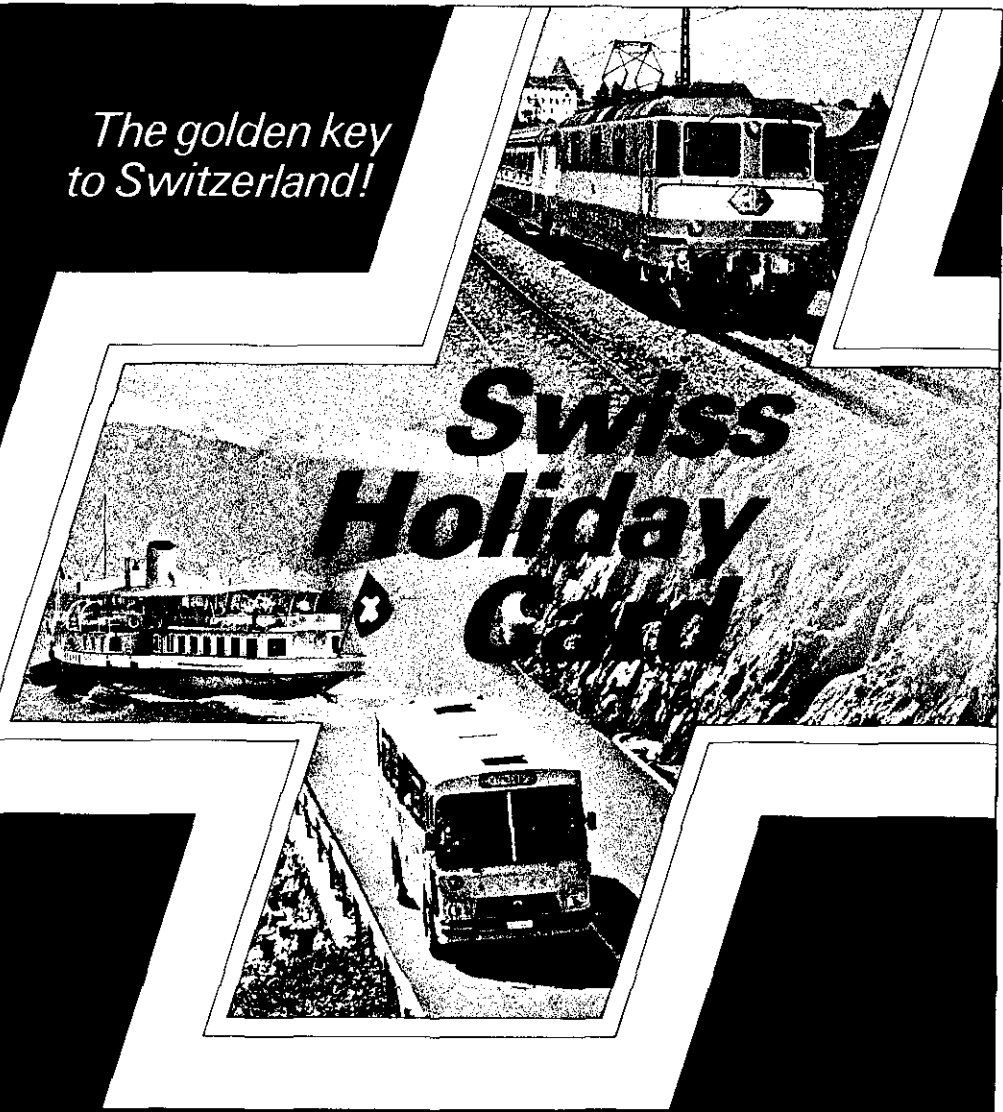


**THE ASSOCIATION  
OF BRITISH MEMBERS  
OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB  
JOURNAL 1987**

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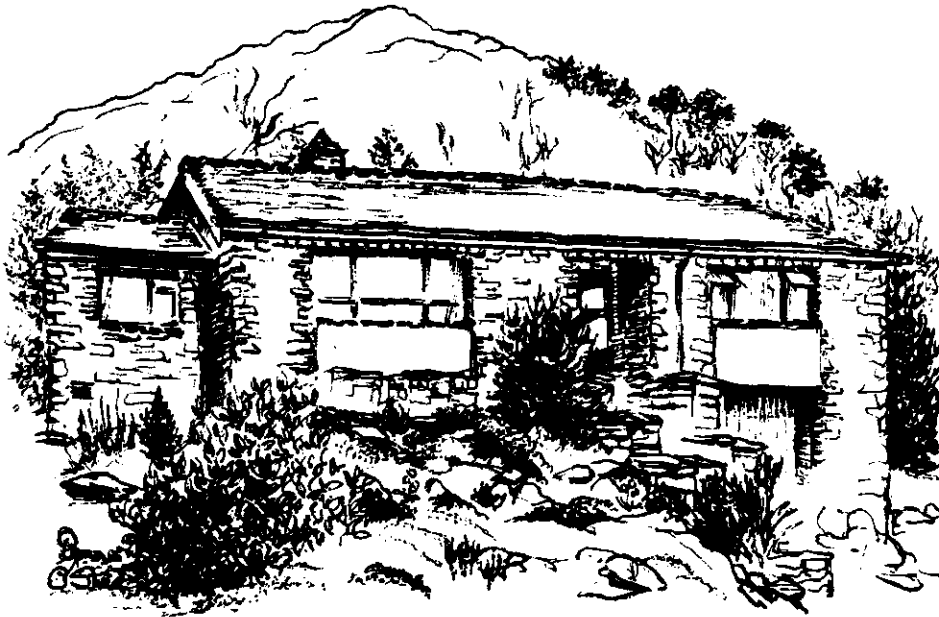
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## DIARY FOR 1987

- December 20 1986 - January 4 1987 Patterdale
- January 23-25 Perthshire. A. Andrews.
- January 28 Fondue Party. John Whyte on "Boots, Bears and Banff".
- February 6-8 Northern Dinner Meet. Patterdale, Glenridding. Brooke Midgley.
- February 27 - March 1. Perthshire. A. Andrews
- March 18 Lecture meet. Les Swindin on "Some favourite Alpine climbs".
- March 20-22 Perthshire. A. Andrews.
- March 27-28 Patterdale, ABMSAC maintenance meet. Don Hodge.
- April 17-20 Easter meet at Patterdale.
- May 2-4 Bank Holiday meet at Patterdale.
- May 20 Buffet Party
- May 23-30 Shildaig, Torridon. A. Andrews.
- July 18 - August 1 ABMSAC/AC Alpine meet. Two weeks at Les Frosserands (near Argentiere), one week in Courmayeur. M. Pinney.
- August - 2nd, 3rd and 4th weeks. ABMSAC Alpine meet. Mont Blanc area. H.D. Archer.
- September 20 Alpine reunion slide show.
- August 29-31 Bank Holiday meet at Patterdale.
- October 2-4 Buffet Party, Patterdale. Marion Porteous.
- November 6-8 Patterdale. Alpine reunion meet. Miriam Baldwin.

Lecture meets will be held at the Alpine Club, 74 South Audley Street, London W.1. at 7.15 p.m. Cash bar refreshments will be available from 6.30 p.m. and coffee will be available after the lecture.

Please book for outdoor meets with the leader named above. For Patterdale Meets without a named leader please book through John Murray, 4 Sunny Point, Crook, Nr. Kendal, LA8 8LP. Telephone 0539 821754.



**RISING SIDE, GLENRIDDING, PENRITH, CUMBRIA, CA11 0PG.  
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**EDITORIAL**

The Journal and Circular

This is expected to be the last Journal in the present format, and is certainly the last for the present editor. Several circumstances have led to these changes. There is some overlap between the functions of the Circular and the Journal, and the latter, which takes some months to prepare and print, tends to be out of date. This was unimportant in more spacious times, when the Journal could readily be expanded to include information that might be repetitious. This has hardly been practicable in the recent circumstances of financial constraint. It has been thought by some, including the present editor, that a better service might be provided at lower cost by combining the two publications under one hand. This matter was raised at the 1986 A.G.M., where two matters came to light. The Association's financial position is much healthier this year than for some years past. There is, therefore, no obstacle to publishing the 1987 Journal in the usual form even whilst the new arrangements are being set up. The members expressed a strong view that tradition should be maintained. Whatever form the new Journal might take, it should be worthily printed, of the same page size as before, fit to stand on the bookcase shelves alongside former issues, and suitable for binding in the accustomed manner. How this is to be brought about requires further study. Information will have been given in Circulars before this Editorial is in print.

The present editor retires because he has believed for some years that it was time for new blood and new ideas. The task has in no way been onerous, and the editorial pen is laid down with regret. The work of the past twelve years has been easy because of the staunch support of a considerable number of people who will remain unnamed to escape the risk of a grave omission. Regular readers (and it is hoped there are some) will know who has done the expert photographic processes, whose initials so often appear at the foot of difficult items such as obituaries, whose names have been attached to photographs, essays and reports over the years. To these people many and grateful thanks.

The new editor of the Journal and Circular will be Rudolf Loewy. He will unquestionably provide the new ideas and the zeal, and the retiring editor wishes him all good fortune.

HUTS

The George Starkey hut is at Patterdale, Grid ref: NY 394161. It is on the right hand side of the village approaching from the south, immediately after the school and the schoolmaster's house, and directly on the corner of a lane signposted "Side Farm". The door is marked by an SAC plaque. There are 28 beds and the hut is one of the most comfortable in Britain. It is run by a body called ABMSAC Ltd., which includes representatives of ABMSAC and of the Tuesday Climbing Club. The latter club made a substantial contribution of money to the hut when it was established in 1975. At certain times, which can be read from the diary, the whole hut is reserved for either or both clubs. At all times 6 beds are reserved for members, ABM and TCC equally, who should book in advance with John Murray, see p.3.

The ABM has a reciprocal arrangement with the Oread Mountaineering Club, who have a hut at Rhyd-Ddu, about 2 miles north of Beddgelert. We can use that fine well situated hut on advantageous terms. Up to 22 beds may be booked by arrangement. Bookings should be made through their hut booking secretary. Addresses are given at the end of the list of members' addresses.

### UNVEILING OF THE NEW BERNARD BINER PLAQUE AT ZERMATT

This was a most happy occasion. Nearly fifty people had come over from the ABMSAC meet at Arolla and probably as many more joined the party locally to form a cheerful and expectant little crowd despite an overcast sky and a threat of showers. The Bahnhof Hotel was decorated with a long red and white banner down each side of the hotel front, with a large Swiss flag in the centre, but also, on the wall of the terrace there was a large Union Jack beside the hotel entrance. Soon refreshments were being handed round while a choir in Valais costume assembled on the terrace. As the choir sang traditional songs a slight shower brought out some umbrellas and anoraks but in no way dampened the proceedings. Herr Amadé Perrig, our good friend from the Saas Fee Tourist Office, and now at Zermatt, made a very good speech welcoming all present and giving the historical background of the occasion: how it was the visitors to the Alps, especially British visitors, who transformed the popular conception of the Alps; from an inhospitable world suitable only for herdsmen and cheesemakers to one for enjoyment.

Harry Archer, President of the ABMSAC, then spoke of the very special character of the Bahnhof Hotel which Bernard Biner and all the family had created there. He recalled how he had come to be more than grateful for this on one occasion when, after a distressing accident, he and his party had returned to the hotel and, in this "home from home", as he put it, had been able to find relief and to recover. Harry made it clear that in addition to the members of the ABMSAC, AC members had also enthusiastically subscribed to the fund for the new plaque. John Hunt also spoke, first addressing the Biner family and all their friends in German and then recalling the pre-war years for British climbers in Zermatt and the early post-war years when Bernard Biner and the Bahnhof hotel had been a godsend to the then impecunious British.

Paula Biner, Bernard Biner's sister, was then asked to unveil the plaque, which she did by drawing aside a corner of the Union Jack, and passing this behind one of the hanging flower baskets, revealed the plaque still framed, as it were, with the great Union Jack - which was particularly appropriate as the inscription reads:-

Bernard Biner 1900 - 1965

This plaque is in grateful memory of a great guide  
who did so much to help climbers

From his British friends

Paula then came forward and made a moving little speech of thanks in English on behalf of all the Biner family.

As the choir sang their last song with its delightful refrain; Wenn die Sonne wieder lacht - the sun did indeed come out again and the singers and conductor smilingly pointed up at its welcome return.

Present were the Biner sisters, Paula, Bertha and Pia, Bertha's daughters and a grand daughter, the guides Herman Biner and Othmar Kronig, President of the Zermatt Association of Guides, Herr Willy Hofstetter, President of the Zermatt Section of the S.A.C., the Bishop of Dunwich and Frank Fitzgerald, who had long and happy associations with Bernard Biner and the Bahnhof Hotel.

BERNARD BINER

1900-1965

THIS PLAQUE IS  
IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF A  
GREAT GUIDE WHO DID SO MUCH  
TO HELP CLIMBERS  
FROM HIS BRITISH FRIENDS

THE NEW BERNARD BINER PLAQUE

## REPORTS OF MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

### Paddy and Mary Boulter

1986 was a good year with many unimportant hills, but a lot of pleasure. It was mid-January before we put foot to fell, but it was a great start with a round from Mungrisedale over Bowscale Fell to Saddleback and back by Southerfell - very clear and the top of Saddleback turned into a skating rink. In mid February we went back to Bivio and from our base in the Hotel Grischuna (of meets memory) we skied on the pistes of Bivio and St. Moritz and did some simple ski tours and the Diavolezza run to Morteratsch on the most perfect of days. Another good day on Piz Corvatsch later.

In the third week of March, we had a working trip to Inverness so put the car on the train with high hopes and our climbing gear and we picked the wettest, windiest week-end of the year. We went over to Ullapool to try and do Beinn Mhor Colgeach as a consolation prize. However, it poured and blew and the only reward was the fine sight of a waterfall near Inchnadamph going vertically upwards in the gale. Later in March the weather redeemed itself and we did the pleasant round in snow over Swarth Fell and Wild Boar Fell and on Easter Day a walk over High Pike and the Back o'Skiddaw Fells.

In late April work took us to Australia and we had a magnificent walk to Mount Hobwea in the Lamington Plateau rain forest mountains on the New South Wales - Queensland border. These are steep, densely wooded hills with lyre birds and wallabies as a contrast from skylarks and sheep. We managed at last to pay a very short visit to Tasmania and had one day in the Hills. Mount Field was very enjoyable - high and remote scenery.

In the summer we had a good variety of walks in the Lake District and the Pennines before the Alpine meet. John and Joan Whyte met us in Binn, a pleasant secluded village. We had good walks up to the Geisspfad, an epic day on the Eggerhorn - Füsshorn ridge with good walking, excellent views and as varied and impressive a flower display as we can remember.

Strengthened by these trips and by the Hotel Ofenhorn (very Victorian and very comfortable) we went to Arolla. These activities will be detailed elsewhere, but the walks and climbs over the Col des Ignes, the Pigne d'Arolla and the Col de Tsate and Serra Naire, were gems and so too was the mass crossing of the Pas de Chevrès to do the Lurette from the Dix Hut.

The Autumn gave us some more hill days and after Christmas the Whytes joined us for a long planned week in Cumberland. The atrocious weather meant that we finished the year with a misty walk over Great Cockup and Meal Fell. Only for the last hour did the weather relent and give us a clear walk off the hill to end 1986.

### Alasdair Andrews

1986 shall be remembered as the year when bad weather or deep snow marred most of my visits to the hills. My diary reports deep snow in Liathach and the Tarmigans, rain of monsoonal intensity in Glen Shee and Loch Arkaig. The best day was when we cramponned from the car park to the summit of Ben Ledi and back again - and it isn't even a Munro.

In the summer we visited the Stubaital, Otztal and Zillertal hills. With Bert Bowes and Geoff Bone ascents were made of the Otztal Wildspitze, Stubai Wildspitze, Zuckerhuti and a few lesser peaks. Many of the hills in this area may be climbed in one day trips by using the soft option of cable cars etc. - it certainly cuts out the ordeal of a night in an alpine hut.

Finally, apologies to Ernst Sondheimer for omitting his name from the report in last year's journal of those who struggled up the Adamello. I can still picture the expression on Ernst's face when a German climber, whom we met on the hill, congratulated him on the quality of his German pronunciation.

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### Die Alpen

I have available a series of copies of Die Alpen from 1947 to the third quarter of 1977, together with copies of the associated monthly bulletins.

(Four quarterly numbers of Die Alpen and five issues of the bulletin are missing).

Offers to T.J. Fletcher,  
44 Cleveland Avenue, Darlington DL3 7HG.

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Peter Farrington

Winter

Slioch/Sgurr an Tuill Bhain. Sgorr Ruadh/Fuar Tholl. Beinn Sgulaird (Appin) All in high winds and mist. Beinn Mheadhonach (Appin) a modest hill but magnificent viewpoint. Stob Ghabhar/Sron na Glubhas (Blackmount) Superb conditions.

Summer

An evening scramble up the Curved Ridge of Buachaille Etive Mor en route to Skye. From Sligachan over Garbh-Bheinn, Clach Glas and Blaven to Camasunary. Back by the Dubhs Ridge, Coir' a' Ghrunnda, Glen Brittle and Bealach a' Mhaim. Walks up Glen Eichaig to the Falls of Glomach and the Cour Corrie of Aonach Beag.

Snatched during a stormy week in November: Meall a' Chrasgaidh/Sgurr nan Clach Geala/Sgurr Mor/Beinn Liath Mhor Fannalach. (Fannalchs). Sgurr an Fhaidhleir/Ben More Coigach/Speicein Coinich/Beinn Tarsuinn. (Coigach). Druim nan Ramh/Harta Corrie from Camasunary.

(All with Tony Ferrons as previously).

Peter Ledebor

In mid-May I joined a meet with Fell & Rock friends based on Balmacara near Kyle of Lochalsh. The climate was not at its kindest, forcing us on two occasions to admire the beauties of Plockton from a local hostelry. However, we did manage the horseshoe of Beinn na Chailidh on Skye, with a fine view of the whole Cullin Ridge under snow, and the great top of Beinn Sgrittheall on Loch Hourn. Our best day was the fine Forcan ridge on the Saddle under atrocious conditions!

In August I had the good fortune to represent the Alpine Club as the guest of the Italian Alpine Club at the Mont Blanc bicentenary celebrations. The accent was on festivity with the opening of a very good historical exhibition in Aosta, another one in Courmayeur and on the final evening joining the French in Chamonix amongst 180,000 people. With a great sense of theatre we witnessed the lighting of the original route up Mont Blanc to its floodlit summit and a gigantic firework display to the accompaniment of Tchaikovsky's "1812".

At the beginning of September I stayed with cousins in British Columbia and snatched a brief opportunity to see something of the Rockies based on Lake Louise in its wonderful setting. An added attraction is a little hotel under Swiss management bought from Sir Norman Watson, one of our past members who did much to developing ski-ing there. Local trundles included the Beehives near Lake Agnes, the Sentinel Pass and Eiffel Lake, but the most rewarding ascent was Mount Wilcox with its panoramic view of Mount Athabasca and the Columbia Icefield.

Mike Goodyer

New Year was spent in a cottage just outside Kirby Lonsdale. Good weather allowed for an enjoyable week of walking both in the Lakes and around the Three Peaks area.

During the winter Harrogate Mountain Club had several excursions to the Lakes for snow and ice climbing. The conditions were mixed, but several good routes were eventually completed. A short trip to Ben Nevis and Glencoe was marred by terrible conditions. After helping a fallen climber collect himself at the bottom of Point Five Gully we declined the now empty gully and settled for soloing Bobrun and traversing the tops. In Glencoe The Screen on Aonach Dubh was cluttered with climbers so No. 6 gully was tackled. On Stob Coire Nam Beith we were turned back on Central Gully and Deep Cut Chimney.

The Northern Dinner meet was up to the usual standard, an active Saturday and a slow start to Sunday.

From April to September there were weekly trips to the local gritstone crags and trips to Malham and Gordale for several long summer evenings. This year I only managed 3 trips to Wales, climbing in the Pass and at Tremadoc. In June/July my wife and I travelled to the Engadin and spent 2 weeks walking around the area. The alpine flowers must be seen to be believed.

The climbing season came to a close in mid November with the Harrogate Mountain Club Annual Dinner. This year the venue was Torver, near Coniston. Fine days over the weekend saw a lot of climbing at Wallowbarrow and on Goat Crag.

Christmas and New Year saw a return to the cottage at Kirby Lonsdale.

Barrie Pennett

My year began with short excursions in the Wharfedale district taking in the Chevin above Otley (Yorkshire). On February 18, in bitterly cold weather, we visited Barley and from there ascended Pendle Hill (1,831ft). The top was thick with frozen snow. The next day saw my wife Valerie and myself in the Bolton Abbey area where we enjoyed a glorious walk. It was still very icy when we walked the Chevin Ridge on February 22. Visited Keswick for the day on March 26 but did not have much time for fell walking. However, we walked up Walla Crag, which afforded glorious views. A worthwhile short excursion. The following day we did yet another walk in Wharfedale. Starting from the Cavendish Pavilion at Bolton Abbey we walked to Storths, and then over the Barden Access Moor onto Hazlewood Moor and then across to North Nab and South Nab. Returned by the path to Bolton Park Farm. Very good walk with excellent views.

We visited Kettlewell on Good Friday and walked over the ridge to Arncliffe and back. We climbed up to Great Cote Scar where one gets superb views of Buckden Pike and Great Wharfedale. Reached the summit of Old Cote Moor where we had good views of Littondale. It was a very wet walk and by the time we reached Arncliffe we were somewhat soaked. Returned to Kettlewell by the River Skiffare to Hawswick and Knipescar.

A wet holiday on Arran with all the tops in low cloud for most of the week and with Glen Rosa and Glen Sannox resembling Derbyshire bogs, little high walking was done. However, shore walks were enjoyed but there appeared to be a shortage of birds this year - probably due to the poor weather. Not much walking done during the summer but on August 21 we did the Bronte Way. We drove to Keighley and caught the Worth Valley train to Haworth. After a light lunch at the Old King's Arms we set off again in the rain along the Bronte Way taking in Penistone Hill, Bronte Bridge, Ponden Reservoir, Watersheddes Reservoir, Wycoller Hall to Laneshaw Bridge where we had a welcome pint at the Emmot Arms. Returned to Keighley by bus.

Later in the month we walked on Ilkley Moor and Addingham High Moor and on another day we left Burnsall and walked to Langerton Hill, Dibbles Bridge, round Kail Hill to Appletreewick and then followed the river back to Burnsall for a delightful meal at the Red Lion Inn. Further walks have been enjoyed in Wharfedale.

Not a very eventful year but hope that 1987 will mean more visits to the Lake District and Patterdale in particular.

Ernst Sondheimer

Yes, it was the Nadelhorn this year. A bit too much of an effort for this geriatric climber to be really enjoyable: it didn't help that the two of us had to descend with only one ice-axe and three crampons between us (we won't go into the reasons). The easy rock-climb up the Egginer was more in my line, and so were several good walks - in particular a long day, over the Antronapass and down on the other side, all the way to Antronapiana, something I had wanted to do ever since Hamish Brown had talked in the 1974 Journal about 'a big descent into an incredibly beautiful, tough, wild Italy.' Earlier, in July, David Cutforth and I, accompanied by Livia Gollancz and Ingrid Springer (from Germany), had set off for the Allievi hut in the Bregaglia, in another part of the Italian Alps meriting the same description, intending to complete the 'Sentiero Roma' (see my report in the 1980 Journal). Heavy packs, unfitness and unseasonably large amounts of snow frustrated the programme - and yet it was a deeply satisfying week. Two highlights: an unintended bivouac under the stars, on soft green grass by the stream in the romantic Valle di Mello; and the hillside covered with vast sheets of yellow sulphur anemones, beside the melting snow, on the way to the Muretto pass.

Five visits to Scotland this year, with the usual mixed weather. Beinn Ime with Hamish and Storm in January: the blizzard caught us just below the top. Meall nan Tarmachan with Alasdair Andrews, Colin Armstrong and Jim Strachan in February: brilliant sun all day. The deep soft snow made for slow going, but the beauty of it all was so enthralling that I was walking in a trance (just my usual condition, my friends will observe). A little later Ingrid came over to be introduced to the Highlands. To greet her, the Scottish winter had turned on its most evil face, with lashing rain and howling gales. On just one afternoon, when we bravely set out to climb a hill from Suardalan bothy, the weather relented; but in Skye we were blown off our feet at sea level, and Glencoe was no better, as we splashed our sodden way along the old drove road. Meeting two other masochists I observed mildly, 'A bit damp today'. 'Yes - but so enjoyable', came the answer. Ingrid loved it all (good girl), and, on

future occasions, the weather might even, with luck, be just a bit better... In May Richard came for his biennial visit. It was still wintry on the heights, but conditions were far more reasonable, and enjoyable days were had on Ben More (Mull), in the Mamores (Devil's Ridge), and on the Ben Starav round. Finally, at the end of October it was already winter again in the Grey Corries - such a humdrum Munro as Stob Ban looked quite impressive under its cover of snow.

To complete the record on a gentle note, most of the Dorset Coast Walk was accomplished on two separate outings, in highly agreeable company.

Les Swindin

At least on the continent this year the weather treated us kindly and I was especially lucky at Easter. I'd chosen to continue my traverse of the Alps on skis and having previously reached the Rotondo hut above Realp it seemed appropriate to continue progress eastwards starting from there. In the event, having reached the hut, we encountered what were to be only adverse conditions for ten days. Avalanche risk from wind blown snow and very poor visibility made us feel it prudent simply to descend back to Realp. Blue skies the next morning meant a rather warm climb to Piz Centrale from which we had a magnificent run downhill in unskied powder snow to the superb Vermigel hut - cheap, good food, a friendly guardian and central heating in the dormitory. After crossing the Maigels Pass we skied down to Tschmut from where train and bus got us to Curaglia. An afternoon of blazing sun made the ascent to the Medel hut very tiring indeed.

It was becoming very evident just how lucky we were with the weather since each time we had a distant view to the north or west all we saw was banks of cloud yet here we were being almost baked alive. From the Medel hut we climbed Piz Vial on way to the Terri hut. The descent to the hut will long remain in my memory. We had to descend a fairly narrow couloir of some 400m. It was steep and would have been just about skiable in good snow but this was not the case, instead there was a breakable crust that would just hold a traverse but any attempt to turn was doomed - hence the memory of the longest side-slip I'm ever likely to do.

Over the Diesrut Pass to Vrin (some more long side-slips here too) and bus to Vals put us in position to climb the Rheinwaldhorn. This we did from the Lântna hut up the long glacier face running north from the summit before descending the west flank to the foot of the San Bernadino Pass and Splugens. Here we found first class dortoir accommodation and so chose to spend an extra night and climb Piz Tambo which was not on our original itinerary. It was well worthwhile - a fine ski-mountain with the lower slopes easily ascended by drag lift.

Next day we proceeded on our way but now the weather began to take a hand. Thick cloud enveloped the top 300m. of the Surettahorn and as it was worsening all the time we abandoned the intended traverse of the peak and merely descended from the summit by our ascent line. So the continuation east will have to start from Splugen next time.

Whitsun in Scotland was windy and wet in the Dee valley. Some long walks enabled us to add to our Monros list but an early return south and a bit of rock-climbing in the Lakes seemed justified.

The prime objective in the summer was to see that Peter Fleming completed his ascent of all the 4000ers. With Barbara I warmed up with the Combin de Corbassiere-Petit Combin traverse and the Tournelon Blanc from the Panossiere hut before joining Peter for the north face of the Point de Mourti and a tour round the minor summits bordering the Moiry glacier. Number 49 was the Bishorn. We climbed the east ridge from the Turtmann hut. The plan was to do the NE face but Peter broke a crampon and didn't fancy hopping up the face - pity. The last three were in the Oberland. We reached Konkordia from Fiesch using the lift and traverse track to Marjelensee (new reservoir being built) then up the Aletsch glacier. Barbara was struck down by a stomach bug so Peter and I traversed the Gross Grunhorn alone. The north ridge gave some good climbing but the approach from Konkordia is not easy. We spent a poor day weatherwise on the walk to the Obermonchjoch hut, which gave Barbara an extra day to recover, and from there traversed the Gross Fiescherhorn to the Finsteraarhorn hut.

I'd cherished the idea of traversing the Finsteraarhorn if I ever climbed it again but a fairly heavy deposit of snow in the afternoon of our arrival at the hut put paid to that plan. The important thing was to make sure that Peter got to the top and the only sure way was the ordinary route. Another day spent on the walk out delayed the called for celebrations.

Peter by now had had his fill but I wanted to take Barbara on the Obergabelhorn. How things have changed. Nineteen years ago this route (the NNE ridge) was an easy snow plod above the Grand Gendarme. Now it is A.D. with a pitch of IV. No wonder people were climbing the Arbengrat (from the new bivvy hut) and abseiling down this ridge. We descended the Arbengrat which made for a long day out with the descent to Zermatt.

During the rest of the year I've remained active as usual - rock climbing when the weather permitted and some ice work in the big freeze in February.

## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

### The A.G.M.

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club, held at the Alpine Club, 74 South Audley Street, London W.1. at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, 22nd November 1985.

The President, Wing Cmdr. H.D. Archer was in the chair. Twenty-two members were present

The Minutes of the 1985 Annual General Meeting: The Minutes of the 1985 Annual General Meeting, which had been circulated in the Journal, were taken as read.

Matters Arising: Two matters arose from the Minutes:

(1) Concerning the re-arrangement of the Library, our most valuable books are in safe deposit. Other valuable works are in the safe custody of the Alpine Club. Most of the books are of a more ordinary kind, and are being sold gradually, mostly to members, who appear to have appreciated the opportunity.

(2) Some matters, including possible changes of Constitution, are still under review. It is proposed to deal with those at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Election to the Committee: Two Committee members, D.A. Milwain and V.V. Odell, retired in rotation. The Committee had not nominated successors, as it was preferred to allow the size of the Committee to decline naturally, unless the meeting disagreed and offered nominations. There were no such nominations.

The Hon. Secretary announced his wish to retire because of pressure of other duties. The Hon. Editor retired because in his view it was more than time for a change. These retirements were accepted, and the meeting passed a vote of thanks to the retiring officers.

S.M. Freeman was appointed Hon. Secretary and M.R. Loewy Hon. Editor. All other officers and Committee were willing to continue in office, and were re-elected.

Annual Accounts: The Accounts were presented by the President. A request was made from the floor that accounts should in future be circulated in advance. It was pointed out that profits from neckties did not appear. The way of setting out the accounts relating to London activities was thought to be less than clear. Assurances were given on these points and the accounts were accepted by the Meeting.

Subscriptions: It was proposed and accepted that the A.B.M. part of the subscription should remain unchanged, and that the S.A.C. part should be £25.00. This entailed some risk in view of the present exchange rate, but this was thought to be justified by the present buoyant state of the Association's finances. This situation is largely a consequence of the success of the Library operation. The opportunity was taken to thank our members, Messrs. Beare and Ledeboer, and especially Mr. Bob Lawford of the A.C., for the parts they had played.



The Journal and the Newsletter: Proposed changes to the Journal were described, and there was a lively exchange of views from the floor. The Journal, as it has been, was praised generously, and the meeting favoured minimal change. There was particular opposition to any change in page size, and it was desired that any new form should be elegantly printed, enclosed in a folder and suitable to stand on a shelf alongside former editions. Mr. Loewy explained that it was proposed to merge the circular and the Journal, which should give a better service to members. The 1987 Journal will appear in traditional form. In 1988 the new version will appear in quarterly parts and the new format will be suitable for binding. It is hoped to obtain custom-made binders with the Association's crest. Further details will be given in the future circulars and the next Journal. These assurances were accepted.

Report on Annual SAC Meeting: Mr. Ledeboer reported back from an SAC meeting in Switzerland. The Diableret Section had expressed pleasure after their visit to the George Starkey Hut. The Swiss would welcome an article on the subject, covering the location, booking arrangements and the nature of the local climbing. Mr. Loewy undertook to attend to this.

New Honorary Members: It was announced that Mr. J.S. Byam-Grounds and Professor N.E. Odell had been appointed Honorary Members. This was received with approval.

The Meeting closed at approximately 6.15 p.m.

**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
for the year ended 30th June 1986**

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
<b>INCOME FROM MEMBERS</b>		
Subscriptions (Note 1)	2700	2367
Life Membership Credit	60	60
	<u>2760</u>	<u>2427</u>
<b>LESS: EXPENDITURE</b>		
Journal (Note 2)	1132	1080
Printing, Postage, etc. SNT0	169	245
Printing, Postage, etc. ABM	175	170
Library/Insurance	312	315
London Act. (Note 3)	( 70)	( 49)
Northern Act.	( 20)	( 40)
BMC Subscription	139	113
75 Cel.	---	39
Sundries (travel expenses)	60	44
Depreciation	---	---
	<u>1897</u>	<u>1917</u>
	863	510
<b>ADD: INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		
Association Investment	278	257
Building Society Interest	96	109
Bank Deposit Interest	<u>165</u>	<u>71</u>
	539	437
<b>LESS: Taxation (Note 4)</b>	161	131
	<u>378</u>	<u>306</u>
	1241	816
<b>ADD: Surplus/(loss) on S.A.C. fees</b>	( 102)	( 45)
Provision for 87 S.A.C. fees	<u>( 400)</u>	<u>( 45)</u>
<b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>739</u>	<u>771</u>

**NOTES**

<b>1. SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	Subscription income is derived as follows:-	
MEMBERS Year to 31.12.85	166 @ 10.0	1660
	5 @ 14.0	80
Year to 31.12.86	159 @ 10.0	1590
	8 @ 14.5	112
		<u>2650</u>
<b>AFFILIATE MEMBERS</b>		
Year to 31.12.85	77 @ 10.0	770
	10 @ 14.0	140
Year to 31.12.86	79 @ 10.0	790
	7 @ 14.0	98
		<u>2590</u>
Adjustment re subscriptions in advance	30	( 383)
In respect of earlier years	80	<u>100</u>
		<u>2700</u>
		<u>2367</u>
<b>2 JOURNAL</b>	Cost of the journal is made up as follows:-	
Printing	942	947
Despatch costs and other expenses	190	133
		<u>1132</u>
		<u>1080</u>
<b>3 Profits on London activities (losses in brackets)</b>	Fondue Even.	50
	May Buffet	186
	Annual Dinner	( 43)
	Other	( 3)
	Hire Rooms	(120)
		<u>70</u>
		<u>85</u>
		<u>170</u>
		<u>( 65)</u>
		<u>( 14)</u>
		<u>(110)</u>
		<u>49</u>
<b>4. Taxation</b>	The Assn. is liable to Corporation Tax on its income from investments.	

**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB  
BALANCE SHEET  
30th JUNE 1986**

		<u>1985</u>		
INVESTMENTS AT COST (Note 5)	2048		2216	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock of Ties at cost	89	228		
Debtors	304	304		
Cash on Deposit	4730	2648		
Current Account	450	442		
	<u>5573</u>	<u>3622</u>		
<b>DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors	695	77		
Subscriptions in Advance	1295	1325		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1402</u>		
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>3583</u>	<u>2220</u>	
		5631	4436	
<b>SOURCES OF FINANCE</b>				
Life Membership Account		642	677	
Accumulated Revenue				
Balance at 30th June	3496	2725		
ADD Profit on redemption	491			
ADD Excess of income over expenditure	739	4726	771	3496
Donation and Bequests (Note 5)		<u>263</u>	<u>263</u>	
		<u>5631</u>	<u>4436</u>	
 H. Archer M. Pinney	 President Hon. Treasurer			

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR**

I have examined the books and vouchers of the Association and report that the attached accounts, together with the notes, are in accordance therewith.

D. Bennett - Hon. Auditor

**NOTES**

**5. INVESTMENTS**

These are as follows:-

4320 Brunner Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p  
1043 United States Deb. Corporation Ordinary Shares of 25p  
£1000 2.4 Exchequer 1990

Cost of these holdings was 2048 (1985-2216). Aggregate market value at 30th June 1986 was 7350 (1985-6800).

**THE 1986 ANNUAL DINNER**

This was held at the Royal Overseas League on 22nd November, 1986. This proved to be an eminently satisfactory location. Fifty members and guests were present.

Mr. E. Loewy proposed the toast of the Swiss Confederation, and gave a learned summary of the history of that great body and of Britain's relations with it, concluding with an appreciation of the joys we derive from our visits to the mountains. In reply, M. Philippe Welti, for the Embassy, devoted himself to a response to last year's toast, and promised to respond to this year's next year, after he had had time to study it with proper attention.

The President proposed the toast of the Association and our guests. As is customary he reviewed the activities of the past year, which had shown notably revived health despite the fears of some. Finances were buoyant, and membership was rising substantially. The President praised the Hon. New Members' Secretary, and thanked other officers (particularly the retiring ones), committee and members. He then welcomed the guests.

Mr. F. Solari, on behalf of the A.C., replied with a short and amusing speech.

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A.B.M.S.A.C. Headsquares and Neckties

Ladies' headsquares in navy-blue polyester 27" square with badge in one corner. £5.00 each including postage and packing. Available to members and wives/partners of members.

Neckties available at £4.50 each including postage and packing. Navy with red and silver badge.

Apply to J.S. Whyte, Wild Hatch, Coleshill Lane,  
Winchmore Hill, Amersham. Bucks HP7 0NT.  
Telephone: Amersham 22663

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## THE OUTDOOR MEETS

### Northern Dinner Meet 1985

W.B. Midgley

The meet was once more held in Patterdale, based on the George Starkey Hut and the Glenridding Hotel.

On Saturday the weather was reasonably kind and provided snow and ice in fair abundance, but not much sun. Parties climbed and walked in many localities, especially the Hevellyn range ridges and gullies.

The Guest Speaker was Ian Mac Naught-Davies and our guests included Mrs. Mac Naught-Davies and Mr. A.B. Hargreaves, who needed as little introduction as "Mac The Telly". This year we had no slide show and the 118 members and guests were much amused by Mac's discourse. A few lucky ones also shared the Suisse Hooch from the hip flask.

Sunday was again a decent day although not sunny. Many great things were no doubt done; but possibly not with all the vigour of yesterday.

### 1986 Meets at Beddgelert

John Berry

There were three meets at Beddgelert this year, the first at Easter. About 9 members attended during the weekend. There was a sprinkling of new snow on the summits and everybody got into the hills. Amongst the peaks climbed were Lefn, Ogof and Hebog. A slide show was given of Arolla on one evening : things to do on the summer Alpine meet.

June brings us to the "Scrambles" meet which was very successful. The route planned was "the Snowdon Horseshoe the hard way". The intrepid team consisted of Archer, Bull, Husbands, Cooper, Brown, Hodge, Another and myself. The route started on Bilberry Terrace on Llŵedd, which was an interesting route, then along the east ridge to the summit of Snowdon, from there along Crib Goch, and down to Pen-y-Pass. Two of the party decided to make it even harder and descended by The Parson's Nose. (They were Cooper and Brown). In another valley Pinney and Chase were having a marathon day climbing classic hard rock including routes on Cloggy. Sunday was spent at Tremadoc Cliffs. Here Harry seconded "one step in the clouds".

The August meet was to be a riotous weekend with members of the Diablerets Section (14 in all) organised by Trevor Bent. It was their first trip to Wales, so I decided to pick out some of the classic routes. These included N. Ridge Tryfan, Bristly Ridge, Glyders and descend Devil's Kitchen: a good day's outing. Another day Crib Goch was climbed. Some of the party caught the train down, while some walked down the Miners' track. On one occasion a Swiss member went into raptures as he saw some yellow fungus growing near the path. He explained that it was a delicacy in Switzerland and was very rare. He asked if he could pick it: I said yes as I turned my nose up at it. That evening, as my wife Jan and I were busy in the kitchen, the visitor with the fungus burst in and virtually took over. "I must prepare my yellow fungus" and there

was nothing Jan and I could do but let him carry on. It was strange, but all the Swiss loved the traditional English breakfast, and the evening meals, and another strange phenomenon was that they all loved draught Guinness, so every evening was spent in the pub. After four days the Swiss moved on to Patterdale, and so ended three meets in Beddgelert.

### Joint Alpine Meet - Dauphiné 25 July - 16 August

Mike Pinney

The meet, held jointly with the C.C. and A.C., was based on La Berarde camp site. We were to have guests from Loughton and Westland Mountaineering Clubs.

This was the meet's first visit to the Dauphiné for many years, and thus for many our first trip. It had been hoped that the new A.C. guide would be available before the meet. In the event, it should appear in Spring '87, but we obtained advance copy during the proof-reading stage, and members were seen carrying wads of computer print out round the site.

The weather was generally very good, and we were surprised at the number of British parties who returned annually to the area for that reason. There did, however, appear to be unnecessary cloud to prevent obtaining the required photographs for the guide book! Several had plans along the lines of:- couple of peaks to get fit, do the Ecrins (the 4000er in the area), perhaps one or two more, then head to the Mont Blanc area. Being that bit further south, the characteristic flora, insects and terrain are significantly different and worth a visit. The atmosphere together with the variety of routes resulted in our staying for the full three weeks.

About 8 huts may be approached from the La Berarde Valley. Working clockwise from La Berarde an approximate list of peaks climbed from the various huts is as follows:-

Ref: de la Selle:- Rateau East and Rateau West.

Ref: du Soreiller:- traverse of Soreiller and various routes on a 300m. rock pinnacle.

Ref: du Châtelieret:- traverse of Cavales to the Ref: du Pave followed by le Pave and Pic Oriental to the Ref: du l'Aigle.

Ref: du Promontoire:- Promontoire ridge, south pillar and traverse of Meige.

Ref: des Ecrins (via Col des Ecrins):- Dome de Neige and Barre des Ecrins

Ref: Temple Ecrins:- traverse of Ecrins and Pic Coolidge.

Ref: de la Pilatte:- Eloberney, les Bains and Pointe des Boeufs Rouge.

Ref: de la Lavey:- l'Olan (attempted). The hut is rather low and a bivouac just before joining the glacier des Sellettes would avoid having to find the path up the side of the valley in the dark, besides starting from a more reasonable height.

## The 1986 Alpine Summer Meet — Arolla. Val D'Herens

Harry Archer

As soon as one Alpine Meet is over it is time to plan the next, and after the successful Chalet-based Meet in the Löttschental, it seemed to be a good idea to try the same formula at that most excellent and popular climbing venue, Arolla. A "brochure" by Paul French on the attractions of Arolla and, no doubt, the popularity of the Fischbiel Meet resulted in more than 80 members and guests applying to join the Meet. Arolla has limited accommodation, in particular that in Chalets and Apartments but with a bit of ingenuity and much help from Madame Bournissen all were housed in the apartments of the Residence Marmottes with temporary overflow into the Post Hotel, the Douane Chalet and the Bournissen's apartments over the Sports Shop. Rosemary Whitehead and Margaret Attree with son Michael, provided food supplies and evening meals, all excellently done in spite of the inconvenience of up to three kitchens and dining rooms in different blocks. During the peak period 60 hungry walkers and climbers had to be fed, and what a lot of potatoes that is!

From the time that the advance party arrived in early August the weather did not much interfere with climbing until cold weather at the end of the month brought wintry, snowing conditions which inhibited the final expedition planned to be the Aiguille de la'Tza. The long hot spell in early and midsummer had left little snow below 3000 metres, and there was ice and crevasses in unexpected places; stonefall was worse than usual and access to some routes more difficult than usual, although there was the bonus that the Pigne could be climbed more or less directly from the Vignettes Hut.

As the object of the Meet was to be out and about in the mountains, this aspect must form the major part of this report. Everyone, whatever their age and condition, did a quota of the traditional Arolla walks, the Pas de Chevres and the Dix Hut, the Lac Bleu, the Aiguille Rouge, Bertol, Vignettes and Tsa Huts, Bricola Alp, the Cols de Tzate and Tsarmine and the Pas de Riedmatten, Col d'Ignes circuit. The weather varied from extremely hot during the first three weeks of August to bitterly cold at the end, but as always the mountain scenery was magnificent.

As for climbing more than 130 ascents were completed and more attempted. Large parties climbed the Grand Dent de Vesivi, which devoid of snow was even grottier than usual. Several parties climbed the Pigne d'Arolla, one party numbering 31 people aged 11 to 70 plus. A large rock fell among a large party who were somewhat immobile being caught in the act of roping-up; luckily all but one dodged out of the way but though injured he was able to walk, later his injuries were found to be more serious. An icy Eveque attracted several parties, as ever this beautiful mountain provides a pleasant climb. That splendid rock climb, the West ridge of the Dent de Tsalion was climbed by three ropes of two, one pair making an epic descent of the gully immediately to the North of the ridge. Two virtual novices did their first independent climb by ascending the Dent de Tsalion by the ramp and the North ridge and returning to Arolla via the South ridge and the Bertol Hut. A father of goodly age climbed the Aiguille de l'tsa with his son. Later in the month when a lot of snow had fallen, a strong party climbed Mont Blanc de Cheillon in difficult conditions, while at the same time, a large party ascended La Louette, whose summit was inadequate for the number of climbers thereon. All in all the climbing was very enjoyable and everyone seemed happy with what they were able to do; this must be the aim of these Meets, and hopefully will persuade new members to come again and to bring their friends.

The Social side is inevitably tied in to every aspect of the Meet, but there were two outstanding events. The first was a visit to Zermatt to attend the unveiling of a new stone Plaque to the memory of Bernard Biner. Members of the Alpine Club and the ABMSAC subscribed to a fund for the manufacture and mounting of this more permanent memorial on the front wall of the Bahnhof Hotel. In spite of some misgivings that nothing had been organised, with the ABMSAC President arriving at Zermatt somewhat uncertain of the outcome, the event turned out to be a most happy and nostalgic occasion much appreciated by Paula Biner, the Biner family and those who had used the Bahnhof in the old days. Light rain notwithstanding, the Zermatt village choir sang for us, and when they sang of the sun the rain stopped and the cloud broke to give a shaft of sunlight - a sign of approval from above? Lord Hunt spoke of his happy memories of the Biners and the Bahnhof, the President spoke of British ties with Zermatt. After an emotional farewell the party returned to Arolla, the weather preventing the planned trip to or from Zermatt over the Col d'Herens and the Col de Bertol.

Towards the end of the Meet a dinner was held at the Kurhaus. Some 60 members and their guests attended what must have been the longest three course dinner on record. But who cared, it was a most enjoyable occasion and we were pleased to have *Monsieur and Madame Bournissen and Mr. and Mrs. Wetherell* as our guests. After dinner M. Bournissen gave a talk with slides about Arolla through the years in summer and winter.

All in all this was an exceptionally happy Meet at which we welcomed many new Members and, in which all present, young and old, walkers and climbers, fit and unfit, all seemed to find something to please them. Thanks are due to all the many people who in one way or another helped to organise the Meet and to smooth the way, and of course, to everyone for coming, no more no less.

From Arolla has come the best message of all - When are the British coming again?". Not too long I hope.

Members and guests attending the Meet were, in approximate order of arrival:-

Harry Archer, Fred Dewar, Margaret Attree, Rosemary Whitehead, Pat and Evelyn Skinner, Dorothea Gravina, John Chapman, George Watkins, Harry and Pat Sales, Edward and Wendy Williams, Jack and Muriel Derry, Barbara Rees, Lionel and Mary Fulford, Peter Mould, Frank Solari, David Riddell, Peter Nock and son, Rudolf Loewy, Wendel Jones, Dora Dewar, Charlotte Archer, Ray Scott, Hugh and Renata Romer, Elizabeth Parry, John Berry, John, Thea, Stephen and James Coales, Julian Steer, John and Joan Whyte, Paddy and Mary Boulter, John and Margaret Loy, Ben Suter, Anne Jago, Ben, Marjorie and Liz Howe, Mark and Heather Eddowes and their two children, Ralph Kukaswadia, Harold and Lawrie Flook, David Watts, Geoffrey and Barbara Attridge and Alexander and Neris Williams, Michael and Debbie Owen, Michael Attree, Pat Campbell and two children, Joanna Merz, John and Joy Hunt, Lucas Crouch, Simon and Ann Dewar, David Brain, Judith Ogden, Adrian Raymond, Max McGlashan, Trevor Bent, Bill Houston.

Hopefully nobody is forgotten and the names are correct. If not my profuse apologies.

Wendell Jones

Watching the mountains from one's bed is a little like playing golf from a buggy car; remove the grind and one feels a fraud.

One view from the chalet on the steep hillside half way up the trench-like Val d'Herens extended to the peaks above the Rhone; the other encapsulated the impressive ridge running from the Perroc to the Tsa.

Seven o'clock and ridge spotting ceased and all was activity. There commenced a rush to dress, wash, and fold away the living room beds, to give all the flat's inhabitants room for breakfast.

My last visit to Arolla had been in '66 when the Meet was based at the Mont Collon Hotel on the valley floor. The paucity of change made a favourable impression; our chalets, four or five storeys high but built in traditional style, were new but not out of place; a mountain centre had been added and the shops seemed more modern. Yet the Mont Collon Hotel remained, perhaps a little tired, and the Kurhaus still sported its corrugated green roof. Over towards the Pas de Chevres, once the scene of midnight ascents torch in mouth, rose the pylons of the new ski-lifts, off duty for the Summer.

Nature backed by a hot June had wrought greater changes than Man. Retreating glaciers had left seas of boulders where snow lay before; the diminished snows revealed yawning bergschrunds and bottle shaped crevasses. Beneath the Perroc everything seemed loose.

Most of us dipped little more than a toe through the snow bridges, but tight roping on glaciers became the rule and practical techniques for crevasse rescues a subject for frequent discussion. Scientific theories about constant movement on glaciers and the first man down being most at risk were bandied about and baffled some who find reef knots difficult.

Beneath a snow slope at the foot of the glacier leading to the Vignettes hut was a fairly level platform of boulders. This became a favourite spot for roping up, putting on crampons, eating lunch, group photography and other pastimes that tend to extend a brief halt to threequarters of an hour.

During the first week a party of five were disturbed by the sudden, but hitherto soundless arrival, of a stray rock the size of a football. A week later a second, and sideboard sized boulder, crashed down upon the massed armies of the ABMSAC, bound for the Pigne and thirty strong; whilst John Whyte was unluckily slightly hurt, the escape of the rest seems providential. In the third week other picnic sites were used.

On the Tuesday of the second week the Meet was due to assemble in Zermatt to unveil a plaque at the Bahnhof Hotel in memory of Bernhard Biner, doyen of guides and friend to British climbers. Discussions had ranged over the fitness of the party and state of the route over the glaciers and via the Bertol and Schonbiel Huts. In the event rain and storm moved in on Monday afternoon and neither walk-in nor walk-out were attempted. Romance went by the board and the ABMSAC travelled to Zermatt by car. We stood under umbrellas and were addressed by the President by John Hunt and by the new Director of Tourism for Zermatt, an old friend from Saas Fee. We listened to songs from the Zermatt Ladies Choir charming in national dress, and these were greeted with a brief appearance from the sun.

On a Meet which, particularly in the first two weeks, was blessed with fine weather, it was unfortunate that the poor spells frustrated joint events with our Swiss friends. Whilst the Zermatt visit was merely curtailed, the joint Meet with the Diablerets Section, at the end of the first fortnight had to be cancelled.

A perusal of old journals reveals not only a full list of those attending, but is backed by details of climbs made. Sometimes this extends to "Rothorn - A. Smith and B. Brown with" or "occasionally without Adolf Aufdenblattan" summoning up a wealth of memory. The new style chalet meet, a gather of up to 70 people, spread over 3 separate buildings as well as 3 weeks does not lend itself to such precision. Let it be said that at various times various parties climbed the Pigne, L'Eveque, Grand Dent de Veisivi, Mont Blanc de Cheillon, La Lurette, the Dents de Tsa and Tsallon; others walked to the huts and to the Blue Lake and one party found a hotel under the Dixence Dam. As in 1966 there was much talk of an ascent of the Dent Blanche; as in 1966 no one climbed it. (In 1966 John Byam Grounds returned after the Meet and helped to instal the cross on its summit).

No account of a climbing meet is complete without a tribute to those who organised the meet from those who did not. To Fred who hung up the notices; to Rudolf who did great things on the social side; to John Chapman who helped to organise the celebrated dinner at the Kurhaus. To Margaret and Dorothy for feeding the hordes at all hours and in all conditions; whether punctually at 7.00 or dramatically punch drunk from the latest epic half way through the meal. Perhaps above all to Harry, without whom the Meet would not have taken place, and who combined the roles of leader, financial genius and reception desk for three hotels, our thanks and admiration.

The Buffet Party at Patterdale, 3 - 5 October 1966

S.M. Freeman

This was the eighth party and the biggest yet, with 53 sitting down (if they could). It made a profit despite the modest charge and the traditionally generous food and drink supplied. How this can be done year after year to such a standard remains a mystery, but it can be reported that Marion Porteous has particularly asked that mention be made of the other ladies without whose help the show could not have gone on. This party has become one of the best occasions for meeting old friends in the Association's calendar.

There was outdoor activity too, and the jollity capped by a committee meeting. Saturday was beautiful. The retiring editor and the new incumbent walked over Place Fell and back by the lake side, having to step out in the end to get to the meeting in time. Everyone else was believed to be out (details lacking) and some were less successful in stepping out for the meeting. Sunday was a poor day, and some retired home.

## OBITUARIES

### F. Roy Crepin

Our honorary member, Roy Crepin, died on 20th January 1986 aged 83. He gave us exceptional service during the period when the Association was one of the largest climbing clubs in Britain, and the burden of its administration was carried out entirely by its honorary officers. For 9 years he was one of the Joint Honorary Secretaries, first with Marshall Clarke and then with George Starkey. His Presidency followed immediately in 1954-1956, but instead of taking a well earned rest thereafter, he served as Honorary Treasurer for 13 years, thus holding office for 25 years continuously.

Roy went into the family business of importers of food products and essential oils, but if it had not been for the family connection his work might well have been different, and in climbing he found an outlet for his desire for adventure and "doing his own thing". His first climbs were in the Lake District with his great friend Douglas Elphinstone, a member of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club. He climbed in the Alps for the first time in 1930, and joined our Association in the following year. He had three more Alpine seasons before the war and became a member of the Alpine Club in 1942.

After the war Roy generally had a Spring holiday in the Lake District and a Summer Holiday climbing in Switzerland, accompanied by his wife Amie, who enjoyed sketching whilst he went off to the mountains with a guide. Roy and Amie were regular participants in the Easter meets which used to be held in the Lake District, North Wales and Scotland in turn, and which had a special place in Association activities before meets were organised throughout the year.

In 1937 Roy had a premonition which made him reluctant to take his usual Spring climbing holiday, but he went to the Lakes nevertheless. He fell off the Napes Needle, landing on a narrow rock ledge and suffering fairly serious injuries, but he recovered and his love of climbing was undiminished.

He had always been a keen photographer, and when he gave up serious climbing in the late 1950's, a few years before Amie died, he was able to develop a latent talent for sketching. He also pursued his interest in archaeology, which was later encouraged by his second wife, Pat, (widow of Brigadier Benner) whom he married in 1970, and who was a great traveller. They lived in France until 1978 when Roy was severely injured in a car accident. He was in hospital for a year and then in a nursing home in Birmingham where he was near his daughter Moira, and his grandchildren.

Roy Crepin was a delightful companion, and he will be remembered with affection by all those who are fortunate enough to have enjoyed his company.

B.L.R.

### I.M. Haig

Ian Haig was a member of The Grindelwald Section from 1974, and later an affiliate. He attended Alpine and other Meets when many members will have had the pleasure of making his acquaintance. We have heard with regret of his death.

S.M.F.

### J.M. Hartog

John Marion Hartog was a member of the ABMSAC from 1947 until his death on July 10th 1986. He led notable Polar expeditions, but was best known to climbers for his part in the remarkable (and successful) assault on the Mustagh Tower in the Karakoram. An obituary notice appeared in the Times. An account of the Mustagh Tower climb appears in Tom Patey's book reviewed in this Journal.

S.M.F.

### Noel Peskett

For some 25 years after the war Noel was a member of the Swiss Alpine Club and of the Association. During that period he and his wife Phyllis were regular supporters of the climbing Meets and other functions.

Noel started climbing in the Alps in 1931. Most of his Alpine climbs were done with a guide but on occasion he led a guideless rope in company with a guided rope at climbing Meets. He mainly kept to standard routes and among those he particularly enjoyed were the Balmhorn by the N. ridge, the traverse of the Portjengrat and Piz Roseg. Noel also had a great interest in Alpine Flora and was very knowledgeable on the subject. His pleasure in Alpine holidays came almost as much from the flowers as from the climbing and walking.

The sudden and unexpected death of Phyllis in 1977 was a great blow to Noel but he still retained his interest in the outdoor life. He had a cheerful disposition with a considerable sense of humour. He was a steady companion on a rope and his occasional merry quips helped to make climbs relaxed and enjoyable.

M.B.

### Mary-Elizabeth Solari

Mary-Elizabeth Solari, known to all her many friends as Babs, died peacefully on 2nd April 1986 after a long illness. Her passing has taken from us a respected and well loved individual who contributed effectively, but unobtrusively, to the life of the Association over many years.

Babs was born in 1914 in New York State and spent her childhood at Hartsdale near White Plains. After graduating in mathematics at Barnard College of Columbia University, New York, she joined the college staff and taught mathematics and statistics whilst working for her Ph.D.

Babs' Great Great Grandfather, Robert Stuart, emigrated to America from Callander in Scotland and worked for John Jacob Astor in New York. In 1812 he was sent to a trading post near Portland in Oregon, charged with closing down the operation and escorting the handful of workers back to New York. He reached Portland by sailing around Cape Horn and the return journey, which took 15 months, was made overland. The party lived off the land and from Stuart's diary it is clear that they had many adventures and suffered considerable privations whilst overwintering in the mountains near the present borders of Idaho and Wyoming. Stuart discovered a new pass over the mountains and the Oregon Trail, which he pioneered, subsequently became one of the principal routes for settlers travelling west. He safely escorted his party intact to New York and thus accomplished the first west-to-east crossing of the North American continent. With ancestors showing such enterprise and determination it is small wonder that Babs had such a close interest in expeditions and mountain pursuits.

Frank Solari's wartime duties took him to the U.S.A. in 1942 where he stayed for 5 years and he joined the Appalachian Mountain Club soon after his arrival. It was during Club activities that he first met Babs and their shared interest in mountains, skiing and music must have been contributory factors leading to their marriage in 1947 in the chapel of Columbia University, followed by a honeymoon that included visiting the Wind River range and an ascent of Gannett Peak, at 13,800 ft. the highest point of Wyoming.

Frank and Babs returned shortly afterwards to make their home in England. From 1948 to 1974 Babs was on the staff of Chelsea Polytechnic, later to become Chelsea College, where early on she established new courses in statistics and probability theory, a branch of mathematics in which she specialised for the remainder of her career. Her approach to her professional duties was notable for two personal characteristics which also were to be seen in everything else she undertook. The first was the unstinting thoroughness with which she tackled the task in hand - she spared no effort to achieve excellence in her course preparation and in her teaching. The second was her commitment to her students, particularly the post-graduates. For her, each student was an individual presenting a challenge and an opportunity, and she saw her task as helping each of them to achieve their maximum potential.

The regard in which she was held by all the students under her care was matched by great respect from her professional colleagues. She published a number of original papers on mathematical statistics both as sole and as a co-author, and for several years she was a member of Chelsea's Academic Board. On her retirement from Chelsea she became a part-time tutor for the Open University and once again her thoroughness and grasp of detail came quickly to notice. Having drawn attention of the University to errors and shortcomings in some of the course material she was invited to review all subsequent course material before publication.

Babs' interest in music, particularly opera, began in New York where she was a devotee of Wagner performed in the old New York Met. With her characteristic thoroughness she studied the libretto of *The Ring* in considerable depth before seeing the full cycle for the first time. After meeting Frank, her operatic interests spread beyond Wagner and *Fidelio* in particular became a firm favourite. Her identification with Leonara reflected other of her personal characteristics; great devotion and loyalty.

Her mountaineering activities included expeditions to Eastern Turkey with the L.A.C., Central Lahul in 1955 and Chamba-Lahul in 1958. Although over the years she climbed a number of Alpine peaks she did not regard herself as a hard climber but she found her greatest pleasure in being amongst the mountains with mountaineering friends, enjoying equally walking, climbing and skiing.

Babs' attitude to people was dominated by great friendliness and good humour. Her puckish wit was quick to show, and she never allowed her own high intellectual ability to embarrass anyone less gifted than herself. These personal qualities endeared her to the many friends she made in the three dominant strands of her life, mathematics, music and mountains. All those friends were enriched by the privilege of knowing her and will share a common sorrow at her passing.

J.S.W.

## BOOK REVIEW:

"One Man's Mountains" by Tom Patey.  
Victor Gollancz Ltd., September 1986.  
287 pp. 8 photographs. 3 line diagrams. £4.95.

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This is a paperback edition of a book published in hardback in 1971. It consists of articles from magazines and climbing club journals, mostly that of the S.M.C., with some unpublished material. Patey had intended to collect his work in book form, but his tragic death prevented this. His widow completed the task, putting the essays in chronological order with minimal editing, and providing a welcome bonus in the form of a collection of such of his verses as are considered appropriate.

The front cover displays a quotation from Chris Bonington: "The most entertaining climbing book I have ever read". This reviewer shares that opinion.

There is an appreciative foreword by Chris Brasher. Amongst other things he describes the meticulous care with which Patey planned the televised climb of the Old Man of Hoy, putting all the times, tides, rendezvous and people involved into writing, and sending them to all concerned. The reader could not possibly imagine that the precise and thorough man so described was the same one who wrote what follows, but it must be so. Great climbs appear to have come about following chance encounters and missed appointments, and the author and his friends appear ready to dash off to faraway parts at no notice, and to improvise something else when the person due to be met fails to appear. How much to allow for the tongue in the cheek and the author's modesty is a ceaselessly intriguing question. One needs knowledge of climbing history or a readiness to look up the records to appreciate that the adventures include famous first ascents and the opening of hitherto little known areas. All proceeds at a rattling pace and is related with fine humour. There is an endless cast of rich characters, especially in the Aberdeen area, and again one is left wondering whether these were invented or brought to light by a keen eyed observer fascinated by the oddities of human nature. This reviewer's guess, based on experience over a long period, is that the people were real; certainly they spring from the pages as if they were.

Nearly half the book covers climbing in Scotland. Let the reader choose as he will between developments in the Cairngorms, or the first winter traverse of the Cullin Ridge, or Hoy, or the Creag Meaghaidh Crab-Crawl, or others; whatever his choice, he can't go wrong.

The next section, entitled "Abroad", begins with two notable achievements, the Mustagh Tower and Rakaposhi, which are described straightforwardly but again with modesty and no heroics. The rest of this section concerns Romsdalshorn, the Trolltinder Wall and the Eiger North Face.

The remaining sections, called "Satire" and "Verse", depart from narrative except for an account of an actual event, the televised climb of Red Wall. This might possibly have been included in an earlier section, except that there might be an element of levity which ruled it out. The author's talent is particularly for deflating the pompous or pretentious, but he displays a kindly sympathy for underdeveloped peoples, such as

the English, and their humble institutions, such as the A.C. Brasher asserts very reasonably that his writings in prose and verse will be remembered and sung as long as there is climbing. If you missed the book first time round, buy it now.

S.M.F.

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"The Next Horizon" by Chris Bonington  
Victor Gollancz Ltd. September 1986.  
304 pages. 25 photographs. 15 sketch maps. £4.95.

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Like the previous book, this is a paperback reissue, and it is about mountaineering. Otherwise the books have very little in common. This work is in manner a section of an autobiography. The incidents of Bonington's life between the great adventures are related as part of a connected and continuing story. The characters are introduced in a formal and orderly way and the narrative is spacious. There are triumph and disaster and birth and death, and we are made privy to Bonington thoughts and feelings and particularly his uncertainties as the events pass before us. The book could well be read with pleasure as a novel, were it not that one is satisfied that the author is relating fact to the best of his ability, which is considerable. We read of straitened circumstances, and the doubts and fears that assailed him as he contemplated the bold venture of trying to earn a living from the then unusual career of writing, photography and lecturing, all about mountaineering. In retrospect, we feel that he need not have worried.

The story begins with the Central Tower of Paine, to which three chapters are given. The first covers the march out and defeat by weather. The next chapter concerns a rest period over Christmas, and includes autobiographical material. The despondent climbers were galvanised by the arrival of Italians bound for the same objective. A key event was the invention and construction of the prototype Whillans box. The successful climb is described in the next chapter, which ends with Bonington falling at the very end of the descent and suffering a severe ankle injury which disabled him for a time.

The next few chapters are largely domestic, with the author settling at Loughrigg, where his son Conrad was born. An Alpine summer saw little done. Chapter 6 includes climbs on Raven Crag of Thirlmere. Chapter 7, which concerns Hogmanay with Patey, includes a somewhat harrowing account of a midnight escape from danger on Craig Meaghaladh.

Chapter 8 on Tele-climbing at Cheddar includes the first ascent of Coronation Street. Then we have the Rassemblement International at Chamonix followed by the right hand pillar of Brouillart.

Chapters 11, 12 and 13 cover the Eiger Direct. This tale has often been told and televised, and it is still worth reading again in Bonington's account, which tells how he was driven to take part after intending only to take photographs, how the worst dangers and privations came when he withdrew to proceed to the summit by other means in order to take pictures, and overshadowing all the death of John Harlin.

The last one third of the book covers a wide variety of adventures, related more tersely than what had gone before. A photographic trip to Sangay was cut short when Bonington had to return home on receiving the tragic news of the accidental death of his son Conrad.

Then we have in turn Hoy, life with the Eskimoes, and the Valley of the Hunza. Then the Blue Nile expedition, by inflatable boat through appalling natural hazards aggravated by dangerous attacks by bandits, and another tragic death.

Annapurna is given two chapters in which the great and successful climb is described, to end again with death, this time Ian Clough, when all seemed over.

This book roams all over the world and covers a variety of experiences and feats, some of which have passed into legend, and many will be familiar to most mountaineers. Bonington writes from an inside and involved viewpoint which sustains interest to the point of making the work required reading.

S.M.F.

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"Eiger, Wall of Death" by Arthur Roth.  
Victor Gollancz Ltd. paperback 1986. £4.95.

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This book certainly provides enjoyable, exciting and even gripping reading for both the general reader and for climbers. The author is himself an experienced mountaineer though careful to point out that his great knowledge of the Eiger Nordwand is vicarious, through extensive reading and talking to those who have climbed it and been involved in the expeditions, rescues etc. He has therefore quoted extensively from them and has felt entitled to speculate on their thoughts, emotions, convictions and feelings about one of the greatest and most challenging faces in all the world's mountain ranges. The fact that the north wall of the Eiger is also one of the world's most photographed and favourite tourist attractions set in an idyllic, fairytale Swiss landscape, adds unique poignancy to the courage, determination, even foolhardiness and tragedies that it has witnessed. In bringing out these characteristics, the author has used his literary skills to portray the dramatic and the emotional elements of the more exceptional expeditions such as the first ascent, the first winter, solo and direct ascents and some of the climbs which ended in tragedy or rescue.

When the book first appeared in hardback in 1982, some critiques by phlegmatic reviewers objected to any such "dramatic and emotional exploitation" just as their forebears had done about Frank Smythe's writings in the 1930's. Such affectation should not discourage anybody, particularly climbers, from acquiring or reading the book. The new edition may also revive some of the resentment aroused by the several references to the alleged rapacity of earlier Swiss mountain rescue operations until the establishment of the insurance based Swiss Air Rescue Service. The author is however always generous in his praise of the courage and skill of the rescuers whether amateur climbers, professional guides and rescue officers or air crews. There is an exceptionally thorough index - a model for any author of more index-dependent books.



In view of the four-year interval between publication of the hard and paperback editions it is perhaps regrettable that opportunity was not taken to add an up-dating chapter which would have enabled descriptions to be given of the latest climbs, such as the almost unbelievable exploits of Christophe Profit in solo climbing the three greatest north faces, Matterhorn, Grandes, Jorasses, Eiger in 24 hours - the Eiger in seven hours during 1985.

Nevertheless, Arthur Roth's paperback can be recommended as a gift for any climbing reader.

Eric Loewy

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A further book review, not ready in time for this Journal, will appear in the April newsletter etc.