



November 2006

Newsletter

Editorial November 2006

The event to be at this month is our annual dinner – there is nothing to beat a “clan gathering” of Oreads eating and drinking together, celebrating the enduring friendship of our club, our passion for mountains and our sense of fun.

The annual dinner is a watershed – the drabness of autumn is waning and the crispness of winter frosts and the Bullstones is within our horizon. And this year we have an additional treat – our Photo Competition, like a phoenix has risen in a digital guise, I hope you can join in as entrants or audience. The event is full of promise.

Forthcoming meets

November	Su 5th	DOVEDALE DASH	ROB TRESID- DER	01629 823953
	Tu 7th	Indoor Meet - Tafroute and Colgne	Richard Hop- kinson	01629-823392
	Tu 14th	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	We 15th	Wirksworth Evening Meet	Wall and Royal Oak Pub	
	Sa 18th	ANNUAL DINNER	Neil Weather- stone	01332 726116
	Su 19th	Post-Prandial	Richard Hop- kinson	01629 823392
	26th	Bleaklow	Brian West	01332 880034
December	Tu 5th	Indoor Meet - Photo Comp	Rob Tressider	01629 823953
	9th & 10th	BULLSTONES	Simon Pape	01629 822450
	Tu 12th	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	We 13th	BLACK ROCKS	ROB TRESID- DER	01629 823953
	We 20th	Wirksworth Evening Meet	Wall and Royal Oak Pub	
	23th & 24th	CHRISTMAS AT TAN-YR- WYDDFA	TBD	
January	M 1	New year's Day	TBD	
	Tu 2nd	Cancelled (Indoor Meet)		
	Tu 9th	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	6th & 7th	Cairngorms - Glenmore YH	James Tubby	
	W 17th	Wirksworth Evening Meet	Wall and Royal Oak Pub	
	20 & 21	Maron Glace	Simon Pape	01629 822450

Meets Secretary Message

1) Draft 2007 Meets List

You will find attached a draft 2007 meets list. There are still some meets which require leaders, so please volunteer yourself or contact me if you have an idea for one of these meets.

2) Annual Dinner

Please keep the cheques and forms coming, remember that they need to be in by the 8th November. Feel free to contact me if you have any queries (01332 726116)

3) Monthly Wednesday Night Meet

At the last committee meeting it was decided to have a monthly Wednesday night meet in Wirksworth. This will consist of climbing at the wall followed by a drink or two in the Royal Oak which is on Harrison Drive, DE4 4FG. It is scheduled for the 'third' Wednesday of each month and will provide a regular social occasion in addition to the slide shows and committee meetings during the winter.

Wharncliffe 29th October: Chris Wilson

This weekend's meet in Yorkshire has had to be rearranged to Sunday only and although in Yorkshire it is not as far north as had originally been intended. It is forecast to be a dry day.

A couple of local guides have been commissioned to show off the many delights that Wharncliffe has to offer. I hope to get there for about 11:30. I suspect that most of us have not been there since the foot and mouth problems in 2001 and with winter about to start now seems an ideal opportunity to compare the indoor wall with the real thing.

Dovedale Dash 11.00 am Sunday 5th November

Sorry not to get this notice into the October newsletter. I'm not sure whether the November edition will precede or follow the Dash, but in any case you all know how to do it! More (especially last minute) from me or on the Dash website — www.dovedaledash.co.uk/

Some interesting photos of the first race in 1952 were added a couple of weeks ago.

AFTER the Dash, please let me have your finish position. There are some obsessives in the club

("you looking at me?") for whom these things are important!! Enjoy your run. Rob Tresidder
Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net / tel: 01629 823953

Indoor meet 8.00 pm Tuesday 7th Novembers

Pete Scott and Richard Hopkinson are doing a digital double act. Definitely not to be missed! Richard will talk on his recent climbing in Colgne, whilst Pete will talk about his exploits in the Tafroute area of Morocco.

Annual Dinner Saturday 18th November

You are cordially invited to the Annual Dinner, to be held in the Arkwright Suite, the Lion Hotel Belper on Saturday 18th November 2006 at 8.00 p.m

Please refer to last month's newsletter for details of the menu and the form which instructs your choice of menu and payment. Please contact me if you have any difficulties with the paperwork. All cheques to be in by 8th November!

Neil Weatherstone
weatherstone@ntlworld.com ; tel 01332 726116

Post Dinner Walk.

Sunday 19th November.

The walk will start from the Carsington Reservoir car park on the Carsington bypass. (GR248528)(NOTE-car parking is free here, but the car park is locked at dusk, there is a sign giving the time at the entrance)

I plan to leave at about 10.30 and we will walk via Brassington and Aldwark to the Hollybush at Grangemill for lunch (They do Sunday roasts, soup and chip cobs, or bring your own sandwiches)

The route back to Carsington will depend on the weather, time and the amount of alcohol consumed.

Please get in touch if you have any queries.

Richard.

Bleaklow: Sunday 26th November

This meet has unavoidably shrunk to a Sunday walk and scramble. With Bullstones looming, one day of this should be enough. We shall meet at SK042947 where the Doctor's Gate track runs into Old Glossop, setting out at 9.30am for a traverse of the Bleaklow climbing grounds: Shelf Benches,

Yellowslacks, Shining Clough, Rollick Stones, Torside and back over Cock Hill in the gathering gloom. For the ill-equipped a useful ploy would be to follow the aeroplanes, eventually to end up in Manchester – or Majorca

Brian West tel 01332 880034

PHOTO COMPETITION Tuesday 5 December 8 p.m. Royal Oak

This will be our first competition for nearly a decade. It will be 100% digital; however if you have shots taken on a conventional film camera, you could have them scanned onto a CD. We will (this time) stick with the tried and tested Oread formula of four categories: aesthetic at home, aesthetic abroad, action at home and action abroad. Some of you will groaningly remember the old “club interest” section. I suppose we shall have to have that as well!! Limit of three entries per category please. All entries on a CD in my hand or via snail-mail. Sadly, I cannot accept entries submitted by email. Please arrange your images in clearly labelled folders appropriate to the category for which they are entered. To get the best fit of image to screen, please re-size your images to 1024 pixels wide for landscape format and 768 pixels high for portrait. This roughly equates to a jpeg file size of 4Mb. If you don't understand any of this, be reassured, I don't either! This is something of a seat of the pants operation: I have received a lot of advice, some of it conflicting, from several different sources. Please write your name on the crystal case or a piece of paper but **do not mark the CD**. This will assist the anonymisation process. Closing date for entries is 24 November. Our judge for the evening will be the professional photographer and former Oread, Richard Freestone. Knowing what he does, he is a brave man who is doing me a great favour!

I believe the old competition died when Oreads stopped taking slides and moved over to prints. The switch to digital by so many climbers now gives us the opportunity to revive this ancient tradition, so come on get inside your computer and sort out your best shots. There is a magnificent trophy at stake.

Rob Tresidder
61 West End
Wirksworth
Derbyshire
DE4 4EG

Bullstones Meet - December 8th - 10th 2007

We shall meet in the Golden Lion in Horton in Ribblesdale on the Friday evening. Parking is available behind the pub, for the small price of £2. After that things will happen in the way they do on the Bullstones, i.e.. probably not according to plan. After sufficient pre-hydration, we may head north along the Pennine Way to find a suitable bivvy site somewhere around Old Ing or Birkwith Moor, or maybe in the woods. From there, along the ridge between Langstrothdale and Littondale. This is unpathed, but it is now access land so we shouldn't have too many problems. Things after that are more vague. Further refreshment may be called for, or we may wish to solo up those easy routes at Kilnsey. Somehow, we will doubtless arrive in Kirby Malham, where we will be sleeping in the Parish Hall (which is next door to the pub). I'm thinking of a more direct route back on the Sunday, over Fountains Fell and Penyghent, returning to the Golden Lion for lunch. Come one, come all. If you've not been on a Bullstones meet before, it's an experience not to be missed. Do get in touch if you've any questions or want to share transport.

Simon Pape
Tel: 01629 822450/07813 616563
Email: Simon.Pape@powergen.co.uk

BLACK ROCKS MEET Wednesday 13 December

Advance notice of the Oread's only official night meet! I intend to go to Black Rocks on the Saturday afternoon before the meet (9 Dec.) for a bit of a clean-up. The crag can become a bit beset by barbecue trays, cans and bottles. It's bound to be wet, cold and greasy on the night; let's try and make sure it isn't filthy as well! I would welcome some help with this.

Please try and contact me beforehand, though of course, casual assistance will also be welcome.
Rob Tresidder
Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net
01629 823953

Reports from afar

Lost World Cave, Waitomo, New Zealand - 15th October 2006

by Steve Christian

Limestone country farmland rolls by the van window, it feels like being at home in Derbyshire. A group of us are heading for the 'Lost World' in the capable hands of local guides. Not being a caver, I have no idea what's ahead. We change in a very large shed into heavy duty wet suits and I start the session well, impressing everybody by putting it on inside out. A quick lesson on how to attach to harness and fixed lines using lanyards allows me to rebuild my image, as I can answer the questions and help other clients. Practice starts in earnest with a scramble down to the abseil platform, 100 metres above the pot bottom, I'm the only client who has abseiled before. On individual ropes we are tethered to the guide at first, until eventually he lets 2 of us go and I am off, easily reaching the bottom first.



It's a long way down into a deep gorge, where a small river runs through it. The banks are wide enough to land on dry ground and we start with dinner, plenty of sandwiches and hot drink to go round, the guides feeding the eels in the river. I eat too much and feel stuffed as we head off upstream into the cave. Easy scrambling over rocks and along bank side gets us into the darkness, with the last glimpse of light for several hours. In front 2 kilometres of underground river to be explored.

The moment of truth soon comes, the only way forward being to wade into the river bed. Its not as cold as I imagined, the wetsuit doing its job, but others whoop and holler as they hit water. For a few hundred metres we wade on firm floor, but the passage narrows and the water deepens, no choice now but to swim or pull your self along by gripping the limestone walls. Its easy enough with good buoyancy from the suit, but the water is cold as it runs into the top of the suit and down the chest for the first time. Occasionally there is a need to cross side streams coming in, which requires a strong launch across the deepness, with the inevitable head wetting. It goes on like this for a long time, stopping often to allow the slower members time to catch up, alternating scrambling, wading and swimming. The ceiling of the cave is mostly very high, with the occasional lowering due to an intricate labyrinth system or massive jammed boulders. It is of course dark, the deep space testing the efficiency of the head torches and noisy from the flow of the river.

We arrive at a fixed hand rope through the cave, just where the cave becomes very narrow with smooth side walls. The flow is faster, there are no side holds and the rope is the only way to make progress hand over hand. The guides sprint ahead to set a belay for crossing 'The Cauldron' but I am right behind them. The Cauldron is a smooth bowl in the cave where the aerated water swirls and thrashes its way through. Aerated water is not buoyant and can't be breathed so its important not to get trapped in the bottom. One by one we are top roped across the waters, back and footing across the gap on glass smooth rock. There are no mishaps, though the wait is too long, and we continue to the waterfall pitch. There's a galvanized steel ladder up this section, about 10 metres in all, but we are offered the option of climbing the fall with a jump into the depths. We take the gauntlet and its hard work bridging the sides on smooth slopers with the water rushing into the face. There are a few failures who finally take the ladder, but then comes the jump of several metres into the depths. The guide lights the spot to land and yep the full immersion is wet, but you soon come bobbing up like a cork. A brief chocolate bar stop and we are 'about half way' and feelings of sufficient adventure for today are creeping in. In reality the second half is mostly

wading and scrambling. The finale is a stop in the dark, lights turned off, to look at the glow worm display, which is good. Within a few hundred metres we are out and on the river bank, with just a 20 minute walk through limestone dales between us, the shed, a hot shower and a barbeque of fresh Aberdeen Angus steak, sausages and salad. I knew the guides would come into their own eventually.

Membership Renewals for 2007

Your subscriptions for 2007 will soon become due. The rates have been held at this year's level and so represent even better value for money than ever:

Full Member	£26.00
Family	£39.00
Senior Member	£13.00
Senior Family	£19.50
Prospective Member	£13.00

It would be appreciated if you could please renew in good time before I have to send you a reminder!

Please send payments by cheque, payable to Oread Mountaineering Club, to

Reuben Dakin
14 New Street
Little Eaton
Derby DE21 5AF

If you prefer to pay by bank transfer, the Oread bank account details are:
Sort code is 05-04-07 and the account number is 45028744 (Yorkshire bank).

Please let me know if you have paid by bank transfer; otherwise your money may disappear into the pot without a trace!

If you have any queries regarding your renewal, please contact me at reuben@signet-solutions.com or on 01332 834543.

Many thanks,

Reuben

Proposals for the Malcolm Padley Legacy

The Malcolm Padley Legacy of about £19,000.00 was left to the Oread to be used "for the Maintenance of the Welsh Hut". This has prompted many merited ideas and intense debate with no conclusion.

The committee invites the membership to bring forward suggestions at the forthcoming AGM for the use of the legacy in keeping with the donor's wishes.

In order to promote informed contributions by all members leading towards a well supported decision, written proposals from members will be distributed to the membership for consideration prior to the AGM. Remember that your proposal will be considered by a critical membership! It will be better received if it is clear and concise, states its aims and benefits, includes any relevant sketch plan, or rough estimate of costs, and considers potential obstacles.

Proposals should be delivered to the secretary three weeks before the AGM to ensure distribution to the membership prior to the AGM

The offer to distribute copies of proposals prior to the AGM will not affect the constitutional process by which any proposal can be raised at the AGM; it is solely to give members time to think about the benefits of the proposed idea.

The committee wants an open debate and the above approach seeks to avoid any endorsement or censure of members' proposals by the committee.

Reuben Dakin

HUT BOOKINGS NOVEMBER 2006

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

NOV. 5th -11th	K & M Sarson
NOV. 17-18th	Mercian C C 16 beds
NOV. 24-25th	King Edward School (to be confirmed)
DEC. 1-2nd	vacant

HEATHY LEA

NOV. 10-11TH.	D Helliwell cottage and barn
NOV. 17-18th.	Polaris MC cottage.
NOV. 24-25th	Liverpool Uni. cottage and barn.

Reports from past meets

There are no meet reports this month. I hope Tony will tell us something of the Curry Meet and what

adventures were had on what was from verbal reports a better than average weekend in terms of its weather.

Future newsletters - call for reports and notices of meets

I shall be away between Christmas and New Year, so I intend to produce a double month Newsletter to cover December and January.

Please send me all articles, notices of future meets and reports of past meets by 22 November.

In particular I would like to receive reports from Richard Hopkinson on the post dinner walk, Rob Tresidder on the Dovedale Dash, and Brian West on the Bleaklow meet; and notices of future meets from Simon Pape and James Tubby.

Please make sure any photos you want to compete for the cover of the Annual Dinner Menu are sent to Neil Weatherstone.

Notes from the October committee meeting

There was a proposal by R.Dakin and seconded by D.Pike that there should be a post climbing wall meet in the Royal Oak at Wirksworth on the third Wednesday of the month at 2130 hrs. This proposal was carried unanimously by the Committee.

A suggestion was made that perhaps members attending climbing wall venues would be prepared to wear a Tee Shirt with the Club's name printed on it. R.Tresidder is to look into the cost and availability of the necessary Tee Shirts.

R.Tresidder has invited Richard Freestone to judge the Photo competition.

R.Dakin has volunteered to provide a digital projector for this occasion.

Jane Tresidder is in the process of producing a draft Child Protection Policy for the Committee's consideration.

Bookings are O.K. for T.Y.W. but are a bit thin for Heathy Lea.

The Hut Sub-committee reported that the new vacuum cleaner at T.Y.W has been damaged. The next meeting of the H.S.C. will take place around about the 17th October.

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Editor: Stephen Bashforth, Mayfield, Station Road, Kirby Muxloe., Leicester
e-mail: stephen.bashforth@btinternet.com

The Meets Secretary requested that a note appear in the next Newsletter asking for meet leaders for next year's meets.

Newsletter Editor received a request for a larger print version of the membership list.

A note is to go into the Newsletter asking for ideas for the proposed Club Journal.

Large print version of the membership list.

The size of typeface was determined by the need to print on a small number of pages to keep print and postage costs down. (The electronic version can be viewed at any size).

If any member requires a larger print, they could photocopy at 131% and take A4 pages to A3 size, or they can provide me with a pre-addressed stamped A4 size envelope for 100g weight of material, and I will send them a copy of the membership list at A3 size. This will incur photocopying charges which the club will have to bear for your benefit.

Oread Journal.

So far I have had few photos from meets and the write-ups have been brief. If there were more photos and longer write-ups these could form the basis of an (Annual) Journal. Please send in your views about a Journal and what content might be appropriate. I would be willing to edit a Journal in 12 months time so long as a supply of appropriate articles and photos were be available.

Please let me have your thoughts.

Stephen