



June 2007 Newsletter

Editorial June 2007

This last month has been trying: first a computer crash; then a wet week in Devon over the Spring Bank Holiday, wondering if the Cornwall meet fared better with the weather. We returned home to discover a squirrel had gnawed through our phone cable, and had to wait until Mr. BT came with his big white van and his kit to repair it. Big white vans reminded me again of the Cornwall meet and the steady morphosis from camping under canvas to camper-van caused by a mix of issues including the ease of coping with the weather. The mix of uncharacteristic weather is put on the shoulders of global warming caused by burning fossil fuels – and when “greens” look at society they tend to point their fingers at petrol and diesel. We sit on the horns of a dilemma: we want to excel at climbing, which means getting out to the crags (usually by car) and yet we want to proclaim, without hypocrisy, that climbing is green.

Forthcoming meets

June	Tues 12 th	C'ttee Meeting - Smithfield		
	16 th & 17 th	Tan-yr-Wyddfa	Derek Pike	01332 670459
	Wed 20 th	Summer Solstice esoteric grit	James Tubby	01283 736737
	23 rd & 24 th	Summer Stroll	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	30 th & 1 st	Heathy Lea WParty	Hut Sub-C'ttee	
July	7 th - 8 th	Lake District Pillar meet (Black Sail YH)	John Green	01332-832101
	10 th	C'ttee Meeting - The Smithfield		
	22 rd et seq	Alpine meet, Dolomites	Simon Pape	
	23 rd to 27 th	Golden Oldies: T-y-W	Keith Gregson	01332 792147
August	25 th to 27 th	North Pembrokeshire	Keith Gregson	01332 792147

June 16th & 17 Tan-yr-Wddfa Meet leader Derek Pike

Another classic T-y-W meet is in the offing; if Sharon isn't on the meet be prepared for unplanned weather!

June 20th Summer Solstice: Esoteric Grit

This meet is THE mid-week meet: we are graced with the longest hours of daylight in which we can heel-hook, slap, jam, pinch and poise till the sun goes down. The venue will be ... announced shortly - watch the e-mails.

Black Sail Meet – July 7th and 8th 2007

It is a long while since the Oread had a meet for climbing and walking in the upper Ennerdale area. It is ideal for the classic routes on Pillar and Engineers Slabs on Gable. The classic walk is the Ennerdale Horseshoe, an ideal shortened version of which can be done from here. The hostel does meals if you require them and has showers and most conveniences. It is the nearest thing we have to an alpine hutte in England. I think that alcoholic beverage is also available if required. (The nearest pub is rather a long way off!!)

I have booked 8 beds for this meet at the Black Sail Youth Hostel for Friday night 6th and Saturday Night 7th of July. Non members are welcome but have to pay a supplement of £3 per night. For 2006 members

pay £10.95 per night. If you would like to go please let me know ASAP. I have already had 4 bookings and if the demand is there I will try to book a further 4 beds if possible. Please let me know if you are interested. It will be on a strictly first come first served basis. A deposit of £8 per person would be appreciated.

John Green. Telephone 01332 832101

Sunday 24 June: Summer Stroll.

This will start with a Gordon Highlanders style attack on the Dargai Crack in Cave Dale. This is probably the oldest (1898) VS in Derbyshire and commemorates the storming of the Dargai Heights on the North-west frontier the year before, immortalised in infamous doggerel by the appalling Scottish "poet", William McGonagall:

*Then with a ringing cheer, and at the word of command,
They bounded after their leaders, and made a bold stand;
And, dashing across the open ground with their officers at their head,
They drove the enemy from their position without any dread.*

I may have the whole thing off by heart by next month and will recite from the foot of the route to "encourage" all comers. We will then follow the Limestone Way to Peak Forest where a short diversion will lead us to the Devonshire Arms. Those who have driven to Castleton might be well advised to turn back from here or soon after, but I propose to press on through Dam Dale, Hay Dale and into Peter Dale where we'll climb a couple more classics, this time by Henry Bishop, from the early part of the last century. Then on to Miller's dale and eventually Taddington where we can catch the TransPeak bus which leaves at 45 minutes past each hour for Matlock, Belper and Derby (1h25).

Outward journey:

Derby (Full St) Trent 6.1 dep 0850

arr 0955 Matlock TM174 dep 1000

arr 1109 Castleton

I hope I shall gather an eclectic mix of Oread rock-jocks, mountaineers and walkers on this "something for everyone" meet close to the longest day.

Rob Tresidder

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Sunday 30 June Working Party:

Heathy Lea.

This will be a one day only working party on Sunday 30th. It would be good to see Oreads using the hut on the Friday night and Saturday night to enjoy a full day's climbing on Saturday before joining the working party on the Sunday. The hut deserves your patronage and Derbyshire's crags taken in the quietude of the early morning are a delight to be savoured.

Work for the Sunday.

Paint windows outside.

Cut grass.

Collect and cut wood.

Assemble tool storage box in wood store.

Clean and tidy up.

clean wood burning stove.

The recent Tan-Yr-Wyddfa work party was supported by familiar faces; but fresher faces and new spirits would enliven the working party – please come and join in.

Offers of help to the Hut Sub. Committee (Keith Gregson 01332 792147) or Colin Hobday (01332 551594).

Dolomites Meet - July 21st-August 4th

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

Hut Bookings - June

HEATHY LEA

June 8/9th. possible booking

June/16th R. Larkham cottage/barn.

June 29/30th Oread work party.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

June/2nd. vacant.

June 8/9th. A.B.S.A.C. whole hut.

June 15/16th. Oread meet.

June 22/23rd. vacant.

June 29/30th. vacant.

T-y-W hut supplies

Merle Gartside fell in January fracturing her shoulder and as the bruises healed she realised her knees were not right. She was seen by her knee surgeon and booked for another knee replacement.

Note: weekend dates are listed for the Sat and Sun only, not the adjoining Fri.				
Month	Day	Meet	Meet Leader	Contact
Jan	Tu 1	New Year's Day	Rusty Russel	01335 390369
	5 & 6	Glenmore or Nevis	James Tubby	01332 736737
	12 & 13			
	19 20	Rjukan Ice - Norway	Tony Howard	01332 273307
	26 27			
Feb	2 3	TYW	Gill Hays	01246 569134
	9 10			
	16 17	Ballachulish	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116
	23 24			
Mar	1 2	idea???		
	8 9			
	15	AGM	Derek Pike	01332 670459
	16	Spring Stride		
	21 24	Easter		
	29 30	Patterdale	Stuart Haywood	01332-834449
Apr	2	First Evening Outdoor Meet		
	5 6	Heathy Lea		
	12 13			
	19 20	TYW		
	26 27			
May	3 5	Early May BH - ideas???		
	10 11			
	17 18	TYW WP	Hut Sub-committee	
	24 26	Spring BH - Cornwall		
	31 1			
Jun	7 8	Borrowdale/Lakes	Roger Larkam	
	14 15			
	W 18	Longest (Wednes)Day - esoteric grit		
	21 22	Summer Stroll		
	28 29	HL WP	Hut Sub-committee	
Jul	5 6	Cwm Eigiau	John Green	
	12 13			
	19 20	away - ideas???		
	26 27	Derbyshire schools holidays start (23rd)		
Aug	2 3			
	9 10			
	16 17			
	23 25	Summer BH - North Pembrokeshire		
	30 31			
Sep	6 7			
	13 14	Heathy Lea BBQ/Bonfire/Beer	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116
	20 21			
	W 24	Last Evening Meet & Curry		
	27 28	TYW		
Oct	4 5			
	11 12	Heathy Lea		
	18 19			
	25 26	TYW Curry Meet	Tony Howard	01332 273307
Nov	Su 2	Dovedale Dash	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	8 9			
	Sa 15	Annual Dinner	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116
	Su 16	Post-prandial		
	22 23			
	29 30	Coniston	Tony Howard	01332 273307
Dec	6 7			
	We 10	Black Rocks	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	13 14	Bullstones	James Tubby	01283 736737
	20 21			
	24 31	Christmas & New Year at TYW		

We hope all is well on the mend.

A consequence of this is that keeping T-y-W stocks at the right level has been difficult. There is toilet paper and washing up liquid, though the bag of clean tea towels which were boiled are waiting to be returned. Until Merle is back on her feet please be tolerant of any shortages. If communally used essential supplies are needed please try and check with the Hut Sub-Committee before buying; if needed use the local shops, save your receipts and submit to the treasurer who will re-imburse reasonable requests.

Reports from past meets

Skye Meet at Coriusk by Rob Tresidder

We were eleven variously disposed all over Scotland but coming together in time to catch our boat from Elgol. This had almost not materialised as the meet leader took a call on the M6 from one boatman to say that the weather was not fit and he might not be able to sail for three or four days. Indeed the weather was pretty foul but we secured a safe passage with the Bella Jane. There were nine in the gas-lit hut and two in a tent outside, much battered on the first two nights. Overall the weather would kindly be described as showery; in the circumstances no-one showed any enthusiasm for cold stances and pitched climbing.

On Sunday some of us had a warm up walk around Loch Coruisk. Others explored the start of a scramble on Sgurr na Stri. Monday saw bolder things and half a dozen made the big walk to the Slig Inn via Bealach na Glaic Mor with a return over Druim Hain. Not such a huge "pig-out" as anticipated at the Slig, as we had the walk back to face. A nine and a half hour day predicated something easier on Tuesday. The scramble on Sgurr na Stri was polished off. All found the description unnecessarily complicated. "Climb the buttress at your chosen level of difficulty; best near the centre." would have sufficed.

I think it was on Wednesday that the absence of running water in the hut became too irksome and a team of competent explorers followed the pipeline to its break which was swiftly repaired. Thursday was the day for almost all of us to "do the Dubhs" — an ascent of the perfect boiler plate gabbro slabs of Sgurr Dubh Bheag followed by a short steep abseil and a very different climb up Sgurr Dubh Mhor. Jane swam in the loch at a bearable 16

degrees.

On Friday four scrambled up the NE ridge of Sgurr a' Choire Bhig. Described as similar to, but easier than, the Dubhs' ridge, it proved anything but, with the rope being pressed in to service on several occasions and much puzzling over Noel Williams' route description.

Saturday saw us packed early and spring cleaning the hut in time for us to catch the Bella Jane at 0930 and head for home. This was a splendid meet on which we all managed to make the most of indifferent though not appalling weather. I was pleased at the entertaining conversation and argument in the hut and the warm companionship I experienced on the hill. Some of us are thinking of returning next year. Why not join us? Present: Dave Penlington, Bev Abley, John Green, Freda Raphael, Nick Evans, Chris Jonson, Roy Eyre, Tony Smedley, Rob van Beek and Jane and Rob Tresidder

The Dark Arts

When I started climbing I was often warned about a shadowy organisation called The Ethics Committee. The merest dangle on a runner, a crafty tug on a sling, even peering over the top to spy the way would result in the old hands shaking their heads and muttering darkly about a referral. If someone mentioned a top rope these veterans and guardians of the true faith would become positively apoplectic. Perhaps it is appropriate, in these days of presentation being more important than substance, that top roping has been rebranded. It's called "headpointing" now. It means you can do whatever you like as long as you don't damage the rock and it results (eventually) in a clean lead. I suppose if it was good enough for Joe Brown on Great Slab in the 1950s, it's good enough for an aging punter now.

So here's how it works.

Pick a "project". Something that terrifies you, but that you suspect deep down in side that you probably could do, with a following wind; on a low gravity day; when the conditions are right; when you're feeling good; with the right partner. i.e. Never.

Next, go and have "a look". It should be very clear that you're not actually going to do it on this occasion or else you'll be so wound up thinking about the lead that you'll probably screw it up on top rope. Remember that this process is supposed to last a long time - years

even.

I had my first look at Project X in 2001. It honestly didn't seem that bad. It even had runners, just not really where you'd want them. I had a fabulous Sunday poking around, doing a few routes and casually chucking a cheeky top rope on it. It went like a dream in the perfect cold conditions. Fortunately it was getting a bit too late for any serious action.

Then I started going to the crag a bit frequently - twice in four days!

It had rained on the way over, but it cleared and we even had some sun by the time we got there. There were friends at the crag who probably wouldn't know or care about headpointing. No pressure, have a fun night out.

But it's there, nagging in the back of my mind. Sharon and I warmed up on Allen's Slab, which I'm sure I've done lots of times before, then we did Sickle Buttress, which I'm pretty sure I haven't. It was very good! My turn to pick now. I'll just have another look. I top roped it four times without managing to fall off, but it felt more tenuous than when I top roped it with Andy a few weeks ago. Each try seemed more sketchy, not less! I scoped the runners and got on with it. It felt a bit tenuous and I didn't really want to do it. Sharon said, "You've got to want it."

I seriously considered not bothering. We could go and have a pint. All this fuss and still no tick? After a conversation about what I was going to hit if I fell off (never a good idea with Sharon!) I decided to do it. And then climbed back down. The breeze blew and it was a little cooler. Just do it. A struggle to get my foot up. I could reach the sloper but it felt tenuous. Step up. Push. Foot better not pop. It won't. It didn't. The top is easy but I still did it scrappily.

Sharon was a bit cold now so we went to the pub. I didn't tell anyone, it was nice to have it as our little secret! And if anyone mentions the ethics committee, this is just between you and me, o.k?

Anonymous

July - August newsletter: Call for notices and reports of meets

Please send me all articles, notices of future meets and reports of past meets by *27 June 2007*.

In particular I would like to receive reports from James Tubby on the Esoteric Grit meet; and from Rob Tresidder on the Summer Stroll, Poetry Recital and Climbing triathlon!

There will be one newsletter for both July and August; so, if you miss the above deadline, the next opportunity will be the September newsletter for which all submissions should be with the Editor by 28 August.

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