

## OUTDOOR MEETS.

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The thirty-one official Meets held between April 1949 and Christmas 1950 included Norway, the Dolomites, Skye, Fort William, the Lakes, gritstone climbs and potholing in Derbyshire, and twenty Meets at Glan Dena. Not least important of the latter were the Working Party and Spring Cleaning Meets, led by Mr. Clutterbuck and Mrs. Lloyd respectively. Our warmest thanks are due to those members who so cheerfully sacrifice much of their holiday for the benefit of us all.

The two Anniversary Meets were happy social events as well as climbing occasions (the new Anniversary Approach climb is described on a previous page). To the success of these, as of the Joint Meet with the Rucksack Club, Mrs. Williams' excellent dinners largely contributed.

The President's and Original Members' Meets, led by Mr. G. A. Lister, were both very successful, though in the storms of 1950 our Seniors were nearly cut off by floods.

Other Clubs never fail to express their keen appreciation of their visits to Glan Dena. The usual Joint Meets with the Rucksack, Tricouni, University of Birmingham, and Fell and Rock Climbing Clubs were held. The return visit to Brackenclouse, the delightfully-situated F. & R.C.C. Hut, was much enjoyed.

The two Christmas Meets were popular as usual. For the 1950 Meet the party went down to Capel for the main meals, a new departure which appeared to please everyone.

Of the Derbyshire Meets the one at Tunstead House probably gave the most varied sport, a neck-deep wade in Bagshawe Cavern being followed by climbing on the gritstone faces of Kinder. Joint Meets, with the Rucksack Club at Cratcliffe and at Birchens Edge with the recently-formed Oread Mountaineering Club of Burton-on-Trent, were very well attended in excellent "rubber" weather. (Whit, 1949).

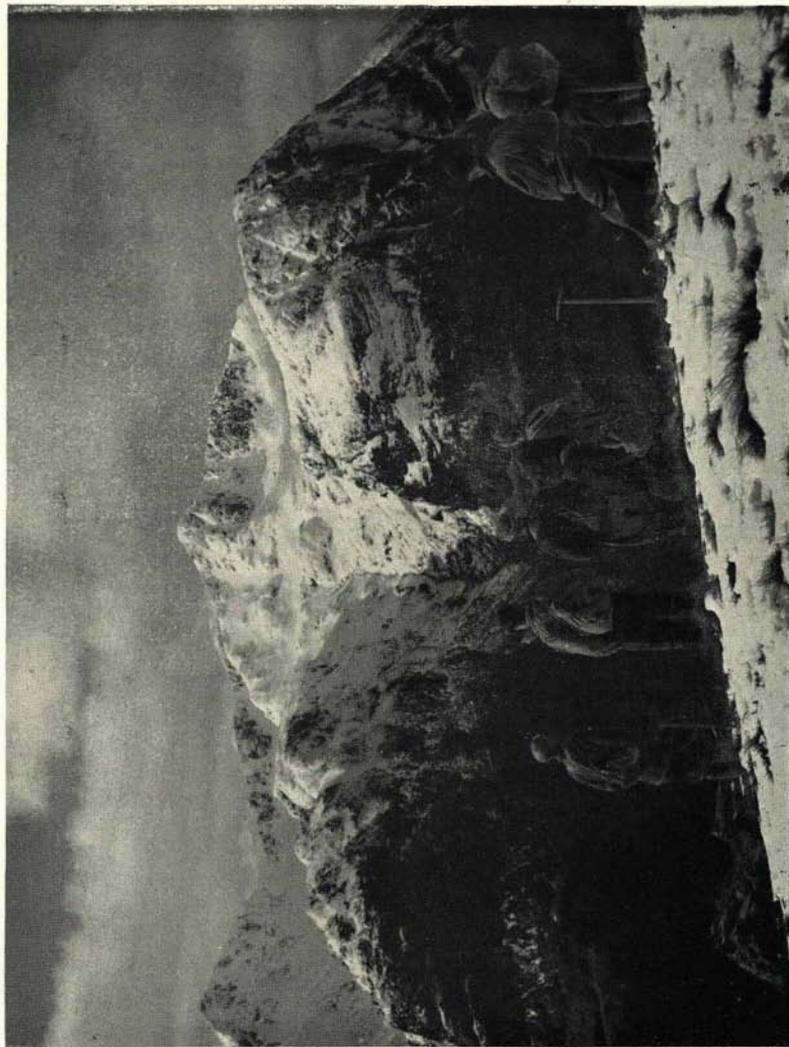
The Meet at Coniston experienced very bad weather, in spite of which many of the higher standard Dow Crag routes were climbed. Bad weather also attended the 1950 Lakes Meet.

On Mr. Machin's Skye Meet of 1949 thirty enterprising members performed notable feats which included moonlight ascents and a traverse of the Coolin Main Ridge from Sligachan to Glenbrittle in 18½ hours; the leader did the traverse in the reverse direction, solo, in under 24 hours.

The two Easter Meets at Fort William, led by Dr. Norman Cochran, provided excellent sport in 1949 and in 1950, though heavy snowfalls in the latter year precluded the more difficult routes and concentrated attention on the gullies and Tower Ridge. The hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair at Rhu Mhor added greatly to the enjoyment of both Meets.

The Summer Meets broke new ground as far as the M.A.M. is concerned. Having summarised the home Meets rather briefly owing to exigencies of space, we may deal a little more fully with these two.

The Norway Meet of 1949 was led by Dr. Allan Waine and Mr. Showell Styles, and Oye, a tiny village at the head of a fjord in the heart of the



**BIDEAN NAM BIAN (3,766 feet)**

From Shoulder of Am Bodach, Glencoe.  
(Easter Meet, 1950).

*F. H. Restall*

Sunnmore Alps, was chosen as centre. The Hotel Union—a sort of mountaineer's heaven—was the resort of Slingsby and Oppenheimer in the Golden Age of climbing, and for those mountaineers who like comfort, first-rate food and idyllic surroundings allied to a vast choice of enchanting peaks, no finer place could be imagined.

The party totalled 30, of whom the larger proportion preferred tough mountain-walking to climbing with the rope; and as both leaders were incapacitated by limb injuries on the eve of the Meet only 10 of the party tackled the harder peaks. None the less, the peaks climbed included Setretind, Velsaeterhorn, Miendalstind, Brekktind, Jakta, Saksa, Smorskredtind, Slogjen, and Raana. The last-named peak was ascended by the rarely-climbed North Ridge—one of the thinnest and most exposed rock ridges in Europe. This was led by Mr. C. B. Machin with Misses Hester Norris and Olwen James. The same party accomplished the South-West Wall of Smorskredtind, a long, severe and exceedingly exposed climb; it was a First British Ascent and a First Ascent by Ladies. All the major peaks demanded glacier work, and the article and photo by Mr. Norman Willson in this Journal give a good idea of a typical Norwegian climbing-day. The weather for the whole Meet approached perfection, and all ascents made were guideless.

The walkers found plenty to do. Route-finding was a very necessary art, and the long traverses and passes led through scenery of the most exciting description.

Though Sunmore is so closely associated with the English pioneers, climbers from England are something of a rarity; on departure the leaders were 'interviewed' for a Norwegian paper by two charming reporters (female). The Norwegians were almost embarrassingly generous and hospitable, and on several occasions large parties quenched their thirst with unlimited new milk for which they were not allowed to pay. Small wonder that many have made a firm resolve to revisit Norway at an early opportunity.

The 1950 Dolomites Meet, led by the Rev. Priestley Phillips and Mr. Cyril B. Machin, was noteworthy in more than one respect: it was probably the largest climbing meet ever held in the Dolomites, the weather was perfect, and all the party were brought back whole. Based on Santa Cristina, the climbers stayed at the Rifugios Maria Flora, Passo Sella, Vajolet, and Ferneda, the last-named being particularly remembered for the gay evenings spent there with the men and girls from the neighbouring alps.

Johann Demetz and his son Toni were engaged as guides, and their great competence in the lead added much to the success of the Meet. To simplify the running of so large a meet a small Committee was formed which, combining hard work with efficiency, arranged hotel and hut accommodation and climbing and walking parties. They were so successful on the financial side that the surplus funds at the end of the Meet enabled lavish supplies of Chianti to be provided for the farewell dinner held at the Hotel Scala, Bolzano.

The whole party was most energetic. Climbing was so arranged that all parties were able to do a Grade 3 climb every day if they wished; in addition, at least twice a week there would be a Grade 5 route available to the strongest parties. Leaders were in good supply, and ropes were led by Priestley Phillips, Cyril Machin, Norman Cochran, Bill Bane, Edwin

Lloyd, Tony Paton, Gavin Parish, Tom Reynolds, Lawrence Middleton, and Jack Grant.

The outstanding climbs were the Adang Kamin, Tschierspitze ; Kinne Crack, Funffingerspitze ; the Grade 4 Routes on the Sella Towers, particularly the guideless ascent of the Jahn Route on the Third Tower by Bill Bane, Ruth Wiernick and Dr. Cochran ; the traverse of the Winkler, Stabeler and Delago Towers ; and the South Wall of the Marmolada, climbed by Tom Reynolds. Other climbs done were : First Sella Tower; Third Sella Tower; Grohmannspitze; Faschanerweg, Langkofel; Rosengarten-spitze; Grosse Fermeda; and Klein Fermeda.

An article by Priestley Phillips on the Vajolet Towers appears in earlier pages.

Many fine walks and scrambles were also done, including the following routes : Sass Rigais, Tschierspitze, Plattkofel, Sella Plateau by the Bergnerweg, Pizzas da Cir, Passo Gardena, the Fermeda Ridge, Chedul, Pizzo Cuccenas, Alpe di Siusi, Passo Pordoi and Fedaia.

The Italian transport authorities and hut wardens were found to be most obliging, and the party returned home with the remembrance of a kindly mountain folk and many friendships made, and with inefaceable memories of the Dolomites.