

ACHILLE RATTEL CLIMBING CLUB.

December 1973

Bulletin 50

Dear Member,

As you probably realised from the last Bulletin, Father David Elder has had to give up the Editorship of the Bulletin. He has been appointed Club Chaplain and so will still be taking an active part in Club activities.

At the last Management Committee Meeting I was shown a copy of the first Bulletin published in February 1961 by J. Thornton of Manchester. The last paragraph ran as follows:

"Doubtless the professional typists are viewing my typing technique with scorn - please remember this issue has been produced by the famous one finger method!"

I would like to assure Mr Thornton - who is still a member - that 49 Bulletins later things have not changed very much.

GRADUATE MEMBERS

Graduate Members are reminded that at the end of their probationary period the onus is upon them to apply for Full Membership status. Failure to do so may result in a loss of Graduate Membership facilities. So, do not forget, write a letter to The Hon Sec after 6 months Graduate Membership.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Dave Harding will be giving up the post of Treasurer at the next A.G.M. If there are any volunteers who are willing to take on the post of Assistant Treasurer would they please forward their names to The Hon Sec as soon as possible. The Assistant Treasurer will attend Management Committee Meetings in Preston and will stand for election at the next A.G.M.

NEW ROPES FOR OLD

Are you still climbing on that old rope you meant to scrap last year? If so, it might be worth a £1 or £2 towards a new one. I am particularly interested in No. 2 or No. 3 laid ropes, as long as possible. Offers to:

J. FOSTER,
29, Braeside Cres.,
Billinge,
Nr WIGAN.

LONDON MEMBERS

Miss Nicky Skelton has written in with a suggestion to the effect that she is willing to act as co-ordinator for any London Members of the A.R.C.C. who find it difficult to get up to the Lakes or Wales. So, if you want a lift, or are willing to share car space contact her at:

16B Beaconsfield Rd,
New Southgate,
LONDON. N11 3AB.

Tel: (Evenings & Weekends
01 361 1645)

With petrol rationing rearing its ugly head this must be an offer not to be sniffed at.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK - Saturday 10th November 1973.

Another Sponsored Walk has come and gone. The last one will be remembered for the beautiful weather (rumour has it that His Lordship forgot to pray for a fine day this year). A particularly fine meal was put on for A.R.C.C. Members who helped with the Marshalling, many thanks to Joyce Foster and Janet Bennet for doing the shopping and to Ginger Hickey and Cath Millard for producing a miracle out of the Bishopscale Ovens.

ORIENTEERING '73

In spite of the weather - dull, turning to drizzle - this year's event attracted thirty starters to test their metal on the best course we have had so far. This was at Tarn Hows; a course of mixed woodland and heath, surrounded by roads for easy escape, and fairly dry underfoot.

The first leg of the course went straight up a hause side - to get the blood pumping. Station 2 was a cairn. Easy to find you might think, but there were seven to choose from. 3 was a hard one, 4 fairly easy, 5 a real stinker, 6 an orienteers dream - behind a great boulder alongside a track. 7 was three quarters way up a precipice and 8, 9, & 10 were cross country running.

Top ten results are as follows:

1. Derek Price.	56.26
2. C.J. Farrell.	57.40
3. M. Pooler.	59.10
4. Team 'A'	1.00.06
5. M.J. Crawford.	1.02.26
6. B. Hayes.	1.03.22
7. D. Ogden.	1.04.36
8. C. Millard.	1.08.36
9. G. Partridge..	1.10.25
10. W. Charnley.	1.11.50

Once more we must thank Gerry Charnley and family and Ray Phillips for the hard work that went into the organisation. They drove up early Sunday morning to set out the course. Also we must thank Gerry for using his influence in obtaining the excellent maps.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable event and a truly popular win.

BERNARD CARTER.

A.R.C.C. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Enclosed with the Bulletin you will find the Events Calendar for 1974. A good New Year's Resolution would be to decide on taking part in at least one event. Remember accommodation must be booked. The first event is the 'Dunmail Raise Meet' you can book accommodation by writing to the Hut Warden, Clive Millard, at;

18, Hollywood Ave.,
Penwortham,
PRESTON.

A booking form will be included in the Bulletin for all subsequent Meets.

THE FOURTEEN PEAKS (Report)

D-day, 19th May 1973, and I never felt less ready for action than when the alarm sounded at 02.45 hrs, an unearthly hour if ever there was one.

A quick cheery round of all the combatant's dorms (the Support Group were to follow on 2 hrs later) on with the light, the quiet encouraging word. Switched on the Corvette, dished out the first rations (cornflakes) no rum - just tea.

Quickly and quietly! the assault troops gathered to embark; all aboard, then the three transports headed up the dark valley in a tight convoy. As we reached Ogwen, the sky was already grey in the East. On, round P-y-G, to Pen-y-Pas, the dropping zone. All dismount quietly to avoid disturbing the occupants of the Yo-Ho.

A muttered final roll call, and at 04.10 hrs away went the first wave into the lightening greyness. Already there were casualties; sickness, old injuries taking their toll, and as the ascent steepened, palpitations (hadn't we all) The first strong point (Grib Goch) fell as the Sun rose above the belt of cloud on the horizon. Would many of us see another sunrise? (Some had sworn never to get up before 10.00hrs ever again) I wouldn't have made a good war correspondent, would I?; so on - without the romance.

Almost the whole of our route was now visible, and it seemed a hell of a long way to go. However, it was a really beautiful morning, no mist to confuse the route, but a high thin overcast to keep the heat off us. Ideal, except for the wind which was gusting gale force on Snowdon and later on Elydir Fawr.

A fairly quick descent, down the railway, to 'Cloggy' Station, then to Nant Peris, and the bacon butties and tea from the Landrover at Pant-y-Fron. The Vagabonds' Hut. More drop-outs.

The 2,700 ft slog onto Elydir - Fawr took a further toll. Val Cann was nearly blown into the Menai Straights and Pete Durkin found he wasn't the greyhound he used to be (so that's why he needs a big dog with him these days). It was on this summit that George Partridge and his mate, doing the circuit independant of the main party, caught me up. This was not unexpected, but to have made up 1hr. 20mins in the first quarter of the route startled me.

Foel Goch was by-passed (not 3,000 ft) then over Y Garn and down to the top of the Devil's Kitchen. At this point Mike packed up with blisters, having caught up and stayed with the fast party, a creditable performance for 14.

The Glyders came next, and Tryfan, for most of us. It is rumoured that our Orienteering organiser, Ben Carter, couldn't count properly, being in Technical Education, and will have go back and do Tryfan some other day.

Ogwen was the last main refreshment point(and very welcome it was) and also the Rubican for the die-hards who intended to complete the 14 (or 13 in the afore mentioned case). So just before the deadline at 15.00 hrs the last five gallant souls headed into the wilderness, to tackle the last big ascent, the 2,000ft onto Pen-yr-olewen (with Dave Harding sweeping up). Once this summit was achieved, the miles flowed steadily behind, the gentle ups and downs not taking too much effort. That is except for the sharp return onto the main massif from Yr Elen, which was mercifully short.

It was about this point that the troops in the line were cheered to find that the A.O.C. (T. Hick) was among them, doing the rounds on his annual inspection (sorry, I'm regressing). The last point of note on the route was Uncle Tom's Cabin, also known as Tom's Tea Stall. Powdered milk is not noted for making a good cup of tea, but no one was known to refuse.

The descent from No. 14, Foel Fras, was interminable. That last 4 miles down the long valley to Gerlon. But eventually, the last stragglers were back on the road, some 17½ hrs. since setting off (some of the fast party 2hrs earlier) it was truly our 'Longest Day'.

Everyone on the meet seemed to have enjoyed it immensely, and I have received many compliments on the organisation and work involved in making such a successful meet. So I thank very sincerely all those who worked well together, on the victualling side, transport and communications; the leader of the fast party, Leo Pollard, and myself as leader of the slow party (albeit like the Duke of Plaza-Toro, leading his men from behind). To those who failed (17 out of 31 completed) "There's always another time." One dropout at least has been successful since.

The aim of most of us was just to get round 'the fourteen' with no thought of record times. But even so, it was a rather chastening thought that the record time - Snowdon to Foel Fras - was about 5½ hrs; set up by the late Eric Beard. I have been informed on good authority that exactly a month after our 'Meet', Joss Naylor trotted round in 4hrs 45mins. It's enough to make you burn your boots.

JOHN FOSTER.

In the next Bulletin I will publish articles by Angela Faller, Martin Whitaker and Eddie Kelly. My main consideration with Bulletin No. 50 has been to get it off my hands and in the post before the Christmas rush. Like all previous Bulletin Editors I would like to appeal to all members for news, views and topics, send them to :

TE. SOUTHWORTH,
15, St FRANCIS RD,
FENISCLIFFE,
BLACKBURN,
LANCS. BB2 2TZ.

Many thanks to John Foster, Nicky Skelton and Ben Carter for contributing articles to this edition.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members of A.R.C.C. a very Happy Christmas and an active New Year.

Best wishes,

TED SOUTHWORTH.

Derek Price,
Hon Sec A.R.C.C.
615, Blackpool Rd.,
Ashton,
PRESTON.

Terry Hickey,
Chairman A.R.C.C.
36, Fleetwood Rd.,
Carleton,
Poulton-le-Fylde,
BLACKPOOL.

Neville Haigh,
Subscriptions Sec.,
752, Devonshire Rd.,
Norbreck,
BLACKPOOL.