

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2012

CHAIRMANS RAMBLINGS

Hopefully you have all had a wonderful summer and been able to get out and about despite the weather. For the stay at homes there has been plenty to celebrate, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics.

As a club we have had much to celebrate in our own sporting field; our very own Jean Lochhead, club Treasurer, won a gold medal in the World Championship Orienteering event in Germany and our congratulations go to her. Terry Kitching, hut warden at Beckstones has now completed the mammoth task of 283 tops in Scotland (Munroe's) this summer, again a wonderful achievement. The Lakes, Meres and Waters relay in July was a superb event and it was great to take part in the 'walking section' from Thirlmere to Derwentwater along with many other club members. The evening BBQ attended by our special guest Joss Naylor and visitor John North was an excellent social gathering and thanks to Dave Makin, Andy Pooler and their supporting team throughout the relay, and to Arthur for the great feast. I know Leo Pollard was particularly proud of the effort that everyone made to take part in the event.

Following the Olympics there was much praise for the volunteers who had worked tirelessly to support the event. We at ARCC are fortunate that we are very aware of the value of the volunteer and I can assure you that everyone who contributes to any event, activity, Management Committee and Wardens their input is greatly appreciated.

There is at the moment opportunities for you to offer your help, we are looking for someone to take over the responsibility of organising the Derek Price memorial/ CAFOD race from 2013. Alan Kenny has organised this event for the last 12 years and would like to pass on the mantle, our grateful thanks to him for his dedication to the task. Alan would be pleased to pass on his knowledge and experience to a willing volunteer, as this is a national event a name as 'organiser' needs to be in place as soon as possible. A reminder to all of you the planners of all our club events, especially the three national races (Old County Tops, CAFOD and New DG fell race) rely very heavily on volunteers – please don't be afraid to put yourself forward as a helper. I was particularly proud at the end of the OCT race this year at the number of participants who expressed gratitude at the smooth and efficient way the event was run.

Mike McGovern is also looking for a replacement for collating and editing the Club Journal from 2013 are there any budding journalists out there!

Along with the sport and outdoor activities much has been happening on the maintenance and care of the huts. Bishops scale roof has been fitted with solar panels. Dunmail has not yet found a buyer and it has been recommended that the price be reduced there is a report from the sub-committee, elsewhere in the newsletter, explaining the situation. Tyn Twr has been re-roofed and I am particularly pleased with the result.

Autumn will soon be upon us and we can look forward to the Club Dinner and the AGM and Mass for the deceased members. Our term of office, as Chairman, and Chris Farrell as Vice

Chairman comes to an end this year and we are looking for nominations for these posts; details are enclosed with the AGM agenda.

Also Jean Lochhead our Club Treasurer intends to step down from this position and the committee is looking to appoint her replacement from within the membership. Anyone interested and wanting further information on this contact Jean on 01484687030 or any member of the Management Committee.

Nominations are also requested for an Ordinary member on the Committee.

Finally I would like to thank you for all your support and look forward to seeing you at club meets and out on the fells.

John McGonagle

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - VITAL INFORMATION

BISHOPSCALE 6/7th OCTOBER – Walk Run Cycle

This is a catered meet and it is **ESSENTIAL** to book a place, please contact Arthur on 07845125077

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

OLD DUNGEON GHYLL HOTEL LANGDALE

27th OCTOBER

Gather at 6.00 pm for a 6.30 pm start the dinner will be followed by singing and dancing to Bodgers Mate. The cost of the event is £30 per head.

Have you booked your place with Arthur (07845125077) – this is **ESSENTIAL** and have you advised him of your menu choice - at time of printing there are a couple of places still available.

A souvenir ticket has been designed and printed by courtesy of Dave Talbot (Dreadlocks).

Please send a cheque (payable to ARCC) for the dinner to the secretary Ann McGonagle 33 Revidge Road, Blackburn Lancs. BB2 6JB – no later than 15th October, please **ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** for the return of your ticket.

If you wish to stay at the hotel overnight check availability with **ARTHUR DANIELS** who will make the reservation on your behalf.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3RD NOVEMBER

in the village hall at Chapel Stile

The meeting will commence at 1.30 pm

Following the meeting at approximately 4.00 pm **MASS FOR DECEASED MEMBERS** will be celebrated in the chapel at Bishopscale

Members attending the above are invited to stay and enjoy light refreshments in the hut and enjoy the social occasion.

Harrison Stickle Fell Race 2013

Early notice: The race will be on the 13th. April 2013

EDITOR.

Due to a computer glitch with the final draft of the News Letter some of the content has been lost. I hope to find/replace this and will include it in future N. L.

Mick Mc Govern

TYN TWR:

A reminder that it is the maintenance weekend on 20/21st October your help is required on various jobs around the hut. Snacks, lunch and evening meal are provided during the day on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday it is therefore important that you book a place and the warden can then also allocate jobs to everyone attending.

There are still places available for CHRISTMAS AT TYN TWR 8/9th December, please book a place with John and Ann McGonagle (01254 265574) or send a message via the website.

AUTUMN STROLL

Saturday 13th October 2012

This will be a fairly level walk of 10/12 miles and will take in Lily Tarn from where there will be a superb view over Windermere. We will set off around 9.30/9.45am and return at approx. 5.30pm. You will require a packed lunch. We may call off for some refreshment (liquid) en-route.

DUNMAIL UPDATE

September 2012

It won't have escaped anyone's notice that the property market is doing just about as well as the economy at the moment i.e. it's pretty dire and with prospects for the future that don't look too rosy either. Despite the gloom, our agents, Michael Hodgson & co at Kendal, have done a good job in marketing the hut since February and have attracted significant interest. Hits on *Rightmove* remain much higher than average for a Lake District property with over 700 in a seven day period in July. Disappointingly, despite this exposure, there has only been one further visit to the hut by a prospective buyer since May. Additionally, none of the 15 or so visits that have taken place have led to a second visit or to any further interest. At this rate it is difficult to be optimistic that we will achieve a sale in the short or even the medium term.

The agents tell us that the market in the Lakes is particularly slow and that there have been significant price reductions across the board. Their advice is that we have well and truly tested the market at the current asking price without success and need to reduce the price if we are serious about selling. We have therefore agreed to a price reduction as the way forward. The silver lining in a poor sellers' market is that we can expect the cost of a replacement hut to have fallen by a similar margin. As previously agreed it is, of course, for members to agree any final deal at a General Meeting of the Club.

If we do not achieve a sale there will be some important decisions to be made at the AGM in November. The case for replacing Dunmail by a hut in a more suitable location remains and is supported by a significant majority (73%) of the members who responded to the survey carried out last year. In the circumstances we may have to adopt the longer term strategy of developing the hut to enhance its potential for a sale when the property market improves. We will also need to consider the use of the hut in the meantime.

So what lessons can we draw from our experience so far? Well, although some interest has come from folk looking for a home, most looked at it with a commercial objective in mind (primarily an up-market hostel/bunkhouse). We gather from the feedback that the negative factors which have put buyers off are the current internal condition of the building and the

cost of upgrading it (“too basic and too much work”); the Vodaphone mast (which some visitors did not like at all despite the income it brings); and the lack of on-site car parking (and having to use a lay-by). It is these issues that the Club will need to address. At the recent Management Committee meeting it was therefore agreed to put the following proposals to the AGM.

1. To continue to market the hut for sale until the end of February 2013 to complete a 12 month period and to test the market at the new lower price. After that date any changes in market conditions and the potential for a sale should be kept under review
2. To begin, without further delay, internal improvements to the hut and the development of an on-site car park with a view, firstly, to enhance use both by members and visiting groups and, secondly, to improve the prospects of a future sale in the longer term if that continues to be the Club’s preferred option.
3. Review the future of the Vodaphone mast when the current lease expires in March 2015.

Also could you include a note saying that after 12 years organising the race it is my intention to step down after this years race, and that if anyone is interested in taking over they should contact me.

TREASURER

After many years in the job our present club treasurer, Jean Lochhead intends to step down from the role. The management committee needs to appoint her replacement in the near future and is therefore seeking nominations from within the membership. So, if you are interested and would like further information on please contact **Jean on Tel: 01484 687030**

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

It is that time of the year again, membership renewal, annual subscriptions are due on 1st October 2012.

If you have not arranged to pay by direct debit, please send me a cheque for £25 for your subs payable to ARCC by 1st October, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your 2012/13 membership card. This will help to save the club money on postage.

I will take any renewal cards not posted, to Bishop’s Scale on the weekend of the Club Dinner Dance 27th/28th October and on the weekend of the AGM 3rd/4th November so that members can collect their cards. This will also save postage, it worked very well last year.

Any queries about payment please contact me:

Sue Carter Tel: 01706 841978 or e-mail: susan.d.carter@hotmail.com

OLD COUNTY TOPS 2012 RACE REPORT

This year was the twenty-fourth time that ARCC has organised the Old County Tops Fell Race, the first one being held twenty five years ago in 1988. Following the trend of recent years once again we had a record entry, with 103 pairs lining up at the start; the first time more than one hundred pairs have started.

We woke up on Saturday 19th May to some reasonable weather and apart from some windy and cold conditions on Helvellyn the weather was much improved compared to the heatwave of two years ago and last year's downpour. This was a good compromise; it being nearly ideal for the runners and not too bad for most of the hardy souls who marshal the checkpoints along the route.

The event ran as smoothly as ever with notable performances from the winners Tom Gibbs and Steve Birkenshaw, who set a new Vet 80 record of 7 hrs 5 mins, and the first mixed team of Digby Harris and Judith Jepson who finished fifth overall in a time of 7 hrs 59 mins: only a few minutes off the record for this category which was set by Ruth Pickvance and Martin Stone back in 1993. Full results are published on the web site.

I would like to thank all those who helped on the day - without you there is no race. I would also like to thank those who baked the cakes that were gratefully eaten at the finish. The idea to request members to bake cakes for the finish was a big success and I would like to do the same again next year, so be prepared all you cake makers.

I would also like to thank Raynet for once again providing excellent communications throughout the event, Lakes Runner for their support, La Sportiva for donating prizes for the winning teams, Warburtons Bakery for the donation of some bread and the New Dungeon Ghyll hotel for use of the bar area for registration and the field for parking, start and finish.

Next year's race will be held on Saturday 18th May 2013. A consequence of the increased number of runners is that we really do need more helpers if we are going to continue to hold events of this type. This year there was a lot of pressure on the team at registration and the catering team and we only just had enough people to cover all of the checkpoints on the course. To any one able, can I please ask that you give serious consideration to coming along and helping next year. This is a club event and through putting on events such as this our club gets a lot of recognition and respect within the fell running community. If you are able to help then I would appreciate as much notice of this as possible.

Chris Lloyd

Derek Price Memorial Fell Race.

(Grizedale Horse-shoe Fell Race)

As has been noted in the Chairman's Ramblings, Alan Kenny the race organizer for the last 12 years is stepping down, here is a copy of Alan's note to me regarding the above race. "Also could you include a note saying that after 12 years organising the race it is my intention to step down after this years race, and that if anyone is interested in taking over they should contact me."

Mick Mc Govern



DAVE MAKIN'S JOSS NAYLOR CHALLENGE 21ST APRIL 2012

The challenge was inaugurated by Joss Naylor in 1990 as a fund-raising event for the over 50's. In addition to completing the route, successful contenders must raise at least £100 for a charity of their choice. Joss's challenge involves climbing 30 tops, crossing some 48 miles of mountain terrain and ascending nearly 17000 feet. The route starts in Pooley Bridge, Ullswater and finishes at Greendale Bridge, Wasdale. Each age group has a specific time limit varying between 12 and 24 hours.

I set off from Bishop's Scale at 5.50am for the drive to Pooley Bridge with my navigator Phil Hodgson and helpers Dave Jackson and Andrew Bibby. Leaving a vehicle at Kirkstone, chief vehicle logistics organiser, Tony Shanley joined us on the journey.

Phil set off 1st to head up to Arthur's Pike and at 7am Dave, Andrew and I set off with Tony running ahead to open the gates at the start of the leg. As we started to climb Tony left us to drive back to Kirkstone to meet us at the 1st changeover.

Despite the ground being very wet underfoot we reached the first summit in good time. The visibility was good and the weather cold and breezy. We continued the route towards High Street making up time on the way.

We were met at Kirkstone by my wife Janet and her driver for the day Mick Howard. I received a great welcome from Achille Ratti members, Leo Pollard, Sheila Anderton, Martin Nicola Kirkman and Jeff and Lynn Lea. Accompanying me on the next section were navigator Colin Jones and helpers Robert Green, Dave Jackson, Chris Lloyd and Mark Jackson.

Chris and Mark set off up Red Screes whilst Dave Jackson and I enjoyed tea and bacon and egg butties. Once refueled Colin, Robert, Dave and I set off up the hill with the weather remaining fine but cool. We were continuing to make good time, still feeling good we headed off for Hart Crag and Fairfield. It was a good descent off Seat Sandal led by Robert with my other helpers providing water and snacks and keeping my spirits up.

At Dunmail, the Joss Naylor Challenge co-ordinator Monica Shone had arrived to wish me well on the remainder of my run. Also waiting for me were my helpers for the next leg, navigator Tash Fellowes and supply carriers James Lurati, Jo Lee Dave Ralphs and Andy Poole.

I arrived at Dunmail as it started to rain. As I sat down Leo produced an umbrella which he held over me to keep me dry. "Is there a towel for Dave?" Mick asked. As I had forgotten to pack one Janet wrapped me in our dog's towel much to everyone's amusement.

I was served hot soup and sandwiches and changed into a dry top ready for the climb up Steel Fell at the start of leg 3.

Climbing Steel Fell I started to feel unwell which continued for most of the leg. When I reached High Raise, Martin and Nicola were waiting with grapes and fruit salad which gave me a huge boost. On we went to Rossett Pike where Arthur Daniels and Pete McGonagle were waiting with hedgehog crisps "These will sort you out Makin" said Pete, which they did as I soon began to feel much better. Leaving Rossett, Arthur gave me a one of his special barley sugars to give energy on the climb ahead. Over Bow Fell and Esk Pike, Tash chose some great lines by the time we reached the top of Great End despite the mist being down we had a good descent to Sty Head.

We were met at the stretcher box by a posse of Ratti members: Sean, Janet, Tom and Ruby Makin, Chris, Jack and Emma Lloyd, Ian and Rose and Mick with dogs Todd and Dodger.

At Tony's suggestion Ian and Rose had carried up a whole watermelon and proceeded to slice it up on the stretcher box – it was delicious!! As I set off Ruby gave me her fruit pastilles to give me energy for the last leg.

As Tony had been stuck behind a 'Sunday driver' on the drive to Wasdale he had made his way up to Beck Head to meet me and Ozzy Kershaw who had made his way to Gable to check the best line for the descent. At Beck Head more club members were there to greet me namely Jeff, Lynn and Phil.

Tash had carried on as navigator up Gable with James carrying water for leg 4. I was also accompanied by Mick on the climb.

Reaching the summit we met Ozzy who took his new line down to Beck Head where we met Tony dressed as usual in his 1970s running kit.

We were by now down on time "We should have been on Steeple 12 minutes ago" Tony told me. I picked up my pace and started to claw back some of the time. Descending Steeple with Oz, Tash, James and Tony, I then ate some food whilst climbing Haycock. More time was made up running across the Pots of Ashness which was very wet and boggy. Climbing Seatallan strongly and a good descent down Middle Fell led us down into Greendale.

As I reached the finish, Joss Naylor was there to greet me and to shake my hand. I touched the bridge in a time of 11 hours 35 minutes right on schedule. What a fantastic day on the hills.

Many thanks to the Achille Ratti and to everyone who assisted me on the day – I couldn't have done it without you.

Ad Altoria

Dave Makin

EDITORS PLEA.

At present the News Letter, AGM minutes and agenda's are distributed to members by post and email. The proportion is about 240 by email, 500 by post. The emailing of club correspondence has led to a big saving in time, printing and postage costs. It would help further in these areas if email usage was increased further. Therefore, would members who currently get their club correspondence by post and yet have an email address, please consider using their email address for this purpose. To do so simply let the membership secretary know of your wishes.

Ruby Martin + Tom 21-4-12

Today my uncle ~~and~~ Dave (Martin) did his Joss Naylor. We walked up to stay head turn to see him finish leg 3, and chase to the last leg number 4. We walked up there with our parents, Jack and Emma Lloyd and their dad, and Mick Howard as well as Todd and Roger both Dogs. We waited there until they came he said that he had been a bit sick. Also, Tony and OZzy were meant to be on leg 4 but they never showed up (Luckily they met up with them in the middle) So Tash had to carry on. When we got down we went to the pub for a quick drink before going to Joss Naylor's house to wait for them. Joss came out and had a chat with Leo Pollard because he used to be a legend at running as well. When they came down we walked to the bridge and I walked near the bottom of the hill and ran the last bit with him. Then we had loads of pickups and all said well done, then we went to The Old Dungeon Gille for a ~~patte~~ pint. 😊

Well Done!
Uncle Dave!

