



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2015



Congratulations! Gill Radcliffe digging deep in the latter stages of the Mont Blanc Marathon. Photo Chris Radcliffe. Read all about it inside.

Editorial

Hope the sun shines on you wherever you may be over the Bank Holiday - the summer we don't really seem to have had is fast slipping away and we are into the last few weeks of Wednesday evening meets - due to be wrapped up in traditional style with a **"Silver??"** curry night at Matlock Bath on 23 September. Looking ahead - still a few places left on the Lundy meet at the end of September. Before that we are off to the Forest of Dean where there are some stunning crags in a beautiful environment. It's **my** meet - you've got to be there!

October will kick off with a fun competition weekend at Heathy Lea before the sun-seekers start slipping off to foreign parts.

Don't rest on your summer laurels - get in on the September scene!

Next month I hope to bring you tales of derring do from the Dolomites or wherever you went this summer. Dish me the dirt - if I don't get the copy I may be tempted to reveal all about Snod's and my bitterly fought, but ultimately successful, ascent of the highest peak in Denmark - with photographs.

You have been warned!!!

What's On

Coming Soon			UK	Abroad
August	Fri	28	South Pembrokeshire Camping Pam Storer	
	Sat	29		
	Sun	30		
	Mon	31		
September	Tue	1		
	Wed	2	Cratcliffe Tor/Robin Hood's Stride	
	Thur	3		
	Fri	4		
	Sat	5		
	Sun	6		
	Mon	7		
	Tue	8		
	Wed	9	Stoney Middleton	
	Thur	10		
	Fri	11	Wye Valley Ruth Gordon	
	Sat	12		
	Sun	13		
	Mon	14		
	Tue	15		
	Wed	16	Baslow Edge	
	Thur	17		
	Fri	18		
	Sat	19		
	Sun	20		
	Mon	21		
	Tue	22		
	Wed	23	Matlock Crags + Curry Meet (Simon Pape)	
Thur	24			
Fri	25			
Sat	26	Lundy (26 Sep to 3 Oct) Derek Pike		
Sun	27			
Mon	28			
Tue	29			
Wed	30			
October	Thur	1		
	Fri	2	Derwent MC (Joint Meet) Heathy Lea Eddie James, DMC	
	Sat	3		
	Sun	4		
	Mon	5		
	Tue	6		
	Wed	7 -21	Yahoo group or contact meets sec or newsletter editor for latest info.	Members will be in Kalymnos and Mallorca around 7 – 21 October. Accommodation & travel arrangements are individual's responsibility.

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See below for details of these meets.

Use your Yahoo group to see what members are doing on a day to day basis.

See the Oread website <http://www.oread.co.uk/> for the full meets calendar.

Help your club by leading a meet. Contact Gil Male - tel. 07958 169389 – email gilemale@gmail.com

Wednesday evening meets.

Here are the planned venues for the month – weather permitting.

2 Sept.	Cratcliffe/Robin Hoods Stride	Miners Standard
9 Sept.	Stony Middleton crags	The Moon
16 Sept.	Baslow	The Bridge, Calver
23 Sept.	Wildcat/Matlock Crags	Midland Hotel/Curry meet

27 – 31 August Pembroke Pam Storer

The August Bank Holiday Meet will be based at St. Petrox Campsite, SA71 5EQ. For those who have attended a BMC briefing Range West offers a wealth of opportunities for climbing at all grades. It will be open over the weekend at least. Range East and North Pembroke are both easily accessible from here with many challenges for us all.

Nick and I will be at the site from Thursday 27th August.

There is no need to book unless you need a hook up, if you do I suggest you book this yourself as Mr Griffiths now asks for a deposit for this service.

Contact him on tel. 01646 622561 or email katgriffiths3@btinternet.com

Pam Storer. Tel 07584493349 Email pam_storer@hotmail.com

11-12 September Wye Valley Ruth Gordon

It seems many years since we had a meet to this lovely part of the country. The climbing includes the delights of Symonds Yat – Wildcat without the traffic noise; the long and exciting routes at Wintours Leap - ranging from a three star, four pitch V. Diff and superb, long Hard Severes to all sorts of scary E numbers. Several other crags, including sports climbing at Wyndcliffe Quarry, and of course the Forest of Dean is a delight for walkers and cyclists with lots of industrial archaeology for added interest.

I'm proposing to stay at Rushmere Farm Campsite, Crossways, Coleford GL16 8QP tel 01594 835319. The farm is situated between the A4136 (main arterial road to The Forest of Dean) and the B4228 (Grid reference 5611), half a mile west of Coleford which has all local facilities, cafes, restaurants, supermarkets and takeaways. Cost is £8.00 per person per day plus £4.00 for electricity if required. To secure the booking I have booked two electric hookups – **if you would like one of these please let me know – first come first served.** Otherwise it is not necessary to pre-book for a tent but is advisable if we need more hook ups as they only have 12.

On the Friday evening we will be in the Gamekeeper's Inn, just past Five Acres Garage on the A4136 around half a mile from the campsite.

Do hope you can come, please let me know.

Ruth tel. 01629 56636 email: alistair.ruth@btinternet.com

23 September Silver Curry Night, Simon Pape

Once again, the summer's almost over. However, it's not officially over until we've

had our Matlock Bath curry meet. You know the drill by now. We go climbing at a local crag (Bauston Tor anyone?), play "Find some real ale in a Matlock Bath pub" (I suggest starting at the Midland this year) and then go for a curry at the Matlock Bath Balti. The table will be booked for 8:30 pm so if you want to join us, let us know.

Simon & Maggie tel. 01629 822450/07813 616563 email s.pape@virgin.net

26 September - 3 October Lundy. Derek Pike.

There are still **four spaces** left for this meet. Lundy will offer you total peace and quiet as there is nothing much to do but wander around seeking out the wildlife, exploring or climbing some of the best routes in the country.

Anybody interested would they kindly contact me as soon as possible.

Derek: tel. 01332 670459 email derepike1234@btinternet.com

2 - 4 October DMC/Oread Competition Meet: Heathy Lea Eddie James.

I anticipate the usual format, with easy (treasure trail) and longer navigation exercise/climbing competitions on the Saturday, followed by climbing at Gardoms on Sunday.

Saturday evening we'll have the BBQ, and campfire, followed by the slackline and pudding competitions.

I'll send out an email nearer the time.

Eddie James, DMC President. Email: eddiejames_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Sun Rock: October – individual bookings- no leader.

Amid concerns about daylight length and security issues Morocco has been put on hold until March 2016. Some are heading for Kalymnos, others for Mallorca, around 7-21 October. Details of the Mallorca dates and locations will be published on the Yahoo Group when finalised. If you are interested let me know and I will keep you informed.

Ruth Gordon. Contact details - see end of newsletter.

14 November Annual Dinner Advance Notice

This year's dinner will be at an attractive new venue – Matlock Golf Club - the menu sounds scrumptious, with no price increase from last year, beer and wine at sensible prices available until the small hours - if enough of us keep drinking!

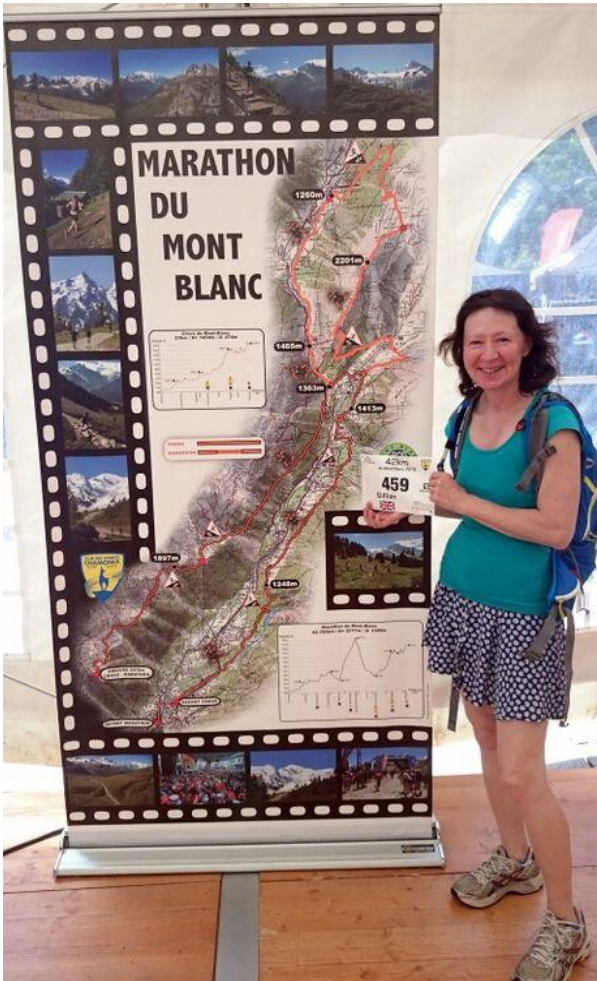
There are bed and breakfast options within walking distance, or a short taxi ride; nearby parking for camper vans - it should be a great night.

Let's have a really good turn-out for this one.

Full details next month when we will be asking for menu choice and payment.

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Mont Blanc Marathon 2015 Gill Radcliffe



The Mont Blanc Marathon takes place on the last Sunday in June and was first run in 2008. The entry is limited to 2,000 people, though in reality they take a few more in case runners don't show. The marathon is part of a long weekend of races, the most impressive being the 80km race which takes place the previous Friday with a deadline of 24 hours. The Mont Blanc marathon is the regular marathon distance of 26 miles (42.2 km) but is hillier

than most with 3,000 metres of ascent; most of it in the second half of the race. The cut off time is nine hours; the winning time in 2015 was 3hrs 48 minutes.

I'd chosen this particular marathon because it uses forest and mountain paths for all but three km of the course and takes place in a beautiful part of the world that's relatively easy to get to. It's classed as a 'semi-autonomy' event which means you have to carry a bit of kit (spare clothes, water, mobile phone, survival blanket and whistle) to look after yourself should you need to. In reality you're always surrounded by other runners and I doubt if it would be too long before help arrived.



In addition to the food and water I carried there are four refreshment stations, two of which do a bit of food. As this is France the food offering is cheese and salami rather than cake (shame!), which I didn't feel like eating, luckily there were plenty of bananas too. In 2014 it rained all day, this year it was forecast to be 28 degrees and I don't like the heat so I knew I was going to suffer. However the clear skies gave me great views throughout the day.

I hate being late for anything and I certainly wasn't going to be late for my first proper marathon. The start time is 7 a.m. and I set my alarm for 4.45 - you can never be too careful. Chris, bog-eyed, drove slowly down the road from our base in Le Tour to the centre of Chamonix and easily found a parking space. There were already plenty of runners, family and friends around. Everyone looked suntanned and fit. I left it as late as possible to take my tracksuit leggings off and expose my legs; I then added white suntan cream to my already white legs and tried not to appear too embarrassed. I was without a doubt the palest person around...and the only one putting on any cream.

Shortly before 7 a.m. all 2000 runners were in position, Garmin's poised ready for the final countdown. The church clock struck seven and we were off! I kept a steady pace, enjoying the atmosphere and appreciating the many spectators who were lining the streets. One of the many wonderful things about this race is the amount of support it gets from locals and holiday makers. The first ten km are easy, with only moderate height gain and on good forest tracks in the shade. From Chamonix we passed through Argentiere, Montroc, Col des Montets and Vallorcine, we'd now done 18km and the easy running was over; the rest of the race is either up or down and mostly in the sun. So far I'd felt comfortable with an average pace of seven minutes per km, knowing if I went too fast too soon I might not finish. Aiguillettes des Possettes is the high point of the race at 2201 metres. The ascent is spread over six km so if you're very fit it's runnable; I



walked most of it. As you near the top the view of the Aiguille Verte, Les Dru and Mont Blanc are stunning, the weather was superb and the meadows full of flowers. Quite a few runners stopped to take photos but my mobile phone camera doesn't work so I didn't bother to stop.

The best part of the race for me was the long descent from Possettes down to Le Tour; (*see photo left*) the path was narrow and steep and I was able to overtake a lot of more hesitant runners

on this section. Chris was waiting on the descent to take my photo but I was concentrating so hard I didn't see him or hear him call my name!

In all, Chris managed to get to three parts of the course as well as the finish to encourage me and take photos.

The descent continues to Tre Le Champ 30km into the race and then it's back uphill. This second ascent was the hardest part as my legs were shaky from the long descent (I'd gone too fast) and I was very hot. The second ascent felt steep as the path rises 300 metres in 0.5km, at which point you descend 300 metres and have to regain 850 metres over the rest of the course to the finish. I'd covered the first 30km in 4:30 hrs; the last 12 km took me another 3:15 hrs. By the time I got to the finish line Chris was concerned something had happened as I was way off his (and my) expectations of my finish time. I decided I was going so slowly that it was just better to keep going and not stop; whilst this meant I continued to overheat it also meant that I didn't have to force myself to start again. At the penultimate food station in La Flegere I drank a lot of flat coca cola and I think this sugar boost got me to the finish.

Once past La Flegere there was a wonderful balcony footpath giving fantastic views of Mont Blanc, this continues for four km until, with great relief, I at last crossed the finish line in a time of 7:43 minutes. The highlights for me were: crossing the finish line (of course!) at Planpraz with a fantastic view of Mont Blanc, the off road nature of the course, the enthusiasm of the spectators and the general ambience of the event.



**Hobday's humour:
the holidays are over....**



Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

18-19 Sept Hertfordshire MC

HEATHY LEA

22-23 Aug. MAM/Oread Joint Meet

18 -19 Sept Leeds M.C.

3-4 Oct Joint DMC/Oread meet

“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: hutbookings@oread.co.uk

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle:



This mountain shelter is adjacent to a noted summit from which the spectacular old bridge shown below may be discerned in the distance. What is the name of the summit, and which natural feature does the structure span?



Last month's puzzle solution:

Pretty much everyone knew where - but who and when was more challenging. Colin Hobday and Gordon Gadsby were both tentatively suggested as the subject of the first two photos – Wrong! Sorry!

First up with a partially correct answer was **Roger Chapman:**

“I am sorry to say that I do not recognise the Oreads in any of the photos. What I do think I recognise is the setting for the first of the photos which, if I am correct, is the 'bad step' on the coastal path between Loch Coruisk and Camasunary. The second photo could be just about anywhere but logically must lie between the bad step and the setting for the third photo which should be somewhere near the outfall of Loch Coruisk (outside the JMCC hut?) with the start of the Dubh Ridge

in the background. As for a caption - something along the lines perhaps of **“Enjoying stimulating Scottish weather.”** for the third photo. Whitsun, or, these days, Spring Bank Holiday week, is the usual time for Skye meets but as to year I haven't a clue.

Beryl Strike pretty much nailed it the same day:

I think the fine figure of a man in the first two photos is John Fisher and the Ashcroft lads in the last one. (Although the one on the left looks very like Janet Ashcroft, it could perhaps be her?) I think it may have been on a meet to Skye that I went on, around 1974. The gear looks about right for then, a Whillans sac and Peter Storm cagoules. It might well have been a walk to Coruisk where you have to traverse around some rocks above the water at one point.

I remember encountering Jack's lads one day, lying in the peat apparently exhausted. I said “Shall I get your Dad?” Ooh no! He'll only try to feed us that horrible grey Mars bar he keeps in the bottom of his sac!!”

Rusty reasons that Fisher would have looked much older by then:

This looks to me like two shots of the bad step between Camasunary and Scavaig River with the third one being at the stepping stones where the river outfalls into the loch. The position and stance of the first climber resembles a photograph of Gordon Stainforth, in his own book, but it is not him. The prescribed time interval between the pictures would be feasible were this the case. The first climber bears a resemblance to the young John Fisher, but were it him in youth, then the photograph would have been monochrome and the apparel tweeds and tricounis. I last espied him in Scotland in about the mid 1960s trundling through Glencoe with skis attached to his early model Volkswagen Beetle. After a few local sightings, I discovered him again in about 1986 lurking in a mountain shelter in mid Wales in seriously damp conditions.

Having ruled out John and Gordon, Rob Tresidder led a meet at the SMC hut above Coruisk, so the personnel may be derived from that which puts us in the current century, although I did not think that meet would have included anyone so young as those in the third picture appear to be.

John Fisher is affronted at this slur:

I think these photos were taken by Jack Ashcroft at the Sligachan meet, Skye, in the 1970s. The first two show myself on the Bad Step, the third shows those two little monkeys, the Ashcroft boys, looking rather miserable at the bottom of the rocks. What is Rusty thinking of? The sheer nerve of the man! How dare he suggest that I am too old to be in colour???

It's a fair cop: the photographer, Jack Ashcroft owns up:-

The Isle of Skye. From the Tops down to earth: Elgol to Sligachan via the East shore of Loch Scavaig – the “Bad Step”.

The so called “Bad Step” is a boulder-like slab of rock that looms out of Loch Scavaig as you follow the shore-line path from Camasunary to the outfall of Loch Coruisk – heart of the Cuillin. It is little more than half a kilometre between the Bad Step and the outfall. It is then up and over the Druim Hain ridge and up Glen Sligachan to the campsite. As an aside, Sir Walter Scott wrote of the difficult shoreline path from Camasunary to Coruisk over 200 years ago! In the steps of

history! Choose fine weather!

The three photos were taken on the Spring Bank Holiday 1976. They show John Fisher and our two young sons, Peter and Ian. Janet and youngest son, David, joined us on the walk from Elgol to Camasunary and then returned to Elgol to take the car back to Sligachan camp site.



“Carry on Doctor.”

“Don't panic Mr Mainwaring.”

“Where's the nearest indoor ski slope, Dad?”

Forthcoming Meets:

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

2015

August			
29 th – 31 st	S Pembroke	Camping	Pam Storer
September			
12 th – 13 th	Wye Valley	Camping	Derek Pike
23 rd (eve.)	Curry Meet	Matlock	Simon Pape
26 th – Oct 3	Lundy	The Barn	Derek Pike
October			
2-4 th	Heathy Lea	Joint with DMC	Eddie James, DMC president
7 th – 19 th approx	Kalymnos/Mallorca	Sun Rock trips	Individual bookings.
November			
1 st	Dovedale Dash	Fell Race	Rob Tresidder
7 th	Bonfire Night	Heathy Lea	Pam Storer
14 th	Annual Dinner	Matlock Golf Club	The committee
21 st – 22 nd	Coniston	MAM Hut	Tony Howard

December			
5 th – 6 th	Bullstones Meet	Long Walk	Leader required
16 th (eve.)	Black Rocks	Night cragging	Rob Tresidder
25 th – Jan 1	Christmas/NY	Tan-y-Wyddfa	TBA

Postscript: O.A.P.'s Outing.

Last Wednesday (19 August), before the forecast rain forced the evening climbing team to scurry to the shelter of Wirksworth Wall, a happy time was being had by all at Harborough, scrambling up through routes in caves, teetering on pinnacles, picnicking and posing for a gentleman in camouflage gear with a **BIG** telephoto lens (say no more) and then on to Robin Hood's Stride where mass ascents of both pinnacles were achieved in the teeth of the incoming storm!

Left: John Green ascends the Weasel Pinnacle, belayed by Rusty, before nipping back down to snap the Team Photograph showing Rusty, Snod, Derek and your Hon. Ed. perched on top. Joan is meanwhile down there somewhere, fielding Rusty's fly-away hat!



Weasel Pinnacle "The team"

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

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