

OUTDOOR MEETS

1951

The Alpine Meet, in the Oetzal Alps of Austria, was led by Bob Davis and had an attendance of 28 people. Good weather was experienced, and from the several huts most of the local peaks were climbed.

Earlier in the year the Whitsun Meet at Coniston, under the leadership of John Platt, had excellent climbing in fine weather on Dow Crag. Twelve members were present.

Also held at Whitsuntide was the first official M.A.M. Meet in the Isle of Arran, led by Nick Carter. The party of 10 ascended all the summits in the Northern half of the island except Beinn Bharrain and Beinn Bhreac.

In August Gavin Parish led the Meet at Brackenclose, but no details have been obtained.

The Gritstone Meets were lucky in obtaining good weather between long spells of bad weather. Forty members and innumerable Rucksackers attended the Cratcliffe Meet. The joint Meet with the Oread M.C. at Birchens Edge, was attended by 30 members, including Oliver Jones and his guitar, and the Old Robin Hood Inn was the scene of revelry by night. Another joint Meet, with the Valkyrie Club on Froggatt Edge, saw only 11 members present due to the previous very bad weather.

Meets at Glan Dena were, as usual, well attended. Murray Campbell in April, and Dorothy Stych in June, led successful Meets, and Harold Restall's leadership produced an attendance of 29. As usual, "Tommy" Clutterbuck led the labour gang at the Working Party Meet to its usual successful completion of essential repairs. An innovation in August—the Family Meet—led to the supply to Glan Dena of 22 pints of milk per day and the unprecedented sight of lines of nappies flapping in the Ogwen breeze. Another successful Meet was the Past Presidents' and Original Members' Meet, led by F. W. Wallbank.

The Anniversary Meet, with a full-to-bursting Hut, had grand weather. Cyril Machin's lead of Pinnacle Wall was filmed, after which Cyril led the Wall again with the camera-men on his rope.

Bad weather and a search-party did not prevent the Joint Meet with the U.B.M.C. from being a success, and even worse weather at the Christmas Meet merely resulted in a fine old-fashioned Christmas being had by all. Doug. Wilson led the first and Mrs. Dorothy Walker the second.

1952

The first Glan Dena Meet of the year was led by Jack Grant. Wintry conditions led to late returns and one slight accident on the Watkin Path. In early February there was again much snow, and the Meet led by Winifred Hill found North Ridge and the Nameless Cwm in truly Alpine form. The next two Meets, led by A. E. Witheridge and Mrs. Burt respectively, had good weather and a good attendance, and much climbing was done—including the Sylvan Traverse described in Eric Byne's article in this issue.

Three Walking Meets were held. Though few members attended the Baslow Edge Meet and the Bridgnorth Meet, those who did enjoyed themselves greatly. Mary Fuller's Weaver Hills Meet had the bad luck to coincide with extremely bad weather.

The Easter Meet at Fort William was led by Norman Cochran with his customary competence and had an attendance of 26 and the usual adventures. Gardyloo Gully and Tower Ridge were among the many climbs made, the latter ascent being filmed. One member had to be brought down from Aonach Eagach on a rope stretcher, having twisted his ankle, and the Tower Ridge saw a sliding leader well held by his second.

Gritstone Meets were well supported. At the Stange Joint Meet with the Valkyrie two extremely severe new climbs were done by Don Willans and Joe Brown, one of them—"The Unprintable"—being possibly the hardest route on gritstone to date. Kim Beck led the Joint Meet with the Rucksack Club at Cratcliffe, where a Press photographer in the guise of an interested beginner obtained some photos which later appeared in the "Birmingham Mail." Eric Byne's Brassington Meet was the usual M.A.M. Rally and included such old-timers as Jack Best, with family. Jack Best later led the Walking Meet on the Roaches, 19 people turning out in fine weather for experiences which included the stalking of a wallaby and a discharge of atmospherical electricity. Twenty-four people, including seven from London, indulged in moonlight climbing at the Birchens Edge Meet led by Arthur Marriott.

The Gaping Ghyll Meet, under the auspices of the Birmingham Cave and Crag Club led by Bill Little, was a most popular innovation; it receives fuller mention elsewhere in this issue.

R. P. Chasmar led a combined short-climb-and-walk Meet on the Malverns in the foulest possible Autumn weather. Nevertheless, a field of 15 turned out for the venture in a variety of "try-to-keep-dry" costumes.

The Alpine Meet was held this year in the Silvretta group and led by John Fiddian.

The Family Meet was a huge success. Led by Mavis Mottram, the children, aged 6 to 13 (and other children of much greater age), bathed, bird-watched—and CLIMBED. Junior parties were on Tryfan, the Carnedds, Snowdon and Lliwedd, and the routes accomplished by the youngsters included Milestone, Rowan. Pulpit, Little Tryfan, North Buttress and the Cneifion Arête.

The Rucksack Club lent their Beudy Mawr Hut for a Meet led by Ray Colledge. The Three Cliffs were much swarmed upon, and on Cloggy the Great Slab and Longland's were climbed in greasy conditions.

Only two members attended the Brackenclose Meet in August and they had bad weather and an idle time. The Past Presidents' Meet in early October had the best weather of the year, and nine were present. In August the Working Party Meet, led again by the indefatigable "Tommy" Clutterbuck, put in an enormous amount of work, encouraged by phenomenally cold weather which put the idlers and bathers out of countenance. Thirty-three attended the Dinner in the Hut at the Anniversary Meet on September 20th; ascents—in bad weather—included Devil's Kitchen and Terrace Wall, as well as a daring expedition up "Windmill Arête" in a howling gale by Cyril Machin and Harold Restall. Harold's July Meet—now an annual institution—found the Hut packed. Some high standard climbs were done, and Brian Jones won a challenge to climb Monolith Crack without letting his pipe go out.

The Whitsun Meet in Langdale was attended by 11 members who had good climbing; the Dale was teeming with Rucksackers, who were holding their Jubilee Meet at the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel.

Christmas, 1952, provided some snow and ice for the successful Meet led by Ray Handley. Thirty-three (plus) were present and the Dinner was held at the Bryn Tyrch. Among the climbs was an attempt on Great Gully, Craig yr Ysfa, which failed owing to there being too much ice and too little snow.

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To sum up; although currency difficulties have restricted the scope of the Association's activities abroad, the past two years have seen an increase rather than a diminution of the variety and number of Meets in home centres. We may still hope that within the next two years the Swiss Alps will again become accessible to les pauvres Anglais.