

THE 1962 ALPINE SEASON

D. BURGESS

This season has been the best for many years and consequently most routes were in excellent condition before the end of August. The many British climbers who were abroad this year were quick to take advantage of the good weather and many fine routes were done. The success of Bonnington and Clough on the Eiger was undoubtedly the finest British achievement, following, as it did, their ascent of the Walker Spur in record time. The harder Alpine routes all received their share of British ascents, but the emphasis certainly seemed to be on rock routes, and the Dolomites, Karwendal and Kaisergeberge were all well patronised. Chamonix was as usual the most popular centre and the campsite there was reminiscent of a Bank Holiday in Langdale and by the end of the season this was especially so as the rowdier elements had given the British a very bad name. Unfortunately there were many accidents involving British climbers, caused in the majority of cases through the folly of inexperience. The Eiger accidents should serve as a grim reminder that the mountains cannot be trifled with, and it is only due to the exceptionally good weather that the many parties benighted or involved in extra bivouacs escaped unscathed.

A few notes on the principle ascents (by British parties) that I have heard about, these are not necessarily complete or correct.

Chamonix Area.

The E. Face of the Grand ^{CAPUCIN} Jorasses was climbed by 5 or more parties usually with one bivouac on the summit. The W. Face Ag. Noire de Pucterey had two ascents (B. Evans, I. Howell; Whillans, Bonnington) whilst the S. Ridge was climbed by R. Colledge and D. Davis.

The Frontier Ridge and Old Brenva Route on Mont Blanc were climbed by D. Gray, D. Hadlum and E. Beard, Des at the time climbing with his arm in plaster following an accident in the Dolomites.

The Dru was in perfect condition and a multi-national procession wound it's way up most routes. The Bonatté Pillar had an ascent by Crew and friend, Evans and Howell climbed the West Face, and the North Face had at least ten ascents before the end of the season. This was fantastic considering the second British ascent was by Oliver and Ruisson at the end of August, the other parties included Carruthers and Logan, John Brailsford and L. Noble; I Clough and J Alexander.

The Aiguilles received their share of attention; the N. Face of the Plan was climbed by Carruthers and Les Brown, several parties ascended the N. Ridge of the Peigne; the E. Ridge of the Crocodile and the Ryam Lochmatter on the Plan both had ascents whilst the more normal routes in the Aiguilles were well frequented.

Across the valley the Moine was climbed by it's E. Face and both the Petites Jorasses (W. Face) and Grand Jourasses (Walker) had their 3rd British ascents as also did the N. Face of the Triolet.

Zermatt Area.

Heavy snow left over from the winter was slow to clear and conditions were not good before August. The only notable ascents I have heard about was the Furggen Ridge of the Matterhorn (Clough, Alexander) and the Zmutt Ridge (G. Rhodes, L. Hughes, E. Beard)

In the Bregaglia many parties were active and the N.E. Face of the Badile has had numerous ascents - one report was that it has now been climbed by over 30 British parties

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and is now considered a 'voie Normal'.

In the Dolomites nearly all the hardest climbs have had ascents but unfortunately my knowledge of the Dolomites is not sufficient for me to give an accurate report.

(Incidentally - what did Burgess do? Ed.)

SLINGSBY'S PINNACLE

COLIN HOBDAY

I can well remember the Saturday evening on the Dow Crag meet. I sat in the lounge of the L.C&C.C. hut 'Tranarth', drinking my 5th cup of tea, when Gordon Gadsby came over and asked me what I was going to do on Sunday. "Don't know" I replied. "Let's have a look at Slingsby's Pinnacle and capture some of the spirit of the pioneer days!" "Alright" I said thinking that he would forget about it by morning.

We were up bright and early on Sunday morning and after a quick breakfast, we were off up to Dow Crag by 10.30. A long steady plod saw us up at Goats Water by 11.30 and we were soon enveloped in thick mist as we arrived at the foot of the crag. "I'll get the guide book out and find out where it is" remarked Gordon, sounding full of enthusiasm as usual, and I donned another annorack to keep out the cold. "It's near the top of easy gully". "That's up to the left" I replied, it's an easy way down" not being particularly bothered if I went up the gully or not. Ten minutes later we were at the top of easy gully without a sign of the pinnacle, and the wet mist was all round us. "Must be in the next gully" I said, hoping that we would not find it. Soon we were descending a gully full of loose rock which eventually disappeared in an abyss of swirling mist. "This can't be it" muttered Gordon "it says in the guide that it can easily be reached from the top.

My mind wandered off to thoughts of cups of tea, steaming hot, back at the hut, but these were soon shattered by Gordon suggesting that we try the next gully. Back at the top and along, we were soon in the other gully equally as loose as the last. On our way down the mist cleared for a few moments to reveal a pinnacle looming up in front of us, looking very wet and green.

A 100 ft traverse across vertical grass brought us to the foot of the pinnacle and a green holdless slab of rock. "This does not look to bad" Gordon said brimming over with enthusiasm at having found the tower. I had already moved round the other side in search of an easy way. "I'll belay you from here" said Gordon, and I let off up a green looking groove, but was soon down again complaining of it being greasy. "Shall I have a look at the arete" asked Gordon feeling that the summit was slipping from our grasp. Belaying on, Gordon lead off only to be beaten back by an awkward step in the ridge. "Well thats that I thought, back to the hut now for a nice 'Cupa". "How about having a look?" The rope was passed to me and I was soon on the arete and at the place where Gordon had found the difficulty. I soon had a runner on and with a long reach was soon over the difficulty. Leading up the arete to the top of the pinnacle I belayed and shouted down to Gordon to come on. He was soon sitting beside me on the small table top summit, and both of us felt very exhilarated! at having ascended a 40ft MOD.

"Gwen Moffat? I think I can satisfy her" - Quote by Brian Cooke.

Chuck Hooley to Doreen Gadsby- "Have you never really been kissed passionately by a man with a beard?" "No Chuck, have you?"

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The following nominations for membership have been received. Members wishing to give their views on the candidates suitability for membership should write to the Hon. Secretary.. The committee always welcome such views.

Alexander W. Robertson (Sandy) 'Chellaston House', 6. High St., Chellaston Derby.

Proposed. Harry Pretty. Seconded Pete Janes.

Leslie Scragg. 38. Norwood Gardens, Southwell, Notts.

Proposed Gordon Gadsby. Seconded J. Welbourne.

The Photographic Competition.

The Committee are working on a new set of rules for the Photo' competition, and request that members send any new or not so new ideas to help sort out a good set of rules for the next and subsequent photo meets.

New Address. George Sutton has moved to 101 Seabank Road, Wallesey, Cheshire.

NEW MEMBERS.

Barry Williams. 1. Stanford St., Hearnor Derbyshire, was elected full member at a recent Committee meeting.

Paul Craddock. 27, Templeoak Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham, was elected associate member.

OPINIONS IN SHORTS - NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1962

"I don't consider meets of under 40 miles". A recent quote from Phil Falkner.

~~Brian Housley is soon to get married at a church that plays bells by gramophone. He wants to know if he can take his own records along.~~

Quote on the recent Marsden Rowsley walk.....

"Do you know, this is the most expensive meet of the year for me. First I have to take my car to Derby, pay to keep it in a garage for the week end, buy a ticket for Manchester, then to Marsden, and what with all those pubs we pass, I spend plenty on beer. Then of course I have to get a new pair of boots, and a taxi from the bus to the garage at the end of the walk, as I will have 'set solid' by then. Finally there is a week off work without pay and heaven knows how much a specialist will cost for the next few months!

This year's Marsden Rowsley walk was the 10th anniversary of the first walk. Phil Falkner was on the first walk in Oct. 1952, and was as keen and fit as ever on this year's walk. By the way, Phil celebrates his 25th ascent of Snowdon in 1964.

New editions of the Gritstone Guides are to be published. Most of the series are now out of print and the belief is that properly prepared new editions would need no further revision for a good many years.

CLOGGY MEET 1962

Contrary to all expectations this proved to be one of the most popular meets for some time and even necessitated a small overflow which camped in the adjoining field.

As usual the Nottingham contingent arrived late and received a visit from the Hut Warden who complained of the noise. Was this through his duty as warden or the fact that he couldn't get to sleep himself?

The following morning was 'typical' Cloggy weather with clouds right down on the tops and a biting wind blowing straight onto the crag. It is not surprising, therefore, that only two 'keen' types (readers can no doubt substitute other words!) trudged up to the cliff and spent the whole time during the rest of the day trying to sort out a route (or was it the other way round?). Several members tried, unsuccessfully, to find Cwm Cyllin and finished up spending the rest of the day on the coast at Black Rock Sands, sunbathing and playing football. Saturday night in Beddgelert provided a shock for Der Burgess and group. They only mentioned the mere fact that they were Oreads and friends of Geoff Hayes and immediately they were refused drinks!

Sunday started as on the previous day but by 11.0 it had cleared sufficiently for most people to decide on doing something. Several drove round to Tremadoc and had some excellent climbing once they had forced a way through the undergrowth. Another group took a slow walk up to Cloggy, stopping a few minutes to throw stones across to the far side of the quarry pool. The rocks were in hopeless condition for any hard routes to be done but Doreen managed to get up Curving Crack with only a couple of 'tight ropes' and even managed to lead the final arete. The rest of the party walked to the summit of Snowdon in glorious weather and returned via the ridge above Llechog.

The only disappointment of the weekend apart from the greasy, rocks was that of water supply failure. Several members returned from the crag on Saturday evening expecting to christen the new bath but instead they found that there was no internal water supply at all. What a disappointment!

The meet leader would like to thank everyone for making it such an enjoyable weekend.

Eric Wallis

An epic was enacted last week in Lockwoods Chimney when Doreen Gadsby sick no less than five times, most of the way up and down the climb! This caused consternation to the following party lead by Pete Janes who had a fine time dodging. Colin Hobday was an able leader giving Doreen just enough slack to aim well.

At this time Wally Smith and Geoff Hayes were retreating from Cymr Las and it took these two about an hour to find the Parson's Nose, it was rather cloudy of course.

On the Sunday the same Nottingham group using the hut as a base camp visited the Nantle Quarry and it's Aguille later becoming 'fire proof' with a climb up to Cwain Glyndowers Cave and the adjacent asbestos workings here Wally tried his hand at mining with a peg hammer (note the result of his hard work on mantle piece at hut). Geoff Hayestock photographs 'asbestos' he could. The colours were glorious, as Autumn is very late in Wales this year.

Following letter from Jim Bury will be of interest to members.

Dear Geoff,

Having just got round to reading the September Newsletter note your query re. "Blacks Bulletin".

Now, without wishing to discredit your eyes, I have to state in the interests of truth that all three persons appearing in the photographs are Mr. R.F. Whitaker. According to Roy this is accidental and due to Blacks having mixed up the photographs and captions. However I was indeed present on this historic occasion and in fact took all the photos.

This year we tried a similar expedition(?) to the Col du Geant where we camped for 7 days climbing the Geant and one or two other peaks, our activities being limited by the fact that we were convalescing from a form of gravitational illness which overtook us on the Weisshorn.

We find that camping at high level and in the centre of a good area has many advantages over hut dwelling. The disadvantages in bad weather are obvious but a more serious drawback is a distinct lethargy which overcomes us about 4.00 am each day with the result that we rarely make the early start which is normal from a hut.

It is very desirable of course to have porters for this type of Alpine Climbing but so far we have managed by choosing sites near railheads (the Fraujoch) or telefriques (the Col du Geant). We are contemplating using the Staffa Teleferique near Macugnaga next year to explore the Monte Rosa massif.

Kind regards to yourself and the club.

Yours,

Jim Bury.

Thank's for the interesting information Jim I must put in for a new PAIR OF GLASSES for reading!

Recent meets.

There was a very successful meet at TRANARTH, the L.C.&.C.C. club hut below Dow Crag. Although the crag was rather wet and greasy after a week of rain, a number of routes were done - mainly by the President and Barry Williams. On Sunday a number of parties walked through the Autumn coloured lakeside and surrounding Fells. The highlight of the weekend was the journey home with greatest traffic jams members have ever experienced on the A.6. Reports told of smoke coming out of Laurie Burns's cars as he fought his way back to Long Eaton.

PHOTO MEET 1962

The photo competition results:

<u>COLOUR TROPHY</u>		<u>BLACK AND WHITE TROPHY</u>	
1st Gordon Gadsby	60	1st Jack Ashcroft	60
2nd Derrick Burgess	50	2nd Gordon Gadsby	45
3rd Ray Handley	40	3rd Harry Pretty	30
4th John Brailsford	35	4th John Brailsford	20
5th Jack Ashcroft	35		

It was decided to present two trophies this year, one for colour and the other for Black and White. It will be seen from the above points that if they are combined Gordon Gadsby would have won the Trophy had there only been one as in previous years. Well done Gordon I'ts about time Hebog

PHOTO MEET CONTINUED.....

was dethroned, he has had it too easy for years. However Jacks total is very close to Gordons so it is quite clear that he is still fighting fit and no doubt will provide a good entry again next year. Derrick Burgess ran a close second to Gordon in the Colour Section - well done Derrick.

The total entry was down on last year, but hearing of so many climbing exploits during the past season it is amazing that members still find time to take photographs as well!

It was a most entertaining evening to see all the entries and to hear the candid (and sometimes caustic) comments of Douglas Milner who was on fine form and so ably judged the entries. There was the usual good turn out which is usual thing for this meet.

BONFIRE NIGHT AND CROSS COUNTRY RACE Ilam Hall and Dove Dale

The Bonfire meet at Ilam Hall is fast becoming the most popular meet of the year, as it combines all that one needs for a social and hard week end

This year there was the usual great bonfire which was necessary to dry out one or two types who decided a fully clothed dip in the Manifold was a good idea. (Funnily enough Gadsby was not one of them!) After Handley had exhausted his supply of guided missiles into the large crowd we thought all was over until we were bombarded with land mines from another side.

The pantomime following the bonfire was the best yet, but how could it fail with so many Oreads taking part? Derrick Burgess with a glazed look in his eye, which was the result of a considerable part of the evening spent in the local, put up a fine performance as the villain, and I hear that Janet has been offered a contract to appear in western bar room scenes on Television - her accent brought the house down. Roger 'Bronko' Turner and Beryl took very good parts as did Wez Haydon as one of the sharp shooters. I look forward to another pantomime on the same standard as the "Foul Five" next year.

The cross country race held over a 4½ mile course round the Dove on Sunday morning is a good chance for the hard men to show just how hard they are and for the others to have a good laugh. There was the usual last minute excuses from most members (It's amazing what people can think up in such a short time). Needless to say the race was won by an Oread. George Rhodes ran a fantastic race and was almost a minute up on the second man at the finish. Not only did he win so convincingly but easily broke the course record, and conditions were very wet. Eric Wallis also ran a good race - it was all I could do to keep him in view - he finished about twentieth, I was really finished at 18th, and by the time we had taken a bath Janes and Handley arrived! But don't let me forget Shroft who was close behind me (running without his usual crampons) and Burgess who had just got rid of that glazed look, getting it back again during the race.

Very little was done the rest of the day, a few climbed on Brassington and others walked in the Dale, I spent most of the time somewhere I'm told on Brassington, but can't remember as I spent all the time trying to get my breath back. "Never again" I said, but a year is a long time and I expect we will all be as keen as ever next Nov 5th.

Geoff Hayes.