



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2001

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 4 (Tues) Indoor Meet - Ockbrook
Dec 8/9 Bullstones
Dec 12 (Wed) Black Rocks
Jan 1 (Tues) New Year's Day Walk
Jan 8 (Tues) Indoor Meet - Wirksworth

**Dec 4 (Tue) Royal Oak, Ockbrook,
Indoor Meet Rob Tresidder**

8pm start.

Airlie Anderson, renowned Sheffield climber with many outstanding ascents tucked under her harness will talk on "My life so far". I am particularly hoping she will speak about the first free ascent by a woman of the Brandler-Hasse on the Cima Grande. Maybe some stuff on Yosemite and of course lots of British climbing where she first achieved prominence.

Dec 8/9 Bullstones Dave Jones

Apologies to all for the late notice, but this is an invitation to the 2001 OMC 'Bullstones' meet. This year I've opted for relatively comfy accommodation and not too many miles, but a lot of up and down. The weekend starts in the Padarn Lake Hotel at the eastern end of the high street in Llanberis. As is traditional, we will leave the pub at about 11 p.m., and head for the lay night bivvy. This year's luxury accommodation is a shed at the top end of the slate quarries, one that I used for the same meet a few years ago. It gives quite a lot of protection from the elements, but a bivvy bag of some kind is recommended.

On the Saturday morning we will head up Elidir Fawr and make our way across the Glyders range by whatever route we feel like, heading at the end of the day to the farm at the bottom of 'Little Tryfan'. The farm has a smart

new bunkhouse, with cooking facilities and (traditionalists won't like this) hot showers. Cor! That's where we're staying. On the Sunday we'll make our way back to Llanberis by some means or another.

Interested? Give me a call, please, and get your name down. Hopefully we can co-ordinate lifts for those that need them, and save fuel etc. Call me on 07968 164440, preferably, or try 01773 824279.

**Dec 12 (Wed) Black Rocks
Rob Tresidder.**

The Wednesday before the Wednesday before Christmas could not be earlier this year so masses of time to recover from this traditional occasion before the full horror of Christmas is upon us. This more than any other meet is the occasion NOT to be seen on! The action starts sevenish with a hunt to find a halfway dry piece of rock. When you realise there isn't any, you'll either end up caving in Queen's Parlour Chimney or fighting the slime in Sand Gully. It really is even more fun than I make it sound! Later in the Rising Sun at Middleton. Access on foot is easy via the High Peak Trail. Exit on the left soon after the start of Middleton incline and immediately before the bridge over the Middleton-Wirksworth road. I shall warn "mine host" that we are coming and some may wish to eat a hot meal.

Rob Tresidder 01629 823953

**Jan 1 (Tues) New Year's Day Walk
Clive Russell**

In anticipation of my appointment as leader for this first meet of the year, I thought I had better furnish details in time to catch the December newsletter. There is something of a tendency these days for people to go straight to the pub, (in this context the George at Alstonfield is the

automatic destination by rote), but despite the desire for more dynamic activity, or is it sloth and a desire to sample the fleshpots early, there is surely a case for a traditional, comfortable and scenic stroll along the fine ridges of the limestone countryside on the Staffordshire border, and I propose to offer the time honoured facility for this.

Those of like mind are invited to gather at the cross, in Ilam village (the road junction not the Youth Hostel, 135 503) at 10.45 hrs. There is car parking nearby either in Dovedale car park or for the affluent or National Trust members in the NT car park adjacent to the hall, or if early enough there is some roadside parking in Ilam village itself.

We shall perambulate up Bunster, and along the edge of Dovedale Wood via Twelve Apostles and Air Cottage, descending to Ilam Rock and then up Hall Dale to Stanshope and Alstonfield. It would be presumptuous and futile to attempt to direct the return journey, but if near enough I shall attempt to grasp the collars of any especially inebriated stumblers at hazardous situations on the way back.

May I trespass upon this space to wish a happy bus-pass birthday to my old sparring partner Uschi whom I hope to see scorching the ground ahead of us all on the walk

FUTURE EVENTS

Indoor meets advance notice

All Tuesday at 8 p.m.

8 January Richard Hopkinson Wirksworth
(venue TBA)
(NB This is not the first Tuesday in the month)

5 February Hayes & Bashforth Royal Oak,
Ockbrook

5 March Dick Turnbull Royal Oak, Ockbrook

5/6 Jan 2002 Lagangarbh Meet **Rob Tresidder**

There are still some places left on the Lagangarbh meet. I seem to have got my wires crossed over the fee. It is (of course) £5pppn, so a cheque to me for £10 will secure your place. I shall be contacting those who have paid already in order to furnish a refund unless they were actually booking two places. I have booked the whole of the splendidly situated SMC hut but I do not intend to hang on to this option much after the Black Rocks meet, so if you want to be sure of a place, please book soon. Of course I cannot guarantee perfect conditions for an ascent of SC gully but there is so much to do in Glencoe that this really is a "can't fail" meet.

PAST EVENTS

Tan Yr Wyddfa 10th and 11th November

We almost had it all! There was rock climbing at Tremadog and Gogarth, big boots on wet rock, walking, mountain biking, running, and even slate mining. No snow or ice climbing. 24 people attended: 9 full members, 6 provisionals, and 9 guests – some of whom might be persuaded to cough up & join up! I estimate the average age as 36.

On Saturday it rained first thing, and in central Snowdonia it remained dull and damp all day. The best weather was to be found at Gogarth. Two parties did 'Dream' in dry and pleasant weather, with even a little sunshine – although the rock itself was a bit 'moist' in places. It might have been the enthusiasm of the (much) older and (a little) wiser and Webman, or maybe the calm and confidence of the President and his (very) trusting second that helped this little foursome to drive to Holyhead in very unpromising conditions, when others turned back. However, it paid off with a brilliant day's climbing. Other parties headed for Tremadog, and climbed the ever-popular Christmas Curry by the Micah finish, in apparently damp and dismal conditions. One team put on their big boots for a cold and dripping ascent of the 'Outside Edge' route at Cwm Silyn. Several people walked in high places while other

descended the mines or mountain biked at Coed Yr Brenin.

On Sunday the weather pattern was repeated. One bold team did 'Gogarth', and after a late start, managed to finish with just enough daylight to escape the crag. Two lads climbed Oberon at Tremadog. The top crack was 'just what you want' – cold wet & greasy. Another group spent the day climbing or watching climbing in the slate quarries. Most people went walking. The really fit went running or rode their bikes again.

Saturday night saw the hut full of bodies and the kitchen full of bubbling pots of curry, and rice, with nan breads, samosas, cheese, biscuits and and lots of wine and beer. Reminded me of new year – but without the sprogs! A very convivial evening was had by all – a fitting centre point of a good weekend. I would like to thank everyone who attended and got out on the hill. Special thanks go to the cooks: Kev, Joan, Graham Cooper, and in particular Nick Evans whose samosas delighted everyone. Lets do it again next year.

Tony Howard

Hut Bookings December.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Dec 4/5th	S. Gammon.	6 beds
Dec 7/8th	Slough M.C	16 beds
Dec 14/15th	Derwent M.C.	Whole Hut.
New Year	Oread M.C	Almost full.

HEATHY LEA

Dec 7/8th	G. Shipp Field Study Centre
	Cottage only

Hut fees are being revised for 2002 full details in the next newsletter.

Please note that Colin Hobday will be away most of January in Nepal, from Jan. 5th. until Jan. 28th. Anyone wishing to use the huts at short notice should contact Chuck Hooley.

Please note this list is only correct at time of going to press. All members are advised to check availability with the hut booking secretary (or Chuck Hooley in Jan) before going to either hut.

SHORT NOTICES

Change of Address

The club secretary Steve Bennett is back on line with a new E-mail address :

Steve@AshcroftJoinery.co.uk

Meets List 2002

I have received the final version of the 2002 meets list from Rob Tresidder and this is included with this newsletter.

Committee Posts

There are still three posts vacant at the next AGM at the end of March 2002:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Indoor Meets Organiser

(We have a volunteer for newsletter editor)

If you are interested, please come forward. No previous experience is necessary.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act

The Countryside Agency have published the first two of eight draft maps which define open land where the public has the right of access.

The public has until Feb 11th to comment on the maps, after which date only those with a legal interest in the land can appeal against them.

One of the two maps covers the Peak District.

The maps are available on www.countryside.gov.uk/access/mapping

The Oread Committee urges all members to check their local area.

Apology

I moved house on Nov 16th and it is highly probable that some newsletter contributions have gone astray. My apologies to anyone who has sent a newsletter item by post over the past two weeks - If I get them later by redirected mail I will put them in the Jan newsletter if still relevant. I will have to offer another apology and the same excuse for the lateness of this December edition.

Please note my new address and 'phone number at the end of the newsletter. The E-mail address has not changed.

One casualty of the house move is Daryl Kirk's note on subscriptions. I know that he has to send a list of all members wishing to join the BMC via the Oread to the BMC by Dec 31st (new rule). If you wish to change your BMC status relative to 2001, please let Daryl know Now.

BRAINTEASER

The BMC announced that their supplement for membership would henceforth be seven pounds fifty pence, reducing by one penny for each member affiliating, but with a minimum of four pounds.

An evolving club, already impatient with the establishment, regarded this bit of beurocracy as the fast straw, and decided to cast aside all convention and do their own thing. They sacked all the ageing boondoggles from the hut sub committee and sold the premises, using a road mender's hut instead for temporary shelter and drug taking. They cast aside all traditional garb and wore lycra tights and garish tee shirts with cow dung coloured stripes down the back from mud guard-less mountain bikes, and carried their climbing ironmongery in supermarket bags. As a final act of defiance, they decided that rock climbing should be regarded as an openly competitive sport, and organised a knock out competition, to take place at Gogarth.

An elderly member of mathematical bent, excused the Stalinist purges on account of his feats on the Prom Traverse at Black Rocks, pointed out that the number of first round byes in the competition was exactly twice the amount of the BMC sub in pounds, had they elected to pay it.

How many surviving members had the club?.

NEXT EDITION

For the January edition it is essential that all material reaches me before Sat Dec 29th. (but the earlier the better) I look forward to hearing from **DEREK PIKE** (TYW) and **MICHAEL HAYES** (Scotland).

Articles in the form of Word (.doc) attachments to E-mails are preferred, but floppy discs sent through the post are also welcome. Please note that I cannot read HTML attachments- Please use Word '97 (or earlier) or plain text.

Richard Coghlan (Newsletter Editor)
63 Merlin Way,
Mickleover,
Derby, DE3 5SL
Tel. 01332 512700
richard.coghlan@talk21.com