

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN No 75.

JANUARY 1980

Dear Members,

A Happy New Year to you all, and 'good routes' and 'happy mountaineering' in this new decade. As a change from the recent monsoons the sun in North Wales is warm and spring-like today, but as I sit typing this the draught coming round the window is freezing so I'm wearing my 'Damart' been up Everest gloves!

Extracts from Minutes

Oct. Meeting

Tyn Twr: John Foster reported that recent hut usage by members had increased. Tom Finney had recently purchased a cottage within a short distance of the hut and could ever if required act as key-holder. As it is now ten years since the commissioning of Tyn Twr by the Management Committee John invited the whole committee to make their second visit to Tyn Twr and suggested that a future meeting be held there.

Dunmail: Tom Baron reported that forward booking for 1980 were outstandingly good. Receipts for 1979 so far were £1,800 and that by the year end £3,000 would be taken.

Nov. Meeting

The Vice-Chairman George Partridge reported that the Bishop's Sponsored Walk had been successfully concluded with no major problems.

Buckbarrow: Nothing to report.

Tyn Twr: John reported that there had been a good meet, well attended and very enjoyable. The estimate for asphaltting the floor would be available for the next meeting. Due to the nature of the work the hut would be out of commission from a Sunday evening through to Friday.

Dunmail: Work was due to start on the partitioning of the mens dormitory. The Long Walk for 1980 will be from Dunmail Hut and is fixed for the 10th of May.

The Meets card for 1980 was discussed and the AGM fixed for 26th April.

A letter of complaint regarding a visiting club was read out. A suitable reply was made to the member and a letter of complaint sent to the visiting club.

Joyce Foster produced some charts showing Hut usage at Langdale, further analysis of the Family Quarters is required and will be ready for the next meeting.

The subscriptions secretary Nev Haigh suggested a once only lump-sum payment for Junior Membership instead of the annual 25p. A decision was postponed until the next meeting.

The question of replacement Hut Warden for Bishopscale was discussed and two names suggested.

Msgr Kershaw had suggested an earlier Mass for Langdale Chapel in the winter, and a decision deferred until the next meeting.

Minutes Cont.....December Meeting

It was decided that a change of Mass time for Langdale would prove to be confusing and no change was thought necessary.

The Chairman asked that a letter be sent to Harry Wiggins thanking him for his term of office as Langdale Hut Warden.

The Chairman reported that the Annual Dinner with 51 members present had been an excellent occasion with an excellent meal and had been a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The Glenridding Chapel is now complete and the Official Opening had been attended by the Chairman and Nev Haigh who was Honorary Architect. Fr Hughes gives a welcome to any members who care to visit him. The cost to date of £40,000 has been fully recovered thanks to donations and to the Bishops Annual Sponsored Walk. Masses are at 9am, 10am and 4.30. Sufficient tiles have been left over to cover half of Langdale Chapel floor.

The secretary reported membership figures at:-

Life members	138	(17)
Full members	317	(62)
Graduates	60	(23)
Juniors	177	(26)

Total membership is now 692 (128) giving an 18.5% non-Catholic membership. (figures in brackets refer to non-Catholic membership).

Buckbarrow: The Chairman advised that he had spoken to the Club Solicitor regarding negotiations for the renewal of Buckbarrow lease, but no proposed meeting had yet been made by the National Trust.

Dunmail: The dormitory partition has been completed. The night of the annual dinner's torrential rain had flooded the inside of the hut, and mopping up operations had been necessary.

Tyn Twr: After lengthy discussions it was decided to spend approx. £500 on asphaltting the ground floor. A further £500 was required for concreting and associated work in place of the existing uneven wooden floors. Money for the showers and for some replacement mattresses had already been set on one side. The plumbing is to be completed after the floor is done.

Langdale: Due to the resignation of the previous Hut Warden, Alan Kenny was appointed as the new Hut Warden for Bishopscale. The Chairman expressed his desire to see a strong Hut Committee and a return to the Duty Warden system, where each hut committee member takes turns for the responsibility of the hut at weekends. It was also suggested that the responsibility for opening the safe should revert to the Warden and his committee and that it should be opened and banked at least monthly.

Further new mattresses had been delivered to Langdale and further mattress covers are now required.

Any other Business: It was decided to ask for a volunteer to act as Club Archivist to hold books belonging to the club. Next meeting

1.2.80.

NEWS

1. The 1980 Meets card is included with this bulletin. Please will members note that there are mini-meets at each hut one weekend per month. Just read the card.
2. The new Langdale Hut Warden is Alan Kenny, 7, Somerby Rd, Morecambe
Tel: 0524 418345.
3. A small cream-coloured animal came to the back door of Tyn Twr during the recent October Meet. No one there could decide what it was. Frank next door gave us the answer, it was a baby otter which was living under his kitchen floor and answered to the name of Micky. He has since taken it further up the river and released it there, as he was concerned for its safety crossing the road. In recent weeks a fox, squirrels and rabbits have been seen through the kitchen window of the hut.
4. Congratulations to Tony Brindle, he was twenty-one recently and now wishes to be known as Little Hobbit, but Bilbo isn't very happy.
5. Recently two members Frank Clarke and Gerry Slavin have presented the Club with books of the life of Abate Achille Ratti. They will be kept by the Club Archivist, but at present are being read by members of the management committee. For new members Achille Ratti was a famous climber in his day, born in 1857 became Pope Pius XI (1922-1939).
6. Congratulations to Anne and Sean O'Hagan. They had a lovely present for Christmas, a son Liam and it is reported that they are all well.
7. Manchester-based, fit, forty year old male seeks like-minded Munro bagging companions. Tel: 061:969:5764 or write Box No 1AB, 30, Elmwood, Sale, Cheshire.
8. Congratulations to Ted Southworth. He recently competed in his first road race, part of the Clayton Harriers Team. They won the British Veteran Marathon Championship, and Ted ran his 26 miles 385 yds in only 2hrs 39mins 40secs !
9. The recent Karrimor Mountain Marathon held in Wales saw 14 ARCC teams entered, more than ever before.
10. Anne Cammack is very committed raising money for research into a very unpleasant skin defect which causes the skin layers to separate and blister, either spontaneously or with a rub or a knock. The new baby is soon covered with blisters and sore raw places, and as it grows up the slightest injury to this tender skin becomes a major catastrophe. For long periods the child may be unable to swallow and so there is another battle against under-nourishment. The DEBRA Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association is a register-

NEWS Cont...

ed charity in aid of research for skin-blister children. Anne is particularly trying to help the research team in Edinburgh, but they lack the £345 necessary to finish the laboratory tests on a new drug. Anne doesn't know that I am putting this appeal in the bulletin; if you would like to help her, all contributions however small will be very gratefully accepted. Please send them to Anne Cammack, 1 Thornton Place, Watson St, Banchory, Kincardineshire, AB3 3UB.

11. THE GLENCOE MEET

Will those people who think they have already booked for the Glencoe Meet please contact me again. There are 2-6 berth flats booked for Fri 29th Feb, Sat 1st Mar and Sun 2nd Mar 1980. One of the flats has been booked for an extra two nights Wed 27th and Thur 28th March. I NEED TO KNOW NOW when you are travelling up and if you have any places in your car. It will be a case of first come first served for beds, so please take some kind of portable mattress with you. I have nineteen names down but it has become obvious that some people think they have booked and they haven't! Please phone and check, the best time is about 6pm to 6.30pm or 11pm to 11.30pm. ask for Joyce 0744 894512.

12. TYN TWR 10th ANNIVERSARY MEET

This February it is 10 years since the official opening of Tyn Twr. So we have decided to hold a party at the hut the Meet Weekend 8th March, 1980. This is the weekend immediately after the Glencoe Meet. If there is a response I am prepared to cater for a communal evening meal on the Saturday evening, but can't be bothered with tear-off return slips. Please phone me 0744 984512 if you intend to come to that meet.

13. We now have one hundred and seventy seven junior members, and the Junior Meet is on 7th June. This is basically for 10 to 15 year olds to get out walking and climbing not in the company of their parents. But who is going to organise it? Last year it was up to the parents themselves. Will you offer to help, will you take them climbing? Please put your name forward.

14. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON SAT 26th April. The Management Committee have asked me to draw your attention to Rule 19 in your rule book. AMMENDMENT OF RULES

No rule of the Club shall be repealed or altered, and no new rule shall be made, save by a two thirds majority of the members present at a General Meeting, and that at least 2 months notice of intention to propose a new rule be given to the Secretary who must then send to every member at least one month before the AGM notice of the intention.

This Means that if you want to amend or alter a club rule, you must send your proposal to the Secretary by Feb 26th.

ARCC ORIENTEERING EVENT..... SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25th.

"Over hill, over dale,
Through bush, through briar,
Over park, over pale,
Through flood,

(apologies to William Shakespeare)

Six brave souls actually competed at Great Tower: Dot Wood, Nicky Skelton, Sandra Corbett, Frank Whittle, Alan Kenny and Pete Brant.

Dot took the Ladies Trophy and Alan Kenny the Mens Trophy. It was a close run, with three minutes only between the first four. By any standards, even a Bishops Sponsored Walk Day, it was quite a day; an achievement even to get to Tower Wood. I should mention that Wilf Charnley and Jim and Clare Harding got there too, but perhaps I was at fault for not kicking them into starting. I had the impression that they had in mind a different way to spend a wet Sunday.

However, as the hardy half dozen competitors attested, once you actually got going it was very enjoyable. So much so that it was suggested that we should try to keep you all posted on future Orienteering Events in the Lakes. The idea being that if the weather is too poor for walking or climbing you may try orienteering; so here are some future dates:

Sunday Feb. 17th: Badge Event. Roanhead Sand Dunes nr Barrow in Furness.
(GR 201736) Pre entries by Feb 4th to Tony Keates
18, Sands Rd, Croftlands, Ulverston. Entries on the day £1.30 Senior, 90p junior.

Sunday April 27th: MDOC Badge Event, High Dam (Near Lakeside), details from D Mawdsley, 225, Blakelow Rd, Macclesfield.

Sunday March 9th, DVO Club Event, Cromford. details from K Cunliffe, 2, Eden Rd, Chaddeson, Derby (0332-63933)
Useful for a wet day on grit or limestone.

If you are really interested you may like to join a club, details from B.O F. National Office,
Lea Green Sports Centre,
Matlock, Derbyshire DE 4 5AJ.

Congratulations to the winners Alan and Dot; now Dots got a cup to add to her childrens collection; and congratulations to the rest for coming!

Have you any suggestions for next year? How about a mountain type event based at Bishopscale, using the 1:25000 OS map, with the start and finish in the kitchen? Offers for the organisation or help with the organisation to the writer of this article George Partridge, Tel: 051 632 5963.

BOOKINGS AT BUCKBARROW HUT

Jan 25/26 Cambridge CC
 Feb 2/3 Caper Montis
 Feb 9/10th Buckbarrow ARCC meet.
 Feb 15/16 Mountain Club
 Feb 22/23 Barrow MC (8 members)
 March 28/29 Ferranti CC
 May 16/17 Vibram MC
 Sep 5/6 Vibram MC
 Sep 12/13 Sphinx MC.

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BOOKINGS AT TYN TWR HUT

Feb 2/3 Vibram MC
 Feb 9/10th Members weekend
 Feb 16/17th Morrland Caving and Pothole Club.
 Mar 1/2 Kendal MC
 March 8/9th 10th Anniversary ARCC Meet.
 March 15/16th Lancaster MC.
 March 22/23 Foley College.

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MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

Tyn Twr is closed to members from Sunday evening 17th February.....
this is half-term week through to Fri 22nd February, whilst the
 ground floor is being asphalted. Everything is being removed from
 the ground floor of the hut into the Old School next door on the
 Sunday and will need replacing on the following weekend. MEMBERS
 ARE INVITED TO ASSIST WITH THIS OPERATION.

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In this small space, I would like to thank Rev David Lannon for all
 his hard work, printing, stapling, folding, enveloping, stamping and
 posting this bulletin.

Please send your article for the next bulletin, due out in March.

A HIMALAYAN HOLIDAY ?

The Province of Himachal Pradesh, Capital Simla, is rich in peaks up to 23,000ft. Most of these peaks are still unclimbed. On the whole these mountains are easily accessible, and most are in areas unrestricted for foreigners. The region gives enthusiasts a wonderful opportunity for going really high at low costs and in a short time. Some of the lower peaks have so far resisted all attempts to climb them.

Himachal Pradesh has its own Mountaineering Institute at Manali, with good motor communications with Simla, Delhi and Chandigarh. There are also regular flights into the Kulu Valley where Manali lies. The Mountaineering Institute offers training for basic and advanced mountaineering for both Indians and foreigners, and also conducts activities like high altitude trekking, rock-climbing, ski-ing and high altitude rescue; equipment can also be hired here.

Manali has been described as the Chamonix of India. It is situated at 6,000ft surrounded by moderately high peaks, and only 28 miles from the famous Rohtang Pass 13,400ft, with the worlds highest land-roverable track leading into the awesome world of the Plateau of Lahul Spiti.

All provisions can be purchased locally at moderate rates, and there is also a small hospital at Manali and a variety of charming chalets and hotels. The flow of tourists is now so great that one should certainly book. Porters and high-altitude guides are inevitably becoming costlier. Or should one say, less fantastically cheap? It should be remembered that owing to demand for porters an expedition may have to wait some days before getting off. This may not happen but it is worth bearing in mind, and in any case there is a vast difference between what is needed for a low-level hike in this marvellous world, and the arrangements for going to 15,000ft plus, to say nothing of acclimatisation. It is by far the best to contact the Institute well in advance.

Another problem is the serious one of security. All this enormous country of Tibeto-Pakistan frontiers is highly sensitive, with full-scale war having been waged here on two or three occasions in the last twenty years. Simla itself is one of India's two most important military commands, the other being the neighbouring northern command in Kashmir. So take this seriously, there are great mountain areas where it is forbidden for a foreigner to go without a Pass. There should be no problem in Man ali, but I was warned by the Parish Priest in Kulu. Clear everything with the Institute if you are going at all far afield, and best of all take a guide. These hill people are usually charming folk, remember that English is widely spoken throughout India, and these people have not yet on the whole aquired the unwelcome sophistication of the urban races.

If the summer is a pleasure; the winter is far more beautiful with the whole area covered in thick snow. There are excellent slopes for ski-ing around Manali, easily accessible from the roadhead, and there

HIMALAYAN HOLIDAY Cont....

are high-level huts with cooking facilities. The ski-ing season is roughly from mid-December until the monsoon in June, and the Rhotang Pass should be clear of snow by early May. Skiers are advised to bring their own equipment, although some is available at the Institute. But ... a word of warning, there are no tows or lifts. The runs down make up for this, they may be 10km long.

The area of Kuku-Manali is a trekkers paradise; I quote from the guide: " Its luscious verdure, its rocky passes, its meadows covered with flowers of every variety, and the changing hues of its glaciers, create in the trekker an overwhelming desire to return again and again. The wide open spaces with range after range of mountains, the pine and cedar scented forests, rivulets meandering through the fields and valleys and above all, camping under the starlit sky are the things that make the soul come alive". Trekking affords the opportunity to come into contact with a people whose culture, and traditions are far different from those of the West, and are reflected in the legends and traditions they will tell you.

Himaachel Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation Ltd, in collaboration with the Mountaineering Institute at Manali, offer a range of seven exciting treks. These lead over and through mountainous territory of varying altitude and formation: pine-covered ridges, rocky heights and remote peaks wrapped in perpetual snow. It is scenery magnificent in variety and colour.

The charges for 1979 seem fantastically cheap:
Students and economy groups 22 rupees (£1.45 per day)
Special groups 32 rupees (£2.00 per day).

All enquiries to :- The Managing Director, HP Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Ritz Annexe, Simla - 171001, India.

Getting There: Cheapest is overland, but Afghanistan and Iran? Fly to Delhi, Air India are very good, but the airports are dreadful, take them with a sense of humour. It is a wonder that any aircraft ever leave the ground. Simla is only 14 hours from Delhi by train, (change at Kalka) onto the spectacular narrow gauge line which climbs to 7,000ft, and the best train leaves Delhi at about midnight. But the best way is to share a taxi for the whole drive? Taxis are easy to hire for long distances in India and between four people it would be worth it.

Some personal advice from a UK Citizen, 12 years on and off in India Raj and postRaj.

Health: The two chief menaces are hepatitis and dysentery. Beware of unboiled water and the variety of multi-coloured bottled drinks.

Indian Doctors are good but hospital facilities poor. The cost of treatment is cheap.

Money: guard it. Thieving is rife so never leave anything un-attended. Beware hardluck stories, and the railway station in Old Delhi is bad for cheating auto-rickshaws and taxis. Remember that a white skin marks you out as a tourist. Simla and its people are delightful.

HIMALAYAN HOLIDAY Cont....

Visas: The holder of a full British passport, ie. a citizen of the UK does not need a visa. All he needs is a British passport.

Officialdom: The chronic illness of India. But be polite! Always show that you are a tourist, book seats in advance for any journey, and have time..... be prepared to wait.

Prices: Very cheap. In 1979 a large and excellent meal cost 4 rupees, 25p. Luxury, air-conditioned hotels are very expensive, but the Indian air-conditioned is good and far cheaper than the European. The Tourist Board hotels and rest houses are excellent.

Precautions: If you are in any doubt, contact the prestigious British High Commission in Delhi. In general the more official bits of paper that you have the better, so when trekking contact the local police. But there is nothing to equal that Oxford Blue Passport with its coats of arms....Rule Britannia!

Prohibitions: Most states in India are dry. But Delhi is not and neither is the state of Himachel Pradesh. For non-dry States you should have a Tourist Liquor Licence, these cost nothing and may be had from the Indian Tourist Office in New Bond St, London, and are valid for 3 months. Indian beer is excellent, made on German recipes; and the gin too is good. But the whisky has never heard the callin o' the Cuillins and the brandy has never heard of France.

If anyone going there wants help with practical details, then please write to me, Rev David Brigstocke SJ, Loyola Hall, Prescot, Merseyside. Tel: 051 426 4137.

Editors Note: Waymark Holidays are very good 295, Lillie Rd, London
Sherpa Expeditions, 3, Bedford Rd, London W4 (SW6 7LL.
Explorers Holidays and Exodus Holidays both at 167, Earls Court Rd,
London SW5, but different brochures. Lovely to browse through.

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I have had a Mothercare Papoose Carrier passed onto me, for use by a Club Member. No charge, and in almost new condition. Phone me.

Has anyone got a carpet or chairs in good condition that they would like to donate to any of the huts? Bishopsclay and Tyn Twr lounges are looking very shabby. Transport could probably be arranged.

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