

## **What to expect on your first meet.**

Your first meet with the HMC may be a bit daunting so here are a few little pointers so you can get the best out of the experience.

**Payment**, the club has around a 100 members and some meets book up fast so it's best to book as early as you can. You can pay by cash, cheque (Payable to Hertfordshire mountaineering club) or preferably by transfer.

**If you transfer money you will need to send an email to the meet organiser and the Treasurer stating how much you paid, what the payment is for and the date of transfer.**

Please put a reference so the payment can be traced. Payment is taken in full at time of booking. If you drop out will need to find a replacement and get the money off them. There is normally a reserve list. If the meet is full we maybe able to recommend other accommodation.

**Lift share**, when you book for a meet if it is best if you share a lift with other club members. If you require a lift tell the meet organiser when you book and they will try their best to hook you up with someone. Most people leave after work on a Friday and stop somewhere for food on the way (ask your driver).

**Arriving at the hut**, the key is normally taken up by the car that is due to arrive first, or is sometimes picked up en route. If you arrive at a hut and no one is there check the nearest pub. An email will go out prior to the meet with relevant information. There are normally instructions with the key or inside the hut explaining where to switch on electricity hot water etc. Over the weekend the key is normally hidden in a safe place so if you are the last to leave find out where to put it.

**The rooms**, we stay in a number of types of accommodation, YHA hostels (normally well equipped.), bunk houses and club huts, which vary and can be quite basic, during the summer we sometimes camp. (If you don't have a tent ask around you may be able to share or borrow). Most accommodation is dormitory some are small 4-6 beds but some can be a lot larger 12 beds plus, we don't normally split into sexes because of numbers so if you are shy bring some pyjamas. You will need a sleeping bag or bedding and a pillow. (Some members are now taking fitted sheets and pillow cases as sometimes the mattresses are questionable). If bedding is provided this will be in the pre meet email.

**Food**, most people will grab a bite on the way up, but over the weekend you will need two breakfasts and two lunches. In the evening most people will eat in the pub, (beware, bank holidays can be very busy) If you wish to take your own food the facilities are normally adequate. There are exceptions, annual dinner, bangers and mash meet and a few other occasions where someone may volunteer to cook, this will be in the pre meet email.

**Activities**, There will be a number of options over the weekend, walks, climbing, mountain biking etc. If you tell the meet organiser what you want to do, they will try to fit you in with a group to suit your abilities. (It can be quite hard to link inexperienced climbers up with experienced, we have a couple of climbing meets in the summer which are the best options).

**When you go out into the mountains you must always tell someone where you are going, there will be a piece of paper available to write down where you and your group are going.**

**Leaving the hut**, the meet organiser is normally the last person to leave the hut, but the cleaning is up to all of us so please muck in. Sometimes we have to take the rubbish with us or drop of the key. Most people are normally out by 10-10.30ish on a Sunday and the hut locked up. Please be prompt as the meet organiser will probably want to do something on the Sunday and it can be a pain if they are held up.

