

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN number 78.

SEPTEMBER 1980.

Dear Members,

My thanks go yet again to Dot Wood and Tony Brindle for their articles for the bulletin. We have been accused, the three of us of not wanting anyone else to contribute! This is not true PLEASE SEND NEWS AND ARTICLES TO ME by December for inclusion in the January bulletin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

THE BISHOP'S WALK

(A sponsored walk held annually to raise money for the Lake District Churches). Some several hundred schoolchildren, parishioners and a few ARCC junior members walk and the help of the senior members is required for marshalling, manning check points etc. If you would like to help please report at Bishopscale after closing time, on Friday 7th November.

The walk is from Hawkshead to Bishops Scale on Sat 8th November. The evening meal on Saturday is provided for the helpers, at Bishops Scale. Yes, and wine as well. Mass will be at 7pm instead of 6.30.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

This year will be held at The Red Lion Hotel, Grasmere, on Saturday November 22nd. Tickets cost £6 per head, and that must be a bargain, considering the spread last year. If you will be staying at Bishopscale either a mini-bus or a small coach will be provided for your transport at £1.25p per seat approx. When you book your tickets book your coach seat at the same time please, so that we know how many seats will be required. MASS WILL BE AT 5.30 NOT 6.30pm.

I havent received a copy of the menu yet, but the Food at the Red Lion is always very good, so send off your money to Dave Ogden, 28, Briercliffe Ave, Blackpool, Tel 63963. Cheques payable to ARCC.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS cont...

THE CLUB ORIENTEERING EVENT takes place annually, the morning after the Dinner.

Helpers are required, "If you are experienced but unfit why not take a turn at organising or help at this years event". Offers to George Partridge Tel. 051 632 5963.

The GLENCOE MEET

As reported in the previous bulletin ^{this} takes place next year for one week from the 7th to 14th February and we will be staying at the flats at Ballachulish. You should know by now how many days leave you have left, so if you can't manage the week, how about two or three nights. One flat is still completely unbooked, the overnight charge is £1 per night. Please let me know NOW ...Now... NOW how many nights you require and send your deposit of £5. Those who have booked but not paid their deposits, also please pay your £5.

There are several friends who are not members who are waiting to know if they can go on the meet. Rather than cancel one flat, the meet will be opened to guests on Oct. 25th.

Phone Joyce Foster 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan 0744 894512

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ORIENTEERING from George Partridge.

"Winter is coming in" and you may find that you are at Buckbarrow or Bishopscote on one of the following dates and that conditions are not suitable for rock-climbing or the high tops.

If so, you may like to try orienteering

Sunday 19th October. West Cumberland badge event, Drigg Dunes, Seascale. Information from L Scott, Tel Workington 2950.

Sunday 26th October. South Ribble O.C. event Coniston. Information from M Pownall, Tel. Kirkham 682 2665.

Sunday 23rd November. ARCC Annual Event. Would you like to help or organise this event. Someone please offer. Tel. George Partridge 051 632 5963.

NEWS NEWS NEWS.....

1. Annual Subs are now three months overdue. If you havent paid you are liable to lose your membership very soon, so send your money quickly to Nev Haigh 752, Devonshire Road, Blackpool. Cheques made payable to ARCC. Full Members £7.50 per year. New Junior Members £2. Junior members already pos. membership cards, no charge.
2. There are three new Life Members, John Jenkinson and Jim and Teresa Kelly.
3. Martin Bennett has asked if any members would like to help him to complete his collection of 'Mountain Magazine'. He is short of back numbers 1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 14, 34, 38, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 60 and 65. Please let him know how much you want for them, or he has several duplicates as 'swaps'. Martin Bennett, 10, Long Row, Halbeath, Dunfermline. Tel 0383 28063.
4. John Higgs has set up in business, so for all your Land-Rover, Range-Rover spares contact John Higgs Coachcrafts, Tel Shaw (Oldham) 844877. Discount prices!!
5. No more news available, please send articles and news items for the next bulletin to Joyce Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan. Tel Billinge 0744 894512.

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6. One more news item. If you would like to prepare for the Club Orienteering Event in order to snatch the Trophy from either Alan Kenny or Dot Wood, you can get a little practice in orienteering at the permanent centre at Whinlatter. Maps etc. can be purchased at the Forrest Centre 30p just off the Whinlatter Pass road (B5292).
7. A Letters to the Editor Column in the Bulletin may prove amusing. If you do not think that you can write an article, why not write a letter? Send to the Editor, please.

A CAVING MINI-MEET
by Dot Wood.

The Club Caving Meets, contrary to all rumours,
are open to all members.

These once in a lifetime epics, repeated annually for those not in the know, are not to be missed. The only limitations seem to be equipment none, and the lack of volunteers.

Two years had passed since my last submergence and the memory had dimmed. The beer consumed at the Club Dinner dimmed the memory even further and when it was suggested that we hold a mini-meet to prepare for Stu's next epic, I was all enthusiasm, and I was inebriated as well.

Three weeks later the beer and the enthusiasm had worn off, and so had the rest of the team. I had made the mistake of telling my son Mike and felt bound to make some sort of effort. So I gathered a team; John because he'd been before and Jim because he'd nothing better to do, Mike came because he didn't know any better, and myself.... who should have known better.

The monsoon was at its height but the two experts said it would be OK. So having all the gear, off into the wild, rainswept yonder we disappeared. The first obstacle is, how to get into your wetsuit, or whose-ever wet-suit it happens to be. John and Mike were alright, like Spiderman and Mighty Mouse their suits fitted. Jim and I had borrowed suits, from Superman it seemed; they fitted at the wrists and ankles and the rest hung around us in shiny black coils. We should have shared one suit. When the hysterics were over, we set off; fortunately the entrance to the cave was only twenty yards from the car. A manhole cover on an oil drum was the way in, and a touch of the Alice in Wonderland here as people bobbed in and out of the hole. It led down a muddy passage and then water, almost up to the roof.

"This is what is known as a duck," said Mike. It was a passage 20ft long and 5ft high, with the water-level at 4 ft and the roof sloping down towards the water, it didn't look very inviting. John and Mike didn't give it a thought, as they plunged straight in and were soon at the other side. I stepped into the tunnel and froze. I was petrified, I couldn't breathe and water had filled up my wetsuit and it felt as if it was pulling me down. Orders came down the tunnel, "Take your helmet off. Put your head on one side and take a deep breath, then move on, because you're holding up the queue." With Mike already in front and Jim breathing down my neck, I had no choice but to move on. Once through the duck I was alright as the passage opened up into a large chamber with the water only ankle deep. Jim came through swimming on his back, blowing like a grampus and looking like a pregnant walrus with his wetsuit ballooning around him.

With water cascading from us, we made our way quickly along the next section to Kingsdale Master Cave. Some people were already

THE WALL

by Tony Brindle.

Early last year I was informed by a friend that Trowbarrow Quarry, near Silverdale, was to be re-worked by Tarmas. Also that they intended to blast the main wall.

At the time I had not climbed many routes on this wall which I now consider to be the best in Lancashire. So, along with several others, I decided to climb as many routes on the main wall as I could before Tarmac spoilt the fun.

The first route that most people climb is the eye-catching Jean-Jeannie. A classic of its grade, this fine climb succumbs to pleasant hand jamming with the occasional lay-away, and affords plenty of rest points along the way. It is one of the easiest routes on the wall, but by far the most popular, and climbable in any weather.

Just right of Jean-Jeannie is a fine companion route called Harijan. This route, though not as sustained as Jean-Jeannie is of equal quality and at the same grade VS 4C. It consists of a thin traverse left over a large roof to a good hold at the base of a fine jamming crack which it follows, joining another route, Touch of Class, to the top.

Immediately left of Jean-Jeannie is a wide crack running from top to bottom of the wall. This is the line taken by Aladdinsane HVS 5A, its hardest move is pulling through the initial roof. The rest of the crack is quite straightforward with two good chockstone runners for protection. A good route, but by far the easiest of the HVS's on this wall.

A 'Touch of Class', a great name that, and an excellent route. The difficulties lie in the first twenty feet, but they are sustained and strenuous. The initial overhang provides the main stumbling block whilst the diagonal jamming crack above gives a fitting continuation, before a good hold affords a well earned rest. The protection is excellent and its upper half very pleasant climbing at about VS level.

After the first twenty feet on 'Touch of Class', a leftward starting traverse line can be seen. This is the line of 'Major Tom', also HVS 5A, but more of an even standard. It connects the crucial section of Touch of Class with a finely situated thin crack running left from Jean-Jeannies upper section, by a very thin traverse utilising the fossils on the wall as footholds. The traverse is very poorly protected and contains some loose holds, but the final crack is superb.

Joining Touch of Class High up, is another HVS route, 'Hollow Earth'. This pulls round the overhangs to the right of 'T of C', into a diagonal crackline which eventually joins T of C. The traverse round the roof is straightforward, but the crack is very sustained and strenuous, with not much rest. It was originally given 5a/b

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The Wall cont.....

although the Lancs Supplement now gives it a straight 5A, well worth doing and well protected.

Right again, and we have route called 'Warspite', another HVS 5A, this deserves more traffic than it is receiving at present. The first half is an open corner with a wide crack in the back. This is bridged without great difficulty until stopped by a large roof. The ensuing traverse is really brilliant and the situation superb. The climb finishes up yet another wide crack which takes to easy jamming.

At the opposite end of the wall is one of the harder routes. 'Cracked Actor' XS, climbs Aladdinsane to the first chockstone and then takes to the left wall via a thin crack. This crack provides thirty feet of technical climbing without rest, before a horizontal break is reached. The route follows this left for a short distance and then a series of gymnastic moves on good holds brings the top within reach. The thin crack is well protected though very strenuous; at some points at some points too thin for my fingers!

Of the routes we set out to climb last year on the main wall, only two remain. There were three, but late last year the crucial flake on the route called 'Heroes' pulled away, and 'Heroes' was no more. This may even affect one of the other two routes which is a girdle traverse.

Further work by Lancashire activists has added a few more routes to our list for this year, but we may be too late, as Tarmac have already begun to remove boulders etc., and have re-Opened the track into the quarry.

Of course, there are many other fine routes other than those on the main wall, but none have the same continual quality and line as the routes I have mentioned.

So if its pouring down in Langdale or Wasdale (and recently when has it not?), and you have to return to Lancashire, why not call in at Trowbarrow and enjoy some of the routes. There are other wet-weather alternatives; Chapel Head Scar, Warton etc. but none of these are in imminent danger of closure.

So, even if you come from Yorkshire . . . and somebody has to Trowbarrow is a fine climbing ground, and a visit more than worth while.

(Editors Note: Particular thanks to Tony for this article. It is the first time in more than three years of bulletin writing/editing that a member under the age of at least thirty er er er has written one. . . It has taken a great deal of nagging, moaning and fun-poking to extract this. Thanks again Tony.)

REST DAY ROUTE

by Tony Brindle and Brendon Conlon.

It was the weekend before Brendan and I were due to go to the Alps. With this in mind we had selected a good route with lots of protection, short, no danger, near the road, etcetera.

I had the route firmly imprinted on my mind; "good jugs to a pinnacle, stand on pinnacle, thin holds on right wall, two quick moves and the then the top." Simple as blinking, right?

Blinking wrong! I was now sat for the third time on the tip of that pinnacle shaking out my arms as though I was crazy. I was crazy! That pinnacle was about 5mm wide at the top and as sharp as a razor. Well, maybe not quite that sharp, but to sit on it was impossible. One had to wrap one leg round either side of it and then lean back and even that hurt. I gave my runners a tug; they held, no excuse, so chalk up and in to the now familiar series of moves. Hand in leaning crack, pull up and stand on pinnacle. Good thin flakes on right wall, pull up and reach. Feet swing in space and I still can't reach the next flakes. This is getting stupid, so I reverse back to that that thing.

This time I didn't bother to stop but kept down-climbing until I reached Brendan's smiling face. "He won't be smiling in a minute," I thought as I handed him the rope. I was wrong; before he reached the top of the THING he decided he wouldn't bother anyway. "I'm coming down", he informed me, and promptly swung into space ending a good fifteen feet out from the rock. Being practical, I decided to lower him, he could test my runners. I lowered him fast, then locked off on my sticht plate. This had the effect of giving him kittens and jerking my top runners all in one foul swoop. Lucky for Brendan they held, although his language was very unbecoming!

My turn again, Brendan had that certain stupid look on his face and the audience was showing signs of boredom, so I tore up the 60' to the top of the thing. My mind went back to the drive that morning, on the way we had picked up Frank and Marsh in Keswick. Frank has his own memories of the route and had informed me, "You climb the right wall, two moves, steep and thin, but only two moves. That crack is impossible man!"

But Frank is nine feet tall and thin as a lath and I am barely four feet and not as clever as Frank Pearson (sometimes known as the Bishop's nephew). I'll try that crack!

This time I barely stop to chalk up, I leap off the top of the thing and attain a foothold high on the left wall. This is really strenuous, I can't reach any higher up the crack without Old Newton providing his laws, I 'utch my fingers agonisingly close to the top jugs. "Thats it; you've done it", proclaims a spectator. I

Rest Day Route Cont....

I reverse to the Thing and hang down from it. "Right, this time it's got to go," I inform Brendan. "The news greatly cheers the spectators who only want to see me fly, anyway.

The second my left foot is on the wall, Old Chirpy, as I now call him, informs me that I've done it. So I straighten up as far as I can, and reach and stretch . . . got it! My feet swing into space but it's over. I have the hold and I am Not going back to that THING.

As Brendan pulls over the top he says "Just two moves man, that's all!" He is nine feet tall, as well!!

(An account of the ascent of Bludgeon (El), Shepherds Crag, Borrowdale.)

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Barry Ayre's account of the Long Walk 1980 has had to be held over until the next bulletin due to lack of space.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Meeting held on March 14th; After a detailed explanation by the treasurer of the Club's finances, the Committee discussed at length the fees for 1980/81. It was decided by majority vote that overnight fees for members would be 50p, guests £1.00 and visiting clubs and parties would be £1.25. All Junior Members registered up to March 1980 will now be considered junior members with no annual subscription fee. Junior members registered after March 1980 would pay a once and for all payment of £2.

Three new Life Members were accepted, Tom Walmsley, Rita Baron and Anne Cammack.

The Secretary reported receiving a letter from the National Trust, regarding Buckbarrow....."The proposals were apparently put to Margaret Gass and the Special Planning Board to see whether there is any chance that she can take Buckbarrow on her retirement. It appears at this stage there will be no problem (this will probably be in 10/15 years time) I would be interested to know if you think it necessary to enter into formal agreement for the next 5 year period or whether you feel that an exchange of letters based on the existing lease will suffice."

The Secretary was asked to reply requesting the 5 year extension, asking for clarification of what was meant by Margaret Gass taking on Buckbarrow and also for clarification of the annual rent.

NEXT MEETING AGM 26th April, 1980.

AGM minutes held over until the next bulletin. (Due to my having left the minutes book at the secretaries house in Preston, and there being no time to go for it before I take this to Manchester to be printed tomorrow night)

Minutes of the May Meeting.

The Secretary read out a letter from the Club Solicitor and was instructed to reply and accept a further lease for 5 years for £550pa for Buckbarrow.

An alternative Hut in the West was discussed and it was decided that Frank Whittle should contact local Estate Agents and keep an eye open for suitable properties.

Dunmail Report: Tom reported forward bookings to be very healthy. Fees have been increased by 17½%, overnight fee now £1.30 and a minimum nightly fee of £23.50. The Chairman expressed appreciation for the excellent long walk weekend, the only regret was that more young younger members had not attended.

Langdale: Alan reported some problems on the water supply, which had been sorted out. The Electricity Board have agreed to uprate the supply to the hut. The mattress covers have now been received, but some still require fitting.

Buckbarrow: Frank reported that the upstairs window frames are in urgent need of repair and it was agreed to take the necessary steps.

Tyn Twr: John reported that the showers should be completed by June. The back of the hut requires attention before winter, and it was decided to install an automatic electric cut-out when no-one was occupying the hut.

After discussion limited bookings for visiting clubs are:-

Langdale: a maximum of 15 at any weekend and a maximum of 20 midweek.

Buckbarrow: a maximum of 10 at any time.

Tyn Twr. a maximum of 20 at any time.

A chart showing school holidays would be produced for the next meeting.

Minutes of the June Meeting

The Chairman reported that last years sponsored walk and had raised £2,800.

The secretary reported membership as 139 life members, 318 full, 42 graduates and 177 juniors. A total of 676.

Dunmail: Tom reported that there had been a low supply of water during the recent drought. An emergency supply in polythen drums had been kept at the hut.

Langdale: Alan reported that the junior meet had been very poorly attended, and if a similar event is held next year more publicity is required. (Editors note: difficult to know how this could be done. It was printed in the meets card and also in the bulletin).

A lock is to be put on the emergency fire door in the family quarters, and a key in a wooden box near the door.

Tyn Twr: It was decided to install a 5p slot meter for the showers.

Minutes cont...

Visiting Clubs: A detailed plan of excluded dates for each hut was agreed upon which would be incorporated into an article for the bulletin.

A request for Life Membership was read out and discussed and the secretary was instructed to write a suitable letter advising that Life Membership is not normally available to persons who have not made an outstanding contribution to ARCC.

Next Meeting Friday 5th September, 1980.

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GENCOE MEET 1981

I have made enquiries of four different clubs for accommodation for half term time next Feb. March. The SMC, The BMC Onich Hut, Ladies Scottish and the Best side of Glencoe bunkhouse. All of these places are already booked for the period we require. So I have booked the Flats again at Ballahulish. But.... this time we cannot book over a weekend period, and the only dates available are February 7th to 14th, Sat to Sat for one week. The overnight charge is LESS than last year £1 per night. Booking is on a basis of first bookings first served. So please let me know if you want all week or half the week, how many nights and the dates. A deposit of £5 with your booking please. Send to Joyce Foster 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan Tel 0744 894512.

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along thisline.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.....

If your annual subs are not paid by July 30th, you will no longer be a member.

Send your money now to Nev Haigh, 752, Devonshire Road, Blackpool. Cheques and postal orders payable to ARCC.

Full Members / £7.50 per year.

Name:

Address.

Junior members no longer pay 25p per year subs. New Junior members £2 initial payment which lasts until full membership at 17 years.

Name of Junior Member.....

Amount enclosed.....

Only junior member children may use club huts and non-member spouses pay guest rates.