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EDITORIAL

OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1970

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## EDITORIAL

In the last few months avalanches have frequently been among the headlines. The disaster in the Val d'Isere demonstrated how vulnerable many alpine villages are, for the Alps is the most densely populated mountain area anywhere in the world and every year 30 or 40 people are killed by avalanches. In spite of this most people, including climbers, tend to treat the danger with a marked lack of respect. It is true that avalanche danger is more pertinent to the skier who is active on winter snow slopes rather than the climber who is mainly active on rock or mixed ground, and yet recent tragedies in our own hills have brought home the fact that avalanches are an ever present hazard whenever there is snow covered ground.

Earlier this year a party of skilled snow and ice climbers had passed the difficulties of Italian Rib on Ben Nevis and were within 200 ft. of reaching the crest of Tower Ridge, separated from it by only easy ground, when they were carried away by an avalanche. There was only one survivor, three were killed, including Jim McCartney a member of the Scottish Himalayan Expedition 1969 and a top Scottish ice climber. A few weeks later Gunn Clarke, who with Robin Smith made the first British ascent of the Walker Spur, was killed in an avalanche in Glencoe. Nor are avalanches confined to the Scottish hills; Wales and the Lakes get their share too - one thinks of the disaster in Central Gully, Great End, a few years ago - and even in the Peak District heavy snowfall can produce avalanche conditions - in 1963 Graham West, who edited the old Limestone Guide, was killed in an avalanche on the moors south of Halifax.

The variability of British weather can itself contribute towards avalanche conditions. Every year there are frequent avalanches throughout the Scottish hills and as the popularity of winter climbing increases we can expect an increasing number of accidents from this cause. Essentially it is an objective danger over which the climber has no control, but some knowledge of cause and effect can help the climber to make an intelligent assessment of the conditions and avoid venturing out in dangerous conditions.

In the Alps glacier avalanches occur by the movement of the glacier over steep rock, perhaps triggered by a rise in temperature. Their position, if not their occurrence, is predictable; for instance one avoids the Great Couloir on the Brenva or the Marinelli Couloir on Monte Rosa after sun rise. Snow avalanches, however, are more subtle. Snow is infinitely variable in form and with the additional variables of terrain and weather avalanches are very difficult to classify accurately. Nevertheless in general a pattern can be discerned.

There is a broad distinction between loose snow avalanches, which start from a single point, and slab avalanches, where a whole area of snow breaks away, and a further distinction is whether the snow forming the avalanche is wet or dry.

Dry loose snow avalanches are common in calm conditions after a new fall of snow. Starting from a point they fan out leaving a

characteristic pear shaped track. These are not particularly dangerous, but there is a very narrow dividing line between these and the airborne-powder avalanche which is formed when an ordinary dry loose snow avalanche reaches a certain critical speed. The airborne type is preceded by a great wind which has tremendous destructive power and causes the most spectacular avalanche damage in the Alps, flattening trees and property.

Wet loose snow avalanches are common in spring when melt water, especially near rocks, weakens the bonds between the snow crystals. Such avalanches are very slow, but absolutely fatal to anyone caught in one because when they stop they solidify like concrete, preventing even the limited movement necessary to enable breathing.

Slab avalanches are made up of cohesive snow so that they break away from a whole area at once. Any snow layer lying on fragile strata (such as powder snow) or lying on a base to which they are not firmly attached (such as a grass slope) can form a slab avalanche.

Dry slab avalanches are caused by wind packing of snow during a blizzard. They occur on lee slopes, often below a cornice, or in any place where there is shelter from the wind, i.e. they can occur in depressions or gullies or near rock outcrops on a windward slope. The surface is hard and traps the unwary into thinking himself on safe snow, but because the underlying snow may be settling, the slightest disturbance can spring the avalanche and set the whole slope into violent downhill motion. This type is the commonest hazard for skiers.

Wet slab avalanches, like wet loose snow avalanches, are caused by melt water separating the bond between layers of snow, but they break away over a whole area. A crack appears and the cleft slowly opens, the slope below buckles and then the slab breaks up as the avalanche falls. It was this type of avalanche which killed Jim McArtney and his companions. Conditions were basically good when they set out but a sudden change in the weather while they were on the route caused the temperature to rise and triggered off the avalanche.

It is not sufficient to rely on the comforting thought that Hamish MacInnes' dogs will come to your rescue if caught. The accounts of people caught in an avalanche testify to a horrifying experience of inability to breathe, limbs pulled in all directions and total lack of orientation. Some are buried and able to breathe, perhaps they are lucky, but the account of an Austrian who in 1951 was buried alive for twelve and a half days scarcely indicates the mental torment he must have suffered.

Avalanches deserve respect and anyone wanting to learn more about them should read Colin Fraser's excellent book 'The Avalanche Enigma' or Eric Langmuir's articles in 'Mountain Leadership' published by the C.C.P.R.

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Turning now to, perhaps, a more contentious issue, which was raised at the A.G.M. - the question of a membership policy which is appropriate for the club in its present form. The newsletter is a suitable forum to thrash this issue out and the editors would welcome any comments and criticisms.

At present there is no restriction on membership in the form of total numbers or qualifications. Providing one turns up as a prospective member on a sufficient number of meets to make oneself known, anyone can join. In the last year or so membership has swelled by about 25% and we now have a total membership of 125. It is held by some that such numbers are creating a heavy burden on the administration of the club, making club meets at the huts increasingly difficult and reducing the number of possible venues for club functions such as the Annual Dinner. It is suggested therefore, that the membership should be limited to, say, 130 and anyone who was really keen to join would be prepared to remain on the waiting list.

It seems to us that such a policy would be quite wrong. The important characteristic of a healthy club is the number of active members, not the total membership. There is no particular evidence that the number of active members is increasing. At the A.G.M. held in 1956 when the total membership was 71, 41 members turned up. This year for a membership 75% greater, fifty members turned up to the A.G.M. This would seem to us to be a quite reasonable active membership. It does perhaps create a little strain on the huts when we have a more socially oriented meet, but not an impossible one. Recent meet attendances do not, however, suggest that we are likely to be overwhelmed in general. There will also be more envelope addressing etc. for the distribution of circulars and newsletters, but one would expect a larger club to produce sufficient individuals to enable the jobs to be changed more often than has been the case in the past. We are confident that a larger general membership could be accommodated without undue strain on the club facilities and it would, of course, have the benefit of increased subscription revenue.

Having said that an arbitrary limit on membership would be wrong, there may, nevertheless, be a case for a stronger vetting of prospective members. There is no need to impose rigid entry rules, but merely for the committee to remember that basically we are a mountaineering club.

Once again we would like to thank all those who have contributed to and helped in the production of this edition of the newsletter. In particular we thank Colin Hobday for reproducing the cartoon and Shiela Bridges who helped to cut the stencils.

Editors: Pete Scott  
Chris Radcliffe.

The Easter Scottish Meet will be held in the Ben Nevis area. Among the peaks recommended by the meet leader are those of the Grey Corries. Trevor Bridges, one of our more recent members, recounts below his experience of traversing the big ridge .....

GREY CORRIES

TREVOR BRIDGES

For many years I had been interested in the long ridge between Stob Choire Claurigh and Sgurr Choinnich Mor. Three miles long and never dropping below 3,000 ft., it promised a winter walk of superlative quality. Prior to Easter 1969 I had made two attempts to traverse the ridge, both in the company of a friend of mine - David Smith. On both occasions we had been forced to give weather the day. Accordingly, with the promise of a fine day, we decided to have another go on Easter Sunday last year.

Driving down the road to Spean Bridge, the sun was shining and the weather forecast looked as though it might be right for once. At Spean Bridge we turned off the main road and took the track up to Coire Collie. As we slowly drove up the track, the Aonachs looked magnificent in the morning sun and we stopped for photographs. Eventually at about 8 a.m. we parked the car by the mineral railway, picked up our clobber and set off up the track through the forestry plantations.

As we plodded up the track, occasional gusts of wind came rolling down the valley and we wondered what it would be like on top. It was certainly cold and we were hopeful that the snow would be in good condition.

2½ miles up the track we reached the point where the stream descending from Coire an Ceannain meets the Allt Leachdach. Here we left the track and followed the stream up into the Coire. This part of the walk was quite rough going. There is no track worthy of the name, the ground being covered in heather tussocks. The wind was becoming quite troublesome; the air would be quite still for a few minutes and then a gust would come whirring along to batter us unmercifully before passing on.

In the Coire, the good snow we were hoping for turned out to be breakable crust; this and the wind caused our tempers to fray. Eventually we flogged our way up to the little lochan, which was frozen solid and beyond this, where the slope steepened, the snow became quite good. The 750 ft. slope up to the col between Stob Coire na Ceannain and Stob Coire Claurigh was in fact the best part of the day. Sheltered from the wind and solid, it provided a nice snow scramble.

On the col we were met by the full blast of the wind. Having checked that no clouds were coming in, we thankfully turned our backs on the spindthrift and a few minutes saw us on the summit of Stob Coire Claurigh. Our height was won, but with only four miles behind, there were over ten to go.

Although not the best viewpoint in the region, the scenery from Claurigh is sufficient excuse for a rest. Along the ridge the Aonachs capped by the Ben stood out well. To the left of these, looking as if they are part of the Ben Nevis group, are the eastern Mamores from Sgurr a Mhaim to Binnein Mor. Beyond are the Glen Coe hills. To the East is the Ben Alder group and across the Spean Valley Creag Meaghaidh.

On this occasion the wind curtailed our rest, so quite soon we were walking down the ridge towards Stob Coire an Laoigh, the second highest summit on the ridge and about 2 miles away. For some reason Laoigh is not marked on the 1" O.S. map, but its lower sister peak, Stob Coire Easain is; possibly the latter looks higher from the road.

There are several minor summits on the ridge and the ridge zig-zags pleasantly between them. Nowhere is there much loss or gain of height and the going was quite easy apart from the buffetting of the wind.

We had intended stopping for lunch on Stob Coire an Laoigh, but in the absence of any suitable shelter, we continued on to Stob Coire Easain. On the way we met the only other party of the day, traversing the ridge in the opposite direction from a high base camp in Glen Nevis.

On the summit of Easain, we gave up looking for shelter and wandered down the leeward side a little and had a quick bite to eat. We were both beginning to feel tired and could have done with a good rest, but cold shortly drove us to our feet again.

The sportiest part of the ridge, the slope up to Sgurr Choinnich Mor, was now ahead of us. Snowed up, this provided a very pleasant scramble. Part the way up we found a sun baked nook, completely sheltered from the wind, and had a really good rest basking in the warmth of the sun.

Somewhat refreshed we quickly climbed up to the summit and down the other side, over Choinnich Beag to the col linking this mountain to the Aonachs. At the lowest point we abandoned the ridge and started down to the Allt Coire a Eonin. The traverse completed, all that remained were the seven or so miles back to the car.

The initial descent into the valley must have provided the local wildlife with quite a bit of amusement. A thin layer of half melted snow covered frozen ground giving a treacherously slippery slope, which we descended mostly on our backsides; near the bottom I ended up knee deep in a bog.

Eventually we reached the river and slowly wended our way downstream along the bank. It is obvious this valley is little frequented by man since it abounds with wildlife. We saw several ptarmigan and a herd of deer that was over a hundred strong. It was very pleasant strolling along in the sunshine. Down in the valley, the wind was no more than a pleasant breeze.

An hour later we still hadn't reached the end of the valley and the mineral railway which was the next objective. My legs were feeling distinctly rubbery and frequent rests became essential. A bit of a fracas with An Giurean where a short cut nearly didn't work just about finished us off and not a moment too soon we reached the small water collection dam and the start of the mineral railway. Here we had a good rest before starting the interminable, unpleasant three mile slog along the railway back to the car. Why on earth they cannot put sleepers a reasonable walking pace apart I will never understand. We finally reached the car about 6 p.m. after 10 hours on the hill.

Hopefully we stopped the car by the Spean Bridge Hotel, but drink was not forthcoming to scruffs like us, so we drove back to the caravan site where we allowed our wives to remove our boots and pour tea into us in copious quantities.

It was definitely a case of third time lucky for us. Apart from the wind, the weather had been perfect and the ridge certainly lived up to my expectations. I would recommend our route for traversing it to anyone. With about 15 miles walking and just over 4,000 ft. of climbing in total, it is not too strenuous if the snow and the weather are reasonable.

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DOVEDALE DASH

The following Oreads completed the course:

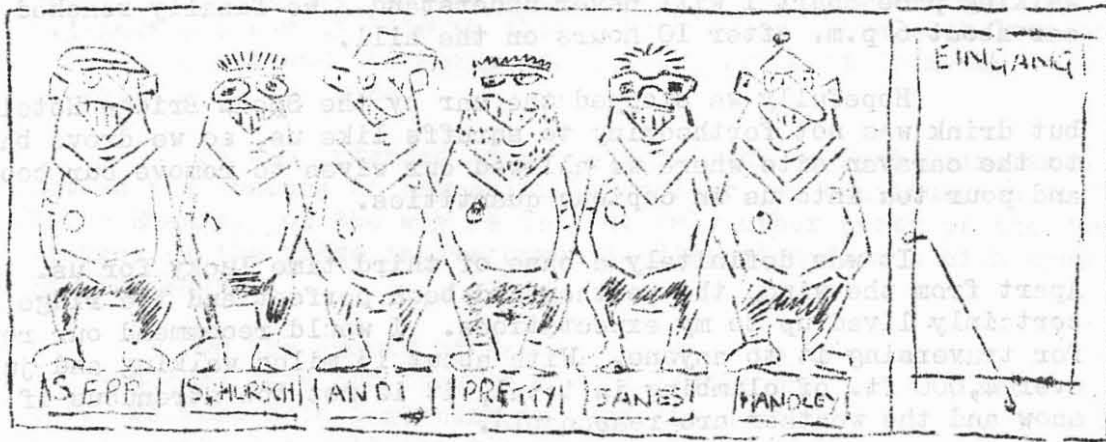
Chris Culley	26th	29min. 34sec.	Pete Janes	51st
Chris Radcliffe	30th	30min. 07sec.	Ray Handley	53rd
Roy Sawyer	32nd		Dave Appleby	55th
Pete Scott	42nd		George Reynolds	56th
Bill Kirk	45th		Wendy Allen	57th
Ron Chambers	46th		Rosey Grayson	59th

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF SKIING

The East Midland Ski Association is in close contact with the North West Ski Association and the Yorkshire and Humberside Ski Federation in considering the development of artificial slopes. There is now a great deal of pressure on local authorities to consider providing artificial ski slopes in the larger towns and recommendations for the regional distribution and the size of slopes throughout the area will shortly be submitted to the Regional Sports Council. These include a major slope of 300 metres with a nursery slope and tow in the Long Eaton/Beeston area accessible to the main motorways, plus sub-regional slopes at Leicester and Derby, supplemented by smaller slopes at Buxton, Chesterfield, Mansfield, Lincoln and Northhampton. In addition such facilities as toboggan runs and a ski-jump have been suggested as possible developments over the next ten years.

SCHEISCHULE



OREADS IN AUSTRIA

The self styled Oread 'jet-set have now returned from their après-ski holiday in Hinterglemm. The Milwards, the Langworthy's, Handley, Janes, Pretty, Appleby, Fred Allen and Wendy made up the team. Very little information has been made available to the Editors concerning the various sporting activities, but everyone appears to have had an enjoyable if not alittle tiring time. Fred suffered the most through having to stay up every night until thb early hours of the morning keeping a sharp eye on the group of smoothy instructors gathered round his daughter.



THE PROBLEMS AND SYMPTOMS OF A THREATENED AND DECLINING IMPETUS TOWARDS  
THE PHYSICAL ATTAINMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL SUMMITS

It was during a short walk in the lower British hills, that the memory of the following discourse came to mind, touching a major problem affecting today's climbing world .....

Is it true that old climbers go septic,  
That the gleam in their eye tends to fade;  
That piten and rope are considered a joke,  
When the debts owed to time have been paid?

Or do they in turn take to ski-ing  
To cover their lessening skill;  
Adopting a pose and wearing flash clothes,  
And pulled by a motor uphill?

Many old climbers were going this way,  
But now it's beginning to spread,  
With all the young Tigers deserting the rock  
And acting like penguins instead!

There's Handley and Hayes and now Weston;  
Appleby, Dench and old Pete;  
Forsaking the edges from Birchens to Stanage  
In favour of those on their feet.

Perhaps it's a sign of rebellion  
Now that climbing has lost its mystique,  
Due to Whitehall, Prince Philip, and now 'Mac the Tele',  
On the box on every new peak.

Or is it the lure of the dollies  
That bring these fine men to their knees;  
Of Rosies and Wendies and discotheque trendies  
To fill up those hours après-ski?

I wonder where all this will lead us?  
With what joy will father tell son  
That the pride of his youth was no Dolomite roof,  
But descending Mam Tor on his bum!

So 'alass and alack' for the climbers,  
Who's hearts must be aching full sore;  
No gear in the shops, just queers on the tops,  
We're second class beings once more.

'TRICOUNTI'

A LETTER TO THE CLUB

A. Bridges, G. Sutton, D. Penlington, E. Phillips, C. P. Gardiner and H. Pretty - names such as these earned the Oread recognition as one of the top clubs in the climbing world in the late 40's by their pioneering on Derbyshire Gritstone, whilst more recently the names of Burgess and Nat Allen have maintained our position by their magnificent efforts on Derbyshire Limestone.

What have the 70's in store for us? - or more to the point - what has the Oread in store for the 70's? Perhaps another Himalayan expedition or a trip to the Andes, it is entirely up to us: especially we younger members full of the spirit of adventure! Or are we? Come to think of it what has happened to the spirit of adventure of the Club generally. Are we entering a phase devoid of enthusiasm and achievement? Let us not bask in the reflected glory of the past.

Every member is or should be aware of the hard work that has gone into building the Oread into what it is today, but it is no use sitting back thinking "Well we've made our mark, we needn't do any more". On the contrary we must continue to maintain the standard set by the earlier members. Are we younger members really bothered about this? I am beginning to doubt this !!!!!

There are too few members striving to keep the name of the Oread to the fore front and all too many content to go to the weekly ale-up and to do plenty of waffling about what they are going to do, but come the weekend and it is the same few, climb-any-weather members, who are keeping the flag flying.

Is this good enough for a club that used to be so active? For the last two years attendances at meets have declined although the club membership has increased. Why? Amongst other things I fear that the membership could be exceeding the limits and straining, perhaps too greatly, the much coveted Oread bond. People do not seem to want to make the effort. There are too many relying on too few, and when the few cannot make it the unfortunate meet leader finds he is spending the weekend on his own. Which brings me to the subject of huts.

We have a Welsh hut used more by other clubs for meets than we do and a Derbyshire hut also neglected by all except the usual crowd. Much hard work went into the landing of this hut and it is up to us to keep it going !!!!!

This is the Club's 21st birthday year, let us younger members try to do as much for the Club in the next twenty-one years as was done for it in the first twenty-one years by the founders and the earlier members.

LONG LIVE THE OREAD !!!!!

KEN HODGE

MARCH 1970

(NO, NAY NEVER)

The 'Modern Era' is considered by some to have started in 1949, with Brown and Whillans, or with Crew's downfall. How wrong they are. It is also said by our equally modern Editors (that the OREAD has played NO part in the development of this 'Modern Era'. How wrong are they? It seems to me that some backroom historian should do something to put the books right, and if this article seems to 'shoot the bull', may I be excused on the grounds of provocation.

(Scott/  
Radcliffe)

The sixties started for the Oread with the full task of putting a fairly sizeable expedition into Kulu early in 1961, and whilst it only concerned five members, it required the efforts of several Oread backroom boys to launch it.

1962 was a quiet year, the majority of Oreads seemed occupied with repeating Brown's routes, especially those at Tremadoc. In the Alps the East Ridge of the Crocodile and the West Face of the Petite Jorasses were the pick of the season.

1963 saw three new routes on Baslow Edge, two on Curbar and three new routes on limestone in the Manifold. Pick of the Alps in '63 were Route Major and the Old Brenva on Mont Blanc.

1964 saw the completion of the Froggat-Curbar-Baslow Guide for publication. Two new routes were climbed on Chatsworth Edge and one in Dovedale. In the Alps the East Ridge of the Pain de Sucre and the Scarfe Arête were ascended. Our man was active in Kulu.

In 1965 the Manifold Guide was undertaken and seven new climbs were found in the valley. Elsewhere 'Light' in Gordale, a HVS on the Ruckle at Swanage and one in Dovedale were climbed for the first time. The Brassington Area Guide was completed with three new routes. In the Alps the North Face of Lyskamm, the Caterinagrät on the Monta Rosa and the Zmutt Ridge of the Matterhorn had Oread ascents.

In 1966 Oreads put up two HVS and two VS routes in the Manifold, one Dovedale VS, and two routes on the undeveloped Guillimot Ledges at Swanage. The Chatsworth Edge section of Vol. 4 Gritstone was handed in. During a bad Alpine season the Scercen-Bernina was traversed. Another good route on the Ruckle at Swanage was put up and our man was at it in the Kulu again.

In 1967 one new Dovedale VS and one Manifold HVS led to the completion of the Manifold Guide Script for Vol. II Limestone. Two new Swanage routes were knocked off. The pick of the Alps included the S. Face of the Meige, S. Face of the Aig. Dibona, S. Face Punta Guigliermina; and don't forget our man in Kulu.

In 1968 two more HVS Manifold routes were put up

and another VS in Dovedale. A C.C. Guide to Cader Idris was written and in a poor Alpine season the traverse of the Schrekhorn, the Bonatti Pillar of the Dru and the N. Face of the Doldenhorn were climbed.

So ends this quickly sorted potted history which I hope will at least stop our young climbers joining the local rambling club. Not a lot you may say, but every little helps.

See Editorial, Newsletter, February 1970.... - Ed.

'CLINKER'

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The Editor.

I've noticed that meet leaders are failing with increasing frequency to book accommodation in the appropriate huts, especially on winter meets. I know that some of the hard men will pooh pooh this statement but they are in the minority and can always camp anyway if they desire to show their manliness, or maybe womanliness.

I feel that the initiative and interest shown by the meet leader is reflected in the number of people attending meets, and that often during this past year laziness or lack of interest on the part of the meet leader has taken the edge off what otherwise would have been a very good meet.

Fred Allen.

What hardmen? The half dozen members 'hard' enough to brave the Ogwen meet packed up first thing Saturday morning after a wild and wet night and spent the rest of the weekend festering at the hut. The meet leader was the first to disappear. (EDITOR)

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Dear Pete,

I dropped a blue polo - neck sweater in the pub on Saturday evening of the Patterdale meet. When I went back to collect it the landlady said she had given it to someone in the Club. If anyone has it can they please let me know.

Rusty.

Oreads and many others have experienced difficulty of access to crags and ridges in the Rhyd-Ddu area over the past years. The following is typical of the type of incident involving climbers and local farmers in the Nantle Valley and other parts of South Snowdon. Much of the Vaynol Estate has now been bought by the Treasury and access may be easier in the future, but a comprehensive development plan has not yet been completed and mountaineers have not been fully consulted. Now read on.....

FIRST ENCOUNTER

TREVOR BRIDGES

One weekend in June 1963 I was camping near Tal y Mignedd Farm, Nantle with the Coventry M.C. Sunday dawned exceedingly dull with the cloud down to about 50ft. and we decided to do a "wet day" route on Y Garn.

On reaching the top of the pass from which we intended striking up to the cliffs of Y Garn we met a group of climbers, obviously with the same intention as ourselves, confronting an irate Welsh farmer and two mangy sheepdogs. We joined the argument, but the farmer was adamant; the only way to Y Garn was via the public footpath from Rhyd-Ddu. Eventually we decided in favour of discretion and I breathed a sigh of relief; I have never trusted Welsh sheepdogs since one swiped my dinner.

With the other climbers we started to walk slowly towards Rhyd-Ddu and naturally enough introduced ourselves. The others were a small party from the Oread led by Jack Ashcroft. A hundred yards down the road when the mist had completely hidden the farmer and his mangy dogs, Jack outlined plan number two. This involved hopping over the nearest wall and striking straight for the cliff on a compass bearing. With no dissentors the plan was executed. Alas in between ourselves and the cliff were a great number of high stone walls which slowed down progress. I feel sure that we did more footage of climbing on the walls than we ever did on the cliff that day. During the course of this obstacle race, Jack explained the access difficulties the Oread had been experiencing around Nantle and we agreed to start harrassing the local authority and the B.M.C. as well. This was the beginning of what was to become a lengthy written battle between Coventry and the locals. Returning to the climb, we eventually had a somewhat belated lunch. There was very little time left since we wanted to be away by 5p.m., but we decided to start anyway.

I cannot remember the name of the route nor much about it. Jack lead his party up first and we followed. The route seemed to be following a rib on the left hand side of a gully and was quite pleasant since it was running with water. I seem to remember a short slab which was quite entertaining in the circumstances. Just short of the last pitch, time ran out and we decided to say cherio to Jacks party and abseil off into the gully. Another farmer shouted at us on the way back to the road but we escaped to our camp and thence home.

The long arm of coincidence has always fascinated me. How

little I knew at the time of that encounter between two clubs that six years later I should have largely transferred my activities from one to the other.

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THE VAYNOL ESTATE PURCHASE

OBSERVATIONS OF THE NORTH WALES COMMITTEE OF THE B.M.C.

The following is an extract from the report of a working part set up within the B.M.C. to consider the above acquisition by the Treasury in 1967. The report is now in the hands of the Secretary of State for Wales. A copy may be studied at greater length on application to Les Langwothy.

The Purchase - In 1967 the Treasury acquired, "for the benefit of the nation", an area of some twenty square miles comprising the northern flanks of Snowdon and some adjacent hills including Clogwyn du'r Arddu, the cliffs of Llanberis and finally the mountains and cliffs west of Rhyd-Ddu, a region to which access has been contested for a number of years. (See sketch map)

Development - A Study Group and Working Party have been set up by the purchasers to prepare detailed development plans for the area, but no approach has been made to the B.M.C. or other mountaineering body. It seems absurd to buy a mountain and not ask mountaineers what they think about it.

Conflict of Interest - The conflicting interests are farming, conservation and recreation. the recreational factor is the dominating one and an end to its expansion cannot be forseen. The three factors are not incompatible and it is felt that this is an opportunity to sort out the compatibility problems once and for all.

Recommendations - The B.M.C. are interested in the safeguarding, or in provision of, facilities of five kinds: access to cliffs; access to open mountain; footpaths; camping; and parking provision with associated amenities.

(a) Access to cliffs - No one but climbers have a real interest in rock faces. The only possible conflict is with conservation bodies, since one or two of the cliffs support rare plant species but the danger of plant damage may have been over stated. Difficulties may most easily be resolved directly between those concerned through the B.M.C. - Nature Conservancy Liason Committee, set up precisely for this purpose. Ppprehension is expressed at the prospect of the spread of Nature Reserves in Snowdonia and their accompanying restrictions. All rock faces should have freedom of access.

(b) Access to open mountain - An attempt is made to define the difference between valuable agricultural land and rough grazing land. It is recommended that all unimproved land not at present properly enclosed should be designated as 'Access Areas' 'for all time'.

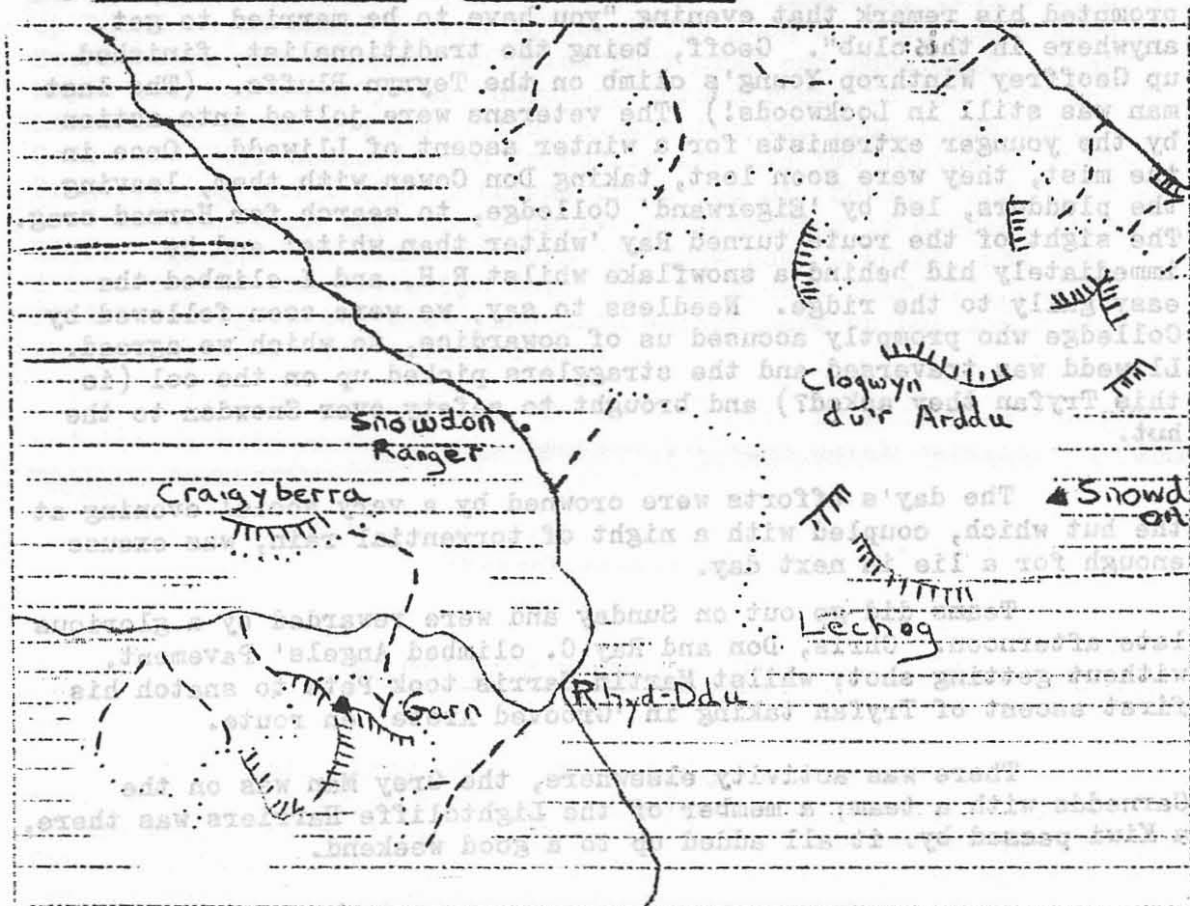
(c) Footpaths - Clashes between farmers and mountain walkers have been intensified by a lack of understanding. Damage to walls and fences has only occurred in localised areas but has caused ill-feeling.

Footpaths and stiles should be provided wherever people feel a need for them from certain parking sites, beneath popular climbing areas and at attractive departure points so that cliffs or ridges, crags and summits may be reached. There is also a case for one or two footpaths to be established as alternatives to roads e.g. Nant Peris to Pen-y-Pass and from Snowdon Ranger to Rhyd-Ddu.

(d) Camping - Two well equipped campsites should be established. One at Nant Peris and a further site at Rhyd-Ddu if the Forestry Commission's site at Beddgelert proves inadequate to meet demand. Camping above the 1250foot contour should not be restricted and should not require any permit whatsoever. Camping other than the above should be discouraged.

(e) Parking, Toilets and Other Provisions - It is recommended that adequate parking without any time limit be provided together with toilet facilities in the Llanberis Pass; and, further, spaces reserved for mountain rescue emergencies be marked out in the Pass and near Hafatty Newydd.

Sketch Map 1" = 1 mile.



- Roads.
- - - Footpaths.
- ||||| Cliffs.
- ..... Approx extent of Access Areas.
- Boundary of Area Purchased with excluded areas.

PRESIDENTS MEET 1970

DEREK BURGESS

(EXTRACT)

Rules are meant to be broken and if the President can't break them, who can! With this thought in mind, all were welcomed to this years President's meet at Rhyd Ddu, one of the few exceptions being, perhaps luckily, the hut warden.

Maybe the socialites predominated or maybe it was coincidence, but most people met at the P.Y.G. on the Friday evening for a "warming up" drink. This maybe helped to soften the floor for the overspill in the lounge.

A grey pall over Snowdon dictated the course of action for Saturday; either go high and hope for snow or stay low in the wet on grotty rock.

King Grot, alias Geoff Hayes, led a large party up Lockwoods Chimney. Wendy Allen came back with bruised knees and elbows and was reported to have stood on Tom's head which may have prompted his remark that evening "you have to be married to get anywhere in the club". Geoff, being the traditionalist, finished up Geoffrey Winthrop Young's climb on the Teyryn Bluffs. (The last man was still in Lockwoods!) The veterans were jolted into action by the younger extremists for a winter ascent of Lliwedd. Once in the mist, they were soon lost, taking Don Cowan with them, leaving the plodders, led by 'Eigerwand' Colledge, to search for Horned crag. The sight of the route turned Ray 'whiter than white' and he immediately hid behind a snowflake whilst R.H. and I climbed the easy gully to the ridge. Needless to say, we were soon followed by Colledge who promptly accused us of cowardice, to which we agreed. Lliwedd was traversed and the stragglers picked up on the col (is this Tryfan they asked?) and brought to safety over Snowdon to the hut.

The day's efforts were crowned by a very social evening at the hut which, coupled with a night of torrential rain, was excuse enough for a lie in next day.

Teams did go out on Sunday and were rewarded by a glorious late afternoon. Chris, Don and Ray C. climbed Angels' Pavement, without getting shot; whilst Martin Harris took Pete to snatch his first ascent of Tryfan taking in 'Grooved Arete' en route.

There was activity elsewhere, the Grey Man was on the Carnedd's with a team; a member of the Lightcliffe Harriers was there, a Kiwi passed by: it all added up to a good weekend.

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*Handwritten notes:*  
Roads  
Footpaths  
Light Cliffs  
... of Snowdon



PATTERDALE MEET FEBRUARY 3-4TH

RUSTY

Friday evening was bright and cold as we arrived at the campsite and most people settled down in three or four sleeping bags to a cold night, only to be kept awake for hours by the revving, slithering, unsilenced Hayes Caravette.

At the usual bright hour of about 10.30 a.m., those who had paraffin stoves or had thawed out their gas cylinders, brewed up and looked round the muddy field. Those present proved to be Brian Cooke and Bill; Reg and Anne Squires and ----?; Paul and Christine Cradock with a 33 kv. cable encircling their tent; Geoff and Anne Hayes; Derek Burgess, Don Cowan, Pete Scott and Chris Radcliffe in a tent that smelt like a blocked sewer in the Gorbals; Nat and Tinsel Allen and Lloyd Caris and Jim, a friend from Carlisle.

Lloyd and Jim departed first to do Westmorland's Route on Dove Crag (they were first back with numb fingers), others wandered up Deepdale in small groups to reach the good snow on the ridges of St. Sundays and the gullies below Hart crag and Dove crag. Geoff Hayes climbed a gully near Scrubby, turned round in the mist and found himself at Kirkstone Inn whilst aiming for the Travellers Rest. Brian Cooke and Bill crossed into Grisedale and did two routes on Eagle Crag.... Reg and I with a friend traversed St. Sundays and Fairfield to Grisedale Tarn then up to Hellvelyn intending to descend Striding Edge. Despite the alarmist warnings from Paul Cradock, who was descending by the Helvellyn motorway, we braved Swirrall (unable to find Striding in the mist) and then walked back on our hands cooling our new boots in the rarified air.

A good night in the White Lion with friends from the Rock and Ice, a cold night in the tents and then a quick surrender to the weather on Sunday, and that was it.

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WINTER WALK FEBRUARY 7/8TH

PAUL GARDINER

A small party of seven got away from Parwich at about 11.30 a.m. on a northerly course for Youlgreave using footpaths for most of the way. The route was lost by the end of the first field but, for once, Dave Williams' sense of direction worked. To say that the weather was mixed is putting it mildly, there was a good wetting shower within 15 minutes of starting, this was followed by a spell of strong drying wind, then alternating snow, rain, sleet and occasional watery sunshine for the rest of the day.

The surface in Gratton Dale was a mixture of frozen ruts and squelchy mud, but we made Youlgreave just before a heavy rain storm hit us and were able to shelter in the 'local' even though it was after closing time.

Pete Scott's ankle was giving him some trouble and he detached at this point whilst the remainder of the party made for the Lathkill and Cales Dale.

By 6 p.m. everyone was installed at the Orpheus Caving Club Hut just off the Ashbourne-Buxton road; Pete had made his way along the road from Youlgreave and Chuck & Margaret Hooley plus Betty & Douglas Gardiner and Lisa & Helga Welbourn had arrived in advance to fire up the boiler and get the generator going for us.

The Orpheus have done a tremendous job on their hut and have plans to add more amenities - we are grateful to them for their hospitality.

On Sunday we left at about 10.30 a.m., walking in winter sunshine from Pilsbury to Hartington where, by coincidence, the pubs were open when we arrived. From Hartington we continued, well fortified, through Beresford and Wolfscote Dales to meet up with Betty and the children who had gone by car to Milldale and walked up the Dove.

From Iron Tors we cut up to cross the A.515 and so through fields back to Parwich making a round trip in the region of 27 miles.

Those walking were:- Ruth and John Welbourn, Colin Hobday, Dave Williams, Chris Radcliffe, Pete Scott and P.G.

Tea was taken in Ashbourne to round off the proceedings.

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OREAD COMMITTEE MEETING DISRUPTED - NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1970

During the meeting of the Oread Committee at Dave Appleby's in February, the numbers were suddenly reduced by the call out of Team Alpha. Messrs, Weston, Hodge, and Appleby departed to Ashbourne leaving the remainder of the committee lounging in front of Appleby's fire enjoying Judy's excellent cuisine. The business of the evening was nevertheless completed. Dave returned about 11-30 p.m. and ~~quote~~ quote .... " to find the rest of the committee tossing - up to see who should leave last".

The rescue involved the recovery of two young lads who had fallen at Tissington Spires. ~~Every credit is due to the members of the Oreads own rescue team who are on call 24 hours a day and turn out in all weathers.~~

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GUIDE BOOK SITUATION - FEBRUARY 28TH.

<u>Volume</u>		<u>Area Covered</u>	<u>Date expected</u>
I	Gritstone	Stanage	March 14th
II	Gritstone	Chew Valley	December 1970
III	Gritstone	Froggat	December 1970
IV	Gritstone	Gardoms - Black Rocks	April 28th
V	Limestone I	Stoney Middleton etc.	March 10th
VI	Gritstone	Bleaklow	June 1st
VII	Gritstone	Kinder	July ?
VIII	Limestone II	Dove - Manifold	May 20th
IX	Gritstone	Roaches	December ?

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DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTRY SIDE COMMITTEE

Peter Janes is now the Oread representative on the above committee. This is a powerful group advise the County Council about the requirements of people who draw their recreation from the Derbyshire countryside.

If you have any strong feelings about development or conservation aspects of your County, whatever it may be, you are invited to discuss them with Pete who will then transmit them to the above committee.

At the same time may we suggest that the Newsletter will provide a useful medium for discussion.

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NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1970  
MANIFOLD VALLEY

It was reported in The Guardian (18/12/70) that 'defenders' of the Manifold Valley which the Trent River Authority plans to flood as a reservoir are to invite an all-party group of M.P.s to tour the valley.

Jack Longland has pointed out, however, that no definite plan has yet been put forward by the authority. They are scheduled to do so in a few months time. Depending upon where the dam is to be built more or less of this valley will be flooded. In any case this will not be effected for some years to come.

It would seem fairly ineffective to protest at this stage if no plan has yet been submitted. Nevertheless if such a plan is forthcoming and the amenities of the valley are to be drowned, then is the time to write your protest letters.

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HIGH PEAK RAILWAY

A scheme to develop a 14 mile stretch of the former Cromford and High Peak railway as an area for walking, pony trekking, picnicing and camping. (Guardian 18/2/70)

ARGENTIERE

July 25th - August 8th

To quote from the English guide book.....

" The Range of Mont Blanc is the most important in the Alps. The highest technical achievements are demonstrated here while the novice can learn the craft in equally perfect situations. The quality of the climbing is consistently high and the scenery superb. "

Argentiere is a pleasant village 5 miles higher up the valley than Chamonix and there are several good campsites. A suitable campsite will be chosen by the advance party which will be going out the week before.

It is hoped to have a section in the next but one issue of the newsletter describing the area more fully and including articles and reminiscences by Club members who have had experience of the area. Any contributions will be welcome.

Recommended reading:

1. Selected Climbs in the Mont Blanc Range, Vols. I & II, Edited by R. G. Collomb and P. Crew.
2. Mont Blanc, An Anthology by Claire Engel, George Allen and Unwin.
3. On Snow and Rock, Gaston Rebuffat, Kaye.
4. Between Heaven and Earth, Gaston Rebuffat, Vane.
5. Conquistadors of the Useless, Lionel Terray, Gollanz.
6. Starlight and Storm, Gaston Rebuffat, Kaye.
7. Brenva, Graham Brown, Dent.
8. I Chose to Climb, Christian Bonnington, Gollanz.
9. On the Heights, Walter Bonatti, Rupert Hart-Davis.

A very good map covering the whole area is the....

EDITIONS D&R DIDIER AND RICHARD  
(9, grande rue GRENOBLE)

Sheet "Massif du Mont Blanc" - Chamonix - St. Gervais.  
Scale 1/50,000

The map shows the range of Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles together with the lesser Massif des Aiguilles Rouges on the other (northern) side of the Chamonix Valley. All huts are marked, together with all the main footpaths. Geoff Hayes has offered to try and obtain these maps.

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