

OUTDOOR MEETS.

1954

We have held twenty-seven meets between the last two annual general meetings, which is just about our normal average. Generally speaking, meets were not quite as well supported in 1954 as in previous years, and joint meets in particular showed a falling off, though the clubs with whom we joined for these occasions turned up readily enough. No doubt there is a moral in this, but despite this variation in enthusiasm meets generally were very happy affairs, thanks to those who volunteered to lead them. In particular, the Anniversary meet and Mr. Harold Restall's meet were well supported, and both in their scale of activity reflected faithfully the ubiquitousness and diversity of habits of active Midland Associators. Of the four 'special' meets at Glan Dena, one was set aside for presidents, past presidents and original members to reminisce—the cultural event of the year—the others being the Spring-cleaning meet, the Working Party, and the Family meet courageously led by Mrs. Mottram. When the Family meets were first started, infancy was rife in families and fond parents looked forward eagerly to an easy day on Tryfan. Now the meet has undergone a definite transformation, and when fond parents pike severe pitches on Glyder Fach it is Junior who wriggles up the Vertical Vice, squeezes through the Needle's Eye, and who

Makes the Final Flake
Seem but a piece of cake
While aged victims flounder
Exhausted in his wake.

—to mis-quote the poet Coleridge.

Those who attended the Working Party and the Spring-cleaning meet worked most energetically, and in particular I am most grateful to the leaders of these meets for their sterling work in this field, which deserves not only our praise but our practical support. The primitive urge to fling paint in all directions led to an adequately-attended Working Party, but for the Spring-cleaning there was a definite lack of volunteers. The five who attended were, fortunately, joined by a sixth on the Sunday, and these few got through a considerable amount of work, shifted an incredible amount of filth and, generally, did their best to de-revolt the kitchen. But they would appreciate more assistance for future Spring-cleanings.

Meets in Wales were not entirely confined to Glan Dena, for Ray Colledge led a meet for tigers and others at Beudy Mawr and

Showell Styles organised a Moelwyns meet jointly with the Portmadoc Mountaineering Club. In England, Kim Beck led a joint meet with the Rucksack Club at Cratcliff, which despite rain was the sort of happy Cratcliff gathering we have come to expect, and at Whitsuntide John Davies nobly took over the Langdale meet at short notice. I am told that the proportion of campers to hoteliers was normal. More recently a good gathering of the Association, weighed down by anno domini and the annual dinner, half-heartedly pursued a fleet-footed Martin Allbutt all over the Long Mynd, and finished in characteristic fashion up 'One Minute Arete,' a sensational route first pioneered in '50 by our member, J. Stephens.

A joint meet with the Oreads was much enjoyed under the cherubic leadership of Eric Byne. This took place at Burbage, where many climbs were done on the North Edge and several attempted on the South Edge. The weather was distinctly poor, making climbing a rather greasy business, and the active members of the meet lost no time in becoming thoroughly grimy. Even the cheerful exhortations of the leader became tinged with hollowness at times, but nevertheless it was a day well spent.

In July, Oliver Jones led a meet in Skye at Glen Brittle House. The usual mixed weather was encountered, but climbing and ceilidh took place nonetheless. Easter saw the M.A.M. once again at Rhu Mhor under the leadership of Dr. Cochran, where after a doubtful start the weather became fine and many interesting ascents were made. These included Binnein Mor and Binnein Beag, Bidean nam Bian and Beinn Fhada, Garbh Bheinn and of course a variety of routes of varying difficulty up the Ben.

We held an official meet abroad last year for the first time for some years, this time in Norway. Ted Lloyd led, or, perhaps, gently shooed, a mixed party up and down the mountains of Romsdal and Sunnmore to great effect, and lived to tell the tale in a most interesting lecture. Here the M.A.M. were at their most mercurial; easy days in deck chairs and easy days in rowing boats for all but the boatman contrasted sharply with the Machinism of the eighteen-hour day and the 3.00 a.m. return. It was an excellent meet, made so by the unobtrusive efficiency of Ted Lloyd.

During 1955-6 twenty-nine official meets of the Association were held, of which nineteen were at Glan Dena. Of the more important the Anniversary meet was celebrated in Wenceslaus style befitting this function, but the Christmas meet, which from the work put into it deserved more support, was not well attended. Other meets

included two of the London Section, four joint meets with other Clubs, the Family meet and Past Presidents' meet. The latter continues to be gate-crashed (non-ticket holders please note!)

Harold Restall's meet at Glan Dena in July is recorded by a new film on Flying Buttress, while the many who attended climbed and walked. Torrential rain gave most of the party an excuse for a "long lie" on the Sunday, when bird watching took prior place to climbing.

Summer found Club members gathering in the Alps once more, with Raymond Beurle as leader. In varied weather much good climbing was done round Grindelwald and Saas Fée.

To keep the hut up to scratch for all home activities, one Spring cleaning and two working parties did a stalwart job and special thanks must be extended to those who took part. John Brown's digging meet to give the pipeline a further 60 feet of head involved 150 yards of excavation of the lower slopes of Pen-yr-Oleu-Wen. It is reported that both hillside and leader have now recovered.

Other meets in Wales—Beudy Mawr, Cader Idris and Pant Ifau with the Cave and Crag Club were unfortunately not so well supported as they might have been. For the Gritstone enthusiasts, Kim Beck and Michael Harby led expeditions to Derbyshire, and John Davies' meet in Wasdale resulted in some first-class climbs being done. Skye and Fort William meets have become an institution and were well supported.

This report of the Club meets would not be complete without record of assault on our Midland Mountains—to wit, Martin Allbutt's advance and capture of the Worcestershire Beacon with a determined band of members suitably armed for the occasion.

May I conclude these notes by thanking very much all who have offered their services as meet leaders, or have otherwise had the half-nelson put upon them, for their great help in making our meets' calendar run so smoothly.

MICHAEL F. HALL.