

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 2016

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS AUGUST 2016

CHRIS LLOYD

As Vice Chairman there was a reasonable chance that I would end up in the Chairman's seat at some stage, but to be writing my first Ramblings for this newsletter was not in the plan. Most will be aware that our current Chairman David Jackson became unwell in May and had to stand down with immediate effect. David had heart surgery in August; at the time of writing this report he is making good progress and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

There is no doubt that the major club event of 2016 has been the opening of Little Ground House. We once again have a base in the Wasdale valley that was taken from us all those years ago. Unfortunately I never experienced the wonders of Buckbarrow but I have heard many tales. Having spent a few nights at Little Ground House I am in no doubt that all of the money invested by the club and its members and the time spent by those who were involved in the renovation really has been worthwhile. It will be particularly worthwhile if the hut is well used – if you haven't yet experienced this amazing place then why not consider an autumn/winter weekend in the Wasdale valley, all for the cost of a bit of petrol and a couple of nights hut fees! There are those who have commented on Wasdale being inaccessible and this might be putting some people off from visiting. The reality is that if you live south of the Lakes, as I do, it only takes thirty minutes longer to get to Wasdale than it would take to get to Langdale. It really isn't that much more effort, please do give it a try.

I think there have been two Management Committee meetings since the last newsletter was issued. Our path to becoming a co-operative society and thereby achieving the limited liability benefits which that will offer is heading in the right direction and will be finalised once a tax liability issue is clarified. To keep the club in line with current health and safety legislation John Rogerson has spent a lot of time writing guidelines which we need to follow – further information is provided by him in this newsletter. I thank John very much for all his work in relation to this.

General maintenance and improvements of the huts is always at the front of our minds. Improvements are being made to the water supply at Bishop's Scale to satisfy criteria set by the South Lakeland District Council. David Ogden and Michael Crawford have done a lot of work inside the hut ensuring that the plumbing and electrical systems are ready for the installation. The next stage is the installation of a new settling tank which should be done in the near future. All upstairs doors at Tyn Twr are now fitted with fire doors thanks to the efforts of Ade Dearden. Other projects will be carried out as and when funds allow.

I am pleased to say that all of the club events that have taken place over the past few months have been as successful as ever and there are reports on most of them in this newsletter. Many thanks to all of those that have been involved in the organisation of these events and to those who participated in them. It really is rewarding to see full huts at most of our published meets. Keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming events. Final details are usually sent out by email a couple of weeks prior to the event so if you are not yet on the club email list please pass your email address onto Sue Carter at susan.d.carter@hotmail.com.

Unfortunately Alana Storey, our newsletter editor for the last few years, is no longer able to continue with this role and has had to stand down. I must thank Alana for all the work she has put in during this time. My final thanks go to Mick McGovern for putting together this newsletter and all the associated paperwork. We are however looking for someone to take over this task. I would be very happy to hear

from anyone who feels able to edit our newsletter and help out with other publicity matters as and when they arise.

Finally the bad news, of which all members should already be aware. To help restore and maintain the club's solid financial standing it was decided by the Management Committee that the annual membership fee should rise from £25 to £35 from October this year. This is the first rise in membership fee since the mid-1990s and we do hope that all members will agree that this is necessary to help keep track with the rising costs of running a club such as ours. The majority opinion amongst Management Committee members is that the overnight hut fees should not increase and efforts should be made to increase hut usage as an alternative way of increasing the clubs income.

Any suggestions for improvements, changes and other activities are always welcome.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

SUE CARTER

Membership Nos.

Life	76	Junior members	168
Probationary	47		
Full	717		
Total	840		

Please can I remind any members who do not pay their annual subs by Direct Debit and have not yet paid, that payment was due 1st October 2016.

£35 or £17 if you are a student aged 18 – 21.

Membership renewal cards will all be sent in one envelope to households where there are several members to save on postage. If there are any adult children who have now moved out to their own address please let me have their new address.

I apologise for a misprint in my figures in the January 2016 Newsletter the Life members total should have been 77 and not 17, sorry.

Sadly three long term members have died since the last newsletter, Anita Haigh died in May, Anita assisted her husband Neville who was Membership Secretary for approx. 35 years. Alban Gornall and Ray Miller died in June. They will be sadly missed, may they rest in peace.

Probationary Associates

Please can I remind members that if they propose someone to be a Probationary Associate they must write a letter of support to accompany the applicant's form.

Email

Any member who has an email address but hasn't given it to me, I would be very pleased if you would as it saves the club a considerable amount of money in postage and keeps members better informed regarding the club's activities.

Remember to advise me if you change your postal or email address so that my records are kept up to date.

My contact details: susan.d.carter@hotmail.com Tel 01706 841978

214 Rochdale Road, Shaw, Oldham OL2 7J

CLUB HOODIES

CHRIS LLOYD

Some of you might have seen members walking round in rather smart navy blue ARCC hoodies. Anyone interested in acquiring one of these please contact Jayne Dickinson email bellading201@yahoo.co.uk.

GUESTS AT HUTS

Most members are aware of a 'rule' that allows them to take a maximum of two guests to an ARCC hut on one occasion. I have been trying determine whether this rule officially exists in the club rules and I have not found anywhere where it is written down. If anyone who is aware of its origin could enlighten me it would be very much appreciated. Anyway, this matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Management Committee and it was agreed that there is no reason to restrict the number of guests a member can take to a club hut to two. As from now members will be allowed to take up to three guests to a club hut without requiring the hut warden's permission. Should a member wish to take a larger group of non ARCC members to the hut then permission should be sought from the hut warden or an appointed member of the Management Committee.
Acting Chairman.

RAY MILLER 23RD MAY 1946 – 21ST JUNE 2016



Who was Ray Miller – he was a husband, a father, a grandfather, my long standing mate, a member of Horwich RMI and a member of ARCC since 1987I was first introduced to Ray by Ray Barlow (ARCC from 2002) we met in the Stokers Arms on Darwen Street Blackburn when we were in our teens and struck up an immediate friendship meeting regularly to go climbing firstly round the exotic venues – Houghton, Wilton and Cadshaw. We became known as the three Mustgetbeers – Big Ray, Little Ray and Mogsie. As we became more experienced as climbers we spread our wings, our thumbs and a big rucksack ensuring a trip up to the Lakes on a Friday night, meeting up at the Lake Road Vaults in Keswick (yes being the youngster of the group I was under age!). Inevitably the time came when we wanted more of the climbing action and ventured abroad to Austria a very long journey on a bus/boat and train saw us arrive in Kufstein to climb in the Kaisergebirge. The weather was awful and we had not much money but we nevertheless enjoyed the experience and we still

managed to bring back everyone a present. The following year we ventured to the Dolomites spending the summer months doing harder and more difficult routes. Mr Wilson the then prime minister said the £1 in your pocket was worth a £1 unfortunately it meant nothing to Johnnie foreigner we were so broke we nearly starved to death!

As the years went by our lives changed, Big Ray moved to Shevington and Little Ray to Lancaster we all got married and had families and gradually the climbing was overtaken by fell running and walking. We had many happy times meeting up at the regular fell races, camping with the kids, BBQ and fire lighting. During this time Bob Grahams were completed and assistance given to other partakers of their challenge of the BG. One of our proudest moments was Big Ray and I completing the elite Karrimor marathon on Dartmoor. Around the same time ARCC organised the long walk from Langdale which was completing Wainwrights Central fells – three people completed all the peaks Big Ray, Paul Cooney and I.

Ray never lost his love of the mountains he and the family regularly went over to France for their annual holidays sadly this year's had to be cancelled. Ray died on White Coppice doing his favourite activity, running it has been a shock to everyone and he will be greatly missed.

I have a yardstick about people I meet – would I be parachuted into the jungle with this person – and I can honestly say without any shadow of doubt that I would say yes to Ray Miller. He was a quiet man, self-assured, practical and a long and loyal friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Eileen and the family, may he rest in peace.

JOHN MCGONAGLE

BOB GRAHAM RELAY CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

DIANE GREEN

Leo Pollard completed his Bob Graham Round in 1976 and 20 years ago the club enjoyed celebrating the first 20 years of achievements with a Bob Graham Relay.

Over the last 20 years many more have successfully completed the round and have consistently supported each other and benefited from present-day experienced mountaineers and fell runners within the club.

Approaching midnight on Friday 24th June myself, Robert Green, Tom and Dave Makin were gathered underneath the Moot Hall clock as many a club fell runner has done. We handed over a baton to runners Daz Graham and Rob Garstang who were starting the clubs 2nd Bob Graham Relay.

At the stroke of midnight other runners eagerly set off on their BG attempts. We all stood still and held a minutes silence in memory of ARCC club member Ray Miller, Bob Graham Member 304 (1984) who recently sadly passed away whilst running on the Rivington Moors.

The relay round began but unlike other BGRs there wasn't a support group following the relay – Bishop Scale was the Head Quarters. The change overs as organised by Dave would sometimes be out on the fell in mid-section. The relay runners were to look out for each other and enjoy themselves as runners do. On returning to the hut, everyone had their own story to tell, the darkness; the amazing meteorite with the longest orange tale; the dawn was something else; a calf being born; the first 2 pints before breakfast slipping down a treat; the swimming; Lostock AC; climbers put a rope on Broadstand for runners and a dog; Wasdale sections; runners joining the Honister section; the fast early finish - sub 18 hours; the kids ever so proud holding the baton and walking up the precinct with Leo to Moot Hall and a banner; the smiles and enthusiasm said it all.

The early morning walking groups set off from Bishop Scale and they were also kindly rewarded with a peaceful, warm morning and clear views. It was a privilege and a most pleasurable experience for me to be sat with other members waiting for the running relay on the top of Sergeant Man and some also enjoyed joining in and running over to Harrison Stickle and Pike O Stickle, coming off down Stake Pass.

Sadly we now have absent friends, who are BGR members and also those who supported many BGRs in the past. A cake was decorated with a clock face with a ring of blue forget-me-nots around it in their remembrance. Never to be forgotten but forever in our hearts and thoughts.

Afterwards the relay was celebrated with a BBQ, drinks, lots of fun, a wheelbarrow and a log fire of course. The kitchen was decorated with bunting with all the BGR members' names on. Thanks to Kaz and Mick Howard for helping with the BBQ.

The Relay Runners organised by Dave Makin were: Rob Garstang, Daz Graham, Keith Mallinder, Paul Charnock, Andrew Pooler, Dave Jackson, Mike Ernill, Mark Shuttleworth, Mark Checkley, Rob Sharkey, Dave Reynolds, Chris Lloyd, Joe McGonagle, Georgie Dearden, Tash Fellowes, Alex Erwin, Tom Makin, Owen Pollard, Rob Green, Dave Makin, John Hope, Tony Shanley, Ozzy Kershaw, Malc Christie, John Morrissey, James Hilton, Andy Poole, Martin Kirkman, Jaynie Dickinson, Yves Pollard.

A fantastic weekend, thanks to everybody for making it so special. Diane Green

OLD COUNTY TOPS 2016

CHRIS LLOYD

Organising an event like this really does highlight how quickly the years go by. I still remember the day in July 2009 when Arthur suggested that he might be looking for someone to pass the organisation of this event onto. 2016 was the sixth event that I have organised, after a year shadowing the master in 2010. It was alas only the second without Arthur's presence and once again his support and encouragement was greatly missed. On a more positive note I am pleased to report that the increasing popularity of the Old County Tops has by no means reached its peak. Once again we had a record entry and the amount of positive feedback from competitors was overwhelming.

The wet conditions failed to dampen the spirits of most of the 110 pairs who started. 93 pairs managed to complete the course and they now wear this year's red T-shirt with pride. We were so pleased to see Beryl Daniels at the hut to present the Arthur Daniels Trophy to Andy Pooler and James Lurati. Andy completed the course despite his shoe falling to bits half way round – it is lucky that he knows the organiser who managed to some get alternative footwear round to Cockley Beck. Not all competitors receive that level of service.

I would like to thank Hangar 18 for providing sponsorship and being present on race day. I 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. A massive team effort allowed the event to proceed without mishap and a great day was had by all. Next year's event is on Saturday 20th May. Please put this in your diaries – the usual plea for helpers will go out some weeks before.

I can't finish this article without mentioning Ray Millar who sadly lost his life a short time after the event. Ray was ever present on the summit of Scafell Pike during the Old County Tops; I'm not sure how many years he marshalled there, but it was a good few. Ray had become a familiar face of the race and he will be sadly missed.



Tyn Twr was once again packed to the rafters at July's family meet.

If anyone asks "what do you actually do at the family meet" it's hard to give an answer because nobody really knows until they get there. Only one thing is sure, take everything you think might need and some things you think you won't. Wetsuits, trainers, boat shoes, cycling helmets, buoyancy aids, rope, goggles, hot weather gear, cold weather gear, wet weather gear. Just be prepared!

Activities are discussed and loosely formed ideas begin to take shape over evening chats. A responsible adult (if we can find one) checks of the weather and tides. Decisions are made and by 10am the following morning (after furious sandwich making) there is a convoy of heavily laden vehicles heading off to a chosen location.

This year's first activity was Coasteering. Twenty one of us parked at Porth Dafarch and walked a couple of miles along the coast to the chosen location. The outfit of choice today was wetsuit, buoyancy aid, helmet, grippy shoes and a wild sense of abandon. We were soon standing on a cliff edge looking out over the swirling Irish sea while Adrian explained what we were about to do. Many unsure glances were exchanged and before we knew it, a string of Rattis, ranging in age from 12 to 'grown up' were clambering along the rocks just above sea level. Every so often, we ran out of rock and had to fling ourselves into the sea, swim against the waves and pull ourselves out again. All very well until someone shouted "JELLYFISH" and we realised that the water was teeming with them! A good couple of hours of climbing, flinging, dunking and laughing passed and we made our way back to the beach for our well-earned sandwiches. It was a challenging first day, there were scraped knuckles and knees along with a few mild jellyfish stings but everyone loved it. At night we had a campfire and hoped that the midges would suffer from smoke inhalation (they didn't...we all had bites to prove it!)

The following day was at Llanberis where some of us swam, some kayaked and some played on a tree swing. It rained but when you're wet you're wet! Back at the hut we were wowed by Peter's slacklining skills, he made it look very easy but after several attempts by the rest of us, it became apparent that it isn't easy at all! In the evening there was a barbecue (and a few little drinks for the adults) while the young people played a host of long and complicated games such as werewolf, psychiatrist and contact. They amuse themselves for hours with nothing more than enthusiasm, fantastic imaginations and a pack of playing cards.

On day three we took bodyboards to the beach at Rhosneigr. It was a chilly day and the jellyfish had turned out in force to greet us again but we managed to spend a few hours eating sandwiches, swallowing sea water and getting 'wiped out' by waves. A gaggle of blue-lipped Rattis wriggled out of wetsuits in the carpark and it occurred to us that no matter what the activity is, it usually involves getting changed in public!

After three action-packed days it was sadly time to go home so we reluctantly packed up and said our goodbyes. The children slept all the way home, truly the sign of a great holiday!