

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB.

Circular 6/1961.

18th October. 1961.

Dear Member,

I hope that you have had a good holiday and are looking forward to the winter season. You will already have had details of the Annual Dinner - reserve this date, and see below a reminder of the details, just in case you have lost the letter sent by Mrs. Anita Haigh.

B.M. C. News.

English and Welsh Mountain Huts available to B.M.C. Member Clubs.

The list given below is of huts maintained by mountaineering and Climbing Clubs which are members of the B.M.C., which they are prepared to make available to members of other B.M.C. member clubs.

Correcting the lists.

This is a first list and no doubt there are errors and omissions, as well as alterations that will be necessary as time goes by. These shall be notified.

Hut Equipment.

Unless otherwise stated huts are, (a) available for men and women; (b) equipped with beds or bunks, blankets cooking facilities and fuel, but members must take their own food and a sheet or other sleeping bag. Keys will be obtained from the hut custodian/warden, etc., unless otherwise stated,

Booking.

Members of B.M.C. Clubs wishing to make use of these facilities should approach the hut custodian/warden etc., named in the list in good time.

Fair Treatment for Huts.

Members who stay at the huts of other clubs do so by the courtesy of the club concerned, and are under an obligation to look after the club's interest in maintaining the hut and keeping it clean and tidy. Failure to do this would bring this list and the whole arrangements into disrepute. In particular, visitors should adhere to the rules exhibited in the hut or otherwise made known to them, and to the method of payment prescribed.

See over for list.....

HUT LIST WITH B.M.C. Circular No. 311.July 1961.

HUT (and CLUB)	SITUATION and ACCESS	ACCOMMODATION CHARGE per NIGHT. AMENITIES ETC.	WARDEN/ CUSTODIAN/ HON. SEC. REMARKS ON KEYS.
<u>LAKE DISTRICT</u>			
Dale Bottom (Yorkshire M.C.)	Dale Bottom Farm 2½ miles SE of Keswick.	20: 1/6d No utensils No blankets	Dr. J. C. Foster Green Trees, Burgh-by-Sands, Carlisle.
Dubs Hut (Keswick M.C.)	Honister Quarry Old mine path across Fleetwith	12: 3/-d No blankets Parking	A. Ferguson, 28. Skiddaw St., Keswick.
Ruthwaite Lodge (Sheffield University M.C.)	Grisedale Pass Helvellyn side of Grisedale Beck; marked on O.S.	12: 2/6d No blankets	Hut Custodian, Sheffield Univ. M.C., c/o University Union, Leavygreave, Sheffield 3. Keys from "White Lion" Patterdale.
Tranearth (Lancashire Cave & Crag)	Conistoun. 2 miles SW of Conistoun, 1 mile from Torrey.	21: 3/-d	H. J. Roston, 10 Somerset Walk Helmshore, Rossendale.
<u>OTHERS IN ENGLAND</u>			
Ilkley (Yorkshire M.C.)	Cow & Calf Rocks. 400 yds SE of rocks	8: 2/-d No utensils No blankets	A. M. Warnes Bella Vista, Somerset Drive, Ilkley, Keys from Caretaker, Highfield Ho..
Alstonfield (Cave & Crag Club)	By George Hotel, Alstonfield.	20: 3/-d No blankets	J. R. Hirons, 60, Nevill Rd., Erdington, Birmingham 23.
The Knowle (Northumbrian M.C.)	Barden Mill Northumberland Grindledikes; left at AA box past Howsteads.	10: 2/6d No blankets Parking	J. Robins, 7 Matpen Ave., Park Lane Estate, Shiremoor, Northumberland.

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HUT (AND CLUB)	SITUATION AND ACCESS	ACCOMMODATION CHARGE PER NIGHT AMENITIES ETC.	WARDEN/ CUSTODIAN/ HON. SEC. AND REMARKS ON KEYS.
<u>WALES: SNOWDONIA</u>			
Emily Kelly Hut (Pinnacle Club)	Cwm Dyli. Nant Gwynant: close to Power Station.	12 (Ladies only) 3/-d Parking.	Mrs. A. Flew 21 The College Keele, Staffs.
Maen-Lloyd Uchaf (Chester M.C.)	Llanberis, on slopes of Moel Ellis.	14: 3/6d Parking No Blankets	G.R. Coppack 7, Southfield Road, Little Sutton, Wirral Cheshire.
Minffordd (St. Mary's Hospital M.C.)	Drws-y-Coed Nantle, near Chaple	18: 3/6d Parking. Camping-space	Hon. Sec., St. Mary's Hospital M.C. Medical School, Norfolk Place, London W.2. Keys: from Mr. Williams. Drws-y-coed- isaf.
Pant Ifan (Cave & Crag Club)	Coed, Tremadoc Portmadoc. Pathway from rear to Capt. Livingstone Learmouth's house, or track from Penteg.	23: 3/-d No blankets Parking.	A. Fisher, 172 Old Park Road, Dudley, Worcestershire.
Pen Ceunant (Ceunant M.C.)	Llanberis: 300 yds up main Snowdon track	16: 3/6d No blankets Parking	J. Urwin, 79 Bells Lane Kings Norton Birmingham 30
Tan-y-Wyddfa (Oread M.C.)	Beddgelert 4 miles from Beddgelert on Caernarvon road	24: 4/-d No blankets Parking	F.C. Allen, 30 Kingsley Rd Allestree, Derby

HUT (AND CLUB)	SITUATION AND ACCESS	ACCOMMODATION CHARGE PER NIGHT AMENITIES ETC.	WARDEN/ CUSTODIAN/ HON. SEC. AND REMARKS ON KEYS.
<u>OTHERS IN WALES</u>			
Cwmorthin Cottage, (University College of North Wales M.C.)	Moelwyns: beside Llyn Cwmorthin	12;	Hut Secretary, University College of North Wales M.C. The Union, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Caerns.
Tynyffordd (Wolverhampton M.C.)	Dinas Mawddwy On the Bwlch-y- Groes to Bala road, 2½ miles NE of Mawddwy.	7: 2/8d Parking	A. George 15 Faircourt Avenue, Penn Wolverhampton.

A note from J.M.C.S. Glasgow section.

Coruisk Hut. - Isle of Skye.

This hut is available to all B.M.C. member Clubs and Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs. The hut contains nine bunks in one room; three bunks can be curtained off for the convenience of mixed parties. Sleeping bags should be taken but blankets are available. Cooking is by Calor gas but not coal which will be an extra charge. No key for the Hut will be available locally. All applications to be made to:-

A.A. Tripleton.
14 Portland Park.
Hamilton. Lanarkshire.

and a key will be sent by post to each individual party whose booking will be accepted. It is particularly requested that the key should be returned by post as soon as possible after using the hut. The charge is 4/- per night per person; this includes the use of calor gas but not coal which will be an extra charge. The hut is situated some 200 yards N. of the outfall of Loch Coruisk into Loch Scavaig.

Access is:- (a) by boat from Elgol; (b) boat from Mallaig; (c) boat from Glen Brittle. (d) the easiest approach for the walker is from Strathaird.

This hut list is given for the benefit of those members who may want to try somewhere different for a weekend, instead of Langdale, Wasdale, or Dummall. This club, incidentally, for those not already aware of it, is affiliated to the BMC. Other BMC Clubs have used our hut from time to time; the visitors have been Cuenant Club, Lancashire Caving and Climbing, Manchester U.M.C., Liverpool U.M.C. etc.. For those not familiar with other huts, it must be pointed out that many of these are austere inevitably, but this should lend a degree of novelty to the visit, for our well housed hut dwellers. I can recommend the Birmingham Cave and Crag Hut, Pont-Ifan - which must be unique, in which it is necessary to descend to reach the climbs. The greatest objective danger is the rubbish chute situated at the top of the routes. It is regrettable that so many of our members never visit other mountain areas at weekends - perhaps it is the language difficulty or closing time.

Meets.

It is proposed to increase the number of meets and variety of meets for the coming year. The Wasdale Hut Committee have already prepared their meet list. It only remains for the Langdale Hut Committee to add their contribution.

Which, while on this topic, reminds me that I have inserted a note previously that members write proposing venue for meets.

NOT ONE SINGLE CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN RECEIVED !!!

Are members so devoid of ideas, or are they content just to use our own huts?

In the Manchester area there are 23 members - would these members be interested in walking/climbing meets in the Peak District? - single day only.

In the st. Helens area + Liverpool area there are 34 members - a meet could be organised in the Helsby Frodsham area.

Preston (having got tired of counting) has numerous members and also has the Blackburn area - local meets could be arranged in the Dales or Blackburn Side - all well within reasonable travelling distance of both places.

Blackpool - well there's always the Tower!! - but before I get inundated with protestations about its worthy facilities and access to country districts, apart from the Lakes; there must be some bright willing individual who could lead a meet or two somewhere near (about 20 miles).

What about showing some effort you members!!!

I do realise, that in the number of members listed in various areas analysed from the most recent members list, that many members may no longer be active, nor have time due to family ties or business: but is it too much to expect attendance on a day meet now and again?

I leave it to you and would welcome criticisms and suggestions for meets. I cannot reply individually to all

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letters received except to thank you through the bulletin.
Club membership now stands at 338.

Hut News.

Wasdale:- from our man in Wasdale (Tom Hemingway),
he writes:-

"Working Weekend"

There will be a "Working Weekend" at Buckbarrow on the 14th-15th October and the hut will be closed on these days except for working. Anyone willing to lend a hand will be very welcome.

I've put this in just for the record, the news being somewhat belated. It would seem that 2 members went over on this weekend and didn't know anything about it - they were duly roped in !!!

To continue:

Sunday Mass.

Since the chapel at Sellafield Camp is closed there are now two masses every Sunday throughout the year at St. Joseph's Seascale, at 8.15a.m. and 9.30a.m..

A Dangerous Act.

A candle has been found in the barn at Buckbarrow. This piece of foolishness has lost us the use of the barn and outbuildings as overflow accommodation.

Dunmail:- from Norah Parkinson, dated 21st October,
she writes:-

Bookings during the season have been very good and the overdraft has been reduced to £140.00.1d at the time of going to press, in addition to which, we have repaid Bishop Pearson the loan of £100 which he kindly let us have at the beginning of the season to assist us in paying the bill of £339 (approx) from Mr. Smiths for general repairs and decorations.

Apart from one week commencing Wednesday 2nd January, and a pending enquiry Christmas week, the hut is available to members until further notice. Should there be additional party bookings it has been agreed these shall be accepted and the respective Hut Secretaries will be notified by me so that the dates can be posted in Langdale and Wasdale.

Inevitably a period of continued occupation by parties from Whitsuntide until mid September (there is also a four day party in at the moment), has given the committee no opportunity for general cleaning and repairs, although Mary Conway and I have been on one or two occasions to check over the inventory and replace damaged or broken utensils, and to ensure that everything was in satisfactory working order. We would now like some volunteers to assist at a working weekend. A notice will be placed in the huts, Langdale and Wasdale of the date. Would interested members please contact direct:- Miss Norah Parkinson,

57, St. Martins Road, BLACKPOOL.

Langdale.

Visiting Clubs.

A list of visiting Clubs using the hut, will be posted on the notice board. This is to make members aware that accomodation may be somewhat restricted. Members are asked to co-operate in cooking organisation on these weekends.

Hut Fees.

These will still remain at 3/- per night for members and 4/6d for guests. The fees were raised for a trial period to cover cost of electricity, and this experiment has been found to be successful.

Working Weekend.

This shall be held on weekend of Jan 20-21st 1962. Members only weekend.

Hut Cleanliness. - Tea Towels.

Will members please note - the present tea towels in use will be burnt. Members must bring their own, as none will be available at the hut. Washing fluid is provided at the hut. It has been observed that members are wiping clean pots with soiled (tosay the least) tea towels; so the offending towels will be removed. Any left at weekends will be burnt. Please also clean down the stoves-they look better for it.

Meet.

A meet will be held at the New Year, informal dress only.
Members and guests welcome.

Dinner.

On the 9th December, 1961, the Annual Dinner will be held at the 'Old England Hotel' Windermere. Tickets still available at 22s. 6d. per head. Members please make an effort to attend, as this may be the last dinner our President may be able to attend, and he would like to see as many members as possible at this function.

Other items as follows:-

Helsby Guide Books.

Paddy O'Neill informs me that Guilde Books
to this sandstone outcrop can be obtained from:-
Mr. S.T.Wright, 3, Buttermere Avenue, Bidston, Birkenhead, "no
They cost 5/- inc. postage. So far as I know this is the only
source of supply, since they are published privately.

Journal.

Articles are still required, As yet there is insufficient material to embark on this project at the moment, so as yet remains a nebulous feature of Club life...

There have been previous Journals, published for the Club as older members will know, and I am giving below an item from Journal 2, 1949. Perhaps it may inspire members to write. Choice was a very difficult problem in view of the many well written articles.

ROSSETT GILL.

Most hill lovers connect some feeling or association with the hills they climb - the silence of Black Sail; the dash down the scree-run of Great Gable; the breeze that lingers on Gimmer Crag even on the sunniest days; the masculinity of Scafell and Helvellyn; the massiveness of Pillar; the interminable trek up Skiddaw; the familiarity and friendship of the Langdale Pikes. The list is endless and differs considerably with different people, and with many hill lovers it is association that rarely finds verbal expression; what Geoffrey Winthrop Young might have meant when he spoke of people having a "feeling" for the mountains. You look for something that you would be surprised, often dissatisfied not to find.

You discover this feeling or association in so many various ways and experiences; in the reflection of the moon on a tranquil tarn; the smell of coming rain; the almost intolerable pain in winter of blood returning to numbed fingers, or the torture of skin blistered by the summer sun; the warmth of the first rays of sun after a night on the hills; the brightness of the western sky after sunset; even the very silence of the hills. In the same way you associate the view of Mill Gill with the Langdale Hut; the perfect contemplation of Scafell on a clear morning with the Wasdale Hut. The Hut atmosphere of Langdale and Wasdale is something that is very different in both places and yet something that is very satisfying in each. The urn-cum-perforated saucepan shower bath manipulated from an upper stable window at Buckbarrow is a concomitant of the whole spirit and feeling and unspoiled nature of Wasdale, and contrasts with the modern H & C laid on at Langdale; and yet both have their attraction.

It must have been some such genius loci that carried me with noble step up the last few hundred feet of Rossett Gill and enabled me to look with new delight at all I saw around me. It was comforting and satisfying sight, for I was seeing this much maligned mountain with new vision. For years I had been accustomed to associate Rossett Gill with 'grind only, and having often toiled up it, had no illusions about the view that awaited me. To find anyone who likes Rossett Gill is as rare as finding in a camping party a member with a passionate love of washing dishes. Hard things and worse have been said about it and the lack of reward offered to the grunting grumbler on his arrival at the top. It is time that we saw this from another angle. There is at least nothing to spoil the view. There is, for example, no railway station immortalising the name of Rossett Gill Halt (change here for Scafell); there is no autobahn, mountain railway, rack or funicular railway, ski-lift or similar feat of engineering such as spoils so many of the Alpine mountain ranges, where you can reach nearly 10,000 ft without climbing a single step. Here, on the contrary, he who would reach the 3,210 th foot of Scafell from Rossett Gill must do so under his own steam, often enough a steam of perspiration; but in that he treads the summit of Scafell as a result of his own efforts, he should be allowed the title of mountaineer for his persevering courage and fortitude. Nor is there

any desecration of the silence of the hill.....that silence which is not a deathly paralysis or absence of sound, but instinct with life. There is always some sound there on the slope, whether it be the call of the bird, the tinkle of a stone on the scree, or the sigh of a breeze in the heather. And such faint sounds are more consciously registered on the ear than the din of a London bus passing a few feet away from the pavement. Then there is the grim satisfaction of something achieved, the kind of contentment with which the mountains can gild the most prosaic of efforts in retrospect. That toil and sweat up Rossett beside the headlong Gill is not without its compensations.

Ruskin said that the beauty of the mountains is best appreciated from below, but surely such appreciation is purely visual and too objective, and reveals only a minute part of such beauty. To feel the fulness of mountain beauty you must have lived among the hills and this will also give the right background and local colour for those mental pictures of past exploits; the long path of endurance; the narrow escapes shared with others; the thrill of first climbs; a traverse; a view from the tops; the smell of a primus; the magic of a meal. It is the total background of life among the hills that mellows all such pictures and feeling and converts them to hallowed memories. Viewed in this light even Rossett Gill has its moments !

Brother Joseph, C.F.X.

Well there is the article. Can I expect contributions from you the members. It is interesting to note that the editor of the 1949 Journal records 'The real reason for the gap of one year (in the publishing of the Journal) has been the excessive modesty of our members' this situation still appears to exist. I learn that Norman Harrison is busy writing an article on the history of the Club. Get crackingyou members .

Other items are as follows:-

Skye Meet.

A party of A.R.C.C. will be going to Skye in 1962 from Saturday June 3rd to Whit Monday 11th June. Anyone interested in accompanying the party please contact Norman Harrison, 30 St. Andrews Road, Deepdale, Preston. Norman also asks if a priest can possibly accompany the party..... anyone interested.

Lake Search and Rescue Teams.

A committee has been formed to organise rescue and search teams, particularly the latter since more personnel would be required and we are giving the Secretary of this committee details of our huts. This is so that if a search is organised they can ask for volunteers at these huts. It has also been suggested that Dunmail

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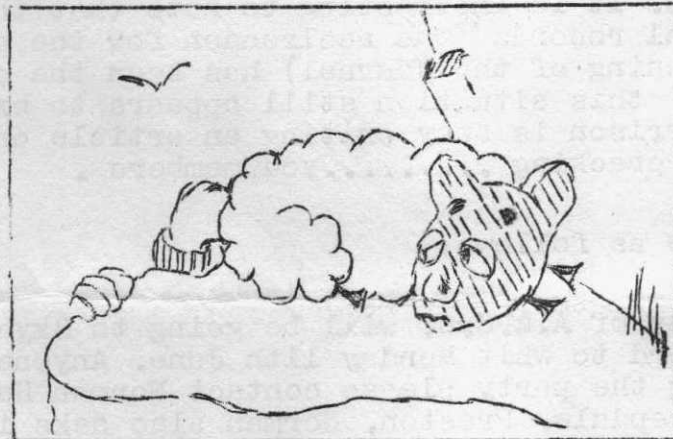
could be used as a base from which to direct operations, should they so desire. It must be remembered that enthusiasm is not, enough on a search, and since I realise that many members have done so little walking in the Lakes, I would suggest that they do not partake in wa search, as they are apt to become a liability more than provide assistance, and a search on rough terrain in bad weather has to be done adequately or it is no use assissting. On reading the log at Langdale it is interesting to speculate just how little walking is done..... or little of anything except eating and drinking. These are hard words, they do not fit everyone, but if they do fit you, then you can very well rectify this ommision of walking when on a visit to the hut. On the last Langdale meet a member organised a walking party, 12 decided to go, when they found the journey was to be up Rosset Ghyll and over Ore Gap and over Bowfell and down the Band, the party was effectively reduced to 4.....the rest were just incapabable,...

Visiting Club.

A party of 9-12 members of the University College of Wales are proposing to use the hut for a week commencing Jan. 12. 1962.

Lost.

A party of Manchester U. M. C. visited the hut in Langdale and thair Secretary writes to me saying one of their members left the Fell and Rock Journal (current issue) and asks if I could possibly return it to him, if it has been found. Does any member know anything about it.



May I wish all members a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely.
J.H.Thornton.

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Withington,
Manchester. 20.
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