

The Editor regrets the delay in publication of this newsletter - organisation for the dinner, Photo Meet, Scavenger Meet, has left very little time, however.....Mountaineering and rock climbing have continued to be a popular activity and in the midst of the social season it has been good to see so many Oreads out and about.

OREADS IN SHORTS

Wally with led Kelly's Overhang on Stanage High Nab recently.

Betty Wright (an old Oread) was married recently.

We are wondering whether the recently opened shop opposite the St. James in Derby has been stocked out with Cigarette cases and other Indian Eric-a-Brac by Ray Handley.

NATURAL BREAKS.

Margaret Lowe recently sustained a fractured finger, not as might be assumed in attempting to carry out the much publicised suggestions of the Duke of Edinburgh, but believe it or not - while dancing in the middle of the road after the dinner! We understand that she is progressing well. Reryl Turner has suffered a broken ankle (not while climbing) and is also making good progress.

We are sorry to hear of these mishaps and wish them both a speedy recovery.

CHRISTMAS EVE - AN EXTRAORDINARY MEET - DECEMBER 1961 *bivouac*

Gordon Gadsby and ~~Dave Weston~~ *Dave Weston* invite all Oreads to a one night ~~meeting~~ *bivouac* meet on Snowdon summit on Xmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th..

Tents will be frowned upon except as bivvy sheets.

We should arrive on the summit between 9.30 and 10.30 on Sunday night. Good bed spaces can be found on the East Face about 20 feet below the Summit cairn, providing the wind is from the West. If conditions are anything like last year ice axes will be useful also a rope just in case, and of course a polathene bag, compass, and plenty of food and drink.

Many Oread's are spending the Xmas period at the club Hut, so we are hoping some of them will join us on what could be a very rewarding experience. We especially hope to see that "Prince of the Duvett Brigade" - Ernie (Fire-Screen) Phillips, and that Ace B.M.C. photographer - Hehog Jack ("have you seen my crampons") Ashcroft.

Lets have some Oreads to meet Santa at the start of his journey and pray for a fine clear frosty night.

*Weston,*

STOP PRESS: Gordon, Dave, and Doug Cooke did spend the night on the summit as planned, though the bivvy spot was changed from the East Face to the west wall (of the hotel). The contingent at Pen-y-pass who saw them off nearly got frost bite stepping out of their vehicles, and those who had been on Snowdon that day imagined they were seeing the trio for the last time. As the wind howled round Tan-yr-W ddfa, many similarly cheerful comments were flying round. ~~Instructions from a certain quarter had been "when you bring them down in the morning be careful not to crack them."~~ But the report on the summit the next morning was of warmth and (comparative) comfort.

ROACHES MEET SEPT. 1961. by Margaret Lowe.

The Roaches have been a firm favourite among the gritstone cliffs ever since I came to regard them as my back doorstep (while being 'stationed' at that now notorious establishment Alsager Training college). So it was with great delight that I found myself going back there for a weekend, at the same time with some misgivings as a meet leader. The little but infuriating matter of 2/6 climbing charge would, I was sure, dampen the enthusiasm of a good many Oreads who did not share my sentiments about the crag. The rendezvous was to be the "Three Horseshoes" but the absence of any other climbers and the palacial unwelcomeness of the place sent us in search of better territory. The little pub in the village was equally uninspiring to a meet leader - the only climbers in it were our own car load. We had expected to be among the last arrivals as Geoff was working late, so things did not look very promising. The others, Gordon, Doreen, Mick, Celia and Eric all decided that 'the best bods were there anyway' and we drove on ready to claim the crag.

We were in for a very pleasant shock. A flicker of candle lights and roar of primuses greeted us in the field near the farm, and it seemed quite packed with tents. We debated whether to camp and then decided to be very mazy and barn it. The presence of Mick and Celia inspired the usual session of fights before settling down to a brew and kip. (Their engagement hasn't improved them at all - if anything they're worse!). The final disruption of proceedings however, came from the Gadsby quarter. Anyone who has spent a night in the Roaches barn will be familiar with the continuous thudding and squeaking sounds which go on all night regardless of the inhabitants. It seems to be noisier than most other barns because the mice (and rats we are told) use it as their gymnasium. Climbers find the big ledge along the walls so convenient for propping up primuses, candles, tins and the like, but they pay for it at night. The creatures have the time of their lives chasing along it, and dropping off with squeals of delight on to your cheese. They happen to be Doreen Gadsby's pet hate, so just after midnight she announced that she could stand it no longer and the Gadsbys moved out to camp.

Sunday started off well with coffee in bed - Eric's usual brew. The prospect outside wasn't very inspiring. Clouds were down on the crag, as an afterthought we decided that these might discourage the 'tax-collector' for a while and decided to get some routes in while the going was good.

The rock was rather greasy and our crowd stuck to easier routes at first. In fact lets face it, I stuck to easier routes full stop, though I did venture to lead one or two. Once Dez, Beryl, Wally and Co. got on the rock however there was no holding them(as usual).

The Oread seemed to be out in full force (or as full a force as the Oread ever get out in except on big social occasions); the rock seemed plastered with climbers and I counted over 30 including day trippers. Even Welbourne had braved the terrible risk of having to pay 2/6d. which in itself was a great success. When we judged it was about time the game keeper arrived we scuttled off under the barbed wire fence, up to the far end and had a fine time messing around on stuff we'd never climbed before. The weather was improving and some of the rock was really good. To anyone who has never gone further than the great slab I really would recommend a few hours over yonder. You will find quite a bit of rock to sort you out.

As we wandered back along the top we noticed the 'old lad' with his shot gun down below counting the sheekles, and inwardly gloated. Nevertheless we did the last bit back to the barn at the double (I have never had to pay at the Roaches yet and wasn't going to be caught now.) It was a really fine evening - calm and colourful - the kind one always remembers. After eats we trotted over to Hen Cloud and watched the "A" team performing on the hard stuff. I made a hopeless mess of a diabolical chimney which Beryl lead like a mountain goat, decided that I was past it and headed for the easiest thing I could find on the crag. Even that was bad enough in the twilight. I decided that Hen Cloud is just a bit beyond me!

Though only a short meet I thought it was very enjoyable and I expect many Oreads will join me in hoping that the Roaches will become a free climbing ground again soon.

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The Editor, Oread Newsletter,

Sir,

I overheard a conversation in a coffee bar recently concerning the department of ice-axes. There was a hot contender for the adze-forward position at all times, the main advantage being that the hand grasping the head has to go through no readjustment before it is in the ready position

for breaking.

I have always been a pick-forward man myself, the idea being that should a slip occur, the pick is ready to face the snow immediately. In descent conversely the pick to the rear. If a slip occurs the hand can immediately grasp the haft (since there is plenty of it to grab), the free hand can then be brought to bear on the head for braking.

The "pick-behind" contender claimed that he had practiced his method a great deal and had always succeeded in braking comfortably. I can only suggest that if he were to practice the other method he would probably find it equally successful.

Personally, I have practised deliberate falls and braking using both methods with equal success. The pick-forward is probably quicker since the business end of the axe is always to the slope.

Whilst in the hills I have had severe falls on snow (due to rotten snow etc.) and with the pick-to-the-slope position have never failed to brake before being checked by the rope.

Can any of your readers express their views on this?

Yours etc,

AVERAGE FAIL OUT.

#### Calling all Oreads with Skis.

As quite a few Oreads have skis, the places suggested below it is hoped will get all Oreads ski-ing on the same slope instead of being spread out all over Derbyshire.

TURNDITCH. Turn left of the Duffield/ Wirksworth Road up through Turnditch A517 to the top of the hill (lay by). If conditions are poor at Turnditch the following places should be tried in this order; Rifle range Dove Dale, Golf Course Buxton or in despair Blackden Clough, Snake.

People in the Nottingham area should get in touch with Geoff Hayes, (Phone Beeston 256750) who it is hoped will have the latest snow reports from Pete Janes.

#### CHRISTMAS MEET.

The best Christmas weather any of us can remember was the comment at this meet. The hut was full - 28 members and friends. The highlight of the weekend was of course the Christmas dinner; chief cooks Chuck Hooley and Les Langworthy and ably assisted by the ladies, did a magnificent job.

It was certainly a highlight of the year.

OVERHEARD AT A RECENT COMMITTEE MEETING

"Does Ashcroft take good photographs or is it us that take b..... bad ones?"

"You could hear the crunching of cameras under heels during the evening of the Photo Meet".

"We had about 1000 bed nights at the hut last year - has this anything to do with the high fertility rate of the club?"

"Say Welbourne have you paid your subs for next year yet?"

THE HON. TREASURER WISHES ALL MEMBERS A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 1962 AND ALSO REMINDS MEMBERS THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!

CADER MEET BY DERRICK BURGESS.

Despite the poor weather there was a good turn out for this meet and a goodly array of tents was pitched on the Friday night.

Parties aimed themselves at the crag on several fronts on the Saturday but the rock was unfortunately too greasy for all but the easier routes; the Cyfrwy arete proved most popular and was ascended or descended by most during the weekend. As the parties returned to the campsite they were dragged into a gentle game of rugby which, apart from putting Dez out of action, helped to 'clean' the campsite of a few cow-type souvenirs. A convivial evening in the local boczer helped to fortify the team for another wet night (inside and out), which possibly accounted for everyone having an easier day on the Sunday.

Altogether a very pleasant meet despite the weather. It was attended by approx. 20 Oreads and friends.

RECENT MEETS. - NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 1961 - Ed. Roger Turner

During the Christmas rush meet leaders have been unable to send in reports of their meets, so here is a brief summary by someone who attended all. The fireworks meet was held at Ilam, with a large bonfire, fireworks and a magnificent pantomime in which Dennis Grey was a leading light and an Oread, Wez Haydn, a leading girl. Oreads were also well placed in the cross country race; Eric Wallis came in at 4th place and Wally Smith was not far behind. Burgess, Janes, Chapman, Turner, Haydn, and Crampons Ashcroft were also ~~present~~.

The photo meet was again won by Ashcroft for the third successive year; you can imagine the comments that this caused. All photographs were of a high standard (except ~~those~~ those that won), including a pornographic one of Pretty. Although it began to snow early in the day on Sunday it did not prevent the few hard campers from filling over 30 bags of rubbish from the campsite and Birchen and Gardoms edge. The Bullstones meet presented two really fine days of weather - in fact as fine as anyone could remember for Bleaklow and luckily there was quite a turnout to sample it. A large party left Edale on the Saturday morning after a good night at Polterguist barn and arrived at Bullstones that evening. Another party - the Gadsby, Hayes, ~~Marsland~~ Wally Smith, did the classic walk from Ladybower Inn over the Derwent. Edges in the dark, arriving at about 8-30 p.m. Clive Webb said he had the honour of sleeping between three past presidents ~~and~~ - Pretty, Falkner and Sutton, so you can see, ~~quite~~ quite a meet.

MEETS CIRCULAR

LIMESTONE CLIMBING MEET 13/14th January 1961. DEZ HADLUM.

The Peak District has some of the finest Limestone, for **climbers** in Britain, and not all routes are peg routes, so if you **have not got the** necessary pegs, **krabs** etc., don't be put off from **turning up on this meet.**

**Camping will be at Black Rocks**, a quiet place in the Winter. Permission has been obtained for parties to climb on **High Tor** during the week end, so I expect we will make use of this. Free climbing can be had in plenty at Willersley Crag at Cromford. This fine high cliff was recently discovered and now gives many routes with or without pegs. The cliff is situated close to the A.6.. A track leaves the road on the right close to the roadworks in Cromford, all the climbs start close to this track

INDOOR MEETS.

Although the full programme has not yet been fixed there will be evening meets on the following dates:-

JANUARY 30th

FEBRUARY 27th ALL MEETS AT THE St. JAMES HOTEL

MARCH 27th DERBY.

MAY 1st STARTING AT 7.30pm.

January 30th will be a members evening at the St. James Hotel St. James Street, Derby. Bring along a few slides of interest to the rest of the club. If you have been on holiday recently why not show others what a good time you had.

Members of the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition have agreed to give a lecture on their exploits on one of the other dates.

Langdale Jan 26/28th. Further details in the Next Meets circular.