

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

ATTENTION ALL MEET LEADERS!

At a recent Committee meeting the apparent laxity of some of this year's meet Leaders was discussed. On at least three occasions (no names, no pack drill) meet leaders have failed to do their stuff regarding circulars, etc. This is perhaps due to the absence of a clear definition of the duties of a meet leader, and the Committee hope that if these duties are clearly outlined, similar lapses will be avoided in the future. Since the leading of a meet is entirely voluntary, the following should be regarded as a guide rather than a set of rules.

- (1) Every meet leader is responsible for producing and distributing circulars, for writing reports for the Log Book and Newsletter, and for any other special arrangements in connection with his meet, such as booking huts, etc. Circulars for long-distance meets should be sent out not less than three weeks in advance.
- (2) In the case of long-distance meets the Meets Secretary is responsible for booking a coach and for collecting coach fares and deposits.
- (3) If any meet leader should find himself unable to carry out these duties, he should appoint a deputy to take his place, or seek help from the Meets Secretary.

So, please, let's not have any more mix-ups or "passing the buck". And while we're on the topic, how about volunteering to lead a meet next year? Other clubs recruit their meet leaders on this basis, so why shouldn't we? Phil Falkner will joyfully welcome your offer; just drop him a line at 14 Queen's Drive, Beeston.

D.C.C.

NEW ROUTES

Tryfan (Milestone Buttress area)

Pierrot

300 ft.

Very Difficult

Situation: Facing the main wall of the final tower of "Columbyne", it will be noticed that the tower throws down a narrow spur of steep slabs into a prominent gully which bounds it on the right corner. The climb commences up these slabs, starting from the bed of the gully and going diagonally up across the face of the tower, to finish at the top left-hand corner. The route, which follows a natural line of weaknesses, is continuous without any walking, and after the second pitch there are no ways off. Many pitches have an airiness and exposure but all are well protected and suitable for an experienced average party.

Start: At the base of the lowest slab in the bed of the gully. Cairn.

- (1) 40 ft. Up the first slab on magnificent holds on the right edge, then direct up the centre of the second slab on delicate holds to a belay on the left.
- (2) 700 ft. Above is a steep narrow pillar cleft by a crack. Up the crack to a conspicuous flake, useful for a runner. Step left from the tip of the flake and muscle up the smooth face to a ledge and belays.
- (3) 40 ft. Move left and up a staircase of sloping holds to a wide incut corner and large grass stance. Belays.
- (4) 35 ft. Move left and enter a short chimney facing left. Ascend and pull out awkwardly on to a sloping heathery slab and so to a position of great security behind a very large perched flake block. A fine pitch.
- (5) 35 ft. Stand on the tip of the block and climb the wall above by means of a crack to horizontal sloping ledges (also associated with the long traverse of "Columbyne"). Continue by moving left, round a corner, to a grass platform at the base of a wide incut corner. Belay on the cracked right wall. This is the belay used to protect the leader on the long pitch of "Columbyne".

- (6) 25 ft. Up the corner and cracked wall to an easy sloping groove and belaying nook. (This pitch is an escape from "Columbyne".)
- (7) 55 ft. Move out left, low down on the slabs, to a large spike (running belay), then continue left on to a sloping foot shelf. Ascend direct up the steep exposed nose of the buttress on wonderful holds. A most exhilarating finish.

First ascent : E.Byne, C.Ashbury, B.Jones, B.Wood,
M.Allbutt, J.Turner, Miss M.Thomas,
Miss I. Weighell. 6th August, 1953.

Birchen's Edge

Emma's Slab. 50ft. Very Difficult (in rubbers)

The face between Emma's Dilemma and Victory Gully. Start in Victory Gully. Climb this for a few feet, then as soon as possible traverse out right into the centre of the face. Straight up this and over the overhang awkwardly to easier ground above.

(Unnamed route). Mild Very Difficult

Start to the right of Emma's Delusion up the slab. Traverse to the right under the overhang to the right corner of a slab on the edge of Oak Gully. Diagonally across the slab on to the arete. Continue up the slab and short back wall.

(Unnamed route). Just Severe

In the middle of the wall on the right of Tar's Gully. Diagonally right to a ledge. Finish straight up.

Tar's Wall Severe

To the right of Tar's Crack and in the centre of the face. Over the undercut portion and straight up.

Direct Start, Cannon Ball Wall

A better start to Cannon Ball Wall takes the wall direct, starting with a difficult mantleshelf.

Seasick Arete

Severe

Start on the left arete of Seasick Slab. Two steps on tiny holds, then one can grasp a good hold just below a gritty ledge. Climb up strenuously without the aid of holds in Gunner's Groove. Finish as for Seasick Slab or up the arete on the right.

All First Ascents: E. Marshall. 1952.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING MEETS.

Langdale, August 29/30.

The meet was attended by Messrs. Gibson, Cartwright, Smith, Marshall, and myself, accommodation being at Wall End and F. & R.C.C. Hut, Raw Head.

Saturday started fine, and Geoff and I visited Bowfell Buttress to do the Ordinary Route, having left the others part way through breakfast. The climb proved very interesting, on steep, sound rock, and was less escapable than most climbs of its standard. On the summit of Bowfell it started raining, so we returned to the valley via Rossett Ghyll.

Ernie and Tony spent the day on Gimmer.

The evening was spent in the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel. On returning to the barn we found a large crowd there, unfortunately not Oreads.

On Sunday Ernie and Tony returned home, and Geoff and I traversed Pavey Ark and the Pikes in good weather.

If anyone wonders, as I did, whether it is worth

going to the Lakes for a weekend, I can now assure him that it is.

R.P.

Kinder Downfall, September 12/13

A most successful meet from the point of view of weather and attendance. The sun shone and Oreads rolled up in thousands - well, twenty came and brought ten friends. Among these were Jack Longland and his son, who joined our Naiad section by getting wet through climbing the waterfall.

During Saturday members arrived by various routes, some camping in Edale, some above Edale, and six brave souls afar off at the Downfall. As the evening rolled on the Oreads rolled in - to the Church Hotel - where an unusually quiet evening was spent.

Early on Sunday morning three parties set out from Edale, the first and largest including the meet leader, who eventually caught up with the rest at the Downfall. Here the six "brave souls" were disinterred from their sleeping bags and climbing commenced. Numerous routes of all standards were accomplished, including two first ascents and one first descent (by the Meets Sec.).

Thus passed a happy weekend, the only black spot being that Gibson failed to bring the beer fund and even denied its existence.

R.D.

Harston Rocks, October 10/11

This is a joint meet with the M.A.M. Last time we had a meet here only two members turned up - let's do better this time. Approach by rail, or bus from Leek.

Baslow, October 17/18 (Photo Meet)

The idea of this meet is to have a show of members' photographs, and perhaps a talk on mountain photography. There may be a prize for the best entry.

Berwyns, October 31/November 1

The Berwyns lie due south of Corwen, and provide grand walking. They will be new territory to most Oreads, and thus should arouse the exploratory urge.

D.C.C.

TWO ALPINE HOLIDAYS

Colin Morris has recently returned from the French Alps. He writes: "From Chamonix we scaled the N.W.Face of the Aigulle de l'M to the Pointe Alberte, then along the ridge to the summit of the M and descended to Montenvers via the long gully to the Nantillons glacier. This was followed on the Wednesday by a change meeting with P. Perkins and N. Gamble at 4 a.m., both parties heading for the Grepon. We combined forces and did the classic Grepon traverse via the Charmoz-Grepon couloir. Here falling stones came within inches of adding four names to the Alpine obituary. The summit ridge was in excellent condition and thoroughly enjoyable as if to compensate for the miserable couloir.

"From the Mountet Hut, beautifully situated amidst a cirque of Alpine giants, we climbed the Zinal Rothorn by the N.W.Ridge in perfect conditions. The panorama viewed from this summit remains as a lasting memory of a glorious fortnight".

The President meanwhile was at Zermatt. His attempt on the Rimpfischhorn was foiled by bad snow at 13000 ft. Later, on the Ober Gabelhorn, when his companion turned back near the summit, he led another party up to a great gendarme. Here three descending parties held up progress and eventually George's party turned back, again within easy reach of the top. Other ascents were Wellenkuppe on a cold misty day; Alphubel in similar conditions; and finally Allalinhorn, described by George as "a perfect little summit, a perfect day, and a perfect companion". On this last climb a snow ridge, which had to be crossed twice gave some anxiety, but fortunately no mishap occurred and our President returned to tell the tale.

OREADS IN SHORTS

A welcome word from George Kitchin, in one of our northerly outposts - he and a friend (P. Titterton) are working on a guide to Agden Rocks, and have put up some new routes. George suggests a meet there next year.

Messrs. Moore (Stan), Falkner, and Pettigrew appear in Tom Weir's book, "Camps and Climbs in Arctic Norway".

It appears that Nan Axon has either produced or is about to produce twins. Congratulations to all concerned.

Colin Morris made two strong entries for the quote of the month during the Downfall Meet: "That flake looks interesting - overhangs a bit - got good holds though - you can see where some of them have broken off". And later, on the Great Slab, "When you get to the top crack you'll find a small chockstone and you'll wonder whether it's O.K. for a pull. Well, I don't know!"

Eddie Say is now out of the forces, and back at Pirelli Ltd.

Oreads and "Coves and Crops" had a grand drinking and singing session in Zermatt, and outsang all opposition until midnight.

Stan Moore made this season's first guideless ascent of the Täscherhorn. It took him 27 hours. He was also heard by several witnesses to decline an invitation to drink beer. There is no previous known instance of this.

Knobby Clark did the Mer de Glace face of the Grepon this season. Good show, Knobby.

Chunky Cartwright has been to the Silvretta and the Bernina area, where he did some grade V ascents.

Conversation on a mantleshelf: "What are you doing with both knees on, Cole? "Praying!"

All contributions to this and other columns should be sent to the Hon. Ed., D.C.Cullum, 14 Queen's Drive, Beeston, Notts., who will be very grateful.

PRO F I L E

Robert Gavin Pettigrew started his career as a climber at the age of twelve, by the surreptitious reading of books on mountaineering (but only those by the "correct" authors) in the school library. There was no practical outcome until 1947, when he set out to climb Snowdon from Caernarvon. He gave up at Llanberis and spent a fortnight at the Rectory there. At Christmas the same year he traversed Crib Goch under snow and ice, armed only with a fireman's axe. He survived.

The salient events of his subsequent career may be outlined as follows: -

- 1948: Brief dalliance with Innominate. Made first acquaintance with gritstone with Messrs. Kershaw, Perkins and Wagstaff. Revisited Rectory.
- 1949: Joined R.A.F. Posted to Mountain Rescue at Buxton.
- 1950: Met Graham Brown at Chamonix during an R.A.F.M.A. meet. Climbed Mont Blanc and Savoy Alps with him. Started getting his pictures in the papers.
- 1951: Met Harry Pretty at White Hall and was invited to join Lyngen expedition. Got three months' paid leave (largely due to Harry's pleas) and discovery of this caused him to be dubbed "professional", "not quite a gentlemen" and finally "porter".
- 1952: Climbed in Stubai and Zillertal.
- 1953: Joined Oread Venture II (Loughborough College section).

Handsome, athletic, bearded Bob Pettigrew, known and loved by millions for his enthralling broadcasts, has endeared himself to the Oread by (among other things) his boundless youthful enthusiasm for everything he undertakes. This occasionally leads him to make more engagements than he can possibly keep, and to utter "pettigrewisms".

He is a most genial fellow, who will drink ale by the hour or tramp thirty miles in pouring rain with equal cheerfulness. He is as competent on rock as on snow and ice, but prefers the latter - a preference he attributes to that early escapade on Crib Goch. Fame and popularity seem to descend on him unsought, yet he is charmingly modest - a characteristic all the more attractive when one reflects how considerable are his achievements for a young chap of 22.