

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY
1964.

The first of the new indoor meets at the New Scout Hall Borrowwash was a success. Dispite the difficulty in finding the building (some of those without map and compass had to leave their cars about half a mile away and walk across a field!) there was a good crowd although there could have been many more there.

Ray Handley gave us a showing of his excellent cine film of the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition. It was surprising how many Oreads had not seen this film. It was followed by a very good ski technique film produced in the French Alps with the aid of French ski instructors. This was certainly inspiration to the skiers in the club. The prayer wheels were certainly turning for snow that night!

Afterwards the Gadsbys helped by Norma (S) provided tea and coffee. It was quite a change to see the hard drinkers in the club behind a cup on a Tuesday Night!

There will be another good evening on the second Tuesday of Next Month, that is March 10th. Do get along if you can.

In this edition of the Newsletter is a Letter from George Sutton and a reply from Brian Cooke, I can see that these will only be the forerunners of quite a few letters on the subject. I think that George's great mistake in his letter is to take seriously James's remark about his wife. All I can say is after reading a copy of the letter the little bit about George's wife was a typical Jamesism, and George should have realised that. The joker of the club can't resist his little quip!

OREADS IN SHORTS

NEW MEMBER

IAN FLINT. 10, Stevenson Crescent, Sutton in Ashfield Notts.

Roger Turner is a member of the Peak Committee of the B.M.C. and not the Peak Park Planning Board as stated in the last Newsletter.

OREADS IN SHORTS - NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 1964

While walking over Bleaklow one week end quite recently, Burgess and party were almost blown off their feet by a blast of explosive. Yes, the rest of Yellow Slacks had just gone up in dust! The party rushed over to the scene of the crime to find the little dictator farmer gloating over his handy work, supported by a crowd of locals, and the local bobby who had supervised the deed. The result of this wanton destruction is that a compulsory purchase order, for what is left of the rocks and the surrounds, has been made by the authority, a bit late but action never the less. Let's hope it discourages other farmers from doing the same kind of thing.

Contributions for the next Newsletter urgently required.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Jan 21st 64.

I am not satisfied with the way the hut is run - or with the Committee of 1962/63!! They were not satisfied with me either - but never said why.

In October 1962 the Oberfuhrer of the Hut forbade all Curlew M.C. to use it again - which, of course, included myself. But he never said why! "Complaints had been made" he said - but I was never able to find out who made them, or what about!!

You may not be aware that there is a powerful and sinister group at work in the Oread - it is not the Beatles - but it is strong enough to stop someone who was Founder of the Club, a past President, and a current Hon. Member from finding out what scurrilous deed he and his friends are accused of! And who made the accusations? And on what basis? Is this justice? - is it fair? - Is it ruddy well friendly?

I appealed to the then Committee, but obviously they had been got at by the sinister group - I was not given a chance to put my view I was still not told what I'd done wrong, (or me mates); or which powerful people in the Club had laid complaints so fervent and secret that I should be exiled and their names not known!

Worst of all, Janes was told to write me a letter. Janes had obviously been got at, brain washed, indoctrinated - the lot. His letter rendered me quite speechless for a year. It said I know the Committee would support the Hut Hitler - I did not!! Unless - they've been got at; beers at the Bell, reserved beds for our mates, banishment of everyone we don't like, vote ourselves back in at next A.G.M. to accompaniment of pats on back and applause - self administered of course. Janes said he hoped my Wife was not a member of Curlew M.C. - she was; an officer. She is a trained social worker - responsible for the aiding in the solution of social problems of all the patients attending her hospital. Other members of the Curlew M.C., on the meet, were teachers, civil servants, heads of departments in firms, youth workers, and probation officers - not a hooligan among the lot of them. I wonder why Janes hoped my Wife was not a Curlew M.C. member? I resent the implications of that remark.

I have appealed since to the President, One Jack Ashcroft, but this has so far produced no result, though Jack has been producing results elsewhere, so that's perhaps why!

As a last resort I appeal to the club via the Newsletter to elect a Committee which will be fair, and a Hut Warden who will be able to act sensibly in such situations, It is too late to help my case, I fear, but I have not used the Hut since, and will not until some proper management is introduced.

18, Regent Rd.,
Wallasey.

Yours faithfully,

George Sutton.

Before publishing the above letter I thought it only fair that the Committee should be given the chance to put their views in the same edition of the Newsletter. Brian Cooke, who was President of the club at the time referred to in George's letter, has replied.- Editor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Editor, Newsletter,

5 Feb 1964.

Dear Sir,

To the majority of active club members today, George Sutton's letter will come as a surprise from someone who as Founder of the club is a complete stranger to them. What is all this about? Briefly the facts are as follows.

(1) In October 1962, a party of Curlew M.C. from Merseyside stayed as guests at the Hut for a weekend. Several Oread Members were also staying there at the same time.

The Hut Warden received several complaints afterwards that the Curlew club had been very slovenly in the way in which they had lived at the Hut and had left the Hut, on Sunday, in an untidy state, e.g., dishes unwashed, dormitoria's unswept etc., no need to go into details.

(2) The Hut Warden who had been responsible for allowing the Curlew Club to use the Hut as guests (Under Club Rule 7 (6)) in the first place, felt that he could no longer allow this club to use the Hut. He notified George Sutton accordingly and then told the Committee at their next meeting.

(3) The Committee, after hearing the evidence from letters of club Members, felt that the Hut Wardens action was understandable in view of his responsibility to the Club in the management of the Hut. However the committee had received a very indignant letter from George Sutton, in which however he did apologise for the Curlew's behaviour at the hut that Week end. But he felt very strongly that their behaviour (not uncommon to a certain extent by certain members in climbing clubs in all walks of life) did not justify banishment from the Hut.

(4) The Committee decided that Curlew Club members should in future only be allowed to use the Hut as guests of George Sutton, when he would naturally take the responsibility for their behaviour away from the Hut Warden. If advantage had been taken of this offer, a better appreciation made of the Hut, and more consideration given to other Hut users by members of the Curlew M.C., the Oread Committee would then be in a position to reconsider the case.

Until George Sutton accepts this conditioned use of the Hut by Curlew Club Members, we have a stalemate. Perhaps the New Committee will find an acceptable solution.

Yours etc,

Brian Cooke

President 1962/63.

Well, now you have seen both sides of the problem. I can't help feeling that this is rather a storm in the proverbial. It's been going on now for about two years. Personally (my view and not a committee view necessarily) I think the Curlew now realise how serious mis-behavior at the Hut is viewed, not to do it again. Why not say that they are welcome to stay at the hut when it is available? Perhaps the A.G.M will be a good time to hear what the Club think. I hope George will be there.

A REPORT FROM R.G.P. IN INDIA.

Expeditions 1963.

On 7 October 1963, Bob Pettigrew and the Ladakhi Wangyal climbed the un-named pass of 16,391 ft. between Kulu and Bara Bangahal in the Dhaula Dhar range of the Punjab Himalaya. The pass is marked on the Survey of India Sheet 52H/SW, somewhat optimistically, as carrying a track westwards from the head of the Solang nullah, where we camped at 12,000 ft., into the valley of the Bara Bangahal. The new border road from Manali to the Rhotang La runs past the entrance to Soland nullah at Fulcham - a distance of 6 miles. The pass is situated a further 10 miles and 9,000 ft. up the nullah in the terminal west wall which also forms the east face of the great ridge that runs from south to north linking Pk. 19,450 ft. (Bruce's Soland Weisshorn, known to the local hillmen as Hanuman Tibba) with Pk. 19,910 ft. Mukar Beh. In a brief reference to this pass in H.J., Vol.V, 1933, A.P.F. Hamilton described it as both difficult and high (16,890 ft.). A prominent, curved couloir which retained snow, though the lower wall had none, accommodated us for three-quarters of the climb. The last quarter was made in a poor relation; a steep little gully choked with rotten scree right up to the crest of the ridge. This was the water-shed. The aneroid barometer registered 16,000 ft., agreeing neither with Hamilton nor the Survey of India. We had a splendid view of the probably unclimbed north ridge of Pk. 19,450 (Hanuman Tibba). It rises some 3,000 ft. to the south of the pass, is more than a mile long and offers some magnificent snow aretes. The view west into the upper Bara Bangahal showed an easy glacier landing down at a gentle angle. The difficulties, such as they are, lie on the Solang on east side. This appears to be a new pass for mountaineers from Europe but it has obviously been used in the past by the nomadic shepherds known as ghaddis.

On 12 October 1963 the same pair reached the summit of an un-climbed and un-named peak at the westernmost point of the north containing wall of the Soland nullah. It is situated 2 miles south of Mukar Beh, 19,910 ft. and 2 miles west of Shiti Dhar, 17,358 ft. Its height by aneroid barometer is 17,525 ft. The summit climb along the east ridge, with occasional excursions onto the north face, was made from a camp at 16,500 ft. situated on the neve of the glacier draining south into the Soland nullah. Good all-round views were obtained of the impressive and little known mountains, such as Mukar Beh, at this northern extremity of the Dhaula Dhar range. Mention must be made, too, of the edelweiss growing in profusion on a grassy alp between 13,500 ft. and 12,500 ft. and noted by us during the descent. The full party consisted of I.A. Menzies, Bob Pettigrew and the Ladakhis Wangyal and Zangbo.

Bon Pettigrew.

ACCESS ON TO TRYFAN
GWERN-y-GOF UCHAF FARM

ROGER TURNER.

Mr. Williams of the above farm has complained that people approaching Tryfan through his property sometimes cross over his fences instead of using the styles which he has himself provided. Apparently the people in question are those who approach from the direction of Capel Curig, past Gwern-y-Gof Isaf and the London University Club hut, and then turn up on the mountains too soon, over Williams fence, instead of going a little further towards his house and then crossing up by the stiles.

At a time like this, when when we are having trouble with landowners and farmers, it is vitally important that we should maintain good relations where we have them. Mr Williams is one of the most Co-operative of farmers in the area and has always for many years welcomed visitors to the hills over his land, and it is therefore especially desirable that we should observe his reasonable wishes in this respect.

The work on access agreements for the Nant Francon area is progressing steadily and actual negotiations will be begun with the N.F.U. before very long.

HUT BOOKINGS.

The Hut at Rhyd ddu is booked, all but 1. room which is reserved for Oread use, on the following dates.

March 20/22nd (Tower Mountaineering
April 10/12th Club)

Some Recent and Future Meets.

Geoff Hayes.

The FROGGATT MEET was based on the Bob Downes Hut. This proved very popular with Oreads and others. It was good to see Marion Cooke out on a meet once again, Brian was the baby sitter for the week end. A number of "Day Trippers" appeared on Sunday and the Nottingham Skating section made good use of the Ice on Longshaw Lake. Skating proved to be quite gripping, almost V.S. for exposure because the thaw had set in and as people moved across the lake they were proceeded by thin cracks in the ice! This proved too much for Rod Craddock who upon doing a quick about turn sat down and went straight through. The weather was also good enough for climbing and a number of parties were seen on Froggatt edge

LANGDALE. Once again Raw Head cottage was used as a base for the meet. But this year further accommodation was required and the 'Barn' at Raw Head and 'Bishops Scale' hut were used. I'm sure that the hard work done by the meet leader, Brian Cooke, was the main reason why this meet was so popular and such a success. The 3/ Oreads and friends who were in Langdale had an excellent week end with more than perfect weather. On Saturday climbing parties were at work on Raven Crag, Bow Fell, White Ghyll, Tarn Crag, Pavey Ark and particurlarly Gimmer.

RECENT AND FUTURE MEETS Continued.....

On Saturday afternoon at least 9 parties of Oreads were fighting it out on Gimmer and in particular Amen Corner - I should know I'm still stiff from my punny efforts and I expect many others are also!

Back at the hut the main entertainment of the evening, apart from gossip about a certain couple who had disappeared alone all day and most of the night, was a slide show featuring 'The Oread' - a collection of portraits Etc., by Gordon Gadsby and Geoff Hayes. This proved so popular that when the drinking party returned there was a repeat of the best slides which included two slides, one of Janes and the other of Handley, which showed these two in their own right. For permission to view see Gordon. Burgess finished the evening in his usual fine style by hanging by a foot from a noose suspended from the roof - he was of course rather 'well on' at the time!

Although the weather was not quite so sunny on Sunday it was nice and fine and pleasantly warm for the rock. A party of veterans from the club managed to get over to Far Easedale and climb on of the classics there.

The following are some of the routes climbed by those on the Meet:- Raven Crag- Middlefell Buttress, Oak Tree Wall, Original Walk, Snaverake, Kneewrecker Chimney. Bow Fell- Bow Fell Buttress. Pavey Ark- Crescent Slab, Gwynne's Chimney, Cook's Tour, White Ghyll- Slabs route one and Route Two. Gimmer- Main Wall, Bracket and Slab, 'B' route, Herdwick Buttress, Ash tree slabs, Palid Slabs. Easedale- Deer Bield Chimney. Not a bad collection for a week end in February.

To complete the list here are the members and friends on the meet: Brian Cooke, Pete Janes Geoff Gibson, Jack Ashcroft, Ray Handley Tom Frost, Mike Doyle, Dave Williams, Derick Burgess. (all in the barn) John Welbourne, Colin Hobday, Gordon and Dreen Gadsby, Mick and Celia Berry, Sandy McGibbon, Paul and Rod Craddock, Geoff Hayes, Guy Lee, Bill, Margaret Lowe and Chrises Martin and Culley, (all in the Cottage) Loyd and Mary Carris, and four prospective Members (in Bishops Scale). Sorry I forgot Barry Williams and Susan who were also in the Cottage, (The Hames Room).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING * BASLOW MARCH 14th.

I expect most of you saw the typical Newsletter clanger. The date of the A.G.M is as above and not as printed in the last edition of the Newsletter.

Do try to get along to the "Prince of Wales" at 7.30pm. It looks as though this years meeting will be 'interesting'.

EASTER MEET IN SCOTLAND.

GORDON GADSBY WILL BE LEADING THE MEET IN GLENCOE. FOR DETAILS OF CAMP SITE AND TRANSPORT SEE GORDON AND THE NEXT MEETS CIRCULAR. OREADS IN SHORTS - NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 1964

Just Heard the Quote of the Year from Doreen Gadsby. - "If you want to be known in the Oread you have to do unusual things at night! "