

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

June 1972

Bulletin 45.

Dear Member,

Derek Price has moved on to a higher calling.

I would like to thank him for his work as Bulletin Editor over the last 12 months during which we have seen no less than five bulletins produced! I won't make any rash promises as to how many will appear during the next 12 months. I'm sure there will be no more as long as this one!

Many thanks to Joan Higginson, Fr. Paul Sidoli, Tom Littledale & Ben Carter for their contributions to this Bulletin.

Report on the Annual General Meeting, May 13th 1972.

President's Report: Bishop Pearson opened the meeting by commenting on the high quality of the design and workmanship in the new chapel at Bishop's Scale. Speaking about Dunmail, he said his own opinion was that the interior should be gutted and money allocated for refitting and modernising (the Management Committee has since discussed this point, see below). Regarding Buckbarrow, he was sorry to say that no progress had been made to put the lease on this hut on a firmer basis (at present the lease is renewed annually). He went on to speak about the high regard that locals have for the A.R.C.C. members. He sincerely thanked the retiring chairman, Bill Carter, for his services to the club which have done much to give the club its respected position. In gratitude the Bishop presented Bill with Honorary Life Membership of the A.R.C.C.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman spoke of the amenities existing in the club to-day. He expressed the sadness he felt to be relinquishing his office as chairman and spoke of the enjoyment he has had in working with all members. He felt confident that the club is in good hands and as long as the spirit is there it will always be successful. He thanked the Bishop and the club for the Honorary Life Membership given to him.

Secretary's Report: Membership at present stands at 497 including a graduate membership of 73. The secretary expressed sincere thanks to Mr. Bill Hornby for his generous donation to the club of £50.

Treasurer's Report: The club made an overall loss during the Financial Year 1971 - 72 of £356. The hut fees collected at the various huts were as follows:

Langdale	£912
Buckbarrow	£172
Tyn Twr	£155
Dunmail	£589

Buckbarrow made a loss of £95 largely due to the increase in rent. Dunmail also made a loss (£589) due to the cost of re-roofing the building. The balance in the Main Account stood at £461-30.

The Hut Wardens then gave their reports.

Elections: The following were elected to the Management Committee:

Chairman	T. Hickey
Vice-chairman	F. Fenlon
Secretary	D. W. Price
Ordinary Member	B. Carter

Important Notice Payment of Subscriptions by Bankers Order.

The present system for the payment of subs by bankers order has been found to be very unweildy involving excessive correspondance. Consequently the present method of applying for a bankers order by means of forms from the club has been abolished. Any member wishing to pay by bankers order is asked to contact his own bank and give instructions for the annual payment of his subscription of £2-00 to be paid on the 1st April each year to:

A.R.C.C. Main Account,
William and Glynns Bank
Fishergate
Preston.

Account No. 11118155

The club will be notified by the bank when a member's subs have been transferred to the A.R.C.C. account and the membership card will then be forwarded by the subs sec.

You are asked NOT to pay subscriptions for 1972-73 by this method, in other words, the first payment by bankers order will be paid on 1st April 1973 for the year 1973-74. Before doing this you are further asked to clear up any arrears by direct payment to the subs. sec.

N.B. Those members who have already contracted to pay by bankers order should disregard this notice as their original arrangement will still stand.

AN ASCENT OF THE GERVASUTTI PILLAR.

There are few settings to compare with that of the Gervasutti Pillar among the high routes on Mt. Blanc. It faces east across the Vallée Blanche, over a vast panorama which includes the Aiguilles, the Drus, the Grandes Jorasses and on the horizon, the Matterhorn. Its red granite comes alive, in the light of the dawn, like a bright flame linking the glacier to the summit of Mt. Blanc de Tacul. Gervasutti was the first to notice an independent lane up the pillar, from base to summit, but his only attempt resulted in his tragic death while abseiling in a storm. In August '51, six years later, it received its first ascent.

One evening at the end of July, after unsettled weather, Al Edmond and I took the téléphérique to the old Torino hut, ambitious to try this route. We left under a star-lit sky, making for the Diable couloir on the left-hand side of the pillar. When we reached the couloir, a queue had formed, made up of parties approaching from the Col de Midi. Their head-lamps weaved a strange pattern among the crevasses. It was 4am and too dark so we waited on a shelf of snow. Then we lost

sight of the others; black clouds had blotted out the stars, and suddenly we were alone. The base of the pillar was hardly visible. By 7am we were back under warm blankets at the Torino.

A storm that evening led to another lie-in. When we eventually got up a Scotsman pointed to the clear blue sky. He muttered something about dropping a clanger, his judgement no doubt impaired by wetter days on the Ben. After a quick, silent breakfast Al and I sneaked out. This time fresh steps led to the foot of the route, at a groove which starts 100ft. up a narrow gully on steep rock. It was 9am and ridiculously late with 2 500ft. of climbing to go. Still the weather was fine, and the party in front had gone up the couloir. It was all ours.

We quickly discovered a good rhythm on the first pitches, a system of grooves and chimneys on superb rock at V standard. This ends with a neat rope-move onto easier ground. Afterwards the pillar rises again, and for the next 1 500ft. provides fairly sustained climbing. A smooth wall, low down, gave strenuous fingery moves, enough to stimulate the adrenalin for the challenge ahead. We were mightily impressed by a 30ft. crack, looking from below like an AI pitch stripped of its pegs. It went free, but some nuts would have helped the nerves. Above this again, there was a 250ft. chimney section increasing in difficulty with some very trying moves near the top. The standard varied between IV and V sup. with a couple of peg-pitches which the English guide book claims to be A 2. In retrospect the separate pitches were linked in the total movement, so it is hard to recall details. We had a time-wasting attempt on a desperate private variation looking for the higher of the peg-pitches. After a belly-crawl round a sharp arête, just to make sure, we found it. A snowed-up ramp led to a blank wall, with a line of pegs going diagonally right: we should have met this ramp directly from below.

It was 8.45pm by the time we reached the bivouac-ledge and settled for the night. It was cramped, and we had no duvets, sleeping bags or cooker, left behind for the sake of speed. All around, we looked over a still cold world of stars and silent shapes. We were dismayed at the sight of a chimney filled with ice, it was on the side of a small tower separated from the main pillar by a narrow col - it would have to be climbed. Even after plenty of food, sleep never came, and the appreciation of our spectacular surroundings at 14 000ft. gave way to a more animal desire for warmth.

At dawn the merciful sun ended the shivering, and we abseiled to the foot of the chimney, Al receiving a rope-burn with the ropes running too fast over the ice covered take off ledge. Above us the chimney gleamed like a sword barring the way. By bridging on flakes at the sides we avoided the ice, and clipped into every available peg on the way.

The rest is a long, tedious scramble on loose rock, snowed-up in parts, redeemed by a sharp, steep arête at the end. From this at about 2pm we made an exit onto the sunlit summit of Mt. Blanc de Tacul.

After more cake we ploughed down to the Col de Midi. Only the final purgatory of the Vallée Blanche in soft snow, separated us from the oblivion of sleep, and the memory of one of the finest routes in the Mt. Blanc rang.

July 29th - 30th 1971

P. Sidoli and A. Edmonds.

At a recent Management Committee meeting the chairman of the club made an appeal to all members to take a greater part in the running of the club. It is impossible to know what members' feelings are regarding various aspects of club life. For example, do you want a club which directs most of its efforts to providing more and better accomodation in mountain areas, akin of mini-YHA? Or is the providing of accomodation only a part of club life? These questions are prompted by the apparent lack of interest in club events in recent years. Attendance at the last AGM was remarkably scanty for a club of almost 500 members. Feed-back of impressions, criticisms, suggestions, etc. are of immense value and the committee are always happy to hear from members. An up-to-date list of addresses of committee members is enclosed so that no-one has any excuse! Don't say you haven't been asked!

To all party-lovers

Harry and Cherie Wiggins are shortly emmigrating to New Zealand (on Aug. 25th) and are throwing a Farewell Party at Bishop's Scale on Sat. August 19th. Apparently John Bulman is bringing a keg(I hope he knows!). All members are invited.

THE EVEREST TREK

T. N. Littledale

Of course, we could not climb any of the great Himalayan mountains. But just to see them close up and to follow the route of the expeditions to the base camp site would be wonderful. So we set out for Nepal.

The first great thrill of the trip came on the flight from Delhi to Kathmandu. We looked across the foothills to the great snow mountains all along the border of Nepal and Tibet - an unforgettable sight.

Kathmandu was fascinating with its narrow streets and many pagoda temples. After a day making preparations, we travelled thirty miles along the China Road to Dolalghat, where our trek was to commence. Then Eric and I with two sherpas and five porters left roads and machines behind for our thirty-nine days on the march. Pasang Kami, our sirdar, had been with three Everest expeditions to the South Col.

We usually made an early start, about 6.30am after tea and biscuits, walked for three hours or so and then had a long halt for our main meal. This was always a cooked meal and the sherpas had to gather fuel, light a fire, cook the meal, serve it and then wash up.

Afterwards another three or four hours would bring us to the camp site. The country is very hilly and the land is terraced for cultivation.

The river valleys run from North to South and for the first ten days our route ran from West to East, crossing four main passes between 9 000 and 11 700ft. Continuous ascent and descent with hardly any level sections made the trek quite strenuous. On the fourth day we had our first view of the really high mountains, including the 23 000ft. Gaurishankar; on the tenth day we first saw Everest, thirty-seven miles away. Next day we reached the Dudh Kosi river, which drains the Everest district; so we turned North and followed the deep gorge. Sometimes the path followed the river, at other times it climbed three or four thousand feet above. After thirteen days travel we reached Namche Bazar, capital of Khumbu, the Sherpa country. Here at 11 000ft. we had our first heavy night frost.

A day's march brought us to Thyangboche monastery. As we contoured the hillside about two thousand feet above the river, the bright sunshine, the cool crisp air and the wonderful views of Everest made us feel we were in paradise. But in the afternoon cloud formed, so Thyangboche was covered by cold fog as we arrived. However, in the sunshine next morning we could appreciate the magnificent situation, on a ridge at 12 700ft. surrounded by mountains over 20 000ft. high. Everest showed up well but we thought the most beautiful of all the mountains was Ama Dablam, a little way up the valley. We spent a whole day here, climbing up the hillside in the morning and later visiting the abbot, who entertained us over a pot of tea.

In three days more we reached our highest camp, 17 000ft. up, on the bank above a frozen lake by the side of the Khumbu glacier. We spent one day walking up the glacier to the sites of the base camps of the Everest expeditions and ate our sandwich lunch surrounded by their litter. The situation here was magnificent at the head of the valley. We could see the icefall a short distance away. Unfortunately, the summit of Everest is not visible from that point. So the climax of the trip was provided by the ascent to a viewpoint known as Kala Patar, 18 200ft. above sea-level. From here we looked across the glacier to Nuptse, Lhotse and Everest, the summit of which was six miles away.

Our return trek included a few deviations, notably to the superb, half frozen Chola lake with the 6 000ft. wall of Cholatse rising from it. We camped at Dingboche where, when we opened the tent flap, we looked straight up 8 000ft. of Ama Dablam. At Pangboche, we inspected the alleged yeti scalp. We visited the small Hillary Hospital at Kunde and talked with Dr. and Mrs. McKinnon, who come from New Zealand. We visited the Swiss settlement for Tibetan refugees at Chialsa and the Nepali-Swiss agricultural project at Jiri. So back to Kathmandu and home with our unforgettable recollections.

Future Spending

It is the intention of the Management Committee to carry out work at the huts over the next two fiscal years. The plans are:

- that £600 be spent on converting the old Langdale Chapel into family quarters immediately
- that further work be started at Dunmail in the Autumn, 1972, approx. costs - £700.
- that the Langdale kitchen be refurbished in the summer of 1973.
- that the work at Tyn Twr be completed by the end of the 1973 financial year, approx. costs - £1 000.

Forthcoming Events

Meet at Tyn Twr, Sept.15th - 17th, leader: Peter Long.
 Meet at Bishop's Scale, Oct.20th - 22nd, leader: Angela Faller.
 Bishop Pearson's Sponsored Walk, Nov.5th.
 Annual Dinner-Dance. The date for this event has been fixed for Saturday Dec.2nd. This year there is a change of venue. It will be held at the Widermere Hydro. There will be a bar extension to 1am and dancing until 2am. Further details in the next bulletin.

For Sale

Two pairs of childrens' walking boots, size 13. Contact:
 J. Liptrot, 96 Ecclesfield Road, St. Helens, Lancs.
 Tel. St. Helens 29870

Reports of Recent Events

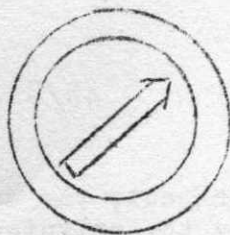
1. Wasdale Horseshoe Walk, 6th May 1972(next bulletin)
2. Annual Fell Race, 10th June 1972.

This event was very poorly supported(only 4 competitors)
 It took place in Langdale starting from the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, up the right side of Mill Gill to Stickle Tarn, round the shoulder of Harrison Stickle, down to Pike How, then down Dungeon Ghyll to the New and back along the road to Bishop's Scale. The record time for this course is 27 minutes! This year the result of the race was:

1st	Tom Southworth	Time: 37min 43s
2nd	A. Rothwell	38min 42s
3rd	Harry Wiggans	50min 03s

Congratulations!!

3. Orienteering Competitions: Warton Crag, Carnforth & Eskdale
 (see orienteering notes)



ORIENTEERING

SOUTH RIBBLE NATIONAL BADGE EVENT SUNDAY 9th APRIL 1972

This day brought us fair weather for the Club's first entry into an outside Orienteering Competition - the South Ribble O.C. National Badge Event at Carnforth. Eleven ARCC members took part; many more would have, no doubt, had they been informed soon enough.

The course was described as 'horrific' by the organisers. Well, it was certainly demanding, being based on one of the wooded limestone hills, just to the west of the M.6. The men entered the Senior Men 'B' event, 14 stations to find; the ladies took the Wayfinders 'Long', 6 stations.

The SNE course went mainly through scrub, light to dense, with brambles and thorns to tear the flesh and clothes, and limestone clints to twist the ankles. Looking back, it's a wonder that we survived without injury though pride and dignity did suffer a bit. One good point about the course - it was dry under-foot, thanks to the porous limestone.

Dave Ogden got off first about 11.15, looking very efficient in his shorts. Wilf Charnley followed a bit later with Eddie Kelly at about 12.15, myself at 12.25, Paul Charnock at 12.29, kitted out as for a North Wall ascent. Mick Crawford and Fr. Dave Elder had got away earlier. Helen Beddy left about 12.17, with Maureen Elder and the two Joans slightly ahead of her.

Station one, true to form, was the hardest to find; Paul Charnock started six minutes after me and was leaving it as I arrived. Even he looked serious then, a bad omen. Eddie Kelly was seen looking for two somewhere near station three. There was a tendency to loose count of the walls that had to be crossed, but the more experienced operators might have gone round them.

Father Dave and Mick were in fine fettle at station fourteen, having stopped half an hour for a picnic they said. Some people take nothing seriously. However, they raised a magnificent sprint to the finish. Wilf was waiting there, Dave Ogden, we hoped, would have the brow organised but there was no sign of him. Paul Charnock had completed the course in one hour, thirty-eight minutes, the club's best time. He must have done some superb map reading for no man could move at speed in boots like his. What a player! Well, Oggy rolled up in the end having done a tour of Morecambe Bay. The ladies had such an epic journey it's worth recording separately.

WEST CUMBERLAND EVENT ESKDALE SUNDAY 14th MAY 1972

Predictions of 'Wet Cumberland' event were not born out, the day was brilliant. Cloudless with just enough breeze to dry the orienteer's sweat; conditions were ideal. Ideal conditions were needed too; the course at Parkgate Tarn was both long and gruelling. The team came across a new term at this event - fight area. They soon discovered its meaning.

All the A.R.C.C. participants started about the same time, around 12.15. Helen Ready and Joan Kiernans, who had both entered the Wayfinders 2, managed to catch sight of the lads from time to time emerging from the bush to take bearings from the sun. The girls said they were able to put Eddie Kelly on the right track at one stage when he was hopelessly lost. This was a fine gesture, particularly as one male member, refused to help one of the ladies when she was lost at a previous competition. "Against the rules," he said, as he left her facing starvation at the Carnforth event.

The results were as follows:

Senior Men 'B' Best time 1 37 25

Paul Charnock, 5th, 1 49 54, a remarkable time - for the A.R.C.C. This lad is tipped for stardom.

Wilf Charnley, retired after one of his boots disintegrated: "Only ten thousand miles on them," he said ruefully.

Ben Carter, 21st, 2 59 07.

Eddie Kelly, 24th, 3 19 27.

Dave Ogden, who came up to participate, had to cancel at the last moment.

There were 31 runners in this event.

Veteren Men.

J. P. Partridge, 3 46 35.

Wayfinders 1.

M. P. Partridge and E. P. Partridge, jointly 2hrs 23min.

Wayfinders 2

Helen Ready and Joan Kiernans, jointly 2hrs 57min. A good time for the course.

Footnote: Eddie Kelly said he would have done better but the girls misdirected him.

ORIENTEERING TECHNIQUE 1. How to Select a Route.

Orienteering is all about route finding; fitness won't help you if you're lost, and speed is a disadvantage if you're running in the wrong direction. Success in orienteering requires first class map reading ability.

The first thing to bear in mind is that a straight line is not always the shortest time distance between two points. An ability to visualise all the detailed information the map has to offer is essential in order to plot a route round the obstacles.

Start by drawing the straight lines, or bee-lines, between the stations, then consider -

1. The severity of obstacles - hills, crags, water, fences etc. - lying in the way on the bee-line.
2. The nature of the ground. Is it, for example, boggy or thickly wooded?
3. The possibility of finding easier going on nearby paths.
4. The utilization of fences, edges of woods and other prominent landmarks as guides to direction, saving many time-consuming references to the map.
5. Personal strengths and weaknesses, such as relative speed and stamina, certainty in following a compass course in difficult conditions, ability to tackle hills, etc.
6. The conservation of energy. The event must be seen as a whole; too much energy must not be expended on any one section.

There are no ready-made solutions - each problem must be solved on its own merit. Herein lies the fun and fascination. However, the following general rules might help:

When deciding to leave the bee-line bear in mind that a fast runner might do better on a long detour across open country, whereas a slower one might prefer a shorter route over more difficult terrain.

A deviation is more likely to be a time and energy saver on a long hard section than on a shorter one. To save energy, steep slopes should be avoided wherever possible and detours which lose height which has to be regained later should be viewed with suspicion.

ORIENTEERING - as seen through feminine eyes
(a report of the Carnforth event)

"Just write your name and address on this piece of paper," said Ben Carter, so we did and that's how we found ourselves in an orienteering team. Only an indirect approach would work on such unlikely people. Joan K and Helen(Ready), at least, had done it before; Mo(Elder) and I hadn't a clue. However there we were on a Sunday morning too nervous to enjoy our breakfast. Mo was thumbing through the 72 magazines that she had brought up the night before. Wilf Charnley was giving a last minute lesson on map reading and Helen said "I feel sick." We didn't feel any better when we got to the starting point and saw the other competitors - hundreds of athletic-looking people wearing chic, nylon cat-suits adorned with impressive badges. Still we lined up with the rest. Joan spoilt the effect by telling the starter "We're only here for the giggle," and off we went on the Wayfinders I (Long - non-competitive).

It was really too simple. We found the first checkpoint in two minutes and the second three minutes later. It was then we realised that we had strayed on to the "Senior Mens' A" course. At that point we decided to adopt a more scientific approach. Mo had a very elaborate compass borrowed from her brother, so we lined that up and set off on a compass bearing. After getting hooked on barbed wire, falling flat on our noses as we tripped over brambles, having our eyes gouged out by hazel trees and being throttled by whistles catching on branches we almost gave in until Joan said "There are footpaths all over the place. Why can't we use them?". And that's how we got home three quarters of an hour later.

It was really very pleasant once we organised ourselves. We could look at the beautiful views across Morecambe Bay and gossip about this and that. Other people were rushing about; we stood aside and let them. We did complete the course and our names are there in print to prove it.

Joan Higginson

Members are reminded

- of Rule 6 in the Constitution of the A.R.C.C., namely that the membership of non-Catholics to the A.R.C.C. be restricted to about 15% of the total membership. I make this note so as to perhaps avoid disappointment among non-Catholics wishing to apply for membership, especially as there is a waiting-list at present.

- that the final date for receiving subscriptions for the year 1972 - 73 is the 1st July 1972. "Any Member who has not paid his or her subscription on or before the 1st July shall cease to be a Member"(Rule 6). Members are further reminded that an extra 50p, over and above the £2-00 annual subs., will be charged to members paying after the 1st July. Members are asked to send subscriptions to Nev. Haigh, the Subs. Sec. and not to Derek Price.

Around the Huts

Buckbarrow: Yet another reminder! If any member wishes to bring children to Buckbarrow he is asked to check first with David Ogden, the Hut Warden.

Finally, Congratulations to Clive Millard and Cathy Hickey on their Marriage which took place on Sat. 17th June, 1972. It was a right good do!

Fr. David J. Elder,
(Bulletin Editor)

List of Addresses

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Subs. Secretary:

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Tyn Twr Hut Warden:

Mr. John T. Foster,
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Buckbarrow Hut Warden:

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Langdale Hut Warden: (up to mid-Aug)

Mr. Harry Wiggins,
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Preston.

Dunmail Hut Warden:

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