

SEPTEMBER, 1965

The Ceunant Mountaineering Club



EDITORIAL

This issue marks the seventh anniversary of the founding of the Newsletter, and it is a good time to have a little moan about members contributions - or the lack of them. Last year it was observed that the number of meet reports was diminishing again, and some members expressed the fear that this might give an undue impression of inactivity to outsiders reading this magazine. It was suggested therefore that where no full write-up had been forthcoming, the official meet return should be used to work up a "potted report" for the record. This meant that all meets would at least get a mention and seemed a good idea at the time, but it now appears that meet leaders regard this as having relieved them of all responsibility in the matter of writing reports on their outings.

This, coupled with a period of enforced inactivity on the part of the Editor means that little has been heard from the climbing front for some time.

Frequently in the past, the Editor has had to write 75% of the Newsletter himself in order to get sufficient quantity (if not quality) to make it worth publishing. It is not good that this should happen - too much of one style of writing spoils any magazine - nor should it be necessary. It does not have to be the leaders who send in reports, there are some fortunate members who are able to get out nearly every weekend somewhere or other. These people are obviously the ones most admirably placed to keep the climbing news flowing. One or two of them (to whom our grateful thanks) come up regularly with contributions.

From the rest, including those who are most vocal in pointing out the lack of active climbing news in the Newsletter - nothing.

This publication is not an official organ of the Committee. Its pages are open to anyone who has anything interesting to say about mountains or

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mountaineering.

We have never sought outside articles, nor have we considered using potted extracts from other peoples writings.

We consider this magazine can only live by the contributions of our own members - and we see no reason why it should not do so.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the Editor and are not necessarily endorsed by the Committee.

Secretary:

B.A. Jones,

West Bromwich.

Hut Warden:

W.H. Yale,

Tipton.

Publications Editor:

I.D. Corbett,

Birmingham, 27.

CLUB NEWS

THE CEUNANT MOUNTAINEERING JOURNAL

IS NOW ON SALE

Price (minimum) 5/-.

There are plenty of copies available for friend's and relations. Please try and sell as many as you can.

There has recently been a spate of members emigrating to far away places, or removing themselves to odd corners of the United Kingdom. Most of these people wish to keep in touch with the Ceunant, but obviously they cannot utilise the club facilities to the fullest extent, and the Committee has for some time been aware of the need to make some special provision in these cases.

It has now been decided to create a new class of members, to be known as "Country Members".

The following conditions will apply:

1. Country Membership will be available at the discretion of the Committee only to people
 - (a) Who are full members of the Ceunant Mountaineering Club
 - (b) Who have moved too far away to allow regular contact with other members.
2. Country Members will be charged the same hut fees as prospective members.
3. Country Members will not be entitled to vote at Club meetings.
4. Country Members will receive copies of the Newsletter and the Outdoor Meets programme card, but they will not receive notification of Indoor Meets.
5. Country Members will be liable to an annual subscription of 10/-d payable on or before 31st January.

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Next years Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 19th March, 1966 probably at the Dolbadan Hotel, Llanberis.

It is hoped to arrange a club ski-ing week early in March, 1966, on the same lines as last year's outing. Will members interested please contact Arthur Becker.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Outdoor Meets

September 10th - 12th	MID-WALES	Cross-country treasure hunt (walking) Leader: M.Kerby.
September 24th - 26th	BUTTERMERE	Camping or Y.H.A. Leader: J.Pettet.
October 8th - 10th	CRAIG COWARCH	Camping. Possibly M.C. Hut Leader: D. Stokes.
October 17th	AVON GORGE	Day meet Leader: B.Pearce.
November 5th - 7th	LLANBERIS	Tyn Lon Leader: W. Yale.

Will members please note that the following meet was omitted from the Outdoor Meets programme:

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December 17th - 19th RYDD DDU Leader:
J. Brennan.

Indoor Meets

Amendments to the list published in the April
Newsletter:

September 15th Lecture by J. Railton

October 12th Lecture on Ski-ing by Philip
Andrew.
Joint meeting with the Ski Club
at the Medical Institute,
Harborne Road,
Tickets 2/-d.

HUT RULES

The Committee wishes to draw attention to the following rules which are applicable to the use of Tyn Lon. Parties using the cottage are collectively responsible for seeing that these rules are adhered to.

1. Before leaving the hut at the end of your visit

Turn off Calor gas at cylinder
Turn off water (tap beneath window on pavement)
In winter, drain water system (drain tap over outlet from shower).
Turn off electricity at main switch
Flush W.C. twice and sprinkle Harpic in pan
Rake out fires
Padlock the coal store and bolt the back gate
Bolt windows and draw curtains
Lock all doors

On no account should perishable food be left
in the cottage

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Tins should be burnt, flattened and placed in the dustbin.

Remove all bottles (this does not mean deposit same in the garden).

Please make sure that the hut is left clean and tidy.

2. During the weekend

Check that there is sufficient coal, Calor gas, washing-up materials, Harpic, toilet paper etc., for the following weekend. If coal or Calor Gas is required, notify the Hut Warden.

Everything else can be obtained from Birmingham House, Llanberis (where the Club has a credit account), or the local shop at Nant Peris.

3. When staying at the hut

Members and guests are requested to observe reasonable quiet after 11.30 p.m. Remember there may be someone trying to get an early start.

4. Guests

The only people entitled to stay at the cottage are full members, prospective members and country members of the Ceunant Mountaineering Club.

Other clubs or individuals may stay there with the advance consent and at the absolute discretion of the Hut Warden.

Members (but not prospective members or country members) are allowed to bring guests. No maximum number has been laid down, but it is felt that no member should bring more than two guests without prior arrangement with the Hut Warden.

News from the Outback:

Tony Fowler got married on 24th July, with Mike Manser doing the honours as best man.

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Tony seems to have got settled in very well in Australia, filling in his spare time with sailing and horse riding. He hopes to start doing some climbing in the Blue Mountains shortly.

He sends his regards to the club, and hopes to hear from members from time to time.

LANCS C & C CLUB

A complaint has been received from the Lancashire Caving and Climbing Club as a result of happenings during the Dow Crag meet on the weekend 3rd-4th July.

We have been asked to point out the following facts for the information of any members who may in future wish to camp near to the Lancashire C and C Hut at Dow Crag:

- 1) Tranearth is private property and none of the facilities there are to be used without permission.
 - 2) Cars should not be taken up the lane; the local farmer prefers that they be parked in the field at the bottom.
 - 3) It is as necessary to obtain permission to camp there as anywhere else. It is not common land.
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MEET REPORTS

GOWER COAST MEET 11/13th JUNE - by M.R. Kerby

About 20 members and guests arrived at Mrs Lewis's camp site during Friday night, deploying themselves over numerous fields. The Pearce Tribal Tent dwarfed all else, making the gathering look more like a broody hen surrounded by chicks than a respectable mountaineering club camp.

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Saturday being quite fine, several parties went out and did routes on the cliffs in Tor Bay. Some members walked along the cliffs and admired the scenery, while others preferred the quiet of the beach. Unfortunately, later on, rain damped proceedings for a time.

During the evening fog descended and hopes of a fine day on the morrow were seemingly destroyed. A party gathered in the Pearce Tribal Tent for a 'Pow Wow' and to divide the one bottle of beer and one bottle of Babycham amongst the members present - 'Victorious Victorious - thank God there weren't any more of us'.

Sunday dawned bright and clear, but the meet Leader's head was not very bright and clear though, as this being the ordinary practise of seamen, he had lain in his tent listening to the blast of the Mumbles Lighthouse foghorn most of the night. One party set off to explore the saltflats and marshes on the North coast while another did some climbs on the more distant cliffs. The main party, including the Pearce Tribe, set off to Rhossili and Worm's Head. The scenery and views made the visit very worthwhile, although this was soon ended when the fog returned with the flooding tide.

On returning to Oxwich the party was greeted by the sight of hundreds of coaches and thousands of trippers festooned all over the beach. This violent change from the peace of the previous day, spurred them on to making a hurried retreat back to Birmingham.

Summing up, the meet was very worthwhile although it would have been a lot better if more of the family members had managed to attend. For although the Gower doesn't offer any mountaineering, it does offer quite reasonable rock climbs coupled with pleasant cliff walks and interesting scenery. For the less active of the family members the beaches are very inviting coupled with safe sea-bathing and surfriding. Let's hope that next time a meet is held there, a few more families will come along and enjoy themselves.

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Dow Crag 2 - 4th July

Attended by ten members and four guests, who camped near Tranearth.

The weather was reasonably good, and routes done on the Crag included Murray's climb, Abraham's climb, Central Chimney, and Eliminate 'A'.

Some parties also walked over the 'Old Man!.

Leader: A. Mynette.

ARRAN - EASTER 1965

by Pete Holden

With the wish to spend Easter away from the ever increasing "mob" one gets in the hills nowadays, we thought we would try Arran, which was new ground to all those interested in going. Accordingly, three cars carried six of us up to Fairlie during the night, where we got our first glimpse of the island in the morning light, looking very inviting across the water. The ferry ride across to Brodick was excellent because the sun shone (the first time for days) and we had excellent views of the well known Arran ridges and mountains, looking splendidly rugged.

Brodick was found to be a very pleasantly situated town occupying a superb position in the bay and we were surprised to find none of the usual seaside-town horrors of commercialisation strewn along the "prom". We stopped only for a little shopping and then hurriedly began the carry up to Glen Rosa before we succumbed to the temptation of camping on the beach. Naturally we were all rather tired after the drive up during the previous night and no sleep, but the sun was putting new life into us. The entrance to Glen Rosa was reached after a couple of miles and here there were many excellent camp sites by the river. Many of them were occupied and quite obviously the whole place was going to be "choc-a-block" after a few more boatloads had steamed in, so we determined to flog on up the Glen until we were quite on our own.

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The "carry" was warm work and quite hard and thus there was a little misunderstanding as to where the ideal camp site was. Eventually those who had collapsed highest up the Glen encouraged the whole party to camp at their remote spot.

The site was certainly remote, being about four miles from Brodick, and situated in a superb position, if only the weather would remain kind. Unfortunately as soon as the tents were pitched, the weather began to show its hand, and the blue sky turned grey and threatened rain.

After a meal and afternoon nap, all but one of us strolled up the Glen towards the saddle overlooking Glen Sannox. This began pleasantly with superb views of Chir Mhor dominating the head of the Glen - quite a fine peak with its famous south west ridge. But gradually we realised that the Saddle was much further away than we thought and when it began to rain the stroll had developed into a hard grind. This "Saddle" was gained with as much relief as a high peak and five hungry, cold, wet and weary figures crouched under a boulder sharing an orange and gazing down the desolate Glen Sannox with its perfectly symmetrical "U" shape and bleak emptiness which made one feel most uncomfortable. We were glad to turn again and hurry back down to our tents, which now seemed to be pitched in a devil's cauldron.

As we lay eating and then relaxing, the weather worsened to the wildest night I had seen or had the mischance to be camped out in. The wind and the rain began to play havoc with the tents, the strongest gusts shook them almost to the point of disintegration and after each of these gusts, we would lie back and relax as though we had had to physically hold the tent down.

Inevitably, the guy ropes broke one by one, and the fly sheet began to flap with a noise like claps of thunder. Robin, having great moral courage, leapt naked out of our tent and secured it with more boulders, whilst I lay snugly in my bag. After this effort we lay tensed up, waiting for the fly sheet to break away again. From the crazy shouts, it was quite obvious that

the others were suffering the same fate. Soon it was my turn to rush about frantic and naked in an attempt to tie the canvas down, rather like fighting a crocodile underwater I should imagine. The sleeping bag was sheer luxury now, though the comfort was gradually diminished as the water sprayed in over us. Now the fury of the elements was being matched by the grumbling of those who had wanted to camp further down the Glen. The night seemed like an eternity, and with the coming of daylight the storm eased and we lay shouting between the tents about the experiences suffered and damage done. Arthur Becker was mentally sticking daggers into Blacks because he had suffered a broken pole in his new "mountain" tent. Everyone was wet and tired, and there began talk of a retreat to lower, more sheltered climes.

Three tents were packed up and departed to a spot lower down the valley, but Robin and I were too idle to do this, so we just made our tent more secure where it was. The day was spent down in Brodick, eating, drinking and playing mini-golf between the storms. Another foul night was endured in the Glen, but with a little more security, and we almost relaxed and fell asleep. When we looked out of the tent in the morning, we were surprised to see that the hills were covered in a layer of snow. The sun was shining, though obviously for a limited time, so Robin and I breakfasted and rushed down the Glen to get the others moving. Having discussed plans for the day, we arranged to meet on the way to Beinn Nuin as we had to go back to our tents. We never saw the others again, they evidently saw the weather clagging over and decided to beat a retreat to the safety and comfort of the Glen. Robin and I flogged over to and up Beinn Nuin, and enjoyed for a couple of hours the best weather in the hills we had had. The views of the snow covered tops and large cliffs were very good, just reward for the effort.

By the time we reached the top of Beinn Nuin the weather was getting quite bad with an exceptionally strong wind carrying stinging spindrift into our faces. The ridge was quite rocky and interesting and we enjoyed the stroll round to Beinn Targuin. After this we lost

one another in one of the very bad squalls, Robin sheltering whilst I battled with a chimney, from which I thought I would never extricate myself, in what was a virtual blizzard. The ridge from Beinn Tarquin over A'chir is excellent scrambling with some very good positions. Apart from the very real danger of being blown over the edge, this section was very exhilarating. Not having seen Robin for some time, I guessed that he was sheltering from the weather, and thus decided to push on on my own, over Chir Mhor, and down to the Saddle for a rest and a bite to eat.

Temptation was very strong to just curl up in a ball and roll down Glen Rosa to the tent, but the day would not have been complete without finishing the ridge by ascending Goat Fell. This proved to be the windiest part of the day, and I had a great struggle to remain in contact with the ground, having to crawl on hands and knees in many places, and in fact being lifted from the ground at one point. The effort was rewarded by having sunshine on the summit, and enjoying a superb view over the sea. From the top of Goat Fell, I was able to drop quickly down to Glen Rosa, and the tents, arriving just before Robin who had come down off the Saddle.

Another night of hell was foreseen, so we made plans to leave the island next morning by the 9.0-clock boat. The following morning there were clear blue skies, which we thought could not last, and broke camp intending to catch the ferry. When we reached the lower camp it was still intact, and showing very little sign of life; the occupants having decided that the weather was too good to leave (so they said, I hardly think they had been out to notice it), and also they were waiting for two people to come back from the village where they had been for two days to get some real Scotch oats, We left this festering crowd and made a dash for the boat with four miles to cover in seventy-five minutes. As we were striding along we realised that the weather was going to hold, and no longer saw the point of this hasty evacuation. We decided to slow down, and enjoy the day by hiring a couple of bicycles to take a look around. This we did, and enjoyed a glorious

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ride along the coast and across the moors to the southernmost point of the island. Riding was a great pleasure and very easy with the strong wind right behind us. The views from the moor of the snow-clad mountains and the blue sea were quite splendid, and we tootled along at a very leisurely pace.

We relaxed for a couple of hours in the sunshine, then had to ride against the wind all the way back to Brodick, where we arrived just in time to miss the four p.m. boat. It left the quay (on time - not true to form) just as we reached the end of the pier. Normally this was the last boat of the day, but fortunately an extra one was running at six p.m. for the Bank Holiday crowd, and we had time to eat a good meal before making sure of catching this one. We had an excellent journey across to Fairlie on a very fine evening, and arrived in time to see the sun setting behind a majestic Arran.

B.M.C. NEWS

In the course of his speech at the A.G.M. on 10th April, 1965, the President, Jack Longland, said that the Area Committee had grown in importance and in the scope of their activities. He referred particularly to the preparation of the new Gritstone Guides, which, he said, only the B.M.C. through the Peak Committee could have sponsored. A special tribute was paid to Eric Byne for his work in this connection.

The President also spoke of the scope of the B.M.C. which was becoming officially recognised as the "governing body" in the sport of mountaineering. Access to crags in the Peak District and over the moors of the National Trust is accorded to bona fide member clubs with the right of sanctions. The views of the B.M.C. are sought in public enquiries in connection with water supplies, nature conservancy, railway closures, etc.

In fact, the Council was now approaching the role

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of national significance which Geoffrey Winthrop Young originally imagined, and which he had in mind when planning the B.M.C.

The Lake District Committee hoped to send a representative to the public enquiry on the Manchester water order. In principle, the B.M.C. opposed taking the water from any lake, but not from the River Leven, which was now suggested.

The South Wales Committee commented on a bill which is going forward regarding the registration of common lands and rights over them. The purpose is to get roads over common land registered, so that there will be something to which legislation could be applied. This would prevent encroachment on common land, which is alleged to have taken place, particularly in Welsh counties.

The Minister of Land and National Resources had said there would be legislation revising the National Parks Act in the next session.

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

Hostel at Crowden in Longdendale.

This hostel, opened at Easter, although run by the Youth Hostels Association, is open to the general public and not merely Y.H.A. members. There are 40 beds and a cafe for light meals.

The hostel is situated on the Pennine Way. There are five crags in the vicinity - Laddow, Ravenstones, Dovestones, Lad's Leap and Shining Clough - all of which are now open to the public under access agreements recently completed between the Peak Park Planning Board and the landowners. These agreements cover about 31 square miles of high moorland country, situated North and South of the Longdendale Valley, and in the vicinity of Chew Valley.

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There is a full-time warden resident at Crowden, who is responsible for organising a warden service at weekends and public holidays.

Accommodation costs one:

Dormitory (including supply of sleeping bags) with breakfast

Y.H.A. members 8/3d a night,
non-members 10/6d.

Private bedrooms (limited in number) with breakfast

Single 17/6d : Double (per person) 15/-d.

Light meals are available at weekends and on most weekdays. Sweets and chocolate are also on sale in the cafe.

LIST OF MEMBERS - AT JULY 1965

BANNISTER	Mr and Mrs M
BARNACLE	Miss J
BEARMAN	Mr and Mrs R
BECKER	A.F.
BERGER	R.
BRIDGENS	J.L.
BRENNAN	J.
BUCKMASTER	J.
CASTLE	H.F.
CONNELLY	M.E.
CORBETT	I.D.
COSTELLO	J.R.
DAFFERN	Mr and Mrs A.M.
DAFFERN	J.
DALLEY	H.
DAVIES	A.L.

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FOSTER	H.
FOWLER	A.A.J.
FOYLE	D.
GABRIEL	Miss J.
GAVIN	H.F.N.
GREEN	Mr and Mrs.A.
HAMMOND	P.A.
HAY	P.D.
HOLDEN	P.
HOPFINGER.	P.
HUNT	Mrs. F.
HURST	J.
JONES	B.A.
JONES	W.R.
JUPP	H.
KAHN	Miss M.
KERBY	M.R.

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KNIGHT	J.F.
LAVILL	R.
LEE	J.A.
LONG	V.D.
MARTIN	W.
MASON	I.Y.
McMAHON	J.P.
MYNETTE	A.J.
NOBLE	J.R.
PEARCE	Mr and Mrs B.
PETTET	J.W.
PRICE	F.J.
REEVES	Mr and Mrs.R.B.
REYNOLDS	Mr and Mrs K.
RICE-JON	Mr and Mrs K.
RICHARDS	Mr and Mrs H.

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STOKES	D
URWIN	Mr and Mrs J.
WEBSTER	Mr and Mrs E.
WESTWOOD	A.
WILKINSON	C.J.
WILLAN	Mr and Mrs P.
YALE	W.H.
