



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 1996

summary

Jan 1	Walk to the George
Jan 2	Indoor Meet
Jan 21	Wainwright's Wander
Jan 24 (Wed)	Climbing Wall (Foundry)
Jan 27-28	President's Meet
Feb 3-4	Joint Meet with M.A.M.
Feb 6 (Tues)	Indoor meet.

jan 1 walk to the george, alstonfield clive russell

We shall meet in front of Ilam Hall (134508) at a minute or two before 11am., to move off at 11.00 prompt. (Cars may be parked at the hall car park or in Ilam village). The approach walk will be via Castern Hall, then along the path on the East bank of the Manifold (superb views), to Wetton Low (113 543) and then to Alstonfield. After a good meal and tank up, the return options are a) a scenic walk along by Air Cottage and Bunster, or b) if unsteady of gait, or overtaken by twilight, an easy walk down Dovedale, beside the River to the stepping stones. Exceptional forward planners might leave a form of transport at Dovedale car park (146 506) and walk to the start so that they avoid doing the last bit in the dark.

Doreen Hodge traditionally starts to worry about the onset of darkness after about noon at this time of year. We shall counter this threat by sleeping at top speed the night before and arriving at dawn ahead of daybreak in order to win extra time.

Jan 2 indoor meet royal oak ockbrook

This month's meet is Colin Hobday showing slides of the Polish Tatra expo' with asides on nearby Austria ("From Tyrol to the Tatra"). (All indoor meets start at 8pm.)

jan 21 wainwright's wander shirley wainwright

"In the bleak midwinter frosty winds may moan" so the carol says-but not on Wain-

wright's wander-it won't dare to. I expect sparkling frosty snow to encourage Oreads to get out for this mid-winter walk.

We shall meet at Arkwright mill car park at Cromford for a 10-15 am start.

The way will be by Billberry Knoll and Riber Hall down to Dethick to the Jug and Glass at Lea. This is a pleasant easy wander and is one of my favourite walks.

There is a choice of paths from Lea to Cromford for the return. I went via Smedley's Mill and back along Cromford Canal. This route may have to be avoided for inebriated Oreads - just a precaution - but then the Canal isn't deep.

Please park at the back of the car park at the mill site near the meadows. Parking is free. Any early birds can call in the coffee shop there for their butties prior to the walk, or even go on a quick tour of this famous part of our industrial heritage.

jan 27-28 president's meet brian west

The President's Meet will be held at the Midland Hotel, Peakdale on the night of Sat. Jan 27th.. All Oreads and their guests are invited: please come.

Rusty's deadline has beaten me as I have not yet decided where to walk from on the Saturday, but the outline remains the same as last year's practice event. Walk, climb, cycle or what you will, but turn up at about 7pm. and we'll have a night out (I suppose I really mean a night in.: - sleeping bags and mats required)

The Midland does not normally provide meals, but I can arrange for a meal at reasonable cost to be ready for us on arrival, Let me know if you are interested, I shall need some idea of the numbers.

Sunday will be spent attempting breakfast and getting back to wherever we came from.

Queries to me please 01332 880034

rider to the glan dena meet

Anyone want to walk to Glan Dena on the Friday Night?

I propose to travel via the coast road to Penmaenmawr and set out over the Carneddau at

closing time to arrive at Glan Dena whenever. This could be an axe/crampons affair with a high chance of a bivouac. If interested, get in touch and we'll sort out some transport etc. 01332 880034 B. West.

feb 3-4 Ogwen valley (glan dena) joint meet with M.A.M. j. ashcroft/R. Chambers

Jack has asked me to take over the organising of this meet, as he is still suffering from "joggers ankle" (ought to know better at his age!) The weekend is based at the MAM hut "Glan Dena" GR 669 606 (opposite the north ridge of Tryfan, for those without a map!) This old favourite has been resurrected by popular demand and needs little introduction from me, except to say that if conditions are good (and Jack assures me that they will be!) the Carneddau and Glyders offer the finest winter climbing areas in North Wales. Even Burgess (who doesn't get excited easily, ask Janet) showed a passing interest and promised to sharpen up his (or is it mine?) ice axe and eight pointers in anticipation. Because this is a joint meet with MAM members you'll need to book early to avoid disappointment. For beds, lifts etc. ring me on 01629 823797- Ron Chambers

Feb 6 (Tues) Indoor meet royal oak ockbrook

The topic will be Rock Hudson on - Charmar - an attempt to climb a "Yaks Tail" on the Tibet - Nepal border. (All indoor meets start at 8pm.)

PAST EVENTS

Nov 25 (Sat) Photo Competition

The Photo' Meet took place on Nov 25 at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook. The evening was well supported, and everyone enjoyed the judge, Andy Wilson (sounds like a Roman Orgy-Ed.), who put in a lot of work to make the evening a success. A total of 165 slides were

entered for the various sections, and 17 panels of prints.

Winners

Slides 1st. Gordon Wright
2nd. Tim Cairns
3rd. KeithGregson/ Col Hobday.

Prints 1st Bill Kenyon
2nd. Harry Pretty
3rd Lisa Welbourne

Club Interest Mike Wynne

Tan Yr Wyddfa 2/3 december

Nick Evans and I sat quietly between the rusty rails, contentedly munching sandwiches. Behind us, on four little wheels, two or three tons of iron ore sat even more immobile. We prayed it would stay that way.

Elsewhere in Snowdonia, most of the other weekend adventurers were busy clambering over innumerable stone walls in thick mist and drizzle in the Rivals, though Rock and Jill were sensibly indoors. They were flying the Oread flag by attending a meeting presenting plans to drive a railway line through one of Snowdonia's most important upland bogs (why do my correspondents leave themselves so vulnerable to misinterpretation? - Ed.) But our car park appeared to be reprieved. They returned clutching a sketch map suggesting that a new line was to be built which bypasses our prized hut parking area. Of course, we'll believe that when we see it.

Meanwhile, back underground, Nick and I were trying to believe what we were seeing, too. We'd scrambled down the steep, slippery incline and were continuing to explore the massive excavations of Rhosydd mine. With its enormous caverns and flooded levels, the exploration of this and nearby Croesor mine had turned a dull day into one full of wonders. We explored almost every level we could safely access before returning back up the incline, only to arrive at the vast cavern openings just as dusk was falling. Our first daylight for five hours, and it was just fading!

Head torches were again needed to clamber out and back down to Croesor car park in mist and rain.

As Sunday saw even wetter weather and no early starts, the climbing shops received a full inspection on the way home. But thanks must go to Jill, whose accident in the Cwellyn Arms brought the best quote of the weekend. After (she tells us) just one small drink, she tripped and fell against the bar, badly smashing a beer glass into her hand. But the shards were most carefully removed by one of the customers. Most appreciative of his tender care, she asked him "are you a doctor?" "No", he replied, "I'm a glazier".

Present: Nick Evans (meet leader), Colin Barnard, Rock Hudson, Jill Chartier Hollis, Stuart and Andrea Haywood, John Green and Pam Storer.

FUTURE EVENTS

ski touring cairngorms march 16-23 richard coghlan

Last March I went on a free-heel skiing course based in Aviemore. Now I know how to play the game, I consider that it would be a good basis for an Oread meet. I plan to use touring skis about 3 inches wide, giving good performance when going uphill in soft snow. These are not to be confused with track skis (which people associate with cross-country skiing). which are much narrower and optimised for level skiing on forest tracks. The use of touring skis will allow us to travel much faster up and down Cairngorm summits than would be possible on foot, even if snow cover is not complete.

I shall stay for a week, but some people may wish to make it a long weekend. The sports plan is as follows:-

Sat March	16	Arrive, collect skis, book into Youth Hostel.
Sun/Mon		Those who want it go on a two day course. Others do Beneriach, BenMacDui, etc.

Tues evening Weekenders go home.

Wed-Sat Further exploration of those peaks which are boring to walk on, but good for skiing, eg. Monadliath.

Some idea of costs:-

Aviemore Y H.	£7.80 per night
Ski/pole boot hire	£31.00 three days
Ski hire	£3.00 per day.

You will not need lift passes or insurance.

I need to book the Youth Hostel, ski hire and courses no later than the end of January. Even then it may be difficult to guarantee places. See me early in December or late in January to register an interest. (I shall be away for a month at Christmas).

Please note:-

You don't have to be able to ski to come on this meet. I certainly can't and shall take my skis off going downhill.

Skiing is a decadent sport and suitable for all the old farts in the club (copyright Carling enterprises) Walking and climbing is not forbidden on this meet.

HUT NEWS

Bookings Heathy Lea

Jan 5/6	Polaris
	Cott/Barn
Mar 1/2	R. Tresidder Cottage
Mar 23/24	Work Party.

Bookings Tan Yr Wyddfa

Jan 12/13	Rock and Heather	16 beds
Jan 19/20	Derby M.C.	16 beds
Jan 26/27	Vacant	
Feb 2/3	Brighton University	16 beds
Feb 9/10	Orpheus C.C.	16 beds
Feb 16/17	Scunthorpe M.C.	16 beds
Feb 23/24	Pam Storer	16 beds
Mar 1/2	Vibram M.C.	16 beds
Mar 8/9	Avon Outdoor	16 beds
Mar 15/16	B.P.M.C.	16 beds
Mar 22/23	Coventry M.C.	16 beds
Mar 29/30	Exiles M.C.	16 beds

Anyone owing hut fees is requested to send the outstanding amount to Colin Hobday without delay.

SHORT NOTICES

john corden

I am sure all Oreads will be sorry to hear of the recent death of John Corden, a former member, and still a friend of many, especially those connected with the Hucknall group, frequent guests at Tan Yr Wyddfa.

OLD FATHER TIME

Rock Hudson, whilst engaged in an ascent of Little Tryfan on a tight top rope held by 8 years old Michael Gregson, was somewhat put out when a passing climber took him to be the boy's grandfather.

meets list 1997

Early though it may be, Ron Chambers would like to hear from anyone offering to lead a meet, or with suggestions for inclusion on the list.

D.M.C

Derby Mountain Centre, as we know, having closed, the stock is to be sold by auction at Neales Auction Centre, Mansfield Rd., Nottingham, on Sat 20th Jan at 10 am. Viewing will be between 10am and 4pm. on the previous day, and between 9am. and 10am. on the day of the sale. There is a range of Gortex and other quality equipment for sale, and John O'Reilly (01629 534559) will answer any queries with alacrity.

for sale

New Balance running shoes size 9 1/2, £12, also Nike air running shoes size 9, £12. Both pairs hardly used, present owner requires size 9 1/4. Special terms if both pairs purchased. 01335 390369

Boy's Nevika Ski Suit (Jacket and saloppettes) age 5-6. Excellent condition, £30 Contact Eileen Gregson 01332 792147

BRAIN TEASER

solutions to December problems

five coins each of £1, 50p, 5p, 1p. Correct solution from Nick Evans again.

this month's problem

(The last few have been too easy, even though I cocked one up)

An Oread entered a fell race, 4 kilometres uphill, 29 km. level and 5.4 km. downhill. He used 10 calorie per sec at 1 m.p.h. uphill, 5 cal/sec on the flat and 4 cal/sec downhill, and more pro-rata the square of the speed at higher speeds. His top speed was 12 mph. regardless of how many calories used. Our man was as thin as a gypsy's dog, all ribs and **ls, and only had 4000 kilocalories stored in his body. What is the least time in which he could complete the course? Book token for best answer.

(This is suitable for solution using a computer spreadsheet, a challenge to Tony Smedley and Adam Raphael along with other byte busters.).

NEXT EDITION

I hope to post this on **Sat Feb 2nd..** It is essential that particulars of all events for this edition reach me by **Friday Jan 24th.. and preferably earlier**

I look forward to hearing from Graham Weston, Ron Chambers and Chris Radcliffe

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