



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 1998

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summary

Apr 8 (Wed)	Harborough Rocks
Apr 10 - 12	Easter
Apr 19 (Sun)	Spring Stride
Apr 26 - 26	Heathy Lea
May 2 - 4	(May Day) Northumberland
May 6	Willersley

April 3/4 Working Party

Please note that the welsh hut working party has been postponed until summer.

April 8 (Wed) Harborough Rocks

A red letter day this, the beginning of the evening climbing season and at a friendly venue where nerve and sinew, weakened by winter debauchery, will not be too severely tested. Refreshment will be taken later, in moderation, at that salubrious establishment, the Miner's Arms.

Apr 19 (Sun) Spring Stride George Reynolds

For this year's Spring Stride I propose to walk the Churnet Valley Area. Meeting at the Dimmingsdale car park ref. 063 432 10 am for 10.30 am

The walk takes a northerly route over Lord's Bridge to Oakamoor, on to the Staffordshire Moorlands Walk, over Heathy Gore to Whiston Hall across the golf course, so a club or two will not be amiss.

We then turn westerly over the River Churnet to the Blacksmith's pub at Kingsley Holt ref 018 460 where packed lunches can be eaten inside, as generally no bar food or sandwiches are available.

Retracing our way to Whiston Bridge then through Ochre wood, Staffordshire Way, Hawkmoor nature reserve, Sutton Wood, past the Youth Hostel, ending down Dimmingsdale with tea at the Rambler's Retreat.

Apr 26 - 26 Heathy Lea John Green

It's that time of year again! Why not spend the weekend at Heathy Lea and get some walking and climbing round the old favourites in? shall be treating the weekend as a general training outing. The intention being to climb as many Mods and Diffs on Gardoms and Birchens as possible (or until I burn out). Starting at the Hut on Saturday at say 10.00 a wander out to Apple Crack, Broken Buttress, The Chimney, Stepped Crack, Yellow Chimney, Blacksmith's Wall, Keith's Other Corner Crack, should see me ready for a break and up to Birchens to complete the day with some fine little numbers, before retiring to the publ Come along and keep me company.

May 2 - 4 (May Day)

Northumberland Kevin Alsbrook

I have booked a campsite in Belford, north Northumberland. Belford has all the usual things to make you spend money, cafes, supermarket and pubs. It is also only two miles away from three of the best crags in the district. Try the VS s on Kylloe, they're fun, or down to Bowden Doors. Endless amounts of climbing, excellent quiet walks, the coast only a couple of miles away. Graham Weston is taking over the running of the meet for me as I will only have been out of hospital a few days by then so I wont be mobile but if you are coming please let em know as soon as possible as I need to confirm numbers at the campsite. (01913866200).

May 6 (Wed) Willersley

The evening climbing proper will commence on this date, after the frivolity at Harborough. Drinkers should congregate afterwards at the Princess Victoria.

HUT NEWS

Bookings Tan Yr Wyddfa

Apr 3/4	Working Party postponed. until summer	vacant
Apr 10 - 13	Easter	vacant
Apr 17/18	Southern Trekking	16 beds
Apr 24/25	Stapleford CC	Whole Hut
May 2 -4	May Day	2 beds

BOOKINGS HEATHY LEA

Apr 10 - 13	Easter	Vacant	
Apr 18/19	H Pretty	Cottage & barn	
Apr 25/26	Oread meet		

PART EVENTS

Patterdale Colin Barnard

They came like Lemmings. Despite the fact that as the weekend drew near, it seemed that this year's Patterdale meet would be remembered for appalling weather far more than for any activity, they came like Lemmings. Despite the meet leader's obdurate insistence that nobody, but nobody, gets to sleep on the floor, they came like Lemmings. Despite the most awful conditions in which to drive up to the Lakes even Reg managed to get there, though most of us had hoped he would send ?Anne instead as his representative on Earth.

No one enjoyed the drive up, least of all Doug and Wendy whose arrival, 20 hours late, concluded a journey that was by a clear margin the winner of the prize for the most catastrophically expensive trip. The hut was in

sodden chaos, wet gear everywhere, when most folk were daft enough to go out on Saturday, even if only to find somewhere to watch the Rugby. Oread parties were seen on Pinnacle Ridge and on many a rain - swept fell top. Sunday was very much a change for the better. I don't know what a lot of folk did, but the President's party had a splendid meander on the ridges above Dovedale. Thanks to all "Lemmings" who came, a total of 75 bed nights (plus special guest appearance by Brian Wright is probably a record for the George Starkey or most other British huts.

SHORT NOTICES

50th Anniversary Journal Progress Report

I have approached a specific number of members and have requested a number of written contributions to the journal, together with any photographs that may be suitable. A fair proportion have responded and have promised much. Some have not responded at all.

It is now time that the overall membership is aware that the journal preparation is in progress and submission of articles - prose, verse - or whatever - is open to the entire membership would be grateful to receive a flood of memories and/or contemporary comment.

As I see it the format should represent the essential character of the Oread as it has developed since 1949. It should include written work that expresses the spirit of the club from social and normal meet level to high adventure in the Alps and more distant places.

Consequently I am encouraging contributions that are of some particular significance to the writer within the context of the Oread M.C. 1949 - 1999.

We have formed a picture selection committee (Radcliffe, Ashcroft, Gadsby, Hobday, and myself) and I ask anybody to submit prints that are of historical interest, or illustrate written contributions. All photos should be identified on back, together with name of contributor.

I am aiming to receive written work by end of September 1998 so go to it.... and I would appreciate some early indication that you are willing to submit a picture or two for consideration

Harry Pretty, Editor.

Welsh Highland Railway

The enquiry for the above is now concluded but no findings have been published at the time of writing. The committee are continuing to monitor progress.

Subscriptions/Insurance

At the moment, members only include B.M.C. insurance with their subscriptions if they want the cover. A situation may arise however where the B.M.C. will only grant cover to clubs en bloc. It would then become necessary to levy the insurance charge on all subs, resulting in an increase of about £4 to those who at the moment chose not to take the insurance. Those like Chris Radcliffe who are members of several clubs are watching the situation with especial interest and those present at the 1997 A.G.M. will remember that he alerted us to that situation.

Longstone Edge

Many will already know that there has been a planning application, widely considered to be outrageous, for extensive quarrying operations. The committee, alerted by Harry Pretty, have subscribed to a fighting fund to oppose this. The application has been recently refused however and the situation has stabilised, but events will again be monitored.

BRAIN TEASER

Last Month's Problem

This is in the control of Ernie whom I have not seen recently. All will doubtless be revealed in due course

This Month's Problem

GK (sic), his out of control drinking was a worry to his companions and, totally unable to match him pint for pint, they ordered a look - alike non - alcoholic Iron Bru for his mate "Peter"s second round in the Quiet Woman. When he went for a leak half way through his second pint they tried to moderate his intake by pouring his beer into half a pint of "Peter"s Iron Bru and replacing it with a half of the mixture. On the way home, vengeful cops, frustrated after an unsuccessful drugs bust in Hollingsclough, pulled both vehicles in for a check. "GK" registered 77 on the intoximeter which worked strictly pro - rata alcohol taken in the last twelve hours. What was "Peter"s reading? (Book token for first correct answer before May.)

Next Edition

I hope to post this on *Friday 1 May It is essential that all material reaches me by Thursday 24 April. I look forward to hearing from Keith Gregson and Daryl Kirk.*

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