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The newsletter of the Achille Ratti Climbing Club

Newsletter Test



ARTHUR DANIELS
BISHOP'S SCALE HUT WARDEN
MAY HE REST IN PEACE

AN EXTRACT FROM PAUL DANIELS' EULOGY FOR HIS DAD ARTHUR

I've heard from several people that funerals are for the living not the dead, and whilst I understand this sentiment, in the words of my Dad, that isn't entirely true. When the focal point of your family leaves you behind, it creates a massive void that you wonder how you'll ever fill. This really is IT and it's the finality of it all that makes it so difficult.

So it's very much about my Dad. I know that his spirit is in all of us that knew him, that his memory lives as long as we do and that he isn't suffering anymore and that's a blessing. I know he's with God now, no doubt organising St Peter's daily routine when he isn't wandering some celestial mountain range giving Alfred Wainwright a hard time for all those awful steps and National Trust rock pathways that crisscross the Cumbrian fells.

A few years ago, I challenged him that if it hadn't been for people like Wainwright then we wouldn't be walking off Bow Fell down a decent path from Rosset for a pint in the Old DG. He complained that it was because of Wainwright there were so many paths and thousands of people tramping the Lakes. I guess he didn't see the irony in that and there was no point in pursuing it, so I did the wise thing and smiled and shut up! And like the rest of you grumbled when we reached the pub and he got half a whale for his fish and chips and I got a tiddler! As he often told me, it's who you know! The consummate politician.

I think my Dad thought of himself as a modern Wainwright and I think he probably was. Maps are wonderful things but they're no substitute for knowledge and experience, something he had in abundance and I always preferred being out there with him, even when I knew exactly where I was going, because it felt safe. Because I knew if it went pear-shaped and the weather closed in I had all the kit to survive, but HE would know how to get down safely. He never doubted his own ability, which was why he gave me THAT look when I shouldered my day sack with warm clothing, map, compass, bivvy bag, all stuff I rarely used, and he hooked up his bum bag with a waterproof jacket and a cereal bar. He was my guide and mentor out there because that was what he knew best. Even around Todmorden, a town we grew up in, Richard and I find ourselves doubting our route on a walk now he's

gone, because it was always the same – he led, we followed.

To the members of Achille Ratti I give heartfelt thanks for making him one of your own and for being such good friends for such a long time. I've met quite a few of you over the few short years I've spent as an associate member and you're every bit as welcoming and kind as Dad told me you were. Like soldiers, walkers, climbers and fell runners are an odd breed with an unusual group dynamic which can be more than a little daunting to mere mortals but I've never felt anything but at home in your company and your support for Mum has been really touching.

To the Club as an organisation, thank you for giving Dad the thing he craved most; a sense of purpose and belonging. The bulk of the last 20 years he spent giving his all to make Bishops Scale the best base camp in the Lakes for outdoor pursuits and to help ensure the success of every event he was involved in. The strongest sentiment from all your messages of support was the fact that his help covering a leg of the Bob Graham (without doubt his greatest life achievement) or his smiling face at some remote checkpoint at some ungodly hour of the morning was just the boost you needed to succeed. The Jelly Baby Man rarely disappointed. Rest assured, he needed you every bit as much as you needed him and his final days were made harder for him by the fact he could no longer fulfil that need.

May he rest in peace.

Our thanks to Paul for allowing us to print part of the tribute he paid to his Dad.

PETER McHALE RIP

Please remember Peter who died in his sleep June 11/12th. He was a stalwart of the Club as worker, climber, runner, cyclist and friend to many. He will be sadly missed.

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

David Jackson: The Club is going through a period of change in all sorts of directions and for all sorts of reasons – some good, some not so good. But, as Cardinal Newman said (and they speak of little else in Heckmondwyke): *“To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often.”* Amidst change, this issue of the Newsletter will also reflect that the good things about the club continue, do not change and continue to be good – e.g. another successful Old County Tops fell run event attracted almost 100 pairs of participants (16th May). The Club Reunion (6th May) attracted some dozen members who shared memories of times past. Nearly 40 folk attended the Tyn Twr long walk and happily (!) survived a Welsh dousing. A successful working week was held at Langdale in February. Other events like the Club BBQ on 11th July (see below) will happen as usual – but with changes and additions.

Just to list some of the changes which seem to affect almost every aspect of the Club and which do require the attention and help of members – especially the younger ones.

CHANGES – MEMBERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP THE CLUB MOVE FORWARD.

Arthur Daniels, the warden of the “constant presence” at Bishop’s Scale died, after a short illness, in April. May he rest in peace. Many members attended his funeral in Todmorden. Part of Paul’s eulogy of his Dad is printed in this Newsletter. So there have to be changes at Bishop’s Scale. (See below how you can help – THE HUT NEEDS A NEW WARDEN AND POSSIBLY A HUT COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT)

In February Barry Ayre died. As a non-Catholic member he managed the building of the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows and would be glad to think that use of the Chapel continues.

As we were preparing this Newsletter we heard of the sudden death of Peter McHale – whom many will remember as one of the most active members of the Club and one of its mainstays in so many ways. Club members attended his funeral in Leeds on 26th June. Our prayers and condolences go to his family – especially Tony his brother and Christine and Maria his sisters. May he rest in peace.

The water supply at Bishop’s Scale has to be radically adapted to meet new local

government requirements and all safety standards. Work on this will start shortly – check at the hut for details of work to be carried out.

Little Ground House, Wasdale. Work to transform the farm house into a top class “hut” able to accommodate over 20 goes on apace. (See below how you can help – THE NEW HUT NEEDS A WARDEN & SUPPORT TEAM) Also see the item on Club finances – not another appeal! But funds are required to finish the refurbishment at LGH.

Beckstones. Our lease with the National Trust runs out this year. This hut will be replaced in that part of the Lakes by Little Ground House.

The projected move to become an Incorporated Cooperative is proceeding and we hope to bring the required changed constitution to the attention of members well before the AGM in November. THESE CHANGES WILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

The Heritage / Ethos sub-Committee had one meeting (Feb) and reports of progress in 3 connected areas (Chapel; Ethos statement; Publicity) have been circulated to its members. Contact me if you would like a copy.

A Health and Safety Policy is under consideration and will require all Club members and staff (Wardens and teams; meets organisers in particular) to be familiar with its requirements.

Many members are already involved in making sure the Club moves forward through these changes. Our thanks are due to all of them. They know who they are!

THE CLUB NEEDS ITS MEMBERS – IS THERE ANYTHING YOU COULD OFFER TO DO?

COULD YOU BE PART OF THE BISHOP'S SCALE OR LITTLE GROUND HOUSE (LGH) HUT SUPPORT TEAM?

If you are reading this you are no doubt a member of ARCC. hopefully enjoying using the Huts, benefiting from the camaraderie experienced there and making full use of all facilities. Perhaps what you may not have considered is how the Club arrived at the point that it is at today. This has all come about by past members and current ones working in a

voluntary and extremely hard capacity to maintain and improve your experiences at the three Huts. By just paying the membership fee and the very low priced night's accommodation fee in order to enjoy the benefits of the Club will not lead to a future thriving organisation. Unless ARCC is able to attract a high percentage of volunteer workers to run and maintain the Huts then the fees and bed night charges will have to dramatically be increased as more and more maintenance requirements will have to be outsourced. Therefore please think very seriously about the requests for Hut Wardens and their proposed support teams for the Huts. **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!**

LGH:

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

Have oversight of the Health and Safety Policy and its application.

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 (4 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

BISHOP'S SCALE

As we go to press – please note that the Management Committee have agreed to appoint Tony Shanley as Hut Warden with effect from July 11th. Tony will be proposed for selection as Warden at the AGM in November in the usual way. The responsibilities of the Warden are listed here – to remind members of what the position demands and to still ask for members to take on the other connected responsibilities.

We are looking for 4 people to take on a range of responsibilities to support the running of Bishop's Scale. If you'd like to contribute your time and skills please have a look at the positions on offer below as part of the Support Team.

HUT WARDEN (1 position)

Overall responsibility for Bishop's Scale

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 Langdale

Works closely with other members of the Hut Support Team

Have oversight of the Health and Safety Policy and its application.

DEPUTY WARDENS (4 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 one working weekends a year

Acts as a deputy 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 as soon as possible if you would like to be considered to be part of the LGH OR Bishop's Scale Hut Support Team. The Management Committee will make final decisions at its meeting in September.

NB: People who have applied for the positions at LGH as a result of the last Newsletter appeal have no need to re-apply – their interest is still under consideration.

FINALLY: Your Chairman is conscious that he merely seeks to co-ordinate the efforts of a great number of members who work for the Club in all sorts of ways. It is a privilege to be able to do so. Thanks to all who contribute. But the Club is facing a level of change in all the ways listed – and so it does need more help from its members.



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sue Carter: Current membership total is 819. Life members 76, Full members 723 and Probationary members 20. Plus 22 Associates and 177 Juniors.

At the last Management Committee meeting it was agreed to allow a further number of Associates to apply for full membership. 29 applicants were successful.

It is expected that after the AGM in November the rules regarding membership application will be revised and a new form will be introduced. Therefore I am not processing any applications for membership from non-Catholics until the new rules are in place.

Very sadly we have lost some valuable members over the past few months, they will be

greatly missed.

Barry Ayre, Dorothy Buffy, Arthur Daniels, Michael Hopley, Peter McHale, and John Maloy.

They will all be remembered at our annual Mass for deceased members held after the AGM in November.

As ever can I remind members to advise me of any change in their details, i.e. postal address, email address, bank details.

I have now run out of the small plastic wallets that I put members' photos and membership cards in. I was given a supply when I took over as membership secretary 7+ years ago but they have all been used now and no-one seems to know where to source them. I have enquired at various stationery outlets without success. If anyone can help I would be very grateful.

Direct Debit

Please can I ask members who are not currently paying their annual subs by direct debit to contact me for a form. It saves late payments and reminders having to be issued which is time consuming and a cost to the club, that money could be better spent.

My contact details are: Sue Carter, 214 Rochdale Road, Shaw, Oldham OL2 7JA. Tel: 01706 841978

Email: susan.d.carter@hotmail.com



OLD COUNTY TOPS 2015



Chris Lloyd: Another successful Old County Tops Race took place on Saturday 16th May. A reasonable morning in the Langdale Valley saw ninety seven pairs of runners on the start line this year – close to a record entry. Before the start competitors were informed of Arthur's death and were asked to participate in 30 seconds of applause in recognition of his contribution to the race over the years.

In memory of Arthur, the club has purchased a trophy, which will be called the 'Arthur Daniels Trophy'. This will be awarded annually to the fastest Achille Ratti team in the Old County Tops. The trophy was presented to Dave Makin and Robert Lee Green following this year's race.

We were fortunate to have a strong field of runners in the event this year, with the eventual winners Martin Mikkelsen-Barron and Adam Perry completing in the second fastest time ever of 6hrs 48mins 22secs. Records were also broken in the male vet 100, mixed and ladies categories. All in all, some amazing performances and congratulations to all. Full results can be found on the Club's website.

This race doesn't go ahead without a great deal of effort from many. In particular the club would like to thank Hangar 18 for once again providing sponsorship and for being present on race day. We must also thank the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel for the use of the field, Raynet for providing communications, the National Trust for allowing use of the toilets and all the Achille Ratti members who turned up on the day and carried out tasks ranging from booty making to standing on the top of a mountain for hours. It is a real team effort that is a pleasure to organise!

Next year's race will be on Saturday 21st May 2016. Please put this date in your diaries if you are prepared to give up a bit of your time to help. The Old County Tops is only one of three fell races organised by the club. All three are considered to be classic events and by putting these on we do a lot to publicise our club in the fell running world. We can't do this without help from members. Examples of some of the positive feedback we received after the race are given below; clear evidence that our efforts are appreciated by many.

"Just want to say thank you for a great day on Saturday 16th May, on the Old County Tops race. The marshalls and everyone involved at the start/finish and the aid stations were friendly and helpful. What a fantastic tribute to the ARCC. Well done and long may

it continue.”

“Thanks Achille Ratti for putting on this fantastic race. 2015 was a superb year, and it was, as ever, organised superbly.”

“Amazing day out at the old county tops fell race yesterday. Fantastic route. The organisation was amazing. The food was brilliant. And what other race do you get applauded with cow bells all the way to the top of helvellyn? Loved it. Thank you.”

“Just wanted to say thanks for putting on The Old County Tops yesterday- it was a really friendly, beautiful, well run event. In particular I wanted to thank the marshals at Angle Tarn; I had a rubbish first half of the race and had convinced myself to withdraw at that point, but the marshals weren't having any of it and convinced me that our pair could finish. In the end we came in just over 10 hours 20, and to be honest I was just chuffed to finish it. Maybe I'll be back to do it faster next year, when my muscles have stopped aching!”

“It all went to plan – many, many thanks for your help. Just to add – we had an absolutely brilliant day and we cannot thank you and your team enough. I prefer not to do races as I feel it detracts from my love of running on the fells however this really is quite an exceptional event. The enthusiasm and commitment is quite exceptional. What other race would a lady appear out of the mist on Helvellyn banging a cow bell , (please tell me she was part of the event!!!), the road crew with all the great food and drink, the commitment of people appearing at various places to shout support and man the check points. Again, Coniston check point guys DEFINITELY drew the short straw again – it was blowing a hoolie when we got there! You should be rightly proud of being associated with such a great club.”



PETER McHALE
JUNE 2015
MAY HE REST IN PEACE

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We send correspondence via email to all Achille Ratti Climbing Club members
who have provided us with their email address.

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