



April 2008 Newsletter

Editorial

The 2008 AGM was well attended and demonstrated our ability as a club to debate some critical issues in a well ordered manner. As an individual I am grateful to our ex-President, Rob Tresidder, for his professional and calm chairmanship of the meeting. We will each have a view on whether we agreed with the decisions taken; for me the success of the meeting was that we reached majority decisions. As a club we all can move forward with those decisions to see the club continue its journey for another 60 years: meets at Heathy Lea should become more commonplace and the support for retaining it suggests we will soon hear Colin reporting that H-L is full. The next Newsletter should be produced by John Green, who bravely volunteered to take on the role of Newsletter Editor. I wish him well, and my help will always be available.

Forthcoming meets

April	Wed 2 nd	First Evening Outdoor Meet	Tony Howard	01332 - 273307
	5 th & 6 th	Heathy Lea	no leader	
	Tues 8 th	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	19 th & 20 th	Tan-yr-Wyddfa	Gill Heys	01246 569134
May	Tues 13 th	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	17 th & 18 th	Tan-yr-Wyddfa Working Party	Hut Sub-C'ttee	
	24 th to 26 th	Spring Bank Holiday - Cornwall	Roy Eyre	01623 469658
June	7 th & 8 th	Borrowdale (Lakes)	Roger Larkam	01773 820260
	Tues 10 th	Committee Meeting - Smithfield		
	Wed 18 th	Summer solstice - esoteric grit		
	21 st & 22 nd	Summer stroll		
	28 th & 29 th	Heathy Lea Working Party	Hut Sub-C'ttee	

Wednesday April 2nd - First evening outdoor meet

[Editor] There has been no "official" note about this - but there is a long tradition of getting out to Harborough Rocks at Brassington. Some have ventured to Rainster (Brassington) Rocks as always with due respect to land ownership and access permissions. I'm sure our annual ascent of these rocks as the ceremonial start of the "real" rock climbing season holds as much delight as Putrell had on his first recorded climbs on these crags.

Tan-yr-Wyddfa April 19th / 20th

If we're lucky we'll get a repeat of last April's weather and be climbing in shorts and t-shirts. If not then there will be plenty of good walking and scrambling to be enjoyed. Please come and join me at our sumptuous hut in the heart of Wales. Contact me on: 01246 569134 or gill@farfields.co.uk

"Climb if you will"

The book has been sold to Rob Tressider, he was the first to enquire after it, Stuart Allen

2008 Annual Dinner Notice

This year the Oread annual dinner will be held on Saturday 15th November at The Bear, Alderwasley. The cost will be slightly more than recent years at approximately £30 per head. If you have any questions, please contact Neil Weatherstone (Weatherstone@ntlworld.com or 01332 726116)

Hut bookings

HEATHY LEA		
April 4 th * & 5 th	Oread meet	
April 11 th & 12 th	D. Helliwell	Cottage & barn
May 16 th & 17 th	S.Wood (guest of Lisa Welbourne)	Cottage & barn
TAN-YR-WYDDFA		
April 4 th & 5 th	Spinz M.C.	16 beds
April 11 th & 12 th	Scunthorpe M.C	10 beds
April 18 th & 19 th	Oread meet.	
April 25 th & 26 th	G Gadsby	whole hut
May 2 nd to 4 th	May Day Holiday	
May 9 th & 10 th	Skyline M.C	10 beds
May 12 th , 13 th & 14 th	Guests of Tony Smedley	4 beds
May 16/17 th .	Work Party	

Spring Bank Holiday – Cornwall - 24th May onwards – Roy Eyre

This meet is still going ahead as planned. We are booked in again at Trevalor campsite between St Just and Botallock. So, for the people who want sun warmed rock, walking, swimming or building sand castles, this is the place to be. I will

already down there sorting out the good weather. Please ring me (Roy Eyre) on 01623 469658 before May 16th so that I have some idea of numbers.

Unofficial meet to the Hebrides

For those of you going on Roy's meet to Cornwall please ignore this !

In the absence of a meet leader and unable to wait until someone else had made the first move I went ahead and booked my ferry for this alternative Oread meet. The plan is to base ourselves on the Isle of Lewis for a week of Climbing, Surfing, Cycling, Walking etc. The Hayes' van will be sailing on Monday the 26th May from Uig, after spending the weekend with the Mawer's on the Etive slabs, and we will return on Saturday 31st May. Several other Oreads have already confirmed they will be going, so there should be a presence from Saturday 24th until early the following week. I phoned the campsite and was assured that there was no need to book, but depending on how many of you join in I may pull a list together nearer the date and let them know our numbers. Ferry details – see www.calmac.co.uk Campsite details - Traigh na Beirigh Campsite, Cnip, Near Maibhaig, Uig, Isle of Lewis. Tel 01851 672265 <http://www.scottishcampingguide.com/link.php?n=57&c=14> Please let me know if you are planning to join us. Mike Hayes.

Reports from past meets Spring String

I was all alone on the bus as it left Matlock which didn't seem like a good start, but four more clambered aboard in Calver and in a few minutes we were piling out in Hathersage and striding across a couple of fields to the first obstacle. The River Derwent was flowing fast and the stepping stones were a foot under water. Undaunted, our gallant quintet returned to Hathersage and crossed by the Leadmill Bridge. So to Mount Pleasant and onto Offerton Moor. The hour we had lost was half made up by the time we reached the pub in Foolow. More Oreads joined us here but only for the craic! Chris and Gill had arrived by bike as had Brian, whilst Jack and Janet were on foot; Chuck and Margaret, Keith and Rock were there too. We stumbled out of the pub and then more quickly past the desecrations of Longstone Edge and so to Calver. An excellent walk in indifferent conditions.

Many thanks to Rusty, Tony, Keith & Ali who joined me for the whole outing.
RT

AGM 2008 - the Morning After

How many of you checked the wording? I did on returning home after the AGM and here is the change.

From:

"The retiring President shall automatically (if they wish) become the new Vice-President for a maximum of two years." [Handbook 2001]

To:

The retiring President shall have the option to become the new Vice President for a maximum of two years." [AGM 2008]

We made the mistake of not having a copy of the 2001 handbook available. We also made the mistake of asking the membership to help us in comparing the new with the old. I sometimes give out notes to my students in order to provide discussion points for a future seminar/lecture. Occasionally I stick pages together, and amuse myself at the antics when subsequently I ask them to look at page xx. After a few sessions they begin to realise that I mean for them to read the afore-mentioned. We expected a more grown-up approach from the Oread; clearly the expectation was unfulfilled!

For someone to state wrongly that we had changed the meaning may be a mistake, or mischief, or worse. For others to jump on the band wagon and hint that the Committee were deliberately changing the meaning was behaviour akin to the politics of prime minister's question time or the gutter press. I hope that those involved will have the decency to apologise.

As for the debacle that followed, I and I hope many others were appalled and offended by the tactics and general approach made to the subject of Heathy-Lea. We (the Committee) were hoping for some guidance regarding the future, not the divisive haranguing argument that occurred. Time was, when the Oread listened, and contributed – and verbally knocked nine bells out of each other, but it was done honestly and spontaneously and usually with fun. It would seem that those days are over and that we must now have arguments which result in a simple yes or no, you are either with us

or against us! We've all had arguments with Harry, and lost some and occasionally won one – he would have been disappointed last night.
Keith Gregson

Meets Secretary Message

I'm currently compiling the 2009 meets list, so if you have a regular meet that you enjoy leading or any new ideas please contact me.

Heathy Lea is booked for the weekend of 4/5/6th of April, there is no leader for this meet, but that shouldn't stop the hut being used. I suggest anyone interested to simply turn up and see what happens.
Neil Weatherstone

All in the Mind

I've long thought that at some crags there is no point in a warm up route. You just end up pumped and alarmed on an "easy" route and much too worried to go for the main event. It's intimidating. It really psyches you out. You need your head in order down there. It's a gripping place. Perhaps we should be a bit more direct, a bit more honest. I stood racking up on the gentle grass slopes above the Boulder Ruckle.

"I'm **bloody** terrified," I announced to no one in particular.

Beth laughed. "Well, you're hiding it well." Well we do, don't we? Losing ourselves in the rhythms and routines of preparing to climb. Carefully selecting favourite bits of gear, racking up in a neat, predetermined order, in the certain knowledge that the crucial wire will always be in the most inconvenient place when it comes to the crunch. I've played around with lots of different systems and when the sweat is stinging your eyes and your arms are screaming none of them work. For ages I couldn't set off on a route without turning the bottom two inches of my trousers up. "Centring" the psychiatrists would call. Hiding the fear would be a better word.

We'd had spots of rain and the wind was blowing hard so there were plenty of excuses. Even Graham hadn't seemed his usual certain self: we'd messed around on the campsite and debated venues and options. Perhaps another day clipping bolts? Immersing ourselves in the mediocrity with everyone else. Eventually I was surprised to hear myself say, "Let's go for it", with such certainty.

I'd done hill sprints up to the fence to get warm, perfected the abseil rope and triple checked everything. I couldn't delay any longer. A liquid slide down into the solitude with only the crash of the waves for company. Off to my left the wall loomed, riven by cracks and grooves. Is that it? That can't be it. Bloody hell that's it.

On the ground the machine kicks in. A dialogue in my head. Good resting spot there. That jamming crack should give some respite. Lots of gear, good. I'm trying to break it into manageable lumps but I'm still intimidated. Well a bit gripped. Psyched out. Alright, I'm scared. Get into your warm up, hide in the routine. A few minutes traversing the base of the crag and my fingers are starting to work, the sun even shines. Graham is patient and supportive. Suddenly I'm ready and I need to go now. The first tiny groove is awkward and I wriggle out of it on to a sloping ledge. Runner on. I'm pleased I've brought some hexes, very old school, but ideal here. A sally upwards to fix a high runner and back to my resting ledge. This is smart tactics, I'm going to need all the Frosties I can muster for the next unrelenting section.

I launch up again. Past my previous highpoint. Hands full of holds, fumbling with runners. Nothing is slick, early season clumsiness reigns. The dialogue has stopped. I cram my hand into a crack, begging for some respite. "Come, on, come on." I squeeze a cam in above it. It's bomber but I'm still terrified. Relaxation is a distant memory. One more move and I'll be at the fault line.

My promised haven of rest is an overhung niche two feet high. My forearms are like pulp. I really need a runner. Undercutting strenuously, it still takes me three goes to drop in the perfect wire. Back into the mini niche. My arms are worse. I'm failing. More undercutting, another runner, the clock is ticking. A rounded layaway is my only reward. Sweat stings my eyes. I try to reverse once more but my mind had been beaten long before my body. I slumped on to the runners.

A couple of minutes of dangling and the rounded layaway has transformed into a positive jug. A heave and I'm through the crux. Of course the next move gives access to a ledge with a hands off rest. More runners and a new development: footholds. The top wall is still steep but easing all the time and I'm not going to fail again after the humiliation of my moment of weakness.

Beth smiles and congratulates me as I crawl up the grass to the belay stakes. I am quick to confess my weakness. Graham salves my ego a little by taking his time following.

I am disappointed but I'll be back to face my demons again. At least I tried. And that wall isn't going anywhere.

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BMC news

The next Peak area meeting will be on 6th April at 7.30, venue to be advised. Area Open Meetings are open to all. They are the base from which the BMC grows, where local action starts and ideas get kicked about (in a friendly way). One of their purposes is to inform local climbers and walkers of developments in the wider outdoor world. They also act as a mouthpiece for the opinions of the locals in such matters as crag access, conservation issues, and national debates (e.g. windfarms, local road building schemes). They are also increasingly the forum for getting local crag clean up events started, organised and funded.

Cheddar Gorge

If you're climbing in Cheddar Gorge this year please note the following important access & insurance update.

The 2008 CLOSED PERIODS for climbing at Cheddar Gorge are:

- * May Bank Hol (Sat 3 - Mon 5 May)
- * Whitsun (Sat 24 May - Sun 1 Jun)
- * Summer (Mon 1 Jul - Sun 7 Sep)

All of these dates are INCLUSIVE. Climbing is available on restored routes on the south side of Cheddar Gorge outside of the restricted periods shown above. Liability Insurance/BMC Membership: It is a requirement of climbing on CC&G crags at Cheddar that you must hold suitable 3rd party liability insurance cover. All BMC members automatically receive £5m of 3rd party cover as part of their membership. Please note that this is the only cover recognised by CC&G. If you unable to demonstrate you are a BMC member - again - you may be asked to leave. All BMC members have now been issued with membership cards so you are strongly advised to take your card with you to Cheddar to demonstrate your membership and insurance if asked.

Articles for May Newsletter

Please send all material to John Green at johnfrogreen@tiscali.co.uk - though a copy to me might be a useful backup in case John's technical problems have not been resolved.

Material for publication should be sent by 25 March