



1988
1st MAY - 31st OCT.

KESWICK - PENRITH

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

KESWICK (Moot)	13.15	Penrith Rly. Stn.	* 13.50
PENRITH Rly. Stn.	13.40	KESWICK (Moot)	14.15

* Non stop service connecting with trains to and from South
* Bus can run up to 20 minutes late if train from London is delayed
(The timings of this service will change to suit B.R. Timetable if necessary)



1988
1st MAY - 31st OCT.

KESWICK BUTTERMERE - BORROWDALE

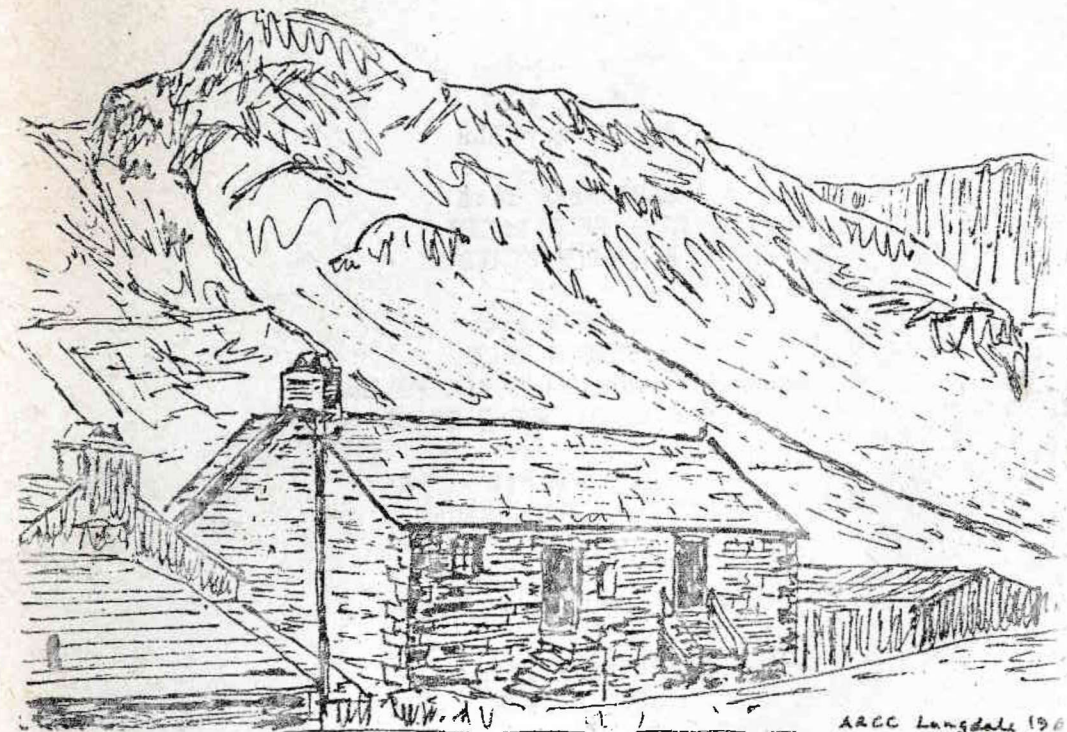
DAILY

KESWICK (Moot)	10.00	15.20
BRAITHWAITE	10.05	15.25
KESKADALE	10.20	15.40
BUTTERMERE	10.30	15.50
GATESGARTH	10.37	15.57
HONISTER	10.45	16.05
SEATOLLER	* 10.50	* 16.10
N.Su.		
SEATOLLER	9.00	* 11.00 * 16.20
HONISTER	9.05	11.05 16.25
GATESGARTH	9.12	11.12 16.32
BUTTERMERE	9.25	11.25 16.45
KESKADALE	9.35	11.35 16.55
BRAITHWAITE	9.50	11.50 17.05
KESWICK (Moot)	9.55	11.55 17.10

* Connects with 'The Borrowdale Bus'
to and from Keswick
N.Su. - Not Sunday
Hail and Ride except between Keswick and
Braithwaite

NO SMOKING PLEASE

ACHILLI RATTI CLIMBING CLUB



NEWSLETTER JUNE 1988

EDITOR'S IN-TRAY

Can't hang around as I am preparing for a cycling trip to the Scottish Isles. I would like to draw your attention to the Bethesda situation. Every individual club member can assist in saving Tyn Twr by writing to the Highways Directorate objecting to the detailed route proposal. An example text is provided BUT PLEASE USE YOUR OWN STYLE SO AS TO AVOID IDENTICAL OBJECTIONS.

I/We object to the detailed route proposed for the Bethesda (A5) by-pass which would require the destruction of the property of the Achilli Ratti Climbing Club at Pont Twr. The building is of unusual interest and part of the local heritage, featured in the text "Upland Britain" (Millward and Robinson, published by David Charles Ltd). A minor amendment to the routes proposed would avoid the property.

If you have any other points or objections, do state them.

BETHESDA BY-PASS

The Welsh Office have published plans of a proposed by-pass for Bethesda. I attended the exhibition held in the village on March 8th-9th to show the two routes considered most feasible. Both routes could seriously affect Tyn Twr and may require the Club to seek new premises.

Details of both routes are posted at Tyn Twr and Bishop's Scale and you can obtain your own copy of the proposals by writing to the Welsh Office, Director of Highways, Government Buildings, Ty Glas Road, Cardiff CF4 5PL.

The next stage is for the Secretary of State to decide upon a preferred route. This will be followed by the publication of statutory orders and objections will be invited and if necessary a Public Inquiry will be held. My guess is that construction is unlikely to start before 1991-2.

So do not panic! There is still time to get some days in at the hut. If the bypass goes ahead, and certainly the village urgently requires some relief from traffic,

CLUB EVENTS FOR 1988

JULY 2nd-3rd
JUNIOR MEET
BISHOP'S SCALE

SEPTEMBER 18th
CLUB FELL RACES
BISHOP'S SCALE

OCTOBER 1st
BISHOP'S WALK
HAWKSHEAD AND GRISEDALE FOREST
DINNER AT BISHOP'S SCALE

OCTOBER 8th
LANGDALE FELL RACE

NOVEMBER 12th
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 19th
CLUB DINNER

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATES
OF THE LAST TWO ITEMS
HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

there could be a Club Project for the 1990s. How about a new Tyn Twr with an indoor climbing wall?

George Partridge

P.S. Thanks to Jim Cooper for his advice and assistance to the Club regarding this matter.

ORGANISED MEETS

The Management Committee are pleased to see a renewed interest in organised meets. To encourage this, the Club is prepared to lend support by advancing a loan to Meet Leaders to cover deposits on Hut bookings.

Meets should of course be organised on a break-even basis. However in exceptional circumstances, the Management Committee will consider, on application, under-writing losses.

Meets must be advertised in the Club Newsletter to qualify for Club support.

CLUB CALENDER

Your attention is drawn to the following amendments to the Club Calender:

November 12th Annual General Meeting

November 19th Club Dinner

Please use the Calender in this Newsletter and discard the previous issue.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Pat Maley and his wife on the birth of a baby daughter.

To Paul and Sue Cooney on their wedding, and to Tony Brown who has recently married.

DUTY WARDENS

Club Members wishing to act as Hut Wardens at the BMC Glen Brittle Hut are required for March - October 1988, for between 2 and 4 weeks duration, with some expenses paid. Contact John Foster for more details.

NEW BUSINESS

Two club members have recently set up businesses related to the mountains.

TONY BRINDLE - BARE ESSENTIALS operates guided mountaineering expeditions:
June Kenya Ice Climbing
July/August Karakorum Trekking
Sept/Oct Yosemite Climbing
He also offers slide shows and lectures. Telephone (0448) 31742 for details.

BRIAN FANNING - FELL BUS now operates a fell bus service. Timetable details are printed on the back cover.

Best wishes for your continued success!

HOSPITAL CALL

Ernie Morrissey is now recovering after a six week stay in hospital. Hope to see you soon at the Langdale Hut!

WALKING IN GREECE

Having observed for some time the increasing number of bald pates in the vicinity of Bishop's Scale, there seemed to me to be need for a geriatric section as well as a Junior Meet. The following account is of journeys well within the capabilities of semi mobile pensioners with a desire to break new ground.

The PINDOS MOUNTAINS occupy most of western Greece from the Gulf of Corinth to the Albanian Border. The northern section is largely limestone with some very spectacular gorges; the most notable being the Ahoos and the Vikos. In recent years one or two tour companies have arranged walking tours based on Yanina, the capital of the north west province of Epirus and situated on a lake in the Pindos.

The itineraries vary slightly but the basic tour starts with a 30km taxi ride to the village of Aristi, then a 2000' descent and ascent into and out of the Vikos Gorge with its stupendous limestone walls and a river which all but disappears in summer but was barely fordable in May '86.

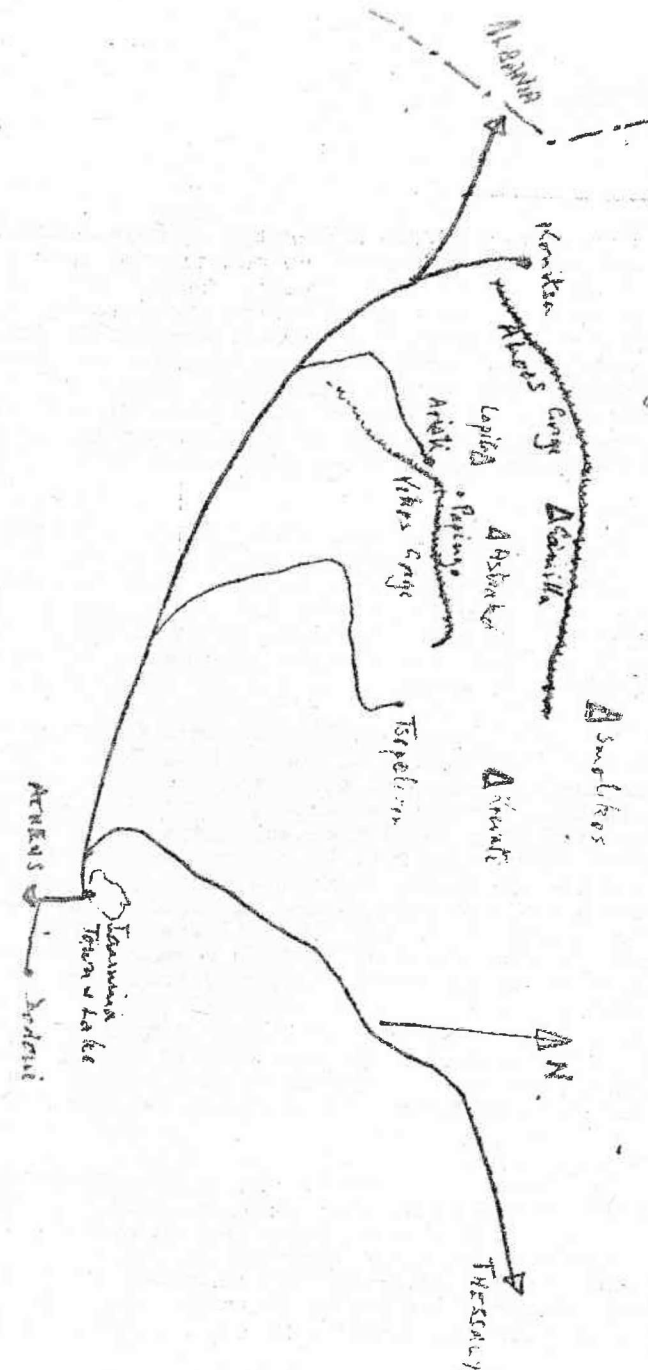
A long trek under the cliffs known as the Towers of Papingo to the village of that name follows. Here the taverna accomodation is very basic indeed. Then follows a climb to the hut owned by the Greek Mountaineering Club built on the col between the mountains Laptas and Astraka. Habitues of Alpine Huts will consider this one luxurious but it is not the Ritz. The limestone crags of Astraka attract the few climbers who visit the area but otherwise climbing routes are few and most summits are easily reached on foot. Heavy snow in Spring '86 meant the use of crampons and axes in ascending Astraka whereas the year previous it was clear of snow and an easy walk.

A two or three night stay in the hut allows for walking ascents of Lapitas and Gamilla as well as Astraka. The shattered crags of Gamilla looming above the Dragon Lake were home for eagles, Egyptian vultures and chamois.

A very hard day's walking from the hut, the later part through a tributary gorge of the Vikos on a path high on a ledge along the wall led to Tsepeloon and a so called "motel", in reality a series of rooms and a taverna. From here there were walking tours of varying length, depending on the trek leader. One of three days traversed the Smolibos range, a long drag with a lot of snow on the northern face. Another day's walk involved the ascent and descent of a 2000' "scala" or stone staircase and a pony track which led to some of the finest views of the Vikos Gorge. In 1986 a day's climb of Kievati involved some tricky use of crampons and axes. The author admits to renaging on this in favour of sunbathing by the river. Back in Yanina by local bus, and a further bus ride to Kowitsa gives change for a full days walking and scrambling in the Ahoos Gorge with a climb of perhaps 800-1000' to a monastery perched on a pinnacle in the middle of the gorge. For the classical scholars, a short bus journey and an hour's walk leads to Dodoni, a very well preserved Greco-Roman theatre in the hills south of Yanina.

The sheer grandeur, the beauty of the country, makes the long journey out worthwhile. And it can be done without an organise tour, but it would be helpful to have a greek speaker along. Finally two warnings: Do this trek early in the year. From June on it is too warm. Beware the dogs guarding the sheep on the hills. The natives are friendly but the dogs are killers. Accurate stone throwing is an essential skill in dealing with these animals. Bus services between the main towns are reliable and fairly frequent. The more remote villages have very infrequent services over largely unmetalled roads.

Jim Kelly



CAVING '88

When asked at the dinner to arrange another caving meet, I was a bit reluctant: no one turned up at the last one, but as this was to be a Junior Meet, and under the pressure of Mickey's persistence (and the drinks), I agreed. Some time in December, on a cold, wet, windy day, saw us gathered together at Selside for an assault on Long Churn Caves with its fine array of passages, enough to suit every shape and size. Nineteen of us gathered at the cave entrance, ten adults and nine juniors. A variety of gear was worn but wellies and boiler suits were definitely the in thing.

I descended the well worn path over the smooth polished limestone, closely followed by James and Stephen. Catherine and Danny next, then Georgina closely followed by the Pooler boys. JonJo and his friend brought up the rear. Mickey appointed himself chief photographer and filmted here and there like a bat. The rest of the adults muddled along behind as best they could.

We had surprisingly few holdups considering our reat number and the hordes of people already in the system. The Double Shuffle Pool and the Plank Pool were crossed with great hilarity and no casualties: yet! A short chimney, a climb down, and then on to the ledge system of the Dolly Tubs pitch into Alum Pot. We put out our lights and could faintly see the daylight filtering into the main shaft. Lights on again and back to the surface but the excitement was not over yet. First the Cheese Press which all the junior members negotiated with ease; some of the adults with a lot of heaving, grunting and heavy breathing. Mickey had several attemots but finally conceded defeat and joined Chris, Ann Marshall and Sheila in the high level route. The pools had to be recrossed but not without mishap this time. Young JonJo gave us his impression of sounding whale but we soon landed him and he emerged cold and wet but not blooded or bowed.

We moved on into the Upper Long Churn series via the Baptistry Crawl with its classic duck. A chorus of groans and moans as tender knees met sharp flints and then gulps as bodies began to be immersed in cold, cold water. But it was soon over and the main fun event of the day began. The waterfall was pretty powerful but with a rope hanging down and a number of people pushing, everybody

ascended safely if a trifle wet. Mickey did stirring work at the bottom and got wettest of all. John Kelly at the top of the waterfall got them sorted out as the trogladites emerged out of the water at the top.

Then back to the cars for a quick change in the wind and the wet (who mentioned any thing about masochists?), into dry clothes and to flasks of coffee and soup.

Funny though, everybody wanted to o again on Sunday. I thought they had had enough on Saturday, but no; so off we went again. A bit better day; not raining, and some sun.

Only seventeen of us on Sunday. A proper pot hole this time, one with a ladder pitch. I decided to split the group and do an exchange trip. I left Jim Cooper (Lancs) in charge of the adults at the top of the pitch into Carf Holes, whilst John Hope and myself with Mickey and the Juniors (not a pop group) went round to Brow Ghyll Cave. We soon reached the rift and climbed up it to meet with the others at the letterbox which was good sport for everybody. A lot of exertion for about eight foot of passage. Unfortunately Marshall's belly did not get through so he came on with us to the foot of the ladder and climbed out. The ladder was a bit tiring but everybody climbed it in good style and another good day had been had by all.

Photos are on display at Langdale and copies can be had from Mickey Pooler. The next meet is sometime in September: date and venue to be arranged later. Check notice board at Langdale for details.

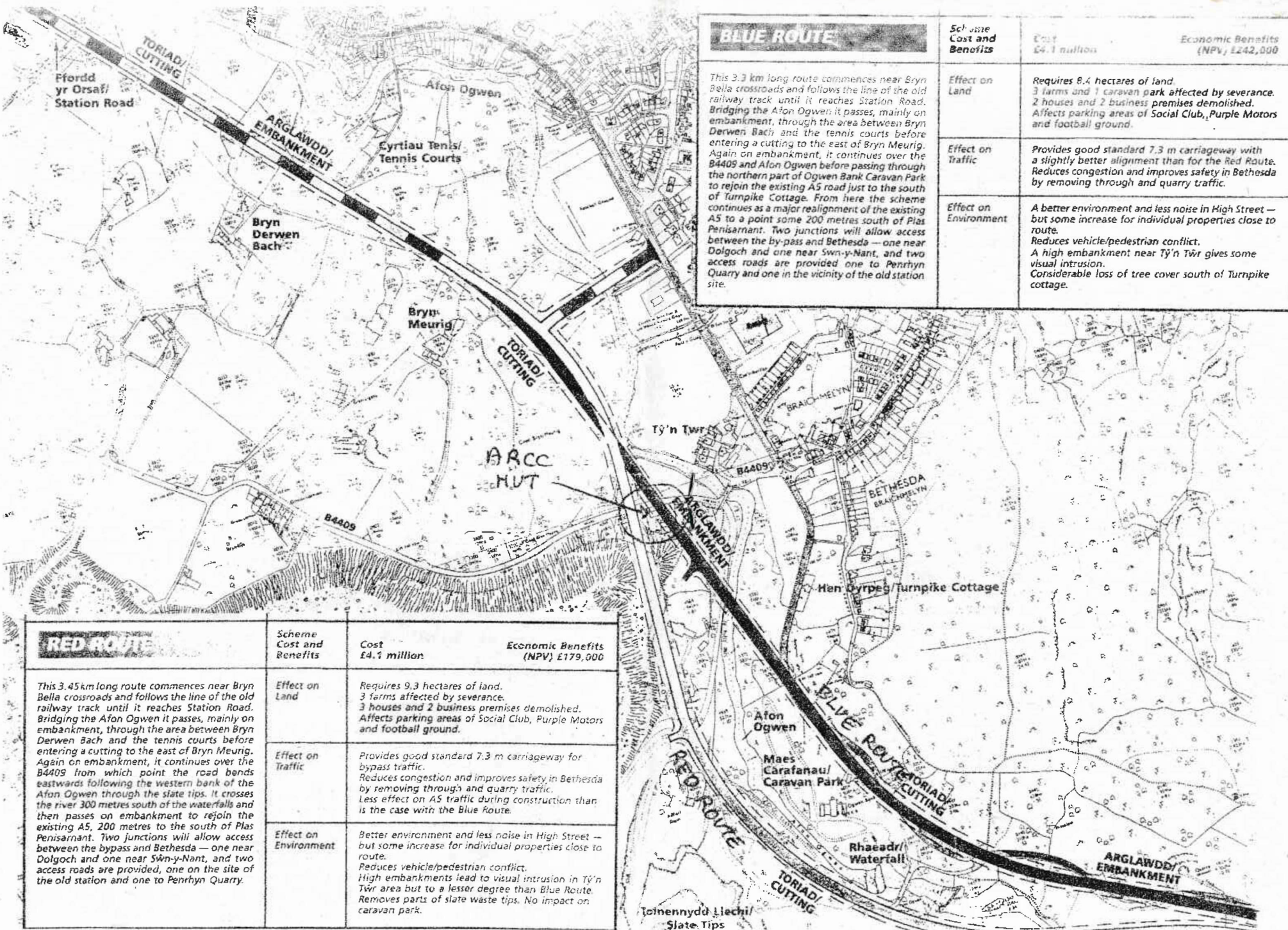
Dot Woods 15/5.88

A PERSONAL VIEW

A personal view.

As it was the first time I had ever been caving, I did not know what to expect but I was definitely looking forward to it.

So on Saturday, I got up early and went to Ingleborough to meet up with the other Achilli Ratti members. At 11.30am everybody arrived and we put the equipment on. It was dark and very wet inside but you could see quite clearly with the head lights on. I could not believe it when I had to crawl on my hands and knees through a wet and dirty river. I was totally saturated but I enjoyed



every minute of it. There were a lot of people down there and we often had to queue up. "I thought it was worse than being in Asda!"

The most frightening event of that day was when I had to crawl through the "Cheesepress". It must have been at best two inches. (Just joking! but it felt like two!) I had to slide my powerpack on my side or else I would have been wedged between the rock. I was just about to panic when I saw faces and luckily they encouraged me though I was glad I completed it.

Day Two saw us pot-holing at Pen y Ghent. The juniors entered via the river while the adults entered down the ladder so as to avoid a queue at the "Letterbox". It was a short but great experience, particularly when I squirmed through the "Letterbox" which I thought was easier than the "Cheesepress". We walked up the river and I had to climb up a 35' steel ladder. I was glad I reached the top, with the help of Dot Woods and Mickey Pooler.

I really enjoyed the weekend. It was superb, especially when I had to go through the "Letterbox", but somehow I don't think my Dad enjoyed being stuck in it! Thanks to Dot Woods for organising the weekend, plus the loan of all the equipment, and for giving us junior members (and of course some adults) an adventurous weekend. I hop it will be repeated.

Georgina Anderton

THE SPORT OF KINGS

The frosty weather of the past winter set me wondering if we would ever see a return to the grand old-fashioned pastime of "knurkling". A form of the sport is still to be seen in the winter months at Keswick and in the Highlands of Scotland, where it goes under the name of curling, but this is merely a pale and innocuous shadow of its former glory.

The Knurkler, carefully picked for his size, speed and fighting weight, is armed with a broom and equipped with crampons. The Knurk on the other hand is lightly built and preferably long in the body to reduce wind resistance and is fitted with a doormat attached to his chest. An umpire is also required, complete with whistle, and able to keep his head (above water) should the ice for any reason break under him, thus dropping him into the oggin. A baseline is marked out. A "jack" (large stone, half brick or surplus spectator) is skimmed out over the ice and the umpire takes his stance close by. The object as in bowls is to get the knurk as

close to the jack as possible. The contest may now begin.

The first knurkler takes his position some way behind the baseline and places the broom (bristle end) in the small of the back of the knurk who of course is lying in a prone position on his doormat. With a ringing cry of "Knurk away", he begins to accelerate towards the baseline propelling the knurk before him, releasing his projectile whilst crossing the baseline at maximum revs, allowing it to speed across the ice. The knurk may use his feet or elbows as brakes if in danger of over shooting the mark, or alternatively, should streamline himself if undershooting it.

The umpire calls a long or short knurk as the case may be, scoring one point for a short, two for a long, whilst a knurk within arms length of the jack counts three points. Hence the need for long thin knurks! Should any knurk disappear through thin ice, the umpire calls "lost knurk" and deducts five points from the knurkler's score. A fresh one must then be obtained.

The first to reach a score of twenty one is declared the winner, named "Chief Knurkler" and escorted in triumphal procession to the nearest hostelry where he stands the first round. Any lost knurks should be recovered, dried out and lightly oiled, preferably with keg bitter, before they warp at the seams. All artificial methods of reducing friction, such as lubricating with slippery elm, are verboten, although a liberal application of elbow grease is not frowned upon by the enthusiast.

Having now reintroduced this Royal and Ancient Sport, it only remains for me to wish you ... Happy Knurkling! Anon.

Editor's Note 1: This seems a dangerous pastime. Members are reminded of that fanatical enthusiast, the Sicker o' McSicker, who in the hard winter of 1789 slipped one of the new fangles rockets into the back pocket of his gillie, Donald McTalisser, in an attempt on the Scottish All-comers Record. The unfortunate gillie disappeared over the frozen Kyles of Lochalsh in a cloud of blue smoke, returning three days later with the record secure. Whence originated (1) The Skye Tourist Industry and (2) the old Scots song "Donald, where's yer trousers?"

Editor's Note 2: This is a repeat from an earlier Club Bulletin. If the author is still a Club Member, would he/she kindly contact George Partridge?

JUNIOR MEET 1988

Venue Bishop's Scale
Date July 2nd and 3rd

* Climbing * Abseiling * Canoeing * Walking * Ghyll
Scrambling *
Orienteering

For Club Junior members over 10 years old, with their parents' permission. Bring your own food and any suitable equipment for use on the mountains. To get some idea of numbers please contact:
Dot Wood, 41 Stonegate Rd, Bradford BD10 8BT or
John Hope, 13 Victoria Rd, Horwich (0204) 691460

Wanted: some adults to help with activities, please!

COUNTIES TOPS RACE

Marshalls and helpers urgently required for the first official Fell Race organised by the Club. Contact
Pollard (0204) 694657.

ARCC AGM 1987

Herein are the meeting's minutes. Your attention is drawn to the AOB section viz changing the rules to allow more ordinary members to be elected to the Management Committee.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Saturday October 17th 1987
at Marion House, Preston

The Minutes of the previous AGM were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: these were covered in the agenda.

President's Report: Bishop Pearson was not present but the Secretary conveyed the President's greetings to the members. His Lordship had enjoyed his visit to the Sponsored Walk and said that the Club had had another good year.

Chairman's report: George Partridge said that he had been able to visit the Club Huts more times than in previous years, back to 1947-8. It had been a busy year for members: 16 had taken part in the Karrimor event of Autumn 1986 in Galloway. The bonfire week end at Tyn Twr had been a great success, and the Annual Dinner Dance at Waterhead the best for some time. The Winter meet in Scotland organised by John Foster had been well supported and was almost fully booked for 1988. The members week end at unmail had been enjoyed by everyone. The Long Walk from Buckbarrow Hut had been attended by the highest number for some years. It had been a thoroughly good week end blessed with reasonable weather. The Junior Meet organised by Derek Price had been very successful. Jim Harding had organised a clun event in Wales. Joyce Foster had passed over the Bulletin reins to new editors Mike Donnelly and John Kelly. He thanked Joyce.

Hut Wardens Reports.

Bishop's Scale: Alan Kenny reported that there had been no problems in the main hut, but trouble with bursts and leaks in the family quarters. Improvements had included a new floor in the men's dormitory and on the landing and stairs. The partition had been installed around the hand basins in the Leomen's dorm. Outside, the old gate to the chapel had been removed and a new one relocated nearer the chapel. A new dustbin store had been built by Peter McHale, also a boot rack at the bottom of the stairs. A trail run of the "Three Counties Tops Fell Race" had been held.

Buckbarrow: Frank Whittle reported that he had received complaints about the number of visiting clubs, but the extra usage had helped with hut income. The possibility of new toilets and showers had been discussed with the National Trust Surveyors. The main problem was an inadequate water supply. A cattle grid to replace the farm gate would involve major excavation.

Tyn Twr: Dave Armstrong reported that income was slightly down (388 from members, 628 from visitors). Two working weekends had been held and the hut spruced up. The bonfire weekend had been extremely successful. A lot of money had been spent on the hut and a new heating system installed linked to the lounge fire. Special events planned included a Junior Members Meet (perhaps) and a catered meet (perhaps).

Dunmail: (Tom Baron was not present) The April meet had been very successful. The tree planting programme was progressing well. Work had been carried out cleaning up the hut. The boundary walls had been rebuilt and a drainage ditch built at the back of the hut. The 1988 Long Walk would be held at Dunmail. The income for the hut had been down, because of the aftermath of the teachers' strike. Perhaps there would

be more opportunities for use by members. More back up and assistance were required for Tom and Rita Baron, who were thanked for their continued hard work at the hut.

Election of Officers: Secretary: Gordon Cooney was elected, members to be elected to the Management Committee should be proposed by Leo Pollard and seconded by Margaret Price, considered by the members prior to next year's AGM. Wilf Committee Members: Christine Benjamin was elected, and also Charnley reported that during the BMC "Clean a Crag" Barry Ayre who was handing over after six years service as a campaign, ARCC members had cleaned rubbish from White Ghyll and Raven Crag. Hut fees were discussed and it was announced that these would go up to 85p from Jan 1st 1988. Guests and

Secretary's Report: Barry Ayre commented on the events during his term of office. He had been helped considerably by the Committee and in particular by George Partridge, Dave Ogden, Mike Lomas, Nev Haigh and Joyce Foster. He was confident that the new members coming into the committee had the ability and enthusiasm to maintain the high standards set over the years. The Club huts were in good shape and activities into different aspects of mountaineering had increased considerably. The Bishop's Sponsored Walk and the Annual Dinner Dance had gone from strength to strength. The success of the Langdale Horseshoe Fell Race was due mainly to Achilli Ratti support, and the club's own fell race was now a regular calendar event. He suggested that members should support Tom and Rita Baron more at Dunmail to guarantee its long term success. In closing he offered to help the new management committee in every way and wished them every success.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Lomas reported a £2,700-00 surplus on the year. There was £300-00 dividend still held at Langdale Coop. A subscription to the BMC had not been paid this year and this topic was discussed in full. It was agreed that such a sub should be paid but the management committee should negotiate a suitable fee. The Club held a surplus in the bank of £21,000-00. The Management Committee had decided to increase hut fees to 85p per night from Jan 1st 1988, subscriptions to remain the same. It was proposed by Dave Ogden and seconded by Wilf Charnley that the same auditor be appointed, namely Brian Arthur Cheetham. Passed unanimously.

Membership and Subscription Secretary's Report: Nev Haigh was not present but submitted a brief report: Ordinary Members 295 RC, 130 NC; Graduate Members 34 RC, 26 NC; Life Members 110 RC, 20 NC; Total membership 615. RC 71.4%; NC 28.6%. Increase in membership 1984/85 546 members; 1985/86 579 members; 1986/87 615 members.

It was requested from the members attending that the non-catholic membership should be carefully monitored. A membership list was in the process of being finalised on computer and would be updated quarterly and circulated to the club huts.

ny Other Business: A change of rules to allow more ordinary members to be elected to the Management Committee should be considered by the members prior to next year's AGM. Wilf Committee Members: Christine Benjamin was elected, and also Charnley reported that during the BMC "Clean a Crag" Barry Ayre who was handing over after six years service as a campaign, ARCC members had cleaned rubbish from White Ghyll and Raven Crag. Hut fees were discussed and it was announced that these would go up to 85p from Jan 1st 1988. Guests and

OBITUARY

Club Trustee and Life Member, Canon Mason died in January this year. He was a dedicated supporter of the ARCC in the late 1940s and during the 1950s. R.I.P.

Lady Lunn, widow of Sir Arnold Lunn, a Club Honorary Life Member, died in March. R.I.P.



BISHOP PEARSON MEMORIAL FUND

Many members have expressed a wish to make donations to the Memorial.

If you would like to do so,
please send it to the Club Treasurer

Mr Michael Lomas,
85 Belmont View,
Harwood,
BOLTON

Please make cheques payable to the ARCC.
Thank you.

USEFUL ADDRESSES
TO TEAR OUT AND KEEP

Bulletin Editors

Mike Donnelly, 27 Larbreck Ave, Elswick Preston
Tel: (0995) 70660

John Kelly, Beesholem, Greenside, Ryton, Tyne & Wear

Tel: (091) 413 8337

Club Officials

Chairman: George Partridge, 16 Centurion Close,
Meols, Wirral Tel: (051) 632 5963

Vice-chairman: Derek Price 10 Egerton Rd, Preston.

Secretary: Gordon Cooney, 125 Woodplumpton Rd,
Preston PR4 0LJ. Tel: (0772) 690113

Subscriptions: New Haigh 752 Devonshire Rd,
Blackpool Tel (0253) 545051. Please enclose an SAE
in correspondence.

Hut Wardens

Buckbarrow: Frank Whittle, Old Strands, Nether
Wasdale, Cumbria. Tel: (094 06) 265

Bishop's Scale: Alan Kenny, 81 Stanhope Ave,
Torrisholme, Morecambe. Tel: (0524) 414615

Tyn Twr: Dave Armstrong, 26 Elmfield, Shelvington,
Wigan Tel: (0257) 425320

Durrnell: Tom Baron, The Post Office, Stavely,
 Kendal, Cumbria.