

HOLD TIGHT-

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
JULY 1990

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

6 - 7 July Anglesey Brian West
For details of this meet, please see June's "Social Climbing".

13 -14 July Tan-yr-Wyddfa Keith Gregson
THIS MEET HAS BEEN CANCELLED. Owing to a double booking of the Welsh hut, this meet will not now take place.

21/22 July Derbyshire night walk/dawn climb Pete Amour
What! The heading must be wrong. Well, no, actually it's not. Let's face it there are elements of the club prepared to get involved in sordid things like drinking in a pub until closing time and then trogging across cold, dark, wet peat bogs in the depths of winter. Well, on this occasion, you could enjoy the delights of trogging across cold, dark, wet peat bogs in the depths of summer, followed by a post dawn hour or two on Stanage before the sane arrive and crowd the crag.

I suggest participants park near the Yorkshire Bridge (bridge, not pub!) at 8.30 on Saturday evening and walk to the Ladybower Inn on the Snake road. Climbing gear could be left in the cars until dawn. I suggest bringing brewing equipment. For further eccentric information and suggestions, please ring me on 0773 826219 after 6.30 p.m.

LUNDY

A trip to the island in the second or third week of September is proposed. The club has enjoyed successful meets there several times. If you are interested in this outing please contact Lisa Welbourn on 0332 775243 or Graham Weston.

GYM SESSION

Rob Tresidder
Two years ago Lance Philpott ran an evening class at the Anthony Gell School in Wirksworth which was attended by a number of Oreads. Some thought it even better than the traditional class in Normanton Road! Lance has indicated his willingness to run the class again. If you are interested, please could you get in touch with me indicating preference for Tu, W or Th.

7 - 9 December Bullstones

Jack Ashcroft
Very advance notice. I thought that a wander in the Dales was called for again this year. I have booked self catering barn accommodation at Dub-Cote Farm on the flanks of Pen-y-Ghent, for both nights. The facilities cater for up to 14 people and a deposit has been requested.

Car shuttle or maybe the Settle to Carlisle railway will come into play if a cross country route is planned on the Saturday. On Sunday, a local walk. Details nearer the time. Cost will be 4 pounds per night. A deposit of 4 pounds by 31 July will secure your place on this warm up for Christmas.

PAST EVENTS AND ANCIENT HISTORY

Torridon (Richard Coghlan)

Richard had promised a midge free weekend based on the Ling Hut (excellent, including the "Captain Dates" loo). More midges than I had expected but the weather was exceptional.

On Sunday the climbers marched off to climb the 1200 ft. pile of variously loose rock called the Central Buttress of Coire Mhic Fhearchair. Geology isn't my strong point but I seem to recall hearing calls of schist or something... though I'm sure it's Torridonian sandstone capped by quartz. Fuar Tholl fell to "Dreadism" - the best sandstone in the area according to Rock.

On Wednesday, the tea ceremony was duly adhered to during a visit to Applecross Post Office where we supped from china cups and ate scones off matching china plates. Eventually we attempted the direct route on the Cioch nose of A'Choican - good climbing, except for the endless scramble over the furrows of the forehead, not mentioned in the guidebook. The week was completed with walks by various parties over Ben Alligin, Liathach and Ben Dearg. Many thanks for a good week, Richard.

SB

Llanberis Pass meet (John Salmon)

LLANBERIS (without Christopher Robin)

Ian Spare had a great big inflatable Li-Lo
Ian Spare had a great big bright coloured tent
But Gary, poor Gary, he hadn't brought anything
Just about only, what others had lent.

Gary brought Dereck's and Dereck brought Gary's
But neither had brought a spare set of pegs.
When Roger said "Dereck, I've got the tent poles!"
Dereck suddely went weak at the legs.

So they went to the Vaynol and sat next to someone
And Gary said "Please, will you shift over there."
While a guy at the bar (mistaken for urinal)
Didn't seem bothered at our long stare.

Gary climbed Daisy; Lord Trevor the Gates.
Tho' the weather not fit to uncover a leg.
Left Wall - impossible on more than eight sausages
And n'er let your toothbrush be used as a peg.

RL (after AAM)

COMMITTEE MEETING 12 June

The BMC have decided to make changes to subscription levels in connection with the introduction of inclusive premiums for liability insurance. The club will have to pay a single fee of 50 pounds plus a further two pounds for each named member. This change gives rise to two considerations: first, Dreads who are members of other clubs may not wish to pay twice for a single benefit. Secondly, we shall need to collect subscriptions more rigourously (and perhaps much earlier) in order to pay the BMC levy/insurance premium on 1 January based on an up to date list of members. Please discuss these issues and make your views known to a committee member.

Alison Hargreaves has consented to be principal guest at the

annual dinner.

The hut sub-committee reported that the external rendering of Tan-yr-Wyddfa needs to be repaired/replaced. This task may be undertaken as a college project under the supervision of building lecturers some time next year.

A donation of fifty pounds has been made to the Nilkanta Expedition of which Dreads Robin Beadle and Rob Tresidder are members.

SB & RL

Local long walk (John Gresty)

Having taken part in John's '89 Derwent Watershed walk, I naively expected a similar format with a challenge of about 40 miles on the moors of Yorkshire and Derbyshire. One week before the event, I found that this was not to be. John had planned a circumnavigation of the north-eastern part of the Peak with an additional 10 miles! At 3.50 a.m. on the day of reckoning, two things dawned on me: first the day, secondly that I was the only mug that Gresty had managed to con.

With fine and overcast conditions a nifty pace was set under Birchen's and then on to Bar Brook and Redmire reservoirs, Stanage Edge (breakfast), Hathersage, Offerton Moor, Bradwell and Peak Forest for lunch and a jar. Half way.

From our lunch stop we carried on down Dam, Hay, Monk's, Miller's and Water-cum-Jolly dales and on to Monyash via Deep Dale. The later stages saw Lathkill Dale, Gresty's honking feet aired and repaired and finally an arduous and endless Chatsworth Park.

The walk took us seventeen and three quarter hours including refreshment and repair breaks, allowed me to see a lot of new ground and appreciate John's excellent organisation of a long walk. Thank you.

PA

Tan-yr-Wyddfa WF (Chuck Hooley)

An excellent oddjobbing weekend was had by Ernie, Chuck and Margaret as the proposed external re-painting has been postponed. Jobs included painting toilet floors, replacing plug chains and fitting a new fluorescent light. A new door closer has been fitted to the front door to protect it from self-destruct and our neighbours from noise nuisance. Following advice from the Fire Safety Officer, four new extinguishers, one fire blanket and five smoke alarms have been fitted.

CH

Eskdale bivouac meet (Bobby Gilbert)

A team of ten left the road at midnight and headed up the Esk valley towards the Sampson Stones. Good progress was made for the first mile until Gary realised that the reason why his sack felt so light was that it had collapsed when he picked it up, and he was in fact only carrying the shoulder straps. More fun was had when Kate, who had been staggering along for a mile and a half with twice her own body weight on her back and all the stability of an inverted weeble, toppled over to be pinned immovably to the ground by her own rucksack. The Whittakers had economised on weight by not bringing any food, while the "ground to air Bissel" appeared to be carrying most of Sainsbury's under his arms. This year, Mike Moss had taken the precaution of wearing snow shoes for the walk-in so as to avoid disappearing into another bog.

It was therefore no surprise that the team finally blundered

into camp at two o'clock. Some put up tents; some slept where they fell. It was a disarrayed bunch that was woken in the morning by Radcliffe demanding to know what was the sportsplan. The weather ruled out climbing as any sort of serious activity so the team elected to walk to Great Gable.

Going up past Esk Buttress, it appeared that Gary was being humped by a giant grey caterpillar. On closer inspection it turned out to be the remodelled rucksack draped over his shoulders. On reaching Gable, Radders decided it would be bracing to climb a VS in a rainstorm. The rest of us were content to photograph such madness. The original idea had been for a few of us to get to the top of Napes Needle. The summit was really only big enough for four, so it was with some alarm that we finally hoisted the ninth man to balance precariously on top. Now, it had been quite hard to get nine people on top of the Needle, but with the addition of three ropes and countless slings all interwoven through belays and bodies the only likely way down appeared to be to lift the summit block off by helicopter and transport it complete with climbers to Wasdale Head where further assistance might be provided with the aid of a machete. However a major disentanglement was completed and the A team went on to do Needle Ridge while the B team set off homeward along the corridor route over Scafell Pike. The ground to air Bissell got quite distraught when he realised that the way to his tea lay over the highest point in England, but Radcliffe showed himself to be made of sterner stuff, running all the way from the top of Great Gable to the top of the Pike, leaving a line of panting climbers behind him. (Not training for the Jennings mountain triathlon by any chance, Chris? - ed). The teams eventually reunited at the stones where owing to an accident earlier in the day, bog roll was now being traded at 10p a sheet.



As supper was prepared, the teams who had felt so smug at having such small sacks the night before, now saw the down side of travelling light. The Burgess/Bissell team found they had only brought enough petrol to boil half a cup of soup but eventually prepared their meal with the aid of three different stoves and half a dozen borrowed saucepans. Fortunately, everyone seemed to have brought an adequate amount of wine so the evening took on a distinctly mellow flavour the climax of which was the "Party Animal" collapsing to the floor, knocking drinks over everyone, attempting to sit up again "before anyone noticed" only to collapse in the other direction with similarly spectacular results. Eventually people drifted off to bed to lie watching the stars, listening to the wind in the high mountains, the stream trickling past, the sheep bleating on the hillside and the "Party Animal" blundering about being sick.

On Sunday, it rained so we all went home.

EG

BIRDS AND CLIMBING

Rob Tresidder

I have received a notice from the BMC entitled "Seasonal Restrictions for Nesting Birds 1990" and wonder whether our feathered friends have received one too. If you think this might refer to you I have details of the restrictions applying to Swanage, Berry Head, Lundy, Baggy Point, Gower, Pembroke, Lleyne Peninsula, Anglesey, Ormes, Yorkshire and Chapel Head Scar.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Trevor Willis who was elected to full membership at the last committee meeting.

OBITUARY Dave Owen 1955 -1990

Oreads will be sad to hear of Dave Owen's untimely death. There is a terrible irony in Dave's taking his own life: he was such a gentle and thoughtful character who had many friends, all of whom thought well of him. When he drew back from the climbing scene, many of us felt unhappy that we didn't know how to encourage or help a friend with whom we had spent many enjoyable days on the hills. Earlier, there were few weekends or holidays when Dave was not to be found alone or with companions on crag, fell or mountain absorbing and delighting in the physical and aesthetic appeal of our sport. We shall all miss Dave. Is there any one of us who has a greater love of the hills?

PBS

Those of us who have been privileged to spend time with Dave will remember him for his commitment to the hills, his humour and above all his thought for others. His enjoyment of our sport ranged from walking in Derbyshire, through rock climbing to Alpine mountaineering. An enemy of no man, Dave's warm personality belied a private person with uncompromising standards. He died tragically.

Climbing, enlarged by the experience of others, would be nothing without our experiences with others. Dave shared in those to the full.

Dave's parents are hoping to dedicate the purchase and training of a guide dog for the blind to his memory. They live at 37 Saxon Street, Stapenhill, Burton on Trent.

RPL

C H A N G E S O F A D D R E S S

John O'Reilly, 25 Church Street, Holloway, Matlock DE4 5AY
tel 0629 534559

Lisa Welbourn, 32 Eggesford Road, Stenson Fields, Derby DE2 3BH
tel 0332 775243

Rob Ward, 78 Postern Close, York YO1 1JF
tel 0904 631468 (home), 0937 541191 (office)

Mike Wynne, 25 Mount Carmel Street, Derby DE3 6TB
tel 0332 360851

Incidentally, Annie and Mike are holding open house on 7 & 8 July starting with a lazy and long Turkish breakfast (pyjamas optional - ed) on Saturday, a welcome to families in the afternoon and a party in the evening. Sunday looks taken up with those who didn't get home after the party or couldn't come on Saturday. More details, map etc from Mike.

DERBYSHIRE REPTILE SURVEY

During 1989, Nick Moyes organised a survey of reptiles across the county. Many sightings of snakes and lizards were reported and the survey continues into 1990. If you are lucky enough to see any reptiles whilst out walking or climbing, please let Nick know the details. He needs names, dates and places (grid ref). For more information (perhaps on suitable names for reptiles - ed) and a free survey leaflet please contact Nick at Derby Museum (tel 255579) or at home (380736). A report of the first year's survey is available from the museum for 50p (inc p&p).

H U T B O O K I N G S Tan-yr-Wyddfa
6 - 7 July SAC 16 beds
13 -14 July Derby MC 16 beds
20 July - 1 September Summer holiday - Oread use only

Heathy Lea
6 - 7 July Nilkanta expedition

1991 MEETS

Rob Tresidder

I am starting to prepare the meets list for next year. If there is a particular meet you would like to appear or re-appear on the calendar, please let me know: I may even ask you to lead it!

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR (at last - ed)

Dear Sir

NILKANTA EXPEDITION

May I through the columns of your esteemed organ express my thanks for the kind donation the Oread has made to the huge costs of this ambitious venture. Your readers may be interested to know that for one pound they can purchase a picture postcard to be sent from base camp. Before the expedition leaves Britain the postcards will be put into a very large hat. The addressee of the first card drawn will win a firkin of Tetley's bitter.

Yours &c
Rob Tresidder

REFUSE AT HEATHY LEA

Chuck Hooley

Many thanks to Pete Amour for recently removing fourteen bags of rubbish. I have arranged for refuse collection on alternate Fridays. It must be bagged securely and left in the dustbins provided.

NEXT EDITION

I intend to publish the next edition on Tuesday, 7 August. Please send all written material to me at 61 West End, Wirksworth DE4 4EG to arrive by Monday, 30 July. Please may I make a friendly appeal for greater brevity. Two hundred words should be enough to announce a meet; three hundred, three hundred and fifty to tell the tale afterwards: I have to type most of it and each double sided sheet costs 4p. Longer contributions will be welcome from those of exceptional talent: I expect you know who you are. I look forward to hearing from Fred Phillips and Gil Male.

Rob Tresidder

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