

The A.G.M. has been and gone and the Oread start off on another year with a new Committee (well there are three new faces!) and the prospect of another years meets programme. A short report of the A.G.M. appears in this Newsletter. Although the meeting was quite well attended there were a number of missing faces, but this is not so surprising because the President worked out that approx 50% of the club live further afield than the Nottingham-Derby area. It was generally agreed that new local recruits are urgently needed.

This will be another thin edition of the Newsletter, despite my appeal in the last edition only one member has come up with an article, anyway, thank you Roger!

If we like it or not mountaineering and Rock Climbing has become big news and big money. Any mountain incident from the Eiger North Wall down to a sprained ankle in Derbyshire are equally snapped up by the Newspapers. Newspapers sponsoring expeditions now pay a good weekly wage to the climbers and ofcourse the B.B.C. make the most out of a Saturday afternoon out on the rocks returning to various stages of the climb when the position of the leader is most desperate. Those days of EX V.D. clothing and equipment are gone (Lol Burns please note) and shops catering for the sport stock a fantastic array of 'Mod' gear for the climber and apres climber. All this publicity is constantly changing the character of the mountaineer and Clubs such as the Oread must be aware of this. The beginners approach is far different to that of one ten years ago. With all this change the Oread must not lose sight of it's glorious past. The right sort of Mountaineer will be attracted and stay with such a club, others will soon loose interest.

"ACCESS"

The Climbers Club has circulated its members on the following lines:-

"Members will be aware of the growing problem of camping adjacent to and access towards climbing areas, particularly in the Snowdonia National Park. In the vicinity of Rhydli Ddu a number of unpleasant incidents have occurred from time to time.

This local situation is, however only symptomatic of the approaching crisis in the National Parks, due to the ever-increasing numbers of people crowding into these areas, with inadequate legislation combined with a failure to implement existing legislation; and, last but not least, ignorance, carelessness and sheer arrogance on the part of some of those who visit the National Parks.

As far as the (Climbers) Club is concerned, the Committee is pressing the British Mountaineering Council to use its influence as our national body for this sport, both in regard to amending legislation and the enactment of existing duties and powers by National Park authorities. But it is very important that we, as individual climbers and club members, observe the usual courtesies towards tenant farmers and Local landowners, recognizing and respecting their rights in regard to walking through their land. When access may involve crossing a farmer's fields and walls it is a golden rule always to call at the nearest farm to ask permission to do so, and to find out the route acceptable to farmers and landowners, instead of assuming rights which we do not possess at present

Despite much frustration and some provocation, I hope all members will help the B.M.C. in its negotiations in this way."

T Bar

A new chair lift was opened this season to the Schafberg in the Austrian valley of Gargellan. The lift was actually open at the end of the season last year, and we went up on the opening day, as did nearly everyone else in the valley, partly no doubt to 'dristen' it, and partly to take advantage of the fact that there was no charge for rides on the opening day.

For the uninitiated there is rarely any thought that the riding of ski-tows should present any difficulty at all. After all they are designed, are they not, to convey the skier swiftly and comfortably to the top of the mountain while saving him time and energy, thereby allowing him more frequently and economically to enjoy the thrill and pleasure to be had whilst steering his laminated wings over a well prepared piste with no thought in his mind, but nevertheless just as much enjoyed quiet and satisfying reflections as those accompanied by hot lemon and cakes with cream in the tasteful surroundings of the cafe at the bottom? If you have the substance of that question and no desire for me to repeat it, I will continue.

The "Ten Season" skier, with just a little more experience than I have had in my two separate weeks absorbing a highly distilled concentration of the Arlberg technique at the Gargellan teach-in, would no doubt wish to compliment me on my foresight in taking a few moments of my time to explain to the noviates in our party a few of the more important considerations in riding the T-Bar. We touched lightly upon the compatibility of bottoms, and explained that there was no need to adopt a reverse snow-plough position to be followed by a rapid adoption of the parallel position for a smooth take-off at the arrival of the bar, but to stand lower down, with the rear of the skis resting against the backstop. My own rather late appreciation of this latter point, probably accounts for my natural 'ten to two' walking position being now more inclined towards 'ten past ten'.

I took the bar with another skier. He was a stranger to the party (a Dutchman I believe) but I quickly perceived that here was a kindred spirit who rode the bar with the relaxed ease that comes naturally to the experienced. I was relieved that I had no idiot with me, and unable to converse in Dutch, I settled down to enjoy the ride to the top at a pace rather swifter than I was accustomed, but perhaps rather more exhilarating and enjoyable for it. Like mountaineering, ski-ing has that happy atmosphere conducive to a mutual understanding between its devotees, and the barriers of language are swiftly overcome by a great and glorious common denominator. My companion eased his skis gently against mine, I have no doubt that in his mind he thought that this technique provided a more stable ride for both of us, and the fact that he was forcing me into the worst of the ruts never entered his mind. I was in danger of falling off, but words were unnecessary, I had merely to push him with all the force I could muster (short of that which would have us both off) and he quickly responded, giving me that never asked for, but frequently given look of apology that passes between men who enjoy the 'great outdoors'. It took but a few seconds to adjust my balance for riding the bar solo, it was too late to turn round and observe whether he was able to leave the track before being over-ridden by the noviates who were riding behind. I learned later that they 'took him in their stride' No doubt confidently after a few tips that I passed on to them before taking off. I have one small criticism of the workings of the Schafberg grad-lift, and I pass it on to any other connoisseur who may be visiting Gargellan and who may wish to compare notes on his return:

T-Bar Continued.....

it is just a trifle more tricky to get off from the top than it is at any other point on the way. After a very rapid transit of the final feet at an angle approaching eighty-nine degrees, where solo riders of lighter proportions are often lifted completely off their skis, one is deposited on the level platform with but two or three ski's lengths to disentangle oneself from the bar before being dragged up over the bank and the sticks, in a manner so well known to Fleet Air Arm pilots as 'doing the Grand National'.

I arrived at the top of the ledge with no particular concern in my mind, happy in the knowledge that it is a good deal easier to dis-engage from the bar when riding solo and unencumbered by a partner who may have misunderstood ones colloquial French (or Dutch or whatever seems to be appropriate). I could digress here to explain to those of you who might still be completely ignorant of the protocol for alighting from a T-bar - how one usually makes prior arrangements with ones partner as to who shall alight first and who shall take the Bar and get off later. However since few of the uninitiated could hardly have bothered to follow me this far, I shall overlook the possibilities of digression and return to the ledge where the impatient and more experienced types are no doubt waiting expectantly for my arrival and eventual fall. However I have a disappointment for them, because with nicety of timing I alighted neatly on the ledge and got rid of the bar just before the bank came into view. I was feeling quite pleased with this effort, so much so that I overlooked that I ought to be making room for the novices who were riding the bar behind. You must be way ahead of me by now, so it only remains for me to confirm your suspicions and tell you that the beginners felled me neatly and together we made a good solid base for following deliveries of Frenchmen, Germans and Dutch with a neat and final capping to the pile by a solitary ski instructor, this latter addition ensuring that the rest of us were in good company.

I shall let you leave me here because you can see that with my face pressed further and for a longer time into the snow than I care to think about, I have no idea how the disentanglement was arranged.

It has occurred to me (just now in fact) that my own recollections of this holiday are far more enjoyable to me having been there at the time, than they can possibly be to you who were not there. So I shall add very little more, pausing only a moment to mention that the apres ski was O.K. that the snow was in good nick and that we all got a pre-Easter sun tan. Remind me sometime to tell you all about it.

We will be off there again in the spring for another bout of fresh air and fun. Doesn't the thought of it make your skis tingle? It does? Then how about coming with us?

Roger Turner

As usual a number of Oreads are off to the Norwegian and Swiss/French Alps for ski-ing holls. Not to mention the annual Married Mans 'weak' in the North Cairngorms. How about a short report for your Newsletter? I do hear that this years 'DO' up North would be mostly unprintable - lovely!

HUT NEWS.

Dont forget the new Hut Warder's address is 11 Carlisle Avenue Littlelover, Derby.

RECENT MEETS INDOOR AND OUTDOOR

SNAKE PASS.

The Barnsley club Hut in the Snake was almost full of Oreads and friends, they must have been thankful for a good roof above their heads as it was a typical Derbyshire wet night. Almost everyone there had either climbed or walked that afternoon and were looking forward to a Paul Craddock treat. Paul had just become 21 years of age and had promised drinks for everyone in a rash moment some time before. But he got out of that one in a typical Paul Craddock way by announcing that he had left his purse at home! Anyway meet leader Gelia came to our rescue, it was her 37th (think) birthday on the following day and she sent Mick up to the 'Snake' post haste.

A large team of hard walkers set off for Bleaklow Head on the Sunday morning, others not so hard went on Kinder and some even tried to climb despite high winds. During the day various Oreads turned up at the hut had a cuppa with the leader and departed again.

The first January indoor meet was another Craddock mix-up. Quite a few members turned up at Borrowash hoping to see a good Swiss Ski film, instead they got a Dunlop film on skid control (Very useful) and added entertainment from Geoff Hayes, who knows all about skids, who projected a number of his blackmail slides as well as Cairngorm views.

The March indoor meet at Borrowash got off to a rather slow start because the projector bulb failed. Eventually however a replacement was found and the audience of at least 60 were entertained by Hon member Nat Allan. His slides of climbs in the British Isles showed the young Brown and Whillans on first ascents in the Peak and Wales, most of the Gritstone Outcrops and Limestone crags were also featured. A climbers tour of Ireland finished the evening, there were slides of most of the best known Irish Rock climbing areas which Nat somehow managed to visit in the space of a two week holiday. This enjoyable evening was of course completed by the serving of tea and Coffee by Dave Williams.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 1966

The A.G.M. was held this year at Newhaven Derbyshire and was attended by approx. 50 members. Roni Langworthy the Secretary gave the Minutes of the last A.G.M. President Pete Janes told of one or two humorous incidents on meets during the year. Looking through the Club list of members Janes said that a large proportion of those names were members living some distance away from Derby and subsequently they could not be expected to serve on Committee nor attend many club meets. Whilst he was very pleased that people retained their contact with the club and joined meets whenever possible he thought it was high time that more members were found locally and this could only come through active members.

The Secretary reported that membership was almost the same as previous years, just under the hundred mark. Things had gone smoothly during the past year and Roni thanked fellow Committee workers for their support. A statement of account was circulated by Lol Burns the Hon. Treasurer. The club is £130.13.10 in hand over half of which comes from the Hut account. It was decided that because the Club Hut needs urgent repairs and the further increase in Postage Etc. to increase the annual Subscription to 25/- and 37/6 for married couples. This was later voted on and passed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING continued.....

Paul Craddock who took over the job of Meets S. at half year spoke briefly about the most popular meets of the year which included the episode of the 'Fish' on the Langdale meet. Chuck Hooley gave his final report as hut warden before handing the post over to John Cordon. Guests once again outnumbered members by at least two to one for bednights at the hut. There was talk of raising guests fees and even one suggestion that the Oread should follow the example of the Climbers Club who have abolished hut fees for all members! It was decided that the question of raising and lowering hut charges should be left to the next Committee and Hut Sub Committee. The hut needed waterproofing and Chuck said he was confident that the new Custodian would carry on the good work.

The election of the New officers and Committee followed and is. President. P. Janes. Vice Pres. J. Ashcroft. Secretary. L. Langworthy. Assistant Sec. D. Williams. Meets Sec. C. Hobday. Treasurer L. Burns. Hut Warden. J. Cordon. Committee:- D. Burgess. B. Kirk. C. Martin. E. Wallis. D. Weston.

The meeting was then thrown open to members and discussion ranged from the meets programme to the question of whether Fisher had any friends! Handley and Burgess had a set too when Ray proposed that applications for New committee etc. should be proposed on the night of the A.G.M. and not 14 days previous. The meeting as is usual for A.G.M.s began to drag out and the President brought it to a close with the traditional Run Sippers.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following were voted full members at a Committee Meeting preceeding the A.G.M. Mr. Eric Wood, of Derby. Miss. Lesley Kirkham. Chilwell Notts. Mr. Bob Gill. of Coventry.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Until further notice the Address of Tom Frost is c/o Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Claremont Rod Newcastle- Upon- Tyne.

OREADS IN SHORTS ETC

Rod Craddock (Retired) and Annette are to be married warly in May (to one another)

One or two members require lifts to the Alps this Summer (First two weeks of August). Any offers to G. Hayes who will pass the information on.

There were about a dozen members on the Meet in Ogwen just before Easter. A report from Bill Kirk the meet leader is expected soon.

OREADS IN SHORTS ETC

Quite recently there was a very large collection of private cars outside the club hut. It was an official meet of the Oread. Almost every member had gone to the hut in his own car with at least two and at times three spare places. This seems a great waste of petrol to say the least. The same thing must be happening almost every week end whether there be meets or not. The answer must lie in more communication between members and the easiest way to do this is to meet at the 'Wilmot Arms' on a Tuesday evening and fix up lifts and also find where friends are going the following week end.

MOUNTAIN DISTRESS SIGNALS.

The following is essential information to all members not only those on the rescue team.

The Mountain Rescue Committee of the British Mountaineering Council has reviewed the question of distress signals with the R.A.F. and they have jointly agreed to some modifications of the old code.

The Alpine distress signal is internationally known and is of too old a standing to be discarded. It was thought, however, that its long sequence made it liable to interference by wind or mist, and that a quicker timing would give it greater initial impact and make it easier to take a bearing on the scene of the accident. It is, therefore recommended that it should take the form of six long flashes or blasts in quick succession repeated at minute intervals. The S.O.S. in many ways a better signal, is to be retained as an alternative.

With pyrotechnics, the green flare is now to be reserved for the one definite signal of recall to base, and a white flare will in future be used by a party on the hill to signify that a message has been received and understood. The reply to a distress signal should be deferred until the position of the sender has been established; otherwise there is a danger of the distress signal not being repeated.

The New code is:-

<u>MESSAGE</u>	<u>FLARE</u>	<u>LIGHT, SOUND OR SEMAPHORE</u>
1. Help wanted here	Red	Alpine: Six long flashes/notes in quick succession repeated after a minute's interval. S.O.S. - three short, three long, three short- repeated.
2. Message understood	White (from party on hill)	Alpine: A series of three long flashes/notes repeated at one minute intervals.
3. Position of Base	White (or yellow)	Steady white or yellow light, or car headlights (if possible pointed upwards).
4. Recall to Base	Green (Used only at base)	A succession of notes on horn, bell or whistle. A succession of white or yellow lights switched on and off. A succession of thunderflashes.

Thunderflashes may be used to attract attention any time.