

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2011

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

John McGonagle

How did you pass your summer? Basking in sunshine on foreign shores or getting soaked in our glorious English countryside. The secretary and I had an enjoyable but wet coast to coast 'Way of the Roses' cycle ride.

May I first offer my congratulations to two stalwarts of our club, Andy Pooler and Dave Makin, who on the weekend of 2 July stepped into the realms of heroes by completing Lakeland's – Lakes, Waters and Meres run. To give you an idea of this achievement it has only been completed by Leo Pollard and Pete Schofield, co-instigators of the route. They completed their different versions within a few days of each other Leo did it as a 'lake to lake' run i.e. Lowes Water to Over Water and Pete as a 'Round' i.e. starting and finishing at the same place. (See below) They were then followed by Alan Heaton (10 times winner of the Fellsman trophy) and Joss Naylor. Well done and congratulations from the entire club on a magnificent achievement.

Other successes on the fells include Geoff Lea and Mark Palmer (see below) who now join the ranks of the Bob Graham elite. The Long Walk from Dunmail; The Old County Tops; New Dungeon Ghyll Fell Race and the Derek Price Memorial Race (CAFOD) have been good events, well supported and would not have taken place without the hard work and dedication of the organisers – thank you and well done.

Another man moving up into hero status is our very own webmaster. A man keeping three ladies of the committee happy not an easy task but one he seems to do with ease, well done Alex and thank you for all your hard work the site is looking good and is well used.

In this newsletter the Management Committee has included document on the future of Dunmail. Please read, consider

Membership Secretary's Notes

Sue Carter

Annual membership renewal is here again. 1st October is the due date for payment. Thank you to those members who pay by direct debit. Please could I ask members who pay by cheque to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with their payment for their membership cards. This used to be general practice but only a few members now think to do this, this will help the club financially.

I will take renewal cards to Bishop's Scale on the two weekends of the Dinner Dance and the AGM for members to collect (again to try and save postage) so if you attend either of these events please ask me for your card.

Where there are several members in a household all cards will be in the same envelope when issued.

Editorial

Previously a copy of the News Letter has been sent to every member, even where several members live at the same address. In future only one copy will be posted to each address, unless requested otherwise. This is likely to be the last issue to be wholly posted. In the future it will be emailed to those members who have included their email

and let us know your feelings on the matter. Indulge in democracy your input is important let us know, by letter to the secretary or email via the website before 21st October 2011.

It has been discussed at Committee that hut fees will be increased to cover the cost of the 20% rise in rates and pretty much the same for electricity and gas. These will come into effect from 1st January 2012 as follows: £6 member, Associate/Guest £7, Visiting clubs £10, juniors will remain the same at £2.50.

The AGM will soon be upon us 12th November, the agenda and minutes have been included with this mailing. The meeting will commence at 1.30 at the Village Hall in Chapel Stile and will be followed by Mass for the Deceased members in the club chapel at Bishopscale. Arthur and helpers will supply a buffet tea after Mass to which you are invited.

The Secretary, Ann McGonagle, comes to the end of her term of office this year. Mike McGovern has completed his one year agreed term of office as Ordinary member.

Nominations for these posts on the Management Committee are invited. Persons wishing to stand must be nominated by two full members' nominations to be forwarded to the secretary 14 days before the AGM (29th October).

A gentle reminder to all members who wish to use Dunmail there is a need to complete a booking form to help with the administration and your co-operation would be appreciated. John Nixon is still very ill, not making the progress we all hoped for; keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Have you remembered to forward your photographs to Phil Hodgson for inclusion in the 2012 calendar to be produced for distribution at the AGM? Looking forward to a 'good do' at the dance at the Old DG

All the above also applies to Associates as well, thank you to those who have returned their direct debits, but as with some members a number of direct debit forms issued have not been returned. I hope these members/associates will go onto direct debit next year.

Deceased member – Marie Hayes wife of Bernard Hayes sadly died on 5th July, she had been a member since 1975, condolences to Bernard and his family.

Marie's name will be added to the list of past members whom we will remember at the special Mass for the deceased to be held in the club's chapel after the AGM on the 12th November. This is a very special event on the club's calendar for which we thank our President, Monsignor Slattery.

Mick McGovern

address with their contact details, again unless requested otherwise. Emailing items like the News Letter reduce the costs to the club and the work involved. The cost of the last mailing of the journal and news letter was about £450, most of which went on postage and printing. We intend to continue to sent a printed copy of the Journal to all

members and for a copy of it and the News Letter to be available on the ARCC website. So if you have an email address please consider allowing the club to use it to send appropriate items to you. Send the address to the Membership Secretary, Sue Carter who will add it to your contact details. Remember that hut fees have been increased from 1st January 2012, see The Chairman's Ramblings above.

In this issue there's plenty of coverage of Bob Graham activity and of other fell running activities. It's been a significant year both for the club and fell running generally. Mark Palmer is too modest to mention this in his account but his Bob Graham time is the fourth fastest of all time. Andy Pooler and Dave Makin's write-up of their Lakes, Waters and Meres run is again, a piece of modest understatement, involving as it does covering a distance of over 100 miles and ascent of about 22,500 feet. It has wonderful touches of dry wit. At the moment, with the help of the previous contenders I am writing a history of the Lakes, Waters and Meres route. This, I hope will form the basis of an article in next year's Club Journal. From personal experience I can say that activities such as these need all of the attributes and skills that any hard mountaineering endeavour requires. Therefore I believe that accounts such as these have a place in club publications.

On a similar note I'm collecting articles for the ARCC 2012 Journal, so please put your mountain experiences in all its forms down on paper for the entertainment and inspiration of fellow members be it good, bad, funny or sad. A copy of the first club journal, which was produced in the late 1940's

The 2011 Long Walk Dunmail

May 7th/8th was chosen as the weekend for this year's Long Walk from Dunmail. Traditionally the organisation of the Long Walk falls to the hut warden, but with Mick Crawford having announced his retirement and the reigns not quite in the hands of Pete and June Noble this task fell to Paul Charnock and I. At the request of John McGonagle a new route was planned which involved a clockwise loop, going out along the fells to the west of Thirlmere and returning

has been kindly donated, along with other memorabilia by George Partridge. We would easily recognize it. Its layout and content is very similar to today's journals. But one striking difference between then and now is that the original journal, of about 50 pages, was generated by a much smaller membership, of less than 100. This year's journal, of a similar size came from a membership of over 850 members. So if these numbers are extrapolated then we could be producing a journal of 450 pages! Please contribute.

This News Letter was due to be sent out at the beginning of the month. It has been held until now to enable the deliberations of the last committee meeting regarding Dunmail to be included along with the Chris Farrell's questionnaire which is also a product of the meeting. The questionnaire is with this posting, please respond to it. Note the date of the working weekend at Tyn Twr the 22/23rd. October.

Is there anyone out there who would like to write a short biography of Abate Achille Ratti, (Pope Pius XI) the pope after whom our club is named? If so, contact me to discuss this. There are books about he's life and climbing exploits in the club library.

Finally for all the spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, and omissions, sorry. For all the missed names of people who were there and the included names of people who weren't I can, with time find someone to blame. For those who are credited with things they've done but did not do, enjoy. For those did things but got no credit refer to the first sentence, sorry.

Paul Charnock (Junior) & Chris Lloyd

over the Helvellyn range. Distances of 24 miles for the walkers and 33 miles for the runners were proposed.

All who attended had a great time despite the runner's route being shortened due to poor weather in the afternoon. Thanks must be extended to the catering team of Paul Charnock, Ann McGonagle, Nicky Hempton, Sue and Ben Carter. Without their hard work the walk would not have been possible.

New Dungeon Ghyll Fell Race Bishop's Scale A

Bill Mitton

Category Short/3.5m/2100 ft. 21.5.11



Photo Mick Mc Govern

This year the race was run from a venue shared with the ARCC Old County Tops race, at the New Dungeon Ghyll

Hotel. The Old County Tops race took place over the whole day, with the New Dungeon Ghyll race starting and finishing in the middle of the day. The weather held out, with good visibility until after the race finish. After which, at about 3pm it poured down for the rest of the day with wind and driving rain on the fell tops.

40 runners started; a further increase on last year's entry. Robert Jebb led from start to finish in a new record time. Andrew Schofield was second at the summit of Harrison, but Mike Robinson overtook him on the descent to finish second in a slightly quicker time than his winning time last year. Anna Lupton was first lady (11th overall) in a new ladies record time, just beating Judith Jepson, the Lady Vet over 40 winner, who led at the summit. Colin Valentine (Male Vet. Over 50) was 7th overall, beating his 2010 time (as a Male Vet.40) by over 3 minutes. Joe Gabarino ARCC (Male Vet. over70) beat his 2010 time by 8 minutes. So much for ageing! The New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel again

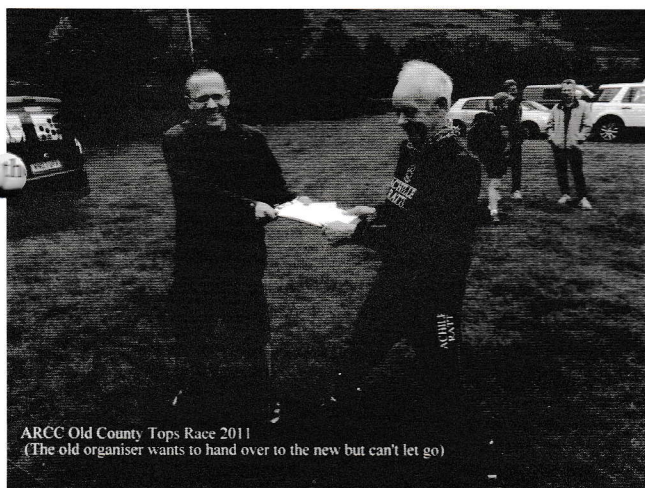
provided the event field and prizes, and thanks are due to them and all the Achille Ratti members who helped with marshalling, car parking, registration and results and food.

The race climbs, via Dungeon Ghyll to the top of Harrison Stickle. Then loops out towards Stickle Tarn before coming back to the Dungeon Ghyll path and down then to the finish.

Fell races organized under Fell Running Association rules fall into three categories in terms of climbing per mile, A,B or C. A having the most climbing per mile, C the least and three categories in terms of race length. Short(S) Medium(M) or Long(L) and with the total climbing and distance for the race also indicated. Thus for instance a race described as A.L. 37Miles 10000Ft. has a lot of climbing 'A' and is over a long distance 'L'. With a total race length of 37 miles and 10000 feet of climbing. See the Fell Runners Association Handbook for more detailed definitions. Ed.

Old County Tops Fell Race Bishop's Scale Chris Lloyd

A Category, Long 37 Miles 1000 feet



ARCC Old County Tops Race 2011
(The old organiser wants to hand over to the new but can't let go)

Photo Mick Mc Govern

This year was the twenty third running of the Old County Tops race, with the previous fifteen having been organised by Arthur Daniels. It was with some reluctance that Arthur decided to hand the organisation over to a younger person. I willingly accepted the challenge and we agreed that 2011 would be my first year, after keeping a close watch on Arthur during the 2010 event. It was with even more reluctance that Arthur eventually handed over the all important maroon folder containing lists, more lists and numerous notices, all essential if the event was to run smoothly

The big change for this year was to hold the New Dungeon Ghyll race on the same day as the Old County Tops. The New Dungeon Ghyll race route is a classic, but the event has suffered during recent years due to lack of support. The change from Thursday evening to Saturday afternoon had resulted in some improvement and it was felt that combining it with the Old County Tops might further increase awareness of the event.

Pre-race organisation went smoothly thanks to a lot of work by Alex Erwin to improve the web site. I had some concerns about whether we were going to have enough marshals, but these were eased after a few phone calls. After much shopping and watching the weather forecast during the preceding week a few of us assembled at Bishopscale on Thursday 19th May to make the final preparations. Tents were pitched, sandwiches were made, marshals sorted and before we knew it registration was opening. I was expecting in the region of 90 teams and, given the weather forecast, I was pleased to see 83 teams start on a dry and windy morning.

Back to the OCT, the winning team of Dan Duxbury and Gary Thorpe was the only team to complete the course before the rain started (in a time of 7hrs 5 mins) and once the rain started it did rain. The remaining competitors took quite a soaking, as did the marshals who were at the finish

After the Old County Tops had set off the field was cleared for Bill Mitton and his team to get the New Dungeon Ghyll race underway. This attracted a record entry of 40 runners, including a past British Champion who managed to beat the record and set a good standard for future years.

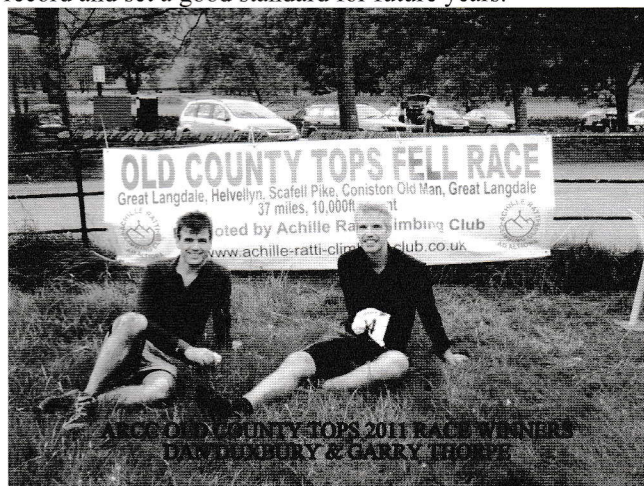


Photo Mick Mc Govern

and various parts of the course. All competitors were eventually accounted for by 19:50hrs, with seventy teams completing the course, twelve retiring and one being disqualified (they broke rule number 1 – all pairs must stay together throughout the event).

As usual we received much positive feedback after the events with quite a few wanting to come back again next year – fell runners are a strange bunch. My thanks must go to all those who helped on the day. Without the support of club members and friends these events would not take place; through them we make a lot of people aware of our club and we generate a lot of respect within the fell running community.

The marshals on the summits deserve particular mention, with conditions on Scafell Pike and Conistone Old Man becoming increasingly challenging as the day progressed. I must also thank the following people: Arthur for working

(Marshalls and helpers 2011: Arthur Daniels, Peter McHale, Pete and Hilary McGonagle, Gary Pollard, Joanna Lee, John Rowbottom, Rhys Watkins, Ray Miller, Mick Seed, Tom Roberts, Chris and John Preston, Richard and Jane Leonard, Sheila Anderton, Leo Pollard, Tony Shanley, Janet Makin, Lynn and Jeff Lea, Nicola and Martin Kirkman, Bill and Pat Mitton, Beryl Daniels, Mick McGovern, Paul Charnock, John McGonagle, John Joe McGonagle, Ian Costello, Sean Makin, John Broome) (To those who I have not included I apologise)

P.S. It's not far off me having to start thinking about next year's race which is on May 19th, and this will include the usual plea for helpers. It would be appreciated if anyone

Second Annual Reunion

Following last year's successful reunion for members at Bishop's Scale, another great day was enjoyed by about 40 members and guests on Wed 11 May. Msgr Slattery our President joined us and we all made our way to the chapel for a brief few minutes for prayers.

Members came from all over the UK (Harry Wiggans from Portugal). A Jacob's Join lunch was the order of the day and everyone had the opportunity to turn back the clock and share photos and memorabilia from the past.

During the afternoon a presentation of flowers and glassware was made to Joan Ogden in recognition of the many years of devoted service to the club as Booking Secretary for Dunmail. Ben Carter made a short speech thanking Joan. Here, edited version of Ben's speech.

The Chairman sends his apologies, he would very much have liked to have been here in person to thank Joan for her many years of service as Dunmail booking secretary, but he daren't ask for more time off work.

It should be said that while Joan as employed great skill and efficiency in carrying out the work as booking secretary, she has many other attributes. When I asked a long standing friend of hers to give an impression of Joan she said 'Always smiling and a wizard at sandwiches.' Once she did the cooking on a winter meet: Ullapool or some such place, warning us 'I'm only a meat and two veg. person' then went on to feed us like kings for a week.

Joan served her apprenticeship in the Achille Ratti, joining in 1962, with her friends Joan and Ann and going to Buckbarrow, a bastion of male chauvinism then if ever there was one. Washing in the horse trough, burning the Elsan contents, flattening food cans. The names and doings of the men folk then are part of the club lore. Stories often renewed when ever long standing members meet, some are

nearly as hard as he had done the year before; Tony Shanley for the use of his van and ferrying the catering team between Wythburn and Cockley Beck; Janet Makin for taking me to Costco and, with the rest of her team, ensuring that all competitors were fed and watered en route; Hilary McGonagle for standing with a watch, under a wholly inadequate umbrella, at the finish for five hours, and John Broome for being at the finish until the end in case his medical expertise was required (fortunately it wasn't). Finally I must thank Raynet for providing essential communications during the event and Lakes Runner for their generous support

able to help could give me as much notice as possible to help avoid sleepless nights during the period leading up to the race. **Thanks Chris.**

11th May

Barry Ayre

here today. There was one, known as the lad with the post office van, that was David, Joan and he were married in the late sixties, bringing up a fine family, though not without their sad times.

Behind every good woman there is a good man and when Joan took over the booking of Dunmail from Tom and Rita Barron seventeen years ago she had the help of David in dealing with the problems of letting accommodation. He often dashing up to Dunmail from Blackpool to help someone who couldn't light the cooker or some such. These tasks were shared unstintingly with Michael Crawford and the other members of the Dunmail team.

Joan, in the seventeen years of looking after Dunmail it has been calculated that you must have grossed about £200,000, but benefits of the introduction of all those young people to the mountains is something that is quite incalculable.

On behalf of the chairman and all of the members I have great pleasure in presenting you with this token of our esteem.



Photo. Geoff Bibby

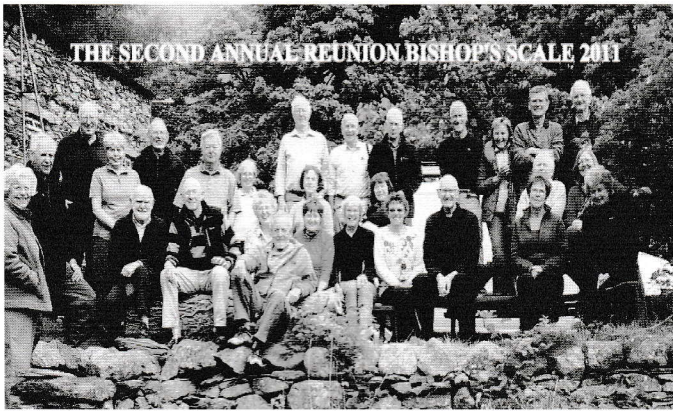


Photo. Geoff Bibby

Back row Left to Right.

Tony Wilson Paul Charnock (Snr) Joan Travena John Hitchen Barry Ayre George Partridge Mick Black Ann Farrell Chris Farrell Harry Wiggans

Middle row left to right.

Joan & Dave Ogden Helen Charnock David Mercer Cath Bibby Frances Mercer Joan Jackson Adrienne Ibison

Front row left to right.

Joan Ogden Ken Jackson Ben & Sue Carter Dickie Seed Mo Kelly Alwyn Cooper Monica Ayre Mgr Slattery Rita Harris Ann McWatt.

Barry Ayre organised the meet and he intends to make it an annual event, probably about the same date each year.

Geoff Lea's Bob Graham Round

Mick Mc Govern

Photo Mick Mc Govern



On the 4th June 2011 Geoff Lea successfully completed a clockwise Bob Graham Round. This is the direction taken by the originator of the route, Bob Graham. At the moment I've no account of Geoff's attempt, I hope to get it and include it in the next News Letter. In the meantime here is a picture of him (in the cap) on Broad Stand at around lunch time. Dave Makin is in the picture navigating for him on this section from Dunmail Raise into Wasdale. 'Dreadlock' Dave is handling a top rope, the protection having been set up by himself and Alex Erwin beforehand.

Mark Palmers Sub Fifteen Hour Bob Graham Round

Most days in the fells are memorable, even the cold and wet ones are cherished in an insane way. Occasionally we are rewarded with an exceptional day when everything is perfect, the weather, the company and boundless energy. I was extremely fortunate that my reward came on 11th June 2011.

The dawn had already arrived as we departed Moot Hall at 4am. The overnight rain clouds were gradually dispersing to reveal patches of blue sky, whilst the cool morning air was welcomed as we made our ascent of Skiddaw. I had planned an 18:30hr schedule that would give my support teams and myself a comfortable day out on the fells, but secretly felt I might have a 17hr round in me.

With a Borrowdale trio of Steve Birkinshaw, Paul Cornforth and Chris Steel we were soon crossing the first summit of the day two minutes down on schedule, fast starts have never been my strength! The low cloud hanging around the tops was of no hindrance to Steve's navigational skills and Great Calva was bagged ahead of schedule. I'm not fond of the open grassy moorland between Calva and Mungrisdale Common and was glad to reach the trod

leading to Blencathra. All that separated me from my porridge was Halls Fell ridge and in the daylight it proved to be no problem.

A quick change of shirt and partners and we were heading up Cough Head. My Clayton duo of Dave Nuttal and Mike Wallis were not familiar with clockwise rounds but had little difficulty in adapting as we made good progress over the Dodds and up to Helvellyn. Reaching the top at 0840 ensured we had the mountain to ourselves, which is always a pleasure. With Nethermost and Dollywaggon ticked off it was a fast descent to the west side of Grisdale Tarn to start the climb up Fairfield. With summits 14 and 15 also safely in the bag it was time for a PBJ(Peanut Butter and Jam) buttie at Dunmail.

Leg 3 has always been a favourite of mine, I have supported attempts in both directions and reccied it on numerous occasions. Climbing up Steel Fell with fresh shoes and socks it felt like an old friend. My fresh support legs belonged to old friends too, Andy Schofield and Tom Brunt. The clear visibility made navigation easy and sightseeing ideal, although the pace and concentration

required for the rocky terrain allowed little time to enjoy the panoramic views. I felt strong on the climbs and comfortable on the descents, summits came and went until we were just 3 other people on a crowded Scafell Pike. With Broad Stand scaled and Scafell peaked we headed down to the Wasdale Valley, another favourite of mine.

I was now 2 hours up on my schedule. This was a big surprise for me but an even bigger one for my support team who had just arrived. Having supported countless runners before, this professional outfit soon had me fed, watered, cleaned and on my way with team 4: Ozzy Kershaw and Tim Whittaker. I had heard stories of Wasdale being a graveyard for many BG attempts so was glad to get the climb up Yewbarrow out the way. Reaching Red Pike at 1500 hrs it suddenly registered that I was now 11 hours into my BG; I had 3 legs in the bag, a comfortable 2-hour cushion and was still feeling relatively good. Perhaps a 16hr round was within grasp. That thought safely tucked away we push on to Steeple. On route to Pillar Mark Roberts and Mike and Hazel Robinson join us. They had planned a Wasdale rendezvous but arrived after my departure, undeterred they raced after me, Mark straight up Dore Head and the Robinson's up Wind Gap. Efforts like this and the support throughout was enormously humbling and formed a big part of my BG experience. With Pillar now a distant rock we ascended Kirk Fell and now my legs were starting to notice the steep climbs. Mentally I boxed this feeling and tuned into the wit and wisdom of my support team and before long Kirk Fell was just another mountain to view from the rocky lump of Great Gable. For me this was the end of leg 4, from here it was a homeward run back to Keswick. Running on enthusiastic encouragement from support team 4 we had soon knocked off the three remaining peaks of the penultimate leg and were heading for the slate mines.

Honister crew were ready and my transition into dry top and trail shoes was complete before I'd finished my soup. I

had mixed feeling as we climbed out of the valley, relieved to be on the final leg but sad that my fantastic day in the fells was drawing to an end. The good weather that prevailed was also ending as dark clouds loomed in the west. However, with fresh banter and subtle words of encouragement from my two anchormen, Ben Abdelnoor and Paul Cornforth, Dale Head was behind us and we were running across to Hindscarth with only Robinson remaining. And so at 1759 I touched my 42nd peak, big smile, and big emotional gulp! With Paul finding all the grassy lines off the summit we had rapidly descended into the Newlands Valley. The rain finally came but did little to dampen the high spirits as we hit the tarmac, mission almost complete.

Crossing the River Derwent I asked Paul if "a sub 15 was possible". The informed reply was positive but came with conditions.

"Yes, but you need to pick the pace up!"

The fantastic effort of my support teams throughout the day was inspirational and without them I would not have had such a perfect day. And so for them I gladly picked my pace up, touching Moot Hall at 1859 to complete my 14:59 Bob Graham Round

No man is an island and I am extremely grateful to the following for giving up their time and energy. Without them I would not have had such a successful day.

On the road – Jane & Richard Leonard, Janet & Dave Makin, Tony Chanely and Jeff Lea.

On the mountain - Steve Birkinshaw, Chris Steel, Paul Cornforth, Dave Nuttal, Mike Wallis, Andy Schofield, Tom Brunt, Ozzy Kershaw, Tim Whittaker, Mark Roberts, Mike & Hazel Robinson and Ben Abdelnoor.

Tyn Twr

The hut has been well used over the summer months and it is great that some members are beginning to discover what a great place we have in Wales.

The social events this summer Climbing and Curry, Family meet and Midsummer Madness have been well supported and good fun. Taking to the waters with Gary Pollard is an adventure although this year we were disappointed that they didn't return with a good fishing catch for the bar-b-que – the fish were not biting! They did redeem themselves a little on the Sunday when the warden was able to indulge in Moules Mariniere before heading for home. Christmas at

John McGonagle

Tyn Twr (fully booked) a good walk is planned for during the day and traditional Christmas Dinner will be served. The maintenance meet is 22nd October and work to be done includes painting; gardening; cleaning and some building work at the entrance to the property. Volunteers are requested – your reward will be good company and your Saturday snacks and evening meal. Please book a place to help us with the

Family W/E Twn Twr 18/19 June Chris Lloyd & Tash Fellowes

The 2011 Family Meet (18/19 June) at Tyn Twr continued the tradition of recent years of spending time on Anglesey, always a good bet when the forecast is poor (which it was).

Saturday morning saw us on a sheltered crag at Holyhead Mountain for a couple of hours on a lovely, breezy, sunny day. Although the crag was busy, our less experienced

climbers had fun on a good top roped route while the Jordans did delicate tricky things somewhere over to our left.

In the afternoon we went to Porth Dafarch, our regular haunt. Big waves made for poor fishing conditions and a bit of sea sickness but some brave souls (amongst the adults it

has to be said) went kayak surfing and had a dramatic time of it. The body boarding was excellent, Emma Lloyd staying in the water for so long that she sprouted fins and a tail. When the tide went out we had a great game of cricket and then a barbeque on the beach (a couple of fresh mackerel but mostly burgers and bangers). The seagulls provided perfect moving targets for the pea shooters that Owen Pollard had showed us how to make out of plumbers piping, the fingers off rubber gloves, gaffer tape and chick peas! No seagulls were hurt during the course of this activity.

Walk, Run, Cycle: Bishop's Scale to Beckstones

This meet was organised by Dave and Joan Ogden. This very readable write-up was kindly supplied by John Rogerson.

The majority set off from Beckstones in a hired minibus at 7:00 am and arrived, rather queasy, at Bishop's Scale an hour or so later. Most of the hut was at breakfast and our group had tea and conversation outside with those who had already eaten. Like a call to arms, someone declared it was time to be off and so we left at about 8:30 am, walking up the valley bound for Beckstones.

The weather was grey and unpromising. At the campsite the sole runner set off on his own to go over a cold grey wet Pike of Blisco, to Dow Crag and then followed the descending switchback of tops down to Great Stickle.

By mid day the weather had moderated and there were glimpses of blue sky. Later the sun came out and all was pleasantly warm.

Meanwhile the Blea Tarn party had walked onto Great Carrs from the Three Shire Stone and then over Grey Friar to Seathwaite Tarn and so down the access road to the Newfield Inn for a cup of tea. Where here they met the Cockley Beck crew who refreshed on something stronger than tea. They then continued on the long walk down the East side of Dunnerdale on some pleasant paths and up via Frith Hall to reach Beckstones.

The Cockley Beck group took the Roman Road and then made their way down the Duddon Valley on the riverside paths but that still, someone claimed, involved a further 1300 feet of accent on the way back to Beckstones. Those in the Atherton party took The Band to Three Tarns and then made their way by the straight paths to Eskdale where to their delight they came across the real ales of the

Support:

At Blea Tarn and Seathwaite Tarn.

Cockley Beck:

Stanley Force via The Band:

The sole runner:

Sue Carter, Wilf Charnley, Joan Jackson, Joan Ogden.

Doug Blackett, Paul Charnock, Mick Crawford, Dave Hall, Paul and Rachael Harling, Terry Kitching, Mick McGovern, Dave Ogden, Jim Watt.

Ben and James Carter, Ken Jackson.

Brian and Kathleen Atherton, and their guest Steve.

John Rogerson

26 Lakes, Meres and Waters Dave Makin and Andy Pooler

On the 11th July 2011, Dave Makin and Andy Pooler, two members of the Achille Ratti Climbing Club together completed what was only the fifth circuit of this Lakeland route. The route involves visiting all the 26 Lakes, Waters and Meres (excluding Kentmere

On Sunday, after cleaning up the hut, a small fleet of kayaks headed off from Lligwy Bay to try our luck at fishing once more. Cries of glee erupted periodically as mackerel took the bait but all were too small to eat and so we threw them back (alive).

Thanks to the Makins, Deardens, Pollards, Jordans, Huddlestons, Wordens, Lloyds and Sheila, John Joe and Paul for making yet another successful Ratti family weekend

Beckstones June 18th 19th Dave & Joan Ogden

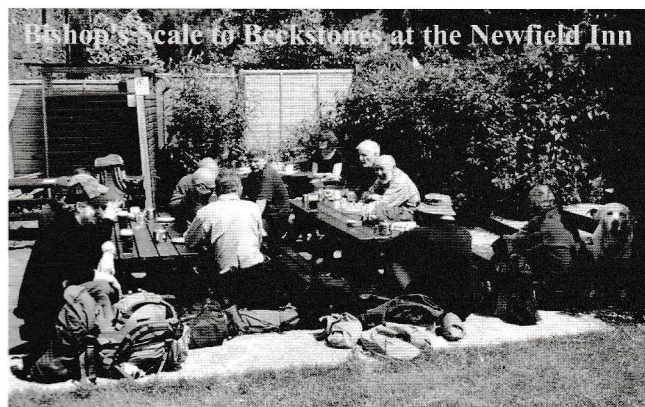


Photo Terry Kitching

Woolpack Inn. Exercising immense restraint they had just the one before climbing the side of Stanley Force and making their way over the wet grounds of Birker Fell, the pass between The Pike and Hesk Fell and so back to the hut.

As the various groups arrived at Beckstones they were met by the Support Team who were preparing for dinner and providing welcome tea and cake.

After showers and many questions of the "How did you get on?" and "Which way did you go?" variety we settled down to play Terry's Table Tetris (note, this is not a spectator sport). Once we had the furniture sorted to seat 21 in comfort and the tables neatly laid, complete with candelabra and matching table cloths, we settled down to a splendid candle lit dinner with that wonderful melody of kaleidoscopic conversations that seems to characterise an evening at Beckstones.

Thanks to all those who cooked and organised, also thanks to all those who shared stories and gentle companionship on the way. With ingredients like that it could not fail to be a memorable long walk

Reservoir), as shown on the One Inch Ordnance Survey Map of the English Lake District. They are:- Loweswater. Crummock Water. Buttermere. Ennerdale Water. West Water. Devoke Water. Goat's Water. Low Water. Levers Water. Coniston Water. Esthwaite Water. Elter Water. Grasmere. Rydal Water.

Windermere. Skeggles Water. Haweswater. Small Water. Blea Water. Hayeswater. Brothers Water. Ullswater. Thirlmere. Derwent Water. Bassenthwaite Lake. Over Water. The 26 Lakes, Meres and Waters route was devised by Leo Pollard and Peter Schofield thirty years ago. On consecutive weekends, Leo being the first completed the route lake to lake so to speak. Starting at Loweswater and finishing at Over Water. The following weekend Peter did the route as a 'round' starting and finishing at Embleton near Cockermouth. They were then followed by Alan Heaton and Joss Naylor. The route involves covering approximately 100 miles with 22500 feet of ascent. Leo was delighted that we'd taken on his challenge to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his successful route and after 28 years since the last attempt.

LEG 1 Loweswater-Wast Water

The car journey to the start was quiet, not the normal atmosphere for an Achille Ratti weekend run. We arrived at Loweswater at 8.30am, found a place to park, got out of the car and touched the water. After 2 years of planning and many recce days we were finally on our way. Now full of anticipation at the prospect of the 2 long days ahead our mood lightened as we began. We left Loweswater on a warm and sunny Friday morning which was shortly to turn into a hot summer's day and our first challenge of the day was to pass the highly recommended Kirk Stile Inn (the first of many inviting pubs we would pass over the course of the next hundred or so miles). We were accompanied on this leg by Sean Makin, Cath Shanley and Arthur Daniels and soon we were making good time along the sides of Crummock Water and Buttermere. Our 1st big climb of the day was past Bleaberry Tarn and contouring around the summit of Red Pike where Cath and Arthur left us to enjoy the descent into Ennerdale. Sean took the map and led us off the tops following a good grassy line to Ennerdale Water. In order to minimise our climbing we'd opted to go for the route up the valley bottom to Black Sail Pass and this seemed to go on forever but brought the benefit of an easy climb over Black Sail Pass and an easy runnable descent into Wasdale Head. There we met our support team for some refreshments. Janet provided us with delicious home-made soup and tea which gratefully devoured and she loaded us up with sandwiches and drinks for our onward journey.

LEG 2 Wast Water-Coniston

Our 'guide' for the next leg, Tony Shanley, had been practising running in his sandals as he waited at Wasdale as he had left his running shoes at the Langdale hut, but (un)fortunately Mick and Kaz Howard had saved the day by going back to Langdale for them. Perhaps they should also have brought replacement kit for the 1970s running gear Tony proudly wears on the hill! We were fortunate that we had reccied the first section of this leg already as Tony was determined to get us lost and we were relying more on Todd the dog for directions. The weather was hot now and we had to break into a trot as Sheila and Freda met us on the track to tell us that Leo and Austin were ahead. At

Devoke Water we were met by Leo and Austin who gave us words of encouragement, but once they were out of sight we soon slowed down.

Some lovely paths led us into the Duddon Valley but we lost further time as Tony had to detour around the sheep hole in the wall that we had ducked through, much to everyone's amusement. We rescued a few lost Duke of Edinburgh girls on our travels through to Seathwaite and then began the long, very hot and sweaty climb up Walna Scar Road where we sat for 5 mins to enjoy a sandwich and the beautiful evening views.

We had not reccied the next section which was to visit Goat's Water, Low Water and Levers Water and this cost us some time as we contoured around the rocky slopes beneath Dow Crag and explored various quarries on the way. Fortunately the rock was dry otherwise it would have been a very interesting section but the temperature was now dropping and we were out of the sun all of the way around to Levers Water. A gentle trot down into and through Coniston saw us pass inviting pubs and onto another sit down at the top of Coniston Water where we ate Janet's delicious corned beef hash. A change of socks and footwear revealed plenty of blisters and raw patches but fresh, dry socks helps enormously.

LEG 3 Coniston Water - Windermere

We swapped Tony for Martin Kirkman for this leg and left Coniston at 21:50. This was the shortest leg at about 14 miles but we both found it the hardest going due to long sections of hard packed footpaths and road sections. More tempting pubs were ignored at Hawkshead and head torches were dug out from the bottom of the sacks. Under a beautiful star lit sky we slowly ticked off Elterwater, Grasmere and Rydal Water and the road sections were causing us both sore hips. We were getting cold as we ambled into the car park at Windermere and were glad of the heating in Arthur's van as we drank hot soup and tea. We left Martin to get some sleep and in his place we had two eager young bucks in Dave Jackson and James Lurati for company for the next 20 miles.

LEG 4 Windermere-Ullswater

We left Windermere at 02:50 via Jenkin Crag into Troutbeck and after an hour so we were able to get rid of the headtorches before heading up Garburn Pass and over to Kentmere where the valley bottom was covered in an eerie low hanging mist. Spirits were good now that dawn had arrived and we were looking forward to another long day in the sun. A steady climb through the green Quarter of Kentmere brought us eventually to the very remote Skeggles Water, a place neither of us had heard of before we started looking at this route, but certainly worth a visit, especially on a day like today where the early morning the sun was hanging beautifully over a low mist on the water. After successfully keeping our feet dry from Coniston we had no option but to get them wet in the marshy access to Skeggles Water and this brought back the rubbing of wet socks and grit to our long suffering feet. Gatesgarth Pass seems long enough when done as a descent in the Lakeland 50/100 but as an ascent it seemed to drag for a long time. We were a couple of hours behind our scheduled time at this point and

looking forward to the promised hot pies at Haweswater provided by Michael Pooler. A sign was taped to a gate on the descent to Haweswater

~~Hot Pies this way~~

~~Warm Pies this way~~

Cold Pies this way (probably)

directing us to a food stop, we were left with cold pies. Needless to say these went down very well anyway.

We drank tea and refilled our bottles thanked our host and continued on lead by Dave and James.

The day was starting to warm up quite nicely and required the application of sun cream which ran annoyingly into the eyes on the climb up to High Street via Small water and Blea Water. Our plan was to follow the main tourist path off high Street down to Hayeswater but a combination of a beautiful morning and young Dave and James eager for a play encouraged us to take the steep grassy descent down to the south-eastern end of Hayeswater - not the best route for sore feet and probably not our wisest decision of the day.

A steady trot down and Brothers Water was soon ticked off and a combination of gentle running, walking and an ice lolly in Patterdale brought us, via Ullswater, to bacon butties and tea in Glenridding car park served by Janet and Jo Lee. We were feeling pretty good now as we knew we had one last big climb to complete an only another 25 miles to go. Feet were well tended to in Glenridding and fresh socks brought some welcome relief.

LEG 5

Ullswater - Overwater

We left Glenridding around midday suitably refreshed and full of tea and began the climb of Sticks Pass with Jeff Lea, Tash Fellowes and Tony having replaced James and Dave. A long, slow climb up Sticks Pass was followed by a good fast (or felt like fast!) run off to Legburthwaite and soon we were at Thirlmere. A

brief stop where we collected Martin and Arthur and off we headed for Derwent Water. We'd assumed that our legs would be tired by this point and any saving in climbing would be appreciated so we headed along the A591 towards Castlerigg. As it happened our legs were in a good state and with hindsight the climb up and over Brackenrigg might have been the better option - perhaps next time!

As we made our way down through the woods, Derwent water soon arrived and we managed to pick our way through the tourists in Keswick to head out along the River Derwent towards Bassenthwaite Lake. Unfortunately the path leaves the river and there is no alternative but to use the busy A591. As if by magic Tony appeared in a lay-by with the van to drop Cath off to run the last few miles with us. We got to the shore of Bassenthwaite and were met by our support team who were enjoying a picnic near the beautiful church of St Cuthberts and then off we went to find Over Water.

Unfortunately Over Water is still about 5 miles distant and the country lanes seem to climb constantly. This is not ideal when you've got your head around the fact that your practically finished the day.

We got a view of Over Water about half a mile from the finish and managed a good run into the finish where a good crowd had gathered to watch and cheer us in.

We must say a big thank you to everyone at the Achille Ratti Climbing Club for their help and support before and during the day. Also our thanks to the owner of the land around Over Water who kindly gave their permission for us to access the water and without whom the completion of the route would not have been possible.

Ad Altoria

Dave and Andy

Derek Price Memorial Grisedale Horseshoe Fell Race

September 3rd Alan Kenny

For those members unfamiliar with the race, the event takes place annually on the first Saturday in September from the village hall in Glenridding. It is now run in memory of our former chairman Derek Price, with all the proceeds going to the third world charity CAFOD.

The race is registered with the FRA (Fell Runners Association) and run in accordance with their rules. The course is 10 miles long with 5000 ft of ascent, starting and finishing at Glenridding village hall.

While this year's race was certainly a challenge for the competitors, the real heroes were the checkpoint marshals. The conditions this year were probably the worst we have experienced for the event. It rained continually from start to finish, coupled with a strong wind and poor visibility making conditions very unpleasant.

Back at the hall another team of dedicated helpers were busy with registration, timekeeping, producing results and providing refreshments. In a short article such as this there are too many people to mention individually but you know who you are. Many thanks.

It is rewarding to know that everyone's efforts do not go unrecognised or unappreciated. Many of the runners came up to officials in the hall asking them to thank everyone involved with the race for providing such an enjoyable event. Also I normally receive many emails after the race from competitors expressing their appreciation of all work put in by the race helpers.

The ARCC has a long track record of organising successful events, this has proved to be the case once again. Thanks to everyone involved.

Bob Graham Round Reports

I would like to collect BG reports from Achille Ratti members so they can be added to the web site as permanent record of our club's outstanding record at this challenge. If you are prepared for your BG report to be added to the Achille Ratti website please send a copy to me:

Chris Lloyd

email: chrisandtash@talktalk.netland

Mail:

28 Spencer's Lane, Orel, Wigan,
WN5 8RA

Last Minute Reminder

The Walk, Run, Cycle **catered** Meet on the 1st. & 2nd. October from Bishop's Scale

Arthur Daniels

Proposed Cycle Route. Bishops Scale – Ullswater – Back O' Skidder – Bassenthwaite – Braithwaite return via Thirlmere. Distance about 70 Miles

Proposed Walk Area. The Grasmere group from Braithwaite. Transport provided to and from.

Help Required

Help wanted with the refurbishment of the men's wash room at Bishops Scale. Contact Arthur Daniels. 01706 819706

Arthur Daniels

Nordic Ski Gear for Sale

Ken Jackson

Skis are: Merrell XCD Kinetic waxless base 180 mm long with Voile bindings. Would suit small person up to 11 stone

Boots are: Solo Extreme leather, size 40, with vibram nordic sole to suit bindings

Sticks are: Six Nordic Skins are: Coll-tex self adhesive. All above are in good condition. Price about £30 which will be donated to Cancer Research. Contact Ken Jackson. Tel. 01706 229364 or Kenoldhall@aol.com

Achille Ratti Facebook Group

For all those facebookers amongst us an 'Achille Ratti' group has been set up by Gary Pollard. This is a convenient way of letting other know what you are planning and what you've been doing. Photographs can

Chris Lloyd.

also be added. All interested members are welcome to join the group. Search 'Achill Ratti' on facebook and send in a request to join.