

The Database of British and Irish Hills

Chris Crocker

Much editorial effort was on researching suggestions for new Tumps. We added 72 new Tumps during the year, of which 30 came from Chris Pearson, and replaced a further six. For the first time we made significant use of Scottish LIDAR data. The coverage is sparse and concentrated in river basins and coasts. It was satisfying to nail the St Abb's Head sea stacks. Data were available for all seven stacks and the two inland Tumps. One stack, previously thought to be P37, is actually P3 due to a land bridge not shown on maps. There were 12 changes to the Humps, mostly arising from re-evaluation of the drop using LIDAR or OS Maps.

Towards the end of the year we conducted a user survey, our first since 2010. A new objective was to decide whether the policies we've followed for the past ten years are still appropriate. We are grateful to Rick Salter, Anne Butler and Alan Holmes for their help in advertising the survey. We obtained 312 responses, of which 111 were from RHSoc members, an excellent turnout.



Leica GS15 on Stac Pollaidh (photo: Chris Crocker)

This is how RHSoc members compare with the rest of our user base:

- You are more likely to be frequent users (88%).
- 79% of you are "very satisfied".
- 92% use the database to record ascents, 82% to research bagging objectives, 76% for reference, 75% to research ascent routes, 40% to locate summits on the hill, and 9% for topographical research.

- Members use more of the Hill Bagging website's resources than average, particularly walkers' logs (81%), league tables (75%), and survey reports (57%) and the Change Log (53%).
- 23% submit GPS measurements.
- Unsurprisingly, you are more likely to be bagging prominence based lists than non-members. 96% of you bag Marilyn's, 76% Humps, 65% Tumps, 50% Simms, 38% Dodds and 48% SIBs. You are also more likely than non-members to be bagging, or have completed, Munros (83%), Corbetts (82%), Grahams (78%), Donalds (65%) and Irish lists (28%).
- You are less likely than non-members to be bagging the traditional English and Welsh lists. Nevertheless 56% are bagging or have completed Wainwrights, 41% Nuttalls, 35% Deweys, 30% Birketts and 20% Synges. 49% bag County Tops, only slightly less than the 53% of non-members.
- You have a broad range of opinions. 51% prefer metric lists vs. 9% who don't and 39% neutral. 65% prefer lists based on prominence, with 30% neutral. Among non-members this preference is only 39%. 25% of you dislike lists lacking objective qualification criteria, slightly outweighed by the 33% who like them, with the rest neutral.
- 73% like traditional lists such as Munros and Wainwrights vs. only 7% who dislike them and 18% neutral. These proportions are similar for non-members.
- 81% said the DoBIH is their main source of information on hills and 75% that it influences their bagging activity.

The full report is available at www.hills-database.co.uk/downloads.html#user_surveys

