



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2002

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Jan 5/6	Langangarbh
Jan 8 (Tues)	Indoor Meet - Ockbrook
Jan 19/20	Tan-Yr-Wyddfa
Feb 2/3	Scotland

Jan 5/6 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.

Jan 8 (Tue) The Red Lion, Wirksworth
Indoor Meet Rob Tresidder

8pm start.

NOTE: There will be no indoor meet on New Year's Day. Richard Hopkinson will lecture and show slides a week later in the function room of the Red Lion in Wirksworth. As already announced he will be talking about his recent trip to the Cordillera Blanca.

Jan 19/20 Tan-Yr-Wyddfa Derek Pike

This will be the usual DIY meet, but for the undecided, and depending on the weather, I shall be either leading a walk over and around the hills to a suitable hostelry and back, attempting to ascend a slippery piece of rock, or if winter arrives one of the Trinity gullies.

Anyone interested please see me down the Smithfield or phone me on 01332 670459 to book a place.

Feb 2/3 Scotland Michael Hayes

For the second of this year's winter climbing meets in Scotland I have booked 10 places at the Lairds Bothy in Kingussie.

Within easy reach of the Cairngorm and Creagh Meaghaidh areas there is an endless quantity of things to do and, if we get a repeat of last years superb conditions, who knows we might even have to do some ice climbing! Aladdin Buttress in Sneachda and Milky Way in Lochan are just two of the routes I hope to have a look at.

The bothy in Kingussie, our base for Friday and Saturday evening is well equipped with a pub next door and a take-away across the road. The cost will be £9.00 per night.

If you are interested then book early as places are limited and I need to put down a deposit. If you have already expressed an interest then give me another call as I have probably already forgotten.

Call me on 07771700913 and send me £18 ASAP to book your place.

FUTURE EVENTS

Alterations to Meets List 2002

Rob Tresidder

1. There will be no official Scottish ice meet at half term. Anyone who is planning to take a longer holiday then and would like advice on booking a chalet is advised to contact Richard Hopkinson, Pete Lancaster or Chris Wilson who will be staying in the Spean Valley over the half term break.

2. There will be a joint Oread/Midland Association of Mountaineers meet in Glan Dena beside Llyn Ogwen on the weekend 23/24 February. Meet leader TBA.

Rob Tresidder

PAST EVENTS

The 2001 'Bullstones', Snowdonia

It seems to me that suffering is considered by many to be an essential part of the traditional 'Bullstones' experience. Typically this includes bad weather, bleak and exposed bivvies, and route marches of many miles. My intention this year was to throw out most of the suffering and have a relatively pleasant weekend, due almost entirely to the fact that I didn't fancy planning a grim weekend for myself. The best laid plans are often said to go astray....but in this case it all worked out fine! The weekend started well with Friday night at the Padarn Lake Hotel in Llanberis enlivened by the talents of Ms Dawn Valentine, to whom most of the party warmed after initial criticism of her massacring of sensitive songs. Her attempts to embarrass Oreads by involving them in 'audience participation' failed in one respect, but probably made some people's weekend. We were let out at closing time (not possible before that) and made our way up through the slate quarries to the appointed shed near the top (without getting lost), which was every bit as good as I remembered it. As it was, it was such a dry and relatively mild night that any picc of flat ground would have been okay, but four walls and a roof are always cosier.

The morning brought clear skies, brilliant views (even from the bivvy shed) with superb visibility, and a well-spirited party of Bullstoners. It remained that way all weekend, except that obviously the views weren't quite so good at night (wonderful starry sky, mind you). We went up Elidir Fawr and along the ridge over Y-Garn and the Glyders before the steep descent down to the Williams farm by Little Tryfan. Not far in miles, but it felt like well far enough to us all (I think. Hands up who wanted to go further!?) by the time we finished at dusk, what with all that unnecessary wet weather clothing and thermals to carry, as well as the very necessary food and drink. Unfortunately none of the drink survived the Saturday night, but we all did, many of us upholding the club's great snoring tradition. Apologies also due to all those that didn't take part in the late washing-up choir practise; we certainly need more practise... Sunday saw us taking the shortest route back to Llanberis, walking past a sadly-not-open-on-winter-Sundays Vaynol, in a valley which never thawed out all day, in contrast to the sunlit hills above. As for Saturday, again over-heating was more of a problem than being cold. If we could have weather that good every time we did a weekend of that sort, there'd be scores of people wanting to come. However, it ain't so; this was, as Hereward Tresidder put it, 'payback' for all the grim walks before (and future!). Thanks to all that came along to share in the good fortune-

Steve McDonagh, Steve Bashforth, Mike Hayes, Roy Eyre, Brian West, Pam, Nodge, John Green, Kev Fidler, James Fidler (aged 15!), Hereward Tresidder, Derek Pike, and Yours Truly.

David Jones 16/12/01.

Black Rocks meet 12 December 2001

I thought this was merely my 25th appearance in a row on this meet but Keith Gregson assures me it was not only his as well but also the 25th anniversary of the meet, which was apparently an invention of Nat Allen. On the very first then, in 1977, I had spent all day moving my stuff down from Cumberland to West End and climbed in Hush Puppies with Paul Gardner, before enjoying complimentary pie and peas

courtesy of Alun Jones, the late lamented licensee of The Black's Head in Wirksworth. In 1979 I noted that there were six climbers in Queen's Parlour Chimney all on a single rope and with only two headtorches. In 1980 I climbed with Peter Scott and noted "usual poor attendance - four". The following year Chris Radcliffe and I failed on South Gully (!) before Chris led Pine Tree Gully in true winter conditions. 1982 was "Crowded now. Wet and windy." By 1987 we had started to meet at The Olde Gate in Brassington. After climbing in 1990, I tried to run along the High Peak Trail to Brassington, only to be defeated by deep snow at Harborough. There was ice again in 1991 and "a damp cold evening" in 1992. In 1993, I recorded that "Gwen got Chris R stuck in Fat Man's." By 1995 we were meeting at the Princess Vic in Clock Bath. The following year must have been good because I managed eight routes, but the year after that I fell off trying to reverse Black Crack.

And so to this year, when the cold combined with several dry days before the meet produced excellent climbing conditions. Much was done at a very well attended event. Chris dispatched Birch Tree Variant in fine style, though I think the Sheffield/Burton axis were less successful on Lone Tree Groove. I did three routes with newbie Kevin who followed unhesitatingly on rock he had never seen in daylight! What a way to start and a clear indication that this meet has never been more popular.

Rob Tresidder

Hut Bookings January/February.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

Jan. 4/5th	Polaris M. C.	16 Beds
Jan. 11/12th.	L.M.L.C.	16 Beds
Jan. 18/19th.	Oread Meet	
Jan. 25/27th.	Buxton M. C.	16 Beds

Feb. 1/2nd	Saltley Hill Walking	16 Beds
Feb. 8/9th	Brighton Uni.	16 Beds.
Feb. 15/16th.	Southampton Uni.	16 Beds
Feb. 22/23rd.	Orpheus C. C.	16 Beds

HEATHY LEA

Jan. 18/19th. Kev. Allsobrook Cottage/Barn
 Jan. 25/26 Queen Mary College Cottage

Feb. 8/9th. Oread Meet.

Hut fees for 2002.

Members	£2.50 Per Night.
Guest at T.-Y.-W.	£5.00 Per Night.
Guest at H. L.	£4.00 Per Night.

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.

Some members still have outstanding hut fees from 2001. Please forward to Colin Hobday A.S.A.P.

PLEASE NOTE THAT COLIN HOBDAY
 WILL BE AWAY BETWEEN JANUARY 5TH
 / 28TH.

ANYONE WISHING TO USE THE HUTS AT
 SHORT NOTICE SHOULD CONTACT
 CHUCK HOOLEY TEL. 01335 370463

SHORT NOTICES

Committee Posts

The status at the December committee meeting was that there were 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.

Brainteaser

The answer to last month's brainteaser set by Rob Tresidder is fifty.

Application for membership

Even though Sharon Fletcher has failed to attend this year's Bullstones meet, the committee have decided to turn a blind eye and put her forward for full membership.

The next step in the process is to advertise her application in the newsletter and invite comments from the existing membership as to her suitability. Please address comments to any committee member.

Annual Dinner Speaker

The committee has received an E-mail from Pete Scott which we think ought to be reproduced in the newsletter:

"Is it time we reflected on the necessity of a guest speaker at Oread Mountaineering Club dinners?

Some of us have an attention span less than that of Class IVB last lesson on a Friday afternoon and others have not moved on and accepted that the world (and climbing which is part of that world) has changed since 1949. Thus having invited a guest to our dinner we then (after some mild and quite amusing barracking) proceed to display a spectrum of ill-mannered behaviour which far from putting our guest at ease probably makes him/her (and the more tolerant and welcoming Oreads) wonder why he/she was invited in the first place.

Those few Oreads who made the effort to go up and talk to Roger Payne and Julie-Ann Clyma found them to be an exceedingly charming and personable couple. Roger, having spent 10 years as General Secretary of The BMC the body representing OUR interests in many and various ways, would naturally assume a summary of where we stand and what the future holds for climbers would be of interest; and so it was to the few prepared to listen.

However, perhaps a more suitable alternative for an Oread Club dinner would be to invite a famous personality but a third rate speaker who is prepared to get as drunk as some of the rest of us, tell a couple of smutty jokes and give as good

as they get from the audience.

Or, let the President invite his personal guest (at the expense of The Oread) the latter not obliged to speak.

Or, not have any guests at all and let the President take the flack. Michael handled the mob very well in November.

And another thing; why have the Club dignitaries and guests in a long line facing nobody when they too could be around a table like the rest of us?

Then they could have a number of Oreads with whom to have convivial conversations instead of being stuck with only one person on either flank.

And another thing; are Oreads lined up to keep an eye open in case guests are left standing on their own?

Finally: many thanks to those who organised the meal and the grouped seating arrangement..... excellent, excellent.

Peter Scott"

NEXT EDITION

For the February edition it is essential that all material reaches me before Mon Jan 21st. (note that this is a little earlier than usual) I look forward to hearing from **DARYL KIRK** (Scotland), whomever may want to lead the Heathy Lea meet and **COLIN BARNARD** (Patterdale)

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