

Dave's Diary of the AAC Old Boys Tour de Mount Blanc

The Old Boys are



Brian Martin
Age 63
Club AAC
Hobbies Fell
Running
Trekking
experience
Peru,
Canada, the
Alps and
many more

Roger Bell
Age 67
Club AAC
Hobbies Was
Fell running
now Cycling
and Talking
Trekking
experience
The Alps and
many more

John Taylor
Age 67
Club AAC
Hobbies Fell
Running
Trekking
experience
Nepal, Corsica
the Alps and
many more

Ray Gray
Age 61
Club NFR on loan
to AAC for 1 week
Hobbies Fell
Running
Trekking
experience
Nepal, Corsica the
Alps and many
more

Dave Holcroft
Age 50 (the baby)
Club AAC
Hobbies Fell
Running
Trekking experience
Grand Canary,
ASDA
Supermarket

Had a pleasant journey down to Liverpool Airport no problems except for parking in the staff car park and getting asked to park somewhere else or get clamped. This we did, so four of us got out looking for a space in the public car park, it was very busy so we spread out to look. Unfortunately in the process of doing this we managed to loose John and the car, after 20 mins of frantic searching we finally find him miles away at the other side of the massive car park, hope this is not an omen for the rest of the trip.

Any way we have a great flight and catch the bus to Chamonix where we find the Hotel, where we had booked, with a great view of Les Bossoms Glazier from the balcony, this is the only French place name I don't have any trouble remembering, for some reason.

We then went out to find somewhere to eat, however it took us $\frac{3}{4}$ hr to find somewhere cheap enough for Roger and Brian to eat in. I thought it was us Northerners that were supposed to be careful with our money.

We sit down to tuck into a very enjoyable meal, we finish the meal with a couple of bottles of wine and go for a couple of beers then back to bed.



Day 1

We get up at 7.30 have a good breakfast then catch the 9.00 bus to Les Houches, unfortunately we miss the bus stop and get off at the next one. Great start, so we end up trudging back down the road to where we should be, this only takes 15 mins though and we have a laugh about it, the weather's great so who cares. We finally get underway at 9.45

9.45

From Les Houches (1007 metres) we take a sharp steep climb through the woods up to the Col de Voza (1653m) we regroup and decide to do the alternate stage 1 route, the harder one, so we carry on up the path and say goodbye to the Chamonix valley for 6 days



We carry on along a steep hillside path looking down into the Bionnassay valley and onto the Glacier de Bionnassay (1314m) or what's left of it then cross a small 3ft wide suspension bridge with water cascading underneath it. Roger and I cross first as we're a bit ahead of the others, a lady starts to cross when we get to the other side, she gets halfway across obviously petrified so John, Ray and Brian decide they can't wait forever cross the bridge lift her to one side and carry on to the other side, followed by a torrent of abuse from an even more petrified lady, chivalry is not dead yet then.



Next we take a steep climb to the Col de Tricot (2120m) I arrive at 12.30 quite a bit ahead of the others, hang on I can hear Roger talking, he's caught up quick, no, I look back and he's still 500yds away, funny that. The rest have now joined me to enjoy some spectacular views both back and forwards



13.05

Set of down the other side towards the Refuge de Miage (1570m) where we have lunch

14.30

Set of again up a short steep climb to the Mont Truc ridge (1800m) then down a long descent into the town of Les Contamines (1167m), here Roger gets a desperate craving for ice cream so we eventually find a café to fulfil his wish.

That's Stage 1 TMB complete we decide to start stage 2 and head for the Refuge la Balme 8k away with 550m of climbing. We phone ahead to book and he says we have got to be there for 19.00 for the evening meal so we have to sink the icecreams and teas sharpish as it is now

17.25

17.30

We carry on along the river then a sharp climb to the Refuge La Balme passing an old Roman bridge with a beautiful waterfall. We get there at 18.45, time for a quick shower, unfortunately I didn't bring any soap or a towel so I have to borrow some from the others, well nobody told me these places didn't provide them.

19.00

We then have a meal, a bottle of red and a few beers. There are about 15 people staying here and one lady came up to me and said she new me from somewhere, it turns out she was in the shop a couple of months ago buying some Trainers, she's from Witherslac can't go anywhere can you.

All feeling great but tired a great first day, we have walked 26 kilometres climbed 2000m and descended 1300m, I think I'll have one last beer before bed.

02.00

Maybe I shouldn't have bothered with the last pint had to get up for a pee, tricky in the pitch black from the top bunk but managed it without waking anyone up and without injury except for a wet foot. Unlike Brian "bull in a china shop" Martin who managed to wake everyone up even cracked a window pane don't know how he managed to do that

Day 2

07.00

Got up to stunning views both down the valley and up the mountain had breakfast, Jam, Stale bread and coffee



8.40

Set off up the mountain heading towards the Col du Bonhomme (2329m) where I am now got here at 9.30 can't tell you how stunning the views are.

09.55

Set off to the Col de La Croiz (2483m) a nice traverse, then onto the Col des fours (2665) where we have a choice whether to go up to the Tete Nord de Fours a there and back extension to the highest point of the tour or carry on and descend down the valley. It's decided that we split and I go to Tete Nord by myself then catch them up



10.55

Set off to the Tete Nord des Fours (2756m) get here at 11.15. Well I'm sat here now and I'm gobsmacked writing this with Mount Blanc right in front of me on a clear sunny day not another human being in sight. Honestly I'm stunned the 360 degree views are magnificent and well worth the extra climb. Damn my old camera's batteries have run out of all the places for this to happen. Sod it I'm going to hang around a while and take it all in before I set off to catch the others up. Which I hope I do, but remember the Liverpool airport car park incident you never know.

11.45

Set off jogging back down to the Col des Fours then down a very long decent towards the Ville de Glaciers I catch up with the rest at 12.05 to find John's elbow full of elastoplast our first casualty. We walk the rest of the way down, passing a huge herd of cows making a hell of a racket with all the bells wrapped round their necks. We disturb a few and they trot down the path towards us, at which point Roger does a runner (I haven't seen him move that fast for years). We get down to the Ville des Glaciers (1789m) at about 13.15 then a short climb up to the Refuge des Mottets (1870m)



13.40

Rogers's toes are giving him a bit of stick so he's glad to have a rest and as usual is ready for his lunch. Have lunch and a cool beer (medicinal), Rogers just sneezed and his hankies covered in blood, this could be a blessing in disguise however, as it might take his mind of his toes. That's stage 2 finished, we have taken the high level route option instead of going to Les Chapieux, this is more interesting and cuts off the first bit of stage 3, which is all road any way.

15.00

Set off on stage 3 again and straight up a steady climb to the Col de la Seigne (2516m) get there about 16.15 again spectacular views especially the mountain to my left which is Tre la Tete (3930m) this is where we leave France and go into Italy.



16.30

Set off down hill for about 3k to the Refuge Elisabetta, where we arrive at 17.20 we have a shower (borrow soap and towel again). Our accommodation is up in the roof where there is a space under the rafters about 9ft wide where we all have to sleep.

Now sat outside looking down the valley with a nice cold beer in front of us, feeling good looking forward to our meal and a little wine perhaps and on schedule. Tried to work out heights and distance reckon about 25k, 1800m climbing and 1200m descent.



19.00

We have a smashing meal followed by some red vino and beer but everyone was herded off to bed at 22.00. We all got into our little sleeping area but there is no room to stretch your legs out unless you are under 5ft tall and as we are all sleeping next to each other we all adopt the recovery position all facing the same way, well I can't help it I start giggling like a 10 year old which set's Ray off which makes me worse and soon we are both in a fit of uncontrollable hysteric's, tears streaming down our faces for about 5 minutes.

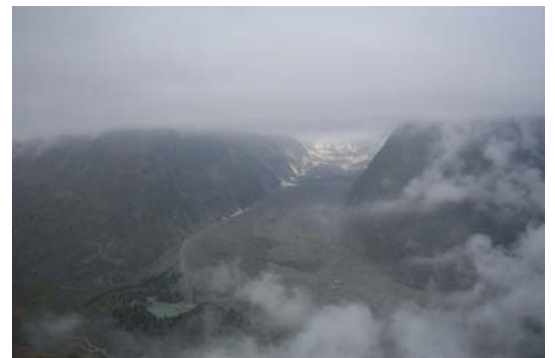
But that was the last laugh of the night because no-one had a descent sleep.



Day 3

07.00

Still having problems getting Roger and Brian out of their beds in a morning, that's 3 days in a row. I think it must be a southern thing as John, Ray and I don't seem to have this problem. Eventually we all get down to breakfast, which is very good, then we get our stuff together and meet outside where there is a glorious view of the Glacier de La Lee Blanche just behind the refuge.



07.55

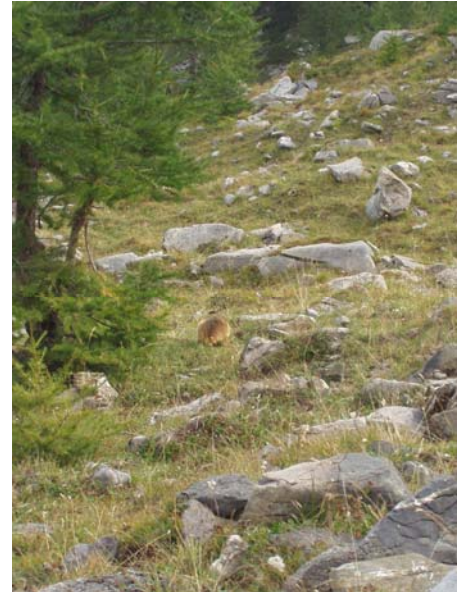
We set off down the valley to some small tarns (1950m) we decide to take the high route so we turn sharp right up a steady climb to the Alpe Superieure de la Arpwille



(2330) an abandoned building with stove and tables inside, probably would have got a better kip here last night but no food, wine or beer though.

09.15

Another nice steady climb to a vantage point spur where there is a spectacular view up the Glacier de Miage and Mount Blanc behind it, unfortunately the cloud is down to 3000m so we can't see it, never mind great views below though. It's at this point that Ray invents a new sport it's called Marmot spotting. The Marmot is a cute furry creature about the size of a Beaver (Rogers description) and is very tame, humans don't seem to bother them to much. This new sport soon gets boring though as there are absolutely 1000's of them



09.40

We now start to contour along the side of the hill gradually descending, the sun starts to get through and we start getting more views of Mount Blanc to our left, mind you we would be in trouble if it was to our right as we are doing the tour anti clockwise. We keep descending until we get to some ski slopes where the decent gets steeper certainly gets the downhill muscles going, eventually arriving at a town called Courmayeur (1226m)

12.15

We are now sitting outside a café in Courmayeur having completed stage 4 in 4 1/4 hrs we have travelled 18k climbed 460m and descended 1600m. We order a few pizza's and drinks, when Brain decides to take his shoes and socks off, the aroma is horrendous if we had been inside it would have killed us all, he gets a yellow card for this offence, it would have been a red, had he not quickly deposited his socks into a litter bin and sprayed his feet with deodorant, mind you I feel sorry for the poor sod who as to empty the bin.

12.45

After our meal we discuss what best to do this afternoon as it is now scorching hot, I'm for pressing on and doing stage 5 completely, which entails walking 16k, 1600m of climbing and 700m decent, we have to do this to remain on schedule. We come to the decision to go for it, except for Roger who's decided to do his Capt Oaks impression and leave the tent, never to be seen again (Scott of the Antarctic). Seriously though he's being sensible as his toes sore and he's tired, also he's noticed there's a bus that takes him just 500m below the refuge we, hopefully, will be sleeping at tonight.



13.00

We say goodbye to Roger and set of up the road then onto a path which appears on the left about where it should be, so off we go through the woods noticing that the red

and white rectangle, the TMB sign, is on some of the trees, after 25 mins we come to a smashing view point but no more path. The first big cock up, so back we go to the road, after wasting 45mins, 3k, 300m of ascent and decent. Of all the days for this to happen, because we are struggling for time, without this as well.

When we get to the road we progress along it for 100yds and come across the proper path. We start a very steep climb up to the Refuge Bertonne (1970m) and I get there at 15.00 closely followed by Ray, I start to talk to a couple sat at a table when a tired Brian appears, but soon bucks up when he recognises the bloke I'm talking to. They went on the same trip to Peru.

We wait for John who comes along looking none to well, saying the wheels have come of completely, he sits down looking very pale. Thoughts start going through my head about a very sad phone call I'm going to have to make to his wife, telling her about his sad demise, well I presume she will think it's a sad phone call. I'm also thinking how I'm going to wriggle out of getting the blame for it.

However all these thoughts quickly go as we get some stale cheese and ham sandwiches down him (the cook was having a sleep) colour starts coming back into his face and he reckons that he's got two wheels back on the wagon so he decides to carry on. Well done John



1610

Still a long way to go, we set off up another steep climb onto the Mont de la Saz which is a fairly level grassy crest with stupendous views all round but especially to the left incorporating the Dent du Geant (4013) and the Dome de Rochefort (4015m) with several Glaciers. We carry on a grassy crest a bit like Fairfield really, then start climbing again to the top of Tete de la Tronche (2584m)



17.40

Set off down to the Col Sapin (2430m) then we descend into the head of a valley then back up to the Pas Entre Deux (2524m) we get there about 18.35. The Refuge Bonatti (2150m) where we are staying is now about 4k away. We decide that I should jog down to make sure we get lodgings and a meal just in case Roger didn't get there

18.40

I set off down towards the refuge, I get there about 19.00 to find a miracle, Capt Oaks is still alive yes Rogers waiting he's sorted the room and meal



out for us, good man. The others get here at 19.25 in fact they started jogging down, led by John, soon after I did, the fact that they jogged to an old farmhouse instead of the refuge is neither here nor there as they only lost about 10 mins with this slight navigational error.

So the boys are reformed. Rogers feeling good he caught the bus and as been here since 15.30 so he and his vocal cords are well rested for tomorrow. We've just had a smashing meal and a couple of bottles of red and a beer or two, this is by far the best refuge we have stayed in.

So ends a hell of a day reckon with our little detour we have done approx 37k distance, 2300m climbing and 2560m of descent on a very warm day.

The Old Boys have done good today, especially John, great effort.

Day 4

Had a good night's kip and all still alive if a little stiff. Think I'll have to revise the plan to do it in 6 day's as I don't think the troops would enjoy another day like yesterday so we'll use the spare day and do it in 7 days. Breakfast was very good again a lot better than we've had the last two days. Have just had another coffee and noticed a bottle of Grapefruit juice sitting between the coffee and tea urns, strange place to put it. Anyway I'll have some of that so I pour a half a plastic cup full out, go back to the table and down it in one. Wow nearly blew my head off, yes it was concentrated lemon juice used for putting drops in the tea. I can really recommend it as an eye opener first thing in the morning.

Looking outside I can see its raining the first we've had, still I can test my new Gortex jacket out. Plan to have a steady day today just 20K, 900m of climbing and 1410m of decent.

09.10

We're about to set off when Roger appears slightly embarrassed saying that when he got off the bus yesterday, he changed out of his walking shoes and into his trainers. After doing so he felt tired so he had a little kip on the grass verge, on awakening, he picked up his rucksack and headed up to the refuge.

He's just realized that he has left his walking shoes down there, bearing in mind it's been pouring down all night. I try to keep a straight face but fail miserably and burst into fits of laughter yet again.

So Rogers going back down the hill to find them, then walk to the head of the valley where there's a car park at Arnava, while we set off on a nice level traverse along the hillside above the valley for about 4k, where again there are some great views then a sharp descent into the car park at Arnava (1769m) to meet Roger.



10.30

We arrive at Arnüva just as Rogers arriving still in his trainers, no sign of his walking shoes. We set off on a steepish climb up to the Refuge Elena (2062m) arriving at 11.15 where there is a glorious view of the Glacier de Pre de Bar. We are now enjoying a very tasty jug of soup, bread and coffee, well recommended. Definitely taking it easy today, keeping the troops happy.

12.15

We set off heading for the Col Ferret (2537m) I get there about 13.00, it's still raining but I've been giggling to myself all the way up, all I can picture in my head is a smiling little Italian farmer skipping around the mountains wearing Rogers shoes.



13.10

This is the Italian/Swiss border now, so we start to descend down into the valley, all of a sudden the sun comes out so jackets off. It's a bit muddy underfoot and everyone's waiting for Roger to slip in his slick trainers, but no Ray decides to slip on his backside covering himself in a fine layer of mud (I'm sure I saw a smirk on Rogers face).

14.05

We're now sat by the path just behind the dairy farm of La Peula (2071m) enjoying the sunshine and drying out quickly. We set off at 14.30 descending into the valley, by the river. We round a corner and a spectacular view appears before us of Mount Dolan and its Glacier Predominant. We press onwards down the valley to the hamlet of Ferret (1700m) where we are now at 15.45, sat in the beer garden of a local bar, myself, Ray and John enjoying a large cold beer, Roger and Brian enjoying a small Apricot juice must be another southern thing. The sun is now baking again with lovely blue skies and this beer's tasting very good.



16.45

Leave bar with smiling faces, must have been the Apricot juice. We meander down to La Fouly and decide to spoil ourselves and book into the Edelweiss hotel.

We're sat here waiting for our evening meal when my phone rings. It's Mike Taylor and John Brockbank, friends of ours who are on a cycling holiday over here in John's van, they say they are in the vicinity and are coming up to join us for the night.



Day 5

08.00

Now sat here waiting for breakfast, a good night last night just stayed in the hotel bar, we all had a good mid tour session, I stayed up a bit later and had a few extra ones with John and Mike. Best night's sleep I've had yet. Got up this morning feeling just OK but my roommates Ray and John were a little quiet, apparently, though I tried to be very quiet when I came in, I still managed to wake them up and I went straight to sleep as soon as my head hit the pillow snoring my head off all night.

08.45

Had breakfast which was spot on. We have now been joined by a very bleary eyed John Brockbank followed by Mike Taylor. After breakfast John Taylor and I went to the Supermarket, I got some soap, at last, but they had no towels.

We went back to the room to find John's Rucksack sitting in a big pool of water on the carpet, he looked inside his rucksack to find the bladder he had just filled was now empty. So we get all the towels out of the bathroom except the one in my rucksack (which I don't feel guilty about borrowing as it had a hole in and we'll give them a good tip anyway) we soak up all the water so you can hardly notice. John's comment that they'll know it's only water because it doesn't smell seems comical as I can't imagine a chambermaid, seeing a damp patch on the floor, besides a bed slept in by a 67 year old man, who had had a few beers the night before getting down on all fours to sniff it.

09.30

We say goodbye to John and Mike and set off down the valley, sun shining a very easy pleasant walk down only incident being, we stopped for a drink and when we set off again there was a trail of clothing and washing stuff following Roger, he'd forgotten to zip up his rucksack, good job he wasn't at the back he'd have lost most of his stuff. We get to Issert (1055m) and start a steady climb up the hillside through some woods.

Halfway up there's a little cave we have a look in and Roger manages to crack his head on the way out not much damage done though just a bit of bark off the top of his head.

We carry on up the hill and get to Champex (1466m) a stunning place, there is a beautifully clear lake surrounded by Swiss chalets and a few restaurants where we are now, right by the water about to have Lasagne and chips.



That's stage 7 complete 15k, 420m climbing and 565m decent

14.15

Left Champex and come to Champex pex d'en Bas (1300m) through some meadows and woods then a very steep climb crossing mountain streams, up out of the woods to open hillside we contour along the hillside, Roger leading the way.

Just ahead around the corner there is a herd of cows some blocking the path, Roger suddenly disappears from the front and appears at the back he's defiantly got a phobia about these large harmless animals. We soon get to the Alp Bovine (1987m) at 16.30. There's a hell of a view from here down the Rhone valley overlooking Martigny



16.55

Set off again down a gentle descent to Col de la Forclaz (1526m) where we book into the Hotel du Col del la Forclaz, no rooms left though only bunk beds in dormitories and yes we're in the attic again but a bit more room than last time.



19.30

Sat in the dining room now with the boy's, supping a nice red wine waiting for our meal.

That's stage 8 complete so another 2 stage day done but it was certainly a lot easier than the one 2 days ago, today we've done 31k, 1160 climbing and 1250 decent

Day 6

07.30

Now having a very nice breakfast. Last nights meal was OK and plenty of it, had a couple of beers after it, went to bed about 10.30. Got up at 2am for my usual trip to the toilet must be this fizzy cold beer. I slithered out of the top bunk (getting good at this) silently made my way to the dormitory door opened it walked into the hallway and wack, I hit my head on a low roof beam, this made the rest of my journey to the toilet more difficult, as I was now seeing two of everything. Eventually got back to bed and slepted like a log, probably helped by mild concussion.

Brian "I'm a very light sleeper and don't snore"
Martin, received his 3rd gold star for snoring, must be the altitude.

Well another two stages to get through today so I'd better get ready



09.00

Again decide to do the higher, longer more scenic route it's in fact 5k longer, another lovely sunny day we set off on a nice levelish walk along the hillside till we come to a foot bridge, cross it and start a steady climb up to the Refuge les Grands (2113m) feeling good so I get there fairly quickly at 10.30 I carry on a traverse a little way decide to stop at 10.40 and wait for the others I'm there now staring at two stunning glaciers directly in front of me called Glacier des Grands and the Glacier Du Trien and also a great view ahead of the Dente Du Midi and not a cloud in the sky



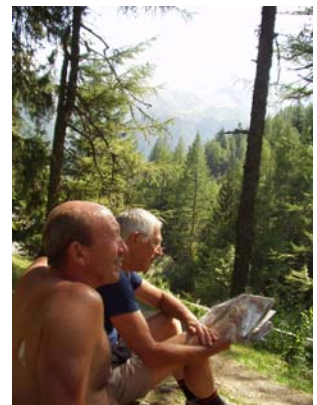
11.00

The boys regroup and set off again along a great traverse until we get to the Col du Balme (2191m) at 11.50 and wow an awesome view appears in front of us of Mount Blanc, there's also a great view down the valley. This also marks the border between France and Switzerland. We have a bowl of watery soup and coffee which was cooked by a grotty looking Frenchman whom I don't think the word hygiene as ever been his first priority or second or third come to think of it. I can see everyone thinking the same "the bowels are going to be loose tonight"



12.10

Set off down to the Tr-le-Champ and up to the Col des Montet (1430m) where we are now having Ice cream, biscuits and coffee we arrived here about 15.00. Stage 9 now complete, really glad we did the long one it's been a superb day so far with splendid views and good walking. We now have to get to the Refuge la Flegere before 19.00, hang on Rogers just come good again and found out that the refuge closed on the 11th Sept so he has phoned another one, Refuge Lac Blanc which is not quite as far but 500m higher up at 2300m

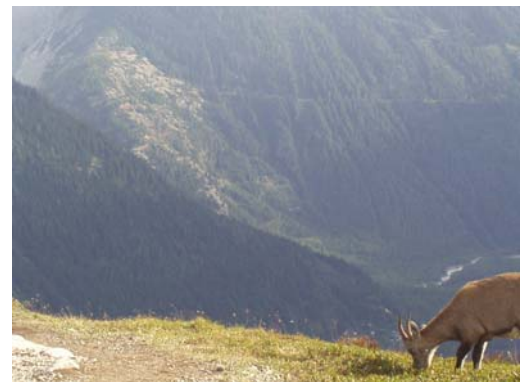


15.50

We're going to have to push it to get there for tea time so we set off on a very steep climb for 900m but there are awesome views all the way and the sun is still shining. We get there at 17.45 (knackered, every one of us)

17.00

Now sitting waiting for our meal, the Refuge is in an idyllic setting with a small tarn next to it and Mount Blanc staring straight at you, so it was another blessing in disguise that the other place was shut, even though we



had to climb and extra 500m. Total for day is 26k, 1800m climbed and 1000m descended.

We have a good meal, only problem was a very talkative Australian sat next to us, he was that talkative Roger couldn't get a word in edgeways, the only time he quietened down was when we told him we were doing the TMB in 7 days to his 11.

Our room is in the top floor of a bunkhouse away from the main building only trouble is there are no toilets only some in the main building. Any way as I said we have a good meal and our customary wine and beer and troop of to bed at 10.30.



01.30

A great gust of wind blows the window open dropping the temperature in the room drastically and awakening us all, we manage to get the window shut. Roger, Brian and I decide this is a great opportunity to mount a minor expedition to the toilets, Roger leading the way torch in hand, we descend the staircase avoiding the low beams through the down stairs rooms and out the front door, where due to the low temperatures and gale force winds the expedition finish's and we relieve ourselves there, only problem was I get the wind direction wrong and end up with wet feet yet again. We return to the dorm and have a reasonably good nights sleep.



Day 7

07.00

Up for breakfast, well four of us are, Rogers improved in this respect but Brian still struggles.

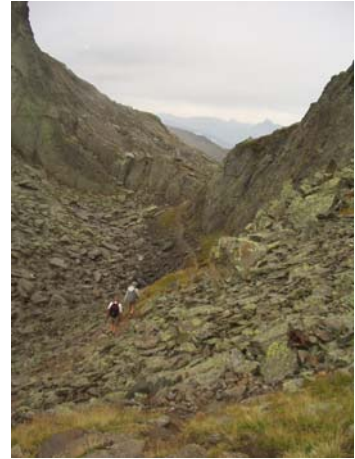
We are now eating our breakfast, when our Australian friend arrives, John perhaps not at his most patient this time in the morning welcomes him with "do you ever give your vocal cords a rest" which did the trick as he hardly uttered a word after that and he soon wandered off in search of more victims.



Halfway through breakfast Brian suddenly comes out with the comment "I was in the toilet this morning looking down and it was 10 inches long", wow we thought enviously must be the altitude, must admit it's having the opposite effect on me. We were just about to ask him which famous pornographic films he had starred in, when it became apparent that he was actually proudly talking about the 10 inch unbroken stool of c—p he'd deposited down the toilet, don't know how he measured it, but that mans been living in Mungrisdale far to long. Just glad we weren't having sausages for breakfast.

09.00

Of we go, descending down to the Refugh La Flegere (1875m). Get there at 10.00 unfortunately we're in a constant drizzle but the views are still great, we follow the path which traverses the hillside until we get to Plan Praz (2000m) then we climb up to the Col du Brevant (2368m) at 12.00. Then follow the path over rocks and boulders up a couple of steel ladders and onto the top of Le Brevant (2526m)



12.30

Arrive at Le Brevant where the cable car goes, again a splendid panorama here we have some lunch, Omelette, chips, a salad and Bilberry tart washed down with large coffee, really recommend the chips that's where we are now looking out it's still raining but it's all down hill from here.

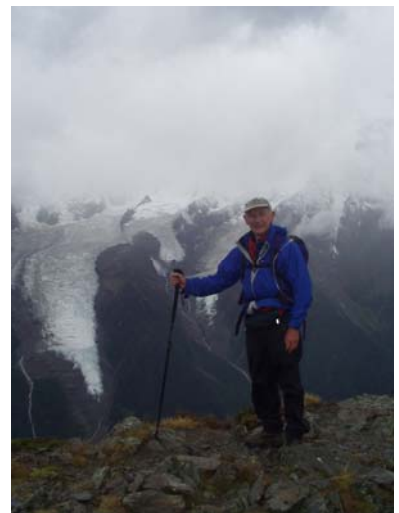


14.15

We set off steadily descending down to the Refuge de Bellachat at (2150m) we arrive at 15.00, we start a steep descent because Roger reckons this is OK and it does show the TMB markings. So we descend down and down and down until we come to a sign which doesn't say what it should say, on further inspection of the map Roger announces we've gone the wrong way and will have to travel an extra 5k and climb an extra 300m. at this point the temptation is to string Roger up to the nearest tree and leave him there but we deem this a little harsh as he's the only one who can actually be bothered to look at a map, besides he's our interpreter and we have to book some rooms later on plus order meals.

So of we go, our second big cock up of the tour, not bad considering. We finally get to Parc Merlot zoo at 18.05 then descend into Les Houches at 18.30

Well we've done it, so a shake of hands and off to find a hotel which we do, the first one we come to the Hotel Beau Sit 41 euros B+B, that s where I am now just out of the bath which was heaven, about to get ready to have a celebratory meal and a few scoops.



23.30

Just got back, we went up the road and had a meal at the Meleze Hotel, we went in there and immediately, we were greeted by a great big St Bernard called Olga, this frightened Roger at first as he thought it was another cow after him. We had the crack with the couple beside us, who are staying there for only 43 euros dinner bed and breakfast. Well we have had a superb meal with extras and 6 litres of red wine for only 30 euros each which includes a 20 euro tip a great night to finish the tour.



0730

Get up and go down to breakfast, best nights sleep I've had all week we have a nice continental breakfast no eggs and bacon unfortunately but its OK. The receptionist as booked us a minibus straight to the airport for 175euros so that's saved a lot of hassle. We are now sat in the reception area, the church bell next door starts ringing for 9am, Ray makes the comment "Them bloody cows are out again" Good one Ray. Come back Roger he's only joking.

0930

Minibus arrives at 9.30 and gets to Geneva airport at 10.20. We're all feeling a bit queasy to say the least obviously the mini bus driver is really a very frustrated racing driver, Ray says last time he went that fast he was on a plane

13.00 Take off and have a very pleasant flight back, land at Liverpool no problems finding the car (surprisingly) and a pleasant journey home. Get back to Windermere about 17.00

Well that's that, a great week, thoroughly enjoyed it.

Thanks to John, Ray, Brian and Roger great company and good fun. But especially to Roger, for providing us all with so much entertainment.

Here's to the next one, GR5 perhaps?

Cheers

Dave