



# July-August 2007 Newsletter

## Editorial July 2007

Although the summer has been very wet to date, true to form we have been resourceful and opportunistic grabbing dry days where we can and climbing walls when it has been wet. The Summer Alps meet is imminent and I hope those going enjoy the limestone of the Dolomites. I look forward to a plethora of reports from meets and excursions both official and impromptu.

## Forthcoming meets

July	7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lake District Pillar meet (Black Sail YH)	John Green	01332-832101
	10 <sup>th</sup>	C'ttee Meeting - The Smithfield		
	22 <sup>rd</sup> et seq	Alpine meet, Dolomites	Simon Pape	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup>	Golden Oldies: T-y-W	Keith Gregson	01332 792147
August	25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup>	North Pembrokeshire	Keith Gregson	01332 792147

### Black Sail Meet – July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2007 - update

Stuart and Andrea Haywood cannot now go on the Black Sail Meet. If anyone would like to come instead, please ring 01332823101 ASAP. Many thanks and regards, John

### Dolomites Meet - July 21<sup>st</sup>-August 4<sup>th</sup>

Spaces are booked on Camping Rocchetta in Cortina. If you have already told me that you're coming, you should have received an e-mail asking you to confirm your arrival and departure dates. If you haven't received this e-mail, or you haven't told me that you want to come, please get in touch.. Thanks, Simon / Telephone 07813 616563 / Email [simon.pape@powergen.co.uk](mailto:simon.pape@powergen.co.uk)

### Curry Meet – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

As has become traditional, we're planning to go to the Matlock Bath Balti for a curry to mark the end of evening cragging. The only difference this year seems to be that evening cragging hasn't started due to the rain. As in previous years, my plan will be for a quick route on Wild Cat (or maybe Willersley, High Tor or Black Rocks), maybe a sneaky beer in the County and Station before going to the curry house for about 8. If you want to come along, please let me know so I can book enough places.

Simon Pape / [simon.pape@powergen.co.uk](mailto:simon.pape@powergen.co.uk) / Tel 01629 822450/ mob 07813 616563

### Ice Climbing – January 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2008

We tried it this year – a cheap flight to the continent for a weekend's guaranteed ice climbing. It didn't work – there was no ice to be had in Europe in January (except maybe on the Ben). On the principle that lightning doesn't strike twice, I'm planning to try again next year. We could go back to Trient and see what it looks like when it's covered in snow. We could head off to Rjukan in Norway for the easy access Stange experience. Maybe we'll go somewhere else. If you're interested in coming, please let me know - I'll be looking to book the flights as soon as they become available for the cheapest costs.

Simon Pape / [simon.pape@powergen.co.uk](mailto:simon.pape@powergen.co.uk) / 01629 822450/07813 616563

### Lundy.

There are still two places remaining for the trip to Lundy island between the dates of 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. If you are interested in going please contact me on 01332 670459 or e-mail to [derek.pike1234@virgin.net](mailto:derek.pike1234@virgin.net).

## DOOR GUARD EQUIPMENT AT THE WELSH HUT

There have been some misunderstandings and minor technical problems with the "Dorgard" equipment to a point where it is generally in disrepute. We believe that the technical problems have now been resolved and that the holding devices should now function reliably, bearing in mind the following points.

The door units are mechanical devices; the battery operated microprocessor control is intended to release them when it 'hears' the fire alarm. It can mistake other noises (e.g. a vacuum cleaner) for the alarm.

The way to lock the doors open is to hold them open against their stop and firmly press the plunger vertically downward with a foot, then gently try the door towards closure to check that it has locked open.

The way to release the doors is to gently ease the plunger towards the door as indicated by the arrow, it will then spring up and release.

Note the unit on the door to the washrooms is fitted at the top. It is therefore hand operated but the principle is the same.

### Fault conditions

The unit will 'bleep' if it is defective i.e. has developed an internal fault of some kind.

1. The door plunger has not released on receiving a closure signal i.e. it has stuck down for some reason.
2. The battery is approaching its usable life (at least one year).

### There are two operational points to note.

1. If a battery is changed or removed and refitted the unit will self test twelve hours later. Obviously the time of change is important in order that the self-test occurs at a sensible time i.e. not in the middle of the night. The test is preceded by a gentle bleeping and involves closing all the fire doors.
2. After the initial self-test of twelve hours the unit will go into an every seven days self test regime.

In the near future it is intended to replace all batteries at 21.00 on a Thursday. The units will then self test at 9.00 on Friday and thereafter at this time each week. This will ensure that self-

test occurs at a sensible time and gives us the maximum time with the doors open for ventilation purposes. It is intended to repeat the battery changes annually.

In future please do not open battery compartments for any reason. If a unit is continuously bleeping first contact the Hut Warden to describe the circumstances and obtain advice.

We must know exactly what is happening, as this equipment is part of a safety system.

Hut Sub-committee.

## Reports from Past Meets.

### Golden Oldies July 26<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> 2007 - T-yr-W - Keith Gregson

I'm still not old enough, but I've nearly finished my apprenticeship! And the Meets Sec. is still short on volunteers so you'll have to put up with me. I intend to go to Wales on Thursday and make a long weekend of it, so feel free to join me early. **Please note that we can not use Tan-yr-Wyddfa before the 26<sup>th</sup>** because it is booked out to another group.

Possible activities will be: walking over Craigiau Gleison (Carneddau) because I've still never been there, walking back from Llanberis over Moel Eilio etc. because it's there; and climbing in the Moelwyns or at the secret crag near Croesor (its got holds that you can't see your face in) because the climbing is fun.

Of course, if you don't like any of those we could hold long discussions and decide on other schemes, like installing a hot tub, a wind turbine, solar heating, or nuclear power. Alternatively we could discuss the finer points of life with Graham in the Cwellyn, or simply relax in Beddgelert.

Whatever, it's an opportunity to meet up and do something so I look forward to good company. For beds etc. give me a ring on 792147.

### September newsletter: Call for notices and reports of meets

Please send me all articles, notices of future meets and reports of past meets by  
28 August 2007.

## **From the committee meeting.**

C.Hobday has written to the parties concerned over the incident with the dog at T.Y.W. suggesting that they write to the Oread to apologise, this they have now done and the incident is now closed.

The membership secretary reported that only two members have not renewed their membership for the year, Graham Bowers and Ian Tucker. The secretary is to speak to Ian Tucker about this as he is a long standing member of the Club as we would hope he will continue his membership.

The Hutty Sub-committee reported that the bookings for T.Y.W. are healthy but those for Heathy Lea are very flat. There will be a working party at Heathy Lea on the weekend 30<sup>th</sup> June. A discussion on Heathy Lea then ensued with S.Christian pointing out that the new fire regulations are now in force. Making the cottage safe is fairly straight forward but the barn could well be another matter and expensive.

There will be a sub committee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. S.Pape suggested it is time to think about next years budget

## **Guides from the BMC**

### **Peak Limestone – Wye Valley**

*A two-part behemoth that covers, amongst other routes, Behemoth.*

A definitive guide to the limestone crags along the banks of the River Wye, in the Buxton area of the Peak District. The guide covers both sport and traditional climbs in the three main areas – Chee Dale, Miller's Dale and Water-cum-Jolly – and also comes with a separate volume covering the rich history of the area.

*Crags covered: Long Wall, Two Tier, Blackwell Halt, The Embankment, Max Wall, The Cornice, Chee Tor, Plum Buttress, Raven Tor, Rubicon Wall, Central Wall*

First published 1999; 540 pages, 2 colour with full-colour action pictures; 1,700 climbs, limestone traditional routes, limestone sport routes

### **Burbage, Millstone and Beyond**

*From Bamford to Banff, the award-winning guide that will bring a smile to your face.*

A definitive guide to the gritstone edges near the city of Sheffield, covering routes and bouldering. An award-winning guide that combines exhaustive

research and detailed information with inspiration and entertainment, as well as great historical information.

*Crags covered: Burbage Valley, Higgarr Tor, Millstone, Lawrencefield, Rivelin, Bamford, Derwent Edge, Wharncliffe, Agden Rocher, Stannington Ruffs*

First published 2006; 388 pages, full colour throughout; 3,000 climbs, gritstone traditional routes, gritstone bouldering.

### **From Horseshoe to Harpur Hill**

*Gary's Quality Kwarries.*

A guide covering mid-grade sport climbs in the Buxton and Matlock areas, with routes mainly in the F6a to F7a grade range.

*Crags covered: Horseshoe, Hall Dale, Intake, Devonshire Buttress, Blatant Buttress, Blackwell Halt, Smalldale, Harpur Hill*

First Published 2004; 144 pages, full colour throughout; 750 climbs, limestone sport routes.

## Proper Trad

I'd fancied this route ever since I bought Ken Wilson's bumper book of fun 20 years ago. I wasn't sure then if I'd ever be good enough to do it, and peering into Great Zawn trying to make out the line I wasn't too sure now. Dave had been sitting around waiting for a few hours so he had the access stuff all sorted. He'd got a plan for later too, so I was going to get the crux pitch. Oh good. We scrambled over Commando Ridge, ignoring the curious glances of the teams on the ridge. Dave vanished down a rabbit track through the rocks to rig the abseil. Geared up, I set off. Ten feet from the deck I glanced down as the ground disappeared under a foaming tumult. I stopped and scowled up accusingly. Dave had ducked out of sight. I untied my prussic with one hand, dropped the remaining few feet to the ground in between waves and legged it. Dry - result, things are looking up!

I wandered over to check out the approach while Dave joined me. Hang on, I thought I had the crux pitch. The crevasse jump looked decidedly exciting. The other side of a five foot gap was a slopey ledge about 18 inches wide. At the bottom of a very deep hole the sea boiled furiously. But if Dave was belaying the first pitch that meant he had to go first, didn't it? I was starting to like this adventure. I don't know if I had my eyes shut when I took off for my flying leap, but I certainly did when I landed.

When I had my heart rate back to a reasonable level and Dave was belayed to most of the mountain I took a look at my pitch. Since most of it was out of sight above a narrow roof I couldn't get too intimidated by it. I set off. The starting groove gave steep but honest climbing with decent gear.

About this time in the story that roof became a bit more prominent. Cramped up underneath it, it didn't look quite so narrow now. And I couldn't see any holds. And the in situ gear simultaneously blocked the best placements and looked far too rotten to hold a fall. I clipped it anyway and backed it up with lots of cams. Here goes then. Dave was snapping away with the camera below as I swung out. My fingers made contact with the edge of a good crack but my feet were still dragging below the roof. That had better be a jug. It was, I was up. A roar of relief and a couple of bomber wires made me feel a lot better. There was still some tricky face climbing and a very precarious manoeuvre to get onto the belay before this pitch was over.

Oh yes, the belay. About six inches by twelve inches. And it slopes. And the whole giant flake seems hollow. Having filled every available crack with gear I dangled my backside over the waves and yelled down to Dave.

A few minutes later I could see Dave's helmet at the overlap. (Funny how they're roofs when you're below them and overlaps when you're above them, isn't it?) Dave's wingspan isn't as big as mine and the move across the roof was obviously going to be desperate for him.

No worries, he just climbs as if he's got long arms. He pulled over with satisfyingly bulging eyeballs and joined me at the stance. I don't think his eyeballs returned to normal size until he had laced the overhanging crack of the second pitch with lots of runners. The ropes ran out steadily and eventually I heard the cry to follow. There were more steep moves in an outrageous position before it relents a little. Then it started to rain - perhaps I had better get a move on. It's a good job Dave is at the top. I joined Dave on a small stance fifteen feet from what I was really starting to hope was the top. "Rope drag?" I enquired as to why he'd stopped.

"Er, yes." Dave seemed unsure. I grabbed some gear and climbed up ten feet to where the crack emerged onto easy ground. I was now eye to eye with an angry looking fulmar. That's why he stopped! I ducked for cover, narrowly avoiding the contents of the fulmar. This was more alarming than the route. Eventually the foul thing flew off, but not before I'd added a new alternative finish (The Fulmar Variation?)

There was the obligatory hundred feet of rubble and jungle bashing to get back to the safety of Commando Ridge. We shook hands. "Proper trad," I said.

He smiled; it felt like tea-time.

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