



Ad Altiora

The newsletter of the Achille Ratti Climbing Club



Newsletter - February 2016

CHAIRMAN'S

David Jackson: Happy New Year to all members. Rain! GK Chesterton in a poem entitled: "Wine and Water" about Noah and the flood has it thus:

"The cataract of the cliff of heaven fell blinding off the brink
As if it would wash the stars away as suds go down a sink
The seven heavens came roaring down for the throats of hell to drink
And Noah he cocked an eye and said, 'It looks like rain, I think.'"

The recent "cataracts" have ruined some folk's properties and livelihoods round the Lakes, in Yorkshire and in Wales and we do not make light of that. The Club hut at Tyn Twr was flooded but due to John and Anne McGonagle and their team of helpers the damage has been contained. Like them the floods released the resilience and good neighbourliness of many. They may just be able to appreciate Chesterton's last lines:

"The water has drowned the Matterhorn as deep as a Mendip mine.
But I do not care where the water goes if it doesn't get into the wine"

The Club has achieved much since the last Newsletter in September last year. Many of the new directions started then hopefully will reach their conclusions in 2016:

THE BECKSTONES HUT. This month the hut will be returned to the National Trust and a long and happy lease will come to an end. Its passing has been marked by many who have fond family and personal memories of its use. The Club thanks all past wardens and especially Terry Kitchen – the last Warden whose life now will be perhaps a little less tied up with south Lakeland. Very many thanks Terry.

A NEW CONSTITUTION. At the November AGM members almost nem con passed 7 resolutions which have resulted in a new Club Constitution. Constitutions serve only one purpose but it is an important one – to ensure the Club is able to operate, flourish and thrive for the benefit of all its members within the necessary legal framework. Thanks are due especially to the previous Chairman Chris Farrell who worked his socks off for two years to bring the process to a successful conclusion. We now have a Club open for "*Catholics and all those who are in sympathy with the Club's aims and objectives.*" (see the new Application form on the Club website) Thanks are due to all those who attended the AGM and whose collective good sense enabled these changes to be made. With the removal of the membership rule which sought by maintaining

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a majority of Catholic members to preserve the “Catholic identity” of the club, it means that this identity becomes the concern of all members - Catholic or not. It confirms what the Club has always embodied – an equal respect and an attitude of non-discrimination towards all members without distinction. Long may that continue. The Catholic ethos of the Club means members try and maintain human values to do with mutual respect, straightforwardness, honesty in conversations with the addition of those Christian values to do with mercy and forgiveness (we all get it wrong!)

INCORPORATION AS A COOPERATIVE SOCIETY. The new constitution paves the way for an application to be made to the Financial Conduct Authority for incorporation. The application will be made at a time when all accounting procedures are able to be met with best effectiveness – but there is every hope this will happen before the end of the year.

LITTLE GROUND HOUSE – WASDALE. Good news! In March it is hoped that the new Club hut will be open for the use of members, thanks to the splendid efforts of members, fundraisers and particularly Paul Charnock and his helpers. The exact date will be announced in good time and will depend on having all certification in place to provide the necessary legal and insurance cover without which members and Club officers would personally be legally liable if anything untoward happened there. The date, when announced, will be kept to despite any residual unfinished works. There may be finishing works after the opening date and members should be aware of any temporary inconveniences. Which seamlessly brings us to:

DOT WOOD – NEWLY APPOINTED WARDEN AT LGH. Congratulations to Dot whose application to be appointed as Warden at LGH was accepted by the Management Committee at its December meeting. No warden can do their work without a team of assistants. Dot has performed duties at Langdale for many a year – so will appreciate the need to have a similar team at LGH. We wish her well for her time as warden. She is aware that she will be looking after one of the most well-appointed and desirable huts in Lakeland.

Chairmen cannot exist as such without the indulgence and forbearance of the Club’s President, Trustees, Management Committee members and the membership in general – so a big thank you to all of you as we progress into another new year. Ad Altiora.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY’S REPORT

Sue Carter:

Membership Nos

Life	17
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Full	718
Probationary Associates	37
Total	832
Junior members	169

Previous Associates and Probationary members are now known as **Probationary Associates**, and will be eligible to apply for full membership on completion of their 12 month probationary period. This will also include those Associates who have been waiting longer than 12 months due to the previous ruling based on the Catholic/non Catholic ratio which now no longer exists. I will write to those persons who are eligible prior to the appropriate Management Committee meeting, the next being 9th March 2016.

There is now a new Application Form on the website which you can [download](#). This is the required form to be used. If an old form is used to apply for membership then I have to send out the new one to the applicant as the wording has been amended and must be read very carefully by the applicant and the proposers so that they all understand what is required. Probationary Associates must show a commitment to taking part in and/or helping in club events/meets as well as pursuing their own outdoor activities. There should be a supply of the new form at the club or I can post one out on request. My contact details are at the end of this report.

I have had a number of members/associates who have not replied to my reminders and have not paid their annual subs as required by the 31st December 2015. Those members/associates have now been deleted from the membership list and can only be reinstated by contacting me and making payment of ££25 admin charge in addition to their subs currently £25.

A new ruling has been put in place for Junior Membership. When a Probationary Associate is awarded Full Membership then application can be made for Junior membership for their child/children instead of having to wait a further 18 months as was previously required.

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TYN TWR FLOODING
Ann McGonagle:

The recent flooding problem at Tyn Twr is being monitored it would appear that the damage is not too bad – just a lot of cleaning! John is making regular visits to dry the hut out and keep a check on things. We are very grateful for the offers of help from the members and we will try and keep you up to date and get back to you when we know what needs doing.

MAY MYSTERY AT TYN TWR
Ann McGonagle:

We would like to organise a trip to the copper mines on Parys Mountain, Anglesey during the morning of Saturday 7th May 2016 as part of the May Mystery weekend advertised on the Calendar. Some of you will remember doing the trip a few years ago – Midsummer Madness. It was an amazing experience doing the underground trip with an experienced guide. The sights, colours and the historic information given to us made it a very interesting event. We have contacted the mine and provisionally booked the date, what we need now is a commitment to join in. The cost would be £10 which covers the insurance we need to pay and is organised by the mine. Unfortunately the lower age limit is 17 so junior members on this occasion will not be able to join in. Old clothes would need to be worn – you will get dirty! And they suggest that wellingtons are worn. Headlights and helmets will be available - or you can take your own if you have them. The trip would take approximately three hours.

Following the visit it is suggested that you join us for a meal at the Adelphi Vaults, Quay Street, Amlwch Port, they are able to offer traditional pub grub – example curry and a pint for £6 (obviously other choice of food would be available). Car share would be set up for the transport over there.

WE NEED TO KNOW BY 22ND APRIL 2016 at the latest if you are interested and wish to be part of the adventure, earlier if possible.

Please contact John and Ann McGonagle 01254 265574 or via the website Tyn Twr contact.

With apologies for late publication this edition - Alana