

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

Bulletin No. 27  
Side 1.

30th March, 1968

This last Winter has been the quietest season in the Club's history; Buckbarrow and Dunmail closed, Bishop's Scale down to half dozens, and all the valleys oddly silent. It was a strange sight to scan the rocks and fells and not see a soul upon them, the tracks and paths empty and room to park a car almost anywhere.

Members, and indeed, most people have been most co-operative in staying away, and we appreciate this restraint very much. The ban is now lifted but those people who live in still infected areas are requested to use caution and common-sense before deciding to visit this area.

John Wyatt, Head Warden of the Lake District National Park has written a letter of thanks and appreciation which follows below - and to which we would add our own thanks.

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Foot and Mouth Disease

As you now know the Access and Accommodation Committee of the Lake District Planning Board decided to withdraw the National Park Warden Service from the duties of persuading the public to keep off the fields and fells. With the lack of any clear advice from the Ministry of Agriculture; and because it was getting appreciatively more difficult to sustain the campaign without ministry recognition; it was felt that there was no alternative but to withdraw. The disease has of course receded southwards which has put off the pressure, but if the epidemic again comes to this area the restrictions will have to be re-introduced.

This means that your members will again be free to walk, climb or ski; but we hope that your members who are resident in infected areas will keep away.

I could not let the occasion pass without saying how much we appreciate the restraint that your members have shown over the past anxious weeks. The farmers in the Langdale valley particularly, who I have spoken to, are deeply appreciative of your co-operation and there is a new spirit of goodwill which I hope will last for many years.

To that I would add my own thanks for making my job very much easier than I feared!

Yours sincerely,

John Wyatt

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Club activities are getting under way again, that hardy annual, the Dunmail Handicap is now in session, with repairs and renovations to be made to the building which was damaged in recent heavy gales. Volunteers may be called upon to help with the cleaning and light repair work.

The Point to Point is to be organised for the "Michael Hornby Trophy" awarded by Bill Hornby and is open to all members. As previously announced, this is to be our annual event and the course will not be arduous.

The Fell Race will be run during the Summer over a course to be determined (the runners will need to be determined to complete it!) later.

Details of both event will be given as soon as possible.

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#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at St. Ignatius' Rooms, Pump St., Preston, at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 4th May 1968.

The position of Treasurer (Tom Hemingway) comes up for re-election.

A vacancy also occurs on the Management Committee, at present held by Nev. Haigh.

Both Tom Hemingway and Nev. Haigh are willing to stand again for re-election.

Any further nominations for these two positions should be in the hands of the Secretary, not less than 14 days before the A.G.M.

Members are also reminded that Subscriptions are due on April 1st 1968 (30/-) and must be paid before 1st July 1968 otherwise Membership lapses and you are no longer eligible to use the Huts. Three months is quite long enough to remember to send on your fees to Barry Ayre.

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LANGDALE - Little to report.

BUCKBARROW - Little to report.

COPRECTION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Tom Hemingway has regretfully announced that he is unable to stand for re-election as Treasurer. Nominations are asked for this position and should be handed or sent to the Secretary 14 days before the Meeting.

DUNMAIL - Marie Bailey announces her resignation as Warden and a successor will be appointed by the Committee.

TYN TWR - Detailed plans are shuttling back and forth and John Foster hopes to make a start soon.

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The Management Committee have asked me to print their thanks and appreciation of the work done for the Club by Nev. Haigh who has done all the drawings and planning work for Tyn Twr, and Marie Bailey for her work as Warden of Dunmail for the last two years.

There's a lot more hard work done behind the scenes than perhaps most Members realize - and they don't always get the credit for it - which is why I've been asked to mention it.

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Extract of letter from Ken Doyle: ANTARCTICA.

'RRS. John Biscoe.'  
February. \*

"I've had quite a run-round this time - been on every ship and going to see every base including some which have been closed for a bit. Just now, we're at Signy, going to pay our last visit to civilisation (Stanley) before going down the peninsula.

We started well, with a rough trip down, eventually we got to the area we were supposed to be surveying and got everything working when we had to rush to Deception (Island) as the 'extinct' volcano was erupting - quite an interesting trip! The pity was, we'd unloaded piles of stuff there four days before and they were a bit messed up. The Commander of the Chilean base was upset - he'd taken over two days before and signed that all was in good order.

Unfortunately, they were almost sitting on top of it! One result was a mixed-up programme. We had two trips to Stanley (including Christmas, which was a novelty) and a couple of us transferred to the 'Pola Dan', a Danish ship \*\* for a trip to Halley Bay to help unload cargo. The next couple of days were Stanley races. All but about three of the horses are shepherds horses, the saddles are sheepskin and the races are like something out of a Western. One of our people managed to borrow a horse and came in fourth in a race for ships personnel.



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We heard about devaluation. We of course, are a sterling area. Everyone is hoping that by the time they're ready to go home that there'll have been a change of Government - otherwise they'll stay here! "

\* Antarctic Survey ship, named after Lt. John Biscoe, RN., who first explored these waters in 1831.

\*\* Harry Wiggins, mountaineer and Fully Paid-up Member, arrived on this ship and mentions having met Ken and another Member who lives in the Falklands, Monsignor Ireland.

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The engagements are announced between:-

Marie Bailey and David Huddleston.

Anne Pollard and Michael Pooler, Hut Warden of Langdale.

Best wishes and congratulations to all of you and every happiness in the future.

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From Angela Faller, Kenya.

"So far I haven't reached the top of any of the highest mountains though doing field work we have often been to 11,000 feet. Nairobi itself is at 6,000 feet which means that it has a very agreeable climate with warm, sunny days and cool nights. There are two rainy seasons per year but even then it remains quite warm by British standards. All the peaks round here are volcanoes, the highest being Mt. Kenya (17,000') and Kilimanjaro in Tanzania (19,000'). Therefore they are isolated, you do not find range after range like you do in our familiar fold mountains. In general the ascents are not steep enough to be really interesting until the very end where there are glaciers, snow, steep rocks of the volcanic plug and of course craters. But this is compensated lower down by the exotic bamboo forests and the chance of meeting elephants and buffalo - quite common, the footprints would suggest. An earlier attempt on Mt. Kenya was forestalled by the onset of the "short rains", but I'm hoping for another chance to try before long.

There have been plenty of adventures not connected with mountains. The expedition went North across the equator as far as Lake Rudolf which lies in the Rift Valley at a much lower altitude than here. This was a journey of about 600 miles and the tarmac road gave way to dry red mud, then to sandy tracks while the country became less and less fertile until it could best be described as desert. Of course we were using Land Rovers for transport and, like the intrepid Foster family, we often found that 4-wheel drive, low ratio, was essential. In those parts the annual rainfall is only about 2 inches so there is hardly any population but occasionally we saw members of the Turkana tribe, often with no clothes, painted skin, hair dyed with animal blood and carrying long pointed metal spears - they looked warlike but did not harm us. Perhaps they were afraid of us, but we didn't

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dare take their photographs, such people don't like that at all. Lake Rudolf, 200 miles long, is like an unexpected inland sea, quite strongly alkaline and it is very rich in fish; perch weighing 300 lbs have been caught there. Consequently a number of Africans do live on its shores but in unbelievable poverty - just imagine, the empty tins we would throw away were prized possessions to them.

There are some very large National Parks and Game Reserves here in East Africa, and Wardens have to be experts on wild animals! Nairobi National Park is just outside the city but even so one is sure of seeing there zebra, ostriches, giraffes, gazelles, wildebeeste, warthogs, baboons, hippo and lions. It is open bush country there, and visitors are not allowed to get out of their cars. On one safari we drove across the Aberdare mountains where the road reaches 11,000' and the summits about 13,000'. On the ascent the vegetation, bamboo etc., was so thick that it would be impracticable to leave the road, then, when we had gained the height it became more open and quite cool, with clear streams (popular for trout-fishing), just like parts of the lakes or Scotland. And of course we could see for miles.

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#### CLIMBING IN NEW ZEALAND. - Gordon Fox.

We have been members of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club more or less since arriving in the country. Climbing out here depends to a great extent on one's ability to tramp - move through bush, muck and bullets at a great rate of knots with all that one needs for survival carried on one's back. Consequently our first few months were spent in getting used to this form of self-inflicted torture, mainly in the Tararua ranges north of Wellington. Very little rock climbing in the Wellington area - indeed in the whole of the North Island, but we can keep our hand in on some small sea cliffs at Titahi Bay, just north of the city.

Came the winter and we opened out a bit more. Weekends were spent mainly at our club lodge on Mount Ruapelen. Hardly any snow this winter, to the skiers disgust, but conditions on the tops were nice and icy. Got in plenty of axe and crampon practice. We also had our first attempts at skiing - more on our backsides than on skis. On off-days "up the mountain" one can get rapidly saturated on small outcrops round the place.

We decided to get away and practice skiing where nobody could laugh at us, so we shot off down to Queenstown for a week. Glorious powder snow on Coronet Peak. The hills in that area are more open (no bush) than the North Island and we could enjoy "fell walking" again. A good snow climb on Double Cone (in the Remarkables range) was also included.

September saw us away again for a week with five others from the club for a trip to the Nelson Lakes area. Good tramping up the Sabine Valley, but bad weather and poor snow conditions put the tops of Franklin and other unnamed peaks out of reach - but we tried!

We are to lead a club trip of eight to the Wilkin Valley for a fortnight at Christmas. We're now trying to get fit to carry the ropes, tents, food, cooking gear, sleeping bags, crabs, pegs, etc that all goes in on our backs - I leave you to guess the total weight (all carried in the N.Z. made "Mountain Mule" packs).

We have our mad times too. Every year the club plays games of rugby (for jokers) and hockey (for Sheilas) against the Wellington Catholic Tramping Club. This year the Sheilas played rugby too. What a game! We held out to a 11-0 win, Mrs. F. playing a blinder at left centre. We jokers just held on to a 9-8 win.

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POINT TO POINT - The 1st Annual competition for the Michael Hornby Trophy will be held on Sunday 5th May 1968 at Bishop's Scale. Time, after 10 AM Mass. The course will be of moderate length and is basically an orienteering event in which Members will make their way by means of compass and map (and shanks pony) from checkpoint to checkpoint. Bring your own compass, map will be provided. The Trophy will be held for one year but engraved medals will be awarded to the winner. Everyone has a chance in this, so roll up and give your support.

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The Management Committee have accepted the offer of A.G. Bradley (Brad) to represent us on the B.M.C. in London and thank him for his help.

Just received (14.3.68) a Christmas card from George and Ann Cammack, Bahrein. The Camel Post isn't what it used to be when I was a lad!

I believe that another Member, Fr. B. Passman has gone out to Peru - this makes two Members in that country, the other one being Fr. G. Hanlon. We get further flung every year!

That's it for the present,  
Cheers,

EDITOR

Broddy.

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