

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

March, 1972.

Bulletin 44

Dear Member,

This is the pre-Annual General Meeting bulletin and gives notice of the Meeting which will be held on Saturday, 13th. May at 2.30pm. in the St. Ignatius Social Club, Pump St., Preston. (A copy of the Agenda is on the reverse side of this sheet).

Election of members to the Management Committee.

Retirements - Bill Carter - Chairman  
Terry Hickey - Vice-Chairman  
Bernard Hayes - Secretary  
Michael Pooler - Ordinary Member.

Any full member may be proposed for any one of the above positions.

---

The British Orienteering Federation

The Club has applied for membership of the above Federation. This will enable members to take part in any competitions, except the National ones, though, entry to these can be arranged.

Mr. Bernard Carter, 53 Montreal Road, Lammack, Blackburn, has been appointed secretary of the Orienteering Section and all correspondence on this subject should be directed to him.

---

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Langdale Meet planned for the weekend of 12th/14th. May, will still take place.

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 13th. May at 2.30pm. in the St. Ignatius Social Club, Pump St. Preston.

1. Minutes of the last Meeting.

2. Matters arising.

3. President's report.

4. Chairman's report.

5. Secretary's report.

6. Treasurer's report.

7. Hut Wardens reports.

8. Election of members to the Management Committee.

Chairman.

Vice-Chairman.

Secretary.

One Ordinary Member. (Michael Pooler retiring).

Nominations to be made in writing not less than 14 days prior to the A.G.M.  
to the Secretary.

9. Any other business.

# THE WASDALE HORSESHOE WALK

A letter from David Ogden.

Dear Member,

The A.R.C.C. Annual Fell Walk is to be held on Saturday, 6th. May. The route chosen, which is the traverse of the Wasdale Horseshoe from Whin Rigg to Buckbarrow Crag, involves about 10,000ft. of ascent and a distance of about 21 miles. The route crosses some of the finest mountains in England and, if it is a fine day, should prove an enjoyable and satisfying walk for anyone who is reasonably fit and sufficiently masochistic to attempt it.

It is to be a Club Event similar to the Three Peaks Walk held last year. We must hope for better weather so that it does not come to the same damp, dank conclusion as last year's event did for some people. Since the distance is much less, and involves no road walking, it should not be quite so hard on members' feet, nor should a little bad weather be so intolerable as it is on a walk of 45 miles.

The intended route starts and finishes at Buckbarrow and includes the following tops: Whin Rigg, Illgill Head, Scafell. Scafell Pike, Great End, Great Gable, Kirkfell, Pillar, Scoat Fell, Haycock, Seatallan and Buckbarrow Crag. A formidable but inspiring list!

Hot food and a "brew" will be provided at Styhead and a "brew" and snack at the col between Scoat Fell and Haycock.

It is intended that all the Walkers will start from Buckbarrow at about 6a.m. and then just walk round at their own pace. It is not intended to be a race, the main object is to get as many people round as possible. I think it will take most people about 14 to 16 hours. A top rope will be available for the descent of Broad Stand for those who require it.

SINCE THE ACCOMMODATION AT BUCKBARROW IS LIMITED, THE HUT WILL ONLY BE OPEN TO THOSE TAKING PART IN, OR SUPPORTING, THE WALK. I would like to know by 1st. May just who intends to stay at Buckbarrow for the weekend of the Walk and who intends to take part. A small charge will be made to cover the cost of the food dispensed at the two snack points.

I hope that a good number of members representing the whole Club will take part in this event, since many members never seem able to find time to come over to Wasdale. As I have said, the Wasdale Fells are among the finest in the country, this is a chance to climb them all in one go!

If anyone requires more information they may contact me at the address given below.

Yours, David Ogden  
23 Clifford Road,  
Blackpool.  
Telephone Blackpool 23142

BIRTHS. To Derek and Margaret Price - a daughter  
Graham and Ursula Beech - a daughter

## An Open Letter To The Editor.

In reference to your remark about a "dangerous act" from the 1962 Bulletin (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), and your comment that ten years later....."Candles are being used in the bedrooms of the hut. Another piece of foolishness??

Could I point out that in Feb. 1972 the whole of Britain used candles!

We at Buckbarrow love the warm glow that candles give, they are decidedly cheaper, more flattering to care-worn faces, and certainly more romantic, and as one who proposed to his wife in the shadow of Buckbarrow Crag - you should know!

(Anonymous)

Well done Joan! I knew someone would have a go at me. I shouldn't really be critical of the Buckbarrow crowd, afterall, they do burn Price's candles.

---

BEN NEVIS - February 1972. By Vincent Wells

Saturday 27th February, 1972 saw myself, Matt Bennett and Pete Cavanagh assembled in Fort Bill for a major assault on the Ben. The weather looked perfect, low cloud, rain, windy and too warm. Not to be deterred we were fully established in the C I C Hut on Monday, where we joined forces with Paul Seddon.

Tuesday morning we split into two parties, myself and Paul for the Little Brenva face, Matt and Pete for No. 3 Gully. We met another party retreating from the face stating that conditions were hopeless, strong winds and spindrift were sweeping the climbs so we diverted into Gardaleo Gully ascending 350ft. of deep loose snow to a crux of 60ft. of loose snow covered gravel, which took two attempts and one fall before success. Finally we crawled through the cornice into a near white-out.

Meanwhile, unknown to us, Matt and Pete were going for records. They ascended No 3 Gully and as true mountaineers went on to the summit. There they proceeded to descend the other side of the hill to Glen Nevis, and the Pub. Matt says it was because the wind was too strong to return to No 4 Gully but it would appear that the wind was blowing up the hill from the pub. They eventually returned to the hut Wednesday evening, a record of No 3 Gully of 36 hours from hut to hut.

The next climb was Thursday when Matt and Pete ascended No 5 Gully and successfully found No 4 Gully which they slid down with triumph to the hut. Myself and Paul returned to the Little Brenva face where in rising winds and spindrift we started up 'Bob Run'. A short ice traverse led us into the groove proper and the next pitch put us over an ice bulge and onto the upper section. These were the best conditions we had encountered all week and all too soon we reached the plateau only to find that we had been on the most sheltered route on the face and a gale was raging on top. A slow precarious descent ended with front pointing horizontal ice to secure the rope round the top abseil post. In Corrie Lies the wind was still howling and after being bowled over several times into



the boulders, which acted as painful buffers, we arrived back at the hut.

The winds continued to rise through the night and Friday morning we were blown off the Hill into the warmth of the Jacobite Bar to plan further routs over pints and a fire in true climbers style.

---

AROUND THE HUTS

Langdale. The paper-towel machine has been removed from the kitchen. Members are requested to take their own tea towels.

Work will be starting shortly on the family quarters.

Buckbarrow A new water main has been laid. (Presumably to douse the candles).

Dunmail Nantwich School spent a few days at the hut doing general repairs.

Tyn Twr Work to proceed on the alterations of No. 3.

---

I apologise to the authors of the articles not yet published. Time and the A.G.M. have confined me to a relatively short bulletin. They will be included in the next issue along with any others I may have received.

Derek W Price.

---

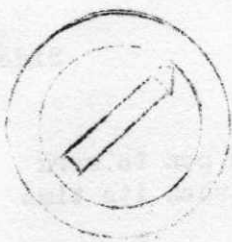
DON'T FORGET THE A.G.M. - May 13th. Pump St. Preston.

Hon. Sec.  
Bernard Hayes,  
41 St. Stephens Rd.  
Preston.

---

Sub Secretary  
Neville Haigh,  
752 Devonshire Rd.  
Blackpool.  
Tel. Bla54505

Bulletin Editor  
Derek Price  
615 Blackpool Rd.  
Preston  
Tel. Pre. 727261



# ORIENTEERING

Arising from the general interest in orienteering among the members, the management committee has decided to affiliate the club to the British Orienteering Federation. This means that we can enjoy rights of membership, and take part in all but championship competitions run by the B.O.F. The usual cost of entry for an individual is between £1 and £3, but the entire club is permitted to join for just £3.50, so in a manner of speaking, it costs us nothing as individuals.

Details of future events will be posted in the bulletin, as well as results, commentaries and observations. In addition, notes on techniques and articles on how to do it will appear from time to time.

For those who have never done any orienteering, one of life's great experiences has passed you by, or will do unless you make good the omission and enter one or both of the competitions listed over the page.

## What is Orienteering.

The word does not appear in my dictionary, but the B.O.F. says: It is the art of finding one's way over unknown country with the aid of map and compass. The competitive aspect of the sport involves cross-country running with a map and compass over a course of between 2-3 miles in undulating wooded terrain but there are also events where the premium is placed on route-finding, these are known as 'Wayfinding' events and involve leisurely walking or strolling with map and compass.

I might add that for those whose accomplishments do not include using a compass - T. Hickey please note - you can manage without one in a day-time event.

## Essential Rules.

Extracts from the B.O.F. rules will be printed ~~from~~ in the next few issues of the bulletin; for the time being here are the most important points to bear in mind.

First - always check in to the control after an event - no matter how late you are. If you don't, a search party will be sent out for you. If they find you in a pub you won't be popular.

The rule: no whistle, no go, is generally adhered to. Do take a whistle with you. For one thing, blowing six long blasts per minute with a one minute pause, is more professional than just shouting help.

Useful Tips.

Carry a ball pen and a watch. You will need the pen to mark the stations on your map, and the watch will tell you when its time to pack up and go home.

You will be issued with a map; protect it from the weather. Either put it in a plastic bag or even in a proper map holder. Attach the map to your person. I know one orienteer - no names - who's map blew away during the first ten minutes of an x event. Most important; protect your route card. This is the only proof of going round the course. If you hand in a soggy, unreadable card you will get no marks. Some orienteers put the card in a plastic bag and pin it to their clothing.

Coming Events.

Two promising orienteering meets to be held in the near future are: Carnforth on the 9th April and Eskdale on the 14th May.

Unfortunately we are too late with this issue of the bulletin to advise members about the first meet, in time to avoid the late entry fee. Those members I have managed to speak to responded like heroes: we should field a team of six in the Senior Men E event, and three gallant ladies are entering the Wayfinders Long event. Those of you who want to increase the Achille Ratti strength at the meet can enrol on the day for an extra 10p. If you drop me a line, stamped and addressed envelope please. I'll notify you of the precise location as soon as the organisers inform me. My address is at the end of this article. Who knows, we might enter two men's teams, or even a ladies team - how about that.

Judging by the terrain description, the Eskdale meet should be a really first class event. A pity it coincides with Robert Bayliss' meet but it might prove a good way to round off the weekend.

If you haven't done any before, don't worry - we'll run a crash course of instruction before the start of both events. But please bring a whistle.

One Last Thing.

Anyone who wishes to go to either event and is short of transport, or who has a surplus of transport, please contact me.

B. Carter.  
58 Montreal Rd.,  
BLACKBURN,  
BB2 7BY.

(50879)