

6

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB.

18th April 1961.

Circular 3/1961

Dear Member,

At the A.G.M. there were approximately 70 members present - I wonder what happened to the remaining 180. Obviously many were unable to attend due to the travelling involved. Perhaps the good weather kept some members away from this important function.

The Presidents Report is given below for members benefit.

A.R.C.C. Annual Report.

'When I look back and think of the heavy burden that lay on my shoulders during the days after the war when the Club had reached its lowest ebb, and especially to the time when it looked as though the financial burden of the Langdale project might crush us out of existence, I am amazed at the prospect that presents itself today. Stout Cortes 'gazing on a peak in Darien' or Hilary or Tensing emerging on to the summit of Everest, can hardly have felt more satisfaction than I feel at the achievement of the Club today. Somehow I feel at last, that what I have worked for has come about. That from dead ashes something new has been born. There is more than a collection of properties, there is spirit; there is a bustle of activity; there is a keenness and a loyalty, there is an Achille Ratti Climbing Club.

In mere functional terms this is expressed by saying that membership at about 230 is higher than ever before; that active membership is almost commensurate with enrolled membership; that through the bulletin, communications are advancing to be good, with promise of very good to follow; that Hut Committees are working with the efficiency of E type Jaguars and almost as fast; that the Constitutions have been published and are there for every member to observe, and see that they are observed by everyone else; that members are interested in every aspect of the Club, and that the use of the huts is such, that since the opening nearly three years ago at Bishop's Scale, there have only been two weekends, Winter and Summer, when there have not been members there. Now it has reached the healthy stage when they have to sleep on the floor, or else suspended in mid air.

All this is to the good. On the reverse side the wave of optimism had clouded the main issue, that there is still a big capital debt. The Club may never have had it so good as Hut committees gloat over their swollen finances, but I myself and the Lancaster Diocese, as chief creditors have never had it so bad. I suggest that the Capital Debt takes its rightful place in the enthusiastic activities of the Club. Again, I am not too sure of the quality of membership. As a Catholic Club that must always be importantwhat manner of men and women you are.

I think that your climbing exploits are good; and I hope that your spirit of adventure is aflame. I don't want to hear of you dropping off crags, but I do want to hear of you sleeping at the base of them, so that you can be ascending the last pitch just as the first rays of the rising sun hit the dewy top. Be imaginative and earn the social carousals that you enjoy at nights.

Finally, the A.R.C.C. is not just an ordinary Club. It is always impelled by a Christological urge and it finds unselfish expression in providing at Dunmail a place for youngsters to holiday and learn the spirit of the hills along with their leaders and a priest. Let Dunmail then be the concern of you all just because, in a material sense, you get so little out of it. It too has a Capital debt!

Congratulations and thanks to the splendid team of officers, workers and the members themselves who have made this for me such a memorable year.

+Thomas Bernard Pearson
Bishop of Sinda
Founder President.

16th April 1961.

Dunmail Hut.

At the ... it was asked if Dunmail could be used by members as a ... for the Langdale Hut. It was decided that ... it could be used. Bookings MUST be made, otherwise hut ... be used. Bookings to be made through the Hut Secretary Miss Norah Parkinson. Since party bookings exist, hut is available only on the following inclusive dates ... ending Saturday.

22nd April; 29th April; 5th May; 10th June; 17th June;
24th June; 1st July; 8th July.

Further dates will be made available when hut is available, information may be obtained from Miss Norah Parkinson.

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24th June; 1st July; 8th July.

Further dates will be made available when hut is available, information may be obtained from Miss Norah Parkinson.

Wanted.

Two wives for two prominent members of the Buckbarrow Hut Committee - prompt and urgent enquiries made to Mrs. M. Rogerson, giving qualifications and salary required.

Abseiling.

If it is essential to knot two climbing ropes together for an emergency abseil, the best knot is the Fisherman's, it must be tied correctly, and the knot kept clear of the rock face. The only sound practice is always to use a continuous rope of sufficient length for abseiling without using knots of any kind.

Overheard On Climbs.

Novice, coming up to join leader on stance.
' I say , your rope is caught over that spike of rock'
Leader replies. ' That is the belay.'

Two parties on a well known climb, the second paying out the rope to the leader with arms above head, passing the rope between fingers. Asked why it was being done this way, instead of the orthodox shoulder or waist belay, the reply was. ' Oh! I'm wearing a clean cardigan and this rope is dirty! '

Second ascends to leader arriving at the stance with ashen face and shaking legs after climbing an overhanging crack. Leader asks ' How did you find it! second gives wan grin and replied ' Easy!'

Whistles.

How many walkers and climbers carry this item? (and maybe a spare pea for the whistle?). It was reported some time ago of a party lost in a mist on Dow Crag, in fading light, were located by whistle blasts. Another more recent occasion, involved a walker descending from the top of Pavay Ark, in similar weather conditions, having missed the path and proceeded to take the easiest way down, which involved scrambling down rock, traversing, and down more rock. Eventually the girl was stuck, having ended up somewhere over the top of Rake End Chimney. She was again located in the dark by whistle blasts, with this aid the rescue party soon found her.

The Journal.

I have received, since the last bulletin, articles from the following members. Derek Price, John Thorpe and Gerry Charnley. - for which many thanks.

It would help considerably if the articles

Circular 3/1961

were somewhere in the region of 1800 words, and if you could send them typed, if possible, it would help me to assess layout etc., Short articles are also required, to give some variety.

The Journal itself will be typed and duplicated, with a printed cover and photographs. The main idea is to limit cost of production, in view of the multifarious Capital Debts. Naturally, a printed Journal is ideal, but costs for this type of production are tremendous - we don't want another Capital Debt ! Members will receive a copy free and other copies will be made available for general sale.

Are there any members who would be prepared to handle the advertising side of the Journal ? Adverts reduce initial costs enormously, and consequently reduces the cost to the Club.

The typing will be sent out to a commercial firm, also, cover and photograph reproduction elsewhere - my one finger typing would be exhausted otherwise, and my patience.

John Thorpe and I are behaving with the utmost caution with this Journal, and our ideas are firmly belayed to reality.

Transport.

Margaret Finn writes that she is going on the next meet in Langdale on May 7th - 8th next. She has a car and is offering a lift to any member from the Yorkshire side . If you require a lift, please contact Miss Finn directly. I give below her address.

Miss M. E. Finn
'Southdene'
South Kirkby.
Pontefract. Yorks.

Letters.

May I also thank the many members who have written to me, for their ideas and suggestions, many of the authors of these suggestions wish to remain anonymous - and naturally I cannot be held responsible for the opinions they express....

6. Endsleigh Road.
Withington.
Manchester 20.
Tel. DIDsbury 8984.

Yours sincerely.
J. H. THORNTON.