

Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk

October/November Newsletter

Firstly, apologies for the lack of up-dates over the last few months, but it has been only too obvious, with the state of the COVID pandemic before the summer, that things were not really favourable for the Club's usual programme. Then, just when you thought things were looking up with a reduction in cases, a second wave hits the UK, with England in lockdown.

Many of us have been lucky and been able to make safe arrangements to meet up with friends and have an assortment of walks, keeping mostly local. This could be the way we do things for some time.

Committee discussion on 17 September

After the restrictions temporarily eased in the summer, the Committee had a 'Zoom' meeting to discuss several aspects of the Club, in particular how to start meets again. Douglas looked into the matter and concluded that at that time PHMC could organise club walks. But we would be expected to follow relevant guidance such as that issued by Mountaineering Scotland:

24 August 2020 Phase 3: Guidance for affiliated clubs during COVID-19

The key recommendations seem to be:

- physical distancing unless from the same household
- appointment of a PHMC Covid-19 officer
- a documented risk assessment prior to any activity
- maximum 30 on a walk

The Committee considered the possibility of resuming PHMC activities using public transport. There was agreement that train would be preferable to public buses which would open up the possibility of outings to venues such as Pitlochry or Blair Atholl. Members not wanting to take public transport could drive. It would be better to have such an outing on a Saturday when there are more trains. We could also organise relatively local walks in the Pentlands but it was thought that many members are already doing walks there under their own steam. It was recognised that, before any such outing it would be necessary for PHMC to appoint a Covid-19 officer and to have a written risk assessment which would require a certain amount of work. It was agreed that the membership should be sounded out to find out the level of interest in any of the possibilities of:

- a coach-based outing but with 50% occupancy to enable distancing
- an outing by train such as to Pitlochry or Blair Atholl
- organising a local walk or walks in the Pentlands

Since that Committee meeting, the Covid restrictions have increased again so all the Club's activities, including the November High Tea, are on hold. Let's hope that the situation will improve enough for us to resume in some way in early 2021. Meanwhile if you have any comments or suggestions for how the Club might get going again once restrictions ease, please get in touch with the Secretary (e-mail: secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk or 07775525461).

Annual General Meeting: 19.30 Tuesday 24th November

Again because of Covid reasons, the AGM cannot function under normal conditions at our normal venue, so for this reason after some discussion, we have decided to have a digital AGM via Zoom.

Apologies to those of you who do not have access to a computer - we hope you will bear with us under the circumstances. If you don't already have the Zoom app on your computer, you can download it for free from Google store or the Apple store. However, you will be sent the invitation to the Zoom meeting via your e-mail account a few days beforehand. Log in via the invitation with the link and password and you will be in. Best to do this about 5 minutes before the meeting is due to start to check that the link works. I should be there to supervise if needed. If it's done this way, there will be no need to download the app (application program).

The Ptarmigan Committee comprises:

Richard Love (Chairman), Adrian Casey (Treasurer), Kevin Russell and Dave Law (Secretaries) John Townshend (outgoing Webmaster), Tim Featherstone (Bookings and possibly incoming Webmaster), Christine Thompson

Bus Conveners: Douglas Tullis, Kevin Russell, Dave Law and Adrian Casey.

If you wish to stand for any post please reply to the Secretary before the meeting with your nomination. This will then be discussed and voted on at the Zoom AGM.
ALL NOMINATIONS WELCOME!

Draft programme of meets for 2021

January 2020 No meet

February Howgill Fells

March Lowther Hills/Wanlockhead

April Taynuilt

May Loch Arkaig

June Coire Cas

July Glen Creran

August Glen Muick

September Kinlochleven

October Linn of Dee

November Luss/Arrochar (High Tea at Balloch)

December ??

Bad-weather alternatives: an Angus glen; Aonach Mor (for Loch Arkaig)

Colin has provisionally booked the NTS Kintail Outdoor Centre for Friday 25 to Monday 28 June 2021)