

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB.

September 1972

Bulletin 46

Dear Member,

Although I have not had the opportunity to see much of the mountains during the summer months myself, I have met many club members who have been able to enjoy the dry summer in the Lakes and N. Wales. From all reports club is prospering.

A number of members have enquired about the club's constitution. A copy of the latest issue containing any amendments made at recent General Meetings is enclosed with this bulletin for reference.

Annual Dinner-Dance

Date: Saturday 2nd December 1972.

Time: 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

Place: Windermere Hydro Hotel, Windermere.

Dancing will be to the Jack Hartley Quartet until 2.00am.

The Bar will be open until 1.00am.

Tickets: £2.00 per person available from:

T. Hickey,

36 Fleetwood Rd.,

Poulton-le-Fylde. Tel: Poulton 5841

Make this the social event of the year, bring your friends, there's an almost unlimited supply of tickets available!.

For those who may wish to spend the night at the Windermere Hydro:

Tariff at the hotel: £2.50 per person bed & breakfast

£3.25 per person bed & breakfast + bathroom

The Club's Annual Orienteering Competition will be held on the Sunday following the Dinner. The venue will be the Great Towers Plantation on the east side of Lake Windermere near the Hawkshead Ferry terminal. There will probably be two courses, a hard one for the non-drinkers and an easy one for the rest. This event is usually hilarious!

Raffle Tickets

You will find five books of raffle tickets enclosed with this bulletin. They are NOT repeat NOT for the waste-paper basket. This is a venture to raise money for club funds. The tickets are priced at 2p each of 10p per book. As the draw is to take place at the annual dinner you are asked (politely!) to sell (or buy) all the tickets and return the counterfoils and monies to me as soon as possible. (I thought of writing a begging letter - but was dissuaded!)

Bishop Pearson's Annual Sponsored Walk

This event is to take place on Saturday the 11th November. The route is from Hawkshead car-park to Bishop's Scale, and will be approx 20km. Anyone who is available on that day and is willing to help with marshalling, refreshments etc., will be more than welcome. Prospective helpers are asked to contact Matt Bennett (for address see below).

An Ascent of Ben Nevis

- 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 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 Gardaloo Gully ascending 350ft. of 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 on Wednesday evening, a record for 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 in triumph to the hut. Myself and Paul returned to the Little Brenva face wherein 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 the 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 plot further routes over pints and a fire, in true climbers' style.

Harry and Cherie Wiggans

- Derek W. Price.

On August 19th a Farewell Party was held at Bishops Scale to wish Harry and Cherie Wiggans Bon Voyage on their trip to New Zealand.

Harry, noted for his 'itchy feet' will be in the Southern Hemisphere for the second time in two years, having completed a 2½ year Antarctic Tour with the British Antarctic Expedition in 1970.

Cherie, a native of New Zealand, came to England in 1970 after travelling through Asia and Europe for several months.

Harry met Cherie whilst staying at Bishop's Scale after his return from the Antarctic. They were engaged in Langdale, married in Langdale and had their wedding reception at the Langdale Hotel. With all this Langdale contact it seemed appropriate when Harry was made warden of Bishop's Scale. Thus over the past 18 months he has directed most of his energies to the running of the hut.

More than 100 people celebrated at the party, (which, I may add, went on until 5.00am!) and, as Harry and Cherie will be reading this bulletin in two or three weeks, on behalf of all your friends here in England, have a pleasant and enjoyable stay in New Zealand, and we hope to see you again in the not too far distant future.

For those interested: H. Wiggins,
57 Tana Rd.,
Onehunga,
Auckland 6.

Bye-Laws regarding Guests

Your attention is drawn to the following bye-laws which have been operative for a number of years, but which are apparently not well-known.

1. Each full member may only sign-in one guest. The member will be held responsible for the good conduct of his or her guest and for ensuring that the guest pays his or her hut-fees. This bye-law now applies to all huts. However if a member wishes to bring more than one guest he must contact the respective hut-warden before bringing the guest.

2. Any particular guest may not be signed-in at any one hut more than three times in one year.

Note: Mere application to become a graduate member of the ARCC does not automatically entitle a person to the right to use the club's facilities. An applicant may only use the huts after he or she has received official notification from the Secretary of acceptance as a graduate member.

Volunteers!

Volunteers wanted to marshal the 'Karrimor Two-day Mountain Marathon', Saturday/Sunday, 30th Sept/1st Oct 1972.

Intending marshals should have the ability to navigate themselves, in pairs, to a precise spot under any weather conditions. They will be required to bivouac for about five day-light hours on both days. The course is in the Southern Uplands of Scotland, about 2½ hours drive from Preston. Expenses are not guaranteed but will be paid if funds run to it. This is a good opportunity to visit some new, and by all accounts, very fine mountain country, and should offer good sport to marshals as well as competitors. Will those interested please contact either:

Mr. G. Charnley,
101 Liverpool Rd.,
Penwortham,
Preston. Tel P'ton 43788

B. Carter,
53 Montreal Rd.,
Blackburn.
Tel B'burn 50879.



orienteeing

THE MAMMOTH LAKE DISTRICT WEEKEND - GREAT TOWER PLANTATION

Unfortunately we could not obtain details of this event in time for the last bulletin otherwise we might have had a larger ARCC turnout. As it was, those members who showed the club flag put on a creditable performance on a course which demanded a high standard of map reading ability: trackless deciduous woodland with rock outcrops, all runnable. The event was organised by Keith Windle and controlled by Gerry Charnley. There were 700 entrants.

Special mention must be made of Mrs Partridge and daughter Elizabeth who came joint fifth in the Wayfinders, competing against regular army personnel who took the first three places, and who, to be fair, should have entered as senior men.

Clive Millard came twelfth in the Wayfinders, while his brother Paul and Paul's friend Rob. Mussel did the senior men's 'A' course, 7km, 19 stations. Paul in 2 hours 30, Rob in 90 minutes. The event was won with a time of 57 minutes.

George Partridge did the Veteran Men's course, 3.9km, 11 stations, in 2 hours 24, but details of the winning time are not available at the time of going to press.

PRESTON GUILD ORIENTEERING COMPETITION - OR THE GREAT FIRE-HYDRANT CHASE

Held on the 27th August as part of the Guild celebrations this event was run from the edge of Avenham Park, crossed the river via a railway bridge, out across some sports fields and allotments, over some derelict railway embankments, eventually working round to Fishergate. From there it returned to the starting point taking in Manchester Road and an avenue fronting the river. More than half the course ran through the streets of the town. "I've never run so much through streets since I was chased by a Bobby", remarked one competitor. But the sight of a grown man tearing down Fishergate with a bit of paper in his hand would make any policeman suspicious. Numbers marked on various items of street furniture, mostly fire hydrants, had to be recorded. This replaced card punching as proof of visits to the 19 stations on the six mile course. Well, it makes a change, doesn't it.

Paul Charnock and Wilf Charnley, first away of the club's entrants, shot through a screen of bushes by the start to find themselves on a 30 foot embankments strewn with concrete blocks and steel spikes. The press photographer at the bottom should have some good pictures. Wilf broke away early and Eddie Kelly caught up with Paul at the 4th station - a fire hydrant without a number. They were discussing this when I arrived. Noting the number of the next nearest hydrant the three of us stuck together for the next few hydrants where Eddie got separated. Four hydrants later Paul broke away to make a fine finish, only slightly upset by a flight of fifty steps.



Results

Class A

Winner .. D. N. Borgh .. 1h 16 27 .. None wrong

Best time .. ? Turner .. 1 08 20 .. One wrong

ARCC times

J. M. Rodgerston .. 1 14 35 .. Three wrong

W. Charnley .. 1 25 35 .. " "

B. Carter .. 1 30 34 .. One wrong

P. T. Charnock .. 1 31 06 .. Two wrong

E. Kelly .. 1 38 01 .. " "

Class E ARCC times

M Elder 53 minutes 25 seconds.

H. Ready, J. Higginson, J. Kiernans 55 minutes 50 seconds.

ARCC members lodged a protest about the hydrant without a number. Paul Charnock was told by an official that this was a 'trick' station. Paul said he would have knocked the man down then and there but for having just run up fifty steps.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed in spite of the unusual course, and it really deserved a better turnout than it got. The mapping and station referencing were good on the whole though references like 'The southerly-most hydrant' meant u-sin-g a compass in the middle of Preston - akin to using a top-rope on Fishergate Hill. At least no-one had to blow six long blasts in the wilds of Winkley Square.

Due to the low turn-out we nearly got in the first four. A pity we didn't. It would have added to the club's lustre to have won a prize. When? Oh, last Preston Guild.

We would like to thank Mavis and Frank Rodgerson who's house overlooked the start and who made us all welcome.

THE CHICKEN FACTOR

By Brian Curtis. Reprinted from the Orienteer, July 1972.

I've reached the peak of my fitness (a seven-minute mile would hardly strain the ligaments), and my orienteering technique is as perfect as it'll ever be. So why don't I ever WIN?

I'll tell you. I've got the wrong attitude to it all. I'm as close to being an orienteer as an army cook is to being a commando. It all came home to me Wisley Common last February, as I came to the finish after 102 minutes of gruelling timidity. I was sprinting at a breakneck walk along an L-shaped path (to avoid the marshy bit between the last control and the finish) when I saw a lady competitor streak ahead of me, running knee-deep in water on the straight-line route. So great was my confusion that I actually broke into a semi-canter which must have knocked at least three seconds off my time. Not that it did me any good though. She had twenty minutes in hand anyway.

Then in a flash I realised where I had been going wrong.

I shudder to an indecisive halt in the face of obstacles that other orienteers don't even notice.

I lose a good five minutes at every winter event by tiptoeing gingerly along the sloping edges of footpaths, instead of crashing through the mire in the middle.

The number of marshes I have circumnavigated is nobody's business. The ones I actually cross, hopping precariously from dry clod to dry clod, must have cost me hours and hours over the years.

It isn't just stagnant water that takes away my momentum. Brambles are a big deterrent too. Steep slopes (upwards or downwards) slow me down. So



do cold, bridgeless streams (I remember one event in Northumberland when I twice had to sit down in the snow and remove my shoes and socks before paddling across a freezing swollen, raging burn). I have even lost valuable seconds avoiding a most docile-looking cow). This feeble-spirited attitude to life had not reared its ugly head for a long time, until I took to orienteering. Now that I can't blame my inability to twiddle a compass, or my body's state of degeneracy, this weakness of spirit (which I call the Chicken Factor) is the most significant variable in my performance. Judging from the numerous other orienteers I have seen teetering on the brinks of bogs, I am certainly not a lone sufferer. Having isolated this Chicken Factor, what can I do to reduce or eliminate it? Obviously a rigorous training programme is called for. My initial programme for a daily anti-chicken workout (starting from tomorrow - I don't feel up to it today...) will include:-

Two minutes on-the-spot running, barefoot, in a newly-dug, muddy cabbage patch in the back garden.

A walk across the lake in the local park each lunchtime, avoiding the footbridge and the ducks.

Five minutes' self-flagellation with freshly-cut bramble shoots.

Has anyone any serious suggestions for combating the Chicken Factor? There's a lot of room for research here.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

West Cumberland O.C. Cross Country Event.
Sunday, 8th October 1972.
Strands, Wasdale.

This event has already aroused a great deal of interest amongst our members; it should be a good one for beginners. For those interested an entry form is included in this bulletin, but those who can't commit themselves can enter on the day - for an extra 10p.

For anyone who wants to have a go and doesn't know what to do, a crash course in orienteering will be held at Buckbarrow hut the day before the event. Just bring a whistle and, if you have one, a Silva compass.

Lakeland O.C. Badge Event.
Sunday, 12th November 1972.
Ambleside.

Details to be posted in the huts.

... I remember the event in Northbrook when
I saw him in the snow and remove my shoes and socks before
... I have even lost
... a most beautiful-looking one.
... I look at the photograph. Now that I can't blame my inability
... on my body's sense of propriety. In its weakness of
... the children's feet is the most efficient variable
... the women's other ornaments I have seen
... I am certainly not a true believer.
... which I like to reduce to minimum
... program to a daily anti-children program (inspired from television - I
... will include -

... in a really-busy, muddy
... in the back garden.
... A walk across the lawn in the local park lunchtime, or along the
... and the ducks.
... five minutes' self-reflection with freshly-out trouble shots.
... for combating the children's factors
... of room for research here.

FOURTH LINE EVENTS

... Country Event.
... 1971
... 1971

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South Ribble O.C. Practise Even-t.
Sunday 22nd October 1972.
Beacon Fell Country Park, Longridge.

Entrance fee 15p. Pay on arrival. Tuition given if required.

WEST CUMBERLAND ORIENTEERING CLUB
REGIONAL STANDARD CROSS COUNTRY EVENT
SUNDAY, 8 OCTOBER 1972

VENUE Strands, Wasdale, Cumberland
TERRAIN Mature forest and some open land
MAP Re-drawn, 4 colour, Scale 1:10,000
ORGANISER Ken Hedley
COURSE PLANNER Miriam Levens
CONTROLLER Haydn Howard
MAPPER Tony Pennick

Suggested Classes.

COURSES:	Course A: 10-12 k.	Elite	} These are only suggestions. You are encouraged to 'have a go' at a longer course than you usually attempt if you wish to do so.
	Course B: 7 k. approx	SM/SW/IM/VM	
	Course C: 5 k. "	VW/IW/JM	
	Course D: 3.5 k. "	JW/JM/Wayfinders	
	Course E: 2 k. "	Boys/Girls/Wayfinders	

FEES Over 18 - 25p. Under 18 - 15p. Wayfinders 15 p per entry.

TEAMS Fastest 3 competitors from each club on each course, irrespective of class.
Team nominations NOT required.

ENTRIES TO: Ken Hedley, Ivy Cottage, Kirkland, Frizington, Cumberland.
By Monday 25 September 1971, together with two stamped addressed envelopes (9" x 4" please, unless multiple copies of results are required, in which case please supply a larger results envelope and extra postage)
Late entries will be accepted, 10p extra.
Please make cheques, postal orders etc. payable to the "West Cumberland Orienteering Club".

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS Including start time, location of start, etc. will be in the post to all competitors by Monday 2 October 1972.

RULES BOF rules will apply.

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Editor's Note: It is not always possible, as in this case, to have all the material required for a bulletin to hand in time to give members the opportunity to apply for entry to an Orienteering Competition by the official Entry Date. Entry can usually be made on the day of the event as mentioned above. Apologies to all prospective competitors.

Intermediate Treatment - Children and Young Persons Act 1969

As a Probation Officer and member of the Achille Ratti Climbing Club I am writing this article in the hope that fellow members will respond to the suggestion (challenge?) that it contains.

Under the provisions of the above Act, Regional Planning Committees set up by the Local Authority are looking into ways and means by which deprived or disturbed young people can be helped to broaden their interests. Under the general heading of "Intermediate Treatment" the Courts and other statutory bodies would provide opportunities for these children to experience situations in which they may overcome relationship difficulties, learn to achieve something in a challenging situation and generally provide alternative healthy outlets for their natural ability and inbuilt aggressions.

At present, the provision for "Intermediate Treatment" is only allowed for in the Act. As and when positive schemes have been formulated, such provisions will be implemented, and courts - for example will be able to make orders that include an "Intermediate Treatment" plan.

Of the many ideas at present being discussed the provision of "Adventure Courses" has much merit. It is envisaged that such courses would be structured along the lines of Outward Bound, although not nearly so sophisticated or demanding. A weekend say, in the mountains

with some fell-walking , rock-climbing, simple map and compass work and perhaps a discussion group in the evenings.

It is possible that some Club Members would be interested in undertaking or helping out on such a scheme, using the Bishop's Scale Hut as a base. Parties would possibly consist of six youngsters between the ages of 13 to 16, probably in the company of a professional Social Worker. Obviously, for such a scheme to be successful - indeed acceptable to the Regional Planning Committee - there would have to be a rota list of "instructors" with suitable qualifications. At the same time, whilst such volunteers would be giving up their time and energy to this scheme, the Act does make allowance for financial payment to be met out of public funds. As regards qualifications, I should think that any mountaineer, fell-walker, or rock-climber who has experience of leading parties in these activities and who is preferably in possession of the Mountain Leadership Certificate would be acceptable. I am hopeful that, amongst the Achille Ratti membership there are a number of schoolteachers (students), priests, seminarians, etc. ready to accept the challenge of providing such a scheme for those who otherwise might be deprived.

Once such a scheme has been formulated, to include a list of "leaders", likely dates, agreement on financial payment etc., full details would be sent to the Regional Planning Committee who would then approve or otherwise. On approval, the scheme is submitted to the Secretary of State and once it has received his approval becomes a local authority scheme for Intermediate Treatment. The use of the Bishop's Scale hut has already been sanctioned by the ARCC Management Committee.

What I now hope is that individual club members who are interested will write to me direct with the following details:

- a. Age
- b. Sex
- c. Qualifications (if any)
- d. Experience
- e. Availability, and length of notice needed.
- f. Any other relevant information, or indeed, any other suggestions or queries.

M. L. Smith,
Warwickshire Probation and
After-Care Service,
County Area Offices,
Alcester Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon.

Obituary - Harry Holden

It is a sad duty to record the death of one of our members - the late Harry Holden - Who died on the fourth of August following a breakdown in health of some few months. Aged forty-five and the Headmaster of St. Mary's Primary School, Fleetwood, Harry had been a member of 'Achille Ratti' since 1955; and as the many members who knew him will doubtless remember, he had a love of the hills which was second to none - and the very lifeblood of the Club cannot but be enriched by the enthusiasm and vitality which he so readily displayed in this regard. Harry was a popular figure and perhaps one need hardly add, radiated the type of sharp wit - increasingly rare these days - which, like good music, found a ready echo in the hearts of all who knew him.

In paying tribute to any great man, mere words fall lamentably short and it may be that of those who were able to get to the Requiem Mass, there are others, like myself, who may have marvelled at the words read out in the Lesson - as being particularly apt:-

"Length of days is not what makes age honourable,
nor number of years the true measure of life..."

To his wife, Isabelle, and children, Christine and John, we extend our deepest sympathy.

May he rest in peace.

M. Osman.

Note: The 6.30pm Mass at Bishop's Scale on Saturday 28th October will be celebrated for Harry.

Around the Huts

Langdale: For the information of those interested, British Mountaineering Council (BMC) circulars (as received by the ARCC as an affiliated member of the BMC) are kept at Bishop's Scale.

There have been some complaints recently about the untidy state of the hut. Remember it is the duty of members and guests to keep the hut clean and tidy. The hut warden is always available to allocate chores.

The reminder above of bye-laws re. guests is especially applicable to Langdale. In future, anyone who wishes to stay at the hut for 4 weeks or more must first receive the Hut Warden's permission.

As Harry Wiggans has now left the country, Matt Bennett has been appointed Hut Warden of Langdale. Matt's address is:

349 Haslingdon Rd.,
Guide,
Nr. Blackburn, Lancs.

I would like to thank the following for their contributions to this bulletin, Vincent Wells, Derek Price, Ben Carter, Michael L. Smith and Maurice Osman. Remember, any news or articles are always welcome. The next bulletin is due to appear in January 1973.

Fr. David J. Elder.
(Bulletin Editor.)