

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN NO 90.

SEPTEMBER 1983.

Dear Members ,

As is often the case, this is being typed in great haste, prior to my leaving for holiday. So please forgive the spelling mistakes, mis-prints etc.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

READ THIS EVEN IF YOU HAVE PAID THIS YEAR :

As stated in the last two bulletins due to the change in the Club's financial year the subscription due on the 1st April 1983 were £18. This covers the period 1st April 1983 to October 1st 1984, an eighteen month period due to the fact that at the AGM held April 1982 it was decided to hold the next AGM in October 1983 thus changing the financial year. A lot of members have failed to understand that you must pay this year. Membership cards are being checked at the huts sometimes, and if you do not hold a current membership card, you are not a member. In April 1983 it was possible to pay an interim fee of £6 to last until October 1983, when a further fee of £12 is due. This is your reminder personal, hand-written reminders will not be sent to you, so please send your subs now, to Nev Haigh, 752 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool and enclose a stamped addressed envelope. If you need further advice phone Nev on Blackpool. 54505. Hurry! Chucking out time is approaching!

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NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS FURTHER ON IN THIS
BULLETIN. NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE
SENT TO YOU. . . .

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TO COMMEMORATE OUR FOUNDER PRESIDENT'S RETIREMENT IN NOVEMBER THIS

year, His Lordship Bishop Pearson will celebrate Mass at Bishop's Scale on Saturday 17th September, at 11.30am. It is hoped that as many members as possible, particularly those associated with the early years of the Club, will join us in our celebration. The day is in a way a double celebration, for it is almost fifty years since His Lordship was ordained, on the 1st November, 1933.

It is I think appropriate to quote from an article by His Lordship

in the ARCC Journal Number 1, dated 1946.

"In the Autumn of 1940, I was taking a party of boys up Scafell Pike. As we were walking along Mickleden, just where Gimmer Crag towers like a Dolomite over the valley, John Schofield was listening with adolescent ardour to accounts of life in Alpine Refuges. In his innocence he asked why we did not have similar huts for the lads of the Catholic Boys Association. (now ARCC). When it was pointed out that such a project needed money he remarked that it had always been said that, 'In the bright lexicon of youth, there is no such word as 'fail'.

These facile phrases are apt to come back upon one and the challenge had to be accepted, especially as the motto of the C.B.A. was "Ad Altoriam" and should at least then lead to the hills."

How well that challenge was accepted. Join us on Saturday, 17th September at Bishopscale, Langdale at 11.30 am. Mass will be held outdoors given suitable weather, otherwise in the Chapel. Modest refreshment will be available in the hut.

If you know any former members, please convey a warm invitation to join us and our Founder President on the day.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Sep 30th. The next Bulk order from Frank Davies Climbing Shop, Ambleside will be collected early October, Sat 1st to be precise, the Sponsored Walk Saturday. The first order that I organised last year was for goods totalling almost £2,000, the one in March just over £800 and providing we top £800 again the same substantial discount will be allowed.

Please let me know exact details of goods that you require, by letter not telephone by September 30th. I then compile the list and take it to the shop myself, helping to extract the heap of goodies. If you require Boots or clothing, then go into the shop, get fitted and ask for the goods to be put on one side with your name on, for the Achille Ratti Bulk Order. You may not take goods from the shop, they must be collected from me later, and you pay on delivery.

It is sensible only to order goods which the shop normally stocks apart from tents and sleeping bags. Chris Benjamin and I did a little market research a couple of weeks ago, and have discovered that the prices at Frank's are already very competitive, so here is your chance to get your Christmas shopping early and also to buy yourself something, and to make a worthwhile saving. It goes without saying that the back-up service at Frank Davies is absolutely second to none. Please let me know as early as possible what you require, it does take a little time to sort it out, and we are the only Climbing Club allowed to take advantage of the Bulk Order Scheme, it is normally only Mountain Rescue Teams. Orders to Joyce Foster, 29, Braeside Crescent, Billing, Nr Wigan. 0744 894512.

Forthcoming Events Cont....17th Sep

Celebration Mass at Bishopscale 11.30am. And also Buckbarrow
Meet Weekend.

Sponsored Walk 1st October.

Helpers are required to man the checkpoints, mark the route etc.
Evening Meal provided for helpers on Sat Evening. Last year a total
of £1,882 was raised for the Lake District Churches.

8th October Tyn Twr Meet.

15th October Annual General Meeting in Preston, details next page.

16th October. Fell Race Langdale.

19th November. Club Dinner at the Waterhead Hotel, Waterhead,
Ambleside. Guest Speaker to be arranged. Tickets £8.50 available
from Barry Ayre, 4, Pinewood Ave, Bolton le Sands, Carnforth, Lancs
please enclose a S.A.E. Accommodation at the Hotel is £16.65, the
Manager is Ian Schofield and Tel no. 09663 2566. Guest houses at
Waterhead across the road. A coach will run from Langdale Hut at
a nominal Charge. The menu was chosen with impeccable taste by
Sandra Corbett and Joyce Foster and is; French Onion Soup, Roast
Saddle of Lamb with Rosemary and Port Sauce, two veg and two kinds
spuds; Lemon and Almond Meringue Pie; a selection of English Cheeses
Coffee and Chocolate Mints and then dancing. Reception 6.30 for 7.
Mass in Langdale will be early, time to be arranged.

20th November Club Orienteering Competition venue to be arranged.
Can you manage to wrest those cups from Dot Wood and her son Mike?

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A Report from Ben Carter on the Junior Meet Canoeing Section.

Fisherty Howe made an attractive back-drop to the sheltered
bay where canoes were launched and paddles dipped at first in
wild abandon, but later with increasing skill as patient instruction
began to bear fruit. The tyro canoeists included Robert Armstrong,
Damian and Aidan Baron, Helen and Sarah Carter, Rachel Cooper, Sophie
Farrell, Jill Pitchford and John-Jo McGonagle. There were also one
or two adventurous mums.

After lunch the party had a go at forcing their way up a minor
river, then set off on a major expedition round Windermere's north
end to Waterhead and back to base straight across the open water, a
terrifying distance to the watching parents, but all in a day's work
to the junior members.

Many thanks to Bernard Swan and Dave Hepworth for providing the
equipment and so enthusiastically and completely running this part of
the meet.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ARCC will be held on Saturday

October 15th at 2pm prompt at Marion House, Knights of St Columba Hall Preston. Marion House is quite easy to find, it is in Beech Street, off Tulketh Rd, Off, Blackpool Rd, Ashton, Preston. Members approaching from the North, East and South, leave the M6 at inter section 31. Fork right at the island at the top of the hill into Preston and follow ring road A5085 to A6 traffic lights. Cross these lights and still on Blackpool Rd, cross four sets of lights, at the fifth lights turn left onto Tulketh Rd and left again into Beech Gr. Marion House is on the left and the bar should be open.

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last AGM, held April 1982.
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 the Management Committee, please bear in mind that meetings are held approximately every two months either Friday evenings in Preston-Lancaster area, or on Sunday Mornings at Bishop's Scale. Those nominated should be prepared to work and to accept responsibility.

There are TWO vacancies, and nominations are invited for

Treasurer (Dave Ogden)

Ordinary Member (Jack Whiteside)

The names in brackets indicate the present occupants, who have done sterling work for several years and now deserve a well earned rest.

All Hut Wardens and the 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 are eligible to vote at the AGM.

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND and then drive to

Langdale for the fell-race on Sunday. Junior and Senior Races. Details to be announced later.

ANDREW BARBLIER'S BOB GRAHAM ROUND

In June 1982, Geoff and I completed a 24hr cycle marathon covering all the lakes and tarns which can be approached by road in the Lake District a distance of just over 200 miles. The idea of attempting the Bob Graham Round probably had been in our minds before then, but certainly afterwards it became a more serious proposition. I had helped Leo Pollard (1981) and Alan Heaton (1982) to establish their respective records on the Lakeland Waters Run, now held by Joss Naylor. I realised the importance of support teams and that maybe I could also do a long distance running event. On reading Roger Smith's article in 'Climber & Rambler' about his successful attempt and his booklet on the 'Round', I became more and more interested. By January, we had decided to have a go! Our basic training was to cover as many fell miles as possible before the proposed date. We both have a lot of mountaineering experience, especially in the Lake District, and so if we could get fit, we had a chance of being successful. The support team was mainly drawn from friends we both knew from Ullswater Outward Bound School and members of ARCC. The amount of preparation necessary was more than I had expected but everything came together on the day, which is what really matters.

We left the Moot Hall at 08.00hrs on 25th June, with Dave Parr (navigator) and Mike Lomas (carrying a lot of gear) and reached Honister (an anti-clockwise route) one hour up on schedule at 10.30. There were no problems, the weather was warm and thankfully cloudy after a very hot week, and mist on the tops; though clear enough not to upset navigation. Val my wife, and Gill Tonks were waiting at Honister in support along with Pete Surfleet navigator, and Dave Blanden to take us to Wasdale.

We had ten minutes welcome rest, eating and drinking, and then took a direct line up to Grey Knotts. Mike Lomas, who was still load carrying, decided to drop down to Wasdale from Great Gable as he felt he could not keep up with us. Pete and Dave took us to Wasdale with no mistakes and we arrived 1hr 15mins up on schedule, 14.35 hrs. The weather was still warm, visibility good for most of the way and haze hid the sun from us. There was also a cool breeze blowing. On Yewbarrow we luckily picked up a good scree slope which took us almost directly to the camp-site and then on to Brackenclose.

Our first set-back occurred at Wasdale. Mike McGovern our navigator and the only person in our team of helpers to have done the 'Round', had not arrived. He had been involved in the sailing Snowden to Ben Nevis Race, was becalmed and had no way of letting us know. Phil Michelewski, who had not reconnoitered the route, had to lead us on his own, a job that he did very well. Mike Lomas volunteered to help again and went direct with the gear to the summit of Scafell Pike to prepare a drink, whilst we went up Scafell. I had a bad patch here and felt that I was letting Geoff down as he disappeared ahead with Phil, who kept reassuring me that all was well. Nevertheless, we were on schedule for this climb and spirits lifted as we bombed down Broad Stand which was easy in the dry conditions. It was now sunny and clear with superb views. This was fortunate as it made the

ANDY'S BOB GRAHAM CONT.....

navigation much easier and we moved quickly, always within schedule over this dramatic Lake District scenery. At Stake Pass Wilf Charnley and Barry Ayre were waiting with tea and biscuits, very welcome and then to our amazement Barry suddenly stripped off his clothes and asked if he could help lead us over the last few miles to Dunmail. This took the strain off Phil and we moved steadily over the Langdales. I began to feel increasingly tired, especially when we were overtaken at Calf Crag by another group attempting the round. Earlier, on Scafell we had been overtaken by another group travelling much faster than us. On the summit of Steel Fell we glanced down to see lots of cars at the check point. It is really amazing how many people turn up to help on these occasions. At that time it felt almost overwhelming. Steel Fell is very steep, but again we found a scree slope which led us safely to the cars. Despite a couple of low points on this section we were still 1hr12mins up, (20.34hrs) Fred Rogerson, Chairman of the Bob Graham Club was at the checkpoint and I was thankful for his kind and warm words. I had never met him before, although he had helped with advice in planning our route up to Robinson on the first section. Now we had been going for just over 12 hours.

Having so many keen helpers gives the trip a great momentum, and we were soon on our way again with three more friends, Harold Edwards navigator, Paul Shorrocks and Alan Kenny. I felt OK going up Seat Sandal and again we were overtaken by the party we had encountered at Calf Crag. The weather was lovely, (21.30 on Seat Sandal), and we began to feel that we were in for the moonlit night that we had planned. Fairfield and Dollywagon went quickly, and for me it was helped by the chatting and encouragement of our team. On Helvellyn the tide turned, the mist came down, the wind got up, and suddenly we were onto a different ball-game. Helvellyn has been my stomping ground since my Ullswater O.B. Instructing days and I had been saying how much of a 'friend' it had become. I began to revise that opinion as we began to make small navigational errors. Once again, we were overtaken by that same party, when we were going back up Great Dodd by mistake! I got quite demoralised, tiredness and the weather were taking their toll. At last Threlkeld came into view we made our way to the cars at the foot of Hall's Fell Ridge. It was 02.40 hrs and we had lost an hour of our schedule since Helvellyn because of the poor conditions.

Sandra Corbett and Frank Whittle were cheerfully waiting for us to take us on to Keswick. We had five hours to get there and so we still had a chance. The strain of being a supporter is quite overwhelming, and we missed the track turn-off right at the start. Soon we were climbing the ridge and in mist, wind and rain we reached Blencathra summit. I began to feel tired again as we headed for Gt Calva. This area is rough going at the best of times and again we were overtaken by the 'other party', but the main factor on this section was another low point for me. I was thankful for

ANDY'S BOB GRAHAM Cont....

The constant encouragement from Frank and Sandra. Geoff decided to go ahead alone from Gt Calva, as only 2½hrs remained to get to Keswick. There had been an unwritten agreement all along that we both should not fail if one could succeed. The support team was such that we could have split earlier and had one supporter each. Anyway this gave me the boost I needed. If Geoff felt that I would fail, I was going to show him that I wouldn't. There is so much mental drive needed on this journey, to overcome the mental lethargy. All the way Geoff had forced the pace, keeping up the pressure, which I am sure had kept me going. He always seemed to have lots of energy in store. The combination of his drive and my attention to detailed planning, probably helped to ensure our success.

From Great Calva I became a new person. We kept to the schedule to Skiddaw. The weather was awful and I could hardly stand in the cold, strong wind. Brian Fanning his son Michael, and his son's friend Neil Johnston had waited for us here since 4am and it was now 6.30am. They were to take us down the best way to the Moot Hall. I had 1½hrs left to join 'The Club'. We quickly got off the summit and away from the wind, descending Jenkin' Hill. The view of Keswick was tremendous, and seeing Geoff way below spurred me on. We all ran the last few miles to the finish. It was a blur of friendly faces; Barry, Mike and Wilf had got up very early to see us in, and cameras clicked as we approached the Moot Hall. Fred Rogerson was there again, and there was even a round of applause. Geoff was ten minutes faster than me and was waiting to shake hands. His smile said everything.

So, it is over. My time was 23hrs 27mins. We have become members of The Bob Graham Club. I know I could not have done this without the marvellous support of all of our seventeen friends throughout the twenty-four hours, and in particular without Val. It had been an amazing experience and one to remember for a lifetime.

Andrew Barbier. July 1983.

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ARTICLES ARE NEEDED FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN DUE OUT IN DECEMBER. HOW ABOUT THE THREE PEAKS YACHT RACE AND TONY'S BEEN TO ALASKA? All articles are welcome please send news, information and articles to Joyce Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr. Wigan.

Useful addresses.

Secretary: Barry Ayre, 4, Pinewood Ave, Bolton le Sands, 1
Nr Carnforth. Tel: 0524 823656.

DOT'S ARTICLE

Twenty-one years ago, I stood at the foot of Cenotaph Corner and looked up. Two weeks ago I stood at the top, looking down at the route I'd dreamed of leading for twenty-one years.

The Corner soared up into the sky above me. The walls stretched out on either side. A moth frozen in time; gigantic grey wings, seemingly ready to fold in and engulf me at the first slip. I swallowed, not easy with a throat and mouth like sandpaper, and tried to appear confident as I stepped off the ledge and entered into the realm of verticality.

Dave looked as anxious as I felt. "Take it steady," he said "Just because you get to a hard bit don't back off, you'll be alright".

I nodded and hoped his confidence in me wasn't about to be shattered. The roar of the traffic receded, and the climbers on the adjacent walls faded into insignificance as I applied myself to the fulfilling of a twenty-one year old dream.

The first hard moves and I shook like a jelly; a tatty bit of nylon appeared by my nose and I quickly clipped into it. I stopped shaking only to start again immediately, as I realised that the tape was only wedged into the crack and was not attached to anything at all. The small nut I placed six inches higher calmed me, and the zonker I got in three foot higher, steadied me even more. I climbed more easily now as the angle seemed to lessen, and I even felt cheerful as the runners went in beautifully, one after the other. Then it got steep and hard again and . . . I had to talk to myself.

Dave shouted encouragement, and took another 'photo', I became aware of the other climbers on the surrounding walls. I must move before I became a permanent feature. One, two, three and there it was; The Niche complete with rusty peg. I clipped into it, but did not get the welcome rush of relief which which security usually brought.

"Have you got the peg, Dot?"

"Yes."

"Is it any good?"

"No."

"Can you get a runner next to it?"

"No."

"Are you alright?"

"No."

Voice from the right wall, "Don't worry love, its been there a long time."

I threw him a dirty look and muttered unprintable words, as I moved up quickly past the peg to have a look. The finger jams were excellent, but the jug looked a long way, away. I'd need a runner before I committed myself to that.

Dot's Article Cont....

I retreated to the Niche for a rest, and to sort out a nut runner for the thin crack above. I daren't stay too long and moved up again, bridging across the Niche to get a small nut in the finger jamming crack, before going for the jug. I growled and gritted my teeth when I reached the jug, and found it wasn't. Two seconds later I was standing on it with both hands wedged tightly in the crack above, not quite sure how I'd got there, and with five or six feet still to go to the top; not quite sure how I would leave it either, unless very suddenly, downwards.

I took a deep breath, and gingerly let go my deathlike grip of the crack with my left hand, and searched my belt for a runner. My hand closed on the first one it came to, and brought it back to the crack. It fitted. Now the hard part, getting enough rope through, to clip into it without upsetting my rather precarious balance. The relief flooded over me as I got the rope into the krab and knew that even if I did fall off, now I wouldn't go below the peg and have to do it all again. I moved up quickly as my strength was going fast. Off on every move, or so it felt. Then I was there, gasping for breath, heart pumping, as I collapsed in a heap on the belay ledge.

"Well done! Good lead! Nice route! Did you enjoy that?" The comments finally penetrated from all around, as my mind unfroze, and reality came back into focus.

I waived to Dave, waiting patiently at the bottom for me to pull myself together, and belay myself to the rock. This I did, and finally began to relax, as the realisation that I had actually done Cenotaph Corner got through to me.

Monday was better. I couldn't stop grinning!

Cenotaph Corner El. D. Wood.
D. Longthorn.
17.7.83.

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RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

A recruitment campaign, for young R.C. members has been set in motion, and will be ready for distribution to Youth Groups etc. in September. Special Membership Rates will apply for groups for one year. If you are connected with a group and would like further information please contact Derek Price, 10, Egerton Rd. Preston. Posters are available.

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NEWS FLASH Stu Merlin Evans is out and about once more, I am delighted to say. He is climbing well again but wearing some kind of special magic boots, hand made with Goretex uppers, which apparently compensate somewhat for his bad ankle/foot injury. There is no putting some folk down!!!

LONG WALK 1984

Next year the long walk will take place from Dunamail Hut. It is a long time since the Club did the Lakeland Three Peaks Walk, i.e. Helvellyn, Skiddaw, Scafell Pike, and this has been suggested. But it is a long way for ordinary, lesser mortals. Have you got a good idea for a Long Walk based at Dunmail? I'm sure you have. All suggestions please before Christmas to Joyce Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan and I will pass them on. You can include them in the same envelope as your ITEMS FOR THE BULLETIN.

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MORE useful addresses are.....

Subs Sec.... on the front page of the bulletin.

Langdale Hut Warden.

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

Buckbarrow

Frank Whittle, ARCC Buckbarrow, Nether Wasdale, Gosforth, Cumbria.
(No telephone No)

Tyn Twr

John Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan.
Dunsmuir

Dunmail

Tom Baron, Stavely Post Office, Staveley, Nr Kendal, Cumbria.
Chairman

Chairman

George Partridge, 16, Centurion Close, Meols, Wirral.
051 632 5963.

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Thanks to FR David Lannon and for printing and enveloping and posting the bulletins to you all. Also to Fr Byrne.

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EDITOR: Joyce Foster.