

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1964.

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

Inside this Newsletter you will read of the successful ascent of a , what was, a virgin 21,000 ft peak in the Himalaya by a small expedition whose leader was no other than Bob Pettigrew. Although only a preliminary report by Bob it does give some idea of the achievement and I look forward to publishing the full details in a future Newsletter.

Since the early days of the Oread, even before Pettigrew was a member of the club's expedition to Arctic Norway he has had the greatest enthusiasm for mountains and every aspect of Mountaineering, and it is fitting that this has resulted in the conquest of such a fine peak. Those who know Pettigrew will realise that this is not the conclusion of his dreams and expect to see him back, as keen as ever, in the Mountains he loves.

Bob's enthusiasm is still reflected in the Oread, although he has been out of this country for over two years, by the number of members who are keen climbers and who were introduced to the club and to mountaineering by him.

Although living so far away Bob is still keenly interested in the Oread and is one of the first to praise or offer advice. The Pettigrew family are hoping to return to this country at about the time of the 1965 Annual Dinner. I'm sure the Oread will then give a fitting welcome back to a man who has done so much for the Club and British Mountaineering.

Tragedy struck the Happy group of 15 Oread Members and friends who were camping and climbing at Saas Fee.

On Wednesday July 29th, Guy Lee, Chris Culley and Martin Jarvey left the village and walked up to the Mischable Hut where they biv. ed. the night. They started up the North East face of the Lenspitz (a fine looking snow-ice cliff). At approx. 7am stones falling from the summit ridge were falling very close to the party and it was while this was happening that Martin slipped pulling Chris off backwards and Guy was unable to hold them both on his belay. All three fell and cleared the bergsrund landing on the snowfield. Martin was killed and Chris suffered cuts to the face and legs, Guy was only bruised. The body was taken down to the valley by helicopter and Chris followed after a considerable time and was taken to the hospital at Visp. Guy was able to walk down.

The rest of the party were up at the Britannia hut when they heard the news of the accident. Chris was visited every day by his friends and after a few days discharged himself from the hospital. Martin's body was flown back to England for Cremation at Mansfield at which the Oread was represented. Martin, although not a member of the Oread was a friend of the Sutton and district group of the club. He had been out on club meets at Glencoe and the Dane Valley as well as having climbed with club members.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his parents and family

## THE ASCENT OF KULU PUMORI, 21,500 ft.

### PUNJAB HIMALAYA

#### Preliminary Report

In H.J. Vol XXIII, 1961 page 60 J.P.O'F. Lynam writes of a lovely peak of 21,500 ft., resembling the Shreckhorn, attempted by Gwynn Stephenson and Harold Mellor of his party during the Bara Shigri expedition of 1961. They reached a height of 19,000 ft on the formidable north-west ridge but were then forced by illness to retire.

The first ascent of this mountain (now named Kulu Pumori) was made on June 6th 1964 by a party consisting of Dr. Franz Mohling (American Alpine Club), myself, and the Ladakhis Wangyal and Ang Cook of Manali.

Twelve valley porters, including one Sherpani, were employed to establish the party near the snout of the Bara Shigri glacier in the valley of the Chandra river of Lahul. From Manali the route lay over the Rohtang La, 13,050 ft., to enter the snow-bound Chandra valley and then turned south-east for a march of 25 miles in stages between the rest-houses of Chhetru, Chota Dara, and Batal near the Kunzum La, 14,931 ft., the pass between Lahul and Spiti.

We left Manali on May 12th and, after a day's delay due to a storm on the pass, entered the Chandra valley. The valley porters were paid off on May 17th in a camp near the snout of the Bara Shigri glacier. Thereafter the work of ferrying stores and equipment was borne equally between the four climbers.

Base Camp at Concordia, the junction of several glaciers, was finally established on May 28th, despite prolonged bad weather, with food supplies for a further 21 days including caches at intervals on the glacier.

Two days were spent in reconnaissance after which the routes selected by Lynam's party on the north-west ridge, and the eastern approaches to the mountain, were both ruled out. We decided to seek a route on the south-west ridge the foot of which seemed accessible from a small neve draining the south face of Pumori. Accordingly, Advanced Base Camp was sited on the main southern tributary glacier of the Bara Shigri, near the junction of the neve icefall from the south face of the mountain, and beneath the impressive rock spire of Lal Nila (Red Fort) 20,830 ft.

Two ridge camps were successively established on the crest of the south west ridge at 19,000 ft., and 20,000 ft. From the latter at 6 a.m. on June 6th Wangyal and myself climbed to the summit via the south-west ridge, making a diversion onto the steep snowfield of the south face to avoid a rock step a few hundred feet above Camp 2, and regaining the ridge just short of the summit. This, a perfect snow cone, was sited some way to the north-west along a spectacular and corniced snow ridge. The time was 9 a.m., and, for once the day was clear- permitting the identification of many mountain groups and their individual peaks as well as a round of photography. We commenced the descent at 9.30 a.m., and reached Camp 2 at 10.45 a.m.

Three days later, June 9th Franz Mohling and Ang Cook repeated the ascent.

We withdrew from the mountains on June 13th, heavily laden, and re-entered Manali on June 20th.

Bob Pettigrew.



OREADS IN SHORTS ETC!

NEW ADDRESS.

All contributions to the Newsletter (I've not had any for some time) should now be sent to

Geoff Hayes.  
18, Endsleigh Gardens,  
BEESTON,  
Notts.

It was not worth publishing a newsletter last month because of lack of contributions. If you had a good summer holiday please write a few lines and send it to the above address, and meet leaders please let's have the meets reports as soon after the week end as possible.

Overheard on the Cader meet. Doreen again! " You can come round and do it in our little room Rod!

Is it true that the Oread official Bog tent was seen in a field at Conniston on the Dow Crag meet? Further information is required from chief Bog Tender Fred.

And while we are on that subject Ray Handley has his sharp eye on the patch of ground where Fred Allan erected 'That Tent' quite a time ago. He reported that the spot had gone - under a tent, on Saturday morning!

FOR SALE

Ski Trousers, Tereylene, waist and leg 32 ins. price one pound.

Ski Sticks alloy baskets need slight repair price one pound.  
For above apply C. Mobday.

HUT BOOKINGS FOR YOUR DIARY

Oct 9th/11th Derby Mercury Club (Block Booking) +  
Oct 16th/18th Oread M.c. Working Party (Block Booking)  
Oct 23rd/ 25th Derby Tech. Col Climbing Group (Partial Booking )(15 beds) +  
Oct 30th/Nov 1st Oread member private party (Block Booking)  
Nov 13th/15th Oread member private party (Block Bookin )  
Nov 20th/22nd Bowline M.C. (Partial Booking 15 beds) +

Bookings by other clubs + ref. Hut Rules.

Jack Longland recently donated the 15 guineas he received for his work on the revised edition of Teach Yourself Mountain Climbing to the British Mountaineering Council Memorial Hut Fund.

Ordnance Survey Maps.

Peak District Map. A new edition, enlarged to cover the whole of the National Park, has been published..

The Lake District. This map has been reprinted to show a large number of specially surveyed footpaths. In addition, the reprinted sheet emphasises mountain rescue posts by underlining them in red. This will be adopted as normal practice on Tourist maps.

Cairngorms. The long awaited sheet to cover the whole of the Cairngorms including Lochnagar is now available. It is a splendid production produced specially for the outdoor man, it shows all ski tows and runs and the main Rock climbing Areas. The price of 10/6d paper and 15/- cloth may seem a bit high until one compares it with the other sheets in the Tourist series.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

Snowdonia. There is no one inch Tourist map of this area and as far as can be gathered none is planned. The half inch series O.S. map is being enlarged to cover the whole of the National Park.

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1964

Rumor has it that a certain member of the Oread (one who sports a beard and lives at Rhyd Ddu - well almost) has applied to be issued with a black peaked cap and whistle. It is quite likely that this rumor has some foundation. The old railway track from Caernarvon to Bedgellert is in the process of renovation and it won't be long before our hut is the half way station! Are the committee to discuss the idea that Tan Y Wyddiffa be once again opened as a snack bar? This sounds quite an idea to help the clubs finances. Upon seeing the progress on the railway outside the hut recently, Welbourn was heard to state that the time would soon be here when Oread members would be sitting on the wall outside the hut awaiting their clients to alight from the early morning train eager to be guided up into the fantastic world of Snowdon. Get your Ice axes ready chaps and don't let the guides from other valleys step in on our ground. We have a right to keep our Hornli Grat.

NEW ADDRESS

Clive (Rusty) Russell has moved further North his new abode is.  
55, Wood Lane,  
Rothwell,  
Yorks.

Some Recent and Future Meets

Geoff Hayes.

Since the last Newsletter there has been a very well supported group of meets. I seem to remember I lead a successful one at Buttermere quite some time ago. There was a good turn out of course and the weather was reasonable. A party went over to Pillar and the walkers went Newlands way. The Fish Hotel provided light and heavy entertainment in the evening, there was quite a good sing song. Although it was a bit damp on Sunday climbing was done in Burtness Coombe. The ladies were out in force there. Maria Handley, Janet Burgess, Doreen Gadsby and Anne Hayes all managed to 'get up' a climb despite the gase.

The next meet was lead by Burgess and true to the title it was a Limestone one. Ravensdale and Stoney 'Mid' were the centre of operations on Saturday and Water Cum Jolly was at least looked at on Sunday. A number of members walked 'The Dales'

Rusty's meet was a true Stannage One with quite a crowd camping and many more turned out as 'day Trippers.

I was away at the time of the Cloggy and Tremadoc meets and I heard very little about the climbing in Wales. But at least routes were done on the 'Big Cliff' despite damp conditions. And the Tremadoc meet was well attended, Oreads camping at that nice camp site in the Gwynant.

The Hut was full at August Bank Holiday. The weather was perfect throughout Britain except for North Wales and Rhyd ddu was covered in mist most of the week end but it did not dampen the spirits of the Oread, usually it was a case of down to the coast to find a bit of sun, but climbing was done.



Dow Crag

Chris Martin.

The Blue Mini complete with myself as driver and Margaret as navigator set off from Nottingham in high spirits having heard the weather forecast for the week end of "fine sunny weather". However the high spirits soon changed to moans and curses as first of all we took a wrong turning off the Leak - Congleton road and found ourselves heading in the opposite direction to the Lakes and then having corrected ourselves and managed to get onto the M 6 it began to pour heavily with rain. Fortunately the rain did not last long and by the time we pulled into 'Fortes' it had stopped. Here we found Barry Williams and Sue, Chris Culley and Bill Kirk consuming large quantities of egg and chips. A few minutes later Gordon, Doreen, George and Janet arrived. Having had our rolls on the way up!! all we required were hot drinks before continuing onto Torver. We were met the village by a L!C & C!C member and a worried looking character by the name of Ashcroft. It turned out that Jack was searching for three friends, who were supposed to be stopping at the hut. But owing to Jack giving them wrong directions they parked their car on the Coniston to Walna Scar track and consequently had to walk about three miles to the Hut! Arriving at the hut we found Geoff and Anne, Ian flint, Derrick Burgess and Janet, Ray and Maria, Nat and Tinsel and what appeared at first sight to be a large number of L!C & C!C members, however everybody got sorted out and it was found that Ashcrofts Friends? had made it. Everyone got a bed and I believe slept well.

The morning greeted us with brilliant sunshine but quite a wind blowing. Most people decided to go over to Dow where the hard team of Burgess Handy and Allen climbed Eliminate 'A!' and numerous other top grade climbs and other parties climbed Giants Crawl, Ordinary Route 'C', Gordon and Craigs, and Murrays route Etc., Dave Williams and Laurie Burns and his corgi 'Pooch' joined us at Dow having spent the night sleeping in the car.

In the evening, Rod, Paul and Leri (The Lion) arrived having left Nottingham at Lunchtime. Those who had not gone down to the 'Church' in the village were entertained by a slide show with Geoff, Gordon, Rod and myself providing the slides. Following up the slides was a general sing song, the last voices getting to bed about 2.0 am.

Sunday morning was again bright and sunny with an almost cloudless sky. Again most people went over to Dow. Paul Craddock went up the 'Old Man' and then down to Coniston to join the Sutton Team on the lake with speedboats. Margaret and myself went over the 'Old Man' and then down to Coniston and walked back along the lakeside. Arriving at the campsite on the banks of the lake side we found the Ashcrofts complete with marquee and friends. Jack admitted he had done nothing all day and when the topic changed to the Marsden - Rowsley walk and getting fit for same he replied 'It is doubtful whether I shall be on it this year and besides having been on that meet so many times now I could do it blindfold'. (Would anybody like to accompany Jack to prove he really can do it Blindfold!!)

Also camping alongside the Lake were Fred Allen and family and Pete Janes and family. At Torver the dormobile of Roger and Beryl Turner accompanied by Brian Cooke, was parked. Besides the campers and dormobilers there were 28 staying at the Hut making a grand total of 47 members, friends and children who all helped to patronise the meet. Thank you everybody for making it such a successful one.

THE FAR CUILLIN

BRIAN COOKE

Skye for a week! It's not worth it but by Dormobile we made it i.e., Penlington, Ashcroft, Richardson, Kershaw and Cooke, and for the first two days in Glen Sligachan it was hell and high water and survival of the fittest. Luckily the weather changed before we had to retreat to Jack's standing bivvy by the Bloody Stone in Harta Corrie. Tuesday it cleared and we traversed Clach Glas and Blaven, and Big Jim fished the lochs on the way back from Camasunary. Wednesday again fine so Wal and Brian tried a route on Marsco Buttress, Jim and Dave sank a worm or two and Jack planned a 2pm start for the Main Ridge of the Cuillin with meticulous care and minimum grub. We left camp about 4p.m. and took the path to Coruisk and Scavaig, a beautiful Summer evening. In the calm bay of Scavaig, a small schooner was moored. We thought of Murray and Co., feeding on board the McBrayne steamer. However Jack not to be out done, charmed the female occupants of the memorial climbing Hut into making first an Ashcroft brew, and then with pity for the rest of us, a good brew of their own! Their men folk looked on with concern for their rations as 5 Oreads tucked into the sugar and the biscuits. Leaving the hut about 7 we skirted round the rocks of the Cove and made our way up to the left of the Mad Burn and onto the N!N! shoulder of Gars-Bheinn. By the head waters of the burn we had our evening meal on the precious 'gaz' stove and filled our water bottles for the Main Ridge, to last as it turned out until 2p.m. the next day. The top of the 'Guards van' was reached about 11 p.m. and we started the traverse looking for a suitable Bivvy spot. After passing several, and an hour later we stopped on the way up Sgurr nan Eag. A reluctant Jack made another brew before turning into the top 5' of his 10' long plastic bag. Wal and Brian were using the bottom 5' as a ground sheet. Dave put on another pair of socks and also disappeared into a plastic bag. Wal and Jim had sleeping bags Brian a Duvet and Pied. A calm evening, a beautiful dying red sunset and many lights twinkling among the far isles. We all had a good doze and stired ourselves about 4am to a glorious dawn of clear fresh sunlight. We packed quickly deciding to breakfast later. The Ridge, sharply defined by the morning sun and long shadows, stretched out invitently before us.

Breakfast on Dubh Na Da Bheinn after a tussle with an unexpected 60' tower on the previous Bealach. After a brew and rations we were ready for the Thearlaich Dubh gap. Down the rope easy, up the polished groove on the other side, good hand holds, haul up the sacks and we were on our way again for the round of Corie Lagan. We doffed our hats to Alasdair as we passed by along the roof like ridge of Thearlaich to Ahic Coinnich. An stack and the Inaccessable loomed ahead, bright and warm in the sun.

Staircase like rocks took us ever upwords to the narrow crest of the Pinnacle. Last man roping down, enviously watched the others starting a second Breakfast about 10am. Sgur nan Gillean didn't look quite so far away. Water now became strictly rationed, as we pursued the relentless up-down ridge. Brian walked on the principle of two glucose on a 'down' to make sure of making the next 'up'. Big Jim the great prophet fortold of water issuing from a certain rock and green pastures ahead. Even heartless Jack was prepared to rest a while in this promised land! A surprising amount of rock work had to be done, and exposed place past before we got there about 1pm.

It had grown cooler and the sky clouded over and a few drops of rain had fallen. This was Bealach 2510 and Jim's prophesies had come true.



The Far Cuillin continued.....

We ate and drank our fill, and dropped off to sleep until wakened by screaming sea gulls who were fighting over the crumbs from our table. Jack swears they must have pinched his plastic bag containing the only matches! However we now had plenty of water, and suprisingly refreshed from the sleep, the An Castell ridge lead quickly to Belach na Frithe despite the great gash separating the two peaks. Here we saw our first climbers that day and there were a few more around the 'Tooth'. Naismiths route looked quite formidable after 10 hours on the ridge but proved reasonable and exhilarating on closer acquaintance. Penlington produced a boulder problem crack to reach the top of the peak (grade A1)!

At last only Sgurr nan Gillean remained. Interesting chimneys, pinnacles and large blocks lead to the top at about 7pm.

We looked back of course along the darkening outline of the twenty or so tops that we had traversed and each felt that it had been a 'good day', no records broken, but if we hadn't waited so often for the 'old man' to catch up the time would have been much better!

No one was interested in Sgurr na h'Uamha and we flopped down into the tents about 9pm.

Friday was spent 'sinking woras' , going back up Sgurr nan Gillean to find an anorack dropped the night before on the last descent; until we struck camp, marched out of the Glen, down to the Van and glorious beer.

Less said about the journey back the better. Its not a good idea to go via Stirling: or argue about which petrol stations stay open all night until you run out of petrol. However its worth going to Skye for a week - if you'r lucky!

WANTED! Pair of ski Boots size 7 1/2 - 8. Write to Mick Berry,  
7, Aldersgate,  
New Mills,  
Deroyshire.

Gordon Gadsby had a saturday at home recently - gardening! And the decay has gone even further, he has invested? in a monster Gaz stove he states that it's just to keep Doreen quiet at weekends!

Rod Craddocks red brick (v.n) was recently given a new lease of life. Rod is now waiting for a super duper premium petrol to be developed to stop the thing pinking!

Mick Berry has discovered a new Gritstone Outcrop. Deciding not to keep it secret he reveals its position in this Newsletter. It's in his back garden at New Mills! He unearthed it or at least part of it with a spade. Any Oread who wishes to take part in this exciting further development should contact Mick who will be only too pleased to provide the necessary tools. How about a Working Party Meet? He badly needs room for that garage.

some recent and futur meets continued.....

Owing to Continental holidays the meet in the Manifold during August was not too well supported. Burgess tells of 'one of the most exposed routes in England' which was climbed on this meet.

One of the best attended and sunniest meets of the year was the one at Dow Crag and I'm pleased to say at last a meet leader has turned up with a report. Thanks Chris!

Perfect weather again on the Roaches enabled many fine routes to be 'written off'. Hen Cloud got a look at too. It was nice to see the Cullum family out on this meet and also the one at Cadder. Charlie seems as keen as ever which is encouraging when you realise that many of the Old faces who were the spirit of the Oread in the past and are not seen between dinners.

Cadder proved popular this year. About 50 members and friends on this meet. Surely this must be a record for a Welsh Meet for some considerable time. I'm hoping for a report in the next Newsletter even if it only tells the tale of Janes riding on the childrens train down on the coast!

Well the social season is about on the way and ones mind turns to the thoughts of the Photo meet on 24th Oct. Milner is judge again this year so it will be a popular meet. Dont forget it is to be held at the Royal Oak Bakewell at 7.30 pm. Get there early for a good seat. Janes is providing one or two pornographic shotsto compete with those of Pretty's

Not quite a social meet is the Marsden-Rowsley. By the time you get this Newsletter it will have been walked (if anyone turns out!). Is Ashcroft trying to do a Pretty by arranging a meet that covers the same ground as the Bull Stones walk next month.

The dinner at he Green Man is on Nov 21st tickets will soon be on sale. There will be the usual crowd even if it's only to see me get a mug - I Hope!

Many Oreads will be featured in the Pantomime which is one of the highlights of the Bonfire Meet at Ilam on Nov 7th. Its always a good 'dc' that week end and if you have never seen one of the Pantomimes you have missed a real treat. The other highlight of the week end is the cross country race through the Dove (it usually is 'through') will there be a strong Oread meet this year, I mean year, hope we won't be in the rear on the Sunday morning. If Dave Williams can cycle out from Derby to run and finish in the race (as he did last year) I should think many others could drive to the start.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS!

Bankers Order Forms are to be issued to simplify the payment of subscriptions.

#### NEW HANDBOOK.

The proofs are now being read and the new edition should soon be issued

#### ELECTRIC METER AT TAN YR WYDFFA

THIS was installed recently and should mean more value for your 'Bobs'. The meter can be adjusted to summer and winter requirements.