

OUTDOOR MEETS, 1956/57

During the 1956/57 period the following Meets were held :—

- 1 in Cornwall ;
- 17 in Glan Dena ;
- 2 in Wales, other than at Glan Dena ;
- 2 on Gritstone in Derbyshire ; and
- 2 walking Meets.

The proposed Meets in the Alps, Skye and the Lake District all disappointingly fell through for various reasons, but Norman Kershaw, after several wet and expensive Alpine holidays, volunteered to lead a Meet at Bosigran Count House in Cornwall, during late July and early August. Five M.A.M. members attended and a good assortment of climbs were completed, on granite of excellent quality. The Rock and Ice Club were camping nearby, and the two parties frequently climbed together. To combine the advantages of a climbing holiday with the gentle pleasures of sea and sunbathing, all climbing was done before breakfast and after tea, leaving the hotter hours for the beach. Norman Kershaw and Mike Harby achieved one new climb, Hake Slab on Porthmoina Island, standard Difficult.

Of the Meets at Glan Dena, three were joint Meets with other clubs, namely the Rucksack Club, U.B.M.C., and the Cave and Crag Club, and were enjoyed by the few members attending them. Two were London Section Meets, twice blessed with good weather and enthusiastically supported. The "Special" Meets—Anniversary, President, Past Presidents and O.M.'s, the Family Meet and the Christmas Meet were all (except the last named, which suffered the inhibitions of petrol rationing) well attended. The climbing and walking done on these, and the other six week-end Meets, followed the usual diverse M.A.M. pattern.

The two Hut Maintenance Meets did not receive the support they deserve—and to add insult to injury (or vice versa) some members arrived at the hut while the working party was in progress, intending to climb.

Petrol rationing came (and fortunately went again) during this period, so that Hastilow's excellent coach was again called into service. Two Meets at Glan Dena had to be cancelled, one led by Martin Allbutt being amended to a two-day walk along part of Offa's Dyke. Nine strenuous members followed a route starting at Gobowen and finishing at Knighton, the 14-mile stretch from Montgomery to Knighton being particularly enjoyed.

A Joint Meet with the Oread Club was held at their hut in Cwm Silin early in November. The occasion coincided with Bonfire Night and an excellent firework display on Black Rock Sands added to the enjoyment of the week-end.

The Meet held at Beudy Mawr was again poorly attended and it has been decided to discontinue it.

The After-Dinner Meet, in February, was led by Ralph Heaton and was attended by 32 members and friends who met at Bewdley and walked along the River Severn to Arley and then over fields and through forest to Button Oak and Dowles Brook. The Brook was followed down to the Severn again, and so back to Bewdley and tea.

The two Sundays devoted to Gritstone Climbing, the Annual Joint Meet with the Rucksack Club at Cratcliffe Rocks, and the Gardom's Edge Meet, both provided enjoyable climbing.

OUTDOOR MEETS, 1957/58

Since the last Annual General Meeting, the Association has held the following Meets :—

- 1 in the Chamonix Area ;
- 1 in Skye ;
- 2 in Fort William ;
- 1 in Langdale ;
- 2 walking Meets ;
- 1 Gritstone Climbing at Cratcliffe ; and
- 22 week-end and holiday period Meets at Glan Dena.

The Alpine Meet, based upon Chamonix, with the main party organised by Jack Boag, and the advanced climbing party led by Norman Cochran, was much enjoyed by members and friends attending it. If they did not achieve all that they had hoped for, it was not from lack of effort, but because of the unusual weather conditions that were experienced ; a heavy snowfall, some 2 feet deep, which did not consolidate for over a week. However, in spite of this, a very creditable number of successful expeditions were made, one of which involved 9 hours of tiring work rescuing two French people from a crevasse. One guide was employed by the main party, Xavier Kalt, and he brought along an aspirant-guide, who proved to be a decided asset.

The two Meets at Fort William were again successful and happy occasions, although this year's Meet involved some rescue work. The weather was kind, after a doubtful start last year, and in spite of the persistent cold wind this year. Both Meets were notable for the excellent views.

As usual the Ben was conquered by various routes, including Gardyloo Gully, on each occasion. Most of the Mamore summits were climbed by one person or another of the party. Glencoe and Glenfinnan also received their share of attention—the climbs done being too numerous to mention here, but all indicating that the energetic Dr. Cochran still inspires the party to great heights! These Meets were held again at Rhu Mor, where the kindness and care of Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair were much appreciated.

A Whitsun Meet, led by David Smith was held at the F.R.C.C. Hut, Raw Head Barn, in Great Langdale, and the 9 members of the party enjoyed the use of this stone hut, not only for the good climbing on its outside walls, but also for its warmth and the ease with which it can be cleaned.

The weather was rather mixed but climbing was achieved on Bowfell Buttress, Pavey Ark, Dow Crag and Gimmer, with some strenuous walking on the Langdale Pikes, Crinkle Crags, Coniston Old Man and Scafell Pike thrown in for good measure.

Cratcliffe again proved a very pleasant day. About 20 M.A.M. members were present, a notable figure being our Founder Member, Mr. May.

The walking Meet on the Long Mynd, in May, fell through as a Meet, as the leader had no notification that anyone intended joining him there. Two families did, in fact, turn up and spent an enjoyable day.

The walk in the Meriden Area, led by Miss Stych and Miss Fuller, through Packington Park, was attended in its entirety by six members, although 17 people turned up for tea!

25 Meets were originally planned at Glan Dena for this session, an increase in the usual quota, but of these, three had to be cancelled because of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Snowdonia. Attendances were satisfactory, except for Joint Meets when the average M.A.M. attendance was five. Four full-timers and five part-timers rallied to the Working Party and the Spring Cleaning Meet was adequately supported.

Easter Meets (1957 and 1958) were held, led by B. A. F. Jones on both occasions—the hut being fully booked for this year.

The Whitsuntide Meet was led by D. Spikins, at very short notice, who found time between climbing and fulfilling his duties as leader, to serve tea to Boy Scouts who mistook Glan Dena for a cafe!

The Family Meet was attended by five families—the children being of sharply divided ages and again heroically led by Mrs. Mottram. The younger children allowed their parents time off for short sorties on Tryfan while the older offspring led each other and their parents up a number of climbs and “ bagged ” just about every notable summit in North Wales.

The Christmas Meet was better supported than it has been for two or three years and proved most enjoyable. The Anniversary Meet was again a popular social event and a dinner was arranged at Capel. Unfortunately for the first time, the President, Past Presidents' and Original Members' Meet fell through. The two London Section Meets had the hut bursting at its seams again, although their Autumn Meet was postponed because of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Eric Byne's “ Grooved Arete Annual ” Meet had as its highlight the leader's 22nd celebratory ascent of the climb with Harold Restall, his original second, again supporting him. Record breakers please note.

The “ Pre-war Members' Meet,” led by the Honorary Treasurer, attracted a goodly following—only five of whom were of genuine pre-war vintage. However, to compensate there were present no fewer than four committee members as well as the President and Mrs. Duncan.

“ Harold's Meet ” was its usual happy, sociable event, occurring just at the tail-end of the longest hot spell of weather last year, and thereby encouraging most members of the party and not only the leader to swim as well as climb. Sunday saw the weather unsettled and a large section of the party migrated to the coast to photograph Oyster Catchers and look for Terns' nests.

The Working Party, organised once more by Clinton Parsonage, attracted four very wet days to its week, and so most of the work done was confined to the inside of the hut. It is hoped that the weather will permit more outside work this year.

May I again conclude by thanking all members, mentioned and unmentioned in this report, who have led Meets, and particularly those who have sent me such interesting reports of them ?

DENNIS LAWLEY