The UK’s BIG THREE MOUNTAIN CHALLENGES:

The Bob Graham Round

- 42 Peaks
- Ascent 27000ft
- Distance 66 miles

Bob Graham achieved his round of 42 Lake District peaks in 1932. To this day, completion of the round inside 24 hours marks a rite of passage for fell and endurance runners. It remains a stern challenge, accomplished by around 50% of those who attempt it. For Macclesfield Harriers, with its impeccable long-distance pedigree, the “BG” holds a special allure.

To date 61 Harriers have met this challenge out of a total of 2055 completers. Who is going to be next?

Harriers appear in the log for the “Lake District 24 hr record” (an extended Bob Graham). For ladies; Ann Stentiford from 1994 until 2012 with 62 peaks and men; Mark McDermott with 76 peaks from 1988 to 1997 when Mark Hartell added a further peak a record which still stands.

MACC HARRIERS BG MEMBERS

1980   Peter Nolan
1981   Alan Irland
1984   Nigel Robinson, Andy Thornton
1985   Adrian Belton, Alison Wright, Mark McDermott
1986   Brian Jackson John Amies, Geoff Pettengell, Mike Hartley
1987   Mike Lawrence, Phil Cheek, Andrew Addis
1988   Bob Smith, Jim Kelly
1989   John Axson, Anne Stentiford
1990   Paul Driver, Mark Hartell
1992   Craig Harwood
1994   Pete Coppack
1995   Richard Calder, Dave Tucker
1996   Dave Parry, Chris Rhodes, Margaret Huyton
1998   Annette Morris, Andy Ardron
2000   Mandy Calvert, Trevor Longman, Barry Blyth
2002   Roger Teagle
2003   Martin Rands, Chris Cripps
2004   Julian Brown
2005   Steve Watts, Warren Mason, Phil Janaway
2006   Dan Parker, Karen Parker, Mike Nelson
2007   Neil King, Dave Kilpatrick, Digby Harris, Ross Litherland
2008   Kirsty Hewitson, Ian Hughes, Steve Swallow, Clare Griffin, Jonathon Bradshaw
2009   Julie Gardner, Cath Litherland
2010   Larry Day, Rick Houghton, Ian Symington
2011   Jon Tatham
2015   Rob Gittins
2016   Dan Croft
2017   Carl Hanaghan, Graham Brown

PADDY BUCKLEY ROUND        47 Peaks        Ascent 28000ft  Distance 61 miles

This is the Snowdonia equivalent of the BGR and generally acknowledged to be a tougher by at least an hour. Most of the round is set in the well-known areas of Snowdon, the Carneddau, the Glyderau and the Moelwynion. Paddy Buckley devised the round. Wendy Dodds was the first to complete it in 1982 in a time of 25 hours 38 minutes. The first sub-24 hour round was on 30 July 1985 by Martin Stone in 23-26. Although everyone will aim to complete the circuit in sub-24 hours no time limit is stipulated. The route may be started from any point and completed in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction.

To date 13 Macclesfield Harriers have been successfully out of ca 112 completers. Ann Stentiford held the ladies record from 1991 to 2006 in a time of 19-19 and Mark Hartell held the men’s record from 1992 to 2009 in 18-10.

Macclesfield Harriers Paddy Buckley completers are as follows:

1988 Adrian Belton
1989 Alison Wright
1989 Adrian Belton first to include all 3000ft summits
1989 Geoff Pettengell
1990 Mike Hartley Round 3 of the British Triple (see below*)
1991 John Amies
1991 Anne Stentiford ladies record 19-19 (held until 2006)
1992 Mark Hartell mens record 18-10 (held until 2009)
1997 Richard Calder
2000 Chris Rhodes
2006 Chris Cripps
2008 Jon Chapman; Digby Harris
2014 Julie Gardner
The RAMSAY ROUND also known as the Scottish Classic

24 Munros (mountains over 3000 ft)  Ascent 28000 ft  Distance 66 miles

Starting from Glen Nevis Youth Hostel it takes in the Mamores, the Loch Treig munros, the Grey Corries, the Aanochs, Carn Mor Dearg and Ben Nevis. Ramsay first completed it in 1978.

To date, there have been 79 successful contenders 9 of whom have been Macc Harriers. The fastest men’s completion time of 18h 23m was recorded in 1989 by Adrian Belton of Macclesfield Harriers.

Macc Harriers completers of the Ramsey Round are as follows:

1989 Adrian Belton time of 18hr 23m Record still stands
1990 Mike Hartley
1996 Mark Hartell
1998 Richard Calder; Geoff Pettengell; Craig Harwood
2002 Chris Rhodes
2008 Digby Harris; Jon Chapman
Harriers who have completed all 3 rounds...

Macc Harrier Mike Hartley did **ALL 3 ROUNDS CONSECUTIVELY** some 187 mls 83000 ft 113 tops consecutively in 1990 in 3 days 14hrs and 20mins The Round times were Ramsay 21 14; BG 23 48 and Paddy Buckley 33 30.

Six other Harriers have completed **ALL 3 ROUNDS**: Geoff Pettengell; Richard Calder; Mark Hartell; Digby Harris and all 3 in 1 season (March to Sept) Adrian Belton and John Chapman.

**Who’s next?**

As you’ve just read Harriers have a great tradition of taking on and conquering the UK’s big three mountain challenges. So, if you’re ready to throw your hat into the ring there’s lots of support available, from training advice, schedules, planning, folks for reccies and of course volunteers on the day (we like a good day out in the mountains!).

Barry Blyth 9/10/17