

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN No. 85.

MAY 1982.

Dear Members,

Now that the Annual General Meeting is over, we seem to have a very busy few months ahead. Please make notes of the following dates.

5-6th June, 1982. Working weekend at Dunmail Hut. Tom has a few vacancies for Members/Families/Friends with special skills. Please apply to Hut Warden Tom Baron at 2, Azalea Grove, Morecambe. 410922.

12-13th June 1982. Junior Meet - based at Bishops Scale. This is for Junior Members aged between 10 and 16 years. Juniors must be accompanied by their parent or parents. As last year, this will be led by Sandra Corbett, and will be catered for Sat after breakfast until Sunday evening meal. A climbing option is available which will be based at the hut. Juniors should be adequately equipped. Camping children will walk from Langdale to the camping site, where tents will have been erected and their sleeping bags and food will have been taken for them. They will carry a sac containing their spare clothes, emergency food, dish mug and spoon. Please enquire if in doubt. Booking form at end.

Sat. 26th June 1982 at 11am. Memorial Service for Terry Hickey at Bishops Scale. All members and friends are invited to attend. His Lordship Bishop Pearson will conduct the service.

Bishop Scale was opened 25 years ago in August 1967, so this would be an ideal opportunity to mark the anniversary as Terry was involved in the hut from the very first days. The club incidentally, is 40 yrs old this year.

12th Sep. 1982 Buckbarrow Meet.

2nd. October 1982. Fell Race, Bishops Scale, details later.

6th November Annual Dinner & Dance, Red Lion, Grasmere. Details later.

7th November Orienteering Event, to be organised by Tony Brindle.

9th October Tyn Twr Meet. ( This date is correct, typed out of order)

20th November The Bishop's Annual Sponsored Walk.

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Will members please note that Buckbarrow will be closed to members on the nights of 24th, 25th, 26th September 1982. You will find no room, dont go!



NEWS Cont....

Following recommendations made by members at the AGM., the management committee have re-considered the overnight fee for visiting clubs. They will now be £1.50 per night at Buckbarrow and Tyn Twr and £2 at Bishopscale. Members overnight fees are 60p and £1.50 for guests of members, as previously announced.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held in the Autumn of 1983, following the proposal passed at the AGM in April. (Minutes printed further back in this bulletin). Members will be informed of the new date for paying subs nearer the time.

At the end of your events card it is stated that members weekends at the huts are; Bishopscale 1st weekend of the month; Tyn Twr, 2nd weekend of the month, Buckbarrow, 3rd weekend of the month. Sat. being the operative date. A lot of members don't understand - so, this means that there are no visiting clubs in those huts on those dates and that the hut has been kept free for members use. If the first falls on the Sat, that is the first weekend; but, if the 1st falls on the Sunday then the 7th is the first weekend. Clear now?

The Bulk Order was a huge success. It totalled £1,789 and we will almost certainly have another one next year. So if you are considering buying expensive items, keep this in mind.

Congratulations to Kathryn (Tenny-bopper Henery) and Hans Harth on the birth of their son Eric on the 6.1.82. News takes a long time to filter through from 'foreign parts'.

The Long Walk was a huge success again. It is incredible just how much faster walkers were than last time. The slowest this year was three hours faster, than the slowest last time. Thanks to Alan, Kenny Tom & Rita Baron and all the team of helpers. Especially Tom Finney Robert Armstrong and Sydney de Cruz at Esk Hause. Will impoverished members please note that there is a small fortune to be made selling cups of tea to passing walkers on busy warm weekends. Sty Head as well as Esk Hause.

The Fellsman a sixty mile overnight walk, was completed by several members, namely Mick McGovern with a very respectable placing of something like 13th; Frank Whittle, Sandra Corbett, Cyril Hodgson aged 62½ years, Jim Harding and Leo Pollard. Well done! This is very stop press.

Annual Subs are now due. Please complete the form at the end of the bulletin if you have not already sent off your money. Please include a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card.



NEWS CONT.....

SKI 83 ... SKI 83 ... SKI 83 ... SKI 83  
SKI                      SKI                      SKI

Christine Benjamin is planning to arrange a Club Skiing Holiday in the Alps, next season.

INTERESTED . . . . THEN READ ON.

As yet plans are not finalised, but the idea is to spend a one or two week holiday during either the Christmas/New Year period, or sometime in Feb/March 1983, flying from Manchester to.....

'SOMEWHERE IN T'ALPS'.

Choice of resort and type of accommodation will be determined later. At this stage I would like to get some indication of how many of you are interested in the idea. A firm commitment will be required at a later date.

For more information and to express your interest Contact: Chris Benjamin on Leyland 32521(Home) or Chorley 65633 ext 324 (work) Before the end of June. All standards and sub-standards of skier can be accommodated, so if you've never tried skiing before, or think its easy and just for fashionable posers, try it and see how wrong you can be.

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The Fell Scene by Leo Pollard.

Last October, when I was leaving Langdale after the two-day Karrimor Mountain Marathon, Alan Heaton and Jack Betney had a chat with me about The Lakes Walk, (Leo's Pond Walk). They were impressed by the route and congratulated the club on a unique first. They were equally as impressed by the support and organisation behind the attempt. So much so, that they asked me if I would get the same team for their attempt. This will take place on Sat 31st July, 1982. Our Chairman George has already given his support as have a few more members. In an attempt on this scale it cannot be emphasised too much, the importance of the route finding through the short, intricate sections around Wasdale, Conistone, Grasmere, Skeggs Water and Keswick. It is pointless being good on the fells and then getting lost in the farmers field, or up a back alley in Keswick. For the members who may not know of Alan Heaton, I would like to list one or two of his achievements. In 1960 he took the Lake District 24hr Fell Record off Bob Graham, who was of course the first member of the Bob Graham 24hr Club. In 1962, he regained the record from his brother Ken, with a total of 54 peaks and in 1965 he regained again from Eric Beard with 60 peaks. He was first in the Fellman Hike eight times between 1965 and 1976 with his fastest time in 1968 in 12hrs 53 mins.



Fellscene cont.....

I am delighted that a man like Alan is attempting this walk, and if we as a club help him, it will mean that we will endorse the part that we have already played in the history of long walks and achievements in the Lake District.

If you wish to help, please contact Leo at Horwich, 0204 694657.

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OBITUARIESTerry Hickey, Club Chairman since 1972, died 3.3.82.

Though the Club Minute Books show that Terry was on Achille Ratti Climbing Club committees as far back as records can be traced, (1960). They do not record how long he was a member, though he must have been one of the first, and well before the club owned any premises.

He will be remembered not for the number of times his name appears in the minutes, nor for the positions he held on the management committee; Hut Warden at Bishops Scale for most of the 1960s, Vice-Chairman from 1969-1972 and Chairman from 1972 until his death. But, for being a 'doer', first and foremost. Whenever a job needed doing at any of the huts, he was invariably there. He never avoided the unpleasant tasks and more often than not, was the first to get his hands dirty.

His enthusiasm was infectious, and many of the improvements at the huts would not have been carried out without his drive and inspiration.

Terry's green Ford truck was legend. It was in use countless times transporting all sorts of materials for all sorts of projects at the huts, and more often than not, in less affluent days, was loaded with members hitch-hiking to and from the Lakes.

Some members feared Terry, some found him a little stubborn at times, but everyone respected him for his integrity. The good name that the Club enjoys in Lakeland, and in Langdale in particular, is due mainly to the example that Terry set, in and around the Hut and in the local hostelries!

He always supported club events, from the Dinner to the Long Walk, and although not always taking part in the more strenuous meets, he would always offer his services as marshall, tea-boy or rounder-up.

The Club has lost an extremely loyal, dedicated and likeable member. He will be sadly missed for many years, but will never be forgotten.

A Members tribute.

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OBITUARIES.CUTHBERT RABNETT OSB.

Since I have been Bulletin Editor, Father Rabnett used to write regularly to me; witty, amusing letters of his doings as one of the earliest users of the Langdale hut, when it was an outhouse of the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel during the war. In his last letter to me he wondered if any member still remembers the episode in 1942, when he said Mass very early in Ambleside (we had no chapel then), before his days enjoyment on the hills, expecting that Fr. Atkinson would have arranged a celebrant from the seminary. As he was about to leave the church he realised that a large congregation had gathered awaiting a priest, and it was soon evident that he would never come. Times are different now; but then, he could not celebrate without permission, and so he had to make a most humiliating apology.

Pervading all his letters was his love and enjoyment of the mountains that he used to walk, and concluding his last letter before he died, he wrote . . . Alleluias for the many joys that Achille Ratti Climbing Club afforded me.

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LESTER LOWE

Lester Lowe died in a ski-touring accident in the Alps on Friday 7th May, when he fell into a crevasse. Lester had been a member for several years, and often came for the Long Walk with Gerry Slavin. His last visit to my knowledge was to the Annual Dinner in November, and I joined him the following day to walk from Hartsop up onto High Street, and enjoyed his company tremendously. He will be sadly missed.

Barry Ayre.

I have always thought of Lester, as the man with the seven league boots. He was tall, and when he folded his arms in front of his chest, striding out with those long legs, I used to think of the giant with the seven league boots. and the very long stride. He did all the Club Long Walks with no apparent effort, but I will remember him too as the only man ever to nonchalantly proffer his car keys, for me drive to Capel Curig from Tyn Twr. His car at the time was a Jensen.

Joyce Foster.

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MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. Sat 24th April, 1982.

The Minutes of the previous AGM on April 4th 1981, were read, approved, and signed by the Vice-Chairman, George Partridge.

There were no matters arising.

Presidents Report. His Lordship Bishop Pearson was unable to attend, but wrote paying tribute to Terry Hickey. He referred to the Club being in good and united spirit, and fulfilling all the purposes for which he had set it going. He hoped that the new chairman would have the backing of all members. He added his very warm greetings and looked forward to ARCC going from strength to strength. All the money from the sponsored walk last November was not yet in, but there would be a profit of over £2,000 for the Lake District Churches.

Chairmans Report.

George Partridge spoke of an active and successful year which had been marred by the death of Terry Hickey, who had been Chairman for 10 years, and devoted himself to the Club.

The calendar of events had been varied and many. The Long Walk in N. Wales taking in the 14 3,000ft mountains. The hut had been bulging and thanks were due to an excellent support party including Terry, Joyce and John Foster and of course Tom Finney, Chris Liptrot and Robert Armstrong at the 'Tea Stall'.

The Junior Meet had been well run and supported. The camp had been at Levers water and thanks were due to Sandra Corbett, Ben Carter, Pete Durkin and Derek Price. Climbing was led by Jim Harding, Barry Lowman and Paul Cooney.

Leo's Long Walk the following weekend had been a fantastic achievement and many members had assisted. The Fell Race had been resurrected and 22 members plus 5 juniors and eight boys and girls had taken part.

The Annual Dinner had been a success and had made a healthy profit.

The Orienteering Event the following day attracted 23 entrants and was organised by John Fanning. It had been a Wood's Family Triumph.

The Scottish Winter Meet organised by Joyce Foster was originally supported by 12 members. The weather had been appalling, but the accommodation excellent.

The extreme winter weather had played havoc with all the club huts except Buckbarrow. There had been some well supported working weekends with a massive effort at Bishopscafe in March.

Members had been active in other events, The Fellsman, with Mary Conlon Jack Greenwood, Derek Price, John Britt, Pete Durkin and Roy Phillips completing the 60 miles. The Karrimor Event was organised by Gerry Charnley club member, and well supported by other members.

Secretary's Report. Barry Ayre said that 1982 would be remembered for the death of Terry Hickey. He read out a letter from Terry's daughter Catherine, thanking members for their attendance at the funeral.

Members were reminded that the voting for a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman could enable the committee to get back into sequence if those



Minutes cont..

elected stood for three years. Club records had been updated, but it was important that Club Members should keep the secretary informed of changes of address, etc.

The membership is as follows: Life Members 135, Full Members 356, Graduate Members 19, Junior Members 208; Total 718. The non Catholic voting percentage of membership was 23%, the same as last year, and there are 35 non-catholic applicants waiting for membership. A considerable number of improvements had been carried out at the huts and consequently funds were somewhat depleted, the Treasurer and the Hut Wardens would fill in the details. The secretary gave a word of caution that, members were not pulling their weight in keeping the huts clean and tidy.

The Club Rule Book had been reprinted incorporating all the amendments introduced over the years.

The Club had received an invitation in connection with the Papal Visit. His Lordship Bishop Pearson had asked Derek Price and Barry Ayre to represent the Club at a reception at Archbishops House on May 29th. Tom Baron and Dave Ogden would be our representatives at the Concelebrated Mass in Westminster Cathedral on May 28th. This was a great honour for the Club and we were proud to be asked to attend on the Club's behalf.

The Secretary thanked Tom Walmsley, his predecessor, for his help and assistance when handing over the previous year; and for the orderly manner in which he had recorded Club affairs. The members of the Management Committee had also been of great assistance; and he thanked Sean O'Hagan who was retiring from the Committee.

Treasurers Report Dave Ogden produced a detailed statement of account and commented that the major item of expenditure had been the £7,922.00 for re-roofing Dunmail Hut. The extreme Winter weather had affected hut usage and the overnight fees. Additional work by contractors had been carried out at Bishops Scale and Tyn Twr. It followed that maintenance was becoming a major financial item, as previously much of the work had been carried out by members.

The increased subscription implemented on April 1st, 1982, together with increased overnight fees, should bring in an additional £2,000 (Subs up from £10 to £12, overnight Fees 50p to 60p, Guests the same at £1.50 and Visiting Clubs £1.50 to £2.00.) It was still our intention to find a Hut in the West and property in Eskdale had been viewed but found to be unsuitable.

Jim Harding thanked Dave for an excellent report. A lengthy discussion followed in which Ken Godfrey, Jim Harding and Joyce Foster and others pointed out that £2 was too much to charge visiting clubs. The Management Committee agreed to re-consider this point at an early date. Mike Donnelly thought we should look for new members to boost income.

Hut Wardens Reports - Dunmail

Tom Baron reported that it is now 5 years since Dunmail was re-opened. He had prepared a detailed breakdown of accounts since then, which was available to members. There had been a record income in 1981-82 of £5073.10p though usage was slightly down. The hut had been used



Minutes cont...

mainly by children and young people. The roof was completed and was an excellent job. There had been three working weekends and the hut was in good order. Further partitioning had been installed in the toilet area. Burst pipes had been a minor irritant during the winter. The installation of Bulk Calor Gas would cut fuel costs by one third. May Somerville from Morecambe, had been a tremendous help; as had Rita his wife. The Chairman paid tribute to Tom & Rita for their unflagging service to the Club.

Tyn Twr: John Foster reported that the Long Walk had been the main event, with only 12 members attending the October Meet, and severe weather affecting the December Meet. Four attended the March Meet. He suggested that improvements should be made to the bunks, one of which had recently collapsed and injured a guest. More work would have to be done to solve the damp problem in the walls. The Chairman thanked John for his work.

Bishopscote: Alan Kenny Reported that a lot of expense had been incurred. The inside had been almost completely repainted. New bunks had been installed, new shelving in the kitchen and improvements to the lighting and cookers had been carried out. The boiler in the kitchen had been removed and hot water now provided by immersion heaters. The fireplace in the lounge is being rebuilt. A lot of damage had been caused by burst pipes during the winter, and a skip filled with rubbish at the working weekend.

The Chairman thanked Alan for his efforts.

Buckbarrow: Frank Whittle reported a 10% increase in usage by members, but a decrease of 30% by visitors. There had been an excellent turnout for the working weekend, and a lot of plastering work attended to. He had received a quote for £2,500 from a local contractor for septic tank work and piping to the outside wall of the hut. The Chairman thanked Frank for his work and report.

Proposals for Changes to Rules. Proposed by John Foster, seconded by B. Potter. To move the AGM to the Autumn and to change the club year from April to 1st October. On a secret ballot, this motion was passed by 57 votes to 8. The Management Committee would attend to the detailed change-over.

Election of Officers

Chairman: George Partridge (Unopposed). Prop. John Foster; Sec. T. Baron. Vice-Chairman: Derek Price ( " "). Prop. P. Durkin.; Sec. B. Ayre. Subs.Secretary: Nev. Haigh ( " "). Prop. B. Ayre; Sec. J. Whiteside. Committee Members - 4 nominations - 2 vacancies. Leo Pollard and Mick Pooler were elected. Jim Harding and Mike Donnelly were not elected but were asked by the Sec. to work for the Club in other ways. Members agreed that G.Partridge and D.Price should be elected for a three year term.

Any other business A proposal by Mary Rushton and Sheila Jones to introduce a reduced subscription for senior citizens was discussed at length. Considerable sympathy for the proposal was shown. The Sec. pointed out that any member unable to pay the full subscription was already listened to sympathetically. On a show of hands the proposal was defeated.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.



IN MEMORIUM: SCOUT MOVING CHOCKSTONE.

Easter 1982.

It came as quite a shock, although I suppose after all these years one should have been expecting it. To find one evening on a quiet stroll past Lower Scout Crag, that the slab on the right contained a black niche at its top.

The Moving Chockstone had finally gone. Disbelieving stares, was I right? Yes, there was the triangular niche flat-bottomed and empty, and a sad search at the foot of the slabs revealed the chockstone; still triangular, but with a large square flake missing from its lower face.

My children couldn't understand why Dad was so sad. They will grow up to a world without Moving Chockstone of Lower Scout, where a little wall of rock above split boulders just a practice ground for Outward Bound, St Whatsit's School and Grabnote Mountain Holidays. They will never know the thudding fear of transferring weight at the top of that thin, polished slab; to the fist jug handle in a long way, only to find it moving out under ones hand. It taught three generations of climbers a basic lesson, that chockstone.

And the lazy afternoons for those of us in the know, smugly sitting at the top, watching tyros on route for the first time, sucking a slow pipe as they teeter up the slab, watching the dramatic facial contortions as they secure the jug and swing across . . . . Ooops!

"Yes, its always done that."

Farewell old friend you gave us many a chuckle. And yet . . . . in these days of micro-chips and araldite, could we not re-position it? Perhaps without the subtle movement, or maybe with a cunning wedge bearing the inscription " Do not remove, peg holds chock in."

An old crag-rat.

USEFUL ADDRESSES.

Club Sec: Barry Ayre, 51, Lythe Fell Ave, Halton, Nr Lancaster.

0524 811383.

Bulletin Editor: Joyce Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr. Wigan.

(Please send articles for publication)

0744 894512.

Subs Sec. Nev Haig, 752, Devonshire Rd, Blackpool. enclosing SAE.

Hut Wardens.

Alan Kenny, Langdale, 17, Rochester Ave, Morecambe 0524 414615.

John Foster, Tyn Twr, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan. 0744 894512

Buckbarrow, Frank Whittle, Green garth, Holmrook, Nr Seascale, Cumbria.

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Thanks to contributors to this bulletin, some have had to be held over. due to lack of space. The next bulletin is due out around the middle of September, please send copy by the middle of August.



ANNUAL SUBS ARE DUE NOW HURRY AND PAY OR YOU MAY LOSE YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP.

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Name.....

Address.....

Amount enclosed . . . . . Cheques made payable to ARCC and please  
enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your  
membership card. Annual Subs are now £12 per person. Students,  
those unable to find employment may apply to the Sec. for reduced  
membership.

Send to Nev Haigh, 752, Devonshire Rd, Blackpool.

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THE JUNIOR MEET      12-13 June 1982.

SURNAME ..... NUMBER OF JUNIORS.....

FORENAME/S.....AGES .....

TEL. NO.....

CAMPING OPTION.....

CLIMBING OPTION .....

Please return as quickly as possible to George Partridge,  
16, Centurion Way, Meols, Wirral LA7 7B2 before 4th June if poss.  
or Telephone 051 632 5963.

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Alan's Run Cont....

frequently, as we felt that error caused by tiredness would be reduced this way, and even so he left more than one helper shattered on the fell-side in the first few miles.

At the Newfield Inn in Dunnerdale, Alan had his first real stop; he had been moving for about 5hrs then. The next section Goats, Low, Levers and Coniston Waters was hard and his unrelenting pace continued. A short break at Skelwith Bridge after Esthwaite, Elterwater, Grasmere and Rydalwater and he arrived at Waterhead 40 minutes up. The evening turned to dusk and the midgets in Kentmere ensured that the stop there was short, and the night navigator joined us. Skeggles water, found and no problem then Haweswater, via Long Sleddale and Gatesgarth. In the dead of night, with mist, rain and wind to Smallwater and Bleawater. Then High Street in a very strong wind, Hayeswater and Brotherswater.

With the first hint of dawn we found our support party waiting with hot, sweet tea and biscuits, and with a new band of helpers off he went via Ullswater and Sticks pass to Thirlmere in the new dawning of the day. Then road all the way to Derwentwater, Bassenthwaite and finally Overwater with quite a band of people accompanying him. All will testify to the cracking pace Alan set over these roads, fighting time to the very end.

At Overwater he didn't give much away, but I think it pleased him to have yet another record to his name. I think I speak for all his helpers when I say we were pleased and honoured to play our part in writing another chapter in the history of notable fell runs in The Lake District. Well done Alan.

Time 25hrs 17mins.

Mike McGovern.

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If you HAVEN'T YET PAID YOUR SUBS, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST BULLETIN

Send your £12 off straight away to Nev Haig, Subs Sec, 752, Devonshire Rd, Blackpool and include SAE for receipt of membership card.

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Hon Sec: Barry Ayre, 51, Tythe Fell Ave, Halton, Nr Lancaster. 811383.

Tyn Twr: J Foster, 29 Braeside Cres, Billinge Nr. Wigan 0744 894512.

Bulletin Editor: Joyce Foster Address as above.

Langdale: Alan Kenny, 17, Rochester Ave, Morecambe 0524 414615.

Buckbarrow: Frank Whittle, Greengarth, Holmrook, Nr Seascale, Cumbria.

Dunmail: T Baron, The Post Office, Stavely, Cumbria.

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Next Bulletin due out January 1983. Please send articles, news items etc. Thanks to printer Fr David Lannon and his helpers and also to the contributors to this bulletin.