

November 2007 Newsletter

Editorial

The weather has changed to be very autumnal, and though some of us still get out on the crags at weekends, I sense that this is a delight shared by the few rather than the many. Our Indoor meets are in full swing under Tony's guardianship, with the programme kept as a surprise to provide additional delight to the evening's entertainment. Our Annual Dinner is a good opportunity to share and recount recent experiences and to begin to plant in thought the plans for next season's climbing. The article and questionnaire from Keith Gregson is one which needs your considered discussion and what better place to start that than after dinner. Though our winters have become milder, we have notice of our winter snow and ice meets – so sharpen your ice tools and crampon points! But before we can blink, the AGM will be upon us and we will be voting for new committee members: the old guard is changing and a new cohort of standard bearers is needed – the President, Vice President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor are imminent vacancies to be filled by one of you.

Forthcoming meets

| | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| November | 4th (Sun.) | Dovedale Dash | Rob Tresidder | 01629 823953 |
| | Tues 6th | Indoor Meet, Royal Oak | Tony Howard | |
| | Tues 13 th | Committee meeting, The Smithfield | Rob Tresidder | |
| | Wed 21 st | Wirksworth Climbing Wall & Social | | |
| | Sat 24 th | 7.30 pm for 8.00 Annual Dinner | Neil and Tracy Weatherstone | 01332-726116 |
| | Sun 25 th | After dinner walk | Neil Weatherstone | |
| December | 4 th | Indoor Meet, Royal Oak | Tony Howard | 01332 273307 |
| | 8 th & 9 th | Bullstones (the Black Mountains) | John Green | 01332 832101 |
| | Tues 11 th | Committee meeting, The Smithfield | Rob Tresidder | |
| | Wed 12 th | Black Rocks | Rob Tresidder | 01629 823953 |
| | Wed 19 th | Wirksworth Climbing Wall & Social | | 01332-832101 |
| | 22 rd to 31 st | Christmas at T-y-W | | |
| January | 1 st | New Year's Day Walk | Rusty | 01335 390369 |
| | 5 th & 6 th | Cairngorms, Glenmore YH | James Tubby | 01332 736767 |
| | Tues 8 th | Committee meeting. The Smithfield | | |
| | Wed 16 th | Wirksworth Climbing Wall & Social | | |
| | 19 th & 20 th | Alpine Ice Climbing | Simon Pape | 01629 822450 |

Annual Dinner – Sat 24th Nov

I can now confirm that our Guest Speaker will be **Andy Kirkpatrick**. Andy will be well known to many Oreads. You may first have come across him ten years ago working in Outside in Hathersage. Early on a Yosemite specialist, Andy has maintained that passion while branching out into extreme multi-day routes in some of the most inhospitable parts of the world. He lectured to the Oread about seven years ago. Recent trips have included Patagonia with Ian Parnell and Andy has just returned from climbing Zodiac on El Cap with a paraplegic partner. Over the years Andy has established himself as one of the most forceful and entertaining speakers on the lecture circuit. He also speaks at Derby Guildhall Theatre on 17 November. More about him on his website www.psychovertical.com. It promises to be an entertaining evening.

Don't forget to return your forms and payments to me before Monday 12th Nov.

Thanks to those who have already sent in entries to the photo competition for the dinner menu cover, please keep them coming.

After dinner Walk – Sun 25th Nov

This year's walk will be a fairly gentle affair in the South of our county. We shall leave from the John Thompson Inn at Ingleby (GR351238) at 10:30am, parking at the Inn. We will then follow a circuit to take in the interesting Anchor Church Caves. At the end of the walk we'll return to the Inn where light meals (soup/sandwiches/jackets) are available in addition to the excellent beers made on-site.

Bullstones Meet 2007

This year's Bullstones will be centred on, what I believe is, new ground for the Oread, the **Black Mountains** of Wales. We shall meet at the National Trust site of **Llanthony Priory** (Landranger 161 GR288278) where there is a free car park. The bar is in the old crypt and does real ales etc. As usual after a few pints, at around 23.00, we shall walk from the car park up onto the ridge and out to the trig point (height 610 m) where we shall (try to) find a comfortable hollow for accommodation. On Saturday we will traverse the ridge to Hay Bluff and the Gospel Pass. Then out over Lord Hereford's Knob!!! (No I haven't been

drinking) and onto Waun Fach (height 811 m) and so along the ridge and down to our comfortable accommodation at Perth-y-Pia farmhouse. The cost is £10 each for the night. There is a good pub for refreshment called the Red Lion in the village of Llanbedr about a kilometre away (downhill). They do food if we want, but they have asked if I could let them know how many we will be. The bunkhouse has cooking facilities for those not wanting to walk into the village. Sunday will see us walking back up on Crug Mawr (height to 550 m) and then down to the road before a final flog up to the ridge and a drop down to the cars in the Vale of Ewyas. Hopefully it will be a beautiful weekend with plenty of good views. I hope to see all the usual Bullstoners and some new faces there. Contact me on 01332 832101 for your place.
J.Green

Cairngorms 5th & 6th January 2008

At this time of year it can be hard to look beyond the Christmas festivities, however now is the time to start planning for the New Year. The first Scottish winter meet of the new season will take place on the first weekend of the New Year, 4-6 Jan in the Cairngorms. This meet is the perfect opportunity to get over those post-Christmas blues and start to work off the excesses of the festive period.

Once again we will be staying at Caringorm Lodge (Loch Morlich) Youth Hostel at Glenmore. Its location, only 5 minutes drive from the ski area car park, means that you can lie in 'till 6:30 a.m. and still begin your walk in as day breaks. It is also handily only 5 minutes walk from Glenmore Lodge and its bar, where meals and fine Scottish beers are served.

Over the last few years there have been mixed conditions on this meet, with some trips giving good climbing and others lacking in any real snow or ice. If conditions allow, then there is plenty of climbing at the popular Coire-an-t-sneachda with routes of all standards. More remote crags such as Hell's Lum offer the possibility of climbing in quieter venues. The presence of many Munroes give plenty of winter walking options for all weather conditions.

Depending on demand and weather forecasts I may book the hostel before Christmas or I might leave it late to try to avoid paying a deposit (the hostel has never been busy at this time of year). Therefore you can either book directly with the youth hostel on

0870 0041137 (or online) or contact me and I'll let you know whether I have made a group booking. There is a campsite over the road for anyone inclined to camp. To contact me regarding accommodation, or make transport arrangements nearer the time I can be reached on 01283 736737 or jamestubby@hotmail.com.

HUT BOOKINGS NOVEMBER 2007.

TAN - YR - WYDDFA

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Nov. 2/3rd. | Bassett Hill Walking Club | 16 beds. |
| Nov. 9/10th. | Oread meet. | |
| Nov. 16/17th. | Coventry M.C. | 10 beds. |
| Nov. 23/24th. | St. Bartholomews | 16 beds. |
| Nov. 30/1st. | Croydon M.C. | 16 beds |

HEATHY LEA

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 16/17th. | Croydon M.C. | cottage. |
| Nov. 23/24th. | Liverpool Uni. | cottage / barn. |

Please note that the water heater in the kitchen is out of action, please boil water in the kettle until a replacement is made.

Membership Renewals for 2008

I'm afraid it's that time of year again! Your membership will expire at the end of the year, and I would be delighted if you were to renew in good time.

Unfortunately, after several years without change, we have had to raise subscriptions. This is mostly due to an anticipated significant rise in the cost of rebuilding insurance for the club huts and an increase in your individual BMC membership to £9.75, as well as a general increase in club running costs.

The new rates for 2008 are therefore:

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Full Member | £30.00 |
| Family | £45.00 |
| Senior Member | £15.00 |
| Senior Family | £22.50 |
| Prospective Member | £15.00 |

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 sort code is 05-04-07 and the account number is 45028744 (Yorkshire bank). Please let me know if you pay by

bank transfer.

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

Reuben Dakin Assistant (Membership) Secretary

Heathy Lea

The lease on Heathy Lea comes up for renewal in 2009. The use of the hut by Oreads has been very slight for several years. Meets secretaries have found it difficult to recruit leaders for the two weekend meets we have usually held there. Sometimes these meets have failed to attract any Oreads. Both the Heathy Lea Fell Race and Keith Gregson's BARMY competition are sadly no more. At the same time some events are well attended. Visiting clubs enjoy the use of the facility and quite often the whole hut is booked by a member for a private weekend. But all of these occasions fall far short of paying the rent on the place. Heathy Lea is heavily subsidised from club subscriptions. In the light of all this it seems sensible that the club should seriously consider the future of the hut. I announced at the last AGM that I thought the club should come to a firm decision at the AGM in March 2008 and that the committee would provide Oreads with some facts to inform the debate that I hope will take place between members both orally and in the pages of the newsletter and finally in debate at the AGM in March next year. There is a case for continuing subsidy; and there is a case for surrendering the lease. I hope the facts provided by the committee and questions set out below by Keith Gregson will help inform our discussions.

Please respond to this consultation. Its results will be published in the newsletter before the AGM.

Rob Tresidder
President, Oread MC

In order to decide upon our future at Heathy Lea (HL) we would like as much input from members as possible. To this end we would appreciate any contributions that you may have. Please take time to read the following and respond to any (or all) of the questions and add any other observations that you may have.

1. Why do you not make more use of HL?
2. Can you imagine making more use of HL in the future? If so, what changes would bring this about?
3. Is HL too close to Derby for our members?
4. Is it too unwelcoming e.g. too damp, lacking of facilities (shower for example).
5. Compliance with current and future fire regulations etc. will incur additional costs, both in monetary and administrative terms. Is this worth it, and would members be prepared to manage and/or pay for it? Would you help with work parties and or serve on the Hut Sub Committee?
6. Currently HL costs each member approximately £14 p.a. In your opinion is this a sensible use of our finance.
7. In the imaginary situation that travelling by car became restricted; would this encourage you to make more use of HL?
8. Should the Club promote the use of HL by other (affiliated and/or kindred) clubs?
9. If we had to make a choice now, would you elect to maintain or release the use of HL? Would we be better negotiating lease of the cottage without the barn?

Please would you direct any response to me – I drew the short straw!

For and on behalf of the Oread Committee.

Keith Gregson
Keith@Gregson.seriouslyinternet.com

Reports from past meets

Heathy Lea BBQ/Bonfire/Beer - 29 & 30 Sept

A damp Saturday meant the day was mostly spent walking or gathering wood for the bonfire, but the evening was fine and dry. The bonfire was warming

and the beer flowed, but the barbequing required some ingenuity. A few routes were done at Birchen Edge on a perfect autumnal Sunday. Thanks to all those who attended, making it a worthwhile weekend.

Neil Weatherstone

Curry Meet - Tan Yr Wyddfa : 13rd –14th October 2007

A total of eighteen Oreads and three guests attended the Curry-fest in North Wales this year. The team assembled on Friday evening in the hut and practiced drinking for the following evening. Saturday morning saw a dull & damp day, but it was not raining when we left the hut. Nine of us, including Gill, Chiz, three past Presidents & various old farts, drove to Ogwen to scramble up the North Ridge of Tryfan and Bristly Ridge. Wetherstones & Tubbys were represented on shopping trips and trudging the Carneddau. Nick, Pam & assorted Pikes went to Gogarth. Tim & his team (Frank) went to climb Great Gully on Craig yr Ysfa. By mid-morning it was raining in earnest. One old fart descended from the top of Bristly Ridge via Cwm Bochlywyd – leaving the others to traverse Glyder Fach & come down the Gribin Ridge; the ‘Gogarthers’ beat a hasty retreat; Tim and Frank were dissuaded of the merits of Great Gully by inches-thick luminous green slime. What did they expect?

Saturday night saw various rugged but age-worn mountaineers humbled into domesticity preparing food with the accomplished cooks. The main course, which was preceded by a G&T each, involved a range of curries and salads including some superb dishes by Nick & Pam. This was followed by Indian sweets, fruit salad, cheese and olives. Wine was of course consumed with the usual voracity.

On Sunday the air was dry but the rocks were wet. Richard and Steve walked up Cnicht and Moelwyn Mawr, Tim and Frank found and climbed several medium grade bolted routes in the slate quarries. Gill and Chris went running. Others sloped off home or to find sites of historic interest. This was another very enjoyable weekend in the land of my fathers, their magnificent mountains and in the company of the nymphs. Thanks to everyone

to come along and participated in the fun - most particularly to the cooks for their efforts. We will repeat the process next year.

Tony Howard

Notes from the committee meeting

R.Tesidder produced the actual map of the Lingen expedition for the Committee to look at before it goes into the archives.

There was a loss made on the Lundy meet as only ten places were taken out of the fourteen available. Hut insurance costs will have to go up especially for T.Y.W. The full rebuilding cost seems to vary on whom you ask and a decision is required now as the insurance is due shortly. T.Howard proposed and was seconded by S.Bashforth that S.Pape, R.Tresidder and K.Gregson be given the Committees authorisation to sort out and pay for the necessary insurance. This proposal was carried unanimously.

Subscriptions for 2008-9 will have to go up because retaining the current subs would incur an operating loss: many costs (electricity, insurance for example) have risen. A short discussion ensued until R.Dakin proposed and was seconded by S.Bashforth that the subs be raised to £30 rather than the higher figure of £32 initially suggested. Hut Bookings Secretary reported that the bookings for 2008 T.Y.W. were good, but only one booking for Heathy Lea. NeilWeatherstone reported that there were a lot of mice around at Heathy Lea. The Meets Secretary reported that the 2008 meets list is still ongoing and should be published in the December Newsletter. C.Hobday said there was no support for Heathy Lea meets. There are three planned meets there in 2008 without leaders, as well as a working party.

Simon Pape said that one member had complained on the Lundy meet that all the Summer meets were filled with the same meets year after year, even though it is possible to run more than one meet at a time; different members like to do different things. After one complaint, the timing of the delivery of the posted out Newsletter vis-a-vis the receipt of the emailed version was discussed. There are 53 copies sent out by post and the deadline for submitting articles is the 25th of the month. An earlier deadline would mean fewer meet reports from the month immediately preceding the publication month of the newsletter. The newsletter

does have a rolling meets list covering 2 to 3 months, so late arrival is not germane to knowledge of forthcoming meets. Tony Howard proposed and was seconded by Stephen Bashforth that the Newsletter be sent by first class post to try to speed up delivery.

The President apologised to the Committee for again not meeting the agent for the Chatsworth Estate. Also he recognized the outstanding Action to review the Club Rules, after a reminder from Simon Pape.

Keith Gregson provided a draft questionnaire for the membership on the future of Heathy Lea and why they do not use it. This information to be used to inform a meaningful debate at the next A.G.M. It was agreed that Keith would give his questionnaire a little polish before publication and he also agreed to be the coordinator for the responses but would not take responsibility for the outcome.

There was a short discussion on whether the Club should own its own projector, either slide or digital or both. This resulted in Tony Howard being asked to obtain some more advice on the matter . Colin Hobday gave some approximate figures for projectors:-

Slide Projector costs in the range £150- £500. The cost of a digital projector depends on the formats of resolution (pixels displayed), brightness and contrast. The formats (with pixels in standard 4:3 aspect ratio) are SVGA (800 x 600) , XGA (1024 x 768), SXGA (1280 x 1024) and UXGA (1600 x 1200). More pixels give better definition in general, and the higher the “lumens” the brighter the picture and hence it can be projector further. The higher the contrast ratio the easier it is to see the projected image in increasing levels of ambient light. The costs range from £400 to £1000 or more. There is also the issue of whether the club should have its own laptop PC and remote control, so that any speaker is only expected to bring a CD / DVD with the images ready to show as a slide show.

from the BMC: October News

Over the past 3 days (21st – 24th Oct), the BMC and the MOD have been replacing the old and often dangerous belay stakes along Range East, from St. Govans Head to Stack Rocks. Dan Middleton, BMC Technical Officer was at St. Govans head on Monday to deliver 34 bespoke belay stakes to a group of local climbers who have carried out the

project. Alongside the local climbers was a Military UXO Clearance team, on site to ensure that areas were clear of ordnance before stakes were driven in.

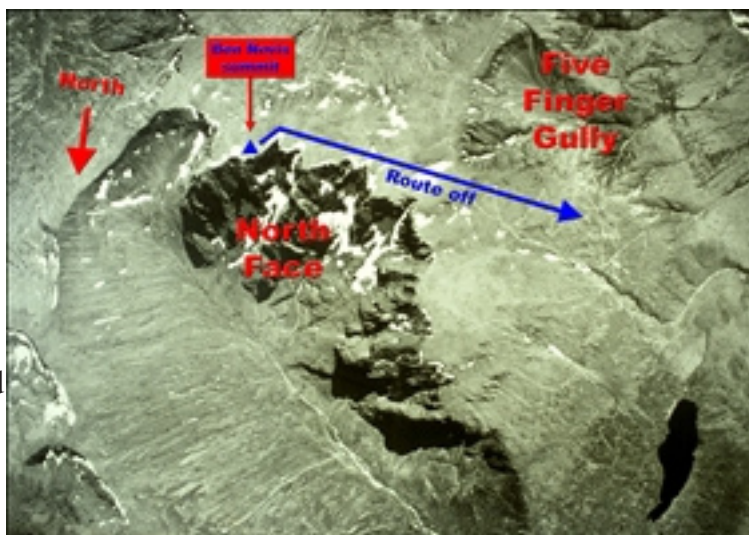
Following several meetings with the Ministry of Defence (the landowner), the National Park and the BMC, it was felt that the belay stakes along Range East were in need of replacing and presented a health and safety risk to visitors to the coast. Several walkers for example, have recently reported tripping over old and redundant stakes that are not clearly visible and many have been identified (by local climbers) as being redundant or in need of replacement.

The BMC and the MOD have agreed a programme of climbing improvements along Range East and Range West (the latter is a live firing range), which has involved local climbers identifying redundant stakes along Range East (phase 1), followed by the removal and replacement of these (phase 2). Whilst this is a local project, the BMC have sourced the appropriate stakes in agreement with the MOD. Phase 3 will be to discuss the possibility of providing new belay stakes along Range West.

from the BMC: New Maps By Tony Ryan

Be one of the first to own this great new map of Ben Nevis & Glen Coe, the fourth in the BMC's British Mountain Maps series. The new map covers 43 Munros and 14 Corbetts, and highlights the major summer and winter climbing venues. The rear of the map contains a detailed 1:15,000 enlargement of the summit of Ben Nevis, navigation tips, mountain incident and first aid advice, geological maps and useful local contact information.

The British Mountain Maps series was launched in 2005 with a map of the Lake District. Other maps in the series cover Snowdonia and The Dark Peak. Designed for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers, the 1:40,000 scale maps are printed on polyethylene, are lightweight, tear-resistant and waterproof, and use contour colour shading for easy identification of hills and valleys. British Mountain Maps are published by Harvey Maps. Any surplus made by the BMC from the sale of these maps is used to fund vital work programmes including access, conservation, safety and good practice. Price - £9.95 (BMC Members), £12.95 (non-members). Available now from the [BMC online shop](#) or telephone the Membership Services Team on 0161 445 6111



Future newsletters - call for reports and notices of meets

The next newsletter will be a joint December & January Newsletter, so please send me all articles, notices of future meets relevant through to end of January 2008 and reports of past meets by **22 November 2007**. In particular I would like to receive report from Rob on the Dovedale dash, feedback on the success of the Wirksworth Wall & Social events and comments and views from any reader on the Heathy Lea debate.

©Oread Mountaineering Club

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