

LIVERPOOL CATHOLIC RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF
HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

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MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

It is easy to submit to and accept commercialised entertainment as presented to us on stage, screen or field, but real and lasting enjoyment of leisure springs from within ourselves and is of our own making. To develop the faculty of entertaining ourselves generally involves encouragement from others.

The C.R.A. provides the facilities for real enjoyment of leisure. Firstly, there is agreeable company; then we have our socials, dances and rambles, and each member is encouraged to give some contribution to the general pool of happiness. Every member can contribute something - be it only a smile or a cheerful or encouraging word.

The Committee are striving by all means possible to improve the standard of socials and rambles and even to extend the field of activities. This goodfellowship which is the monopoly of the few in the C.R.A. we would like to see shared by the many, and we therefore ask all members to join in the campaign to increase membership. The C.R.A. has much to offer newcomers and we ask all old members to prove this by extending a warm welcome to all newcomers to our socials and rambles.

THE EDITOR.

PERSONAL

Wedding bells are in the air again. We would like to offer our congratulations to Miss Sally Coles who was married on Easter Saturday. Sally is an old member of the Club, and we wish her every happiness. Also to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Murphy who were married on the 9th April, congratulations. Congratulations also to John McCrorie and Eva McGovern who recently became engaged.

April seems to be an important month to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Roberts (Nora Collins). Patricia Avril, who was born on the 5th April, made Ben and Nora into a proud Poppa and Momma. Apart from celebrating their Wedding Anniversary on the 15th, Ben has a Birthday on the 16th. Triple Congratulations!

A Select Dance (old and modern) is being held by the St. Helens Council of the K.S.C. in Holy Cross Parish Hall, St. Helens, on Wednesday, 7th May 1947, in aid of the Catholic Holiday Guild. It is hoped that all members of the C.R.A. will rally to the support of their parent body. Tickets, 3/- each, may be had from Mr. Frank King.

TIME IS GETTING SHORT! On Friday, 16th May 1947, in St. Oswald's Hall, will be held the SALE OF WORK by the C.R.A. in aid of the Catholic Holiday Guild. Many items have been handed in. ARE YOUR ARTICLES IN YET? If not, hand them to Mr. Mark Walsh or Miss Kathleen Collins as soon as possible. Bring your family and friends to the Sale of Work. Apart from opportunities for purchasing various things that may have been needed for a long while past, there will be attractions of interest to all, and light refreshments.

Bookings for accommodation at "The Hollies" are increasing, and it behoves you to book now if you wish to take advantage of a splendid holiday in admirable surroundings conveniently situated in KESWICK, the "Metropolis of Lakeland," by the side of Derwentwater. Brochures in colour and Booking Forms are now available. Enquiries may be made of Miss Win Jones, to whom you can also hand bookings and deposits.

ROVING REPORTER

ARLEY HALL, 23rd March - 25 turned out to see Lymm Dams and Arley, including 11 from St. Helens who had to make their own way to Lymm on account of transport pressure. Unfortunately, everyone was drenched in the heaviest shower yet encountered during the 'short' walk to the dinner rendezvous at High Legh. The remainder of the day, however, was dry and comparatively fine, and although this really good rambling area was not seen at its best, it was interesting and varied enough to come up to most hikers' expectations. The going was hard and somewhat fast (impatient leaders are nothing new, I suppose) with the result that poached eggos on toast were almost a unanimous vote on arrival at the tea shanty. The walk back into Lymm, though by road, was very pleasant, but getting onto the last bus (or its duplicates) could only be compared with a scramble for the last lifeboats.

BARNSTONDALE, 30th March - The weather to-day was unkind but did not deter 19 hardy ones from braving the Wirral mud. Starting from Arrowe, our leader, Peter, took us by pleasant ways through Thingwall and Barnston to Heswall in two parties (accidental!) Here at Heswall, a 'miracle' was worked insofar as we obtained 'grab stakes' in a cafe not then open for business. Following the shore for a while we turned away in order to reach Thurstaston Common in time for tea. The day's weather had not managed to put the 'damp' on us, for the last lap to Arrowe passed quite animatedly in conversation and comparatively high spirits.

ECCLESTON FERRY, Easter Monday - 13 people enjoyed the walk along the banks of the Dee in brilliant sunshine. The Cathedral city was looking very stately and historical, which made Peter sigh for the days of old when knights were brave and ladies were ladies - at least, so he says - but I ha' me doots. We stopped half way to Eccleston and had a snack, after which the leader promptly fell asleep - of course, if people will stay out until 4-00 a.m., they must expect to do things like that. We travelled onward past Eaton Hall. John later gave the details in full of the legend of the Severed Hand - not sparing us any of the gruesome and gory details. It didn't worry him that we were gradually turning a ghastly shade of green. Jim Keown, who has now been fully initiated in the art of rambling, regaled us with some 'shaggy dog' stories - we were too well-mannered to tell him we had heard them before! The afternoon was spoilt by April snows and the high wind didn't help us very much, but we eventually reached Chester where a very crowded train waited for us. We managed to squeeze into six square inches of space in the corridor - tier system, looking rather the worse for wear by the time we reached home.

CALDY HILL, 13th April - About a score of ramblers turned out to greet the first really good day of the season. For this ramble we reverted to the 2-15 p.m. meeting, and although the route taken was one well used by the regulars, one and all were in high spirits. There is some controversy as to whether this was due to the brilliant sunshine or the Leader's personality! (ahem!). Starting at Claughton, the ramble took us by way of Thurstaston to Caldby Hill (sorry - 'oller). A disappointment was encountered at Irby Mill Hill, to where the

unusually fine weather had drawn great crowds, and we were unable to have tea at the scheduled cafe. This difficulty was overcome with Win's assistance, and although we had a long wait, we were finally able to obtain some tea.

Continuing the journey to Caldy, a halt was called and while the majority of the party rested on top of the hill, several strolled on to have a look at West Kirby. The final stage of the ramble took us back to Thurstaston and the bus queue. The hour of arrival at Liverpool was rather late, and apologies are due to those to whom this caused any inconvenience.

SOCIAL NOTES.

"Grand National" Night was notable by reason of the "Sweep" organised very successfully by Win. I say "very successfully", but I don't want a lawsuit on my hands because I remind you that Win's brother won 2nd prize with LOCH CONN, the first prize being won by Eileen Collins, and the 3rd by Peter Carlin with KAMI.

The C.R.A. Dance at Marmaduke Hall, I am pleased to announce, was both a social and a financial success, due to the spirit of all who attended. Our thanks to Mr. Fred Norbury for timely and appropriate words on our aspirations. Our thanks, too, to all those who by their efforts ensured our success, and this not least to those valiant superhumans who 'plugged' the tickets.

Tom Inight was unable to take up our "Indoor Sports" night, but Peter Carlin ably stepped into the breach and entertained a crowded social night very successfully. I wouldn't wish to see eggs passed around in the same fashion that I saw lemons being passed around in one of Peter's games.

Mark Walsh's "Crazy Whist" Social was very well attended, and taking into account the previous week's Social, warmed old members with recollections of pre-War Socials at St. Sebastian's. Mark's departure from social routine was an entertaining success and was enjoyed by everyone, not least by Mark himself.

FORTHCOMING SOCIALS.

2nd May.....	LUCKY DIP.....	Hostess, Miss K. Collins.
9th "QUIZ.....	Host, Mr. J. Mulhall.
16th "SALE OF WORK.	
23rd "SOCIAL.....	Hostess, Miss C. Byrne.
30th "SPECIALITY.....	Hostess, Miss W. Jones.

FORTHCOMING RAMBLES.

4th May...	NESTON (Benediction at St. Winifred's).	Meet 10.15 a.m. Pier Head,	Leader: Miss K. Collins.
11th "	...HINDERTON.....	Meet 2.15 pm Pier Head.	Leader: Miss S. Mulhall.
18th "	...ECCELESTON FERRY.....	Meet 10.15 am. Pier Head.	Leader: Miss S. Devoy.
WHIT MONDAY...	RHYD-Y-MWYN.....	Meet 8.15 am. Pier Head.	Leader: Mr. J. Miller.
1st June...	MEOLS (Benediction at St. Catherin & St. Martina's)	Meet 2.15 pm Pier Head.	Leader: Miss W. Jones.
8th "	...Joint Ramble with Stockport & St. Helens to CHINLEY.		Names for the private bus which is being hired must be given to Miss Win Jones as soon as possible.

HISTORY OF THE C.R.A. & C.H.G. (Contd.)

IN WHICH WE FORM A LIMITED COMPANY

The hard work which had been expended on the Club from 1927 to 1935 was beginning to give some return. A high standard had been set for rambles; socials were a regular and well patronised weekly feature in our Wood Street house; organised annual holidays were an accepted part of our activities, and membership was on the increase. Moreover, a tradition of goodfellowship and loyalty to the Club's ideals was being steadily built up. We now required a leader to consolidate the gains and bring the Club a step nearer the attainment of its objects. Mr. M. McCall will always be remembered as the Secretary who gave cohesion and direction to the Club at this most critical period.

Our Wood Street Clubroom possessed certain advantages which the more conservative among us were loathe to relinquish. It was centrally situated; was cheap to run, and perhaps most important of all, it was associated in the minds of its members with many happy memories, but it had serious disadvantages. It was small whilst its situation as a social centre was not impressive. Mr. McCallen, therefore proposed we should negotiate for St. Sebastians Hall and answered all criticism with unswerving optimism, for there were among us those who foresaw financial failure; eclipse of the family spirit in the Club and growth of cliques; and the absence of a central position would attract to the Hall only local members. These criticisms did not materialise. Although the rent of St. Sebastians was considerably more than that of Wood Street, attendances increased and our expenses were generally covered. Moreover, members came from many parishes and we continued to be diocesan and not parochial.

The Hall with its stage provided facilities for dramatics, concerts and variety shows, which were developed by the Committee. The Vagabonds, Nigger Linstrels, Dramatic Sections provided much interesting entertainment to the Club.

Under the guidance of Mr. Kelly, a football section was organised; whilst Miss Maddock with capable assistants started the tennis section with two courts and a pavilion in Cherry Lane. The Tennis section was open to all members at a seasonal charge of 15/-, and to judge from the Club records, the tennis section proved both attractive to the members and financially helpful to the Club as a whole.

By the year 1938, the C.R.A. was on the crest of success, and it now seemed expedient to launch out on the most important of its objects - a Catholic Guest House. Members, however, were unwilling to shoulder the financial responsibility this would involve, and to circumvent such an obstacle, it was decided to form a Company, limited by guarantee and to be known as the Catholic Holiday Guild Ltd. In 1939, after much discussion and not a little opposition, the Club in general meeting voted a sum of £30 to pay the expenses of forming such a Company. In return it reserved to itself the right to appoint two officers to the new Company. The formation of the new Company was the inspiration and work of Mr. McCallen. During his period of office, he laboured untiringly for the Ramblers and the Holiday Guild, and whilst we express our appreciation to him for his unselfish devotion to the C.R.A. and C.H.G., we hope he may return to enjoy some of the fruits of his labours - particularly the comradeship and goodfellowship which is still held in high esteem and is still regarded as the most important asset it has to offer.
