

Keith's

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 1994

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The snow as in most recent years has promised only to disappoint, but the season is not entirely over. There is still the Patterdale meet to come, and the Fell race which will be more fun if it snows. We must too attend to the essential running of the club at the AGM. before commencing the evening climbing program or enjoying the Spring Walk.

Summary

6 March (Sun)	Fell Race
11- 12 March	Patterdale
19 March (Sat)	A.G.M.
24-27 March	Easter France
27 March (Sun)	Spring Stride
30 March (Wed)	Harborough Rocks

6 March (Sun) Fell Race Chris Johnson - Esmond Tresidder

The Fell Race returns to Heathy Lea again this year. A nice gentle romp- Esmond is chosing the course- about 1 hour I think! and Gresty is thinking about the rules! Walkers can start at 10-30, the rest will start at 11-00. Should be fine weather so see you there. (These times are the target times to actually start running, so participants should try to arrive well beforehand.

11- 12 March Patterdale Colin Barnard

Yes it's here again, the annual Eastern Lakes extravaganza! Will the snow last until then? will it.....! We live in hope. As usual we are based in the comfortable and capacious George Starkey Hut (GR. 394162) This year we have all 28 spaces. Old and new faces are all welcome. Ring me on 0785 664644 after 7-30pm., but do it now because places are already starting to go I suggest we tope in the White Lion on Friday night where the selection of beers usually finds favour. See you there

19 March (Sat) A.G.M. Rob Tresidder

The AGM of the club will take place upstairs at the Princess Victoria in Matlock Bath at 8pm . No proposals for alteration to the club's rules have been received. The committee have proposed the following as candidates for election of officers: Ron Chambers (President.) Stephen Bashforth (Secretary) Mike Moss (Assistant Secretary) Chuck Hooley (Huts Custodian). The committee have made no nominations for the posts of Vice President, Meets Secretary or Journal Editor. Other posts on the present committee, under the rules, can be filled by co-opting members.

24-27 March Easter France Richard Hopkinson

Having been semi "press-ganged" into running this meet my chickens are coming home to roost! for a mixture of personal and logistic reasons I am unable to confirm a starting venue for this meet. However I expect to be going to France over the Easter period (probably leaving Thursday 31 March and returning Saturday 9 April) The likely starting venue is the Dentilles de Montmirail-a large cragging area of all grades. Bill Birkett's new book has a very small bit mentioned , I have a much larger guide to the area published by Club Alpin Francaise which I can lend to people to copy . The location is further South than last year's venue (to locate draw a line East from Orange and North from Carpentras, they intersect around the area),so the weather should be more Mediterranean. It is also convenient for day trips or moving on to other areas. I intend to camp at Beaumes de Venise. The info. I have indicates that the campsite should be open (a potential problem at this time of year). The intention as last year is to be flexible and perhaps move on if the weather or the desire for change of crags dictate I am happy to coordinate liaise and advise with respect to arrangements etc. and putting people wishing to fill cars in touch with each other. If you wish to go to France at Easter the main things to do at

present are to organise holiday, insurance ferries etc. The exact location is not the main issue at this stage. So I hope I haven't put you off - if you're interested then give me a ring (0629 823392) or see me about.

27 March (Sun) Spring Stride Dave

...I Will Buy A Pint In The Pub For Any Oread...

Weston

Please Note Change Of Date!!!

Meet Bakewell Square for the 09.35 bus to Foxhouse. Route- White Edge - Baslow Edge - Baslow (lunch 'The Rutland') - Chatsworth - Charlton pastures - Bakewell.

A chance to walk A to B for a change and grab a bit of the old nostalgia - riding the bus into the Peak. not quite like the old days, it used to be the train and bus all the way for a camping weekend at Stanage or Birchens. Not many had their own transport then, not even Oreads, so it was on your bike or public transport. I have fond memories of riding the Jack Ives bus to North Wales and riding train and bus with Ruth and John Welbourne and Colin Hobday on Derbyshire weekends, so it would be nice to have your company on the Spring Stride whether you remember the good old days or are more interested in the good ones to come.

I will buy a pint in the pub for any Oread carrying an ex- WD commando rucksack on the walk, or anyone who can quote "The Ballad of Idwal Slabs" without referring to notes as per Showell Styles. or make a gallant attempt at it. Hope to see many Oreads and friends

30 March (Wed) Harborough Rocks

Don't miss this date, the first evening climbing of the new season

PAST EVENTS

February Committee Meeting

This meeting was largely occupied preparing for the AGM when the club's officers for the coming year will be elected.

Langdale Meet

I was fortunate to get a place in the hut for what is traditionally one of the premier away meets on

the Oread calendar, and reality was equal to anticipation. The snow on the-tops was well consolidated and the weather cold and dry, Wetherlam and Pike o' Blisco received visits from several teams equipped with axe and crampon, Radders confirmed his status as a hard man with a spartan training run over the tops, pausing magnanimously to converse with lesser mortals, and Freda Raphael showed again that she is one of the fastest women I know.

A significant feature of these weekends away is the repartee in the huts during the evening where, secure in the knowledge that one is among friends, and offence will not be taken, outrageous humour is often mixed with wisdom drawn from the wider experiences of the climber, compared with those of the ordinary citizen. A typical remark, attributed to Georgina was "You were at it as soon as we went to bed" (a discussion on snoring had preceded.) On being told that her observations might be relayed to a wider forum she replied "I don't mind if you make them think Peter is extra virile" Those attending the meet - C Barnard, C Russell, G Wright, C&U Hobday, P&G Amour, J Linney, R&A Squires, J Draper, Dave Johns, F & A Raphael, D&S Kirk, C&R Eyre, J Green, P Storer, S&A Haywood, N Evans, J Stowell, S Mc Donagh, N Moyes, C Radcliffe, E Harbord. CR

The Art Of Attending An Oread Meet (Anon)

Based on an actual experience (Churnet Valley).

1. Read the meets circular carefully, noting the time and place(Ham River Bridge Alton)
2. Upon arriving at the village you will find all the roads closed and diversion signs leading to nowhere. Is this a cunning plan by an ex DCC Highways employee?
3. The meet leader having successfully spread half the Oread over the North Staffs Moorland, gathering his trusty few who against all the odds managed to get to the appointed meeting place on time. Here he will carry out another stroke of genius (if you think you can catch up when arriving late - think again) eg. a change of route. instead of going along the River path, we walked over the tops, crossing fields which would be better planted with rice. and passing

the North entrance of Alton Towers , the South and eventually the West entrance.

4 Upon arrival at the official lunch stop (Ramblers Retreat) the cafe was , as could have been expected, full of well dressed sunday diners. This leads to mutiny by Digger, Pretty, Janes and Janet and Derrick Burgess. as beer is needed to survive the day. What was originally a trusty group now splits in half again, one half making a dash for the pub- will they make it before closing time? The rest have no other choice but to take lunch on a muddy bank . It is worth noting that having walked for 2 1/2 hours you are exactly 1 mile from the starting point. Chuck and Margaret Hooley , as well as Ernie Phillips who were sitting in their Shogun eating butties were parked at the Ramblers Retreat and observed the course of events, acting like Checkpoint Charlie seeing Oreads arriving in dribs and drabs muttering "why isn't the meetleader here as arranged" and then leaving in all directions in search of other Oreads . So it is only really Chuck who can give a nearly true account of who attended the meet. During the afternoon several other sightings were reported - Peter O'Neil and Beryl Strike - spotted in the woods, Hobdays and Squires having tea and scones at the Ramblers at 4pm. Gadsby's Reynolds Wainwright actually made the River bridge by 5pm. Ashcrofts/ Westons probably lost in the dark. Janes seen in green wellies- 2 sizes too big. Tony and Barbara Smedley apparently did not manage to meet up with anyone at all. did however pass through Checkpoint Charlie.

Oh- must not forget about the meetleader (Rusty) - he had gone home!

HUT NEWS

Bookings Tan Yr Wydffa

March 4/5 Solihull MC. 16 beds
March 11/12 Vacant
March 18/19 Surbiton MC. 8 beds
March 25/26 G.P.T. Beeston 12 beds
April 1/2/3/4 Easter Oread
April 8/9 Work party
April 15/16 R R J Corden 16 beds
April 22/ 23 G. Gadsby Whole hut
April 29/30 - May 1/2 May Day Oread

Bookings Heathy Lea

March 4/5 Northumbrian M.C 6 beds

Found At Tan Yr Wydffa

Sleeping bag found in bedroom at new year - if not claimed and returned to its rightful owner within 14 days it will have to be put down

BRAIN TEASER

For my first digit take the next multiple of 20 above the age of Ashcroft, add 1 and take the fourth root. For my second take the next multiple of 10 below the english size of Squires' boots and halve it. For my third digit take twice the second digit, add 2 , halve the answer . My fourth digit is minus one, multiplied by itself. What is the fourth letter of the second word of the name of the mountain of which these four digits represent the height in feet?

I shall send a £3 book token to the person providing the first correct answer opened. Send your answers to me together with a stamped addressed return envelope. A glass of lager shandy will be required before any discussion can be entered into.

please note Colin Hobday will be away on holiday from March 31 to April 16. Anyone wishing to use the huts at short notice should contact Chuck Hooley

SHORT NOTICES

A memorial service for Sir Jack Longland will be held in The Priory Church of St. Bartholomew, West Smithfield, London E.C.1 at noon on Fri 11 March

For sale: Nevisport Duvet Jacket; Karrimor JB Jaguar rucksack (60 l.?) and car roof rack (eg. Astra, Peugeot) ski racks. All in excellent/ good condition. Offers to Arthur Daley/ Roger Larkham 0332-383371

NEXT EDITION

I hope to publish this on Thurs March 31. I am now working away, and need to prepare the newsletter at weekends, so it is essential that material reaches me by Sat march 26. I look forward to hearing from **Stuart Firth and Rob**

Tresidder

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P.S. Don't forget the indoor meet
next Tues (1st March), speaker
Peter Holden