



December 2008

Oread M.C. Newsletter

Editorial. (Last Date for next edition 19/12/08)

The last date for publication is very early this month because our printers have two weeks holiday. Please bear with us and get your information to me by this date, so that we can have the magazine in time for the New Year. 2009 is the 60th year of the Oread Mountaineering Club, it doesn't seem five mins since we were having the 50th dinner at the Queen Victoria in Llanberis!

Your editor is now back in the rush to Christmas after a successful climbing trip to Mexico. Nick Moyes and I managed to climb Orizaba which is the third highest in North America after Denali and Mount Logan. Hardly anyone's ever heard of it, so it's a bit like the Corbett's!!! Details later. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Forthcoming meets.

December	Tues 2 nd	Royal Oak, Ockbrook – Robin Beadle.	Tony Howard	01332 273307 07762 268181
	Sun 7 th	Black Rocks Tidy	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	Tues 9 th	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	Sat 13 th – Sun 14 th	Bullstones	James Tubby	01283 736737
	Wed 17 th	Black Rocks	Rob Tresidder	01629 823953
	Wed 24 th – Wed 31 st	Christmas at Tan yr Wyddfa	Rock Hudson (New Year)	01159 333031
January	Thu 1 st	New Years Day	Rusty Russell	01335 390369
	Sat 3 rd – Sun 4 th	Scotland	Steve Christian	01629 825292 07824 623945
	Tues 6 th	Royal Oak, Ockbrook – Mike Mowbray.	Tony Howard	01332 273307 07762 268181
	Sat 10 th – Sun 11 th	Scotland	Steve Christian	01629 825292 07824 623945
	Sat 17 th – Sun 18 th	Scotland	Steve Christian	01629 825292 07824 623945
	Sat 24 th – Sun 25 th	Ta Yr Wyddfa – Wintry Climbing	Reuben Dakin	01332 834543
February	Tue 3 rd	Royal Oak, Ockbrook – Gordon Gadsby.	Tony Howard	01332 273307 07762 268181
	Sat 7 th – Sun 8 th	Seathwaite – Joint meet with K-Fellfarers	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116 07946 825798
	Sat 14 th – Sun 15 th	Scotland	Simon Pape	01629 822450 07813 616563
	Sat 21 st – Sun 22 nd	Scotland	Simon Pape	01629 822450 07813 616563

Black Rocks Tidy - Sunday 7th December.

Rob Tresidder.

As I cycled past the other day, the late afternoon sun was just catching the N face of the rocks making them look especially seductive. But I know that there is a lot of litter above, below and in amongst the rocks. I had a clean up before the meet a couple of years ago and easily managed to fill three sacks. I'm looking for some help this year so please come along. Old gloves, old rucksack useful. I will provide the bin liners. I expect to be at the rocks at about 10.40. There is a Trent 6.3 bus leaves Derby Full St (X6) at 0935. Change to 6.1 in Belper bus station. Alternatively catch the TransPeak which leaves Derby Derwent Street (Y1) at 0955. Alight at Cromford and walk up Intake Lane, drag the President out of bed, then make your way to the rocks via the High Peak Trail. This is hardly going to take all day so consider driving on into the Peak or climbing with me on Black Rocks.

Bullstones Meet 12th -14th December.

James Tubby.

This years Bullstones meet route is inspired by the Derwent watershed in the Dark Peak. In my opinion this is the best area of the country for walking and bog trotting. Traditionalists will also be pleased that the route passes the site of the original Bullstones cabin.

We'll be meeting on Friday night at the Ladybower Inn, near Bamford (GR205865), from around 8pm onwards. Cars can be left for the weekend at the car park over the road from the pub, or just along the A6013 Bamford road. When the time is right (probably about 11pm) we'll head off onto Derwent edge. The likely bivvy spot is Back Tor, but I have identified another suitable location place a couple of miles further North if we feel like making more progress. If we are really keen we could get all the way to the remains of the Bullstones cabin, but most likely the pilgrimage will be on Saturday morning. Saturdays walk will be a long one, so a prompt start will help. We'll head up to Margery Hill then take in Howden Edge & Bleaklow, picking up the Pennine Way at Bleaklow Head. We'll then follow the Pennine Way to Kinder Scout, with numerous route options to finish in Edale. The

peat bogs provide excellent opportunities for bog jumping, getting muddy and taking spectacular photos of Oreads in mid-air. The Fieldhead campsite at the Edale visitor centre provides somewhere to pitch tents and wash. More importantly, the Rambler Inn will supply food & drink. If for some reason you don't wish to camp for a second night, alternative accommodation is available in Edale but please make your own arrangements.

Sundays route is much shorter and will take in Hollins Cross, Lose Hill & Win Hill on the way back to the Ladybower Inn and the cars. There are many options for shortening and lengthening the walk, which I'm sure we will discuss on the Friday night. I need to reserve places at the campsite and the Rambler Inn, so please let me know if you are coming (& whether sharing a tent) so I can ensure we all have a pitch and seat at the table on Saturday night. Also please let me know your transport arrangements and I'll try to co-ordinate lift sharing where needed so we can minimise the number of cars to leave. The best way to contact me is by email:

jamestubby@hotmail.com or if not, phone 01283 736737.

Black Rocks meet Wed. 17th December .

Rob Tresidder

The Oread's second longest running meet! The rocks will be pristine after the clean-up on Sunday 7th so come and enjoy the peculiar delights of Derrick's favourite crag. The super competent will doubtless surge up Birch Tree Wall while traditionalists will get stuck in Queen's Parlour Chimney. Folk usually get there soon after work. Some are still there at 9! Afterwards, proceedings continue at The Rising Sun in Middleton. Mine host promises pie and pea suppers roughly between 7 and 9. Price approx £3. A good opportunity to share photos from the Bullstones epic.

Boxing Day

Richard Hopkinson.

There is usually a good gathering of Oreads plus others (Derwent etc) at the Miners Arms at Brassington Boxing Day lunchtime. Make you own way there walk cycle watch the Raft Race etc.

New Year at Tan Yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson.

This will be an informal meet. So come to the hut for a night or a full week, after the Christmas festivities. We shall have an informal buffet on New Year's Eve provided by those attending. Activities will include walking and scrambling, eating, drinking, perhaps even a slide show. I shall be abroad until December 8th so book through Colin Hobday before, or await my return.

0115 9333031

1st January 2009 - New Year's Day Walk

C. Russell.

The date and destination of this walk, the George at Alstonfield, are bound by tradition, but the route and starting point have been varied over the years, so having used most of the permutations from Ilam over the past few walks, I propose to meet instead at Alsop Car Park on the Tissington Trail, off A515 Ashbourne-Buxton Road, at map ref. SK 156548. We shall not use the trail, which is boring, but instead will traverse Cross Low N. of Alsop village, and then descend the steep little Tor beside Iron Torrs before taking one of the several available paths from the main Dovedale path up to Alstonfield. The route is non-strenuous, since this is a social occasion, so those with the symptoms of age and decadence need not be deterred. I hope however to visit some little corners of the Peak District which may not be familiar to those accustomed to more exotic destinations. Please meet at 10.45am. and be ready to move off a few minutes after this time
01335390369

Indoor Meets Programme to the End of 2008/9 Season Tony Howard.

The programme has now been finalised to the end of the season and is as follows:

December 2nd Robin Beadle - Title to be announced.

January 6th Mike Mowbray, - "From the heights to the depths - or the sublime to the ridiculous: The physiology of extreme sports"

February 3rd Gordon Gadsby, - "Magic of the Mountains"

March 3rd Richard Hopkinson/Steve Christian, - "Climbing in the Picos De Europa"

Robin Beadle is a professional guide and will be talking about his recent ascent of Everest

and other aspects of guiding. Mike Mowbray is an anaesthetist with professional as well as sporting interests in his subject. This should be an informative and entertaining talk bristling with good humour. Gordon Gadsby is known to most, if not all of you, as is the quality of his photographs. His talk 'Magic of the Mountains' will be real eye candy! Last but certainly not least we have Richard & Steve who will be talking about their climbing trip to the Picos last year.

I look forward to seeing you at each lecture.

Reports from past meets and news.

Not Just a Curry Meet. 25th – 26th October

.. and now for something completely different:
'The new date for Tony's Curry Meet meant that less people than usual were clipping bolts in sunny climes, so a healthy contingent of Oreads hacked over to Wales to enjoy the Indian Summer. Friday was a beautiful starry night but moonless, so head torches were in order for the stroll to the pub. The landlord went out of his way to welcome us as usual, even asking about some who chose not to walk down. We all enjoyed our round of free drinks and it was a struggle to get out of the door.

We woke refreshed to a dry day. Mid way through a leisurely breakfast the Indian summer ended. Various plans were hatched, before putting the kettle back on. Eventually various teams headed out. The walk in the Beddgelert Forest was, as usual, led by a Chris with his GPS. They kept their feet dry until they sank into the mud that went over the top of their boots. Other walkers had marginally drier feet, but no one stayed very dry that day. Another team headed off to Coed-y-Brenin for some mountain biking. The prepared tracks here provide a pretty stern challenge and we've got the bruises to prove it. Parking costs £3 for the whole day, the showers are hot and the carrot cake comes highly recommended. The newly developed "Yorkshire dismount" came of age during this trip. It consists of a Yorkshireman going horizontally left at an altitude of about five feet, while his bike exits stage right. The ensuing grumbling is similar to that encountered at the bar of the Cwellyn Arms.

Enough enthusiasm was left in battered bodies for a brief bouldering session at the ever-dry Carreg Hyll Drem. All of the moves were done,

just not necessarily in the right order. The carpet of sheep droppings provided a soft landing when the arms packed up. Saturday night provided a varied feast of Indo-Thai fusion cuisine (apparently). The gin and tonics were a civilised starter and the various curries and superb rice (!) satisfied everyone. Sunday dawned much drier outside, but several Oread noses were damp and eyes were bleary. The dreaded lurgy had struck overnight! Teams headed off in various directions for walking and climbing. A civilised walk around Cwm Buchan and Aberglaslyn ended in back tracking when the path was found to be flooded. The bright sunshine tempted another pair to plan a walk along the coast to absorb as much sunshine as possible, and cure any ailments (cold? Wine?). As the drive through Beddgelert and out alongside the river was so spectacular and sunny they hatched plan B. If they parked at the NT car park and walked back to Beddgelert they could take the high path back (if energy levels permitted) or have a namby pamby walk back along the river. Angela takes up the story: "A really high river meant lots of noisy water crashing about and it all looked very dramatic but after only 15 minutes of walking we lost the path under a foot of fast flowing water. Damn it. Didn't want to bail out as had just handed over £3 to park. Didn't fancy boots off and wading through the water, it looked too fast and nothing to hold onto. We'd just have to try and go around it. It looked quite hard, but not very far, so we scrambled up the bank and across an easy area that had been cleared...An hour and half later we emerged triumphant back onto the path quite a long way further on, having been forced to move higher to avoid a steep gully that appeared as we headed around the corner. Back on easy ground but realised that we were now the wrong side of the railway. Fine view of a steam train coming out of a little tunnel below us so took a couple of photos for my trainspotter's album. Have no idea what it was, other than being green but there was a crowd of people on the road getting very excited about it and taking lots of

pictures so guess it was a very important, if very small, engine. Having too much fun to admit defeat we picked our way across to the grassy/ heathery rake that ran over said tunnel and onto the path (including another stop for photos). Nice gentle stroll finally achieved, followed by tea and buns in Beddgelert. Marvellous."

The climbers were never going to be able to match that level of excitement, but nevertheless the 'A' team headed for the sunny but cold Moelwyns, for an ascent of Block (S). They reported hordes of instructed parties well established on arrival, and in broadly the same position on departure. Meanwhile the 'B' team ticked some classics at Tremadog. An attempt at Meshach was started by a pair who could not be described as young men. After dodging some wet streaks and avoiding the frantic sketching feet of a leader on Grim Wall, an escape up Grim Wall Direct (E1) seemed in order as the safest option. After a half dozen pitches between showers, and suitably refreshed in Eric's Café, we headed for home.

Thanks to Tony for organising a super weekend and thanks to all the chefs for a fine spread.

Roger Gibb with Angela Smith'
Thanks, Tony Howard

Oread Annual Dinner. 15th Nov 2008

This year the annual dinner was held at the Bear Hotel and Inn at Alderwasley near Belper. Forty three Oreads and guests attended and had a most enjoyable time. The meal, drinks and smooth jazz band were all great. Nigel Vardy, the guest speaker was very engaging and entertaining with his stories. A good time was had by all. It was a shame that I wasn't able to attend myself, but I had the best of excuses with the arrival of a baby daughter. Next year will be the 60th anniversary of the club and the dinner will be a celebration of this milestone. Hope to see you all there next year.

Neil.

Post Dinner Walk. 16th Nov 2008

18 Oreads overcame the late night and hangovers to join the walk, and were rewarded with a superb day of late Autumn colours and views. We left the Bear and took a southerly arc to Kirk Ireton via Idridgehay, crossing the

"paddy" fields of the Ecclesbourne Valley via rarely used footpaths. We ate our lunch and enjoyed a superb pint sat outside the Barley Mow bathed in sunshine, before a more direct route back to the Bear was followed. Head torches were not required and the day was rounded off with a civilised pot of tea in the Bear.

Richard Hopkinson.



Dinner walk 2008 860.jpg Dinner walk 2008 RH Sunday, November 23, 2008



Dinner walk 2008 861.jpg Dinner walk 2008 RH Sunday, November 23, 2008

**How to get through a hedge backwards!!!
Somewhat muddy or ***ty.**



IMG_0838.jpg Dinner walk 2008 CR Sunday, November 16, 2008

This is what it should be like.

2008 Dovedale Dash

Was this the thinnest ever Oread field? Well they all looked pretty fit! Some slipping down the field and others moving up. But where were the Radcliffes, Hopkinson, Tuibby, the President (!) and all the other muddy stalwarts? Back next year, I hope. Results below are from a field of about 1100.

- 80 John O'Reilly
- 137 Clive Russell (2nd over 60)
- 409 Robin Sedgwick
- 636 Jenny O'Reilly
- 762 Claire O'Reilly

Some good support from Mike and Gill Keeling — thanks. But only for the runners they could recognise. Maybe easier next time if they are all wearing the club T-shirt.

Rob Tresidder.



DSC_0209-1 (2).jpg Rusty - Dash 2008 Sunday, November



DSC_0206 (2).jpg John O'Reilly - Dash 2008 Sunday, November 02, 2008

John O'Reilly.



DSC_0213 (2).jpg Robin Sedgwick - Dash 2008 Sunday, November 02, 2008

Robin Sedgwick.

Lost at TyW on Curry Meet

Did anyone pick up either my fleece or hat which I lost on the recent curry meet? I put them in the drying room on Saturday night, but I couldn't find them on Sunday morning. They may have been brought back by someone who is looking for their owner or picked up by mistake from the drying room on Sunday morning. The fleece is extra large, black, with

a short zip & (I think) it says 'Stormlite' or something similar on the label. The hat is black with an R and/or Rossignol written on it. If you have either of these items please let me know & we'll arrange how to get it back to me. Cheers, Tony Howard

Dryrot found at Rhydd Ddu hut.



Dryrot.jpg Sunday, November 23, 2008

Dry rot fungus – The cause of all our troubles.

During the Curry Meet (25/26 October) a fruiting body (*sporophore*) that was believed to be dry rot *Serpula lacrymans* was found by the landing window at the front of the building. There has been a previous occurrence of dry rot, in 1991, but this was towards the rear of the property. Surveys with quotations for remedial works have been provided by specialist companies (Kimberley Gulf and Dampmasters). The hut sub committee and the main committee are giving this the priority it deserves to best look after our most important asset.

Membership Renewals for 2009.

Thank you if you have already paid. The rates for 2009 are:

Ordinary Member	£35.00
Senior Member	£20.00
Joint Member	£27.50
Senior Joint Member	£16.00
Prospective Member	£20.00

You are eligible for **senior membership** if you will have reached "state pension age", which is 60 for ladies and 65 for gents, on 1 January 2009. My records of members' ages are very incomplete, so I will assume you are "forever young" unless you tell me otherwise! The rates quoted above are per person, so for example the amount due from a couple both aged 62 will be £43.50. If your permanent address is

outside the UK you will not be a BMC club member, and so your rate will be reduced by £11.75 per person for all membership classes. How to pay:

- Cheque, payable to Oread Mountaineering Club, posted to me at 14 New Street, Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5AF
- Bank transfer: sort code 05-04-07, account number 45028744. Please let me know if you pay by bank transfer.

Please do not send me any payments of hut fees. You need to pay before:

- 31 December to ensure that your BMC 3rd party insurance remains current
- 31 January to maintain your Oread membership

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 – Views of the Membership.

83 members (47%) responded to the questionnaire in the summer, a fantastic response. Thank you. These are your views: The three main reasons for staying there less than previously are that it is too close to home (21%), too damp (19%) and feels run down (22%).

The overwhelming view (97%) is that it should provide accommodation comparable to Tan yr Wyddfa or a basic alpine hut. Facilities in the barn should not be reduced. Improvements to the sanitary facilities (including provision of a shower) and improved drying facilities would be popular.

There is strong support for allowing clubs with reciprocal rights (97%) and BMC affiliated clubs (77%) to use the hut, but not individual BMC members. Members are not keen on the idea of sharing the hut with another club (62% against).

There should be more walking and climbing meets as well as social meets, whilst fell races and cycling would appeal to many. There is some support (about 20%) for having displays and exhibitions etc. Meet leaders could combine activities to attract Members.

There is an overwhelming majority (94%) in favour of charging Members for staying overnight, possibly with a charge of about £4.00 to £5.00. A Day Fee for both Members and visitors was well supported. There is no clear view on the concept of charging

Members for car parking (only). The use of annual subscriptions to pay for the general day to day running of the hut, and to pay for improvements, was supported by large majorities (80% and 73%).

41 Members are willing to help with the maintenance in some way and 12 are willing to help manage Heathy Lea.

A clear majority consider that priority should be given to increasing usage of the hut and that the success of Heathy Lea should be judged by the total number of bed nights spent at the hut. Reducing fuel and heating costs is of lower priority than other suggestions.

About 250 comments and suggestions were made, not all complementary but all of value. Full (anonymous) details of the survey can be obtained via email by contacting Chris Wilson (chrisandjanwilson@talktalk.net).

New Members.

Annegret Siebert has applied for membership of the Oread. Would anyone who has views as to her suitability, please get in touch with a member of the committee.

Hut Bookings for December.

Please note that hut fees should always be paid to me and no one else. Colin Hobday

Tan-yr-Wyddfa		
Dec. 5/6th.	Wrekin M.C.	16 beds.
Dec. 12/13th	Lichfield M.C.	16 beds.
Christmas	Oread	
New Year	Oread	6 beds.
Heathy Lea		
December	Vacant	

No doubt many of you will have heard that we have an outbreak of Dry Rot at Tan-yr-Wyddfa, at the time of writing we are awaiting Quotes from specialised contractors as to the amount of work involved. We understand that the work will take in the region of 2/3 weeks to complete.

When we have a firm date from the contractor to carry out the work, the hut will have to be closed, which most likely will be during January 2009.

Mexico 2008.

J.Green & N.Moyes

About every 4 years I manage to save enough to go on a trip to more remote parts of the world, so it was that an approach from Nick for "special" trip to celebrate his 50 years, brought about the decision to travel to Mexico and climb a peak called Orizaba, or Citlaltepetl 5611m. We needed to acclimatise first of course, and this was done by climbs of two other peaks. The first, Nevada de Toluca, was

a tough introduction to volcano scree paths. The summit, which arrived after a superb walk around lakes in the old crater, involved climbing a loose scree slope with our full packs. Not easy! A moderate scramble over rocks soon brought us the summit, called Pico Fraile, at 4680m. A quick descent and an overnight in an empty hut had us walking the 8klm back to the main road for a bus into Mexico City again.

Our second peak was in a National Park, and we had to get our permits from a little town called Amecameca where we met a great character called Miguel. We took a taxi up to the Paso de Cortez and carried on to Altzomoni lodge where we stayed overnight at 4020m. Miguel was the hut warden and made us very welcome. We took pictures of Popocatepetl at sunrise. No climbing is allowed on this famous peak due to volcanic activity. The following day we set off along a very reasonable track to the Grupo de los Cien hut at 4780m. We had great fun with the mice that lived there, but they were lively showmice and kept us busy saving our food supplies. In the end we fed them and all was well. At 06.45 we set out for the summit by climbing an interesting rocky ridge, followed by some snow and glacier work to the top at 5218m. Iztaccihuatl is known as the White Woman due to its five peaks visible from the village below, with El Pecho (the breast) the highest point. A really interesting mountain.

Now it was decided that we should go for the big one. Orizaba lies to the west of Mexico City in Veracruz state. We had prearranged to stay with a family in Tlachichua. Signor Limon would drive us up to the Piedra Grande Hutte in his four wheel drive, 1983 vehicle, the following day. What a drive! It has to be experienced to be believed. I never thought that it was possible to take a motorised vehicle on such tracks. He left us to flog up to the top of the labyrinth and camp overnight at 4940m. I did not sleep at all!! At 06.00, on the 12th November, we left for the summit. During the whole trip we were blessed with good weather and today was no exception. The snow conditions were perfect. Excellent cramponning all the way to the summit. Not technical but quite steep at the top. After the usual summit photos we decided to climb around the volcano rim. This was easy at first but then became more difficult with the ascent of a pinnacle and a grade 3 snow climb down to the col. We were very glad we took a rope and it was put to full use, as we tottered down

a snow runnel to better security on the glacier below. The descent was completed right back to the Piedra Grande Hut where we found Senor Lemon and his trusty vehicle waiting. It was dark when we arrived back at Tlachichuca, but after a couple of beers it was all worthwhile.

The rest of the trip consisted of white water rafting down grade 4 rapids, and a memorable trip down a zip wire over the River Pescados. Mexico was veritable surprise to both of us, as we had expected robbery, disease, and many other distressing events. None happened, the people were very friendly and helpful, and the scenery was majestic, what more could we ask.



Pico de Orizaba (Citlaltépetl) 5611mtrs



Nick Moyes on the difficult descent.

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