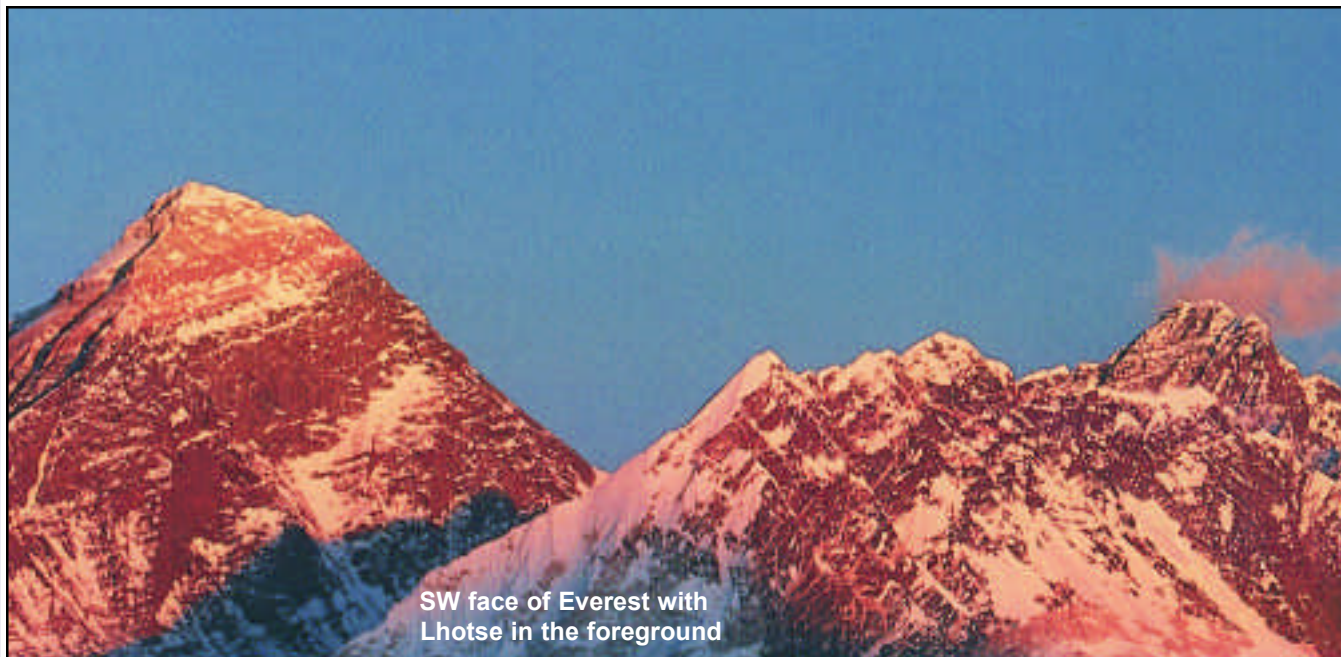


ALPINE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

2/2003

April 2003



SW face of Everest with
Lhotse in the foreground

Calendar...

April 1st General Meeting

Harish Kapida 'The God that did not fail'

April 15th Informal Meeting

Phil Wickens 'Winter climbs in Antarctica'

May 13th General Meeting

Ian Parnell 'South Face of Denali'

May 28th No Informal Meeting

Everest Reception

May 17th /18th AC Peak District Meet

June 10th General Meeting

Rob Collister 'Ski ascents in the Gangotri and Bandarpunch, India'

June 27th Ski Mountaineering Symposium

July 12/19th ABMSAC Zillertal Meet

July 19/26th ABMSAC Otztal Meet

July 26th/Aug 16th AC Alpine Meet



Everest 50 years ago
May 29th 1953

Copyright Royal Geographic Society

Calendar...

Aug 30th/Sept 6th ABMSAC Tour de Trient & Dents du Midi Meets

Sept 26/27th AC Lakes Meet

Oct 2003 AC Greece Meet

Nov 29th Canadian Symposium, Annual Dinner

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George Band Charles Wiley Mike Ward John Hunt HRH The Queen Ed Hillary Mike Westmacott Alf Gregory George Lowe
Nawang Gombu Griff Pugh
Photo taken in May 1993

The Everest's of 1953

Where are they now?

by George Band

We were a team of 13: 10 climbers and three specialists, doctor, physiologist and cameraman. On arriving in Kathmandu, we included Tenzing in the climbing team and were later joined by James Morris, a special correspondent from The Times. Certainly Everest changed all our lives to a greater or lesser degree. Seven of us are hopefully surviving to celebrate the 50th Anniversary on 29 May. But I would first pay respect to those who have passed on:

Tom Bourdillon was sadly killed, together with Dick Viney while climbing the East Buttress of the Jāghihorn in the Bernese Oberland in 1956.

Wilfrid Noyce gave up teaching after the success of his book 'South Col'. He was also killed, together with Robin Smith, while descending Peak Garmo in the Russian Pamirs in 1962.

Tom Stobart after the great success of his Everest film, continued his adventurous life, being shot in the leg, in Ethiopia when an armed guard ran amok. Never easy to contact, I think he died in 1978.

Tenzing Norgay had every reason to have his head turned by the god-like adulation he received after the climb. But his innate strength of character, and qualities as a natural gentleman, and his flashing smile, pulled him through. He became Chief Instructor at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling set up by Nehru to 'train a thousand Tenzings'. Sadly in later years, he told Hillary he often felt lonely and insecure. He died in Darjeeling in May 1986.

Griffith Pugh continued his research in high altitude physi-

ology and adaptation to cold climates advising the Americans at the South Pole. Growing rather lame, he came to our 40th Anniversary celebrations in his wheelchair and died in 1994.

Charles Evans, by profession a brain surgeon, led the successful expedition to Kangchenjunga in 1955. After being Chief Druid at the Llangollen Eisteddfod - he spoke Welsh since childhood - a new career opened up as Principal of the University College at Bangor. Sadly he developed multiple sclerosis but was still able to continue until retirement and died in 1995.

John Hunt. One cannot do justice to John's career in a few lines. After Everest, he was increasingly in demand to lecture or work with young people, so he decided to give up a promising military career to become the first Director of the newly created Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He must have inspired thousands to take up and enjoy challenging outdoor pursuits. Created a Life Peer in 1966, he began an exceptional period of public service, being appointed a Knight of the Garter in 1979. He was President of the AC and the RGS. At last beginning to show his age, he happily presided over our 'Everest Family' 45th Anniversary Reunion in 1998 but died in November that year. Lord Longford paid tribute: 'In my eyes, Lord Hunt was the greatest Englishman of his time'.

And now for the 'magnificent seven' survivors in the order of their age:

Alfred Gregory. Greg returned to his Travel Agency but gradually converted to a career in photography, leading treks and tours to exotic locations. He and his wife, Sue, now live in the Dandenong Hills, near Melbourne, where he still holds exhibitions and takes dramatic photographs of the Australian outback.

Edmund Hillary had the most dramatic change of lifestyle of any of us. His life still seems to evolve around a continuous series of lectures and public appearances

His face graces the New Zealand five dollar bill. After leading a team of tractors to the South Pole, he jet boated up the Ganges 'From the Ocean to the Sky'. He became New Zealand's High Commissioner for India and was also made a Knight of the Garter. But perhaps the achievement which has given him most satisfaction is his Himalayan Trust - helping to improve the lives of the Sherpas. His son, Peter, has now climbed Everest twice.

Charles Wylie became Military Attaché in Kathmandu, being the third generation of his family to be involved with Nepal. After retirement from the Gurkhas, he worked for various Nepalese charities. He was on Jimmy Roberts' expedition to Machapuchare, 22,940', where Wilf Noyce and David Cox got within 150' of the summit on very steep ice and decided to exercise discretion. Roberts successfully persuaded the Nepalese to leave it a virgin peak.

George Lowe's filming at high altitude added greatly to Stobart's Everest film. He then joined the crossing party in Fuchs' Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Resuming teaching, he accepted a headmastership in Chile and later became an H.M. Inspector of Schools, settling in Derbyshire. He and his wife, Mary, are Chairman and Secretary of the UK Branch of Ed Hillary's Himalayan Trust.

Michael Ward became a London surgeon and also developed a special interest in high altitude physiology. While wintering at 19,000' on the Silver Hut Expedition, he made an unofficial first ascent of the spectacular Ama Dablam, 22,494'. In the 1960s, he was able to do some exploration in Bhutan while looking after the health of its King. He later joined a Royal Society expedition traversing Tibet and has written about early Central Asian travellers.

Michael Westmacott returned to his work as an agricultural statistician at Rothamsted but later joined Shell as an economist on rather better terms. He has continued climbing actively longer than any of us, encouraged by his wife, Sally, who was the first lady to join the Alpine Club. Michael has rendered great service to the Club, as both Chairman of the Library and President. He also developed the Club's unique Himalayan Index now available on the Internet.



Ward Lowe Band Rawlinson Pugh Jackson Hilary E Jones Nicol Morris
Westmacott Hunt Gregory Wilely Stobart

James Morris was not a climber, but deserves to be 'mentioned in dispatches'. He became a brilliant and very successful writer. His magnum opus was the Pax Britannica trilogy of the rise and decline of the Empire. I took him on his first journey up the Khumbu Ice-Fall and his description of this experience is a highlight of the Everest film. Although we never realized it in the 1950s, he had a growing desire to change gender and has now become Jan Morris, still writing prolifically although considering her book on Trieste to be her last.

George Band. Finally myself. The modest fees from lecturing and writing after Everest kept me independent for four years with expeditions to Rakaposhi, Kangchenjunga, Peru and the Caucasus. 'When was I going to get a proper job?' said my parents. This became a life work

with Shell in oil and gas exploration and production in seven countries, finally helping with North Sea development. So climbing became mere recreation, and involvement with the Club, the MEF, BMC and the Himalayan Trust, while still now allowing one or two adventurous journeys each year with 'Far Frontiers'. How long can one keep it up? Belarius put it well in Shakespeare's Cymbeline: 'Now for our mountain sport. Up to yond hill; Your legs are young; I'll tread these flats!'.

One of several books to be published in April/May in connection with the Everest Jubilee is: 'Everest: 50 Years on Top of the World' by George Band, published by Harper Collins in association with the MEF, the Alpine Club and the RGS, for £20 incl. p&p. Call credit card hotline, 087 787 1732, or send a cheque to Mail Order Dept 246K, Harper Collins, Westerhill Road, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 2QT



George Band receiving the rightful obeisance his beard and breeches deserve!

More examples of Member's activities in 2002 from all over the world.



Murchison Falls

Murchison Falls, Canadian Rockies

This was my second visit to Canada to sample waterfall ice. We were staying with Terry Kenny who organises these brilliant Climbers Club meets to the Rockies.

My climbing partner this time was Dave Campbell; we warmed up on several grade 3/4 classics (Bow Falls, Cascade and Riverview) then decided to go for something a bit harder. Murchison Falls by Trevor Jones and Tom Whittaker (1977) is given 4+ and we didn't know anyone who had done it, so no gen on what state it was in.

An early start travelling north along Icefields Parkway with spin drift snaking across the road gave everything that big remote feel. Dave parked the car where the guide book indicated but got a little too far off the road and dropped the nearside wheels in a hole in the snow.

Fortunately, after about a quarter of an hour of fruitless shunting some friendly Canadian skiers came along and pushed us out. Not a good start.

The walk up to the falls following the stream up through the pine forest seemed steep and endless. Eventually, we broke through the pines and there it was and nobody ahead of us. In fact we had the falls to ourselves all day.

Leaving our rucksacks at the base,

we started up two easy ice pitches to the start of the difficulties. We belayed on an insitu abalakov and tried to decide which way to tackle this immensely steep wall of ice. We were belayed in a sort of groove on the right, a faint rising ramp line went off left which gave a weakness to the wall. I'd just make a couple of steep moves up and left to gain this line, when a jet of water two metres wide powered out of the ice ten metres below us washing down the line we had come up. A major dither ensued but finally we pulled ourselves together and continued up the ramp on strange dinner plates of ice; I had the feeling that any of them could just crack off and take me with it.

After a long pitch I belayed on the ice pegs in a little groove, Dave lead through up an easier section to beneath the second steep section. The sun was now blasting us and great icicles above started to flow with water, giving us a shower every time the wind caught them. I lead directly up another very steep pitch and belayed again on ice screws at an easing in the angle. Dave's lead went out right and up a weakness, then finally the top of the fall belaying on insitu bolts and pegs on the right.

The sun was disappearing fast and ropes were icing up with the showers from the icicles below. We only had an hour of daylight so the abseils had to go without a hitch. The first was a mind blower a full sixty metres free, just reaching the stance before the final steep section. A nasty traverse to a single rusty bolt in a nose of rock jutting out of the ice gave us another sixty metre free abseil. When I got down to Dave the ropes hadn't quite got to the abalakov, so we had a short down climb before abseiling again.

By now it was dark, although we knew roughly the boulder we were making for (we had seen it on the way up). After a frantic feel round the boulder we found the tat and the last abseil made to our sacks and head torches.

What a route! We were just lucky that the abseils pulled ok, one stuck

rope and it would have been a very cold bivi.

The walk back down through the forest had its moments when huge clawed paw prints kept appearing in the beam of our head lamps; but fortunately an uneventful walk back to the car.

John Sumner

20/1/03



**Looking down
Murchison Falls**

My Year of Mountains.

New Year's Eve 2001 was spent parked in a lay-by in the far north-west of Scotland watching horizontal sleet slash by the campervan's windows. Next day we beat a retreat to the Cairngorms where gale force winds blew us off our feet every time we tried to get high until the weather finally crapped out completely and we went home. Not a good start to the year, but it got me thinking. My 50th birthday was coming up in April and I'd spent the best part of the last 3 years working on an MA that had become seriously bogged down the previous autumn. The Year of Mountains was the final spur: Carpe Diem and all that...let's see about getting things done!

An opportunist ski trip to Courmayeur in late January was followed in February by a superb ski tour around the Aiguestortes national Park in the Catalan Pyrenees. Quiet huts and routes amongst

spectacular pinnacled ridges and frozen lakes where summits offered tempting views of yet more peaks, this was something to whet the appetite.

Since the AC symposium on Nepal I'd been hesitating about joining the ASC expedition to Iran that David Hamilton had told me about. George Dubyers loony rantings about the "axis of evil" might be pure propaganda, but if someone put my country on notice of military action against it, I wouldn't be too hospitable to visitors from that quarter of the world. It looked like my long-cherished ambition to climb Damavand 5600m on ski would be deferred for the foreseeable future. Then I learnt of the ASC's plans. 16 of us should be safe enough. We set off in March.

In the event, anti-Islamic propaganda was quickly countered by personal experience, with fathers introducing their daughters, husbands their wives, so that they would have the opportunity to practice their English. They may have had their own dress code but all the people we met were friendly and helpful, and I'd have no hesitation in going back there now. The expedition made an abortive attempt to explore the Zagros Mountains, which ended in avalanche and sustained bad weather but at least we had the chance to visit the astonishingly beautiful city of Esfahan. Then we made some ski ascents of 4000m peaks around the ski resort of Shemshak to acclimatise: a superb 3-day trip using a very rough shelter as a base. The huts on Damavand were also very basic and in gale force winds and temperatures of -20C a party of only 5 set out for the summit. As conditions grew more extreme, one by one 3 more of us dropped out but the expedition was successful in putting 2 members, Alex Miller & David Hamilton on the summit. I'll be back. Amazingly my problems with research and completing my MA were also resolving themselves so that I could submit at the end of April for graduation that summer. But I missed the graduation ceremony so I could catch up on some more climbing!

Having decided to go for the Kyrgyzstan Pik Lenin Festival in August, which was the focus of that country's activities to celebrate the



Pokharkan South Face

Year of Mountains, Yvonne & I went out to the Alps to get some acclimatisation. Neither of us had spent much time in the Bernina and Piz Bernina was one of the few 4000ers I hadn't climbed so we arrived there in June. Lots of snow and a freezing level of about 5000m meant conditions were far from ideal, but in the end we managed some snow & ice ascents of what would normally be walking peaks as well as Piz Julia, Morteratsch, Palu & Bernina. Calling in to Courmayeur on the way to Chamonix we failed on a heavily snowed up Grandes Jorasses. The weather was equally disappointing in Chamonix where we only managed the odd rock route in the Aiguilles Rouges between days of rain until just before we were due to depart when I soloed the Droites. It was the first ascent of the season, leaving the Grandes Jorasses as the only Alpine 4000er I have left to climb. We returned home for a week before flying out to Kyrgyzstan. ITMC organised the Pik Lenin Festival very smoothly for the Kyrgyz AC, and again, despite Foreign Office advice not to travel south of Osh we never felt under threat. Yvonne stormed up Pik Petrovsky (4800m) with me floundering in her wake, trying to acclimatise after arriving at base camp (3700m). Then local horses carried loads up to ABC (4300m) from where we made a series of double carries to camps 2 (5300m) & 3(6200m). On the long west ridge to the summit Yvonne was forced to turn back but I made it in strong winds, pebble-dashed with snow pellets.

Non-technical but serious, the route was a great opportunity to climb with mountaineers from many different countries, some, like the Iranian team, making the first ascent of Pik Lenin by a national of that country and we continue to keep in touch

with friends made in the process. On the walk out to base camp we had a remarkable encounter with a lone wolf which I followed discreetly to its marmot kill and was lucky enough to get close enough to photograph. We were 2 of just 5 British attendees, 3 of whom summited. At £300 all in the festival was a real bargain! Returning in September I was away again to Nepal at the end of October for the AC expedition to Pokharkan. We were fortunate to trek in to a remote area near the Tibetan border and, without photographs, to rapidly identify and climb a new route, the second ascent. The stark landscape, cheerful people, and wildlife, evidenced by a recent snow leopard kill and Himalayan bear tracks as well as sightings of blue sheep, golden eagles, lammergeyer and griffon vultures, provided a memorable context for the climb. I count myself particularly lucky not only to have been one of the summiteers but also to have led the crux pitch pictured in the last newsletter.

The year concluded with a visit to the Ecrins, joining the CC for a week at Puy St. Vincent. This turned out to be mostly skiing owing to the lack of ice, but with some fine day tours thrown in. On Jan 1st 2003, John Evans, Steve Gould, Mike Pinney and I lunched on the summit of La Blanche in glorious sunshine with the Pelvoux and Ailefroide shouldering in close by and a vast panorama of snowy peaks stretching away southeast of us. A 1000m powder snow descent brought us back to the piste & the end of a day that could not have been more different than the previous year. Is that a good omen for 2003?

Dave Wynne-Jones

(Dave completed his MA in novel writing last summer so we hope to be reviewing his first novel some - time soon!)



Alpamayo Pequeno 5370m

Bolivia in Winter

My climbing highlight of 2002 was a very successful three-week visit to Bolivia's Cordillera Real in July. It was an informal and low budget trip with my friend Mike Beecham. I had been to Bolivia twice before and was familiar with the area so we simply flew to La Paz with our gear and organised vehicles and mules as necessary to get to our chosen the base camps. We were successful on three of the five peaks we attempted and the failures came towards the end of our trip as a result of unseasonable fresh snow that stopped us on both Illampu (6368m) and Huayna Potosi (6088m). With flights booked and jobs to get back to we could not wait for conditions to improve.

We were more successful in the earlier part of our visit when we spent a week in the beautiful Condoriri group camping by a trout filled lake and surrounded by sparkling white peaks and perfect blue skies. From this idyllic base we

climbed Alpamayo Pequeno (5370m via SW ridge PD+), Condoriri (5648m via SE Face D+) and Pyramide Blanca (5230m SW face AD). I'm no technical climber and the SE face on Condoriri was the hardest and most satisfying route I have led. It is a great line on a stunning peak - although there were a couple of moments when I thought I was about to make a gravity-assisted descent to the glacier below!

The Bolivian winter normally has stable weather with little snow, base camps are easy to reach from La Paz by Jeep/mule, there is no bureaucracy and climbers can pick from a vast array of routes on peaks from 5000m to 6500m across the grades. It is a great destination for a group of friends wanting an affordable easily organised trip to big mountains beyond the Alps. I would be happy to hear from anyone planning a trip in 2003 who wants pick my brains. I will definitely be going back one day to have a proper go at the elusive Illampu.

Mark Herbert



Cabeza de Condor 5648m

Chamonix and Celebrities

Chris Thistlethwaite(Fylde MC) and I had another terrific week in Chamonix in late September. The Chapelle De La Gliere, NNE ridge of Aiguille De La Perseverance, and the Amone slab were brilliant though the abseils on Perseverance were far longer than expected. We met another Alpine club member on the slab- Victor Saunders and two of his clients. I recalled meeting Victor



Amone slab

back in the eighties in Glencoe, not that long after I had taken Joe Simpson on his first ever snow and ice climb when we were both students at Edinburgh University. Anyway Victor gave us some useful route tips and was kind enough to make sure we knew about some dangerously loose rock at the top (probably worse for following parties if it came off). Back in Chamonix we cragged at Les Gaillands and La Joux and froze and were blown up (so to speak) at a heater-less Envers des Aiguilles hut where they were bringing down some loose rock. Too cold to rock climb too!

July Newsletter
Deadline
June 20th
2003
Please continue to
send me your experi-
ences, opinions, -anything!
Please!!

Discounted Guide Books

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

	Members	Shop
Dolomites	£11.00	£15.00
Mont Blanc Vol. 1	£11.00	£15.00
Mont Blanc Vol. 2	£11.00	£15.00
Bernese Oberland	£11.00	£15.00
Bernina and Bregalia	£13.25	£18.50
Valais West	£14.15	£19.50
Valais East	£13.25	£18.50
Ecrins	£12.50	£17.50

CC guidebooks are available at **discounted prices** to AC and ACG members from Cordee, 3a DeMontfort St, Leicester Le1 7HD. (Please add 80p P&P for single copies. Two or more are post free.

FRCC guides are also available at **discounted prices** from Ron Kenyon, FRCC Guidebooks Business Manager, 30 Wordsworth St, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7QY. P&P included - cheques payable to 'The Fell and Rock Climbing Club.'

CC Guides

Southern Sandstone	£10.50	N Devon and Cornwall	£12.00
Clogwyn Du'r Arrdu	£10.13	Ogwen and Carneddau	£13.88
Lliwedd	£7.50	Tremadog	£10.13
N Wales Limestone	£3.75	Lundy	£11.25
Pembroke + supplement	£16.88	Into the Blue	£6.00
Wye Valley	£11.25	Pembroke Supplement	£2.63
Symonds Yat	£6.75	West Cornwall	£14.96

FRCC Guides

Borrowdale 2000	£11.25	Gable and Pillar	£10.50
Buttermere and E. Crags	£10.50	Dow, Duddon and Slate	£10.50
Scafell, Wasdale, Eskdale	£10.50	Recent Developments 94/5	£1.00
Recent Developments 95/6	£1.00	Langdale 1999	£11.95
Lakeland Fells	£16.00		



Chris on the Alpspitze above Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Chris in the Eastern Alps.

Although the weather was unsettled for much of August and September I was able to complete two interesting and rewarding climbs in the Eastern Alps: the traverse of the Watzmann above Berchtesgaden and the ascent of the Wildspitze in the Otztal region. The view from the summit of the Wildspitze is magnificent in every direction.
Chris Russell.

The new telephone number for the AC Library is 020 7613 0745

The Librarian is available 10.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 5.00 Tuesdays to Fridays. For the time being, please leave messages for the Library on the Club's answerphone (020 7613 0755) outside these hours.

AC Members elected

George Watkins has been elected as President of the Fell & Rock Climbing Club.

Alastair Andrews has been elected as President of the ABMSAC.

NORTHERN LECTURES

There will be no more Northern Lectures until the 2003/2004 Winter Season

LONDON MEETINGS

Venue:

55/56 Charlotte Road
General and Informal meetings start at **7.30pm (sharp!)**, with the bar opening from 6pm. The Library usually stays open until 7pm.

April 1st GENERAL MEETING
Harish Kapadia "The god that did not fail"

Our Honorary member will talk about two expeditions to the East Karakoram: Climbs in the Arganglas valley with Sir Chris Bonington's international team: and a trek along the historic trade route to Karakoram Pass, Col Italia, Teram Sher Ice-Plateau and climb of Padmanabh (7030 m) on the Siachen Glacier with an Indo-Japanese team. The topic will allow Harish to cover different styles between climbers from England, America and Japan and climbs and explorations in very remote, unknown and unvisited areas. (Or Dennis Gray)

April 15th INFORMAL MEETING Phil Wickens 'Winter Climbs in Antarctica'
Antarctica has numerous mountain ranges that have had very few visits. Phil will describe winter climbs and summer exploration during his 33 months in this very remote and isolated continent. (Easter Fri 18th Apr - Sun 20th Apr)

May 13th GENERAL MEETING
Ian Parnell 'South-West Face of Denali'

Ian and Kenton Cool made the 2nd ascent of the Denali Diamond last May, an 8000ft route on the SW face of the highest mountain in the USA. They spent 5 days of hard mixed climbing to get up the route.

NO Informal Meeting
May 28th AC Everest reception

Jun 10th GENERAL MEETING
Rob Collister "Ski ascents in Gangotri and Bandarpunch, India."

Eagle Ski Club expeditions up as well as down 6000 metre peaks.

24th Informal Meeting Ed Douglas-on his biography of Tenzing Norgay
Tenzing Norgay is globally famous as one of the first two men to climb Everest 50 years ago and was known to many members of the Alpine Club. Ed Douglas has spent the last three years researching and writing his biography and will be revealing much about Tenzing's origins and early life.

MEMBERS ART EXHIBITION



Bill Norton with exhibits

Bill Norton's Exhibition of Mountain Paintings.

Who could resist an invitation to an exhibition of mountain painting in Belgravia? Well not this country bumpkin! With a hotel booked my wife Sally and I embarked on our trip to the 'Smoke' to check out life and art in fashionable London.

On arrival I was relieved to see how packed the small gallery in Belgravia was. I was also pleased that there was a healthy showing of AC members so that we immediately felt at home. Most of all I was impressed by the amount of small red dots that decorated the right hand corners of most of the displayed pictures indicating that Bill was much better off than when his exhibition had begun!

The pictures covered a longish time period and were done in the main from life rather than from photos. Luckily for me the one picture that I was tempted to buy was already sold (to an AC member as well) but Bill's eye had caught the real essence of his subjects and offered an acute distillation of the scenes without extraneous detail. The main feature was his capture of light and the effect of distance that makes mountain painting both impossibly difficult and amazingly rewarding when done with insight. Interestingly Bill had chosen to share his exhibition with a friend whose pictures seemed frivolous both in subject and execution compared to his own but then I went to see mountains rather than cities!

The boisterous crowd seemed very cheerful and appreciative both of the paintings and the generous supply of wine and nibbles. I felt that Bill had had a 'good exhibition' and judging by the quality of what I saw, he deserved it.

Everest Book Signing

15th May 2003. Michael Ward will be signing copies of his new book, Everest. A Thousand Years of Exploration, at the bookshop Henry Sotheran Ltd., 2 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London, W1X 3DP from 6.30-8.30 pm. There will also be a display of Everest books and ephemera for sale, to be featured in Sotheran's forthcoming Everest catalogue. Admission is by ticket only: Please contact Emily O'Connor on 0207 439 6151 or email eoc@sotherans.co.uk.

MEETS

AC Meets programme is on page 13

ABMSAC Alpine Meets

AC members and friends are invited to participate in the undernoted meets arranged by the ABMSAC.

12 –19 July : Zillertal Alps

This will be a traditional hotel mountain walking and climbing holiday based at the 4* Hotel St Georg which is situated in a quiet location on the outskirts of the small mountain town of Mayrhofen conveniently placed for climbs in most of the Zillertal Alps. The cost of half board in the hotel will be €41 pppn in rooms with private facilities. Single rooms are scarce and will attract a supplement of €8 per night.

19 – 26 July : Otztal Alps

This meet will be based at the 3 Regina in Obergurgl one of the highest villages in Austria. The cost of half board will be €40 pppn in rooms with private facilities. There are very few single rooms and they will attract a supplement of €6 per night.

30 August - 6 September: Tour de Trient & Dents du Midi

The tour begins at the Col de Forclaz and travels in an anti-clockwise direction through magnificent mountain scenery with traces of dinosaurs, over attractive mountains and past several beautiful green lakes. Accommodation will be in huts and pensions.

Reservations for the above meets should be sent to Alasdair Andrews, 20 Monkwood Court, Edinburgh, EH9 2DY or by e-mail:

alasdair.andrews@btinternet.com from whom fact sheets are also available.

Holiday Flat let in Spain

Chris Radcliffe & Gill Heys have a 2 bedroom apartment available for rent in Calpe, Northern Costa Blanca.

For details phone: 01246 569134 or Email:

chris_radcliffe@lineone.net

AWARD WINNERS

AC Members win prestigious French award, the Piolet d'Or



Paul Ramsden and Mick Fowler, worthy winners of the Piolet d'Or

For the first time in its 12-year history the **Piolet d'Or** (Golden Ice Axe), a French trophy awarded annually for the most outstanding achievement in the World of Alpinism, has gone to an all British team. In 1994 Sheffield climber, Andy Parkin, who has now lived permanently in Chamonix for the last 18 years, was also given the award for an adventure in Patagonia but he was partnered by the well-known French alpinist, Francois Marsigny. On the 5th February at the Espace Pierre Cardin in Paris a six-man jury almost unanimously voted for **Mick Fowler** and **Paul Ramsden** from a short-list of six teams. The ascent of the spectacular ice line on the **North Face of Siguniang in China's Sichuan Province** appealed not only to the jury but also, it would seem, to most of the 700 strong French audience who packed the hall for the ceremony. Throughout the history of the award the criteria for a winning ascent have never seemed categorically clear, but a general feeling has been that 'le plus beau exploit' of the year should be innovative, difficult, committing and hopefully part of the positive evolution of alpinism. There is no doubt that this year's winning climb fits the bill but some rather more tenuous results in past years have surrounded the Piolet d'Or in controversy. Apart from Fowler and Ramsden, the five other teams chosen to give their presentations in Paris were: Yann Bonneville, Benoit Chanal, Francois Duperty and Pierrick Keller (France) for their new route on the South

Face of Huandoy Sur in Peru; Stephan Harvey, Bruno Hasler and Roger Schaeli (Swiss) for two new routes on the North Face of the Arwa Spire; Dean Potter (American) for his speedy solo ascents of the Californian Route and Supercanaleta on Fitzroy, plus the Compressor Route on Cerro Torre (Argentinean Patagonia); Alberto Ifurrategi (Spanish Basque) and Jean Christophe Lafaille (French) for their ascent and descent of the East Ridge on Annapurna (Nepal); Jules Cartwright and Rich Cross (British) for their first ascent of the North West Ridge of Ama Dablam. The last climb actually took place in November 2001, too late to be included in that year's short-list.

Judging the relative merits of these ascents proved no easy task for the jury, which comprised last year's winner Valeri Babanov from Russia, Christian Beckwith (former editor of the American Alpine Journal and now the new US magazine *Alpinist*), Guy Chaumereuil (of whom more later), Hubert Giot (President of the GHM) and Gérard Vionnet-Fuasset (GHM) all from France, and this year's Jury President, Paul Braithwaite from the UK. In other years a number of those giving their presentations on the 5th could easily have been voted the winners but it was the innovation and style of the Siguniang climb that proved decisive. A largely unexplored region, completely unknown ground on both the ascent and descent, no fixed ropes, no bolts, no portaledge, relatively minimal gear, high technical difficulty etc. None of the others had all these qualities. Catherine Destivelle presented the award to the British pair and it is widely regarded that the winning result will prove popular amongst the active and aspiring alpinists in France, where the 'Fowler ethic' is growing. French alpinists now know intimately about his routes through their repetitions of climbs on Spantik and Taulliraju, and an increasing number have ambitions to climb fine lines on beautiful mountains in good style similar to those on Changabang, Taweche and Arwa. Most people will agree that the basic idea of the Piolet d'Or is potentially a good one and there should be a celebration of the year's mountaineering events, championing those that have been carried out in a purer, more progressive and more adventurous style. However, is it really possible to compare a long and committing ridge traverse at over 7,500m with a capsule style ascent of a big wall in Peru, or fast solos over well-travelled ground? In the end a jury must just go with what feels right. However, many alpinists, both in France and abroad, see the presentation of an award as something of an anathema to their activity. A popular alternative would be simply to celebrate all nominations as worthy contributors to mountaineering's advancement, and maybe there is still room for an event such as this. Unfortunately only a Grand Prize will attract all the media and the sort of numbers seen in Paris. Without this prize and all the associated hype on which the event thrives, the Piolet d'Or would in all probability fail as a showpiece for national and international journalists, and alpinism in France receive reduced public profile.

Lindsay Griffin (courtesy of High magazine)

Not Only----but Also!!

Not content with the Piolet d'Or, Climbing magazine from the USA have awarded Mick and Paul their annual prize for mountaineering, the **Golden Piton!** Whilst this award does seem to be slightly less seriously intended, it is one of 10 categories that Climbing highlights the others including bouldering, sport climbing etc.

The question is 'are awards really valid in mountaineering?' What do you think? Should the Club jump onto this media bandwagon and have its own awards? Let me know what you think. Letters will be published in future newsletters.

AC Chamonix Trip: Feb 1-7th

Within a couple of weeks of announcing this meet in the October newsletter we were full up! I was jubilant and considered booking more space in the Belvedere so keen did the AC seem to get on the ice falls of Argentiere and the more accessible routes around Mont Blanc.

Luckily I didn't! Sods law intervened, normal service was resumed and in the end it was only 4 AC members and 2 extra that made the trip to Cham on Feb 1st. Martin Wragg and I drove down and met Jeremy Whitehead and Stefan Nica at the endearingly idiosyncratic Belvedere boarding house in Argentiere where we had 2,4 bed rooms to ourselves and were booked in for a week of dinner, bread and breakfast.

Day 1 found all of us, including John Jones, (non-member) skiing in perfect weather on great snow on the fantastically extensive slopes of the Grandes Montets. Everyone got straight on with it, some rustier than others! Jeremy impressed us all with his precise technique, Martin for skiing at all with his knees (!), Stefan for his extraordinary robust (but effective) agricultural style. John and I just tried not to fall over too much

Day 2: We awoke to leaden skies, falling pressure and steady heavy snowfall. It was decided that we should avoid the slopes (they were mainly closed anyway) and get on the ice. Our choice was limited as the main Argentiere icefalls, whilst in good condition, were out of bounds because of the dangerous state of the massive slopes above them. So it had to be the Creamerie which although disappointing was the best on offer. So in a true winter wonderland of uncanny silence, heavily laden trees and persistently falling snow we waded to the foot of the most interesting section of the icefalls - or more accurately - the only section that was steep enough not to be irretrievably buried! Also, bizarrely enough, the only section that wasn't crawling with guided parties of beginners thrashing their way up steep banks of snow with presumably some ice underneath somewhere! I led up the first easy pitch and everyone decided to follow rather than queue for other routes. Pitch 2 was a steeper proposition with one short vertical-ish section and plenty of interesting climbing up to the finishing trees. Everyone made easy meat of it including our fully qualified Methuselah, Jeremy, although getting a party of 4 up and down a route does seem to take much longer than you ever expect! Mark Winfield arrived and went skiing as he wanted to improve his technique by skiing in bad visibility!!

Day 3: Heavy snow now has been falling for 2 days and nights without cease! John skied a bit in the thick clag (he had a week's ski-pass!!) whilst everyone else bummed around.

Day 4: Still snowing!! By now cabin fever was beginning to show. Jeremy managed to lock a sleeping John in their room. (John had to phone a friend staying up the road to come and let him out!) Jeremy was now known as Jezza the Jailer! Stefan was getting more and more jumpy with inactivity whilst everyone else started playing Scrabble. 3 full days of snow had put down 1.5 - 2 or more metres and the Black Flag was flying in Argentiere. The slopes were only just open and it was decision time. Do we stay or do we go? Stefan and Mark decided to go as climbing was well out of the question and skiing was clearly not going to be easy for



Get ready to dig! Just another morning in a wintry Argentiere.

anyone less than proficient. Perhaps those who jacked out of the trip before we left knew something we didn't!
Day 5: At last the snow fizzled out and the clouds parted for long enough to give us some decent light on the slopes. Everyone went skiing and had a good day - at last. The hardest exercise however was first finding then digging out the car.
Day 6: Our last day and the weather decided to fully relent and show what we had been missing! Great snow, fabulous views and fantastic skiing.
Day 7: Time to go home, so we all did just that. Looking back we had just chosen the wrong week to be in the mountains. We had a great social time and the Belvedere had treated us really well with good food, interesting surroundings and wonderfully eclectic company. Next year I hope the AC will field a full team and that we are luckier than this year with the weather!

Dick Turnbull

Lake District Meet. Sept 27 - 29 1992

Those who arrived after dark on the Friday evening were greeted by the light of the fire and a single candle, as the whole of upper Langdale was without electricity and the shop at Chapel Stile had rationed us to a mere six candles. Daunting prospects of no hot showers, and having to heat pans of water for washing up. Happily the engineers busy excavating Chapel Stile restored the supply before midnight, and the meet organiser's fears of a mutiny were allayed.

The weather was as fine as it often is for these meets, and for the majority Gimmer was the venue for the Saturday. While one pair judged A and C routes to be appropriate for some reason, the majority took themselves to what was once known as the 'gentlemen's side' Here routes on the lower section were followed by others in the Gimmer alphabet, as well as the Crack at least in part. It was only the attraction of the rest of the evening that caused people to tear themselves away.

Some had walked on Scafell and Bowfell, while Master Chef John Temple had a shorter day on Raven Walthwaite's scarcely polished rock before his evening's efforts. Some two dozen members and guests consumed a gallon to two of glühwein, followed by a splendid buffet meal prepared by John and his apprentice George Bintley. Visitors came from Patterdale and RLH, and a good time was had by all. Even the washing up got done! On the Sunday parties headed for various venues: Gimmer again, Raven Crag and doubtless others. This is one meet that is usually well attended, and long may it continue. The plan is for a similar event this coming September. **Jeremy Whitehead.**

No Fees on sub-6500m Peaks in Pakistan

I have received an extremely happy email from Nazir Sabir of Nazir Sabir Expeditions of Islamabad reporting that the Pakistan government has decided to waive all peak fees on peaks under 6500m. This decision to designate all sub-6500m peaks as 'trekking peaks' has been taken to promote Himalayan climbing to a wider range of mountaineers who have been put off in the past by high costs and tortuous bureaucracy. This decision comes into effect immediately and will be in force for the foreseeable future.

Official - now you can walk anywhere (well nearly) in Scotland

This Febuary the Scottish Parliament passed the Land Reform Act with a substantial majority of 82. This enshrines the statutory right of access to almost all areas of land and water in Scotland. Our President, Alan Blackshaw, has been very active along with the MC of S and others in researching and promoting this legislation which has been described by Dave Morris, director of the Ramblers' Association, as 'the best in Europe.' To make this legislation more understandable, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code is being drawn up to explain how it will work and the responsibilities that accompany the new rights. This code will also give extra guidance to commercial and educational users who wish to work in the mountains. Before drawing up the code there will be a period of consultation throughout the spring of 2003.

For more information on the Act and the Access Code, visit the MC of S website at:

www.mountaineering-scotland.org.uk

Colonial Influence?

This is an extract from Chic Scott's letter to Henry Day: *'Got home safely yesterday after a wonderful 3 month adventure in the UK. I was very honoured to make a presentation to The Alpine Club.*

I went to the Charlotte Street offices the next day to look at the library and Margaret very kindly showed me around. It is an impressive collection. I looked at the photographs of AC Presidents and found 11 that have mountains likely named in their honour in

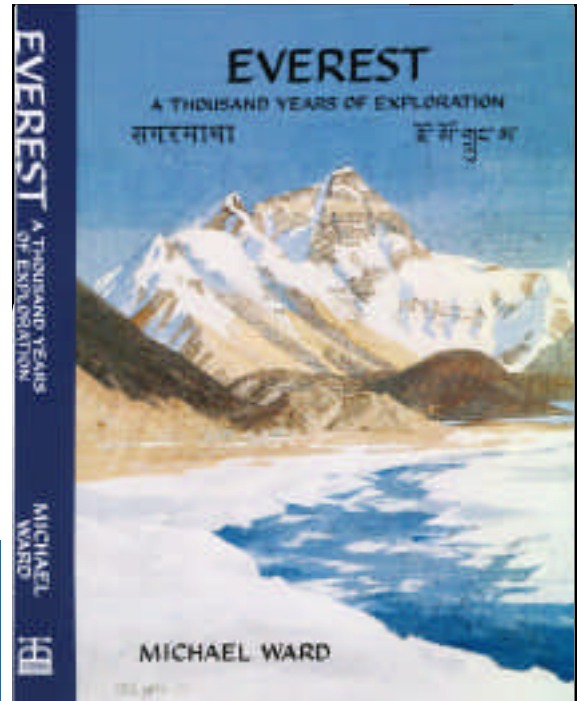
Canada. They are:

**John Ball
Clinton Dent
James Bryce
Tom Longstaff
Martin Conway
Horace Walker
Douglas Freshfield
Leopold Amery
Norman Collie
Herman Woolley
Charles Pilkington**

Cheers, Chic.'

Does anyone know whether this is a likely proposition?

Everest Book Offer



Everest,

A Thousand Years of Exploration

by Michael P Ward

The Ernest Press, 2003, pp 384, £25.00

**A Record of Mountaineering,
Geographical Exploration,
Medical Research and Mapping**

This is the first comprehensive monograph to tell the Everest story from every aspect. By providing new insights based on historical research and his own personal and professional experience, the author has written a major 'biography' of the world's highest peak to celebrate the First Ascent.

A special price of £20.00

(inc.post and packing)

is offered to Alpine Club members.

Write, with cheque payable to
'The Ernest Press', to:

The Ernest Press, 17, Carleton Drive,
Glasgow G46 6AQ

**Everest Book Signing
for details see page 8**

Membership Update

New members

The Club extends a warm welcome to new full members **Jonathan White, Ian Steen, Chris Jones** and **James Edwards**.

Candidates for Full Membership

The following candidates have applied for full membership and members are invited to communicate their views:

Julian Davey, British, Occupation: retired; Proposed by John Cook and seconded by Chris Bonington.

Potts Gill, Heskett Newmarket, Wigton, CA7 8LB

Stewart Mackenzie, British, Occupation: retired; Proposed by John Cook and seconded by John Disley.

Brakenrigg, Esthwaite, Hawkshead, LA22 0QF

Alexander Miller, Occupation: apprentice; Proposed by Les Swindin and seconded by Hywel Lloyd.

40 Mount House Road, Formby, Liverpool, L37 3LB

George Rodway, US, Occupation: Student; Proposed by John West and seconded by Bill Thurston.

9181 Sand Run Circle, Clinton OH 44216, USA

Nikki Wallis, British, Occupation: National Park warden; Proposed by Jerry Gore and seconded by Mike Pinney

Llech Ddu, 19 Ty Du Road, Llanberis, Gwynedd, LL55 4LH.

William Gladstone, British, Occupation: retired; Proposed by Alan Wedgewood and seconded by Mike Westmacott.

8 The Banks, Staveley, Kendal, Cumbria, LA 8 9NE

Colin Mortlock, British, Occupation: retired; Proposed by Doug Scott and seconded by Chris Bonington

Michael Yeat Farmhouse, The Row, Llth Valley, Cumbria, LA8 8DD

Aspirants

We welcome **Richard Clayton** and **William Mitchell** as Aspirants. Their details are as follows:

Richard Clayton, British, Trainer; Proposed by Lee Earnshaw and seconded by Martin Scott

14 Helland Garden, Penryn, TR10 8LY

William Mitchell, British, Occupation: Fine Art Dealer; Proposed by Peter Mallalieu and seconded by Gerry Lovatt.

Flat 1, 18 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3DL

Deaths

The deaths have been announced of Chris Brasher, Suzanne Gibson, John Lecky, The Rt Hon the Earl of Limerick and Comtesse Pighetti de Rivasso, HFW Taylor.

Bill Thurston, Membership Secretary. Tel: 020 8399 7614; Mob: 0771 423 5496
bill@thurston31kd.freereserve.co.uk

Donations and Bequests for the Club and Library

The Library has received recently bequests from Sir Alan Pullinger and Oliver Turnbull of £1000 each. In addition the proceeds of sale of certain books given to Oliver Turnbull by Dr Charles Warren was passed to the Library bringing a welcome further £3574 to it's funds.

Members are reminded that, if they are considering remembering the fellowship of the Club in their wills, that a tax efficient way of doing so is to leave a bequest to the Alpine Club Library. Bequests to the Library, which is a Charity are free of Inheritance Tax and any donations in your lifetime which are made under Gift Aid can be grossed up by the Library, thus increasing the sum available to the Library for the maintenance and conservation of the Club's books, pictures, photographs and artefacts. The Library would be most grateful to receive Legacies from members and these will be acknowledged in the Club Newsletter.

PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE 'ASSOCIATES OF THE ALPINE CLUB'

For some years the club has considered whether there should be an opportunity for individuals who are not committed mountaineers, but who support the club's aims and objectives, to acquire a formal affiliation with the club. This might include, for example, individuals who have a strong interest in mountaineering and the mountain environment through art, science, literature, travel or conservation. The current rules and regulations recognise two broad classes of members namely Full Members and Aspirant Members. While from time to time the club has allowed the election to full membership of non-climbers, this has been relatively rare and confined to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their fields.

The committee is therefore proposing that the club creates 'Associates of the Alpine Club'. Associates would have many of the benefits of membership including use of the library, the right to attend lectures, meets and social events and would receive the newsletter and journal. They would not have voting rights, reciprocal hut rights or be able to buy guidebooks at reduced prices. Associates would have to be proposed by one Full Member and complete an application form. There would be few formal entry requirements however we would ask applicants to indicate their level of interest in the club's objectives and they would need to be over eighteen years of age. Subscription rates would be the same as for Full Members.

Members are invited to submit comments. The creation of Associates would require a change in the club rules and these would be submitted to a General Meeting for approval in due course. Please send any comments to Bill Thurston, Membership Secretary, by letter or e-mail, or to any Committee member.

ALPINE SKI CLUB (ASC)
CLUB GRANTS OFFERED FOR SKI
MOUNTAINEERING 2003

This year there were about 15 enquiries regarding the ASC grants. Eight applications were received from seven people. The awards are for ski mountaineering activities, which meet at least one of the grant criteria as follows: -

- (a) Taking part in a serious ski mountaineering expedition which includes an element of exploration,
- (b) Attending an approved training course in the full range of ski mountaineering skills,
- (c) Carrying out a research project on an aspect of ski mountaineering,
- (d) Activities, which further the knowledge and practice of safe movement in the mountains on ski.

Five applications were shortlisted for consideration for grants. These were as follows: -

1. An exploratory ski mountaineering tour in the Ak-Shiirak Mountains of Kyrgyzstan. This expedition is a trip organised by members of the Eagle Ski Club, as part of the Club's programme of tours). The applicant is Dutch and based in Wales at present.
2. Assistance with publishing a guidebook to ski mountaineering in Scotland, to be called Steep Scotland. The applicant lives in Aviemore.
3. The Antarctic Convergence Zone Expedition: South Georgia 2003, the aim of the expedition is to explore on skis (with pulks) and attempt first ascents or new routes on mountains bordering the Nordenskjold, Ross and Phillippi Glaciers. The applicant is the leader and is based in Edinburgh.
4. A traverse of the Iceland ice cap, sponsored for charity. The applicant is from Stoke on Trent.
5. Attendance at a Glenmore Lodge course in the Alps on off piste skills for ski mountaineering. The applicant is from Edinburgh.

Two ASC Memorial Fund Grants of £500 each were awarded to the first two enterprises listed above. The Club is particularly keen to support young ski mountaineers on exploratory expeditions of the nature of the Kyrgystan venture. The Club has provided funds in the past for non-commercial guidebook work that will be likely to be of benefit to the ski mountaineering community.

The Kenneth Smith Scholarship of £500 was awarded to the South Georgia Expedition. This award is jointly funded with the Ski Club of Great Britain.

There will be similar grants available for ski mountaineering ventures in 2004. The closing date for applications is 15th December 2003.

Further enquiries should be made to: -

The ASC Awards Sub-Committee, Mrs Jay Turner, 22 Hatton Court, Hatton of
 Fintray, Aberdeenshire AB21 OYA Tel 01224 791037 Email
grants@alpineskiclub.org.uk www.alpineskiclub.org.uk

Meets Programme
Winter/Summer 2003

Peak District

May 17 - 18 Pennine Club Hut, Stoney Middleton. Location is excellent, close to pub, and blessed with sunshine on previous visits. Places limited, so book early to guarantee your bunk.

[dn option 1]Organiser still to be confirmed - in the meantime if you are interested register your interest with me, and I will pass onto the organiser. Toto Gronlund: tel 01202 668843, email:

toto.high@ntlworld.com

[dn option 2]Jerry Lovatt: (01865) 315021, w (01865) 513251, lovatt@nil-dram.co.uk

[dn option 3] Glyn Hughes: (01494) 792073, m 07802 305908, glynhughes@waitrose.com

Western Alps

July 26 - August 16, Grandes Jorasses, CampsiteVal Ferret.

Joint AC/ABMSAC/CC meet. Some of the best routes start on the south side; this meet looks like being well attended. Do contact Pam Caswell; more details will be published on the website over the next few months.

Pam Caswell, m 07967 580376; pam/caswell@tesco.net

Lakes

September 26-27, Raw Head, Langdale.

[Jeremy Whitehead: \(01995\) 606528; jeremy@jeremywhitehead.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Jeremy Whitehead: (01995) 606528; jeremy@jeremywhitehead.fsnet.co.uk)

Greece

October 2003, Argolis Peninsula, Mt Didima and environs.

This massive limestone area has huge potential, and already has several areas with bolted routes, as well as fantastic lines for traditional climbing. A good location for rock when the weather in Britain is fickle.

Exact dates to be established, whilst organiser is being confirmed. This is expected to be a joint CC and AC meet. Further details will appear in the next newsletter and will be published on the web as soon as confirmed. In the meantime, contact [Toto Gronlund: \(01202\) 668843; toto.high@ntlworld.com](mailto:Toto Gronlund: (01202) 668843; toto.high@ntlworld.com)

toto.high@ntlworld.com

Future meets

The meet programme will start to look a bit more active over the next year or so, providing further opportunities for AC members to meet each other in a mountain /climbing environment, and take advantage of opportunities to explore further afield.

The aim is to provide a programme which includes not only the UK meets which traditionally provide a

AC MEETS

fun get-together, but also to do this in the European Alps and climbing areas, as well as further afield. Suggestions and organisers for these meets would be very welcome!

Four meets a year to European areas could include a summer and winter trip to the Alps; rock climbing in Spain, Greece, Norway, etc; ski mountaineering in Norway, Greenland etc... Any other good spots out there??

Further afield, we have members, and friends and contacts of members who are always willing to help (see plans for trip to Chile, below). Your suggestions would be very welcome.

Trip organisers would have all reasonable expenses re-imbursed. Participation on a trip would be subject to defined minimum requirements depending on the aims and scope of the trip. I am hoping to hold a 'potential trip-coordinators' meet later in the year to discuss these plans. Please contact me if you are interested.

South America, Chile, 2004 We have a contact and organiser at the Chile end, and I am looking for a AC co-ordinator in the UK to run this trip.

Toto Gronlund, Meet Secretary,
tel:01202 668843; toto.high@ntl-world.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Celebrating Ascent of Everest 50th Anniversary

Reception at the Alpine Club, 28 May 2003

Time: 18.00 - 22.00, Drinks and snacks provided, £7.00
Alpine Club, 55 Charlotte Road, London EC2A 3QF

The Alpine Club is celebrating this proud anniversary with a Party and a Photographic and Picture Exhibition, at the AC premises.

George Band is hosting the reception, members of the '53 team are invited, along with a number of the key players, including some of the sherpas who are descendants of Tensing. They all have a tale to tell!

This party provides a unique opportunity for members and their guests to participate in the celebration and meet everyone in an informal atmosphere.

The party will be carried forward in the 'Endeavour on Everest' shows being held at the Odeon on 29 May. This is the joint celebration with the Mount Everest Foundation and the Royal Geographic Society- book for this as well to make a full Everest event! (details below)

Watch the Alpine Club website for further information and updates on this and other Everest 50th anniversary celebration events.

Please book early, spaces are limited.

The cost is £7.00 to cover refreshments, please send cheques and an SAE, made payable to the Alpine Club, to AC Everest Reception, Alpine Club, C/o Sheila Harrison, 55/56, Charlotte Road, London EC2A 3QF

Endeavour on Everest

First ascent of Everest to be celebrated in three shows on 29 May 2003 at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London. Joint event with the MEF and RGS. More details through the AC Everest web link or www.mef.org.uk

Times: 10.00 matinee - £25.00

13.00 matinee - £25.00

17.40 evening - £75.00 or £50.00

To book: call the Everest Secretariat on 020 7591 3024, or send a cheque to MEF Everest Events, MEF Endeavours Ltd, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR. Cheques should be made payable to MEF Endeavours Ltd, including a stamped addressed envelope.

Northern Lectures - Winter Series 2002/3: Review

The programme got off to a flying start in October when approximately 60 people turned up to hear **Mick Fowler** recount his ascent of Sigunaing North Face, a typical Fowler project involving continuous high standard ice and mixed climbing over many days with few proper bivouac ledges. Mick's commitment is, of course, legendary! Denali South West Face with **Ian Parnell** was the November offering. An equally committing ice and mixed route, the party tackled the absence of bivouac opportunities by more or less continuous climbing around the clock. December's meet provided more esoteric fare with a debate about the future of the ACG at which **Denis Gray** talked tellingly about the history of this 'club within a club' and showed slides of old ACG members and activities outlining the reasons why the ACG originally developed.

The New Year brought us **Steve Razzetti's** inspired personal account of mountain exploration in the Karakorum. In February **Alaister Lee** provided an audio visual feast relating to his experience travelling in China rock climbing in Yangshuo and his attempts to climb Mt Biamong. **Nick Bullock** brought the season to a close with his understated account of difficult first ascents (made in what is now known in France after this year's Piolet d'Or award as the bold 'style Britannique') during a number of visits to the huaywash and Cordillera Blanca in Peru.

Audiences have generally been in excess of 40 although members are usually outnumbered by guests. However the open house policy ensures a good mix with the audience profile changing in accordance with the speaker and subject. The lecture series will recommence next October when it would be nice to see a larger number of members in the audience! Check the website and future editions of the newsletter for details.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING SYMPOSIUM

Highpoint, Leicester. December 6th, 2003.

ABOUT THE EVENT

The Alpine Club, Alpine Ski Club and Eagles Ski Club are jointly organising a symposium on Ski Mountaineering. This will be held at Highpoint, Leicester, on December 6th.

The theme for the event is '**Decision Making**'. Safe ski mountaineering is the result of numerous decisions, both during planning and in the field. The symposium will address many of the decisions that ski mountaineers face, from what to wear, how to train and where to go, to what to do in an emergency. Lectures will be on the key subjects, and in the afternoon a series of discussion forums will cover Equipment and Destinations. In the evening there is also a dinner, followed by a talk.

Tickets for this event will be restricted to members of the Eagles Ski Club, Alpine Ski Club and Alpine Club only. Since numbers are limited, tickets will be issued on a first-come first-served basis.

Application forms will be available from the AC web-site website (<http://www.alpine-club.org.uk/news/skisymposium.html>) from June 27th. If you are unable to print from the web-site you may request an application form by post from: **Ski Mountaineering Symposium, The Old Forge, Sulgrave, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 2RP** (please send an SAE - these will be posted at the same time the web-forms are available).

Programme:

Introduction Derek Fordham

The State of Our Sport Rob Collister

Safety in the Mountains Bob Barton

Medical and Survival Dave Hillebrandt

Training: Preparation and Technique Tim Pettifer and John Eames

Legal and Insurance Obligations Richard Doubleday

Route-Planning Andy Perkins

Panel Discussions: EquipmentChair: Mike Hendry

Panel Discussions: DestinationsChair: Hywel Lloyd

Safety Kit Leader: David Hamilton

North America Leader: tba

Electronic AidsLeader: Andy Perkins

South America Leader: Rob Collister

Basic, New and Lightweight Gear Leader: Mike Hendry

Europe Leader: Bill O'Connor

Questions to Expert PanelLeader: Rupert Hoare

Asia Leader: David Hamilton

Polar Leader: Derek Fordham

Our Favourite Destinations Invited Speakers

After-Dinner Talk Chic Scott

The Paul Nunn Scholarship in Mountaineering Literature

Terry Gifford is still seeking an applicant for this new scholarship to be awarded for October 2003.

The University of Leeds, School of Performance and Cultural Industries offers this prestigious bursary of £6000 for each of three years (£3000 for fees, £3000 for maintenance) for a suitably qualified and highly motivated full-time research student to undertake a PhD study in any aspect of mountaineering literature.

A candidate for the scholarship will discuss a research project with Terry Gifford, the PhD supervisor, before refining it until it is ready to put before the Post-graduate Students Group of the School Research Committee as a formal application, with an indication of an interest in the scholarship. If accepted the candidate would be eligible for the award of the scholarship in competition with others similarly accepted. The award will be made in July 2003. As is normal in the university, after one year as a registered post-graduate student a transfer viva will place the student on either MPhil or PhD track. (If unsuccessful in competition for the Paul Nunn Scholarship a PhD applicant who has been accepted by the School will be eligible to apply for other awards and scholarships both within the university and from outside bodies such as AHRB and British Academy. At present the School is awarding fees payments only to all full-time UK and EU PhD students.)

A candidate would normally have a good first degree in English and a recent Masters in a relevant field, but other qualifications will be considered.

The thesis will be driven by a central research question that will, in turn, demand other questions. It will make a contribution to knowledge in an aspect of mountaineering literature probably by bringing some aspect of theory to bear on a selected group of texts. These might be representative across a range of types of mountaineering literature (expedition book, rock-climbing essay, personal memoir, biography, etc.), or focus on one grouping (women's writing, nineteenth century writing, etc.), or be thematically selected (books dealing with aesthetics, greater ranges, loss). The literary and cultural aspects of this field of literature remain under-researched. The School also offers opportunities for practice-based research at PhD level by which a research question is explored in linked modes of enquiry in which the creative enquiry dominates. Ask for the School's guidance notes for Creative Writing PhDs.

For further details contact Dr Terry Gifford at T.Gifford@leeds.ac.uk or ring the School Research Secretary, Linda Smith, on 0113 343 9022.

Alpine Club Annual Symposium

Canadian Wilderness Territories

The 2003 AC Symposium - Canadian Wilderness Territories - has been planned to coincide with the AC Annual Dinner on 29th Nov 2003 at Shap Wells, Cumbria. The Symposium, organised by Bill Thurston and Derek Buckle, will focus on all aspects of arctic and sub arctic Canadian mountaineering, from the Coastal Range and the Yukon in the east to the Canadian Rockies and beyond to Baffin Island.

Canada is renowned for its inaccessible and challenging peaks, for its harsh, uncompromising environment, for the quality of its winter ice and for its varied indigenous (and challenging!) fauna. It has much to offer to those who demand adventure and isolation, whether they are hikers, climbers, alpinists, ice climbers or ski-tourers.

Coupled as it is with the ANNUAL DINNER the event promises to be heavily subscribed, tickets for the Symposium, including morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, cost £15.00 for members and £20 for non-members. The dinner cost is TBA. You can, of course, attend the dinner only, but please book well in advance to avoid disappointment for what will undoubtedly be a day of first class entertainment, useful information and great value.

Please send your cheque plus an SAE to: Alpine Club, c/o Sheila Harrison, 55/56 Charlotte Road, London EC2A 3QF