

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB.

BULLETIN No 89.

JUNE 1983.

Dear Members,

Here I sit, on a glorious June Sunday, in the peace and quiet of Buckbarrow typing the Bulletin. The swallows are practicing their aerial acrobatics swooping past me into the barn, a cuckoo calls lazily from the field and the local buzzards are circling above

Annual Subscriptions

are due now. As stated in the last bulletin, due to the change in the Club's financial year; the subscriptions due now are either £18, to cover the period from April 1st 1983 to October 1984. Or pay £6 now to cover from April 1st 1983 to October 1st 1983. Please send your money now to Nev Haigh, 752 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool. And please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

NEWS.... NEWS NEWS

1. The Annual General Meeting will take place on 15th October 1983. Further details next Bulletin.
2. There will be a Summer Meet at Tyn Twr on 30th July.
3. There is a Beginners and Graduates Meet to be held at Langdale on 3rd September.
4. The Buckbarrow Meet is 17th September and the Tyn Twr Meet on the 8th October.
All these Meets are already in your Meets cards, this is just a reminder.
5. The Bishops Walk this year will take place on Sat 1st October. This is a sponsored walk to raise money for the Lake District Churches, and ARCC together with Windermere Parish organise the walk. Helpers are needed that weekend, to mark the route, man checkpoints and organise the finish of the walk at Bishopscale. An evening meal is provided at Bishopscale for all the helpers.
6. The Annual Dinner this year has a new venue, the Red Lion being unable to accommodate us. The date is Saturday 19th November, and it will be at the Waterhead Hotel, Waterhead, Ambleside. The Tickets will cost £8.50 and a guest speaker is to be arranged.
The Menu is as follows:- French Onion Soup.
Roast Saddle of Lamb with Rosemary and Port Sauce.
two seasonal vegetables and two potatoes.
Lemon and Almond Meringue Pie.
A Selection of English Cheeses.
Coffee and After Dinner Chocolate Mints.

NEWS CONT.....

Dinner information cont.....

Bed and Breakfast at the Hotel costs £16.65 or £18.80 if you prefer a room with a view. The Manager is Ian Schofield and the Telephone number 09663 2566. Cheaper accommodation is available along the road in the guest houses near the boat centre. A coach will be provided from the hut in Langdale and at only a small extra charge. Tickets will be available from Barry Ayre, 4, Pinewood Ave, Bolton le Sands, Lancs nearer the time. When applying for tickets please include a STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

7. WARNING WARNING WARNING.....

There have been several occasions recently at Bishopscale where people have been using the hut as members and it has been strongly suspected that they were 'visitors'. On one winter weekend a group arrived during a fall of soft, wet snow when the roads were bad with the tale that they couldn't reach the Hut that they were booked into. One of our senior members booked them into Bishopscale for the night, the hut wasn't full and we had room for them. Eventually the hut filled with people from the storm, some members some not. When the person acting Duty Warden was checking credentials, it was discovered that almost none of the people there were members, but a lot had signed in as members, they had stayed before with a party and knew the ropes. They were ejected forthwith..... all except one lad and his mate who insisted that they were members but hadn't got their membership cards with them. This lad had been warned before to carry his card with him, as his name does not appear on the hut copy of the membership list. This membership list is now definately out of date, and we have some lapsed members who still use the huts as paid up members. Why do the rest of us pay every year when the annual subs could be avoided? Well the warning is ALL MEMBERS, NEW AND OLD MUST CARRY THEIR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS. In a club with nearly 700 members it is impossible to keep track of all of them. If you suspect there is funny business ask to see the membership card, which everyone should have with them.

8. Next Year the Long Walk will be at Dunmail Hut on 12th May, 1984.
9. We have recently received a cheque for £210 from Langdale Co-op Dividend, accumulated over a few years. If you shop at Langdale Co-op please quote the Club number A/C 125. It is on the hut notice board.
10. For the Summer, Mass at Langdale will be at 7,30pm. Due to Fr. Hughes already having a Mass in Patterdale at 6.30pm. Msgr suffered a stroke earlier in the year and is now home again and convalescing.

NEWS CONT.....

11. Bishop Pearson, Founder President, suffered a slight heart attack shortly after Easter and is now much better. Reggie Rogers a trustee, had a series of strokes recently and is now out of hospital and at home. Our good wishes for a speedy recovery to all of them.
12. Rohan Mountain Wear are holding a series of regional shows, and will be at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Llanberis on 2/3rd July. There will be a clearance of 1982 lines, and those lucky enough to have bought at their last Sale at the New Dungeon Ghyll, will know what remarkable savings were to be made. Discontinued lines 60% off.
13. Campcraft Ltd, 104, Newport St, Bolton offer 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % off gear and O.S. maps (good stock) on production of a current membership card.
14. I expect to arrange a bulk order from Frank Davies Climbing Shop, in the Autumn. Please do not start hassling the shop staff until the date of the order is announced, some confusion was caused last time. There will be a sizeable percentage off.
15. Congratulations to Barry Lowman on passing his HGV test. Rumour has it that he is the new 'Yorkie' driver, so keep watching the tele commercials!

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A REPORT ON THE ANNUAL LONG WALK
WASDALE HORSESHOE.

Fifty-four members took part in or helped on this year's walk and Buckbarrow Hut was packed, as was the parking area; with several tents accommodating the remaining participants.

Frank Whittle had prepared for the invasion with detailed maps and routes, and these were only for the sleeping arrangements.

At 6am we were under way, down the lanes and across the fields to Greathall Gill and the Screes. The cloud base was down to about 1,500ft, so Whin Rigg and Illgill Head were a taste of what was to come on the Scafells. Dave Hall and Dominic Cooper were soon out in front and remained there for the rest of the day. I started with Wilf Charnley and John Parsons but reached Scafell summit with Simon Price. The area approaching Broad Stand and the fixed rope soon became a maze with ARCC members wandering in all directions, looking for the crucial descent manned by Roy Shimwell, Dave (Ginger) Robertson and Dot Wood. John Parsons and I abandoned efforts to find the fixed rope and made our way round by Foxes Tarn to Mickledore where Chris Benjamin and Mike Lomas were serving breakfast of bacon butties and fresh tea.

Wasdale Horseshoe Cont....

I joined Sandra Corbett on the top of Scafell Pike, still in thick clag; Sandra knew the best and quickest way off Great End, so I stuck with her, but she soon left me far behind as we approached Sprinkling Tarn.

By Styhead Tarn I was on my own, and set off back into the cloud and the top of Great Gable. The runners were catching up by now and I was passed by Paul Cooney and his father, then by Phil Michelewski Alan Kenny and Sean O'Hagan, before reaching Gable top.

It was at this point that I made my greatest mistake, I took out map and compass from my sac and set off with Kirk Fell in mind. How I finished up on Green Gable I'll never know, but on asking a couple where they had come from to pinpoint my whereabouts and getting the reply, "from Bristol", I decided it was just not my day. By the time I had got back on route and approaching Kirk Fell, I was caught by Chris Farrell who admitted making the same mistake. In disgust we both skirted Kirk Fell and made for the the buttie stop at Black Sail Pass. To make matters worse I tripped and sprained an ankle on the simplest of paths and had to drop out at the refreshment point.

I wasn't the only one on the injured list, as Joyce Foster had managed to scald herself on a delicate part of her anatomy when one of the day's brews fell off the stove and tipped onto her.

By this time most of the walkers were through and on their way to Pillar. Still to come, were John Foster and Jim Heyes, Dave and Susan Smith, and George partridge bringing up the rear with Dot Wood, Val Barbier and friend. I retreated back to the Hut via Wasdale Head with Ben Carter and Sue Smith.

Most of the starters completed the course, although low cloud was a feature of the day.

Thankyou Frank for all your efforts in organising the event, and thanks too, to all those at the refreshment points and back at the hut for meals and sustenance.

Barry Ayre.

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The Junior Meet (Walking Section).

This year's walks were based on Dunmail Hut, and gave those participating greater opportunities to vary the ground covered. On Saturday, Juniors and Leaders were transported to Glenridding with Striding Edge in mind. Due to the low cloud base and impending bad weather, the route was altered to take in Grisedale as far as Rusthwaite Lodge, then to Rusthwaite Cove and an adventurous scramble to Nethermost Pike. The rain held off, and the party descended via Dollywagon Pike to Grisedale Tarn and then Tongue Gill to the Travellers Rest, just before closing time! Those taking part were Ann Clark, Robert Armstrong, Mike and Ian Parker, Sandra Corbett, Joyce Foster, Jim Heyes and Barry Ayre.

Junior Meet Cont...

An early start was made on Sunday to take in Helm Crag and the cave, Gibson Knott, Calf Crag, Sergeant Man, Stickle Tarn, Mill Ghyll and finishing at Stickle Barn. Those taking part were Helen and Sara Carter, Jill Pitchford, Gregory Cooper in addition to those from the day before. Fine all day and an enjoyable walk.

Whilst at Dunmail we had the opportunity of descending into the Nuclear Shelter manned by the Observer Corps.

Many thanks to Sandra for her efforts and also to the rest of the leaders and all the back up team for transporting members and gear.

Barry Ayre.

There were also parties canoeing and rock -climbing, reports have not been received yet from their groups. But thanks must go to George and Pat Partridge for master minding the whole weekend.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES..... HUT REPORTS.

Bishopscale: The new Boiler in the kitchen has been fitted, and also almost new cookers by courtesy of Dave Udden. Radiators from the boiler are in the ladys wash area, the lounge and in the drying room. A de-humidifier is needed in the drying room. Coal is now in use for the lounge fire, and also for starting the boiler, coke should then be used. A slightly damaged water heater has been aquired for the family quarters. The tiling of the Chapel floor has been completed.

Tyn Twr: Ventilators have been fitted in the hut to alleviate the condensation problem, and the dampness at the hut is now drying out well. Fourteen members had attended the working weekend in February.

Dunmail: Thirteen Trees had blown down during a gale, and there are plans for these to be replaced. A large Calor Gas tank has been fitted and the gas heaters are in poor condition and need replacing. No progress had been made on the design of the new bunks.

Buckbarrow: Eleven Members attended the working weekend, when the Chimney was mended, various plastering and painting jobs were completed. The lounge fireplace has been fixed and the hut is being well-used.

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A property in Nether Wasdale came onto the market and two members of the management committee together with the new Club Solicitor Jim Cooper viewed it. But it was thought not worth pursuing, as restrictive covenants would make it difficult to obtain change of use for the property.

A recruitment campaign for young Catholic Members is planned. Posters have been printed and it is planned to write to all Catholic Sixth Form Colleges, Youth Groups etc.

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FOUND: A monocular. Please send details to Frank Whittle, c/o Buckbarrow Hut, Nether Wasdale, Gosforth, Seascale, Cumbria.

A reprint from ARCC Journal 1950. Reprinted without the
Author's permission. By G. Partridge.

Clogwyn Du'r Arddu or just 'Cloggy' as it is affectionately known to climbers had long fascinated me, but accounts of the exposure (and Cloggy exposure hits its high spot in superlatives), the severity of the routes themselves and the impossibility of escape other than up or down (the latter involuntary of course) had all tended to induce me to follow the policy of the cat in the adage. Well-meaning but tactless acquaintances used to look hard in my direction as they said that Cloggy was no place for the rock gymnast and that only the most experienced "mountaineers" should go there. One person however, by giving me a true and reasoned account of the chief difficulties involved did succeed in fanning to life the flame of my almost extinct ardour, but it was not until the beginning of October that I managed to find my way to the Hills again after a prolonged absence of at least three weeks. This lengthy separation from the mountains was due to the fact that I had now joined the ranks of the Nation's workers and fortunately had not yet accepted the theory of "labor ipse voluptas". I was lucky in obtaining the luxury of free travel to and from Llanberis by car. Over eggs, toast and tea in a local hostelry the proprietor informed us that a party had spent the night on Cloggy earlier in the week and we later learned that they had in fact been on Longlands. They had been benighted and had amused themselves through the long hours of darkness by singing! Next morning they had managed to finish the climb without any aid and seemed none the worse for their venture.

I retired to the Youth Hostel where I discovered my climbing companion Bob O'Mahoney who was making a close study of the Clogwyn du'r Arddu Guide Book. At an early hour we went to bed in order to obtain the maximum rest in preparation for the morrow praying hard for good weather. The Sunday dawned brightly enough but the sky was full of large, billowing and menacing clouds. Determined, however, not to be defeated without a struggle we agreed that the best policy was to get on to the climb and then let the weather do its worst. We rushed off up the railway and reached the cliff after only a short stay at the Halfway House.

Clogwyn du'r Arddu must surely possess the finest rock scenery in England or Wales. I doubt if it is as fine to look down from as is the face of Scafell, as it lacks the distant view of the blue sea and the purple islands and the vista of peak after peak to the north and east. Nevertheless, the immediate prospect of sheer walls and the black Llyn beneath one's heels has a charm which is peculiar to Clogwyn and seems to be reflected in the character of the climbs themselves, sombre and serious. We became very conscious of how small we were as we stood examining the walls of the East Buttress and the long tilting slabs of the West Buttress that seemed to soar up to the very heavens through the mist which was now hanging heavy and humid on the crags.

Longland's Climb begins up the Middle Rock immediately under the corner of the West Buttress. The first pitch is a 70' groove and on

Cloggy cont....

this day it was running with water which may have been the reason why I ignored it for so long. I spent some twenty minutes searching for a route on its left before finally attacking the groove itself. The pitch was quite easy but very wet so Bob decided to climb a wall on the left and he spent nearly 45 minutes forcing a way up the Middle Rock and much to my surprise he succeeded, solo! On later inspection it was discovered that he had climbed directly up the Middle Rock half-way between the Birthday Crack and the initial pitch of Longlands, the whole length being about 140 feet.

We now proceeded to the foot of the second pitch which is on the West Buttress. The original first ascent was begun at this point when T.L.Longland and F.S.Smythe had combined with A.S.Pigott, W.Eversden and Morley Wood. We ascended to the foot of the Faith and Friction Slab Section where there was a small stance and inserted chockstone. Morley Wood was the originator of the jammed chockstone technique and we wondered if this particular stone happened to be the original one inserted on the first ascent. Although it appeared quite sound I only put a running belay on it. Above this belay the wall impends and an awkward move is necessary ("The Difficult Step"), high on to a narrow ledge on the right. Faith and Friction Slab is now on the left and this leads to a constricted stance and a second inserted chockstone. In order to safeguard this stance a piton has been used by the pioneers. From above this pitch a section of about 140' leads to another impending wall and it is necessary to walk some 20' to the right before the wall is vulnerable. Even at this point the wall overhangs considerably for nearly 15ft and I found the first move most trying, requiring nothing short of a gymnastic leap affording me a momentum which enabled me to reach good holds. I might add in justification of my gymnastic performance that the pitch is well safeguarded by large belays. The final pitch was an easy 30 foot chimney and above this a scramble led to the summit of the cliff.

It was unfortunate that conditions were not conducive to dawdling for being naturally lazy, I enjoy basking in the warm sunshine after a climb, smoking the second's cigarettes. Even this latter moiety was denied me, for Bob does not smoke and so consequently did not have any cigarettes. Dank mist swirling in chilly gusts around us put an end to further regrets and we scrambled round the foot of the rocks to collect our boots and capes. As we made our way back to Llanberis with many a backward glance at Cloggy, we felt it a pity that such a fine cliff should go to waste (as far as we were concerned) while we were in some distant city earning enough money to visit once more the spot we were leaving.

George Partridge 1950. (Now Club Chairman).

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BULLETIN EDITOR : JOYCE FOSTER; 29, BRAESIDE CRES, BILLINGE, Nr.WIGAN.
PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, ARTICLES NEEDED BY AUGUST.