

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

BULLETIN No 96.

APRIL 1985.

Dear Members,

Bulletin is late as usual. So please fill in the booking form on the back page and send it off as soon as possible.

News . . . News . . . News . . .

1. Margaret Price has won a Churchill Foundation Scholarship to the States, she goes in the autumn to study facilities for the mantally handicapped.
2. Chris and Ann Farrell have just gone to San Diego University for four months. Chris has won an exchange visit, and they will be home at the end of the summer.
3. Keep watching Granada/ITV for news of the Unclimbed Ridge of Everest Expedition, of which Tony Brindle is a member. He has been seen on the telly several times prior to departure, he has his own Blue Peter badge, and for those who don't know him by sight, he is the little bloke with brown, floppy hair and a big grin.
4. Cumbria Police have informed us that if you are going out walking alone, they would like us to leave a note of where our route is inteded to be. They recently wasted time searching for someone who was late back, and people sharing the same hut had no idea where he had gone. Not our hut, I hasten to add.
5. Since Christmas, thirty-eight new graduate members have joined our Club. So it is expected that the huts will be busier than of late with folk getting all their walks and routes done prior to their application for full membership.
6. The weekend of 8/9th June will see Jim Harding and Alan Kenny on their attempt at the Bob Graham Round. 42 Lake District Tops, 72 miles and 27,000' of ascent/descent. Best wishes go with them.
7. Mike Short was again victorious in the Mount Cameroun Race. He broke his own record of the previous year; 13,350ft, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometres, in three hours 56 mins 17 secs. 331 competitors took part.
8. Tyn Twr and Bishopscafe are in need of new furniture. Anyone who has easy chairs, settees, fridges that they wish to be rid of please ring Joyce Foster 0744 894512. Small table also needed.
10. Point North of Cemaes Bay, Anglesey have sent me a list of outdoor materials and accessories which they stock. It seems to be pretty comprehensive for all outdoor equipment for clothing and tentage, sails, buckles, zips etc. Worth remebering.
11. The Countryside Commission have printed half a million plastic cards with an 'access charter' giving a summary of the law relating to rights of way. A booklet with details of the law of trespass, how to deal with obstructed footpaths and similar advice has been published simultaneously. Three Government Ministers attended a reception to launch the charter, which is available in English and Welsh. A similar code for Scotland where laws are different is not yet ready. The cards and booklets are available free from the commission at 19/23, Albert Rd, Manchester M19 2EQ.

STOP PRESS: BUCKBARROW CLOSED FOR 1 week 11.5.85 - .8.5.85. Also 7/8 June.

CHARNLEY CRAG

Two years ago Police Sergeant Gerry Charnley, ARCC member and brother of Wilf Charnley, fell to his death on Helvellyn whist trying to reach his dog.

Gerry who held the Queens Police Medal was in charge of cadet + training at the Lancashire Police Headquarters and he was highly regarded in a wider circle of orienteers and mountaineers. The first orienteering event in England was arranged by Gerry with Ken Turner of Lancaster, at Whitwell in Bowland 22 years ago. He also helped with the first English ski-orienteering event on Wild Boar Fell in the Howgills in 1979. He devised and organised the Karrimor International Marathon.

An orienteering memorial in the form of a permanent course at Tockholes near Darwen, can be used by anyone at anytime, was opened in October last year, in pouring rain: which would have amused him, and is managed by Pendle Forest Orienteers.

Now over the area he loved to climb and walk, some long distance routes have been planned in Central Lakeland to intersect near Esk Pike. It was there that Gerry's ashes were placed under an unmarked cairn on a day of high wind, mist and sleet. Father Bernard Woods of Whitehaven dedicated a crag to his memory as sunshine sparkled the snow briefly and clouds drifted across surrounding hills in a biting cold wind.

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TIGNES - 1985.

Fourteen members and friends enjoyed super sun, snow and skiing for one or two weeks in March. Skiing ability and age of the party members varied very considerably and even though the close confinement of the self catering accommodation caused us to know each other a little better than we had done previously, an excellent holiday was enjoyed by nearly all. Thankyou Christine Benjamin for arranging it all for us, and best wishes in your new decade.

Where shall we go next year? Please let us know if you would like to come with us. The more the merrier and cheap seats too.

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Scotland Feb 1985

Six members went to stay at the BMC hut at North Ballahulish. The weather wasn't good, warm and damp and no ice-climbing was possible. Bidean nam Bian, Anoch Mor, the Ben Vair Horseshoe were done as well as some valley walks on the bad days. Fr. McNeil at GlenFinnan provided a welcome dram, tea and cake on one of the bad days.

As soon as the team returned home, the weather went cold again.

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What am I doing here? by Angela Soper

Many a time have I stood on some precipitous wall wondering how to continue and thinking in detachment, 'What am I doing here?'. Climbing isn't like that now; I can see what to do and am usually enjoying myself. Wouldn't you think a person would be happy with that and just carry on climbing? But no; this silly creature gets distracted by Fell Running. So I find myself in places like the lorry park at Marsden, the playing field at Horton, or the ODG in pouring rain, surrounded by fearsome athletes waiting for the race to start. And the old theme recurs; 'What am I doing here?'.

Climbing and fell-running don't go well together. What's to be done when a women's meet in Wales coincides with a championship race over Bleaklow, my home ground? No choice - I have to fit both in.

Amazingly, on the Saturday afternoon Vector is free, so with considerable 'butterflies', I set foot on that famous classic which has always eluded me. My partner has led it before and as I solve the first problem she mentions, 'I found that as hard as any move on the climb', and follows this with similar helpful remarks. Thus encouraged, I get the sequence right and all goes well. For once I know what I'm doing there - climbing a beautiful, elegant route that I've always wanted to and really enjoying it. Afterwards, I'm as high as high can be.

Next morning I set out in the race feeling, for a change, that a person who led Vector can do anything. Along the track I see some Dark Peak Ladies in the column of runners ahead and I think, 'I'll get 'em on the hill'. By the trig point on Higher Shelf Stones I'm level with the first two girls but I cut through a grough to Bleaklow Head and they don't see me. I rush off as planned, reversing the Marsden-Edale Trog, using little cairns as a guide. Soon I'm sliding down soft peat into the Crowden Valley to get a big cheer at the Old Mill for being first lady. After the dam, the men's and ladies' routes diverge so I know the feeling of being out in front - and it isn't pleasant. I should be following the Pennine Way and this is wrong, its taking me back to Crowden. Precious minutes are lost while I correct the mistake.

Back on route, I re-cross the reservoirs and am sipping orange at the next checkpoint when I notice two young lasses on the second dam. I hold my own up Torside but the stronger girl challenges on the level ground at the top and she's first through the penultimate check. But I have a secret weapon (Achille Ratti, help), a drop of Vector-adrenalin left, and a plan. The last checkpoint is on another ridge and thanks to a recce I know exactly where. Can I gain enough on the last bit of fell to hold off the faster runner on the road?

So I turn diagonally as the flying figure in front disappears into a quarry and head down some tufty grass, over a wall, into the valley where it isn't rocky. I jump the stream and contour to the last checkpoint, where they say I'm in the lead. Along the road I rush, not daring to look round. But she doesn't come and I burst into the park to take full championship points. And suddenly, for the second time in twenty-four hours (it's almost too much to cope with) I know an answer to that persistent question, 'What am I doing here?'.

This article was a direct reply to my stating in the last bulletin that Angela was a past contributor. Thanks Angela!

Whats it all about?

During the past few years I have listened, amused, to many an argument concerning the grading of rock climbs. The participants have always been the same, one has been young, sober and tolerant: the other older drunk and seemingly incapable of understanding anything about the system that is in common usage in this country. (Even in Yorkshire).

At present we have a two-tier system. there is an overall grade covering the protection, seriousness, looseness etcetera of a given climb. Then we have a technical grade. This ignores everything except the technical difficulty to be encountered on a climb.

So if a route is graded E1,5C and another is given E4 5C then the former is technically as hard as the latter, but not at all serious in comparison.

The only aspect of climbing not covered by this system is the trend at present to routes that are very, very sustained, or extremely strenuous and can only be segregated in the overall route description. At present this doesn't happen and it is now possible to be climbing E5's without actually facing a serious climb, just a highly sustained technical problem or super strenuous route, but well protected.

Clearly something will need to happen in the near future, possibly a scrapping of the present system, and a return to the old, but with a fuller individual route introduction.

For all you old 'tigers' then, a quick comparison of the old with the present, (as I see it).

Old	MVS	VS	HVS	MXS	XS	HXS.
Present..	MVS.	VS	HVS	HVS(5b)	E2E3	E4E5
	(4b)	(4B4c)	(4c5a)	E1(5b5c)	(5b6b)	(5c6b)

I have not included modern routes because in my opinion, routes that you can fall off of all day are hardly serious no matter how strenuous or technical they may be; mind you they are good fun!

Tony Binoli.

Letters please to the editor for the next bulletin.

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Thankyou to people who have sent me articles recently, I still need more. Please put pen to paper, the membership used to be considerably more literate and then send the resulting words to Joyce Foster, at 29, Braeside Cres, Billinge, Nr. Wigan. 0744 894512. Mon - Thurs.615pm

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Stop Press: Langdale Hut Warden Alan Kenny recently announced his engagement to Miss Clare Sutton. There is to be an autumn wedding, and they expect their future home to be in Garstang. Clare prefers a bike to an engagement ring, and Alan is looking for a second hand bike. Any offers to A Kenny, 17, Rochester Ave, Morecambe Tel: 0524 414615.

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Caravans to let on Skye. Croft site by Loch Sligachan, very reasonable terms, only a few weeks remaining. John T Foster, 13, Sconser, Portree Isle of Skye. S.A.E.

The Long Walk 1985.

11th May, 1985.

This will be the fourth time that the WELSH FOURTEEN PEAKS have been on the Achille Ratti menu. To some, it will be giving indigestion by now(I have retired from tramping all Long Walks myself), but what else can compare with it?

For those who are new to this form of self flagellation, the distance is 28 miles with 11,000ft of ascent. Many old hands consider it the toughest of all our Long Walks, with corresponding satisfaction on its completion. For this epic we need all the hours of daylight available, so dawn is the start time.

Breakfast 03.00hrs Leave Tyn Twr 03.30hrs. Pen y Pass 4.00 approx.

Second breakfast at Pant y Fron the Vagabonds Hut in Nant Peris, 07.00 onwards. Then Elidir Fawr, Y Garn, the Glyders, Tryfan and then the next butty stop in the main car park by Llyn Ogwen. This is halfway and with two-thirds of the ascent behind, deadline for departure is 15.00. We don't want folk wandering the Carneddau massif after the pubs have shut. Pen yr Oleuwen, Carnedd Dafydd & Llywelyn, Yr Elen and Foel Grach, with Tom's Teastall in the refuge. Foel Fras seems almost an afterthought. Descending towards Gerlan do not follow Afon Caseg, too rough and wet. There is a good track a couple of hundred yards to the west.

Everyone entering must book by the end of April, or as soon as you receive this bulletin. The support team is already organised. The cost is £7 inclusive of hut fees, food from Fri Supper to Sunday breakfast, and petrol to Pen y Pass. Send your cheque payable to ARCC to the address on the booking slip.

GUESTS. You may bring a guest if there is room, but members have priority. Do not pay for guests when booking, fill in guests names and a telephone number where you may be contacted, on the booking slip. Pay for guests if they are accepted on arrival at the hut. There will be no room for people to sleep on the floor.

Please provide for yourselves any pet stamina, go faster foods that you will require.

LONG WALK. WELSH FOURTEEN PEAKS 11th May 1985.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

GUESTS NAME:

ADDRESS:

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO ARCC.

(Do not pay for guests when booking, pay on arrival at hut).
SEND CHEQUE AND BOOKING FORM TO : Joyce Foster (Long Walk),

29, Braeside Cres, Billinge Nr Wigan, Lancs. '0744894512. John will be back from Skye for a week prior to the walk to arrange things.