

The Ceunant

MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



NEWS
LETTER

OCTOBER, 1959

October, 1959.

What an outstanding summer it has been. At the time of writing the fine days are continuing with almost monotonous regularity.

Everyone has rejoiced in warm dry rock and a welcome decline in the number of frustrated days, washed out camps and steaming huts full of wet clothes which were such a feature of the 1958 "summer". Members have been energetically finding sport in all parts of the British Isles and the Alps.

The climbing news speaks for itself and the keenness will, we know, be continued through the winter months.

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The primary object of this club, as laid down in the constitution, is to "provide facilities for the pursuit of mountaineering in all its aspects".

In its endeavours to provide facilities in this respect the committee has a general routine of arrangements to make, and quite the most important is that of outdoor meetings. Since mountaineering is the object of the club and mountaineers, or budding mountaineers, are its members, it follows that mountainous areas are the necessary choice for the general localities of these meetings of members for pursuance of the sport.

Yet it has been stated that there has been little or no provision for "walkers" in previous programmes, and that meets are therefore required to areas not generally associated with mountaineering sport. This has been recognised as a genuine need for some of our members and certainly there can be no objection whatsoever to providing for these people in the club. Indeed there are those yet amongst us who have climbed seriously in the past, (in younger days perhaps!); but, as a mountain lover, the Editor can only interpret his own feelings in this respect; that where he ever unable to climb seriously again he would still search out the greater mountains, if only to gaze upon them from the lower slopes.

It has always been thought important that this club remain recognised as one associated with serious mountaineering in all its aspects, and we would urge that the words climber and walker be deprived once and for all of their present significance.

Let the word climber refer to a person who, given the opportunity, wishes to indulge in mountaineering as hard as he or she can. Whether the greatest opportunity ever arrives is immaterial, but let us remember that mountaineering is an adventure, and that there is no adventure with the outcome certain.

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That the gritstone has nurtured some of the countries most skilled rock climbers is well known - Piggot, Morley Wood, Brown and Whillans to name a few; and anyone who has climbed on this type of rock will be only too painfully aware of the reasons for this.

The availability of it in this Midland area renders it an excellent practice ground for the short winter days, and some people will be interested to know that several members have utilised its proximity to climb there on summer evenings.

Even if anything at all hard is top roped, the advantages of the exercise will reap tremendous pleasure in greater mountaineering.

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The Editor represented you at the Annual Meeting of the B.M.C., at the Alpine Club on 21st March, 1959. The report is in the September issue of Mountaineering and the amendments to Rule 9, which cover the constitution of the B.M.C. Committee were criticised. By this rule, certain senior clubs are automatically entitled to seats, and the amendments only increased the number of "other" clubs which could have representation, without reducing the automatic constituents. The Editor suggests that these are not necessarily representative of the modern phase in mountaineering.

The local clubs should be better represented, and should object strongly to the inference that small clubs are less responsible, however much the inference is denied.

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Opinions expressed in this News Letter are those of the Editor and are not necessarily endorsed by the committee.

The Editor wishes to thank all those who have contributed so well to this issue.

Remember that the News Letter exists for the use of the members and any opinion will be published verbatim, subject to certain limitations of grammar or decency!

M.N. KING,
3/61, Lemington Road,
BIRMINGHAM, 12

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"We do not lessen the reclusive beauty of a rock cliff by climbing it - and no one else need read our descriptions."

G. Winthrop Young.

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CLIMBING NOTES

The excellent summer this year has resulted in a great rise in general climbing standards throughout the country. In Wales all the Brown-Whillans routes have at least been repeated, and many have seen a good number of ascents.

Cenotaph Corner has been climbed so many times now that climbers have lost count of the number of ascents. It has been led by a 16 year old gentleman who previously followed it, and by another gentleman of 17 on sight.

"Cloggy" has been the centre of greatest activity and there have been few weekends since Whitsun when the great routes have not been possible. There have been queues for most of the old routes some weekends and parties have even been obliged to wait for the new ones!

There is still space for new routes and Banner has been seen on the apparently smooth wall between Curving Crack and Pedestal. Brown has also been on new ground between Chimney Route and Curving in the Llithrig-Vember area.

Club members have had a good season and there are now several who lead Very Severe regularly. One or two have tried to raise their standard to some of the easier Rock and Ice routes, but have met with little success so far, the barrier being more mental than physical.

The Cwm Silyn meet at the end of July was poorly attended, only seven stalwarts arriving on the Friday night and another two on Saturday. The Saturday was one of the hottest days of the year and while some engaged themselves on Ogor Direct and Kirkus Route, the rest had a gentle walk over the adjacent tops.

The Saturday night and Sunday were a washout and several parties went round to Tyn Lon.

The meet at the end of August was a working meet and produced very little climbing.

The Alps. British parties have had a successful season in the Alps as well. No less than three British parties have done the Walker Spur, the first British ascent of this highly serious route being by Robin Smith. Other major routes in the new class include the East Face of the Apucan, West Faces of the Dru and Blaitiere and North Faces of the Piz Badile and Aiguille Verte.

Three separate club parties have been at Chamonix with varying successes. The Mer de Glace face of the Grepon was climbed in deteriorating conditions as far as the Knobel Crack, where the party escaped over the Breche Balfour.

One member was forced to rapell down most of the Pointe Albert West Face in a snowstorm and approaching darkness.

A.M. DAFFERN.

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Further activities include the "expedition" to Norway, which was not blessed with particularly good weather. The party however, created a probable record by walking 50 miles to and from a dance!

The Nordre and Midtre peaks of the Skagastolstinden were ascended without great difficulty and descended by rather damp sitting glissades. An attempt was made on Storr but conditions were bad and the route's final pitches were a Severe chimney.

Parties including a club member climbed at Arolla, doing Route Normal on Tete Blanche and Pigne d'arolla. The Tour Ronde at Ghamonix was also done.

Other reports are elsewhere in this issue, and in more detail.

(Editor)

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A leader (not of this club!), attempting Kaisergebirge Wall, failed on the crux and continued traversing into Hangover! The resultant fall resulted in a tremendous pendule as far as Central Gully and back! No damage.

It has been authoritively said that some of the best medium grade route in Wales are on Moel Hebog.

Brown is weighing up the possibilities of a Girdle traverse of the Pinnacle of Clogwyn d'ur Arddu. Some exploration has

already been done by C. T. Jones and the late Alfie Beenland with this in mind.

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The following notices are in Mountaineering but are important enough to be reprinted here:

The Association of Scottish Mountaineering Clubs have supplied the following information:

Two cupola shelters have been placed on Ben Nevis as follows:

Between Observatory and Old Hotel - Grid ref 2676-7942.

Carn Mor Dearg - 350 yards north of the top of
No.4 Gully - Grid ref 2667-7949

Ogwen Cottage is established as a fully equipped Mountain Rescue Post. Tel. No. Bethesda 214.

Members of all clubs are invited to bring to the notice of the B.M.C. Equipment sub-committee details of any moulded rubber boot soles coming adrift or not being reasonably durable, to Mr. G.W. Hall, 111, Woolacombe Road, London, S.E.3. The above sub-committee have made representations to the British Boot, Shoe and Allied Trades Association, who request more detailed evidence.

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Further attention is drawn to the fatal accident on Carreg Wasted in 1958.

The screwed karabiner used by the leader was utilised to link a slings round the climbers waist in place of the more conventional waist-line. (This was seen by the Editor at the time of the tragedy, but is still not considered significant. It would seem that used in this way the karabiner is even more likely to open due to twisting.)

For belaying, this karabiner was linked with another, and it is thought that the tightening rope when the second fell caused one of them to open and twist out of the other. This can be demonstrated by hooking two karabiners together and twisting them in the hands.

If the sleeve of a screw karabiner is not secured it can be much more easily opened than a simple karabiner.

The sleeves are too easily undone by rubbing of the rope or clothing to be safe, and it is a personal opinion that these

karabiners should be provided with a lock-nut. Thus they are possibly not worth the trouble.

Published by The Climbing
sub-committee.

The unfortunate accident on Clogwyn-y-Grochan would appear to be an instant of tragic carelessness after taking off the rope on the successful completion of a climb. This has been mentioned before in these pages and, especially above steep cliffs of this nature, we would stress great care, particularly in wet conditions.

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MEET TO CRAWNANT - 25th-27th SEPTEMBER 1959

The club has not previously had a meet in this area, and so it was with considerable pleasure that I accepted an invitation to lead a meet to the Mynydd Climbing Club hut.

This is the last building on the footpath from Llyn Crafnant to Capel Curig and was formerly the Youth Hostel, Blaen-y-Nant.

Four vehicles and ten members arrived there in torrential rainfall on the Friday night and the prospects for the week-end did not look at all hopeful. Saturday morning, however, dawned bright and clear with a bracing sea breeze to discourage anyone from remaining in-active for very long. The meet divided into three parties: five climbers, three who wished to walk, and two who had no plans. The climbing party went round to have a look at a small outcrop on the South East Ridge of Pen Llithrig-y-Wrach. We all did one route called Staircase, and John Daffern tried a gully on the face, but on the whole we were disappointed with the place which seemed to abound in loose rock.

In the afternoon we moved round to Creigau Gleision on the opposite shore of Llyn Cowlydd. Here on Castle Buttress we found a fine route called Anvil Cracks: 150 feet of sound rock with four interesting and varied pitches.

We returned to Blaen-y-Nant in the rapidly oncoming darkness, to find that the walkers had done a long route over the Carneddau visiting Cwm Eigiau where they had a look at the electricity Board's Bungalow, Hafed-y-Rhiw, now up for sale.

A climbing party spent Sunday on Craig Wen, a small outcrop not far from Blaen-y-Nant. Here three of us had made attempts before John Daffern eventually managed to lead Route II. This goes down in the book as a hard Difficult, but we would have no

hesitation in saying that this is under-graded. Surprisingly enough, although this climb is quite close to the hut, there was no signs of it having recently been climbed.

Having spent so much time on the crag, there was no time left for a projected walk and we hurried back to the hut to cook, clean up and depart.

Colin R. Coleman.

S U M M E R S N O W S

A CONVERSATIONAL PIECE ON A HOLIDAY IN THE TIROL.

by J.B. and A.G.

(Whoever they may be)

J.B. A summer holiday in the Tirol - hmm, yes, some Alpine experience and all that, and interesting to see the Tirol in summer instead of winter. But what about the carrying - full rucksacks can be quite heavy can't they? Embarrassing if one couldn't cope - honour of the old club and all that. A few sprints up Tryfaen with Tyn Lon canvasses in rucksacks? Well, yes, might be an idea.

Insbruck at last. Good heavens, it's Vincent Lenz, my first sk-ing instructor, advancing with outstretched hand. With him as guide we should be alright. And Philip the faithful Ingham courier. What! And Walter - but how splendid, all this and Walter too - (you say he has led her to the altar - oh! - well -).

A.G. Who are these handsome foreign type bods greeting you so warmly? I suspect that sk-ing involves more than sliding downhill on two pieces of wood.

J.B. I say, which should point forward, the pick or the adze, and can you actually stop yourself down a snow slope? Well, here goes, bottoms up, see you below.

A.G. There is nothing to this glissading lark. Anyway, if you do go base over apex, all you have to do is to roll over onto your stomach and force the point of the axe into your - Ooow, mate! How can you roll onto your stomach with a thirty pound rucksack on your back? I won't half write a dirty letter to the idiot who wrote that when I get back.

J.B. The best way I know of getting to hate your best friend is to be on a rope with him/her for a day. There climb out of that - you shouldn't go so bloomin' fast.

A.G. Fast indeed - if I don't, that idiot in front will have me flat on my face. It's all right for him - he does it all the year round.

J.B. Have you remembered the glacier cream/goggles/mitts/
chocolate/slings/ice-axe?

By jove! What sun, and what a view - worth every inch of the glacier and snow slope. Yes, do take a shot - it will be no good for shooting a line - slopes always flatten on slides, but we shall remember.

A.C. It's time someone invented a rubber camera to get that pan shot without all that useless sky. The Kriml Falls gave the same trouble last year, only then I wanted a tall thin camera.

If I have to share a 6-bed 'mattressen larger' with 8 others again, I'm going to mutiny. Dash it all, a chap must get his sleep for this lark. It's all right for you girls, but we just get more packed each time.

J.B. Goody, goody, ministroni a l'Italien. Makes a meal in itsel'!
Just as well since I DO NOT LIKE lettuce and cabbage in vinegar and oil, with or without caraway seeds. Please Vincent, do you possibly think I could have a jam omelette?

A.G. Trouble with these Italians is they just don't know how to cook horse. The soup wasn't bad though.

J.B. I've carried these all round and I'm going to wear them this afternoon, choose how. Dash it, we go home tomorrow and if you cut off my head and hands you just wouldn't know that I had ever been in the Tirolean sunshine.

You made the first train out of Dover then? I think that the rest are on it somewhere. A very fine tour wasn't it? Hope we shall meet again sometime. No there wasn't much difference from winter --.

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A VISIT TO SKYE

by Colin Coleman

If you are a delicate man
And of wetting your skin are shy,
I'd have you know before you go,
You had better not think of Skye.

Alasdair Nicolson.

Scholars tell us that the word 'skye' means either mist or cloud according as whether we take the Gaelic or Norse etymology. After our visit this summer in the first days of August, either interpretation would be amply fitting. Out of eleven days, one was bright and clear and two were without rain, but on the remainder the Isle lived up to its name, with a generous allocation of rain by way of an underlining.

We travelled up to Scotland by various ways and met at the Dumbarton home of Mike's in-laws, where we had a lively and enjoyable evening - (until 4 a.m.!) The next morning, however, was not so enjoyable (!) but, despite the hangover, we managed to set off on the journey to Kyle of Lochalsh by the afternoon.

After crossing the rain-lashed Moor of Rannoch and waiting at the Ballachulish ferry, we stopped at Fort William for fish and chips. (The fish was bad - Ed.)

We drove on through striking scenery so typical of the Highlands and reached Kyle of Lochalsh where we camped on the edge of the shore. Next morning we had a two and a half hour wait for the ferry and finally arrived at Glen Brittle in a steady downpour with the mist enshrouded Cuillin looking strangely like a backdrop for the first scene of Wagner's Flying Dutchman. We made camp on the beach, and, inevitably 'browed up'.

The next day I made a mistake. Let me explain that on two previous visits I had been blessed with excellent weather, and so, when the hills appeared shrouded with mists early in the day, I thought that I would take a walk along the sea cliffs to the headland to look at an ancient Viking fort called Rud'han Dunain and wait for a clear day to ascend the Cuillin.

Consequently, whilst I was on the headland musing about hordes of Viking warriors sailing down Loch Brittle, Mike and Keith were up on Sgurr Dearg and Mhic Coinnich making the most

of what turned out to be one of our three rainless days. Later the mist thinned out giving, so I am told, fairly good visibility.

Our one and only perfect day came next. We set off in the direction of Sgurr Dearg and then went round to the left into Coire na Banachdich and thence by way of Window Buttress, a classic Difficult, to the summit of Dearg. We then traversed the Inaccessible Pinnacle from West to East and enjoyed excellent views of the rest of the Isle, the main land and the Outer Isles.

We then ran down the fine An Stac screes to Coire Lagan where we emptied out the stones from our boots and washed our grubby feet.

The next day was not too bad, but we wasted it on a visit to Portree where the activities of sundry inhabitants doing a quick change act from sober to drunk in and out of the bar door of one of the hostelries, caused some of us great amusement.

One morning I awoke to the sounds of Mike's cheery voice, looked out of my tent and decided that the weather was hopeless and went back to sleep. When I finally emerged there was no sign of him whatsoever! Various possibilities crossed my mind, perhaps he had gone and thrown himself into the Loch no longer being able to stand the weather, or perhaps he had gone on a two and a half hour trek to Sligachan to wait for opening time. Fortunately, however, he turned up later explaining his absence by telling us that, impatient of our inactivity, he had gone up Sgurr na Banachdich by way of the Sgurr nan Gobhar ridge.

The afternoon and evening were quite fine, but that night the mist and rain returned and proceeded to work overtime as if to make up for their three days absence. We passed the time reading, cooking, playing cards and even staying in bed! Once or twice, we visited the Sligachan hotel, and on the Sunday we again visited Portree where the one catering establishment that was open on the Sabbath endeavoured valiently to satisfy the appetites of most of the tourists on the Island.

On our final day together, we went out in force to complete the round of Coire Lagan.

We disappeared into the mist on the top of Sron na Ciche and carried on over Sgurr Sgumain to Alasdair via the "Bad Step" where Keith showed the way. The compass caused some amusement on Sgumain by behaving in a most extraordinary manner, but we found

the way in the end!

Mike, appropriately enough, and myself successfully tried the famous King's Chimney on Sgurr Mhic Coinnich and afterwards the mist temporarily lifted giving a good view of Blaven. We then returned to the camp via Coire Lagan.

The party broke up the next day, but I stayed a day longer during which it became a little wetter and the midges were able to give me their undivided attention. I then went to visit some friends in the country near Aberdeen. Here they were having a serious drought and their well had dried up, and I, therefore, had to spend some time and effort to help them to transport water from a nearby spring to their cottage. After Skye this seemed a rather unfortunate experience, reminiscent of a medieval morality play.

Undaunted, however, we have vowed to return once again to Skye, preferably when it is not raining and like our one perfect day. There are endless possibilities. The traverse of the Main Ridge should be well within the capabilities of many of our members. A week could be spent on the climbs on the faces surrounding Coire Lagan alone. We were never able to do the magnificent Pinnacle Ridge of Sgurr nan Gillian, or the traverse of the Dubh Ridge from Coruisk, a first class day's expedition. All these and many others will have to await our next visit, for having been once to Skye one is always thinking about the next visit.

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WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER DO OR GO FISHING?

by Alan Green.

A report on the Black Mountains meet has been delayed due to the difficulty of finding someone who went, remembered something about it and could put it down in words of more than one syllable. It was necessary to compromise.

Ten of us went to Llangottock on Friday night. The meet leader had organised a camp site so we did not have to look for one, which was a good thing 'cos it was raining. I do not mind having to look for camp sites on wet nights 'cos I always drive in sandals and sit in the car with the heater on while my passengers, who are in boots, go and look. After about the third unsuccessful look they get a bit fed up so I turn off all the

car lights while they are in the middle of a field to show them what it would be like of I didn't co-operate.

By the time I had got my boots on, all the tents were up so I was able to go straight to bed though I had to take my boots off again 'cos I have found from experience that you can't get into a sleeping bag in a tent in vibrans without pulling the whole lot on top of you.

Next morning I did not get up 'till nine as it was still raining but my friend got up earlier as her tent was leaking. As a special treat I allowed her to cook breakfast which wasn't too bad 'cos, although she doesn't cook the bacon enough, she is all right with the simpler things such as cornflakes. I ate slowly so as my friend could get started on the washing up, and told her to hurry as we had to drive to the Brecon Beacons and ought to get fairly high before the snow got too soft. I could see she was thinking about this because on the way she remembered that there wouldn't be a lot of snow on the Beacons in July and we could stick mainly to the rock ridges anyway.

One car got lost on the way and I had to go back and look for it. He said it was because I drove too fast, but I think it was 'cos they stopped for ice-cream.

It was misty and rainy and windy on the Beacons and we got a bit off course (about 180 degrees someone said), which was unfortunate for the meet leader, who had been boasting all the way from Birmingham that he could find his way across the Carnedd's better in a mist than on a clear day. He excused the mistake by saying that his compass worked best when full of water. This soon happened and he led us down a steep valley which turned out to be the one we had come up. He said it was good navigation but I think it was coincidence.

When we got back to Llangottock it was still raining and my friend's tent was still leaking so I said she could sleep in my car if she got up first and made the tea next morning. After breakfast we found that all the rain had dried out of the compass, so we elected a new navigator. This resulted in one half of the party loosing the other although both claim to have followed the same route. I do not think this is possible because it is a well established fact that two objects cannot occupy the same position in space at the same time (ask any motorist with a few accidents to his credit). The converse of this, which is also

true, is that two objects occupying the same position, cannot. This may not be very obvious to you, but I know what I mean, anyway. We walked for some miles along a canal towpath, which was a cunning idea 'cos we could shelter under the bridges when it rained, which was often. Under one bridge we met a man and a lady in a rowing boat. They said that they had pulled the boat behind their car to where they had put it on the canal, and when they got to where they were rowing to, they were going to catch a 'bus back to where they had started from and bring the car to where they had rowed to, so that they could take the boat home again - (!). I found this explanation rather confusing - (me too - Ed.), but did not say so as they were polite to me and said 'Good Morning', when I said 'Good Morning', although it was afternoon really and they were peeling potatoes for their lunch.

We always eat rice 'cos my friend says you do not have to peel rice and if you did you could not because the pieces are too small unless you have a very small peeler that is, and we have not, so we don't.

About six in the evening, the sun came out so we all went home again.

MATERIAL FOR DISCUSSION

The following graded list of the more classic routes in Wales was published in the C.C. Journal for 1959, and was compiled by John Neill by averaging the views of three leading mountaineers who have led many of them, and who vary widely in physique and technique.

None will agree with it, as Neill says, but it may at least serve as material for argument.

One or two Lake District climbs have been added for comparison.

Exceptionally Severe

Diglyph.
The Grooves.
Llithrig.
Girdle of Dinas Cromlech.
Cenotaph Corner. (Lower Limit).

Extremely Severe

Girdle of East Buttress.
The Corner (Cloggy) (Cloggy)
Octo. The Sickie.
The Boulder. Canol.
Kipling Grooves.
Spectre. (lower limit).

Hard VS

Erosion Groove (Upper limit)
 Left Edge
 Laugh Not
 Kaisergebirge Wall
 Diagonal
 Brant Direct Start
 Central Buttress, Scafell
 (No aid)
 Deer Biold Crack
 Girdle of Carreg Wasted
 Ivy Sepulchre
 F Route (Gimmer)
 West Rib
 Slape
 Brant (Lower limit)

Mild VS

Munich (Upper limit)
 Curving Crack
 Gimmer Crack
 Sunset Crack
 Western Slabs
 Belle Vue Bastion
 Longlands
 Nose Direct (Lower limit)

Medium Severe

Main Wall (Middle of grade)

Hard VD

Wrinkle (Lower limit)

Mild VD

Gashed Crag

Medium VS

Bow Shaped (Upper limit)
 Unicorn
 Lion
 Lots Groove
 Sheaf
 Oxo
 Anthropology
 Mickledore Grooves
 Mur-y-niwl
 Narrow Slab
 Eliminate A
 East Gully Grooves
 Piggotts
 Great Slab
 Pedestal (Lower limit)

Hard Severe

Chimney (Cloggy)
 Direct Glyder Fach
 (Middle of Grade)
 Dives (Lower limit)

Mild Severe

Nea
 Hawks Nest Buttress
 Crackstone Rib (Lower limit)

Medium VD

Grooved Arete

Graded lists of climbs are pernicious. They can rarely be true for more than a single climber; they reverse the natural order in which climbs should be sought out and attempted; and they set a premium upon stunting and competitive climbing.

G.W.Young

CHARIVARIA

The Cuillin are just so much "Scotch Mist". Quote from a neighbouring club who travelled to Skye to attend a dance at Carbost.

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* BASLOW. GRAVE ANNOUNCEMENT *

* Climbing in this area, and particularly on Birchens *

* Edge is now hampered by the remarkable disappearance *

* of the Robbin Hood public house, and its replacement *

* by a building in progress which shows every promise *

* of being a morgue. *

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The Editor wishes to express great annoyance at his tent having been likened to that of a less well to do Arab.

Lighting on H.Jupp's latest auto-carriage is by No.8 battery.

The committee are seriously considering re-excavating the Tyn Lon sewage trench, as a certain Sutton Coldfield member hasn't been seen since it was filled in.

One member of the club will plan his meals more carefully in future. Tins of steak and kidney pudding take one and a half hours to cook. After a day on the hills this is a very long time indeed.

The lowering of rocks as counter weights to assist repelling is not normal practice.

It is very annoying to get the mix-point of a 100 foot rope jammed in a crack. When you find the cut ends of another rope jammed behind yours it becomes disheartening. When the screwdriver you have borrowed also becomes a fixture you begin to wonder if it would have been better to spend the day in bed.

A certain private transport owner was observed on the Shrewsbury by-pass being be-set by several irate natives of Dudley

All he had done was to run into the back of their brand new Rover. The negotiations were hampered by language difficulties.

COMMITTEE NOTES AND CLUB NEWS

Miss M. Kahn has been co-opted to fill the vacancy of Ordinary Committee Member which arose from the resignation of Miss J. Upton.

New Members The following have been elected to membership of the club:-

Miss J. Grantham
Miss J. Barnade

Mr. P. D. Hay
Mr. J. Corbett

A Quantity of Mattresses have been purchased cheaply and the beds at Tyn Lon have been equipped with these.

Hut Fees, Children It has been decided to reduce the charges for persons under ten years of age to 1/6d., per night, unless the child is depriving a full member of a bed, in which case the normal rate will be applicable.

Progress on Tyn Lon

There has been a big step forward at Tyn Lon since the last News Letter, with the laying of the final stretch of drain across Mr. Williams' field and the installation of the minimum amount of plumbing to make use of the facilities available.

Many thanks to the many members and friends who laboured so magnificently and to such good purpose.

As a result of this, however, there is a further chore to be performed when leaving the cottage - that of turning off the water supply at the stop-cock just below the window in the outhouse.

The agreement reached with the Vaynol Estates in order to obtain permission to lay the drain contained several minor clauses, and two of these will involve some labour by club members, since we have agreed to instal fences round our new boundary with materials supplied by Vaynol Estate to replace the fences put up by Mr. Williams. Also the iron gate to the road has been recognised as belonging to Mr. Williams and a wooden substitute will have to be hung. Again, this will be supplied by the Estates.

This work is all additional to that needed to get the older

part of the cottage safe and habitable, and, with the superb weather continuing to date, this remains a project for the winter months and the fullest co-operation will, we know, be forthcoming.

J.Knight

WILL YOU HELP?

At What? We have been asked to affiliate to the Peak Committee of the British Mountaineering Council and help to further its work of negotiating rights of access in the Peak District, by voluntary wardening and the prevention of damage and untidiness.

Why? Your committee feel that the Ceunant Club should affiliate, as we frequently take advantage of our proximity to the Peak District, and the endeavours of the Peak Committee are well worth supporting.

How? If we affiliate we shall undertake to provide voluntary wardens at Stannage Edge during our weekend or day meets there.

Jean Burwell has detailed information, which you are invited to peruse. If no objections are received by 20th November, the Club will affiliate and your committee will ask for volunteers for wardening duties.

FOOTNOTE

THOUGHTLESS BEHAVIOUR NOT ONLY GIVES THE CLUB A BAD NAME, BUT ALSO DAMAGES THE CASE FOR MORE FREEDOM, PARTICULARLY IN THE PEAK DISTRICT WHERE RIGHT OF ACCESS IS STILL A DELICATE SUBJECT.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - WINTER 1959/60

Meets Information

- November 8th. Day coach meet with Stoats to Stannage.
Leader, M.King.
- November 20/22nd. Pvrte.Tspt., meet to Tremadoc, Pant Ifan.
Leader, J.Burwell.
- November 27/29th. Pvt.or public tspt.meet to Llangollen or Bala.
Leader, E.Webster.

December 6th. Pvte.Tspt., meet to the Avon Gorge.
Leader, D.Davis.

December 11/13th. Pvte.Tspt., meet to Cader Idris.
Leader, J.Daffern.

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January 8/10th. Pvte.Tspt., meet to Llanberis.
Leader, A.Daffern.

January 22nd. Pvte.Tspt., day meet to Pontesbury.
Leader, M.Kerby.

February 7th. Day coach meet with Stoats to Kinder
Scout. Leader, D.Davis.

February 19/21st. Pvte.Tspt., meet to Langdale.
Leader, M.King.

March 4/6th. Coach meet with Stoats to Ogwen only.
Leader, C.Coleman.

March 20th. Pvte.Tspt., day meet to the Roaches.
Leader, D.Davis.

April 1st. Pvte.Tspt., meet to Devil's Bridge area.
Leader, E.Webster.

April 29/31st. Coach meet with Stoats to Llanberis.
Leader, A.Daffern.

COMMENT ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES

by Dan Davis

I have been asked to write a few lines about the above meet list for which I have been busy contributing ideas.

As many of you will, I am sure, already know most of the places mentioned, I shall not attempt any comment on these except to stress the wish that the meets will be accorded all the support possible, particularly the coach meets, with their traditional bon-hommie!

On November 27-29th there is a meet to either Llangollen or Bala for some hard walking, and the transport will be private, though public transport is possible. The meet leader is Edmund Webster, so please contact him well in advance for details.

December 6th will be a climbing meet to the Avon Gorge. This should be most interesting as this particular rock provides unusual climbing. The rock is excellent (for limestone!) and many

first class routes exist from diff to VS. Hugh Banner, in his student days, seems to have been the leading light in this area, and put up many of the harder routes. Fine looking ones they are, too. So I do hope that we shall see a good turn out, and we shall try our best to arrange ropes for all standards.

The meet to Cader Idris on December 11/13th is led by John Daffern. This is a beautiful area of mountains as many know, but at the moment there is no alternative to camping, though we are still trying to arrange a roof for the softies!

February 7th brings to 1960 a joint meet with our old friends the Stoats, to Kinder Scout. This again is an unusual venue for sport and it is hoped that the meet will arouse the interest of many.

There is a private transport meet arranged to Langdale on the weekend of February 19/21st. Providing that the weather is not too severe, it should be recollected that Langdale can be reached in six hours and members can be bedded down in good time and quite as soon as often happens when visiting Llanberis. We hope therefore to see many people make the effort to visit this grand area and prove for themselves that the journey is worth the effort.

On May 4th there is the second meet to Ogwen only and if members wish to stay at Ogwen Cottage (one guinea per weekend inclusive of meals - bring your own sleeping bag or blankets), they should contact the meet leader well in advance.

There is a day meet to the Roaches on March 20th and this will provide some different gritstone practice to the usual venues.

On April 17th it is suggested that those interested get together and visit the well known beauty spot of Devil's Bridge. Edmund Webster will again organise things and it is hoped that the walkers will turn out in great force and put in thirty miles or more amongst this grand scenery.

OUTDOOR MEET LEADERS Leaders can contribute considerably to the success of a meet and are asked to use the notes offered for their guidance.

CORUIISK HUT - ISLE OF SKYE

The Junior Mountaineering Club of Scotland are pleased to give details of a hut now available on the shores of the famous Loch Coruisk in Skye. Always lengthy of access, this valley provides the start of the well known Dubhs Ridge and also to Great Britain's longest standard difficult climb, 2,000 feet to the summit of Sgurr a'Ghreadaidh. The renowned Fluted Buttress of Mhic Coinich, the Cloggy of Skye with its tremendous Crack of Dawn, is also more readily reached with accommodation on this side of the range.

It can be used by all clubs affiliated to the B.M.C., and the A.S.C.C. There are nine bunks and cooking is by Calor Gas. The charge per night is 4/- per person excluding coal which is extra, if used.

A key will be sent by post to each individual party whose booking is accepted and application should be made in good time to:-

A.A.Thrippleton,
14 Portland Park,
Hamilton, Lanarkshire.

Keys should be returned as soon as possible.

The situation is 200 yards North of the outfall of Loch Coruisk into Loch Scavaig.

Access is best from either Elgol, Glen Brittle or direct from Mallaig. The easiest approach on foot is from Strathaird. It should be noted that the walk from Glen Brittle is highly serious and belies the impression given by the map!

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INDOOR ACTIVITIES - 1959/60

Indoor meets will continue to be on Wednesday evenings at the Cambridge public house, Cambridge Street, except for the lecture evenings which approximate once a month, and are detailed hereunder. Lectures are held at the Friends' Institute Moseley Road.

Wednesday, 4th November. Gritstone Climbing. F.Fitzgerald.

contd.over:

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- Wednesday, 2nd December Caving. C.L.Railton.
- 1960
Wednesday, 6th January Ski Touring and Mountaineering.
R.Southall.
- Wednesday, 27th January Members' Evening. Will members wishing to show slides please contact Tony Daffern.
- Wednesday, 10th February Annual General Meeting.
- Wednesday, 6th March To be arranged.
- Wednesday, 16th March Annual Dinner. Details as soon as arranged.

MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAINEERS - LECTURE MEETINGS

The Ceunant Mountaineering Club is grateful for a standing invitation to the lectures held by the above which take place at the Medical Institute, Harborne Road, Edgbaston - (corner of Highfield Road). The programme is as follows:-

- Thursday, 12th November The Trans-Antarctic Expedition.
GEORGE LOWE.
- Thursday, 24th November The British/Pakastini Forces Expedition to Rakaposhi. T.W.PATEY.
- Thursday, 10th December The Puma's Claw. S.G.Mcd.CLARKE.
- 1960
Thursday, 14th January Outlying Scottish Islands. W.C.DUNCAN.
- Tuesday, 26th January A Trek to the Everest Region of the Himalayas. R.COOK.
- Thursday, 11th February M.A.M.Alpine Meets 1959.
C.MACHIN. R.SOUTHALL.
- Tuesday, 1st March Lahul 1958. F.SOLARI.
- Thursday, 31st March To be arranged.

LITERATURE

By Tony Daffern

Since the days of Ruskin and the early Alpine travellers, a great deal has been written about mountains and the sport of mountaineering. The history of the sport has been chronicled from the very start. Guide books have been written for most of the well explored areas, and the details of ascents of the greater peaks in the lesser known areas have been recorded. Parties of mountaineers are gradually exploring the greater ranges of the earth and more and more books are being written for, and read by, the general public.

For the climber various text books have been produced each of which has become rapidly out of date owing to new techniques and the completely new outlook on the sport. Only one of these books is really worth mention and that is Geoffrey Winthrop Young's classic, "Mountain Craft". This is probably one of the best mountaineering books ever written and should be read by anyone starting serious climbing in the Alps for the first time. Although the techniques have changed since his day, a good deal of which he wrote will always remain true and throughout the book he stresses the fact that common sense and clear, concise thought and judgement are the most important assets a mountaineer can possess.

Few novelists have attempted to write about the mountains and those who climb them, although there is plenty of material for them to work on.

With the great improvements that have occurred in photography and printing, most books are now well illustrated, and a few excellent books consisting almost entirely of photographs have been published.

Very few mountaineers are able to go on expeditions to distant ranges themselves, but they can, with the aid of well illustrated books, travel in mind if not in body, with some of the lucky few. They can, with the aid of books, while sitting by the fire, climb in the highest ranges, fight their way up the fiercest Alpine faces or potter about in their own Welsh mountains.

There are listed below a short personal selection of good mountaineering books. The list is by no means complete, but an active reader will soon pick out the many other classics. Incidentally, most of these can be obtained through Birmingham Public Libraries.

MOUNTAIN CRAFT	G.W.Young
PROGRESS IN MOUNTAINEERING	Arthur Bell
THE AGE OF MOUNTAINEERING	J.R.Ullman
STARLIGHT AND STORM	Gaston Rebuffat
CLIMBS OF MY YOUTH	Andre Roch
NANGA PARBAT PILGRIMAGE	Herrman Buhl
SCRAMBLES IN THE ALPS	E.Whympfer
CLIMBS IN THE ALPS AND CAUCASUS	A.F.Mummery
ANNAPURNA	Maurice Herzog
SNOWDON BIOGRAPHY	Young-Sutton-Noyce
UNDISCOVERED SCOTLAND	W.H.Murray
MONT BLANC TO EVEREST	Gaston Rebuffat

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Cover Design

Once again we are indebted to Dan Davis for final work on the cover.

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