



# Aylesbury Climbing Club

Affiliated to the British Mountaineering Council

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## First Meet – what can I expect?

### Transport & Booking-in:

Meets are organised on the preceding Monday in the pub. Dates of the forthcoming meets are listed in the Club newsletter and on the Club website ([www.acc.org.uk](http://www.acc.org.uk)). They are usually on the second or third weekend of the month, avoiding Bank Holidays.

If you're interested, come along to the pub between 9 and 9:30 p.m. and put your name down. Two of the club committee members will be there taking names and your money (preferably a cheque). Hut fees generally vary from £5 to £10 per night, with a £2.50 per night guest fee for non-members. You will be asked if you want to drive yourself or share a car and we will do our best to match up people who live near each other or specify a wish to travel together. The idea is to use as few cars as possible to reduce the cost. Petrol money is worked out by the driver and split by however many people are in each car... so don't forget to take some cash to cover your share if necessary. Most members travel on the Friday evening, leaving sometime between 6 and 8pm, and returning on Sunday evening.

### What to take:

Over and above all your normal climbing and/or walking kit you'll need a sleeping bag, pillow (some huts have their own), towel and wash bag plus whatever food you'll need for the whole weekend. There is rarely the opportunity to shop, so you'll need food for breakfast and packed lunches for two days, plus something for dinner on the Saturday evening if you want to eat at the hut. Many huts are within walking distance of a pub and most members will eat out, while some prefer to cook for themselves at the hut. Ask when you're booking and we will let you know what's on offer depending on where the hut is located. Most members also sit around having a drink and chat until quite late on the Friday evening and on the Saturday evening after getting back from the pub so, if you want to do the same you might also want to bring some beer or whatever you like to drink. If you are planning on going out to the pub, make sure you have cash with you because the huts are rarely near a cash-point.

If you wish to climb and don't have any gear of your own, make this known to us when you book in and we'll see what we can do. However, it is important to understand that the Club does not provide training or equipment and it is up to the goodwill of members to assist beginners. Any equipment, assistance or advice received from Club members is given on an informal basis and at your own risk.

### Huts:

The huts we use are varied. Most are owned by Climbing Clubs and located in close proximity to both climbing and walking and it is often possible to access both directly from the hut. They vary in levels of comfort from purpose-built, modern buildings to converted "rustic" barns. Nearly all have electricity, hot water, showers and heating (often with open fires) and a drying room, although a few have only gas lighting and cold water.

Sleeping is in mixed dormitory rooms with either bunk beds or open “Alpine” style sleeping platforms. Beds are allocated on a first come basis, so if you see one you fancy grab it quick by putting your bags on it.

Cooking facilities are always available and the best huts have fully equipped kitchens with fridges, ovens, kettles, toasters and microwaves. All have a range of utensils, crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, etc. So unless you have a favourite saucepan or the desire to whip up something exotic in a blender there is no need to take any utensils yourself. Ask when you book in and we’ll let you know roughly what facilities to expect.

### **Planning what to do:**

Most members are usually up and out fairly early on the Saturday morning in order to make the most of the day. Plans are sometimes “hatched” over a beer late on the Friday evening and sometimes over breakfast in the morning. Do speak out and ask what people are up to. There are always a variety of options being discussed, from classic low to middle grade climbs to something steep and scary, whilst some members will prefer to scramble or walk. So if you hear something that takes your fancy make it known and you’ll usually be invited to join in.

The Aylesbury Climbing Club is a good mixture of climbers and walkers. Ability and experience varies from member to member, although a passion for rocky and high places runs through most of us. To get the most out of your weekend talk to different people and find out what they are planning, make your own suggestions and above all don’t be shy in coming forward, we are a very friendly club - new faces and ideas are always welcome.

### **General comments:**

Please be aware that due to limitations of our insurance, membership of the Aylesbury Climbing Club is only open to adults. Some members take their children on meets, but this would be dependant upon the regulations of the specific hut and space being available. One meet each year is designated as a “family” meet and it is deliberately held at a hut with adjoining camping facilities.

The Aylesbury Climbing Club does not have any qualified instructors and whilst we are happy to try and help new members setting foot on the hills and rock for the first time, we would always encourage anyone who has never climbed to attend a proper course. Beginner courses are run by The Climb at Amersham – ask any committee for information.

Please be aware if you have only climbed on an indoor wall, it is a very different situation climbing outdoors on self-placed protection and in varying weather conditions.

### **And finally...**

If you fancy telling others about your experiences on your first meet why not write a short article about it for the Club newsletter.

**Have a great time and please let us know if you have any suggestions for improving this document.**