

JANUARY 1965

The Ceunant Mountaineering Club



E D I T O R I A L

Annual General Meeting time is here once again, and we would like to indulge in our annual attempt to get members to take an interest in the running of the club.

All decisions on club policy are taken by the committee, and the committee is nominated, and elected, by the members at the A.G.M. To make this more obvious, the existing committee resigns en bloc at the A.G.M., and as a result, if there are no nominations, there will be no committee next year.

The measure of a keen and active club is the interest taken by members in how the committee organises the club activities. Are members really happy with the state of affairs in the club at the moment, or are they merely disinterested? For instance, do you like the Outdoor Meets list? Are you happy about the Indoor Meets Programme? Is everyone satisfied with the way Tyn Lon is being developed? Could anything be done to improve the Newsletter?

If there are any discontents, they never make themselves known. But judging from certain portents recently (meet attendances, for example) one gathers that some members, though silent, are not at all happy. If this is so, we hope that they will be sufficiently interested in the future progress of the club to let us know, and the A.G.M. is as good a time as any to do it.

Hon. Secretary:-

Basil Jones,
114, Dagger Lane,
West Bromwich.

Hut Warden:-

W.H. Yale,
68, Grace Road,
Tipton.

Publications Editor:-

I.D. Corbett,
420, Shirley Road,
Birmingham, 27.

CLUB NEWS

INDOOR MEETS

It now appears that the Cambridge is due for demolition later this year, and that the club will need to find a new meeting place around June. The Prince of Wales (where last year's A.G.M. was held) has been suggested as a "possible", but enquiries are continuing.

OUTDOOR MEETS

Programme for the next two months:

February 12th-14th	BRECON BEACONS	Camping and possibly hut. Leader, J.Brennan
February 28th	MILLSTONE EDGE	Day meet, Pegging. Leader, to be arranged
March 6th	ANNUAL DINNER	Princes Arms, Trefriw Leader, B. Jones
March 26th-28th	LLANBERIS	Tyn Lon. Leader, R.Costello

ANNUAL DINNER

This year's Annual Dinner will be held at:

THE PRINCES ARMS,
TREFRIW
(Nr. LLANWRST)

on Saturday 6th March, 1965.

It has long been known that the Jupp stables suffered from a shortage of wheels. There were only 6 between two cars. When, in addition to having only 2 wheels, Jupnik 1 suffered a cracked cylinder block, Harold decided that the portion of field on which it had taken root could be put to better use.

Selling the vehicle, however, produced its own peculiar problems. Harold, a kind hearted fellow, could not bear to disturb the bees which had nested under the dashboard. There was nothing mercenary in this - "They were", said Harold, "wild bees, of the sort from which you couldn't get much in the way of honey". Then, when the bees had bred and gone, there were still the chickens. It would have been unkind to turn the birds out of their cosy 1932 saloon coop. However, the situation had to be faced, and eventually, birds and bees evicted, the blockless, wheel-less old faithful was sold on the only terms possible - as scrap.

Out of all this there may come some good however. Now that the establishment has been reduced to one vehicle - with wheels - Harold has all the makings of a recognisable automobile. Work has already commenced on the project. We don't know how long it will take but there is a definite possibility, in the not too distant future, that Jupp will roll again.

During the summer some of our members on holiday in Scotland got mixed up with the battle of Culloden. Actually, since the encounter took place in Glencoe, one would have thought, at first sight, that it should have been the famous 'massacre' that was being re-enacted. Presumably the scenes with which they got tangled represented the cleaning up operations in the glens after the fight, or else the film unit wanted some better scenery than is available in the area where Culloden was really fought.

Picking their way between Redcoats and plastic models of dismembered Jacobites, the Ceunant managed to keep out of the picture. Or so they said. Personally, we should

not have been in the least surprised to see, on our screens, an untidy band of anorak clad figures, pitons at the ready, charging with the MacDonaldis on the Stewart left wing!

MEET REPORTS

BORROWDALE 23rd/25th October by A. Westwood

The meet was well attended, 18 members camping at a very pleasant site near Grange Bridge. Friday night was very clear and cold, and tents were pitched in bright moonlight.

Saturday was still cold, but clear at first, and most people went walking over Gable and further afield. One elder member was reported to have disappeared from Windy Gap, but he turned up eventually in Ennerdale. A few keen climbers were out early on the Gable. Jack Parker and his friend were up and out by 8 o'clock - probably unable to stand the cold.

Sunday was warmer, and various groups went climbing on Shepherds, Ravens and other local crags.

Two lucky members carried on to Scotland for a few days, while the less fortunate returned to Brum.

TYN LON WORKING PARTY MEET - 7/8th NOVEMBER by Bill Yale

As usual there was no shortage of volunteers for this working party. Eighteen members and guests attended, although the meet was not well advertised for fear of getting too many!

There was, however, a county-wide shortage of cement in Caernarvonshire, which nearly sabotaged us. After having no luck at our usual suppliers in Llanberis Tony Daffern and myself scoured Caernarvon for a few handfuls of this material which had suddenly become so precious, but to no avail. Apparently there was not a bag to be

PAGE SEVEN

had in the whole of the county. This was rather exasperating as Fred had tons of it in his builders' yard in Birmingham, but had not considered it worth carrying to North Wales as it could easily be obtained anywhere - or so he thought. Tony went back to our suppliers in Llanberis and, by some means which I did not question, obtained a hundredweight which had already been sold to one "Joe Bloggs".

Once again, the weather was perfect - it poured with rain all the week-end. An inspection of the parts of the roof which had given us so much trouble proved that the 'Plycol' was doing its job, although a few week-ends later a few drops of water were seen to be oozing from one place in the out-house wall. This may have been due to rain being driven down the chimney itself, for there was a fine spray issuing into the dining room from the fireplace.

After the flooding of Tyn Lon at the last working party a letter was sent to the Caernarvonshire County Council complaining about the surface water pouring into the cottage from the highway. The drain designed to take away this water has now been cleaned out by the Council, and we discovered, to our surprise, that this pipe actually discharges on to our own field. The outlet must have been covered by our sand dump. In addition to clearing this drain the Highways Dept. have also raised the kerb across the entrance to the cottage by about three inches. This has entirely eliminated the drainage from the highway on to our property and also reduced the size of the two lakes which form in front of the doorways when it rains. However, we still have the water from our own roof and from the area in front of the church to contend with. The C.C.C. do not, obviously, accept responsibility for this, but with the drain now cleared, it is not such a serious problem.

The main object of the meet, as with so many past working parties, was the drying room, and the structural work on this has now been completed: An outlet duct with damper was constructed through the roof of the out-house, clothes hangers were fitted, the ceiling finished, and a

bracket for the heater grouted into the wall. (We are now waiting for the final electrical connections to be made, when the drying room will be ready for use - shillings permitting). Painting can be done at a later stage.

The outside door from the second kitchen was taken out and replaced by a window (not yet glazed). Owing to a shortage of rocks for building it was suggested that the cast iron oven which was taken out of the range years ago be used as "filling", with a stone facing. A further suggestion, made entirely in jest, that, turned with the open end into the kitchen, it could be used as a cupboard, was taken seriously by the builders - and we now possess a 'milk safe'.

During the week-end the floor and lower parts of the walls in the old dining room were found to be saturated with water, so as a temporary cure the earth outside was excavated to a depth just below the floor level.

We were alarmed to discover that there had been a determined attack on Tyn Lon by rats. There was evidence of the invasion all over the cottage. A large notch had been gnawed in the edge of one of the cooking tables, presumably to get at some old grease. A great hole had appeared in the wall near the steps between the two kitchens and in front of it was a huge mound of earth. This access route was duly filled with broken bottles and cemented up. Once again it must be stressed that any food liable to attract these vermin must not be left behind in the cottage.

Further grouting of loose stonework was carried out in the old part of the cottage and the largest bedroom received an undercoat of paint. Among other odd jobs done were: the fixing of a letter-box cage, some glazing, the covering of the other dining room table with 'Contact', the remaining 'Plycol' applied to the roof, an attempt at sealing the space round the dining room stove, boundary wall repairs, and the inevitable general scrubbing, cleaning and gardening.

I wish to thank all those who took part in this working party.

TREASURE HUNT MEET, 14th November, 1964
by M.R. Kerby

Although the venue for this meet (Lake Vyrnwy-Berwyns) was kept as secret as possible for as long as possible, many of the members had a fairly shrewd idea of the whereabouts sometime before the date. The postponement of the meet for a fortnight didn't do much to help the participants, as the daylight hours were noticeably shorter.

The idea of the meet was to divide the participants into teams of 3 or 4; from a central rendezvous they would be taken to 'dropping off' points, where each team would be given a map, clues to follow and map reference of where they were. From then on they would be on their own. The clues given would test their ability at map-reading, at marching on a compass course, at finding a compass course from a map and last but not least their powers of observation.

The route was divided into three sections. The first was of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the teams converging on a common point from their individual dropping off points. Here they would be met by the organising party and checked through into the second section - 6 miles. At the check point they would be given a cup of tea, cake and biscuits. After the second section the teams would be given an evening meal at another check point established in an old shooting hut. From there they would do the third section (10 miles) by moonlight - taking in most of the main Berwyn Ridges - being met at the finish by the organising team and fed with hot soup etc., before being transported back to the central camp site.

The camp was set up at Penybontfawr and at lunchtime the four teams (12 members) and the four organisers set off to start the exercise. Everything ran smoothly until

darkness fell. With the shades of night falling fast the torrential rain fell even faster, only to be beaten by the wind blowing harder still. After the end of the second section most people had had enough - can't blame them either! A few stalwart members joined together to try and do the Berwyns in one party, but unfortunately the weather beat them. They descended from Moel Sych and returned to the camp site down the Afon Rhaeadr Valley. The brave fellows then set out to motor to the finishing point to let the now 'lone' organiser know that they wouldn't be coming from the direction expected. After polishing off the hot soup awaiting them the party returned to the camp site and crawled into their sleeping bags about 3.00 a.m. By this time, the wind had really risen to gale force, and the inhabitants of Tony's 'tent' - a vast square-sided-Henry V th-type marquee, expected every minute to have it torn to shreds over their heads. But it was still there in the morning.

Although not a really successful meet I think most people enjoyed it and did their best to enter into the spirit of the occasion. Even though things didn't always go as anticipated, many things have been learned by this exercise which have been mentally noted for future use!

THE RHINOGS 15th/17th January, 1965 by I.D. Corbett

The weather forecast was awful. Gales and rain, snow on high ground, etc. Enough, if true, to put a stop to all activity - except sitting watching the sleet beating across what little might be visible of the "breathtaking panorama" which the I.V.C. leaflet promised us.

In fact, only the gales materialised, although for the whole of Saturday, the only panorama seen from Llwyn onn Isaf was a 10/10 bank of cloud.

It did not prove easy to find the place, due to a rather misleading statement in the aforementioned leaflet. Three separate vehicles, at various times,

ended up in the same muddy farmyard, to be helped out by the same obliging farmer. His patience must have worn thin by the small hours of Sunday morning.

After a very late start on Saturday, various parties set off to hike through the mist, without getting very high or going very far. Some actually climbed down, and stamped around the shores of the estuary. The meet leader missed part of the proceedings, searching for a garage capable of repairing a wheel rim, damaged when a piece of Welsh mountain jumped out from the side of the Llwyn Onn track.

The little rock outcrop a few yards from the cottage attracted much attention. With climbs varying from easy to severe, nothing longer than 32 feet, this is a paradise for beginners - or even for experts with half an hour or so to spare.

After a night of ferocious gales, Sunday was again dry. Parties were out on the Rhinog Ridges, the Roman steps above Cwm Bychan, and the precipice walk.

Probably the largest expenditure of energy during the weekend was that involved in pushing members' cars in and out of the sticky quagmire of a field which they had paid 1/-d to park in.

A highly dangerous looking darts match took place in "The Last" Inn on Saturday evening, with a lady member of the I.V.C. putting her arrows everywhere from the ceiling rafters to down Fred Price's neck.

Llwyn Onn Isaf was very comfortable, and if we missed Tyn Lon's decadent electric light, the cottage was well endowed with Tilley lamps. Unfortunately, it was less so after our visit, as one of our venerable members managed to smash one.

The same member covered himself in glory and the cottage floor in paraffin whilst filling an oil stove. Everyone took cover when the match was applied, but all ended well. The oil-soaked newspaper used to mop up

the mess made a brief, satisfactory blaze in the woodless, coal-less grate.

At one time or another, fourteen members and friends were present on the meet, one bold fellow camping, and the remainder lounging in the hut.

B.M.C. NEWS

A meeting of the Commission du Material de Securite was held in London recently. In addition to local delegates, representatives were present from France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Discussions covered karabiners, ropes and climbing helmets. A draft specification for a karabiner, on the lines of that laid down for the Hiatt Karabiner, was accepted in principle. As regards helmets, it was agreed that the aim should be to develop helmets which gave protection to a falling climber as well as against falling stones.

The Glenbrittle Memorial Hut is now nearing completion, and will probably be opened at Whitsun. Representatives of subscribing clubs will be invited to the ceremony.

The Lake District Committee of the B.M.C. have made it clear that they most strongly oppose any scheme for the abstraction of water from any lake. They also oppose any plans to dam valleys for the purpose of creating reservoirs. Further, realising that trunk roads are to be constructed in the area, it is considered that a careful eye should be kept on the situation, and protest made against any specific schemes of road widening which threatens the amenities.

The North Wales Committee, referring to camping, say that they consider the provision of sites should be a

positive duty of the Planning authority of the area concerned.

All camping except that on open ground well away from the roads should be strictly controlled, and an authority which provided properly appointed sites in suitable places, should also prohibit camping in unsuitable places.

Any policy, to be effective, must take account of "services camping".

As the problem is urgent, early liaison between the various interests concerned is highly desirable.
