

O R E A D M O U N T A I N E E R I N G C L U B
N E W S L E T T E R

MARCH
1967

Another Annual General Meeting has passed, a New Oread year starts with a new President and new Committee. Reports from the various Officers of the Club on the previous years activities (detailed later) were very encouraging. If this good trend continues this coming year should be a good one. The Newsletter editor is still the same and therefore starts off with that well known plea for more articles and prompt reports of meets from leaders. The only way it is possible to get a Newsletter to you each month is for you as members to do your bit.

It was good to see quite a number of members and prospective members at the camp site after the A.G.M. Bakewell is within easy motoring of most of our homes. The A.G.M. like other meets is also a climbing and camping meet. Some Oreads still get out and 'live' in the hills.

Annual General Meeting Bakewell Saturday 11th March 1967.

New Officers and Committee

President	R. Handley.	<u>Committee</u>
Vice-President	P. Janes.	M. Berry.
Hon. General Sec.	R. Langworthy.	B. Kirk.
Asst. General Sec.	L. Langworthy.	G. Reynolds.
Hon. Meets Sec.	D. Weston.	E. Wallis.
Hon Treasurer.	L. Burns.	D. Williams.
Hut Warden.	J. Corden.	

For the first time (I think) there was no voting for either Officers or Committee at an A.G.M., there being just the correct number of proposals to fill all the posts. A sign of satisfaction from the body of the club? There were no apologies for absence despite less than half of the clubs members being present! The Minutes of the last A.G.M. were read by Roni Langworthy and were approved. She then went on to give the Secretary's report. Membership now stands at 101 persons an increase of five over last year. A new Handbook is in the pipe line and should be distributed to members shortly. The Clubs library in the hands of Doreen Gadsby had not been used during the last 12 months, no books or maps had been added because of this. Cris Martin continues to represent the Club at B.M.C. Peak Committee meetings and Charlie Cullum now residing near London is on the B.M.C. Committee. She thanked them both for their good work. She also reported that there had been a little progress on access in the Rhyd-ddu area, namely a footpath to Garn, but as this path entailed a diversion into the Beddgellert forest would be of little interest for people making for the crag. Roni concluded her speech by saying that the Club had been invited to seven other club members and that our own was a success.

Pete Janes in his last year as president said it had been a reasonable year for the club. There still remained the task of encouraging younger members. He thanked his committee for good work done. Meets during the year

.....had been successful, particularly the indoor meets. The move from the Bell in Derby to the Willmot in Borrowash had resulted in an increase of members attending on Tuesday evenings, although it had not encouraged more from the Nottingham area as was hoped.

Lol Burns our Treasurer presented the accounts, they are not repeated here because every member should have a copy. If you have not got yours please write for one. The club was in a healthy financial state. Subscriptions which were increased last year had helped as had a lecture organised by D. Burgess and also the Tan Yr Wyddfa account showed an increase.

The retiring Meets Sec. Colin Hobday said that there were 32 prospective members on his list, these were all contributing to the cost of the circulars they received each month. Meets including informal meets were now advertised in the Derby Evening Telegraph and Nottm Evening Post each Thursday. He hopes that members will try and get to indoor meets by 8pm on Tuesday evenings. It was embarrassing to ask lecturers to wait until everyone arrived. The average attendance on these indoor meets was 45. On one evening 70 members and friends were present. A dance had been arranged with 85 people purchasing tickets, this realised a profit of 100/- (P.S. The Editorial Typewriter is a 'Deutsch' model with no pound sterling key!)

Colin went on to say that the Alpaymayo lecture organised by Burgess was very popular as was the recent film show and climbing wall at Derby School. He went on to give a brief run down on the years meets. They had all been reasonably well attended, but it had been proved that any meet that was held on a change of date did not get good support and date changes should be avoided in the future.

The meeting then approved the appointment of a new Hon. Auditor, Mr Reg Squires. There being no elections the President Ray Handley took the chair and Janes retired to President of Vice.

In any other business Ernie Phillips noted that there were vacancies for Hut Trustees. Chuck Hooley and E. Phillips to fill the vacancies.

Then followed some heated discussion on a proposal by Geoff Hayes that it was now time that the club should look into the possibility of obtaining a hut in the Peak District. ~~We felt that a club of over 100 members could stand a further hut and as it would be quite close to many members homes it could be some a real centre for Oreads. Working parties and upkeep would be easy to arrange with the short distance to travel.~~ Others thought the upkeep of our Hut at Rhyd-dau was difficult enough without taking on further work. Nat Allen said if it were not possible to get a hut in the Peak then a field could be purchased close to the edges for an Oread Camp site. Sites are becoming very scarce in that area. Harry Pretty said that from the earliest days of the Oread it was always hoped to obtain a hut in Derbyshire. Eventually a proposal was carried by a substantial majority that the committee should look into the possibility of obtaining a Hut in the Peak District sometime in the future.

The meeting was then closed with the traditional Run Sippers!

* Hut Wardens report later in the Newsletter)

A.G.M. MARCH 1967

A DERBYSHIRE (PEAK DISTRICT) HUT

EXTRACT

What do you as members think? Should the Oread obtain one and how? Do you want one if so why? If Not why not? Please let the Editor have your views however short for publication in the Next Newsletter Write not later than April 20th please

From The Peak District National Park Planning Board

Left for Posterty?

Since 1953 the Peak Park Planning Board, using the powers of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, have successfully negotiated access agreements with the landowners of many of the most important of the Peak District moorlands. Eighteen agreements, covering 73 square miles of land, now give the public the right to wander over the Kinder and Bleaklow Plateaux, and the Chew, Longdendale, Langsett and Stanage Moors. Negotiations with other owners are taking place to open up further moorlands and to provide the right of access to a number of local crags popular with climbers.

Unfortunately, a small minority of climbers are prejudicing the Board's efforts by leaving their rubbish at the foot of crags. Caves seem particularly vulnerable to this unsavoury habit - those at Laddow, Stanage and Froggatt are particularly notorious, despite the efforts made to clear them from time to time. Early in the summer of 1966 a large number of school children volunteered to do litter drives on Stanage during their holidays and filled 150 one-hundredweight bags with litter, yet only a month later it appeared that there was nearly as much again strewn below the rocks. Admittedly Stanage is used by persons other than members of recognised climbing clubs but the Board feels sure there must also be responsible climbers using these crags who are concerned about this state of affairs.

The Board ask two things:

(a) That all who go to the hills, in their own interest, take all their empty wrappers, tins, bottles, etc. back to their homes (where there should be facilities for collection and disposal) rather than pushing them under stones and into corners from where they are disinterred frequently by erosion or animals. If they can also remove some of the rubbish left behind by less responsible climbers who were before them it would help to ensure that the Peak National Park remains a place worth visiting in future.

(b) That it is in every individual's interest to approach any person they may see depositing litter and explain tactfully that it is an anti-social habit. If the person approached cannot be persuaded by a courteous manner, as a last resort any citizen may report details, with evidence and including names and addresses, to the Police or the Peak Park Planning Board who may be able to bring a prosecution under the Litter Act, 1958, with maximum penalty of £ 10 on summary conviction.

Peak Park Planning Board,
Bakewell.

Hut Wardens Report at the A.G.M.

During the past year there were 946 bed nights by guests and only 300 by members. There had been two working parties the first not so well aranged but a number of smaller interior jobs were completed including the bathroom. The second working party saw things really moving and the outside was completely painted. A front Bedroom re-decorated. The drying room window was replaced by the builder and a water heater was also fitted. The committee had agreed to alter Hut fees with efect from the A.G.M. Members will now pay 2/6 (was 3/-) Guests pay 4/6 (was 4/-) The change in fees was made to encourage more members to use the hut and also to give a little more value for membership.

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Whilst appreciating the wish of Burns that the last bastions of solitude and freedom in hills should not disappear (letter in last Newsletter) times are changing and so are peoples approach to Mountaineering.

The increase in the number of people young and old taking up the sport has been fantastic during the last decade. ; 10 years ago there was barely a small track below Stanage edge, the road at it's foot only wide enough for one car and without a surface. Nowdays there is a wide track around Kinder and almost one over the very summit of the plateau this was not so in the 1950s.

Wether we like it or not this upsurge must bring with it more accidents more access problems more litter. There therefore has to be some sort of organisation for all this. It is something to be proud of to find that clubs such as the Oread are willing to give up some time to organise a rescue team. Litter hunts have been organised in the past on club meets.

Fortunately (or unfortunately) climbers attract climbers the popular areas become more popular not only because these areas are good for climbing but because others can be found there and it is the 'done' thing to go there. For many years to come this will leave unpopular areas comparatvly free. Go to the Rhinogs or perhaps the North Tees Valley next Sunday to see that this is true.

I offer this advice to Burns, go to walk the Arrennigs or Radnor Forrest this Summer, these are the places you love, they are still not the 'done' areas I'm sure that you will be almost alone and away from 'Arm Bands' and whistles but you may find me going along as well!

'Mountain ~~climbing~~ oread'

Cairngorm's Expedition Feb 1967

Once again the Married Oreads expedition (plus 2) to the Aviemore area has taken place. Weatherwise the ski-ing was not good, high winds and low cloud rather spoiled things. The expedition remained fit by pushing cars (usually 'chick' driven of course) up the snow bound ski road. Despite the noticable absence of Pretty, Burgess and Dick Brown, the party was not short of male tall nt with Janes and Handley jockeying for position of leader. Handley wone the fancy dress contest with a pair of ski pants which he said had been especially made for the British Olympic Ski team. (all he needed was a bubsby!)

There was the usual motoring through the night to various places of entertainment in the area and the N Aviemore Centre with Ice Rink Swim Bath Cinema Dance hall etc proved very popular. Entertainment in Aviemore is now so good that trains from Inverness bring in the 'four and twenty' on Friday and Saturday Nights!

Highlights of the week were the fierce competition by all to score a 'Bull' The antics of the novices on the ski tows (mainly off them) The combined weight of Gadsby and Sess Speed snapping off a T.Bar at the stem (now on display in the club hut). Handley succeding in ramming a snow drift whilst travelling at considerable speed and completely burying himself and of course not forgetting the free drink at one pub and the free eats at another - roll on next year everyone should have recovered sufficiently to have another go!

ANOTHER CAIRNGORM EXPEDITION

Notes from Brian Cooke

Our trip to the Cairngorms (Tom Frost and I) was not a success. Briefly. We stayed a night at Derry Lodge, reminiscent of early Bryn y Wern with period furniture and beds. Packed food and kit for two days and nights and walked up to the Etchachan Hut carrying skis (5 miles). Skied in the evening on wet snow in light rain near the hut (4 walls roof and mud floor - one of the best bothies!) Hut log book quite entertaining eg. quote "arrived wet through, frozen, starved and full of LUST!" unquote. Local hard men seem to belong to a group calling themselves the Spiders.

Gale force winds persisted for most of our stay, dying down a little in the evenings when it was possible to ski.

Tom spent several happy hours hunting billy lills which blew away on his occasional trips for water.

We walked over the plateau to Loch A'an and the Shelter Stone and back Tom carried skis 1/2 the way but after being blown over once or twice he dumped them for the return trip.

The weather remained relatively mild and V. strong winds, so after our 2nd night in squalor we returned to the relative luxury of Derry Lodge. On the way I succeeded in straining a tendon. I did no more walking or skiing. Tom walked to Corrou Bothy and back one day, and skid briefly from the Glen Shee chair lift on the way home.

It is great country, but you need to be able to choose the right weather. We heard that a new Bothy has been built below Corie Bhrochan below Braeriarch The crags in the corie are apparently some of the finest in the Cairngorms. I should like to go there in May or June.

PITONS

A British Mountaineering Council Circular No. 454 Called Pitons has just been published. Briefly, it tells of tests on some 450 pitons. The following are a few of their recommendations. Members of the Oread wishing to obtain a copy should contact the Secretary who has a number available.

(a) The holding power of a considerable proportion of the pitons manufactured in Europe is dangerously inadequate. This is due to the use of soft steel or other low-strength materials, and to bad design.

(b) In a horizontal crack, adequate holding power can be obtained reliably and consistently under practical conditions only by proper design of the head and blade of the Piton and by the use of high tensile alloy steel or other high strength material. At present (Feb 67) the only pitons which fully satisfy these requirements are made in the U.S.A. In very wide horizontal cracks, high holding power is available from large V-angle pitons (bong bongs) of high strength.

(c) In a vertical crack, adequate holding power cannot be assured with any type of piton. The highest level of design and the use of high tensile steel will always produce the maximum holding power in and given circumstances, but this is likely to be adequate only in a very good crack.

Alpine Meet 1967. July 22nd to August 6th.

Lloyd Caris offers lifts for two/three Oreads to the Aosta Valley for the above dates. Any person interested should contact him at:- Scarrow Hill Brampton, Carlisle.

Mountain Rescue.

The Oread Team (Alpha) held a meeting recently. Among points discussed were lessons to be learned from the last practice search on Black Hill, the personal clothing and equipment of members of the team and the provision of equipment (radia, stretcher, First Aid rucksack Etc) for the team. It is hoped to provide small First Aid Outfits for all members of the team at a small cost.

It was also noted that the team was down in strength with the removal of a number of names of people who had either left the club or moved away from the area. It was decided to ask other members of the club, who had shown interest in the team, to become members

EASTER MEET NORTH WALES

Gordon Gadsby

A large number of Oreads turned up at Tan-yr-Wyddfa for this Bank Holiday Meet.

When we arrived late Friday night it was the usual gale force winds and intermittent rain that met us. We learned later however that Friday had been a fairly good day, John Fisher and prospective member Ken Hodge had even managed a climb on Africa Rib on the Moelwyns, although they were almost blown off at times. Saturday was grim and we all made a wish at breakfast time that the bad weather would at least spread as far north as Glencoe! It rained most of the day (snow on the hills) and whilst some of us drove to Caernarvon to try and get coal and coke, Lol Burns and Nigel Horne were last seen heading through the Beddgelert Forest towards Moel Hebog, Nigel clad in a pair of battered P.As - an unusual twosome to say the least!

Sunday dawned fine and clear, the hut was a bustle of activity from an early hour. Parties visited Cnicht, Nevin beach and Tremadoc, whilst a large group walked over to the col between Snowdon and Lliwedd then descended the Gribin Ridge in tricky snow and ice conditions, walked up to the Crib Goch Col and then back over the tops to Rhyd ddu. The wind was very strong with snow at times but we also had our share of sunshine.

Monday was very cold but we did manage to find a sun trap on Tremadoc crags where several routes were climbed. In the afternoon we had 7 a side football on Black Rock Sands, the final score being a win for Betty Gardiner's team by 12 goals to 11.

Tuesday was spent walking the Hebog range with again strong winds but a good deal of sunshine. Members and friends on the meet were - Colin Hobday, Paul, Betty, and Douglas Gardiner, Tohn, Ruth, Liza and Helga Welbourn, Doreen Gadsby, Lol Burns, John Fisher, Dave Penlington (Eric and Merle Wallis camping). Prospective members - Reg Squires and Ann, Nigel Horne, Howard, Melvin, Ken and Margaret Hodge, Visitors Trevor Panther and Tony.

The main highlights of the meet were:-

- (1) John Welbourne leading the top pitch of Oberon!
- (2) Eric leading One Step In the Clouds and his solo ascent of Parsley Fern Gully.

EASTER MEET NORTH WALES Continued,

- (3) Reg Squires thundering across Black Rock sands to deliver another crunching tackle with his Jumbo size boots!
- (4) Dave Penlington's undoubted prowess at cooking Fisher's evening meals and his seemingly inexhaustable supply of hot cross buns.
- (5) The most lasting memory to me was the sight of the tall lean balacalava topped figure of Lohn Welbourn bustling and weaving through the crowded streets of Caernavon with a 1cwt coal bag on his back and a cloud of Digger twist belching out of his pipe.

P.S. One other on the meet I almost forgot to mention Wo.Wo.

EASTER MEET GLENCOE SCOTLAND

GEOFF HAYES.

A fight against the elements from the word go! I arrived in the 'Vale of Weeping' rather late on Good Friday to be greeted by a very vet camping team consisting of Paul Craddock, Christine and David Brady, Bill Kirk and Pam, Stewart and friend. It had already been raining for a day and a night and it was not to stop for a further day and two nights, and it was real Glencoe Scottish Rain not the dry stuff you get in Wales. How the campers survived I will never know, I was more than glad of the tin tent. John Dench was residing in the 'Green Hell' and Prospective Member Chris was fighting the flood in another Blue Hell. We did manage a drive around to 'The Fort' and it even stopped raining for the odd hour to allow us to visit Glen Nevis and Steel Falls- a magnificent sight after so much rain. The crossing of various streams going up the glen proved a dangerous task. Some aerial rope walking across the Nevis river saw us all gathered outside the J.M.C of Scotland Club Hut. A fine place for an Oread Meet.

Fortunately for the skiers Sunday was a day of perfect snow on the slopes, with snow of the quality so good that you could 'catch a wrong edge' as many times as you wish and still get away with it. The odd bit of ice higher up the slope provided fun for the experts.

After an exhausting day on the boards an early night saw us fighting fit for more, but the weather turned again and it put down about a foot of wet soggy snow during the night. The snow was so heavy that we met two chaps who had spent a night in a tent in the Lost Valley returning wet and cold having spent most of the night out when their tent split under the weight! This was enough for most of us, some had to return to work on the Tuesday. Even The Corden's and Appleby's who were 'bunking' down in the town had had enough and departed. The 'Tin Tent' team were lucky to grab a good day in Borrowdale on the way south. We even managed the ascent of Troutdale Pinnacle in a blizzard!

Who's for Swannage next year!

LECTURE

The Nottingham Climber's Club have got Chris Bonington to Lecture on Eiger Direct at the Co-operative Education Centre Broad Street Nottingham, on Wed 10 May 67 7.30 pm. Tickets priced 5/- from Geoff Hayes or Roger Turner, Mountain Sports, Canning Circus, Nottingham.

OREADS IN SHORTS ETC.....

New Address

Chris Martin has now removed to Plot 519 Cheriton Drive Ravenshead, Nottm.
President Ray Handley is living at 9 Shirley Park, Aston on Trent, Derbys.

New Member

Miss Christine Bradey was elected a full member at a Committee Meeting
before the A.G.M.

Club Membership Card Have you got yours? If not pay your subscription
and you will get one by return! Many people pay their Subs at the A.G.M.
a very good habit.

Wedding Congratulations to Chris Martin and Helina who were wed at Easter.

Birth News Congratulations to Derik And Janet Burgess on the Birth of a
son in early March Name - Garry.

Belated Birth News The Editor's wife produced a Son way back in early
November. The editor was so busy writing your articles to notice!
Name - Michael. Any second hand 1/4sized boots for sale preferably Vibram
shod?

Application For Membership

Stewart Bramwell 79, Redcliffe Street, Sutt on -In - Ashfield Notts.
Proposed Bill Kirk. Seconded Geoff Hayes.
Any member wishing to express their views on the above persons suitability
for election should write to the Secretary Mrs. R. Langworthy at 26 Field
Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham. Without delay!

Please Note that Wally Richardson Is still a Paid up Member of the Oread.

Hut Sub Committee.

The Sub Committee of Tan-yr Wyddfa for this year is. Janes
Hayes. Gadsby. Appleby. With John Corden as Hut Warden.

Rock and Heather Hut Baslow. 'his Hut is no longer available due to
alterations to the 'Prince of Wales' building.

Meets Card is being printed and should be in your hands by the time you get
this Newsletter.

Evening Meets(Outdoor) will commence in Early May. Watch your circulars.

Derbyshire Hut. President Ray Handley has collected a number of names
of members interested in the problem of finding and financing a Derbyshire
Hut. A meeting is to be called under the chairmanship of Harry Pretty.
Anyone wishing to help should contact Ray now please.

Next Committee Meeting Will be held at the home of the President 9, Shirley
Park, Aston on Trent, Derbys on May 1st.

Birth Congratulations to Rod and Annette Craddock on the Birth of a
daughter Elizabeth on 5th April.