



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 1998

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summary

May 2 - 4 (May Day) Northumberland
May 6 Willersley
May 9 - 10 BARMY comp T.Y.W
May 23 - 25 Spring Bank Hol Cornwall
June 3 Wed Earl Sterndale
June 6 - 7 Glen Nevis

May 2 - 4 (May Day)

Northumberland Kevin Alsobrook

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 Kyfloe, 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 won't 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.

May 9-10 Tan Yr Wyddfa (Barmy Competition) Keith Gregson

This is anothe rchance to get yourself certified as BARMY. The rules are given elsewhere in the newsletter. The event will take place on Saturday, though if the weather follows last year's pattern I have a plan B which involves the MAD rules. In this case everyone does whatever he/she pleases and we decide by consensus in the pub afterwards who has had the Most Amenable Day.

Whatever happens, the object of the weekend is to have a good time in the hills, so come and get it! If you need a lift or a bunk, get in touch with me either at the Smithfield or via Derby 792147

May 23-25 (Spring Bank Holiday)

Cornwall Daryl Kirk

I have regularly attended this meet and accomplished many of the classic lines, yet there still remain new conquests to be made or old ones to be repeated.

On a warm day, on perfect granite set against the blue skies and a deep turquoise sea, mystery, enchantment and solitude can still be found, all washed down by a few beers at the end of the day. (This poetic musing tempered by an immediate return to the pragmatic is in the best traditions of the Oread - Ed.) I can think of no better place, and if not already, be prepared to be converted.

The camp site is "The Trevaylor" at Botallack, 1 mile outside St. Just, near Penzance, run by the ever hospitable Ron and Pauline.

I will be arriving on Friday 22nd and staying the full week. You can contact me during the day on 0114 2834949 or at night on 0115 3937710, to let me know the number of bodies, tents, arrival and departure dates.

June 3 (Wed) Earl Sterndale

With the season now well into its swing the hard men will demolish the fine limestone routes such as Broken Toe, followed by roistering in the Quiet Woman. Geriatrics may also be catered for by a walk in the area.

June 6-7 Glen Nevis Graham Weston

Due to circumstances beyond my control I shall not be able to make the weekend of 13 -14 June as published in the meets list. However I propose to move the meet back one weekend (after consultation with the meets sec. of course!) sorry if this upsets anyone's plans.

I hope to climb on the Ben on Saturday after arriving late on Friday night. Routes like The

Long Climb and Tower Ridge spring to mind. I should like to climb on the Etive Slabs on Sunday but I guess the weather may play a part in everyone's plans. The campsite has yet to be confirmed but I am expecting to use the one in Glen Nevis.

HUT NEWS

Bookings Tan Yr Wyddfa

May 1 - 3 Family Meet
May 8 - 9 Oread Meet
May 11/15 R Hopkinson 4 Beds
May 15-16 Vacant
May 22-25 Bank Holiday
May 29-30 P. Shreeve 15 Beds
June 5 - 6 A.B.M.S.A.C, Whole Hut

Bookings Heathy Lea

May 8 - 9 Fell & Rock Cottage
May 29-30 D. Weston Cottage
June 5 - 6 D. Jones Cottage
All other weekends vacant.

PAST EVENTS

Harborough Rocks

It was pleasing to see a few stalwarts on the rocks despite the early season gloom, with the fair sex represented by prospective member Gill Keeling. Also present were Mike Hayes (family watching in trepidation), Tony Smedley, Chris Wilson, The Tresidders, Mick Keeling and myself plus sundry others and canines in the distance. Others of some climbing repute went straight to the refurbished and more up-market comfort of the Miner's Arms. (Although the ground was wet, the rock itself was not too unpleasant to climb on.)



This box contains "jobseeker" Mike Wren's reasons for not visiting the rocks for a token route before going to the pub

Fell Race -1 March 1998

To be honest it was more a "fell over" than a fell race by the time most people finished. It seemed to me that the old format has been losing its appeal and that a change was worth trying, so I did! I fully expected the wrath of the Oread to be poured from on high and to be sentenced to eternal wallowing in the shallow end of the septic tank at best! But, whilst I did get some stick from some quarters, there were those who admitted to having fun. Since this, to my mind, was the object of the exercise, I think it rated a modest success. Certainly there was a large amount of head scratching at the start, to-ing and fro-ing in the middle, and of course chastisement of the organiser at the finish. And the rest!

Basically the competitors were given twelve clues to checkpoints in the vicinity of Heathy Lea. The object was to visit as many checkpoints as possible within a specific time and to collect the numbers placed there. At each location they also found one digit of a map reference to the thirteenth location. Each checkpoint had a score attached, and of course the thirteenth was a good 'un.

The teams were split into runners and walkers, with different time limits and otherwise had a free choice of route and tactics. It turned out that most of the walkers decided to ignore the time limit and visit as many of the checkpoints as they could find. The runners were more disciplined and therefore cleaned up the prizes. In fact the time limits were very harsh, but the weather forecast had been for blizzards and Arctic conditions.

The results:

first: Alison with Graham Weston with 80 points from 6 checkpoints second: Richard Hopkinson with 55 points from 5 checkpoints third: Dave Jones with 35 points from 2 checkpoints fourth: Rusty with 30 points from 2 checkpoints

Of the walkers, several teams located 8 checkpoints with Colin and Uschi and Mick and Jill gaining 145 points each, though losing

millions in time penalties! A notable achievement was the Hayes' team (Mick, 2 Emmas a Tom and a Gail) which also pulled in 8 checkpoints, despite being hampered by Dad who simply couldn't carry everyone fast enough!

The Aftermath

Most who came enjoyed themselves. There were one or two who didn't and I apologise to them if it didn't turn out the way they expected. However there were some funnies:- members on the steps of Heathy Lea asking "Where's the bridge?" Pretty heading off towards Norway in search of trolls - and subsequently looking for balls (canon variety) under Birchens. The inside of many trees in the Park were inspected and life got very interesting when clues to a simultaneous treasure hunt were found. The other organiser had a clue in the Wheatshaf - as if I would!

Thanks to everyone who came, the clearing up team afterwards were great. And thanks especially to Michael who came round the course three times with me beforehand in miserable weather and never complained once. The Players: Harry, Pam & Dave; George & Janet; Uschi & Colin; Jill, Mike & Rosie; Alison & Graham, Mike Wynne; Roger, Phil, Hannah & Tom Larkam; Dave, Jenny & Chloe; Tim Cairns; Chris Radcliffe; Ernie Philips; Dawn & Richard; Rock; Shirley & Molly; Digger (still out); Michael, Emma & Tom Hayes; Emma Gregson & Gail Hodson-Walker; Eileen, Michael & me.

("Ferret" Squires, so named because of his prowess at cricket when he goes in after the rabbits, rather than on account of any affinity with country pursuits, absented himself and attended a protest march in London - Ed.)

Annual General Meeting

This meeting at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook, passed off uneventfully. There were no rule changes or nominations from the club for any offices, and consequently no elections were necessary and the previous year's incumbents were returned unopposed.

A request for a creche on future occasions was received from the floor in stunned silence. One or two old campaigners supplemented the hecklers who had been previously planted amongst the audience lest the event should end prematurely but by and large there was a disquieting air of tolerance and sobriety to the occasion. The officers for 1998-9 are Clive Russell (President), Brian West (Vice President), Michael Hayes (Meets Secretary), Daryl Kirk (Treasurer), Shirley Wainwright (Secretary), Mike Wren (Assistant Secretary), Chuck Hooley (Huts Custodian), Colin Hobday (Hut Booking Secretary), Clive Russell (Newsletter Editor). Rock Hudson, as ordinary committee member, will act as liaison man for the hut sub - committees.

SHORT NOTICES

Found in Geo.Starkey Hut: fruit (eaten), reduced sugar marmalade (ditto, ugh!), tea bags, sugar and a fine pair of boots. Convincing details secure return from RobTresidder (01629 823126).

BRAIN TEASER

Last Month's Problem

A very poor one, my apologies, solved with ease by Rob T. (55 units by simple pro -rata).

March Problem (Ernie Phillips)

(The Russians three sons, concocted by Lewis Carroll). The answer was YVAN. Answers received in order from Chuck Hooley, Reg Squires and Rob Tresidder (again).

Next Edition

I hope to post this on *Friday 29 May It is essential that all material reaches me by Thursday 21 May I look forward to hearing from Keith Gregson (again), Steve Bennet and Shirley Wainwright.*

Clive Russell (Newsletter Editor)
Slate House
Parwich Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1QD
01335 390369

BARMY Competition : Tan-y-Wyddfa : May 9th 1998

Once again the BARMY competition has been scheduled in the mountains of Wales. The object is to demonstrate competence and enjoyment of our game.

Activities will be based on the Welsh Hut beginning at 8:30 and ending at 19:30. The object is to score as many points in the day as possible.

I've tried to give a bonus to encourage old hands to include a newcomer in their team and to show them some of the intricacies of our Welsh surroundings habitat.

Scoring

Points will be awarded to each team member as follows:

- Each foot of ascent : 1 point.
- Each foot on a recorded rock climb : 5 points - 10 points for team members who are climbing the route for the first time.
- Visit to summit (marked on OS map) : 500 points - 1000 points for team members who have not been there before.
- Each crag on which a climb is completed : 500 points.
- Each river or lake in which a swim is taken : 500 points.
- Visit to pub or cafe : 500 points.

It is not necessary for every member of the team to complete every ascent but all climbing must be done in traditional style using ropes and correct belaying techniques.

Penalty points will be deducted as follows:

- Failure to return to the hut by the finish time : 1000 points + 100 points for every minute that the **LAST** member is late.
- Any fall whatsoever on a rock climb : 5000 points.
- Any recourse to mechanical transportation : 5000 points.
- Spilling of beer : 1000 points.

Penalties will apply to **ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM**.

The final score for the team comprises the grand total of points divided by the number of members in the team. Teams of one or less will not be allowed to accumulate climbing points. Additional points may be awarded (or deducted) by the meet organiser during the de-briefing which will occur during Saturday evening.