

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN No. 86.

SEPTEMBER 1982.

Dear Members,

I hope that you all enjoyed your summer holidays, and that the weather wasn't too unkind to you. Everyone seems to have returned safely . . . . .

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

THE ANNUAL FELL RACE on SUN. 3rd OCTOBER, based in Langdale, 11 am.

I am aware that this is late confirmation of the event, but it has been posted on the hut notice boards for several weeks.

The Fell Race is open to members and their families.

Senior Race: 16 yrs plus, male and female; distance 3 miles, 1,200'.

This is a handicap yourself race, which works like this. . . .

The base time for the course is 40 mins. A runner thinks he can get round in 35 mins, ie: 5 mins less than base time. On Race Day he writes 'plus five mins', on the competitors start sheet in the hut. In the race he actually takes 37 mins; his plus 5 mins is added to the 37, making 42 mins; and that is two minutes out from the base time. Runner B, thinks it will take her 61 mins to get round; and so writes 21 mins on the start sheet. In the race, her time is 60½ mins and from this is subtracted the 21 mins, leaving 39½ mins: therefore, taking 39½ from base-time 40, she is ½ a minute out. Of the two examples, the latter is the winner.

Junior Race

11-15 yrs (lads and lasses) About 2 mls, no handicap. First back is the winner.

Children's Fun Run

10 yrs and under (lads and lasses). A half to three-quarters of a mile course chosen on the day according to conditions.

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1981 Fell Race was a good day, with over 30 runners of all ages from 6 yrs to 50 yrs taking part. It is good training for the Karrimor, and it makes a pint or two in the Langdales afterwards taste great. So come along and give it a try.

Any help on the day would be appreciated: time-keeping, recording etc. A small trophy will be presented to the winner of each race, sweets for all children taking part, and the winner of the senior race will have his/her name written on the Roll of Honour kept in the entrance hall of Bishops Scale.

Mike McGovern.

Forthcoming Events cont.....

9th October ..... Tyn Twr Meet.

6th November ..... Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner is once again at the Red Lion Hotel, Grasmere. The Guest Speaker is Joss Naylor, and tickets are available from Barry Ayre, 51, Lythe Fell Ave, Halton on Lune, Nr Lancaster O524 Price £7.50. Coach available from Langdale and back ( 811383. please enquire when ordering tickets, and include a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets sold out very quickly last year, so dont delay.

7th November . . . - Orienteering Event.

To be held the morning after the Dinner in the vicinity of Newby Bridge. Organised by Tony Brindle who is at present instructing at YMCA Lakeside, parking is available at YMCA Lakeside South Camp and full details will be available at the Dinner or on the Hut notice board.

13th November . . . . Bishop's Annual Sponsored Walk

Based in Langdale. To raise money for Lake District Churches. Helpers Welcome, arrive at the hut on Fri evening 12th Nov.

27th November . . . Working Weekend Tyn Twr.

General cleaning and painting, please lend a hand.

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Meets Cards for 1983 will go out with the next bulletin in January.

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Chris Benjamin's proposed trip ski-ing, did not attract enough members to make a substantial saving. However a few people will still be going abroad, but not as a large group. Still interested? Phone Christine at home Leyland 32521.

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WINTER MEET 1983. Last years winter meet in Scotland had such abysmal weather that the thought of it still fills me with horror. I do not propose to arrange a meet this year. If anyone is hoping for an ARCC meet, please get in touch, write or phone and maybe. . . But how about a long weekend in Hawaii?

NEWS .Etc. NEWS .Etc. NEWS

1. Jim & Clai Harding are now proud parents of Matthew David Michael Harding. He weighed-in nearly one month early, at 6lb 4oz on 12th July and everybody is chuffed to bits.
2. Rod Grimshaw would like to explain to his friends the reason for his absence from the huts for the last 18mths. Two daughters, Jane 14.8.80 and Catherine 24.11.81, and now they live at Stanah Lane, Thirlmere, Keswick.
3. Chrissie B. aswell as trying to take us ski-ing, wants to sell a pair of size 38 Scarpa Bronzo walking boots. In very good nick, little worn, almost new £25 o.n.o. (Tel No. on page 2)
4. Mavis Newmarch is tracking a pair of boots. She lent them to a girl staying at Bishopscale just after Christmas 1982. The girl was a non-member, but a College friend of a young male ARCC member. Clue to member . . . from the Preston Area and Frank Whittle knew his Mum during their singledays. Was the member Paul Dodds? If you know 'owt about this', please contact Mavis at 19, The Farmlands, Northolt, Middx.
5. Lost . . . Who Has It? . . . I lent my little book by Kev Reynolds, 'A Tour of Mont Blanc', to a Club Member for perusal and never got it back. Who has it please? I want it back. Please ring Joyce at Billinge 0744 894512.
6. Found. After Terry Hickey's Memorial Service a Ladies watch was found in the chapel. Please contact Catherine Hickey at Blackpool 0253 885841.
7. For Sale . . . Knoydart Estate . . . One of the most beautiful, rugged and remote areas of Scotland. One of the last examples of Europe's real wilderness and the price has dropped from £2.7 million to offers in excess of £1.95 million.
8. Hearty Congratulations to Tom and Rita Baron, Mr & Mrs Dunmail Hut Wardens. After a taste of redundancy, they have now moved from Morecambe to Staveley, between Kendal and Windermere, where Tom is the Postmaster, post sorter and postman. New address, 44, Main St, Staveley, Cumbria.
9. Obituary. . . Deepest sympathy to Joe Tasker's family. Many members do not know that Joe started his climbing days whilst a student at Ushaw College, and was for several years a member of ARCC. Joe Tasker and Pete Boardman, two of Britain's finest mountaineers fell 10,000' on Everest's unclimbed East North East Ridge.

### SPORTING INJURIES

Greater Manchester's Alexandra Hospital, near the M63 in Cheadle, now has a fully operational Sports Injuries Clinic. It has been set up especially to help people who have suffered sporting injuries at a time convenient to themselves; day-time, evenings or weekends. Make the appointment at the clinic without first seeing your GP, where a team of experienced physiotherapists, doctors and consultants full medical services and specialists in the field of sports injuries is available.

The GP should be advised by the patient of the injury, and the hospital will notify the GP directly of the treatment being carried out. Patients pay an initial assessment and treatment fee of £7.50 with a lower charge for subsequent treatment and no commitment made without prior agreement.

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### REPORT ON TERRY'S MEMORIAL SERVICE.

Over 60 people attended the Memorial Service in June, and concelebrated Mass was said by His Lordship Bishop Pearson, Founder President; Msgr Kershaw, Fr Frank Hughes from Glenridding, the Club Chaplain Fr David Elder and the Bishop's Secretary Father Peter Draper. The Former Club Chaplain Fr Tom Walsh, also attended.

Lessons were read by Club Chairman George Partridge, Dunmail Hut Warden Tom Baron and Club Member Tom Broderick. Arrangements were made by Derek Price Vice-Chairman and Secretary Barry Ayre.

The Bishop spoke of the deaths of Terry Hickey, Lester Lowe and Joe Tasker and referred to the Club's 40th Anniversary and also Bishop's Scales 25th Anniversary.

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### REPORT ON THE JUNIOR MEMBERS CAMPING MEET JUNE 1982

Fourteen Junior Members took part.

Dominic, Rachael and Gregory Cooper; Helen and Sarah Carter; Mike and Ian Parker; Mike and Jill Pitchford; Rachael and Ruth Ayres; Aidon Baron, Neil Summerville and Anne Clarke.

Leaders: Sandra Corbett, Frank Whittle, Joyce Foster, Barry Ayre and Fr. David Lannon.

Sandra had planned an adventurous route from Bishop's Scale to Tilberthwaite, by way of Oxendale, Red Tarn, Wet Side Edge, Great Carrs and Wetherlam, but due to a change in the weather and heavy rain at Red Tarn, the party headed for the camp site via Greenburn and Birk Fell.

Junior Meet Cont..

The distance was approximately 8 miles, and all the Juniors walked well, arriving at the campsite in the late afternoon.

All the equipment necessary had been transported by a team of ARCC Sherpas to the lower slopes of Wetherlam, above Tilberthwaite Waterfall; and they had been caught in a tremendous deluge as they started to pitch the tents . . . meanwhile back in Langdale it had remained dry. We hadn't the heart to tell them the site wasn't the one carefully chosen by Sandra, but a rather soggy patch that remained so throughout our stay.

The Juniors were able to explore, though with strict instructions not to venture near the mine shafts or Tilberthwaite Ghyll.

Sandra and Joyce soon had a meal underway, and the youngsters were split into groups for fatigues and directed to various tents to prepare for the overnight camp. The grub was well received and served piping hot. Fruit pies and hot drinks followed.

Fr. Lannon then led a supervised visit to the Ghyll and later to a disused shaft whilst the other leaders cleared up, later on polishing off some 'vino collapso' and lager. Murray Taylor arrived during the evening with emergency ciggies and cigars, later departing looking for all the world like Santa Claus with a huge sack of litter over his shoulder. We never thought to tell him about the huge rock in the bottom of the sack to prevent its blowing away.

And so to bed, though not to sleep. The chattering and giggling went on for some time. The wind blew strongly from the North, but the tents stood firm and everyone emerged unperturbed in the morning.

Breakfast was organised and some tents taken down whilst they were dry. By 9.30am we were ready to move off, retracing our steps of the previous day over Birk Fell into Little Langdale and returning to Bishop's Scale, mainly off the road by Blea Tarn and the slopes of Side Pike.

My main contribution to the event was to get everyone back to the Langdales by 1.30pm! Frank and Joyce had been plotting the day before but had been unsuccessful.

What a super group of junior members they were. Mostly in the 10-12 age group, they walked well (and fast), never complained, acted sensibly, obeyed instructions and above all else made good friends and enjoyed themselves in spite of the cool weather and the heavy downpour on Saturday.

On behalf of the Juniors, a special thankyou to Sandra, Frank, Joyce and Father David, plus Angela Warren who walked with us on the Sat. Also to the Sherpas who included various Mums and Dads, John Parsons from London and Murray Taylor non member now graduate, and others. And finally the Langdale Caterers led by Tom & Rita Baron. We hope to see more juniors next year, so make a note now, come and have some fun.

Barry Ayre.

There was also rock-climbing based at Bishopscale, but sorry no report has been received for printing.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MEET by Angeler Soper  
(nee Faller)

Members on their way to Tyn Twr on June 18th couldn't help but notice the unusual number of females in the Tyn y Coed. They had come across the Womens International Meet.

It lasted for two weeks, with the evening in question being the half-way stage. The visitors came from USA., Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France and Eire, twelve in all. There was a similar number of British women, with extras at the weekend. Predictably, the Americans were very strong climbers while the Scandinavians were happy to climb at VS rather than E Standard.

We started in Derbyshire, with visits to Stanage, Millstone, Curbar and Froggatt, and had an excellent day on limestone at High Tor and Willersley. Catherine from Colorado, led me up Darius for her second route ever on limestone. Then we climbed Debauchery, as did several other pairs. Karrimor laid on a visit to their factory and a splendid dinner, after which we proceeded to Wales in deteriorating weather. It was disappointing, considering the good weather of earlier weeks, not to get to the high crags. But Tremadog and the Llanberis crags dried enough to permit climbing, and half the party had a superb day on Gogarth. The Strand, Quartz Icicle, Rat Race and many other routes were climbed, the most notable being an ascent of Tyrannosaurus Rex by Rosie (from the 'Gunks) and Jill.

The last few days in the Lake District suffered from almost continuous rain. You wouldn't expect an International Meet to have to choose between Trowbarrow and Bowfell Buttress, but that's how it was. The situation was redeemed in Borrowdale and on Castle Rock, but again the main mountain crags could not be visited - frustrating for all, and embarrassing for the hosts. All the same, the atmosphere on the Meet was fantastic. Good for the B.M.C., bringing together all these girls who share enthusiasm for climbing. Let's have another International Meet, preferably in California.

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B.M.C. Bus

Did you know that the B.M.C. ran a bussing service this summer? It cost £46 return to Grenoble, £50 return to Chamonix. Another bus ran through the Mont Blanc Tunnel, through the Aosta Valley to Milan and Rome, £67 return to Aosta.

Next season it is expected that a bus will run to Marseilles, for the Calanques, and also one to Cannes, Nice and it should be possible to drop off at Verdon and catch the return. Enquiries nearer the time to BMC, Manchester.

FREEDOM TO ROAM by Dave Parish

We take our freedom to roam the Pennine Moors for granted. But really we should thank people like Bernard Rothman says Dave Parish, ARCC member; who has been talking to this Ramblers veteran who led a mass trespass onto Kinder 50 years ago.

In the Derbyshire Assizes in July 1932, faced with the prospect of four months imprisonment, Bernard Rothman was conducting his own defence: "We ramblers," he said in court, "after a hard week's work and life in smoky towns and cities go out rambling for relaxation, a breath of fresh air, a little sunshine. We find, when we go out, that the finest rambling country is closed to us, because certain individuals wish to shoot for about ten days a year. For twenty-five years the Rambler's Federation has carried on a campaign which has been futile. It was through united action on the part of the ramblers that the well-known path, Doctor's Gate, was opened.

He was facing charges resulting from the Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout on April 24th, 1932, which is now clearly seen as an historic milestone in the fight for access to the countryside.

One hundred years previously, the moors of the Peak District, had been free land, but the landlords had closed the moors for the sake of grouse and so the "Manchester Rambler" was denied the right to enjoy this beauty.

An "Access to Mountains Bill" had been in and out of Parliament since 1888, but in the 1930's the achievement of free access was as distant as ever, despite annual rallies of Ramblers at Winnatt's Pass in Derbyshire demanding access and rights of way.

At that time, the British Workers' Sports Federation was an active sporting and campaigning organisation, concentrating in the North of the country on rambling, cycling and camping. On a ramble from one of their camps at Rowarth in 1931, the hikers were turned away from Bleaklow Hill by gamekeepers and it was from their frustration and from the knowledge of successful direct action by the BWSF on other issues in the South that the idea of the "Mass Trespass" was born.

Gamekeepers had been turning back small groups of walkers from the moors for years, but a group hundreds strong would be unstoppable. Fifteen BWSF Clubs from Lancashire and Cheshire took part in organising the Trespass and Sunday April 24th was chosen as the date, as the surviving Eccles leaflet announces.

Approximately 500 - 600 ramblers assembled in Hayfield, on the edge of the Peak to hold a meeting before the trespass, but they were not alone. Superintendent Garrow, the Deputy Chief Constable of Derbyshire, was also in the vicinity together with one third of the Derbyshire Police Force -- such was the degree to which the Establishment was threatened by the prospect of hundreds of young workers demanding the right to ramble on private land.

Abandoning the planned meeting at the sunken Recreation Ground a natural trap, the crowd immediately moved off towards Kinder Reservoir

Freedom to Roam Cont....

at a stiff pace, followed by a crowd of less youthful constables. At a disused quarry (now a car park) the ramblers stopped, to be addressed by Bernard Rothman.

"Our grouse is against grouse," he said, "We are determined to trespass en masse everywhere we can claim with justice to have a right to go."

Halfway up Williams Clough, the ramblers jumped the stream and plunged into forbidden land, walking uphill in wide formation to avoid the keepers, some of whom had been hired especially and were armed with sticks. When keepers attacked the hikers they were disarmed but one keeper, Edward Beevers of Hayfield, was slightly injured in the scuffle. Needless to say, the picture of the injured keeper together with dramatic headlines filled the newspapers next day. "Over the rough moorlands," the Sheffield Independent reported, "men struggled with each other and rolled down the steep slopes. Every minute it appeared that somebody would hurtle to the bottom."

The trespassers were indeed unstoppable in their large numbers and succeeded in reaching the summit plateau of Kinder Scout. But the victorious hikers were met on their return to Hayfield, by a cordon of police, and six 'ringleaders' were arrested. The police had planned to arrest one of these, Rothman, at Manchester station that morning, but unable to afford the train fare that day, Rothman and a friend had cycled to Hayfield, inadvertently avoiding the police. The six, were charged with unlawful assembly and a breach of the peace. Five were found guilty by a jury consisting of two brigadier-generals, three colonels, two majors, three captains and two aldermen, and were sentenced to a total of seventeen months imprisonment, only one being acquitted.

A spokesman for the Sheffield Ramblers' Federation claimed that the whole affair had set back the campaign for access to the mountains by twenty years. The opposite was true. The Mass Trespass had fired the ambitions of ramblers nationwide and the sentences had caused storms of protest. The next Ramblers Association annual protest meeting at Winnat Winnatt's Pass attracted 10,000 ramblers instead of the usual 500 or so. Other trespasses followed and the pressure mounted until the "Access to Mountains Bill" was passed through parliament by Attlee's Labour Government.

But the struggle continues, Bernard Rothman, who is 70, is as active as ever. He organised the 50th Anniversary of the trespass activities, and is concerned that the battle for access to the mountains is not yet won. Many areas of the Peak District, Wales and Scotland still have no legal access. Over 1,000 square miles of land is held by the Ministry of Defence and rights of way are steadily disappearing. That's why, along with the festivities and ceremony of the anniversary celebrations the weekend included the most important event of all -- the marking and clearing of a path that is even today in dispute.

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PS. And that is why the British Mountaineering Council is so important. They are still fighting for access to moors, mountains and crags for us!

(Editor's Note)