommodation/> for their online booking system.

The ULGMC Committee hope that you will join us. Please RSVP by following the link (<https://forms.gle/nAvxWG1dcMsKy2NRA>), or by returning the questionnaire attached to this invite. The deadline for RSVP's is the 25th of March.

There are two ways to pay for your meal:

- Electronically (preferred): ULGMC, Acc No: 04145127, S/C: 52-30-40, with your membership number as a reference
- Snail mail: Post a cheque made payable to "ULGMC", sent to H. Rumble, 114 Barncroft Way, Havant, PO9 3AH

Happy Mountaineering!

The ULGMC Committee

To RSVP online, visit: <https://forms.gle/nAvxWG1dcMsKy2NRA>

Name (please list all attending in your party):

I/we would like to attend the 2020 AGM at Plas y Brenin

Yes

☐

No

☐

I/we would like to eat in the PYB servery, at a cost of £17.40 per head

Yes

☐

No

☐

Please list any dietary requirements (e.g. allergies):

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to "ULGMC" for the meal

Yes

☐

No

☐

I have arranged a bank transfer for the meal (acc no 04145127 and s/c 52-30-40 using your membership number as reference)

Yes

☐

No

☐

I/we will also be attending the Easter meet*, staying at Caseg Fraith

Yes

☐

No

☐

The nights I/we would like to stay at Caseg Fraith are: (Thurs, Fri, Sat and/or Sun)

--

Please send RSVPs and cheques by 25th of March to: H Rumble, 114 Barncroft Way, Havant, PO9 3AH

* Please note, space at the hut is first come, first served. We will contact you to confirm whether we have been able to reserve a bed space for you. Payment will be taken on the meet.

ULGMC Annual General Meeting

Draft Agenda for 70th AGM (2020)

The 70th Annual General Meeting of the University of London Mountaineering Club (ULGMC) will take place at 6.30 pm on Friday 10th April at Plas y Brenin, Snowdonia

1. Welcome

- a. Apologies for absence
- b. Proxy votes received
- c. *Adoption of agenda for 2020 AGM
- d. *Adoption of minutes from 2019 AGM
- e. Matter arising from 2019 AGM
 - i. Compile list of honorary & life members (rolled over from 2019 AGM)
 - ii. Appeal to ULMC to help with Caseg Fraith (rolled over from 2019 AGM)
 - iii. *Adoption of minutes from 2018 AGM
 - iv. Scrutinise accounts for 2012-2014 (covered later)
 - v. Re-presentation and adoption of the accounts for 2012-2018 (covered later)
 - vi. Committee to make changes to webpage, application forms, membership cards, 2020 accounts to clearly state that membership fees split into a small club contribution and a large BMC affiliation
 - vii. Committee to write to the BMC, outlining the large proportional cost of BMC affiliation and our concern that it will reduce the number of people able to join mountaineering clubs.
 - viii. Committee to draft constitutional changes including allowance for children of single parents

2. President's report

3. Finances (presented by Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

- . Report on membership numbers and profile
- a. *(Re)presentation and adoption of the accounts for 2012-2018
- b. *Presentation and adoption of the account for 2020
- c. Presentation of forecast for 2021
- d. Membership subscription rates for 2021
- e. *Authorisation of expenditure for 2021

4. Programme for 2020 & 2021 (presented by Meets Secretary)

- . Meets reports & planning
- a. *Date of 2021 AGM

5. Other reports

- . Trustees/hut wardens for Caseg Fraith and Fallcliff
- a. Updates from BMC & BMC area meetings (if no written updates received)

6. Elections & confirmations

- . *Club officers
 - President: currently Stephan Tietz
 - Meets Secretary: currently Graham Cunningham
 - Vice-President, Treasurer/Membership Sec, Secretary: currently vacant
- b. *Committee members without portfolio
 - 4 positions: currently vacant
- c. Non-committee roles
 - *Scrutineer of ULGMC accounts: currently Mark Stitson
 - Non Archivist: currently Jill Bennett
 - ULMC liaison: currently Rob Hardy
 - Newsletter editor: currently Heather Rumble (interim)

7. Any other business

- a. Presentation of changes to constitution (to be adopted 2021 AGM)

- b. BMC representatives
- c. Acknowledgment of 70th club anniversary
- d. Anniversaries of huts (Caseg Fraith & Fallcliffe, 2021)

** means a decision is required by the AGM*

ULGMC Annual General Meeting

Draft Minutes for 69th AGM (2019)

The 69th Annual General Meeting of the University of London Mountaineering Club (ULGMC) was held at 6.30pm on Friday 19th April 2019 at Plas y Brenin, Snowdonia.

Opening (presented by Secretary)

Stephan Tietz (President) in the chair (and covering Secretary); Heather Rumble (interim Secretary) taking minutes

Apologies for absence

Ian Ross (Treasurer), Sue Darling, Jill Bennett, Mike Bennett, Janet Hellen, Trevor Hellen, Liz Parkinson, Mike Parkinson, Jeff Batten, Margaret Batten, Pauline Owens, Stephen Olivant, Angie Hsu, Mike Hale, Mel Owen, Seb Rowlands, Samantha Gilbert, Mark Russell, Julie Russell, Neil Brindley, Dave Wray, Willie Butler, Rachael Mott, Andy Charalambolous, Elena del Pozo

Proxy votes received

- Nominate the chair (Stephan Tietz): Mike Hale, Stephen Olivant, Mark Russell, Julie Russell, Neil Brindley (5 in total)
- Nominate another attendee (and full member of ULGMC): None (0)
- Gave choices via online vote return: David Wray (1)

*Adoption of the draft agenda for 2019 AGM

Minutes were not circulated in advance and Mike Esten noted that this is in violation of the constitution. Stephan Tietz apologised for this failure of the committee and asked if the AGM will consider to proceed:

Proposed: Frances Mott; Seconded: Jeremy Wright. Accepted by consent.

*Adoption of the minutes from 2018 AGM

- Minutes were not adopted because they had not been printed for the AGM.

ACTION: Committee to circulate and present to 2020 AGM.

Matters arising from 2018 AGM:

Scrutinise accounts for 2012-2017 & write to Mike Warden

See Finance.

Compile list of Honorary & life members

Heather Rumble had not been in contact with Jill Bennett to compile a list of Honorary members.

Rollover.

ACTION: Heather Rumble to present to 2020 AGM.

Appeal to ULMC to help with Caseg

Heather Rumble had not included an appeal to ULMC/ULGMC to help with Caseg. Rollover.

ACTION: Heather Rumble to present to 2020 AGM.

President's report

President has focussed on four areas:

- Revisiting governance of club, particularly ensure the AGM works for members
- Engage the next generation of climbers, particularly ULMC
- Deal with increasing cost of BMC affiliation
- Support Fallcliffe, so it becomes a more welcoming and enjoyable hut

We have made some progress across the board, but have also seen some setbacks even though the last AGM is only 6 months ago.

On the note of AGM, I proposed to move the date to coincide with Easter. We will see how the evening and the weekend develops, but I am cautiously optimistic. We have similar attendance to last year and attendees are a more representative crosscut of our membership. So, I am hopeful that we can build on this if we have a year to plan the next AGM.

This obviously also means that we have had a very mild success in engaging the next generation of climbers even though ULMC attendance on this meet is not as large as I had hoped. But we are moving in the right direction.

At this point I would like to read from our constitution: "The objects of the club shall be the promotion and encouragement of all branches of mountaineering, hillwalking and climbing, especially among its members and students and graduates of the University of London." You know that we have already started to direct support in this direction using the Expedition and Training Fund. We also received a proposal with regards to membership fees which would help younger members who (fresh out of University) try to continue climbing will also struggle with their first Council Tax bill.

Now, when I said that I would like to deal with the increasing cost of BMC affiliation, I didn't expect the whopper of announcement for the 2020 affiliation costs. A 30% increase! Well, for now we will have to swallow this bitter pill I fear I am so far not aware of a true alternative either.

Finally, I know that the trustees have been working hard on a plan for Fallcliffe. I will try and stay in touch with them and will keep an eye on the clubs finances to see if we can give some financial support in the future, but I am also looking for volunteers who would consider helping with more direct fundraising including applying for grants.

Finances

Stephan Tietz (President) presented as Ian Ross (Treasurer) not able to attend.

Report on membership numbers and profile

Membership numbers, since 2014: 180 – 181 – 173 – 180 and 174 at the end of last year. So, the total has been quite stable while at the same time the proportion of people born after 1980 has increased from 10% to 25%.

However, for 2019 we currently have 148 people signed up. We normally get another 10 members renewing/joining throughout the year, which would still cause a shortfall of 16. This includes both very longstanding members not renewing as well as a members who joined within the last 5 years. I can't make out a systematic pattern.

(Re)presentation of scrutinised accounts for 2014-2017

Stephan Tietz provided update on actions from 2018 AGM:

- Accounts for 2014-2015 not scrutinised as paperwork was not received from Mike Warden, was chased 5+ times via telephone and email, letter not yet written
- Accounts for 2016-2017 scrutinised by Mark Stitson, who believes they are in order
- Accounts for 2014-2017 have not changed and have not been printed for AGM to see, though they have been seen at previous AGM's and have not changed.

*Adoption of scrutinised accounts for 2014-2017

Adoption of accounts was discussed:

- AGM requested that committee attempts to do some scrutiny of accounts for 2014-2015
ACTION: Stephan Tietz to provide Mark Stitson with copies of bank statements and receipts for 2014-2015 to attempt scrutiny of accounts for 2014-2015.
- AGM did not want to adopt accounts without sight (even though they had not changed)
ACTION: Committee to circulate accounts for 2014-2017 and present to 2020 AGM.

Presentation of accounts for 2018

Stephan Tietz summarised accounts for 2018:

- 2018 income and expenditure almost identical to 2017. No AGM dinners for ULMC, increased Training and Expedition Fund and changed printer for membership cards so committee expenses were less
- Small surplus of £33
- Increase in members paying by Direct Debit, which is collected in November which can be seen under “prepaid subscriptions” under liabilities. Finally, started using BMC funding for webpage and wrote cheque for committee expenses, so we are getting these liabilities off the books

Mike Esten pointed out that the accounts do not make it clear enough that a substantial portion of the membership fee goes straight to the BMC and proposed that in future, BMC contributions are separated out as a separate income stream.

ACTION: Treasurer (Ian Ross) to adopt changes for 2020 accounts.

***Adoption of accounts for 2018**

The scrutineer (Mark Stitson) confirmed that the accounts for 2018 are in order. Adoption of accounts was put to vote.

11 members were for, 0 were against, 0 abstained (proxy vote not possible). The accounts were adopted.

Presentation of forecast for 2019

The forecast shows a larger deficit than previous years. This is driven by the slight drop and membership numbers and will likely be nearer to c£200 at the end of the year. However, the club is likely to see a larger deficit over the coming years unless we decrease our expenditure and/or increase our income. The main increase in expenditure has been the rise of BMC club membership and the introduction of the Training and Expedition fund (of £400/year since 2017).

So far the club has run an annual surplus and/or only a small deficit due to one-off income boosts (e.g. c£100 in donations in 2018) or unexpectedly reduced expenditure (e.g. c£100 savings from late renewals which reduced our affiliation costs with BMC in 2018 and c£50 savings as ULMC committee did not uptake the AGM dinner invite in 2017-2018). This is reflected in the forecast for 2019 which predicts a shortfall of c£385 which would reduce the clubs assets to c£5200.

Our assets are large enough (a previous AGM agreed that two years of BMC subs should be held in reserve), so the committee have no immediate concern, but now is a good time to start addressing the balance between income and expenditure.

***Membership subscription rates for 2020**

Stephan Tietz gave an overview of previous years membership subscription rates:

- Last raise in 2014 to cover increase in BMC membership
- BMC membership was raised again in 2018 but ULGMC rates were kept the same. The income shortfall of c£160 was covered by the club’s annual surplus.
- Stephan Tietz announced that the BMC club membership will now rise by £6/head (£20.25 normal, £15 students). He stated that there is currently no alternative to our BMC affiliation which provides members of the club with liability insurance (in particular club officers), give access to climbing huts across the UK, support the BMC’s important access and conservation work as giving other perks like retail discounts and Summit magazine.

Stephan Tietz said that the committee backs a number of changes to the membership fees to try to reduce the impact of the raise on younger members and raise revenue, whilst still being able to afford BMC membership:

- The committee proposes to equalise joint and single memberships further by increasing the single membership to £6, plus BMC, and joint/family membership to £10 (= £5/head), plus BMC. Currently, joint/family membership is £3.25/head to the club while single memberships contribute £5.75. But, the club saves less than £2 per family due to printing and sending only one membership card. This change would raise an additional income of c£130 (or c£90 if we see a further drop in membership numbers).

- Robbie Pineda has suggested to introduce a discount for members who are younger than 30 years (at the beginning of the membership year). The committee agreed and proposed a under 30s membership rate of £2, plus BMC.
This would minimise the rate increase for this age group and help recent graduates (which is in line with the club's constitutional objective). This will likely reduce the club's income by c£50.
- Mark Stitson has proposed that the committee should be authorised to raise subs in line with BMC raises in future, without putting this to an AGM, especially given the recent situation with the BMC.
This would allow the club to react swiftly to changes.

The overarching aim is that the membership fee clearly splits into a club contribution and BMC affiliation cost. In combination these proposals would make the club contribution £2 for under 30s, £6 for single membership and £10 for joint membership. The additional BMC affiliation fee for 2020 will £20.25 per head and the club will pass on any discounts the BMC applies (e.g. non-UK residents and late renewals).

Stephan Tietz asked the floor for comments in relation to the proposed changes:

- Mike Esten commented that we have recently set our fee in relation to the BMC when we should decide what income we need to achieve our goals, set our member rate based on this, and then add the BMC. There was general approval around the room.
- Mike Esten also pointed out that the club has discussed the merits (or otherwise) of BMC membership before but had concluded that there was no real way out of paying it.
- Mike Esten also asked if this would be a deterrent for younger members. Mark Stitson replied that our fee is lower than ULMC's currently is. Sam Hardman pointed out that ULMC do have subsidised trips, but she suspected (as an ex ULMC member) that a larger deterrent is in the fact that ULGMC trips are not as organised for groups.
- Mark Stitson also pointed out that individual BMC members get 50% off their first years subs, but club members do not.
- Sam Hardman thought a discount for under 30s could be discriminatory if newly graduated students are the target.
- Heather Rumble asked if under 30s could be too large a group and put the club into a financially difficult position.
- Frances Mott made an alternative proposal to accommodate younger members and recent graduates. She proposed to introduce a reduced rate of £2 p/a, plus BMC, for the first two years of membership.
- Stephan Tietz acknowledged the concerns and agreed the alternative proposal to be more suitable. He agreed to put the alternative proposal to the vote and encouraged the AGM to vote against the original proposal.

Robbie Pineda's proposal that the membership fee is decreased to £2 p/a, plus BMC, for under 25's was put to the vote:

0 members were for, 14 were against, 3 abstained (including proxy votes). The proposal was rejected.

Frances Mott's proposal to introduce a reduced rate of £2 p/a, plus BMC, for the first two years of membership was put to the vote:

9 members were for, 2 were against, 0 abstained (proxy vote not possible). The proposal was accepted.

Committee's proposal to raise single membership to £6, plus BMC, and joint membership to £10, plus BMC, was put to the vote:

17 members were for, 0 were against, 0 abstained (including proxy votes). The proposal was accepted.

Mark Stitson's proposal that the committee should be authorised to raise subs in line with BMC raises in future, without putting this to an AGM, was put to the vote:

17 members were for, 0 were against, 0 abstained (including proxy votes). The proposal was accepted.

Mike Esten commented that the club should not absorb rises in BMC membership fees and that members contributions to the BMC should be clearer on application forms and the membership cards. Stephan Tietz

agreed.

ACTION: Committee to action.

Mike Esten proposed that we write to the BMC as a club, outlining the large proportional cost of BMC affiliation and our concern that it will reduce the number of people able to join mountaineering clubs.

Mark Stitson seconded. Accepted by consent.

ACTION: Committee to action by 2020 AGM.

*Authorisation of expenditure for 2020

Stephan Tietz recommended the following expenditure in 2020:

- Committee expenses such as printing and postage of membership cards, other documents (e.g. newsletter archive). Costs incurred from banking and using GoCardless to process Direct Debits. It is usually in the order of £50-£150
- Expedition and Training Fund for 2020. This costs £200-400
- AGM dinner for ULMC committee in 2020. This usually costs around £50

Heather Rumble proposed; Frances Mott seconded. Accepted by consent.

Stephan Tietz and Mark Stitson asked the AGM to review our donations. He proposed to keep donations to mountain rescue organisations but to stop donating to the Snowdonia Society and Friends of the Lake District. The AGM discussed the proposal:

- Keith Mott explained that these had historically been a good way of keeping up to date with local issues, but was perhaps not needed now due to the internet.
- Heather Rumble expressed that she felt uncomfortable donating to these two groups considering that they lobby on political issues that may not represent all our members.

Carol Bristow proposed; Mike Esten seconded. Accepted by consent.

Programme for 2019 & 2020

Graham Cunningham (Meets Secretary) presented.

Meets report & planning

Graham stated that there was no meets list yet for 2020, as it is quite early given the date of the AGM.

Graham stated that the meets list was getting quite formulaic and urged members to run meets to a wider range of places around the country. He suggested that the club is lacking personalised meets and also shorter notice ad-hoc meets, but stated the importance of these to a club.

*Date of 2020 AGM

Stephan Tietz stated that although numbers had not grown since moving the AGM, we have a much more diverse attendance and feedback has generally been positive (e.g. longer weekend). We therefore propose to continue the trial run of having the AGM during the Easter Snowdonia meet on Friday, 10th April 2020. Stephan Tietz put this to the vote.

14 members were for, 0 were against and 1 abstained (including proxy votes). The proposal was accepted.

Other reports

Trustees/hut wardens for Caseg Fraith and Fallcliffe

Phil Tarr reported that income was down by about 50% for both huts, but that it was unclear why. There is not a particular type of booking that has reduced noticeably.

Mark Stitson reported that Fallcliffe is operating at a profit, but not enough to undertake the maintenance it needs. A second loan from Caseg has been proposed to improve the bathroom area. There are also potential plans to modify the bathroom area in Caseg.

Trefor Owen enquired about the lease to Caseg from the National Trust. Phil Tarr replied that the lease has some time until it needs to be renewed, but that the hut committee are aware of the issue and are working on it.

Elections

*Club officers

Stephan Tietz stated that we have not received nominations to fill vacant Secretary role or to challenge incumbents. We therefore ask the AGM to confirm the committee “on block” by acclamation. The current committee are:

- President: Stephan Tietz
- Vice-President: Mike Hale (until Oct 2019 as his constitutional term ends)
- Secretary: vacant
- Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Ian Ross
- Meets Secretary: Graham Cunningham

15 members voted for, 0 against, 0 abstained (including proxy votes). The proposal was accepted.

*Committee members without portfolio

Stephan Tietz stated that there are currently no committee members without portfolio. We have not received nominations to fill the four posts. If anyone steps forward, then we will put an affirmative vote at the next AGM.

*Scrutineer of ULGMC accounts

Mark Stitson is currently scrutineer and agreed to continue in this role.

Keith Mott proposed; Mike Esten seconded. The proposal was accepted by consent.

*ULMC representative

Francis Hardy has taken over from Robert Hardy as the ULMC representative for ULGMC. Stephan Tietz proposes that he continue if he agrees.

Mike Esten seconded. The proposal was accepted by consent.

Any other business

Constitutional changes

Mark Stitson proposed an amendment to the constitution, because it currently states that children wishing to be members should be children of couples. Mark pointed out that this is discriminatory against single parents.

Elanor Mott seconded. The proposal was accepted by consent.

ACTION: Committee to action by 2020 AGM

70th club anniversary (2020) and anniversaries of huts (2021)

Stephan Tietz highlighted that these anniversaries are coming up and asked for volunteers to organise.

Thank yous

Sue Esten thanked the committee and attendees of the AGM for their contributions.

*** means a decision was required by the AGM**