

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

June 1971

Bulletin 41

Dear Member,

A few weeks ago our Chairman, Bill Carter, was taken ill. Fortunately, his illness was not as serious as first thought and I am happy to report that he is well on the road to recovery.

Angela Farrell, one of our leading lady climbers, was injured in a fall whilst climbing on Castle Rock, Thirlemere. She too is well on the road to recovery.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - was held at St. Ignatius' Hall, Preston, on the 19th. June 1971. 47 members present.

Vice-Chairman, Terry Hickey, explained the reason for Bill Carter's absence, and wished him, on behalf of the club, a speedy recovery.

The opening of the Chapel had been a great success, particularly, he said, when one remembers that the two members mainly responsible for the design and development, Neville Haigh and Barry Ayre, are not Catholics. The Orienteering Competition and the Annual dinner had been successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all those taking part. He did, however, comment on the lack of use of the huts by younger members and encouraged them to show a greater interest in the affairs of the Club.

SECRETARY- Bernard Hayes reported an increase in membership in 1970/71, the total standing at 464 including graduate members. A breakdown of this shows 123 life, 288 full and 53 graduate members. He also gave an official thankyou to Barry Ayre who resigned as hut warden for Bishop's Scale last January for personal reasons.

TREASURER - Jim Cooper reported an increase in subscriptions and that although the financial report showed a balance of £834 we still have to pay £450 on the Chapel and £550 for the Dunmail roof repairs. However, with money still owing from the sponsored walk, we should just about keep our heads above water. (A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT YET PAID THEIR SUBS THAT THEY ARE OVERDUE).

HUT WARDENS REPORTS

BUCKBARROW - Paul Charnock that the rent had been increased from £60 to £150 per year and suggested that members should make more use of the hut to offset this expenditure. In reply to a question the Chairman said that the rent could be increased every year because we could only arrange an annual contract with the owners, Cumberland Farmers.

Paul also resigned as hut warden and thanked his committee for their help over the past five years.

The Chairman again intervened, (we couldn't keep him quiet), and thanked Paul for the excellent service he had given the Club.

BISHOP'S SCALE- Harry Wiggins said the income for the year (£98) from hut fees, was due to the use of the hut by visiting clubs rather than our own members. We are fortunate in having several organisations who use the hut mid-week, in particular

/Langdale

the Outward Bound Schools and the Police Cadets. The old chapel would probably be converted into family quarters this year.

The Chairman (again) suggested that the people who would benefit from family quarters should show an example when the work has to be done.

DUNMAIL - Clive Millard told us of improvements to the hut in the way of a new roof and new cookers (propane gas), also, that he had received many bookings for the season.

The Chairman remained silent.

TYN TWR - John Foster reported that the hut was being used a lot by a few people and that those few were doing a tremendous amount of climbing. He went on to say that the majority of overnight fees came from guests, and that our own members should be encouraged to use the hut more often. He then suggested that "members should use the Welsh hills whilst they still can", which left a puzzled expression on more than one face.

He said that Tyn Twr would probably show a deficiency over the next few years with improvements and overheads, and, in particular, the conversion of the other half of the building.

N.B. THE KEY FOR TYN TWR WILL NOW BE KEPT BY MRS. HUGHES OF SCHOOL COTTAGE. THIS IS THE FIRST HOUSE ON THE LEFT OVER THE BRIDGE FROM THE A5.

THE KEY WILL BE LEFT UNDER THE SHELL ON THE FRONT WINDOWSILL ON FRIDAY NIGHTS. (Don't ask me what kind of a shell).

NOMINATIONS There was only one nomination for Treasurer - Mr. Dave Harding, and one for Assistant Secretary - Mr. Nev Haigh. Both were welcomed to the management committee by the Chairman.

The Chairman also thanked Jim Cooper for his services over the past three years as Club Treasurer. (Jim withdrew from re-election because he is expanding his fleet of Mini-Coopers).

MOTIONS Nine motions had been proposed, two were carried the other seven defeated.

Motion 2. If the applicant is admitted to Full Membership on completion of the probationary period, the entrance fee shall be accepted as part payment for his subscription if the application is made between 1st. April and 31st. October, and the balance of the current years subscription will immediately become payable. If however the application is made on or after the 1st. November the entrance fee will be accepted as the applicants subscription for the remainder of the current year of his application.

Motion 4. That the notice of the A.G.M. shall be posted not less than 28 days before the date of the Meeting and that the rules be amended accordingly.

MEETS The first of the publicised meets, the Three Peaks Walk, turned out to be far more successful than anticipated. About 30 people were involved, including checkpoint and refreshment volunteers.

The eleven Friday night starters ran into heavy rain and mist on Esk House and had to contend with this until 5.30 a.m. the following morning. The effects of the poor conditions soon began to show. Six people had dropped out by Keswick,
/Meets

one after Skiddaw, two more at Thirlspot, and of the two who completed the three peaks, Mick Pooler and Derek Price, Mick's return over Sergeant Man was a fine example of endurance and stamina. Derek Price dropped out at Dunmail with ankle trouble.

Of the seven Saturday morning starters only one dropped out and that was at Thirlspot. The remainder, including Ben Carter, Wilf Charnley, Mick Crawford, Bernard Hayes, Dave Ogden and the only woman to complete the walk, Dot Woods. A fine achievement indeed by all concerned.

N.B. The average age of the walkers was 28 years. "Where have all the young men gone?"

THE SECOND MEET WAS CALLED OFF BECAUSE OF LACK OF INTEREST.

Don't forget the future meets.

CLOGGY IN THE SUNSHINE by Fr. P.F. Sidoli

Easter 1971 Tyn Twr.

Pleasantly cool inside the hut in spite of three days of continuous sunny weather. Al Edmonde and I were faced with a simple choice; swimming in the sea at Abersoch or walking to Cloggy. The 'Black Cliff' would be dry. A short drive via the slate quarries to Llanberis would soon bring us to the railway track and the walk to the cliff. Cloggy lies in shadow most of the day and attracts large quantities of rain and mist. It was in such conditions in the wet summer of 1952, that Joe Brown and his friends of the Rock and Ice Club pioneered 'Llithrig' and 'the Corner' on the East Buttress. We had heard a whisper that in dry weather they are a "doddle". So by mid-morning we were hurrying past the Half-way House with the crag barely visible in a heat-haze. Having ignored the still lemons and teas on sale there, we were soon dehydrated as we rounded the glittering waters of Llyn D'ur Arddu. Thoughts of the swim again intruded, but it seemed too far down the screes to the lake for tired and sweaty feet. Instead we began the usual ritual of roping up and substituting P.A's for boots, a torture hardly less bearable. The usual excuses were made: "It'll be a real grueller today Al," I said, "You've done a lot on gritstone, you can lead the top pitch." In fact, we were standing at the foot of 'the Corner', a long thin crack splitting a vertical corner. The walls were smooth and bulged at each side. Progress would depend on finger-jamming and bridging, relying on friction from the side walls. This was the main pitch, 120ft. long. As a "hors d'oeuvre" there was a 70ft. scramble up broken ground, with interest at a sharp spike negotiated by a leap-frog. Having done this, I arrived at the stance and clipped into the belay. Al was about to follow when sound of a struggle floated down. Leaning out I could see legs and arms attached to a heaving mass, gyrating violently. Expecting a direct hit, I crouched and received instead a shower of sweat-drops in the face. Hoping Al had brought the umbrella, I called for him to follow. He arrived in time for the end of the performance, a wild shout of victory followed by an undignified heave over the top. A pity, because it put him off leading the pitch. I was ushered forward with the words: "Carry on hero".

Feeling quite unheroic, I sorted out slings and nuts and stepped up. Large holds made the first 20ft. deceptively easy. They ended abruptly at a flake, just made for a nice fat sling. From this vantage point the crack looked

steeper, and I dithered a while, reluctant to leave the security of the runner. It was the moment of truth - the flake was about 6ft. to the left of the crack, which would have to be gained by hand-traverse. I launched across, feet scraping wildly for invisible holds and got the right-hand fingers in the crack. With the left-hand free, I could see a place for a nut; the trouble was I could not get to the gear which was all on my right wedged between my side and the wall. I couldn't afford to hang about so started moving quickly and gained about 30ft. plus good protection higher up. It was a case of touch and go, with painful bridging on the retaining walls. At a point mid-way up the crack the right wall bulges and above there is another crack running parallel to the main one. With arms rapidly tiring, I was soon trying to rest between this obstruction. Through a film of perspiration I could make out the screws and the lake, and somewhere in between Il's crash-hat. Tired brain suggested a swim, and about to dive off, I remembered I was still tied on 500ft. above. My feet were slowly sliding out of the bridging position, and I was in danger of strangulation by the top runner. The crowd in my head had begun a slow handclap. Feeling ashamed, I put all eight fingers in the crack and heaved up, jamming both feet in the subsidiary crack for a rest. It was still steep to the top but straightforward now, and the crowd had started cheering again. A few more moves with feet on fire and liquid bones sliding out of joint, and my tired fingers curled over the top.

Al now proceeded to demolish the pitch by a semi-latback, but stopped suddenly below the bulge. Strong words were used when he discovered that he couldn't rest, and hurling abuse to anyone in earshot, he climbed on, coming over the top puffing like a steam-engine. We lay in pools of perspiration close to total collapse on the edge of Eastern Terrace. We were tempted to follow the pioneers who had left a pile of wet socks at the top, only we felt like leaving everything behind. But it was too early in the day to capitulate - we had been secretly pleased with our effort and decided to go down and try another.

The second part of Cloggy in the sunshine will be in bulletin 42

THE HARD MANS JOKE BOOK - by H.M. Kelly and W. Wightman

Mountaineers, by tradition, are rather reticent and retiring individuals. At one time, this was probably true of the climbing fraternity as well - witness this extract from a letter describing a day in 1919 when two important new routes on Pillar Rock had been "put up".

"It was Holland, under the stress of a slight contretemps on route 2, which might have ended in disaster, who suggested Sodom and Gomorrah as titles, on the way home that memorable day. But the suggestion was for a time kept to ourselves and the prosaic titles entered in the Hotel Log Book".

Those days, however, have gone - and we have progressed in Nomenclature from Route I and 'A' Route to "The Mostest" and "The Latest". Not only does the modern climber have to contend with the modern naming system, however, he also has on his hands a subtle psychological battle with the guide book writers. These, secure in the knowledge that they have "done" all the routes, and made their mark on the climbing world, do their best to deter others from following.

"A short vicious problem of great technical difficulty..... difficulty is sustained, protection poor, retreat beyond the crux uninviting and

the ground below nasty to land on".

And if you think that is an isolated case, imagine some poor second reciting the following to his gripped up leader -

"Ascend Eckhardt's Chimney until it is possible to step right, onto the slab below the overhang. Climb up the overhang. It is possible now to move out under the overhang by using a thin lip for a traverse. One is now hanging free with the hard move to follow....."

They continue the fight by trying to cast doubts on our capabilities.

"If it is misty, the Great Gully is the one beyond the one it is expected to be".

-And they laugh at our Sunday Morning hangovers with a superior morality.

"An extremely tiring, painful and usually greasy crack. Good for Mortification."

There are occasions when they delight in unnecessary comment

".....and the rock has been reached in fifteen minutes from the valley" - In a Vaux mountain trial perhaps?

"This is difficult to start, and once started proves to be extremely steep." Surely only a typographical error omitted YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

"The problem is one of transferring from a strenuous hanging on position to a delicate balance movement." - Any comment required.

And they also seem to have a twisted sense of humour;

"Move out to the right, to footholds about 10ft. away."

"Step left round the corner onto a very poor low foothold, using equally poor finger holds. Pull up on these....."

"The Crack appears to be straightforward, but overhangs in two directions and is very strenuous." (Subtle did I say?)

In a similar vein

"The Wall above, which overhangs considerably, is impressive and very strenuous. ...climb the wall..."

Those who are beginning to think that I have a slight grudge against guide books and their writers are right, as they indicate what they think of my type of climbing

"He longed and lingered and lingered long,
His faith was weak, his desire was strong.
He sat and watched 'til the problem grew,
and wisdom ruled where courage flew."

climber, firmly back in my place before putting me as a has been (never was?)
ever." Climbers age while guide books go on for

Verse by W. Wightman. All quotes were drawn from the present series of guide books.

BOOK REVIEWS by the EditorTHE LAKE DISTRICT WALKS FOR MOTORISTS by John Parker.

This is a well produced and thorough little book, which looks as if it will prove invaluable for all those who lack the dedication or the time to follow the tracks of Mr. Wainwright.

But this is not to suggest that Mr. Parker's is not a serious book. It describes itself amply as a book 'for people who like to walk.... It is for photographers, amateur naturalists, ornithologists, artists; or just lingerers.

Its most important characteristic is that, unlike most guide books, it does not carry you from A to B, but from A to A, or in other words, back to your car. There are 30 walks, varying from two to seven miles, in the central area of the Lake District. They are described in detail and carefully mapped, (by Tom Broderick). The book is written in a readable style with mention of landmarks of local and historical interest.

ANNAPURNA SOUTH FACE by Christian Bonnington.

An excellent and gripping book. Written in the now familiar straight-from-the-shoulder Bonnington style. Made more interesting by the varying characters of the team members. You can feel the tension between the climbers building up as the weather conditions deteriorate, particularly the clash of personalities between Bonnington and Don Whillans.

The glory of the ascent is stolen by the tragic death of Ian Clough, who had proved to be the most stable member of the party, and in a way his death has given the book that little extra that makes between a good and mediocre story.

The photographs are first class

PORTRAIT OF A MOUNTAINEER by Don Whillans

An autobiography of this famous and controversial mountaineer.

I thought the book gave the impression of a sad and lonely man, there was something of 'the Loneliness of a Long Distance Runner' about it. Whillans only seems to relax when he is on the mountains, at other times he seems to be fighting poverty, society, and anything else that happens to come along.

The last chapter, when Whillans meets Joe Brown again after several years, is packed with nostalgia and one of those 'we stared at each other for several moments' efforts, obviously meant to bring a lump to the throat and tear to the eye. I must confess I had tears in my eyes - I nearly died laughing!

Not a very inspiring book and I thought the quality of the photographs left much to be desired.

CUMBERLAND HERITAGE by Molly Lefebure.

A must for any Lakeland lovers library. In short, it is similar to A.H.Griffin's "Inside the Real Lakeland," but with far more detail and has obviously required a great deal of research. It gives fascinating accounts of life in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

I recommend this book to all who are interested in the history of the Lake District.

MARRIAGE - Congratulations are offered on behalf of the club members to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Godfrey, married on April 2nd. with best wishes for every happiness in the future.

BIRTH - To David and Marie Huddleston, a daughter. (Keep it up Dave we're short of girls at Bishop's Scale).

ENGAGEMENT - The engagement is announced between :

Miss. Catherine Hickey and Mr. Clive Millard. Congratulations to them both.

ODE TO THE WORKING WEEKEND

THE NOTHING PEOPLE (Non-volunteers)

They do not lie;
 They just neglect to tell the truth.
 They do not take;
 They simply cannot bring themselves to give.
 They do not steal;
 They scavenge.
 They will not rock the boat;
 But did you ever see them pull an oar?
 They will not pull you down;
 They'll simply let you pull them up,
 And let that pull you down.
 They do not hurt you;
 They merely will not help you.
 They do not hate you;
 They merely cannot love you.
 They will not burn you;
 They'll only fiddle while you burn.
 They are the nothing people;
 The sins-of-omission people;
 The neither-good-nor-bad-and-therefore-worse.
 Because the good, at least keep busy trying
 and the bad try just as hard.
 Both have that character
 That comes from caring, action, and conviction so,
 give me every time an honest sinner, or even a Saint.
 But, God and Satan,
 Get together and protect me from the nothing people.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING July 7th.

The following information to be passed on to all members.

Bishop's Scale - The hut was burgled two weeks ago, while members were in bed. The cash box was forced and £16 or so stolen.

To prevent a re-occurrence of this, members are asked to:

- a) make sure the hut is locked at night,
- b) check any strangers and odd-bods wandering around the premises,
- c) to take a more responsible attitude when inviting people into the hut. Valley layabouts have been seen in the hut on more than one occasion.

Following the break-in, the Committee has decided to install a safe, in the hope of deterring any future attempts. So, if anyone has a small safe that they would like to sell or donate, please contact Harry Wiggins.

FELL RACE - 18th. September at 6.00 p.m. Starting and finishing at Bishop's Scale.

Annual Dinner - Friday, 26th. November, at 9.00p.m. Venue - the Red Lion, Grasmer Bar extension 'til 2.00a.m. This year there will be a modern Ivy Benson type orchestra. Tickets may be reserved in advance from Bernard Hayes.

ORIENTEERING COMPETITION - Sunday 28th. November. Details to be given later.

BANKERS ORDERS Members are to be invited to pay their subscriptions by Bankers Order. Details in a later bulletin.

TYN YWR The rest of our property, No. 3 Tyn Twr, is now vacant. Members are asked to keep an eye on the place when they are staying at the hut.

BUCKBARROW Mr. Dave Ogden, 23 Clifford Road, Blackpool. Tel. Bla. 23142 is the new Hut Warden of Buckbarrow. Dave starts his duties on 1st. August.

FINANCE We have now outstanding bills of £1150 and only £450 in the bank. No doubt we will get over the crisis this time, but we are obviously living beyond our means, and with Tyn Twr to develop in the near future we must raise some more money. With this in mind, members are invited to suggest means of building up our reserves, and remember, every little helps.

There has only been one article sent to me for publication in the last six months.

Many thanks to the people who sent in stamps to offset the bulletin postage.

Derek Price.

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