

THE MAD ANTICS OF THE MARCH HARE WEREN T NEEDED TO ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING TO THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS. THE DOMESTIC HUB-BUB RESOUNDING FROM THE ELEPHANT SEAL BREEDING COLONIES, AS LITTLE BLACK, BUG-EYED COCKTAIL SAUSAGES BA-AGH FOR THEIR MOTHERS WHO IN TURN QUARREL WITH THE NEIGHBOURS, AND THE OCCASIONAL ROAR FROM THE BEACH-MASTER AT SOME HOPEFUL AND AMOUREOUS INTRUDER (SEAL, NOT HUMAN), ALL ARE VOCAL PROOF THAT THE UNERRING CLOCK FOR SUMMER REPRODUCTION HAS BEGUN ITS COUNTDOWN. GIANT PETRELS, CAPITALIZING ON THE FACT THAT SOME ELEPHANT SEAL PUPS WILL NEVER KNOW THE VASTNESS OF THEIR MARINE WORLD, REPRODUCE THEIR DOWN COVERED REPLICAS, AND NOT A FEW CAT HUNTERS HAVE HAD THEIR HEARTS IN THE REGION OF THEIR TONSILS WHEN COMING ACROSS THE INCUBATING BIRDS UNEXPECTEDLY AT NIGHT.

THE BUGSY MALONES OF THE ISLAND, THE MACARONI PENGUINS, HAVE ALSO MUSCLED THEIR WAY BACK HERE IN THEIR USUAL OVERWHELMING NUMBERS, ARRIVING AT THE BIG COLONIES OF BULLARD AND KILDALKY AT THE RATE OF 30/MINUTE. AFTER 7 MONTHS AT SEA THEY MUST FIRST RUN THE GAUNTLET OF THE IRRITABLE ELEPHANT SEALS AND MANY A PENGUIN RE-DISCOVERED ITS LOST ABILITY OF FLIGHT AFTER HOPPING ONTO A COWS BACK. THEY JUST DONT SEEM TO BE ABLE TO GLIDE LIKE A SOOTY, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY FLAP THEIR FLIPPERS.

AFTER A WET SEPTEMBER THE WARM SUNNY DAYS OF OCTOBER HAVE BEEN A WELCOME CHANGE, WITH TEAM MEMBERS MAKING GOOD USE OF THE CLEAR WEATHER TO DO SOME LONG RANGE FIELD WORK. JAN AND STEVE, AFTER SEEING THE MOUNTAINS BECKONING IN THEIR CLEAR WHITE SPLENDOUR, TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THEIR HIGH ALTITUDE FJAEEL-MARK WORK STARTED. AFTER AN EARLY START, THEY RETURNED SOME 9 HOURS LATER, PLEASANTLY TIRED IF NOT A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE DISCOVERY THAT SUNLIGHT REFLECTED OFF THE SNOW CAN BE DEVASTATING WITH EVEN THE INSIDES OF THEIR NOSTRILS GETTING BURNT. OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, STEVE, WHOSE FAIR COMPLEXION IS MORE SUITED TO THE OTHER 90% OF MARIONS TYPE WEATHER, WOULD HAVE FELT QUITE AT HOME AMONGST THE KING PENGUINS PARTISIPATING IN THEIR ANNUAL MOULT.

VOSSIE, SEEING POTENTIAL IN THE GOOD WEATHER, COUPLED TO THE FACT THAT THE HUNTERS WERE BACK AT BASE TO RELAX FOR 4 DAYS, USED THE AVAILABLE LABOUR TO GET SOME OF HIS AERIAL AND ANTENNAE WORK DONE. THE EXPERIENCE OF STAGGERING ALONG WITH A POLE DID NOT BRING BACK MANY GOOD MEMORIES, BUT ANDRE J, EVER SENSITIVE THAT HUMOUR MUST BE RESTORED AT ALL COSTS, PERFORMED HIS POPULAR TRICK OF STEPPING OFF THE CAT-WALKS AND SINKING TO THE WAIST. HIS EFFORT WAS APPRECIATED BY ALL. THE INTERIOR OF THE BASE WAS ALSO GIVEN A FACE-LIFT WITH GEORG, SPECIALIZING IN THE KOS-KASSIE LOOK, PANELLING THE ENTIRE LOUNGE, AND GIVING IT A PLEASANT LOG CABIN EFFECT. ANDRE M ADDED A SUBTLE TOUCH OF DECORATION BY HANGING UP A LEATHER MURAL HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON, DEPICTING THE ISLAND WITH ITS MAIN FAUNA.

THE FISHING RODS HAVE COME OUT OF WINTER STORAGE AND AN EVENING FISH BRAAI WAS THE RESULT OF CRIS'S EFFORTS AT THE POINT. GARY TOOK A TRIP OUT TO WATER TUNNEL STREAM TO ATTEND TO SOME AILING KNEES, BOTH HANS F AND FRANK V TEMPORARILY DISABLED BY THE NOTORIOUS MARION KNEE. PATRICK HAS ALSO BEEN MAN-DOWN WITH A BOUT OF ROBERT RIPGUTS AND HAS ALREADY LOST SOME 4KG S. SOME OF THE STOUTER MEMBERS OF THE TEAM HAVE BEEN QUESTIONING HIM CLOSELY ON JUST HOW HE COULD HAVE PICKED UP THE BUG, AND COULD THEY CATCH IT?...PLEASE. ROBIN M AND GEORG HAVE MADE SOME INTRICATE FIELD TOILETS IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT BRAISED STEAK DOESN'T STICK AROUND AND YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE COMFORTABLE AND ENJOY THE VIEW WHILE ATTENDING NATURES CALL.

NNNN  
ZCIC 360 01621  
AAHQ16 FAME 040546  
MP 887

44/293

PAGE TWO

IAN AND JACO HAVE BECOME RATHER BLASE ABOUT PICTURESQUE SUN-RISES AS THEY START THEIR DAY AT 3.30-4.00AM TO BEGIN E. SEAL OBS. AT TRIPOT. JACO, GETTING INCREASINGLY DISGUSTED WITH ONE BULLS SEXUAL INFATUATION WITH NEW WEANERS, EVENTUALLY DUBBED HIM PERV IN LARGE BLEACHED LETTERS, ON HIS SIDE. IT COULD RAISE A FEW GALLIC EYEBROWS IF HE GOES OVER TO CROZET TO MOULT, AH...C EST LE PERV. JONATHAN, IN BETWEEN MAKING CATS HEAD BREEDIE, HAS BEEN HELPING IAN WITH THE TAGGING AND WEIGHING OF WEANERS, IAN HAVING TO MAKE RESCUE GRAPS AT JONATHAN WHEN THE WIND BLOWS HIS GLASSES OFF AND HE STARTS HEADING BLINDLY TOWARDS THE BULLS NOSTRILS WITH HIS TAGGING PLIERS.

DEON GAVE JUG A HAND WITH THE START OF THE KING PENGUIN RINGING, THE MOMENTS OF WAITING FOR A PAIR TO FORM WERE SPENT PLAYING SPOTS. I.E. YOU COUNT THE SPOTS OF MUCK ON EACH OTHERS FACES AND THE ONE WITH THE MOST HAS TO LICK HIS LIPS.

ON THE FELINE FRONT IT HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL MONTH FOR THE HUNTERS WITH THE 50 MARK BEING REACHED AND PASSED. JOHNNY AND DANIE GETTING 5 IN ONE SESSION. RUMOUR HAS IT THAT CHOCOLATE COLOURED CATS ARE PEROXIDING THEMSELVES AS JOHNNY GOES THROUGH WITHDRAWL SYMPTOMS FROM CHOCOLATE AND BLASTS AT ANYTHING THAT REMINDS HIM OF THE DELECTABLE LITTLE BARS. STEVE, H IS PRACTISING HARD AT TRYING NOT TO LOOK LIKE A CROQUET HOOP AFTER A CAT, BLOCKED IN A HOLE BY RORY'S AMPLE FORM AT ONE END, BOLTED OUT THROUGH THE OTHER, BETWEEN STEVES JOHN WAYNE SHAPED LEGS AND OFF INTO THE DISTANT YONDER. HENNIE HAD A CHANGE FROM MET WORK AND WENT OFF ON A HUNTING TRIP TO SWARTKOP WITH DANIE, AND PROVED THAT EVEN NOVICES CAN MEET WITH SUCCESS. IVAN HAS BEEN TEACHING PADDY HOW TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE VARIOUS NOISES AT NIGHT AND ONLY WITH THE MOST SOOTHING OF IRISH SOFT TALK WAS ABLE TO COAX PADDY OUT OF A PETREL BURROW AFTER AN ELEPHANT SEAL HAD ROARED FROM NEARBY PRINSLOOMEER. NICO HAS BEEN EYEING THE MACI PENGUINS WITH A SPECULATIVE LOOK AS IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO DRAG HUNTERS AWAY FROM THE PUB TO DO HIS WEIGHT/CARDIO-VASCULAR MEASUREMENTS OF THEM. MARCEL HAS SKINNED A DEAD E. SEAL, WE SUSPECT TO MAKE A NEW PAIR OF SHOES, AND NOW JUST NEEDS TO FIND ANOTHER ONE FOR THE OTHER FOOT.

WELL THATS ALL THE NEWS FROM THIS LUMP OF ROCK IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN FOR OCTOBER. HERE FOLLOWS A WEATHER REPORT FROM FRANK FINGER-IN-THE-WIND SOKOLIC.

WEATHER DATA - OCTOBER  
-----

HIGHEST TEMPERATURE.....12,7 DEGREES  
LOWEST TEMPERATURE.....-1,8 DEGREES  
AVERAGE TEMPERATURE.....5,2 DEGREES  
TOTAL RAINFALL.....165,9 MM  
HIGHEST WINDSPEED.....142 KM/H  
TOTAL HOURS OF SUNSHINE.....138  
AVERAGE SUNSHINE PER DAY.....4,5 HOURS

NEWSLETTER BY: CHARLES JUG GILBERT