

ZCZC 052 01621
AAHQ16 FAME 030915
MP 28

M45/085 PAGE ONE OF TWO PAGES

03-07-88

JULY NEWSLETTER- MARION ISLAND

HELLO AGAIN FROM MARION

TO SAY THE LEAST THIS PAST MONTH HAS BEEN PRETTY EVENTFUL- EXTREMES IN WEATHER BEING ONE OF THE MANY EXCITEMENTS.

WEATHERWISE THE ISLAND STILL CONFLICTS, GIVING US HOWLING TWO-HUNDRED KM/H WINDS ONE MOMENT AND CALM, CLOUDLESS NIGHTS THE NEXT. THESE HURRICANE FORCE WINDS BLEW A SERIES OF CATWALKS INTO THE MIRES, AND TWO DAYS WERE SPENT ATTEMPTING TO RECTIFY THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THESE WINDS.

MUCH TO GERRIT AND SPARK'S DISGUST THE WATERPIPES HAVE BEEN FREEZING UP LATELY AND PULLING APART AT THE JOINS. THESE TWO UNFORTUNATES HAVE HAD ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, TO TREK THROUGH MIRES AT ALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT TO REPAIR THE PIPES. DAVE'S PLANNED OVERNIGHT STAY AT KILDALKEY HUT HAD A STOP PUT TO IT AS THE HUT'S ROOF HAD BLOWN OFF.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE WINDS CAME MASSIVE WAVES WHOSE SPRAY BROKE OVER THE ROOF OF THE FOODSTORE, WHICH IS ABOUT TWELVE METRES ABOVE SEA-LEVEL. MANY A GOOD PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN OF THESE SPECTACULAR SCENES.

MIDWINTER DAY, THE 21ST, SAW US CELEBRATING WITH A FULL DAY OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES RANGING FROM STREAKS THROUGH THE MIRES TO DARTS AND SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIPS. DANIE SURPRISED US ALL, AND ASTONISHED STEPHEN, BY CAPTURING THE SNOOKER TROPHY. HE ALSO WON THE DARTS TROPHY LATER THAT EVENING. WE ALSO PARTOOK IN A FORMAL DINNER, AT WHICH SPEECHES WERE MADE AND GIFTS FROM OUR FAMILIES WERE HANDED OUT. THE PRESENTS CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE AS DAVE HAD HIDDEN THEM AWAY FOR THIS OCCASION.

THE ISLAND TOO, HAD A HAND IN THE DAY AS LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF MIGRATING BIRDS, MOSTLY SALVINS PRIONS AND THE ODD BLUE PETREL, HAD OUR ATTENTION THAT DAY. FOR US IT WAS THE FIRST AND INDEED A RARE SIGHT TO SEE THESE BIRDS SWOOPING BETWEEN THE WAVES. PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS HELD WAS A PERIOD IN WHICH EACH TEAM MEMBER ENTERTAINED THE OTHERS IN THE MANNER OF HIS CHOOSING. THIS WAS AN ENJOYABLE PART OF THE EVENING AS WELL.

ON THE 24TH STEPHEN G. TURNED 21. MUCH TO HIS DETRIMENT. HIS LONG DAY STARTED OFF BY HIM HAVING TO PARTAKE IN A MIRE HUNT FOR HIS BIRTHDAY PRESENT. TO TOP THE ACTIVITIES HE WAS PAINTED WITH EGG RED INK AND ANYTHING THE TEAM FELT WAS APPROPRIATE. HE DOES, HOWEVER, CLAIM THAT THE PRESENTS WERE WORTH THE SUFFERING HE ENDURED. MARC USED ONE OF THE BETTER DAYS TO FULFILL AN AMBITION BY SWIMMING IN THE COOL 5.8 DEGREE CENTIGRADE WATER. DAVE TOOK HIS STUDENT DIVERS, PETER AND STEPHEN, FOR DIVES THIS MONTH FROM WHICH THEY RETURNED WITH MANY A COMMENT CONCERNING THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER.

END PAGE ONE.

NNNN
ZCZC 053 01:621
AAHQ16 FAME 030940
MP 229

M45/085

NNNN

ZCZC 054 01:621
AAHQ16 FAME 030940
MP 229

M45/085 PAGE TWO OF TWO PAGES

THIS MONTH THE TEAM DABBLED IN DEVELOPING AND EXHIBITING THEIR PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS. MANY HILARIOUS A PHOTO WAS TAKEN, EVEN - SO DECENT PHOTOS DID APPEAR-MAINLY SPARK S SHOTS OF THE PENGUIN COLONY AT KILDALKEY AND HIS PHOTOS OF THE CRATER ON JUNIORS HILL.

HEADBANDS ARE STARTING TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE AS HAIR GROWS INCREASINGLY MORE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE. THE TEAM HAS BEEN FORCED TO CUT OUT CERTAIN MIDNITE HABBITS AS SOME MEMBERS CLOTHES THREATEN TO BURST AT THE SEAMS. DANIE AND GERRIT TOOK THIS ONE STEP FURTHER, BY IMPLEMENTING A SITUP COMPETITION WHICH TAKES PLACE IN A FEW WEEKS TIME.

THE MICE AT BASE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A BREAK TO INCREASE THEIR NUMBERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING HUMAN VERSUS MICE BATTLES, AND CATS ARE NOW THE PREY. A FEW NIGHT HUNTS HAVE BEEN ORGANISED WITH DAVE TEACHING US THE ROPES. NO CATS HAVE, HOWEVER BEEN SHOT AND ONLY ONE HAS BEEN SIGHTED AT BLUE PETREL BAY. WE HOPE TO ADD HIM TO THE LISTS IN A FEW DAYS TIME. DAVE AND DANIE ALSO CHOSE A PARTICULARLY FINE DAY TO ATTEMPT THE ICE PLATEAU. EVEN THOUGH THEY DIDNT MAKE IT THEY RETURNED WITH STORIES OF THE WONDERFUL VIEWS AND FAST TOBOGGAN RIDES DOWN THE HILLS. THE TEAMS COOKING SKILLS HAVE IMPROVED A LOT, ENEN SO, PARTICULAR MEMBERS STILL NEED A LOT OF PRACTICE UNTIL THEY BECOME PROFICIENT IN THIS ART.

THE END OF JUNE MONTH SEES THE TEAM WELL SETTLED INTO BASE ROUTINE AND CONTENT WITH THEIR LOT.

HERE FOLLOWS THE CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA FOR THE MONTH:

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE.....4,3 DEGREES C.
AVERAGE HUMIDITY.....84
AVERAGE SUNSHINE.....2,19 HOURS PER DAY
TOTAL RAINFALL.....199,9 MM
HIGHEST WIND GUST.....17 KNOTS (21,6KM/H)
LOWEST PRESSURE.....749,7 HPA
HIGHEST TEMPERATURE.....11,4 DEGREES C.
LOWEST TEMPERATURE.....-1,5 DEGREES C.

WEATHER DATA SUPPLIED BY DANIE FERRIERA
NEWSLETTER BY PETER OLOACRE

BS
220704