

Blind fear!

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
AUGUST 1990

F O R T H C O M I N G E V E N T S

17 - 18 August RACE THE TRAIN (Cader Idris) Fred Phillips
Now for something completely different! Full details and entry form enclosed. Camping will be beyond the Youth Hostel at Hafod dywyll 673159 (Landranger sheet 124). This event is great fun. It is run mainly on paths and tracks beside the Talyllyn railway. The distance is a stride or two over 14 miles. The campsite is well placed with superb walking all around. You don't have to race the train to come on the meet! Rocksport can be had at Craig Cowarch, a traditional cliff with more than a few good routes. On Friday I shall be "in training" at the Stag Inn. This pub offers the best beer in Dolgellau together with excellent food served in gut bursting platefuls. As with all properly organised meets, there will be an all day bar at the race, so in all respects this meet will provide useful training for the Dovedale Dash.

More information? - see me at the Brunswick or telephone 0773 853482 (home) or 0283 66311 (work).

W 5 September WILDCAT

7- 8 September ROACHES Lisa Welbourn
Lisa has generously stepped in to rescue this meet since Gil and Gail are going to be away on holiday for this particular annual high point. Camping will be in the usual field below Hen Cloud. Beer will be had at the Rock Inn on Friday and Saturday evenings. Climbing at the Roaches on Saturday and Hen Cloud on Sunday should avoid the worst of the crowds. Should it all be too much, there is always the Baldstones and excellent walking. See Lisa at the Brunswick or ring.
RT

WIRKSWORTH CIRCUITS

Rob Tresidder
Lance Philpott has agreed to provide circuit training for climbers on Thursday evenings. Registration will be on 20 September at the Anthony Gell School with the first session a week later. The fee for eight sessions is 13 pounds waged, 6 pounds 50 unwaged.

5 - 6 October "GOLDEN OLDIES"

Doreen Hodge

I'm now taking bookings for the re-scheduled meet at Tan-y-Wyddfa. The first two meets were a huge success with a full complement at the hut and everyone having an enjoyable time. I'm hoping that this year's meet will be no exception so if you're interested give me a ring on 0332 572407 at any time. Look forward to hearing from you.

P A S T E V E N T S A N D A N C I E N T H I S T O R Y

DERBYSHIRE AMBLE (Colin Hobday)

Monyash at 10 on a dismal Sunday morning. A crowd of Dreads massed together in a small layby on the edge of the awakening village. I was lucky and was smoothly directed into a tight space between a crumbling wall and Rusty's dream machine. As I emerged into the rain the drone of Welbourn's voice could already be heard above the general chatter and the grating of numerous gear boxes as others not so fortunate had to park elsewhere. Our meet leader, Colin Hobday, realising that the Sun God had deserted him for once, was explaining to Welbourn that the climatic conditions in Monyash and Tenerife were bound to be different on some days of the week.

A few minutes later over 30 Dreads set off along the Taddington Road at a cracking pace. The drizzle was forgotten as friendships were renewed and Colin's annual walk took on its true significance as a great social occasion. No-one bothered about the route, not for a mile or so at least and then Ernie Phillips (for whom a mile now needs a lot more effort than in those halcyon days when he was dancing across the crags), expressed with some concern "I think Colin's going the wrong way." The second time he said it, Ken Hodge got out his map. "You're right Ernie" he replied. "We've gone at least a mile past the turn." John was onto this information like a rat out of a pump. "You're bloomin' wrong Hobday" he bellowed down the road, his voice echoing across the rainswept fields. No-one heard him, except for Ken, Ernie, Margaret and me; the rest of the Dread were at least 80 yards away and walking into a stiff wind. The four of us stepped back to protect our ears as Welbourn bellowed three more times. Ken and Ernie turned and in the true Dread tradition of every man for himself, proceeded to climb over the nearest roadside gate - in the general direction of our first objective, Deepdale. John and I ran after the others until eventually John was close enough to be heard. Welbourn scanned each face in turn as the hooded figures turned towards us. John was looking for one face in particular, the meet leader's. Colin was not there. "We thought he was at the back with you" said Uschi.

Twenty minutes later we had crossed the fields of High Low and at the 1034' contour caught up with our meet leader and George and Janet Reynolds. Welbourn, who along with Ruth had recently returned from a two week working holiday restoring Dibidil bothy on the island of Rhum was by now subdued. The rain stopped as the whole party descended beside Over Wheal and then down the dirty muddy ravine known as Deepdale.

The owner of the ice cream van on the Buxton road was obviously a born optimist or else he'd heard a different forecast to the rest of us! At Monsal Head the drizzle had returned in earnest and I felt sorry for a group of Japanese defying the wind and rain to photograph the mist shrouded but still beautiful dale.

The pub at Little Longstone was even more crowded than the Monyash lay-by, so most of us spent our lunch hour in the beer garden sheltering from the wind and the occasional shower and passing round Ken and Doreen's excellent photographs of their recent alpine holiday. Tony and Freda ordered a pub lunch but sadly it still hadn't arrived over an hour later, so they had to give it a miss. As we said farewell to Chuck and Margaret Hooley on the pub porch, George Fowler and Judy arrived after a late start and went in for a pint. Needless to say, they caught us up within half an hour.

On the steep ascent beside the woods up to Sheldon from Ashford, the sun came out in all its glory and soon the hillside was littered with gear as many people took off wet weather clothes. It was a brief respite however and fifteen minutes later even the finest Berghaus gear was having a severe test as the driving rain settled in for the last few miles of what had been another classic Hobday walk.

GG

NOCTURNAL WANDERINGS... AND CLIMB? (Pete Amour)

It has to be said that all the party were late for the rendezvous with the exception of C Russell Esq., who rather foolishly believed the newsletter and did walk from the Yorkshire Bridge to the watering hole at the Ladybower Hotel. Silly boy! Having been given a tightener by Rusty but not a drink, the insomniacs comprising Mike and Simon Wren, Rusty, Rock Hudson and Peter and Robert Amour left the pub at kicking out time to stumble their way onto Derwent Edge.

The consensus prior to the meet was to bivvy at some point in the circuit. I decided that this should be Abbey Brook but some of the group started to make whimperings about this being too far or "I'm tired". With a view to ending the earache, I headed the group towards Far Deep Clough but only to find the stream pitifully dry. The original bivvy venue was now again on target and to add to the interest, a mile of Turk's heads was thrown in, which Hudson thoroughly enjoyed. The doss, although brief was comfortable apart from the poly bag brigade who deafened all the local fauna.

The return leg of the journey was via the lower section of Abbey Clough, Derwent and Ladybower reservoirs, ending at the pub car park. On noting the effects of the night, it was mutually agreed that an hour or two on Stanage to end the foray would be an over indulgence. Instead the comforts of home were sought.

PA

JULY COMMITTEE MEETING

The usual formalities were despatched. The meetssec reported varied attendance on recent meets - as usual more for strolls than climbing or hard walks. Roger Larkam agreed to lead the Stair meet vacated by Gordon Wright. The meetssec to write to the owner of Rainster Rocks to seek permission for an evening meet there in the early summer. Overseas members who pay half subs to receive the newsletter.

The huts sec reported that the new lease had been negotiated with the Chatsworth estate. The rent on Heathy Lea will be 950 pounds p.a. when the roof has been re-covered and a flush toilet installed. Talking of roofs there was spirited discussion of two quotations received for re-slating the roof of Tan-y-Wyddfa. To strip and re-use existing slates would cost 4,400 pounds; to lay all new slates 7,500 pounds. The huts sub-committee was asked to make a formal recommendation.

Yet another subversive gremlin seems to have been at work in the latest edition of the handbook. There appears to be no proper authority for the last sentence of rule 14 - so please delete and remember that rule changes can only be made at general (annual or special) meetings of the club. A new list of members will be published soon to replace the existing one in the loose leaf handbook. The next committee meeting will be held on 11 September.

RT

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Gary Burgess who was elected to full membership of the Oread at the last committee meeting.

HUT BOOKINGS

Colin Hobday

Tan-y-Wyddfa

September 1 - 2	G Gadsby	10 beds
6 - 9	C Cullam	12 beds
14 - 15	Buxton MC	12 beds
21 - 22	S Cheshire MC	16 beds
28 - 29	Working Party	
October 5 - 6	Golden Oldies, Doreen Hodge	
12 - 13	Summit MC	16 beds
19 - 20	Loughton MC	16 beds
22 - 26	C Hooley	4 beds
26 - 27	OMC Family Meet	
Oct 28 - Nov 1	D Hall	16 beds

Heathy Lea

October 20 - 21 Northumbrian MC

Will all members who have visited the Welsh Hut over the summer months and have not paid their hut fees, please DO SO NOW.

NEXT EDITION

I intend to publish the next edition at the end of August or beginning of September. There will be no newsletter in October as a result of my holidays. So please may I have, as soon as possible, notices for the following upcoming meets: Moorland gritstone (Roger Larkam), Lake District (Rock Hudson), Tan-yr-Wyddfa WP (Chuck Hooley), Ockbrook lecture (October), Photo meet, Stair (Roger Larkam), Family meet (Keith Gregson), Ockbrook lecture (Nov 6). Please send all written material to me at 61 West End, Wirksworth, DE4 4EG to arrive not later than Monday 27 August.

Rob Tresidder

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