

FANTASTIC VALUE!

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

May 1993

Guardian bid wins battle for Observer

This is my last newsletter, which I hammer out with some relief and not a little sadness. Rusty has volunteered to take over production and distribution of the club's monthly organ while I concentrate my efforts on the the other half of the meets secretary's job. Thank you very much to the many Dreads who have helped with contributions over the last three years: I have enjoyed reading them and hope that you have not felt the slash of the editor's pen too severely. My main disappointment has been my lack of success in garnering illustrations from the club's several artists - perhaps Rusty will have more luck. I wish him loads!

Meets move into top gear at this time of year. Please note the two additions to the calendar from our energetic incoming president. After the Welsh working party, Bobby's meet takes to the hills on wheels, banned ten days later on Keith's competitive meet which seems to be generating a lot of interest - much poring over maps and measurers. Rumour has it that it is likely to be won by some tanked up trig point hunters who never touch rock all day! Time will tell - come and see, and do. In between comes Pete's fiftieth birthday to be celebrated in the quiet languor of the Duddon valley - some message there? The month closes with the bank holiday meet on sun baked limestone in Pembrokeshire. ed

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

Summary:

7 - 8 May	Tan-yr-Wyddfa WP
Wed 12 May	Cratcliffe
14 - 15 May	Duddon Valley
Sat 22 May	Climbing Competition
28 May -	S Pembrokeshire
Sun 6 June	Pinnacle of Achievement Meet
11 - 12 June	Cwm Eigiau
11 - 12 June	Roaches
25 - 26 June	Wasdale

7 - 8 May Tan-yr-Wyddfa WP

[Periodically, the huts sub-committee complain that maintenance meets are poorly attended. It might help if they provided enticing notices of upcoming events. - ed]

Wed 12 May Cratcliffe Cycle/climb Bobby Gilbert
Aim to leave Derby at 6. Belper at 6.30 to meet outside the Greyhound in Cromford at 7. The ride follows last year's route which was up the via Gellia to Grangemill, then up to Winster and down to Cratcliffe Tor. At this stage rock boots may be removed from saddle bags for bouldering on Robin Hood's Stride or Cratcliffe itself. Alternatively a further cycling loop may be followed via Youlgreave and Elton.

We will return through Bonsall with a stop at the King's Head, then down to join the main contingent at the Boat Inn in Cromford, where a pint will be awarded to the cyclist who was first up the hill to Winster on the way out.

It is possible to get a train at 1030 from Cromford back to Derby for those not fancying the full ride back. REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR LIGHTS.

14 - 15 May Duddon Valley Peter Scott
Based at High Moss hut (NY 237967) and the nearby Turner Hall campsite. The Saturday evening is the occasion of my fiftieth birthday and there will be a barbecue at High Moss. I expect a fine summer's evening at this time of year, but in the event of rain, we'll move into the hut. I would really appreciate the company of all Dreads on Saturday evening at High Moss for this informal social gathering. The hut holds twenty-eight and there are a few places left for those who no longer camp!

There is little or no parking, for visitors (as opposed to residents), at High Moss. So please stroll over the fields and don't bring your transport. However do bring meat and veg to cook and a bottle. Oh! and if you have a portable Bar BQ can you chuck that in as well. Kick off 6 - 7.

The Duddon valley is a good centre for climbing and walking in Eskdale, on Dow and Scafell, as well as being a quieter part of the Lake District to be enjoyed at leisure.

Sat 22 May Climbing competition Keith Gregson
Please see advance notice in last month's newsletter.

28 May - S Pembrokeshire Rob Tresidder
Pluses and minuses for Pembroke at this time of year. The weather is better and there are fewer climbers than at Easter, but there are more "bird bans". I intend to camp at the well appointed St Petrox farm site in the shadow of the battered church tower. The more hardened may prefer the Rectory field at Bosherton (facilities - one tap), but handy for public toilets over the road, pub and tea shop and it is closer to cliffs in the St Govan's area. As well as the obvious climbing, I intend to swim, run and walk, so if you are after a mixed sort of holiday this could be the place for you. I think it would be wise for me to give Bill Griffiths some idea of numbers, so if you intend to come on this meet, please let me know. I can also help with filling your car (or someone else's!). See me at the Brunswick or ring me on 0629 823126.

Sun 6 June Pinnacle of Achievement Meet Bobby Gilbert
Time to start training for the above meet. As usual you may choose any venue for your achievement and it doesn't even have to involve climbing. The important thing is to push the boat out, then come to the Miner's Standard in Winster at 7 p.m. to recount your tale of success or failure. Marks will be awarded for the achievement itself and the quality of the story you manage to

dream up between the crag and the pub.
Tales of abject failure are particularly enjoyed.
So put a runner in and go for it!

11 - 12 June Cwm Eigiau John Green
Please see advance notice in last month's newsletter.

11 - 12 June Roaches Ron Chambers
If you failed to get in at Cwm Eigiau, then you may fancy a more local alternative. Camping for Saturday night will be in the usual field below Hen Cloud. The drinking will no doubt be in the Rock Inn. I'll be arriving around lunch time on Saturday and propose to climb on the Roaches in the afternoon. Hen Cloud is probably a quieter bet for Sunday or a walk to the Ship at Wincle could prove to be a popular alternative!!!

25 - 26 June Wasdale Ron Chambers
Please note this addition to the meets list.

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

Easter at Die (Rob Tresidder)

This was just great. We didn't quite have the weather I had hoped for but some climbing was done every day. Our first was on the nearby Valcroissant. On Saturday we climbed on the giant boulders of Les Claps, debris from a seventeenth century avalanche. In the evening we were hospitably entertained at the home of Jean-Marc Sourbier where we learnt the difference between the classique and brut versions of Clairette, the local sparkling wine. The day after we all went to Saou which had many of the characteristic 25m plus moulinette routes and some multi pitch climbs as well. Simon and Mike enjoyed their route so much, they missed the start of our evening out at the Blue Snail! On Monday most went back to Saou, while two of us went running in Marsanne. Esmond won his under 16s race; the less said about my race the better. There was some serious walking done on the snow capped Glandasse. On Tuesday, the weather was a little worse. Ron, Jenny, Derrick, Simon, Mike, Dawn, Richard and Chris took off to Provence in search of warmer climbing. Annie and Mike went to Limoges while the Tresidders stayed at Die. On our last day Es and I went to the best crag - Ombleze. It faces due south so is probably impractical in summer, and it is huge - upwards and sideways.

We were made very welcome in Die, but were a little sad not to climb with any locals. I'm sure all who were there would recommend a visit and be happy to pass on information about Wirtsworth's twin town.

RT

AGM

I'm afraid I have lost my notes of the AGM and have not yet had sight of the secretary's minutes, but.. The meeting received the usual apologies and was spared many more from other absentees. Brief reports were given by the president, meets secretary and treasurer outlining the club's activities and finances for the year past and that to come. An attempt to change rule 5 and remove the outgoing president's automatic right to sit unelected on the committee was defeated. Colin Hobday and Dennis Gray were elected honorary members of. In the elections for officers Ron Chambers replaced Bobby Gilbert as president while Richard Coghlan took over as treasurer from Roger Larkam. Roger deserves special thanks as a very long serving member of the committee, having been meets secretary before he became treasurer.

RT

April committee meeting

The subject of the club's liability in connection with minors

(those under 18 years of age) was discussed. It was agreed that more advice and a clearer statement of the insurance protection given to the club and its officers through our affiliation to the BMC is required. Rob Tresidder volunteered to discuss this with Derek Walker, noting that the latter had spoken of the need for clubs to broaden their membership to youth level, when he gave his address to the annual dinner.

Colin Hobday reported that Chuck Hooley is to discuss the condition of the rooves of both barn and cottage at Heathy Lea with the Chatsworth estate. They will also consider the supply of electricity when the Severn Trent pumping station closes.
SB

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

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H U T B O O K I N G S

Tan-yr-Wyddfa

May 7 - 8 Working Party
 14 - 15 Summit MC (16 beds)

Heathy Lea
May 21 - 22 Gread meet

S H O R T N O T I C E S

BLACK ROCKS

Forest Enterprises have now felled many of the birch trees close to the foot of the north side of Black Rocks. Unfortunately they seem to have been more radical at the western end than at the eastern where need was greatest. However, I think it will make the starts of climbs in the New Year Buttress and Queen's Parlour areas more attractive than they have been for a number of years.
RT

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Following a request from the committee, Mike Moss, the club's assistant secretary has taken over responsibility for new members, so if you meet someone in the Brunswick hungry to go climbing, read newsletters or just part with some money, please steer them in Mike's direction.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Sue Ridley and Kevin Sarson who have been elected to full membership of the Gread.

NEXT EDITION

Rusty intends to publish the next edition on Tuesday, 1 June. Please send all written material to Clive Russel, Slate House Farm, Farwich, Derbyshire to arrive by Monday, 24 May. He especially looks forward to hearing from Kev Allsobrook, Colin Hobday, Roger Larkam, Ron Chambers, Steve Beethforth and Dave Weston.
Rob Tresidder

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