

OREAD NEWSLETTER July - August 1980



Editorial

The previous newsletter came out too late for too many meets. Hopefully the changeover from Ron to myself is now complete and this won't be repeated. To ease my problems would all meet leaders please make a point of letting me have their write-ups as long as possible in advance.

Chris Wilson (Meets Sec.)
30 Camp Street, Derby.

BMC Insurance

Originally £5.00 for two years, this is now £22.00 for similar cover. The club has written to the BMC asking for an explanation of the escalating cost and suggesting that a scheme covering climbing for only 3/4 weeks in the Alps annually (with year-round cover in the UK) might be more appropriate and cheaper. We await a reply.

Derwent Valley Guide, Footpaths and the Roaches

Through the BMC Peak Committee, the Oread is to push for early publication of this long overdue and much-needed guidebook.

The same committee is also to be asked to investigate the closure of many footpaths near Grindon in the Manifold and the recent activities of the "mad axe man" of the Roaches, who has again been terrorising club members.

Snowdonia National Park Association

Repeating last year's action, the club has donated £5.00 to this noble body which purports to look after the interests of park users and help prevent environmental change, etc. Whilst their results are not startling, any organised opposition, however seemingly futile, to those who wish for a Snowdonia National Industrial Estate must be of some good.

Willersley

Climbing is officially banned on this cliff (due to the indiscretions of climbers in the past) although at present the owners appear to tolerate us. So as not to antagonise them unduly, would all members please note that no parking is allowed in front of the gates (on the A6) - this causes an obstruction - or on the nearby grass verge - this is on the Public Highway and

is illegal. Ample parking is available at Cromford Meadows which is ideal for idler climbers - the additional walk is only a few yards. The view of the Committee is that, with access problems growing alarmingly throughout the country, the Oread should set an example on our local crag before the ban is once more enforced.

Indoor Meets

Pete Scott has kindly been coerced into organising these winter evenings and would undoubtedly welcome any helpful suggestions etc. Incidentally, why not start thinking of venues for next year's Alpine holiday and taking a few photos this summer to advertise it at the Alpine Propaganda meet. First evening meet is 17th November (Monday) at the Rowing Club.

Jan-y-Wyddfa

It has been unanimously decided to hold at least six meets here next year. Please tell me at once if you would be prepared to lead one.

Also, please note that there are always beds available for Oread members, regardless of whether or not the hut is advertised as being fully booked. It would be much appreciated if these spare beds were used. A free issue of the next newsletter will be given to anyone who can guess the amount that the hut costs us each week to stand empty.

Oread Film Festival/Lecture

or similar. An idea, raised at the AGM, is very tentatively being considered by the Committee - unfortunately it would need an organiser (with talent).

1980 Alpine Meet

Courmayeur seems to be falling out of favour - the Ortler and Visp being the two places to go.

Working Parties

Any suggestions whatever about how to increase the numbers on these, especially Jan-y-Wyddfa, would be most appreciated. Please see any committee member.

Telephone/Address Lists

Should anyone want either a list of members' phone numbers or an address list, please see me. If you want your number on it, see Keith Gregson.

1981 Meets List

I am trying to organise this at the moment. Please tell me where you are leading your meet next year as soon as possible. So far I've had no offers at all.

Application for Membership

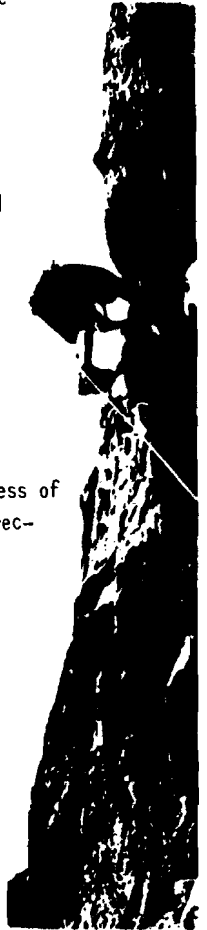
An application for membership has been received from Pete Northcote (proposer Martin Musson, seconded by Pete O'Neill). Would anyone with any views as to the suitability of the applicant please convey them to a committee member or the Hon. Sec.

Prospective Members

In future prospective members who fall into arrears of subscription will have their names deleted from this list. Recently joined are:

Ruth Conway, c/o Allestree Library, Derby.

(cont'd)



Roger Larkham, 24 Farley Road, Derby.
Fred Phillips, c/o Russdine, Chapel Lane, Crich.
Rodney Thatcher, The Gables, Mercaston, Derby.
Nick Owen, 12 The Gardens, Marehay, Ripley, Derbys.

Wales, 28/30 November 1980 and Christmas

Ken Hodge will be leading an additional meet at Tan-y-Wyddfa between the Dinner and Bullstones Book early to be sure of a place.

Ken will also be leading the Christmas meet.

Cloggy

12/13 July

Robin Sedgewick

NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE (UNAVOIDABLE)

Tremadoc - which is where the Cloggy meet has been for the last 4 years anyway.

Note the change of date, due to Tan-y-Wyddfa being booked. As is usual on this meet, it will rain all weekend and everyone will go to Tremadoc except Brian West and Burge who will go to Cloggy and be forced to retreat from the crux of Great Wall in the rain, using the elastic from their underpants as abseil slings. Meanwhile at Tremadoc everyone will have a super time drinking tea in the cafe and grabbing the odd route between showers. Lockwood's Chimney will get over 14 ascents on Sunday.

If you are totally mad and want to come - see me at the Rowing Club or phone me at home (Derby 48215) to book a hut place.

P.S. Bring yer wellies and headtorches for the Blaenau Ffestiniog slate mines.

Earl Sterndale

10 August

Chris Wilson

This will be a one day meet on Sunday. The nearby 'Quiet Woman' and the pleasant, unserious nature of the climbing (of all grades) make this an ideal place for terror filled alpinists to unwind and recount their recent death-defying heroics. Unfortunately I shall be in the Alps at the time, but am expecting to find someone to deputise for me - whoever it is will hopefully make themselves known at the Rowing Club. I trust this meet will be as well attended as it has been in previous years and am sure the weather will be kind.

Agden

17 August

Ron Sant

At the present time I propose to make this a one day meet on the Sunday. However, with the close proximity of other minor climbing areas, such as Stanage, a full weekend's climbing/walking may be had, using a local campsite as base. I am looking into this possibility at the moment.

For those who have not visited Agden - judging by the six who turned up last year the number must be quite considerable - the crag offers a wide variety of climbing with numerous routes in the Severe/VS bracket. Walkers will also find unlimited scope amongst the surrounding countryside.

The crag (GR 264934 Peak District) may be approached from either

Bamford or Sheffield. In either case make for Low Bradfield, then High Bradfield and continue through the village. The road eventually passes behind the crag and access is gained via a grassy track on the left. This is seen shortly before an Electricity Board Substation on the right. For those who require liquid refreshment, the "Old Horns Inn" (very appropriate) is located in High Bradfield.

Cader Idris

23 August

Stuart Godfrey

Details of this meet are in a state of continuous change. Stuart may be unable to get there himself and is looking for a leader - anyone interested please see him as soon as possible. I hope to be able to give more information in the next newsletter due to come out (hopefully) before this meet.

Baggy Point

(Advance Warning)

30/31 August

Robin Sedgewick

This fine collection of cliffs lies by the Bristol Channel and offers superb slab climbs of all grades. The cliffs were developed in a rapid surge of activity by the North London M.C. after the locals had mistakenly considered the place too loose to touch. Far from this, the rock is almost perfect and most of the routes outstanding e.g. Pink Void (a 300 ft. HVS/VS slab), Shangri-La (Severe), Kinkyboots (VS) and even a classic V.Diff or two. The weather is generally good and the area has lovely beaches, some of the best surfing in the country and some pleasant pubs. Camping must be arranged privately and is available at Club Ruda, Croyde Bay, Devon. The facilities include hot and cold water, showers, etc. and the site is walking distance from the crag. It is essential to book early as the area is very popular and this is one of the peak periods. The climbing, incidentally, is not particularly crowded. A meet well worth attending in an area that will be new to most of us.

INDOOR MEETS ****

The first of this year's series of indoor meets is probably the most important. Next year we want a definite Alpine meet specified on the meets card. To help choose this venue a meeting/discussion will be held at the Rowing Club on MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER. Please help to make next year's Alpine holiday a success by coming along and expressing your views.

Still one or two places at Lundy are left unfilled (for which Stuart Firth has offered). Contact Radders or Stuart now, before this great opportunity is missed.

Change of Address

Chris Wilson to 30 Camp Street, Chester Green, Derby DE1 3SD.