

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

3rd June 1967

Bulletin No. 24
Side 1.

Dear Member,

Well, before you start tearing this Bulletin to pieces to find how the Appeal for the Welsh Hut is going, I'd better tell you that it has been a great success. Reference is made in the Chairman's Report and elsewhere later in this issue so relax for the moment and enjoy - I hope - the rest of the Bulletin.

Anyone who hasn't been to Bishop's Scale recently, is in danger of not recognising the Hut these days, as two Members who are in residence for the summer have been busy in their spare time. The entrance gate has been re-hung and painted white, a drive-way constructed with a border of large stones and one or two small trees planted, one of which was quickly nobbled by a lamb chop on the hoof. They (Geoff. Cross and Mick Black) have also done a great deal of work inside the Hut. One or two poker-work signs are also in evidence - courtesy of Barry Ayre, who has displayed an unsuspected talent for this art. In fact, one of his finest examples, entitled 'Gentlemen' was removed one night, from the New D.G., although bolted to the wall!

A reminder - Subs are now due and anyone in arrears on July 1st will be deemed to have dropped their Membership and will no longer be eligible to use the Huts. The financial year started on April 1st and you must admit, three months grace should be long enough for even the most absent-minded Member. Graduates are also reminded that the onus is on them to apply for full Membership when their six months are up. We have a list of people waiting to join when we have vacancies for them, so don't leave your applications lying around - send them in. All Subs. and enquiries should be sent to Barry Ayre, Secretary, whose address is to be found at the end of this (and every) Bulletin.

One other thing, will Members please notify either Barry or myself when changing addresses - we have discovered that Bulletins have been going, in some cases, to the old one, consequently, they haven't been receiving any news.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - was held on a gloriously sunny afternoon at St. Ignatius' Hall, Preston, on the 29th April 1967. Our Founder President, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Pearson was unable to be present, as he was in the process of moving his affairs to Windermere that week-end. In the course of his Report, the Chairman, W.F. Carter Esq., gave a brief account of the search for the proposed Welsh Hut and the scheme for financing the project.

Tyn Twr had been located and brought to our notice by John Foster, and a great deal of deep thinking had been given to the idea by the Management Committee by exploratory enquiries went ahead. At the moment however, we were awaiting final planning approval, which when given, meant that we could close the deal at any moment. The snag at the present time was that we had been requested to ask the School authorities for permission to use the playground (now disused) for a car-park, as the roadway was a bus route.

Consequently, we were waiting for the Trustees to hold their Meeting, but even if we didn't get this permission, he did not think that the Planning

Board would refuse us permission. It was, he said, most unusual for a solicitor to stick his neck out (cry of: 'You're telling me!') but he did not think that there were any real difficulties in our way.

The result of the Appeal, at the moment, was £1,115 - a very creditable sum to be raised from within the Club. Some £450 was the result of new Life Memberships, the rest raised from Promissory Notes and several donations from friends of the Club. It was a very admirable thing that we had got this amount amongst ourselves and showed that although Members may change throughout the years, the spirit of the ARCC had not, and he thanked the Members for their support of the Scheme.

Secretary's Report - Barry Ayre thanked Bill & Joyce Carter for the admirable state of the records he had inherited. The number of Members on April 1st was 384 of whom some 141 were Life Members. There was a list of 19 people waiting for admission.

Treasurers Report - Tom Hemingway gave a very clear picture of the Club finances which showed us to be in an extremely healthy position.

The outstanding Diocesan Loan was £750 on which we paid $2\frac{1}{2}\%$. We had started the year (1.4.66) with some £500 and the net balance at the moment was some £1400 which did not take into account the Welsh Hut Appeal.

Altogether, a very satisfactory year.

Buckbarrow - Paul Charnock reported: Receipts and usage were increased and there had been a number of working week-ends and Meets. The estate company from whom we leased the Hut had said that the tree overshadowing the rear was in a dangerous condition and had had it felled by one of their workmen. He had carefully dropped it away from the Hut but after that his aim had been rather faulty for it completely demolished the Gent's Toilet.

Fortunately, no one was in it at the time, it had now been rebuilt at their expense and they had also provided a new Elsan, which although small, was adequate.

Langdale - Mick Pooler reported: a new boiler had been installed - mainly by him - (loud and disbelieving jeers) with some assistance from Terry Hickey, and a drying room and storage cupboard had also been built.

There was a rumour that the use of the felling axe and saw, the burning of rubbish, the stoking of the boiler and the washing of pans etc, was the sole prerogative of the Duty Warden and Committee. He would like to make it clear that this wasn't the case. Any Member, Life Member or Graduate was permitted to partake in these activities and he invited Members to avail themselves of any opportunity that presented itself and not wait until they had permission from the Warden. (Very loud laughter).

In conclusion, he would like to thank the Hut Secretary, Catherine Hickey who looked after correspondence, bookings and things like that, and John Bulman, who kept an eye on the Hut during the week and often had a fire lit ready for us.

Dunmail - Marie Bailey gave details of bookings. A ten pound deposit was now asked for in advance, which was returned if the booking was taken up or if the Hut could be re-let after a cancellation. There had been several of these last year which had caused a fall in receipts. It was thought that if there weren't any bookings for late Sept.- October, then the Hut could be opened to Members for this period. Details of this could be published in a later Bulletin. Bookings so far, were not as heavy as in previous years,

One party had concreted the area around the back door and this year another school party would attend to the front path in a similar manner.

Management Committee:- Mike Hopley and John Gilmour were both proposed for the vacancy on the Committee. After a vote had been taken, John Gilmour was re-elected.

Annual Dinner:- A provisional booking had been made at the Red Lion Hotel, Grasmere, date - sometime in November. Barry Ayre said that the problem was to cater for all who wished to attend, last year a number of people who left it too late had been unable to obtain tickets. Details will be given in a later Bulletin, when it will be a case of first come, first served.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks proposed by Cyril Thompson, to the Management Committee for their work in the past year.

Members will be glad to hear that June Gilmour and Joyce Carter are making good progress after their operations recently. Barry Ayre wrote on behalf of the Club sending our best wishes, we hope to see you both again soon.

NEWS FROM BUCKBARROW

On the first page of the typewritten log at Buckbarrow is the description of a climb called 'The Buckbarrow Crack'.

It is not in any of the published books on the subject, even though it was first climbed in 1944.

Since then only one other ascent has been recorded, although several attempts have been rained off and various people have been to have a look at it. I will award to the first rope to climb it, the C.D.M. for their dedication to climbing and the ARCC. (Grade Severe).

The wooden hut in the yard has now been re-felted and is no longer prone to leakages during light rain. Members should note that this hut is probably the last vestige of male domination in England, females being even barred from setting foot inside the place even if bringing an early morning brew. Such offerings should be placed on the steps outside the door after wakening the inmates with a gentle knock on the door.

Paul.

The Bleng Walk (a Novel Romantic Walk) NO. 3

Walk, run or fly to where the road to Gosforth crosses the River Bleng (at the bottom of that steep hill). Go along the earth road on the left-hand side of the Bleng, through a cattle grid and on over the Bailey Bridge, (nicknamed, Marie) into the Forestry Commission plantation. Follow the road along the R.H. side of the river as it makes its way through what might be a glen in the Highlands.

The aroma from the pine trees is delightful on a clear day. (How's that again? - Ed.) Note also the varying degrees of

darkness among the trees either side of you, which are now and then penetrated by beams of light, and all the time, the river on your left babbling away over its rocky course.

Eventually, the road crosses the river again and starts to zig-zag as it gains height among trees which are smaller but vary in type and colour. Later, you walk up an avenue of trees which converge on the skyline, until you emerge on Stockdale Moor, a few more steps and the whole of Blengdale is before you, encircled by a range of mountains which include Caw Fell, Haycock and Seatallan.

Turn right, off the road, across rough moorland and you should soon sight the River Bleng again. You should be able to see before long, Sargeant's Ford, a line of Olde Worlde stepping stones, which would go a bomb on the South Shore (Blackpool) and with care you will be able to make a dry crossing.

As it says on the heading, this is a novel walk, so you can find your own way back across the moorland to Buckbarrow, and depending on your companion, it could be romantic!

I admit to a little bit of plagiarism on this walk as Wainwright mentions part of it in his ascent on Caw Fell, but as it was being done by ARCC Members before he cornered the market.....

Paul Charnock.

ROUND AND ABOUT:- His Lordship has now moved to St. Herbert's, Windermere, 'translated' is, I believe, the technical term****Rev. Fr. Cammack is now back in Uganda****Angela Faller came unstuck on Kipling Groove recently - no damage****Dave Emmerson 'bombed off' a crag near Newcastle, 40' fall, landed on his feet - result, sprained ankle and broken wrist, but doing very well, thank you****returning to Ghana are Miss C.M. McEvoy and Miss M. Louizo****back from Antarctica after two years comes Ken Doyle*** **spare a thought in passing for the young ARCC-type who went camping in Wales - and forgot to take the tent-poles****

PRIDE COMES BEFORE.....

The Achille Ratti A.G.M. always guarantees glorious weather and this year was no exception. When Chris Farrell suggested that I should lead him up a well-known modern classic and conditions turned out perfect, it seemed like the hand of fate. I'd always wanted to try leading this famous route and I'd been climbing well on gritstone during the week - getting up problems at Almscliff that used to be impossible - so I felt there was a favourable chance of success. Therefore, shortly after breakfast, we sweated our way up to Gimmer, Chris, me and Terry Parker, to find that it was nearly as warm up there as it was in the valley.

We could see for miles, Blea Tarn sparkling in the sun, Little Langdale rather hazy, Morecambe Bay, Ingleborough, white sails already skimming over Windermere, and in the opposite direction, Bowfell's slender

buttress framed by late snow in the gullies, and Gable peeping above Rossett Pike with its tracks so clear that one almost expected to see people on them.

While Terry solo'd Samaritan Corner, Chris and I scrambled up to Ash Tree ledge and prepared the gear for the climb.

The preliminary pitch was soon done, then the first traverse, slightly tricky because still streaked with water but all the same, much easier than it looks. Harry and Bill arrived and settled in the sun at the other side of the gully. It was much cooler at the shady stance in the chimney.

As Chris traversed, I thought of that day a year ago when Ralph had led me up here in his usual good-natured way, and it was sad to reflect on Ralph, who of all people had not deserved bad luck.

Then I had been full of apprehension just at going second but a hundred or more climbs since then had changed completely the perspective of hard V.S. and there were no nerves today at the idea of trying to lead it.

Eventually, with Chris belayed to the excellent chockstone, I set off on the crux pitch. It went easily up the chimney and onto the right wall - good, still climbing well! Then the first hand move, an awkward high step to gain the rib, surprise, surprise, an extra piton here. Without a peg-hammer I couldn't remove it but didn't clip in on principle, for the 'permitted' one was only a few feet away. There I rested, wondering how Dolphin felt and warming my hands. Several sorties above the peg revealed the least strenuous way of crossing the bulge and showed that the ledge where the feet have to finish wasn't all that far away.

At last a surge of strength seemed to flow to my fingers, so I swung a foot round into a good but off-balance step, trusted a one-finger jamb for my left hand, let go with my right and reached for the hand-traverse line.

There it was, rather comforting. Right hand in, cross over with left, move right up, feet swinging free, just the friction of my jeans against the rock, left, right again, stick foot out to grope for the safety of the ledge, actually touch ledge with foot. And at that very moment, my stupid, useless fingers developed a will of their own and before my eyes, in perfect synchronisation uncurled themselves, opened out and let go.

Chris heard Harry's warning shout of 'Watch the rope' before the pull came, the rope sawing into my ribs as I tumbled backwards and swung into the cliff with a great thud, like Hoffnang's unfortunate bricklayer receiving a severe blow. It happened so quickly that I hardly knew about it and disappointment hurt first, to have come so near and yet so far. It was a pity my fingers couldn't last out for another few seconds; it was an even greater pity that the fine weather had brought many climbers up to Gimmer and the Pinnacle Club, the Gritstone Club and goodness knows who else, saw the failure, an audience I could well have done without. For the record, it wasn't difficult to swing back into the chimney above Chris, climb back up for the gear and slide down from that lovely, rusty old peg. The others were put off leading it, so we reversed down and climbed a couple more routes, only milder ones, and reached the pub that night with ten minutes drinking time to spare.

Everyone was really nice about the whole affair, except John Britt (retired Alpinist) who said I should have gone to the A.G.M. Terry climbed with me the following day, and Chris suffered no injury through holding my fall. And I didn't feel much more battered than after the average

week-end and wasn't a bit sorry to have made the attempt; it's great to know what would happen if I tried leading Kipling Groove.

P.S. Better get this in before you-know-who writes a ballad about it!

Angela Faller.

No ballad available for the above, I'm afraid, but recent events in Wastdale could hardly be allowed to pass without comment. Therefore:-

' Some Reflections upon the Accidental Dissolution
of the Gentlemen's Toilet at Buckbarrow Hut '

O Woodsman, with your Axe so keen,
Pray tell me if you can.
Why did you have to drop that tree,
Upon the Gent's Elsan ?

That Noble Tower had long withstood,
The Winters Storms with ease.
Foursquare it rose, and through the chinks,
Entrancing Views of Wastdale's Screes.

Ah! let those hands that laid thee low
Set to, and calm our trouble.
And raise again a Monument,
Phoenix-like from the Rubble !

TPB.
'67

LANGDALE DANCE - JUNE 17.

A Dance will be held at the Co-op Rooms, Chapel Stile, on Saturday the 17th of June '67. The 'hop' is being organised by some of our Members and all profits are being donated to the Welsh Hut, so if you can, come along and support them. There'll be a raffle etc, - in fact, no expense spared....the Event of the Year! (Advt.)

WELSH HUT APPEAL - Editor's view.

I make no apology for taking up space, or commenting on the result of the Appeal, because the manner in which Members, non-Members and friends have rallied around deserves some special mention. All of us, on the Management Committee, have been staggered by the response. It has been more than a success, it has been a magnificent success! When I was told to write the Special Bulletin, I felt rather worried, as after all, the great majority of the Members depend upon the Bulletins to learn what is going on within the Club, and so I felt - rightly or wrongly - that an awful lot might depend on how it was put to you. Four times it was written out and three times it went on the back of the fire before the final version was modified - and improved - by Bill Carter, then it was sent for printing and posting by

a willing volunteer. When I received my copy, I was horrified to realise that I'd omitted in the stress of the moment, the usual greeting of 'Dear Member', and therefore it seemed to be curt and unfriendly. Sorry about that! However, by return of post came the first cheque (a gift, not a loan) from a non-Member friend of the Club in Scotland, with a message of good wishes which cheered me up quite a bit. After that, it was a case of 'Stand from under ! ' as the response began to come in to us. In the early stages, it was chiefly the clergy who replied and we began to suspect that congregations everywhere were being hammered with a second collection., then as (presumably) people received their monthly salaries, the laity weighed in with their contributions. I say 'presumably' because we had several requests to delay paying in their cheques until the first of the following month, so apparently some Members are now existing on the odd dry crust and an occasional sip of water. We had a lot of letters from students who wrote that they hadn't any money and were sorry that they couldn't do anything except send their good wishes and moral support. One of our Members, who is Northern Editor of the 'Universe', published a photograph of the proposed Hut and produced a contribution from that paper.

A group of young and penniless Members held a raffle and handed over £6 - odd and were pleasantly surprised to find that they had underestimated themselves and could have made more if they hadn't run out of tickets. Two older, but even more penniless Members - Brothers at Ampleforth Abbey - took their problem to the Father Abbot. Father Abbot was evidently most sympathetic, for he came through in fine style and now two Monks are happily in possession of Life Memberships. Other young Members are organising a dance at Chapel Stile in June, and I hear that a Folk-song Evening is being planned in Preston, so the final total won't be known for some time yet.

In fact, Barry Ayre handed a cheque over to Bill Carter at the AGM, remarking that this made it £1000, but when Bill announced the figure later in the Meeting, it had to be amended to £1,115 - and it's still coming in!

When we started the Appeal we hoped to get £700-800, which with our balance and forthcoming Subs. would enable us to purchase the property.

The response that we got means that any financial worries regarding the Welsh Hut are over. The Management Committee - and me - are breathing again, and you, the Members, have every reason to feel proud of yourselves and of the spirit and goodwill to be found in the ARCC. After all, the Club is only as good as you, the Members make it - and you have made it a very fine Club indeed !

TPB
Editor.

LANGDALE:- The conversion of the Hogg house for use as a chapel has received the initial outline planning approval subject, of course, to final and detailed plans. But all this is still very much in the future, we shall be using the present chapel for a long time yet, the point of sounding out the authorities has been to clear the air and to establish our position.

New Members - We were having a (fairly) quiet natter around the kitchen table the other night at Bishop's Scale, when one of the newer Members said that the reason that she hadn't been up before was because she felt that she wouldn't know anyone and therefore feel out of things. This, we suspect, must apply to a number of other people also, for only the other week I heard something similar mentioned in passing. Can this really be so? If that is the case, then what can be done about it?

Have a Beginner's Meet? A social week-end? Or what?

If you are a Member, then you are eligible to use the Huts whenever you wish, there's no argument about that. As for not knowing anyone - well, why not just turn up and say that you are a new Graduate but that you don't really know any other Member. You'll find that you soon will. After all, look at it from our point of view. We have many Members who live long distances away and others who spend long periods overseas and these we see very rarely. Again, we have Guests staying with Members and at times there are visiting Clubs so sometimes it's rather difficult to pick out a new Member who doesn't know anyone. We see a strange face and perhaps we tend to think that they usually come during the week-ends that we aren't there, so don't hesitate, identify yourself to the Duty Warden and he'll show you around and introduce you to other Members. If you're still doubtful then write to Barry Ayre or myself we'll do what we can to make you welcome. Or if you've any ideas on the subject, such as those mentioned above then why not write and give us your views? There's a Dance at Chapel Stile on the 17th of June, dress is very informal and there is also the Grand Cross-Country Fell Race - which will be even more informal!

Two further addresses you might find useful:-

Langdale Hut Secy. - Miss Catherine Hickey, 92, Dickson Road,
Blackpool. Lancs.

Buckbarrow Hut Warden - Paul Charnock, 7, Hennel Lane,
Walton-le-Dale, Preston,
Lancs.

The 1st ANNUAL CROSS-COUNTRY FELL RACE (Grade, medium) will be held at Bishop's Scale on Saturday August '67 (Bank Holiday). All welcome, either as entrants or spectators. Valuable prize (I am assured) will be presented at Annual Dinner. No entry forms needed. Come along and give your support. Roll up! Roll up!! Roll up!!!

Well, that's about it for the moment, my apologies for any typing errors but it's all done on two fingers.

Cheers,
Broddy.

Editor.
T.P. Brodrick,
22, Fairfield St.,
ACCRINGTON. Lancs.

Secretary.
Barry Ayre,
17, Scafell Ave.,
MORECAMBE. Lancs.

STOP PRESS!

Due to circumstances beyond Gillie's control, the 1st Annual Fell Race will be held on Saturday, 22nd July '67 in the late afternoon. The course is not too long but has a bit of up and down in it. About 15 entrants already entered. First prize, a Valueable Cup. 2nd & 3rd prizes - Free Ticket for Annual Dinner (Nov. 4)

Folk-song Evening at Schooner Coffee-bar, Preston (nr Public Hall) on Thursday June 8th. Proceeds in aid of Welsh Hut. Come and give your support.

Joyce Carter would like to thank all Members for their kind wishes which she received during her recent illness.

Congratulations to Tom & Ann Hemingway on the birth of a second daughter, Sarah, born Sunday, 14th May. All, including Father, doing well.