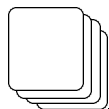


# ALPINE CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

4/2001



Calendar...

## October 2001

### October 3

Alpine Ski Club Evening- **Matt Tinsley** "Spitzbergen"

### October 5-7

Lake District Meet and Informal Dinner

### October 9

General Meeting -- **Colin Knowles** and **Mike Ratty**  
"Modest explorations in Lahul and Spiti"

### October 17

Northern Lecture: **Andy Kirkpatrick** 'Alone with the Stone'

### October 23

Informal Meeting -- **Nick Lewis** "Safe Return Doubtful"

### October 23

**Sir Christian Bonnington** -- "A Half Century of Climbing" - at Imperial College.

### November 13

General Meeting -- **Barbara** and **Bradford Washburn** "Life and Times"

### November 14

Northern Lecture -- **John Morgan** "Baltic in the Arctic"

### November 14

Alpine Ski Club Annual Dinner -  
Army & Navy Club, London

### November 20

Informal Meeting -- **Simon Yates** "The Uttermost Part of the Earth"

### November 27

Informal Meeting -- **Crag Jones** "Jones the Telly Gets High and Smelly"

### December 1 Saturday

Symposium at Plas y Brenin "Climbing in Nepal"

### December 7 Friday

Annual General Meeting and the President's Valedictory Address

### December 8 Saturday

Annual Dinner -- Chief Guest **Tom Hornbein**

### December 12

Northern Lecture - **Simon Yates** "The Uttermost Part of the Earth"

### February 1-3 2002

Scottish Meet



Fitzroy

55/56 Charlotte Road, London, EC2A 3QF  
[www.alpine-club.org.uk](http://www.alpine-club.org.uk)



## NEPAL STRUGGLES TO RECOVER FROM ROYAL MURDERS

**F**riends of Nepal will have been shocked by the mass murder at the Narayanhity Palace in Kathmandu during the evening of 1 June. King Birendra, along with eight others, was shot, according to official reports, by his own son, Crown Prince Dipendra. A government enquiry into the killings, which took evidence from the tragedy's numerous survivors, was accepted by serious-minded commentators and journalists inside Nepal as providing a convincing explanation.

**Dipendra, drunk and enraged by his family's attitude to his roposed marriage,** emerged from his bedroom dressed in combat fatigues and carrying a revolver and automatic sub-machine gun to murder his family. He was found alive but mortally wounded in the palace gardens and succeeded briefly to his father's throne before dying on 4 June.

There has been some controversy over whether Dipendra's wounds were self-inflicted or not, but the end result is that Gyanendra, Birendra's younger brother, succeeded to the throne that day; Dipendra's victims included his only younger brother Nirajan and his mother Queen Aishwarya and his sister Princess Sruti.

**Tensions in Kathmandu ran high** as rumours of what had happened in the Royal Palace spread unchecked by any official comment. A feeble attempt by the then regent Gyanendra to explain the tragedy as an accident only enraged the people more, provoking riots which resulted in the deaths of six demonstrators. Since then, the security situation has stabilised.

The murders could not have come at a worse time for the Kingdom of Nepal. The five-year Maoist insurgency which has paralysed large parts of the country was threatening to undermine Nepal's ten-year constitutional democracy even before Birendra's death. The murdered king was seen as more moderate than his younger brother, and Maoist leaders denounced Gyanendra, and his prime minister G.P. Koirala, as hardliners who would not negotiate a peaceful settlement.

***"Over 1,800 Nepalis have died in the so-called People's War"***

Over 1,800 Nepalis have died in the so-called People's War, most of them Maoists or policemen. The Maoist leadership claims to have set up a judicial and banking system independent of the Kathmandu government and to take more seriously the considerable problems of Nepal's rural poor. Critics point out that the Maoists have fought a vicious campaign of murder and extortion because they found themselves without political influence in Kathmandu. The police have also indulged in extra-judicial murders, and are seen as demoralised, untrained for guerilla warfare and poorly equipped.

There are undoubtedly hard-line ideologues in the Maoist movement, not least the movement's leader Comrade Prachanda, a former agricultural graduate. Most pertinently for travellers, trekkers and mountaineers, Comrade Prachanda's leadership has repeatedly pledged that the movement would not target foreign nationals since the Maoists

recognise the importance of tourism to the Nepali economy, standing at around five percent of GDP and a major foreign currency earner.

This has not stopped articles appearing in the world's press that trekkers and climbers have been robbed at gunpoint by Maoists. There are three theories to explain this. First, that the Maoist leaders are lying, which is thought unlikely. Second, that discipline among the Maoists is not as good as they claim and that rogue elements see robbery as a means of personal enrichment rather ideology. The third explanation is that criminals wishing to scare tourists describe themselves as Maoists for a more persuasive appeal.

**Those areas most threatened** have been consistently described as the mid west - areas like Dolpo, for example, and the country to the south. But there has been Maoist activity in eastern districts too, and there are undoubtedly cadres operating around popular trekking routes, if not actually in them. And in Kathmandu itself, the authorities recently dealt with a number of small explosive devices without injury.

It's fair to say that if the Maoists had wanted to damage the government by murdering tourists, it has had ample opportunity. Most of the activity is simply annoying to tourists and economically catastrophic to locally affected Nepalis. Most annoying of all are the regular strikes, which can hamper travel plans. Of course, every precaution should be taken, and the downturn in Nepali tourism since the mass killings is hardly surprising, but don't cancel your visit just yet.

In the last few weeks, Koirala has resigned as prime minister to be replaced by Sher Bahadur Deuba, considered to be more moderate in his approach to the insurgents. The rumoured explanation for Koirala's resignation is the unwillingness of the Nepali army to get involved in suppressing the Maoists. This would be seen as admitting the country was involved in a civil war. Deuba is currently trying to secure cross-party support to open negotiations with Prachanda. He recently released 15 Maoist rebels as an act of good faith. Prachanda responded by announcing that the his movement is "sincerely committed to leading the dialogue that has started to its logical conclusion to find a political solution to the challenges facing the country."

All of this uncertainty and lack of government has left Nepalis feeling bewildered and cynical about the political process. Economic growth is stagnant while the population increase continues to put pressure on the country's health and education services.

Before the assassinations and the current political crisis, the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation announced that it had recommended that up to 65 new peaks currently not on the list of mountains open for climbing will be added if the government approves the plan. Those 15 peaks which are most likely to be opened immediately are seven from the Kangchenjunga region, another seven in the Khumbu and one from Manasalu region named P2 Peak. Before the announced changes, there were 151 peaks open to mountaineering expedition including 18 so-called trekking peaks. There are 1,310 peaks above 6,000 metres in Nepal. According to an official in the ministry, eight expeditions had already applied to climb the new peaks.

The opening of the peaks was based on recommendations submitted by a team from the Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, and was commissioned by the government. Their report suggested increasing royalties to some popular peaks and expanding mountaineering to the remotest parts of the country with the incentive of comparatively lower royalty rates. These peaks are often much more expensive to reach. The report said: "Royalties charged on peaks in the Khumbu, Kangchenjunga, Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges should be drastically increased compared to other ranges." In 1998, 69 out of total 98 expeditions were made to the Khumbu area, and most of those climbed either Everest or Ama Dablam. The Nepal Mountaineering Association welcomed the move. Its president, Tashi Janbu Sherpa, said: "This is necessary as competition to attract mountaineers exists in India, China and other countries - this will certainly make Nepal more attractive to mountaineers."

Ed Douglas



Crown Prince Dipendra

For further information and regularly updated travel information, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website is helpful:

[www.fco.gov.uk/travel/countryadvice.asp](http://www.fco.gov.uk/travel/countryadvice.asp). Try lonely planet's news section 'Scoop' on [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)

## NEPAL SYMPOSIUM DEC 2001

### "Nepal explained..."

Look ahead to the dark days of winter and book your place at the mountaineering event of the year - the annual Alpine Club symposium at **Plas-y-Brenin** in North Wales on **Saturday 1st December**.

Always a highly successful gathering, the AC symposium aims to be informative, instructive and enjoyable bringing together speakers, (all active mountaineers) who are authoritative commentators on their chosen subject which this year is - **NEPAL**.

**Nepal was the last of the Himalayan Kingdoms to open its doors to Western explorers in 1950.** Since then it has rarely been out of the mountaineering and international limelight, not always for the right reasons! (see previous article)

The subject matter of the symposium is multivarious and will be of interest to experienced and first-timers alike covering as it does all aspects of mountaineering and wilderness trekking in Nepal. The speakers have been chosen to give insights into climbing 8000m giants, popular trekking peaks of more accessible height, desperate modern ascents of challenging summits and trekking through the wild and rarely traveled corners of this fascinating Kingdom.

Speakers include:

**John Cleare** - Internationally renowned mountain photographer will give a photographic and geographic overview of the Kingdom, its mountains and people.

World class climber **Pat Littlejohn** will talk about his bold alpine style ascent of Taweche with Mick Fowler, surely one of the most difficult climbs achieved to date in the Nepal Himalaya.

Peta Watts 'Waiting for Lhotse.'

Rick Allen' North Face of Dhaulagiri.'

Alpine Club President and pillar of British mountaineering **Doug Scott** will talk about his recent alpine style first ascent of **Drohmo South**, a stunning peak north of Kangchenjunga, with **Roger Mear**.

**Bill O'Connor** - International mountain guide and world authority on the 'Trekking Peaks of Nepal'.

**Bill Ruthven** on the MEF

International climber **Sergei Etimov** will talk on Himalayan adventures - Russian Style- on the South Pillar of Everest and on Kangchenjunga.

**Steve Rossetti** - well-known travel photographer and trekking guide will give a stunning show of trekking potential in Remote Nepal.

**Venue: Plas y Brenin**

**Date: Sat Dec 1st 2001**

**Tickets:** Includes symposium, morning coffee, lunch & tea

**(A) AC/ACG members** - £14.00

**(B) non-members** - £19.00,

**(C) Diner ticket (extra)** - £17.00

**Accommodation:** (if required)

**(A) Bunkhouse** £6.50 per night

**(B) Moelwyn cottage** £8.50 pn

## ALPINE SYMPOSIUM 2002

### "World Class Alpinists for AC Alpine Event"

Next March, the Alpine Club will be holding a symposium similar in format to the highly successful 1999 event 'Climbing into the Millennium'. The subject is 'Alpine-Style Climbing - Adventure and Commitment' and the organisers have booked an outstanding line-up of lecturers to appear at the Pennine Theatre at **Sheffield Hallam University**.



Silvo Karo

From Slovenia, **Silvo Karo** will talk on alpinism in Patagonia. Karo recently made the second ascent of the Slovakian route on Fitzroy. He has the reputation for

climbing long, committing big wall routes on remote peaks. He has climbed Cerro Torre, and was on the team that put up a major new line on the West Face of Bhagirathi III.

The famous Polish climber **Voytek Kurtyka** will give the keynote address, entitled 'No Limits!'. Kurtyka was one of the central figures in Polish Himalayan mountaineering during the 1970s and 1980s, arguably the most successful nation in the most successful period of Himalayan mountain exploration. In 1985, with the Austrian climber **Robert Schauer**, Kurtyka made the landmark first ascent of the West Face of Gasherbrum IV.

**Jack Tackle** is a leading American alpinist who has climbed in the Himalayas and South America but is best known for over two dozen expeditions to Alaska, which is the subject of his lecture.

**Yasushi Yamano** is 36, and one of Japan's leading mountaineers. His climbing resumé includes solo ascents of new routes on Kusum Kanguru, Cho Oyu and Ama Dablam, the latter in winter. He has climbed routes like Sphinx Crack (5.13b) in Colorado and Cosmic Debris (5.13a) in Yosemite, and he climbed a new route solo on Bublomotin at 5.10/A4.

There will be plenty of British climbers contributing as well: **Mick Fowler** will be on hand to introduce the day, **Simon Richardson** will lecture on the vibrant climbing scene in Scotland, **Andy Kirkpatrick** has done a number of bold ascents around the world, including most recently Reticent Wall in Yosemite. **Andy Cave** will introduce leading female alpinist **Louise Thomas** who will talk about Baffin Island and Doug Scott will give an overview on the whole question of alpine-style climbing.

Plenty of distractions from the lectures are planned, with a ropework workshop introducing the latest techniques for belaying, hauling and rope-ascending, a bookstall and other stands. The day will end with a party where you can meet the guests. The Alpine Symposium will be an outstanding event and we hope you'll join us.

Tickets are available from the Alpine Club at the reduced rate of £13 for members.  
(standard ticket price £18.00)

## LITERATURE EVENT

**15th International Festival of Mountaineering Literature** at Bretton Hall on Nov 10th 2001.

**Title: "How long can I keep this up!"**

Stunning line-up including B Washburn, Charlie Houston, P Morrow, Ed Webster

**Tickets are £17.50** from Terry Gifford, Univ of Leeds, Bretton Hall

Campus, Wakefield, WF4 4LG

## GENERAL MEETINGS

### Venue: 55/56 Charlotte Road

General meetings start at 7.30pm sharp, with the bar opening from 6pm. On street parking is legally available after 6.30pm in Charlotte Rd. The Library stays open until 7pm.

### October 9

#### Colin Knowles and Mike Ratty "Modest explorations in Lahul and Spiti"

Our members will lecture on recent exploration in Kulu and Spiti, with lots of adventures in an interesting area.



Colin Knowles

### November 13

#### Barbara and Bradford Washburn "Life and Times"

We are honoured that our member, ninety-one year-old Bradford Washburn and his wife Barbara (only 87) are visiting the Club while they are in England to headline the Festival of Mountaineering Literature. Brad's new book **Mountain Photography** has been winning international prizes throughout last year. His authoritative book **Mount McKinley: The Conquest of Denali**, co-written with David Roberts, is widely recognised as the finest book production of the last decade.



Bradford Washburn

## INFORMAL MEETINGS

**These meetings** provide a good opportunity for members to meet one another, and exchange news, views and information. New members and prospective members are particularly welcome. Such meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The bar opens at 6 pm, lecture starts at 7.30 pm. The library is usually staffed by volunteers between 5 and 7 pm.

### October 23

#### Nick Lewis "Safe Return Doubtful"



Nick Lewis describes three contrasting expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic which shot material for two forthcoming films on Shackleton. One a full-scale dramatisation shot on the East Coast of Greenland with Kenneth Branagh in the lead role, the other a documentary which filmed scenes in the Weddell Sea and a crossing of South Georgia by Reinhold Messner and the AC's own Stephen Venables.

### November 20

#### Simon Yates "The Uttermost Parts of the Earth"



Sailing out of Ushuaia, Simon heads into the Magellan Straits aboard Ada 2 with Andy Parkin bound for unclimbed peaks. He shows us the magic and adventure of traveling and climbing in the remote far South.

## INFORMAL MEETINGS

**November 27**

**Crag Jones**  
"Jones the Telly Gets  
High and Smelly"



**Jones... rear view!**

To prove that TV Soap is good for you, Crag Jones will relate broadcast adventures from the North Ridge of Everest to the Totem Pole and beyond ...!

## OTHER LONDON ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BUNKHOUSE

There are blankets in the Bunkhouse, so full sleeping bags should not be necessary. However, we would like to urge members using this facility to bring a sheet sleeping bag. The Bunkhouse is available on weekdays to members only, when they are on Club or other mountaineering business (these are the conditions accepted by our insurers as set out in a letter from them). Please confirm availability with the Asst. Secretary.

## MEMBERS TRIP

### East Greenland 2002

Roy Ruddle is willing to organise a Greater Ranges Meet in Greenland for 4 weeks in July/August 2002. Area to be visited is the **Elysees Gletscher Range** or **Frederik Bjerger mountains** in E. Greenland. These areas offer everything from unexplored peaks to ski-touring and 1st ascents of every grade.

Logistics will be arranged through **Tangent Expeditions**.

Anyone interested should contact Roy ASAP. A weekend meeting for those interested will take place in November, possibly at Roy's house near Almscliffe to finalise arrangements and destination. Firm commitments (and deposit!) will have to be given by January 2002.

**Contact details: Roy Ruddle, 5 Park Way, Pool in Wharfedale, Otley, West Yorks, LS21 1LD**

## NORTHERN LECTURES

### Venue:

These evenings held in Longland's Restaurant, above Outside in Hathersage, are very popular.

The lectures start at 7.30 pm. Contact Ed Douglas with suggestions for lectures and for further details.

Tel: (0114) 236 5589, mobile 0802 584974, e-mail [ed\\_douglas@compuserve.com](mailto:ed_douglas@compuserve.com)

**October 17**

**Andy Kirkpatrick:**

**'Alone with the Stone.'**

Andy is one of our foremost big-wall experts and he will fill us in on what it's like to solo one of Yosemite's hardest aid routes in his own inimitable style! A must see show!



**November 14**

**John Morgan:**

**"Baltic in the Arctic"**

John's account of his April 2001 trip to Schweizerland, East Greenland. This trip was part funded by the Nick Estcourt Award. The team climbed eight new routes, did many peaks on skis and got very cold!



## NORTHERN LECTURES

**December 12**

**Simon Yates**

**"The Uttermost Parts  
of the Earth"**



Sailing out of Ushuaia, Simon heads into the Magellan Straits aboard Ada 2 with Andy Parkin bound for unclimbed peaks. He shows us the magic and adventure of traveling and climbing in the remote far South.

## ALPINE SKI CLUB

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALPINE SKI CLUB

The Alpine Ski Club seeks to recruit enthusiastic men and women ski-mountaineers of competence and experience who have a continuing interest in ski mountaineering. Candidates will have completed at least 20 days of ski mountaineering over a minimum of four seasons in the Alps and other ranges. Particular weight is given to guideless ski mountaineering and mountaineering experience. Applicants must be proposed by ASC members. Prospective members are welcome to attend the Club's social events. For further information about the Club and an application form, please send an SAE to: - **Honorary Secretary ASC, James Harrison, 16A Blackford Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DS,** Tel 0131 452 8210. E-mail [secretary@alpineskiclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@alpineskiclub.org.uk) [www.alpineskiclub.org.uk](http://www.alpineskiclub.org.uk)

### ALPINE SKI CLUB TRANCEIVER HIRE SCHEME

The Alpine Ski Club operates a transceiver hire scheme (Trackers), which is open to non-members of the Club. The minimum charge for a period of up to two weeks use is £20, (£12 for members of the Alpine Ski Club or the Alpine Club). Transceivers are sent by registered post at the hirer's expense. For further information, current prices and an application form, please see the Alpine Ski Club's web pages at [www.alpineskiclub.org.uk](http://www.alpineskiclub.org.uk), or send an SAE to: John Fairley, Cooldara, Hill Way, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8BJ. Email [Hire@alpineskiclub.co.uk](mailto:Hire@alpineskiclub.co.uk)

## ALPINE CLUB GREETINGS CARDS



**The Alpine Club Christmas card**  
Monte Viso - Elijah Walton 1833-1880  
(Also available as a Post Card)

### AC Post Cards



Les Environs de St Branchier  
Samuel Weibel 1771-1846

### Christmas Cards 2001

Monte Viso. Pk of 10 (inc env)  
£6.00+75p p&p (£2.00 outside EEC)

#### Postcards

Set of 4 (see above) £1.00 + 20p  
p&p (50p p&p overseas)

#### AC Leisurewear

Sweatshirts: M(A) - £15.00,  
L (B) - £16.00

Poloshirts: M(C) only £14.50

Jogpants: L (D) and XL(E) £17.00

Silk Ties: (F) £17.00

Silk Bow Ties: (G) £17.50

The above items can be collected  
from Charlotte Street for a reduced  
price.

(Identification letters in brackets are  
for use when ordering using the new  
universal order form.)

### Alpine Ski Club AGM and Annual Dinner Wed 14 Nov.

The dinner will be held at the  
Army and Navy Club, London on  
Wed 14th November. The speaker  
and price (approx.£40.00) to  
be confirmed. Full info will be cir-  
culated with AGM details.



Mont Blanc from Servoz  
Samuel Birman 1793-1847



Grutli (sic) Uri Rostock from Lake Lucerne  
John Ruskin 1819-1900



Everest from Pang La  
T. Howard Somervell 1890-1975

## THE NEWSLETTER

### New Look Newsletter:

If you have any comments on our first  
attempt to liven up the AC's most impor-  
tant communication tool, please let us  
know.

Call Dick Turnbull on 01433 630970 or  
(better still) e-mail to  
dicktturnbull@hotmail.com

### We need contributions

We need contributions from members for  
publication on all matters from opinions  
or experiences to recent activities.  
Remember this (and www.alpine-  
club.org.uk) are the easiest way for club  
members to communicate with each  
other. Please help us to make this club  
relevant and interesting to you.

**Advertisers:** contact Dick Turnbull for a  
2002 rate card.AC members get 25%off

### A. G. CRAM

#### Mountaineering & Mountain Travel

Catalogue of old & antiquarian books  
Phone 0113 267 4207  
email g.cram@britishlibrary.net

## WINTER DINNER

**This year is the 133rd Alpine Club  
Dinner and the date is Saturday 8  
December.**

We are fortunate to have as our Chief  
Guest **Tom Hornbein**, whose  
achievements include being in the  
first party to traverse Everest in 1963.



**Venue:** Great Hall, St. Bartolomew's  
Hospital, West Smithfield, London  
EC1A7BE.

**Price:** £43.00 (includes aperitif, wines  
and soft drinks. Liqueurs are extra.)

**Dress:** Black Tie. When booking please  
give names and seating preferences.

To make it easier for members outside  
the London area to attend the Winter  
Dinner, the Asst. Secretary would be  
very interested to from London members  
who would be prepared to offer accom-  
modation for the night. Please telephone  
Sheila at the Club on (020) 7613 0755 if  
you are able to help.

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2001 ALPINE JOURNAL

This will be published in the autumn and  
distributed to all members whose sub-  
scriptions are up to date. If you do not  
receive your copy, please contact the  
Asst. Secretary.

### ACG 50th Anniversary

This winter sees the 50th anniversary of  
the ACG. In the early 90's Roy Ruddle  
began to compile an historical article on  
the ACG and is looking for members to  
help him. Roy hopes to publish the arti-  
cle in the AJ (and magazines) ASAP. If  
you want to help please contact Roy  
(address below)

### ACG-New Committee Needed.

Roy Ruddle is stepping down after 10  
years as the ACG Hon Sec. **Volunteers**  
are urgently needed to form a new com-  
mittee and build on the good work done  
by Roy and his group. Elections are  
planned to take place at the AC Alpine  
Symposium in March 2002. We need  
young hotshots to run the ACG! Contact  
Roy on 0113-233-2825.

## EUROPEAN NEWS

### Clear vote on Chamonix trucks

The communes of Chamonix, Les Houches and Servoz voted overwhelmingly in a referendum this weekend on the question "Do you consider that the international movement of heavy trucks in the Chamonix Valley via the Mont Blanc Tunnel is compatible with the natural and ecological equilibrium of the M.B. range and the health and safety of its inhabitants and visitors?"

In spite of the Administrative Tribunal in Grenoble having declared the referendum illegal, the turnout was 60% in the Chamonix valley.

97% voted NO, in Chamonix with similar results in Les Houches and Servoz.

However the real issue for many of the voters, said Catherine Destivelle, was not against trucks but against pollution in the valley. A 'ferroustage' system (trucks loaded onto trains for transit) is what should be considered for all European mountain passes.

Chamonix's mayor, M. Michel Charlet, is upbeat as the issue is now a hot one and the French minister of Transport, M. Gayssot, is due in the Chamonix valley in October to discuss the matter further. The tunnel is due to reopen in the autumn.

**Ben Holt**  
Geneva, 20.8.01

## LIBRARY NEWS

Alpine Club Librarian, **Margaret Ecclestone**, reports that she spent her summer break visiting 8 European mountaineering libraries in 6 countries. Her report is available on application.

**Cataloguing of the 'Tracts'** will soon be complete increasing the size of the library by 1/3! Many hidden gems have come to light - see the Hon. Librarian for details.

As usual the summer has had a steady **stream of visitors**, both fellow librarians coming to see how the AC runs what is the premier international mountaineering literature resource as well as academics researching everything from early tragic Russian attempts on Everest to women's mountaineering songs and details of historic figures from the guide Peter Bauman to F. Parrot and Whympers and Shackleton.

The list of **New Acquisitions** will be published in the next issue.

**Library Closing Times** (over Christmas.) **Dec 22nd - Jan 2nd**

### Saas Fee Summer Meet Report

Pam Casswell's report on the Summer Meet at Saas Fee will appear in the January newsletter.

## AC LEADER



### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

June this year saw the publication of Bill Norton's comprehensive 101 page Management Handbook. This event could well be a turning point for the Club in the way it conducts its business and on the positive impact the Club has on mountaineering both here and abroad.

From now on when it comes to recommending or selecting officers and members for Committees it is very clear what is expected of those being considered. Equally the prospective candidates now know what is expected of them and whether or not they are able to carry out the job. Once in place the new officer or committee member no longer spends the first year bewildered by working practices and the relationship of the constituent parts to the whole. A close scrutiny of Bill's book will enable the newcomer to swing straight into action!

All sub-committees have been given more autonomy and are expected to conclude their deliberations with clear recommendations for approval by the main committee. The effect of this has been to free up the committee from procedural matters in favour of time spent on topics related to actual climbing.

Already the amount of committee business has increased significantly and many new initiatives are under way which Glyn Hughes will list, including those that have already boosted membership, prompted events to celebrate the UN's Year of the Mountains next year and many others emanating from the marketing sub-committee, not least the format and content of our re-vamped website and this newsletter. Well done Bill O'Connor and Dick Turnbull.

The President and Vice Presidents especially Vice President, 'A', Martin Wragg, (see handbook!) have already produced two policy statements on behalf of the Club that have been widely circulated and so far approved. The first was in connection with the search for Sandy Irvine's body and camera and the other concerning the recovery of bodies on the high mountains.

The response from around the world has generally been positive and seen as timely in supporting and encouraging best practice.

There are other "burning issues" that need addressing and are being worked on including the climbing peaks of religious significance and retro bolting classic climbs in the Alps.

The President and Vice Presidents are grateful to Ken Wilson, Chris Bonington, Peter Gilman and other members who contributed to the previous Policy Statements and we invite anyone who has an opinion to contribute to future statements.

During the last few days I was in conversation with two prospective members, Paul Figg back from Alaska and a hard new route established on Mount Hunter and Twid Turner just home from Pakistan after a continuous 21 day attempt on the great Norwegian Route on Trango. With such climbers coming on board the future of the Club is looking good.

## MEETS

### SCOTLAND WINTER MEET February 1 - 2 2002



**Steward: Mike Fletcher.**  
Tel. (H) 01926 633022  
(W) 020 7202 5185,  
fletchm\_fletcher@uk.ibm.com

**This year the meet** will be at the stunningly located Pottery Bunkhouse, near Laggan, not far from the A9 at Dalwhinnie. A short drive to Creag Meagaidh, Cairngorm and the Ben a bit further.

16 places are currently booked. Full details can be found at

[www.potterybunkhouse.co.uk](http://www.potterybunkhouse.co.uk).

Price for the bunkhouse (A) is £9 per person per night. Put in your diary now. Please use new universal booking form to reserve your accommodation.

## MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES

### TANGENT RIGNYS BJERG AREA EXPEDITION 2001 North-east Greenland

A group consisting of Norman Vernon (co-leader), Robert MacCallum, Dave Rothery, Graham Poole, Sandy Gregson and Jim Gregson (co-leader) flew on 30 June from Isafjörður, Iceland to Constable Pynt, NE Greenland in a Twin Otter before flying on to Broadway Glacier at a rendezvous fixed with a Royal Navy group, N69°12' W26°45'.

Over the next sixteen days (nights in practice!) the Tangent group explored, skied and climbed peaks bordering Broadway Glacier and two of its side-branches, West Side Glacier and Hole in the Wall Glacier. Other ski tours revealed many unclimbed peaks still available in the **Rignys Bjerg area**. The group made first ascents on the South Side Traverse - Whiteliner Peak 2000m., Centrepoint 2025m. and Dumperfjeld 2030m. - a fine outing. From Hole in the Wall Glacier, the excellent NE face and ridge of Majordomo Peak 2310m. was done, with a complicated descent of the N face through seracs and crevasses. Starboard Ridge, the N arete of Anchorman Peak 2340m. gave a very good climb, mostly on snow/ice with a short rockband high up.

#### “ a *Biancograt of the Arctic* “

The most impressive climb completed was the **Harpoon Ridge (N arete) of Narwhal Tooth 2360m.**, a beautiful peak. This gem - a *Biancograt of the Arctic* - had an approach complicated by weakly bridged crevasses leading to a lower section studded with pinnacles, turned on the W side, then a switchback ice arete in a very exposed position to a final 'calotte' of hard ice protected with ice screws to gain a fine summit. Descent was made by the interesting W ridge (this mountain also has a very impressive and unclimbed N face). Other peaks climbed were Jack Tar Peak 2045m. by the S face and ridge; Farawa' Peak 1910m. by the Zorro Route (E face), with attempts on another two abandoned due to unfavourable conditions. A long ski tour to Col Beyond 2385m. at the head of West Side Glacier, running up to the Inland Ice revealed the huge Sorte Brae glacier system with hundreds of difficult-looking virgin peaks lying W of the Rignys Bjerg ranges. Note to would-be visitors - the rock in these areas is of a very suspect nature - giraffe-like tendency definitely needed!

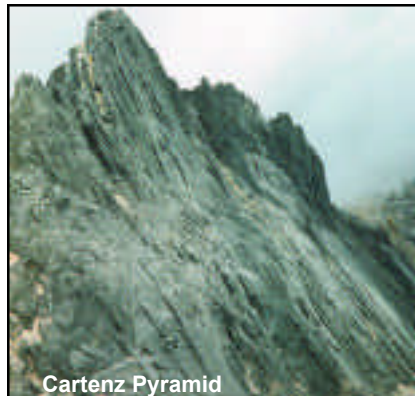
The Tangent group had only two short periods of poor weather with snowfall during their trip, before Twin Otter pick-up late on the evening of 15 July for direct flight back to Akureyri in Iceland.  
**Jim Gregson.**

## MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES

### CARTENZ PYRAMID Rob Milne.

**“What a neat mountain of rough limestone in a wild and adventurous setting.”**

I went with Stephen Koch from Wyoming whom I met at the International Meet and Corey Rich, professional photographer from California. (minimal team - 2 climbers and one photographer ;-))



After a few days to acclimatise (peak is 4884m, 16,000+ feet), Stephen and I did 2 new routes; a variation on the normal route which involved a couple of short cuts straight up slabs. Mostly VS and we simul climbed a bunch of it. Then we did a new route up the North Face to the right of the 'American Direct' on the headwall. Fantastic climbing on rough limestone, amazing water grooves and sharp holds. Rock is razor sharp and gloves are a MUST! I used fingerless gloves and my tips are still trashed. Mostly VS, but a short section of F6a+. (the face is 600m high). This is only the second line up the headwall and the only one on the headwall slabs. We went up the American Direct line on the lower half of the face. Simul climbed its 250m length in about 1.5 hours. (first ascent made a bivvy part way!) Really pleasant limestone slabs with short walls. Mostly F5+.

Anyone wanting to go there can e-mail me for info.

[milne@cix.co.uk](mailto:milne@cix.co.uk)

We used Adventure Indonesia [www.adventureindonesia.com](http://www.adventureindonesia.com) for all the in-country support. They were fantastic and I don't see how you could climb the peak without their local support. Our 'guide' has now done the peak 15 times! and is lots of fun in addition to being a great cook.

## AC POLICY DOCUMENT

### CLIMBERS WHO HAVE DIED IN THE HIGH MOUNTAINS

#### DISCOVERY AND RECOVERY

**It is often not possible for companions or others to recover the body of a climber in the immediate aftermath of an accident**, especially in the greater ranges. Recent events have highlighted the number of bodies that have been left at high altitude in more or less accessible locations. The Alpine Club is often asked to comment on this situation and has decided to issue this statement in the hope that its content will be helpful to others. In the context of ever-increasing activity on the highest peaks the Alpine Club seeks to assist this important and evolving debate.

#### Discovery

Finding the body of a dead climber is likely to be a disturbing experience. Even though its existence and location may have been previously known, the encounter can still cause shock and distress. Most climbers respond with sensitivity and common sense. However it is not always easy to get things right when operating in an extreme environment where participants may be close to their physical and mental limits. If the companions of the deceased have not been able to recover the remains, the onus passes to the climbing fraternity as a whole. If recovery is possible, this should be done, but in other cases there may be much that can be done that will provide comfort to the dead climber's family and friends.

The grief suffered by the family and friends of a climber lost in the mountains should not be underestimated. It is well established that the absence of a body makes the grieving process more difficult. This is often aggravated by the lack of detailed knowledge of the events giving rise to the accident or the location of the body. It is by establishing such information that those making the discovery can provide an important service to the family and friends as well as to the climbing community.

The Alpine Club recommends that the following actions should be taken, where possible:-

1. Establish the precise location of the body and prepare a location map
2. Examine the clothing carefully and respectfully so far as necessary to assist identification and recover personal possessions
3. Remove personal items such as camera, diary, notebook, photographs, letters or other personal artefacts and bag them for return to the family.
4. Photograph the body and location sympathetically for record-keeping purposes. Using suitable restraint,

include minor details of clothing and equipment which may help in identification.

On returning from the mountains, efforts should be made to identify the dead climber. Assistance with this process may be provided by a number of organisations and information sources particularly the American Alpine Journal and also the Himalayan Journal, the Alpine Journal and the Himalayan Index maintained by the Alpine Club.

All personal effects, photographs and other information should be delivered to the family of the deceased before information is provided to the media.

### Recovery

Recovering a body from a high mountain will never be easy, and extremes of altitude and location may render it near to impossible. It is important that the original tragedy should not be compounded by further loss of life, particularly among the local high altitude porters. It should also be recognised that great care will be necessary in the removal of the body, which is likely to be fragile. In many cases it will be frozen into the mountain and difficult to move. Here too, restraint and respect should be shown.

There have been many instances where bodies have been recovered, committed and buried on or near to the mountain. The Alpine Club considers that the remains should be left undisturbed, unless the family wishes them to be returned and the relevant authorities are able to co-operate. In other cases the remains are so remote and difficult of access that the prospect of successful recovery appears improbable. The Alpine Club suggests that in these circumstances it is preferable to commit and bury or cover the remains where they are. If that is not possible, they should be left at peace and undisturbed.

However there are other well documented situations where the location of a body, although remote, is frequently visited. This situation is particularly acute on the South Col route up Everest, a fact of which the international media have made much. The publication of photographs of bodies is distressing to the families, as well as to most other people and it generally discredits the mountaineering world.

The Nepalese and Chinese authorities in Tibet in co-operation with other nations have been considering forming expeditions for the express purpose of recovering climbers' bodies from Everest. The Alpine Club welcomes these proposals. The increase in mountaineering activity is likely to lead to more fatalities in the high mountains of the world, particularly on Everest and K2 where the physiological and technical challenges are at their greatest. The Alpine Club believes

that the international climbing community needs to take steps to recognise and address this issue whilst giving deepest consideration to the views of the families of the deceased. Any concerted plan to deal with the issue is likely to involve professional recovery teams which will require funding. The Alpine Club invites U.I.A.A. in association with national mountaineering federations to study the subject with a view to developing a coherent and comprehensive policy.

It is important to the family and friends and to the climbing community as a whole and mountaineering's image to the world at large that such tragic events are not sensationalised and are portrayed in a dignified, restrained and sensitive manner.

13 August 2001

Doug Scott - President  
Patrick Fagan - Vice President  
Martin Wragg - Vice President

## ALASKA NEWS

### ALASKA 2001

The increasingly in-vogue Central Alaska Range produced many of the World's major mountaineering events during the months of May and June. The combination of remarkable weather throughout most of June and the arrival of some of the best protagonists of alpine style climbing resulted in the most productive season in recent history. Many outstanding achievements came from single push ascents, a concept that is eminently suitable for Alaska's almost continuous 24 hours of daylight and normally rather fickle weather.

### *“---the most productive season in recent history---”*

The most notable was the new route, Light Traveller, on the South Face of McKinley by Slovenian Marko Prezelj, who you will remember was guest speaker at last year's AC Symposium, and Wyoming guide, Stephen Koch. These two were on the go for a continuous 51 hours to complete what may prove to be the most technically difficult big mixed climb in the range. The very accomplished American, Steve House, and super speedy Argentinean, Rolo Garibotti, made a continuous 25 hours ascent of the Infinite Spur on Foraker. The previous fastest time was seven days by Barry Blanchard and Carl Tobin, themselves certainly no slouches. On McKinley's huge Washburn Wall,

Americans, Ben Gilmore, Bruce Miller and Kevin Mahoney made a 26 hours first ascent of a prominent ice line they aptly christened Common Knowledge, while on the adjacent and even bigger Father and Sons Wall, British climbers, Kenton Cool and Ian Parnell made a continuous 47 hours round trip from the 14,200' camp on the West Buttress to climb their committing new line, Extraterrestrial Brothers. Left again Torray Riches and Aaron Zanto climbed a new and major variation to the North West Buttress, their four-day ascent proving that it is still possible to do new routes on McKinley of average difficulty. On Hunter's celebrated North Buttress Gilmore and Mahoney made the second ascent of Wall of Shadows, managing to find a sneaky way around the crux A4 pitches, while Koch and Prezelj made the first all free ascent of the classic Moonflower. Cool and Parnell had almost eliminated the aid on their ascent a few days previously and both parties put up hard new mixed routes on the 15-pitch Mini Moonflower to the left of the main buttress.

On the opposite side of the mountain British climbers, Malcolm Bass and Paul Figg, pulled off a highly committing first ascent (The Prey) when they climbed the right hand buttress on the remote East Face, spending a total of 10 days traversing the mountain in largely poor weather to Denali Base Camp. On neighbouring Thunder Mountain, Kelly Cordes, last year's assistant editor for the American Alpine Journal, and regular climbing partner, Scott de Capio, put up two hard new ice/mixed lines on the South Face, both times braving the difficult summit ridge to reach the highest point.

However, with 95% of climbers visiting Alaska heading for Denali Base Camp, the range has almost unlimited exploratory potential. At more modest levels

AC members Lindsay Griffin and Geoff Hornby joined Brian Davison and Australian, Dave Wallis, in the remote Cathedral Mountains west of Mt Russell. This area had only seen one previous visit and one ascent. The area did not prove to be as interesting as first thought and the weather during their July visit very poor but 18 probable first ascents were achieved, including a TD+ rock route, largely due to Davison's perseverance in mostly sketchy conditions. Previously Griffin had joined AC members, Mike Fletcher and Oliver Shergold who together with Richard Leech made

a rare visit to Glacier One east of the Ruth. Here they made six probable first ascents up to TD-/TD including a 28 hours round trip on Glisen. However, the main achievement was undoubtedly the first plastic sledge descent of Mt Sholes. New Wave plastic sledging will be a thing of the future and is expected to come of age in the next few years, the Sultana Ridge on Foraker, to name but one, being an eminently suitable target.

## MEMBERS TRIP

### NEPAL 2002:

Any members interested in joining a private 'do it yourself' trip to Nepal for one or two Alpine type peaks (5500m-6000m) in April -May 2002. The idea is for a low key, relatively low cost trip to climb, possibly ski one or two accessible peaks.

Logistics to be arranged directly using personal contacts in Nepal. Ideas and objectives still open for discussion. Decisions and plans by late Autumn.

John Moore, 18 Fairdale Gardens, London SW15 6JW  
Tel: 0208 789 4449

[jmcmoore@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcmoore@hotmail.com)

## FUNDS

### FREE MONEY!!!

#### The Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships 2002

"Could experience overseas help you in your job, your community or enhance a personal interest?"

If so, apply to: The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR Tel: 02075849315  
E-mail: [office@wcmt.org.uk](mailto:office@wcmt.org.uk)

Website: [www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk)

The website carries details of award categories for 2002, eligibility criteria, how to apply (including on-line registration form), brief details of the successful 2001 candidates and other useful information.

**Closing date for applications  
24th Oct 2001**

**Top Tip:-** 'Adventure, Exploration and Leaders of Expeditions' is a category!  
(This award is available every year so start thinking about it now, or put it off and do it next year with your nearest and dearest's approval!)

## MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Doug is keen for us to encourage friends and acquaintances who climb in the Alps or further afield to become members. This will help our influence on world climbing matters, and they will enjoy the club. With Doug's encouragement we are in the process of refreshing the benefits, which already include: information - from the Library, the Himalayan index, other members, symposia, the Journal. Also, four free guidebooks on joining as full member, reduced prices on other club's guide books free access to one of the worlds most comprehensive mountain libraries etc.

If I can help any prospective members in any way, please get in touch or suggest that they do - [martin@greatscott.ms](mailto:martin@greatscott.ms) or 020 7722 6322

### NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following six new members: **Marjorie Mortimer, Chris Comerie, Andrew Denton and Mark Herbert** as Full members and **Jules Cartwright and Paul Ramsden** to the ACG.

## ALPINE CLUB GUIDES

### GUIDE BOOKS

The following is the full list of the guidebooks in print available from the office  
(NB: each volume plus 75p postage unless collected from Club House.)

Prod.no	Guide	Members	Shops
1. 1988	Dolomites	£11.00	£15.00
2. 1990	MontBlancVol:1	£11.00	£15.00
3. 1991	Mont BlancVol:2	£11.00	£15.00
4. 1993	Bernese Oberland	£11.00	£15.00
5. 1995	Bernina/ Bregaglia	£13.20	£18.50
6. 1998	Valais West	£14.10	£19.50
7. 1999	Valais East	£13.20	£18.50

You will see that the Ecrins guide is out of print and out of stock. The new edition is being produced and will be published at the end of the year. Please use product numbers when ordering guidebooks with the universal order form included.


## RECIPROCAL RIGHTS

### Discount Guidebooks Scoop !

The AC has managed to negotiate a reciprocal discount guidebook deal with two of England's senior climbing clubs, the Climbers Club and the Fell and Rock Climbing Club. AC members will be able to buy CC guidebooks at a **25% discount** from the guidebook distributor, **Cordee** (0116-254-3579). FRCC guides are available from **Ron Kenyon**, 30, Wordsworth St, Penrith, Cumbria. CA11 7QY

CC and FRCC members will be able to buy AC guides at the same 25% discount from Sheila at 55, Charlotte St, London EC2A 3QF. Tel: 020-7613-0755.

# GLACIER BOOKS



## Mountaineering & Polar Exploration Specialists

A VAST SELECTION OF BOOKS ON ALL ASPECTS OF  
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 Himalayan & Asian Travel - The Dolomites - The Pyrenees -  
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## New, Secondhand & Antiquarian Books

## MEMBERSHIP

### FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

(Proposer=(P) Second=(S))

The following candidates have applied for membership of the Club and, as per our rules, members are invited to communicate their views.

**Roland Hunter** Accountant  
Martin Scott (P)  
Angel Vila (S)  
Flat 3, 190 Cedars Road, Clapham,  
London SW4 0PP

**James Thacker** Civil Servant  
Richard Pash (P)  
Tom Chamberlain (S)  
34 Milton Road, Repton, Derby DE65  
6FZ

**Rob Magowan** HM Forces  
Steve Jackson (P)  
Dave Nichols (S)  
23 Gorse Lane, Wrecclesham,  
Farnham, Surrey GU10 4SD

**Andy Holborn** Freelance mountain  
instructor  
Mike Rosser (P)  
Stuart Thompson (S)  
3 Charlton Terrace, Ivybridge, Devon  
PL21 0AV

**Paul Figg** Forestry Estimator  
Martin Scott (P)  
Doug Scott (S)  
11 Mowbray Grange, Bedale, Yorks  
DL8 2DN

**Louise Thomas** IFMGA guide & Chief  
Instructor  
Lindsay Griffin (P)  
Martin Scott (S)  
Tyn Weirglodd, Penisarwaun,  
Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4AX

**Paul Cook** Physicist  
Diane Hampton (P)  
John Starbuck (S)  
11 Holly Bank, Whitehaven, Cumbria,  
CA28 6SA

**Malcolm Bass** Clinical Psychologist  
Clive Westlake (P)  
Martin Scott (S) Path Head,  
Sessay, Nr Thirsk, N. Yorks, Y01  
3BE

**Chris Barryman** RAF Officer  
Ian Venables (P)  
Colin Scott (S)  
25, Jane St, Shipley, W. Yorks BD18  
3HA

## MEMBERSHIP

### FOR ASPIRANT MEMBERSHIP

**Nigel Pick** Project Management  
Richard Vowles (P)  
Sam Marshall (S)  
1 Brueton Avenue, Solihul, West  
Midlands

Of the many achievements of the new members especially notable are Chris Comerie's spirited attempt on the North Ridge of Kangchenjunga in 1998, Jules Cartwright's new route "The Knowledge" on Mt Hunter last year which was nominated for the Piolet d'Or and Paul Ramsden's new route "Dream Sacrifice" on Thunder Mountain.

And of the applicants, Paul Figg and Malcolm Bass's recent new route "The Prey" on Mt Hunter, described as "one of the most impressively committing efforts by Brits in recent years", and Louise Thomas' excellent new route "Few Dollars More" on the East Face of la Mascara in the Torres del Paine earlier this year, the latest of a string of superb first ascents she has made around the world.

## BOARDMAN/TASKER

### BOARDMAN TASKER AWARD FOR MOUNTAIN LITERATURE

This prestigious award is made annually. The award ceremony will take place on Friday 9 November at the Club, its usual venue. 24 books have been received and there is a short list of six books chosen by the three judges Steve Goodwin, Dr Mikel Vause and Andrew Greig. Personal experience and originality are features of the short list this year. Unusually, the six books include no biography. Instead a novel, ski-mountaineering, climbing at the edge of survival, spiritual exploration and a bit of biking, vie for the £2,000 prize.

**Climbing Everest** Pat Ament  
(Ragged Mountain Press)

**The Middle-aged Mountaineer**  
Jim Curran (Constable)

**Pyrenean High Route**  
John Harding (Tiercel)

**Hazard's Way** Roger Hubank  
(Ernest Press)

**Touching my Father's Soul**  
Jamling Tenzing Norgay (Ebury Press)

**Snow in the Kingdom** Ed Webster  
(Mountain Image)

## KENDAL FILM FESTIVAL

### THOMAS HUBER & IMAX at KENDAL

#### Lectures:

Many regard Thomas Huber as the world's leading all-round climber with ascents of the hardest rock routes and alpine style Himalayan climbs including the 2nd ascent of the Ogre. He joins and already strong lecture program of Doug Scott, Mick Fowler, Bu Bu (Mario Bole), Jim Curran, Airlie Anderson, Johnny Dawes, Niall Grimes, Steve Razzetti, Bill O'Connor, Rab Anderson, Ian Mitchell and Jack Law, plus BMC, MEF and Nick Estcourt Award expedition lectures.

Films: Over 40 films will be shown including special preview showings of the new IMAX film, Shackleton. (Limited tickets at Rheged NMC £12.50)

Arts: Exhibitions by Julian Heaton Cooper and Andy Parkin. Photos by Steve Razzetti and seminars on photography, film-making and art.

Competitions: an 'open' bouldering comp and Photographic comp with the Eagle Creek Landscape prize and Thermo-Rest Action prize.

Details: [www.mountainfilm.co.uk](http://www.mountainfilm.co.uk) or phone 01539725760 or 725133 for details and tickets.



## NEPAL EXPEDITIONS

### 22 Expeditions this Autumn

The Government of Nepal has announced that its Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation has granted permission to 22 expeditions for 15 different peaks between Sept 1st to Nov 15th 2001. 3 teams are each going to Ama Dablam (6812m), Dhaulagiri (7161m). 2 each to Annapurna IV (7555m), Barunste (7129m), Pumori (7161m), and 1 team each to Annapurna III (7555m), Mt. Api (7132m), Hungchi (7036m), Manaslu (8163m), Numbur (6957m), Ramtang (6700m), Raksha Urai (6539m), Teng Kampoche (6500m), Tilicho (7134m), and Tukucho (6920m).

### Annual General Meeting 2001

The AGM will be held on Dec 7 at Charlotte Road The bar will be open as usual from 6pm. Followed by valedictory

The Agenda for the AGM (enclosed with this Newsletter) carries the Committee's nominations for the Officers of the Club (as defined under Rule 4) and for the posts of Elective Committee Members (as specified under Rule 5), these nominations being required under Rule 38. No other nominations have been received.

## FROM THE HON SEC

In the April 2001 Newsletter, under the heading '**Future Direction of the Club**', I outlined some of the initiatives that had come out of the extensive discussions at Committee Meetings during the previous year. Doug Scott has described in greater detail elsewhere in this Newsletter the progress that has been made in the management of the Club, and the content of and response to the policy statements that have been issued.

In addition to this there has been much activity from the Marketing group, which is headed by Bill O'Connor. The most obvious development is the Newsletter itself, which has been completely revamped by Dick Turnbull. The objective is to transform both the appearance and content of the Newsletter, and I think you will agree that Dick has made a tremendous start with his first issue. However, to keep up the standard and make the Newsletter really worth reading needs contributions from you the members. One of the more glaring omissions from the Newsletter in the past has been news on members' actual and proposed climbing activities, and I would urge you all to

## FROM THE HON SEC

to contribute any material that you feel would be of interest to the membership in general.

Bill's group is now also working on a complete makeover of the Club website, to make it of real interest to both members and non-members alike.

Our Membership Secretary Martin Scott has been very busy promoting the Club with a new glossy leaflet, which has been widely distributed in the climbing press, and has produced a heavy response. Converting interest in membership to actual applications can sometimes be like drawing teeth, but Martin is bringing in the candidates, with some success in the target market of young, active climbers who are making exciting new routes in the greater ranges. Members can help here too by actively encouraging friends to join.

Next year is the UN Year of the Mountains, and the Club is planning special events to mark this special year. Those of us who were lucky enough to attend the wonderful Symposium in Sheffield in March 1999 ('Climbing into

the Millennium') will look forward to another major AC event at the same venue next March. A tremendous line-up of speakers is assured.

The Alpine Club Library has also been very active working on cataloguing, preserving and marketing the Club's various heritage collections. George Band, Chairman of the Library Council, gives an informal report on these activities at the Club AGM each year, and a summary of his 2000 report appears in the AGM papers which are included with this Newsletter. To keep members more up to date with the work of the ACL, we will include George's 2001 report with the next Newsletter.

As ever, the smooth operation of the Club and Library requires a lot of work by volunteers, both members and non-members. If you would like to help with this work, please contact me or the relevant officer.

Glyn Hughes.

### Special offer from *Bâton Wicks* to AC Members (in the UK) for the duration of this newsletter

#### RECENT BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO AC MEMBERS

1. **Himalaya Alpine Style** (Fanshawe/Venables) £30 (hardback)
2. **Frank Smythe - the Six Alpine/Himalayan Books** £18.99 (hardback) includes: *Climbs and Ski Runs / Kangchenjunga Adventure / Kamet Conquered / Camp Six / Valley of Flowers / Mountaineering Holiday* With new maps and photos, detailed appendices and much additional material. Note this book has been highly acclaimed by reviewers and is commended even if you have several of the originals.
3. **Fontainebleau Climbs** (Montchasse / Godoffe) £15.99 (guidebook)
4. **Classic Dolomite Climbs** (Memmel / Kohler) £16.99 (guidebook)
5. **Nanda Devi - Exploration and Ascent** (Shipton / Tilman + Houston) includes: *Nanda Devi / The Ascent of Nanda Devi* + appendices £10.99
6. **Conquistadors of the Useless** (Terry) £10.99 (plus added material)
7. **Hermann Buhl - Climbing without Compromise** (Hoffler / Messner) £16.99. Buhl's original Nanga Parb. Pilg. text reappraised. (hardback)

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