

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB.

Application for membership received from: Thomas FROST, Proposed: M. HARBY. Seconded: C. HOOLEY. Any club member wishing to state any reasons why his application should not be accepted should write to me before 12th November, 1957.

L. HATCHETT - Hon. Secretary.

The latest Circular from the British Mountaineering Council includes the following information:-

Access to the Island of Rhum

The Island of Rhum is now owned by the Nature Conservancy who have made it into a nature reserve, access to which is to be very limited. Following discussions between a representative of the Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs and British Mountaineering Council and of the Nature Conservancy arrangements have been agreed which will enable a small number of parties of club members to visit the Island at any time during the year except for a short period in April.

Parties must consist of at least three people; they must be completely self contained for food and fuel supplies, equipment and accommodation; they must make their own arrangements for transport and they must not burden the local representative of the Nature Conservancy in any way. Camping will be permitted in the mountains but no fires will be allowed. Parties must report to the keeper on arrival and carry out any instructions he may give.

For a trial period only about three club parties will be given permits to visit the Island at the same time. Applications for permits should be forwarded through club secretaries so as to reach the A.S.C.C. and B.M.C. representative Mr. K. Dunn, 1, High Street, East Linton, East Lothian, at least three weeks before date of visit, and they should give names of the party leader and other members, each member's club and period of visit.

A permit, and map to show access areas, will be issued to each party leader by the Nature Conservancy. This will not be valid until signed by the leader who in so doing will undertake to follow the rules set out by the Conservancy. The Conservancy is keen to co-operate with the A.S.C.C. and B.M.C., and to make these arrangements work successfully. It is hoped that club members visiting the Island will do all they can to foster the good relations that exist between the A.S.C.C. and B.M.C. and the Nature Conservancy.

Alpine Club Centenary Exhibition 1957

The Centenary of the Alpine Club falls on 6th November. An exhibition is to be held on the Club's premises at 74, South Audley Street, London, W. 1. in connection with the Centenary, and will open to the public from Thursday 7th November until Friday 6th December inclusive (excluding Saturdays and Sundays). The exhibition will probably be open each day from about 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., although if there is a demand it will no doubt be kept open a little later in the evening.

Admission is free; an illustrated catalogue will be on sale for those who wish to have a copy.

Allen & Unwin are to publish in English a guide book of selected climbs in the Mont Blanc range, translated from the Vallot guide and brought up to date by Members of the Alpine Climbing Group. This will be the first Alpine Guide to appear in English for over 40 years.

FIREWORKS MEET. NOV. 1st-3rd. BRYN-Y-WERN. R. HANDLEY.

There is only one bed left at the Hut for the above Meet. If you have not booked with me you've had it. The bonfire will be on Black Rock Sands as usual. (Don't forget your fireworks, I understand the seanymps will be putting in their usual appearance.) Any volunteers for the erection of the bonfire will be most welcome.

FOOT + MOUTH.

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As a result of the discussion which took place at the S.G.M. at Baslow, it was decided that the future O.M.C. Hut should, if humanly possible, be the property of the Club itself. It is evident of course that this would require a considerable amount of capital, the precise amount not being known at the present time, but a likely figure could be £600 to £700.

It is unlikely that this amount could be raised in the time available, perhaps less than 3 months, unless special arrangements are made, and the information below is an indication, without being in any way final or definitive, of the method which might well be adopted.

In the first place the sort of property which we would be likely to acquire would be such that it would probably be difficult to interest a building society or other real-estate financier in it at the present time, leaving as one alternative the formation of a private limited company. This company, when formed, would be able to offer for sale to Members shares of various types, and we are at present concerned with the type known as a "paid-up" share, which for a nominal one-pound share would require the expenditure of £1 by the purchaser. The sale of these shares would realise a certain amount of capital, according to the response, and if this proved to be adequate the company would then be in a position to consider what property could be acquired.

It is important to explain how the shares could be repaid, although at the moment the precise mechanism is not certain. The income resulting from the useage of the Hut would be partly set-aside each year for this purpose, and may in effect be that which might have been paid in rent if the Hut had been held on lease from a private landlord. The intention would be to repay one tenth of the original shares each year, by means of a draw or similar arrangement of chance, protected by suitable safeguards, and organised on a unit basis. That is, a person who holds say £10 in shares would have ten chances, while a person who holds £5 would have five chances. The holder of £10 of shares could thus expect, on average, to have £1 repaid each year. If the holder is favoured by Lady Luck he might, of course, get all his money back the first time.

None of the shares would, of course, be negotiable outside the Club Membership (No hope of playing the Stock Exchange!), but any Member wishing to regain capital would be entitled to offer his shares for sale, either to another member of the company, or to the Club. Furthermore, to avoid difficulties connected with tax, no dividend would be paid, and any excess income would either be ploughed back or used to repay shares more quickly than previously suggested.

At the present time it is still not known exactly when we shall have to quit B-y-W., but it may be found necessary to make a firm offer for such property as may become available for sale, at short notice. It is essential therefore that fairly accurate knowledge should be available to the Committee as to the capital which is likely to be subscribed, and you are invited to return the form included herewith as soon as possible, remembering that the response will determine whether we have another Hut, or not.

Handwritten in red ink:
RECEIVED
MAY 1954