



March 2009

Oread M.C. Newsletter

Editorial. (Last Date for next edition 29/03/09)

March is one of those months when you cannot be sure which way the weather will go. This year, so far, the mountain conditions have been excellent. In January I managed 3 Corbetts, but cut the visit short due to poor conditions on the tracks to the hills, difficult even with Nordic skis. After my February excursion, The Ben and Cairngorms have snow but most of the rest has disappeared due to warm rainy conditions. It is very wet underfoot, but more normal for Scotland at this time of year. This month we have the last of the Winter Evening meets at the Royal Oak, a revitalised Fell Race and our 60th AGM. Don't forget it's your opportunity to "have a say" about how the club is run and what it should be doing, so please come along and take part.



DSC02140.jpg

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Lochnagar walk in - January 2009

Winter Climbing Meets - January to March 2009

Simon Pape.

The President hasn't made it as far as Scotland yet this winter. He has however, been out on the ice in North Wales and the Lakes on two very successful weekends away. Impromptu "Scottish" trips will continue as long as enthusiasm and conditions last – they may even get to Scotland! Organisation will be mainly by e-mail, but if you're interested please get in touch with either me on 01629 822450 or 07813 616563 or Steve on 01629 825292 or 07824 623945.

Indoor Meet - Royal Oak - Tue 3rd March.

Tony Howard.

Our next talk, the last of this season is by **Richard Hopkinson & Steve Christian**, who will be talking about '**Climbing in the Picos de Europa**' on **Tuesday 3rd March**. That should be good – and might act as a catalyst for a future Club meet? I look forward to seeing you there (at the Royal Oak that is, not the Picos just yet!). Please let me know if you can come.

See you on **Tuesday 3rd March at the Royal Oak Ockbrook – 20.00**



2-26-2009_001.JPG

Naranjo de Bulnes

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Naranjo de Bulnes – Picos de Europa.

Tan yr Wyddfa 7th-8th March – Derek Pike.

Having just read the 2009 Meets List I find that I have put my name down to lead this meet. I am not going to make any rash promises about fine winter conditions or fine warm and sunny conditions suitable for climbing, so any of you who wish to attend this meet will, as always, have to make do with whatever the weather god or goddess provides.

If you would like to come please contact me on 01332 670459 or e-mail

derepike1234@btinternet.com Derek.

Patterdale – 14th-15th March – Stuart Haywood.

As I'm sure everyone will appreciate it's very difficult to add anything new to the usual Newsletter 'overview' regarding this traditional

meet; climbing, scrambling, walking, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing and even gear shopping are all available in the immediate vicinity of the hut. The only variable will be the weather but statistically we are due for a good one!

Over the next couple of weeks I will endeavour to contact the 'usual suspects' but at the moment 10 beds are still available so if you want to book a berth please call me on 07836 314403 or 01332 882331.

Andrea and I will hopefully arrive mid evening on Friday but others have already indicated that they will be travelling on Thursday so hopefully the hut will be 'warmed and aired' by Friday evening.

Incidentally although the slightly longer daylight might be useful this year, normal service will be resumed next year, when the meet will revert to its traditional early March 'slot'.

Heathy Lea Fell Race - 21st-22nd March –

Chris and Gill Radcliffe.

After a lapse of several years the Healthy Lea Fell Race has returned to the Oread Meets List. This is not just for keen fell runners, but is intended as a fun event to be enjoyed by all.

The event will take place at 11:00 on Sunday, March 22nd, but please aim to turn up at 10:30 so we can finalize the arrangements and hand out maps and information.

The race will be for teams of two. The course, if followed in its entirety, is 6.8 miles long.

However, each member of the team runs in the opposite direction around the course until they meet. At this point each will return the way they have already come and then meet again just before the finish. They must finish together, so the first to arrive at the top of the track leading down to Healthy Lea must wait until his/her partner arrives and then they can finish.

The intention is to pair the fastest runners with the slowest runners, so the fast runner will have to run much further round the course until meeting up with the slower runner and then have to return the same way and will therefore cover a greater distance. Hence the fast runner will have a good workout and the slower runner will still have a good chance of being part of the winning team.

Even if you do not consider yourself a "proper" runner, please come along and join in. You may suggest pairings if you like, but the final pairings are entirely at the discretion of the

organizers! Complaints about the handicapping can be aired at the pub afterwards.

It would be helpful if you could indicate in advance if you will come along so that we can scheme about the pairings, but it is still possible to turn up on the day. As we would like to take part, we would appreciate an offer for someone to do the timekeeping duties – for anyone not interested in running.

If there is anyone who wants to stay at Healthy Lea over the weekend, please get in touch.

We are available to participate in activities on Saturday and socialize at the Robin Hood on Saturday evening. We can be contacted by email or phone:

chris@farfields.co.uk 01246 569134 (home)
07770 883259 (mobile)

gill@farfields.co.uk
07816 072138 (mobile)

The Oread 60th A.G.M. Sat. 28th March- Committee.

As stated last month, this will be held at the Robin Hood Inn, Chesterfield Road, Baslow, at 20.00hrs. We still need a Meets Secretary so if you would like to “get involved” with running the club, this could be your opportunity to shine !

Spring Stride. Sun. 29th March- Rob Tresidder.

I am sure the petrolheads will be pleased to note that this time I intend to travel into the Peak by car. The scheme of the day is to walk anti-clockwise in a large semicircle starting from Grindleford station and finishing, probably in Bamford. Let’s meet at 10 at the station and move off soon afterwards. Up Padley Gorge to the Surprise CP to collect late arrivals. Charge is £3.50 but the machine has been out of order since before Christmas! Mother Cap, Higgarr and across to Stanage. Come equipped for some gentle (optional) scrambles and maybe a little bouldering. Bring a headtorch in case someone knows the subterranean scramble through the boulders at Higgarr. We’ll take our lunch somewhere on Stanage. If anyone can get me up any of the first four boulder problems of the sky blue circuit (the ones beside the causeway), I’ll buy them a pint. Some are only graded V0!

We’ll probably make our way down over Bamford Edge to the station and be back at Grindleford at 1648, though if we are having a seriously good time that might be 1848.

Endless permutations possible as the train service is hourly during the day and could be joined at Hathersage, for those looking for a shorter walk or Hope for those who choose to yomp on over Win Hill. Equally, the 272 bus service runs hourly in the valley for those parked at Surprise. I will have timetables. Try to share transport please: parking at Grindleford is limited. For lifts or offers please contact me. I have one adult space and one smaller one.

Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net
07951 625 378

First Outdoor Evening Meet Wed. 1st April - Neil Weatherstone.

The clocks will have changed allowing us rock-hungry climbers to head out onto the real stuff. We’ll stick to the tried and tested formula of Harborough Rocks, where there are plenty of easy routes and bouldering, followed by refreshing drinks in Brassington at the Olde Gate. The wet weather option will be the wall at Wirksworth and the Royal Oak. See you all there.

Stair – Newlands Valley 4th-5th April- John Green.

It seems a long time since the club had a meet here. In previous years we have climbed and walked many of the excellent hills around such as Causey Pike, Sail, Grasmoor, Grisedale Pike etc. It’s also not too far to drive into Borrowdale for some of the great rock climbing there. Troutdale Pinnacle in clear April light should be great. Then there are the crags of Shepherd’s waiting to be climbed. It’s a long time since I did Little Chamonix, so I would be up for that if anyone is interested. The hutte is owned by the Fylde M.C with whom we have reciprocal rights, and is situated at G.R. **NY 2372 2106**. I have ordered some warm Spring sunshine and the daffodils should be coming out. It is about 1 klm to the Swinside Inn, where I shall be on Friday evening, enjoying a pint or two of Jennings. Give me a ring on 01332 823101 if you would like to come. I shall be going up on Friday morning if anyone would like a lift.

Reports from past meets and news.

Tan yr Wyddfa – 24th & 25th January.

At my meet, conditions didn't look very promising but turned out well. On Saturday we went en masse (all 5 of us) into Cwm Clogwyn. Pike extended family went up Central Route (?) on Llechog (Diff in summer) and had a fairly wet and muddy time of it. Chiz and I went higher up the Cwm, and went up an unnamed gully on the headwall - first defined gully to the right of the fence. It got progressively steeper, to culminate in 3 pitches of quite good grade III climbing. There was fairly firm snowpack, but frequently the axes were scrabbling around on bare rock or unfrozen turf underneath!. I do find it surprising that this Cwm gets no mention in the winter guides, as it's just about the highest north facing in Wales. Sunday started wet, Pikes went looking for slate crags, we went for a walk. The weather then turned superb in the afternoon, but we never got round to doing anything!
Reuben Dakin.

Seathwaite – 7th & 8th February.

Our meet to Seathwaite in the Borrowdale area of the Lakes fortuitously coincided with the fells being covered in ice and snow. This provided sixteen Oread's with various options for the weekend. After a cold Friday night in the hut, Simon & Steve were up before dawn and headed up to Great End whilst most others were still tucked up in bed. Was this early start made to beat the crowds, or was it to ensure they could be finished early enough to watch the rugby in the pub? Their route was Window Gully. They were not alone on Great End that day. Mike and Vic climbed Central Gully Left and Cust's Gully was ascended by the group of Pete, Alison, Chiz, Reu, Pam and Nodge on their round-about-way to Glaramara. The remaining Oreads comprising John G, John D, Rock, Pete, Dave and myself set out on a long winter walk along the corridor route taking in Lingmell and Scarfell Pike, returning via Great End. The walking conditions were perfect for crampons with plenty of compacted snow and ice sheets underfoot. On return to the hut, mulled wine was on hand to warm everyone up. A few ventured to the pub, but all were back for the main event of the evening, which was a surprising demonstration of 'backdraft' by the unsuspecting meet leader.

A much warmer night was had in the hut as the fires had been burning for hours, which resulted in a more leisurely start on the Sunday. Once organised, various walks were completed. The group of Steve, Simon, John Green and myself headed from the hut following the line of Sour Milk Gill. This brought us to Raven Crag where we hoped to find a grade II gully full of snow, but the gully was disappointingly bare considering the large amounts of snow elsewhere in the area. We instead found a wide gully, which gave us a good steep climb of several hundred feet on rock hard neve' to the top on Brandreth. The weather was clear and gave great views across the white wilderness of the Eastern fells.

On the whole, the weekend was very successful and a lot of fun. The K-Fellfarers High House hut at Seathwaite is in an excellent location and we should really make more use of our reciprocal rights. Thanks to everyone who attended and made it a great winter weekend. Neil



100_2500.JPG Neil at base of Great End Saturday, February 07, 2009
Saturday- Neil below Central Gully



100_2506.JPG Steve Christian on ice in Gillercombe Sunday, February 08, 2009
Sunday Steve in Gillercombe

The BMC & Clubs – an update

I am writing to you in my capacity as BMC Vice President, chair of the Clubs Working Group (CWG), and for my sins, President elect. The purpose of my letter is to assure you of the BMC's commitment to our affiliated clubs, and to update you on what we have been doing over the past year to improve our support for clubs. I would be very grateful if you could circulate this letter amongst your club officials and members

I regard clubs to be the lifeblood of British Mountaineering and I can assure you that whilst I am involved with the BMC I intend to make sure that the BMC offers clubs the highest level of support, services and technical advice possible. Much has been achieved through the CWG's work since last summer and I am also very pleased to be able to tell you that, despite the current economic climate, the BMC has recently managed to secure an additional £135,750 to provide direct support for affiliated clubs, as part of our 4 year Sport England grant application.

The following list summarises some of the key aspects of our work over the past year:

a. Strategic commitment to clubs.

As part of the BMC Strategic Plan for 2009-12 (adopted in September 2008) the BMC is committed to – and I quote:

- Review and improve our club membership renewal process in order to minimise the administration burden placed on club secretaries and officials.
- Increase the volume of staff time allocated to supporting clubs, clubs officials and club management. To provide 9am – 5pm telephone and email support for clubs via the BMC Membership Services Team and a dedicated 'Club Support Co-ordinator'.
- Update all technical guidance documentation produced by the BMC for clubs; this includes technical and policy related information on child protection, facilities (huts), equality, leadership, liability and insurance issues.
- Run an annual technical seminar for senior clubs and a 2 day safety and good practice seminar for student clubs. Provide workshops for club officials on issues such as young people, pooled equipment and legal matters.
- Promote club membership in Summit magazine and on the BMC website to make full use of the club section on the

website. To encourage more people to join clubs.

- Operate and administer a Club Working Group within the BMC to constantly review and improve the services provided to clubs and club members.
- Work with Sport England to identify other ways of supporting 'quality clubs'; this may include offering instructor support to facilitate new/novice member meets or u18s within clubs.

I am pleased to report that we have made progress on many of these points over recent months.

b. Membership structure & subscriptions.

A great deal of work has gone on in this area over the past year. The CWG (see terms of reference attached below) has taken the lead and has considered several different membership models in considerable detail. The Group is currently working on a facility for members of affiliated clubs to opt for a reduced form of BMC membership which would provide only the most basic services and at a reduced cost. The administrative aspects of this are being worked through and the CWG aims to submit its proposals to the BMC National Council for approval later this year, with a view to any structural changes being put to the BMC AGM in April 2010.

The CWG will also be recommending that a dedicated 'Clubs Committee' be established within the BMC to provide a forum for clubs to input into the BMC and help direct the BMC's work for clubs.

On the issue of club subscriptions, you will be pleased to hear that the BMC plans to hold the 2010 subscription at the current rate of £11.75; club subscriptions will therefore not increase again until 1 Jan 2011 at the earliest. At the forthcoming AGM (25 April 2009 at Plas y Brenin) we also intend to clarify the resolution adopted at last years AGM on the subject of the BMC's policy on club and individual subscription levels. I can confirm that it is definitively **not** the BMC's policy or intention to increase club subscriptions to the level of Individual Member subscriptions as some people have come to understand. In my opinion, with the adjustment that has been made this year the balance between Club and Individual Member subscriptions is now *about right* and I would not anticipate that further adjustments would be needed in the next few years.

c. Financial and technical support for clubs.

In December Sport England advised us that we had been successful in our application for additional money to improve our support for clubs. As of 1 April – the following funding will therefore be available:

- £25,000 towards the cost of Club Support Co-ordinator within the BMC office.
- £14,000 to enable us to produce technical guidance documentation for clubs.
- £41,250 to pay for Climbing / Mountaineering Instructors to support clubs in taking on novices and young people.
- £32,000 to help clubs develop their websites & newsletters.
- £23,500 to purchase mountaineering equipment for clubs.

We are currently working how best to make this money available; Dave Turnbull at the BMC office will be getting in touch with you with more details over the next few months. As you can see from the above, the BMC is taking great strides to improve the relationship between Clubs, Club Members and the BMC. I accept that over the past few years we might have lost touch with the needs of the Clubs but I can assure you that this is being redressed. Over the last 6 months, CWG has worked very hard in agreeing with the decisions noted above; the formation of the Clubs Committee will continue that good work and will give the Clubs greater representation within the BMC. If you have further queries on any of these points, I will always be pleased to try and answer them. My email address is rabcarrington@hotmail.com.

Yours sincerely
Rab Carrington
BMC Vice President

Chiz Dakin.

One of our members has made the headlines! In the Derby Evening Telegraph. Chiz has been given the Outdoor Writers' and Photographers' Guild Award for excellence in photography. This was from a portfolio of 15 pictures taken in Madeira. Congratulations to her from us all.

J.G.

Tan yr Wyddfa Repairs.

The repairs are continuing at the Welsh Hutte. The funding for this is from the Malcolm Padley bequest, some new problems have been found but all should be OK for the month end.

Chuck.



Note old doorway on right originally bricked up by Chuck.





IMG_1133.JPG

Sunday, February 15, 2009



IMG_1132.JPG

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Peak District Residents Parking Permits.

Some weeks ago we approached the Peak District National Park about the purchase of Residents Parking Permits. At a cost of £15 per year these enable free use of its chargeable car parks (and are available to anyone resident in the Peak District). The reply from the PDNP suggests that club may well be entitled to purchase some. The cost of an annual permit for visitors to the Peak District is £30 and for over 60's £20. Could anyone who is interested in spending £15 on a Residents Permit let me know. Once we know the level of demand, if any, we can decide how to proceed. Chris Wilson, 10 Beacon Road, Rolleston on Dove, DE13 9BG or chrisandjanwilson@talktalk.net
Chris Wilson.

Black Rocks.

I arranged a meeting on Friday at the rocks with the Forestry Commission and the BMC. I had expected just three of us, but in the end we were nine! Four climbers, four from the FC (two of whom were also climbers) and one from the DCC ranger service. We walked up and along below the north face of the rocks

and it was eventually agreed that the beech and sycamore between the crag and the High Peak Trail would be removed along the whole length of the face and the birch would be selectively thinned. A single row of beeches beside the trail to remain. This job would be offered "for sale" in November and the work would be carried out before March 2010. As to the trees on the rocks themselves, the Forestry Commission were reluctant to allow amateurs even the wink to do this so the job would be contracted out to a roped access/tree surgery team. And, Derrick, that includes the large silver birch which now obstructs Garden Wall Traverse even though Reuben Bowen pointed out that it is used for a running belay on an E3 that goes up the wall left of Stonnis Crack. We thought they could stick a Friend in the horizontal crack that the tree roots in. This work (on the crag) to be executed late winter or spring this year. All subject to local consultation (Wirksworth & Cromford). Rob Tresidder

Address Changes.

Chuck Hooley's new email address is chuck123@btinternet.com

Lectures.

It may be of interest to know about a talk Karen Darke's giving at the Assembly Rooms on the **26th of March** about skiing across Greenland, cycling over the Himalayas and climbing El Cap (oh yes she was paralysed in a climbing accident when she was 21 - and I think people should remember her from the Xmas dinner). You can find out more about her at <http://www.karendarke.com>

Hut Bookings. For March.

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

HEATHY LEA

March 20/21st Oread meet

TAN-YR- WYDDFA

March 6/7th. Oread meet

March 13/14th. St. Barts. Hospital 16 beds

March 20/21st. Derby M.C. 16 beds

March 27/28th. Buxton M.C. 16 beds

April 3/4th Vacant

April 10/13th Easter

NB A pair of gaiters have been left in the Oread room, please contact:

Colin Hobday Tel 01332 551594 Email

colinanduschi@talktalk.net tel. 0-7951 625 378

Forthcoming Meets

March	Tue 3 rd	Royal Oak, Ockbrook – Richard Hopkinson/Steve Christian	Tony Howard	01332 273307 07762 268181
	Sat 7 th – Sun 8 th	Tan yr Wyddfa	Derek Pike	01332 670459
	Tue 10 th	Committee Meets Smithfield Derby		
	Sat 14 th – Sun 15 th	Patterdale – George Starkey Hut	Stuart Haywood	01332 882331 07836 314403
	Sat 21 st – Sun 22 nd	Heathy Lea – Fell Race	Gill Radcliffe	01246 569134 07816 072138
	Sat 28 th	Annual General Meeting – Robin Hood - Baslow	Chris Wilson	01283 520911 07881 698758
	Sun 29 th	Spring Stride	Rod Tresidder	01629 823953 07951 625378
April	Wed 1 st	First Evening Outdoor Meet	Neil Weatherstone	01332 726116 07946 825798
	Sat 4 th – Sun 5 th	Stair Meet Newlands Valley	John Green.	01332 832101
	Tues 14 th	Committee Meets Smithfield Derby		
	Fri 10 th – Mon 13 th	Easter		
	Sat 25 th – Sun 26 th	Heathy Lea – Joint Meet with Gloucester M.C.	Mike Wren – Tony Raphael.	01332 840336
May	Sat 2 nd - Mon 4 th	May Bank Holiday	Sally Dipple	01629 824888
	Tues 12 th	Committee Meets Smithfield Derby		
	Sat 16 th - Sun 17 th	Tan yr Wyddfa Working Party	Hut Sub Committee	
	Sat 23 rd - Mon 25 th	Spring Bank Holiday – Arrochar Alps	Roy Eyre	01623 469658
	Sat 30 th – Sun 31 st	Heathy Lea	No Leader	

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