

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

June 1968

Bulletin No 28  
Side 1

Dear Member,

Well, Summer seems to have burst upon us after a slow and undecided Spring. If the amount of blossom and the forebodings of the amateur experts is anything to go by, we're in for a Long Hot Summer. Hooray!

I am of the opinion that this Bulletin is not up to its usual standard but material seems to be scarce at the moment. I have been threatened with one or two articles but so far they remain threats - roll on the holidays, they may bring something for me to print. Hasn't ANYONE done ANYTHING interesting lately? Members are, or will be, wandering around Arran, Iceland, Scotland and Wales. Send something, if its only a postcard!

Members should note that our Secretary, Barry Ayre, has now changed his address to:- 51, Lythe Fell Ave, Halton, Nr. Lancaster.

A.G.M.-

The Meeting was - as usual - held at St. Ignatius', Preston, on Saturday 4th May 1968, when approximately 50 Members were present and again, - as usual - it was a beautiful day.

The Chairman, Bill Carter, in his Report mentioned the slow but steady progress with the local authorities in the matter of Tyn Twr, which is at the moment awaiting the outcome of any possible local objection that may be made to our proposed septic tank. The Foot & Mouth had affected Club receipts quite heavily, but against this could be placed the increased goodwill with which the local people regarded us for the manner in which we had behaved and for the forbearance of Members in not using the Huts.

He would also like to thank Marie Bailey for her services as Warden of Dunmailand wished her on behalf of the Club every happiness on her forthcoming marriage. Again, thanks were due to Tom Hemingway who was leaving as Treasurer, for the hard work that he had done for us.

SECRETARY - Barry Ayre reported that at 31st March '68 there were 359 Members, i.e., 250 Full, 89 Life and 40 Graduates. (Mathematically minded people might detect some discrepancy in those figures - just blame it on the poor old Ed.)

This was a slight reduction on last year, but anyhow, he was of the opinion that quality not quantity was the thing to aim for. He would also like to see more young Members on the various Committees in preparation for the day when they would step up to run the Club in their turn.

TREASURER - Tom Hemingway making his last report said that some £630 had been raised from the Tyn Twr Appeal in loans and donations; this did not take into account the large increase in the number of Life Members at £15 each. The balance was very healthy at the moment but there were heavy commitments in the future - the conversion and furnishing of Tyn Twr, the hogg house to be converted to the new Chapel, repairs to Bishop's S. ale etc.,

BUCKBARROW - Paul Charnock reported that repairs had been made in the kitchen, the Hut cleaned and that he had realised his ambition and had actually installed

a signing-in book. (Loud laughter). One of the Wainwrights had been mislaid and he appealed to Members to check if they had possession of it.

He was attempting to obtain a load of timber to provide firewood and asked that any trees at the Hut should not be used for this purpose.

A complaint from the floor that the Hut had been booked to capacity by a visiting club and there had been no room for Members would be looked into, but his policy was not to accept more than 10 persons from such clubs.

LANGDALE - Mick Pooler reported that he wasn't going to mention the Foot & Mouth or its affect on the Hut as it had already been referred to by everyone else - nor was he going to mention that we had a new drying room as on reflection he'd already mentioned it in last years report. There were two serious bulges in the dormitory wall which would require extensive and expensive repairs. He would like to stress that Members should sign in immediately they arrive, not when they are about to leave, and that guests were the responsibility of the Member who signed them in. In conclusion, he had recently become engaged. He'd taken this step when surrounded by the dirty pots, pans, grills and ovens left by Members and in desperation had appealed to one of the girls to marry him and take him away from it all.

Finally, his thanks to Catherine Hickey, John Bulman and the Hut Committee for all they had done.

DUNMAIL - Geoff. Cross said that the Hut had had a hard winter with part of the roof blown off. There was a fair amount of damage to be made good.

A small fire had been caused by the Outward Bound who had sent their apologies and a cheque.

TYN TWR - John Foster reported that the plans were still being s t on by the County Council and we had had to advertise that we were putting in a septic tank at their request to see if there was any public objection.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - The only nomination to the position of Treasurer was of Jim (and Alwyn) Cooper. The vacancy on the Management Committee was caused by the ending of the term of office of Nev. Haigh. His being the only nomination to this position he was again appointed for a further three years. Nev. is, of course, the architect and planner for the Welsh Hut and the hogg house conversion to Chapel.

A.O.B. - The Chairman congratulated Derek Price and Margaret on the recent birth of a son - Simon.

Also, he said, the AGM was the place to bring up the Annual Dinner, (Loud groans and jeers), and took it that we went ahead as usual. (Noisy agreement). Barry Ayre then pointed out that booking could be difficult and accordingly had already booked the Red Lion the day after the last Dinner for a date to be agreed later. Also, Members should bear in mind that he'd recently changed his address to Halton, Lancaster, very near to the River Lune and invited Members to drop in.

End of Meeting.

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A Sponsored Walk is to be held in the Langdale Area to raise the sum of £1000 for the rebuilding of the churchyard wall at Chapel Stile which has partially collapsed. The date is Sunday, 14th July 1968 and starting at 10AM. The route is 20 miles maximum and is from Elterwater, Old D.G. Little Langdale, Tilberthwaite, Elterwater, with a trip round to Red Bank to make up the distance.

The villages of Chapel Stile and Elterwater aren't very large and the £1000 will take some raising and besides, the local people are friends of ours and deserve our support, so how about getting your boots out in a good cause? Come one, come all, lets have a good turn out from the Huts.

If you can't make it, then why not sponsor a walker, contact Barry Ayre and we'll do the rest. Sponsorship cards also from Barry.

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#### NOTICE

The attention of Graduate Members is drawn to the rule that no Graduate may bring or sign-in any Guest at any Hut. Everyone is notified of this rule in the letter of acceptance which they receive on their election - for a trial period, you are further reminded - and anyone ignoring this rule will have only themselves to blame when they and their guest are barred from the Huts.

All Members are further reminded that they will be held responsible for the behaviour of any guest that they bring or sign-in.

Again, some Members have signed application forms for people that they cannot know too well - otherwise they wouldn't have endorsed their applications.

The Management Committee have recently rejected at least one of these applications and are ready to take strong action against any future similar cases of like nature - and any Member if necessary!

Members are also warned to leave the Huts secure when they go out. There was a break-in at Bishop's Scale some weeks ago and a further attempted one more recently.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

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HUT BOOKINGS - As from now, any booking for Langdale should be made through Miss A. Pollard, 43, Barley Hall St., Heywood, Lancs.

Bookings for Dunmail will be made by Miss Catherine Hickey, 92, Dickson Road, Blackpool.

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Remember the change of Secretary's address; 51, Lythe Fell Road, Halton, Nr. Lancaster.

SNAKES ALIVE-O !

We were having a (fairly) quiet natter in the Hut a few weeks ago, Gillie, Fred Fenlon, Maurice and myself, when the subject of adders came up, and we remembered that a couple of years ago a boy had been bitten by one at Tarn Hows. I said that they were normally inoffensive creatures who lost no time in making themselves scarce at the approach of us humans but when startled or frightened would defend themselves. Maurice had made quite a study of them and described their appearance as olive-brown with darker zig-zag markings on the back and reaching a length of about eighteen inches or two feet. Gillie disagreed with this (on principle) and claimed they could be much larger, in fact, Moss had understated the case by a yard or two! However, it was quite a good argument while it lasted but I saw in the papers next day that during the time of our discussion, a father and his young son had in fact disturbed and been bitten by an adder in Cumberland. All of which prompted a little research on my part.

Adders attain (s-sorry, I s-stutter) a length of between eighteen inches and two-foot-six, colouring varies slightly but usually dark or olive colour with deeper wavy line on the back. The venom is rarely fatal to adult in good health but capable of putting you on your back for several days. If bitten, the drill is to take things easily and get medical attention as soon as possible. Exertion only makes the heart pump the venom into the bloodstream faster. Don't try tourniquets or other spectacular forms of first aid - just keep calm and get to the nearest vet.

Visitors to the CHEVIOTS National Park have been warned about an increase in adders and the local Rural District Council are to consider establishing a serum bank in the area.

Adders are, and always have been, found all over the British Isles (except Erin's Green Isle) and it's not so much that they are on the increase ~~xx~~ but that more and more people are spending their time in the country.

Adders, have in fact, changed their name through the years - formerly they were called 'nadders' and what a housewife wears when she's making the tea was known as a 'napron'. (Napery, - table linen) Things got changed around a little in the course of centuries, like 'wops' became 'wasp' and - well, never mind, I can rabbit on for hours once I get started. That's enough culture for the time being.

P.S. - it also helps to fill a blank TPB  
space.

\* \* \* \*

BIRTHS. To Derek and Margaret Price, a son, Simon.

To Tom and Zita Walmesley, a daughter.

MARRIAGES - At St. Maria Goretti's, Preston, between Marie Bailey and David Huddleston

On behalf of all Members, we would like to offer our congratulations and best wishes to each of them and to David and Marie, every happiness in the future.



I have received the following item through one of our Members which I consider interesting and thought-provoking enough to include in this issue. It raises problems but what human effort doesn't? Every climb has its problems, every mountain ascent can have its problems, life itself has them all the time. The Outward Bound Schools are interested and sympathetic and they are, I believe, considering the initial steps. Here it is.

#### SKI-ING BLIND IN NORWAY

- Fred Reid

The International Winter Sports Week for blind and other handicapped people is an event that has been held at Beitostolen, near Oslo, Norway, since 1962. At Easter this year, about one hundred and eighty totally and partially blind people and about forty people handicapped in other ways, took part in cross-country ski-ing, dog-sleigh racing and a form of sledge race for people incapacitated in the legs, known as 'ice-prodding' from the manner in which the sledge is propelled across ice by means of an ice-pick.

A totally blind person myself, I took part this year as the first competitor ever to enter from Britain and was given a most hospitable welcome. I had never ski-ed before, though I had done a lot of hill walking in Scotland, but the Beitostolen sports are organised for complete beginners and for the most experienced.

Ski-ing, both instructional and racing, is the chief activity of the week and volunteer ski-ers from all walks of life in Norway include army personnel, politicians and the crack Olympic champions, who give their services for the week as coaches. The Army also plays an important part in preparing the special ski-tracks which make it possible for the blind to ski safely. This track, devised by a blind Norwegian ski-er, is made by a "weasel" - a jeep-like vehicle with rubber caterpillar tracks, which gouges a channel in the snow about five feet wide and about eighteen inches deep. Two parallel grooves are also made in the snow inside the track. The blind ski-er can then go as fast as he can, knowing that there are no dangers in his way - and when I say fast, I mean fast.

Blind Norwegians are highly expert and turn in times for races over 10 kilometres ( $6\frac{1}{4}$  miles) which are within ten minutes of the Olympic time for the distance. This year, a 52 km. (32 mile) race was held for the first time at the sports and the totally blind man who won was so fast that his sighted escort had to be changed because he couldn't keep up. There are those who think that blind people learn to ski quicker than the sighted because they can feel the snow under their ski-tips so much more acutely. My own experience was that after only five days of instruction I took part in and finished the main event of the week, the Knight's Race, run over 22 km. (14 miles) and featured throughout Scandinavia in the Press and Television.

(Cont.)

Norwegians are much more advanced than us in providing opportunities for blind people to enjoy mountain sports. I am convinced that, given an expert escort, a blind person who is otherwise fit can produce the skill and endurance necessary for not only ski-ing but also climbing and long-distance hill walking. I would very much like to get in touch with any member of your club who would be willing to accompany me on weekend climbs of a fairly elementary nature, say, one or two during this summer. My address is F. Reid, 60 Sunningdale Ave., Kennilworth, Warwickshire.

\* \* \*

An impossible task? Hardly, difficult, yes. I know Members who have climbed Scout Crag in the dark - but who have been unable to do it by daylight later. Rough country like the Scafells might be out of the question but how about the grassy slopes of the Pennines or Eastern Fells - and Mr. Reid has done fell-walking in Scotland. I hope that something may come of the Outward Bound Schools offer, certainly it will need something of their organisational skill to succeed and they also have the trained personnel to carry it through. What we can do, is keep an open mind and wish Mr. Reid Good Luck and hope he succeeds - he deserves to!.

\* \* \*

## THE 2nd ANNUAL FELL RACE

will be run

on the 27th July 1968

at 6.30 pm.

The route will be the same as last year, start from the 'New' and choose your own way up to Stickle Tarn and then down and around Pike How, back past the New and along the road to the field across from the Hut. The time to beat is 31 minutes, set up by last years winner, Mick Pooler. The more entries the merrier, so come along and give your support. The Trophy is held for one year but the winner also receives a medal, as do the 2nd and 3rd.

\* \* \*

A CLIMBING & WALKING MEET is to be held at Bishop's Scale during the week-end of 12th-14th July '68. Beginners are welcome to either climbing or walking and we will provide leaders for each group. Mick Pooler says that this Meet affords an excellent opportunity for persons awaiting Full or Graduate Membership of the Club to show their faces at Langdale, to make new friends and to take an active part in our programme. Any volunteers for leaders should contact Mick at 33, Wilson St., Bury or during the Meet.

\* \* \*

All Members in Manchester, Bolton areas may like to know that ARCC Meets are held practically every Sunday for climbing around the Chew Valley, Standedge, Curbar and Froggatt districts. Contact Mick again for further information, these Meets are quite spontaneous and informal so no dates or programmes are available from me.



It is with regret that I have to give word of the death of one of our Members, DAVE MARTIN, of Duddle Lane, Walton le Dale, Preston, who was killed in a motor-cycling accident on June 8th near Stanstead Airport where he was a Met. Officer.

A Memorial Mass will be said at Bishop's Scale later in the summer, on a date to be decided upon.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his family on behalf of all Members.

Dave was also one of our two representatives to the British Mountaineering Council in London.

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AN EXTRACT from the B.M.C. Journal which I have been asked to print

'KNOTS IN KERMANTEL ROPE'

A Warning

Some knots have been found to be very unreliable in certain kermantel ropes. In some instances it has been impossible to form a secure Tarbuck knot, and it has been reported that a bow-line secured by two additional half-hitches came undone and allowed the rope to fall out of the leaders waist karabiner. This behaviour is caused by the rope having a greatly reduced flexibility when it is bent over a diameter approaching its own. The Tarbuck and Bowline knots appear to be most susceptible and the double figure-of-eight knot the most reliable for such ropes. Climbers should check the knotability of kernmantel ropes when considering their purchase.

F. Solari

From 'Mountaineering' B.M.C. Journal, Autumn '67

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This being the season of holidays, particularly family holidays, Members are requested to leave the bottom dormitory at Bishop's Scale empty and fill up the main room instead. Familys have priority with the small dorm.

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Anyone care to be our representative on the Lakeland Committee of the B.M.C which usually meets somewhere between Manchester and Kendal. If so, please contact Barry Ayre, 51, Lythe Fell Ave, Halton, Nr. Lancaster.

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THE 1st ANNUAL POINT-TO-POINT

Michael J. Hornby Trophy

This was held at White Moss Common on Sunday, 5th May 1968.

Most of us were rather doubtful of our ability to travel from point A to point B with map and compass but on being assured that our compasses weren't defective because they only pointed North we cheered up no end.

"Follow the map" they said, "and All will be Well. The direct and obvious route is not always the quickest, low cunning is what counts." Well, we had our fair share of that and accordingly Wilf

Charnley sent us into the unknown at two minutes intervals and from then on things grew quietly chaotic.

I set off behind a burdened Eddie Kelly who looked about to depart on a months tramping. I didn't expect to be gone so long and merely carried enough iron rations to last me for 24 hours. (All this for a four hour saunter over Loughrigg!) Surprisingly, I found the first check point which was roughly where I thought it should be and having broken the ice, looked round for the rest of the field.

Eddie was halfway up a crag, doing a V.S., Angela Faller was taking an easier route (only V.diff) and the rest were pounding along a track around the base of the fell. I compromised between them and found myself on a very dodgy scree where I lost the compass down among the boulders and spent the next ten minutes shifting the rockpile to find it. Consequently, everyone else had left CP 2 by the time I reached it but I dallied in idle conversation with a couple of girls nearby.

Figures were moving about the fell in all directions, some hot on the scent, some obviously lost and some like me - winded! At the top of the fell I was upset to realise that CP 3 was at the bottom on the far side and even more upset when I found that a track wound round the base of the hill to it, and it wasn't really necessary to have climbed so high. Had I expressed my thoughts aloud, Paul Charnock would have been blistered in his boots!. Instead, I decided to have a break for lunch. I passed up CP 4 since that was back on top - in a very boggy spot, they tell me: CP6 was debateable - half of the said it wasn't there and the other half said it was - and at CP 8, feeling all hot and bothered, I was mortified to meet Cath. Hickey walking away from it looking all cool and calm. Tramping back home, walking through the puddles instead of around them, I decided that next time I'd follow the example of Angela and sit down for ten minutes and think about it.

Still, it was a lovely walk! Our thanks to Bill Hornby for presenting us with this Trophy, to Gerry and Wilf Charnley and Paul Charnock, together with others who worked hard to make it a success.

I'm only sorry that I haven't space to enlarge on certain details, but they'd only make your hair curl....

ALL CHECKPOINTS	Winner...	Bernard Hayes,	1 hr. 56 mins
	2nd	Angela Faller,	2 hrs 06 mins
	3rd	Geoff. Cross )	2 hrs 20 mins
		Peter Gilmour)	
	4th	Paddy O'Hagan	2 hrs 32 mins

Missed one CP....A.Holmes (1.54) M.Pooler (1.58) E. Kelly (2.16)  
C. Hickey(2.48) \* \* \*

Tight squeeze, but just room to say ' enjoy  
your holidays'

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Cheers,  
Brod

\* \* \* \* \*  
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