



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2001

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Feb 3/4	Heathy Lea
Feb 6 (Tues)	Ockbrook Indoor Meet
Feb 15-19	Glan Dena
Feb 24/25	Scotland
Mar 3/4	Patterdale
Mar 6 (Tues)	Ockbrook Indoor Meet

Feb 3/4 Heathy Lea

Harry Pretty has agreed to volunteer as meet leader. Please book your places with him.

Feb 6 (Tues) Ockbrook Indoor Meet

8 p.m. The Royal Oak, Ockbrook. Harry Pretty will give an illustrated talk on Corsica. Many Oreads will know already that version of the definitive Corsica walking guide. So I think we can expect much especially about that finest of "walking" routes - the GR20.

Feb 15/19 Glan Dena Meet Jack Ashcroft

You are welcome to savour the delights of Ogwen in winter. To book your place in Snowdonia's premier hut (correction: one of Snowdonia's premier huts) ring me. (Note from 1946 guide: "Crampons: - these are unnecessary on British mountains". Don't believe it. Don't forget them and your ice axe)

Feb 24/25 Scotland Daryl Kirk

As anyone who has been on one of these events already knows, the venue and format can remain open until the evening when everyone sets off up North.

The main aim is to to get some reasonably serious snow and ice climbing done. 'Phone Daryl if you are interested.

March 3/4 Patterdale Colin Barnard

Once again we have the use of the excellent George Starkey hut (GR 394162 at the start of the Side Farm track), but places are already starting to go, so don't delay. Ring me to book your place. If conditions are like they were in early January, we can look forward to some decent snow. I shall be sampling the ales in the White Lion on Friday night and look forward to your company there.

March 6 (Tues) Ockbrook Indoor Meet.

8 p.m. The Royal Oak, Ockbrook. David Seddon of the Eagle Ski Club will give an illustrated talk about ski mountaineering. He will show slides mainly but not exclusively of the Pyrenees, Turkey, Greenland and Svalbard (Spitzbergen). There will be a few of the Alps.

March 31st A.G.M 2001

The AGM will be held at THE BEAR, Alderwasley, Derbyshire. This is the same venue as last year. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Accommodation is available should anyone require it, £30 single B&B, £45 double B&B. Should you require to eat before the meeting ring and book as they get very busy on Saturday night.

The following day, Harry Pretty will lead a walk starting at 10 am from The Bear. There is ample car-parking.

Shirley Wainwright

I hope to have an up-to-date copy of the Oread handbook for everyone to take away with their April newsletters at the AGM. Please come to the AGM and save the club postage expenses - Ed.

In accordance with the constitution, members are reminded that any proposal for a change to club rules must be lodged with the secretary at least 28 days before the date of the meeting.

FUTURE EVENTS

Forest of Dean Meet May 11/13 (advance notice) Colin Hobday.

After last years meet, many people requested that we should do the same again,so here it is. I have booked the Lodge adjoining the Fountain Inn, Parkend. The Forest of Dean is at its best in May, and offers climbing,walking, canoeing,caving,mountain biking (cycle hire close by).

Cost £8 per night. 3 course evening meal £8.50 Saturday,in the Fountain Inn. or cook yourself. I have already had some bookings,so could you please let me know if you are interested in attending the meet to give me an idea of numbers.

MEETS SECRETARY

My apologies for not furnishing a leader for the Heathy Lea meet (first weekend in February). I feel sure that those who attend will know where to go and what to do!

I still have no meet arranged for Easter. In a certain sense this does not matter. I feel sure that Oreads will use our huts and go elsewhere doing their own things, but if anyone wishes to organise something slightly less informal, please get in touch with me soon.

Most mountaineering clubs (including our own) find that their huts get booked up a year in advance, so if you wish to lead a hut meet in 2002, you had better get going now. Please inform me AS SOON AS you make a booking so that I can ensure that the meets list is not

double booked.

The Heathy Lea Fell Race has not recently attracted the sort of numbers it used to during the 1980s "jogging" boom. One of the traditions of the race has been that the organiser has tried to do something new each year as well as selecting a different course. Most of the suggested improvements that I have heard, come from dedicated athletes who will probably run anyway. Please may I hear from those who do not habitually join this meet. Tell me what sort of changes would persuade you to turn out. If the turnout at the end of April is poor, I shall rest this meet next year, the first time since 1977.

By the way, who has the trophy. I won last year and was presented with nothing!

Rob Tresidder

VERTICAL LIMIT

Currently showing at a multiplex near you. If you enjoyed Cliffhanger, you'll love this! If you are not sure whether you can hang from one arm, with one tooth of your ice axe pick engaged, while of course your partner dangles from your waist, then you need to see this film and be reassured. A bit rusty on your crevasse rescue techniques? Learn how to do it with TNT. Mind boggling special effects track seamlessly from one sweaty palmed event to the next. Watch out for the single cameo appearance from one real mountaineer. Surprisingly the issue of commercial considerations impinging on mountaineering decisions (pace Hall on Everest) was addressed in some detail. This film, like Lockwood's Chimney is probably best enjoyed in the dark by a large jolly party. A university mountaineering club of my acquaintance, visited en masse, roped up, helmeted and carrying ice axes. Oreads may not want to go that far, but if you do want to make up a party, I should be happy to put you in touch with each other - though I shan't be going again.

Rob Tresidder

Subscriptions - Notice from the Treasurer Daryl Kirk

Please find details of subscriptions for the year 2001.

Full Member	£17.00
Family Membership	£25.50
Senior Membership	£8.50
Senior Family Membership	£12.75
Provisional Membership	£8.50
BMC Membership	£3.75

(per person - cut off date March 31st 2001)

To ensure the membership list is up to date, please send me all your details with your subscriptions, including your full address and post code, including any E-mail Addresses, Fax numbers, Mobile Telephone numbers, etc and I will pass on these to Tony Howard who looks after the membership list.

(NB: cheques made payable to "Oread M.C.")

Regards Daryl

COMMITTEE NEWS

The committee have received no comments regarding the Smithfield pub as a venue for our Tuesday meetings. We will therefore continue to meet there for the foreseeable future.

At the Jan committee meeting we discussed the reopening of the railway through Chee Dale, Roger Payne's views on certificating climbers and the proposed toll on the Ladybower road. The committee decided to take no action, pending the availability of more details on each of these topics,

SHORT NOTICES

Re. the Annual Dinner Raffle prizes. Inadvertently missed out Roger and Beryl Turner who kindly donated prizes for this - Shirley Wainwright.

Thankyou Tony Smedley and Son for finding and returning my sunglasses, lost on the golden oldies - Shirley Wainwright.

ANON

A contemporary equivalent to Cornelius Tacitus the Story Teller has recently been contemplating the West Midlands and has been surprised to find a little known Oread connection.

Wolverhampton, not specially celebrated in climbing guides, was chiefly notable in 1751 for manufacturing locks. In 1848 it was incorporated a municipal borough and a county borough in 1888. First represented in Parliament in 1832 (Reform Act) it barely noticed the birth of Hebog Jack Ashcroft in the early thirties (20th C). Nevertheless, in this millennial year, Wolverhampton has at last been raised to City status and that, you might think, is about as much as needs to be said. Not so, since the establishment of City status has revealed some unusual if not recondite information that connects with the most orthodox of Oread mythology.

Wolverhampton, in 1928, was the first major conurbation in the UK to install automatic traffic lights (there was an experimental installation of light signals at the junction of St. James's St and Piccadilly in 1926).

For many years the cognoscenti have always considered that Hebog Jack's long, well documented and disastrous association with automatic traffic lights to have been the unfortunate result of some vital lapse in his otherwise meticulous training as a municipal engineer.

But maybe the critics have been sadly misled. Perhaps, after all, it is simply genetic.

BRAIN TEASER

Clive Russell had the correct answer to last month's puzzle:

"It seems to me that the lively octogenarian Williams was changing his house number in order to throw a jealous husband off his track, and that the prices referred to the plastic numbers for attachment on the gate at thirty pence each.. (the higher fabrication costs for an four as opposed to a one for example have not been reflected in the price)."

NEXT EDITION

For the March edition it is essential that all material reaches me by **SAT Feb 24th**. (but the earlier the better) I look forward to hearing from **KEITH GREGSON, CHUCK HOOLEY** (H/L Working party) and **HARRY PRETTY** (Spring stride).

Articles in the form of Word (.doc) attachments to E-mails are preferred, but floppy discs sent through the post are also welcome.

Richard Coghlan