

Ad Altiora

The newsletter of The Achille Ratti Climbing Club



Mgr Frank Slattery in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows on 15th November 2014
after saying his last Mass as Club President,
along with retiring Trustee Ben Carter and retiring Secretary Ann McGonagle

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

David Jackson: It is good as a new Chairman to find a ready tailor made theme. So I wish all members a very **Happy New Year**. Let's hope 2015 brings all we would wish: for members, their families and friends - that their experience of the Club continues to provide companionship and support for all activities in the hills : for the Club – that it continues to extend its traditional welcome to all; that its calendar of events and meets is well supported; that the promise of new accommodation at Little Ground House is fulfilled; that the new expression for the Club as an incorporated cooperative society is achieved; that all this succeeds in maintaining and supporting members' activities in the hills and the shared sense of enjoyment that brings.

I heard the opening words of a well-known hymn just before Christmas: "Hills of the North rejoice, river and mountain spring, hark to the Advent voice, valley and lowland sing. Though absent long, your Lord is nigh. He judgement brings and victory". I thought: "Just what we need – a sense of overcoming obstacles". Then I remembered Wales! But if we can include Wales in the "north" we have a good tune with which to start the New Year.

Let's hope, with all the changes facing the Club that members in 2015 can get out into the hills and onto the shores and then rejoice, like the hills, about good climbs, runs, walks, scrambles, rides, kayakings, rides, meets and gatherings. These make the Club and are the expression of its unique character and reduce talk of insurance, legalities and incorporations to their rightful place as but means to serve these ends.

THANKS: To all those who made November 15th, the day of the AGM, the Mass, the new sub-committee and the dinner such a very positive and enjoyable occasion. A number of folk commented how much they enjoyed the day. The present Pope is fond of using the word "parrasia" – meaning "free-spokenness, frankness or boldness of speech". Of the issues facing the Club, it must be said that they were discussed in the spirit of that "parrasia".

Particular THANKS to: **Mgr Frank Slattery** who has served the Club so faithfully and unobtrusively for all the years from the time of Bishop Pearson and who announced his retirement at the AGM. He has accepted honorary membership. We wish him every blessing in his new role and may he not be kept too busy in his parish at Milnthorp; to **Chris Farrell** for his two years as Chairman: if we just mention the sale of Dunmail; the purchase of Little Ground House; seeking Incorporation; issues to do with the Equality Act; insurances and the usual business of the Club; then we have much to thank Chris for: tireless attention to detail, to liaison between members, the MC and all outside parties such as solicitors and insurers. Chris has agreed to continue the work he began in seeking the necessary incorporation the Club urgently needs; to **Ann McGonagle** for her unstinting 14 years as Secretary – the longest serving Secretary, we think, in Club history. Ann is typical of all those who serve the Club without any desire for any limelight but who deserve it.

WELCOME: to **Fr David Elder**, Parish Priest of Garstang, appointed by the Management Committee in consultation with the Bishop of Lancaster as the new Club President. Fr David

is a longstanding member and previous Club Chaplain. We wish him well in the work of maintaining the Club's Catholic and inclusive identity and the links between it and the people, life and mission of the Diocese; to **Chris Lloyd** who has agreed to be co-opted as Vice Chair until the AGM 2015 when he can stand for the position in the usual way. He has also agreed to act as Secretary; to **John Rogerson** elected as Ordinary Member; to **Andy Pooler**, co-opted as additional member to act as Development Officer to encourage younger folks' membership.

BAD NEWS – GOOD NEWS

Unhappily I have been asked to remind all members to leave huts as they would wish to find them – in decent, clean and tidy order. Recently one hut was left in such a bad state as to merit a warning letter from the Management Committee. That is not the ethos or attitude any Club should expect. Please make sure you organise your visit to include a good tidy up and sort out before you leave.

Happily - to sum up the appreciation of the worth of the work and activities which the Club projects to others – a letter of appreciation from James Byrne of Ambleside AC for the manner in which the Ratti organised the Grisedale Horseshoe race last September:

"I just want to pass on my thanks and gratitude for yet another superbly organised Grisedale H-Shoe race last Saturday, and I know I speak for everyone else who ran too. I believe Ratti have got it absolutely right – minimum fuss at kit check and registration, no nonsense pre race debrief, friendly, encouraging marshalls on the hill and amazing food and drink afterwards – all for £5!! Fantastic. Also, Grisedale and County Tops have to be the two best races in the calendar. On these days of ever inflated race fees and gimmicks, it is great to still have 'old school' fell races and a club that still promotes this ethos."

I get asked from time to time: "Just what is this 'Catholic' ethos of the Ratti?" Part of it is the attitude underlying what it provided so well here in serving others. It was well spotted by James. Unfussy, down to earth and - contrary to the common fallacy that Catholics sting you – not a rip off. Catholic means Christian and Christian often means endorsing what good folk do naturally.

Enjoy 2015.

ARCC MEMBERSHIP RULE AND THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

REPLY FROM WILLIAM GARNIER (Barrister & Adviser on Equality Issues to the Conference of Catholic Bishops of England and Wales) when the questions raised at the AGM Nov 2014 were put to him:

"I think that it is possible that a judge could find that the club is a religious organisation for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010, however there are two main factors counting against you:

1.Climbing, although a worthwhile activity in itself, would be difficult to link to a religious aim. I

would hesitate to call it an ecumenical or inter-faith group as that is clearly not the main intention of the group, so it would have to be linked to Catholics. As such the only link that could be shown to the group's religious nature is the fact that it has a Catholic founding document and the majority of the members are Catholic.

2. The fact that you allow non-Catholics to join somewhat detracts from the argument that this is an organisation mainly organised to cater to the needs of a religious group.

These two points taken together, in my opinion, make it harder to argue that the club is a religious group. As with all such situations there is scope for a decision going either way, but I would have thought the club would be in a very high risk position by relying on the religious organisation exception.

I would also like to make the point that requiring a potential member to sign a declaration stating they are comfortable/sympathetic with the Catholic ethos of the club would be much easier to justify than an explicit restriction on non-Catholic members. Indirect discrimination need only be shown to be proportional to be lawful, and it would not require the club to be "religious" as understood by the Equality Act. Furthermore using a Catholic chapel for events, as long as no one is forced to go or take part, would again likely only count as indirect discrimination and part of a Catholic ethos which is in no way unlawful.

Ultimately as long as the club continues to discriminate when admitting members it will leave itself open to a legal challenge, and the only way to avoid that is to not discriminate, or indeed to discriminate more and only allow Catholics to join. In the end it comes down to how much risk the club is willing to accept.

I have also attached a copy of the recently released guidance from the CBCEW on equality law which may be helpful to give a wider overview of how equality law works in England and Wales. Please feel free to circulate it widely, or to direct people to the guide on the website: www.cbcew.org.uk/equality.

Best wishes. William

In the light of this reply the Management Committee has no choice but to propose changes to the Club's membership rules in the constitution at an EGM in order to prevent the Club being classed as discriminatory within the Equalities Act. Should there be any hint of discrimination in the ARCC Constitution our Incorporation application would be rejected. This change will also allow us to obtain Incorporated status to prevent the Club and its members from possibly being sued should we fall through any Insurance or procedural gap whilst engaged in any Club activities or day to day running.

NB: MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN DUE NOTICE OF AN EGM TO BE CALLED LATER IN THE YEAR TO HAVE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION PUT TO THEM.

COULD YOU BE PART OF THE LITTLE GROUND HOUSE (LGH) HUT SUPPORT TEAM?

We are looking for 4 people to take on a range of responsibilities to support the running of our newest ARCC hut, Little Ground House, in Wasdale. If you'd like to contribute your time and skills please have a look at the positions on offer below as part of the LGH Hut Support Team.

HUT WARDEN (1 position)

- Overall responsibility for LGH
- Needs to have a forward looking approach to the hut and developing usage of it
- Ensures that the rules and byelaws of the club are adhered to
- Attends ARCC Management Committee Meetings to give updates
- Organises meets, activities and events at the hut
- Provides a report at the AGM
- Fosters good relations with our neighbours in the Wasdale valley
- Works closely with other members of the LGH Hut Support Team

FINANCE WARDEN (1 position)

- Responsible for the collection of hut fees
- Keeps an up to date record of hut related spend working with the ARCC Treasurer
- Acts as a deputy for the Hut Warden as required including attending Management Committee Meetings when the Hut Warden is unable to do so

DEPUTY WARDENS (2 positions)

- Ensures the hut meets required safety standards and complies with regulations
- Monitors the structure of the hut and internal appearance and arranges maintenance when necessary
- Organises at least two working weekends a year at LGH
- Acts as a deputy at Little Ground House in the absence of the Hut Warden

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these roles please contact the Acting Club Secretary Chris Lloyd via email chrisandtash@talktalk.net or by telephone on 01695 623768 with a brief explanation of why you would like to do the job. Please get in touch by 28th February 2015 if you would like to be considered to be part of the LGH Hut Support Team. The Management Committee will make the final decision on the appointments in early March.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sue Carter: Current membership total is 802. Life members 79, Full members 698, and Probationary members 25. Plus 47 Associates and 164 Juniors.

Thank you again for all those members who pay their annual subs by direct debit, and those who pay by cheque/cash and pay promptly. Unfortunately there are quite a number of members to whom I have to send reminders.

Annual subs are due 1st October and I find I am still chasing some payments right up to the end of the year. I have had to cancel membership for 16 persons this year due to non-payment of subs. All this involves a lot of correspondence.

Please can I encourage more members to pay by direct debit, just contact me for a form or collect one from Bishop's Scale. I leave some in the folder of member's names and addresses.

I am still finding quite a number of probationary members do not reply when I write to ask them if they are ready to apply for full membership when their 12 months probationary period has been completed. It may be that the Management Committee will have to review the probationary system to make sure that prospective members understand the requirements to become a member.

Please remember to let me know of any contact changes i.e. postal or email address. My contact details are Tel: 01706 841978 or susan.d.carter@hotmail.com. Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF THE CLUB FELL RACE TROPHY



Teresa Jackson receives the Club Fell Race Trophy on behalf of son David Michael from Mgr Frank Slattery at the 2014 AGM.

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & MEETS CARD 2014



President - Fr David Elder

Trustees – Michael Pooler, Leo Pollard

Management Committee			
Chairman	David Jackson	43 Moorhead Crescent, Shipley, BD18 4LQ	01274 581094 dandt43@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman (Co-Opted)	Chris Lloyd	28 Spencers Lane, Orrell Wigan WN5 8RA	01695 623758 chris.lloyd731@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jean Lochhead	16 Broad Lane, Upperthong, Holmfirth, HD9 3JS	01484 687030 jean@lochheadj.fsnet.co.uk
Secretary (Acting)	Chris Lloyd	28 Spencers Lane, Orrell Wigan WN5 8RA	01695 623758 chris.lloyd731@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Sue Carter	214 Rochdale Road, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7JA	01706 841978 susan.d.carter@hotmail.com
Ordinary Member	Paul Charnock	55 Kingsway, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0ED	01772 743078 highgatehelen@hotmail.com
Ordinary Member	Tony Shanley	Awaiting new address	07799 232523 tony.shanley@icloud.com
Ordinary Member	John Rogerson	42 Victoria Road, Fulwood Preston, PR2 8NE	07947 133821 john_m_rogerson@hotmail.com
Development Officer (Co-Opted)	Andy Pooler	Quakers Paddock, 4 Heights, Ripponden, HX6 4HJ	07799 418427 andrew@m-p-a.co.uk
Beckstones Hut Warden	Terry Kitching	3 Peaceful Valley, Hurworth Place, Darlington, DL2 2DB	01325 721390 / 07766 202882 terry.kitching@btopenworld.com
Bishop's Scale Hut Warden	Arthur Daniels	59 Oak Avenue, Todmorden, OL14 5NT	07845 125077
LGH Hut Warden	Applications welcome		
Tyn Twr Hut Warden	John McGonagle	33 Revidge Road, Blackburn, BB2 6JB	01254 265574 ann@amcgonagle.wanadoo.co.uk

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB – MEETS CARD 2015

To aid accurate provision of food & accommodation at catered meets,
please tell the meet leader - well beforehand - that you are coming

Date	Event & Comments	Venue	Organiser	Contact
Events at Little Ground House will likely be announced during the year; look out for announcements over email and on the website				
Sat 24 th Jan	Fell Runners' Meet *Catered meet. Famous Wigan pie & peas supper on Saturday	Bishop's Scale	Dave Makin	07801 025437
Sat 21 st Feb	Club Ethos meeting *Saturday morning	Bishop's Scale	David Jackson	01274 581094 07816 603207
Sat 21 st – 22 nd Feb	Maintenance and cleaning weekend. *Names required for Sat evening meal	Bishop's Scale	Chris Lloyd	01695 623758
Sat 4 th April	New Dungeon Ghyll Fell Race *Helpers and marshals needed	Bishop's Scale	Tony Shanley	07799 232523
Sat 25 th April	Long Walk – Welsh 3000fters *Catered Meet – booking essential	Tyn Twr	John & Ann McGonagle	01254 265574
Weds 6 th May	Fifth Annual Reunion	Bishop's Scale	Sue Carter	01706 841978
Sat 16 th May	Old County Tops Race *Marshals & helpers needed	Bishop's Scale	Chris Lloyd	01695 623768
Sat 11 th – 12 th Jul	BBQ *Catered Meet	Bishop's Scale	Arthur Daniels	07845 125077
Fri 31 st Jul – 2 nd Aug	Family Meet	Tyn Twr	Chris Lloyd Tash Fellowes	01695 623768
Sat 15 th – 16 th Aug	Classic Passes Bike Ride *Catered meet: booking essential for meals & food en route	Bishop's Scale	Arthur Daniels	07845 125077
Sat 22 nd – 23 rd Aug	Kayaking Capers with Late Summer Madness BBQ *Booking essential for food, accommodation and kayaks	Tyn Twr	Chris Lloyd	01695 623768
Sat 5 th Sep	Derek Price Memorial Fell Race *Helpers & marshals needed	Bishop's Scale	Tony Shanley	07799 232523
Sat 12 th Sep	North Wales Cycle Tour (Road Bikes)	Tyn Twr	Dave Makin	07801 025437
Sun 20 th Sep	Club Fell Race	Bishop's Scale	Dave Makin	07801 025437
Sat 3 rd – 4 th Oct	Walk/Run/Cycle *Catered meet, booking essential	Bishop's Scale	Arthur Daniels	07845 125077
Sat 10 th Oct	Autumn Amble Meet	Bishop's Scale	John Smith	01204 669926 07757 115359
Sat 24 th – 25 th Oct	Maintenance W/E. <i>Jobs for All</i> *Catered meet, booking essential	Tyn Twr	John & Ann McGonagle	01254 265574
Sat 14 th Nov	AGM, Mass and Dinner	Chapel Stile Bishop's Scale	Arthur Daniels Chris Lloyd	07845 125077 01695 623768
Fri 4 th – Sun 6 th Dec	Christmas at Tyn Twr *Catered meet, booking essential	Tyn Twr	John & Ann McGonagle	01254 265574