

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

APRIL 2017



Tim Sellears emerges into the sunshine from the right hand branch of Y gully on Coire an Lochain in the Cairngorms. Mike Mowbray and Pete Lancaster were also part of the team making the best of very lean conditions this winter. Photo courtesy of Jeff Ingman.

Editorial

This newsletter has details of events and meets from Easter through to the summer, including the venue for the summer alpine trip. Venues for Wednesday evening climbing are in here too. Travellers tales include sport climbing inspiration in Mallorca, winter in Iceland - with some stunning photographs and mixed fortunes in Scotland, including the failure of a certain hardy winter mountaineer to surmount the Scottish VS into his bunk.

Book lovers do not miss the rare opportunity to buy a copy of the much sought after history of the Oread "Climb if you will"- see page 10.

Also included in this issue is information about the forthcoming BMC AGM including a full explanation of the Motion of No Confidence – see page 16.

What's On

When		UK		Abroad	
	Wed	29	Harborough /The Gate Brassington		
March	Fri	31	New Members Meet		
April	Sat	1	Heathy Lea Spenser Gray		
	Sun	2			
	Mon	3	Climbing Unit, Derby		
	Tue	4			
	Wed	5	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	6			
	Fri	7			
	Sat	8		Frankenjura, Germany	
	Sun	9		Gasthof Eichler a.k.a Martha's campsite http://www.gasthof-eichler.de/	
	Mon	10	Climbing Unit, Derby	Roger Gibbs	
	Tue	11		(Saturday 8 April - Saturday 22 April)	
	Wed	12	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	13			
		Fri	14	Pembroke (provisional)	
		Sat	15		
		Sun	16		
	EASTER	Mon	17	Climbing Unit, Derby	
		Tue	18		France. Bolt climbing
		Wed	19	Yahoo Group (evening)	St Martin de Londres
		Thur	20		Ruth Gordon
		Fri	21		(Tuesday 18 April to Tuesday 2 May)
		Sat	22		
		Sun	23		
		Mon	24	Climbing Unit, Derby	
		Tue	25		
		Wed	26	Yahoo Group (evening)	
		Thur	27		
		Fri	28		
		Sat	29		
		Sun	30		
May	Mon	1	Climbing Unit, Derby		
	Tue	2			
	Wed	3	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	4			
	Fri	5			
	Sat	6	BBQ & Working Party, Heathy Lea		
	Sun	7	Pam Storer		
	Mon	8	Climbing Unit, Derby		
	Tue	9			
	Wed	10	Yahoo Group (evening)		
	Thur	11			
	Fri	12			

When		UK	Abroad
	Sat 13		
	Sun 14		
	Mon 15	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue 16		
	Wed 17	Yahoo Group (evening)	
	Thur 18		
	Fri 19		
	Sat 20		
	Sun 21		
	Mon 22	Climbing Unit, Derby	
	Tue 23		
	Wed 24	Isle of Skye	
	Thur 25	Mike Moss	
SPRING BANK	Fri 26		
	Sat 27		
	Sun 28		
	Mon 29		
	Tue 30		
	Wed 31	Yahoo Group (evening)	

- 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.

Wednesday evening meets:

29 March	Rainster/Harborough	The Gate, Brassington
5 April	Wildcat	The Boat, Cromford
12 April	Intake Quarry	The Rising Sun Middleton
19 April (Easter week)	Yahoo Group to decide.	
26 April	Lawrencefield	The Millstone
3 May (Bank Holiday)	Yahoo Group to decide.	
10 May	Horseshoe Quarry	Derwentwater Arms, Calver

if wet it will be Wirksworth wall and the Royal Oak.

31 March-2 April New Members' Meet, Heathy Lea Spenser Gray



Following the success of September's new member's meet it has been decided to run something with a similar format the weekend of 31 March-2 April. This time the meet will be based at Heathy Lea due to better availability of single pitch crags for any novices we have come along and also the greater potential for sociable climbing and swapping partners over the course of the day so that the

new members can introduce themselves. Food for the Saturday evening will likely be a spaghetti bolognese followed by a cake of some variety. For the purposes of the meet hut fees will be waived. Ideally we will have half new/ prospective members and half existing members. Do come and support the meet if you can. Spenser Gray email: spenser.h.gray@googlemail.com tel.07534 821500

Pembroke at Easter? Range West briefing dates.

If you hope to climb on Range West this year you will need to attend a briefing and often club members have used the Easter holidays as their opportunity to do this. So far nobody has expressed a firm intention to do so – but this year there are extended non-firing periods on week days over mid April and most of July-August which makes it a more attractive option than previously.

Here's the details:

Range West is a live military firing range and all all climbers wanting to climb here must attend a mandatory safety briefing each year. Access for up to 30 briefed climbers per day is normally allowed during most weekends and bank holidays. The Range West safety briefings for 2017 are being held on the following dates :

10.00, Friday 14 April (Good Friday)

18.00, Thursday 27 April

18.00, Thursday 25 May

10.00, Saturday 27 (May Bank Holiday weekend)

The evening briefings are all held on mid-week Thursday evenings, while the 10.00am ones are on Saturday mornings (except for the Easter one which is on Good Friday). As in the past, all the briefings are held at the Castlemartin Army Camp and last for about 40 mins – attendees are requested to arrive a few minutes early to allow time to get past the security gates.

The full address for the Army Camp is :Castlemartin Army Camp, Merrion, Castlemartin, Pembroke SA71 5EB (Park in the parking bays just beyond the two large Chieftain tanks!).

There are also some extended non-firing dates for 2017, when briefed climbers can visit Range West during weekdays (these are in addition to the normal non-firing weekends and bank holidays):

Monday 10 April to Friday 21 April (Easter holidays)

Sunday 9 July to Monday 28 August (Summer holidays)

But do check the 24-hour answer phone message (01646 662367) just in case there are any late changes to the firing programme.

Easter: 14 – 22 April 2017 Frankenjura Dave Mawer

Families Mawer and Gibbs will be camping in tin boxes at Gasthof Eichler a.k.a Martha's campsite over Easter. (www.gasthof-eichler.de). The Frankenjura, near Nuremburg in Germany, is world famous for sport climbing, coffee and cake.

There's also biking and plenty of beer. Over 1000 limestone crags with a plethora of world class sport routes, beer and cake. What's not to like? Ah yes, nearly forgot, you have to pull hard apparently. No problem for those who have been dangling from plastic over the winter months. If you'd like to join us please do. One spectacle I'm particularly looking forward to is Roger's attempt on Action Directe.

Contact me Dave Mawer dtmawer@yahoo.co.uk or Roger Gibbs roger@tilda.com for more details.

18 April – 4 May Sun Rock trip to France Ruth Gordon

A few of us are planning a trip to the sun after Easter, when hopefully it will be a bit less busy. The campsite I mentioned last month apparently does not now open until 1 May so instead we are going to the nearby Camping Le Val d'Herault, Route de Saint Etienne d'Issensac, Le Val de Herault, 34190 Brissac

<http://www.camping-levaldherault.com>

Lat. N43.8461771 Long. 3.7021586

For more about the immediate area and the local crags you might like to check out

<http://www.summitpost.org/pic-saint-loup/691309>

<http://www.grimper.com/site-escalade-herault>

Ruth Gordon, contact details at the end of the newsletter.

6-7 May Heathy Lea BBQ & Working Party Pam Storer

We would really appreciate your help at the working party. Although there are no major work plans for this year, there is general maintenance work to be done. Our wood store is very low; the grass is very high; the hut and barn need a general spring clean and the paths need clearing. Sustenance (beer and cakes) will be provided for the workers.

I hope to start working about 10.00 am and with your help the work will be finished in time for a BBQ and bonfire party in the evening. The free bed night on Saturday will then give you a head's start on the crags for a good day's climbing on Sunday.

Please let me know if you are willing to help and if you want a bed.

Pam --- pam_storer@hotmail.com tel.07584493349

Wed. 24 – Mon. 29 May Skye, Cuillin area Mike Moss

This is early notice so the workers can book time off and the retired squeeze this in between other trips. Our aim is the Cuillin Ridge of course. We will be camping, more details to be worked out nearer the date. If you are interested let me know so I can find camping space and help coordinate lifts.

Michael Moss tel. 01332 518302, 07932 420414 email: mamoss@btinternet.com

Derby Book Festival: Why do people climb mountains? Helen Mort & Dan Richards: Because They're There!

This year we are excited to welcome Poet Helen Mort and author Dan Richards who bring a new perspective to the question 'why do people climb mountains?' by exploring the exploits of largely forgotten, pioneering female mountaineers. 'Because they're there?' Is this the answer to the eternal question: why do people climb mountains? Helen Mort and Dan Richards bring a new perspective to this question exploring the exploits of path-breaking female mountaineers.
www.derbybookfestival.co.uk Tickets available from: www.derbylive.co.uk
The event will be held at the Guildhall Theatre in Derby on Tuesday 13th June.
7:30pm - 9:30pm £9/£7

22 July – 5 August Picos de Europa Mike Mowbray

This year's Alpine Meet will be to the Picos/Asturias. Direct ferries are expensive and getting very full already but it is 14 hours drive from Calais, 11 from St Malo, and there is a range of cheap flights for those who can use that option. It is certainly a lot cheaper than Switzerland once you get there. I will share more details asap when my Rocaverde guidebook finally arrives.
Mike Mowbray email mike.mowbray@sfh-tr.nhs.uk

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

The Annual General Meeting 25 March 2017



The Committee at the AGM – clearly your Hon. Ed. had been driven to drink even at this early stage in proceedings! Photo Pete Scott.

The A.G.M. was not quorate – a near miss - with 38 members present we were only one person short! As a result the proposed rule change to reduce the number required to make a quorum could not be voted on. Therefore, in accordance with the rules, a postal vote will be held. You will be contacted about this in due course.

The officers and committee were elected as follows:

President: Derek Pike

Vice President: Dave Helliwell

Secretary: Nigel Briggs

Membership Secretary: Michael Hayes

Treasurer: Joan Pike

Hut Bookings Secretary: Michael Hayes

Hut Custodian Heathy Lea: Pam Storer

Hut Custodian Tan yr Wyddfa: Dave Helliwell

Meets Secretary: Gil Male

Newsletter Editor: Ruth Gordon

Additional Committee Members: Spenser Gray, Pete Lancaster, Chris Wilson.

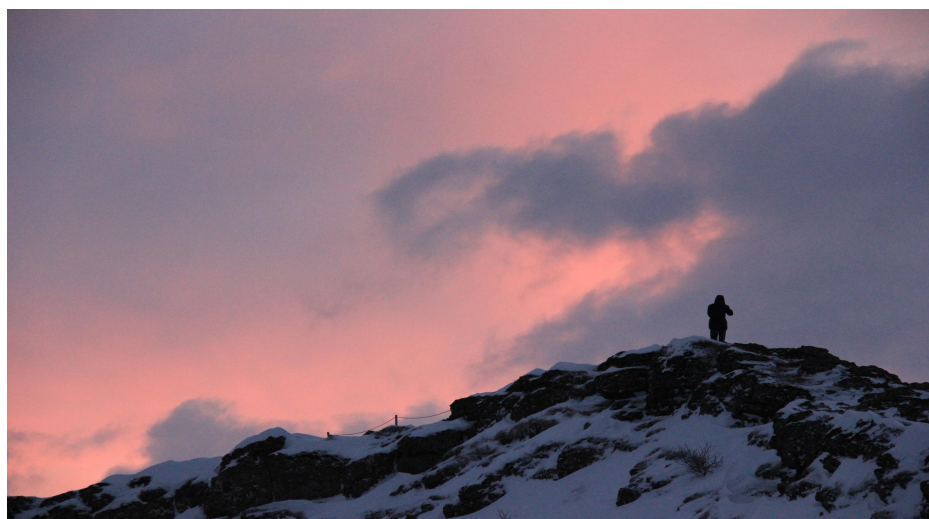
Chris Radcliffe and Tony Howard are to be co-opted onto the committee, Chris to report on the work of the Forward Thinking Group, Tony to organise the Dinner and take responsibility for updating the Handbook.

Hut Sub committees:

Heathy Lea: Pam Storer, Michael Hayes, Steven Mc Donagh

Tan yr Wyddfa: Dave Helliwell, Chris Eyre, Roy Eyre, Tony Howard, Pam Storer

Winter adventure in Iceland Colin and Uschi Hobday



Sunrise on the rim of the Kerio crater 6,500 years old.

The family had the crazy idea of spending Christmas in Iceland. So cheap air tickets to Reykjavik were booked (the cheapest bit of the journey), a four wheel drive (with spikes) A mini bus was hired for seven of us, plus hiring an amazing eco house in the middle of nowhere between Selfoss and Pingvellir.

We arrived at the airport in Iceland in Blizzard conditions and when I asked if the airport was likely to close later that day, the answer was “we never close.”

By the time we got the car, did a major supermarket shop for several days (£350), and collected our daughter from the airport when she arrived from Munich, (the flight was two hours late) it was dark!!! So we drove one and a half hours on hard packed snow roads in blizzard conditions to our destination. All the road signs were plastered in snow, which made navigation quite difficult. The track to our house (1km long) was just a gravel track, hardly recognisable in the headlights due to deep snow and no other visible tracks. Consequently it did not take long before we got stuck. A phone call was made to the owner, who came from Reykjavik to pull us out of the snow drift.

Meanwhile we walked to the house, with head torches, pizzas under our arm, and starving kids in tow. When we arrived at the house it was absolutely amazing, very warm, very modern, very spacious, glass fronted overlooking the mountains in the distance. Just as we were settling in the owner arrived, took some of us back to our abandoned vehicle and with a tow rope we were soon back on track. Unfortunately the house is situated at the end of a track at the bottom of a hill and as it snowed all night, guess what, we were totally snowed in the next morning. Another phone call to the owner, who arranged for the local farmer to come to the rescue with his snowplough.

We had a week of stormy, snowy conditions and only five hours daylight per day. However, we managed to get around quite a lot along the Coast Road. Visiting two waterfalls (Seljalandsfoss and Skogafoss) entombed in ice. A lot of the minor roads were actually closed. Iceland in winter is just magic, totally different from Summer conditions, the black volcanic beaches on the south coast were covered in huge lumps of ice. A visit to the secret pool at Flouir was fantastic, with water fed from the geyser where you can swim at - 10 centigrade air temperature and 40 degrees c water temperature. The Icelanders stand in the pool (it is only 1.50m deep) with their long beards, drinking a glass of beer and chat. A surreal picture, especially in the dark, with just the pool being lit up. And all the heated greenhouses in the distance.



Sunrise near the geyser.

We also managed some hill walking along the “hot river” near Selfoss with lots of vents and mud spluttering pools, but conditions were rather arctic with extreme winds, especially as we got higher up. Steff (our son) even swam in one of

these hot pools. The worst was getting undressed and dressed in these conditions. Gullfoss was spectacular with the waterfall being part frozen, though

some of the paths were closed due to ice.

One of the best days was to the National Park in Þingvellir, (pictured right) where the Tectonic Plates between America and Europe meet, the movement is between 2 to 20mm a year and some of the bridges and walkways have to be rebuilt on a regular basis. This is also the place where centuries ago the Iceland Parliament use to meet once a year, when everybody from all corners of Iceland



assembled. It is classed as the most beautiful area of Iceland, unfortunately with arriving late afternoon we ran out of daylight.

Sunset near Þingvellir.



One evening (the one and only evening) when we were all lazing in our geo thermal hot tub next to the house drinking a glass of wine, we were treated to a display of the northern lights. There was instant panic, get out of the water, get some clothes on and get the cameras

ready. It is actually quite difficult to get the correct exposure. The light spectacle only lasted for about 30 minutes at the most and not at their best.

In total we had eight spectacular days in Iceland, The advantage of going in December is that there are not many tourists about, apart from the Chinese and Japanese who are on a three day stopover from Europe to Asia. The disadvantage is the short days. If one travels in February, the daylight hours are eight hours, rather than just five.

Our lasting impressions of Iceland were the magnificent sunrises and sunsets as well as the beautiful countryside with all its wilderness and remoteness and, of course, the very hardy Icelandic Ponies.

As we were self catering we only went out once for happy hour whilst in Reykjavik, 7 drinks and some nibbles = £ 100.



On the way to the hot springs in Artic conditions.

“Climb if you will” Colin Hobday

Margaret Gadsby has asked me to sell a book on her behalf, “Climb if you will” Published in 1974 about the life of Geoff Hayes and the Oread M.C. it is in good condition except for the first page which is damaged. This is a much sought after book so a reserve price of £50, and it will go to the highest bidder. Closing date for bids April 15th.

Please forward your bid to,
colinanduschi@talktalk.net Tel. 01332 551594

Winter in Mallorca (11-18 February) Roger Gibbs

The fingers of my right hand nestle around the side of the tufa, hunting out the best spot. My thumb locks precisely into its dimple on the other side. There's no pump from the crimping wall climbing to get this far. Check the feet and step up. Left hand stretches to the base of the fin. Bump it higher to the good bit. Breathe, scope out the moves on to the top of the blob. Bloody hell, this might just work. Keep cool, don't blow it now.

The glorious sun kissed (usually) limestone of Mallorca has become an essential winter break over the last few years, offering a chance to escape the winter blues. The rock is superb and seemingly endless, plus there's great biking, lovely food and the opportunity for some bracing sea swimming. Cheap (ish) flights abound and there are lots of options for accommodation so the practicalities all work.

Dave and I had scored a pass out while the girls recovered from triathlon training with a well-earned sangria or three, so we headed for Alaro. Dave thrashed the

hire car up the rough track, “don’t be gentle, it’s a rental”, parked up and we headed for the crag. Once there, disaster struck – the tufas were dripping, no running with water. The super classic of Buf! was definitely out. Oh no, had we wasted a precious chance? Wait, the route next door looked fairly dry. It was a Rockfax “top 50” too, and only a little harder.

Dave set to work bolt to bolting to get warm. He looked a little less certain than usual, but it didn’t look too unfeasible. He lowered off and I had a top rope run. Some of the holds were wet, but you could avoid the worst of them with a little accuracy. Oh dear, not my strong suit. Come to think of it I don’t have a strong suit. The crux felt hard and the top was pumpy, but I found an average rest at a third height atop a big blob with forearms squeezing the tufa and a virtual hands off high up. The top moves felt mighty tenuous though, working your feet really high on slopey holds to wobble up to the chains.

“Could be a real heartbreaker,” I called down to Dave, thinking about how hard it was going to feel after 30m of overhanging battling.

Dave had his top rope run and he was looking a lot more solid. The sun came out and on my second run the greasiness had vanished. I’d planned to blast through the crux as far as the poor rest on the blob, have a proper rest on the rope and then do the top half. That way I figured I’d have the confidence to go full bore on the redpoint without burning myself out. It worked but it felt like the needle was in the red from before half way. Could I keep it together? I lowered off. We sat in the sun, chatted and talked through the route. Which rests worked best? What was the exact beta for the crux?

“You know Ben Moon actually fell asleep resting before he redpointed Rainshadow [F9a] he was so relaxed,” I said.

We both stretched out in the sun. I shut my eyes and imagined nailing this.

“Let’s go.”

Dave is first up. He looks super solid past the pinch to the fin. Up now onto the blob. A quick breather and through to the better rest a little higher. He has only to pull back right into the tufa pipes and he’s at the hands off rest...but wait, what’s he doing?

“The big jug is above your right hand,” I call up. He’s missed it out! Oh no, Dave has gone rogue. He’s completely free styling now. The pump is building as he battles upwards with a completely new sequence. Hell, a completely new set of holds.

“Watch me here.” Curt, full of tension.

“Right with you.”

An awkward undercut/jam. A contorted non-rest.

“Come on, come on,” I mutter encouragement inaudibly.

Suddenly he’s impaled on the top crux, stretching precariously higher. Finger connect with the belay. A whoop, a sigh of relief. Dave has ticked To Pa Ti.

“I was so pleased I got it so I didn’t have to do that all over again,” he grinned back on the ground.

My turn now. The crimping lower wall feels fine but I don't want to burn too much energy. Through the crux and I can clamp my forearms either side of the tufa, feet on the blob and let the pump subside. More beefy side pulls and I'm onto the poor bridged rest. Breathe. Enjoy it. Fat chance. More butch tufa work. It feels more secure if you really work your body over to left and right of the pipes, but the strain on the fingers is greater. The hands off rest looms. Don't blow the sequence and go right too soon like Dave. I'm in...oh no, disaster! The bolt is out left and the rope snakes across my shoulder, destabilising the precarious wedged rest and threatening to pitch me out. I wriggle frantically to make the rest work. It half works but I'm panting hard and feeling the strain everywhere. From somewhere the thought comes that Sharon will kill me if I trash my new T shirt.

Just the final sequence. Haunted by a hundred routes snatched away from me at the death, I bridge up. Feet high. Higher still. I stretch for the finishing holds a mile above.



Roger crushing "To pa ti" (F7a+) on his first redpoint attempt. Photo Dave Mawer.

"Boo ya!" I've just bagged To Pa Ti too. I just about remember to look around at the rolling hills and smile.

I'm a trad boy at heart, but some of the routes on Mallorca have given me really great memories with great mates. Go and try them for yourself!

Karn House Meet Spenser Gray

I turned up in Aviemore on the Friday evening having spent the previous week running myself ragged in the mountains over on the West Coast of Scotland with West Coast Mountain Guides only to find Pete Lancaster, Mike Moss, Jeff Ingman, Nigel Briggs, Mike Mowbray and Tim Sellears rather the worse for wear having undertaken a pub crawl around Aviemore after completing four routes in the Northern Corries earlier on in the day! I was kindly given a bowl of pasta and promptly tucked in while struggling not to laugh at the others who all appeared to be struggling due to the number of chillies Jeff had added to the sauce. Mick Hayes, Emma Hayes and Ellie Rickman arrived shortly after me.

Waking up on Saturday morning I found out that the previous night's drinking had taken its toll on one of the drunkards as a loud "Thud!" was heard in the next room, which was reported to be Jeff Ingman falling off the ladder into his bunk!!

Myself, Emma and Mick Hayes, Mike Moss and Nigel Briggs all walked into the Northern Corries, some of us more optimistic than others (I fully expected to get to the gearing up boulder and walk back!), the buttresses were all black, five teams seemed to be heading for The Runnel (our planned route) so we decided to split up with Nigel and Mike heading up Alladin's Couloir (finding conditions a bit lean and little opportunity for gear in the shattered rock which formed the side walls of the gully. Myself, Mick and Emma opted to move together on Central Gully, for the most part the route was in reasonable condition, although there was a short section of poor quality ice which I bypassed by stopping to belay off route as I thought I was running low on gear. We opted to head over to Ben Macdui, however we found the snow on top was rapidly becoming a five inch deep slush puppy and opted to turn back just short of the summit as progress was difficult in the soft snow. Ellie opted to bag a munro instead and the drinkers surfaced from their hangovers at lunchtime!

Sunday saw a mass ascent of a Corbett round the back of Glenmore Lodge from half of the meet and the other half decided to head over to Stag Rocks and climb Afterthought Arete (In "summer" conditions I gathered).

Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

7-8 April	Buxton M.C.
9-12 April	Roy and Chris Eyre whole hut
13-17 April	Red Rope, London
15-17 April	Kasia and Jurek 2 beds
21-22 April	Bassetlaw Hill and MC
5-6 May	Richard Linney 11 beds
12- 14 May	Sheila White 10 beds

HEATHY LEA

1-2 April New Members Meet
8-9 April Panther Owners Club
5-6 May Working Party and BBQ

“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 Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 32 Hawthorne Drive, Thornton, Leicester, LE67 1AW.

Tel. 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913. Email: hayes_michael_j@cat.com

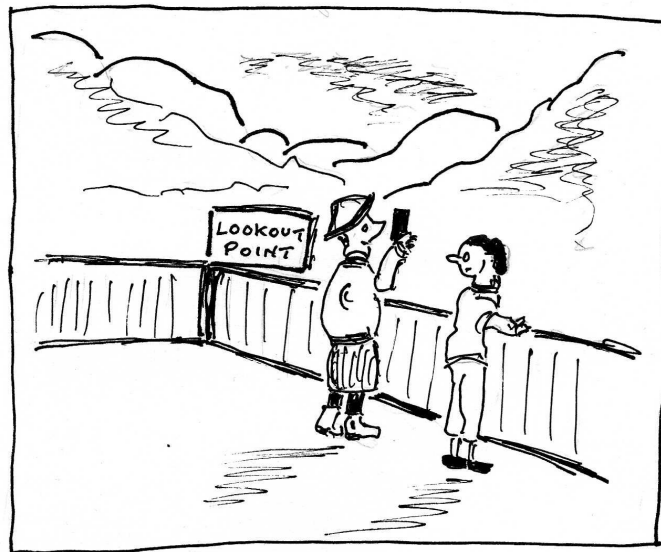
Our preferred method of payment is via bank transfer - Sort Code 05-04-07

Account number 45028744 With your name as a reference.

Please follow up with an email to Michael to let him know that you have made a payment and what it was for.

Alternatively you can post a cheque, payable to Oread MC, to the above address.

Hobday's Humour



I'M RECORDING THIS AND SENDING IT TO THE KIDS, SO THEY CAN WATCH IT ON THEIR PHONES IN THE CAR.

Information on Member Activities

Membership applications have been received from Vince Wilkins and Al Aslin. If you would like to comment on either of these applications please contact a member of the committee.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

This month's puzzle: Who? When? Where?



Who are they all? When and where was it taken? One member of this happy party shares the first two initials with a well liked person who judged Oread competitions in the past. Who are they both?

Last month's puzzle solution:

The puzzle concerned a sack of old coins with a wren on the back, the number of which was the same as their value in pounds shillings and pence. The coin, which our non-ornithological puzzle setter believed to portray a robin (your Hon. Ed. put him right on that) is of course a farthing. The other small coin mentioned as a tie-breaker was a silver threepenny bit. So far, so good. The numbers/value was completely beyond me - apparently a macro enabled spread sheet was needed to work it out.

The answer is:

				Farthings
Pounds	12	960	11520	
Shillings	12	48	576	
Pence	8	4	32	
Total farthings			12128	

The forthcoming AGM of the BMC at Plas y Brenin 22 April 2017

By now all members should have received their annual copy of the BMC Summit magazine with your membership card included in the bottom corner of the address sheet, plus a proxy voting card for the forthcoming AGM and a report to the BMC in connection with the **No Confidence** motion brought by the BMC Thirty.

If you have used these to light the fire you can get it all off the BMC web site

www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-agm-2017 There is also a lot of interesting discussion of the issues on the UKC forum www.ukclimbing.com/forums/t.php?n=660774

This is important - remember Brexit - use your vote!

Spenser Gray will be attending the BMC AGM on 22nd April. If anyone does not want to submit their proxy vote to the chair of the meeting and instead would like to submit a proxy vote via Spenser he will be willing to accept them. Equally if you would like to attend the AGM Spenser will be willing to provide a lift to Plas Y Brenin and has a second bed booked at Helyg (CC hut in Ogwen Valley). Once the AGM is over Spenser plans to go climbing/walking somewhere in the Ogwen area. If asked Spenser will submit proxy votes both for and against the motion.

Spenser Gray tel. 07534821500

142 Mansfield Road, Derby, Derbyshire DE1 3RA

N.B. The opinions expressed below are the authors' own; publication does not imply approval of the Oread officers or committee. The committee's view is that it is up to each individual to act according to their own beliefs.

Spenser Gray writes:

Given several discussions at the AGM - essentially asking "what the hell is going on" and "please explain more about what's happened" from members who don't regularly visit UKC/ UKB/ follow the BMC on Facebook/ whatever social media/ read their Summit magazines I think it may be beneficial to have a short notice in the newsletter.

This is what was written by the president of the NMC on the subject and I feel is quite reasonable:

"You may be aware that the BMC is going through some turbulence ahead of the AGM in April, there has been quite a bit of coverage of the issues in UKC, UKB and elsewhere. While it's dry, it is serious stuff and could dramatically change the way the BMC is structured and goes about its business. If you're a member of the Club and over 18 you can send in a proxy voting form to the Chair. I would urge you to read Will Hunt's synopsis (use the link to Facebook below). (It is, as far as I'm concerned a fair representation of the issues.) See where you stand, and cast your vote. Whatever your views on the matter your vote counts. You need to use it!" <https://www.facebook.com/events/219657878510461/>

In order to make clear the background to the "Vote of No Confidence" Bob Pettigrew has provided an Explanatory Paper, printed below, which may be of interest to those who were not present to hear him speak after Mark Vallance's lecture on 7 March and after the AGM.

In response, at the AGM, Chris Radcliffe explained why he believes that, although the BMC behaved very badly in attempting to rename the BMC as "Climb Britain" without consultation with the membership, the hostile reaction at every Area Meeting resulted in an immediate U turn. The lesson has been learned. Pursuing the issue will put at risk all the good work the BMC does on access, guidebooks and other issues important to all of us who climb in the UK and elsewhere.

Explanatory Paper: Robert Pettigrew MBE

Since several members attending the recent Ockbrook lecture by Mark Vallance were interested that I was involved in the “BMC THIRTY” - a group proposing a Motion of No Confidence in the Executive Committee of the BMC because of bad governance associated with the failure to reveal several major future policies, expenditure, etc, to the membership at the last AGM: 16 April 2016 at Castleton I thought this explanatory paper would be of interest. Please note this is NOT a speech but an explanation of the background to the Motion of No Confidence. By now members will have received, with their Summit magazine, their proxy voting cards for use if they cannot attend Plas y Brenin in person to take part in the debate, and cast their vote by a show of hands. Also the Report to the BMC by Martin Wragg, referred to below.

Of course I shall be glad to answer any questions from members of the Oread M.C.
Bob Pettigrew robert@pettigrew.eclipse.co.uk

Foreword to the explanatory paper:

BMC A.G.M. at Plas y Brenin, Saturday 22 April, 2017
Motion of no confidence in the executive committee of the B.M.C.

Aims and Objectives of the “BMC Thirty”

This paper represents my personal observations which I shall put before the “BMC Thirty” as a way forward.

Our aim is straightforward and complies with good sports governance: it is to restore democratic procedures to the annual general meeting of the BMC now and henceforth. If our motion were to be carried then it is for the Executive Committee through its directors to take remedial action according to their legal duty under company law.

Our recommendation to the Executive Committee would be to set up an independent review by acknowledged experts in the fields of mountaineering and administration drawn from a broad spectrum of the sport.

We are not wreckers so we would advocate that the main operational divisions of the BMC continue to service the membership during the interim by strictly adhering to established policies and work programmes until the review is complete and implemented.

If our motion were to be defeated then it might have served its purpose in reminding the grass roots membership that, in the context of the annual general meeting of the BMC, they are the ultimate authority to which the Executive Committee stands accountable once a year for its future policies, programmes and expenditure.

“Qui custodiet custodes” – who is it that guards the guards themselves?
Juvenal A.D. 60 –c.130

In our case - it is the annual general meeting serviced by a full agenda of future policies and work programmes presented for approval by the Executive Committee after consultation with the National Council through the Area Meeting network – which I know has stood the test of time because of my own long experience of the voluntary work of the area activists, amongst whom I still have many friends.

Robert Pettigrew – 19.03.17

The Explanatory Paper.

BMC AGM 22nd April 2017: Plas y Brenin National Mountain Centre.

I am Robert Pettigrew, one of thirty listed proposers of the Motion of No Confidence in the Executive Committee of the British Mountaineering Council. Because I am entrusted with the

Moving of the Motion, I have become the first among equals for this considered action.

Since I shall open the debate as the Mover of the Motion, supported by a Seconder of the Motion, I believe that fellow members of the BMC are entitled to know our reasons for this step, and the aims and objectives of my co-signatories and many other supporters of the Motion so that they are better equipped with the background to form an opinion and either turn up, participate in the debate and cast their vote in person, or, if unable to attend, cast a proxy vote before the time limit of Monday 17th April next.

For my part I am a former president of the Loughborough University M.C., the Oread M.C. and the British Mountaineering Council, of which I am an Hon. Member and holder of the George Band Award. I have also served as chairman of the Training Committee, the South West and Southern Area Committee, and the North East Committee of the BMC. I have also served as chairman of the former Mountain Leadership Training Board for England and Wales. In addition I was chairman of the CCPR/SRA, the Standing Forum of 320 NGBs (Governing Bodies of Sport and Recreation) as a mountaineering representative, following my distinguished forbears, Lord Hunt of Llanvair Waterdine, and Sir Jack Longland.

Like so many of my contemporaries in the BMC, I have had a deep passion for the mountains since I was a schoolboy and became steeped in the mountain literature which is surely unsurpassed in range and content of any sport in the world, and gives our sport a spiritual and philosophical content like no other. This I have shared and enjoyed with fellow members of the A.C., the CC, the Wayfarers, and the Himalayan Club over the years.

I have had the good fortune, and with good companions, to make a number of first and second ascents in the Lyngen Alps of Arctic Norway and in the Indo-Tibet (China) border region of the Punjab Himalaya (Himachal Pradesh). All my expeditions are recorded in the Alpine and Himalayan Journals of the period, and "Lyngsalpene" Universitetsforlaget. All were great adventures with loyal companions and a lot of fun, even in retrospect, the broken limbs!

By profession I served as an Inspector of Schools in the Further Education Divisions of the counties of Hampshire and Cleveland.

My aims and objectives in proposing the Motion of No Confidence in the Executive Committee of the BMC is to restore the democratic process of accountability to the grass-roots membership of the BMC in the governance process. It is undeniably the very essence of the democratic process and it must be restored and maintained.

I have attended every one of the BMCs AGMs since I had the honour to serve as president of this great institution and I have observed with growing dismay the diminishing of the AGM in form and content so that the opportunity to hold to account the Executive Committee and the National Council (formerly the Management Committee), *and a better title*, has also dwindled – to be replaced by an Open Forum – in other words a "Talking Shop" with no constitutional imperatives, and whatever is proposed disappears into the ether with no consequent action of the measures advocated.

I personally regard Open Forums as an improper and cynical device to inhibit debate and advocate their removal from the annual programme of events. That would give members more time to discuss and comment on major policy issues – of which there are many.

This deplorable decline in the democracy of the BMC reached its nadir at the AGM of last year, the 16th April 2016, when external events, such as the admission to the Olympic Games of Competition Climbing were reaching a climax.

Both Mark Vallance, a distinguished former president and alpinist and me were given leave by President Rehan Siddiqui to make speeches warning that momentous changes in our sport were impending due to external forces, for which the BMC must make provision, but the debate was curtailed by what has since been revealed as an hidden agenda known only to the Executive and a privileged few.

I emphasise that the bulk of the grass-roots membership assembled in Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire on Saturday 16 April, 2016, were kept in total ignorance of the momentous events about to evolve.

On a lighter note I was even persuaded to buy a T shirt with the BMC logo, when the decision had already been taken to change the name of the BMC! Was anticipated old stock already being sold off? However – all is well since I can still wear it with pride!

I had my first intimation that something was badly wrong when a member of the Executive Committee who had listened to my speech came up to me at tea and said: “We don’t want to rock any boats, do we?” Did he really mean – “We don’t want to upset the International Olympic Committee, do we?” We shall probably never know.

It occurred to me then that some momentous changes in the BMC were in the making without the knowledge of the grass-roots membership, or any process of consultation with that membership in the democratic process of an AGM when the elected members and paid staff stand accountable for the implementation of policies and strategies and financial probity according to the Code of Good Governance laid down by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Subsequent to the AGM of 16 April 2016, a series of revelations about proposed momentous changes in the status, name, international relations, commercial projects, and Olympic ambitions of the BMC began to emerge, none of which had been sanctioned by the grass-roots membership, but all of which had been conceived, planned and developed by the Executive Committee in secret over a time period of several months prior to the AGM of 2016.

For example the momentous name-change from British Mountaineering Council to Climb Britain - thus jettisoning 75 years of history, was in planning for several months and actually made on 3 March 2016, more than a month before the AGM at Castleton on 16 April 2016, and at a cost of £75,400 - not £25,000 as previously stated (see the BMC “Legal Statement” by Martin Wragg. However there are inaccuracies. Mr Wragg did not set up the BMC insurance scheme. That achievement was that of General Secretary Dennis Gray.

Mr Wragg is hoist by his own petard! In his report he clearly states that the extraordinarily expensive re-branding was not a change of name. Since re-branding invariably means a change of name - he goes on to state in his report that a change of name would need the approval of an AGM!

Why then did the Executive Committee withhold from the AGM at Castleton in 2016 not only the change of name (already made in March 2016 – the preceding month) but a raft of other measures such as the inevitable change of status of the BMC from a representative body to a governing body of sport and recreation?

Fortunately the Area Committees saved the day and came into their own with a mass revolt which forced an humiliating climb down by the Executive Committee at least over the ill-fated name change. but has the lesson been learned?
What other proposed changes in the nature and function of the BMC are yet to be revealed?

Proof that the name-change was implemented on 3rd March, 2016 can be found at:
<https://www.nominet.uk/whois/?query=climbbritain.co.uk>

My fellow proposers and I then determined that the time had come to bring matters to a head and seek a full debate at the AGM to demand transparency and accountability to the membership in the future operations of the BMC.

The BMC is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by an Executive Committee, so the conventional process of a Motion of No Confidence in the Executive Committee, is intended to initiate a debate on the Executive Committee’s corporate failure to seek a mandate for its future policies and work programmes from the membership at the annual general meetings, now a chronic annual failure.

Should the Motion succeed and become a Resolution I would further propose that an Independent Review of the Structure and modern purpose of the BMC should be set up with the aim of making the BMC fit for purpose.

Since the Alpine Club is not only the senior club in the world, it is also the founder of the BMC and has the corporate philosophy and expertise to advise on the personnel able and willing to conduct such a Review under an independent chairman I and my fellow proposers would recommend that it is invited to undertake the review.

If, on the other hand, the Motion falls, I sincerely hope it will at least have restored the central importance of the Annual General Meeting as the principal agency of governance of the BMC where future policies, strategies, work programmes, staff structures and finances, are openly debated and endorsed or amended by the membership assembled at the AGM.

Robert Pettigrew – on behalf of the “BMC THIRTY” 19th March, 2017

Forthcoming Meets 2017

This is a work in progress – more meets will be added as arranged.

Please support your club. More meet leaders are required for 2017 (UK and abroad). If you intend leading a meet please contact Gil Male tel 07958 169389 email gilemale@gmail.com who will enter details in the Meets List Calendar 2017.

	<i>31 Mar – 2 Apr</i>	<i>New Member's Meet, Heathy Lea Spenser Gray</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>8-22</i>	<i>Frankenjura, Germany Roger Gibbs</i>
	<i>14-16</i>	<i>Pembroke provisional</i>
	<i>19 Apr – 2 May</i>	<i>France, Bolt Climbing, St Martin de Londres Ruth Gordon</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>6-7</i>	<i>BBQ & Working Party, Heathy Lea Pam Storer</i>
	<i>24-29</i>	<i>Isle of Skye, Scotland Mike Moss</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>9-11</i>	<i>Kids Meet, Heathy Lea Neil Weatherstone</i>
	<i>16-18</i>	<i>Fylde Club Hut, Lake District Little Langdale Dave (Snod) Helliwell</i>
	<i>30 Jun – 2 July</i>	<i>Baggy Point, Devon Chris Wilson</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>13-16</i>	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa working party Dave Helliwell</i>
	<i>22 Jul – 5 Aug</i>	<i>Alpine Meet Picos de Europa Mike Mowbray</i>
<i>August</i>		
<i>September</i>	<i>15-17</i>	<i>Lakes, Wasdale, FRCC Hut Chris Radcliffe</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>6-8</i>	<i>Fylde Club Hut, Lake District, Little Langdale</i>
	<i>13-15</i>	<i>Gogarth, Anglesey Dave Mawer</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Bonfire Meet, Heathy Lea Neil Weatherstone</i>
	<i>5</i>	<i>Dovedale Dash Rob Tresidder</i>
	<i>18</i>	<i>Annual Dinner, Matlock Golf Club</i>
	<i>19</i>	<i>Post Prandial Walk</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>1-3</i>	<i>Bullstones, Simon Pape</i>
	<i>13</i>	<i>Black Rocks, Night Climb Rob Tresidder</i>
	<i>22 Dec – 1 Jan</i>	<i>Christmas/New Year Meet, Tan yr Wyddfa Rock Hudson</i>

Editor: Ruth Gordon, 4, The Terrace, Upper Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbys. DE4 5LB
Tel. 01629 56636 07999 857 922. **Email** alistair.ruth@btinternet.com