



September 2006 Newsletter

Editorial September 2006

Hi! The first newsletter after a summer in the Alps has an Autumn feel to it because we see the reports of good Summer meets, and our traditional venture to Pembroke over the late Summer holiday is reported in pictures ... but no words: I'm waiting for the spirit to move upon the fingers (or keyboard) of Derek (featured in the photos) for his well penned or pressed words.

This month we have several reports from the meet in Heiligenblut; accompanied by a few thumbnail photos. Before long we will be delighting in the conviviality of the Annual Dinner – please support Neil and Tracey Weatherstone by booking early and remembering your menu choice once made.

Forthcoming meets

September	2nd & 3rd	no meet		
	9th & 10th	no meet		
	16th & 17th	Heathy Lea	leader required	
	20th	last Wednesday evening meet	Simon Pape	
	23rd & 24th	no meet		
	30th & 1st Oct	South Pennines	Stuart Firth	
October	3rd	First Indoor meet at Royal Oack, Ockbrook	Tim Cairns	
	10th	committee meeting		
	14th & 15th	Tan-yr-Wyddfa - Curry meet	Tony Howard	
	21st & 22nd	Autumn Amble		
	28th & 29th	Yorkshire	Chris Wilson	
November	7th	INdoor meet - Tafroute and Colgne	Richard Hopkinson	
	11th & 12th	no meet		
	14th	committee meeting		
	18th	Annual Dinner	Neil Weatherstone	
	19th	Post Dinner walk	Richard Hopkinson	
	25th & 26th	away- somewhere	Brian West	

Meets Secretary Message

I'm currently compiling the 2007 Meets list and would like Oreads who want to lead a meet to contact me (weatherstone@ntlworld.com or 01332 726116). Some people have already arranged 2007 meets with Rob T, so no need to contact me about these.

Curry Meet - September 20th

This has become the traditional end-of-summer-climbing meet. This year we can also celebrate the start of 8 Christian free months (although I'm sure he will make his presence known, even from the other side of the world). I intend booking a table at the Matlock Bath Balti for about 8.00 pm. This should allow a route (or maybe even two) to be climbed on one of the Matlock crags before eating. Please let me know if you're coming so I can tell the Balti house numbers.

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

Indoor meets 2006 – 2007 series Tim Cairns.

I've managed to get 4 speakers for the winter indoor meets so far; with no speaker for October I have pulled together a series of slides from some of my own recent climbing trips – I'm sure you will find the evening entertaining and informative about less frequented regions. I'm still looking for a volunteer to talk at our January meet. I know Tony Howard went to Norway this summer, and Chris Radcliffe went to the Alps and did some good routes – are there any volunteers?

The programme so far is

3rd October Tim Cairns:

Recent rock climbing expeditions

7th November: Richard Hopkinson

Climbing in the Tafroute area of Morocco; ice in Colgne

5th December: Rob Tressider

A Digital and Film Photo Competition

2nd January: to be decided

6th February: Rock (John) Hudson

Butterfly Mountains

6th March: Rob Van Beek

Mountains and their use in Art

This is my last year of organizing the indoor meets – so I would like someone to volunteer to take over the role – a good intro would be for that someone to organize the January meet ! Please let me and the committee know if you are interested in running the indoor meets.

Reports from past meets

Wasdale/Eskdale August 11th-13th

What a fiasco! First, the editor's deliberate mistake, assigning this meet to Roger Larkam. Everyone seemed to spot that - no-one could believe he was 40! Then the problems over the campsite. The chosen location was fully booked the weekend before the meet - and very few Oreads think that far in advance. A replacement campsite was chosen. This one didn't accept bookings but didn't think we would have a problem. It was full by 2.00 pm on the Friday. By the time anyone from the Oread reached the Lake District, every campsite in Eskdale and Wasdale was full. Thankfully, Steve

found a site out on the main road at Gosforth. It was relatively quiet and empty and would accept a group of us, providing we weren't too rowdy. Luckily almost everyone else had found the same site, apart from the organised nymphs who were enjoying the crowds in Nether Wasdale.

Saturday was fine, but with a chill northerly wind. The Gosforth contingent decided Esk Buttress would provide the desired combination of long routes and shelter from the wind. Various parties tackled Square Chimney, Medusa Wall, Red Edge, Black Sunday and Gargoyle Direct and enjoyed watching a cream team on the Cumbrian (E5 6a, with a rucksack!). Eventually time got the better off us - we were due to eat in Gosforth at 8 - so we rushed down, only to discover that a flat walk-in takes almost as long to walk-out. The lateness of the hour provided all the excuse Mike needed to drive his Z4 incredibly fast down the narrow lanes (with walls he couldn't see over).

The Wasdale contingent, having no mobile phone signals, made their own plans. Roland, Angela and Dave tackled various extremes on Buckbarrow, whilst Malcolm and Francis headed up for an adventure on Scafell Pinnacle. They set off up Moss Ledge Route and Jones' Direct. All went well for three pitches, when they dropped the guidebook (actually Malcolm dropped it, but this is his version of the story). They carried on up, following the likely (and correct) line to the summit of the pinnacle without too many problems. They came across some abseil tat above a gully, and without the guidebook, they set up an abseil and descended a full 50m into the gully. Then they discovered that the ropes were jammed and no amount of pulling would free them. Given the lateness of the hour and the amount of descent remaining, they decided to abandon the ropes, along with the guidebook. I guess Malcolm just wanted an excuse to go gear shopping!

The rest of us (except for Roland, Angela and Dave, who didn't want to drive anywhere) meanwhile were enjoying a fantastic meal in the Globe in Gosforth. Lovely food and good beer in an almost empty pub. Highly recommended to anyone looking for a quiet evening away from the normal Lake District pubs. Malcolm and Francis eventu-

ally turned up for a drink, having extracated themselves from Scafell and found a phone signal.

Most of us went to Wallowbarrow on Sunday. Mike had never climbed there, so that seemed as good a reason as any, and I was feeling a little fragile, now I was 40. Malcolm and Francis were feeling tired after their adventure (and they no longer had any ropes), so they just went for a pub lunch. Roland, Angela and Dave went bolt-clipping at St Bees Head, whilst Sally went for a walk in Langdale.

Thanks to all who came, apologies if you turned up and we missed you.



Alpine meet Heiligenblut Our Ascent to the “Top of Austria” the Grossglockner: John Green

Nick Moyes, Richard Hopkinson and I were having a leisurely walk to the Gossnitzfall waterfall in glorious sunshine, when up ran Jane Tressider (on her daily run round the mountains!) to tell us everyone had decided to go for the mountain today, as the weather forecast had changed for the worse. Decisions were taken, Nick and I decided to “go for it” that same Sunday.

After much rushing about we collected together our necessary gear, food etc and set off in the car to the Glocknerhaus, our starting point. A little time was lost due to our not knowing that a track existed down to the start of the dam, a big saving on the return journey, so Nick went to move the car and I ferried the two sacks down to the road to save time. We had booked ourselves into the Salmhutte for a meal that was to be served at 19.00, so speed was essential! The walk to the hutte passed a range of beautiful flowers that included Austria’s special emblem, the Edelweiss. We also saw a number of cheeky Marmots!

The following morning we set out to attempt the summit from the hutte, hoping energy and time would allow us to complete this. A couple of Austrian climbers accompanied us on the first part of the climb which was quite interesting due to the long “via Ferrata” section to get the route onto the glacier, what was left of it. Donning crampons we quickly moved on to the Erzherzog-Johann-Hutte at 3454 mtrs. The ascent proper began here, following a much used trail to the bottom of a 45° snow/ice slope. Climbing up this was good, but its reversal in descent, was absolute chaos due to crowds of people, mud, and slushy snow. The rock climb to the summit from the top of the snow slope, was done in wet misty conditions, not helped again by the large number of guides and climbers doing the same thing. We arrived on the summit at 3798 mtrs, took the obligatory photos and descended back to the Erzherzog-Johann-Hutte, being passed by many other Oreads who had taken different routes to the same place.

The weather was not improving and we took the decision to continue the descent, back passed the Salmhutte, to the car in one go. We counted 32 individual Marmots on the way down.

This route was much longer than the Studlhutte route but was great fun, apart from the farce at the top of the snow. We started out at 04.30 and

returned at 18.30 quite a long tiring day!

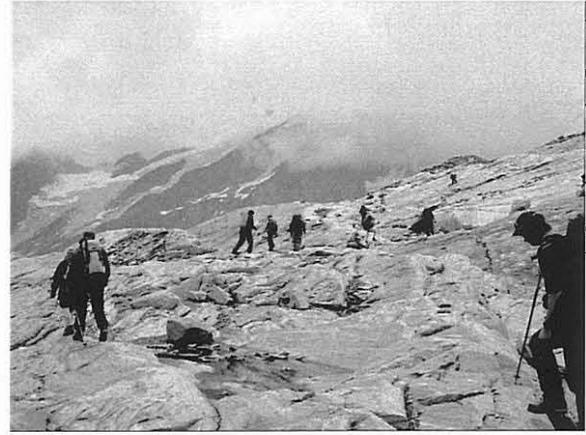
A day with the speedies: Rob Tresid-der

This was only ever going to be a day snatched between others of rain and storms. Over indulgence at the 5 star buffet the night before and the 3 am piss in the pouring rain was not encouraging. We were installed cosily in the loft of the winter room at the Stüdl hut to the South of the Grossglockner. At our breakfast at 5.00 am one could begin to believe that skies were clearing and so three of us headed for the Stüdlgrat. We progressed through the rituals of stumbling out of the hut and onto the glacier and then the climb on enjoyable and easy rock to the foot of the ridge where roped-up. One rope left in the sack (mine, grrr...), the other tied to Mike in front, Peter in the middle and me at the back. Was I holding the presidential reins of power or were these to prove to be a marionette's strings? The pace from the start was furious. I was struggling to keep up with an accomplished pair whose skills had been honed together on scores of routes. The guide in the office had told me "viele Haben" and so indeed there were but few got clipped. The guide had also said it was 90% "zusammen klettern" As we swung from one solid jug to another I longed for a pitch to give respite. We seemed to be passing parties most of the time and were only once held up at a narrows, and then we were at the summit. The cross and the crowds were there, and the realisation that this had been a 100% route.

Birthdays in Austria (all?) the President's men - and women, children and grandchildren!

Going to the Alps to climb is always a joy and celebrating a successful ascent and descent has often been cause for a celebration. Birthdays in the Alps are also a cause for celebration. This year there were 3 birthdays that were celebrated – Charlotte's on 29 July, Toms on 2 Aug, and Ute's.

Some days before Charlotte's birthday Mike had taken his family up the Wasserfallminkel glacier to the Oberwalderhutte proving that the ascent was not too difficult for children in boots or trainers. Charlotte wanted to go to a mountain hut, and in the mysterious way that good ideas gain a momentum of their own, the plan was set for a mass ascent to the Oberwalderhutte on Friday 28th July with the hope of good weather and an ascent of the Johan-



nis-berg on the Saturday. We

drove up to the Franz Josef Haus and met up by the big boat – a sculptured boat set in the pedestrian area. We walked up through the tunnels which were a multi-sensual delight water flows constructed to made sounds and a range various lightings were enjoyed. Once out of the tunnels we were exposed to the elements, and just before the start of the glacier snout proper, we sheltered in a hut to eat our (late) lunches.

During the ascent of the glacier the weather worsened into hail. The desire to keep up with the "big ones" was strong enough motivation to keep the little ones moving despite coats which didn't keep all the weather out. Once in the hut the children were dried off and provided with dry clothes from



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members' sacs. Mobile phones and text messages had persuaded Chiz and Reu to stay up at the hut and await our arrival to make the party a 24 strong team – which included Rob and Jane, Sally, Gwen and Ian and Peter of but 6 months old. A large dessert called a Kaiser...thing..(a type of pancake) filled little tummies and got the children warm. We all enjoyed a good evening meal in our own dining room before retiring to bed in one large dormitory full of Oreads, except for the Tresidders, who had

their own room so that should Peter wake as few as possible a number of people would be disturbed.

The weather had been mixed, and Saturday broke with rain, so the Oreads slept well rose late and enjoyed a good breakfast before setting out to descend the glacier and back to the campsite. Charlotte enjoyed her birthday and the night in the hut.

A few days later it was Tom's birthday – and Mike and Helen arranged to go rafting down the River Isel from Messier-Alnet. There were two groups – one which had a longer journey called rock and roll, our journey was just “sport”.

Our initiation was to jump into the fast flowing river wearing wet suits and a buoyancy aide and swim to the shore – it got one wet and in the right frame of mind.



The day was good fun and the weather was good – warm, sunny and a little cloud, though later the weather broke into rain.

Address to the Oread MC, Tuesday 7 March 2006

During the transition from past to current Newsletter Editor this note from Bob Pettigrew did not appear in the newsletter - every contribution is welcome, and I hope the hiatus does not detract from its value. Editor.

Bob Pettigrew, himself one of two former presidents of the both the Oread Mountaineering Club and of the British Mountaineering Council (the other being Sir Jack Longland), submitted this record for the Oread Newsletter. It is offered belatedly for the historical record.

So far as i am aware this is an historic occasion, as well as a very entertaining evening. I believe

that it is the first time in Oread history that the club has been addressed by a serving president of the British Mountaineering Council – to which the club as been affiliated since its foundation in 1949, only five years after the foundation of the BMC itself. Mark is the great nephew of one of the most distinguished alpinists of all time – Hermann Woolley president of the Alpine Club 1908-1910, and also a Mancunian who made the first ascent of the NW arete of the Gross Fiescherhorn, 3,970 m. In 1887. When Mark eventually repeated the route and swung out on the

1,000 m. sheer face above Grindelwald, he was distinctly impressed by his great uncle's nerve. With that to live up to, Mark has climbed hard in every continent epitomised by his successful ascent of Shisapangma, 8,027 m. He also reached 7,000 m. On the North ridge of Everest.

Mark has worked in Antarctica (where he is remembered for a fine painting of the famous Halley base), and in the Peak National Park. He is the founder of the climbing gear companies of Wild Country, Outside, and the famous Foundry at Sheffield. He will be forever associated with “Friends” which I once described as a “swivelling, jamming, belaying cam”. It was his association with Ray Jardine which led to his marketing “Friends” through Wild Country in 1977 – thus inaugurating the greatest advance in belaying techniques since our own Ernie Phillips utilised six inch nails for the same purpose.

Apart from his stewardship of the BMC, his latest success story is his British mountain map of the Lake District in indestructible plastic, 1:40,000 in scale which has conclusively demonstrated his unerring instinct for correctly identifying and then satisfying the technical needs of mountaineers and hillwalkers.

The following notice came from the BMC. As we review our handbook and club rules discussion of this paragraph from the BMC may be advised by the Committee

RE: BMC, AMENDMENT / ADDITION TO CLUB RULES,

In the event that the Members resolve that the Club shall affiliate to the BMC, the Members acknowledge and agree that they will become Club Members of the BMC and that the Club shall pay the appropriate subscription on behalf of each Member

included in the returned filed by the Club with the BMC, and, in the event of the BMC being wound up, shall pay the sum of not more than £1 on behalf of each Member included in a return filed by the Club with the BMC at any time within the preceding period of one year pursuant to the guarantee comprised in clause 6 of the Memorandum of Association of the BMC. The Members further acknowledge and agree that upon the Club being affiliated to the BMC and each becoming a Club member of the BMC that they will each be bound by the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the BMC.

22 April 2006

For Next Month's newsletter

I would like to hear from

- Derek Pike - on the Pembroke meet
- Simon Pape on the last of the "official" Wednesday Evening Climbing
- Stuart Firth's meet occurs across the week-end in which I intend to publish the next newsletter - so his article on the meet in the South Pennines will necessarily appear in the November issue.

For next months issue please send me your articles, letters and other items for publication by 22 September. I intend to issue the newsletter electronically on 30th September, and in print on Oct. 3rd.



Porth Clais - in pictures Coutesy of Chiz Dakin.



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