

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN No 93.

August 1984

Dear Members,

This is quite an important Bulletin, with lots of dates of forthcoming events and the notice of the Annual General Meeting. There will not be another bulletin before the AGM, so please make notes of the dates.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of ARCC will be held on Saturday October 20th at 2pm prompt at Marion House, Knights of St Columba Hall, Preston. Marion House is easy to find it is in Beech St, off Tulketh Rd, off Blackpool Rd, Ashton, Preston. Members approaching from the North, East and South, leave the M6 at intersection No31, fork right at the island at the top of the hill into Preston and follow ring road A5085 to the A6 traffic lights. Cross these lights and still on Blackpool Rd cross four sets of lights and at the fifth set 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 October, 1983.
2. Matters arising.
3. Presidents Report.
4. Chairmans Report.
5. Secretarys Report.
6. Treasurers 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 fourteen 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 on Friday evenings in the Preston area or at one of the huts, usually Bishopscale, at weekends. Those nominated should be prepared to work and to accept responsibility.

There are TWO vacancies, and nominations are invited for the positions of SECRETARY and ORDINARY MEMBER.

All Hut Wardens and the Bulletin Editor are appointed by the Management Committee for a period of three years, and 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.

IT IS YOUR CLUB.

MEMBERSHIP FEES AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

DUE on OCTOBER 1st.

To simplify the administration of subscriptions and membership applications, Nev Haigh the Subs Secretary will handle both aspects in future.

Annual Subscription

Full Member £12 Due October 1st.

Intermediate Youth Membership (age 17 - 21) £3 Due October 1st.
(This is a new fee introduced to encourage young members. Please notify Nev. of your date of birth).

The entry fee to the ARCC has been scrapped. New members in future will pay a proportion of the full sub. in their first year dependant on which month they join.eg: Jan 1st to Oct 1st.....£9
 Apr 1st to Oct 1st.....£6
 July 1st to Oct 1st.....£3

Members own children can be made junior members by paying a fee of £2, which covers a period up to the age of 17yrs.

This is extremely good value. Please notify Nev of each child's date of birth, when applying for your children.

Subs should be sent to Nev Haigh 752, Devonshire Rd, Blackpool. Tel: Blackpool 54505.

An up to date Membership List has been compiled and is displayed at each hut. Please carry your membership cards with you, especially now that we have some very welcome new young members. We still have the problem of people staying at the huts who are not members and are not guests. Please do not be offended if you are asked for your membership card, your name etc... it is difficult for a club the size of ours, for all members to know all the members.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE will not hesitate to suspend or expel any member for non payment of subs, a breach of club rules or anti-social behaviour at the huts.

Action has recently been taken to protect the interests of the Club and of other members.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

NEWS

1. Marriage Congratulations to Dave Fenna and Joan Rack and also to Jane Gilmour and her new husband. Joan was heard to say that at least she should get ARCC membership now, and Jane is setting up home in Malaysia.
2. The Annual ARCC Fell Race takes place on Sunday 23rd September, based at Bishopscale. Junior Race 11am. Senior Race 11.30am. Entries on the day.
3. The Langdale Fell Race: ARCC have been asked to help with the organisation and any volunteers should contact Leo Pollard at 2, Medway Close, Horwich, Nr Bolton. The date is Sunday Oct 14th. Ask Directory Enquiries for Tel.
4. The Bishop's Sponsored Walk will be on Sat 6th Oct, and will follow a new route through Grisedale Forest, starting and finishing at Hawkshead Village Hall. Many helpers will be required especially on the forest route, to prevent walkers from going astray. A meal will be provided at Bishopscale on Sat Evening for all helpers, and it will greatly help organisation of the walk if you would please phone Barry Ayre 0524 823656 to let us know that you will be helping. Fri night after the pub is really a bit late, but if you don't know till the last minute, then just turn up at the hut.
5. The Annual Dinner is on Sat Nov 11th at the Red Lion, Grasmere; speaker is Walt Unsworth, Editor of Climber and Rambler Magazine. Menu is: Leek and Almond Soup; Roast Duckling with honey and pineapple sauce, new potatoes, broccoli and carrots; Cherry and vanilla gateau; coffee with cream and mints. Tickets will cost the same as last year £8.50, a coach will run from Bishopscale, please book when ordering tickets. Mass in Langdale be early, and reception for the dinner is 6.30 for 7pm. Those who don't wish to join in the extra festivities at Bishopscale will find accommodation at The Red Lion, The Thistle Grove Guesthouse Tel. Grasmere 445 or at Bridge End Tel 358, or at other guesthouses of their choice. Tickets are available from Barry Ayre 4, Pinewood Ave, Bolton le Sands, Carnforth, Lancs. Cheques payable to ARCC and please enclose SAE, or your tickets may not be returned to you!
6. BULK ORDER. I have negotiated a bulk order once again with Frank Davies Climbing Shop in Ambleside. Members wishing to take advantage of this, please follow instructions carefully, so as not to make things so complicated I cannot unravel the orders.

During September, any items which you wish to try on may be put on one side at the shop and labelled ARCC Big Order and your name. Then you MUST send details of your order TO ME ... at 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan, Lancs. Tel 0744 894512.

Items which do NOT need fitting may be ordered directly with me, NOT WITH THE SHOP, then I make the list, go to the shop, collect all the items on one bill, pay with one cheque and then price and distribute everything. ARCC covers this usually very large cheque and early payment will be welcomed. It depends on the size of the order the amount of discount, and I am not allowed to print this in the bulletin. Orders can be sent to me during September, but no phoned orders until 17th Sep. (holidays) and collection day is Sponsored Walk Day 6th October.

REMEMBER YOU MAY NOT COLLECT ORDERS FROM THE SHOP YOURSELF
WE WILL LOSE THE DISCOUNT IF YOU DO. Franks after-sales service is top class.

NEWS cont....

7. Barry Rogers and aspiring member Tom Walkington have this season climbed 14 new routes on Buckbarrow Crag. In celebration of John Foster's half century and early retirement Baz and John 'put up' a severe and called it 'Zeke' (Johns dog). The other routes have names of local colour, Harriet, The Great Unwashed, the Runt, Old Strands etc.

Baz, Mick Lovatt and Tom have also 'put up' new extremes on Helm Crag Grasmere.

Tony Brindle photograph is a cente spread in Aug issue of C&R. Climbs of quality.

8. Get well wishes to Anne Grievson, who has celebrated her birthday by falling down Netherbeck path, reshaped her nose and broke her wrist.
9. BUCKBARROW GATE TO our little garden is still being left open by members, and marauding sheep get through the wall and into the bottom fields. At the big gate where fell sheep lounge waiting to snatch the chance of getting through whist you drive your car in; Margaret Gass says chase them off. If they do get in please play sheepdog, round them up and get them out. Please help Margaret and Bob, dont add to their work.

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OBITUARY - Mrs Angela Britt nee Farrell.

'He whom we love and lose is no longer where he was before. He is now wherever we are.' John Chrysestom.

Angela joined ARCC more than twenty years ago, and although she 'put up' no new routes, nor scaled any high mountain peaks, she unobtrusively helped and allowed many others to do so. When Terry Hickey was best man at John and Angela's wedding, he said, 'She endears herself to all members and everyone grew to love and respect her.' In the days before the advent of the Family Quarters, Angela was often in charge of twelve or so small children in the bottom dormitory, enabling their parents to go "up the hill". She livened up many a discussion around the fire, a listener at first, she would then put her view and proceed to demolish the argument of many sages, both young and old of the club.

The Bishop initiated ARCC for climbers, walkers and lovers of the Lakes, and it was in this last category that Angela firmly saw herself. On many occasions Dawn Durkin and I would go for a walk on our cherished 'Girls Weekend', and see no wildlife at all. Only to return and hear that Angela had seen squirrels, foxes and weasels, just while waiting to collect us. This last 'waiting to collect us', is indicative of her desire to help everyone, to fit in with everything and never to push her own needs to the forefront. Even though she lived in York, she attended every Club Dinner. she was able to, she was proud of the spirit of ARCC.

It is not only for the kindness, the caring, the support and especially the laughter that we will miss her. She was dependable, always available and we relied on her. Never wavering in her deeply felt Catholicism, she was a strong but gently caring person, whom we should all try to emulate.

Margaret Price.

TREES FOR DUNMAIL

We are currently considering a scheme for fairly extensive tree-planting at Dunmail. During the last two winters about twenty of the existing mature trees in the plantation have been blown down and the remainder have reached an age and size, such that root systems are inadequate to support the trees.

We think that some renewal and an extension of the planted area would improve the general appearance and environment of the hut and provide some shelter. However, as the new plantings will be a mere 2ft 6inches high, the proposal is very decidedly long term planning. Fencing will be essential to protect the young trees from sheep. Some larger individual trees (Rowans) will be incorporated, in particular in the walled area on the Grasmere side of the hut. If you have an interest in trees and feel you can offer advice or help (on trees), please contact any member of the management committee or George Partridge.16, Centurion Close, Meols, Wirral.

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MEMBERSHIP - PROPOSED CHANGE

At this year's AGM the Management Committee will be recommending to members, a change in Rule 6. This Rule reads:-

"Applications from non-Catholics may be considered at the discretion of the Management Committee within the region of 15% of the total membership, at the discretion of the Management Committee".

The recommended change is that Rule 6 read:-

"Applications from non-Catholics may be considered at the discretion of the Management Committee within a limit of 33% of the total of Ordinary and Life Members".

This proposal is the outcome of continuous debate within the Committee over the past year, it is the unanimous view of the Committee and has the full support of the Club's Founder President, Bishop Pearson.

The aim of the proposal is to enable the non-Catholic friends of both existing and potential members to join the Club, and we hope, contribute to its activities.

It may be that some active Catholic walkers/climbers reluctant to join a Club currently unable to accept their non-Catholic friends as Members, may be encouraged to seek Membership

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REPORT ON DUNMAIL LONG WALK 1984

Thirty members took part in this years event, an arduous 27 mile route with 11,300 ft of climbing, devised by George Partridge to include some Wainwright's Eastern and Far Eastern Fells.

I walked with Pete Durkin and we completed the round in 11 hours, in contrast to Alan Kenny, one of the runners who got round in $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

After a hearty breakfast we set off at 5.50 hrs and headed for Raise Beck and the ascent of Seat Sandal. The grass still had a touch of frost on it, and the small stretches of water a thin coating of ice. The view from the top was breathtaking, the sun coming up in the east and lighting up the Coniston Fells, the Scafell Range and Great Gable. We scurried down to Grizedale Hause after passing John Braybrook, Sydney de Cruz, Dave and Sue Smith and caught up with Cyril Hodgson and Gerry Slavin on the eroded ascent to Fairfield Summit. The route to Red Screes was new territory to most, but quite straightforward by following the former county boundary fence to Scandale Pass and ascend Red Screes by the wall. The path down to Kirkstone via Kilnshaw Chimney can be a daunting experience descending the craggy East Face, but we got it right first time and were soon down at the breakfast stop set up by John Foster and Chris Potter and assisted by Pat Partridge and Liz Swan.

The route continued via John Bell's Banner and Stoney Cove Pike before descending to Threshthwaite Mouth and on to Thornthwaite Crag. We were fully expecting the runners to come into sight, but making good progress ourselves we ran along the Roman Road to High Street. By this time, Paul Conney the first of the runners to start, caught us up, and we followed him taking in Kidsty Pike, not strictly on the route but new ground to me; then on to High Raise and the gradual descent to Angle Tarn, much prettier than its namesake below Esk Hause. Four more runners passed us here. Alan Kenny ready to make the break from the pack, hence the $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours. In Patterdale we bought an ice-cream and headed for Glenridding Chapel, where our Founder President Bishop Pearson greeted each walker and Fr Frank Hughes was on hand to back up the team with refreshments.

Pete and I pushed on up Glenridding, we still hadn't seen Derek Price and Mick Pooler who should have passed us. It later transpired that they had gone astray at Thornthwaite Beacon, and headed for Mardale Ill Bell in perfect daylight conditions.

We missed the path up to Sticks Pass, my fault due to a misunderstanding of George's suggested route, and scrambled up a slippery slope to reach the skyline and then Helvellyn, and still no sign of the backmarkers. The last lap was straightforward, Nethermost Pike, Dollywagon, Grizedale Tarn, Raise Beck and Dunmail Hut. Perfect weather all day and a time of 11 hours. Everyone got round, bar 2 although some and in particular Gerry Slavin looked rather pale at the finish.

Tom, Rita and Crew served up a super meal in true Dunmail style. I had letters from members in the south who had participated, thanking the organisers for a superb event and looking forward to 1985.

Barry Ayre.

" To accomplish great things,
we must not only act, but also dream;
not only plan, but also believe."

REFLECTIONS by TONY BRINDLE.

'Mount McKinley' had been a dream of mine for four years. In 1980 I made the first stage of my journey to its summit. Alas, my plans on this occasion were thwarted, and in retrospect I see this as a blessing in disguise.

After ten months in the States I go to the Alps and have an incredible season that sees me half way up the Eiger Nordwand, and forces to retreat; the same on The Jorasses, The Drus; you name it, I abseiled it! I took to running in the prevailing sleet and reached a personal fitness peak, the success, a solo of The North Face of the Plan Direct, in three and a half hours. The following morning disaster, I lie in frustrated pain on a glacier with a leg broken in far too many places. Alaska was fading from my dreams.

I was back to running four months later (ARCC Long Walk), working at the YMCA National Centre Lakeside, and it was here that my Alaskan plans were re-kindled. The rest of 1982 was spent bringing my equipment up to scratch and then in 1983 - April, I finally arrived in Anchorage, Alaska.

At this time of year Alaska is still in the grip of winter, rather than car-parks, I witnessed aeroplane-parks, some had runways others had frozen lakes. It was quite a sight to watch all the wee aircraft landing to dispatch their owners on shopping trips or similar errands. Anchorage is similar to many American cities and so as little time as possible was spent here. Food had to be purchased and six weeks of 'freeze-dried' is a considerable bulk.

From Anchorage a twice weekly train runs through Talkeetna and beyond. Talkeetna was my destination and the journey was breathtaking if slow. The train stops once in a while and what look like hunters and trappers from a 'John Wayne' movie disembark to the wilderness. From Talkeetna it is a one hundred mile flight in a small Cessna aircraft which lands just outside the National Park boundary at 7,000ft on the Kahiltna Glacier.

For me, stepping out of that aircraft and watching it fly away fulfilled my ambition - the summit would be nice, but the mountain arena that I now found myself part of, goes beyond description. My plans were simple, the expedition was split into two halves. The first three weeks were to be spent with Tom Redfern (from the YMCA), and afterwards I had three more weeks to either ski around taking photographs, or to attempt McKinley solo, if Tom and I hadn't already made the top.

The weather prevented any serious attempt initially, and the two of us made short forays on ski up side glaciers and then moved over to the Great Ruth Gorge area. Imagine Yosemite Valley during the pleistocene age, and you have this awe-inspiring, isolated mountain world. After six or seven days here Tom flew out on the first stage of his mammoth journey home, and I was left to my own devices.

My first real climbing was the West Face of a minor peak called Mount Barrille. This was about as steep as the Swiss Route on Les Courtes, but one thousand feet shorter. At five o'clock one morning I stood on its top. probably the first Brit to have done so, and viewed the incredible tapestry before me. To one side the Ruth Gorge, its flat glacial base imprisoned by

Alaska cont....

towering rock walls of glistening granite; in another direction Mount Silver throne, a triple peak that shimmers in the glaring light of the sun and one that can be traversed by ski from a base in the gorge. Then, the star attraction, the 'big daddy' of the mountain pack, Mount McKinley standing out proudly over thirty miles away.

I returned to the McKinley base on the Kahiltna Glacier and began the sixteen mile journey to its top. Travel was by ski, carrying such as sleeping bag duvet, karrimats and spare gloves and hats in a rucksack on ones back whilst at the same time, towing a sleigh containing all the heavy equipment; Food, fuel, stoves tent, shovels and climbing gear. For a solo trip it is necessary to carry a great many spares, the loss of a stove in this environment could prove fatal. Many people come to grief on this particular mountain so I learned to study my own actions very closely.

I had learnt during my first few weeks that it was necessary to move around even during comparative white-out conditions if one was to make any progress on McKinley. Often the weather is beautiful high up the mountain whilst down below all hell is breaking loose. So, during my first week I moved every day, gradually gaining height. At the 14,000ft camp I finally got some good weather, but not before a massive storm had passed over. This brought with it winds of 100mph plus, with gusts above 150mph. That particular day I spent nine hours fighting to keep my tent, sometimes being picked up and thrown long distances by a wind that had little respect for my nine stone frame.

Two days after this storm I made a trip to 17,000ft digging a hole and leaving seven days food and fuel before returning to 14,000ft for the night. This section of the route was like the Aonach Eagach Ridge, unbelievable, I didn't seem to be feeling the altitude and the headwall I had worried about was only Scottish Grade 2 and at a very reasonable angle. After a rest day I returned to the food dump and slept in an igloo, just hours away from the summit. I could now think about attaining my goal, I hadn't ever doubted that I would get there, but mountains have a habit of having the last word, so as I fell asleep it was a far from relaxed me, rather than the normally confident machine.

I shall never forget the following day. After breakfast, which was the same menu as for the past four weeks, I poured litre after litre of fluid down my throat until like a landed whale, I waddled off on my summit bid. Five and a half hours later I exchanged cameras with two Americans I had caught up with on the summit ridge. They looked absolutely shattered though obviously very happy. My own feelings were difficult to analyse. I spent about twenty minutes on the summit, or near it. I was unbelievably happy at having achieved something that was precious to me, and yet, now that I was there my mind would soon have to adjust to the world beyond the mountains. I wrote a few sentiments in the summit ice and headed down. One hour later I was back at my igloo, and not much later back to 14,000ft where I dug up and re-pitched my tent. The weather was turning foul and I would have to move fast to avoid being stuck at this camp for many days.

The next day as I collected my skis from where I had left them at 11,400ft there was four and a half feet of fresh powder. I broke trail for everyone else that was trying to get off the mountain. With no markers visible I skied blindly to a compass bearing and it was with some relief that I finally skied out of the storm five miles later, followed by almost two dozen other climbers who had been following like sheep, none of them checking where they were being led; good job I was going the same place.

So what about the route then? It is a serious undertaking, in so far as it

Alaska cont....

is a very big mountain and the distances covered are vast. The climbing is never technically demanding, but, like the Bosses Ridge on Mont Blanc, it is very absorbing and even more enjoyable. The summit at 20,320ft is a true summit, one step further and one would fall thousands of feet down the South Face - beautiful.

It was worth everybit of effort to attain, even the months of work afterwards to finish paying for the privelege. So if any of you are planning to visit the area, get in touch as I would be only too pleased to pass on some of the knowledge I gleaned from my Alaskan experience. . . .

. Now for the Himalaya

Editors note: Tony is now in the Himalaya, before returning to College in Sep. I have his address should anyone wish to contact him;

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A MIDI WALK ? by John Foster.

Some years ago descending from the south ridge of Moel Siabod towards Pen-y-Gwryd, the thought of continuing along the high ground east of Nant Gwynnant was very appealing. We had already incurred a walk of some miles along the road back to the car at Capel Curig, and to have carried on would have more than doubled this.

Subsequently on two or three occasions, similar thoughts of continuing north whist traversing Cnicht have been just as attractive. It would make a fine walk to link both these routes together, but needs someone to drop you at the start and collect you at the finish. An alternative is for two parties to exchange car keys at the midpoint. In good visibility this should be no problem, so I hope that at the Welsh October Meet(13th Oct) there will be teams anxious to try the walk from Capel Curig to Croesor or vice versa.

But if the attendance is as poor as at this years Spring Meets at Tyn Twr and Buckbarrow then a couple of motor-bikes will be adequate transport.

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PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN TO THE EDITOR,
Joyce Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan. 0744 894512
Langdale Hut Warden Alan Kenny, 27, Rochester Rd, Morecambe 0524 414615
Tyn Twr " " John Foster, 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr Wigan.
Buckbarrow " " Frank Whittle, Old Strands, Nether Wasdale, Seascale.
Wasdale 265.

Subs Sec. Nev Haigh see Page 2. Secretary Barry Ayre see Page 3 Item 5.

Please send news, information
and articles.....

CROSS - COUNTRY SKIING provides a logical extension to hill-walking when the hills are snow-covered. A large proportion of the Club's members live within a short distance of areas that provide excellent opportunities for X-C skiing. Both sides of the Pennines, the Trough of Bowland and similar areas could be open to you to explore if, and when, snow comes. Cross country skiing is a natural snow progression for fellwalkers and runners. As soon as you put on skis you can move very easily over gentle terrain and add a fresh enjoyment to winter travel. With experience and improved technique you can progress to the more undulating and interesting terrain. For winter climbing it can offer a different and faster approach to the remoter winter routes. If you are a runner you may even be tempted to try X-C racing.

Excellent terrain for X-C is accessible from all the huts given good snow, however do not rush off to the highest and longest ridges for your first efforts. In typical British weather conditions hill summits and ridges are frequently swept bare by the wind. Often the better snow is to be found on the lee sides and in the higher valleys. Forestry Commission areas can be quite excellent as the forest roads provide a uniform base and are relatively gently graded. Grizedale and Whinlatter in the Lakes and Moel Famau and Clocaenog in Wales are typical examples. You can probably think of many suitable areas around or close to your home ground. At Lyn Brenig, North Wales, three X-C trails will be opened this winter (further details are available from me).

If you are interested complete and return the reply slip. If there is any response I will try to arrange a Meet, probably at Bishopscale to discuss X-C, show some equipment and if there is any snow, do some skiing. From there we may find "Snow Correspondents" who could arrange outings in their own areas when suitable conditions occur.

I will try to co-ordinate and circulate names and addresses, tel nos etc...

George Partridge.

(We have several ski-mountaineers lurking amongst the membership, please also complete the form)

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