

EDITOR'S IN-TRAY

In the last Newsletter there was optimism of the Club widening its frontiers by acquiring a Hut in Scotland. It now appears that we may be engaging in a rear guard action to save a hut we already have use of - Buckbarrow. Aside from this, the active membership of the club is increasing and with such spirit of endeavour, I am certain this is only a temporary setback.

With the number of events now staged by the Club during the year, there is a constant demand for helpers. If you wish to lend a hand, please inform the organisers as soon as possible, as this helps relieve the last minute panic for support. If however you turn up on the day, you will still be appreciated.

A special thanks to the team who helped assemble this newsletter, and previous ones. The Management committee are looking into a commercial solution, but in the short term, it's all hands to the pumps!

CLUB NEWS

1. THE CLUB RULE BOOK has now been updated to take account of changes endorsed at past AGMs. It will be issued shortly.

2. THE CLUB HAS REGISTERED FOR VAT as turnover is above then VAT threshold. As a consequence fees for membership, hut use and club events will take account of any VAT levy.

3. REMINDER FOR LATE SUBSCRIPTIONS. 127 members still have NOT PAID this years subscription (due on October 1st 1988: £1524 outstanding!). Can we remind members that if the Club is to seek property in Scotland - or elsewhere - we need better support than this.

4. CHILDREN USING HUTS. New members should have three years membership before they can take their children to the huts. If such members feel that they have special circumstances, they must contact the individual hut wardens for permission to take their children. This permission will only be given when the Hut Warden feels it is appropriate.

6. A DISCOUNT SCHEME has been negotiated with Briggs Shoe Mines, Ambleside, offering 10% discount on production of current ARCC membership card. See hut notice boards for full details.

7. FIRST EVER WEDDING AT THE LANGDALE CHAPEL. Barry Ayre and Dr Monica Placzek will be married at Our Lady of the Snows chapel, Bishop's Scale, Langdale, at 11.30am on Saturday June 10th 1989. Mgr Slattery, the Club President, will officiate. Their new address will be Crinkle Cottage, 9 The Green, Silverdale, Carnforth, LA5 0TJ, or telephone (0524) 701318. The Club offers its congratulations and best wishes to Barry and Monica.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Scotland: We were outbid in our attempt to buy the old police station in Kinlochleven. Whilst we will continue to seek property in the North, the cost, if Kinlochleven is an example, is possibly beyond our reach. On sale at offers over £14,000, it went for £40,000. Renting may be a better idea.

Buckbarrow: In the last few weeks, the National Trust has decided to terminate our lease on Buckbarrow, with effect from May 12th 1990. Buckbarrow house has been used by the ARCC since about 1942. It was originally rented from Mr Gass of Gill Farm. Since then the farms have become the property firstly of the Lakeland Estates, and now the National Trust, our present landlord.

Margaret Gass of Gill Farm has always had the option on Buckbarrow, to retire there if she so wished.

A meeting was held on March 29th in Ambleside, between Richard Palmer (National Trust agent for Wasdale), Derek Price (ARCC Chairman) and Frank Whittle (Buckbarrow Hut Warden). The meeting was called following rumours that we were to lose Buckbarrow.

The following are the major points which came out of the meeting:

1. Margaret Gass has indicated (according to Mr Palmer) that she would wish to retire to the old cottage, now derelict, at Buckbarrow.
2. The National Trust are to refurbish Buckbarrow house for a resident worker and family.
3. ARCC are to vacate Buckbarrow by May 12th 1990.
4. The National Trust has offered the ARCC the use of Thistleton Barn (G.R.094045) on a lease of not less than 21 years. The National Trust would make it structurally sound and reroof it. The cost of conversion would rest with the ARCC.

The Management Committee are studying the feasibility of point 4, and indeed any other avenues which may be open to us. members will be kept informed of any developments.

CLIMBING NEWS 1988

This is a summary of the climbing done by club members during 1988. Some climbers' activities may have been missed as I have not been able to contact everybody.

Tony Brindle has been guiding in Nepal and as such I have not been able to relay his exploits this year. I hope he will be able to inform us in a future article for the Newsletter.

Himalayas

Richard Taylor and John McLaever were in the Kamaon Region, south east of Wanda Devi, in September. They climbed LAMCHIR WEST PIC at 5,650 metres A.D. It took them four days to walk into base camp, then one day to climb the peak. They reached a high point of 6150m on WANDA KOT (6662m A.D.) after five days of climbing from the LAMCHIR base camp. After being heavily snowed in for a day, they spent another three days "goose stepping" through the 3'-4' deep avalanching snow back to base. Sounds pretty serious!

Mike Owen and Jane Nicholson spent nine weeks trekking in the KASHMIR/LADAKH area, reaching a high point of 5,500m. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and lost a great deal of weight. Mike's maps of the area have been browsed over by some club members hoping to go out there in 1989.

Alps

Chamonix: a successful summer with many routes accomplished. Here is the list:

Mont Blanc: Gouter (Bosses) Ridge: Pete Dowker, Bob Spencer

Mont Blanc: via Mont Blanc du Tacul, Mt Maudit, descent via Vallot and Grand Mulets huts: B. Rogers, J Cooper, Anne Wallace

Grand Jorassses: Walker Spur: E.D: Richard Topliss, Paul Ramsden who also did the Swiss Route, N Face Courtes:TD; N Face Grandes Charmoz

Aig du Tour: Table du Roc ridge: A.D: Richard Topliss, Angus Tillotson

Aig Peign: Voucher route: T.D: Richard Topliss, Paul Ramsden: they also did Aig Moine, North Ridge.

Aig Peign: Meyers Pascal Route 1959 E15C Dave Bates, Barry Rogers

Pillar Rouge: Margarette Thatcher: E25C Dave Bates and friend

Pouce: Voi Dallas: T.D.(H.V.S): Barry Rogers Jim Cooper

Chardonnet: Forbes Arete: A.D: Barry Rogers, Roman Ploanski

Chardonnet: Rochfort Ridge: A.D: Barry Rogers, Jim Cooper. (Jim was sick: helped rescue Austrian Guide with suspected broken arm)

Midi: N.W.Face (mixed):A.D.4000m: Jim Cooper, John Kelly

Midi: Plan Traverse: A.D: Jim Cooper,solo.

Berner Oberland

Wetterhorn & Mitterhorn: ordinary route: A.D: Richard Topliss, Paul Ramsden

Monch: Lanper ridge (N.Face): T.D: Richard Topliss, Paul Ramsden.

Dolomites

Martin bennett was on a family holiday but managed to take his brother in law (a novice) up the Cornici Route on the Torre Di Fal Zar Ego (220m severe)

Mexico

Harry Salisbury and friend walked up POPOCATPETL, a 17000' high volcano which is still periodically active. The summit rim was over one mile in diameter. They could see 1500' down into the core which housed a small lake and jets of steam.

USA: Smith Rocks, Oregon

Mike Lovatt and Ian Horrocks climbed several routes at 5.13 including last Waltz, Chain Reaction and Latest Rage. Mike also has his picture in the climbing mags, leading Rude Boys 5.13c.

UK Winter

Generally a poor winter.

Scotland

Club Winter Meet, MacIntyre Hut, Onich. Details of the activities were given in the last Newsletter. Prime avalanche conditions restricted all activities to walking.

Richard Topliss and Paul Ramsden climbed the Tough/Brown Travers GDIII at Lochnagar and Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis. Jim Dwall, still working as an Outdoor Activities Instructor at Arrocher, did Elephant Gully GDIII/IV on The Brack, and MacLays Gully GDIV on Tharsum Crag. He also enjoyed some Ski-mountaineering on Ben Lowers.

The Lakes

Central Gully Right Hand received ascents from Anne Cammack on two occasions, firstly with Pete Butler while very lean (GDIV) and then with Frank Glazes-Smith when barked up (GDIII). John Hampson and Derek Kenyon also did the route, reporting no ice.

Tom Walkington soloed GDIII buttresses on Brown Cove, Nethermost Cove and Dollywaggon under soft snow and frozen sod conditions.

ROCK CLIMBING

Scotland

Skye Meet, Spring Bank Holiday: Poor weather restricted climbing. David Hall and Tey Kitchen did a couple of routes on Windsor Buttress. Dot Wood, Terry Kitchen, Dave Hall, Bob Spencer, Mike Lomas, Anne Wallace, Wilf Charnley and Peter McHale did a mass ascent of Pinnacle Ridge. Anne Cammack and Bob Spencer had to abandon their climb so as to help in the rescue of a man who fell over 100' down CIOCH GULLY whilst abseiling to retrieve gear. He sustained broken legs and pelvis.

Old Man of Stoer received an ascent by Frank Pearson and friend. They had to swim, climb, abseil and tyrolean to succeed. Sounds like a good adventure day.

Shaun Queegan and Mark Danson climber Carnivore and Long Reach. They then did Bitter Daris and Cruel Sister in the Lakes, taking four days to do the lot.

On Arran, Martin Bennett and Mike Tolley climbed Hammer, a 250' VS ob Cir Mhor. They also did Slipway, Midnight Ridge Direct and Tidemark on Cioch Na H-Oighe, a 700' crag.

The Lakes

Good weather in June allowed much climbing on the mountain tops. Scafell saw ascents of Wazgull, Ichabod, Phoenix, Centaur, Trinity, Lererage, Yellow Slab and C.B.

Jim Cooper led past the crux on Saxon only to get too tired. Although he could have escaped onto Mon Ghyll Grooves, Barry Rogers on C.B. provided a top rope for him to finish the pitch. A woman on the Saxon Stone must have thought she had seen a ghost when she saw an elderly man in his '70s, with no teeth, and wearing Andy Capp's flatcap, with grey flannels tucked into his socks, and trailing a hawser laid rope, while soloing across towards C.B. However it was only Sid Thompson up to his usual tricks, and looking for his 50th ascent of the C.B. Flake.

Pillar was visited by Martin Bennett and friend, who spent 4 hours climbing the North West Climb in a blizzard in April. They also did the Thanatos - Electron combination. Great Gable saw ascents of the Slant, Troll and Jabberwock, reported to be pf excellent quality by Martin.

On Dow Crag, Sidwalk was climbed by Tom Walkington and John Kelly, and Catacombe by Harry Salisbury and friend. John Kelly was climbing well this year. He had "Night of the Hot Pies" in Cathedral Quarry, Big Dipper and Man of Straw. This latter was very popular, being defrocked by Jim Cooper, Barry Rogers, Alan Kenny, Bob Spencer, Tim Hogan, Harry Salisbury and Dave Birkett who also led Sahara and Chimney Variant.

New member Dave Birkett (Jim's grandson and Bill's nephew) who lives in Chapel Style shows great promise. Advised by Guru Rogers, he has led many Lakeland classic extremes this year, and he actually likes the mountains as well as the rock. He is already into the "new routes scene" putting up "Into the Night" E5 6a on Raven Crag, Walthwaite. His awkward fall while bouldering on the Split Boulder below Scout Crag resulted in a snapped knee ligament and inactivity for at least three months.

Jo and Sue Wood seem to be following in Mum and Dad's footsteps as both have been regularly climbing. Jo has seconded Dave Bates up Golden Slipper, Beacon Rib, Chopper, and Slip Not. Sue has seconded Flarepath, Revelation, and Evening Wall and has started leading. Both of them like the indoor climbing walls, so they must truly have the madness.

Middle Scout Crag saw two more new routes put up by Tom Walkington: "Elton John" E4 6b with Dave Birkett, and "Madonna" E1 5b with John Kelly. On this crag, new club member Alan "Screaming Lord" Clarke flashed "Elvis" E4 6a but his comeback was shortlived owing to an operation on his Achilles Tendon. Here also, Dave Bates led "The Beatles" E6 6b.

On Pavey Ark, Jim Cooper and Paul Ramsden did Astra and Brackenclock. Tom Walkington and Bob Spencer did Rake End Wall and the Rib Pitch, which Dave Bates solved.

Dave Bates had an active season despite his catalogue of injuries through falling off crags, getting knocked off his bike, or just muscle strains. He led SIX E6s including Exclamation, and Shaken not stirred. In Cathedral Quarry he put up three new routes with Jim Cooper, Tom Walkington and John Kelly. These were "The Turbulent Beasrt" E5 6b (misheard for Jim's name 'Turbulent Priest'); "The Blabk Beast returns" etc E4 6a and a fine hanging slab called "Cold Turkey" E5 6b.

Black Crag on Pile o' Blisco provided forty odd new routes for Tom Walkington, Dave Bates, Jim Cooper, Barry Rogers, Ann Cammack, Dave Linney and others. This crag is of easy access, gets the sun all day, has perfect rough rock, and climbs of all grades from Moderate to E6. It is only 55' at its highest but offers several quality routes with "Glass Slipper" probably the finest. Tom Barry and Jim also completed the development of Long Crag, eskdale (a good V.S man's crag) which is similar in feeling to Wallowborrow Crag. Tom with Steve Hubball developed a short steep section of Gillercombe Crag, known as The Pedestal, producing six routes from HVS to E5. New routes were also climbed in Tilberthwaite Quarry which proved to be a popular wet weather crag.

North Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire.

Dave Bates and Jim Cooper did the full girdle of Warton Main Quarry called Fragmented Tormentor. It was 3,000' long with 24 pitches, graded Alpine ED with occasional good rock. Jim's head was gone by the end of the first day despite the fact that he is supposed to like loose rock, so he had to have a week to get his head together again to complete the second half of the girdle on a second day. Some nutters from Lancaster University did the climb a few days later, thinking it was a first ascent. Dave also did a couple of other new routes in this, his favourite quarry (but no one else's) near 'The Goufle Connection', an E4 6b and E3 6a.

Martin Bennet did Dies Irae E2 at Stoney Middleton and several routes at Crummockdale, including Venus, Little Pink Clare and Jaywalk. A rare sunny weekend in the Lakes saw 15 club members at Dot's house in cold, clammy Bradford. Climbing took place at Armscliffe and Brimham, although Dave Bates and Tom Walkington weakened and went to the indoor wall at Guiseley.

North and South Wales

Kick Lovatt cruised "Strawberries" E6 6c at Tremadoc on his third ascent. He also led "The Rainbow of Recalcitrance" E6 6b on the Llanberis Slate Quarries. The ascent sounded quite serious, and a long fall potential with a wire runner. In the Pass, John McKeever and Richard Topliss did Lubyanka and on Dimas Mott, Frank Pearson seconded Silent Thunder E4 6a.

In April Tom Walkington, Paul Cooney, Alan Kenny, Clae Kenny, Barry Rogers and Jim Cooper climbed "Bruvers" HVS and KING 'B' Crack HVS, Alan in walking boots, on Holyhead Mountain. There are some fine cracklines to the right of King B at E2 to E5 which will be in the new Gogarth Guide. One of these was climbed at E3 6a. Jim Cooper and Barry Rogers then made the mistake of challenging the route "Gosarth". Gosarth won! The result was a hasty retreat involving a traverse, roped together on steep grass 200' above the sea in the dark.

Also on Gogarth, John McKeever and Richard Topliss did Creeping Lemma, Park Lane/Doomsville and The Strand.

Pembroke was visited on two occasions by Tom Walkington, Jim Cooper and Dave Bates. Many three star routes were climbed including Test Case, Mysteries, Space Cadet, Raw Recruits, Conscientious Objector, Forbidden Fruits, The Star Gate and Zodiac: a good expedition.

In the Wye Valley, Martin Bennett climbed Tria and Quester at Wyndcliffe and Bis Fly Direct, 200 E1 at Wintours Leap.

Tom Walkington

OLD COUNTIES TOPS RACE

This popular event will be run this year on June 24th and cover a mere 37 miles and only 10,000' of ascent. As the Club fellmen now know their way around, it is hoped that they will remain in pairs, not get lost, and finish well ahead of the outsiders; who from the note below clearly appreciate the event.

"Fell running in 1988 was at its best in your splendid race. My partner Dave Hall and myself had a great day's running which was due not only to the route, weather, company etc but to the organisation of the event and the friendly, helpful and supportive assistants from your club. We wear our T shirts with pride and thanks. So 1989, please will you send us details of the June 24th race and place our names on your list as entrants. Roll n race day! Please keep the jam sandwiches and bananas at the Three Shire Stone: they worked miracles.

Best wishes for the event. Geoff Crowther

Holmfirth Harriers.

CLUB HUT NEWS

Buckbarrow: Visiting Clubs will be in evidence on June 9th/10th; September 8th/9th; 22nd/23rd; 29th/30th; October 13th/14th, November 3rd/4th; 10th/11th; 24th/25th and December 23rd/24th/25th. I will be accepting no further bookings. Please note that on the weekend of June 9th/10th there will be a party of 30 children and staff. I appeal to members to stay away that weekend.

Frank Whittle; Hut Varden

Tyn Twr: A very productive working weekend was carried out in readiness for the Long Walk. Much cleaning, painting and refurbishing of the hut was undertaken. Tyn Twr is now looking very spruce. My thanks to Paul, Ruth and Isabel Donnelly, Bernard Potter, Anne Wallace, Peter Durkin, the Management Committee members and all others whose contribution and effort was invaluable.

Dave Armstrong; Hut Varden.

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WALKING IN SWITZERLAND THE FAULHORN

There is a feeling of satisfaction about a walk to the summit of a mountain in the Bernese Oberland of Switzerland. This could certainly be true of the Faulhorn, which stands at 2,681m on a ridge which overlooks the tranquil blue waters of Interlaken and the giant Eiger and majestic Jungfrau. Despite the modest height against the giants, there can be no doubt as to the pedigree of a Swiss classic walk.

The walk starts and finishes in Grindlewald and can be completed the easiest way in an anticlockwise direction thereby making use of the chairlift. The paths are well defined with coloured marks painted on the rocks when the way is uncertain. If walking in mist or bad weather, one could experience some difficulty in route finding.

It was a warm and hazy morning when Sue and I stepped off the chairlift at First (Station). Within a few minutes we were on the wide paths to Bachalpsee. It was in stark contrast to the noise and bustle of the camera clicking tourists. Within the carpet of lush green grass were the vivid colours of the orchids and the violets. The sound of cowbells was also heard in some distant meadow. We soon arrived at Bachalpsee, a superbly situated lake, one that could adorn any chocolate box. We then went round to the east side of the lake and sweated our way up a stoney and steep slope to a saddle, following the white and red waymarks; the only vegetation being the allyssum surviving in the precious little soil available. Within fifteen minutes we were on the summit, sharing it with a few fellow walkers and the roosts of alpine choughs gliding on the thermals.

On return to the saddle we turned west, heading for the meadows, with the cattle stalls and gushing water troughs. Within a few hours we had zig zagged our way through the forests, stopping numerous times to eat the wild strawberries and bilberries, and eventually arriving back at Grindlewald.

Paul Cooney

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TYN TWR: THE BIRTH OF A HUT

Chapter Two.

The Campaign for a Welsh Hut was how I finished the first chapter of this story of Tyn Twr. But there was no such thing really; just a wistful longing for a solid base from which to climb those magnificent hills; a topic of conversation in the pub while our wet gear lay in the back of the van or tent with little prospect of being dry in the morning.

It was not just that there was substantial debt outstanding on Bishopscote, and Dunmail too, but there was further work to be done. The bottom dorm was still a byre with no connecting doorway. So too was the lounge. In fact the same straw was still in the stalls where I had dosed one fateful weekend a few years earlier, my 350 Ariel at my feet, having ridden over from RAF Leeming in possession of a "295", a week end pass.

I think it was the Whit weekend of 1960 that we discussed the local possibilities with our Welsh "landlord". He is still alive, but retired now. Big Will told us of a cluster of 8 cottages by the A5 which Penrhyn Estate had put up for sale. Three were habitable, three had their roofs caved in and the other two needed a lot of work. He had offered £750 for the lot but the agent had intimated that he might accept £1000. For the Club, that was as remote as the moon at that time. That cluster of cottages later formed the basis of the Motel at Tyn y Maes.

The early sixties were boom years for the Acilli Ratti, never equalled before or since. Membership was steadily growing and it was very active. With little more than one third of the present total, Bishopscote was full every weekend. If you did not arrive by mid-day on Saturday, you slept on the floor that night. The patriarchs of today, with grown up families, were still young bucks, free as the wind. Most had "never had it so good". Motor bikes had almost disappeared from Bishopscote, replaced by a fleet of Austin A35 vans in "Achilli Ratti" green. Hut fees pouring in meant that doorways could be knocked through, bare joists and stonework plastered, a chimney and stove installed, and the lounge and bottom dorm (the first family room) came into being.

One fine weekend in 1963, talking to Terry Hickey (then Warden) outside Bishopscale, he surprised me by saying that the Committee had discussed the possibility of a Welsh Hut, and that if I could find something suitable, they would consider it.

The hunt was now on in earnest!

John Foster

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JUNIOR MEET

1st-2nd July at Langdale

Activities include walking, climbing and canoeing. The meet is open to members's children aged between 8 and 16. There is no extra charge for the meet: just normal hut fees; and those coming are asked to provide their own meals.

If interested please complete the form below and send it to:

Mike Pooler

"Brantwood"

Royds Road,

Bacup

or telephone (0706) 678 454

..... Please cut along this line

I would like to attend the Junior Meet at Langdale in July

Name(s)

Address

Telephone (.....) Date of Birth

Parents Permission

(to be signed by your parents)