

# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

JUNE 2024



**Sun shines on the New Members' meet. Photo Michael Hayes.**

## **Editorial**

Meets coming up include a Tan yr Wyddfa barbecue, a climbing trip to the Roaches, staying at the magical Rock Hall cottage, and a weekend in the Yorkshire Dales. Lots of Peak District walks including the next Geo Walk and more information on our 75<sup>th</sup> celebration camp at Chatsworth in September. Write-ups include Little Langdale, the New Members meet, numerous walks and an interesting account of the search for the remains of the Bullstones cabin.

Good news for your Hon Ed – Stephen Bashforth has very kindly offered to help me out with the editorial work – **so it would be really helpful if all future newsletter correspondence could be sent to [newseditor@oread.co.uk](mailto:newseditor@oread.co.uk) where both of us can access it.**

**Copy Deadline 20 June**

# Meets List 2024 Michael Moss

Please note: **these meets will not happen unless people volunteer to coordinate them** so don't be shy – have a look and see what you can do.  
 Michael Moss: email: xxxxxxxxxxxx Tel xxxxxxxxxxxx

**Walk leaders** are still needed for Saturdays: 17 August and 19 October.  
 Wednesdays: 07 August, 04 September and 04 December. Contact Stuart Firth if you can help.

Stuart Firth: tel. xxxxxxxxxxxx; email xxxxxxxxxxxx

June	5th	Wednesday walk	Rusty, Clive Russell
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday short walk	Cratcliffe
	14th/15th	BBQ meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales
	15th	Weekend walk - Kinder	Stuart Firth
	21st/22nd	Rock hall cottage, Roches	Ed Bloomfield
	22nd June to 7th July	Lofoten, Norway	Nigel and Janet Briggs
July	3rd	Wednesday walk	Hartington
	18th	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	20th	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Winster to Parsley Hay
		Sport climbing and walking, Lowstern,	Chris Paice
	26th/27th	Yorkshire	Yorkshire Ramblers Hut
			Angela Pingram
Aug	7th	Wednesday walk	Earl Sterndale
	6th-9th	Tan yr Wyddfa working party	Dave Snod Helliwell
	9th/10th	Glan Dena, Ogwen Valley, Wales	Dave Snod Helliwell
	12th-22nd	Austrian Alps	Otztal valley
	15th	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	17th	Weekend walk	Gradbach
	24th/26th	Aug Bank Holiday, Pembroke South	Roland Smith
	30th/31st	Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales
Sept	4th	Wednesday walk	coordinator needed
	13th/15th	Oread 75th anniversary	Camping, Chatsworth, Derbyshire
	19th	Thursday short walk	Chris Paice
	21st	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Parsley Hay to Milldale
			Pam Storer
Oct	2nd	Wednesday walk	Charlie Taylor
	4th/5th	Tan yr Wyddfa	coordinator needed
	dates TBD	Mediterranean trad	Ed Bloomfield
	17th	Thursday short walk	Ruth Gordon
	19th/20th	Fylde hut swap	Little Langdale, Lake district
	19th	Weekend walk	Dave Snod Helliwell
		Summer time ends, start of Monday climbing wall sessions	coordinator needed
	28th		

Nov	1st/2nd	Curry meet - Tan yr Wyddfa	N. Wales	Tony Howard
	4th-18th	Morrocce		Gill Radcliffe
	6th	Wednesday walk	Rachel Walker	
	9th?	Bonfire night		
	13th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
	21st	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	23rd	Annual Dinner	Maynard, Grindleford	
	24th	Post prandial walk		
Dec	4th	Wednesday walk		coordinator needed
	4th	Winter wall wednesdays	Sheffield and/or Nottingham	
	7th/8th	Bullstones		
	11th	Black rocks evening meet		
	14th	Weekend walk, Geo walk stage	Milldale- Wetton Mill	Clive Russell
	19th	Thursday short walk		Ruth Gordon
	24-1Jan	Christmas and New Year hut meet		Tan Yr Wyddfa

## Forthcoming Meets

### **Wednesday evening climbing venues.**

The venues can still be changed if the weather is unsuitable but at least there will be a starting point for discussion via the new WhatsApp group.

- 5 June      Willersley then The Boat
- 12 June     Earl Sterndale then The Packhorse, Crowdecote
- 19 June     Castle Naze then The Beehive, Combs
- 26 June     Harpur Hill then Church View Inn, Chelmorton
- 3 July       Wildcat then The Boat

### **Wednesday 5 June Alstonefield Walk Clive Russell**

We shall assemble on foot opposite the car park and toilet block in Alstonfield (I suggest you share vehicles where possible, not only because the Peak Park are now charging extortionate fees for their car parks but also to leave space for others).

I propose to set off at 10.30 am so a 10.15 arrival would be good.

The plan, subject to adjustment depending on the weather and the state of the party, is to take the Eastern bank of the Manifold, downstream as far as Eastern Hall and then down to Ilam from where we will nip up Bunster and then head vaguely North before descending through the wood to Ilam Rock. A few short strides up the valley will take us to Milldale and a comfortable rising path back to the departure point.

Rather than quoting distances and rise and fall in metres or even poles and perches, I shall undertake to adjust the journeying so that no one is exerted to an undue extent. Anyone requiring a lift from Parwich can text me, xxxxxxxxxxxx ( first three requests accepted).

## **13 June Cratcliffe – Youlgreave short walk**

**Ruth Gordon**

### **Note date change – a week earlier than usual.**

We will meet at the point where the Limestone Way meets the B5056 below Cratcliffe Tor SK228 618. There is a layby and roadside parking just a little down the road. We will follow the Limestone Way gently uphill past Robin Hood's Stride to Cliff Lane then through woodland and fields downhill into Youlgreave. Here we will follow the beautiful riverside path almost to Middleton before cutting back south east. There is a bit of an uphill plod alongside a campsite but the views from the top are worth the effort. Then it's field paths to Elton where we pass the church and take another field path to Dudwood Lane and back to our starting point. This is about seven miles - a bit longer than our usual Thursday walks – but through very beautiful scenery. We will take our time and enjoy it at leisure.

Ruth Gordon email: [xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx)

## **Saturday 15 June Kinder Walk Stuart Firth**

This will be a well-known circular walk including Kinder Downfall and Edale Cross. Approximately 16km and 550m ascent and descent. Pace moderate.

Hayfield, Snake Path, William Clough, Sandy Heys, Kinder Downfall, Edale Cross, Tunstead Clough Farm, Hayfield.

As we'll have plenty of daylight, fitties could extend for a tougher variant. But they'll probably be en route for the Lofoten Islands... Climbers could no doubt do a classic route or two.

Meet at Millie's Tea Room 7 Church Street Hayfield SK22 2JE  
(bulldozer.logs.deep) Open from 10:00. Leave at 10:30.

Pay and Display parking available at Sett Valley Trail bus station Hayfield SK22 2ES (difficult.saver.laptops).

Sadly public transport is not viable so anyone wishing to lift share please let me know. Bring lunch and a sunny disposition.

Stuart Firth: tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx); email: [xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx)

## **14 -16 June Tan -Yr-Wyddfa BBQ Tony Howard**

Summer at Tan yr Wyddfa – you could be walking the hills or climbing in 'The Pass' or Tremadog, baking at Gogarth, or perhaps best of all hiding from the heat on Cyrrn Las, Cloggy, or Craig Yr Ysfa.

Last year's BBQ weekend was a bit damp, the previous year brought very hot weather; too hot for some. On Saturday night we will be having a BBQ and whatever the weather we should have a great time. You should bring your own food and drink. I will provide some BBQ machines and fuel.

If you want to come along, please let me know ASAP.

Tony Howard email: [tony.howard46@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.howard46@btinternet.com)

Tel: Home [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx) Mobile: [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx)

## **21 – 23 June Rock Hall Roaches Ed Bloomfield**



Rock Hall is a unique experience - a cottage in the crag itself. Belaying possible from the roof! It can accommodate up to 12 people in two rooms. There are full cooking and dining facilities, a drying room and showers. Parking in lay-by approximately 400 yards away. We will be climbing on the Roaches Friday evening and Saturday, and venturing over to Hen Cloud Sunday. The Roaches, in my opinion, provide a very unique experience compared to an eastern edge. The climbing is generally longer and the surroundings spectacular. There is wonderful walking in the area as well so please come along.

Currently there are still bed spaces remaining so get in touch and join us for the weekend.

Ed Bloomfield email: [xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx)

## **Sunday 30 June Matlock Skyline Challenge**

The Derwent M.C. has organised a walking/running event to raise funds for Derby Mountain Rescue Team. A beautiful 22 mile / 35km circular route, mainly off road with 3300 feet / 1000 metres of ascent, following the high ground around Matlock and Darley Dale. You can choose whether to walk or run it (or a mixture of both!), and you can do it solo, in a group, or make friends on the way round. Cost £25. More info and booking on:

<https://www.derbymrt.org.uk/product/matlock-skyline-2024>

If you're not entering, would you be willing to volunteer as a marshal?

Roles include registering and briefing participants at the start, recording their progress through checkpoints, helping at event control, offering refreshments and generally assisting behind the scenes.

It will be a long day, so there is no expectation that you have to assist from start to finish. The middle part of the day in particular will be when the most help is needed, as due to the staggered start, and varying pace of the participants, we will need to have all checkpoints manned for several hours. We will be setting up from 7am, and the last participants may not

finish until early evening.

If you are able to help, please email Andy Neath on [skyline@derbymrt.org.uk](mailto:skyline@derbymrt.org.uk) letting him know how long you are available for, and if there is a particular role you would like to help with.

## **Wednesday 3 July Hartington Walk Stuart Firth**

Meet at Hartington Farm Shop and Cafe (W3W changing.florists.hunter) G.R. 129 605 at 10:00 for a 10:30 departure. Route to be revealed on the day - depends who shows up and the appetite of the party.

(Cafe open 10:00 - 16:00)

For lift-sharing contact Stuart Firth: email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx; tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **12-13 July Tan yr Wyddfa Charlie Taylor**

Back at our club hut at Rhyd-Ddu, North Wales, there's plenty on offer straight from the door: Tremadog is just down the road and Cloggy can be reached on foot straight from the hut. There is also good climbing to be had in the Llanberis pass with Gogarth an hour up the road. For the walkers there's Snowdon and the Nantlle ridge on the doorstep.

Please book your place with Charlie Taylor: e-mail xxxxxxxxxx or call/text me on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **20 July Geo Walk Winster – Parsley Hay Chris Paice**

This is another end to end walk so an earlier start time please, 9.00 so that lift shares/ parking etc can be sorted for a 10.00a.m. start to the walk.

Start:- Ore House, Winster SK 238 601 DE4 2DR

Finish:- Parsley Hay SK147 637 SK17 0DG

Distance:- 18km

Total Ascent 305m

This section of the walk is in limestone country, apart from a brief excursion on to the overlying sandstone and shale around Harthill Moor. Typical White Peak scenery is first encountered in Bradford Dale, closely followed by Lathkill Dale with its crystal-clear river.

The steep path up from the river to reach the limestone plateau provides the only significant climb of the day.

The above is not my words, taken from the Geo walk description.

There are two extensions, one 15 minute to look at tufa forming. I have homework to do!

The other is longer, up to Arbor Low/Gib Hill, an extra 45 minutes. We will consider this as group.

The following is important.

PLEASE CAN I KNOW WHO IS COMING AND WHO IS WILLING TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT. It would be good if I could know by midday on 19 July. This gives me time to ask and sort it all out. Thank you.

Hence the early notice of the walk, giving people time to think.

Christine(Chris) Paice: [xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## **26 -27 July Yorkshire Sport Climbing (+ Trad) and Walking Angela Pingram**

This was a fantastic meet last year in a gorgeous place. We had a great time on what I think is about the best sports climbing in Britain so I'm really pleased to lead a return trip. Very keen to tick off some more great routes. There's a good range of grades on excellent rock and a choice of bolted and trad limestone. It's also lovely walking and cycling territory.  
We'll be based at the Yorkshire Ramblers Lowstern hut: <https://www.yrc.org.uk/venues/lowstern/> which is ideally situated for all of the above and is a spacious and comfortable hut. Contact me for more information and to book a space (we have 10 spaces).  
Angela Pingram: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) or [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#).

## **Wednesday 7 August Earl Sterndale Shortie Straw**

Meet outside the Quiet Woman (W3W admits.tripped.mothering APPROX GR 090 670) at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure - currently shut and being extensively refurbished.

Unless a volunteer emerges, route and leadership to be fought over by attendees.

## **12 – 22 August Austrian Alps Michael Hayes**

Come and join us in Austria this August in the wonderful Ötztal valley just South West of Innsbruck.

We were last there in 2019 and had a fantastic couple of weeks sport climbing, mountaineering, walking, hut to hutting, mountain biking and enjoying this wonderful area.

We are staying at the campsite in Umhausen so If you want to come along then just book yourself onto this campsite [Ötztal Camping Tyrol \(oetztalcamping.com\)](#)

and contact me if you want any more information.

Michael Hayes Email:[xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#) Tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#)

## **Saturday 17 August Gradbach car park Shortie Straw**

Meet at car park (W3W remind.stow.matchbox GR 999 663) at 10:15 for a 10:30 departure.

Unless a volunteer emerges, route and leadership to be fought over by attendees.

## **13- 15 September 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Camp Chatsworth Jan and Chris Wilson**

The time for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camping Meet at Chatsworth is fast approaching. Plans are maturing so I am writing to you with the latest information. We will gather on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and have drinks that evening to get sociable. Saturday is dedicated to the BARMY competition which will be covered in the Newsletter by the hard-working team who have been on the case for several months now. This will leave from the camping area and finish around 5.00pm. During the afternoon we hope veteran members will join us for tea and cakes and to meet and greet the rest of the club. If there is interest, we may have a short walk for those not doing the Barmy. Of course, you are welcome to do your own thing, but it would be lovely to see plenty of BARMY participants.

The BARMY (Best All Round Mountaineer of the Year) competition has a long history in the Oread. It was originally started by Keith Gregson in the early 1990's and resurrected more recently by Michael Moss. As a fun and inclusive event it seemed a perfect fit for our anniversary weekend. The day allows plenty of time for climbers, walkers and runners to gain points by visiting places of interest in the Peak (trig points, ancient monuments, natural features, stoops, cafes and pubs). Extra points are gained by climbing routes and boulder problems. The competition is open to all those attending the celebrations, including families with young children.

The competition will be followed by prize giving at around 6.00pm.

The takeaway Pizza truck will then be open for business supplying excellent fresh pizzas. They can cope with all dietary requirements and are very efficient at getting your order out in quick time. After this we can stay at the campsite and chat or adjourn to the Hut for a bonfire.

On Sunday there will be a programme of walking (long and short), cycling and climbing. The walks and cycling will be from the campsite, with details announced by the designated co-ordinator on Sunday morning. For climbing we are hoping you will organise yourselves and share your intended location and style on a board so others might join your group.

Finally, we will vacate the site on Sunday. We have asked about the latest times and whether we can stay until Monday but will confirm these details in a subsequent Newsletter.

On a practical note, there is water on site, and we will hire some toilets (may be even a shower).

This is an important event in our Club's history so we're hoping to see a good turnout. We have invited eleven kindred clubs along and so hope to see lots of old friends and new. Please make a date in your diary.

Jan Wilson email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Chris Wilson email [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

## **4 - 18 November Morocco**

A few members are going to the Anti-Atlas in Morocco at the beginning of November. If you want any more details please contact Gill Radcliffe by email:[xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

## **23 November Oread 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner at the Maynard Arms**

Further to the earlier Newsletter announcement we have reserved seven bedrooms for the evening of the Dinner at standard room rate (£130). These can be booked by Oread's and will be held **until July** when the hotel will release any not booked for general sale.

Please get in touch to book, 01433 424110 and make the hotel aware of your Oread connection. **They advise us there is plenty of local accommodation but the Maynard and all local accommodation get fully booked every weekend so it is best to book ahead.**

Other options include:

The Sir William Hotel 01433 613 167

The George (Hathersage) 01433 650 436

The Millstone Inn (Hathersage) 01433 650 258

Scotsman's Pack (Hathersage) 01433 650 253

Little John (Hathersage) 01433 650 255

Bike and Boot (Hope Valley) 01433 440777 (discounts for group bookings)

There are also plenty of B&B's in the area. For the campervans we are in the process of organising a camping venue at the bottom of the hill in Grindleford and will publish details as they are finalised. The Maynard will not accept vans.

## **3 – 17 February 2025 Sun Rock Benidorm Ruth Gordon**

It's a long way off but some of us have already booked our annual trip to the Costa Blanca in search of sunshine, bolted limestone and beautiful mountain walking - or just enjoying a change of scene and not having to cook for a couple of weeks!

We have booked a Jet2 holiday from Manchester or East Midlands at the Aparthotel Terralta, Benidorm, with Half Board Plus but you can also self cater if you prefer. Car hire is essential for getting to the crags but we will organise that nearer the time when we know how many are coming. Any questions please be in touch.

Ruth Gordon email: [xxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxx) tel. [xxxxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxxxx) and leave a message if I'm not at home.

# **News, Articles and Reports from Meets**

## **Environmental Issues sub-group**

Following discussion at the A.G.M. a small group now exists to look at the environmental impact/sustainability issues relating to our club and to report to the main committee. If there are any interested Oread members who would like to join the group or just contribute with any good ideas please join the WhatsApp group 'Environmentalists' or, if you don't want to do WhatsApp, email Jan Wilson:[xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) to be put in touch with the group.

## **Oread 75<sup>th</sup> Almanac Nigel Briggs**

The 'Almanac' is mainly concentrating on the events and changes over the last 25 years, however this it is not exclusively the case. If you wish to contribute an article about anything related to the Oread, or Mountaineering in general, it would be welcome. The piece could be about a specific event, it may be a reflection on past events from today's viewpoint, personal thoughts about how 'things' have changed (for better or worse) or it could be predictive as to how 'things' may progress. **I am looking for someone to write an overview of the summer Alpine meets, particularly over the last 25 years, and how they have changed through the years. If you are interested please get in touch.**  
There is room for all. **I want everyone who would like to contribute to have the opportunity to do so.**

Over the last few months I have asked some of you for material to go in the publication, thank you to those who have already sent it to me. I am now starting the compilation; **I would like any promised articles in as soon as possible.**

I am also going to need photographs to break up the text, so if you are contributing please could you include a photograph or two.  
From the contributions already received it should be an interesting read!  
Nigel Briggs email: [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

## **Wednesday 3 April Longnor Walk Fréderique Gwyther**

Once again the weather was rather inclement when John and I got in the car that morning, and between our house and finally escaping the Nottingham suburbs, we faced two separate road closures. Miraculously, we got to Cromford in time to pick Rachel up, before continuing our journey to Longnor. The weather, however, was not improving and within five minutes of sitting in the car, Rachel declared she didn't want to go any more, and could we take her back home. No, was the answer, but we started plotting ways to reduce the length of the walk, wondering even

whether walking to the cafe and back to the car would be acceptable by Oread standards.

On reaching Longnor five minutes before the planned departure time, we saw that only Sue and Stuart would be joining us. Morosity soon dissipated and we cheerfully set off between two showers.



The suspicions that we would be walking on very wet and muddy ground were soon confirmed. Sue and Rachel were heard many times saying that this was the muddiest walk they'd ever been on, which John later confessed he'd found very flattering.(?!)

We had a couple of coffee stops on the way to Hartington, where not too wet benches were found and we sat down for our lunch.

Sue and Stuart got talking to a lady who was waiting for a bus. Little lightbulbs appeared above our heads, Stuart checked the timetables on his phone and some of us considered using public transport, as after our sit down, we were now cold as well as wet.

John and Rachel valiantly got going though, and the rest of us followed, only to be met by a group of Rachel's friends, who happened to be on their way back to Cromford, in a minibus! There was a free seat, and again, the



temptation was strong, but Rachel showed great solidarity and continued with us.

Shortly after Hartington, we got a chance to warm up, walking uphill towards Pilsbury, and at the top, we were rewarded by beautiful views and even at some point the illusion that the sun might finally come through -it didn't. Stuart offered his word of wisdom for the day: "Phew, I shall be glad when I've had enough!"



Sadly we came across a ewe who had just given birth to triplets, one lying dead on the grass, one barely alive, and a bit further on, the third one standing by his mum. John picked up the second lamb and tried to interest its mum in licking it back to health, but seemingly to no avail. We carried on walking and on looking back a little later, we saw that the ewe was now taking an interest and that the lamb seemed to become a bit more active, so we felt more hopeful for its survival.

Having passed Pilsbury Castle and briefly admired it through the rain, our leader had the excellent idea to cut a corner before Crowdicote and to cross the river Dove at the stepping stones, cut through the fields and finish our walk along the road back to Longnor, and we were able to make good use of the many puddles along the way to clean our boots. Sadly by the time we got back, the cafe was closed, so we parted company and went straight back home.

Despite the many mentions of the excessive mud and at times heavy rain along the way, we all enjoyed this very lovely walk and as usual, excellent company. Not to mention changing into our warm pyjamas and dressing gowns as soon as we got home.

Thank you very much to Rusty for kindly suggesting and receiving the route with John and to Rachel, Stuart and Sue for joining us on a less than promising day. Many thanks also to Stuart for the photos.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Correspondence

### Toast!

I took this photo as we toasted O.M.C. On The Day.  
We would have loved to have been there!

Janet and Dave.



*Founder Member, Dave Penlington, toasting the Oread Mountaineering Club on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of its Founding.*

Dear Editor,

In reply to your correspondent **G.A.R. Dom's** writing in the May Magazine, may I first point out that I have, over many years, been influenced by the writings of the late, great "Tricouni" so recognise the importance this communication. I therefore regret the upsetting of his peaceful environment, and particularly so on the Sabbath, on what was a significant day for these loutish oldsters. May I therefore extend some reassurances regarding the mention of a follow up event in 2049.

By then the Via Pot'ole will be passable only to government run, hydrogen guzzling chariots and Robin Hood will still be around as a purveyor of non-alcoholic slop. Finally, as the unquestioned leader of the prostrate group. (and very possibly Prostate also!) I can assure your correspondent that, by 2049, I certainly anticipate that I shall be lying down, my remains being in the permanent care of his nearby mate "Froggaty"

Yours etc.

Ode Nono.

## **Little Langdale 26-27 April Snod Helliwell**



*The team at Long Scar, Wrynose Pass . Photos Cathy Ayton*

Derek, Bott, Simon and I went up on Friday morning in Derek's van. An easy journey saw us there early afternoon. After bagging lower bunks we walked up to Runestone Quarry – a supposedly close sports crag. Probably took us 45 minutes steep uphill walking to get there but we managed some routes before returning. Pete and Laura had arrived by then and had wandered through the quarries and up Holme Fell. Fish and chips in Ambleside were on the agenda and Cathy arrived and very kindly offered to drive us in. Pete and Laura stayed at the hut and later went to the Three Shires. Our arrangement was to meet Gandalf (Roger), Tom and Ed but they beat us to it. We were then supposed to meet in the Golden Rule but we were just about to leave when they turned up so we had to have another drink!

Next morning was fine and we all went to Long Scar, good climbing but none too warm. Cathy met up with some friends up there. She gave Pete

and Laura a lift up to the Three Shires Stone and they walked over Long Scar with us, did a bit of scrambling then carried on up Cold Pike, Pike O'Bliscoe, across to Side Pike, through the Fat Man's Squeeze (pictured)



and then over Lingmoor Fell back to the hut. Tom and Ed moved on to Black Scar to do another route but the rest of us felt it was getting too cold so we retreated. Saturday night we all ate in the hut and entertained ourselves with folk songs and Bott's guitar – just like the old days! Sunday we had planned on going to Raven Crag, Walthwaite but the Lake District's feathered population had other ideas – there was a bird ban – so we adjourned to Wallerbarrow where some good routes were climbed. Meanwhile Pete and Laura walked up Wetherlam then along to Swirl How and Great Carrs and back along Wetside Edge.

So a great weekend in good company. Thanks to everyone for coming, Derek Pike, Simon Pape, Irwin Bottomley, Cathy Ayton, Ed Bloomfield, Roger Larkam, Tom Larkam, Pete Wragg, Laura Booth. It was great to see Cathy enjoying her first away meet with the club and to catch up with Pete who has just rejoined after many years. There's another hut swap coming up in October – as they used to say: "Be there or be Square!!"

## **Alport Castles walk 1 May Chris Mather**



On 1st May it seemed that summer had arrived, trees were in green leaf, the sun was shining warmly and nine valiant walkers enjoyed a lovely warm day. We all met at Fairholmes information centre. Starting a little late we climbed up through woods to Lockerbrook and over Rowlea Pasturs to enjoy our elevenses at our high point - 485 feet overlooking the Tower - a scramble to be postponed to another day!

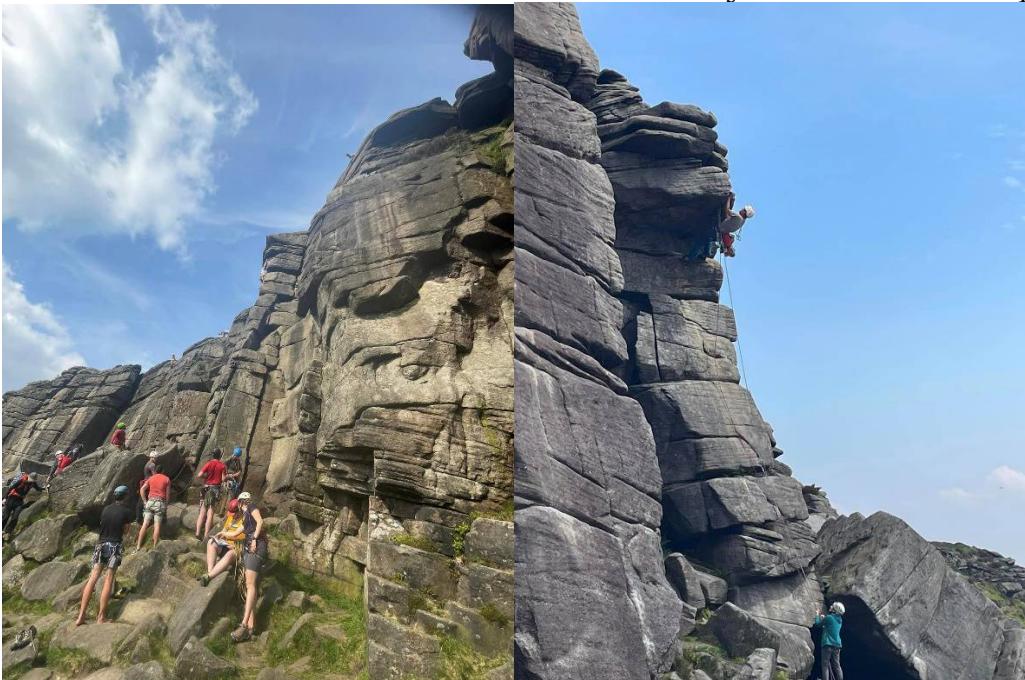
We descended to the river Alport which we followed across the A57 and had our lunch on the river bank.

Rather reluctantly we left our sunny bank to climb over the moor below Blackley Hey and return though the woods. We crossed over Haggwater bridge and climbed up Haggside to return down through the trees back to the Fairholmes cafe for tea and ice cream.

## **New Members' Meet 11-12 May Ed Bloomfield**

The New Members' meet this year was quite the success with many aspiring members attending and some friendly familiar faces from the club there to make them feel welcome. The weather, as promised, was brilliant - perhaps too brilliant. Friday night was spent at Birchen for a few routes after prepping the bonfire. Saturday we climbed at Stanage Popular meeting at Hollybush Crack area. We took over the area en masse with a creche at the bottom, sunbathers basking on all the large pebbles and ropes hanging down or running up all the good routes! Many classics were

repeated including Narrow Buttress, Leaning Buttress Crack , Flying Buttress and Queersville. Tom Larkam even decided to clean up a route from all its sand and leaves to finish the day - not so classic! Once the sun had worn us all down and Tom finished cleaning we retired to Heathy Lea for a mass bbq, bonfire and marshmallow roasting session long into the night! On Sunday after a quick spruce up at Heathy Lea we went in search for High Neb and even recced Crowchin wall in the process to round up any lost Oreads - turns out we were the only lost Oreads - the rest of them were flaking ropes at High Neb. Again it was a good turnout and many classics were repeated - Inaccessible Crack , High Neb Buttress, Jeepers Creepers to name a few. After another long day in the sun we went to the Grouse for a late meal and a cold pint or two. Thanks to all those who attended and made the weekend possible! It's the members; new, seasoned and aspiring that make these meets a success and without you it wouldn't be possible!



*Oreads at Narrow Buttress*

*Roland on Jeepers Creepers*

Reflections from one of our newest members below:

Harriet Thomas -

“Absolutely the best way to spend a Saturday. It started by looking for the man in yellow trousers, more members turned up and climbing ensued. There was no shortage of people shouting down ‘fancy this route?’ or offering belays, a warmer welcome we could not have had. It was brilliant! Paired off at the start, Ed made sure everyone had someone to climb with, safely matching abilities of climbers. The sun shone and we climbed! On my sixth climb of the day Spence asked me if I wanted to lead the last part of the route. At the beginning of the day I hadn’t envisioned multi pitching at Stanage but I think the support and good vibes throughout the day gave me confidence. Thanks again Spence, Mick and Luke for the support. Then it was off to the hut, an excellent bbq, a roaring fire and great conversations, the perfect evening. All I have to say is Oread keep doing what you are doing, it was a great day. Looking forward to the next meet and Wednesday evening climbs.”

## **Longstone Short Walk 16 May Chris Paice**

OREADS there were three  
Rusty, Ruth and me,  
Flowers abounded in the church,  
Flowers abounded on the moor,  
Hanging, cows and cycling laws,  
Misted views, maths and triangles,  
Various shades of grey,  
(The sky, not the book!),  
Various percentages of wet,  
Conversational variety always met,  
Thank you Rusty and Ruth,  
For joining me,  
And making it three,  
A good walk and talk,  
With lunch under a tree.

## **In Search of the Bullstones Cabin Janet Briggs**

In early 2023 Nigel and I agreed to lead the July weekend walk, with a venue of our choice. After some thought we decided on a walk from Fairholmes car park, above the East side of the reservoirs, coming down to Slippery Stones for a late afternoon dip in the river, enjoying the summer sunshine and warmth. Our chosen route took in Lost Lad and Margery Hill before dropping down Cut Gate to Slippery Stones.

We decided on a recce in late May, which doubled up as a chance to test out the weight of our proposed rucksacs and contents before embarking on the Tour du Mont Blanc a couple of weeks later. 24<sup>th</sup> May was a beautiful day, the sun was out, the birds were singing and the sky was blue. Having got to Margery Hill we decided to detour and come down past the Bullstones Crag and see if we could see any signs of the famous but now burnt down cabin.

We had picked up a grid reference (SK179961) and that there was a spring near it. We spent some time wandering around above and below the 'stones' but could not see anything which looked likely. However the afternoon was rounded off with a lovely swim before walking back to our car at Fairholmes.

Having seen our Oread newsletter pre walk write up of the walk, mentioning the possibility of detouring to try to find the site of the Bullstones Paul Bingham got in touch, telling us:

Despite having visited the foundations (it was burnt down by vandals in the mid 60s) in the 1970s with Harry Pretty et al, I and several others were unable to find the site when we scattered Gordon Gadsby and George Reynolds ashes in 2016 (I think). We intended to scatter them at the cabin site but had to make do with Bull Stones rocks.



### *Bullstones Crag, May 2023*

Paul also alerted us to an article, found by googling, from the Mountain Bothies Association:

<https://www.mountainbothies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Before-the-MBAfinal.pdf>

It includes an article by Keith R J Deary entitled 'Cabining' in which he states that:

'my first experience of cabining. Bullstones Cabin (SK179961) was the place we chose, just below the gritstone outcrop of that name, near to the where the Cut Gate drops down into the Derwent Valley (and now disappeared without trace – even the spring is clogged up and hard to locate) '

This fits with our experience on our recce walk of finding no trace.

Fast forward a couple of months to July 2023 and our lovely summer walk turned out to be a day with a very 'iffy' forecast, with showers and blustery winds at best, and a few of the proposed participants dropped out at the last moment. However a team of seven joined Nigel and me, and as described in the October 2023 Newsletter the weather was not as bad as forecast, and the wettest part for some came not from the rain but from a dip in the river.

Brian West, was one of those on the walk, and he informed us that the Bullstones Cabin site was not at the Grid Reference given in the MBA article, below the rocks, but was in fact on the other side of Broadhead Clough. We followed Brian through shoulder high bracken, some of the

party abandoned before crossing the stream, some followed to the other side but the site was not found amongst the vegetation.

At that stage we decided it would be good to go back on a clear crisp day in winter when there was no vegetation. Peter Amour expressed an interest in joining Nigel and me, and if we went mid week we could drive up the valley further cutting down the length of the walk and giving more time for searching. Closer examination of the Dark Peak Explorer map showed two small square structures near Lord Edward Howard's Spring, above Broadhead Clough. (These structures, south of the spring, are not marked on the 1924 6 inch scale map reproduced below.)

Interestingly the Deary article mentioned:

'another that was visited regularly because of its excellent spring is in the Derwent Valley at SK172693, marked on the OS as Lord Edward Howard's - I certainly remember a good cabin there, but I never slept in it. '

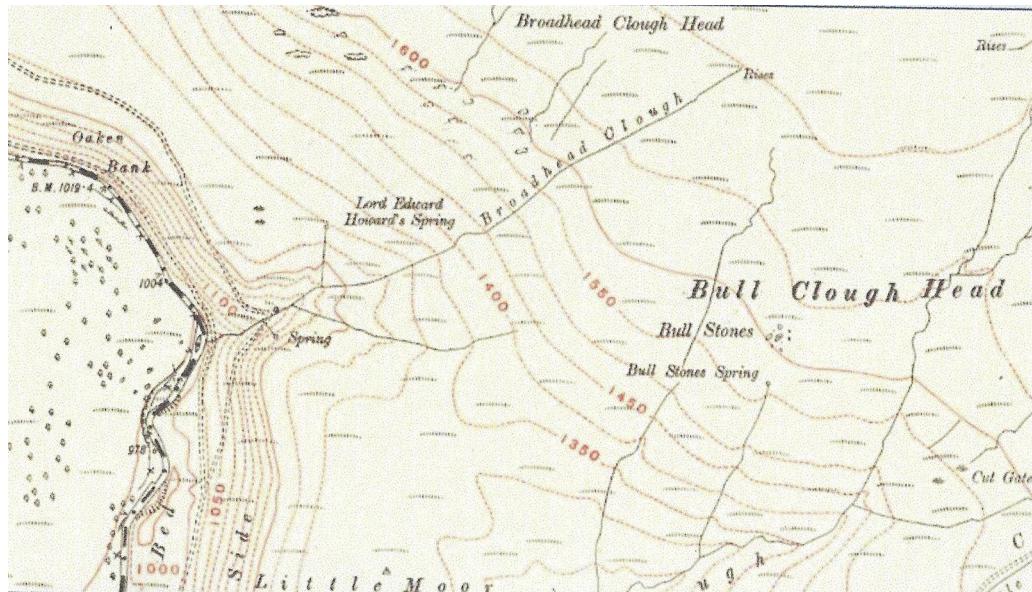


The two Bullstones Cabins, photographed in 1960 by Jack Ashcroft

*The MBA also contains this photo:*

Well we all know the winter of 2023/24 was not noted for anything crisp and clear, or indeed anything other than wet with the ground being completely saturated. By mid April things were occasionally looking up and the forecast for my birthday (16<sup>th</sup>) was half decent so we decided to go and have a look before the bracken started growing. Unfortunately Peter was seriously laid up with a bad chest infection so could not join us.

We walked upstream from Slippery Stones, past the bottom of Broadhead Clough to an area marked as Oaken Bank on the map.



*Copied from the Ordnance Survey Derbyshire sheet IV 1924*

There was then a reasonable path that headed back up the hillside towards the top end of Broadhead Clough and appearing to pass the two square structures on the map. The first of these, at SK171963 was clearly the remains of a cabin, with visible stone walls but no roof.



*Cabin ruins at SK171963*

We then continued along the path to Lord Edward Howard's Spring, expecting to find a second structure. The spring was obvious, gushing water in several places and giving a general damp boggy platform, before a rivulet descended the hillside between trees. However there was no obvious structure, we went higher, finding a shooting butt, and further along before returning to the boggy ground by the spring. Eventually we detected what looked like a rectangular base, built up on the downhill side to make it level. The middle of this rectangle contained a small 'puddle' inhabited by tadpoles.



*The rectangular platform with tadpole puddle in the middle is to the right of the main green spring area.*

This was not entirely convincing and certainly as of April 2024 does not look an inviting dry site for a cabin, however we later compared a photo taken from that spot, looking back at the stone walled ruins, with the Jack Ashcroft photo...



### *2024 and 1960*

On this basis we are pretty sure we have found the site of the Bullstones Cabin (or Cabins). Thank you to Paul Bingham, Brian West, Peter Amour and our other companions on the July 2023 walk. And respect to Jack Ashcroft, veteran of so many hard walking days and cabin nights – our inspiration.

## **Hut Bookings.**

Hut bookings are now made online at the Oread website [www.oread.co.uk](http://www.oread.co.uk). The system allows you to see up to date bed availability details and make your own bookings.

**Please remember to sign in as members first before making your bookings as you get access to the Oread beds and rates and you don't have to enter lots of details required for external bookings.**

All queries and outstanding payments should be addressed to Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 179 Starkholmes Rd. Starkholmes, Matlock DE4 5JA Mobile 07771 700913. Email:

[michaelhayes6688@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhayes6688@gmail.com)

Our preferred method of payment is via bank transfer to our Lloyds account – Sort Code 30-98-97 Account number 62584068. Please use the 'Reference' box to say what the payment is for. **In particular please say which hut, ie Hut fees HL, or Hut fees TyW.** Your name is not necessary in the reference, unless it is different from the bank account name.

Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Oread M.C. to the above address.

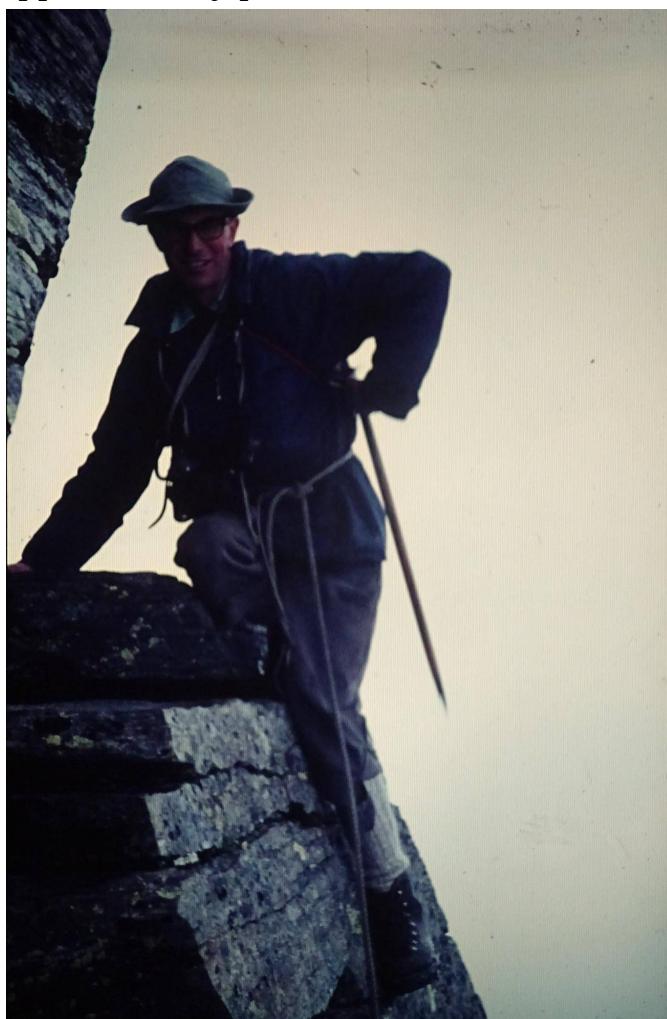
## **Information on Member Activities**

Welcome to new provisional members, Harriet Burson Thomas, Anthony Higginson, Rachel Higginson and Stuart Young, we hope you will enjoy many happy days with the Oread. Current provisional member Ian Ferguson has applied for full membership, If you would like to comment on this application please contact a member of the committee.

## Jack Ashcroft

With great sadness we record the passing of Jack Ashcroft on 22 May in this message received from his son.

“ My name is David Ashcroft. I am John "Jack" Ashcroft's son. Unfortunately he passed away on Tuesday 22nd May 2024. I believe he may have been one of the longest standing members of the Oread and know he spent many happy years walking/ climbing with the club. His funeral is being held on 11th June. There is a cremation at Brimington crematorium at 12.30pm, followed by a church service at St Swithin's church in Holmesfield, near Sheffield at 1.30pm. We are then going for a drink and finger buffet at the George & Dragon (opposite the church). If any of your members remember Jack they are welcome to come to any/ all three of the above. If they are coming for a drink could they please let me know as we need to give the Pub some idea of numbers. My email is [xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) my contact number [xxxxxxxxxx](tel:xxxxxxxxxx). As I am a driving instructor I would appreciate any phone contact to be done via text.”



*In this photograph by Gordon Gadsby Jack is shown in action on the Piz dela Margna in 1975.*

Along with many more expressions of sadness at the loss of a “lovely, kind and gentle man”

### **Bob Pettigrew writes:**

Sad news indeed. Jack was a stalwart of the Oread throughout the formative years. He was the professional surveyor of the Derbyshire HIMALAYAN expedition 1961 and responsible for important additions to the mountaineers map of the great Himalaya divide that separates India from what is now China but was previously Tibet. He will be mourned by many in the Club but especially by his old mountaineering close companions.

### **Dennis Gray writes:**

I am so sad to read about the death of Jack Ashcroft. He was the surveyor on our 1961 Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition and I met him many times at Oread events and meets over many years.

I will not be able to attend his funeral as I am now housebound, but I am sure like me you will have very positive memories of someone who was always friendly and helpful in many ways.  
So lucky to have known him.

Further tributes, memories and photographs will be most welcome for future issues.

## Rusty's Puzzle Corner

**This month's puzzle:**



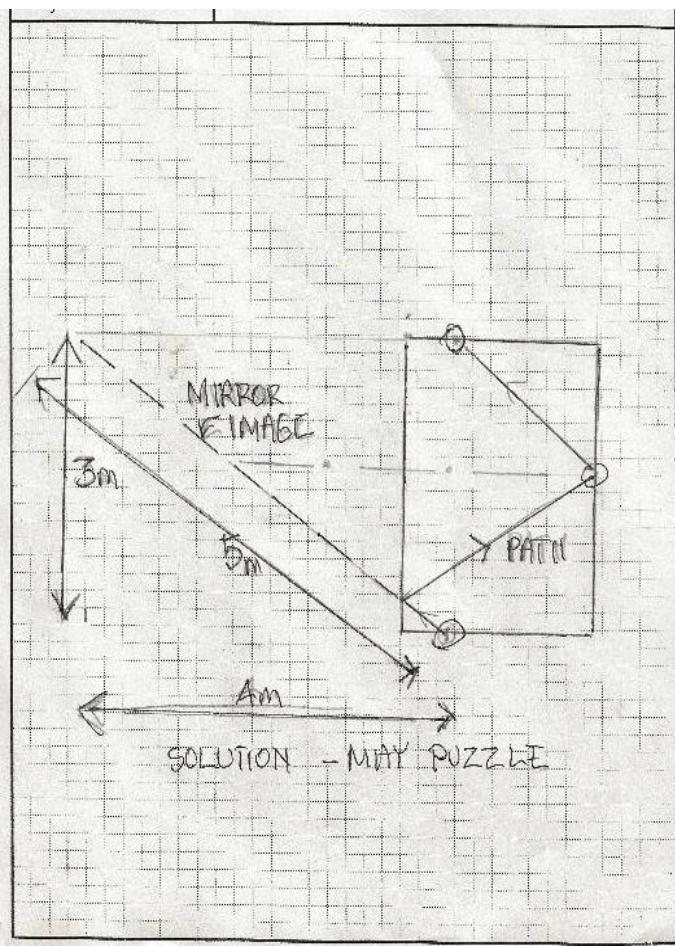
Consider the two bridges illustrated, both traversed by Oread walkers at different times, By what distance are they separated and where would the waters flowing through meet?



## Last month's puzzle solution:

My solution is that the course involves two lateral traverses (as drawn) and one longitudinal. Thus the total distance is 4m lateral and 3m longitudinal, total distance by Pythagoras 5 miles, hence target time 40 mins. As I see it, the 3/4 factor is the tangent of the angle between the base line and the

shortest path for the runners  
If this is drawn showing the  
mirror images of the actual  
path. If this image is a  
straight line then the path is  
of course the shortest  
possible distance.



Snod provided a colourfully expressed but incorrect answer – he got it right at the second attempt – his excuse being that he had used a Pythagoras Calculator App that he found on his phone – doing it longhand provided the correct answer.

### Rusty's response:

“These apps are supposed to be written by geniuses for idiots but it's often the other way round.”

At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour a second, most erudite answer was received from **Roger Larkam**:

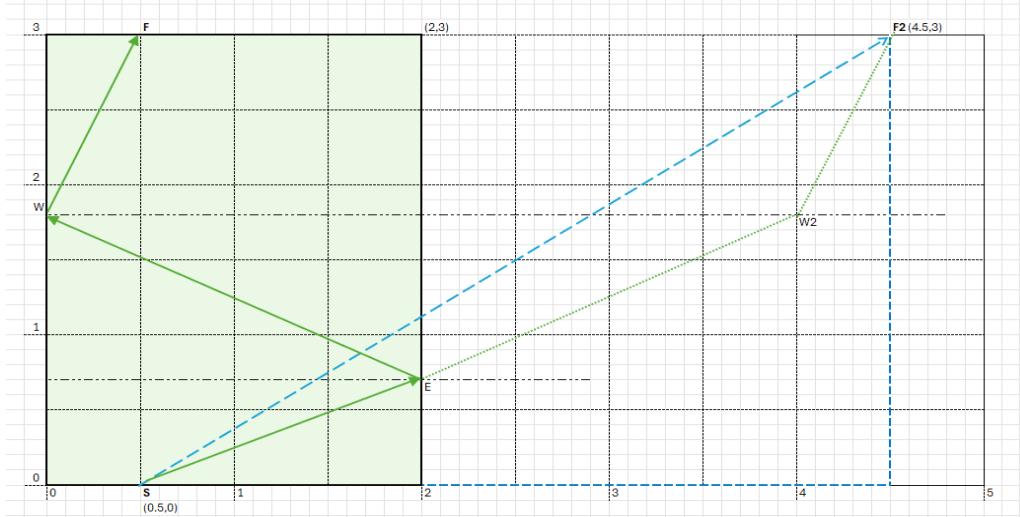
“Having quickly discarded rather extreme ideas such as running 7+ miles via the SW and SE corners & then to the finish, surely one would intuitively head to somewhere around one third up the eastern boundary, similarly then to about 2/3 up the opposite boundary, and thence to the finish. It turns out that this is not the shortest.

Consulting **Theon Heron** of Alexandria and his Euclidian works we are reminded that this problem can be solved by a geometric reflection. A generalised representation of the runners path is shown in the diagram (in green). The second traverse of the moorland area, **EW**, can be represented by **EW2** where  $|EW| = |EW2|$  (ie the vector **EW** is reflected about a N-S axis through point E). Similarly the third traverse of the moorland, **WF**, can be represented by **W2F2** ( ie vector **WF** but commencing at point W2 ). Thus a path S-E-W2-F2 has been constructed with the same length as S-E-W-F. It can be seen therefore that the shortest path to the finish is represented by **SF2** (blue). Using Pythagoras' theorem the length of SF2 is spookily just the

square root of the sum of the squares of 4 and 3, ie 5 miles. Using the speed of 8 minutes per mile this means that the estimated time of the Event Favourite would be 40 minutes.

This solution makes no allowance for curvature of the earth or undue tussocks, but of course can be reflected to take in the western boundary first, with the same solution.

Attempts to derive a generalised equation from a direct pythagorean solution to lengths of the 3 elements of the route all failed me. The binomial expansion of the sum of the 3 square roots suggests a quartic equation but doesn't converge – any suggestions here?"



Rusty has responded and the correspondence continues – but your Hon. Ed. has lost the will to live.

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