



**Dark
Peak
News**

Autumn
1997

DARK PEAK NEWS - AUTUMN 97

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Editor: Mike Pedley
 Frost Hole Farm
 Cragg Vale
 Hebden Bridge
 HX7 5RU
 Tel. (01422) 886195

> >

President : Eric Mitchell

| | |
|---|--|
| Chairman: Dave Holmes 615 Loxley Road Loxley Sheffield S6 6RR Tel. (0114) 2344186 | Club Captain: Rob Davison 12 St. Anthony Road, Crookes Sheffield S10 Tel. (0114) 2685274 |
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|---|--|
| Secretary: Paul Sanderson 19 Findon Street Hillsborough Sheffield S6 4FG Tel. (0114) 2206353 | Treasurer: Jeff Harrison 118 Lydgate Lane Crookes Sheffield S10 5FP Tel. (0114) 2687114 |
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| | |
|---|---|
| Clothing & Equipment : Richard Hakes 454A Loxley Road Loxley Sheffield S6 6RS Tel. (0114) 2339912 | Membership: Tim Tett 68 Roebuck Road Sheffield S6 2XA Tel.(0114) 2667922 |
|---|---|

Cross Country: Pete Dyke
 13 Falkland Road
 Sheffield S11 7PL
 Tel. (0114) 2662807

NEWS

Pete Stapley seriously injured in paragliding accident...

Pete Stapley faces a long road back to fitness after breaking both legs, his pelvis and sustaining other injuries in a paragliding accident in France. Having hit extremely difficult air conditions he regained control only to be faced with power lines in his path and no time to manoeuvre. The fall as he collapsed his wing was almost certainly the lesser of two fates.

Several weeks after the accident Pete remains in hospital. Everyone wishes Pete a speedy and full recovery and that he doesn't get too frustrated as he waits for the injuries to heal and to return to the fells.

...whilst Rob continues his recovery

Pete's accident comes only a few months after Rob Davison suffered back injuries in a similar accident in Italy. Though still finding the back painful at times, Rob is gradually getting fit and, with his partner Roger Woods, even made a brave attempt at defending their Saunders Mountain Marathon title. Their aims now are now the Mourne and Karrimor mountain marathons.

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Thornbridge Weekend 97

The Thornbridge weekend, Dark Peak's annual summer drinking, running and sunbathing family festival maintained it's tradition of good weather being held in the middle of a hot and sunny August. The race over a new route produced fewer walkabouts than last year but was still one to remember (as if one could forget climbing Fin Cop!).

Attendances continued to grow with around 40 tents there by Saturday night. All the kids seemed to have a good time with plenty to keep them occupied getting particularly excited when Tim Tett led them all off into the woods at dusk for some "string orienteering". The same could probably be said of some adults who tried the same thing a few hours (and many beers) later.

Unfortunately the race results and report didn't make it in time for this issue. Look out for them next time.

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COMING EVENTS

DPFR CALENDAR: AUTUMN-WINTER 97/98

Back to the Sportsman for the winter with club runs every Wednesday at 6:30pm. Two alternatives:

- a road run, usually around 80 minutes with two or three stops to regroup. Please remember to wear something light.
- on the fells with the 'warts. Similar routes to some summer runs just a bit slower; usually around 2 hours. Don't forget your headtorch!

Dark Peak club races and local races are shown below. For full listings of FRA events throughout the country see the FRA calendar. All club members should consider joining the Fell Running Association. At a cost of £9 a year it includes 3 magazines plus the full calendar of fell races. For details contact the Membership Sec., Pete Bland Sports, 34a Kirkland, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5AD.

Sep

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| Wed | 24 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| | 26-28 | | Course | FRA safety and navigation course, Elterwater. Details: Lyn Eden, 99 Harewood Rd., Harrogate HG3 2TJ |
| | 27 | 11:00 | Club race | Dungworth, Dungworth Playing Fields. |

Oct

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|---|
| Wed | 1 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Sun | 5 | | Relay | Ian Hodgson, Brotherswater |
| | | | | First of the big 3 autumn relays. Very restricted entry. Contact Rob Davison if interested |
| Sun | 5 | 09:00 | MM | Open Country mini mountain marathon, "Northern England". Details: Mark Seddon, 55 Prince Edward Avenue, Denton, Manchester. M34 6AS. |
| Wed | 8 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| | | 18:45 | Warts run | Yorkshire Bridge |
| Wed | 15 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Sun | 19 | | Relay | FRA Relay, Lancashire. Restricted entry. Contact Rob Davison if interested. |
| Wed | 22 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Sun | 26 | 11:00 | XC race | South Yorks League, Graves Park |
| Wed | 29 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| | | 18:45 | Warts run | Lower Bradfield |

Nov

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| Wed | 5 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Sat | 8 | 10:30 | Club race | CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS AND HANDICAP - see below. |
| Sun | 9 | 10:30 | Local race | Roaches, Village Hall, Meerbrook near Leek. |
| Sun | 9 | 11:00 | XC race | South Yorks League, Cannon Hall, Cawthorne. |
| Wed | 12 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Sun | 16 | | XC relay | High Peak Relay. Cromford. |
| | | | | Teams of 10; Out and back along the High Peak Trail. |

Nov (cont)

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Wed | 19 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| | | 18:45 | Warts run | Snake |
| Sun | 23 | 11:00 | XC race | South Yorks League, Campsall. |
| Wed | 26 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |

Dec

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-------|-----------|---|
| Wed | 3 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Wed | 10 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| | | 18:45 | Warts run | Strines |
| Sat | 13 | | XC race | Yorkshire County Champs, Thirsk |
| Sun | 14 | 08:00 | Relay | Calderdale Way Relay, 6 stage relay over 50 miles. Contact Mike Pedley below for more details. |
| Wed | 17 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Sun | 21 | 10:30 | Club race | Crookstone Crashout |
| Wed | 24 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |
| Wed | 31 | 18:30 | Club run | Sportsman |

Some other dates: (club runs continue every Wednesday from The Sportsman.

Jan

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|-----|----|-------|-----------|--|
| Wed | 7 | 18:45 | Warts run | Kings Tree |
| Sun | 11 | 11:00 | XC race | Yorkshire Veteran's Championships, Hull. |
| Sun | 18 | 11:00 | XC race | South Yorks League & Champs, Cantley, Doncaster. |
| Sat | 24 | | XC race | Northern Championships, Manchester. |
| Wed | 28 | 18:45 | Warts run | Grouse Inn |

Feb

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-------|-----------|-------|
| Wed | 18 | 18:45 | Warts run | Edale |
|-----|----|-------|-----------|-------|

Mar

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-------|-----------|---|
| Sat | 14 | 10:30 | Club race | Not-the-National, Long Lane, Rivelin Valley |
| Sat | 14 | | XC race | National Championships, Leeds |

[XC=Cross Country]

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CROSS COUNTRY 1997-98

The South Yorkshire League races (dates shown in calendar above) start at 11:00 with the Senior Men's race followed by the Women's race at 11:45. £1.50 gets you a number which is valid for all four races. Numbers obtainable from Les Outwin (0114 2302615) or on the day.

Championship entries have to be made in advance. If you are interested in competing in any of the championships let Pete Dyke know *in good time*. (0114 2662807).

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CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 1997

- Date:** Saturday 8 November 1997
- Venue** Bowden Bridge, Hayfield (park in pay/display)
- Course:** To be revealed on the day; see below.
- Start** 10:30 onwards
- Format** Chasing start handicap
- Entries** To Pete Dyke (0114 2662807) by 5th November at the latest.
NO ENTRY ON THE DAY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES
Paid up club members only.
As usual there will be a small fee (£1) collected on the day.
- Details** The event is based on the "mountain trial" system where the route is only disclosed on the morning of the event. It will consist of a test of navigation and ability to cover rough terrain as fast as possible. This is not an event for novices and you should not enter unless you are confident of completing the course in any weather conditions. Full windproof body cover will be required to be worn or carried as a minimum. Photocopied black and white maps will be available at the start but it is recommended that you carry your own coloured map to aid navigation.
- Footnote:** Leading Edge in Hayfield will be open all day to enable you to purchase clothing, PB's and other outdoor equipment at competitive rates.

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CLUB DINNER 1997

- Date:** Saturday 8 November 1997
- Venue** Maynard Arms, Grindleford
- Start** 7:30pm for 8:00pm
- Format** Meal + Prizes + Entertainment
- Cost** To be finalised (probably around £15)
- Entries** To Jeff Harrison

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RELAYS

Ian Hodgson Relay

A great route but sadly a very restricted entry. We'll be lucky to get any more than two teams accepted. Used by most of the best fell clubs as a selection race and warm up for the FRA relay and with a field just as good. Contact Rob Davison as soon as possible if you are interested.

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FRA Relay

The national championships. Again a restricted entry though we will get a men's, women's and men's veteran team and *may* get a B team accepted. This is also usually a great event to go along and support. We've challenged for a few years now and one year soon will pull off a real surprise. Contact Rob Davison if you are interested.

This year's event is on Pendle Hill, based at Barley with the following format:

- Leg 1: 1 runner 6 miles, 1500ft, flagged.
- Leg 2: pairs 9 miles, 2250ft, Half Tour of Pendle Race route.
- Leg 3: pairs 8 miles, NAVIGATION, route issued as runners start.
- Leg 4: 1 runner 4.5 miles, 1500ft, Pendle Race route.

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Calderdale Way Relay

A longer route and the biggest fell field of the year - 100 teams of 12 tackle this highly competitive event. Last year the men, women and men's veteran teams all achieved their best placing ever but we can still do better! With 12 in a team this should suit the club's strength in depth.

The biggest benefit of all is this is definitely not just a relay for the elite. As long as we get our entries in early we can get five teams in if we wish giving more people a chance to run. However, it is important to enter early so please let me know as soon as possible (AND pay £3.50!). As in previous years transport will be coordinated and there will be refreshments and showers at Pedley HQ!

Legs range from 10 to 5 miles mainly on paths.

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FEATURES

50 MUNROS IN A WEEK

Last June, returning from a wet week in Scotland I came up with the idea of climbing 50 Munros during my 50th year. I'm not a serious Munro bagger but it seemed like a good target which would give me an excuse for several trips north during the year. However my next two Scottish trips were to Assynt in Sutherland where the mountains are magnificent and worthy of many revisits, but less than 3000 feet and so by March this year it transpired that I had not climbed any Munros at all during my 50th year.

The idea of doing the 50 Munros in a week suddenly suggested itself to me .

I was quite excited about the idea and spent lots of time looking at maps and books and talking to people who know the Scottish mountains better than me. I decided on a rough itinerary and found a few people who were prepared to accompany me on sections of the trip. I had to choose areas of Scotland where there were good groups of hills which would enable me to tick off quite a few Munros each day. I chose Braemar and Glen Shiel as the main centres. It was possible to climb 34 Munros from these 2 bases alone. The remaining 16 had to be picked up here and there.

It all began to take shape but I still felt very unsure as to whether I could cope with 7 long days in the hills. This uncertainty stayed with me right up to the day I started. Like most of the senior members of Dark Peak I have acquired a few odd injuries in recent years which, like the rattles of an aging car, never really go away. I was concerned that one of these niggling injuries would become more than niggling. The other big factor was the weather. Although popular mythology says that May and June are the most reliable months for weather in Scotland I can remember many days at this time of year when the clag has been down to sea level, with the rain driving horizontally , when going on the hills has never been considered. Would I have the 'bottle' to don my cagoule and set off to climb half a dozen Munros on days like that?

I need not have worried on either counts. My injuries largely seemed to disappear during the week, (but they have reappeared now I've stopped running up and down hills every day) and the weather was sensational. A large anticyclone settled over Scotland for most of the week. In the second half of the week it was really too hot and I had to carry lots of water on the high ridges. But I just kept thinking what the weather could have been like and counted my blessings.

Anyway to cut a long story short I did it. I won't recount each up and down, but there were 7 long days in the hills with sensational views for most of the week. I had great company for all but the first day (when I had to put up with talking to myself). Although I didn't quite manage 50 pints of 80/- during the week I managed to put away a good few, so the evenings were not exactly spent resting and preparing mentally for the next day. (On second thoughts I suppose that's exactly what I was doing as I drank 3 or 4 pints).

This is a rough outline of my week's itinerary.

Saturday 6 hills from the Drumochter pass.

Sunday 11 hills finishing on Lochnagar.

Monday 3 hills in the morning from the Glenshee ski slopes and 3 hills around Creag Maigaidh in the late afternoon.

Tuesday 9 hills on the South Clunie ridge plus Sgurr na Sgine and the Saddle.

Wednesday 6 hills north of Glen Shiel finishing with the Sisters.

Thursday 5 more big Glen Shiel hills.

Friday 7 of the Fannichs .

I must thank Mike and Helen Pedley and later Chris Barber for driving me about and providing great company at times on the hills. Mike accompanied me on the best viewpoint of the week (Creag Meagaidh, I hope his photographs come out). Chris spent the best part of 4 days on the hills with me. He had to endure a lot of my whinging towards the end of the week. I may have turned him off Munros for life, but he seemed to enjoy the high level sunbathing. Much thanks also to Mike Greaves who drove out from Aberdeen and Hugh Mathieson who came up from Sheffield to do the biggest day with me on Lochnagar (11 Munros). Richard Hakes (fresh from Jura and bringing a chest infection with him) and Dave Markham (in great spirits having just survived his school inspection) joined me for an epic day in Glen Shiel (The South Clunie ridge + Sgurr na Sgine and the Saddle). Martin Spence, who was on holiday, deserted his family for the day and met up with me, Chris and Pete and Tricia Kohn for my final day in the Fannichs.

Thanks again to all these people; good days in the hills with good friends are always memorable, these were particularly so.

Best viewpoint: Craig Maigaidh, a crystal clear late afternoon with perfect visibility in all directions. A mountain which I certainly did not want to come down.

Favourite mountain: Mullach Fraoch-coire, the last of the Glen Shiel hills. A beautiful grassy corrie with a knobbly, scrambly ridge to the summit and sensational views into Affric. I had it all to myself too.

Most crowded mountain: Lochnagar on a Sunday is to be avoided if you want the hills to yourself. There were hundreds of people crawling all over the summit rocks. I blame that Prince Charles and his daft book.

Least impressive summit: A'Bhuidheanach Bheag. A flat hill east of the Drumochter where the summit is only recognisable as a fence corner.

Least worthy of being called a Munro: The Cairnwell can be climbed from the Glen Shee ski village in about 15 minutes.

Hottest and hardest: Sgurr na Sgine and The Saddle were big rocky buggers which killed conversation dead. Water was very scarce. It got seriously hot and we'd already run the Cluanie ridge. We sat on The Saddle in the sun for good long time.

All in all it was a fantastic week when everything went in my favour. I must be due for some really bad days on the hills to make up for a week as perfect as this one was. Or maybe this is just the way things get to be when you're 50!

Mike Pedley, who's good at estimating these sort of things, reckons it must have been about 140 miles in total. One day I'll put on an anorak and count up the ascent. In the meantime I can only say it seemed like a lot of bloody big hills!

Howard Swindells

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SIX PEAKS

Part 1

An impressive title for an article which implies, at first glance, that we scaled six peaks! In fact it relates to two separate attempts at the "3 national peaks in 24 hours" challenge, made one month apart. I had been planning for some time to do the challenge with some friends from Clowne Road Runners in June and had done some limited recces (e.g. got lost on Ben Nevis) so when Paul, my manager at work, said that one of his party had dropped out of his forthcoming attempt and would I be interested in making up the numbers? I was - mainly because that would give me valuable practice in the company of seasoned walkers (yes - walkers).

The four of us set off from Sheffield on Saturday 24 May at about 8am and after a refuelling stop at Little Chef at Tyndrum for chips with everything, we were ready to set off from Achintee Farm at 16:50 precisely. The weather conditions were superb - clear skies with a cooling breeze - and this encouraged us to stride out, completing the up and down at a steady pace (with a pause on the top to look at the stunning views and a pause to sip from Red Burn on the way down) in a little under four hours.

The drive to the Lakes was uneventful. We had chosen to attack Scafell from the North via Borrowdale and the corridor route. Setting off with headtorch ablaze put me in mind of winter Wednesday evenings. This was my first experience of this terrain in the dark and navigation wasn't easy but a fine combination of Paul's knowledge and compass work by moonlight saw us safely on to the top where we were reacquainted with a large party from Liverpool, who were making the challenge for a hospice charity. Total time taken for Scafell a little under 5 hours.

The journey to Wales was none too comfortable, with precious little sleep and rising temperatures. We donned sunglasses and lotion and opted for the miners track. A bank holiday Sunday lunchtime on Snowdon closely resembles Meadowhall! We literally had to fight our way to touch the trig point on the top where we sat down for a good twenty minutes to drink in the views which were the clearest I have ever seen. Back down the miners track to be reunited with our driver and car in just over three and a half hours. Total elapsed time since starting out was 21 hours and 31 minutes - no soreness or blisters just a touch of sunburn!

GOING THE DISTANCE

DPFR BOB GRAHAM ROUND REPORT : 20/21 JUNE 1997

"Hill walkers and small boat owners are warned that an unusually vigorous anticyclone will cross the British Isles during the next 48 hours."

The six o'clock forecast wasn't exactly encouraging, but there was a hint of a lull in the wind whilst the eye of the low tracked over Cumbria during Saturday. After umming and ahing with John Gunnee, Colin Henson and the Leg One Posse we decided to stay with the clockwise 7pm start schedule. Anyway, it would muck up the session in The Salutation if we delayed our departure until Saturday.

Two hours later I was regretting our decision as we struggled along the Skiddaw summit ridge in thick clag and a near gale force wind. I thought Liz was going to take off and there was no sign of Dick or John M who we'd lost when we took an unscheduled detour over Low Man. It was no weather for hanging about so we guessed our way down from the summit in the general direction of Great Calva. Inevitably we got the line slightly wrong as there was no way Neil could consult his map. Thigh deep heather then tussocky cotton grass and we were back on route, glancing behind in search of our lost lads. More ghastly weather on top of Great Calva and we were again off route - for a few minutes following the wrong fence in the general direction of Carlisle!

Dick rejoined us as we trudged across Muggrisdale Common. He looked none too pleased as he was carrying two rucsacs. He and John had seen our mistake on the ascent of Skiddaw and had initiated a pincer movement in order to catch us up - John gave Dick his rucsac and followed us over Low Man whilst Dick went round on the main path. However they failed to find us or each other. Dick continued the chase towards Great Calva whilst John, now devoid of any kit, made a lonely return direct to Threlkeld. Dick spotted us ascending Great Calva and cut across to meet us on the common. Kevin took Johns sack from Dick muttering something about a kitchen sink.

Back into the storm on top of Blencathra we made fairly slow progress as night arrived early. John and Neil pulled ahead of me on the grey and gloomy scramble down Halls Fell Ridge and then all of a sudden there were lots of people standing around offering cups of tea (four), jam sandwiches (three) and leg massages (two).

I felt quite hyped up for the night section through to Dunmail. I thought that it would be the crux of the round given the poor weather conditions. The Night Riders (Jim F, Chris B, Pete G, Richard H, Dave H and Tamsin) kept John and I cheerful as we climbed towards the Dodds and eventually the Dale Head trig. point loomed through the mist like a lost Dalek. The wind had dropped slightly but it was now raining steadily and I donned my full weight winter mountaineering cagoule (the mysterious heavy weight from Johns rucsac!). It was difficult to keep together in the clag which made for what felt a painfully slow pace but in retrospect was spot on.

Dave and Chris had the navigation well sorted. The three guys bivying on Stybarrow Dodd looked surprised to see us and were even more surprised when we told them that they weren't on Watson Dodd. I was flagging a little as we approached Helvellyn which unfortunately prompted Dave to initiate a sing-song. Tamsin howled in sympathy and thankfully the wind and rain stifled the cacophony. The Helvellyn summit shelter was crammed with a dozen damp druids waiting to see the summer solstice dawn. Fat chance we thought. By the descent from Fairfield night was loosing out to day. Seat Sandal was the first peak out of the clag and the rain, although the only view was of the clag on all the other fells.

Over the descent to Dunmail I drew a few minutes ahead of John on account of a better line through the boulder infested bracken. He arrived as I set off up Steel Fell with Karen and Roger. In the pre dawn confusion the safety rope for Broad Stand had been left at Threlkeld with a sleeping Ron. Colin assured me that he'd sort something out whilst I started to contemplate alternative routes up Scafell. As we moved towards Calf Crag we could see John and his entourage about half a mile back and seemingly catching us. Back into the clag for High Raise and the Pikes and by now we could hear them chatting just a short way off. We met Jim L sheltering at the foot of Harrison Stickle and I greedily accepted a proffered baked potato. He'd waited at Dunmail to collect my now saturated mountain cag. from the Night Riders. However, as we'd hoped, the weather was improving and I needed it no more. A crafty route round the flanks of Rossett Crag and a perfect line up Billy Bland's Rake took us to Bow Fell. John had failed to catch us and we heard from Jim that he had earlier twisted his ankle. We hoped he would pull through.

The clouds started to part as we reached Great End and by Scafell Pike there were patches of blue. As we descended towards Mickledore I reconciled myself to the screes of Lords Rake - I'd found the scramble up Ill Crag taxing enough so there was no way I was going to solo Broad Stand in the wet...

...Meanwhile back in Threlkeld sleeping beauty had woken up. A manic drive to Wasdale Head and a forty minutes ascent saw he and Lynn reach Mickledore about a half hour before us. Ron flew up Broad Stand in his neoprene socks and set up the rope. I sure was pleased to see them sitting there grinning at us!

Lynn, Roger and I continued down to Wasdale Head from Scafell whilst the others waited for John. His ankle had become more painful traversing the Pikes and his pace had slowed. For him Wasdale was unfortunately to be the end of this attempt although I'm sure he's mad enough to be back soon.

We took half an hour out of the schedule on the climb over Yewbarrow to Red Pike. Rob D, Darryl and Pete S obviously had large breakfasts to burn off! By contrast Lynn was suffering as she'd missed her breakfast in the rush to Scafell. I felt fine with a belly full of soup and pasta. I have the eating habits of a gannet, so 24 hours of force feeding was my idea of heaven. Windy Gap came and went with the exchange of best wishes to an anticlockwise BG group - they were to have a much calmer night than ours.

A crowd of folk joined us below Great Gable and the run in to Honister Pass passed jovially in the sunshine. A feed and short rest in the Dark Peak deck chair and it was off up Dale Head. The views on the way round to Hindsgarth were superb and I couldn't help tracing out our route with Skiddaw, the Dodds and Helvellyn now basking in the afternoon sun. Dave G supplied the final tin of rice pudding on top of Robinson then it was down, down, down. Somebody mentioned the chippy next to the Moot Hall which gave me a new sense of purpose. I wurzled Colin and the others at the bad step on the descent and even had enough energy to race Dave H along the track to the road. Trainers felt refreshingly springy after my fell shoes and we bounced through the leafy lanes of the Newlands valley on the final leg. All too soon we reached the Moot Hall and I could stop running. Forty minutes to spare. Phew!

Thanks to Colin for keeping us under control and to you all for getting me round the round. It's a wonderful event made possible by a wonderful team. You'll have trouble keeping me from supporting the next BG attempt. I want a share of the fun!

Gavin Williams

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Keswick | Depart 18.50 | | |
| 1 Skiddaw | 20.07 | 22 Pike O'Stickle | 6.34 |
| 2 Great Calva | 20.56 | 23 Rossett Crag | 7.17 |
| 3 Blencathra | 22.05 | 24 Bowfell | 7.47 |
| Threlkeld | Arrive 22.40 | 25 Esk Pike | 8.11 |
| | Depart 22.55 | 26 Great End | 8.37 |
| 4 Clough Head | 23.58 | 27 Ill Crag | 9.05 |
| 5 Great Dodd | 00.35 | 28 Broad Crag | 9.17 |
| 6 Watson Dodd | 00.46 | 29 Scafell Pike | 9.25 |
| 7 Stybarrow Dodd | 1.00 | 30 Scafell | 9.44 |
| 8 Raise | 1.18 | Wasdale Head | Arrive 10.25 |
| | | | Depart 10.40 |
| 9 Whiteside | 1.30 | 31 Yewbarrow | 11.19 |
| 10 Helvellyn Low Man | 1.42 | 32 Red Pike | 12.00 |
| 11 Helvellyn | 1.50 | 33 Steeple | 12.20 |
| 12 Nethermost Pike | 2.05 | 34 Pillar | 12.53 |
| 13 Dollywagon Pike | 2.25 | 35 Kirkfell | 13.42 |
| 14 Fairfield | 3.01 | 36 Great Gable | 14.17 |
| 15 Seat Sandal | 3.25 | 37 Green Gable | 14.31 |
| Dunmail | Arrive 3.58 | 38 Brandreth | 14.45 |
| | Depart 4.13 | 39 Grey Knotts | 14.53 |
| 16 Steel Fell | 4.48 | Honister Pass | Arrive 15.08 |
| | | | Depart 15.24 |
| 17 Calf Crag | 5.09 | 40 Dale Head | 15.53 |
| 18 High Raise | 5.34 | 41 Hindsgarth | 16.11 |
| 19 Sergeant Man | 5.44 | 42 Robinson | 16.38 |
| | | | |
| 20 Thunacar Knott | 6.08 | Keswick | Arrive 18.10 |
| 21 Harrison Stickle | 6.20 | | 23hrs 20mins |

Note - Clough Head to Seat Sandal times on the night section are approximate since the paper on which Chris Barber was recording our progress died in the rain!

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A WINTER WATERSHED (IN MAY!)

I thought a run round the Derwent Watershed (40 miles) would be a nice birthday treat - an ideal way of celebrating my 40th birthday. The weather towards the end of April had been unseasonably warm and dry, and I envisaged a pleasant and leisurely trot round - with perhaps a picnic (or two) on the way; my only real concern was a lack of water.

As usual, the elements conspired against me. There were heavy storms and torrential rain during the first week in May and the day itself, Thursday the 8th, dawned grey and wet and windy. Pete and I left some water at Moscar and set off from the top of the Snake road at 6.00 am. It was cold, very wet, visibility was poor - and it was windy. Up over Mill Hill and over to the Downfall in snow! Over the top of Kinder we were struggling in knee deep snow with visibility about 10 yards. We floundered over to Brown Knoll at about 7:30, Mam Nick 8:20.

Between Mam Tor and Lose Hill the weather was reasonable - no rain and even some patches of sunshine. Bells were ringing down in Hope as we approached Lose Hill. Down past the Cheshire Cheese, up through Twitchill Farm - and the snow started again. There was quite a nasty shower as we climbed over Win Hill and up New Road (endless!) to Stanage. After clambering up to the trig we had a gentle run down to Moscar where we picnicked on water and honey baps. We could not linger, however - it was far too wet and cold!

We plugged away along Derwent Edge and over to Margery Hill as the weather deteriorated. Conditions were very unpleasant with showers (frequently hail) and horrendously wet underfoot. It was very hard going! After Outer Edge, the long slog became a survival exercise. There was almost constant hail (so painful I had to cover my face at times). It seemed never ending. It was very difficult underfoot - I was frequently sinking thigh deep.

The driving hail / sleet - which rarely let up - made me quite seriously cold. Hands frozen, feet frozen - a wonderful way to spend my birthday! I just longed to be able to stop! The thought of stopping was bliss - but we still had to flounder round the back of Bleaklow and stumble, in horrendous conditions, to Bleaklow Stones. From there we tried to follow a straight line to Bleaklow Head. It was extremely hard work; visibility down to a few yards, knee deep snow and under the snow all the groughs were full of running water and peat... unbelievably hard work just to keep stumbling on. Eventually we hit the river running south through Hern Clough - and waded gratefully along it. It was still very cold, with driving rain / sleet / hail and we were wet and tired as we trudged back to the Snake road. The car was still there, rocking gently in the wind.

It was certainly a birthday to remember! Conditions were worse than any winter watershed I've done. In winter, when the snow is as deep as that, it is usually a bit frozen underneath it all - not running water and mud under the snow. Conditions were really atrocious - unbelievable if you weren't there!

MOUNTAIN MARATHONS

DERWENT WATERSHED - or even Colder Jenny Tals

Cold Jenny Tals Team: Janet Cave, Lynn Bland, James Fulton, Christopher Barber

What is it about Jim Fulton's private parts that always stimulate conversation? They have no exceptional qualities that I can detect, they are present in the correct number and in modest proportions! However as Lynn (she of the amazing bladder capacity, over 12 hours without even thinking about it!) Bland points out, whenever darkness prevails on the night runs and spirits tend to ebb, the conversation turns smutty with the usual sprinkling of "knob" related jokes and sexual innuendoes. I would also point out that it is a long standing tradition in Warts runs that he/she who hangs back is lost! Fancy expecting us to wait for her, whatever next. Perhaps this is why the 'Warts don't attract a particularly high calibre of gentelperson for their winter runs, I would welcome comments.

As a corollary to this point, I intend to maintain a detailed diary of said winter excursions together with any jokes, stories, accidents, meanderings etc. for the Spring 98 issue, so come along and see what you are missing!.

Anyway back to the main point of the article, the Derwent Watershed. We positively screamed along the ridge out of Edale only to be overtaken on the road section by the "Dolly Mixtures" (yuk!) who ambushed us while we weren't paying attention (I think it was pub quiz question number three which distracted us) - imagine our horror and anguish to be overtaken so convincingly by an all women's team (although the blood test results are still pending). It was quite clear to us all that were holding back much of our energy for a sustained burst later in the race and felt that we could catch them later if we really wanted to although the feeling in the team was that we shouldn't demean ourselves by such an action.

To continue... at Slippery Stones there was one member of the team who was even more knackered than Lynn, now it can be revealed, it was whatisname, Jim someoneorother who sat in the tent looking very sorry for himself and begging for sympathy of which he received none since it was his bloody silly idea in the first place! Swainesgreave was next and notable by the amazing stationary aeroplane with a huge headlight that remained in the eastern sky. I had convinced myself that it must be a helicopter with surveillance equipment checking us out until, I think it was Mr Knowall Holmes who whilst sliding past us observed casually that it was in fact Hale-Bopp on a night out.

The night proceeded with the usual wading through the "Bleaklow custard" together with hot Ribena and that 6 o'clock feeling of "what the hell am I doing here?" James, who by now had recovered some of his ebullience proceeded to bore us to death, sorry, entertain us with more "knob" jokes and pubquiz questions, mercifully none of which I can remember.

RACE REPORTS AND RESULTS

CROOKSTONE CRASHOUT : 22 DECEMBER 1996

In remarkable conditions, he who braved won: none other than Mark Harvey. A rare win for an old wart due to be 40 in June.

The early pace was set by Al Sealy who by the knoll was well clear. However, as he set off for coffin rock the race opened up! Although Alan tried to recover from his error the snow and ice in the heather made any progress most difficult. Across to the trig the organiser tried to take up the pace in his 25th outing at this escapade but shortly before the trig Graham Berry came into his own.

A real battle progressed back to the edge with six runners in contention. At the knoll Andy Harmer once again fancied his chances descending to the wall in the lead. Rob Davison and Phil Crowson took up the challenge but they were all to be blown away by a gutsy descent from Mark. Behind him only 14 seconds covered the first 6 runners.

Richard Horsfield had a good run for 9th place and three ladies graced the stage (in a race where such appearances are rare) with Lynn Bland taking the honours.

Andy Harmer

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|----|----------------|---------|
| 1 | Mark Harvey | 39:30 | 16 | Andrew Moore | 45:31 |
| 2 | Rob Davison | 39:33 | 17 | Alan Yates | 46:00 |
| 3 | Phil Crowson | 39:36 | 18 | Dave Moseley | 46:00 |
| 4 | Andy Harmer | 39:39 | 19 | Dave Markham | 46:36 |
| 5 | Graham Berry | 39:41 | 20 | Richard Hakes | 47:29 |
| 6 | Dave Tait | 39:44 | 21 | Lynn Bland | 48:05 |
| 7 | Pete Hague | 42:00 | 22 | Phil Young | 48:16 |
| 8 | Al Sealy | 42:12 | 23 | Hugh Cotton | 48:28 |
| 9 | Richard Horsfield | 42:19 | 24 | Jim Fulton | 48:40 |
| 10 | Dave Charles | 42:33 | 25 | Dick Pasley | 50:14 |
| 11 | Pete Gorvett | 44:05 | 26 | Maurice Musson | 51:09 |
| 12 | Chris Barber | 44:30 | 27 | Paul Haynes | 54:02 |
| 13 | Dave Holmes | 44:36 | 28 | Hilary Musson | 54:09 |
| 14 | Dave Lockwood | 44:43 | 29 | Valerie Young | 1:02:15 |
| 15 | Mick Cochrane | 45:30 | | | |

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MARGERY HILL : 1 FEBRUARY 1997

Unfortunately, Andy is still unable to locate the Margery Hill results. Hopefully they will appear in the next issue.

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BLAKE FELL : 15 FEBRUARY 1997

With skylarks singing and a break from the gales, the Blake Fell race was run in bright spring weather. The field resembled a DPFR club meet - only with CFR runners (CFR put out 50 runners!). The pace was fairly quick until runners hit the first hill Knock Murton. Then after a hairy descent down the tree roots its a ridge run until Oulsen Fell and a long run in across fields. A race to suit the speed men of Dark Peak.

Andy Harmer

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|---------|
| 1 | J. Davies (Borrowdale) | 53:25 |
| 5 | H. Jarrett (CFR) [1st M40] | 57:08 |
| 17 | A. Harmer [3rd M40] | 1:01:27 |

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KINDER DOWNFALL : 20 APRIL 1997

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---------|-----|----------------|---------|
| 1 | D. Neil (Mercia) [1st M40] | 1:04:28 | 139 | T. Westgate | 1:24:54 |
| 4 | M. Hayman | 1:08:00 | 140 | R. Hopkinson | 1:24:56 |
| 26 | D. Tait [1st M50] | 1:12:45 | 146 | J. Fulton | 1:25:25 |
| 30 | M. Wynne | 1:14:12 | 153 | A. Moore | 1:25:50 |
| 33 | R. Horsfield | 1:14:29 | 167 | K. Bryan-Jones | 1:27:17 |
| 36 | M. Harvey | 1:14:52 | 189 | J. Gunnee | 1:28:53 |
| 38 | W. Sullivan | 1:15:03 | 198 | C. Henson | 1:30:21 |
| 42 | G. Band | 1:15:19 | 202 | C. Radcliffe | 1:30:40 |
| 45 | N. Goldsmith | 1:15:41 | 209 | G. Nichols | 1:31:30 |
| 63 | P. Griffies | 1:17:07 | 221 | C. Hughes | 1:33:09 |
| 81 | C. Barber | 1:18:25 | 224 | T. Woodhouse | 1:33:19 |
| 88 | D. Allen | 1:19:32 | 227 | M. Poulter | 1:33:26 |
| 106 | R. Marlow | 1:21:13 | 233 | B. Moseley | 1:34:38 |
| 107 | G. Burgin | 1:21:19 | 257 | F. Galbraith | 1:39:44 |
| 109 | C. Hird | 1:21:22 | 270 | J. Harvey | 1:43:10 |
| 122 | M. Fox | 1:22:36 | | 304 finished | |

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THREE PEAKS : 27 APRIL 1997

A perfect day for running: cool and cloudy though the cloud gradually cleared as the day went on. Pen-y-gent was in the clag but navigation is not an issue on this event. The heavy haze meant you couldn't see Ribblehead viaduct on the long cross country section which was good. It always seems miles away and never seems to get any closer. Despite the conditions the race seemed relatively slow with only Ian Holmes breaking 3 hours.

For the first time in ages I felt I had some strength in my legs and I was pleased to turn the tables on Roger who beat me a month earlier at Edale but I was disappointed once again not to break the 3.5 hour mark.

Dave Tait showed us all the way with a strong run to finish 50th and 3rd V50. There was some good packing between 50th and 70th and plenty of support down the field.

Rick Ansell

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| 1 I. Holmes (Bingley) | 2:52:28 | 217 A. Jones | 4:08:12 |
| 50 D. Tait | 3:32:35 | 251 I. Bennett | 4:18:15 |
| 53 W. Sullivan | 3:33:02 | 263 R. Hopkinson | 4:20:21 |
| 58 C. Greenwood (Bing.) [1st F] | 3:34:49 | 281 P. Farrell | 4:24:05 |
| 61 R. Ansell | 3:35:22 | 290 C. Brad | 4:26:15 |
| 73 R. Woods | 3:39:53 | 366 A. Carrington | 4:49:16 |
| 137 M. Wynne | 3:53:35 | 387 M. Browell | 5:04:36 |
| 165 N. Goldsmith | 3:58:19 | 453 started, 404 finished | |

Teams (best 4 to count)

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1 Clayton-le-Moors | 44 pts |
| 5 DPF | 237 pts |
| 32 teams finished | |

Vets teams

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1 Clayton-le-Moors | 51 pts |
| 14 DPF | 683 pts |
| 14 teams finished | |

Where were all our old men?

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PENISTONE HILL RACE : 5 MAY 1997

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|---------|
| 1 G. Hill (Stockport) | 45:50 | 43 T. Westgate | 56:35 |
| 5 S. Bell | 48:32 | 47 J. Gunee | 57:00 |
| 9 R. Hutton | 49:47 | 50 M. Flinders | 58:01 |
| 15 D. Tait [1st M50] | 52:03 | 84 J. Myers | 1:05:07 |
| 32 R. Hakes | 55:17 | 89 L. Outwin | 1:06:18 |
| 36 R. Marlow | 55:31 | 107 ran | |

Teams (3 to count)

| | |
|------|----------------------------|
| 1st= | Dark Peak Fell Runners |
| 1st= | Penistone Footpath Runners |

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MOEL EILIO : 10 MAY 1997

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| 1 A. Trigg (Glossop.) | 1:06:44 | 10 R. Hutton | 1:16:15 |
| 5 S. Oglethorpe | 1:13:19 | 20 N. Boler | 1:21:41 |
| | | 60 finished | |

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BUTTERMERE SAILBECK : 11 MAY 1997

Heavy rain all the way up the M6 to the Lakes filled us with trepidation. Luckily as we drove over Newlands Pass the rain abated and we entered a muddy field to park.

Just as the race started up the 1 in 6 hairpin bends the rain started again. However, visibility was good even though it was a bit cold. The climb up to Causey Pike was its usual relentless slog after the pleasant descent to Rigg Beck. Once on the main ridge, the last climbs were met in settled weather with isolated snow patches still on the ground and a final greasy descent to Buttermere village.

Maurice Musson

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-----|-----------|---------|
| 1 | M. Roberts (Borr.) | 1:28:05 | 104 | M. Musson | 2:12:54 |
| 45 | N. Davies (Borr.) [1st F] | 1:50:11 | 117 | H. Musson | 2:17:25 |
| 144 started, 143 finished. | | | | | |

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FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE : 18 MAY 1997

A Saturday night thunderstorm and rain Sunday morning helped our two new members Richard and Chris to abandon the idea of climbing for the day and participate in the Fairfield horseshoe instead. In was a balmy afternoon with very low cloud level, about 1200ft., which meant that most of the race took place in thick fog, one only being able to see the other runners within a few yards. Colin Henson celebrated his birthday with another trip around this splendid horseshoe whilst for Hilary and me it was a virgin run.

A swift fairly steep start soon had the sweat glands leaking before the terrain got steep enough to settle into a brisk uphill walk. We were soon in the fog and only the cry of "Turn round me!" indicated the top of foggy Fairfield as out of the mist loomed a blue cagoule and over trousered marshal. A turn to the right and on to the descent before the next climb up Hart Crag, if you could follow the sparse path. Thank God for Walsh studs! A slight hesitation here nearly dropping off the ridge but back on course to the safety of more Walsh stud marks and eventually the ridge stone wall appears accompanying one of the longest and best descents in the Lake District.

Dropping out of the mist brought a fantastic vista of colour and other competitors (!) and the heat. half a mile along a mud and puddle covered track to a hot finish and a welcome dip in an ice-cool stream.

Maurice Musson

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-----|--------------|---------|
| 1 | C. Roberts (Kendal) | 1:22:02 | 117 | M. Musson | 1:52:56 |
| 53 | N. Lavery (Ambl.) [1st F] | 1:41:41 | 123 | C. Radcliffe | 1:54:42 |
| 93 | R. Hopkinson | 1:47:25 | 138 | H. Musson | 1:56:49 |
| 202 started, 200 finished | | | | | |

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BURBAGE : 21 MAY 1997

As popular as ever and with the now customary horribly-cold weather but the usual "results-to-all-who-enter" policy seems to have failed miserably. Did anyone get any?

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ILAM FETE RACE : 26 MAY 1997

Phil's date with fete

Slowly the message is getting home. The Ilam Fete Race is a great low key event.

Eleven Dark Peakers journeyed to Ilam and all agreed the journey was worth it. This year Phil Crowson was leading by only 5 yards at the river crossing from Ashbourne Running Club's Jonathon Hemstock. Phil's strength on the climb and descent of Bunster Hill saw him to a 30 second victory.

I also organise a short 3 mile hilly run for the under 16s. So you can bring your family to the village fete, free entry to all runners.

Our £60 proceeds went to the village school.

And I stand by my claim that the descent from Bunster Hill is the White Peak equivalent of the descent from Crookstone Knoll. It's a pity it clashes with the Bens of Jura weekend though to date I've been able to guarantee sunny weather. When we get to 50 runners or 25 Dark Peakers I'm going to stop telling people of it. Two reasons:

- it would ruin the atmosphere
- I can't be bothered to organise anything bigger.

See you next year Phil. Andy Jenkins record is 40 seconds quicker - I think you can beat it.

Jon Cant

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------|----|----------------|-------|
| 1 | Phil Crowson | 34:24 | 10 | John Armistead | 39:59 |
| 2 | J. Hemstock (Ashbourne) | 35:05 | 13 | John Myers | 44:01 |
| 4 | Mel McCart | 39:13 | 14 | Mike Arundale | 44:03 |
| 7 | Hugh Cotton | 39:34 | 16 | Tim Mackey | 44:08 |
| 8 | Keith Wiley | 39:54 | 21 | Gez Myers | 51:08 |
| 9 | Matthew Flinders | 39:56 | | | |

See you all next year - sunshine guarenteed.

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CADER IDRIS : 31 MAY 97

10ml/3000'

A family holiday just happened to be passing through Dollgellau where a fell race was being held. It was scorching hot so after applying sun cream to all the children I then insisted that Richard's very red nose needed some more covering, and his newly exposed shoulders (rarely seen except when sticking out of his Dark Peak vest). It must have been boiling up the mountain because I was sweating at ground level in the shade. The race took longer than normal so the kids were fed up, waiting at the finish.

One runner finally did appear (the winner!). Ages to wait so the children amused themselves picking sweets up off the ground while I read the paper. Then another runner. Ages to wait. I tried to explain about statistical distribution curves but the children weren't particularly interested. Then the third runner.

A bit more waiting and trying to stop unruly children swinging on the red and white finishing tape when the fourth runner came in. I'm not sure who was more amazed, Richard, me or the children: it was Richard! I hardly got my nose out of the paper in time. The little ones were delighted: home time! I asked about the view but apparently there wasn't time for sightseeing. It's also difficult to see with eyes are full of sweat.

The two local bands played the whole time making the day more enjoyable. There were drink stations en-route and loads of tea and sandwiches at the end so it was particularly enjoyable for the runners too.

Gay Rice

| | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|
| 1 | C. Donnelly (Eryri) | 1:27:44 |
| 4 | R. Horsfield | 1:42:08 |

95 ran

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DUDDON VALLEY : 31 MAY 1997

It was a steaming hot morning at Sleathwaite. By the time the inevitable thunderstorms broke, about three hours into the race, the damage had already been done. Most of the dark Peak contingent opted for the short race which just might have been sensible. Will Sullivan floated past me on the first steep climb up Harter Fell and at about the same time the energy drained out of my legs and the enthusiasm from my heart. I potted pleasantly round and enjoyed the rain when it came. Duddon is always good however awful you feel.

Rick Ansell

Long Race

| | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|
| 1 | S. Booth (Borr.) | 2:52:23 |
| 14 | W. Sullivan | 3:41:04 |
| 22 | Y. Hague (P&B) [1st F] | 3:51:44 |
| 24 | R. Ansell | 3:54:29 |

78 started 65 finished

Short Race

| | | |
|----|-------------|---------|
| 1 | M. Hayman | 1:31:30 |
| 3 | P. Crowson | 1:40:45 |
| 12 | M. Flinders | 2:07:09 |
| 14 | J. Myers | 2:12:20 |
| 15 | M. Browell | 2:13:17 |

32 started, 30 finished

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KINDER SPRINGS (HANDICAP) : 4 JUNE 1997

3 Springs

A perfect June evening so everybody got round in good times. There were two innovations:

- i) At each checkpoint there was a short break in the race for drinks etc. and to allow backmarkers to catch up.
- ii) Time bonuses were given if you carried bottles of spring water back to the finish:
 6 minutes for each litre from spring 1
 4 minutes for each litre from spring 2
 2 minutes for each litre from spring 3

As usual organisation was pretty informal and I was lucky to receive last minute help. Jeff Harrison set everyone off. Mark Hayman timed everyone through the second checkpoint and Mike Browell timed at the finish. Special congratulations to Mark Harvey who, despite a nasty fall, made it to the finish and to the heros who loaded themselves up with water... and one of them won!

| Pos | | leg 1 | leg 2 | leg 3 | leg 4 | Finish | Race Pos | Time after bonus |
|-----|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|----------|------------------|
| 1 | Richard Wren | 16:03 | 25:09 | 22:19 | 16:23 | 1:19:54 | 3 | 1:13:54 |
| 2 | Alistair Buckley | 16:13 | 24:22 | 20:30 | 14:23 | 1:15:28 | 1 | |
| 3 | Mark Hayman | 14:28 | 23:34 | 24:10 | 13:33 | 1:15:45 | 2 | |
| 4 | Graham Band | 16:40 | 27:11 | 22:03 | 16:56 | 1:22:50 | 4 | |
| 5 | Mike Pedley | 17:14 | 27:13 | 23:35 | 16:42 | 1:24:44 | 5 | |
| 6 | Phil Crowson | 19:00 | 23:38 | 22:21 | 19:50 | 1:24:49 | 6 | |
| 7 | Graham Berry | 16:58 | 27:15 | 23:53 | 17:10 | 1:25:16 | 7 | |
| 8 | Geoff Ellis | 16:30 | 28:10 | 31:54 | 22:20 | 1:38:54 | 10 | 1:26:54 |
| 9 | Darrel Bradbury | 16:40 | 28:10 | 24:50 | 17:45 | 1:27:25 | 8 | |
| 10 | Phil Young | 20:24 | 34:02 | 32:22 | 21:35 | 1:48:23 | 16 | 1:30:23 |
| 11 | Richard Baxter | 18:22 | 27:10 | 27:44 | 17:35 | 1:30:41 | 9 | |
| 12 | Paul Westwood | 18:18 | 27:10 | 31:55 | 22:25 | 1:39:48 | 11 | |
| 13 | Mark Harvey | 18:29 | 27:11 | 31:50 | 23:38 | 1:41:08 | 12 | |
| 14 | Chris Barber | 18:41 | 33:50 | 30:25 | 21:02 | 1:43:58 | 13 | |
| 15 | Kim Buckley | 19:00 | 34:00 | 29:12 | 22:23 | 1:44:35 | 14 | |
| 16 | Dave Lockwood | 18:41 | | | 23:28 | 1:46:40 | 15 | |
| 17 | Clive Last | 22:23 | | | 23:00 | 1:49:00 | 17 | |
| 18 | Paul Sanderson | 18:51 | | | 26:17 | 1:49:30 | 18 | |
| 19 | John Woodcock | 22:00 | | | 23:35 | 1:51:00 | 19 | |
| 20 | Jo Smith | 20:22 | 33:54 | 28:11 | 29:38 | 1:52:05 | 20 | |
| 21 | Colin Lago | 18:30 | 34:21 | 35:10 | 26:30 | 1:54:31 | 21 | 1:52:31 |
| 22 | Kev Saville | 21:00 | 35:00 | 33:10 | 27:20 | 1:56:20 | 22 | |
| 23 | Lynn Bland | 20:45 | 35:41 | 34:48 | 25:45 | 1:56:59 | 23 | |
| 24 | John Myers | 21:30 | 37:20 | 43:30 | 18:55 | 2:01:15 | 24 | |

4 Springs Alternative

Guy Seaman and Andy Malkin went round the "original" course together in a time of 147 minutes. Jim Fulton went round in 154 minutes and created some kind of World record:

- i) He carried 4 litres from the first spring
- ii) His back is now criss-crossed with kinky lacerations
- iii) He gave his bollocks a good suntanning
- iv) He did this all without a soul seeing him

Is Jim onto something?
Could we all play his game next year?
And what are the rules Jim?

Mike Hayes

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GRINDLEFORD : 19 JUNE 1997

Like many recent races it was wet underfoot. A big loop round the starting field stretched the field and eased the crush on the big early climb.

Kev Borman

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------|-----|---------------------------|-------|
| 1 | A. Buckley (SHUOC) | 32:33 | 93 | D. Pelly [1st F35, 3rd F] | 40:47 |
| 6 | D. Bradbury | 33:52 | 99 | R. Small | 41:19 |
| 9 | M. Ward | 34:33 | 107 | H. Cotton | 41:45 |
| 10 | R. Hutton | 34:37 | 113 | P. Farrell | 42:12 |
| 13 | D. Tait [3rd M40] | 35:17 | 119 | P. Guerrier | 42:28 |
| 19 | R. Freeman | 36:02 | 127 | G. Nichols | 43:09 |
| 28 | W. Hanley | 36:42 | 136 | H. Musson | 43:30 |
| 30 | K. Dalton [1st F] | 36:56 | 145 | M. Poulter | 44:31 |
| 36 | M. Cochrane | 37:31 | 149 | K. Borman | 44:55 |
| 43 | R. Hopkinson | 38:14 | 164 | M. Arundale | 45:40 |
| 49 | D. Charles | 38:33 | 170 | J. McElhinney | 46:22 |
| 51 | N. Boler | 38:35 | 175 | L. Outwin | 46:42 |
| 52 | C. Radcliffe | 38:43 | 176 | F. Galbraith | 46:44 |
| 61 | B. English | 39:17 | 182 | D. McCart | 47:19 |
| 67 | M. McCart | 39:30 | 187 | M. Browell | 47:57 |
| 86 | G. Seaman | 40:30 | 192 | J. Adams | 48:28 |
| 89 | C. Wilson | 40:34 | | | |

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CASTLETON : 20 JUNE 1997

...And the rain came down,
 Thinking of those on Skiddaw,
 ...And the rain came down,
 Mud parking but glad of the tent,
 ...And the rain came down,
 Later starting, a wait for the sun?!
 ...And the rain came down,
 Clag down on Lose Hill and the ridge,
 ...And the rain came down,
 On pavestones - is this a road race?
 ...And the rain came down,
 A descent which hammers the knees,
 ...And the rain came down,
 Good running by Richard Horsfield,
 ...And the rain came down,
 Spot prize and then home for a bath!
 ...And the rain came down.

MP

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------|----|-------------|---------|
| 1 | J. Brown (Salford) | 41:54 | 34 | A. Moore | 52:39 |
| 8 | A. Sealy | 45:22 | 41 | B. English | 54:46 |
| 16 | A. Jameson | 48:45 | 42 | R. Marlow | 55:19 |
| 17 | R. Hutton | 48:49 | 55 | J. Woodcock | 58:45 |
| 18 | R. Horsfield | 49:00 | 57 | T. Mackey | 59:40 |
| 29 | M. Pedley | 52:05 | 72 | M. Browell | 1:08:04 |
| | | | 75 | finished | |

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CROOKSTONE CRASHOUT : 25 JUNE 1997

What a superb outing, the mud was as thick as the winters of old and the clag nested above 1200': and Phil Crowson really put down a serious marker for the Pertex Trophy. At the start Phil shot off and held a good lead going over the top of the knoll, but like Al Sealy in the winter classic, 'tis folly to wander into the dangerous wilds of Kinder Scout. without safe wisdom, a ball of wool or a compass. Phil had neither of the first two and chose to lay his compass down, like good wine to mature, at the start.

Pete and Karen went over the top in the chase. Pete followed Phil on a deviation to the trig, whilst karen held on to the rocks until the old goat came past. On the return, Crowson still had a 80 yard lead going into the sandy gully but then chose the Northern Edge as the route back - possibly via 1936 cabin - to lose 15 minutes!

Pete and myself assumed our descent was for runner up spot; running in odd shoes (spikes and PBs!) I was surprised to find Jon Cant and Pete's girlfriend chalking me up for first at the finish. Pete Hague, in his first race for six months, held up well and should go from strength to strength. As for Karen, only 2 days after her excellent showing at Edale, Dark Peak has been graced by their strongest female climber ever and but for the conditions Claire's record would surely have been challenged. Karen has obvious talent at orienteering but surely has the ability to compete for England on the fells.

The December classic will see me reach the age of 50 years; surely the young bloods of Dark Peak aren't going to keep me at bay?

Andy Harmer

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|----|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Andy Harmer | 34:38 | 9 | Graham Berry | 40:05 |
| 2 | Pete Hague | 34:59 | 10 | Tom Westgate | 43:52 |
| 3 | Darrel Bradbury | 36:50 | 11 | John Woodcock | 45:18 |
| 4 | Mark Harvey | 37:07 | 12 | Matt Flinders | 45:33 |
| 5 | Roger Woods | 37:23 | 13 | Richard Hakes | 45:33 |
| 6 | Karen Dalton | 37:53 | 14 | Phil Crowson | 49:29 |
| 7 | Richard Baxter | 38:03 | 15 | Kev Saville | 54:48 |
| 8 | Chris Barber | 39:16 | | | |

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HOPE : 1 JULY 1997

The wind and rain forecast by the met. office didn't happen so once again we had dry conditions overhead but lacked the sunshine which we have had for the vast majority of the last twenty years. Previous heavy rain meant that conditions under foot were much softer than usual.

GB duathlete Brett Stocks led from start to finish and had established quite a lead by the turn at the top of Hope Brinks. Darrel Bradbury held second early on but surrendered it at about the halfway stage.

In the women's category, Karen Dalton held a comfortable lead over Elizabeth Batt who enjoyed a similar margin over Jane Griffiths, now a member of Gosforth.

Derick Jewell

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|-----|--------------------|-------|
| 1 | B. Stocks | 25:25 | 86 | K. Green [2nd F35] | 33:05 |
| 7 | D. Bradbury | 27:12 | 89 | P. Dyke | 33:14 |
| 9 | M. Nolan | 27:36 | 90 | H. Bloor | 33:18 |
| 11 | B. Edwards | 28:07 | 94 | G. Seaman | 33:32 |
| 15 | D. Tait [1st M50] | 28:21 | 106 | E. Rybinski | 34:32 |
| 18 | R. Hutton | 28:26 | 108 | R. Davison | 34:37 |
| 32 | R. Woods | 29:27 | 109 | K. Saville | 34:38 |
| 33 | K. Dalton [1st F] | 29:35 | 117 | D. Hay | 35:37 |

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|----|------------------------|-------|-----|--------------|-------|
| 36 | B. Hanley | 29:46 | 124 | N. Palazon | 26:31 |
| 57 | H. Swindells [3rd M50] | 31:31 | 126 | T. Atkin | 36:51 |
| 59 | R. Hakes | 31:38 | 127 | G. Nicholls | 36:58 |
| 60 | D. Lockwood | 31:42 | 131 | F. Galbraith | 37:35 |
| 62 | M. McCart | 31:54 | 132 | M. Browell | 38:01 |
| 65 | J. James | 32:01 | 136 | J. Adams | 38:25 |
| 81 | P. Jones | 32:55 | 164 | ran | |

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BASLOW : 9 JULY 1997

The old finish restored - a result of "Peaker Power"?

| | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|-------|-----|------------------------|-------|
| 1 | B. Stocks | 28:48 | 74 | T. Westgate | 36:12 |
| 7 | A. Sealy | 29:40 | 76 | H. Bloor [2nd F35] | 36:20 |
| 8 | S. Bourne | 29:58 | 81 | C. Wilson | 36:29 |
| 9 | M. Wilson (Hallam.) | 30:10 | 86 | D. Lockwood | 37:09 |
| 12 | C. Bourne | 30:58 | 88 | H. Lawrenson [3rd F35] | 37:13 |
| 13 | M. Wynn [1st M40] | 31:07 | 90 | P. Jones | 37:24 |
| 15 | M. Harvey [2nd M40] | 31:49 | 91 | J. Gunee | 37:24 |
| 16 | R. Hutton | 31:53 | 92 | D. Markham | 37:27 |
| 20 | A. Jameson | 32:03 | 93 | D. Tait | 37:32 |
| 25 | R. Freeman | 32:40 | 94 | K. Green | 37:34 |
| 26 | R. Caves | 32:52 | 98 | M. Musson | 37:58 |
| 30 | D. Green | 33:08 | 103 | J. Woodcock | 38:36 |
| 32 | K. Dalton [1st F] | 33:11 | 105 | K. Saville | 38:53 |
| 40 | N. Boler | 33:48 | 107 | C. Browell | 39:00 |
| 41 | A. Moore | 33:49 | 111 | D. Pasley | 39:39 |
| 42 | T. Cochrane | 33:51 | 112 | M. Poulter | 39:56 |
| 45 | R. Hopkinson? | 33:58 | 117 | C. Last | 40:28 |
| 48 | J. James [2nd F] | 34:13 | 120 | H. Cotton | 40:37 |
| 50 | R. Hakes | 34:19 | 125 | P. Dyke | 40:48 |
| 51 | R. Baxter | 34:21 | 133 | H. Musson | 41:21 |
| 52 | K. Jones | 34:22 | 134 | L. Bland | 41:21 |
| 56 | C. Barber | 34:37 | 139 | J. Fulton | 42:59 |
| 57 | M. Fox | 34:41 | 140 | N. Palazon | 43:00 |
| 58 | D. Holmes | 34:44 | 148 | T. Atkin | 44:57 |
| 59 | R. Marlow | 34:47 | 149 | F. Galbraith | 45:07 |
| 60 | M. Cochrane [1st M50] | 34:58 | 150 | M. Browell | 45:24 |
| 63 | Jo Smith [3rd F] | 35:09 | 165 | H. Pedley | 47:34 |
| 64 | M. Flanders | 35:15 | 166 | J. Norman | 47:47 |
| 67 | P. Sanderson | 35:22 | 167 | J. Gittins | 47:52 |
| 68 | H. Swindells [2nd M50] | 25:26 | 171 | M. Arundale | 48:38 |
| 72 | J. Herbert | 36:03 | 175 | J. Roberts | 51:17 |
| | | | 181 | finished | |

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LOXLEY LUNGE : 12 JULY 1997

Report and results of Dave's barbeque fell race in the next issue (please Dave?!)

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WASDALE : 12 JULY 1997

21ml/9000'

A great race and one I will do again. It was very hot and so many suffered including myself. My lasting memory is of Mari Todd smiling as she ran past when I was sitting by the side of Scaffell... it happens to all of us! Hers was clearly the performance of the day setting a new ladies record.

Mark Hayman

- 1 J. Bland (Borrowdale) 3:48:18
- 17 M. Todd (Ambleside) [1st F] 4:22:10
- 19 M. Hayman 4:29:24
- 27 D. Tait 4:44:56
- 101 finishers

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BOOTLE BLACK COOMBE : 13 JULY 1997

5.5ml/1900'

A race to sort out your stiff legs after WASDALE?!

Mark Hayman

- 1 P. Sheard (P&B) 40min ish?
- 7 N. Conway
- 8 M. Hayman

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STOODLEY PIKE : 15 JULY 1997

Just a shame this is so far from Sheffield. It would make a great double header with the Loxley Lunge. Interestingly with times just seconds apart for performances in the two races, does this give us an indication of what time might be possible at Dave's annual event?

At less than three miles this is one of the rare breed of true short races in the calendar and on a sunny evening was a fine outing.

MP

- 1 G. Devine (P&B) 17:21
- 49 M. Pedley 21:28
- 189 H. Pedley 30:03

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DARK PEAK CHALLENGE : 13 JULY 1997

After some confusion and controversy in the build up to this event (partly because the event had *nothing* to do with Dark Peak Fell Runners) it ended up being won by the DPFRR pair of Matt Flinders and Mike Browell. Unfortunately Mike's excellent report arrived shortly before the deadline on a disk that wouldn't read so watch out for it in the next issue!

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BROOMHEAD CHASE : 13th JULY 1997

So where were you all? A new race in the Sheffield area on a summer Sunday, brass band, bouncy castle, coconut shy, mechanical bucking bronco etc and not only was I the first Dark Peak runner, I was the only Dark Peak runner!

Well OK, the publicity wasn't very good and only 36 runners turned out, mainly from Penistone and Barnsley but the race was a cracker. Only 3.5 miles but with 800 feet of climb and no tarmac whatsoever. A descent from the showground to a river crossing (no bridge!) then along through the woods on narrow tracks and then a short stiff pull up a bank. From there a steady, runnable climb to the summit ridge then along to the trig point. Back down to the valley along narrow paths through the gorse and bracken then half a mile along the stream through the woods. Back through the river again and then a runnable grassy climb to the finish.

It's on again next year so you've got no excuses!

Clive Wilson

| | | |
|----|-----------|-------|
| 1 | ????????? | 27.12 |
| 13 | C. Wilson | 33.?? |

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MOEL SIABOD : 19 JULY 1997

6.2ml/2300'

Very hot day but an excellent little race. Straight up and down, wade the river to finish. The race was dominated by Eryri with Menna Angharad setting a new record in 10th place overall.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1 | C. Donnelly (Eryri) | 48:40 |
| 3 | M. Hayman | 48:59 |
| 10 | M. Angharad (Eryri) [1st F] | 55:35 |
| 107 finishers | | |

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CAKES OF BREAD : 30 JULY 1997

What a night for the midges - they excelled themselves and but for a stiff breeze at about 7:55pm the officials would have scarpered long ago.. As it ended up the result board only edged off the green as the last happy duo trotted up the road.

It was an eventful night. Hugh Cotton pulled his calf muscle 20 yards into the race, Ken Jones likewise pulled his calf muscle shortly after and eventually walked in clothed in Ged Myers' cag thrown to him on route. Phil Crowson smashed his head on 'the' overhanging branch. This must have knocked some sense into the young lad as he then stayed on route to win comfortably from Al Sealey who faded on the last tough climb. The two had been neck and neck past Lost Lad and Cakes of Bread.

The chase was most interesting. John Soady, Dave Tait, Roger Woods and Ron Caves all held third spot at some stage and all were in with a shout crossing the stream but Mark Harvey, chasing the old goat, held a better line up the thistles. Young Harvey took his first Veterans position scampering well down the bilberry. Martin Fox ran well as did Roy Small. Judging by the cheerful faces most of the finishers enjoyed this varied testing course, now in its 13th year.

Without an exhaustive look through the archives I can only establish fastest times as Malcolm Patterson 41:27 (1985) and veteran's record of myself in 42:37 (1988) when I assumed some sub-40 times had been posted. Even so it is rare in recent years for the winner to go under 44 or 45. many of the club records are now 10 years old (Crookstone, 15 trigs, Triple Crossing, Alport) perhaps they need compiling for posterity as no "new" men look like challenging them for another decade?

Andy Harmer

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-------|----|--------------------|---------|
| 1 | Phil Crowson | 44:42 | 20 | Matt Flinders | 54:49 |
| 2 | Al Sealey | 45:28 | 21 | Howard Swindells | 55:15 |
| 3 | Mark Harvey [1st M40] | 46:11 | 22 | Robert Innes | 55:15 |
| 4 | Andy Harmer | 46:22 | 23 | David Beresford | 55:25 |
| 5 | Roger Woods | 47:16 | 24 | Dave Markham | 55:58 |
| 6 | Dave Tait [1st M50] | 47:32 | 25 | Ged Myers | 56:25 |
| 7 | Gavin Williams | 47:50 | 26 | Keith Wylie | 58:38 |
| 8 | Ron Caves | 48:06 | 27 | Patrick Seyd | 1:01:22 |
| 9 | John Soady | 48:08 | 28 | Mike Gilbert | 1:01:22 |
| 10 | Graham Band | 49:58 | 29 | J. Stothard | 1:02:50 |
| 11 | Dave Holmes | 50:20 | 30 | Barry Needle | 1:02:58 |
| 12 | Rob Davison | 50:38 | 31 | John Herbert | 1:05:00 |
| 13 | Martin Fox | 51:00 | 32 | Mike Browell | 1:06:28 |
| 14 | Andy Moore | 52:57 | 33 | Stuart Gascoigne | 1:06:28 |
| 15 | Tom Westgate | 53:15 | 34 | Andy Rowley | 1:09:16 |
| 16 | Pete Gorvett | 53:26 | 35 | Tim Atkin | 1:13:06 |
| 17 | Roy Small | 53:58 | 36 | Dave Hay | 1:13:06 |
| 18 | Richard Hakes | 54:10 | 37 | Kate Reece [1st F] | 1:15:44 |
| 19 | Mel McCart | 54:46 | 38 | Chris Reece | 1:15:44 |

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