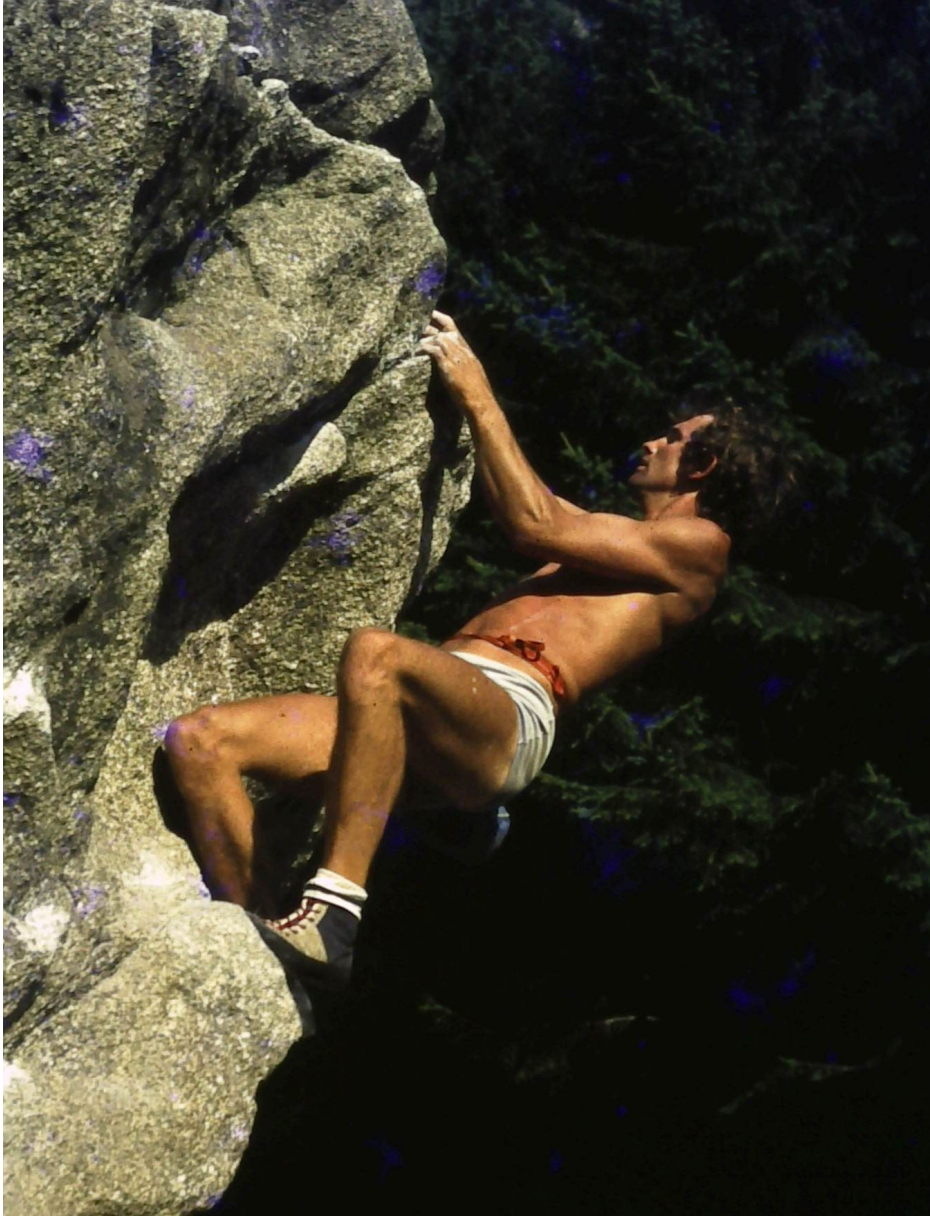


# OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

**JULY-AUGUST 2017**



**Mike Wynne  
bouldering at the  
Pierre d'Orthaz  
campsite,  
Chamonix in 1982.  
Photo courtesy of  
Robin Sedgwick.**

## **Editorial**

This is a double issue to see you through until September.

Full details of the summer meet to the Picos are in here, the forthcoming Dartmoor meet, plus the Tan yr Wyddfa working party, and **New!!!** a fun day out walking and climbing the edges in August. Then there is a trip to the Galloway sea cliffs – an

interesting new venue.

Elsewhere there are write ups of the Little Langdale meet – which was blessed with almost too good weather; an account of an impressive bike ride – and memories of Mike Wynne who died recently.

**Stop Press!** See page 19 for the result of the recent ballot on the Rule change.

# What's On

Date		Meets		
			UK	Abroad
July	Sat	1	<b>Baggy Point, Devon</b>	
	Sun	2	Chris Wilson	
	Mon	3	<b>Climbing Unit, Derby</b>	
	Tue	4		
	Wed	5	<b>Dovedale, Old Dog, Thorpe</b>	
	Thur	6		
	Fri	7	<b>North West Dartmoor</b>	
	Sat	8	Spenser Gray	
	Sun	9		
	Mon	10	<b>Climbing Unit, Derby</b>	
	Tue	11		
	Wed	12	<b>Ravensdale Monsal Head</b>	
	Thur	13	<b>Tan yr Wydffa Working Party</b>	
	Fri	14	Dave (Snod) Helliwell	
	Sat	15		
	Sun	16		
	Mon	17		
	Tue	18	<b>Climbing Unit, Derby</b>	
	Wed	19	<b>Wildcat Crag, Boat Inn, Cromford</b>	
	Thur	20		
	Fri	21		
	Sat	22		<b>Alpine Meet, Picos de Europa</b> Mike Mowbray
	Sun	23		
	Mon	24		
	Tue	25	<b>Climbing Unit, Derby</b>	
	Wed	26	<b>Yahoo Group (evening)</b>	
	Thur	27		
	Fri	28		
	Sat	29		
	Sun	30		
	Mon	31	<b>Climbing Unit, Derby</b>	
August	Tue	1		
	Wed	2	<b>Yahoo Group (evening)</b>	
	Thur	3		
	Fri	4		
	Sat	5		
	Sun	6		
Mon	7	<b>Climbing Unit, Derby</b>		
Tue	8			
Wed	9	<b>Yahoo Group (evening)</b>		
Thur	10			
Fri	11			

Date	Meets		
		UK	Abroad
Sat 12	Walk & climb the edges Gil Male		
Sun 13			
Mon 14	Climbing Unit, Derby		
Tue 15			
Wed 16	Yahoo Group (evening)		
Thur 17			
Fri 18	Galloway Sea Cliffs		
Sat 19	Spenser Gray		
Sun 20			
Mon 21	Climbing Unit, Derby		
Tue 22			
Wed 23	Yahoo Group (evening)		
Thur 24			
Fri 25			
Sat 26			
Sun 27			
Mon 28	Climbing Unit, Derby		
Tue 29			
Wed 30	Yahoo Group (evening)		
Thur 31			

- 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:

5 July                      Dovedale                      The Old Dog, Thorpe  
12 July                      Ravensdale                      The Monsal Head  
19 July                      Wildcat                      The Boat Cromford  
Then Yahoo group to decide until  
6 September              Curbar                      Derwentwater Arms Calver  
if wet it will be Wirksworth wall and the Royal Oak.

Remember – even if you don't fancy the chosen crag, or would rather go for a walk – there will still be the opportunity to meet up at the pub afterwards.

## 7-9 July North West Dartmoor Spenser Gray

Let's get the important things settled first shall we? The order is Scone, cream, jam, none of this daft Cornish nonsense with cream going on top of the jam... Over the weekend of 7th-9th July I plan on sampling the delights of the granite outcrops of Dartmoor. The area boasts Classic routes such as Suspension Flake (VS), alongside a great many other 3 star classics across the grades. For those who prefer climbing smaller rocks there is a lifetime of high quality bouldering spread around the moors.

We will be staying at the Cockingford Farm Campsite, I've heard tell there's an excellent pub nearby called the Rugglestone Inn which serves the local cider which is typically purchased in jerry cans (you know, the good stuff...). I'll bring some home made scones with me to fuel the Cornwall/ Devon rivalry. Please book in directly with the campsite and quote "Spenser Gray" to ensure that we are all put together.

This meet will be beginner friendly.

See the following for more information:

<https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/page.php?id=8950>

Spenser Gray email [spenser.h.gray@gmail.com](mailto:spenser.h.gray@gmail.com) Tel. 07534 821500

## **12-15 July Tan yr Wyddfa working party Snod Helliwell**

Early warning that we'll be doing a few necessary jobs at the hut over Wednesday to Friday but hopefully having some fun in the mountains as well! All welcome **but there are 16 beds booked out on Friday and Saturday** so, if you intend to stay for the weekend, it would be as well to book in your bed in advance. There is, I understand, a plan to have a go at the Welsh 3,000 foot peaks over the weekend, weather permitting.

Snod. email [dave.helliwell@stirlinglloyd.com](mailto:dave.helliwell@stirlinglloyd.com) tel 01298 812753

## **22 July – 6 August Picos de Europa Mike Mowbray**

This year's Alpine Meet will be to the Picos/Asturias.

Campsite: 'Naranjo de Bulnes Camping' This is in The Cabrales region just north of The Naranjo de Bulnes. More than 600 spaces. Good facilities and recommended by Richie Patterson – guidebook author.

There is a famous day gorge walk nearby. The beach (with climbing) is said to be about 30 mins. Sport climbing of all grades very close. There is a seven pitch slabby crag nearby with 45 minute walk-in with a good grade range. The jewel in the crown however is the Naranjo itself – three hour walk in to hut/ free camping. There is no walking route to the top of this, Spain's most iconic peak. There is however climbing on all four faces from 250 to 700m, grades vary from beginner routes to 8c+ which should account for most Oread requirements.

There is plenty of good other walking, scrambling and climbing in these amazing peaks – just take plenty of water. Despite going to Spain in July/ August it seems that a combination of atlantic proximity, altitude and aspect means there should be plenty of comfortable climbing opportunities.

I now have a selection of maps, The Roco Verde Asturias Guide, Cicerone guide, and newer eBook guide – all available to share on arrival!

I plan to arrive on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and stay for just over two weeks. If it pours with rain we could decamp to drier climbs around Leon awaiting improvements, otherwise I think we will have plenty to occupy ourselves. I do hope as many Oreads as possible will support this meet – at this venue and approximately for these dates...

Mike Mowbray Feel free to contact me on 07841 982398 or [mjmowbray@icloud.com](mailto:mjmowbray@icloud.com) **Note new email address**

## Saturday 12 August Walk and Climb the Edges Meet Gil Male

This meet's about gritstone (*God's rock*), walking, climbing and beer (*monk's drink*). Truly a religious experience.

The idea is to climb, walk and meet in pubs. The purpose is to discuss, argue, embellish and witter about what we have been doing. It's perfect for those who never let the truth stand in the way of a good story. All you need to do is motivate yourself, turn up, do stuff and be sociable, irritating, boring or all three at the same time.

*Chequers Buttress (Froggatt)*



The day is split into two parts (*in accordance with medical advice*). We meet at the Stanage High Neb car park (grid ref. SK 227843) at 8.45hrs on 12 August. Then walk over Stanage, Burbage North, Burbage South, Froggatt, Curbar, Gardoms and Birchens Edges before arriving at Heathy Lea. If you feel so inclined you can do a climb on each of these edges or play on any other crags or bits of rock. Join in at any point. Just make it to the pubs (i.e. Grouse Inn, Froggatt and Robin Hood, Baslow) at the allotted times by your own route and means of transport (*e.g. feet, bike, car, parachute or camel*).

<b>Timetable:</b> Start	Stanage High Neb car park	<b>08.45hrs</b>
(approx.) 2 miles	Stanage (popular end)	09.30hrs
3.5 miles	Burbage North	10.40hrs
4.5 miles	Burbage South	11.30hrs
6.5 miles	<b>GROUSE INN</b>	<b>13.00hrs</b>
7.5 miles	Froggatt Edge	14.45hrs
8.5 miles	Curbar Edge	16.00hrs
10 miles	Gardoms Edge	17.30hrs
11 miles	Birchens Edge	18.30hrs
12 miles	<b>ROBIN HOOD INN</b>	19.00hrs

I know what you're thinking. This is a meet to drag you from your armchairs and you're not wrong!

If you intend doing this meet let me know by e-mail ([gilemale@gmail.com](mailto:gilemale@gmail.com)) indicating what nights you will be staying in Heathy Lea. This is important so arrangements can be made to get cars to and back from High Neb at the end of the day (*and to stable the camels*). Alternatively, turn up at any time during the day. Look forward to seeing you ... mine's a pint!

Gil Male

## **18-20 August Galloway Spenser Gray**

Galloway has some excellent sea cliffs on the Meikle Ross peninsula, I've visited twice before and am keen to further sample the delights which the area has to offer, there are routes at all grades in a variety of styles, some of which yield intense experiences at the end of a run out and some of which are pleasant romps up well protected cracks with abundances of holds. This area is new to the club, however I think that old and new members alike can have an excellent weekend here as it is a suitable venue to introduce many of our new members to sea cliff climbing. Details of the routes can be found in the Lowland Outcrops guide, there is both bouldering (mostly hard but with good landings) and trad (described above) in the area. We will be staying at the Solway View Campsite, I will book pitches assuming that 10 turn up and extend the booking if we get more.

These are the main crags in the area:

<https://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crag.php?id=234>

<https://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crag.php?id=49#overview>

<http://www.johnbiggar.com/galloway-climbing-index/meikle-ross-kirkcudbright-rock-climbing.asp>

This meet will be beginner friendly and I would hugely appreciate it if we could have some of the club's more experienced members come along to introduce some of our newer members to the utter joys of sea cliffs.

*Spenser Gray email [spenser.h.gray@gmail.com](mailto:spenser.h.gray@gmail.com) Tel. 07534 821500*

## **25th August - 3rd September: Guernsey and Jersey Trad Climbing meet Spenser Gray**

As there was no show of interest in this trip Spenser has now made other plans for his summer holiday.

### **25- 28 August Bank Holiday and no meet arranged!**

Looks as if it is up to those who aren't off on their summer hols to get together and plot a camping trip – Pembroke perhaps or somewhere closer - the Roaches maybe? Use the Yahoo Group and come up with some ideas!

### **Looking ahead:**

### **Walking meets in the Autumn**

It would be good to have some Sunday walks “organised” over the coming months. Please get in touch with the Meets Secretary, Gil Male, if you are willing

to lead one – well, no, that's a bit much to ask – we all know an Oread walk is like herding cats – just come up with a date, start place and time, suggested route plus a watering hole for lunchtime. That's about the limit of the organising required.

## **15-17 September Wasdale meet FRCC hut Chris Radcliffe**

Keep the date free for a weekend at this fabulously situated hut.

## **11 October Boardman Tasker Award Celebratory event**

Honorary member, and BoardmanTasker trustee, Dennis Gray has written with news of a celebratory evening to be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2017, commencing 7.30pm at the Buxton Opera House Arts Pavilion.

This will be a truly unique event, with readings and talks by some of those closely involved with the charitable trust that administers the mountain literature prize, and two leading mountaineers who have each won the award.

The evening programme will commence with a reading by Martin Wragg from 'The Shining Mountain', Peter Boardman's award winning first book, followed by a similar delivery ex Steve Dean from Joe Tasker's great work, 'The Savage Arena'.

Andy Cave, a BT winner, will talk and lecture from his own master work, 'Learning to Breathe' and Stephen Venables, another BT winner, will explain about how this bolstered his adventurous life, and his latest climbs in South Georgia and Antarctica.

There will be an interval between Andy and Stephen's talks, and a short appropriate fund raising entertainment will ensue!

Tickets are on sale at the Opera House, details on the Heason Events web site.  
<http://www.heason.net/>

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

### **Little Langdale Snod Helliwell**

The sun shines on the righteous so they say so we must all have been very good. It was hot and sunny on Saturday and Sunday.

Ruth and I arrived on Friday afternoon, Pam and Nodge were already there, rebuilding the car park wall – they were not responsible for its state of collapse I hasten to add! Chris and Jan Wilson, Pam and Nick were there early too. It was a little claggy, however, after a cup of tea Ruth and I went to Raven crag, dropping off Chris and Jan in the mist and drizzle as they wanted to try out an electronic device for getting lost on Pike o'Bliscoe. We dropped down to the O.D.G. Had a seizure at the cost of car parking in the National Trust car park (perhaps the Monopolies Commission should be told!!) and headed up to Raven which was, surprisingly, dry and below the clag. We did Mendes, an excellent climb, but I would recommend doing the first and second pitches as one rather than change over on the poor stance.

That night most of us went to the pub – The Three Shires – where we met Chris

and Jan, drying out from their walk. The food was expensive - £13.95 for haddock and chips – no better than normal pub food and £9.00 more expensive than Cromford Chippy!! Later arrivals joined us as the night wore on – Derek had had a sporting ride up through the Yorkshire dales on his Honda, Pam N. Pam S. and Nick had enjoyed some routes on Upper Scout crag, Simon and Pete Amour drove up that evening.

Saturday dawned bright, sunny and hot. Too hot to sit out in front of the hut by 9.00 am! The keen team had been up, twittering with the dawn chorus, and were long gone by then – to Ravens as it turned out - Angela and Roland, Pippa, Pam, Pam and Nick, I believe. Pete and Nodge went walking. I had a score to settle on Pavey Ark – Rake End Wall – having attempted it in 1968 with Gobbo and Rod the Odd Bod, having to abseil off in a blizzard. We were joined by Jan, Chris, Simon, Monsieur Larkam and Mark Steel. We parked in the New Dungeon Ghyll field – much cheaper than the National Trust robbers. It was a long, hot flog up and Stickle Tarn looked very inviting.

Roger and Simon set off first, followed by Mark, Ruth and me. Chris and Jan did Stoa's Crack instead – on Ruth's recommendation. Apparently it was good in parts and elsewhere quite horrid, vegetated and dripping – however they still appear to be on speaking terms .....Rake End Wall was an excellent climb though the first belay was miniscule – as Mark said – you have to be really comfortable close up with people for this multi-pitch stuff! Then I tried to lay myself out: trying to get a decent belay in view of the overhanging damp crux I put in a Friend – gave it a sharp tug to test and it flirted out and hit me in the eye. After much cursing I carried on up the next pitch. It's a good job we turned back in 1968 because the supposedly easy 4b top pitch wasn't – and virtually unprotected until you have reached easy ground. We did the proper



mountaineering stuff and visited the summit (photo shows Mark and me admiring the view) before heading back to rejoin the rest of the team.

Nobody could face up to a second route so we made for the N.D.G. Here we found Derek and Tony rehydrating after a very enjoyable day on Scout crag, and cheered on loads of folk doing some kind of triathlon – a truly daunting challenge in the intense, humid heat.

Back at the hut, Pippa was still not back – she had run to Raven's, done Bilberry Buttress with Roland and Angela and then made her own high level way back – arriving long after most of us had been relaxing for hours!

That night the wealthy went to the pub, joined there by Gil and Andrea. Others, including me as a Yorkshireman, and the Dawn Chorus, no doubt needing an early night, ate at the hut.

Sunday again dawned bright and beautiful. Several walking parties enjoyed the

sunshine and the views. A group of us went to Wallowbarrow, too tired to flog up to our planned venue – Dow crag. Parked at the farm and walked up, serenaded by a guy playing a baroque lute in the garden. We had a great day doing classy routes with a fabulous view. It was unbearably hot and it got to us all – Tony went back to the hut forgetting Simon, his passenger- luckily Chris and Jan reunited him with Pippa and his car.

All in all a brilliant weekend – thanks to all who came - we must do it again next year!

**Angela writes:**

We did indeed have a great time. On Sunday we parked up in the Old Dungeon Ghyll car-park and walked up The Band and across Crinkle Craggs and back to the ODG for burger and chips (wedding anniversary treat). Monday was really hot and legs were aching so we headed up to Gimmer (very slowly) from the Stickle Barn end, did The Crack and watched some chaps doing a practice set-up of a couple of porta ledges (some sort of photo shoot in prospect I think). Very enjoyable day. Tuesday was also lovely so we scrambled up Dungeon Ghyll as far as possible (final waterfall defeated us) before heading up and across to Harrison Stickle and down via Stickle Tarn. Tea and cake before driving home. All very splendid.

## **Little Langdale Perambulations - Peter Amour**

On the Friday evening, whilst enjoying the local beers of the Three Shires, Nodge suggested a circuit of the Tilberthwaite Fells ridges.

So often the climate of the lakes can be so fickle but we were to be treated by a continuation of the fine early summer weather for Saturday. Our course was to cross the ford below the hut, and head up the dale passing the much used Slater's Bridge before passing the Yorkshire Ramblers' hut into more open country. Having observed Birk Fell Man we turned our backs to it and entered the steeper ground of Rough Craggs, continuing onto Little and Great Carrs at which point a thoughtful moment or two was spent observing the memorial to the crew lost in a Halifax bomber in 1944.

In a mix of brilliant sunshine and hilltop-hugging cumulus our route headed away from the horse shoe and onto the summit of Grey Friars where we took images of the Matterhorn Rock, and then regained the ground of our original plan. After passing over Swirl Howe we descended the craggy terrain



of Prison Band, before gaining height to lunch on the rock strewn, but rewarding, summit of Wetherlam.

Following our refuelling we gave some thought to our return route, and complaining knees, and decided our preferred option was by way of the col below Swirl Hawse over which we'd travelled earlier. Our day on the hill was concluded by threading a boulder field route into valley below, and onto the track back to the hut where we passed some wild campers enjoying a great location, on a fabulous day. Thanks for the company Nodge.

Sunday's plan was to see a mirror image of the previous day's weather, and having become well basted by such conditions I opted for a route via Slater's Bridge before going over to the wooded areas around Chapel Stile and descending the route of Great Langdale Beck to Elterwater village and Tarn before reaching Skelwith Bridge.

Following a coffee break I returned by way of Colwith Force and Stand End, where, when engaged in conversation with a couple, I was asked "Had I lost any photographic gear", to which I said "Yes, a lens cap." The gent replied "I have seen one by the track between the Slater's Bridge and the Wrynose Pass road". Sure enough, on searching the area, I regained my property, so all in all a great weekend. May I give due thanks to all involved for a superb weekend, in a fabulous location.

## **The Fred Whitton Chris Radcliffe**

The Fred Whitton Challenge is a cyclo-sportive held annually to commemorate a leading figure of the Lakes Road Club. It is 112 miles (180 km) long with 3,600 m of climbing over all the major passes of the Lake District, so it has gained a considerable reputation and is massively oversubscribed every year. There is a ballot held in January with a limit of 2000 riders. Together with Roger and Clare De Faye I got my entry in on time and was lucky enough to get a place.

The event was on May 7<sup>th</sup> and after a trip to Scotland in February I left myself only a few weeks to get in the training miles, particularly as the weather wasn't great.

However, with the experience of a few long events in the Alps I was reasonably confident I would get round when I turned up at Grasmere to register the day before.

*Off to registration with Clare and Roger.*

Everything was very well organised and we could relax in the evening at a local bistro before retiring



to the campervan conveniently parked at the local school just a few metres from the start.

There was a chill northerly wind as I set off around 6:15 rolling easily along the road through Ambleside until we turned off on Holbeck Lane towards Troutbeck. This is the first big climb of the day leading to the Kirkstone Pass, at 454m the highest pass on the route. The northerly wind was spilling the cloud over the eastern fells and it was a spectacular sight as we climbed up towards the pass.



*Early morning cloud spilling over the Eastern fells.*

The temperature was 2 degrees C and I had just sufficient clothes to cope, but I knew I would overheat later in the day. Even at this early hour there was a good crowd at the side of the road, shouting encouragement. There was a fast descent to Patterdale and then undulating roads until we reached the A66 and a fast section to reach Keswick and turn up the Borrowdale valley to reach Seatoller at 46 miles. The climb up Honister is really steep at the bottom on a narrow road, but I managed to keep going and it eases a bit before descending to Buttermere. There is a tricky bridge to cross on the descent which caught some people out and there were a few accidents here, one involving the air ambulance. After a feed station, the next climb is up Newlands which gets steep at the top so was quite a testing climb.

*Climbing up the Newlands pass.*

The weather by this time was really pleasant, so I couldn't have wished for better conditions. After Braithwaite (60 miles) the route heads over the Whinlatter which isn't too bad and there were substantial



crowds here cheering us on, which provided a fantastic atmosphere akin to doing an Etap du Tour in the Alps. Another fast descent to Lorton then a climb past Scale Hill before descending to Loweswater. A climb over Fangs Brow and a descent to Croasdale and on down to Ennerdale. It was here I nearly lost it on a corner with a lot of gravel. From Ennerdale Bridge there is a climb over Cold Fell, not to be underestimated but I had been warned about this so was mentally prepared. However, I felt pretty tired by the time I reached the second feed station at Calder Bridge at 87 miles and had a good long rest here enjoying the sunshine as I refuelled on a variety of goodies provided.

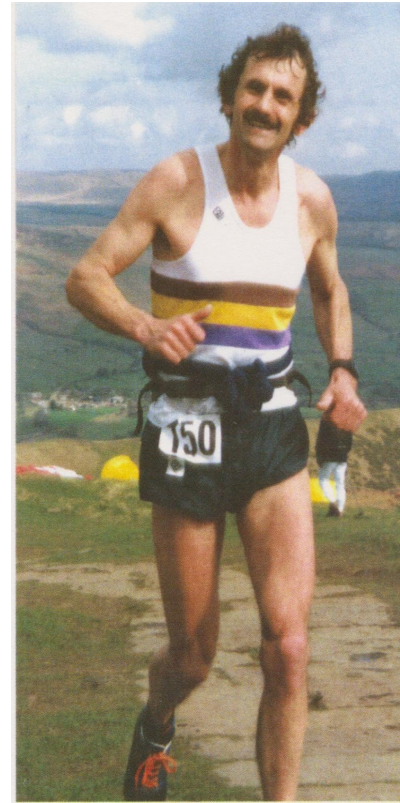
We had to ride on the busy A 595 for a while before turning off towards Gosforth and heading towards Eskdale. After 90 miles we finally reached the crux of the route – an ascent of Hardknott Pass. Both Hardknott and Wrynose were closed to traffic, which was a great asset and again a lot of people had walked in to shout encouragement. I managed to ride some of the climb, but after a while it seemed pretty pointless as I could walk almost as fast, so I pushed for some of the time. I'm sure I could have done better with fresh legs, but I had to recognise my limitations. The steep descent was almost as fraught and I took it very carefully before rolling down to Wrynose Bottom and then launching up Wrynose Pass. I managed most of this before a final steepening caused me to wobble to a halt. Finally a descent into Little Langdale where every rise made itself felt, and then there is a turn off onto a minor road on the outskirts of Ambleside before a final run into Grasmere and the finish! My time of 8:56 (8:30 moving time) was unexceptional, but I was very happy to have got round without incident and could enjoy the ambiance of the event in the afternoon sunshine.



*Posing at the finish!*

**Mike Wynne**  
**1 March 1956 – 4 June 2017**

It is with great sadness that we record the death of former member Mike Wynne, after a long illness. Two of his companions on the hill over many years have memories to share:



*Left: Mike at the top of La Demande, Verdon Gorge.*

**Mike Wynne – a personal reflection. Richard Hopkinson**

I first met Mike in the late 70's when I joined the Oread. He had come to Derby to teach following an engineering degree at Loughborough University, and a teaching qualification at Lancaster. This was a very active period for the Oread, with a lot of young members climbing and mountaineering to a high standard, at home and abroad. Mike was a part of this scene and I understand others, more involved at this time, may be reflecting on this and Mike.

Over the years I got to know Mike well, in addition to climbing, we shared a common interest in fell running, and would often travel to races together. Mike was a natural athlete, good at anything he turned his hand to. He had played rugby before coming to Derby, to a high amateur standard. He climbed well. I remember watching him climbing a route at Tremadog once, he "shot" up this particular route making it look incredibly easy. It was only when I looked it up in the guide later I realised it was E2, a good standard for those days. We also

shared an interest in winter climbing. Mike was a good at this as well. He was not a “gear freak”, and his gear was sometimes a “bit off the pace”. This was no handicap to him. I remember on one particular trip we went up the Ben three days in a row, the only time I’ve ever managed this! - doing Good Friday climb, Zero and Smiths.

Climbing and running was only part of Mike, he was also very interested in travel. In the 80’s he started visiting places like Morocco, and setting up treks to these countries, which he would lead or organise, through some of the early trekking companies, which he was involved in setting up. He travelled all over Africa by Land Rover, and took a year off to travel round the world with Annie, who had by then become his partner. Mike was always able to travel light, and one thing that struck me about this trip was the size of his bag, which was about the same as a current airline carry-on bag.

Those who knew Mike will know how laid back he was, and admired his enviable work/life balance. Through his love of travel he gave up a full time teaching career, and became more involved in trekking. He turned his hand to house renovation, and when he wasn’t teaching (part time or supply), or travelling, he renovated the house they lived in before selling it, and doing the same again.

After Mike’s father died, they decided to move from Derby to live near his mother near Ingleton. As he said at the time, he could do his work from anywhere, and the Yorkshire Dales had a lot going for it. They bought a large house in High Bentham, which he again renovated, but this time with the intention of staying. By this time they had started a family, and have a daughter, Zara, and son, Joel. Many Oreads kept in touch, and used his expertise in organising treks. Only a couple of years ago he organised a fantastic trip for me to Patagonia. Whilst he gave up climbing he kept running. We did many mountain marathons together, as well as travelling to fell races, until a long standing injury forced him to stop running. This did not stop him leading treks, which he was doing right up to becoming ill.

Above all the things that stood out about Mike; he was a great guy, he was a mate, always great company, whatever we were doing, ready to listen, laid back and unflappable, even on the times I met him since he was ill.

I shall miss him.

### **Robin Sedgwick writes:**

I first met Mike, appropriately, in a bar; Brasserie Nationale in Chamonix in the summer of 1979, introduced by my climbing partner Paul Addison. That September Mike became a colleague of mine, teaching physics in Bemrose School Derby, where I was currently working. Inevitably we started climbing together and over the next few years we formed a regular partnership. Mike’s vehicle at the time was a small red Bedford van of uncertain vintage and his technical skills (he was an engineering graduate) were frequently called upon to keep it mobile. Journeys regularly featured repair interludes to replace an errant starter motor, alternator or distributor from the well organised box of spares he invariably carried. It was in that vehicle that we had several winter trips to Scotland, usually accompanied by a barrel of Marstons Pedigree. Mike was a connoisseur of real ales and the Scottish keg beer of the time was to neither of our tastes. It was on these trips that we both acquired a lifelong appreciation of Scottish single malts, endeavouring to sample the whole of the pub’s whisky shelf during the

course of a week. At home after coming across a book entitled something like *Brew beers at home like the ones you drink in the pub* his cellar became a brewhouse producing passable imitations of some of his favourite beers. On our Scottish trips we climbed as much as we could, skied if conditions or weather was poor and if neither were possible went to the pub. An outstandingly memorable non-ascent of this time was of Point Five Gully on Ben Nevis. We managed to get two pitches up it in horrendous conditions before retreating in face of increasingly hostile powder snow avalanches. Abbing off, looking like a pair of snowmen, we were in the pub playing darts by lunchtime.



The following year, however, we were back for what was probably the best week's climbing I ever had. A combination of blue-sky weather and immaculate snow and ice conditions saw us romp up *Hadrian's Wall*, *Point Five*, *Route Major* and *Orion Face Direct* on the Ben whilst on Craig Meagaidh we ticked *Centre Post Direct* and the first pitch of *Smith's Gully*. On ice, as well as on rock Mike was an incredibly steady and confident climber. I never once saw him in extremis or flustered; everything he did appeared to be well within his capabilities. Although he climbed to a high standard he was never obsessed with choosing routes just for their difficulty; On a trip to Pembroke, having climbed the wonderful *Space* he next perused the guidebook and suggested an esoteric little gem entitled *Subterranean Rabbit Launcher* purely on the grounds it had an amusing name. An ascent was duly made and the name deemed

to be highly appropriate. I'd recommend doing it, but its probably fallen down by now!

May half term in 1982 saw the red van heading South to sunny Provence and the Verdon Gorge. Mike's vehicle was fitted with a state of the art (for the time) stereo system and a choice selection of cassettes (younger members, ask your dad what those things were). Our first experience of the gorge was driving round the rim road with Pink Floyd's *One of These Days* playing full blast. To this day I can't listen to the Allman Brothers *Southbound* without it triggering fond memories of that trip. Later the same year we had a resoundingly unsuccessful summer in Chamonix accompanied by a crowd of Mike's old university mates; Mike was a

great organiser and coordinator with the ability to draw groups of people together for the latest adventure. The weather was poor but when good spells did appear we were inevitably out of phase with them, recuperating in the valley after some epic retreat. We did get up a couple of routes in the Aiguilles Rouges and the ordinary route on the Petit Dru but interspersed with these was a series of very wet abseils off the Petit Jorasses and an out and back traverse of the Vallee Blanche to not do the Brenva Spur. We even managed to get stormed off the Amone slab! Nevertheless time was well spent extending our polythene shelter on the Pierre D'Orthaz campsite; (christened by passers by as "*un chateau plastique*", much to our satisfaction), playing lots of games of football on the grass by the helipad and spending a not inconsiderable amount of time in the Bar Nash. Never one to be idle, during one extended spell of bad weather Mike decided to invest time in improving his French and returned from town clutching a paperback copy of Ian Fleming's *L'homme avec le pistol d'or* which, with frequent reference to his English-French dictionary, occupied him for the next few days.

When Mike's parents bought a property in Kirby Lonsdale in preparation for retirement he immediately recognised its potential for a base for more fun. A large-team caving trip was duly assembled, with Mike's usual panache, for October half term, the highlights being a team of 13 down Bar Pot into the Gaping Ghyll main chamber and a through trip of Simpson Pot, Swinsto Hole and the Kingsdale Master Cave (If you only ever do one caving trip in your life, make it this one!) I am uncertain if Mike had ulterior motives on team selection for the trip but we took with us two sixth form students who had been heavily involved in the outdoor pursuit trips we had been running from school. One of them, Annie, subsequently became Mike's wife! Mike had taken outdoor pursuits as a subsidiary subject in his PGCE year in Lancaster and was involved in delivery of that aspect of the curriculum at Bemrose. Insistent that his charges receive the maximum adventure quotient, on one memorable occasion (these being the days before risk assessments and threats of litigation) he took the kids abseiling: High Tor!

As one possessing a limited amount of natural athletic talent, I've always been in envy of those individuals who can turn their hand effortlessly and competently to a new sport. Mike was one of those people. On being drafted into the school staff football team he proved to be a robust full back with a level of commitment not out of place in Don Revie's Leeds United side. When the marathon boom kicked off in the early 80s Mike turned to running, narrowly missing breaking three hours on his first outing at the distance in the Derby Ramathon. Subsequently he comfortably bettered the time and I recall spectating on the Cromford Canal as he went through in first place to win the White Peak Marathon. Inevitably putting running and mountains together, Mike went on in future years to compete in many mountain marathons in the company of Richard Hopkinson.

One little appreciated aspect of Mike's life was his theatrical career. In 1983 we appeared on stage together in a left field school production of Cinderella, inevitably as ugly sisters: Robinetta and Wyncyetta. Delivering such classic lines as "you are nothing but a fetid leather sock full of camel tripe with a face like a maggot incubator" in falsetto whilst wearing a frock and full make up epitomised Mike's effusive sense of humour, enthusiasm and willingness to get involved. The outstanding feature of Mike's personality was undoubtedly that infectious

enthusiasm and determination with which he tackled everything he was involved in.

During school holidays, when not climbing, Mike had started to do guiding work for the trekking company Exodus. In 1983 he decided that this was where his future lay and he left teaching, initially to embark on a long landrover trip around Africa with Annie and a couple of other friends. Upon his return he began working full time for Exodus. In 1984 I flew out to Morocco accompanied by my then-wife, Dot and Annie to latch on to the Trek he was leading. A memorable two weeks around the Atlas mountains staying in Berber villages revealed the wonderful rapport Mike had established with the local people in a very short time. The main contact in the mountains, Lahcen, (who Mike jokingly described as the "capitalist Berber" ) became a lifelong friend with several visits to the UK, the last only a few months before Mike's death. Typical of Mike's mischievous sense of humour and enormous sense of hospitality was Lahcen's first visit when this Berber from a tiny village in the Atlas Mountains was taken to Alton Towers! Mike had quickly learned a modicum of the Berber language and introduced me to some of it, in particular the two words *igli* and *tigli*. Apparently, one means "eggs" the other "bollocks". Mike could never remember which was which. It did make ordering breakfast tricky! At the end of the Atlas trek the four of us rented an ageing Renault 4 and headed south for a week into the Sahara. In temperatures in the high 40s we got as far as Zagora where a sign indicates the start of the camel train route to Timboctou 52 days away, the big dunes start and the cockroaches in the hotel rooms are the size of dinner plates.

Mike and Annie subsequently moved North to High Bentham with Mike continuing to work in the Trekking business; first with Exodus, then with his own company Walks Worldwide and subsequently with Adventure Peaks in Ambleside. Our lives drifted apart although I caught up with him a couple of times on trips to the Lakes. On hearing of Mike's illness I got back in touch. The physical deterioration I saw was extremely hard to come to terms with, but the spirit and essence of Mike was still burning strongly and he was more than eager to be trundled down the hill to the local Indian for a curry and a couple of pints just like old times.

In June 2016, just six months after his initial diagnosis he was given just a few weeks to live. Mike, being Mike, lived for another year. I wouldn't have expected anything less.

Great Bloke.

Mike is survived by Annie, daughter Zara and son Joel

## **Hut Bookings.**

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

30 Jun-1 Jul	Paul Howe 10 beds
7-8 July	Beeston Hill and MC
13-16 July	OMC working party
14-16 July	Naomi Brewer 16 beds
23-27 July	Tony Howard 8 beds

## HEATHY LEA

30 Jun – 1 July	Red Rope
4-5 August	Scunthorpe M.C.
11-12 August	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 Michael Hayes, the Hut Bookings Secretary: 32 Hawthorne Drive, Thornton, Leicester, LE67 1AW.

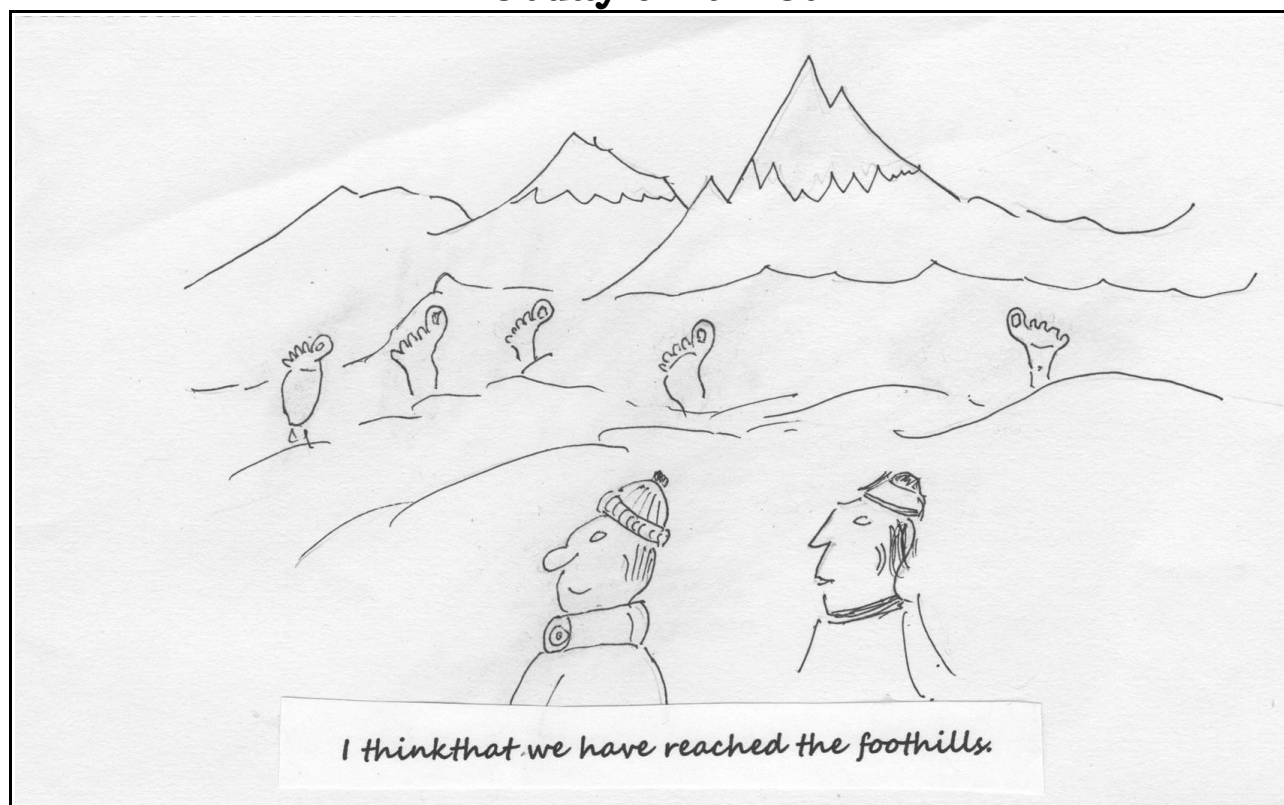
Tel. 01530 231401 mobile 07771 700913. Email: [hayes\\_michael\\_j@cat.com](mailto:hayes_michael_j@cat.com)

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



## Information on Member Activities

Membership applications have been received from Ben Stephenson and Chris Hartshorne. If you would like to comment on either of these applications, which will be considered at the July meeting, please contact a member of the committee.

## **Rusty's Puzzle Corner**

### **This month's puzzle:**

Preoccupied with thoughts about attendance at the AGM, the committee devised an eccentric scheme whereby each voting attendee was issued with a numbered ticket, in order of arrival. The idea was to instruct each person holding a ticket with a pertinent number to locate and contact others so that, together, they could make a group of numbers forming the year in which the Oread was founded. It was permissible for two persons holding different smaller numbers to stand together and be regarded as a single digit equal to the sum of the smaller ones. The first finished group with a correct assembly of numbers was to receive a prize of £10 per head. Each person entering, if eligible to vote, was to be charged £1 to defray the cost of any prize. (This was also regarded as a team building exercise to prepare people for administrative duties in a BMC satellite organisation, rather than wasting time with irrelevances like walking and climbing). What was the level of attendance needed to prevent the scheme from losing money?

### **Last month's puzzle solution:**

#### **Part 1**

Unlike homo sapiens, a hen has both its beak and eyes forward of its feet. After scratching the ground, it therefore takes a step backwards in order to see and then devour whatever it has unearthed.

#### **Part 2**

The settlement arrowed was Earl Sterndale, viewed over the shoulder of Parkhouse Hill. In this village is the Quiet Woman Inn, named after the legendary tale of a scolding woman who was beheaded in order to stem the flow of unwanted complaint and vituperation. (This story puts me in mind of certain members of the UK parliament). My chainsaw is available for loan at a competitive rate. *Your editor, Ruth, was on to this solution like a flash.*

## **Stop Press: Proposed Rule Change.**

At the AGM in March insufficient members were present to form a quorum (one quarter of members) and consequently a proposal to change the club rules and reduce the number required for a quorum (Rule 17) to 25 could not be implemented. The meeting requested that the General Secretary conduct a postal ballot of the Full Membership of the Club on the resolution and this has now been concluded.

97% of those voting (which is 39% of those eligible) were in favour of the resolution and 3% against. The Rules state that the resolution shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

A total of 64 votes were cast. 62 (57 returned by email and 5 by post) were for the resolution and 2 (by email) were against. The return rate was 51% by email and 5% by post.

These figures have been given to the General Secretary and will no doubt be discussed at the next Committee meeting in early July.

# 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 and 2018 (UK and abroad). **Leaders for walking meets over the Autumn would be particularly welcome.** If you intend leading a meet please contact Gil Male tel 07958 169389 email [gilemale@gmail.com](mailto:gilemale@gmail.com) who will enter details in the Meets List Calendar.

<i>July</i>	<i>7-9</i>	<i>North West Dartmoor Spenser Gray</i>
	<i>01/12/16</i>	<i>Tan yr Wyddfa Working Party Dave (Snod) Helliwell</i>
	<i>22 Jul – 6 Aug</i>	<i>Alpine Meet Mike Mowbray</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>11-13</i>	<i>Walk &amp; Climb the Edges Gil Male</i>
	<i>18-20</i>	<i>Galloway Sea Cliffs Spenser Gray</i>
	<i>25 - 28Aug</i>	<i>Bank Holiday weekend</i>
	<i>15-17</i>	<i>Lakes, Wasdale, FRCC Hut Chris Radcliffe</i>
<i>September</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>3-12</i>	<i>Sicily, San Vito lo Capo Ruth Gordon</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>

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