

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

MAY 1977

BULLETIN 65.

Dear Member,

Last year the Junior Member's Meet was extremely successful, and it is expected to be very popular this year. The kids did more walking and climbing in one weekend, than many members do in three. But..... Senior Members are needed for their help as climbing leaders, drivers, porters, or just helpers, remember this is an investment for the future !!

JUNIOR MEMBER'S MEET 10/12 th.JUNE 1977 at BISHOPSCALE.

Time is short, if you are interested contact Jim immediately.

AGE LIMITS

Activities will only be organised for children of 10 years and upwards,(although others could stay at the hut with parents in the normal way).

The walking with an overnight camp will be for 10yrs and upwards, and climbing for 12 yrs and upwards.

N.B. ALL Junior Members MUST BE ACCOMPANIED to the hut by a responsible adult, not necessarily a relative, but a person who will be in charge of that child for the week~~end~~.

CLIMBING GROUP

Junior Members will be introduced to climbing, and taken on climbs suitable to their talents. Climbing equipment will be provided, but suitable boots and clothing should be brought and own food brought. Jim Harding will be in charge of climbing. Leaders will be responsible and experienced.

WALKING/CAMPING.

This will probably be in the Conistone area, and the leaders are likely to be Cherie Wiggins, Frank Whittle and Brian Fanning. The site will be in a mountain environment comparable with last years which was in upper Eskdale near Cam Spout. Tents and Heavy Equipment will be carried in by a support party, but Juniors should have their own rucksacs and personal equipment.

Tents, stoves, hillies and all food except emergency food (chocs. etc), will be available, although if the Junior has suitable equipment, or you yourself have, please let me know and bring it with you. (See below) A few waterproofs and sleeping bags may also be available.

Personal Equipment for Each Camper:-

Rucksac, spare clothes,(in a polythene bag and including a complete change),waterproofs, emergency food,small torch,spare poly bags, knife,fork and spoon, mug, boots and thick socks,anorak,hut,gloves, any other suitable clothing, map,compass,whistle (if owned) and sleeping bag.

BOOKING

Please let me know well in advance if you or your children intend to come. My address is J.M.Harding,23A, Copgrove Rd,Leeds 8,L88 25P.

Ph. Leeds 652543.

Junior Members Meet Cont....

PLEASE NOTE

I MUST BE CONTACTED BEFORE THE 3rd JUNE, as I shall be away from home after that date. PLEASE BOOK AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, and BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.

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HELP

I also need help from parents and other members for this meet, specifically as PORTERS or DRIVERS for the camping, and especially as CLIMBING LEADERS for the climbing. Again please contact me early, address above.

HELP AGAIN.

If you can provide any of the following please contact me and give details.

Tents	--Ropes (full weight or 11mm preferable)
Stoves	(and good condition essential)
Billies	Slings/ Crabs.
Sleeping Bags	Climbing helmets
Waterproofs	Climbing harness/belts.

FEEDING

All camping food (ie excluding Fri dinner, Sat breakfast and Sun dinner) will be provided, apart from emergency choc. and the like. No provision for food for the climbers. They must provide their own as on any normal hut weekend.

COST

Climbers - Hut and transport to crags, about £1.
Campers - difficult to estimate, but should be less than £3.

I should also mention that this is being run on a purely voluntary basis. Your children go with us at their own risk and yours. I myself hold the Mountain Leadership Certificate and all Leaders will be experienced and responsible individuals who will take every care, but, as you know, there can be no absolute guarantees in mountaineering. Last years meet was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by junior members and helpers alike. I hope that this year's will be as good.
Jim Harding.

(A booking-form is enclosed at the end of this bulletin.)

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Report on Working Weekend, Bishopscote, Mar 5/6.

Notices had been posted in the Huts some weeks before this event, and it was advertised in the last bulletin. But even with all this publicity, on Fri. night only 3½ members were present, Dave Harding, Joyce Foster and Cherie Wiggins and Thomas. Thomas was there to help Dave with the cementing. By Sat, a handful more had arrived, and a surprising amount of work was accomplished, but the 2 Hickey ladies shouldn't have been there, cleaning up after the other 640 members. Cath's baby was only 4 weeks old, and Ginger still not fully recovered from her illness. Where were all the rest of you? we know that you use the huts, we see your names in the book. No Hut Fees are paid on working weekends either!

Report on Buckbarrow Meet.

Only a select few attended this meet, it happened to be in the middle of the February monsoons. Sat. dawned damp and misty, ideal for a walk up the Bleng, and others walked low-level to Eskdale. Sun. was much

Report on Beginners Rock Meet at Ty'n Twr, Mar 26/28.

People were much more in evidence at this meet, although only 4 of them actually required instruction in rock-climbing. The infectious enthusiasm of at least one of these members effectively boosted the morale of the more jaded folk, and proved that even if meets aren't always well attended they do provide a service and fulfill a need.

Various routes were climbed, the Glyders, Moel Saibodg and the Carneddws were walked. Two Junior members out on rock together for the first (and last?) time, had a minor epic, but returned safe and well. The weather started O.K., but deteriorated rapidly and we all got soaked. On Sunday morning there was fresh snow on the hills and it was bitterly cold. So some worked on the hut, some went to the lost village on the Lleyr Peninsula, but made a blunder because the pubs were shut, and some went walking again.

A successful meet, and members who attended are thanked for their help as Leaders and for their friendliness.

Fell-Running Circle.

During the last few years the ARCC has been fortunate in that several fell-runners have joined our ranks. We always did have the odd one or two, but the seal of approval fell when Mike Short who was Fell Runner of the Year, joined. Ted Southworth suddenly started doing it, Pete Chapman bought a tracksuit and he's at it and allsorts of unlikely people can be found furtively jogging along canal banks, around towns and cities and surprising their proper neighbours. Leo Pollard has agreed to be 'Fell-running Correspondent', and provide a regular section for the bulletin.

In the recent Kentmere Horseshoe Race, in a field of about 200 runners Mike Short was the winner by $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, in 1hr 23mins. Further down the list was Ted Southworth 1hr 40mins; Pete Chapman in his first race, 1hr 48mins; Leo Pollard 1hr 51mins. Apologies if we missed any members out, send details of your exploits to Leo Pollard, 2, Medway Close, Horwich, Bolton.

Mike Short is reported to be running very well again this year, he was 2nd in the Three Peaks Race, and won the Isle of Man Race, beating Joss Naylor by 5mins.

Report on AGM. Sat 30th Apr 1977

There didn't seem so many there as usual, I counted 58 senior and 9 Junior members, but looking back at previous meetings, it was pretty average, but still a lot less than last years 88.

It was fairly tame really, no-one got upset, and feelings didn't run high, there wasn't even any voting. There were three vacancies for Management Committee due to the resignations of Jim Harding and Brian Fanning due to pressure of work, and Nev. Haigh's term was complete. Dave Ogden had also completed his term of office after three years as Treasurer. There were 4 nominations, Dave Ogden for Treasurer again, Nev Haigh, Dave Harding and Jack Whiteside, and they were returned unopposed. Nev is still subscriptions sec., Dave taking on meets, and Jack as ordinary member.

Ben Carter (Hon. Sec.) reported that we recently have admitted to the Club, some 50 new members, and are receiving more applications from 16 yr. olds. But the highlight of Ben's speech was the canvas seat of the Hon. Treasurers chair tearing and the said Hon. Treas. slowly descending floorwards.

Hut Wardens Reports.

Langdale. Hut usage has increased by members, but mostly the increase is due to visiting clubs. Dave reported that the hut could be filled with visiting clubs every weekend, but they were restricted to 12 places on two weekends per month, and none in July and August. Recently the water supply had been repaired, the old, rusted galvanised pipe has been replaced by an alkathene one. There are some new mattresses in the hut, outside painting had been completed, and Dave had been told that on no account was he to attempt to paint any more window frames. (Maybe Jack Whiteside will do them in future, his good quality painting lasted 14 years, or even longer).

Dunmail

Tom Baron, and his wife Rita are the new Hut Wardens for Dunmail Hut. The retiring warden Derek Price reported that since the last AGM a lot of time, money and effort has gone into improving this Hut. Nearly £3,000 has been spent and that on a shoestring. This is where it went:- New bathroom and toilet facilities; partial re-boarding of the main dorm. ceiling; partitioning the second leaders room; Lino-tiling of the bathroom, landing and leaders rooms; complete decorating mostly wallpaper of the first floor; a more modern kitchen, stairway removed, double s.s. sink fitted, formica topped tables and new crockery (courtesy of Woolworths); a new propane gas hot water system; a new drying room (replacing the coal store); propane gas convector wall heaters and the bathroom and kitchen walls replastered. Numerous other small improvements were also carried out, but there is still a lot of things which are not absolutely essential which need doing, eg., steel shutters for the windows. Bookings are now being accepted for 1977 and for 1978 From Schools, Youth Groups and Clubs. Weekly bookings from Sat. to Sat., and during off-peak times weekend and short-term bookings are accepted. Exclusive use for full week, £100; other bookings without exclusive use 75p per person per night. Booking Sec. Mrs Rita Baron, 2, Azalea Grove, Morecambe. Ph 0524 410922.

A.G.M. cont.

Ty'n Twr John Foster reported that income was slightly down on last year and that a smaller proportion of income came from visiting clubs. This meant that there had been an increase in usage by members, and he was delighted about this. But the hut could still be filled twice over with visiting clubs. In Sep. Dave Parker and apprentice Mike Foster built the drying room, and d-i-y plumbers Bernard Potter and John Liptrot started work. The plumbing isn't quite finished but the old Flatleys are in the drying room so the odours don't permeate the kitchen now. The last small room is now complete with bunks. A reminder to families, there is no need to book to stay at Ty'n Twr.

Buckbarrow Mick Crawford reported that the working weekend had been well attended, but that hut usage was down by one third, there had only been 5 visiting clubs. He hadn't been able to get to the hut as often as he would have liked this year, and this was due to working at Dunmail. (Mick is a gas-fitter).

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NEWS

1. Harry Wiggans is the new Langdale Hut Warden.
2. Cath Hickey wishes to buy a second-hand papoose in good condition. Any Offers? There must be a few about, the babies all seem to be growing up. PH. Mrs Millard, Preston 42168 or write to 18, Hollywood ave, Penwortham, Preston. (Sorry Clive for calling her Hickey).
3. John Foster has recently lost all his waterproof gear. A new black heavy-weight long cagoule with an orange stripe round the chest, and a lightweight royal-blue Peter Storm cagoule. The last time he used them was at the beginners rock-meet in Wales. If anyone has seen them anywhere please could you post them on, we will gladly pay the postage. Thankyou.
4. The sponsored walk in Nov. 1976 raised £1,400 for the churches in the Lake District.
5. Cherie Wiggans recently completed the Coast-to-Coast Walk, Ravenglass to Robins Hood Bay. She walked every bit of the way, 190 miles, and when she finished had two sore knees and a swollen ankle.
5. Tex. Eimson is now out of hospital and is making steady progress. He was very ill and in a coma for some weeks.
6. The Club Dinner this year will be at the Red Lion Hotel, Grasmere, on Sat 26 th. Nov.
7. New member Margaret Leedham has written suggesting a club team for The Long Mynd Hike in Shropshire on the first weekend of Oct. Entries are limited to 250 and is a mixture of runners and walkers.

NEWS cont

- The Long Mynd Hike is 50 miles long with 17,000 of ascent, over the Shropshire Hills. Anyone interested?
8. Skye Supply? correction:- Skye has now been incorporated into the parish of Glenfinnan (even more remote) so that the address of the Parish Priest is now Fr. Cameron, Catholic Church, Glenfinnan, by Fort William, Invernesshire. Any priests holidaying in the North-West will be more than welcome. The people on Skye only have Mass once per month due to the vast square mileage of the Parish. For Skye, Accom. but not food is provided.
 9. From the BMC Access to Eastby Crag, Yorkshire. All visitors must use the correct access point in order to retain freedom of access. Do not approach the crag from the S bend in the road, there is a gateway situated 100 yds below the S bend.
 10. 14 Peaks Walk. 14 May 1977. Please do not turn up at this meet without having booked first. We have had 78 applications to walk, and obviously some have had to be disappointed. HOWEVER if you have booked and now find that you cannot make it, please let me know immediately so that the next name on the list will get a chance. This is a catered meet. Catered from Sat. breakfast to sun breakfast incl. If you fancy cheese on toast for Fridays supper well fetch your own, and likewise for Mon. lunch and dinner.
 11. SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. Please send to Nev. Haigh and include a stamped addressed envelope. Membership now costs £5 per year. Please cancel all standing orders, they are out of date. Junior Members subs. are 25p per year, and the address £5 to send this money to is 752 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool.
 12. Hut fees have gone up. It now costs 30p per night for members 30 p per night for Junior Members and 60p per night for guests.
 13. Posters Caravan on Skye still has one vacant week, July 23-30. Fully equipped, 5 berth with separate room for kids, etc.
Contact J. Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr. Wigan.

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SILVRETTA TOUR 1976.

When we applied to the Austrian Alpine Club for membership in February 1976 they were all tickled pink at four priests all joining at once, and the secretary asked if our motto was to be 'Christus in caelo'. Actually, we were three priests, Tony Pearson, Leo Pyle and David Milburn, and the fourth member of the group was an Ushaw student, Michael Marr. He was the one with the experience and had been been to the area, the extreme west of the Austrian Alps, two years before. So for once the laity was in control of the Church.

SILVRETTA cont...

We wanted to save money. Eventually we found a return flight to Munich for £46 through Major Travel of London. On Aug. 5th we flew from Luton. The slight adjustment in the time of ~~the~~ flight cost us dear, for we missed the express to Innsbruck and for the sake of economy slept the night on Munich Station in cold and gestapo-like conditions.

The tour lasted three weeks and began at the Madlener Haus above Galtür, which we reached by coach from the station at Landeck in the Inn valley. That last part of the route from Galtür up to the hut is a privately own road, and we had to pay 20 Austrian schillings each for the journey. (Rate of exchange 32 schillings to the pound). We spent four days in the Madlener Haus, very comfortable, and the sun shone on our ascent of the lone Vallula (2813m) and journeys round the enormous man-made reservoir. Then as we set out for the Saarbruckner Hutte (2538m) the weather broke, worsening as we approached the first snow-field, so out came the rope and the crampons. It was all good practice. The leisurely service of the Saarbruckner reflected its Victorian style and atmosphere. Its advantage was that it was slightly cheaper than the Madlener, with a four bedded room and linen costing 40sch. each.

Mist and rain did not deter us from climbing the V. Seehorn, and the Westlanderplattenspizze (2883m) via the R. and Schweizer Glaciers, though naturally the poor visibility prevented us from appreciating the fine views we had glimpsed from the top of the Vallula.

After three nights in the Saarbruckner Hutte we moved to the Silvretta Hutte (about 2800m). The journey took us most of the day, and we arrived as the sun came out, so we tried washing our smocks in the glacial water provided in the basement. It was a rather unsuccessful experiment, especially as it rained as soon as we got the things out to dry. If we hadn't known beforehand that we had crossed the border into Switzerland, we would have guessed it alright from the way the warden marshalled us for dinner. We never saw a menu. The twenty occupants of the hut all sat down together, and were served the two course bergsteigeressen whether they wanted it or not. Actually it was pretty good, and more if desired.

It was on Friday the 13th that the first strains showed. D. Milburn unnerved the others in the group by taking a tumble on a rather hairy traverse on the Silvretta Horn (3244m). He forgot that he was wearing crampons. For his consolation, if not satisfaction, he read later that one of the top French climbers had done exactly the same thing. However the nine hour trek finished in sunshine and weak smiles. The smiles disappeared next day when the same fellow (having trouble with his balance) wobbled precariously on a snow-ridge overlooking an enormous bergschrund. The incident occasioned the most memorable remark of the tour: 'If you can't see your feet, you bloody well shouldn't be here'. Its author in the interests of staff-student relations must remain anonymous.

SILVRETTA cont...

The perpetrator of the following crime must also remain anonymous, if the name Milburn is not to appear too frequently in this account. When a certain German came chasing after us at 5.30am as we left the Silvretta Hutte asking if we might by chance have taken his spectacles without which he couldn't drive back to Cologne in the car he had left at Galtur, we were forced to look into our satchels, and there they were in a plastic bag with our packets of soup. Never did we see anyone so radiant so early in the morning, as that man did when he put on his specs and pulled out a cigarette! And never did we look more foolish!

That particular day was the Feast of the Assumption, and it turned out to be the highlight of the tour. Under a blazing sun we reached the Silvretta Pass at 9am, recrossed into Austria over the Fuorcla del Culfini (3043m) to climb down to Weisbadner Hutte via the spectacular ice-fall of the Öchsentaler Glacier.

The Weisbadner Hutte is fairly accessible from Galtur, so although rather touristic in many ways it also had many little comforts. Our one complaint was the thin blankets which we discovered when the weather turned cold and misty. Plans for the Dreiländerspitze (3197) and the famous Piz Buin, at 3312m the highest peak in the range, had to be shelved and after 3 days of heavy rain we moved precipitously to the Jamtal Hut, crossing over by the Tirolerscharte 2935M. Poor visibility hampered us, and we were forced to abseildown a short rock face to avoid descending a steep ice-field. It was in darkening conditions that Herr Lorenz came out to welcome us at the Jamtal Hutte.

For three days we played Scrabble and Mastermind. When the weather cleared we made for the Dreiländer-spitze, (as did most people), and the northern end of the Augstenburg (3228m), two long, very rewarding days.

The end of the tour was now in sight. We climbed over the Zahnjoch, very reminiscent of Rossett Gill, but three times as long, and crossed our last snowfield down to the Heidelberg Hut, by-passing the Fluchthorn which the master-mind of the expedition decided was beyond our corporate competence. From there we climbed the Heidelbergspitze, a pleasant rock climb at the summit, and in the evening walked 16km to Ischl to stay the night, before the 8.45am bus for Landeck and train to Innsbruck.

We hope that we will tempt others to follow in our steps. It is not a high range by alpine standards, but picturesque and ideal for a first hut to hut tour. If you go get some rope practice in, and the cost is pretty terrific, it cost us £6 a day in 1976, and we virtually did without a midday meal. What a pity that such splendour and excitement is being priced off the market.

M. Marr (Bergfuhrer), A. Pearson,
L. Pyle, D. Milburn.

(Sorry, but I had to shorten it a bit. Ed.)

BOOKING FORM FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS MEET.

1. No. of senior members in party names.....
 No. of juniors under 10yrs.....names.....
 No. of participating Juniors.....names.&.ages.....
2. Activity required for each participating junior.....
3. Details of equipment partic. juniors need to borrow, incl. size.
4. Can you help as climbing leader, driver, porter?

Return to Jim Harding, 23a, Gopgrove Rd, Leeds 8. Ph 652543.

Hon. Sec.
Ben Carter,
12, Wycollar Rd,
Blackburn.

Booki
Subs. Sec.
Nev. Haigh,
752, Devonshire Rd,
Blackpool.

Editor
Mrs. Joyce Foster
29, Braeside Cres,
Billinge,
Nr. Wigan.