

Well, I say it once again, "A Happy New Year, and jolly good climbing during the coming year", to you members of the Oread and all other friends who read this newsletter. Here's to good mountaineering conditions, bag's of snow for climbing and ski-ing and dry rock later in the year. 1969 could be a winner for alpine conditions, we must be due for a settled season sometime!

Your committee have been having a hard look at meets during the next six months or so and you will soon receive a new meet's list showing meets almost every week-end. At one time the Oread organised meets about once a month, more recently once a fortnight. The idea behind the new look is that members (or at least some members) want to climb and walk every week end whenever possible, but unlike in the past seem unable to arrange a rendezvous to suit everyone on the Tuesday evening for the following Friday Saturday or Sunday. It remains to be seen if a meet every week-end will be a success, it may end by having a lot of poorly attended meets, if this is so then it will be easy to revert to fewer meets, but I have an idea that with the club in such a healthy state, a full meets card will prove popular - time will tell.

Sorry this is thin issue, but I suppose some news is better than no news!

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THE 19th ANNUAL DINNER ASHBOURNE 23 November 68

With over 140 members and guests this was the biggest gathering of the club ever. The Oread was once again fortunate in obtaining two excellent guest speakers and the high standard of previous club dinners was once again maintained. It was a joyfull happy occasion with an excellent meal, good speeches and entertainment.

The Green Man once again provided very good eats which were followed by a number of entertaining speeches. President Ray Handley opened with a short review of the years' meets and the present state of the club. For a change Bob Pettigrew appeared live to propose the toast to Guests and Kindred Clubs. Although we missed the usual Pettigrew 'Tape' it was good to see Bob back at the top table again.

Al Alvarez of T.V. and Observer fame replied on behalf of the guests. Mc Naught - Davis followed with the toast to the Oread and Geoff Hayes replied. Further entertainment was provided by Nat Allen who introduced three Oread Virgins who gave a song and dance act. The three who sported daring Mini dresses were Misses Harry Pretty, Pete Jones and Dick Burgess! Once again Oliver Jones was that to speak and Pipe the newly weds around the room. This year inscribed Mugs were presented to Bill and Nan Kirk and Paul and Christiana Cradock.

~~With no "Foot and Mouth" this year there were a few hardy campers in the area and the hut at Alstonfield was almost full. George Reynolds who did most of the graft for this years dinner deserves everyones congratulations on a job well done.~~

THE DERBYSHIRE CLUB HUT - BASLOW

The Hut Sub committee consisting of H. Pretty (Custodian) Nat Allen Geoff Hayes, Dave Williams, Mike Berry, Ray Handley and Paul Gardiner met at Holbrook recently. Harry Pretty reported that if all goes to plan the Oread will sign a full lease, for approx 15 years, on Lady Day, whenever that is! Sometime in March I'M told. Harry has done a complete survey of the cottage, Barns and surrounding area, a truly monumental task when you see all his plans and sketches. Looking well ahead he has plans to make use of all the barns but in the first instance the Cottage will be used. It should provide beds for at least ten. The Barns are being cleaned out for members to kip in on air beds etc.

The Cottage will be for the use of Oread Club Members only although there will be no objection if personal guests are taken along. When the lease is signed the night fee should be about 2/6d and perhaps 1/- for day fees.

It looks as though the parking problem has been overcome with the construction of parking space for about 8 cars at the rear of the property. The gate on the drive will be left open for access. It is suggested that no more than two cars should be parked in front of the cottage. Further parking can be found further up the track and along the grass road which runs below Chatsworth Edge.

One of the first jobs to be tackled will be the installation of a water supply in the kitchen and general fitting out of work tops. Ray Handley is to do a complete survey of the electricity supply and fittings.

A security lock is to be fitted and the same policy as the Hut in Wales will be used for keys, that is - All Club members can have their own key for 10/- deposit. (Contact the Hut wardens).

Hut Rules will be very few, in fact hardly rules at all more words of guidance for every day running.

Views of club members on the running and organisation of the Derbyshire hut will be very welcome. Contact Harry Pretty or any of the Committee.

The above are only suggestions by the sub committee, rules etc will be made by the main committee quite soon.

Black Rock; Opaque Blue.....

Remember a moment the High Alpine snows,
Flourescent and hard to the touch of the morning sun....

Black rock; Opaque blue.....

Remember the bite of the dying nights frost
And the odour of ice flowing thick in the empty air.....

Black Rock; Opaque blue.....

Remember relief at the coming of dawn,
And the fleeing of doubts with a sky lightening bright and clear.

Black Rock; Opaque blue.....

Remember the sweat and the grind of ascent;
Mile after mile over endless rivers of ice.....

Black rock; Opaque blue.....

Remember the summit, a point in the sky
Where emotion returns with the easing of heart and lungs....

Black rock; Opaque Blue.....

Remember regret when it's time to descend,
Forsaking eternity for the transient world of man.

Black rock; Opaque blue.....

Remember forever the high Alpine Snows,
Keep them fresh in the mind when the body can climb no more....

Black rock ; Opaque blue.....

John Dench, Tirol 1968.

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1969

Bullstones Meet 1968 - GEOFF HAYES (EXTRACT)

(The following is a short report by the Editor. It is hoped that Harry Pretty will give the full facts in a future Newsletter for by all accounts this was a typical Bullstones meet and should be fully recorded!)

Quite a large **boozy** crowd of Oreads staggered out of the **Nags** Head in Edale on the Friday night. Ashcroft and Chambers were in such a state they slept the night in the pub yard, two others only made the foot of Golden Clough. Dave Williams and a prospective member lead off at a hot pace over Kinder and were not seen again that night. The rest of the team eventually arrived at the Barnsley Club Hut in the Snake. By now Williams had found what he thought to be a stream leading down to the snake, followed it and found himself back in the yard of the Nags Head after two hours of walking!

On Saturday a rescue party was sent out to round up Williams, He was found and had a public dressing down by the meet leader (who was wearing full **ceremonial** dress and medals for the occasion!) After demanding that Williams should resign from the committee, everyone left for a good **trog** over Bleaklow. Ron Dearden and Mike Turner returned from the dead and walked over Kinder to attend the meet on Saturday. Geoff Hayes and Jim Winfield arrived in the Nags Head on Saturday night when, just before closing time, a 'phone call came through for a certain Harry Pretty, it was the one and only ~~one~~ Pettigrew on the Hot Line from Tumbridge Wells! Pettigrew has taken to attending club meets by telephone!

The Barnsley Hut was a bit crowded on the Saturday night with about 40 Oreads and 20 Boy Scouts, but there was room to sleep on the stairs! Sunday saw the usual chaotic walk back to Edale, with parties taking routes long and short!

To the tune " Who wants to be a millionaire"

Who wants to be a mountaineer? I don't
Clanking along festooned with gear I don't
Who wants to dangle from a length of good rope?
A length of good rope.
Well that's what you hope
Who wants to bivvy on a ledge, I don't
Only a bare inch from the edge, I don't
Who wants to climb the Matterhorn too, I don't
No I don't 'cos all I'd get is flu

Who wants to wallow in the bog, I don't
Find tricky routes obscured by fog, I don't
Who wants to struggle up a nice chimney thutch
A nice chimney thutch, I don't, not much
Who wants to do a short hut grind I don't
Leave warmth and comfort far behind I don't
Who wants to climb the Eiger North Wall. I don't
No I don't, 'Cos I'm afraid I'd fall.

(Written and sung by the Bill Cooper
family singers)

The Cread Rescue team Alpha

In order to raise funds to enable team Alpha to obtain its own radio for mountain search and rescue operations, two raffles have been held in the past months.

The first at the Annual Dinner was a great success with the sum of £ 12-18-0d being collected. There were 14 really good prizes to be won, all given for the occasion by members of the team.

The second raffle, this time at the Christmas Social at the Sherwood Hotel was also a success although it was organised on the spur of the moment. This time £ 5-14-0d was collected.

Finally a special thank you to all the people who donated the excellent prizes, even if we had to chase them rather a lot, and of course to the people who bought the tickets.

C. Hobday and P. Gardiner.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND DANCE SHREWOOD HOTEL DERBY

Now becoming a popular annual event the Social was quite well attended although not a sell out. Fine loud music in the right style was provided by Ray Handley and his music Box. G. Gadsby, M. Berry and G. Hayes organised the games and everyone appeared to have a good time. There was something for everyone in the way of dances and games and the buffet was good value

OREADS IN SHORTS

1969 ALPINE MEET IMPORTANT NOTICE. All members interested in attending the Alpine meet are invited to discuss details of venue, camp sites etc. at a meeting to be held at the home of D. Burgess, Findern Derbys on Wednesday evening Feb 19th. 8pm. Come armed with Alpine Maps and ideas for the area to be visited. The only thing that has been fixed is the date of the meet - July 19th to August 10th. The idea is to extend the meet over three weeks although most members will only be going for two. So dont forget to go to this informal meeting if at all interested, there will be no further notice of this meeting in circulars.

Team Alpha. Will all members of team Alpha please let Chuck Hooley know any changes of address, phone number etc. so that the call out sheet can be brought up to date.

Change of Address. A. Bridge has moved to 19 Brompton Park, Rhos-on-Sea Colwyn Bay.

New Handbook. The new handbook has been promised for distribution at the A.G.M. so be there to collect yours!

Meets reports. Will meet leaders please remember to send details of their meets to Geoff Hayes Editor as soon as possible after the meet.

Lol Burns, Stewart Bramwell and Ray Handley are requested to send in details of their meets all of which were held in January!

Indoor Meet

The January indoor meet at the Scout Hall Borrowash was a very interesting series of slides by Guido Gadsby showing the last year in the Oread, with a number of historical (historical) slides of the Oread of Old. Gordon showed shots taken on most of the meets during last year and they were of course of very high quality. An interesting feature of the evening was the display of Black and white photographs showing personalities and incidents of the Club from the very beginning. This was the combined work of Harry Pretty, Chris Radcliffe and Gordon, and gave newer members of the club an idea of what it was like in the old days and also who is getting out on recent meets. It would be a good idea if some of the photographs should find a permanent place on the walls of the Derbyshire hut, they are far too good to be filed away!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Your vote will be required on Saturday March 8th at the Royal Oak Bakewell. The A.G.M is the best time to air your voice with praise or otherwise. The A.G.M. weekend is also set aside for a working party at the Derbyshire Hut.

OREADS IN SHORTS Etc.,

wedding congratulations to John Dench and Leslie who were married in the new year thus ensuring that they were first in line for a mug at the next Annual Dinner.

New Address

Paul and Christine Craddock. The Shieling 54 Blandford Avenue
Long Eaton, Notts.

The Annual Dinner will be at the Green Man once again and the date is November 29th 1969.

Easter Meet Scotland

The South Cairngorms will be the area this year, for skiing without the Aviemore crowds at Glen Shee and good snow and Ice climbing and walking in the Lochnagar or Derry Lodge area. Camping may be at the free camp site at Linn of Dee. There will be more information nearer the date. If you are interested in this meet in the real mountains contact Geoff Hayes

British mountaineering Council News.

The B.M.C are preparing a list of guide books to the various climbing areas, outcrops and sea cliffs in England and Wales.

John Foster of the Peak Park Planning Board has left to take up the post of Director of the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

The Bivouac Hut on the Summit of the Piz Badile although shown on some recent maps has not yet been constructed!

The car park at Pen -y- Pass is to be extended and a car park is to be made near the foot of Tryfan in the Ogwen Valley.

Flooding The causeway which carries the Miners Track up Snowdon through Llyn Llydaw has been flooded for a number of weeks. It is noted that someone has already been drowned trying to cross the causeway while it was flooded. Great care should be taken, therefore, while the causeway is in this state and it is better to follow the path round the lake.

Derbyshire Club Hut working parties. At a recent hut sub committee meeting it was decided to arrange week end working part. on the following date

March 8/9th. The latter date is also the A.G.M. which will be close at hand in Bakewell. For these working parties members with some idea of woodworking, plumbing, and electricity will be welcome, but any member keen to lend a hand will be found a useful job. Contact Harry Pretty for further information or turn up on those dates.

Address The address of John Dench is 48 Park View Macclesfield.

New Address. Bill Kirk, 13 Chestnut Avenue, Mickleover, Derby. DE3 5FT
Telephone Derby 53746

Langdale Camp Site . Your Committee has written to the National Trust drawing their attention to conditions on their camp site in the Langdale valley. The main complaint has been about lack of toilet and washing facilities. If any Oread has any views on this subject will they please let them be known to the Secretary.