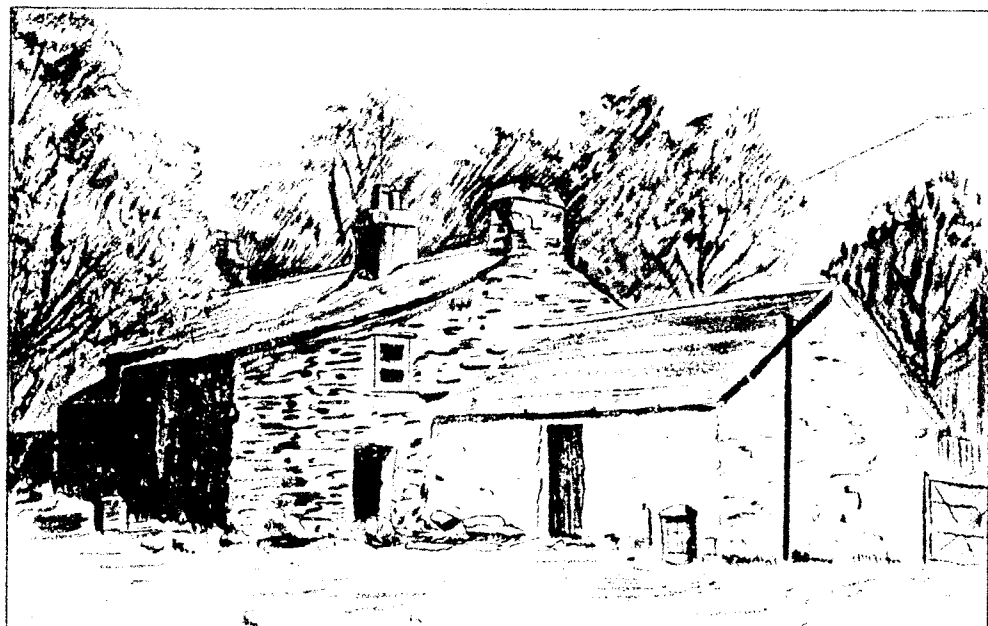


The **Courant** Mountaineering ULUB



NEWS LETTER

MARCH, 1963.

E D I T O R I A L

Good committees, like good governments, work quietly in the background without making their presence felt. By this token, the committees of the Ceunant Mountaineering Club over the past few years must have been exceptionally good, because when the time approaches for the annual general meeting, few of the members display any sign of even being aware of the committee's existence. Few comments are heard on the way the club is being run, and there is certainly no rush of candidates to try and do the job better. Nomination forms go out and stay out. This is a pity, because one of the signs of a vigorous and growing club is the emergence of young members willing and eager to take a hand in managing the club's affairs.

In order to force members to give some thought to this problem, the committee have for the past two years taken the unusual step of declaring all offices vacant at the AGM, and not nominating themselves for re-election unless proposed and seconded by members not on the committee. Left to itself, this policy would have resulted in a committee of four for 1963/4. Eventually, after the state of affairs had been made known, most of the sitting tenants were re-nominated, with the result that the committee for next year has a familiar look about it.

This is fair enough. Nobody wants to turn out a committee that everyone is satisfied with merely for the sake of change. What we were trying to prove was that members were satisfied - not merely apathetic.

Some light entertainment was accorded to the AGM by the proposal that the existing constitution should be annulled, and replaced by one consisting of a single clause to the effect that 'the committee shall run the club in the interests of the members'. The proposal was not carried, but since the present constitution seems to be in disrepute with a few of our members, it might be as well to consider, for the benefit of all, why such a document is necessary anyway.

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It is not on record how many members have actually read the constitution, but those that have will have found a brief, closely worded document, contained on two sides of a single foolscap sheet, and with about six addenda representing amendments passed since it was last printed.

The purposes for which the club exists, the powers and duties (in the widest sense) of the committee, and the regulations relating to meetings of members are all laid down. Members can see at a glance what the club is all about, they know how it must be run. They know that any change in the way of running the club must be presented to and passed by the members in general meeting. If they do not like the way the club is constituted, they can, with the support of 25% of the membership, call a meeting for the purpose of proposing an alteration. In fact, the general theme of the constitution is to ensure that the club is run in the interests of the members. And the members can make sure that their interests are taken care of.

Consider the alternative, under the proposed drastically reduced constitution. Who would then decide what the interests of the members were? Not the members, obviously, for they can only act under the terms of the constitution, and they will have effectively vanished. The committee, then, would have absolute discretion, and they would not be obliged to consult the members about anything, or even let it be known where the club was going. But, you may say, surely there would be a reckoning when the AGM came round, and members were able to vote for a new committee? But need there be an AGM? There would be nothing in the constitution about it! The committee might not deem it to be in the interests of the members!

Simplicity of expression is a great thing, but there is a point beyond which simplicity becomes obscurity. It makes life a lot easier if you have a set of general rules to work to, rather than trying to make them up as you go along. You know where you are going.

You have order rather than chaos.

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The opinions expressed in this Newsletter, except where otherwise stated, are those of the Editor, and are not necessarily endorsed by the Committee:

Publications Editor - I. D. Corbett,
420 Shirley Road,
Birmingham 27.

CLUB NOTES

A drain tap has been fitted over the outlet to the showers. The idea is that, after the water has been turned off before leaving the cottage, the system can be drained by turning on all the taps. This has been done (in time for next winter!) to prevent freezing up.

A new padlock has been fitted to the coal store. The key is in the meter cupboard.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

INDOOR MEETS

The first lecture of the current indoor meets programme will be held on WEDNESDAY, 3rd April, at the Cambridge, starting at 7.30 p.m. The speaker will be Neil Aitkenhead, who will talk about 'Life with an Antarctic Survey Team.'

OUTDOOR MEETS

The first five meets of the 1963/64 programme are as follows:

APRIL

26-28	CRAIG-YR-YSFA	Leader	J. Pettet	Camping
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MAY 5th	ROACHES	Leader	A. Westwood	Day Meet
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OUTDOOR MEETS (Contd.)

MAY 17-19	CWM COWARCH	Leader	B Jones	Camping and possibility of hut
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" 31st-JUNE 4	WASDALE	Leader	A.Mynette	Camping
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" 14-16	CWM BOCHLWYD	Leader	W.Martin	Camping or Barning
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NOTE: Where the use of a hut is indicated, arrangements with the club concerned will be made by the Outdoor Meets Secretary. Leaders should contact him a few weeks beforehand for details.

Members with transport should inform the Meet Leader of any private arrangements concerning other passengers, particularly when huts are used on the meet, in order that a full list of names may be obtained.

A full meets list, containing details of the proposed activities for the remainder of the year, will be issued as soon as the programme has been finalised.

New members

The following new members have been elected:

Mrs. M. Bannister A. Westwood.

HEY! FOR THE OPEN ROAD
(from our special correspondent)

Reports have been received about the latest motoring epic of our revered friend, Harold Jupp. A party of volunteers, with plenty of time on their hands agreed to accompany Harold on a yuletide trip to the Lakes.

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When the great day arrived, Harold discovered that the weather had been cold, and that the cylinder block in his horseless carriage had cracked. Not to be outdone, he pledged his two unroadworthy vehicles for a third (as it turned out) unroadworthy vehicle - yet another Rolls - Juppnik III, 1932 vintage.

Harold didn't let the possession of such an up-to-date model go to his head, and, only three hours late, the intrepid voyagers got under way.

As they reached Lancaster the battery stopped charging. This was originally attributed to faulty fuses, but after the fuses had been examined half a dozen times and found to be alright each time, Harold decided that there was probably a short behind the instrument panel.

At Grisebeck, on a sharp bend, one of the doors flew open and Bill Yale was shot into orbit. He descended gradually towards Wasdale on his back, rotating slowly on the icy road. Harold was informed about this and obligingly stopped. Bill was rescued, with fortunately nothing more than bruised knuckles and abrasions, and was revived with the coffee which had been intended to help keep Harold awake during the journey. It was later discovered that the handle of one door had punched a neat little hole in the panel of the other.

They eventually reached Wasdale, making arrangements at Eskdale Green to have the vehicle examined in a garage there the following day. Before it could be got back there however, they managed to have a puncture.

The spare wheel didn't fit.

After much swapping and changing, a hub was found on which it would fit, and the motor was enticed into the village. It was discovered that the electrical trouble was caused by the fact that the dynamo was no longer functioning, and the only way to keep Juppnik rolling was to recharge the battery at regular intervals. The punctured wheel was left for repair, to be picked up on the way home. A suggestion

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was made that the car be run on the magneto, but, to nobody's surprise, this wasn't working either.

The party started back a day late with WY belayed to the rear door handle to prevent any further unauthorised departures on his part. They called in at the garage at Eskdale Green, and first set about getting a booster charge for the battery. As the battery was under the floor, this involved the disembarkation of the passengers and the unloading of about a ton of luggage. When the pandemonium was over and the battery ready, they reloaded and got under way. It wasn't until later that someone realised that they had forgotten the wheel.

Harold grimly pulled his cap further down over his eyes and drove on. In the vicinity of Preston he announced that the steering was getting sluggish, and that in his opinion it probably needed grease. On stopping at a garage, attention was drawn to the fact that there was a puncture in one of the front tyres. This was eventually repaired, and the battery charged again (all change, out with the kit).

They staggered as far as Newcastle-under-Lyme, and called in for another battery boost, but the garage night shift had not come on, and it was eventually deemed advisable to get professional help. The RAC were called out, and from there to Stafford, with two batteries wired together, Juppnik III rode in state, with motor cycle escort.

At Stafford another battery was obtained, and the seventeen-hour journey was completed solo, through freezing fog, with no heater and no headlights.

The spare wheel is being brought back by British Railways. It stands a better chance that way.

THAT WAS THE MEET THAT WAS
by John Pettet

Following a very cold bivi in Tyn Lon the night before, the rabble that was our winter meet reluctantly left their

semi-protected nest and ventured to the high places with intentions of doing many classic ice climbs (crampons, pegs and hammers much in evidence). 'The Mad Irishman', Roy and Titpet headed generally in the direction of Cwm Glas with the vague idea of having a go at some mild gulleys. With much glee and fervour the three thrashed and churned their way up a suitable specimen. As usual the snow was soft and powdery and the ice as hard as ever. Inexperience soon took its toll, forcing our lads to get extremely cold and lightly gripped. They finished the climb, told each other how greatly enjoyable it had been, and proceeded upwards.

After a while Llyn Glas was reached, only to find virtually all our experienced Alpinists practising their wide knowledge of snow and ice technique on the frozen surface of the lake. Winthrop-Young would have given a fatherly smile. Everyone was playing ice-hockey with their axes. When the game - or rather the participants - were finished two hours later, the party, now fourteen strong, headed for higher points and merrily chopped away for an hour or two. This was the final blow, and our party, being suitably shattered, descended to the road en masse, most of them glissading on their posteriors.

On the treck back from the Vaynol that night, one member remarked that it was snowing. No one took any notice of him.

On waking the next morning the snow was still falling. A few members went off photographing up the Pass, which was blocked for quite a long way down. That was the sum total of our efforts. By two o'clock Tyn Lon was deserted. The convoys headed back via Chester!

Comment from the Tyn Lon log - '.....across the Glyders playing "find the boulders", with a snow bath in between if you missed!

LANGDALE 15th-17th February 1963
by A.J. Fowler

This meet was very well-attended. The weather extremely kind, the beer tasty, and the snow shocking! The journey was relatively uneventful, with the exception of the panic when we thought we had a petrol leak on the hired mini-bus! This was solved when a 'dicky' petrol gauge and a leaky petrol stove were discovered.

Fish and chips were consumed by all in Wigan, then on, past the Bobby standing on his tripe, and up to the Lakes. Several of the bus crowd were dropped off at the Achille Ratti hut in Langdale, there to enjoy the all-electric luxury of that establishment. It says much for the 'hut' that it always makes a favourable impression on any of our members staying there, and our thanks are due to the club and their hut warden.

The remainder of the bodies, rolled on to the end of the valley, and after an abortive attempt to force a passage up the road by the stream, tents were pitched on what, in summer, must be good wholesome farmyard muck and boulders. In the early hours of the Saturday morning, the camp fell quiet and peace reigned once more in Langdale.

Saturday morning was fine - sunshine and snow showers. Around midday the party stirred to life, and, joined by those from the Hut, made their way in two groups in the direction of Bowfell Buttress and Great End. The exploits of the Great End party still remain a mystery, but the Bowfell group, plodding through deep powdery snow, slipped and slithered to the bottom of Bowfell Buttress by a route lying between the high and low level routes - all this in sunshine, with a high wind and clouds in the latter part of the trip. Two of the party (yours truly being one) made a good show of looking at the Buttress, plastered as it was with snow and ice, then, owing to there being but a few hours of daylight left they aborted the 'attempt' in the first six feet.

Then came the massed-asault on the gully to the left of the Buttress. Covered with snow, the gully formed a

wide smooth funnel with a good safe run-out on to soft snow, and there was no hesitation about climbing up un-rope'd since we had about 10 people in the party, with 6 ice axes and one walking stick between them. At the lower end, steps were kicked, but towards the top were hacked out with axes. The walking stick saw some remarkable service as its owner wielded it now as an axe, now as a trowel, now as a grappling hook. The small cornice was surmounted in several places, and an ice axe belay was used as an anchor for the end of rope dropped over for the use of those without axe or stick. The axe was thoughtfully buried by the last man up, and photos taken with the bearer of the walking stick posing in a position where he looked likely to suffer frostbite of the nut. For his pains, he was later struck down with the cramp (of the legs, not the nut).

A hurried meal was consumed on the pseudo-summit and the long slog back began. The party at this stage split into four groups - the tired (who led), the exhausted, the completely exhausted, and the semi-conscious - only the thought of the food at the camp, and the beer at the pub served to force this weary all-male party to a trot. The weather held, and all were down at the camp by dusk. Food was consumed, then off to the pub for the beer and 'gash' scones, and a turn at drying one's person in front of a roaring fire.

Back at the camp, one of the tents was converted to a genuine snow-type igloo by beer-soaked buddies of the tent owner, and then, once more all settled down to a comfortable, if cold night.

Sunday dawned fairer than Saturday, the sun being very warm. Some of the party headed off towards Gimmer, muttering about "good snow gullies" and "a bit of rock climbing". More of the party assaulted (pardon the phrase) Evening Wall on Raven Crag, finding once again that the climb only begins when one tries to get off the top, and two females nipped off into the hills in an attempt to scrounge some skis from some poor soft-hearted skiers above the camp site. The Hut dwellers day included walks across the tops, and climbing in one of the Ghylls near the New D.G. -

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details should be available from the meet-leader, but I must confess I forgot to ask them about their day out.

The day was uneventful though enjoyable, and a reasonable start was made back to Birmingham. The return journey was slightly more eventful than the outward, as the dreadful thought of leaving any petrol in the hire vehicle on returning it forced us to fill 4 two pint cans and to ask for half a gallon of 4/4d. at one of Birmingham's all-night garages. However, all arrived back in safety, although it is said that one member passed a car going down the Preston Motorway on the wrong carriageway, and that another, after trying to run his car with two cylinders full of water was forced to fit a new head-gasket.

This was a very enjoyable meet, and I should like to thank all who were there.

CLIMBING IN THE LOUGHBOROUGH AREA by Keith Rice-Jones

Although Leicestershire is one of the flattest counties, we are fortunate here at Loughborough in having several outcrops and quarries all within a few miles of the town. Much of the climbing on the outcrops has been going on for some time and generally there are few recognised routes. However, with Mountsorrel Quarry a considerable amount of work has been done in classifying and putting up routes.

Mountsorrel Quarry (Grano-Diorite)

The College M.C. has done a lot of development work. Starting almost from scratch and with extensive gardening, firm rock has been found and some excellent routes made, from 20 - 70 feet. Twenty routes have been given purely nominal names to aid recognition. Much of the original gardening was done on a top rope but all the routes have now been led except one. The climbing is varied and interesting although care needs to be taken with some of the rock. The place is quiet and the surroundings very pleasant.

Beacon Hill (Hornstone, the oldest rocks in Britain)
With outcrops of only about 20 feet this is little more than a "rock gymnasium". Many of the moves are technically hard and make for very good practice. One route is a corner on the top tier; its name, "Desperation Groove", speaking volumes.

Hangingsstone Rocks and Quarries (Swithland Slate)

The rocks stick out of the private golf course, so these excellent routes can only be used with some risk! The Quarries are also on the property, but are near the edge and well masked, climbing being unrestricted. The approach is by a lane from Woodhouse Eaves, which runs right past the quarry at the far end of the course. The main interest here is a large low angled slab, but the other quarry, nearer to Woodhouse Eaves, has much more. There are 5 "Tigers" routes here, all V.S. upwards and again their names are self explanatory - "Hell Overhang", "Holy Ghost", "Christ!" These routes were put up by Pete Biven and Colin Mortlock. Need I say more? The routes are fierce and the exposure is surprisingly great, and some of the rock does tend to be a little loose, but is generally sound.

Craig Buddon (Grano-Diorite)

This is a small but compact outcrop near the dam end of Swithland Reservoir and can be reached by road or a walk from Mountsorrel Quarry across the fields. Of particular interest here are two superb V.S. routes of about 50 - 60 feet. The one meanders up the left side of the buttress, and the other takes a direct line up the centre, culminating in an awkward overhanging mantleshelf with no protection.

There are several smaller outcrops dotted about, notably one in Charnwood Forest and one almost in the churchyard at Woodhouse Eaves which has a couple of excellent peg routes and a good free V.S.

If anyone is interest in visiting these areas, the writer will be pleased to supply further details.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Club was held at the Cambridge on Wednesday 20th February, and was attended by about 50 members.

Chairman's remarks:

After thanking the committee for their support and hard work during the year, the Chairman gave a review of the club activities during the year.

Tyn Lon:

As in previous years, there had been several working parties, and a considerable amount of work had been done, but unfortunately the completion of the drying room was taking longer than expected. A 5 kw heater had been purchased, but installation was held up pending completion of walls and ceiling.

The Chairman thought that there was no further need for large working parties; what was wanted now was a large number of small parties, and he urged anyone willing to give up a week-end's climbing to let Bill Yale know. There was much still to be done.

B.M.C.

The Chairman had represented the club at all six meetings of the B.M.C. held this year. He said that the work and influence of the council was continually increasing, and there were now 113 member clubs. The council was getting more information across to young mountaineers through schools, youth organisations and clubs, and it was hoped that this could help to prevent the needless accidents to young people which tended to get mountaineering a bad name.

Mentioning the increase in member clubs subscriptions, the Chairman said that, without more revenue, the work of the Council would have to be restricted. This would have

been a pity as a co-ordinating body such as the B.M.C. was very much needed in British Mountaineering.

Activities

Whilst inclement weather has restricted attendance at some meets, rock climbing standards had gone up, and there was a noticeable feeling of keenness among old and new members.

The Chairman had a few words to say about indoor meets, as there was to be no report under item 5 on the agenda. Unfortunately lectures, film shows etc., had not been so frequent as we had all hoped they would be. Due to pressure of business and, later, illness, Mike King had been unable to devote much time to the duties of Indoor Meets Secretary, but we all owed him our thanks for the arrangement of the Don Whillans lecture. The Chairman, on behalf of everyone present, sent his best wishes to Mike for a speedy return to full health.

Attention was drawn to the fact that other clubs were competing for our room at the Cambridge. He appealed to members to help tidy up after Wednesday evenings, and to do all possible to preserve amicable relations with the licensee.

Journal

The Chairman referred to the Club Journal, which Gill and Tony Daffern were hoping to produce in the near future. He said this could be of great prestige value to the club, and urged all members to give it their support.

While on the subject of club publications, he mentioned the Newsletter, and said that its value to the club was evidenced by the comments he had received at B.M.C. meetings from members of other clubs who had read it.

The Chairman expressed his appreciation of John Daffern's efforts with the club library, which, he said, was a very useful asset to the club.

Winding up, the Chairman regretted that his "brain child",

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the club dance held in November, had resulted in a financial loss, due to inaccurate costing and support being not quite as anticipated. Nevertheless, many favourable comments had been received, and he thought that we should have another go.

Tony Daffern commented that it was to the Chairman's credit that, although the dance may have been unprofitable financially, socially it had been a great success.

General Secretary's report

The Secretary paid tribute to his predecessor, Jean Green, for leaving the work in such good order.

Committee meetings, he said, had been well and enthusiastically attended, and he hoped that when replacing the retiring committee, a few more people would be prepared to compete and offer their services for committee work. An active club must have new ideas put forward and a reserve of potential committee members on which to draw.

During the last year 6 new members and one joint member had been admitted to the club. In some instances applicants had been asked to apply again after a further waiting period, although their six months probationary period had elapsed. The Secretary emphasised that this did not mean that obstacles were being put in the way of budding members, but rather that we wish to make quite sure that each new member is genuinely interested in club affairs and activities. He said that some people had quite frankly admitted that their sole interest in the club was the use of the hut.

Members skill and range of activities are increasing, and with them the reputation of the club. The Secretary said that we had received 7 invitations to other clubs Annual Dinners in the last 6 months.

Commenting on the report, the chairman expressed his thanks to Mike Connelly for taking over the "V.S." job of Secretary, and for infusing his own enthusiasm into the committee meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Ron Bearman enlarged on the Club's revenue accounts and balance sheet, and said that we had had a good year and were in a sound financial position. Commenting on the bank balance, he said that amounts were being held back for further drying room expenditure and for repairs to the leaking roof in the old cottage.

The Chairman commented on the new form of presentation of the Balance Sheet, which, he said, made it a lot easier to understand.

Indoor Meets Secretary's report

In the absence of Mike King through illness, this had been dealt with by the Chairman in his opening remarks.

Outdoor Meets Secretary's Report

Dave Batson opened by thanking the meet leaders who had helped to make the outdoor meets programme a success, and made special reference to the assistance which John Daffern had given him during the period when examinations had prevented him from organising meets.

He said that the programme had been basically the same as in previous years, i.e. either a full weekend meet or a day meet every second weekend. There had been a strong movement towards meets in new areas; some of these had been tried with mixed success. Four meets had been cancelled, mainly because of bad weather, and this had brought the average attendance per meet down as compared with last year.

The Club continued to be a happy blend of climbers and walkers, with climbing standards continually increasing. Mike Connelly was congratulated on his achievements during the season; also Bill Yale, who had kept the walkers well to the fore with his blitzkrieg on the Welsh 3000's. He had left everyone behind and succeeded in beating his previous record.

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Dave announced that he would be leaving for the U.S.A. later in the month to take up an appointment, and closed by wishing the club and its members all success and good climbing.

Hut Wardens Report

Bill Yale said that, with the loss of Pen Ceunant, Tyn Lon had been more in demand than ever, especially by visiting clubs. During the last twelve months, ten other clubs had used the hut, and fourteen applications for accommodation had had to be turned down.

With most of the major work now completed, and all rooms being to some extent habitable, the two official working parties had been employed mainly on minor improvements and repairs. Considerable research and negotiations had been going on behind the scenes, however, with regard to the two main heating problems - the drying room and the showers. All possible forms of heating for the drying room had been considered from the point of view of initial cost, running expenses, convenience and safety. Solid fuel would be by far the cheapest to run but would not be very readily available, and, unless the apparatus was carefully designed and constructed, would present a fire hazard. Calor gas would be far too expensive unless an efficient heat exchanger were employed. It was finally decided that although running costs would be high, electricity would be the most convenient and safest medium to use, and a unit fan heater of 5 kw has been purchased. Regarding the showers, the Hut Warden said that provisional approval had been given by the Committee for the purchase of an Ascot Calor gas heater.

The leaking outhouse roof would need attention before the drying room could be completed, and consideration was now being given to means of doing this ourselves, without recourse to outside contractors. The Hut Warden said that, in view of all this, help would be needed from members with experience as electricians and carpenters.

He closed by thanking all who had helped on working

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parties, and also his hut Sub-Committee - Alan Green and Fred Price - for their advice.

Amendment to constitution

Ron Bearman proposed the deletion of clause 5 (rock climbing sub-committee) from the constitution. This Sub-Committee had been inoperative for some years, and whilst the club was not a training organisation, meet leaders did in fact cater for the needs of new and inexperienced members when organising their outings. The proposal was seconded by Mike Connelly.

Stan Storey proposed a counter amendment, that the existing constitution be abolished, and replaced by instructions to the Committee merely to look after the interests of the members. This was seconded by A.M. Daffern.

In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that the constitution was constantly under revision by the Committee, as was evidenced by five amendments in the last four years, and it was very far from being a dead letter. Several members expressed the opinion that, instead of removing ambiguity as had been claimed, the proposed over-simplification would cause confusion.

The counter amendment was defeated by a large majority, and the original amendment for the deletion of clause 5 carried unanimously.

Committee 1963/4

The following members were elected:

Chairman	-	M.R. Kerby
Vice-Chairman	-	A.M.Daffern
General Sec.	-	M.E. Connelly
Treasurer	-	R. Bearman
Indoor Meets		
Secretary	-	D. Stokes
Outdoor Meets		
Secretary	-	J. Pettet
Hut Warden	-	W. Yale
Publications		
Editor	-	I.D. Corbett

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Members - Mrs. G. Daffern
A. Fowler

Non-committee members elected were:-

Librarian - J. Daffern
Auditors - S. Storey
A. Mynette

A report on the Annual Dinner Meet will appear in the next issue

B.M.C. NEWS

North Wales Committee

The most significant development over the past year has been that this committee has established itself with the various authorities as the official body representing the legitimate interests of mountaineers in the Snowdonia National Park, and they are increasingly approached and consulted on questions which concern these interests.

The following are some of the matters dealt with by the committee during the year.

Camping in the Llanberis Pass

Although this is the problem which has taken up more of the committee's time than any other, no practical development has yet come out of the extensive negotiations which have taken place. The committee feel, however, that they are more at grips with the problem, and more familiar with the difficulties involved in securing suitable camp sites. Since they have been concerned wholly with the Pass, the problem has resolved itself into a search for sites which can reconcile the requirements of the committee with those of the Caernarvon Planning Department and Vaynol Estates. Sites in Nant Peris and near Pont-y-Cromlech have been disallowed by the county, while a site near Llyn-y-

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Ffynnon proposed by Vaynol was considered unsuitable by the committee. A site adjacent to the Pen-y-Pass car park seems to be acceptable to all parties, but is rather small.

National Park warden service

A full time park warden was appointed in April 1962, and members of the committee have found him to be very co-operative with anyone who is concerned with the welfare of the area.

The appeal for volunteer part time deputies received a good response, and it seems that a fairly good warden cover for the area should be possible.

Litter

The drive to clear up litter is now one of the main responsibilities of the park warden, and the committee has made efforts to assist in this.

Access to open grounds from roads

This has become a question of considerable importance as an increasing number of landowners and tenants view with concern the damage to their fences, etc., by people crossing enclosed land in order to reach the open mountain.

The committee is trying to map out the most commonly used routes from roads, with a view to agreeing these with the tenant farmers.

Peaks Committee

Public access is now assured over most of Stannage Edge (but not High Neb) where there are paid wardens.

The guide book for the Stannage area may be ready this year.

Karabiners

(Summary of a joint circular issued by B.M.C. and A.S.C.C.)

The last report on the strength of karabiners was published in 'Mountaineering' in March 1961. During the past two years a further one hundred karabiners have been tested, and a full report is to be published in the next issue of the magazine. This will show that although a strength of 3000 lb. with keeper open (the figure considered acceptable by 'Mountaineering') can be achieved, the majority of those tested fell far short of this. The most significant feature of the test results is the wide variation in the strength of most types, from which it is evident that the degree of control of materials and manufacturing processes is generally quite inadequate.

Following the deformation of a Pierre Allain karabiner in an accident, fifty from a recent consignment were tested. Ten were abnormally soft, and forty were normal. A tensile test showed that the soft karabiners failed at a load of only 1000 lb., whereas the normal hard ones failed at 3000 lb. It was suspected that the soft karabiners had not been heat treated.

Any Pierre Allain karabiners will be tested free of charge if sent to D.T. Sales, 66, St. Leonards Avenue, Stafford, with enough to cover return postage. This testing will be for hardness only and will not damage the karabiners in any way.

The Mountaineer have made arrangements for testing all further Pierre Allain karabiners supplied to them, and have asked other retailers to do likewise. Anyone purchasing a karabiner of this make should seek an assurance from the supplier that it has been re-tested.

Nature Week

The Council for Nature is holding a 'Nature Week' from 18th to 25th May, 1963. Members interested are advised to watch for press notices nearer the date for details of local events.

Cadet Warden Training Scheme

The Peak Park Planning Board is running a further cadet warden training course at Edale, commencing 18th May 1963. Financial grants are available from the Board; in approved cases they will pay up to 75% of cost of travelling and overnight accommodation to wardens completing a training course.

The course covers hill walking, first aid and mountain rescue, and the powers and duties of wardens.

If any members are interested, will they please apply to the General Secretary for full details of the scheme.