

JUNIOR MEMBERS' MEET. June 76. REPORT

Juniors taking part were; Climbers - Alisdair & Neil Evans, Mike Wood, Andrew & Christopher Mullen, John & Mark Chadwick, John Fanning, Steve Russell, Geoff Gallagher, Helen Phillips and Jane Liptrot. Walkers/Campers Neil, Ian and Joanne Welding, Diane Hargreaves and Carmel & Helen Fanning.

With the reluctant aid of weather which eventually came near to smiling upon us, the innovatory Junior Meet was a tremendous success. More routes were climbed in one weekend by Junior Members than their Seniors usually manage in three - 31 to be precise - ranging from Scout Route I to Corvis on Raven Crag, Combe Ghyll. The campers, with the aid of packhorses in the persons of John Liptrot, Roy Philips and Tony Welding, carried their gear up to Cam Spout from Cockley Beck in extremely damp ground conditions, then on Sunday returned to the hut via Three Tarns and the Band. Everyone enjoyed themselves, even the poor leaders who, as early evening approached, found themselves being driven into leading "just one more" when they would have preferred confronting a shandy instead of steep rock.

I should like to express my personal thanks to everyone who helped to make this meet a success and particularly to those who gave up their own weekend to act as leaders: George Partridge, Stu Evans, Steve Wood, Dot Wood and Dave Harding as climbers; Clare Harding and Brian Fanning as campers. Please evryone, how about next year? - if you've recovered.

Jim Harding.

DHAKURI - INDIAN HIMALAYAS - 1974

Dhakuri - some fifty miles from here Chinese and Indian troops patrol a frozen border on the roof of the world. This frontier divides the wind-swept plateaux of Chinese-ruled Tibet from the snowcaps and the vast glaciers of India's Kumaon Himalayas. For years the area has been closed to visitors. Now it can be seen. On a clear day from the Dhakuri pass, 200 peaks over 20,000 feet high flash their snow tops across a brilliant arc stretching 325 miles, with Kashmir to the northwest and the Kingdom of Nepal to the Northeast. The border is awesome in its glacial beauty and intensely sensitive. Since Indian Independence in 1947, and before that under the British, no foreigners were allowed through the Dhakuri pass and beyond without screening and special passes. An "Inner Line", running across most of Northern India, was established to create a buffer zone well away from the frontier.

But earlier this year the ban was lifted, largely as a tourist draw and I made the journey to Dhakuri. At Loharket, the inner line checkpoint, a disgruntled Indian Head constable, who had not yet heard of the ease on passes watched with distrust as a white man without a pass, disappeared into the rain heading towards Dhakuri. Perhaps the policeman was convinced he was a Chinese spy.

The journey from New Delhi to Dakhuri - at 10,000 feet - took four days by road and on foot.

The roads in the hills were good but Kapkote, the start of the footpath is well into the interior and is the end of the electricity and telephone lines.

From Kapkote to Loharket and the checkpoint was a day's trek of 11 miles along tracks broken by monsoon landslides helped by savage deforestation.

The British Army left its mark too with log booksignatures by men of the IV Worcestershires in 1913, the Royal Berkshires and a whole band from the Middlesex Regiment in 1917.

Peter O'Neill.

The above article by Peter was sent to me in April, in his letter to me he included notice of a birth to himself and his wife, Uma Ram Nath, of a son Sean Joseph Ramnath-O'Neill - 'to cover all options! Peter has now returned to this country and is living at; 95, Coronation Rd, Lydiate
Lancs (526 410)

THE BOB GRAHAM ROUND

The following article gives me particular pleasure to publish since in recent times much of my spare time has been spent fell racing and all the training this involves. Earlier this year A.R.C.C. member Leo Pollard took on the challenge of completing the Bob Graham Round - this is a report of his successful attempt.

On the 13th June 1932, Bob Graham, a Keswick Hotel Keeper, broke the 24hour lakeland fell-running record. He covered a distance of 75 miles, climbed 27,000 feet and visited 42 peaks in a time of 23hours 39 minutes, starting and finishing at Moot Hall, Keswick. He was 43 years old when he made this historical run. Bob Graham had to wait 28 years before anyone was equal to his feat, when on the 25th June 1960, Alan Heaton aged 32 successfully completed the round in 22 hours 18 mins thus taking the record; Bob Graham turned out and met Alan at Honister. The present record now stands at 72 peaks in a time of 23 hours 11 mins run by Joss Naylor on the 22nd June 1975 aged 39 years.

Inspired by Bob Graham and other record breaking runs, namely Ken Heaton's 51 peaks (Alan's brother), the late Eric Beard 56 peaks, Alan Heaton again 60 peaks, then Joss Naylor 72 peaks, men with less ability, have, over the years taken Bob Graham's round as a test of their own ability and a club was formed called "The Bob Graham" by Fred Rogerson, the "membership fee" being 42 peaks in 24 hours - the peaks being those which Bob Graham set, starting and finishing at Moot Hall Keswick.

To attempt this round one must have a good support party coupled with pacers and carriers on the fells. The route divides itself into five sections, crossing roads at Threlkeld, Dunmail Raise, Wasdale camp site and Honister Pass. The support party transports all the pacers and carriers round to these road crossings - not forgetting the food of course!

If anyone is going to attempt this round you must inform Fred Rogerson telling him the date and time you intend to start. Earlier this year Leo Pollard - who runs for Horwich - contacted Fred to give notice of his attempt on Saturday 19th June starting at midnight Friday. During the months that followed Leo - like many previous aspirants - had nagging doubts about the run and his ability to complete it. However, just before midnight on Friday the 18th June Leo and a group of his friends assembled at Moot Hall to wish the lad luck and witness Fred Rogerson set the run in motion. Leo, with pacers Dave Moulding and Dave Field set off on the stroke of twelve.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK

The above walk will take place again this year on Saturday 20th November, 1976. As many volunteers as possible are needed to stake out and marshall the route and generally be of help. Turn up at Bishop's Scale on Friday 19th November when jobs will be allotted during the course of the evening ready for the following day.

MARRIAGE

Tom Broderick and Pat Reynolda were married on the 19th of July 1976, they met at Bishop's Scale some years ago. Their address is

I, Broom Croft,
Lorton,
COCKERMOUTH,
Cumbria.

Many congratulations! Tom's old address in Accrington will no longer be used.

MEMBERSHIP

Over the past few months membership has increased, Full membership has been granted to; P. Donnelly, A. Kenny, S. Morrissey, S.O'Hagan, S. Kelly, V.Lomas, Fr D. Mills, Fr J.Marmion, D. Simpson.

Graduate Membership; P. Allen, S.Allen, J. O'Connor, F.Morris, A.McGovern, B.Chadwick, M.Lovatt, L.Conway, Fr J.Ainsworth, N. Birkett, N.Bradley, M.Bradley, P.Cummagen, J.Dwyer, M.Emslie, M.Gloyne, B.Hodgson, S.Igoe, C.Lloyd, C.Moron, A.Vasey, M.Witham.

Please send articles in future to Joyce Foster whose address appears below, I am sure that she will be very grateful, as I have been, to receive news views and topics in order to make the job easier and the Bulletin more interesting.

All the best,

Ted Southworth.

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ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

September 1976

Bulletin 62

Dear Member,

I hope the long dry summer enabled most of you to enjoy trips out on fell or rock, it certainly made a change being able to plan ahead and pick a fine day for outdoor activities. I must apologise for not sending out a bulletin before the summer holidays - I got rather bogged down with work and the duplicating services I use were working non-stop for many weeks. The next issue of the bulletin will be published by Joyce Foster, it is now three years since I took over the job and time for a change I think. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members who have sent interesting articles or who have just written a letter to me.-

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Saturday 13th November, 1976 at the Red Lion Hotel, Grasmere.
7.00 for 7.30pm. Dancing till midnight. 1st Bar extension.

Guest speaker - John Wyatt, Head National Park Warden. Music by Jade. Tickets £4.00 each from D. Ogden,
28, Briercliffe Ave,
BLACKPOOL. (63963)

please enclose stamped addressed envelope.

Accommodation should be booked directly with the Red Lion - Grasmere 456. Rates are as follows for Bed and Breakfast;

Double or twin bedded room from	£10.80 to £13.50
Single bedded	£ 5.90 to £ 7.50
Children sharing parents' rooms	£ 3.40

POTHOLING MEET

The above Meet is going ahead but the date is now 15th/17th October, 76, and not as previously stated. If you wish to attend this Meet please contact Stu Evans, phone Malpas 214. The venue is Craven Pothole Club Hut, Horton in Ribblesdale. Maximum numbers possible - 12.

It is essential that anyone intending to go should BOOK with Stu and also book any personal equipment which you might need.

Stu has available for loan:- 2 wet cell lamps, 3 carbide lamps, 2 dry cell lamps and 3 caving helmets. He is also able to provide all necessary gear, ladders, lifelines etc.

Participants will need suitable clothing, helmets and lights. Clothing, ideally wet suits, but if woollens two sets should be brought since Saturdays clothes will probably not dry out for Sunday. Junior Members WILL NOT be accepted without a WET SUIT. HOOKED BOOTS are DANGEROUS - they snag in the ladder wires. Boots should utilise 'D' ring fastenings - one way of getting round the hook problem is to wear gaiters well tied down over the boots. This should be a very interesting meet for anyone who wants to try caving. Numbers are limited so please contact Stu as soon as possible.

A porter and guide combined was essential in the hills to direct, carry and cook. Lakshman Ram - one of the lower Hindu caste of Harijan "untouchables" - epitomised the toughness of his breed who do all the carrying in the hills.

His cast-off army combat gear bore witness to the army's presence. Aged 40 but looking 25 he has been head porter on several major mountaineering expeditions and his small wiry body can heft about 220 pounds. Travellers are few on this track and apart from a cow which had just calved and attacked us to protect her offspring, there was only one soldier to be seen, four Untouchables carrying his gear on their backs as he moved up the hills to join his unit.

After a night halt at Loharket we were faced by one of the most gruelling stretches of track in the whole area.

Setting off in thin rain under heavy clouds it took seven hours to climb the staircase-like track to Dhakuri through dense jungle six miles beyond and 5,000 feet higher than Loharket. At this time of year the jungle, thick with white orchids, was reasonably safe.

There were still vipers and cobras to watch for but the rain had driven off the tigers, panthers and bears much higher in search of dry jungle above the cloud line.

Although the lower areas have good crops of rice, maize and potato, at Dhakuri at 10,000 feet the traveller must carry his own kerosene and food.

The rats in the government inspection bungalow just below the Dhakuri pass, where we sheltered, spent the night trying to break into a rucksack slung six feet from the floor.

The five teashops along the lower part of the route to Loharket had hashish hookas (water pipes) discreetly available. A profitable sideline for people working in this high uninhabited area near Dhakuri is the harvesting and processing of wild hemp which grows freely in the jungle.

Beyond Loharket the clouds cleared and in the early morning I gazed at the legendary sanctuary of the Hindu Goddess peak Nandi Devi (22,645'). On all sides stood her giant defenders, Nandakot, Nanda's Fort (22,510') Nandakhat, Nanda's Bed (21,690'), Bandarpunch, The Monkey's Tail (20,270') and dozens of unnamed unclimbed peaks.

Hidden from sight below them lay a number of immense glaciers. The best known is that of Pindari. To reach it, it takes two more days through deep valleys eventually rising to 13,000 feet.

The high Pindari pastures are really the kingdom of the Kumaon women. They do the planting, carrying, herding and the fighting - with bears which fear no man and no animal. These women need no dowry. A husband must buy his wife here, and tradition says they are among the strongest in the world.

Panthers, or Tigers rarely attack a man, but go for the women working unawares. So does the bear whose attack leaves a terrible mark. It claws off the nose of its victim, ripping the face apart. But there are many Kumaoni women who have fought and killed bears with their grass sickles, and lived to tell the tale.

The early visitors to Pindari were mainly British. A local log book begins with an entry by a Captian Anderson in May 1894, who talks of an earlier trip in 1884.

In May 1897, the Misses E and J Venour, apparently became the first women to visit the glacier. A Mr Pringle-Kennedy in 1890 describes his visits in June 1890 and the mountain roses, lilac, honeysuckle and Himalayan whistling thrushes.

On the way up Skiddaw it began to rain and dark clouds robbed the party of any moonlight so the 1 hour 15 mins allowed proved too tight a schedule and the summit was reached in 1 hour 21. Wet, knee-high heather on Great Calva and Blencathra put them back still further and they reached Threlkeld at 3.53, 27 minutes later than planned. At this stage there was a welcome seven minutes rest and a drink of tea made by Leo's wife Freda. Now, with new pacer Pete Dawes - Pennine Way record holder - and carriers Peter Schofield and Arthur Walker, the runners set off up Clough Head.

It was dawn now and Clough Head was reached 17 minutes sooner than expected. The route now lay over the Dodds and Helvellyn. This high-level route was exposed to cold winds, Pete Dawes' hands were so cold ~~he had difficulty in recording times at the summits.~~ The party arrived at Dunmail Raise 2 minutes behind schedule. At Dunmail Beryl Astles made the tea, Leo also ate some cornflakes and a jam buttie, changed his footwear and with Bob Astles as pacer Steve Hunt and Phil Fleming carrying set off up Steel Fell to run the tops to Wasdale camp-site.

This is the longest section with 15 summits, taking approx 6 hours to complete. Broad Stand proved to be interesting - Phil and Steven never having held rock before. Wasdale was reached ahead of schedule, but Leo was experiencing pain on the top of his right foot when going down-hill. At Wasdale Edie Roberts made tea and dished up dinner - Lancashire Hot Pot with peaches and jam butties for afters.

It was now Pete Dawes' turn to take over as pacer, Mike McGovern carrying the makings of a drink and wet weather gear. Then came the hard haul up Yewbarrow from Wasdale taking approx 45 mins, and then over Red Pike to Steeple then on to Gable. Leo found this the most trying section and was extremely happy to reach Honister Y.H.A. for a short rest and some food. It had now started to rain again. Bob Astles took over as pacer and with seven other runners set off up Dale Head. Going up Dale Head, Hindscarth and Robinsons was easy but Leo was experiencing great pain coming off each of these tops - his foot continuing to trouble him. The long run off Pillar had really taken its toll and down hill running after Grey Knotts was impossible

The road section from Robinsons to Keswick went well, as any road run goes to a fellsman, but the lads were in great spirits now and this seemed to take half the time allotted - in fact they were five minutes behind schedule. So, 23 hours 25 minutes after leaving Moot Hall Leo had visited Bob Graham's 42 summits plus one for luck - Scoat Fell.

Well done Leo! Not next year but the year after.....!

Keswick - Skiddaw, Great Calva, Blencathra, Threlkeld (03.53) Clough Head, Great Dodd, Watson Dodd, Stybarrow Dodd, Raise, White Side, Lower Man, Helvellyn, Nethermost, Dollywagon, Fairfield, Seat Sandal, Dunmail Raise (07.48) Steel Fell, Calf Crag, High Raise, Sergeant Man, Thunacar Knott, Harrison Stickle, Pike of Stickle, Rosset Pike, Bow Fell, Esk Pike, Great End, Ill Crag, Broad Crag, Scafell Pike, Scafell. Wasdale (14.14) Yewbarrow, Red Pike, Steeple, Scoat Fell, Pillar, Kirkfell, Great Gable, Green Gable, Brandreth, Grey Knotts, Honister (19.39) Dale Head, Hindscarth, Robinson KESWICK (23.25)

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