

Results of Reader Opinion Poll

It is now approximately four months since the opinion poll was distributed in Vol. 2, 1970, of the *Bulletin*. Of the replies received, 44 per cent were from ex-Sanae members; 41 per cent from Antarctic Association members; 10 per cent from teachers and 5 per cent from librarians. No replies were received from schoolchildren, although a large proportion of the *Bulletins* are distributed to schools through the periodical *Spectrum*. It is likely that these go into school libraries and that no one takes the initiative in returning forms. However, we would like to hear from pupils reading the *Bulletin*, as we have no real information as to whether they find the material interesting. The number of replies received from Antarctic Association members exceeded the number of paid up members of the Association. This may be due to the fact that the Association has recently conferred honorary membership on all ex-Sanae team members. So if you are an ex-Sanae member and have not heard from the Association (or if you know of someone who hasn't), it means that we do not have your present address. Sets of back issues of the *Bulletin* were sent to all team members that we could trace, but approximately 25 per cent were returned marked 'address unknown'.

Ninety-five per cent of those replying to the questionnaire read the *Bulletin* fully and an average of three people read each copy. It appears that articles of scientific interest are the most popular, although we have had relatively few of these in recent issues. So those of you who have been in charge of a scientific programme at Sanae, please let us have some information on the programme and the results obtained during your year. We will start the ball rolling by printing articles of a general nature on some of the scientific programmes being carried out at the base. Second in popularity are articles on expeditions from the base and for these we rely almost entirely on the geologists. These are followed by articles on life at the base itself. There are a large number of ex-Sanae members who could let us have something of interest here. Then came historical articles and finally articles on animal life and articles of social interest concerning team members.

Eighty-three per cent of those returning the form said that they are satisfied with the *Bulletin* in its present form. Some of the comments received are given below.

"I would like to see an annual report on highlights of the events at Sanae and the Islands."

This could well be supplied by the leader of each returning expedition.

"A more modern format is required."

We have tried to improve the appearance of the *Bulletin* beginning with this issue. We welcome any comments from readers.

"A few more photos would be welcome."

"More photos of the base and team members – I suggest that 80 per cent of the Bulletin should be photographs."

We recently appealed to those with good black and white pictures to let us have some of these and we have had some response to the photographic competition. The winner of the first 'print-of-the-issue' is Peter Sutcliffe (Sanae 11) and this print appears on the front cover of this issue.

"I have great difficulty in trying to understand articles written in Afrikaans."

This was a frequent comment from overseas readers. We have therefore decided to add an English synopsis to each article in Afrikaans. We will then undertake to send an English translation of the article to anyone requesting this.

Some of the comments, like –

"I would like to receive the Bulletin monthly"

"All articles should be in both Afrikaans and English"
and

"Colour photographs instead of black and white"

are a little too ambitious for us at present. The *Bulletin* is financed by a grant of R2 000 a year from BP Southern Africa. This just covers four issues a year in the old format. (This issue comprises two numbers combined into one of twice the usual length.)

"I would like to see news and articles from foreign Antarctic expedition members."

So let's hear from the overseas readers. Perhaps those members of the Sanae teams who have made contact with their counterparts in the teams of foreign expeditions could persuade them to write an article for us.

Finally, the best comment, which came from an overseas reader, was:

"On the whole, I think you publish a wonderful Bulletin, possibly in the first three of the nations participating in Antarctica."