

# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**MARCH 2015**



**Mick Hayes reaching the belay on Cleft Gully, V 6; Clogwyn Du, Glyder Fawr. (Read the story on page 9).**

## **Editorial**

This has been an interesting winter so far with some fine dumps of snow at home and recently, I am told, excellent conditions in Scotland, and, as this month's cover picture shows, also in Wales. Meanwhile those of us who went for the sunshine option had a lovely, sunny, if at times chilly, week climbing, walking and cycling around Benidorm.

This newsletter starts with news of the last of the indoor meets and a hut booked in Patterdale then looks forward to Easter and beyond. With trips to France, Pembroke and Little Langdale coming up in April hopefully there will be something to suit everyone.

Before all that though it's AGM time again on 21 March. The agenda and minutes are published in this newsletter so please print them and bring them with you if

possible as there won't be lots of paper copies at the meeting. And last, but not least the Spring Stride will take place on the Sunday after the AGM and should be a grand, sociable occasion.

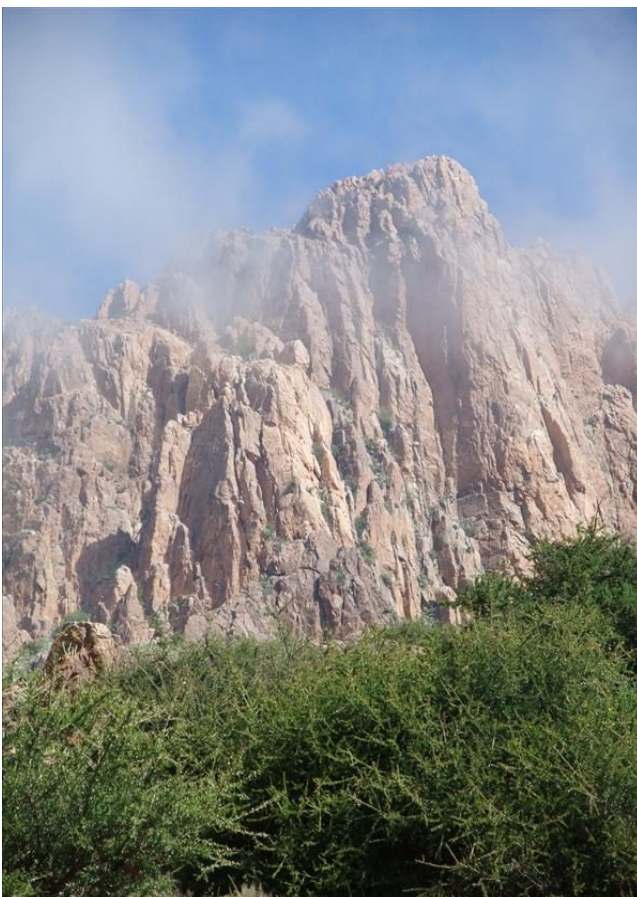
## What's on.

### Evening Meets at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook Tuesday 3 March at 8.00pm

For the last event of the season: two short talks:

#### 4-6 March:

#### MOROCCO



**Dave Helliwell** will present an introduction to rock climbing in the Anti Atlas — Jebel el Kest

plus



#### THE SCOTTISH 4000 FOOTERS.

**Jack Ashcroft** will give an account of the traverse he made forty years ago of all the eight 4000ers, along with even more Munros on the way from Lochaber to the Cairngorms.

## **Farewell to Chuck Hooley Tan yr Wyddfa.**

On Thursday 5 March Pam and other committee members will be visiting Tan yr Wyddfa for a brief ceremony at 12 noon to scatter Chuck Hooley's ashes. We would very much like other members of the club to join us if it is possible for you. The hut is available for you to stay on Wednesday 4th and on Thursday 5th when those of us who can stay over could perhaps share a meal together.

Please note - **it is not possible** for anyone to stay on the Friday night as the hut is booked out to a school group for the weekend.

If you would like to come please contact Pam Storer.

**Pam Storer:** email [pam\\_storer@hotmail.com](mailto:pam_storer@hotmail.com) tel 07584493349

## **Patterdale – 6-7 March 2015 Stuart Haywood**

At the moment George Starkey Hut is booked for the nights of Friday 6th and Saturday 7th March but dependant on weather conditions etc. as usual we have the option of prolonging our stay. I think everyone will be aware of the 'possibilities' this hut offers, and over recent years climbing, walking, mountain biking, canoeing, gear shopping and even fishing have all featured during this traditional Oread Meet.

Over the next few weeks I will endeavour to contact the 'usual suspects' but in the meantime if you want to book a berth please call me on 07774 – 859553 ; 01332 882331 or e-mail [stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuart.haywood8@yahoo.co.uk) I will of course reply to all e-mail and voicemail messages to confirm bookings. Also if you are looking for, or can offer lifts, please let me know.

Stuart Haywood.

## **Oread AGM – Saturday 21 March 2014**

The AGM will, as usual, be held at the Robin Hood, Chesterfield Road, Baslow DE45 1PQ at 8.00p.m. on 22 March.

The **Agenda** for the meeting will be:

1. Apologies for absence:
2. Minutes of the last AGM.
3. Matters arising.
4. President's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Tan yr Wyddfa HSC report.
7. Heathy Lea HSC report.
8. Election of officers: the following nominations have been received:
  - 8.1. President: Pam Storer
  - 8.2. Vice-president: Derek Pike
  - 8.3. Secretary: Rob Tresidder
  - 8.4. Membership secretary:
  - 8.5. Treasurer: Keith Gregson.
  - 8.6. Hut bookings secretary: Derek Pike.

- 8.7. Meets secretary: Gil Male.  
8.8. Newsletter editor: Ruth Gordon.  
8.9. Additional committee members (3):  
Nigel Briggs, Richard Hopkinson, Tony Howard, Chris Wilson.  
**Further nominations welcome especially for vacant posts.**  
9. AOB.

**Tan yr Wyddfa Hut Sub Committee:**

Dave Helliwell (Hut Custodian), Chris and Roy Eyre, Ruth Gordon, Tony Howard, C. (Rusty) Russell, Tony Smedley, Pam Storer

**Heathy Lea Hut Sub Committee:**

Mike Hayes (Hut Custodian), Dave Helliwell, Steve McDonagh and Pam Storer

Members are reminded that, subject to Rules 8 and 9, the General Secretary must receive any nominations for election of Officers and Committee members at least 14 days before the A.G.M. **Nominations close on 7 March.**

Please send your nominations to the General Secretary, Rob Tresidder, 61 West End Wirksworth DE4 4EG tel. 07951 625 378 email [Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net](mailto:Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net)

No changes to the Club Rules are proposed by the Committee.

## **Minutes of the AGM 2014**

### **Oread M. C. Annual General Meeting. Saturday, 22 March 2014**

Present (35): Jack Ashcroft, Nigel Briggs, Nick Evans, Chris Eyre, Roy Eyre, Ruth Gordon, Gordon Gadsby, Margaret Gadsby, Keith Gregson, John Gresty, Richard Hardwick, Dave Helliwell, Colin Hobday, Uschi Hobday, Tony Howard, Rock Hudson, Pete Lancaster (chair), Gil Male, Chris Radcliffe, Gill Radcliffe, Tony Raphael, Clive Russell, Kevin Sarson, Margaret Sarson, Peter Scott, Pam Storer, Derek Pike, Joan Pike, Tony Smedley, Rob Tresidder (pencil), Shirley Wainwright, Brian West, Chris Wilson, Jan Wilson, Mike Wren.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Janet Ashcroft, Derrick Burgess, Janet Burgess, Michael Hayes, Angela Haywood, Stuart Haywood, Chuck Hooley, Margaret Hooley, Richard Hopkinson, Gill Keeling, Mike Keeling, George Sutton.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM, on 05 March 2014:** acceptance as an accurate record was proposed by A Howard and seconded by G Radcliffe. Passed nem.con.

**3. Matters arising and actions: there were none.**

**4. The outgoing president, Pete Lancaster, gave his report.**

After apologising for the state of his computer, he moved on to significant events of the Oread year. He applauded the smooth transition from John Green's excellent production of the newsletter to Ruth Gordon's equally excellent editions. He recalled with pleasure George Sutton's attendance and speaking at the annual dinner. Pete noted that numbers attending meets continued to hold up, though not at every meet. He thanked the retiring meets secretary, Derek Pike and welcomed his replacement, Chris Radcliffe. He referred to a successful meet at Easter at Fontainebleau and highlighted the importance of offering bouldering

and sport climbing if we are to continue recruiting. The meet at High House in Borrowdale had been particularly successful. The hot rock meet in the Val di Mello attended by 36 Oreads. The meet had had everything especially as it had turned out warm and dry. He trailed the upcoming Alpine meet in Ailefroide in the Massif des Écrins. The now biennial meet on Lundy had been disappointing weatherwise, but some climbing was done. Scotland was far from great weatherwise. The only official meet (in Glen Etive) had been beset by storms on Saturday and wet, wet on Sunday.

The 2013-14 indoor meets had been mostly well attended but had turned in a loss.

Pete highlighted some notable Oread successes. Mike Mowbray had downed his weight and upped his game all the way up Great Wall. Mike Bate had been sport climbing at F8a/F8b. Pete referred to an earlier ascent of Great Wall by Paul Gardner who died on Christmas Day. He had joined the Oread in 1977.

Moving on to club bureaucracy, the president welcomed the arrival on the committee of Rhiannon Hollick Cooper (assistant secretary) and Keith Gregson (treasurer). Pete turned his attention to Heathy Lea and explained why he doesn't stay there [he lives down the road]. Currently there are more nonmember nights than member nights. The lease is up for renewal in a couple of years: "use it or lose it". He closed by urging Oreads to pay their subs on time.

## **5. Treasurer's report. (Keith Gregson)**

5.1. reported that the accounts had not yet been audited but that Reg Squires was happy with the look of them.

5.2. profit on the year was £3.6k.

5.3. the loss on Heathy Lea was £2k. He urged debate on the future of the hut.

5.4. Keith did not yet have an opening balance for 01.01.14.

5.5. the indoor meets (2012-13) had made a loss of £67.75.

5.6. the hut fund is not currently being paid into but it will be.

## **6. HSC – Tan-yr-Wyddfa: (Dave Helliwell)**

6.1. more than 80 Oread bed nights.

6.2. the hut was nearly full over Christmas and new Year.

6.3. a new clock/meter has been installed.

6.4. the storage heater which was only functioning intermittently has been replaced at a cost of £400.

6.5. the hut had passed its fire inspection with flying colours. The inspector had requested a fire safety policy. This matter is in hand.

6.6. PAT testing of appliances has been carried out.

6.7. there had been three working parties — in June, October and November.

The car park was edged with stones. Painting had been carried out — a special thanks to Nodge who had painted the floor of the boot room. Some loft insulation was installed. The drains by the back door were sorted.

## **7. HSC – Heathy Lea: (Pam Storer on behalf of Mick Hayes)**

7.1. the hut is in good condition thanks to many helpers.

7.2. Roy Sawyer thanked for tiling the kitchen floor, fitting the new shower and installing vents in the walls.

7.3. relations with the Chatsworth estate currently very challenging.

- 7.4. rent review should have taken place last year.
- 7.5. lease re-negotiation in two years' time.
- 7.6. MH has complained about the condition of the former pumping house/ex sawmill adjacent to the hut.
- 7.7. volunteers sought for WP in May.

**8. Elections: the Committee proposed the following as officers and committee members:**

President: Pam Storer

Vice-president: Pete Lancaster

Secretary: Rob Tresidder

Assistant general secretary: Rhiannon Hollick Cooper

Meets secretary: Chris Radcliffe

Newsletter editor: Ruth Gordon

Hut custodian (Tan-yr-Wyddfa): Dave Helliwell

Hut custodian (Heathy Lea): Mick Hayes

Hut booking secretary: Derek Pike

Committee members: Michael Bate, Nigel Briggs, Chris Wilson

There were no other nominations; Chris Wilson proposed and Brian West seconded appointment of the committee's recommendation. Passed nem. con.

- 9. Pam Storer, the new president, took over the chair and wrested the gavel from her predecessor. She thanked Pete for his hard work and told the meeting how privileged she felt to have been elected. She then moved on to...

**10. AOB.**

- 10.1. Rob Tresidder spoke of his disappointment at the loss (£173) made by the indoor meets and urged more members to attend, bring their friends and lecture. Uschi suggested the publicity could be improved. She suggested one or more reminders in the emailing, rather than the single notice in the newsletter. Mike Mowbray suggested a poster at the Derby bouldering wall. John Gresty offered to post at Alter Rock.

Rob Tresidder. Secretary, OMC.

18.02.15

**Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2014 must be fully paid up before the start of the meeting.**

**Please note that there will not be multiple printed copies of the agenda and minutes available at the meeting. Please print and bring your own copies if possible.**

**If you are intending to eat at the Robin Hood please let them know in advance so they have some idea of numbers to expect. Tel. 01246 583186.**

Heathy Lea is available for those wishing to stay over. Book in as normal.

**Pam Storer:** email [pam\\_storer@hotmail.com](mailto:pam_storer@hotmail.com) tel 07584493349

## **22 March Spring Stride C Russell**

Again, the walk will take place in my favourite, limestone part of the Peak District. We shall assemble on foot by the duck pond in Hartington, where there



is ample car parking at various locations which you will find for yourselves. (Those arriving on two wheels will not only help to conserve space, but win brownie points).

Please meet at 10.30, ready to move off a few minutes later. The walk will be along the crest of the East bank of the Dove, descending to the viewpoint of Pilsbury Castle, with which you will all be familiar. From this point, where elevenses can be consumed in the luxury befitting this ancient location, we shall proceed along the comfortable path in the valley bottom to Crowdecote where there is a suitable hostelry for lunch. There are convoluted paths on the opposite bank of the Dove, by which proper walkers will return, taking in Sheen Hill and descending to Hartington by the old cheese factory.

Those in bath chairs or on zimmers may wish to take the easy return straight down the riverside track.

## **Fontainebleau / Dijon bolt clipping at Easter: 3-11 April Roger Gibbs**

You can't beat Fontainebleau and the limestone crags of Burgundy for a great start to the rock climbing season. It will hone finger power and turn wobbly bits into toned, tanned muscle. It's guaranteed to put two grades on your best lead and make you the envy of your mates. Alternatively, you could come for a week of fun, red wine, fine cheese and great company.

I defy anyone not to enjoy the Font bouldering circuits, great fun for anyone from

six months old to quite a bit older. If you can do all the problems on the kiddy circuit, try them with no hands. If you can't do all the problems on the "easy" circuit, well don't worry - neither can Adam Ondra.

<http://bleau.info/>

There's an awful lot of rock to go at around Dijon with all grades from easy to "tres dur". The bolting ranges all the way from entirely sensible (i.e. I can reach the next one while sitting on this one) to really not very sensible at all. Plenty of folk will be taking a clip (cheating) stick, however.

<http://www.climb-europe.com/RockClimbingFrance/Dijon-and-bourgogne.htm>

The plan is to go 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April. Ferry out on Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, arriving late afternoon at the camp site near Font.

Ferry back Sat 11<sup>th</sup>. I expect others may go earlier and come back earlier or later.

The camp site is here:

<http://www.camping-grez-fontainebleau.info/france/caravans/vacations/contact.html>

Those who have committed are already booked in to the Apremont area. It is well worth pre-booking if you will be there over the Easter weekend when the campsite will be busy.

We are planning 3 or 4 days in Font and then heading to Dijon to clip some bolts, but this is a very loose plan and may change after discussions over shredded finger tips and cold beer. This is very much a family trip with some teams in camper vans and some camping. Let me know if you're going to join us!

Roger Gibbs email [roger@tilda.com](mailto:roger@tilda.com) tel. 07770 237270

## **Easter and beyond**

For those not able to join the main meet or wanting to extend their stay there will be a trip to France starting later in April, around 15<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> hopefully taking in Orpierre, Beaumes de Venise and Buis les Baronnies.

If you are interested contact

Ruth Gordon [alistair.ruth@btinternet.com](mailto:alistair.ruth@btinternet.com) or 01629 56636.

If you can't get away for long there is a third option closer to home.

## **Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> South Pembroke Briefing Pam Storer**

A group of Oreads will be attending this meeting on Good Friday. We intend to camp at St Petrox as usual. If you need a hook up, please let me know asap ([pam\\_storer@hotmail.com](mailto:pam_storer@hotmail.com)) and I will book them otherwise it is fine to just turn up. I'm hoping for some fine weather and the chance to climb but can't promise! The other briefing dates for 2015 are: 19th March – 18.00, 21st March – 10.00, 3rd April – 10.00, 23rd April – 18.00, 21st May – 18.00, 23rd May – 10.00.

## **Little Langdale – 18-19 April Gill Radcliffe**

This meet is based at the Fylde Club Hut in Little Langdale at NY 31575 03014. We have reciprocal rights with the Fylde MC and have enjoyed many successful meets at this hut over the years. The location, in one of the most attractive valleys in the Lakes, is ideal for walking, climbing and mountain biking. Nearby peaks include Wetherlam, Great Carr and Pike O'Blisco which together form part of a horseshoe walk around the valley (and the line of the Three Shires Fell Race). It is only a short drive into Great Langdale for classic rock climbing venues, while the nearby slate of Hodge Close offers more esoteric and hard climbing opportunities, as well as a dry-tooling venue.

Mountain biking is available in nearby Grisedale Forest. The hut is only a short walk from the Three Horseshoes pub and I look forward to you joining me there on Friday evening ahead of a sociable and active weekend in the hills.

Gill@farfields.co.uk Tel: 01246 569134 / 07816 072138

### **Looking ahead:**

## **1-15 August Dolomites for the summer Alps Trip Roger Gibbs**

Full details next month.

## **News, Articles and Reports from Meets.**

### **On Welsh Ice. Dave Mawer**

It all started with a dream of the highlands, but one by one different problems presented themselves. First it was the weather, too much of it in fact, with another Atlantic low bound for the Northern half of the British Isles the West Highlands were forecast to be very wet if not very snowy. So the Cairngorms was aligned within our sights, however with gusts of up to 90mph set to hit we had to think of a different plan. North Wales had seen some recent action according to internet reports (how lucky we are nowadays) but you have to read between the lines. There was talk of ice, but how much? So as would-be contenders drifted in and out of the team, the fantastic four remained. As "Dr Chris" Hutchins was a member the MAM hut, Glen Dena was to be our base. A splendid building inhabited by a selection of eccentric Gwentian Club members on a walking meet. Ever mindful that the rest of the world's climbing population would be after our chosen route, fruitful negotiations agreed a 5.30am start and after a fitful sleep listening to high winds gusting around the hut the alarm sounded and it was time for action. We supped tea, scoffed breakfast, booted up and jumped into the car for a quick zoom along the A5 to Idwal Cottage and were first to arrive, all to plan so far. We donned jackets and sacks and began the plod along the flagstones to Llyn Idwal, after the kissing gate we followed a path striking a steep diagonal line towards Cwm Cneifion and Clogwyn Du on the North West flanks of Glyder

Fawr. With high spirits and plentiful banter, into the gloom we trod with a sense of uncertainty both of direction and conditions due to the squelching bogs regularly crossed by our path. Suddenly panic spread as torch lights were sighted some distance behind. The hunt was on and determined not to be over-run we quickened our pace, slipping and sliding up loose scree and snow. However, our lead was sufficient, but only just. As we gained the lower reaches of the Cwm the snow became firmer and a little crunchy. Half geared up, our pursuers arrived without a word and chose a higher gearing-up spot. Without further ado Chris and I bounded up the slopes to our goal, Clogwyn Du Left hand Branch, undoubtedly the line of the crag.



*Clogwyn Du*

We soloed the first easy pitch to reach the foot of the impressive main pitch and assert our possession. Five minutes later Roger and Mick arrived shortly followed by our pursuers. The early start paid dividends and as a reward for being the main protagonist, I'm allowed first dibs. So geared and ready with Mick holding my ropes I begin climbing up the initial groove covered in verglass to my right and the thin lower reaches of the icfall to my left. I steadily gain height placing rock gear until the ice fall will take a screw then with the confidence of tat clipped connected to three insitu pieces of gear I commit to the icfall proper. The ice is steep for a short length but good with first time placements and full depth screws and before long it's all behind me and I arrive at a spacious stance. Mick soon arrives sporting the pained expression of hot aches upon his face, shortly followed by Roger having zoomed up on the sharp end.



*Left: Dave on 1st pitch of Clogwyn du Left-hand Branch V, 5. Right: Mick suffering hot aches! Below: left: Mick Hayes on 2nd pitch of Clogwyn du Left-hand Branch. Right A happy Roger Gibbs!*



Over to Mick to run the final pitches together up easier angled ground interspersed with icy steps, sensibly missing out the inadequately formed final chimney with a traverse left. After locating the descent and braving its wind-tunnel like rim we reach easy ground eyeing up our next challenge as we return to our rucksacks. Fuelled by hot squash and pasties we sort the gear and tread our way back to the crag to stand beneath the thinly iced lower pitch of Cleft Gully.



*Dave on the thin 1st pitch of Cleft Gully V,6.*

Leaving Mick securely attached to a stout rock spike I gingerly climb through some exciting scenery, a tied off ice screw and a threaded icicle provide some confidence past a steepening until the angle eases and more protection presents itself. After a turfy section I'm delighted to tie off a miniature Christmas tree before a steep step into an alcove to belay to a couple of bomb-proof hexes beneath the crux wall of the final pitch. It's not long before Mick joins me once more, casting doubtful looks towards the overhanging wall behind me that bars our escape to the top of the crag. We sort ropes and exchange gear before I launch up the short lived crux that only turns out to be a couple of stout hooking moves protected by an in-situ hex to reach the thankfully frozen turf above followed by a romp up good nevé to the top. Brilliant stuff! As we descend once more we take a moment to watch the team that followed us climb the steep crux wall before we continue back the floor of the cwm. Just as we begin to wonder what happened to Roger and Chris they come into view as they descend the snowy slopes to join us (following an ascent of Clogwyn du Right-hand) as they announce their intentions of climbing back up to descend the Y Gribin ridge.

Mick and I decide we'd rather not and follow gravity back to Idwal Cottage and Glen Dena to be joined by the A-team some hours later declaring it was further than expected.



*Chris Hutchins about to enter the “moist cleft” of Pillar Chimney Original V,5*

With Sunday's forecast of rain by midday, Chris, Roger and I once again decide on an early start, leaving Mick to the confines of his sleeping bag. After treading the now familiar path back to Clogwyn Du we arrived at our gearing up spot, expecting a similar surge of competition, but it was not to be, we were alone.

Pillar Chimney Original was our route of choice, the scene of a lengthy queue yesterday due to its bottleneck crux pitch. Chris and I launch up the snow slopes to the foot of the crag to make a start on the first pitch leaving Roger to join us at his leisure.

This provides a taste of things to come by way of an entertaining chimney groove sandwiched between two

stretches of snow to an in-situ thread belay. Roger and Chris make light work and soon join me at the stance. Now over to Chris to unleash his talents on the crux pitch, a.k.a. “the moist cleft”. Roger is next up followed by me, what a giggle, a squeeze past an ice smear gains the confines of the dripping cleft, then a series of long reaches to chock stones and hidden hooks in the darkness with much wriggling, arm and knee bars to allow a ribbon of snow ice to be reached followed by an ungainly sideways dragging manoeuvre out to the belay.

With various areas of dampness declaring the age of my outer garments I'm informed the next dripping, sparsely iced pitch is mine.

After swapping the rack and thanking my comrades I arrange some protection before a flit rightwards across thin melting ice to gain more inspiring nevé which I follow to the top. Secured to a small boulder, I eye up the puddles now forming signalling the rising freezing level as I take in the ropes, but the gamble of another early start has rewarded us with another memorable adventure.

Returning to the base of the crag I spy my hat blowing in the wind, that's odd? As the mystery unfolds we discover our rucksacks have been opened and the culprit, whether someone or something, has relieved us of the majority of our food.

Fortunately expensive phones, head torches and the car keys remain, along with Roger's secret stash of Genoa cake, darn tea leaves are everywhere! As we pack our sacks it begins to drizzle but it takes more than this to dampen our spirits.

We're soon at the car and then the hut to tell our tale.

**Rob Tresidder has received, on behalf of the Club, a copy of the latest Pinnacle Club Journal. If you would like to borrow it please let him know.**

## **Information on Member Activities**

**Gordon Gadsby:** As many of us know Gordon has not been well recently; we wish him all the best - our thoughts are with him and his family at this time.

**Dennis Davis:** It is with sadness that I report the death of Dennis Davis on the 19<sup>th</sup> February after a short illness. He was a close associate of many older members, particularly Ray College, at whose funeral he spoke last year.

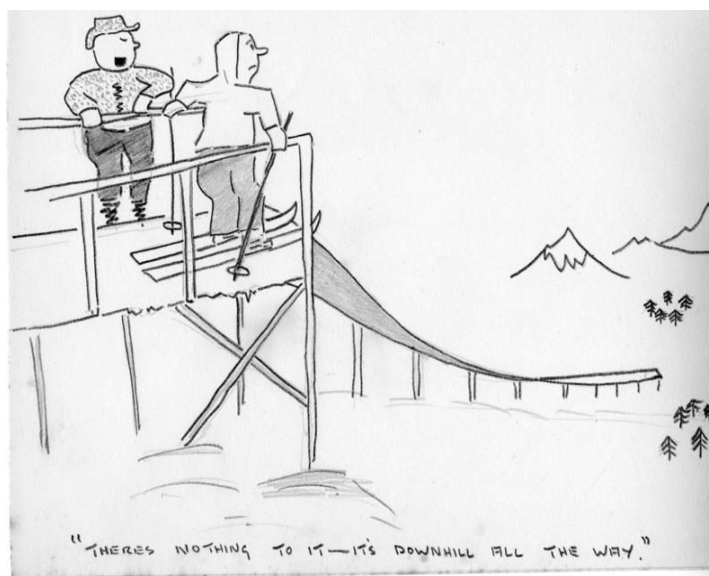
### **Congratulations to our Vintage Achievers!**

**Mike Wren** has come third for a second time in the Climbing Unit monthly bouldering competition. He says, modestly, that he only does it for the free beer but – so what – he's doing it!

Meanwhile

**Rusty Russell** has been strutting his stuff in the Cross Country Running world winning not only the Notts & Derbys Championship for the over 70s but also the Midland League Championship for the same age-group. Good on you Rusty!

### **Hobday's humour:**



### **Hut Bookings February - March.**

#### **TAN-YR-WYDDFA**

27 – 28 February Skyline MC

4-5 March P Storer: Chuck Hooley commemoration.

6 -7 March Ridgeway School sole use children present.  
13 – 14 March Southern Trekking MC  
20 -,21 March Roy Sawyer whole hut.  
27 28 March Bassetlaw Hill M.C.

### **HEATHY LEA**

27 -28 Feb. Sussex Uni.M.C.  
21 March Oread AGM  
27 -28 March Hertfordshire Uni.M.C. Not yet confirmed.

“Whole Hut” includes the Oread room!

“Sole use – children present” means you may not stay overnight, even in the Oread room.

All queries, payments and bookings should be addressed to Derek Pike, the Hut Bookings Secretary:

Derek Pike, 19 St. Johns Drive, Chaddesden, Derby. DE216SD

Tel. 01332 670459 Email: [derepike1234@btinternet.com](mailto:derepike1234@btinternet.com)

## **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**



**This month's puzzle:**

**Caption Competition!**

**Here is a little search and rescue dog I once met on Hebog.**

**Clearly he is in thoughtful mood. What is he thinking???**

**Last month's puzzle: Jack Ashcroft replies.**

Another historic recall! I reckon the photograph was taken on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 1988 when a large group of club members set out to walk the Five Cols of Snowdon – in perfect weather. The photograph would be at the legendary site of demons and the bottomless Llyn of Glaslyn which never freezes! (Descent of the Gribin to Glaslyn) The photos below show other highlights of the day.

For the record the G.R.s of the Five Cols are: 605,521  
615, 541  
621,551  
608,549  
591, 558

An excellent day's walk if you can get the weather we enjoyed.



*This picture shows the team at Bwlch y Saethau (Pass of the Arrows) and below Ken Hodge and Janet Ashcroft are heading from Crib Goch over Carnedd Ugain.*



**Rusty responds:**

Absolutely correct. Jack is to be congratulated on his record keeping.

**The Cuillins, Ronald McDonald and all that: concluding remarks.**

**Rusty wrote:** The late Brian Cooke attempted a new route on Marsco but had to retreat by abseil. Later, in 1971, Geoff Hayes returned with Brian to complete the ascent, finding the abseil point from the earlier time intact. It would be interesting to hear whether Dave Penlington was present on the earlier occasion or whether he has any information on the attempt.

**Dave Penlington replies:**

I do not recall this incident, it was a long time ago, but I may have been present. Some fifty-plus years ago four of us went to Skye with the objective of doing the Greater Traverse – the Black, followed by the Red Cuillin. We camped at Harta Corrie above the Bloody Stone, I think, for six nights. Having completed our objective we spent the remaining time rock climbing. We may have gone to Marsco, it being just across the Glen.

In the Sixties the Club had a meet at Sligachan, we may have made a visit then. Jack Ashcroft keeps well-documented records and may be able to shed more light on the matter.

More recently, Tony Smith, who longed to do the Ridge, spent six consecutive years, mostly in the rain, hoping to have a reasonable day. We visited Gars Bheinn a number of times. I do not recall seeing a trig point. On my 1:50,000 map O.S. 32 printed in 1976, one is not marked.

With respect to Ronald MacDonald, he was certainly a master seaman. I recall a visit to Rhum, there were about eight or ten in his boat. A late start led to a late return in the evening. About half way across the mist came down, no navigational aids! Ronald found Loch Brittle and, navigating by the sound of the sea on the rocky coast, took us onto the beach only a few yards away from where we had set out that morning.

**Rusty comments:** Dave's information re camping in Harta Corrie ties in with my recollection of a mention by Brian Cooke about camping by a stream. This was probably the expedition which Brian referred to.

### **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

Rather belatedly – I have not been well -.I wish to add my compliments to Bob with his M.B.E. I have known him as a friend for almost 65 years – always a great companion, whether on the mountains, at a club dinner, or out on a walk. Has he ever told you how he was nearly lost in a Big Swamp in northern Norway?!

With regard to your photo of Oreads wading a river crossing on a Bullstones meet it reminds me of such escapades in Norway and Sweden years ago. On one such occasion, in the wild Sarek district of arctic Sweden, I was once alone on such a crossing. I advanced into a rushing stream, high up my legs, then fell into a deep hole and floated off downstream – only kept afloat by my rucksack – and my belief that I was not born to be drowned. Fortunately I came in reach of the far bank, where I grabbed a tuft of grass – like a Thank-God hold on a climb!

Best wishes,

**George Sutton**

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## Forthcoming Meets:

**Note there are some changes from the list published last month.**

**2015**

<b>March</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Patterdale	George Starkey Hut	Stuart Haywood
21 <sup>st</sup>	AGM	Robin Hood Pub	Committee
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Spring Stride	Hartington	Rusty Russell
<b>April</b>			
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter in France	Fontainbleau/Dijon	Roger Gibbs
15 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	France	Provence	Ruth Gordon
18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Little Langdale	Fylde Hut	Gill Radcliffe
<b>May</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sea Cliff crags	Swanage/Portland	Simon Pape
8 <sup>th</sup>	Heathy Lea	Working party & barbecue	Mick Hayes
16 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Northumberland	Joiners Shop, Alnwick	Dave Helliwell
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Camping Meet	Bank Holiday TBA	Leader required
<b>June</b>			
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Kiddies Meet	Heathy Lea	Neil Weatherstone
13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	Thirlmere	Smithy Hut	Chris Radcliffe
<b>July</b>			
7 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Tan yr Wyddfa	Working party	Dave Helliwell
11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Gogarth	Camping	Dave Mawer
<b>August</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup>	Alpine Meet	Dolomites	Roger Gibbs
29 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>	S Pembroke	Camping	Pam Storer
<b>September</b>			
12 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wye Valley	Camping	Derek Pike
19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	Heathy Lea	Joint with DMC	Eddie James
23 <sup>rd</sup> (eve.)	Curry Meet	Matlock	Simon Pape
26 <sup>th</sup> – Oct 3	Lundy	The Barn	Derek Pike
<b>October</b>			
<b>TBA</b>	Morocco	Tafraoute	TBA
<b>November</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Dovedale Dash	Heathy Lea	Rob Tresidder
7 <sup>th</sup>	Bonfire Night	Fell Race	Mike Hayes
14 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Dinner		Leader required
21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Coniston	MAM Hut	Tony Howard
<b>December</b>			
5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bullstones Meet	Long Walk	Rob Tresidder
16 <sup>th</sup> (eve.)	Black Rocks	Night cragging	Rob Tresidder
25 <sup>th</sup> – Jan 1	Christmas/NY	Tan-y-Wyddfa	TBA