



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

March 1992

F O R T H C O M I N G E V E N T S

Summary:

6 - 7 March Tan-yr-Wyddfa WP
6 - 10 March Glencoe and Ben Nevis
Su 22 March Oread Fell Race
27 - 28 March Tan-yr-Wyddfa
W 1 April Harborough Rocks
Sa 11 April AGM
16 - 19 April Easter in Paris

6 - 7 March Tan-yr-Wyddfa WP Rock Hudson
The most important job during this weekend is to start and finish the first part of re-designing the kitchen. Other jobs needing to be done are: artexing the ceiling of the dining room, clearing out the loft, making a fence to protect the dustbins, cutting up old roof timbers, tidying the garden, and all those other little tasks that need to be done to keep the hut in good condition.

Twelve to fourteen is the ideal number of people for these jobs. If you would like to help, please ring me or Colin Hobday or Chuck Hooley or John Shreeve to arrange transport, tools etc.

Tan-yr-Wyddfa needs two nearly new storage heaters and a fridge in good working order. If you are able to provide any of these please contact the committee.

6 - 10 March Glencoe and Ben Nevis Richard Hopkinson
You may be just in time to catch a space in one of the caravans. Contact me on 0629 823392.

Su 22 March Oread Fell Race John Gresty
As organiser of this year's race, various comments have been made to me regarding previous years' events. Among these were: handicap always wrong, navigation too easy, navigation too hard, course favoured runners, too short etc etc. Knowing it is impossible to mollify such an awkward bunch as the Oread, I have decided that this year's amble round the countryside, whilst trying to satisfy some of the above criticism, will still provide plenty of opportunities for controversy.

The "competition" will be for teams of at least three people. Each team needs one "runner" plus two others. There is no need to be a fell runner, hotshot rockstar, cunning orienteer or even a devotee of dry cream crackers. The event is suitable for EVERYONE. Teams will be selected randomly at the start:

venue: Black Rocks lower car park
map: OS White Peak 1:25000
time: 10.30 a.m.

27 - 28 March Tan-yr-Wyddfa

Rob Tresidder

Well, are the rumours of climate change much exaggerated or not? I have to admit I don't expect to be packing ice axes for this one any more. So all the usual and best ingredients of a Welsh hut weekend. The days are not as yet too long so there will be ample time for R&R in the pub after an excellent sun dappled day on Gogarth on Saturday followed by something more mountainous on Sunday. For lifts, berths, rope handlers etc please see me or ring me on 0629 823126 (24h).

W 1 April Harborough Rocks

Rob Tresidder

We shall launch our Wednesday evening meets with this traditional outing on the dolomite on the first Wednesday after the clocks change. Doubtless some schoolteachers and residents of Derbyshire Dales will have been out several evenings already, but the rest of us will catch up! Drinking later in the Miners' Arms in Brassington.

As an alternative to the main event described above, I intend to organise a tour of some of the other dolomite in the Brassington area. I suggest we leave the Miners' Arms at 6.30 p.m. prompt, travelling light, no sacks, rockboots in hand. Please, no hotheads or late arrivals!

[The following item arrived by first class post on February 15th in a very pink envelope. For one moment, I thought my tally of Valentines had crept above one for the first time ever. But sadly, no...]

Sa 11 April Women's climbing day

Dawn Hopkinson

Meet 10 a.m. at Heathy Lea, have a brew, decide where to go. Open to all women climbers: if interested please contact me on 0629 823392.

[Lisa Welbourn is resigning her place on the committee. I hope those attending the above meet will come down to Wirksworth after to vote and make their views known.]

Sa 11 April AGM

Rob Tresidder

I have booked the function room behind the Hope and Anchor public house in Wirksworth market place. Access is via the lounge bar or through the glazed double doors adjacent to the ticket machine in the car park. The room is booked from 7.30. The meeting will start at 8 o'clock sharp. I hope the new venue will attract many Dreads to the AGM: it is convenient for those on their way to or from Heathy Lea, for climbers who have re-discovered Willersley and Wildcat after the winter and for those travelling from Derby. Mrs Hollingsworth, the landlady, has agreed to provide a pie and pea supper at £1.50 per head. This should be ordered in advance (before Friday 10th) by leaving a message for me on 0629 823126.

On a more formal note I have to remind members of the proposed rule changes published in the February newsletter. Remarkably, all the club's officers have expressed their willingness to continue in harness for another year. However elections must be held for all posts: if you or your mate think the president is insufficiently grey, the treasurer is too sharp for his own good or that a new meets secretary could arrange meets to the Burgess formula and stop imitating McKenzie (or is it Hislop?) then get your nominations in to the secretary soon. A contested election would be loads of fun.

Roger Larkam has put the future of Heathy Lea on the agenda. He makes the following points:

1. The annual property rental will be increased by 12% of the cost of any improvements made by the landlord. The club must therefore establish its policy with respect to the hut so that any changes to the club's financial policy can be introduced in 1993.
2. The long term advantages of maintaining a club hut in the Peak District.
3. The general feeling among club members that facilities at the hut should be improved (e.g. flush toilet).
4. The undesirability of using club funds to improve a leasehold property (lease expires 2000) to which the club has no title.
5. A survey of club members showed general support for increasing subscriptions to finance rent increase (63% of the 41 respondents are willing to pay at least £5 extra).
6. Improvements to the value of £7000 could be funded entirely by letting the barn to 12 guests on 14 weekends per annum.

Accordingly, Roger proposes this motion for discussion:

This AGM resolves that Heathy Lea should be retained and that arrangements should be made to improve the hut's facilities, economically and, initially, at the landlord's expense.

16 - 19 April Easter in Paris Bobby Gilbert
22 - 30 May "Whitsun" on Hoy Mike Moss
Please note that Bobby and Mike have swapped the dates of their meets from those which were published on the meets card.

10 - 27 July Massif des Ecrins R Coghlan & S Bashforth
Please note that this is the advance notice of a meet not listed on the membership card. Steve and Richard are planning to camp at La Berarde for just over two weeks. Anybody and everybody is welcome, for this less crowded early season foray. So for lifts etc please see one of them.

P A S T E V E N T S A N D A N C I E N T H I S T O R Y

Winter Walk (Brian West)

More than two dozen Greads pulled on gaiters in the car park at Monsal Head in anticipation of a muddy outing. We were not disappointed except that the best came first. The climb out of Monsal Dale over the top and down from Priestcliffe into Miller's Dale was better than anything else we walked.

At Miller's Dale station we met the eleven o'clock flâneurs and flâneuses. The two halves having joined, quickly divided again with half the party hurrying up Flag Dale to get to the pub first while the others sauntered along to Plum Buttress. A good pull out of the dale over the top and down into Great Rocks Dale and a trudge along the railway brought us to the Midland Hotel. Here we all flannelled without circumflexes for a lot more than an hour, well looked after by the hospitable landlady.

Anxieties about negotiating Monk's Dale in the dark drove some out earlier than others so that the team became fragmented as we made our way back to cars dotted around all over the Dales.

One was at a loss to know whether to be proud or sad at the sight of sixty mountaineers out for a walk. The only hint that we were other than the Brunswick rambling club was the sight of the meets secretary, guidebook in hand, wistfully checking out the routes in Cheedale that he would never climb.

RT

Tan-yr-Wyddfa (Rock Hudson)

Twelve members and guests arrived at the hut after a journey through thick fog. Saturday found most of the party on the ridges of Snowdon and the horseshoe. A perfect day in bright sun, with the most impressive weather, giving rise to an inversion. A sea of clouds with the North Wales summits visible above. Conditions rarely present. Steve McDonagh and Richard Coghlan visited the Pass and did various routes on the Wastad though confined to the gloom of fog all day. Sunday was grim and most headed for the Ogwen Valley. A party was repulsed from Reade's Route on Crib Goch and another from Pen-yr-Helgi-Du while the rest climbed Bristly Ridge and descended the Devil's Kithchen.

JH

Committee meeting

Most of the matters discussed are dealt with under other headings in the newsletter. Gordon Gadsby's plea that the photo meet should be organised by the committee and not by the previous year's winner was accepted. It was decided that we should include a new section for professional and semi-professional photographers in October. Ernie Phillips reported on the latest situation in the Welsh hut parking saga. It seems we are to be allowed to maintain our parking sign which a national park officer tried to remove last year and parking has been agreed for eight cars which must not obstruct the railway (!) or the gate giving access to the Snowdon path.

RT

Patterdale (Colin Barnard)

[No report received.]

SHORT NOTICES

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Roger Larkam writes that he will be sending the list of paid up members to the BMC on March 10th. Those wishing to be included on this list, please hurry and send your subscriptions to him at 5 St John's Terrace, Derby DE1 3LJ, as follows:

Full members	£15
Family members	£22.50

Prospective members and members of state pensionable age attract a 50% reduction.

For BMC membership add £2.50. As well as supporting the prime national body of our sport, membership of the BMC gives automatic civil liability cover (up to £2m) and the opportunity to obtain reduced rate travel and medical/rescue insurance, reciprocal rights and coach travel to the Alps. BMC membership is £10 if taken out direct with the BMC. Please could honorary members indicate whether they require BMC membership.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Applications for full membership have been received from Kev Alisobrook and Steve McDonagh. Will any members who have any views as to the suitability of the candidates please write to the secretary, Steve Bashforth, 14 Farnworth Road, Mickleover, Derby.

HUT BOOKINGS

Colin Hobday

Wales:

March	6 - 7	Working party
	13 - 14	Logica MC 16 beds
	20 - 21	Oldham MC 16 beds
	27 - 28	Oread meet
April	3 - 4	Gordon Gadsby (whole hut)
	10 - 11	Richard Coghlan (16 beds)

Heathy Lea:

March	13 - 14	(6 beds)
Sa April 11		Dawn Hopkinson (day only)

LETTER

Dear Rob

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to the members and friends who so willingly gave their sympathy and support to Robert and myself during the weekend of the Patterdale meet, when we received the sudden and unexpected news of the loss of my father. May I also offer thanks to those who have subsequently offered their condolences to Georgina, Robert and myself.

Yours sincerely

Peter Amour

NEWSLETTER FORMAT

The newsletter is reduced to half size at the copying stage in order to save paper and time (especially in stapling). If you have difficulty reading your copy, please ask me for the full A4 size edition.

RT

NEXT EDITION

I intend to publish the next edition on Tuesday, 7 April. Please send all written material to me at 61 West End, Wirksworth DE4 4EG to arrive by Monday, 23 March. I especially look forward to hearing from Bobby Gilbert, Colin Hobday, Keith Gregson and Dave Weston.

Rob Tresidder

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