



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2002

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Feb 2/3 | Scotland |
| Feb 5 (Tues) | Indoor Meet - Ockbrook |
| Feb 9/10 | Heathy Lea |
| Feb 16/17 | Scotland |
| Feb 23/24 | Coniston |
| Mar 2/3 | Patterdale |

Feb 2/3 Scotland Michael Hayes

For the second of this year's winter climbing meets in Scotland I have booked 10 places at the Lairds Bothy in Kingussie.

Within easy reach of the Cairngorm and Creagh Meaghaidh areas there is an endless quantity of things to do and, if we get a repeat of last years superb conditions, who knows we might even have to do some ice climbing! Aladdin Buttress in Sneachda and Milky Way in Lochan are just two of the routes I hope to have a look at.

The bothy in Kingussie, our base for Friday and Saturday evening is well equipped with a pub next door and a take-away across the road. The cost will be £9.00 per night.

If you are interested then book early as places are limited and I need to put down a deposit. If you have already expressed an interest then give me another call as I have probably already forgotten.

Feb 5 (Tues) Royal Oak, Ockbrook

8 pm start.

Steve Bashforth and Mike Hayes will be talking about their recent trip to the Lofoten islands.

Feb 9/10 Heathy Lea

There is no leader for this meet, but the hut is block booked for the club this weekend.

Feb 16/17 Scotland Daryl Kirk

Daryl intended to go camping this weekend, but has wimped out at the last minute. Instead, accomodation has been booked in Achintee, just under Ben Nevis, but places are very limited. Contact Daryl

Feb 23/24 Coniston Jack Ashcroft

The joint Oread /MAM meet this year has its base at Low House, Coniston NOT Glan Dena as has been rumoured. Don't be put off by OS spot heights of Low House 48m, Glan Dena 310m. Just get hold of Winter Climbs in the Lake District (Bennett, Birkett, Hyslop) - and it will last you over to the following weekend (Patterdale).

There will be an inaugural meeting of the "Flat Earthers Mountaineering Club". This may be in the Sun or the Black Bull on either Friday, Saturday or even Sunday. Thank the Lord we haven't got to specify any preferred eating or drinking spots.

March 2/3 Patterdale Colin Barnard

Last year's meet was unfortunately scuppered by F. and M., so I will be hoping for a particularly successful meet this year to make up for it. Once again we have the use of the excellent George Starkey hut (GR 394162), located at the start of the Side Farm track. A few wise souls have already booked places, and if previous years' experience is anything to go by the rest will go quickly. I look forward to hearing from you. As usual I expect to be boozing in the White Lion on Friday night and hope to see you there.

FUTURE EVENTS

March 5 (Tues) Royal Oak, Ockbrook

8 pm start.

Dick Turnbull, owner of, and driving force behind the Outside chain of equipment shops will give an illustrated talk entitled "North Faces in Winter". I think I am right in saying that these are the big three and maybe all in one winter. Maybe Dick will also demonstrate his expertise with a tower stove. This promises to be a highly audible and entertaining evening, perhaps, just perhaps at the wrong end of the winter.

March 23 (sat) AGM The Bear Alderwasley

This year's AGM is coming up soon and will be held at the same venue as last year, ie. The Bear, Alderwasley, Derbyshire. The AGM will start at 8.00pm sharp.

Accommodation is available should anyone require it (last year's prices £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.

There is ample car parking. The Spring Stride is on the following day.

Any item for the Agenda should be sent to the secretary, Steve Bennett, prior to the meeting. 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.

The status at the January committee meeting was that there were still two posts vacant, to be filled at this AGM:

- Secretary
- Indoor Meets Organiser

If you are interested, please come forward. No previous experience is necessary.

July/Aug 2002 Grindewald / Lauterbrunnen Pete Lancaster

Mick Hayes and family and myself and family had arranged to have two weeks together in the Bernese Oberland next summer. Since then Richard and Dawn Hopkinson have joined the throng and interest has been shown by other members of the Oread. As I am informed that the campsites get very busy and it is necessary to book I (more precisely, the Meets Secretary!) thought it would be a good idea to make it into an official club meet, therefore if any other members and families etc. are interested, then please contact me and I will make the booking. We are going to be there from the 28th July, Mick and Helen probably a day earlier. As yet we have not decided on a campsite but have several possibilities to consider; if anyone can recommend one that they are familiar with that would be suitable then I would be most grateful for the suggestion.

I would imagine that most members are either familiar with the area or at least, like me, aware of, but have never visited it. I recently borrowed a copy of the latest AC guide book and have had my eyes opened. The trouble is the N wall of the Eiger which is such a dominating concept that one becomes blinded to all the other fantastic route in the area; I guess it all to do with the British obsession with that face, the Matterhorn and Chamonix. The rest of Europe haven't really bothered to disabuse us, why should they? On reading descriptions to routes like the S Pillar of the Shreckhorn or the SE Ridge of the Finsteraarhorn phrases like '....the best route on the mountain and one of the finest in the Alps.' appear with startling regularity, whereas phrases like '..good rock..' and '..relatively free of objective danger' are very encouraging! The

latter phrase came from a description of the Austrian Route on the NE pillar of the Eiger (i.e. between the Lauper Route and the North face - impressive ground) and it goes at a relatively modest grade. The Peaks themselves are just stunning and when a brilliant route takes you to the very summit of one, what more could you ask for?

The area has more than just classical alpinism but has stupendous rock climbing such as can be found on the Kingspitse or in the Grimselpass and other venues add to this amazing scenery and what looks to be great walking then there is something for all the family.

PAST EVENTS

Nov 4 2001 47th Dovedale Dash

(Rob sent this article to me in November and I apologise for having forgotten to include it until now - Ed.)

A dash in traditional bright sunshine but without the usual preceding very wet week was much enjoyed by all of the following:

8 Es Tresidder
72 John O'Reilly
132 Rusty
138 James Tubby
184 Robin Sedgwick
216 Gill Heys
261 Roger Larkam
280 Rob Tresidder
617 Chris Wilson
702 John Salmon
832 Jenny Raphael

Numbers of entrants were down slightly on last year and of course massively from the hysterical 1500 fields of the mid-80s. And our numbers were down too. Time was when we could count on a score of Oreads for this event. But it was good to see Esmond back after a gap of five years. And the SUPPORTERS! Now they don't seem any thinner on the ground as the years roll by. I saw Hobdays, Williams, Larkams,

O'Reillys, Sedgwicks and I am sure there were others that I was too beat to notice. Thank you.

Rob Tresidder

Hut Bookings February.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|
| Feb. 1/2nd | Saltley Hill Walking | 16 Beds |
| Feb 8/9th | Brighton Uni. | 16 Beds. |
| Feb. 15/16th. | Southampton Uni. | 16 Beds |
| Feb 22/23rd. | Orpheus C. C. | 16 Beds |

HEATHY LEA

Feb. 8/9th. Oread Meet.

HUT FEES FOR 2002.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Members | £2.50 Per Night. |
| Guest at T.-Y.-W. | £5.00 Per Night. |
| Guest at H. L. | £4.00 Per Night. |

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.

SHORT NOTICES

Subscriptions

Daryl Kirk has just sent out a letter to every club member, which you will probably receive before this newsletter arrives.

For the record, the 2002 subs are:

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|--------------------------|--------|
| Full member | £17.00 |
| Family membership | £25.50 |
| Senior membership | £8.50 |
| Senior family membership | £12.75 |
| Provisional membership | £8.50 |

BMC subscriptions - add £5.25 per person.
Daryl has to give the list of registered members to the BMC at the end of February.

Please send your cheques, made payable to "Oread MC" to:

Daryl Kirk,

Membership

We welcome Sharon Fletcher, who was voted in as a full member at the last committee meeting

Green Key Initiative

I received an E-mail from Merle Gartside on 12 Jan, which was immediately forwarded around the club E-mail circulation list, about a Gwynedd County Council initiative called "Green Key". This aims to stop all parking in lay-bys in Northern Snowdonia and limit parking at Pen-Y-Pas to 3 hours at peak times.

Unfortunately, the consultation meetings have all taken place now, but one hopes that the BMC was there to represent us.

Brainteaser Ernie Phillips

The When Clive was in the Editorial Chair he saw fit to set up the institution of providing the occasional puzzle or problem so as to ensure that at least a few fellow members retain two or three neurons in working order. As you will understand, Clive being not only a highly skilled engineer, but a farmer to boot, commands considerable assets, while as is also well known, I have my last Shekel in sight, subsist on a diet of bread and skilly and have a pair of clapped out trainers as my mode of transport (and if you believe that you'll believe anything.). The upshot is that he was able to offer the occasional prize but I don't see fit to. As a consequence he got the occasional feedback, but I don't.

So, the question about the States in the U.S. of A. On New Year's Day at the George I was greeted with cries of "Rubbish", "Too easy", "Waste of time", "I spent 26p. on a stamp" etc., (Appleby, of course. Well he is unemployed.), but it did show that at least some members do read the last

page of the N.L. However, what about the question?

Well, in a recent edict the Government of the U.S. of A. decreed that in future, in the southwest of the country, both English and Spanish would have equal standing as official languages. This means that New Mexico would not stand as an answer but Mehico Nuovo would! It appear that no-one spotted this as an additional possibility. If a question seems to be daft, pointless, or be unanswerable, apply lateral thinking.

Next question. This should be investigated in the forensic laboratory in the scullery.

If you take a handful of 1p and 2p coins and apply a magnet to them you will almost certainly find that it will pick up some, but not others. What's going on and why? If anyone feels impelled to send me Baksheesh, please ensure that the coins don't respond to a magnet. (If you don't have a magnet handy you can use the rubber door seal on the refrigerator.)

Have a thoughtful New Year!

NEXT EDITION

For the March edition it is essential that all material reaches me before Sat Feb 23rd. I look forward to hearing from **TONY HOWARD** (TYW) and the **HUT SUB COMMITTEE** (H/L W/P) and whomever may volunteer to lead the Spring Stride after the AGM

Articles in the form of Word (.doc) attachments to E-mails are preferred, but floppy discs sent through the post are also welcome. Please note that I cannot read HTML attachments- Please use Word '97 (or earlier) or plain text. Thanks.

Richard Coghlan