

August 1966

A SELLA TRAVERSE

G.J. Gadsby.

After many years of wanderings in Austria, Germany and Norway with Burns, Williams and Styles, Johnny Welbourne at last found himself roped to the Oread shouting team of Hayes and Gadsby (with Bill Kirk thrown in for good measure) and of all things on a Swiss Peak!

The Time was 4.45am and we were perched precariously about halfway up the great north facing shoulder of Il Caputshin in the Sella Gruppe. The ever steepening slope was sweeping away beneath our feet, down past the ice fall and the lower snow field, down beneath the Coaz hutte and it's still sleeping occupants, until it finally eased into the sylvan Val Roseg still cold and dark in the shadows of the night.

Welbourne was already having grave doubts about his choice of companions (Hobson's choice!) and also about the stability of the snow. He was several times heard to mutter things like "It was never like this in the Stubai" and "Lets get off this bloody slope Hayes". These utterances only made us all the more determined that Welbourne was definitely going on and Geoff slowly increased the pace of the team.

We had been forced over to the right hand and steeper side of the face as the other flank had already been swept by two or three avalanches. Our crampons now began to ball up and with the crux of the climb upon us it became increasingly difficult to free them. Hayes however was soon up and onto easier angled snow. Bill then John followed and Geoff motioned me into the lead, he was shattered; full testimony to the hard work he had done forcing a route up that imposing face.

It was all pleasure now as we slowly plodded across the huge upper snow field and then picked our way carefully up the broken rocks of the summit dome. We reached the cairn at six twenty a.m. just as the sun streamed across the Italian Alps and blooded the summit cones of Disgrazia, Badile and Castello. On our left across the gulf of the frowning Roseg glacier, the spiral cone of the Piz Roseg itself was already turning silvery white, our steps of Sundays exacting climb completely covered by a mantle of new snow. Behind us the Pontresina valley was still in shadow, with it's mighty forests stretching high towards the sun.

The pungent aroma of John's thick twist tobacco brought us back from dream world and we congratulated each other on our ascent and had a bite to eat.

Later we traversed our peak by way of the razor sharp South Ridge, in a bitterley cold wind but with wonderful views in all directions and not a cloud in the sky. On over the pass in waist deep snow in places. Welbourne was calmer now and seemed quite resigned to a day with the lads even, in fact, prepared to have a go at another peak! This was decided on and after climbing a couple of attractive rock pinnacles near the col, we crossed a large bergschrund and began our ascent of La Muonga one of the principal peaks in the Sella Gruppe. The route was an ascending traverse left up a 70 degree slope culminating in a false col with tremendous cornices on the Italian side. This was reached in 45 minutes. The usually easy route then traversed left above some large crevasses to gain the foot of the North Ridge, but due to the appalling snow conditions and the likelihood of avalanches in the already baking heat we had to abandon this route and try our skill against the bitterley cold and exposed West Face. We moved together, Geoff cutting ample steps in good snow and ice until only 100 ft from the summit, we realised we were too late. The sun had beaten us and the top of La Muonga was already bathed in scorching sun, quite the hottest of the holiday.

Continued.....

A Sella Traversa continued.....

Reluctantly we turned back (much to Welbournes relief) rather than risk the danger of an avalanche and later devoted our day to photography and sunbathing, arriving back at the Coaz hut at 11.30am to find that several parties were already back, having retreated from La Muonga 2 hours before us! After a soup and cheese dinner we returned to the valley, Welbourne well satisfied with his first Swiss Peak.

G. Gadsby.

OREADS IN SHORTS

New Norwegian Guide Book. The Rimmon Mountaineering Club have published a guide book called Selected Climbs in the Romsdal and Isterdal areas of Norway Price 8/6. This is a guide for anyone interested in the new routes done by the Rimmon members and Norway's leading mountaineers.

Grouse Shooting Season 1966. Members are requested to find out about restrictions of access to open country in the Kinder Bleaklow areas. If you are planning a walk in these areas it is advisable to check that the moors are open to walkers. The Secretary has lists. Also lists are on display in Edale.

B.M.C. Memorial Hut - Glen Brittle Sky. Applications to use this hut should be made to Mr. W. Wallace, 22 Bonaly Terrace, Edinburgh 13.

Foreign Language guide Books to appear or re-appear this summer are Zillertal Raetikon, Walliser Alpen and Wetterstein

Also a completely revised French Vallot Guide to Mt. Blanc Voll III Vert/Triolent/Dolent/Argentiere/Triente is now available.

Pegs in Situ. Members are requested to leave pegs mentioned in route descriptions in place.

Gritstone Guide vol 4 of the series Chatsworth-Cromford areas.

ALPINE HOLIDAY - BERNINA - 1966

A huge success, that was the cry as 20 oreads (including children) left the camp site at St. Moritz Bad after two weeks of alpine climbing Etc! A number of good routes and mountains were safely ascended by numerous teams and a holiday atmosphere prevailed throughout. The President who lead this meet is hereby requested to give full details in a later Newsletter that is after he has prepared his Presidential Alpine speech!

The question is now where will it be next year? The Oberland is a favourite with some. What do you think? Please let the editor know also what is the best date for all. Now is the time to be planning the next trip. I'm sure if it is publicised early enough many more members will wish to attend.

Don't forget the editor is always keen to hear from members even if it's only a grouse! We have not had the "Letters to the Editor" page for ages. If something does not turn up soon the editor will have no other alternative than write letters to himself.

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
(Meets Circular October/November)

REMINDER

Oct. 1/2. Ladies Meet

Pam Weston

This meet will be held at the club hut, full details from Pam at 6, Devas Gardens, Spondon, or the Tuesday before at the Wilmot, Borrowash.

Oct. 8/9

LYKE WAKE WALK

C. Russel (Rusty)

The walk takes place in 40 miles of high moorland as fine as anything Kinder or Bleaklow has to offer. All efforts to find a campsite so far have failed as the local landowners I have visited and the National Trust are very much anti-camping, but I am still writing around to farmers. If members who intend to be on the walk will write to me, stating whether lifts are offered or required, I will send the latest information. Anyone bringing a car must bring a driver who is not taking part in the walk. If no campsite is available, illegal bivouacs will be followed by meeting at the trig point at map reference 458 997 (height 982) on OS 1 inch Tourist Map. "North Yorks. Moors, at 4 am Saturday. This map, a compass and torch are essential. "The Lyke Wake Walk" by Bill Cowley, obtainable at most libraries, would be useful. My new address is: 1st Johns Square, Wakefield, Yorks.

Oct. 11

INDOOR MEET 8.00 Scout Hall, Borrowash

P. Janes

Due to the great success of this Summers' Alpine Meet in the Bernina with over 20 Oreads in attendance, our President has agreed to talk about the holiday and illustrate some of the finer points with colour slides. It is hoped, that all members who attended this meet will make a few of their own slides available to Peter.

Oct. 22/23

BIRCHENS BARBECUE

D. Burgess

Roll up to the social event of the year, Bangers, Booze, Butties for all and in the background the sound of Handley roasting chestnuts on an open fire. Weather permitting it is hoped to camp in the field at the back of the farm. Grub will be provided at small cost, but beer must be self imported. Send off approx. 8 - 8.30, plenty of help and cooks required also coke for the fire & Anyone with a barbecue outfit. This "do" depends on the support of the members and make it a success all round. An indication of support would be appreciated. Please see me at the 'Wilmot' or notify me by letter.

Plot 37

Hill Rise Estate

Findern, Derby.

R. Handley

Oct. 29/30

PHOTO MEET

This year the Photo Meet will be held at the Royal Oak Hotel, Bakewell, 7.00 for 7.30. Camping: Bowling Green Frogget.

C.D. Milner will again be the main judge. It has been decided this year not to limit the entries to 1966 slides can therefore be entered from previous years provided they have not won a place. If anyone wishes to exhibit b/w prints, please send them along, the above rules will apply. 25th Oct. latest date for entry. 2/- entry fee.

Competition split into 3 Groups with 4 slides each section (mounted) The Maximum is 20 Slides. These groups split into 2 section as follows. Points are awarded for each section the most number of points gets 1st & 2nd prizes.

Group 1. (Abroad)

Section 1: Action

Section 2: General

Group 2. (Home)

Section 1: (Action)

Section 2: General

Group 3.

Club Interest (Judges by the President)

All slides should be clearly marked for the section and spotted.

The Annual Dinner is as usual at the Green Man Hotel, Ashbourne on Saturday, 19th Nov. at 7.00 for 7.30. The price owing to the price freeze will be £ 1.0.0

November 5/6

BONFIRE MEET/ILAM

Details will be given in a later Circular.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND DANCE

at the Wilmot, Borrowash on Friday December 16th from 8.30 - 1.00 am.
THE EVENT OF THE YEAR. Tickets on sale Mid October.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NIGEL HORNE

Any members wishing to express their views on the suitability of our man at the top for membership, please write to the Hon. Sec.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Will all members of the "ALPHA ALPINE" team please contact Chuck Hooly to confirm that their telephone numbers, addresses are still the same.

CLUB HUT BOOKINGS

The Club Hut is vacant on the following Dates:

Oct. 7,- 18 Beds

Oct. 28: Vacant

Nov. 4: Vacant

Nov. 11: Vacant

Nov. 25: 5 Beds

Dec. 2nd, 9th, 16th: Vacant.

C. Hobday
Meet Secretary
71 Carsinton Crescent
Allestree/Derby.