



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2002

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

May 4/7 May Day Weekend Cornwall
May 11/12 Forest of Dean
May 15 (Wed) The George Alstonfield
May 31/June 4 Double B/H: Skye

Cornwall May Day: 4 to 7th

For most of you that have been before, it requires no explanation, for those that wish to experience salt, sand, sea air, granite beer and more beer, its the place to be.

The campsite is Trevaylor at Botallack Nr St Just, with the ever-hospitable Pauline & Ron. I have reserved up to 20 places, they usually fill up and has always been a good social event. I intend to travel down on Thursday and return very late Monday; Other Oreads have already confirmed they will be down all week.

Daryl Kirk

May 11/12th Forest of Dean ***Colin Hobday***

We shall be staying at the lodge adjacent to the Fountain Inn, Parkend, which has all the usual facilities. On the Saturday evening I have booked a meal in the Fountain Inn, so I will be contacting all those going, for any likes or dislikes for the meal. There is plenty of climbing, walking, and biking. I have 5 places left so don't leave it to late to book.

Alstonfield May 15 (Wednesday) ***Rob Tresidder***

The main exercise this time will be on the crag since the evenings are now so much longer! I intend to start at Baley Buttress before being seduced (yet again) by the enticing sight of Venery across the water. If wet, then Milldale CP for a gentle pack run.

June 1 – 4 Isle of Skye ***Michael Hayes***

Well I couldn't let a double bank holiday pass without a meet, so as most of us have an extra day, what better destination than the Cuillin of Skye. We will be travelling up on Friday afternoon and plan to stay at the campsite in Glen Brittle. Skye I am sure needs no introduction and will provide ample entertainment for rock climber, mountaineer and walker. We will probably also squeeze the mountain bikes, wet suits, football etc into the van as well. So if you are interested in coming along then give me a call.

PAST EVENTS

March 9/10 Tan-Yr-Wyddfa

The weather was not kind to us this weekend. It rained and drizzled on Saturday: most people walked. A group of us plodded from the hut as far as Bwlch Cwm Llan, before high winds persuaded us to retire. A bolder group reached Snowdon summit later in the day. Tim Cairns and Graham Cooper climbed on the Lleyrn Peninsula. On Sunday the wind and heavy rain continued, and almost everybody went to 'The Beacon' indoor wall – that is all except Tim & Graham who returned to Dovedale (yes Derbyshire) for bolt swinging!

Given the bad weather, Saturday night was the highlight of the weekend! Curries were provided by Nick Evans, Joan Pike, Graham Cooper and myself. The wine and beer flowed well, and a wide range of party games were enjoyed. I think I might have been forgiven for making disparaging remarks about someone's favourite bitter. Derek and Joan embarrassed their daughter Melanie while attempting to stand together on an upturned pan. The tricks commanding most attention involved contortions. It paid off to be slim and flexible. Although commendable efforts were put in by for example, John Dobson, Chris Seaman, and Chiz Barker, Ellie Roddick had no real competition. Nick Evans did not try to get stuck in a chair again, but Ellie managed to virtually dive straight through it. She had drunk quite a lot by this time. Paul Howe and I were happy to watch!!! There was a game with raw eggs and surprisingly no-body got soiled.

Twenty four people attended the meet: 8 full members, 7 provisional members, and 9 guests. Fifteen people were not at the last eating meet last November, and some of these are now climbing regularly with the club mid-week. I estimate the average age of those attending the meet as 36. The youngest was 23 or less, and the oldest - well, fifty-something (me or Colin Barnard - Pikey's younger even if he doesn't look it!). A very enjoyable weekend! Pity about the weather.

This formula seems to work very well in the winter. However, I am conscious that a collective meal such as this might not work in the summer, when people will often return late from the crags. However, a BBQ in Wales or the Lakes could fit the bill? Those returning late from the crag could cook late while enjoying the company of the drunks who had returned earlier in the evening. I'll try to arrange something if it seems popular.

FUTURE EVENTS

Alterations to the Meets List

Rob Tresidder

Month	Date	Meet	Leader
May	W 15	The George Alstonfield	R Tresidder
June	1-4	Skye	M Hayes
June	15/16	TYW	D Pike
June	22/23	Ben Nevis (CIC)	S Bennett
June	S 23	Summer Stroll	S Bashforth
July	13/14	Alpine Training	CANCELLED
July/Aug	27- 3	Alpine Meet: Lauterbrunnen	M Hayes/ P Lancaster
Sept.	21/22	Golden Oldies	S Wainwright
Oct.	26/27	Heathy Lea	K Gregson
Nov.	16/17	Annual Dinner	S Wainwright
Dec.	7/8	Bullstones	B West

June 21/22 CIC Hut Advance notice ***Steve Bennett***

(I understand that Steve still has two places left in the hut, and suggests that camping is available outside. Should you wish to reserve a place please give Steve a call at any time on 07974 413447 or Email steve@ashcroftjoinery.co.uk. Ed.)

Hut Bookings April.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA
 May 3/4/5 vacant.
 May 10/11 vacant.
 May 17/18 A.B.M.S.A.C. whole hut.
 May 24/25 vacant.
 June 1/4 vacant.

HEATHY LEA

May 2/4 Venture Scouts cottage/barn.
 May 10/11 John Salmon cottage.
 May 17/18 Mr Hodson cottage.
 May 24/25 vacant.
 June 1/4 vacant.

Please note this list is only correct at time of going to press. All members are advised to check availability with the hut booking secretary Colin Hobday before going to either hut.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & SHORT NOTICES

Octogenarians' Do

The following invitation has been received from Digger. 'Mick Moore and myself (Digger) are sharing our 80th this year, and we shall be having a "come as you please" do on the 26th May at the George at Alstonfield. This is a sort of running buffet and simple affair without any razzmatazz. We shall walk to the pub, to get there for about 12:30 / 1.00 pm.'

(Although many of you will see this after the event, I thought I ought to provide the info anyway as it's an important milestone for the club. Digger – Congratulations to you & Mike and your families. I would welcome a write up of the day. Ed. (Tony H))

Digger Williams

Recommended Eating House: Beddgelert.

I've driven past it loads of time, but never been in before. However, the bistro at the 'Beddgelert Antiques and Tea Rooms' is really good. The food was different & very tasty: I had roast wild boar in red wine & peppercorn sauce. The wine was also well chosen. If you haven't been before, I commend it. Tony H.

Lost & Found

On TYW Meet: 9/10 March. Does anyone claim the red Sigg Bottle left in the hut? Has anyone found my Petzl head torch (standard type with most recent – blue/black – headband). Tony H.

MEMBER'S EXPERIENCES

Rock Climbing in Corsica: Easter 2002

The South of France has been a regular venue for Club members at Easter for some years now. I myself have enjoyed the Calanques, Sainte-Victoire, Buis-Les-Baronnies, and Freyr. However, this year Phil Canning and I determined to try Corsica: further south but with higher altitude than normal venues. We were not sure how this would work out. Would we need ice axes etc. and would the rock be clean and dry. It might even be warm? The trip gelled when Steve Bennett and Graham Cooper agreed to join us. We flew to Nice on Thursday 28th March, hired a car & journeyed by fast ferry to Corsica the next day. We returned on Sunday 7th April. Our first base was at Corti, from where we ventured into the Restonica Valley. This offered both sport climbing and multi-pitch rock routes with varying degrees of in-situ protection – all on the uniquely weathered Corsican Granite. The best pitch Steve & I did was on the Candella Di L'Oro. It was vertical for a full rope's length, with several moves well out of balance, but with handholds big enough to stand in! Graham & Phil did this route the day before us, and harder stuff besides (more info to follow from them I hope). After three days here, we moved to Bavella. However, rain & snow prevented us from climbing there, so we moved down to Roccapina and Ajaccio. Gozzi at Ajaccio provided numerous multi-pitch routes of 200 m and more. Steve & I did one; the 'A' Team jammed two in, in only 1½ days! On the last day before we left we slab-climbed one/two-pitch sport routes at A Capra. We finished the day and the holiday, enjoying North African cuisine in a restaurant local to our campsite in Ajaccio.

All in all this was a magical trip – with superlative rock routes, beautiful Corsican mountain and coastal scenery, and sunshine for the most part. I'll be there again at the next opportunity: July. Graham can't wait that long: he's going back in May!

(I hope to append a more detailed description of this trip to the next newsletter). Tony Howard

THANKS TO RICHARD

As you will know by now, I have taken over the editorship of the newsletter from Richard Coghlan, who has been doing the job for the last two years. On the behalf of the Club I would like to thank Richard for his thorough and consistent efforts over this time. I hope I can do as well.

MY APPROACH

In order to help me prepare the newsletter on time each month with the minimum of effort, I would like to follow Richard's example and encourage members to send me their contributions by email if possible. I would prefer to receive your writing as Word (.doc) documents, or plain text in the email. Floppy discs by post are also fine, as are plain old letters by post, although I may struggle with long handwritten letters – I'm a one-finger typist!

I would also like everyone on email to accept an electronic copy **only**. This will reduce costs for the Club and minimise the time I have to spend preparing paper copies for the post.

I intend to keep the content and the format as before, although I would like to encourage members to send me more contributions in addition to the 'bread & butter' of monthly activity. I would like your thoughts on any aspects of Club life: new ideas, complaints or stories. Most particularly I would like to receive articles on your mountaineering experiences – preferably but not necessarily fairly recent. These could provide other members with inspiration to visit new areas or try routes they have not thought of before. They might be from official Oread meets, private trips or meets with other clubs. Chris' & Gill's experience in Colorado last year (see Website) is a very good example, and I hope some might find my own contribution here on Corsica inspirational. Daryl has promised me something on the Oread trip to

Kenya a couple of years back (haven't you Daryl?). A contribution from Graham Weston on his Norwegian skiing trip would also be well received. I will endeavour to include every article you send me into the normal newsletter format. [Ideally a newsletter will be 4 pages long.] However, very long articles may have to be issued separately. These would be as electronic attachments to the Newsletter, and perhaps (but not necessarily) appended to the postal copies. Graham may also be interested in adding them to the Website? I hope that if I receive enough well written articles, I will be able to compile them into some form of collection, although I have no idea of the eventual format at this stage.

I anticipate continuing with the Brainteasers, and look forward to hearing from Ernie Phillips and anyone else who has sent these in previously, or fancies doing so in the future.

NEXT EDITION

Articles for the June edition should be sent to me - **Tony Howard-** at **BOTH** my email addresses please. This will allow me two chances of picking up your messages in the event of system hiccups , & where necessary enable me to respond quickly, when I'm in the office. Also if I'm out of the office all week, I won't have to go into work at the weekend to work on the newsletter!

Please ensure that material for the next newsletter reaches me before Sat 25th May. I would like to hear from RICHARD COGHLAN, ROB TRESIDDER (Stroll & Golden Jub climb), DEREK PIKE (TYW) [Derek, what about a BBQ here?? - Ed], STEVE BENNETT (HL BBQ & CIC). An Advance Notice regarding the Alpine Meet from MIKE HAYES / PETE LANCASTER would also be good!