

THE BOB GRAHAM ROUND

Arthur Daniels and Peter McHale - supported by ARCC.

Midnight, Friday 21st June 1991. The Moot Hall clock strikes and suddenly the hours of training, waiting and the decision whether or not have another pee are behind us. Leo gives the word and away we go down the glistening streets on the way to the hills beyond.

Out into the dark roads beyond Portinscale in a light drizzle and freshening breeze. Swinside, Stair, Little Town soon behind and onto Newlands Church at 12.43 - nicely warmed up. A quick change into fell shoes then off to High Nab, the valley beyond and Robinson. The rains heavier now and on the climb up Robinson the wind becomes quite strong from the South, the way we are heading. A slight contretemps coming off the top but we are soon back on course and over Hindscarth, Dale Head and onto the long slippery run down to Honister.

Quick refreshment here, thanks and goodbyes to the first team and away we go with the new team on the climb to Grey Knotts. The dry socks are soon wet and though the sky is lightening slightly, the weather conditions mean that it will not be light for a couple of hours yet. Apart from a heavy fall on Grey Knotts and a bruised knee, no major problems as far as Great Gable. Slightly off course from the summit due to the conditions but eventually righted and we are again away. Kirkfell, Pillar, Scoat Fell, Steeple and Red Pike without incident, then another fall but landed on the other knee to balance things up. Picked up the traverse round Stirrup Crag and onto Yewbarrow where a cold Frank Whittle was waiting to point us to the descent to a brighter Wasdale and a welcome rest.

Food forced down and a full change, thanks to the ministering angels, then away to struggle up into the clouds and rain crowning Scafell. Gingerly down to the dreaded Broad Stand, heart in mouth down the rope, then away to the Pike. Here we became split up in the mist and Paul and I were not to see the others again until Dunmail except as distant figures always on top of the next peak ahead. After Bowfell we dropped below the cloud base and in brightening weather we made good time to Dunmail. Here we met Peter again looking just as tired as I felt. It was time to switch over to reserve tank.

More welcome attention from the ladies then off again now 90 minutes down on schedule. Pulled 30 mins over Seat Sandal and Fairfield and kept it up to Helvellyn. Struck a bad patch around Sticks Pass, but cajoled and encouraged by Clare Kenny and Pete Dowker got over it and by Watsons Dodd was racing again. On the run to Clough Head we passed Peter and his team. Peter was now suffering from a bad attack of cramp. Made Threlkeld just 30 minutes down but feeling good. Peter, however, was really suffering and required extensive massage.

Battled up Halls Fell pulling back another 10 minutes and kept

up the momentum until halfway up Skiddaw. We had gained enough now however to be able, with a mixture of jogging and walking, to make it fairly comfortably to the Moot Hall with 20 minutes to spare. Peter, with the aid of massage halfway up Halls Fell, had also managed to pull things back together and arrived some 12 minutes later. A fitting end to a memorable day and heartfelt thanks to all the helpers, most especially the ladies on the support car who kept us going when all else failed in such fine style.

Arthur Daniels.

BOB GRAHAM 24 HOUR CLUB

Derek Price

Since Bob Graham's successful round in 1932 there have been thousands of attempts to gain membership of this prestige organisation. It is a fact that acceptance to the Bob Graham Club is based on the ability to climb 42 Lakeland peaks over a distance of 72 miles, with 27000ft of ascent, in 24 hours. In a recent conversation with the Bob Graham Club Secretary, Fred Rogerson, I was informed that even in recent years, with the surge in popularity of fell running as a sport, the failure rate on BG attempts is still in the region of 60%. The ARCC running section, masterminded by Leo Pollard, (44th person to complete the Round), and a relatively small group compared with other fell running clubs, can boast 23 members of the B.G.Club. This number, according to my calculations, is almost 75% of the senior runners - an amazing record and one that we should be proud of.

In 1992, as part of the ARCC golden jubilee celebrations, there will be a Bob Graham relay and other attempts, details not yet finalised.

ARCC Bob Graham Club members

Sheila Anderton	Dennis Gleeson	Bill Mitton
Andrew Barbier	Jim Harding	John Nixon
Peter Barlow	Alan Kenny	Leo Pollard
Tony Brindle	Clare Kenny	Michael Pooler
Paul Cooney	John McGonagle	Derek Price
Arthur Daniels	Mike McGovern	Mike Quinn
Peter Dowker	Peter McHale	Ted Southworth
Chris Farrell	Ray Miller	