

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN No. 84

MARCH 1982.

Dear Members,

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

It is with deep regret that I report the death of
Terry Hickey.

Terry, our Chairman since 1972, passed away on Wednesday 3rd. March. He suffered a severe heart attack the previous week and died just seven days later.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, and in particular 'Ginge' his wife, his daughter Catherine and his son Peter. Over fifty members attended the funeral on Monday 8th March, at St. John's Church, Poulton le Fylde. Concelebrated Mass was conducted by our president, His Lordship Bishop Pearson, assisted by the Club Chaplain Father David Elder, former Club Chaplain Father Tom Walsh and Father Frank Hughes from the Glenridding Chapel. Derek Price read the lessons.

Bishop Pearson paid tribute to the outstanding service Terry had given to the Club over many years, and spoke of how he would be missed.

Details of a memorial service will be announced at a later date. In view of Terry's death, George Partridge the Vice-Chairman will be acting Chairman until the AGM.

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A.R.C.C. LONG WALK 1982.

This years Long Walk will be run from Bishop's Scale on May 8th, not May 15th as shown on the Meets Card. May 15th is the date of the Fellsman Walk. It will be a catered meet and booking is essential, the form can be found at the end of the Bulletin. Only members either walking or helping will be allowed at Bishop's Scale that weekend.

The cost per person will be £4.50 and this includes Hut Fees, Sat and Sun Breakfasts, evening meal on Sat, brews and butties en route and transport from the hut to the start. Money should be sent with the booking form and cheques made payable to ARCC. It is regretted that this meet is restricted to Club Members.

If you do not wish to walk, but would like to be involved in the weekend, there is always a need for helpers to assist at checkpoints brew stops and with the evening meal. Your help is always appreciated as it is the helpers that contribute most to these events. Names to Alan Kenny please. Address on booking form.

Route Description.

Start from Mill Bridge (GR 336092) at 4.30am, to Helvellyn via the old packhorse road to Grisedale Tarn, Dollywagon and Nethermost Pike. From the summit retrace steps to path junction taking right hand fork and descend to Wythburn Car Park. (GR 325137) and feeding Station. Follow road to Steel End, through farm into Wythburn and up stream to saddle at Greenup Edge, then via path to High Raise. No path on descent to Stake Beck crossing Stake Pass to pick up path leading to Angle Tarn, and on to sheepfold at Esk Hause (Brew Stop). On to Scafell Pike by normal route, down to Mickledore and descent to Cam Spout. Cross the Gt Moss contouring below Gait Crag and Long Crag to pick up the path down Mosedale leading to Cockley Beck and refreshments GR018243. Continue to the summit of Grey Friar, no path, and contour on to ridge leading to Conistone Old Man. Retrace steps to Swirl How over Gt and Little Carrs descending down Wetside Edge to control at Three Shires Stone. Continue down road until wall on right is reached and then contour left below Hollin Crag and pick up path to Blea Tarn. Continue to road below Side Pike and follow cappsie path to Side House Farm and back to Hut. Roy Shimwell has worked out the times for Fell-Walkers according to Naismith's Rule:-

Travellers Rest to Helvellyn	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ mls	1hr50.	2,800'	0hr56.	2.56.
Helvellyn to Scafell Pike.	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ mls.	4hr15.	3,350'	1hr07.	5.22.
Scafell Pike to Conistone O.M.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ mls.	2hr50.	1,950'	39.	3.29.
Conistone O.M. to 3ShireStone.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ mls.	1hr10.	400'	.08.	1.18.
	36 $\frac{1}{2}$ mls.	10.05hrs.	8,500'	2.50hrs.	12.55hrs.

NB. These times are for WALKERS!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE A.R.C.C.

will be held at Marion House, Knights of St. Columba Hall, Preston on Saturday April 24th commencing at 2pm prompt. Marion House is in Beech Street, off Tulketh Rd, off Blackpool Rd, Ashton, Preston. (Members approaching from the North, East and South leave the M6 at intersection 31. Fork right at the island after the hill into Preston and follow the ring road A5085 to the A6 traffic lights. Cross these lights and still on the Blackpool Road, cross four sets of Traffic lights. At the fifth set turn left onto Tulketh Rd and left again into Beech Grove. Marion House is on the left and with luck the bar will be open.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous AGM, held April 1981.
2. Matters arising.
3. President's Report.
4. Vice-Chairmans Report.
5. Secretary's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Reports from the Hut Wardens.
8. Election of Officers and Committee Members.
9. Any other Business.

Members are reminded that nominations for vacancies on the Management Committee must be received by the secretary not less than 14 days prior to the AGM.

When proposing a member for a position on the Management Committee, please bear in mind that meetings are held approximately every two months, generally on Friday evenings in the Preston-Lancaster area, or on Sunday mornings at Bishops Scale. Those nominated should be prepared to work and to take on responsibilities.

AGM Cont...

There are five vacancies:-

Chairman	
Vice-Chairman	(George Partridge)
Subscription Secretary	
Committee Member	(Nev Haigh)
Committee Member	(Sean O'Hagan)

The names in brackets indicate the present occupants. George Partridge and Nev Haigh are prepared to serve for a further period. The position of Subs Secretary is an additional one voted for at last years AGM. Until then Nev Haigh combined the duties of Committee Member and Subs Secretary. The new position carries a vote.

All other members of the Management Committee, Hut Wardens and Bu Bulletin Editor are appointed by the Committee for a period of three years. Members willing to serve in these positions are at liberty to offer their services.

Matters to be considered at the AGM other than those on the Agenda, should be notified to the Secretary by any two members within the seven days prior to the meeting.

Only fully paid up members, not graduate members or junior members shall be entitled to vote at the AGM.

The only proposals for changes in the Constitution have been submitted by John Foster and Bernard Potter.

Proposal 1. To move the AGM to the autumn.

Proposal 2. To change the Club Year to 1st October (from 1st April) to 30th September (from 31st March).

Full details of these proposals will be spelt out at the AGM. Please do your best to attend.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

1. Wanted by Waymark Holidays. Leaders for their continental holidays. Qualifications, fluent, German, French or Serbo-Croat and an ability to keep cheerful in the face of disaster. For further details contact Sandra Corbett, 7, Gardner Hall, Seascale, Cumbria.
2. Congratulations to Joe and Sue Morrissey on their new junior members arrival. And congratulations too to Kathryn (formerly known as Teeny-Bopper Henery) and Hans Harth on the birth of their son.
3. Barry Ayre has been given a Titch-Hika carrying frame by the manufacturer for use by our junior members. If anyone would like to try it please contact Barry at 51, Lythe Fell Ave, Halton on Lune, Lancaster.
4. Wanted 2nd hand walking boots in good condition. To fit kids feet sizes 12s and 2s or 1s and 3s. Please phone Margaret Page at Longton 0772 615137.
5. From 1.4.82. ARCC Annual Subs will be £12. Please remember this when sending your subs in and please use the form at the back of the bulletin.
Also the overnight fees will be adjusted from 1.4.82.
Members. . .60p per night.
Junior Members 60p per night.
Member's Guests £1.50 per night.
Visiting Clubs £2.00 per person per night.
These increases offset the considerable increase in expenditure expected by the Management Committee in the year ahead.
6. Please do not forget to let me have your order for Frank Davies Shop bulk order by the 30th March. Tell me exactly what you want, and you get 25% discount. Telephone me at Billinge 0744 894512, around 6ish.
7. The socialist club Red Rope is organising a mass trespass (legal) on Kinder Scout on 24th April to commemorate the original 1932 event that did so much to gain the free access we now enjoy in the hills. Our any of our club members original trespassers?
8. Caravan to Let. Isle of Skye. On south bank of Loch sligachan on private croft site. 2 miles from Hotel. Handy for Blaaven and Sgurr nan Gillean. Please tel John Foster 0744 894512.

News Cont...

10. Roving Reporters send congratulations To Ernie Horrocks otherwise known as the 'Master', on obtaining his wings.
11. John Bulman is organising the Helvellyn Race on June 2nd 1982. It starts from the Kings Head at Thirlspot and John hopes that there will be a large turn-out, not just of top class runners but people taking part for the challenge. There will also be a half Helvellyn race for the under 17s as well as under 12s and under 14s.
12. A working weekend was carried out at Bishops Scale on 6/7th March, and was attended by over 25 members. A tremendous amount of painting, cleaning and clearing up was carried out. So please try and keep the hut clean and tidy, dont leave it all to the last out at weekends. Dont wait for the duty warden to ask for help, there is always something to be done.
13. The Winter Meet was attended by seven members in the worst winter weather we have so far experienced. Rain, wind and soft snow. But the accomodation was superb, and no-one was avalanched as plenty were the following week. Just one good day out of the week, apart from the one snatched in Arrochar on the way home.
14. The Annual Dinner and Dance held at The Red Lion in Grasmere in November, was attended by over 100 members and guests. Among the guests were our president Bishop Pearson, Monsignor Kershaw and Father Piers Grant -Ferris who spoke after the dinner about his recent mountaineering expedition to South America when he was missing for several days and perilously close to death. (Father piers was involved in a serious motor accident several days after the dinner and was detained in hospital for some time. He is now fully recovered.)
15. Forthcoming Events.

Annual General Meeting.	24.4.82.
Long Walk Langdale	9.5.82.
Fellsman	15.5.82.
Junior Meet Langdale	12.6.82.
Buckbarrow Meet	18.9.82.
Fell Race Langdale	2.10.82.
Tyn Twr Meet	9.10.82.

Sponsored Walk and Club Dinner weekends still to be fixed. Members Weekends, no party bookings at Bishopscale on the first weekend of the month, Tyn Twr on the 2nd weekend and at Buckbarrow on the 3rd weekend.

ALPINE MEMORIES 1981.

by John Braybrook.

Here I sit on a cold November night in a pleasant state of somnolence puffing away on a cigar trying to put pen to paper; but struggling, as I mull over photographs for inspiration, to resist letting my thoughts drift-off on these memories and dreams of next seasons climbs.

This year our trip to the Alps did not get-off to an auspicious start as wintry conditions greeted us on our arrival in Arolla, in the latter half of July. Snow was falling and the village was blanketed white: our hearts sank. There seemed little prospect that the weather would improve as we scanned weather reports and talked to Andre Anzeuive a friend and local guide. Discussions and mutterings took place about seeking the sun further south, but in the end we decided to stick it out. Andre was very helpful in finding us a chalet, and rent free at that! Sydney was a bit perturbed at the lack of sanitation but a daily visit to the Pigne Arolla Ho tel satisfied him.

The bad spell lasted for a week with mist and cloud engulfing the peaks and ridges. In desperation and to stop our spirits collapsing into lethargy we walked up to the Aiguille Rouge Hut with the intention of setting off from there for the Point de Vouasson; an easy snow route graded F sup. Several parties started out but a large party ahead of us turned back at the Col Nord because of the poor visibility. But together with a Dutch party we plodded on through the snow, with no tracks to guide us in the thick mist and relying on our compass: but we achieved our goal and returned tired to the hut for 2.30pm.

To fill in time and to keep us active whilst we waited for an improvement in conditions we turned our attentions to Chamonix and did the tourist walk below the Aiguilles from Montenvers to the Aiguille de Plan. Luckily, the mist billowed upwards and we had a view of the Aiguilles and especially the Grepon which I wanted to climb. We stayed a night at the Flegere Hut and climbed the Index on the Aiguille Rouge: altitude approx. 11,000ft. It marked the first full day of good weather giving us excellent views across the valley to the Mont Blanc range, and Sydney the opportunity to click happily away with his new camera. The Index climbed by the arete is a very popular 700ft route, grade AD with an abseil in descent. Looking back at it when we had returned to the telecabine station at midday the route was clearly marked by swarming climbers.

On our return to Arolla we climbed the Aiguille de la Tsar, a prominent feature on the east side of the Arolla Valley; from the Bertol Hut which we had passed by the previous year and where I had a few brisk words with a young guide who was forcing his clients past other parties at a tricky point protected by a piton. I did not enjoy this rock route graded PD Sup because of all the hustle and bustle of other people and was asking myself was this what climbing was all about?

Alpine Memories cont...

Before going to Zermatt to climb the Matterhorn by the Hornli Ridge, we climbed the prominent Petite de Veisiri which divides the valley and overlooks Evolene. This is a pleasant gneiss rock ridge to climb from the Col Tsarrnine giving around trip of about eight hours from the valley. Readers of my last years article will be pleased to hear that Sydney achieved his ambition of sitting on the summit of the Matterhorn. He kept saying that if he made it he would retire from climbing and bequeath me his gear; that remains to be seen - Ha!

If there are any younger members of the club who would like to attend the Alpine School at Arolla, the cost for a week which includes tuition, board and food is approx 380 Swiss Francs (nearly £100), perhaps they would contact me and I will send them further information.

John Braybrook and Sydney de Cruz.
72, Ranellagh Grove, Wollaton, Nottingham. Tel 283374.

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DESERT RATS by Tony Brindle.

Joshua Tree is a rather large expanse of boulders and outcrops in the high desert of California. When the snow falls in Yosemite Valley it offers the promise of long lazy days in the sun - with the occasional bit of climbing thrown in. To get there is another story!. The nearest town is fifteen or so miles away and the roads from every direction are minor, with little or no traffic.

The most serious problem with the desert is water. If you have no transport, then all your water must go in with you and the same can be said of food. The food must also be able to stand the heat! In the desert environment vegetables and fruit rule O.K. Precautions must also be taken to keep the food away from desert scroungers, in this case not other climbers (or Yorkshiremen), but the hundreds of chipmunks that have adopted the camping grounds.

The Park is divided into various sections, and each one has its own designated camping area, with the usual pic-nic table and fireplace. A word of warning - don't get caught burning the Joshua trees in the fireplaces, they are there for burning timber that must be brought in from outside the Park boundary. The Americans who 'rough it' in their forty-foot campers have no problem with this of course.

The rock at Joshua Tree is peculiar, it is similar to grit, but very rough. It has sharp quartzite crystals which can be very painful

Joshua Tree cont....

in jamming cracks. American climbers, generally speaking, tape up their hands and fingers very carefully at the start of each climbing day, and chalk is also in common use.

Katy and I had gone to Joshua Tree to allow El Capitan to dry out. We were hoping to climb El Cap by the Shield Route, and then by the Nose Route before I had to return to England, and Katy to Colorado. This was late March '81. We arrived after a full two days hitching from Yosemite. The previous evening we had slept at the roadside just sixty miles short of our destination. We based ourselves at the Hidden Valley Camping Area, our base being a tarpaulin - for sleeping on - no tent necessary, several bleach bottles full of water and lots of vegetables and fruit. Life in the desert took on a familiar pattern.

Each morning one of us would run round all the American Campers (or rather mansions on wheels), scrounging for water. It was essential to do this before they had a chance to leave, and occasionally we would strike lucky. Also, the campers often left wood behind, and this would be used for our evening fire along with our illegal wood. After breakfast we would head off into the desert towards the days chosen routes. Sometimes this would be several miles and always in intense heat. We never carried anything other than the ropes and climbing rack. During the day we simply did not drink.

For the first week the evenings were spent sat around our fire, enjoying the company of each other and of other climbers, and also enjoying the warmth. The nights were very cold and pitch black without the light and warmth that our fire afforded. At the end of that first week, just as we were making our evening meal, a ranger arrived. He promptly doused our fire, confiscated our wood (dead Joshua trees) and told us that next time he would fine us and throw us out of the park. Apparently, dead and down, does not make anything fair game in the desert; for ecological reasons. The rangers in all the parks are amazing, not for their actions but for their dress. The rangers uniform is exactly the same as the characters in the 'Yogi Bear' cartoon. I always found it hard not to laugh at them whenever they came near; yab-adab-a-doo. . . .

If you ever go to Joshua Tree to climb, treat the grades with respect. Katy and I found that the grading was even more erratic than in Peter Livesey's guide to the south of France! Need I say more... We opted out of using chalk or tape and managed quite well, though sustaining some quite nasty cuts. The first evening, unaware of the gradings, I threw myself at an F10. (I will add a note on gradings at the end.) A little while later Katy tried. Neither of us could do it and finally a spectator told us he had watched somebody aid it earlier and we later learned that it was actually F12.

The next day Katy set off up a face-climb, F9 said our guide.

Joshua Tree Cont....

After a while a completely bemused Katy belayed whilst I led it. The route turned out to be a hard F10 and was very sustained indeed. So much for the grading. After our shaky start, we got hold of a new guide and updated our own from it. As a result I tried my first F11. A route called Bearded Cabbage which started from high up a boulder slope and traversed an overhanging wall, using a flake for the fingers and one heel. The exposure was immediate and it was with intense relief that I clipped into the bolts at the end of that traverse. With these for protection a crack is reached and laybacked, still overhanging, to an easier continuous crack. The crux is reaching the crack. As always a crowd gathered to watch. Not me o. course, they were waiting for Katy. It is amazing how many people will gather to watch a girl climb a hard route! Anyway my demise came as a complete surprise to everyone except myself, because as I launched into flight I lifted Katy clean off her boulder, and like two cymbals we met. It was funny in the extreme, I mean, what do you do if you are hanging on one end of your rope perfectly balanced by your belayer who is in your lap? Pushing each other back and forth we eventually solved the problem. The crowd had doubled which was nice because I led it perfectly next effort.

Of the many routes we did my own favourites were the two longest pitches I led. The first called Illusion Sweller F11, a crack and face route, very sustained and then finger-tip laybacking at the top. The other called Clean and Jerk, an overhanging wall for twenty-five feet, pull-ups on fingers without protection, followed by 130' of superb overhanging crack with good jams and protection all the way. Immaculate! My bone was a route called Hermanutic, F11. This route was by a pic-nic area and therefore there were always tourists around. Having just impressed them by an impeccable ascent of a another F11 in the same area, I set off up Hermanutic. I dispensed with the hard overhanging start as if it wasn't there, I was getting good at these. All that remained was thirty feet of groove. The protection was negligible and after fifteen feet, it was getting hard. I tried everything, but to no avail, my way out was a number one RP (an American nut) which I used to lower off. (This does not promote long life). When Katy tied on to the sharp end the spectators actually got out of their cars. Katy led it first attempt and I struggled seconding. The tourists thought it was fantastic.

Life in the desert can get too much! After ten days solid climbing, without even washing hands or face, we had become what may be called 'desert rats'.

A note on the gradings:-

F7 - 5.7 - VS
F8 - 5.8 - HVS
F9 - 5.9 - E 1/2
F10-

F10 - 5.10 A & b - E2/3
F11 - 5.10 c & d - E3 plus
F12 - 5.11 - E3 "
F13 - 5.12 E3 "

These are guide book gradings not my personal opinion.

Joshua Tree cont..

Katy and I went back to Yosemite Valley and went on to climb the two routes mentioned on El Capitan. The Sheild took us six days, a storm pinned us down for two nights; and the Nose took us two and a half days. This time we free climbed many of the pitches that I had used aid on the previous september. We shared leads on both routes. A very remarkable achievement for my partner. We did both routes within a fortnight and ours was only the second ascent by a mixed team. Only three other women had ascended the Sheild before Katy.

I am now looking for a climbing partner!

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Bulletin Editor: Joyce Foster ,29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan
 Tyn Twr Warden: John Foster, " " " Tel: 0744 894512.
 Hon Sec: Barry Ayre, 51, Lythe Fell Ave, Halton on Lune, Lancaster. 0524 811383.
 Langdale Warden Alan Kenny, 17, Rochester Ave, Morecambe. 0524 414615.
 Buckbarrow: Frank Whittle, Greengarth, Holmrook, Nr Seascale, Cumbria.

BOOKING FORM FOR LONG WALK Sat. May 9th 1982.

Name
 Address
 Tel No.
 I wish to walk/help (please delete one of these).
 I enclose cheque payable to ARCC value £4.50 per person
 Please enclose full details of people whom you are enclosing money
 for. Amount enclosed.....
 RETURN TO ALAN KENNY, 17? ROCHESTER AVE, MORECAMBE.

Details of a memorial service will be announced at a later date.
 In view of Terry's death, George Partridge the Vice-Chairman will be
 acting Chairman until the AGM.

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