



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2017



Victoria Mawer and Ellie well chuffed after doing Nani on the South face of the Naranjo de Bulnes on the Picos de Europa meet. Photo supplied by Mike Mowbray.

Editorial

This issue features tales from the summer trip to the Picos and some stunning photos of this amazing area. Looking forward, there's a return trip to Little Langdale, glorious in October, a trip to the Gogarth sea cliffs – or it could be a relaxing weekend on Anglesey – take your pick! Then there's the bonfire, the Dovedale Dash to follow. Here too all the details of the indoor meets programme and this year's annual dinner with your booking form at the back.

The first of the winter indoor meets at the Royal Oak, Ockbrook is now imminent -

on 3 October – your Hon. Ed. has spent days working on this – please do come!

Sadly, this issue also contains memories of former member, Don Cowan, well known to many who went on the Alpine meets in the 1970s who died recently.

What's On

| Date | Meets | | | |
|----------|-------|----|--|--------|
| | | | UK | Abroad |
| October | Sun | 1 | | |
| | Mon | 2 | Climbing Unit, Derby | |
| | Tue | 3 | Indoor Meet Royal Oak, Ockbrook (evening) | |
| | Wed | 4 | Yahoo Group (evening) | |
| | Thur | 5 | | |
| | Fri | 6 | Fylde Mountaineering Club hut, Little Langdale | |
| | Sat | 7 | Hut Swap Ruth Gordon/Snod Helliwell | |
| | Sun | 8 | | |
| | Mon | 9 | Climbing Unit, Derby | |
| | Tue | 10 | | |
| | Wed | 11 | Yahoo Group (evening) | |
| | Thur | 12 | | |
| | Fri | 13 | Gogarth, Anglesey | |
| | Sat | 14 | Dave Mawer | |
| | Sun | 15 | | |
| | Mon | 16 | Climbing Unit, Derby | |
| | Tue | 17 | | |
| | Wed | 18 | Yahoo Group (evening) | |
| | Thur | 19 | | |
| | Fri | 20 | | |
| | Sat | 21 | | |
| | Sun | 22 | | |
| | Mon | 23 | Climbing Unit, Derby | |
| | Tue | 24 | | |
| | Wed | 25 | Yahoo Group (evening) | |
| | Thur | 26 | | |
| | Fri | 27 | | |
| | Sat | 28 | | |
| | Sun | 29 | | |
| | Mon | 30 | Climbing Unit, Derby | |
| | Tue | 31 | | |
| November | Wed | 1 | Yahoo Group (evening) | |
| | Thur | 2 | | |
| | Fri | 3 | Sicily 3-13 th Ruth Gordon | |
| | Sat | 4 | | |
| | Sun | 5 | | |
| | Mon | 6 | Climbing Unit, Derby | |
| | Tue | 7 | Indoor Meet Royal Oak, Ockbrook (evening) | |

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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.

Evening meets:

It's back to the long dark evenings once more so come along to the evening climbing wall sessions: This photo, sent in by Michael Hayes, shows some Oreads up to unusual activities at the Unit – see what you are missing!



Mondays at the Unit from 7 – 9.00 pm and after at the Wilmot Arms, Chaddesden. (Often there are people there in the afternoons 1.30 – 4.30 as well.)
Wednesdays at Wirksworth wall from 7.00 pm then the Royal Oak on North St.

Winter 2017/8 Indoor Meets Rob Tresidder

These take place on the first Tuesday of each month, October to March in the Royal Oak, Ockbrook at 8.00 p.m. So far my programme looks like this:

03 October: Ruth Gordon will speak on her trip to Bhutan (see below).

07 November: a revival of the members' slide evening (see separate call for images on page 5 of this newsletter).

05 December: Spenser Gray: *A Modern Apprenticeship: Surviving the First 5 Years*

02 January: (this date may be changed to 09 January or may not run at all; watch this space, or one like it).

06 February: Paul Ramsden, multiple Piolet D'Or winner returns to the Oread

06 March: TBA

Rob Tresidder email Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net tel. 07951 625378

Tuesday 3 October Indoor Meet at the Royal Oak Ockbrook 8.00pm

Bhutan: a journey with Four Powerful Beasts: Ruth Gordon.

The first winter lecture of the season will take place on Tuesday 3 October – and **Help!** It's me!!! I will be telling the tale of a memorable trekking holiday in 2016 with fellow Oreads and friends from the Derwent M.C. exploring an extraordinary

and unforgettable country. I'm hoping to share some of the magic as well as the practical lessons learned from a first visit to somewhere completely different!



6-8 October Fylde Club Hut swap meet Little Langdale – Ruth and Snod

A return to this delightfully situated hut where we had a weekend blessed with perfect weather back in June. There is excellent walking and a wide range of classic crags in easy reach, and October in the Lakes can be glorious, with the autumn colours in the trees and bracken. As it is a hut swap with Tan yr Wyddfa we only pay our own members' rates of £5.00 a night. There are 16 places in the hut but parking is limited to six spaces so car-sharing is a good idea. Ruth Gordon tel. 01629 56636 email alistair.ruth@btinternet.com

11 October Boardman Tasker Award Celebratory event

A celebratory evening commencing 7.30pm at the Buxton Opera House Arts Pavilion. See last month's newsletter for details or check the Heason Events web site. <http://www.heason.net/>. Tickets are on sale at the Opera House.

Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 October Gogarth Dave Mawer

If you only ever visit the Sea Cliffs of Anglesey as a wet weather alternative to the mountains you may be missing the point. Gogarth offers a wide variety of climbing styles, with many of its routes the epitome of “Adventure” whatever your grade. The forthcoming meet has favourable tides with lows around midday allowing the tidal starts to dry out. However the great thing about Gogarth is that there are plenty of areas that are far enough from the sea not to be affected by tides or large swells. The bird bans are over with the crags having had plenty of time to be washed free of guano in the lovely welsh rain, opening up venues such as Red Walls and Mousetrap Zawn at South Stack as well as some of the many new areas in the new guides.

Once again we will base ourselves at the Valley of the Rocks Camp site, Portdafarch Road, Trearddur Bay, Isle of Anglesey, LL65 2LL. Tel: 01407765787. Booking isn't really necessary unless you need electric hook-up for which space is limited. Apparently the post code will lead you astray if you use Satnav. The best approach is to follow signs for south stack but then follow the coast road at its turning, then look out for Portdafarch Road on the left just before a small bay at the bottom of a hill. The campsite is about 1km on the right. Most importantly to note is that accessible from the site is the Paddler's Return - a purveyor of fine beers and cuisine.

If you fancy coming email me at dtmawer@yahoo.co.uk or phone on 07790715520.

4 November Bonfire and Fireworks Meet – Heathy Lea Neil Weatherstone

Remember Remember the 4th of November, as that is the night of our traditional Bonfire and Fireworks night at Heathy Lea. Derek Pike has volunteered to be our pyromaniac for the evening and will be entertaining us with his rockets as soon as it gets dark. There will be a barrel of beer thanks to Ben and BBQs for food are encouraged as is cooking directly on the fire with long pointy sticks (I'll provide a gas powered BBQ that anyone can use). As usual, help building the bonfire during Saturday would be appreciated, especially from those with chain-saws. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of the fireworks that I'll determine on the night. If you need a bed for the night let me know. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Neil Weatherstone email Neil.weatherstone@btinternet.com tel. 07946825798

5 November Dovedale Dash Rob Tresidder

This year's race starts at 11 am on Sunday 5 November, with signing on from 9.00 am. The cost is £8 (£3 for under 14s.) There is a separate children's race for under 8s and under 10s starting at the bottom of Thorpe Cloud at 10.am. Keep an eye on the website www.dovedaledash.co.uk for last minute information.

Tuesday, 07 November. Indoor meet. Rob Tresidder

I intend to use this opportunity to revive the traditional members' evening where I will provide the opportunity for several (or many) Oreads to show several (or many) images. These do have to be about mountaineering but let's interpret that in the broadest sense. This is not a competition, so the fact that your memorable moments were captured low res on your phone does not matter. We want to hear your story! They don't have to be that recent so if you have some old grainy black and white Bullstones shots digitalised and photoshopped, let's be having 'em too. Maybe you have done a scorching traverse of the GR20 or had an unplanned bivouac in... say the Picos. Let's hear about it.

In the first instance, let me know your intention to join in. Then gather your images together (preferably on a memory stick) and let me have them so that I can order, edit etc to give fellow Oreads and the wider public a first class evening.

Rob Tresidder email Rob61.Tresidder@virgin.net tel. 07951 625378

18 November Annual Dinner at Matlock Golf Club Tony Howard

This year's dinner will kick off at 6.30 pm to sit down at 7.30 pm. Price **£22.50** per person. The food has been excellent for the last two years and it should be a great night. **See the back of this newsletter for full details, overnight accomodation and booking form. Deadline for booking is 9 November.**

19 November Post Prandial Walk

Details to follow in November's newsletter.

1-3 December The Bullstones 2017 Simon Pape

THIS MEET IS GUARANTEED FREE FROM MELTED CHEESE, WHITE GUNGE, COLLAPSING RIVERBANKS AND OTHER THINGS HARMFUL TO SNOD.^{1, 2}

This year's Bullstones will be starting at the Buck's Head in Church Stretton. Car parking is available on the streets nearby. From there it's a short walk to our bivvy near the reservoir in Carding Mill Valley.

I'm planning on heading north on the Saturday, along the Long Mynd and the Portway, aiming for a lunchtime drink in Habberley. From there, we'll go along the Stiperstones ridge before dropping down to our accommodation at Bridges. Sunday's walk back will be over the Long Mynd again, the length depending on the mood of the party.

We'll be stopping at the Bridges Youth Hostel Saturday night. Beds are £20 per night; alternatively there is camping available. The Youth Hostel is conveniently close to the Bridges pub for those who don't want to cook. Please let me know if you (a) want a bed and (b) want to eat in the pub so we can warn them how many of us will be there.

<http://www.the-bucks-head.co.uk/>

<http://thebridgespub.co.uk/>

Simon Pape tel. 07813 616563 email s.pape@virgin.net

1 The management take no responsibility for participants who are unable to tell left from right.

2 The management may be lying.

5 -18 February 2018. Hotel based walking/climbing meet to Benidorm Derek Pike

Following on from several successful meets to Benidorm I am in the process of organising another. The above dates span a two week period to allow members to

come and go as their commitments allow.

The area around Benidorm, up the coast and into the hills behind, offers something for all tastes from easy walks, strolling along the beaches to climbing and mountaineering expeditions.

There will be more info in November's newsletter when a hotel has been picked that comes at the best price. If you are considering going on this meet please let me know so you can all be kept in the loop.

Derek. Email derepike1234@btinternet.com

News, Articles and Reports from Meets.

Oreads Go To The Seaside Picos de Europa – July/August 2017. Mike Mowbray



As the summer tries to establish itself against the vagaries of our English weather, and the mixed blessings of school holidays loom closer, it is time for Oreads to prepare for Alpine adventure. This year the meet leader appears to have had little schooling in geography as well as scant regard for the need to include glacier approaches, icy north faces and exorbitant Swiss prices. And so chose The Picos de Europa...



Although not in the Alps, these peaks do have some redeeming features, goldilocks temperatures, fewer storms, no crevasses and excellent rock on every scale. We based ourselves in Arenas de Cabrales on a lovely friendly, riverside campsite. All the usual facilities with an atmospheric bar restaurant - good beer and even a 'full English' in the morning!

The local crag was only 15 mins walk with a good selection of enticing single pitch routes from 4a - 7a. However there is a whole guidebook worth of crags of all kinds within 40 mins drive. Poo, despite its name, may be the best - and only a short bike ride too.

Dave Mawer confused at Poo?

Here you can wrestle creatively with overhanging

tufas to your heart's content, bridging up the curtains, laying off stalactites, egyptians, arm locks... or just sag on the second bolt. Some Oreads achieved the former, many the latter. Special mention to Spenser who bravely attacked a 7a as his warm up!

Tufa wrestling at the best local crag.

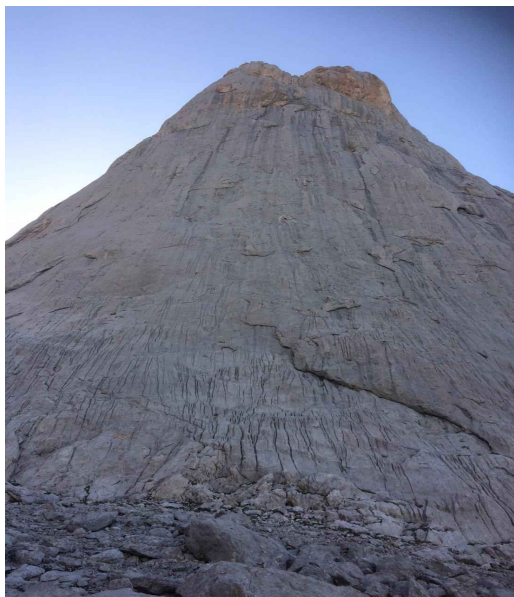
Next up in scale were the large slabs of Fresnidiello, a drive, a bit of a hike and seven pitch routes in the mountains on a 300m slabby wall. Although the routes are mostly trad, the bolt belays should at least keep you on track. Pete and Mike enjoyed their day on Elixir Para Calvos, if not the long run-outs, or their inability to locate the 5th stance. Trying to abb off via a route needing 60m ropes when you only brought 50s was perhaps the most exciting bit.....



Fresnidiello slabs

After the warm-up routes that Fresnidiello offers, the team were bound to be attracted to The Picos' iconic mountain - The Naranjo de Bulnes (The Big Orange!). This really is a stunning rock peak with no easy way up, especially via the long routes on the N/NW face. Later in the meet strong contenders did do The

Rabada - Navarro, and Murciana 78. But for now we should remember that Oreads can be cunning. Tim and Spenser, Pete and Mike scuttled round the side to the E face. Still a mighty impressive bit of rock - but happily only 2/3 scale! It allowed Tim and Spenser to go for Cepeda - a classic with cracks, chimneys and off-widths. Pete and Mike climbed a face route (Espejismo de Verano) to the left with bolt belays - so Pete couldn't be tempted to shorten a pitch and belay on the nearest thread! The two routes join up after five good pitches so we could show Spenser the way through the window to the S face and the easy scramble to the top... Spenser had other ideas and invented a new crux chimney high above the keyhole escape. This allowed him and Tim to have an animated discussion about how best to extricate themselves, and then play cats-cradle for a bit while Mike and Pete enjoyed the summit sunshine. All this excitement left us a bit late and we reached the car, after a tiring descent, very thirsty indeed. Here Tim came to the fore, driving his (racing) hire car at breakneck speed down the hundreds of hairpins, and he did indeed reach the campsite bar before closing!



*Left: Espejismo takes RH water streak
Above: Pete on top of big NB!*

Most of us found it took about 45 minutes to drive up to the bigger routes, so those of us who are occasional cyclists remain in awe of Nigel who cycled to an even higher point in just over an hour! Maybe he was just pleased that this year he was not suffering any debilitating injury after his 24-hour time-trial!

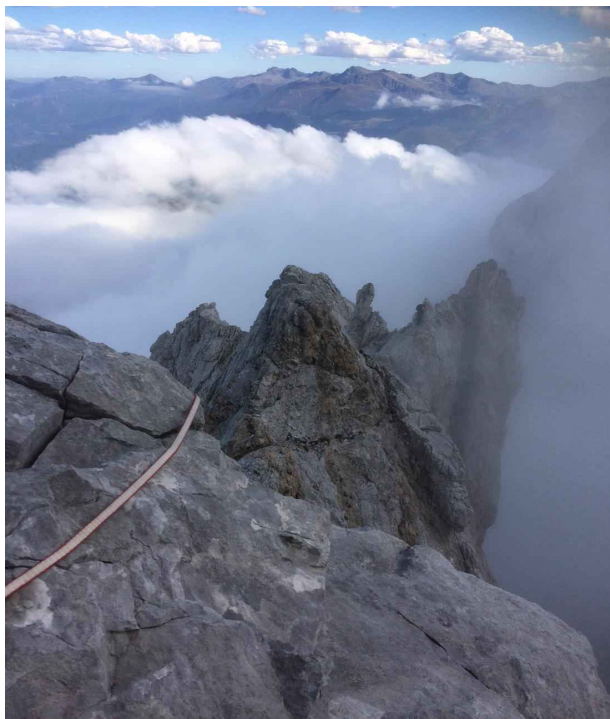
Our next trip was a break with tradition. We visited Cuevas del Mar – a crag by the seaside! Not a sea cliff as such because you walk across the beach, put your sac on your deck chair and climb with an audience. Edd had a good day with a clutch of 7s, Pete and I tried to forget how steep the routes were, but eventually were compelled to cross the sand for ice cream – how we resisted the bar I cannot remember...

If you decide to go, just watch out for the low bridge – better a slight detour with campervans.

Now the Naranjo is a mighty peak indeed, but really just a big rock climb – not quite alpine somehow. A friendly aspirant guide, Juanluis, worked on the campsite and suggested a more traditional route to us all. The Pena Vieja is one of the most popular walking summits via its N side. However the SE face rises 800m from the Aliva meadows and here lies the classic Espolon de los Franceses

TD inf.

Several of us thought this a worthy objective and in the end Spenser, Nigel and Tim set out early one morning for this long, but one day, route.

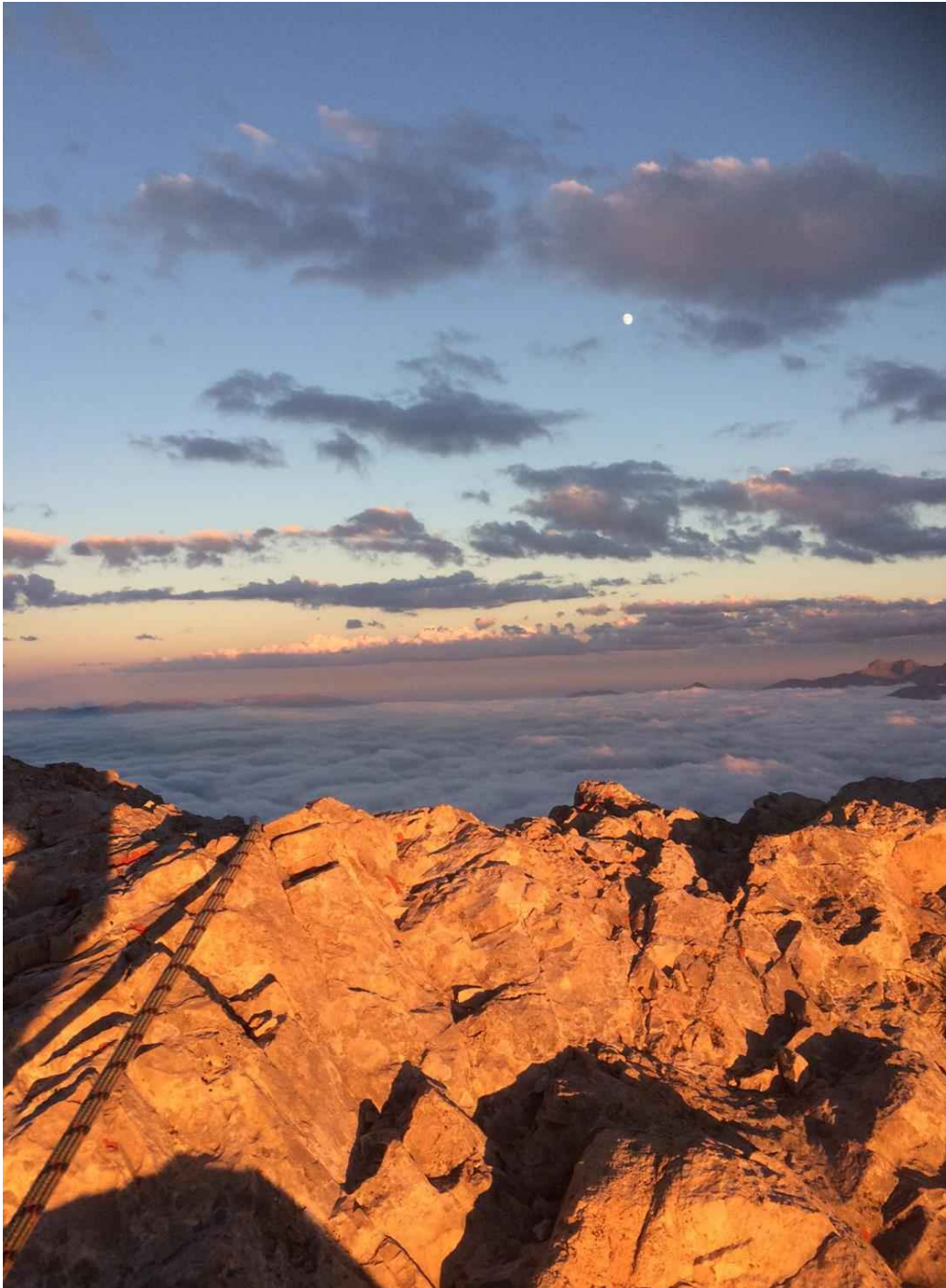


Mike and David, who had waited in the hope Emily could join in, set out the following day at 5am – somewhat surprised that the others had not yet returned. We made a quick approach in three hours and started up the 15 pitches of the steep spur. After initial loose sections the rock became fantastic on the steep arête with pitch after pitch of cracks, grooves and faces. The route finding demanded constant attention and the obvious need to get a shift on perhaps made the sparse protection easier to ignore. David had only done two multi pitch routes before, and as we got higher I was conscious of just how tricky a retreat would be in the absence of any fixed belays. Happily we arrived at the two gendarmes marking the end of continuous rock difficulties before 4pm.

David Mooney on the exposed ridge 'scramble'!

Snatching snacks and water we hurried on via an overhanging chimney to 'the ridge'. Jeanluis had said we could unrope for this – but relative beginners do not solo in such exposed places – and neither for that matter do I!

The foreshortened pictures do not do justice to a ridge that goes up and down, and on and on, seemingly forever. three abseils and five 'pitches' of about 600ft each found us finally pulling onto the summit at 9pm for a very nice sunset. It would have been nicer still were it not for 4.5 hrs of descent ahead. On the last steps to the car a Zimmer frame would have been welcome.....

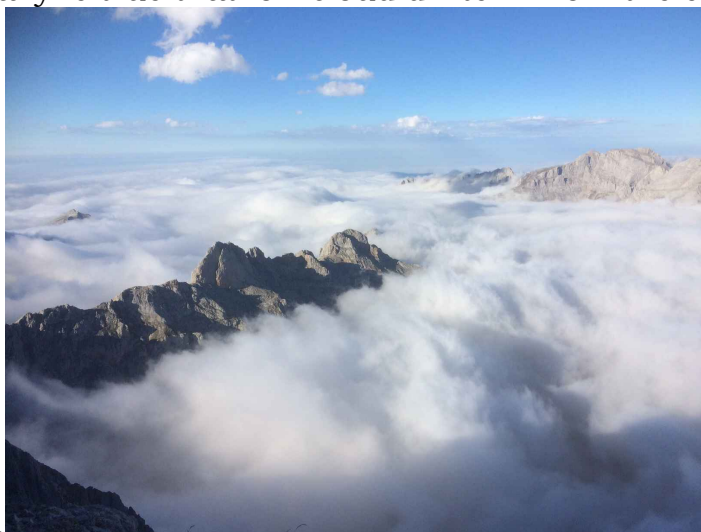


Sunset on top of Pena Vieja

It is rumoured that Spenser will be writing his own account of this fine route – now that he is finally down – so watch out for it in the next edition...

Back at the campsite others had been frustrated with low cloud and poor

weather. The many vultures could not be seen, suntans not getting topped up, washing refusing to dry. But those who take a risk in The Picos will find that Roger was right - it really is true that low cloud drifts in from the sea but up high

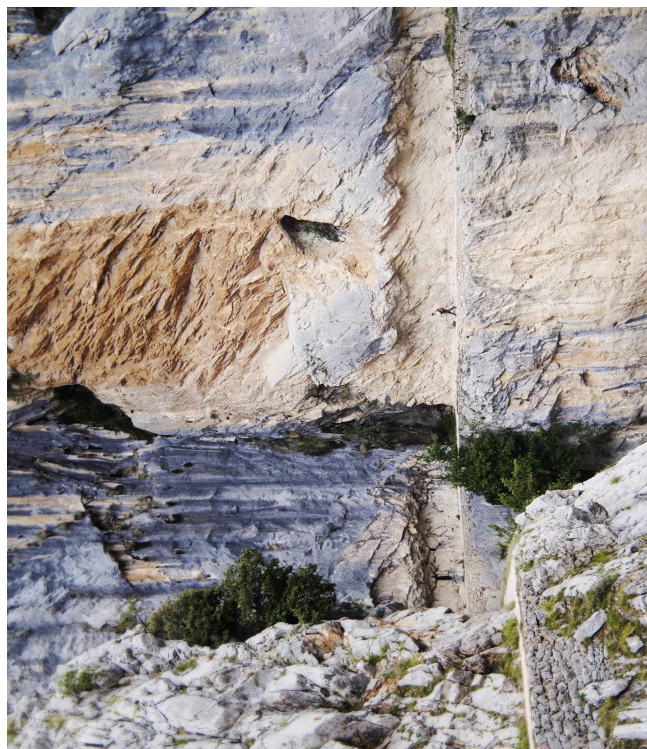


it can still be glorious.

In the sun high on Espolon Franceses – cloudy day below

We did have one big team event when most of us walked up the Cares Gorge for a beer, and then walked back. This is a really spectacular day out but in high summer the crowds can be tedious. Being tempted to stray from the path may be unwise unless you are a Picos mountain goat.

Arenas de Cabrales made a great base for a meet with its shops, restaurants, bars and cheese (!) It is not just the Swiss who make cheese in the mountains. The local stuff is flavoursome indeed – a sort of ‘Stilton on steroids’. It is probably best washed down with the plentiful and cheap local scrumpy cider. However this is not usually possible as you are expected to pour it blindly over your head into a glass held down at arm’s length – so it mostly goes on the floor or down your neck. Still the smell of apples is most pleasant.



We managed to find a brilliant restaurant for Club discussions at the nearby petrol station. Beers, three fine courses and free wine for 21 euros is good value post-Brexit referendum. Spanish wine is certainly worth a mention as we were after all on holiday – it can be hard to decide if Rioja or Ribera do better justice to the tempranillo grape. What is easy to agree is that the white wines of NW Spain using albarino and godello are just getting better and better!

So in retrospect was this a successful meet? It seems everyone had something to do. Good day walks, cycling, cragging, big days out, beaches, ice creams and fine food. The weather was mostly good and the locals more than helpful. Experience was gained by some, skills refreshed by others. Character building routes were enjoyed and unscheduled bivvies endured. Ultimately no one fell in a crevasse or got any frostnip, but whether this was an alpine meet or not is for others to decide. But perhaps the meet leader can be forgiven his geographical lapse just this once, please?



Dave Mawer on the mega classic Murciana 78 which fires up the steepest face on the Naranjo in 12 pitches.

Murciana 78. Roger Gibbs

Dave reminds me that I need to write up our summer holiday. It's a wet September night, pitch black by 8pm. Summer's gone. The memories are already getting a little softer around the edges. The tales we told have already become truth. Oh well, I think it went something like this and if it didn't no one will mind too much.....

I'm pretty sure I can make out the start of the route but there doesn't seem to be anyone coming and we don't want to get it wrong. We'll wait a little longer until the dawn creeps up closer. Here, under the imposingly steep West Face of Naranjo de Bulnes, we won't feel the warmth of the sun until the middle of the afternoon and hopefully a lot higher up that wall.

The plan had been partly mine, which means it was a bit under cooked. Half-baked you might say. The route pretty much picked itself: Murciana 78, the super classic direct line up the stunning West Face. It forces an unlikely and highly impressive line cutting straight through the older wandering classic of Rabada-Navarro. Murciana 78 even appears in Parios-de-Legende, the ultimate

tick list of all things long and alpine (rock only, none of that mountaineering nonsense). It had to be done, but how?

I've always liked the "in a day" concept. Sneak out of your van early doors and don't wake the family. Hop on your bike (or cadge a lift), walk in, give the route a damn good British* thrashing, get down, back on the bike and back to the campsite for war stories and beer. Simple. Except there wasn't a lift available. "Hop on your bike" involved a brutal 90 minute thrash up hill to get to a track of indeterminate length. Then the walk in proper – maybe another couple of hours. 500m of climbing and a long abseil descent. Then reverse the walk and cycle home. Hmm. This was looking like a very big day.

We sent an elite cycle squad out in the rain to recce the bike ride. They nearly got hypothermia and needed two café stops. After an evening cragging session at the amusingly named Poo crag we had a beer and considered our options. The weather looked a little unsettled, not a problem tufa wresting at the overhanging valley crags, but not what you want on the big stone. Finally we decided on three slightly overlapping teams, two climbing on the Saturday and the other one the Sunday. We'd give into common sense and book into the hut. Right then. Sorted. "The hut's full". I suppose the first glimmer of a settled weather window for weeks and those lovely Spanish climbers will book up the bunks pretty quickly. Could we bivvy? I haven't taken a sleeping bag on holiday for years, preferring a large luxurious duvet. It was going to be a struggle to stuff a super king size in my rucksac and Sharon wasn't going to be best pleased. Back to the "in a day" concept. Could we do it? I ran over the timings in my head again. There was no way. I needed another plan and quick. Scanning the map I spotted another hut. It wasn't right under the West Face like the other teams had managed for their route on Saturday, but it had space and it was a lot closer than my van. Ok, we'd drive up, stash the bikes for the descent and get an early start from there. What could possibly go wrong?

BANG! The crash as I missed the step out of the hut at 4am probably woke people in the valley. I'd carefully laid out my shoes and my kit and was sneaking out, trying not to wake the room full of sleeping people. Giggling and whispering apologies Dave and I bundled out the door. "We're just going climbing, bye!" Oops. We started walking in the darkness.

The approach was easy and uneventful. Naranjo loomed into view. Wow, it looked even more imposing in the starlight than it had last night as we'd watched the last rays of the sun illuminate it before bed. At the proper hut nothing stirred and the cluster of tents was still silent. We filled our water bottles and headed up the short scree slope to the base of the route. After gearing up and a short wait for daylight we scrambled up the ramp. There are two grooves off the ramp and it wasn't entirely clear which was ours but after a tentative foray we found the correct way and Dave was soon happily reporting back that he'd found the belay. A smiling local appeared to collect some kit forgotten the previous day, then, just as I was setting off, the next team appeared to follow us up the route.

"You've got to get up early to get one over on the Derby Crew," grinned Dave in his best Irish accent. The first pitch was beefy but honest crack and groove climbing. 12 pitches like this was going to be hard work.

"It's only going to be like 12 E2's at worst," Dave had said. I tried to work out how "only" had crept into that sentence. Anyway a dozen lots of Shape Up in Huntsman Leap? Or a dozen Sentinel Cracks?

The next pitch was mine and looked a little more spicy. Juan, our friendly aspirant guide from the campsite, had warned us to be careful of some poor rock and tenuous moves. I moved down and across, clipping a good peg. The rock wasn't perfect but I've been to Stoney plenty of times. A few more delicate moves and I was into the groove and lots of good gear. More beefy climbing took us to below the crux. It looked suitably desperate and the Spanish team below were hot (well warm) on our heels.

Dave set off. He grunted a bit and clipped some gear. It looked decidedly overhanging and this was only the easier intro before the really hard stuff (which I for one was definitely going to be aiding). After a brief consultation, he avoided an old belay out right and battled up to the shiny new one. My turn. I'd forgotten how physical aiding is with just a couple of slings. After some grunting of my own, I joined Dave at the hanging stance. We gazed down at the chalked holds of the wads who had done that pitch free. Seriously impressive.

We swapped over and I set off on "my crux pitch". There was a brief outbreak of free climbing, but I was soon back to pulling on bolts. All in the interests of speed you understand. Finally the bolts ran out. I took a deep breath and launched up on good but spaced holds, plenty of air dragging at my heels. It's always difficult to move from aid to free, your body feels like lead, but the rock was so perfect and the climbing was brilliant. At the belay I checked my watch. Around three hours and the two hardest pitches dispatched, great! Below us the next team were still battling with the first hard pitch.

The pitches came thick and fast now. Mostly steady climbing on perfect rock but many sections had only cams in pockets for protection. We stopped to grab a butty where we crossed the Rabada-Navarro. On one pitch high on the wall I was grateful for some chalky handprints to show me the way through the blankness. Again the climbing was steady if a little bold - if you find the right way - but it felt very easy to get off route into a lonely old place.



Roger on Murciana 78

On pitch 11 a tiny thread waved in the breeze above. I had time, while bringing Dave up, to notice the "NO" scratched on the rock with an arrow pointing to the

thread. I recalled Juan's warning about taking extra care route finding on the top section and to avoid the threads which were abandoned from someone retreating after getting off route. Pleased with getting 11 right, I made a total hash of 12 and ended up with some serious rope drag. No matter, we were up. We had drinks and snacks to celebrate and gazed with consternation at some crazy local hanging out on a sling over the sheer drop for a selfie. Half way then, I told myself and followed Dave along the summit ridge to the descent gully. More scrambling, a few abseils, the compulsory abseiling cock up and we were back on terra firma. The scree thrash down was suitably unpleasant, it must have been really grim in reverse for the A team's ascent of a route on the East Face the previous day. Dave heroically volunteered to race back up to rescue the spare sac from the base of the route, while I trudged on down. We rendezvoused at the lower hut with a warm glow of satisfaction spreading through me. Even better we scored a lift down the rough track from some friendly locals and an angel of salvation in the shape of Victoria was waiting to give us a lift down so we didn't even get to ride our bikes.

In the pitch black, that ride would have been pretty exciting!

Back at the campsite, we wolfed down dinner, told tall tales and managed a beer or two to rehydrate.

Other teams did lots more climbing (Mike almost certainly needs to tell us all about his adventures), biking**, running, swimming, eating and drinking. A mighty fine adventure, thanks to all who came, and to Mike for organising it.

*other varieties of thrashing are available.

** Sharon also tried to cycle through her husband. This proved less than entirely successful. It was apparently my fault. Makes a change from it being Simon's fault I suppose.

Oread Quad Challenge Stuart Firth

At 12:50 on Wednesday 20th September, the duo team Ruth Gordon and Chris Radcliffe completed the Oread Quad Challenge which was to nominally

- Walk Land's End to John O'Groats - 1,400km (1,498km)
- Swim the English Channel - 33km (40.85km)
- Cycle the Tour de France - 3,500km (3,560km) and
- Climb Everest - 8,848m (53,059km)

Their achievements are in parentheses. Clearly climbing Everest was far too easy! Congratulations on this effort.

Of course, someone may be hiding their light(s) under a bushel - so

Question 1. Are there any other contenders before Ruth and Chris are declared the duo team winners?

Question 2. Are there any solo or trio team competitors who would like to declare their progress?

Stuart Firth tel. 07977 458048 email stuartmfirmth@btinternet.com

Don Cowan 1928 – 2017



Dave Weston and Don Cowan on Grisedale Pike March 2005.

“Here is a very hurried obituary note on Don Cowan. I know he was no longer a member of the Oread. However many older members will remember him well. From the 1970s he was very much the Family Man. Of course, if you read Joe Brown's “The Hard Years” or look at the first ascents list in the C.C. Llanberis guide you will discover a very different aspect of his climbing days. I am sure there will be other contributions telling different stories of his life – his enthusiasm for sailing for instance.”

Yours, Jack Ashcroft. 10.09.17.

“Don Cowan died in hospital on 3 September 2017, shortly after a fall at home. Older members of the club will remember Don over many decades as a Sheffield climber who was initially introduced to climbing in the Peak by Reg Damms of the Sheffield Climbing Club.

From 1947 – 1954 he was part of the Joe Brown, Don Whillans, Nat Allen team who pioneered many climbs on the Three Cliffs of Llanberis and Cloggy. He also, largely through membership of the Polaris M.C., motorbiked to Chamonix no fewer than seven times between 1947 and 1954 accomplishing many classic climbs on Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles. He experienced several epic survival escapades verbally conveyed to us - usually involving Ray Colledge. A fall with a roped party descending the Spencer Couloir (Aiguille de Fou) is vividly related in the Oread M.C. 50th Anniversary Journal.

His whole working life was with British Rail (or however we should describe it as these days) variously based in Sheffield, York, Derby and Euston, London. This latter posting took him away from the northern mountain scene from around

1955 until 1967 when he moved back to Sheffield and joined the Oread. It was then that, with his wife, Sheila and their two young daughters, Jane and Sarah, crammed into a 500cc Fiat, he would drive to the Oread, essentially, Alpine family meets: Chamonix, Zermatt, Bregaglia, Gran Paradiso. With Derrick Burgess he would go for classic routes such as the Tasch/Dom Traverse and spent a ghastly day on the Piz Palu when stone fall resulted in two of our number being helicoptered off to hospital with serious injuries.

In recent years (1999 onward) Don came out regularly with the self-styled "Thursday Group," enjoying day walks in the Peak and Derbyshire from Wildboar Clough in the west to Crich and Wessington in the east. The Snake, Kinder and Ladybower in the north and Churnet Valley, Dovedale in the south. These walks had been largely instigated by Harry Pretty, Pete Janes and Dave Williams as retirement variously came to them all in the 1980s.

Don was far from physically mobile over the last few years; however we would all still keep in contact through the various clubs that we were all members of from the 1950s/60s onward.



Ron Chambers, Derrick Burgess, Dave Weston, Dave Williams, Arthur Kinton and Don Cowan. Narrowdale Hill, 2005.

Mike Wynne

“Thank you for forwarding Mike Wynne's obituary notices. I heard about his death just before starting the race to Alaska and of course felt very sad. I enjoyed Mike's laid back approach to his physical endeavors and general demeanor. My brother, Maurice, used to bump into Mike at various orienteering runs and occasionally informed me of his doings.

Something very few people seem to know is that Mike took up windsurfing and one winter I instructed him at Holme Pierrepont. He wore an ancient diver's wet suit and took many dunkings - eventually being quite blue in the face and hands but still elvishly grinning and smiling with enthusiasm.

Yours,
Martin Musson”

Bolting Funds.

You may be aware that the BMC is currently involved in rebolting Horseshoe Quarry – a crag many club members use frequently. The project is being funded by crowd funding and you may like to consider making a donation – the fund is open until 11 October.

[https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/become-a-horseshoe-hero-1?
tk=ada0dc537128497242dbd02eb09ec55368470a5b](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/become-a-horseshoe-hero-1?tk=ada0dc537128497242dbd02eb09ec55368470a5b)

Alternatively you may prefer to support a more general bolting fund.

Here are the links if your conscience is telling you it is the right thing to do.

<http://thepeakboltfund.blogspot.co.uk/>

<https://ukboltfund.org/>

<http://www.sportsclimbs.co.uk/index.htm>

Hut Bookings.

TAN-YR-WYDDFA

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 6-7 Oct | Fylde Hut Swap |
| 17-18 Oct | K Fellfarers |
| 27-29 Oct | B Rollins Outdoor club |
| 3-5 Nov | Herts M.C. |
| 1-2 Dec | Wrekin M.C. |
| 8-10 Dec | Rock & Heather |

HEATHY LEA

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 13-14 Oct | Tim Storer |
| 20-21 Oct | E.Yorks C & MC |
| 27-29 Oct | Lichfield M.C. 10 beds |
| 3-4 Nov | Bonfire Meet |
| 9-10 Nov | Brecon Beacon C & MC |
| 2-3 Dec | Steve Baxter |

“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 You must put your name **and either TYW or HL as a reference**. Otherwise Joan cannot allocate the payment to the right hut.

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.

Rusty's Puzzle Corner

Last month's puzzle solutions: (set by Stuart Firth)

Part One: the letter from “An Active Member” was reprinted in the 50th Anniversary Journal on page 131 and was from the newsletter of Autumn 1963. This was correctly answered by Rusty as follows:

“The printed script is a letter to Geoff Hayes, the then newsletter editor, which appeared in the August 1963 Newsletter. The meeting place at the time (not disclosed by the puzzle setter) was the Bell Hotel in Derby, the club did not move to the Wilmot in Borrowash until 1966, I believe. The identity of the Author was not requested, but my short list for this type of correspondence, based on their psychological make up, would have been Janes, Fisher, Cullum or Pretty, it is a moot point which of these four would have been the most insulted to be bracketed with the other three. Fisher however would possibly have begrudged the expense of a postage stamp and Pretty been reluctant to add credence to the idea of increasing dominance by the Nottingham contingent. I am inclined to speculate that the author was Cullum.”

Part Two:

Rusty had a stab at this as follows:

“The president's feet appear from the photograph to be sinking into the crud at the base of the crag which suggests that the area might be doing double duty as a local authority landfill site. However, the rock, though probably friable loose and overhanging, has a darkish discolouration similar to that of the limestone in Millers Dale. Could the place be along the limestone ridge East of Llangollen? I confess I do not know.”

In fact our esteemed President was posing in Halldale Quarry – as guessed by none other than your own your Hon. Ed.!

Back to Rusty for this month's puzzle.

Heathy Lea was once again experiencing problems with the roof, the main

building not the lean to, and Pam and Mick Hayes, (both stalwart supporters of the hut, though not alone) decided to cut through the red tape and obfuscation, and take direct action. The cost of scaffolding was out of the question so they balanced a sturdy plank on the ridge tiles and Pam (13 stone) shuffled over towards the side nearer the brook where the problem was whilst Mick(12 stone) passed up materials from the car park side and also used his body as a counter balance. Initially Peter Scott and Roy Eyre stood on tiptoe and steadied the plank, but this was very uncomfortable and so after Pam, who needed to be 36 ins from the ridge, had settled in position, Mick moved into a spot which exactly balanced her weight. He then passed building tools and materials to her, poking them along the plank with a stick. The total weight of these items was 50 lbs and as each batch was passed across, Mick moved progressively outwards to keep the rig in equilibrium. (no correspondence will be entered into regarding the position of either person's centre of gravity, particularly that of the lady, they are both to be regarded as point sources of weight for the purposes of the puzzle). How far apart were the two heroes after all the materials had been passed to Pam, and before any of the weight thereof had been transferred to the roof?

R. G. Pettigrew, in absentia, wrote a concise risk assessment before commencement of work.

Part 2

From the memoirs of which celebrated climber might the idea have been gleaned?

Stop Press: Old men on the Old Man!

On 26 September Snod, Gobbo (aka John Mountain) and Terry King celebrated the 50th anniversary of their ascent of the Old Man of Hoy (done just after the BBC television programme) with a repeat performance. The trip was dogged with rain and low cloud so it was a slimy, damp struggle and took a long time but they made it – though they didn't make it in time for the ferry back!

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 email meetsec@oread.co.uk who will enter details in the Meets List Calendar.

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <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>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> |

The Peak District Boundary Walk Stuart Firth

A guide has been published of a new long distance walk which should be of interest to all Oreads as it concerns our home territory: Peak District Boundary Walk is published by Friends of the Peak District and available from Amazon and tourist outlets for £10. The walk itself is 118 miles long and is broken down into 20 bite-size chunks, mostly around 9-10 miles. The book is excellent and contains good maps and descriptions.

A number of members have already expressed interest in doing the walk as a joint enterprise over an extended period; some have even offered to lead a stage or two. If enough people are interested, perhaps the project could be embodied in future Meets Calendars? The logistics should be straightforward using public transport or car shuttling. I would be happy to receive expressions of interest with a view to crystallising the idea.

Stuart Firth tel. 07977 458048 email stuartmfirm@btinternet.com

8 November Annual Dinner Tony Howard

This year's dinner will once again be at Matlock Golf Club, Chesterfield Road Matlock (DE4 5LZ).

Please arrive from 6.30 pm onwards, to sit down at 7.30 pm.

The price will be **£22.50** per person; only slightly more than last year. The food has been excellent for the last two years and should be this year. There will be vegetarian and gluten free options. Beer and wine at reasonable prices will be available until the small hours - if enough of us keep drinking! We expect to have some in-house singing and short entertaining speeches. The Bent Screw award should also provide us with the customary entertainment. It should be a great night.

If you are staying in Matlock, cars can be left overnight in the Club's secure car park, but **must** be removed by 13:00 hrs the next day. There are bed and breakfast options within walking distance, or a short taxi ride; plus nearby parking for camper vans plus tent, bed/floor space chez Gordon and Wilson – see below for details.

Please help me by booking as early as possible. In any event, I must have your bookings by Thursday 9th November at the very latest. (The caterers need final numbers 7 days in advance and I also need time to pick up your message and pass it on. The caterers will accept cancellation without penalty up to 48 hours in advance. So, if you have to cancel and you tell me in time, I will return your cheque to you.) It should be a really good do. I look forward to seeing you there.

Tony Howard, 134 Willson Ave., Littleover Derby, DE23 1TW

Tel. 01332 273307 0776 226 8181. **Email** tony.howard46@btinternet.com

Annual Dinner Information

There are several bed and breakfast options within walking distance of Matlock Golf Club, or a short taxi ride away. Closest is The Duke of Wellington, which is less than 10 minutes fairly level walk from the Golf Club (tel. 01629 582299 or via www.laterooms.com). A longer walk away, but downhill on the night, are The Old Sunday School, New St. tel 01629 583347 and the Red Lion, Matlock Green 01629 584888. There is also a Premier Inn on the A6 North, just out of town on the Bakewell side, a taxi-ride away. Taxis should be booked a day in advance, to be sure of a pick-up. You could try Matlock Taxis 01629 584195 or Fox's Cars 01629 583333.

For the Camper vanners and those requiring more basic accommodation, we hope to be able to fit most people in at the Wilson and Gordon residences, 5 minutes' walk from the venue. We can offer van parking, tent and floor space (maybe a bed if you are lucky) - first come first served - so book early! Chris and Jan have kindly offered to coordinate the overnight stays so please contact them on 01629 580521, mobile 07881 698758 email c.wilson.48@talktalk.net (They will be abroad from 3rd to 13th November, so it's best to contact them before this.)

Booking Form with menu options and payment information below.

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

Oread Annual Dinner Order Form

The dinner will be on the 18th November and will cost **£22.50** per person. Tea or coffee is included in the price.

Please write your name & the name of your guest(s) in the boxes on the top line and tick one item per course per person.

Post your completed form and payment to Tony Howard 134 Willson Ave, Littleover Derby, DE23 1TW, to arrive by **Thursday 9th November at the latest.**

Payment should preferably be by cheque payable to Oread MC. Alternatively you could pay by bank transfer. But if you do you must add a payee's note saying who you are & that it's for the Annual Dinner. Oread Acc nr.: 45028744; Sort code 05-04-07.

Please tell me your payment method on the form below, e.g. BACS/cheque.

I must have the completed forms by 9th November

(V) = suitable for vegetarians. (GF) = gluten free (OR = on request)

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Name: | | | | |
| Payment method | | | | |
| Starter | | | | |
| Garlic mushrooms on ciabatta (V) | | | | |
| Smoked mackerel pate | | | | |
| Tomato & lentil soup (V, GF) | | | | |
| Main Course | | | | |
| Braised beef (GFOR) | | | | |
| Fish pie (salmon, smoked haddock & prawn) | | | | |
| Tomato & mascarpone cheese tart (V) | | | | |
| Dessert | | | | |
| Raspberry roulade | | | | |
| Tarte Tatin | | | | |
| Fruit salad (GF) | | | | |

If you have any special dietary requirements please state them below (e.g. gluten/wheat/vegan). The Golf Club is used to catering for special diets.

Please contact them directly on 01629 582191 to be certain that they can cater for you and for your peace of mind.

If you have a strong preference to be seated next to others, please state this below & we will do our best to accommodate you.