

AUGUST 1961. 

This is the first issue of a new form of Oread Newsletter. The focus is on NEWS and because of this a news sheet of variable length will appear once a month. The request goes out to all members to contribute to this new idea. Any news, information or gossip, or in fact anything of mountaineering interest will be more than welcome. Please keep the articles fairly short. Longer items will be held over for the Journal which will appear as in the past about three times a year. Tom Frost remains editor of the Journal and Roger Turner has taken over the organising of this news sheet. Please send all news etc. to:

R. Turner,  
18, Holkham Avenue, Telephone  
CHILWELL, Nottm. 257486.  
Notts.

Meet leaders please note that news of meets will take pride of place so please send in information as soon as the meet is over. If a meet is such an epic as to merit more detailed reporting a short version can appear in the news letter and a more detailed one in the Journal. To help to save postage etc. , the usual Meets Circular will be incorporated in the Newsletter whenever possible. To help this, Meet leaders should send their information to the meets secretary in plenty of time.

ISLE OF ARRAN WHITSUNTIDE MEET 1961. Geoff Hayes.

A combination of a good turnout and good weather made this a very enjoyable and memorable meet. 17 Oreads had gathered at the camp site by the deer fence close to the burn in Glen Rosa on the Saturday. Chris Martin, Eric Wallis, Wall Smith and myself got away from Nottingham after tea on Friday stopping in Lancaster where we met Margaret Love. (She had hitched north from the Potteries earlier in the day)

The journey north was rather tedious as the van was still being run in but we made good time and were first to arrive in Fairlie at about 5 a.m. Doug Cook's waggon arrived a little later but Roger Turner missed the first boat by five minutes.

It was a wonderful journey across with magnificent views of Arran and

its fine peaks. Taking advantage of the weather we lost no time in getting the tents up and racing up Rosa to have a look at the famous South Ridge of Cir Mhor. Donning P.A.s, Klets etc. three parties set off towards the 'S' crack, - Doug and Tony, Margaret and myself, Eric and Wail. About four hours later we had all reached the top of the Rosa Pinnacle, and agreed that it was one of the finest and longest climbs any of us had ever been on. Only one pitch was V.S. (Margaret and I managed to get round this with a severe variation). The rest of the route consisted of about three severe pitches and lots of easier climbing in fine situations on magnificent rock.

The Turners and Gadsbys who arrived later in the day went up on the Beinn Nuis ridge. Brian Housley arrived after a long journey by train, and June Telfer and John turned up on a motor bike.

Sunday was still fine and we all went up on the main Ridge and spent over 12 hours traversing the finest part of the island. Coming down to sea level again at Sannox we trod a rather weary road to Corrie where we 'signed the book' and got about blotto on cider and biscuits. The rest of the trip back to the camp site was easier because of this and the fact that we all managed to hitch lifts.

Monday saw most of us climbing on Cir Mhor again. Eric took Doreen up the South Ridge. Gordon, Chris and the Turners did the fine route 'South West Slabs'. Others did a tedious route called "Labyrinth" which was relieved by a magnificent top pitch. Wally was first up the Rosetta Stone, a 40ft high slab (V.S.) close to the top of Chir Mhore, and many others followed. Tuesday was the last day for many of us and we spent it on the beach at Brodick, in boats and also in the water - about five seconds for me! The weather was just breaking as we sailed away from the island after one of the finest Bank Holidays yet. There is really lots more to tell - about Gordon swimming fully clothed in the burn (you should have seen his face when someone asked him the time); about Brian who was last seen heading for Glasgow with a wee Scots lass whom he had met on the island (what happened after that?) - so I may be tempted to fill in details later!

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Quite a number of Oreads went to the Cader area at Whit. They all had a good time and good weather. Wez Hayden and Fred Allen did a new route with Nat Allen

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The turnout on the Gower meet also at Whit, was poor, but those who went with Joan Brailsford had a jolly good time doing new routes and exploring the area. (More news at a later date about this).

COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 26th. 1961.

This meeting was unusual because of the fact that eleven out of the total of twelve members attended! (Where was the President of Vicc?) Someone said he was thought to be running an M.A. course in the Himalayas. One of the main topics was of course the annual dinner. The hotel has been booked (same one as last year), the eats fixed, but not the price. Clubs and chief guests have been invited. There are still some of the speakers to be "fixed", but all appears to be going to plan. The newsletter was discussed and it was agreed that it should be treated as a matter of urgency. Welbourne had a lot to say on his pet subject - subs. Burns read out a list of bad payers and it was agreed that a circular should be dispatched to them immediately informing them of their grave situation! (This has been done).

WORKING PARTY AT THE CLUB HUT - JUNE 17th/18th.

The hut sub-committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all members who so ably supported the working party at the club hut.

The work done included the following:-

New partition and fit door in drying room

Fit new hinges and adjust back door

Provide and fit fireplace and slate surround in the lounge

Render lounge bay

Clean and paint the following:-

Dining Room, Passage, food racks.

Two additional lights were fitted in the landing and roof space including two-way switching.

Two chimney Pots removed and topped with slate

Bedrooms spring cleaned and all windows cleaned.

PLEASE NOTE

Hut bookings and key for period July 20th/Aug.22nd., should be obtained from Paul Gardiner

"Birdina",

Cadgewith Drive,

Darley Abbey, DERBY.

CLIMBING BOOT REPAIRS.

W. Timpson Ltd. of 95 Carrington St., Nottingham are all out to give good service (1 - 3 days according to materials).

Through sole and heel mens 32/9d, ladies 27/11d. with Itside Commando, Vibram (Roceia or Montague) and Marva new middles 2/6d., heels 8/11d. and 7/11d. Leather 33/9d and 26/6d. Nailing from 23/9d. Patches to uppers from 1/-. Reasonable stitching with soling and heeling free. The Editor has recently had a pair of Hawkins lightweights resoled with Vibrams and they seem quite satisfactory.

NEW SPECIALIST SHOP - KEEN PRICES.

Peter Hutchinson and partner have recently opened a new shop: The Mountaineer, 17, Cumberland St., Deangate, Manchester 3.

The editor has a catalogue. Examples of items available:-

Stubai large screw Frabs 12/-.

Pegs from 2/6d.

Duvets, over ten types of boot, hammers, axes, bivouac gear, are tried and recommended by climbers as being the best or cheapest and most effective available. A good buy is the new P/V nylon anorak, hard-wearing, completely waterproof - £4-12-6d.

OREADS IN SHORTS.

Brush Head reports that Doug Scott recently led the Boulder on Cloggy, the Gates and the Corner.

"Burly" Turner recently seconded Brush Head Hadlem on Cenotaph Corner one Saturday evening, the following day doing Mery Nywl and leading Pinnacle Wall on Craig yr Isfa.

Oreads in shorts at Stange - hot - midges - Oreads in longs.

We have been asked to say that delays in post card deliveries have no connection with a man and a "vice-job" at Port Said.

Welbourne has officially denied the possibility of executing a PAS DE DEUX.

Heard on the Blacks on Wednesday night, "I've not been climbing since yesterday."

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ON MOUNTAINEERING

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GORDON J. GADSBY.

Why do we climb my friends and I,  
 Why endeavour to reach the sky?  
 Is it the thought of a heart overjoyed,  
 When we stand on our peak and gaze into the void?  
 Or is it that magical feeling we get  
 When the mountains we love are misty and wet.  
 And those other days when strong west winds blow  
 While white clouds reflect in the lochans below.  
 A glissade in the sun from some snow covered mound,  
 In which the whole joy of existence is found.  
 Is it the Cuillins the Red Hills or Skye  
 That calls us again and again ere we die.  
 The long tramp home in the westering sun  
 By peat bogs and bracken and an ancient dun.  
 The call of Nepal is also there,  
 To rise with the sun in the sharp frosty air.  
 To climb the gendarme and then the arete,  
 And gaze down in awe on the plains of Tibet.  
 Sometimes I think it's the thrill of the climb  
 With presence of danger and moments sublime.  
 The mind must be keen and the fingers strong,  
 The heart of a man and the will to go on.  
 The mountains take toll with lost life and limb,  
 But our love is so great we forgive them their sin.  
 Whatever the answer we mountaineers know,  
 There's nothing quite like it come sun rain or snow.

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QUOTE ON M6 MOTORWAY : Returning from the Buttermere Meet in the Mini Bus and traveling at rather high speed, Routh Welbourne was heard to say, "If we don't slow down I will have that child any minute!"

A copy of the letter sent to Brian Cooke recently, from Camp 4(18,300') on Indrasan:-

"My dear Brian,

This is a rapidly written note to let you know that progress is quite good - there is an assault party consisting of Derrick Burgess and Dennis Grey on the final ridge of Indrasan at this moment and the neighbouring peak of Deo Tibba, 19,687ft. has been climbed twice on separate occasions by different parties.

Jack joined us on the 19th June at Camp 11 and is now banished to a survey base at the old Camp 1, about 5,000ft. below our position. But you know Jack as philosophical as ever and never a complaint.

The main party reached the valley base camp at the end of May after, for the most, a wretchedly uncomfortable and foodless (in the European sense) train and bus journey. Encamped by the Naggur bridge, by which we crossed the river Beas to gain the East side of the valley, we organised a caravan of 56 ponies each bearing 160 lbs. to carry our gear and supplies to the snout of the Malana Glacier, our chosen approach to Indrasan. The Malana nullah runs roughly parallel with the main Kulu via the steeply ascending and thickly forested Chakki nullah and negotiate the 12,000 ft. Chandra Karni Pass, belatedly snow covered. At the critical section - the crest - the caravan had to be unloaded so that the ponies could traverse unladen to safe ground and there be reloaded to continue the march. In contrast to rail and road this was a truly delightful journey along narrow tracks through forests of many varieties high above the little cultivations of the Malana valley. In four days we established a comfortable base camp beneath a colossal "perched block" which Ray decorated with his nude calendar. Then followed a series of reconnoitering journeys to locate the best route on to the snout of the Malana glacier, determine sites for the series of camps and consolidate the position on the "Second Shelf". Connecting this almost level 16,000' plateau with its counterpart the "Third Shelf" from which rise Deo Tibba and Indrasan is De Graaf's Couloir, long, narrow and steep, which takes  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours really strenuous effort when load carrying. After camps 2 and 4 had been established on the "Third Shelf" they were abandoned to a week of storm. But we are now back again, very hopeful that Derrick and

Dennis will succeed in reaching the summit of Indrasan. When we quit this plateau the remaining tasks will be, (1) Survey journey to the Bara Shigri wall; (2) Reconnoitre Ali Ratna Tibba.

Yours, Bob.

Since then, three attempts to reach the summit have been made without success, and the latest reports tell us that the attempt has been abandoned and the top camps evacuated. Bob Pettigrew reports "On comparing notes we decided to give the mountain best. Indrasan has defeated us - the only feasible route being the steep snow of the south face which is constantly swept by avalanches from the ice cliffs below the summit snows."

"It would be therefore, a 'death or Glory' way of the Eiger Nordwand type. On July 4th. we commenced the evacuation of the high camps and withdrew to Camp 1 from which we are embarking on the second phase of our programme.

Unfortunately Trevor Panther, whilst climbing above camp 2 on Indrasan was taken ill and has had to return home. Best wishes of all Oreads go to Trevor for a speedy recovery.

Janet Ashcroft and Deanna Pettigrew, not to be outdone by their husbands have organised their own expedition to the hot spots of Europe.

THE MEETS SECRETARY WISHES TO STATE QUITE DEFINITELY THAT HE DID NOT FAIL ON THE WELSH WALK THIS YEAR ALTHOUGH CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE HIMALAYAN TEAM SEEM TO THINK THAT HE DID.

YORKSHIRE MEET      JULY 29/30th.

Brian Housley.

The area chosen for this meet, Scugdale in the North-east Yorkshire Moors, is probably little known to most Oreads, but is well worth a visit especially at this time of the year when most of the popular areas are becoming so crowded.

These moors, though not high by Pennine standards, offer some of the best views and walks in the whole of Yorkshire. There are a few outcrops of rock suitable for climbing, one of which is in Scugdale, a valley running from the Cleveland Hills to Swainby, a village on the Thirsk - Middlesbrough road (A172). (Grid ref. 4702 O.S. Tourist Edition for N. Yorks. Moors). Another and perhaps better known one is the Wairstones, 5 miles N.E. of Scugdale (marked Hasty Bank on the map).

This area is fine walking country, with fertile valleys, heather moors, good camping and wonderful beer. Of the beer, there is a cosy pub in Swainby with a friendly landlord, and, for those who want a wet weekend, camping is permitted in the field behind the pub, (in payment of 1 pt. to the farmer who is always in the bar).

However, camping is best arranged in Scugdale under the rocks by Raikes Farm where the large barn may be used if the weather is bad. (Grid ref. 512003).

Transport will be by private cars etc., See the meet leader in the "Bell" for arrangements.

August Bank Holiday Meet - TAN - YR - WYDDFA.

The Rhyd ddu area is one of the most peaceful in Snowdonia even in the height of the holiday season. Although quite a number of Oreads will be off to the even higher hills, others may like to sample the "Oread rest home" for a long week end. There will be no leader for this meet so just roll up and enjoy a few days climbing with friends.

Let Paul Gardiner know if you require a place in the hut.

Future meets.

There is the usual absence of meets during the August holiday period. The next meet is at DOWE CRAG on September 9th. Fred Allen is leading this and has booked The Lancs. Cave and Crag hut which is situated close to DoweCrag.

I take this opportunity of wishing all Oreads and friends a jolly good summer holiday.

GEOFF HAYES (Meets Sec.)