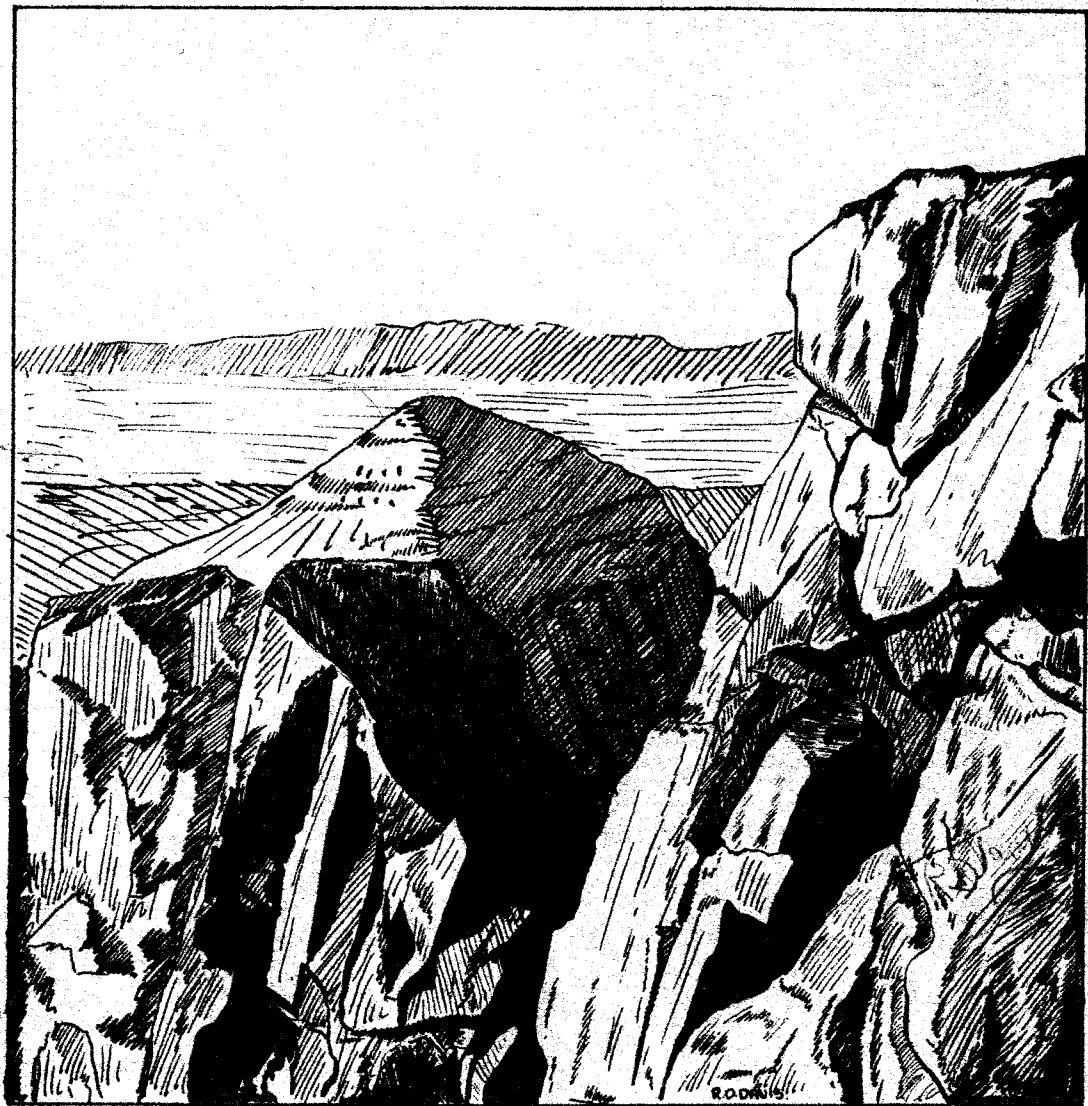


# THE CEUNANT

## MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



JUNE  
1961

# News Letter

## EDITORIAL

After the Annual General meeting it is customary to remind everybody of the existence of the committee working on everyone's behalf throughout the year, and at the risk of repeating ourselves from previous years, it is up to us to pay tribute to those who look after the funds, handle the correspondence, make arrangements for meets and generally think and work for what they hope is to the benefit of the club. (Editors excepted of course!)

It can truthfully be said that the bulk of chores falls upon the secretary of an organisation of this kind, and as, in consequence, these are hard to find, an especial tribute must perforce be made to whoever holds that office.

x      x      x      x

The following is quoted from the preface to British Crag and Climbers. "Most Clubs publish Journals, in which are recorded exploits by their members at home and abroad. This means that many of the landmarks in climbing history are set in writing only where they are inaccessible to the general public; inaccessible even to members of clubs unless these possess back numbers of their Journals. Thus over the years the impression has grown that it is necessary to go far afield to find real mountain adventure; -

Yet there are adventures to be found in Britain which can become quite as exciting, and even as desperate, as those which draw us to more distant ranges".

This may not apply so much to-day as when it was written, but it is quoted for interest and particularly for emphasis on the purpose of a journal or News Letter - 'to record the exploits of our members at home and abroad.'

We feel it to be a member's duty to record his activities, not only in the hut log books, but in more detail for the News Letters. Only in this way can the

News Letter make more interesting reading to members and serve its proper purpose and break away from the magazine influence which has been predominant in the past issues. We have been told, moreover, that the tone of past issues has been far too flippant with an emphasis on humour, particularly in meet reports. We are not sure that this is strictly true, since we climb for fun mainly, and failures and mistakes (dangerous errors excepted) are best portrayed with a vein of humour, but the serious things that most of us (we hope) try to do or succeed in doing, must have emphasis.

Away with any excuses of false modesty, and lets have some interesting reading for the 1961 issues of our News Letter. Remember that the journal is read by others besides ourselves (albeit only few), and it would be false to convey an impression of in-activity.

x   x   x   x   x   x

It is not for us to comment at this stage on the events and decisions at the A.G.M., but the healthy interest shown by all present augers well for the future.

Publications Editor -      M.N. KING  
                                 3/61, Leamington Road,  
                                 Birmingham, 12.

Unless otherwise indicated all opinions expressed in this News Letter are entirely those of the Editor and are not necessarily endorsed by the Committee.

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#### CLIMBING NOTES AND NEWS

The South Snowdon Guide is now available and we believe the club is purchasing a copy, though there are at least two owned by members to date. The guide includes the cliffs in the Nant Gwynant Valley, Aberglaslyn Pass and

Tremadoc, but does not include the Moelwyns and Carreg Altrim as we were given to understand. Thus these and Moel Hebog, Cwm Silyn, the Quellyn cliffs, the Rivals and Rhinogs are left to a later date.

We are tempted to quote a controversial part of the authors introduction, just to hear what happens!

"It is hoped that this area will not be viewed just as a wet weather alternative to the Llanberis Pass. - Generally the climbing can be said to be of a high standard - more than 80 per cent of the routes are of severe or very severe category. This is not a bad thing; climbing standards are changing and increasing and this part of Eifionydd can prove a splendid training ground.

It might be useful to include a small classified list of some of the more popular and better routes. We hope that this will not provoke the usual cloud of controversy which all climbers join in and enjoy. People who are upset by it are cordially invited to ignore it."

The circumstance that this classified list has nothing easier than severe and starts with Hounds Head Buttress, in the Editors opinion, arises entirely from the facts of the case. The easier routes are not worth considering. Those worth doing at all have been included in the guide and there are sixteen of these recorded, several only briefly. Several from the previous guides have been left out altogether and from experience, the Editor has no hesitation in endorsing this action!

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In wet conditions a large number of people were to be seen, with difficulty, in the mist and driving snow, milling about on Clogwyn-y-Garnedd at the strange hour of 9 a.m. Many of them were club members, who had risen at 6-30 for this attraction. Four retired wet, but the remainder found and climbed the Central Trinity Gully.

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M. Connelly and Manser report a successful negotiation of the Arctic Circle (The girdle of Craig Pant Ifan at Tremadoc). They found it hard towards the end.

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From attempts to find the start of Grey Rib (upper cliff, Glyder Fawr) it seems evident that the rock fall of two winters ago has completely altered this group of climbs.

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A 'piton' has been reported in Arete and Slab, Bochlwydd Buttress. Its early removal would be appreciated.

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The North and South Llanberris guides are now available. Significant changes on the North side are Crackstone Rib Severe, Wrinkle V.D., Spiral Stairs Diff., Cenotaph Corner Extreme. Members attention is drawn to the preamble for a climb called The Thing! (Brown). The photographs and diagrams in the guide are good.

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A club party has been in Skye and enjoyed five days devoid of rain.

Window Buttress provided an introduction to the holiday, and a long day round the Corrie Lagan skyline was commenced by five and finished by three! The total time was nine hours and though all the peaks were taken in, Kings Chimney was not climbed.

The next day was spent on A'Chioch, Dick Cadwallader leading a fantastic pitch on the slab of 120 feet without a positive hold! A finish was made up Eastern Gully with variations on the walls.

The Thursday was fine and the walk over Bhealach A'Maim was made in brilliant sunshine. The foot of the Pinnacle Ridge was reached at about mid-day and the summit of Sgurr Nan Gillian in just under three hours. It is a fine journey where one at a time climbing is only necessary to descend from the third pinnacle. This is very hard and is best abseiled!

Descent was made from this outstanding mountain via the fantastic West Ridge which could do with being longer. A way was then made round Am Bhasteir and the Tooth to Bruach N'A Ffrithe and down the long, long ridge to Bhealach A'Maim.

On the last day Dick and Martin Walters did Chioch Gully and Crack of Doom whilst others walked to Corrie A'Ghrundda where they failed to find Steeple and Barlows Buttress route.

J.Daffern M.King  
M.Walters W.Martin  
R.Cadwallader.

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Tony Daffern and Jill spent a week on Ben Nevis. They camped in snow above the Inglis Clarke hut. It was extremely cold, they were, in fact colder at night than they had ever been in Spitsbergen last year.

Conditions were far from good and they were only able to do Tower Gully, which had an awkward cornice. During the week there were, apparently, some attempts by others on Tower Ridge, all of which failed, one party being very nearly benighted.

It has not, we are told, been at all a good year on the Ben, several people having left without anything accomplished.

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## CADER IDRIS

The mountains hereabouts are well known and worth visiting, if only because there are less people about!

Those well acquainted with Cader and its environs must be patient whilst we append one or two of the basic facts, bearing in mind that there is no published information apart from that contained in Rock Climbing in North Wales by the Abraham brothers.

Pen-y-Gader (once spelt Cader we are told) is the crowning peak (2,927) and used at one time to offer its visitors, like Snowdon, a cup of tea at sixpence a time. Fortunately this is no more practiced, and since the search for gold was given up many years ago, the mountains remain unsullied.

The wall of Cader Idris facing Dolgelly, once romantically called the Walls of Dolgelly and reputed to be three miles high, are far from it, though they are certainly three miles long, quite precipitous, and grand to look at. On closer examination, however, they are dis-continuous, vegetated and insecure. It can be said, then, that Cader is a walkers mountain first and foremost, but indubitably a mountain for all that. It has the advantage, also, of having a crag on its south side, Craig-y-Cau, in a magnificent setting. The Great Gully is terrific, comparable with those of Craig-yr-Ysfa and Cyn Las.

The title of Cyfrwy seems to apply to the entire length of the northern cliffs but is more often associated with the arete of that name, the supporting pinnacle of which is the most prominent feature above Llyn-y-Gader. The Foxes Path, the traditional way up from Dolgelly, passes below Llyn-y-Gader and finally steepens up well worn scree. To the right of this point is a line of cliff in three sections one above the other and these are split by a rift called the Central Gully for some reason. This probably gives some sport, and there are three 'chimneys' towards the right hand end of the top tier, which is longer than the lower cliffs.

The head of the Cwm containing Llyn-y-Gader has no climbing until the Cyfrwy Arete shows a fine tower effect with a steep right wall. The front of the main tower, known as the table, comes lowest of all the rocks of the main cliff and is bounded on the right by a steep gully. Beyond this gully, which I shall call Table Gully until someone tells me otherwise, lies an expanse of rock which might as well be called Cyfrwy Buttress. This has a large area of grass some 150 feet up with steep ribs and grassy grooves above. To the right is a steep and relatively smooth block perhaps 100 feet high. This buttress is defined on the right by another arete which gives a useful easy route, and fairly continuous climbing.

Beyond this point the screes extend upwards and back to form an amphitheatre of fair proportions. The remainder of the cliff, gradually reducing in height also reduces in interest. There is a vanishing crack slanting up the crag for some distance at one point and further along still a steep looking groove capped by an overhang is the right hand demarcation of interest.

As there is no detail published about Cyfrwy Arete perhaps it might be in order to record for the benefit of members the writers notes on this climb.

The Arete is about 450 feet in all and perhaps hard Difficult, bearing in mind the bad rock in places.

The best start is in Tower Gully (right of the table). It is a wide crack in the left hand wall of the gully. Scramble to its foot.

35 feet. Climb the crack (loose) - to a stance on the left.

50 feet. The crack continues in the fronting wall now, as a shallow chimney. From the stance step into it and climb to a small pinnacle formed by the continuation of the right wall of the chimney. Step off the pinnacle and climb the wall to a stance



beyond some loose flakes.

30 feet. Scramble on the arete to the summit of the Table.

10 feet. Descend the Table.

60 feet. From the apex of the breche, work left across the wall, round the corner and up the steep rock on immense holds. Stance and belay at a thick flake. (Belay best just round the corner from the upper end of the flake)

20 feet. Make an awkward move onto a sloping platform. Continue on the edge on the left.

70 feet. Scramble to the next tower, or from a Bridged Block on the edge, climb the steep wall on Doubtful flakes.

20 feet. The crack is severe, or the wall round to the left, working left and up.

200 feet of scrambling on the arete with grand views.

Tower Gully. Severe. The gully is wretchedly loose. The overhang is turned on the right. A jammed stone was inserted for assurance. Stance and choice of loose belays above. Unattractive climbing in the dirty bed of the groove above leads to the breche beyond the Tower.

The left wall of the gully, avoiding the overhang, has also been climbed to the top of the Tower. This is a series of unstable mantleshelves on grass ledges and spikes protruding from the vegetation.

During exploration on Cyfrwy Buttress, the first groove right of the Arete was climbed in the upper part. The weather was bad at the time.

Craig-y-Cau is best approached from Tal-y-Llyn, leaving the road some two miles north of the Inn. After passing through some property the path ascends on the south bank of the stream coming from Llyn-y-Cau. Reaching the Llyn, a track will be seen to the left, giving access to the ridge of Craig Llwyd which can be followed to the summit of the mountain. A short walk leads to the summit of Pen-y-Gader (north) across an intervening col.

I believe there is a passable face climb on Craig-y-Cau but I have not contacted anyone with first hand experience of the crag, apart from the Great Gully mentioned above.

Mike King.

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The meet to Cader Idris at the week-end 14th-16th April was blessed with fine weather and was well attended, everyone camping or in a fine barn. On the Saturday, Edmund Webster pounded off with a large following for a rapid traverse of the heights, for which we have no details but that of a great day. Other crowds flocked to THE ARETE and enjoyed its ascent.

Another party climbed the other Arete of Cyfrwy reputed to be a moderate ascent. At a crack in a steep friable wall about half way they came upon a piton! This was regarded as an event and was promptly used. Half an hour was spent in trying to remove it without success. This is not a very good climb, though the bad rock gives interest and there are a few good pitches.

On Sunday a party walked along a subsidiary range of rocky hills with interest apparently, but we have no detail. Connolly and Basil Jones, however, attacked an impossible looking section of 'boiler plate' in the centre of Cyfrwy Buttress and found it - impossible! Others climbed the main Arete, ably led by the Hon. Treasurer without portfolio.

Another splendid day.

This successful meet was led by John Daffern.

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Easter in Wales was fairly good for weather though the rocks were greasy. The Sunday was spoilt by the necessity to look for a lost soul in Cwn Glas who had tried to descend the greasy and dangerous ground aboce the right hand end of Cyrn Las. We have no other details of Easter activities though several people were in the Lake District.

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The weather at Whitsun was splendid and the BIG CLIFF had a share of attention. East Gully Grooves (M.Connolly), Longlands, Great Slab, Narrow Slab, Pedestle having been recorded. A hilarious Saturday evening was spent amid foliage and steep rock on the main Conway Crag. The party was overtaken by darkness and had no beer! The severes on the Three Cliffs had the usual share of attention and a combination of Dives and Sabre Cut gave a splendid route. It is good to see people climbing down routes. Over the "other side" Spiral Variant, North Side Route, Gashed Crag and others have been overcome.

No outstanding walks have been recorded, unless one dare report a young lady aged eight, walking from Tyn Lon to Pen-y-Pass, up the Minors Track to Snowdon summit and down via Pen Ceunant and along the road to Tryn Lon!

#### MEET TO RHYDD DDU - 17th - 19th February 1961

A Minibus ably driven by Basil Jones brought twenty five members and guests to the magnificent Oriad Hut at Rhydd Ddu. Some people camped, but the remainder, with some awe, and speaking in whispers, made themselves at home amid the splendour.

The Saturday dawned adequately and tea all round resulted in everyone being on the road by ten.

Most people were driven to the famous arete of Y Garn where so many ropes were made up and sent on their way (though not rejoicing, for the rock was unpleasantly greasy), than the entire mountain seemed to be outraged at such an invasion. The ascent, in the conditions, was severe and everyone put up a good performance.

Four others visited another cliff, the North Buttress route being attempted. This was standard Difficult, but was extremely steep and, in the conditions became serious. It was exposed and the large amount of grass mat with made it seem far from safe! A retreat became necessary when a slight mishap in a greasy crack turned the meet leaders left leg round by 180 degrees at the knee. This was considered a bad thing, especially by the meet leader, who was subjected to the shame of being lowered over an overhang and carried protestingly for two miles. A fine effort by the porters.

It is considered that this route should be average V.Diff in good conditions.

On Sunday a long high level walk was planned, Mike Connolly being put in complete charge with instructions to keep going until he got to Moel Hebog. It is still not yet clear how far they did get! A few who cried off the 'long' walk, tottered up a mountain called 'Snowdon' via the Llechog ridge whilst others descended the Cwm to climb the cliff of that name.

This is not a good place at all. The rock is like Lliwedd without the angle. It is the sort of place that lacks continuity except where it is unclimbable. The Black Ridge, however, is an intrusion of rock of quite a different nature which gives good climbing.

On the return to the hut, the meet leader, who was still limping became separated from his companions, which was a bad thing, since he carried the sardines. They were very good.

We all worked with a will and cleaned up the Oriad Emporium until it shone against the possibility of our using it again, and with Basil propped up in the driving seat, set off in a cloud of dust. It was dusk, a fine evening, and the evergreen forestry, the shades of yellow and purple, the water and the massiveness of Moel Hebog made our parting splendour. As we looked back, the profile of Y Garn dominated the village we had just left. It had been a good meet.

Mike King.

#### OGWEN MEET. 4th and 5th February

Following previous week-ends of brilliant alternating with decidedly discouraging weather, we piled into the Dormobile on Friday evening full of ideas of what would and what would not 'go' in the varying conditions.

'Fangio' Daffern brought us into the land of no hone rule in record time, and those who had moved to prized front seats complaining of travel sickness at the back the smoke filled wagon, soon understood how readily they had been relinquished by those now recovering their nerves on uncumfortable piles of rucksacks, tents and ice axes.

Turning into Isaaf, still only nineteen telegraph poles from Helyg, the rains beat an increasing tattoo on the Dormobile roof but the campers were not to be deterred. Tents had to be pitched and those of us whose better judgement indicated a night in the barns soon found themselves as wet as the campers by the time the vehicle had been pushed out of a rut and the trudge had been made from the camp site to the farm.

Ray Reeves and Joan motored round from Tyn Lon on Saturday morning to join us for the day.

It was too cold to hang about high up on rock problems made unpleasant by a heavy spattering of snow overnight, and so it was decided to walk up the Heather Terrace to the summit of Tryfan and thence via Bristly Ridge and the Glyders back to Idwal.

There was plenty of snow on the Terrace and in the gullies of the East Face, but as it was generally in poor condition, most of us preferred the quicker way up the Terrace rather than the route up Little and North gullies. The real sport, we hoped, would be on Bristly Ridge, and time saved might be valuable.

Dipping into sardine tins, sandwiches and the like between Adam and Eve, we watched with eagle eyes as Ron delved into his huge rucksack for the flask of hot soup we all knew to be there.

On the way up, there had been many sincere offers to give a hand with that heavy sack when it was known what its cargo included, and now was the time of reckoning. Also, there seemed to be a veritable forest of arms stretched in his direction, offering last minute ingratiations; biscuits, chocolate, kali-anything that might at least earn a sip of that life giving liquid.

The flask emerged amidst a great silence. No actor ever held an audience thus. It was not a very big flask. Obviously, with all the will in the world, not everyone could partake. This would have to be handled diplomatically. At times like this are friends and enemies made.

But the Gods from over at Dyffryn and the local Druids made a concerted effort and took the situation in hand.

No one should have soup. It was stone cold.

We sped down to the Saddle and Bristly Ridge and there were no more offers to carry the rucksack.

The ridge itself had plenty of soft snow on it and the rocks were well iced. Unfortunately, cloud obscured good views but the wind swept cornices at various stages along the ridge made a pretty sight. At no time were ropes or axes indispensable but the scrambling in the conditions was good nevertheless.

One elderly boy scout we encountered caused mirthful remarks by his short shorts and fat red inees.

The summit of Glyder Fach was soon reached but in the mist along the plateau at the top, the advance and rear guard parties somehow became separated and tracks lost in the now hard snow.

This resulted in a magnificent piece of 'one upmanship', by the time we were descending by Devils Kitchen, out of the clouds and gathering gloom.

It was here found that the rearguard had taken over the lead and were some way ahead of the others who had the effrontery to remark that they had been waiting for them for some time.

Shouts drifted up from the Slabs, increasing as we crossed to them. Puny efforts on the start of Charity prompted two of us to show our loud rival club how it should be done. But the audience went home and the climb was finished with no shouts of applause to corsen the peace in the Cwm.

The rock climbers found the Dormobile had left when they reached Ogwen Cottage and cooled their remaining ardour with the slog along the road to Isaaf. The game of 'one up' had been levelled at a draw.

Shining with new intellectual stimulus, Mike White joined us at grog in Bethesda. Others too came from Tyn Lon, helping us monopolise the fire, the chairs and all available glasses.

Tom Shaughnessey too was there, with wallet fat from toil and sweat at Transfynydd Power Station. His leg, badly smashed in a motor bike accident, is almost healed. His voice was never better as he ably demonstrated during choir practice after closing time, back up the Nant Ffrancon.

Good Health to Tim, who had or would in an hour or two, attain his majority. He seemed reluctant to want advice when the club elders took him to one side for a fatherly chat on the ways of the world, although it is understood that his questions were both long and various the following morning!!

Sunday morning dawned a little clearer and more promising.

Tim was now 21, and Sunday newspapers were sold to those in bed who wanted them.

Parties were a little split but most ventured on to the Carneddws with cloud again spoiling the view.

The Babes, with minds set on greater things, preferred the short walk to Galt yr Ogof and came to grips with the overhanging undergrowth and other like problems.

The day progressed and waned, enjoyable but uneventful and in no time it seemed Fangio was collecting the fares over beer and crisps in the Crypt.

M.Connolly.

Equipment Reports are being prepared by BMC equipment committee on tests with double ropes.

There is a Stubai 'abseiler' karabiner available having a crossbar which can be swivelled out of



position to allow the karabiner to be used in the ordinary way.

The new Hiatt karabiner, similar to the Stubai oval karabiner, is being tested.

It is now quite clear that British nylon ropes are superior in extension and load absorption to German perlon ropes.

There are still no figures available for failures of 'D' shaped karabiners. In theory, these should be better than the figures for the standard oval karabiner.

Negotiations are in hand with a manufacturer for the production of a 'D' shaped karabiner to meet a BMC specification.

Equipment failures. Accidents in 1960 stress (a) The need to use belay loops of the same quality and size as the main rope and the use of rubber sleeves to protect the loops against the rock, (b) that ring-type pitons are unreliable at present and should not be used, (c) that pitons driven into a vertical crack and loaded along the line of the crack are likely to be insecure.

It is recommended that no rope smaller than a No. 3 B.S. nylon should be used when double ropes are employed.

The BMC Equipment Committee are drawing attention to the fact that steel articles (karabiners, pitons, crampons etc.) are made in small workshops in the Alps where it is likely there is no control over the quality of the raw material or of the manufacturing processes. This leads to a great variability in the strength and quality of the finished product, and, in particular, 'brittle examples appear from time to time. Cases of a karabiner fracturing when dropped and even parting in a climbers hand have been actually confirmed.

## New Climbs

Clogwyn Pen Lechan -.Bagatelle. 190 feet - Severe.  
The groove on the East Face of the crag, 20 feet right  
of a tree.

- 1.) 30'. Scramble to fine belay 20' right of base of  
groove.
- 2.) 50'. Traverse left to foot of groove and make an  
awkward move up to a good ledge. (Jammed knot  
runner). Up the groove and mantleshelf into the  
niche. Piton belay on first ascent.
- 3.) 65'. Climb the slab for 60' and traverse left  
to stance. Piton belay.
- 4.) 45'. Traverse left diagonally on sloping holds.  
Usually wet. (Crux). Good belay.

Scramble to top of crag.

10th December '60.

First Ascent: M.Connelly  
M.Manser

x    x    x    x

## General News and Comment

There have been a number of enquiries for  
membership from persons under 18 years of age.  
The committee are giving consideration to this,  
but for the time being these people cannot be  
accepted as prospective members.

Membership Cards. The committee are having  
these printed, as some sort of identification is  
becoming more necessary, particularly for access  
to Gritstone Crags.

Vehicle Insurance. The committee are  
looking into the matter of insurance for hired  
transport.

Day Membership. Members are reminded that guests using the club premises become temporary members and that the hut warden or secretary should know about arrangements in advance.

Pen Ceunant. Members are reminded that this cottage still exists and is not always booked by private parties. It is very convenient for Cloggy and Llechog and a change is as good as a rest!

Camping Meets. The Borrowdale meet was fairly well attended despite being at a colder time of the year. This is mentioned because the camping meet on Carneddau in July had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Where will the hardy campers be next year? Active we trust.

North Wales Committee. Although the composition of the above was noted in the last issue of the News Letter, it was not emphasised that Tony Daffern represents us at the meetings.

We have received a rude note from an address in Glasgow as a result of our relating the incident on the Bat involving two Craig Du climbers.

We hasten to apologise for the typographical error which attributed to John Daffern the reference to the late Hon. Treasurer as being a cunning swine, in the last issue of the News Letter. Mr. Antony Daffern was responsible for this outrage.

We feel obliged to comment on the author of Introduction to Scottish Mountaineering in the last issue, likening himself to an aged baboon. We have seen Mr. Mason creeping on all fours from time to time, but have never regarded him as appearing unduly aged. (The Phurer)

Members are reminded that it has always been customary to advise the hut warden of plans to use the huts. Hut fees should also be paid to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The estate owners decision to restrict camping in the Llanberis Pass has led to damage in 'protest', BY CLIMBERS, to gates, walls and hedges.

With the British Mountaineering Council North Wales Sub-Committee negotiating at this time for camping and access, this sort of behaviour besides being in the worst possible taste, will only make matters worse.

As members of this club are frequently in the Pass, it is to be urged that they make a point of good behaviour and give as much publicity to the above so that it may reach the perpetrators of the damage.

### REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 5th A.G.M., was held at the Cambridge Public House on 15th February 1961 and was well attended and of great interest and significance.

The minutes of the 4th A.G.M., and of the Special A.G.M. of 8th June '60 were read and approved.

The Chairman acting for Colin Coleman who had been forced by change of residence to retire in July, opened his remarks by saying, that, besides the pleasant things he had to say, there were some unpleasant words that must be heard. He quoted the Clubs title, and relative to the name Ceunant, the cottage of that name had but rarely been used by members for two years, and though Tyn Lons renovations were to date successfully financed by income from Pen Ceunant, bookings had lately fallen off. With dis-use the hut became extremely damp, which itself made matters worse, since other clubs became reluctant to use it again after finding it in this state.

Mountaineering. Alan Green stated that you could count the mountaineers in the club on the fingers of one hand!

'We have several good climbers but few mountaineers'.

As a Club, which the Chairman defined as a number of people collected through a common interest, we lacked a good club spirit these days. He harped on the discussion at the last A.G.M., on coach behaviour by sharing clubs, and stated that he had heard worse from our own members. He emphasised that the 'type of membership' changes with behaviour, and that, although the committee can do little except encourage, it was to be hoped that a true, friendly and helpful club spirit would emerge once again.

Referring to the brighter things, we were told how we continue to attract new members and how active several people are. We had repayed the first instalment on the Tyn Lon loan, and we had successfully organised a large scale lecture by Eric Shipton. Work on Tyn Lon had progressed satisfactorily enough, and it was to be hoped that it would soon be complete.

It was to be hoped that, relative to the new members coming along that we give consideration to ways of ensuring that we retain our accident free record.

In general discussion, Tony Daffern would not accept the statement that there were few mountaineers in the club and M.Manser followed up by saying that the Chairmans remarks weren't constructive criticism at all, and that what we perhaps required most of all was leadership and example. Mike Connolly, in turn, was 'struck by the stark sincerity of the remarks' and that to say that the new people and behaviours were ruining the 'club spirit' was preposterous. He was also appalled by the statement regarding mountaineers in the club. He thought there was a first class hard core of mountaineers in the club, and that there were far more people walking and climbing hard now, than in the days referred to by the Chairman. Stan Storey rose here to say that this looked like being the best meeting the club had ever had, and thanked the Chairman for the provocations he had voiced.

The general secretary reported that we had had thirteen new members during the year, one more than last, and that there were enquiries almost every week.

We have now an advisory member on the BMC Committee and benefited from his reports. The same applied to the North Wales Sub-committee. We were also affiliated to the Peak Committee and had done some wardening at Stanage.

It was reported that we were having Membership Cards printed.

Stan Storey said that in his opinion there was a lack of information on committee activities in the News Letter and that also complaints should be reported. There was comment here from Tony Daffern, who stated that complaints sent to the committee should be signed, and not anonymous.

Following this, the treasurer reported a not very successful year in the General Fund.

Six Members had resigned, and the total now was 65 plus one O.H.M.S.

It is not thought necessary to detail the balance sheets in this News Letter report and the discussion which followed was not constructive. Tony Hammond proposed acceptance of the report and that consideration of the finances be left to the new committee.

Mary Kahn reported that the average attendance at lectures was 26. She remarked on the success of the Shipton venture and suggested two members nights as these were popular. The Friends Institute was not a great success for the lectures and it was hoped (since confirmed), that we could use the large room at the Cambridge.

Reporting on Outdoor Meets, Tony Daffern mentioned the two meets with the Stoats which had lost £11 and the cessation of these shared coach meets.

He remarked on the popularity of the meets just prior to Christmas and particularly the Tremadoc meets. He expected two more the following year, particularly in view of the new guide to Snowdon South.

Camping meets seemed a little difficult since not everyone had gear, and it was thought that the club might perhaps own a couple of tents.

Two meets did not run. One was the Carneddau Meet when apparently everyone went to Tyn Lon. Regarding this, it was to be hoped that meets to venues high in the mountains would become more popular. The other was the meet to Gordale Scar for artificial climbing. Meets to unusual places did not seem to attract.

The organisation of meets had been generally good with some energetic leaders.

In discussion, Ron Bearman rose to say that, regarding meet organisation it was wrong for people to make their own arrangements for transport unknown to the leader, and that one of the days should be given specifically for the benefit of any beginners present. To this Tony Daffern replied that we had already had two meets with training days with some success. Mike Kerby was also giving lectures on map reading.

John Urwin, hut warden, commenced by giving thanks to all those who had worked at the renovations at Tyn Lon, progress of which was reported in the News Letter. It seemed that, in addition to a car park, it also seemed likely that we needed a boat-house.

As regards Pen Ceunant, he reported that what time had been spent there by members, had been spent 'drying it out'. Eight other clubs had used the cottage and some had offered return accommodation.

The hut warden appealed to members to let him know of their intentions to use the huts.

The car park came in for some discussion, and the suggestion was again made that the front of Tyn Lon be levelled off. A hard stand in the field had been estimated and 6 tons of top soil and 6 tons of slate chippings from Llanberris quarries would be required.

Mike Manser suggested making a donation to Nant Peris church followed by negotiations to use a portion of their car park. It was not thought that more than half a dozen cars belonging to the congregation had been seen at service time. The main trouble seemed to be the odd Saturday wedding! It was suggested that approach be made by one of our more diplomatic members. The Chairman enquired where we thought we could find one!

#### AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

There were originally three amendments all relating to membership procedure. (i) That the proposer and seconder be a committee member - and (ii) That the proposer should be required to attend the committee meeting at which the proposal is discussed - were not proceeded with.

The modified amendment eventually adopted, with one against, is as follows:

MEMBERSHIP. Membership is open to persons over eighteen years of age.

The prospective member shall be proposed by two members and the applicants name shall be considered at two committee meetings with an interval of not less than six months between.

During this period, the prospective member shall be expected to:

- (a) To attend a reasonable number of meets.
- (b) To have become known to members of the committee.



- (c) To be able to show by the end of the period that he or she is capable of moving about the mountains in safety.

Proposed by M. King. Seconded by A.Daffern.

COMMITTEE 1961-1962

Chairman: M.R.KERBY.

Vice-Chairman: J.A.GREEN                      Secretary: Mrs.J.A.GREEN  
Treasurer: R.BEARMAN

Outdoor Meets Secretary: A.DAFFERN  
Indoor Meets Secretary: MISS M.KAHN

Hut Warden: J.URWIN              Publications Editor: M.N.KING

Committee Members: J.F.KNIGHT  
M.CONNOLLY

Librarian: J.DAFFERN

Forthcoming Outdoor Activities

June 16-18.      CWM COWARCH. Valley near Dinas Mawdwy. Good Climbing and walking area. Guide to Craig Cowarch available from the Mountain Club, Stafford.

July 7-9.        LLANBERIS. Three-thousands and Alpine Training Meet. Those who wish to attempt the 3,000s will be able to obtain advice on the route from Bill Yale who is organising this section of the meet.

The Alpine training will be designed so that the various parties can have a long day on rock of suitable standard with a good deal of walking and a night in the open. It is open to any party of two or more whether or not they are going to the Alps. It is considered that long walks such as the 3,000s are not satisfactory training for the longer Alpine routes.

July 23. BLACK ROCKS. Day Meet. Leader Brian Pearce.

Aug 19-20. CONISTON. Dow Crag. Camping. (Possibility of hut). Leader M. King.

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There will be a showing of the B.B.C. Mountain Rescue film at the Cambridge on July 5th, commencing at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

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TRAINING. Lectures by members on basic techniques and map reading will be held at stated periods at the Cambridge (7-8.30 p.m.), previous to the normal Wednesday meetings.

Beginners are asked to consult the Meets Secretary for information on training available and for general advice. Most outdoor meets will have arrangements for one day of training for prospective members.

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B.M.C. Peak Committee Froggatt and Curbar Edge. The R.O. Downes Memorial Hut is nearing completion, and will be administered by the Climbers Club. The Park Planning Board are acquiring ownership of the 'Memorial' part of Froggatt Edge, and are negotiating for access to the remainder of the escarpment down to Gardoms Edge.

Camping in Longdendale. This is a water gathering area and there is difficulty in arranging for a camping site. This may be easier when the Water Board have installed a filtration plant.

Access to Roaches, Hen Cloud and Windgather. The Peak Committee of the BMC are co-operating with the Peak Park planning board in an attempt to get public access to these rocks and moors. Public Inquiries will be necessary for which evidence is needed - the more the better. Important factors in any enquiry of this nature are bound to be the extent of existing use and the demand for further use. A questionnaire is being sent to all clubs. Every climber should do his utmost by supplying information to help the Peak Park Planning Board in what is their first great effort to cater for climbers in the Peak District. (Extract from BMC Circular)

Hydro-Electric Schemes in Snowdonia. It seems definite that a nuclear power station is to be built at Wylfa Head on the north coast of Anglesey. There is apparently strong reason to fear that to be economical a pump storage scheme will be necessary to work in conjunction with the station. Briefly, this means that electricity generated during the nightly minimum load periods is used to pump water from a low lake into a higher one, which water then runs down to drive turbo generators during the day. There is reason to believe that the Electricity Generating Board have been examining Llyn Bochlwyn and Llyn Idwal as possibilities for the two lakes. Other possible sites are Cwm-Dyli - Llyn Gwynant and Cwm Yr Aran - Llyn Dinas.

Objections to the scheme are being lodged by the BMC the YHA and other societies represented on the North Wales (Hydro-Electric) Protection Committee.

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Glen Nevis is also threatened by a dam which would form a lake above the gorge. The Scottish National Trust is objecting to the scheme on the grounds that the glen should not be spoilt in order that remote crofts should have electricity at great expense. They are supported by the A.S.C.C. and the B.M.C. B.M.C. in addition to a number of individual climbing clubs and amenity societies.

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Access to Rhum: Arrangements for Mountaineers for 1961

The Nature Conservancy have decided upon the following restrictions for visitors for 1961:-

April 1st-30th)	No visitors, mountaineering or other.
June 1st-14th)	
Aug. 1st - Oct. 31st.	Not more than a total of 12 <u>mountaineers</u> in all at any one time. <u>Other visitors</u> up to a maximum of 30 at any one time. (They have to camp in the Kinlock area but may go where they want, subject to requests from the Warden).

The other regulations remain as before and are as follows:-

Parties must consist of at least three people; they must be completely self-contained for food and fuel supplies, equipment and accommodation; they must make their own arrangements for transport and they must not burden the local representative of the Nature Conservancy in any way. Camping will be permitted in the mountains but no fires will be allowed. Parties must report to the keeper on arrival and carry out any instructions he may give.

Mountaineering visitors in the period Aug-Oct should be careful to see the Warden about where they propose to Climb, on account of stalking operations, but unless he requests otherwise, they may climb where they want within the "climbing area".

Only about three club parties will be given permits to visit the island at the same time. Applications for permits should be forwarded through club secretaries so as to reach the A.S.C.C. and B.M.C. representative, Mr. J.K.W. Dunn, 1, High St., East Linton, East Lothian, at least three weeks before the date of visit, and they should give names of the party leader and other members, each member's club and period of visit.

A permit, and map to show the access areas, will be issued to each party leader by the Nature Conservancy. This will not be valid until signed by the leader who in doing so will undertake to follow the rules set out by the Conservancy.

The A.S.C.C. and B.M.C. are dependent on the Conservancy and on the smooth working of the arrangements, for continued access to the Island. We therefore hope that visitors will do everything possible to foster existing good relations with the Conservancy.

#### EDITORS NOTE

Articles and essays of a more general nature have been withheld from this issue for 'another purpose'.

This News Letter, therefore, will in future contain solely club and climbing news of particular interest to members, and as much information on routes, guide books and climbing and walking areas as can be obtained.

The Editor would beg meet leaders PLEASE to let him have reports on their meets and activities and also from those people who are fortunate enough to be more active than most, could we have information on their doings and anything of interest they may learn from members of other clubs.