

# Heriot-Watt University Mountaineering Club

## Handbook 2011

Welcome to the Heriot-Watt University Mountaineering Club! We cater for climbers and walkers alike, both the experienced and novices. The club's main function is to provide transport and social events for young mountaineers on student-sized incomes. A substantial part of the club's annual budget is spent on subsidising travel costs (in the order of thousands of pounds) to help our members experience the Scottish hills.

The club *does not* provide *formal* instruction; less experienced members are encouraged to learn from the more experienced ones whilst out walking or climbing. The club owns and maintains a stock of mountaineering equipment for the use of its members (see below). On top of efforts within the club to share our combined knowledge and experience, we are able to, in conjunction with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MC of S) and the Bell-Connor Memorial Fund (See our website for more information about this), subsidise various mountaineering skills, navigation and first aid courses throughout the year.

Mixing Sunday trips and weekend meets throughout the year, Monday night climbing in Sports Hall 1 in the Sports Centre and a Wednesday pub night should be regular activities enough to keep you fit – if that's not enough for you, join the club and organise more!

### THIS YEAR'S COMMITTEE

President: Emma Turnbull

Secretary: Christina Holmgrün

Treasurer: Ross Young

Gear Convenor: Dave Stevens

Transport: Matt Craig

Entertainment: Zoe O'Connor

### SCHEDULE

**Monday** 6pm: Climbing wall in Sports Hall 1. Climbing gear is available to borrow.

**Wednesday afternoons:** Climbing at Alien Rock (check website for details)

**Wednesday** 9pm: Drinks in the Carters Bar, on Morrison Street.

**Weekend:** Day trip/full-weekend trip. Day trips usually require you to be on campus around 8am on Sunday morning; we usually leave campus for full-weekend trips at around 5pm on the Friday. We meet at the gear shed (in front of

Car Park C). Cost: Usually £3 for a day trip, and about £10-£20 for a weekend trip depending on where we're staying. Cost will be announced on the signup sheet.

### SIGNING UP FOR TRIPS

We strongly recommend that you come to the pub the Wednesday before the trip to discuss your plans, and check the forum for discussion about the weekend. We don't organise "leaders" for the trips so it's up to you find out what other people have planned and join them or sort out your own route depending on your ability and confidence.

To join us on a trip you must fill in the sign-up sheet on our website (see below for address) using the username and password provided by a committee member (ask at the pub/wall or email us if you don't have it). The destination for the Sunday trip is usually decided at the pub, when we have an idea of the weather forecast.

### FOOD

The usual assumption for full-weekend trips is that you sort out your own breakfast, lunch and "emergency rations" (e.g. chocolate bars, malt loaf, etc), and evening meals will be provided with the exception of the first night, when we'll stop for chips on the drive up. If you have any dietary requirements then please let us know on the sign-up sheet under medical conditions. On day trips you will need to bring a packed lunch and emergency rations. Many trips will be in remote areas of Scotland where shops and off-licenses are scarce, so come prepared!

### KIT

A separate kit list is available. Please note that **waterproofs are essential** – both jacket and trousers – as are **walking boots**. Bring an **extra layer of warmth** even on a sunny day as the top of the hill can be much colder due to the altitude, and it's almost invariably windy up top! If you're on a tight budget, visit Mountain Warehouse, Trespass and Millets. For more expensive stuff, try Tiso's, Nevisport and Blacks. They're all close together on Rose Street, Frederick Street and Princes Street. Ask about a student discount, and check out the Snapfax for further discounts. Even el-cheapo clothing is better than nothing! Remember to bring a **torch** as the electricity supply in huts is known to be fickle, and as it's winter, we

may finish routes after sunset. There's often a few miles' walk to get to the hut (usually in the dark) so try to pack light!

*Please Note: If you are not properly equipped the meet organiser will not allow you onto the bus regardless of how early you had to get up to get there. As a rule, you should have sufficient equipment to be able to survive an unexpected night on a mountain. If you are in doubt **please ask**, advice will cost a pint, at the very most!*

Kit available for borrowing includes: Crampons, ice axes, harness, helmet, shoes, rope, compasses, ...

### MAPS

Make sure that you have a map when you join us on a trip. If you ask on the Wednesday at the pub, we may have some available in the gear shed, or we could print one out for you if you know the area you need. You can check the website to see if we have the right one available. If you buy a map, we will buy it off you for half price when you're finished with it (unless we already have 20 copies...) You will need a map case to keep the map dry and stop it blowing away. You can get cheap ones from Trespass, Mountain Warehouse, etc. We have plenty of compasses to lend out.

### SOCIAL EVENTS

There are various social events organised throughout the year, in particular:

- Welcome Barbecue in the chaplaincy, 5pm onwards, 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (Tues Week 3)
- Christmas Meal
- Burns Supper – traditional haggis, neeps and tatties!
- Annual ceilidh
- End of year Sheep Heid pub/skittles night

### TRAINING EVENTS

At vastly reduced costs we will provide places for various training courses, such as:

- Winter Skills Course (Glenmore Lodge)
- Safety and Good Practice Seminar (Glenmore Lodge)
- Basic navigation talk and practical training
- First Aid Course

### PHOTOS

We have a photographic competition every year, so put your photos up on the Facebook group or get them uploaded in hi-res to our Flickr page (see the website or ask a committee member for more details)

### USEFUL ADDRESSES

Our website: <http://www.hwumc.co.uk/>

Forum: <http://hwumc1.freeforums.org/>

Email address: [mountaineering@hw.ac.uk](mailto:mountaineering@hw.ac.uk)

Facebook group: **Heriot-Watt Mountaineering and Ice Axe Brandishing Society**

### MEET LIST 2011/2012

Week	Semester One	Semester Two
0	-	CIC Hut, Ben Nevis (6-8 Jan)
1	Lagangarbh Hut, Glen Coe	Day Trip
2	Day Trip	Day Trip
3	Day Trip	Braedownie Hut, Glen Clova
4	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric	Day Trip
5	Day Trip	Day Trip
6	Day Trip	Day Trip
7	Lake District (Camping)	Weekend trip TBC
8	Day Trip	Day Trip
9	Day Trip	Day Trip
10	Steall Hut, Glen Nevis	Glen Lichd House, Kintail
11	Day Trip	Day Trip
12	Day Trip	Easter Trip TBC
13	Day Trip	-
14	Ling Hut, Torridon (16-18 Dec)	-