

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1966.

ESKDALE WHITSUNTIDE

NAT ALLEN

EXTRACT - NEWSLETTER JUNE '66

As Laurie Burns said on Whit, Saturday "The Brandy Ball's here to stay!" and stay it did. And Oread's who were fortunate enough to be camped on Brothkerheld farms delightful site, with us, had, what the experts said was the best weather for 40 years.

Saturday morning saw feverish activity, as everyone left early to make the most of the good weather. ~~the sun shined brightly, the sea, and the rest of~~

Many good climbs were done, the pick was 'Speedy' Smith and Des Hadlum's (R&I) ascent of the central pillar of Esk Buttress. One of the Lake districts hardest climbs, and Derrick Burgess's fine lead of Hell's Groove. Plus many other Scafell Classics. ~~Pat was back at camp, Pat Cook whilst lighting the stove fired the tent, and escaped quite easily without hurt or loss of equipment, except of course for the tent.~~

Sunday dawned just as good as the previous day and another rush was made for Scafell, with routes such as Gremlin Grooves, Yellow Slab, Botterills Slab and a heroic lead by an Oread on Moss Ghyll Grooves in an Angle-Summit, Rock and Ice, Oread Party, comprising of 'Big George' Potts, 'Oxfam' Tabs and R.J. Cumberford who were all rescued by George Reynolds on the crux. ~~the noise almost knocking Burgess off the direct start.~~ Brian Cooke 'clocked in' with the meet leader on Mickledore, explaining that he and Jack Ashcroft could not camp with us due to the lack of traffic lights on the farm track. The day finished with nude bathing (all Male) several brass objects being observed in the stream! Whilst the men retired to the 'Bower House' the ladies had a rowdy Hen Party for Ronnie Leeson in the 'George'. She is of course about to take on a great weight in the shape of Johnny Cordon.

Monday again saw a rush for Esk Buttress and Scafell, 'Patch' Handley and Ray College did great Central on Esk and Geoff Hayes completed the demisk of Moss Ghyll Grooves. Messers Cordon and Appleby ascended Pillar via the Wastdale Head Hotel, and Burgess lead the steep and difficult Gormongast on Heron Crag. All hands descending to the superb swimming Pool just above the camp site, for fun and games.

The ranks had thinned for Tuesday. Routes on Heron Crag were done. Welbourne was seen on Mickledore (first time for 22 years) and three of us did overhanging wall and white slab on Scafell. Handley having his forth bog at 'Cam Spout' This being now known as 'Brown Spout'. The remnants left for home, grudgingly leaving the Welbournes and Laurie who were staying for more.

Members Present:

Pat and Doug Cook, Geoff and Anne Hayes, George and Janet Reynolds Ray and Maria Handley, Derrick and Janet Burgess, Ruth and John Welbourne, Laurie Burns, John Fisher, Dave and Wendy Appleby, Brian and Marion Cooke, Jack and Janet Ashcroft, John Cordon, Ronnie Leeson, Rusty Russell and Jean Tinsel and Nat Allen plus friends Ray College, Spedy Smith, Des Hadlum, Midge and the Summit M.C. en block.

Many thanks to all contributors to this edition of the Newsletter, keep up the good work! . gh .

For some strange reason this meet that must, weatherwise at least, go down as one of the most outstanding, was poorly attended, and it remained for the Derby team to keep the Oread colours flying. A small (very) contingent arrived on the Friday evening and camped at the head of the valley and were joined next morning by the Westons, our (dis)honorable President (waited upon by the Allens (junior and senior), and the old retainer Williams .

R.H. and myself besported ourselves on the North Crag (Shivering) whilst the others sauntered their way around the cwm, we were impressed by Styx, an excellent line, and Stygian Wall - a very steep route, liberally dotted with rusty pegs. Nat Allen, Ray Colledge (MAM) and Derek Carnell (Summit) arrived, and in the afternoon we felt sufficiently reinforced to visit the village to invade the local pub.

Dismay, the lounge had been extended and was full of local jobs and yobesses packed around formica topped tables getting noisily sozzled. We managed to squeeze into the bar, won a table and proceeded to get quietly sozzled. Dave Williams celebrated his 84th(?) birthday, in fine style and, aided by several micky fins, livened the place up and rounded the evening off by chasing the women around the campsite in a most unbecoming form of dress.

The Sunday seemed even hotter and the sun worshippers were soon stretched out on the grass; a large contingent however reached the summit of ARRAN FAWWDWY with ideas of climbing on Aran Benllyn; the latter peak was reached too late to climb and it was a hot pace back to the campsite. Congratulations to Pam and Dave's daughter for getting to the summit; maybe the youngest ascent yet, (who said was Williams's the oldest)!!

A good weekend.

MY FIRST ROUTE ON CLOGGY

It had long been an ambition of mine to do at least one route on the big cliff, even if the old classics are no longer regarded as hard climbs by the modern climber, but I was deterred by lack of fitness and climbing practice and by the solemn warnings of the old guidebook. However the chance came on the 1964 Cloggy Meet. I had finished exams for ever and decided to start from scratch and try to work up to some serious climbing. The meet was poorly attended with only Ray Handley, Doug Cook and myself. (Chris Martin was at the hut but I suspect his activities could not be classified as rock climbing). We all enjoyed ourselves so much and I'm sure the others are as pleased as me to see the meet restored to the calender this year.

The walk up to the cliff was accomplished with the usual perspiration (and trepidation). Sitting amidst the tumbled boulders at the foot of the East Buttress we had a shower of rain followed by a volley of oaths from Handley about the weather and then saw a bad fall from the second pitch of Pedestal Crack, the leader finishing up hanging upside down over the direct start. After this boost to our morale we began to climb a thin slab for about 30ft, it was greasy after the shower but after a struggle I just managed this in my PA's, to find that I had 'scrambled up easy rocks to the foot of the climb'. The first layback crack is delightful climbing at severe standard provided that you jam it,

MY FIRST ROUTE ON CLOGGY Continued.....

and I was really happy sitting on the ledge at the top. It soon became apparent that the real difficulties of the route are in the next two pitches. Ray entered the second pitch swinging to the left by a hidden handhold, and then the rope ran out steadily for some minutes; Doug being shorter, had a little more trouble entering the overhanging chimney, but he was soon up. I swung into the chimney, to realise that I was on a V.S. at last, and the bulge in the chimney proved extremely difficult for me, but after some desperate grovelling movements the grove above the bulge was reached, and the belay (fortunately a safe bollard) on a ledge on the left wall. The third pitch is also a serious V.S. pitch of 70ft, terminated by a bulge and in slimey condition except after dry weather, but the bulge can be overcome by a hidden side hold, it is the pity that the difficulties of the pitch distract one from enjoying the views down Vember to the Llyn D'ur Arrddu. I was fortunate enough to watch a party cross the Great Wall and Vember on the Girdle of the East Buttress. The greatest joy of the climb was yet in store, however. We emerged from the chimney pitches to the slab whose right hand corner provides the final pitch. The stance at the foot of this pitch is protected by a poor belay, but the last pitch provides no difficulties to compare with those below, and the sudden emergence into the sunshine, and the view down the wall which is accessible only from 'Troach', would make any degree of hardship or danger worthwhile.

The final arete was soon climbed, and we stood at the top of Curving Crack, a modest route to many Oreads, but to me this was a milestone in my climbing career, and it has given me the confidence to do several more routes on the big cliff, sometimes leading through, but always with a better climber. All I can say to anyone is have a go and help me to decide which is the best route in Wales, is it Longlands, Manx Wall, Chimney Route, Pinnacle Wall or the Grimmet. To me it must be either on Craig Yr Ysfa or Cloggy.

Clive Russell.

O R E A D S I N S H O R T S

New Addresses.

Ray Handley has moved to 9, Shirley Park, Shardlow Road,
Aston on Trent,
Derbys.

Dave Appleby is now living at 121 Old Chester Road,
Derby.

Indoor Meet. The final indoor meet of the season should have been a good one but after a short film on Scotland the projector bulb 'bust' and the 'Antartica trip' film could not be shown. Let's hope we can have the film again one evening next winter.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT INSURANCE

Roger Turner has details of year round camping equipment insurance which includes cover for continental travel. This may be of interest to many members who use their tents most weekends. Details from Roger.

OREADS IN SHORTS

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE and can be paid by Bankers Order. Please note subscriptions are 25/- for a full member and 37/6 for married couples.

A collection at the A.G.M. for the late Sid Webb of the Summit M.C. raised 80/- which was sent to Mrs. Webb and used for the transport of the body from Scotland.

The Annual Dinner will once again be held at the Green Man Ashbourn on November 19th - book that date.

The Hut Sub Committee for this year is:- Hut Warden John Cordon and G. Gadsby C. Martin, D. Appleby. G. Hayes.

New HANDBOOK

Your Committee are bringing up-to-date a new Club Handbook. It should be issued in approx. 8 weeks time. Please notify any change of address to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible. If you have a telephone and wish the number to be printed in the handbook please send it in. Also any suggestions for alterations in the handbook will be very welcome.

New Member

Tony Bamford applied to rejoin the club and his application was accepted at a recent Committee Meeting.

Club Hut

It is proposed to decorate the inside of the hut at working parties during the coming 12 months or so. One suggestion to brighten up the place is that there should be more photographs. There must be a number of members who are willing to give old Photo Meet Black and White photographs to the hut to be displayed for a short period or permanently. Any offers to John Cordon please. (Preferably mounted in glass.)

C. Cullum now living 'down South' has agreed to stand for election to the B.M.C. Committee and if elected represent the Oread on this committee.

Quote at a Committee meeting "The trouble is that 'He' will most likely bring along his Coventry lot to show us up" - "Yes and they most likely will" (Talking about this years 14peaks welsh walk)

Chris Martin is to be the clubs new representative on the Peak Park Committee of the British Mountaineering Council. Roger Turner has had to give up the post because of business commitments.

Guide Books

Vol 1 of climbs on Gritstone sold out of the first edition of 2000 copies and has been reprinted.

Work is well in hand on new guidebooks for the Yorkshire area.

Rod Craddock has agreed to be the clubs new Auditor

Quote from Doreen Gadsby on the Wastdale Meet. "That's the first time I've seen a black lamb with a collar around it's neck" Of course it was a poodle!

As is usual it was raining and windy when members arrived at Williams Farm: in the Ogwen Valley on the Friday night. Most decided that the best for the night were places in the barns, but Geoff and Anne pitched their tent in the muddiest part of the field. All had a comfortable night, that is all but Geoff and Anne. The tattered old piece of cloth Hayes calls a flysheet had it's last battle with the wind and during the night it parted company with the tent. (Geoff said he had been thinking of bying a new one for years.)

Saturday was fine and after the rest of the tents had been pitched everyone set off for the crags. Routes were done on Gallt yr Ogof and Idwal Slabs, but the wind being a little cool soon saw almost everyone walking upon the Glyders. Terry and myself returned to the campsite from the slabs via the Nameless Cwm, Castle of the Winds and an icy Bristley Ridge, with Ned bringing up the rear. Saturday evening was spent at a pub in Llanberris.

During the night it rained heavily and Hayes' tent sank. In the morning he and Anne made a swimaing retreat to the barn for breakfast. It rained most of the day and whilst some spent their time filling the river at Swallow Falls with stones, others were trying to fill the quarry on the slopes behind the club hut at Rhyd-Ddu.

Members and friends present were; Geoff and Anne Hayes, Eric and Merle Wallis Terry Staley, Clive Russell, D. (Ned) Needham, Paul Craddock, David and Christine. Also around, but stopping at the club hut were G and D Gadsby with Colonel Mustard, and D and P Weston with two friends.

SWANAGE - EASTER 1966.

Nat Allen

Tilly-Willy-Wim- Blackers Hole-Dancing Ledges-Worth- Matravers-Langton Matravers- Boulder Ruckle- Marmolata and finall Toms Field. What the Hell does that lot mean!! And what has it got to do with climbing? Well once you have got to grips with this 'Dorset Durge', you begin to grasp some of the bare essentials that go with this very quaint Swanage patter.

As some Oreads may know, a small group of the club grudgingly agreed to try the Dorset Cliffs two Easters ago. As a result, a strong drinking and highly critical climbing group sampled some superb Rock Climbing, weather and beer. Whilst the rest of Britain shivered, and got wet. The gospel spread and it was a rather worried Nat Allen that found himself on Toms camping field on Good Friday morning this year with forty of the countrys best boozers and climbers, champing at the bit for great climbs ad pubs. I was worried and began to wonder if I hadnt overdone the 'bull' for once. I had realy no need to worry, and the 'Brandy Ball' came to my rescue. And half an hours walk saw us, eight fence posts from the second stile with a single 150 feet of rope hanging clear down to a wave pounded Ruckle. Crash hatted up everyone shot down the Abseil, sailing gaily onto the last free 50 feet which succesfully, and severely burned the sholders and hands of the majority. Prominent Oreads- Burgess, lacerated sholder, Handley, Hands, George, Hands and Wes Backside. After one route it was obvious thet Swanage was as good as we had said. In the Blazing Sun one by one the impre impressed climbers gained the top again, but alas where was Wesley? Meanwhile back on the Ruckle sat a pale and quivering Wes who had parted company with the rock on a nasty traver se and now in a pall of smoke swore it was the drinking team for him to-morrow.

SWANAGE Continued.....

Good Friday night saw the whole team firmly lodged in the 'Square and Compass' at Worth Matravers, darting and carding and singing - ably lead by Irish Rebel Hank Harrison. From then on the weather was superb for 5 days. Parties climbed the crag to death. We drank the 'Square and Compass' dry. And apart from two frisky waves, one of which caught Handley flat-footed on the sub-luminal ledge and the other washed yours truly off the crux off the route I was doing, fortunately on the end of the even more fortunate Dick Burgesses rope, who had only minutes before had lead this quite hard pitch. Nine new routes were put out by Summit, Oread and Rock and Ice Parties, four in one day on an area called Guillemot ledges which is very similar to the Boulder Ruckle. The rock is portland stone, a very rough limestone, with bands of rock very similar to gritstone. On the Ruckle and Guillemot areas the climbs are aprox. 150ft high, and on subluminal and cattletrough are the easier spots, 60-80 ft high off a narrow ledge, 40ft above the sea. Most of the climbing is serious and a good deal of steadiness is required. Crash hats are recommended. The non-climbing ladies enjoyed long stints of sun-bathing at Iulworth cove- dancing ledges- Old Harry Rocks (not Pretty's) and Studland, also a chap hunting expedition to Bournemouth.

Oreads present: Ray and Maria Handley, George and Janet Reynolds, Derek and Janet Burgess, Don and Marion Chapman, Wes Haydon, Nat and Tinsel Allen and 32 Summit and Rock and Ice Members made up the horde.

REPORT FROM THE NORTHERN OREAD

There are many hazards about moving to the far North of England, frostbite, snow, unemployment, Don Smith. I was greeted by a far greater one on our arrival in Newcastle early in January this year in the form of Ex President Cook (Southern Section Only) eager to unload the removal van and to find if there was any decent gear among the gardening tools.

Within three months I had got him on his knees in a tent for the first time in his life. As this was in the Cairngorms at the Aviemore Y.H. camp site, he was pretty cold, the washing up liquid froze inside the tent one night but this was little excuse for dressing up every night as if for the North Wall.

We idled away the days on the ski slopes until the fresh snow had consolidated in the couloirs. One fine day we ascended Aladdins Couloir rising out of Coriean T-Sneachda about a half a mile SW of Cairngorm. A very fine but easy route onto the plateau, it starts at about 3150' straight off the floor of the Corrie and finishes dramatically eventually on the Plateau at about 3750'

For the first 350' the Colouir goes steeply and directly up between rock walls. At the top of this section it takes a diagonal line across the upper part of the buttress, still with a rock wall on its lower flank, which effectually hides this section from view from the camp site. The snow ice was in good condition- giving sound ice axe shaft belays and could have been ascended in crampons. I amused myself and exasperated Brian by.....

Continued.....

..... mantleshelving up on widely placed steps.

After 200- of this diagonal section came the aesthetic climax of the climb. A break occurred in the lower flanking wall and through this break upsurged a steep snow slope from the depths below forming, at its junction with our coloir, a miniature col, the outer extremity supported by a gleaming white pinnacle.

We crossed the snow slope and were soon back in the false security of the lower flanking walls beyond the break. We were now exposed to the cold wind and immediately our damp gloves froze solid. I was lucky to get the final lead, the disappointment of their being no cornice was instantly swept away as I stepped out from the cold sunless coloir onto that vast plateau sweeping up towards Ben Macdui and glistening in the evening sun.

We poddled around the plateau towards Ben Macdui, inspecting the crags below Cairn Lochan which had been virtually obliterated by the N.W. snow storms of the past few days. Regretfully as Brian's watch said midnight we retraced our steps. This watch had been giving us mental arithmetic all day, until we eventually gave up and used the sun, as it was gaining half an hour every hour. As the last rays of the setting sun glittered over the snow covered highlands we reached the summit of Cairngorm. A rapid descent into the now deserted Corie Cas completed our initiation onto the plateau.

The following day we only struggled up to the car park in time to find the apres ski in full retreat. We trudged up wearily to the top of the Corie Cas tow and watched the instructors in their Saturday afternoon off play round the sticks. I wandered up the steep slopes at the head of Corie Cas, was disconcerted to find Ski tracks cutting nonchantly across the steepest part, and broke a ski stick in my subsequent return glissade.

Again the Cwm was virtually deserted when we eventually reached the car park after a grand run down Corie Cas via the western flank.

We left the following day, missing Geoff and Anne Hayes who had snow trouble on the way north.

Other expeditions have so far been confined to local crags to the N and NW of Newcastle but a pattern is already emerging. "Lets try that one" says Cooke "It was only Diff when I last did it at the age of 17." Two hours later and 60' higher we emerge exhausted from the top of a typical Manlove Edwards Welsh 'diff'. No wonder Lloyd Caris has opted in favour of side car racing.

Eds. Note. Brian Cooke was 17 almost 50 yrs ago! Tom Frost.

Tom Frosts address is - Top Flat, 15 Eslington Terrace, Newcastle - on-Tyne, 2.

This flat has one of the finest views in the whole of Newcastle, especially in hot weather - into the grounds of a girls hostel for the university. Entrance to the flat for week ends by ticket only!

MORE OREADS IN SHORTS

Congratulations to John and Ronni Cordon who were wed early in June. Their new address is 3, Brackley Gate, Morley, Derby. John is still Hut Warden so take a note of this address.

NEW MEMBERS.

Ray Johnson - 38, Leopold Street, Derby.

Tony Bamford - 1 Church Street, Holbrook, Derby.

(Re elected after a lapse in membership of some years)

The hut warden reported that he expects a sharp rise in bed nights in June!!!

Address - Change of.

Eric Wood, 158, Doles Lane, Findern, Derby.

Telephone, Derby 52541.

Peak Warden Service

The Peak Park Planning board are once again asking for volunteers for the Warden Service in the Kinder Bleaklow- Stannage areas. Any member interested should contact the Oread Sec. or J. Foster, District and planning Officer, Peak Park Planning Board, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell.

Insurance.

In a questionnaire sent to almost 100 clubs asking for details of accidents over the two years 1963 and 1964. Available information from 94 B.M.C. clubs with over 11,000 members showed 10 deaths, 5 cases of disablement after injury and about 16 cases of bones being broken, with no permanent disablement. These details will be used in discussions about collective insurance for mountaineering clubs.

Other Clubs Huts available to the Oread.

Northumberland Mountaineering Club

Situated at Grandy's Knowe Near Crag Lough On the Roman Wall Grid Ref NY 781674

Hut Warden. Mr. Clive Goodwin,
Watendlath,
Sunderland Road,
East Boldon,
Co. Durham. Tel Boldon 2160

Rock and Heather Club

Hut Warden. Miss J.M. Oglesby
27, Fox Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottm.
Club Hut situated in Baslow Derbyshire

This was quite a well attended meet, the weather being rather mixed-wet and windy Saturday, and sunny and warm Sunday.

Almost everyone went to Pillar on Saturday, George Reynolds will remember this day for two reasons - the Nose on North Climb on Pillar and his birthday. The girls and R.H. and R.C. did the traverse of the ridges of Mosedale.

Sunday had parties spread as far a field as Gable and Scafell. A good week end was had by all.

Present:- Burgesse's, Hayes's, Hobday's Gadsby's, Reynold's Wallace's, Ray Colledge, Paul Craddock, Christine and David Brad

Congratulations To Rod and Annette Craddock who were recently married. Please note their new address and telephone number:

2. Rivergreen Crescent,
Bramcote,
Nottingham.

Nottm. 281990.

14 PEAKS - WELSH WALK 10th - 12th JUNE JACK ASHCROFT

THIS NEWSLETTER JUNE 1966 - EXTRACT

In retrospect maybe the meets circular was presumptuous. Of eleven members and friends who left Aber on the Saturday morning, only two did the 14three thousanders - and they bivvied the Saturday night on Grib Goch. Sunday was spent on Black Rock sands rounding; off an enjoyable weekend. Gordon Gadsby and George Reynolds did the whole walk having left Aber at 9am. The main party left at about 5am but due to car trouble Gordon and George were late starters. But this didn't deter them, they just steadily plodded on arriving at Rhyd Ddu in time for breakfast Sunday morning.

For the rest of us, before the garbled reports start circulating (They already have. Ed!), let me try and put things in perspective. Mist persisted throughout most of the day and very humid conditions prevailed. A few showers of rain seemed to aid the sticky conditions. The mist played peculiar tricks with route finding on the Glyders, but what do you expect (Penlinton) without a compass!

An attempt was made to walk as a group but as invariably happens on this trek the party splintered after Ogwen. Paul Gardiner, Colin Hobday and Dave Weston did their walk missing out Y. Garn and Elidir Fawr arriving Rhyd Ddu 11pm.

Welsh Walk Continued.....

Jim Kershaw, Dave Penlington, Matt O'Brian and Myself finished at Nant Peris 6-7pm. Dave Williams and Mike Watchers added the "credulous" element to the days events missing out Y. Garn and Elidir Fawr arriving on Snowdon summit at 11pm. I say "credulous" since Williams lead weary novice mountain walker Mike into Snowdon Summit Hotel to coincide with the arrival of the train. It had come up from Llanberis to evacuate the hotel staff, after a report to the police of a BOMB planting. Mike was ready for a train and under the wing of the Welsh Constabulary found room in a Llanberis police cell. Williams doggedly descended the Llechog ridge arriving at the hut about 1am.

Harry Pretty walked by himself over the weekend turning up at the Hut to voice his disapproval at this year's variance from the traditional nature of the Welsh Walk. This maybe worthy criticism but I still maintain the 14 Peaks should appear on the meets list every few years maybe in addition to a 'Welsh Wander'.

Derek Burgess, Nat Allen and Ray Handley camped and climbed in the Gwynant for the weekend. Another voice of protest from Burgess.

Thanks are due (though doubtful in the case of the party who retired at Nant Peris) to the ladies, particularly Betty Gardiner and Maureen O'Brien for providing a car refreshment service at Ogwen and Nant Peris.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Nigel Horn. c/o
Snowdon Summit Hotel,
(Our Man at the Top)

Proposed by G. Gadsby.
Seconded by G. Hayes.

Persons wishing to comment upon the above candidates suitability for membership should write without delay to the Hon. Secretary. Mrs R. Langworthy,
26. Field Lane,
Chilwell,
Beeston,
Notts.

New Club Handbook

Don't forget to let the Hon. Sec have any change of address or telephone No. very soon.

Mountain Rescue

Will all members of the Oread Rescue Team please check that the details of the call out procedure are correct. It is some time since the last call out and practice therefore some details may be out of date. Contact Chuck Hooley if necessary.