

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

"ABSENT FRIENDS"

It has been recorded of a certain crew that they
"..... were not pleased with the view,
Which consisted of chasms and crags."

What a crew! Yet apparently, there are some Oreads
who share their outlandish views, for they seldom if
ever turn out to inspect the chasms and crags (well,
crags, anyway) which are always to be found within
reasonable distance of our meets. In fact we seem
to have a few entirely disembodied names on our list
of members.

Some unfortunates live too far away to join Derby-
shire meets or long distance coaches, for we are pretty
widely spread about the country. Other perhaps are
compelled to earn their daily pemican on Saturdays as
well as during the week. If you're among these, we're
always pleased to see you at those meets you can manage
to attend - the Dinner Meet or the Christmas Meet for
example.

But if you're not, and if you haven't attended many
meets lately, how about renewing old acquaintances and
making some new ones at the next gathering (or festering
if you prefer the term)? We could have a turn-out of
fifty for the next Derbyshire meet. In fact we could
fill two coaches for a long-distance meet. Well, why
not? It's up to you.

And finally, you may not know that on May 2nd this
year, an Oread Beer Fund was instituted, and placed in
the custody of Geoff Gibson. That money has not yet
been spent. And there's a meet next week.

D. C. C.

CREAD VENTURE II

The earlier party (Phil Falkner, Dick Brown and Barry Cook) has succeeded in climbing the South Face of Jekkevarre. The climb took 11 hours, was 4,000 ft long, and had some severe pitches. A part of it had been done earlier by an Edinburgh party.

P.R.F. says of the route, "Imagine the Tower Ridge (of Ben Nevis), with the Douglas Boulder enlarged to about 2200 ft, so that it forms more than half the ridge - that is the Great Ridge or Storeggen of Jekkevarre."

Unfortunately Barry was ill during the later stages of the excursion, but recovered later.

The other pair (Bob Pettigrew and Trevor Panther) have made the first ascent of the Skartind, and accompanied by Dick, have also climbed the famous (or infamous) "Slangetind".

With two weeks in hand the expedition has ascended ten major peaks, three of them first ascents, and six new routes. The party will be back in England by the time this report reached you.

D.C.C.

NEW ROUTES

GARDOM'S EDGE

Apple Arete. 50 ft.

Very Severe.

Start at the foot of Apple Crack and ascent this to the flake. Traverse out left to the arete just above the overhang. Straight up, with an extremely difficult mantleshef on the arete, and finish on better holds.

First Ascent : D. Penlington; E. Marshall; R. Hardy.

June, 1952.

Capillary Crack, 30 ft.

Very Severe.

On the right-hand end of Broken Buttress. Step off a block and up a rib to a small overhang. A difficult step over this and another up and to the right gives access to a gritty ledge. Finish on left. The first few feet are scratched.

First Ascent : E. Marshall; M.D.
February, 1953.

Marble Wall, Route 3. 50 ft.

Very Difficult.

At the left hand end of Marble Wall is a large block which abutts against the wall. The fact of this is climbed to its top. Step right on to the fact of Marble Wall and climb directly up to the overhang. This is climbed by a short wide crack. Considerable loose rock was encountered on the first ascent.

First Ascent : E. Marshall; N. Osborne.
29th March, 1953.

Dead Tree Arete.

Very Difficult.

Round the corner on the left of Dead Tree Wall is a large cut-away. This is climbed until the overhang can be passed, awkwardly, to a small ledge. Step right on to the arete and up it. Finish as for Dead Tree Wall.

First Ascent : E. Marshall; P. G. Titterton.
3rd April, 1953.

Unnamed Route.

Difficult.

Start a little to the right of Pine Crack. Up the Green Slab to a ledge, and layback the flake crack to the right.

First Ascent : E. Marshall; M.D.
28th February, 1953.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING MEETS

AROLLA - ZERMATT MEET, July 25th/August 10th.

The meet was attended by six members, P. Cole, K. Griffiths, D. Escott, R. Dearden, C. Webb and myself and despite unsettled weather was voted a successful affair. Six peaks were climbed by the party and the programme included a traverse from Arolla to Zermatt over the Col de la Tete Blanche.

The first hut to be visited, the Cabane des Dix, was used for a traverse of Mont Blanc de Cheilon (12,700 ft) the peak being climbed by its E. ridge and a descent made over the W. ridge to the Col de Cheilon. This was followed by a traverse from West to East of the Pigne d'Arolla (12,450 ft) finishing at the wonderfully situated Cabane des Vignettes. Here we were all in readiness for L'Eveque but our bleary 3 a.m. eyes were greeted by falling snow and the day was passed in the hut, several expeditions (in crampons) being made to the Aborté (10,350 ft). Food stocks being low a return to Arolla was necessary and the descent over the Glacier de Piee with crevasses masked by freshly fallen snow was entertaining, if short. August 1st was celebrated with another traverse, that of the Petite Dent de Veisivi (10,440 ft), a delightful day on firm, sun-warmed rock, the party by this time being seven in number, Messrs. Cole and Dearden being accompanied by a young Swiss climber (Lady). David Escott attempted a sensational descent but was called back to a more usual line by horror-stricken shouts from another party.

The following day, Sunday, found us trudging up to the Cabane de Bertol and once more bad weather came and another day was spent in a hut, this time with two American ladies. Zermatt or bust became the mood, but the sun came out again and on the Tuesday we crossed over, taking in the Tete Blanche (12,200 ft) on the way and six cups of tea each at the Schonbuhlhütte. From Zermatt up to the Rothorn Hut, a killing 'grind' but far better placed than the Trift. The Wellenkuppe

(12,800 ft) followed, with a cold, misty start, but it cleared on the descent and three of us spent a glorious hour basking on the ridge eating dried apricots and admiring the Matterhorn. And a fine finish to the holiday was provided by the Zinal Rothorn (13,800 ft) which Peter, Clive and Ken accomplished in eight hours back to the hut, a fine performance considering that two of the party were enjoying their first season in the Alps.

G.R.G.

ROACHES, August 15th/16th

This meet was better attended than most of this summer's, about twenty-five people accommodating themselves either in tents or in the usual barn. It was pleasant to see a number of members who have not been out for some time.

Some climbing was done on Saturday, and was watched (with apparent interest) by the Yak who lives on Hen Cloud. But these activities were washed out by the steady down-pour which started at about 4 p.m. and continued until after dark.

Sunday's weather was better, and an energetic crowd gathered about the rocks. Most of the "old familiar faces" were climbed - the Great Slab, the Pedestal, Inverted Staircase, etc. On the Chicken Run, Ron Dearden was graphically comparing the surroundings with those of Zermatt. The majority of people also tried such severes as Crack and Corner, Kelly's Shelf and Central Route - a good omen for the standard of Oread rock-climbing.

The Skyline rocks were also visited, and a brave trio bathed in the tarn at the top of the edge.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the week-end greatly, and it was annoying to arrive in Leek at 5.30. to find that our bus didn't leave until 6.55.

KINDER DOWNFALL, September 12/13th

Large chunks of unfamiliar gritstone and miles of familiar Kinder bog-trotting are offered this weekend. Ron Dearden is the meet leader, and it is hoped that Geoff Gibson will bring the Beer Fund along.

GRAIG COWARCH, September 26th/27th

Craig Cowarch is near Dinas Mawddwy in Mid-Wales. The Vice-President wrote me a lyrical letter about the place after a visit earlier this year. It offers miles of unclimbed rock buttresses. Mike Moore and Johnny Fisher put up a new route recently, and there is scope for many more. There is also an amount of good walking in the district.

Here's your chance to visit a first class and quite unfamiliar mountaineering area, not easily accessible by public transport. Just remember Cwn Silin, and start packing that camping gear! (And ten bobs to P.R.F!)

Foot-note: Be sure to place your food out of reach of the local dogs. They have been known to devour tents and open tins to get at food, and one has made a meal of an electric torch.

----- D.C.C.

B O O K R E V I E W S

NAISMITH, W.W., and HODGE, E.W., eds. THE ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND (excluding Skye). 2nd ed. S.M.C. Guide Book. 15/- 1953.

HURLIMANN, M. SWITZERLAND. Thames and Hudson. 42/- 1953.

A beautiful picture book, of scenery and buildings, and well worth the money. Recommended for photographers as examples of the art.

LOCKLEY, R.M. TRAVELS WITH A TENT IN WESTERN EUROPE Odhams 1953.

By Howett van through France, Germany, Scandinavia and the Netherlands.

PROFILE ALBERT SHUTT

In 1942-3 Albert, then a lad of 14 years, became a protege of Macleod of the Sheffield Climbing Club, and could be seen leading in shorts such severe routes on Stanage as Black Slab original route and the Trinity Wall climbs. At that time rubber gym shoes were a rarity possessed by few and tricouni nails impossible to buy locally, so Albert learned to climb and lead V.S. routes in hob-nailed boots.

Always keen on exploration and new routes, to both bars and rocks, "Our Albert", spent considerable time forcing new ways up virgin rock, only to find later that the deflowering had already taken place. Nevertheless he was probably the first to combine the girdle traverses of Robin Hood and Black Hawk, thus giving over 1,000 ft of climbing at Stanage. With Tom Prabert he made the first ascent of the Left Unconquerable Crack, but the Right one eluded him. The following weekend he celebrated by falling off Nether Tor and breaking his ankle.

In later years he worked out numerous routes on White Hall Rocks, and with R. A. Brown and P. Carr explored Rake's Rocks near Laddow. Surely no more fitting explorers could have been found, as witness the names of the routes they discovered - Orgy, Dissipation, Degradation, etc.

Climbing tales about Albert are too numerous to mention, but it can be said that on his day and when in the mood he can be a most ferocious "tiger", with a biting scorn for pitons and their use, and a lion-like courage that seems far too great for his small physique.

He has joined the exclusive band or Oreads who have produced (or played their part in producing) Oreads. He is also a member of the clique known as the "Tankard Possessors", despite the rumour that he has signed the pledge. If this is fact, then the Club owes a debt of gratitude to Joan, his wife; for the uninitiated should note that Albert's only answer to the rash question, "What's yours?" is, "Thanks, I'll have a Guinness".

CREADS IN SHORTS

First accounts of holidays are beginning to appear - Geoff Gibson's account of the Swiss meet is elsewhere in this issue.

Mile Moore and John Fisher spent a week in Wales, during which they traversed the "14 peaks", from Foel Fras to Snowden. They had previously left some food at Glyder Fawr. Donald Hunter, of the Climber's Club kindly arranged a lift back from Pen-y-Pass to Ogwen.

Albert Shutt has been exploring a new crag near Hathersage and has put up a dozen new routes.

Roger Turner and Bob Parslow have been up in Skye. Whilst doing the Trap Dyke route, Bob gave birth to this month's quote : "How do you spell this Dyke - D-I-C-E-Y ?"

After the Cwm Silin meet a 2-pint primus took up residence at 14 Queens Drive, Beeston. Will its owner please collect it, as it looks lonely?

Uncle Eric has been continuing his exploration of the West Face of Tryfan, and has sent details of another new route there. A further instalment next month!

John Welbourn has returned from an expedition with Pip Styles to North Lyngen. They climbed five new peaks and enjoyed continuous fine weather.

WHITE HALL

Did you know that you can spend a week-end instructing at White Hall? You get a fine week-end's climbing and walking, with comfortable accommodation and good food. And the mental discipline involved in organising your knowledge and putting it over may well benefit you as much as your students! If you are interested, don't wait to be asked - write to the warden, Peter Mosedale, and ask him to fix a date. Your travelling expenses will be refunded before you leave White Hall.