



Edition No. 120

July 1984

Exclusive -

HOW WE CONQUERED THE FOURTEEN PEAKS - Full story inside this edition!

THE SUPER RAMBLERS

On a glorious midsummer Saturday in 1967, six of our members celebrated the Club's 40th anniversary by successfully conquering the Fourteen Peaks of North Wales, three of them making a new record time of 9hrs 59mins. And now, seventeen years on (after last year's unsuccessful attempt) they have been conquered once more, but only just! With the weather conditions so bad on the Carnedd's only sheer determination saved the attempt from being abandoned. The full story is given overleaf by Anthony Brockway. Read all about it.

THE ORRELL DRAW

First, the good news: The winning time was 2 hours 27 mins 30 secs and the lucky winner got a Ford Sierra Car. Now the bad news: None of our members guessed the right time! A list of winners is in circulation and more are available from Chris Dobbin or myself, if required. One other piece of good news: Our club made a good profit from the draw takings.

FRED NORBURY CUP

This event has had to be rescheduled as there have not been any competitors as yet. George Riley and myself are working on a pattern of revised dates. Just ignore the last dates in the previous newsletter. Anyone interested (this should be EVERYONE) please see George Riley as soon as possible.

Proposed dates will be: Saturday, July 21 - TENNIS at the Electric Supply Club, Thingwall Road, Wavertree, 1.30 start, then the following Saturdays for PITCH & PUTT, CROWN GREEN BOWLS and TEN-PIN BOWLS, all meeting at St John's Lane at 5.00 p.m. POOL will be competed for at the Club on several Thursdays as available. Don't forget, there is a winner for both men and ladies.

THIS NEWSLETTER

Assisting me in typing this newsletter were Angela Platt, Ann Nicholson and Mona Roberts. Articles were submitted by Anthony Brockway, George Riley, John MacDonald and an anonymous write-up on the St Sunday Crag ramble by two of the Family Section. Thanks to all concerned. Any articles for the next newsletter or readers' letters, comments, etc. to be submitted to me as soon as possible.

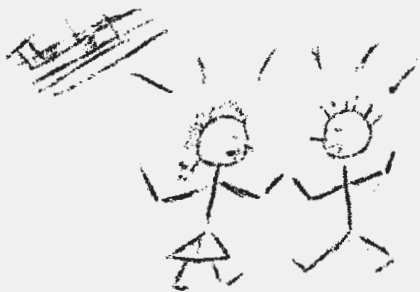
DAVE NEWNS, Editor

7 Abbotts Way, Billinge, Wigan, Lancs, WN5 7SB

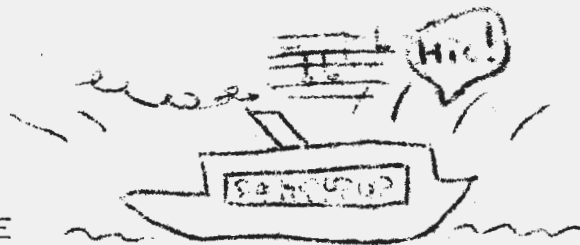
RAMBLING PREVIEW

July 22 GLENRIDDING (Lakes). We were here recently, but new wks are planned for this day in the Ullswater area.

Aug. 5 MILLERS DALE (Derbyshire). This will take in three of Derbyshire's Dales. Walks will be along limestone paths and rivers with towering limestone rocks each side of the many gorges. A disused railway tunnel will be entered, so torches will be handy, but not essential.



S O C I A L I T E



Since the last newsletter we've held a few special events, and here's a brief rundown of how they went.

WINE BARGE

This was a great success. Forty four ramblers came along and following a swift half at the "Great Moghul" we set off on the barge down the Leeds Liverpool Canal. The weather was very kind to us and we were able to spend the early part of the evening on deck taking in the West Lancashire countryside. The food consisted of quiche, ham, salad, bread rolls and butter. Sweets were also available. The bar did good business and the singer, Jack Owen proved very popular. We ended up having a good old sing song. Many thanks to Pat for organizing the night on behalf of all of us who went.

SOLID GOLD LATE DISCO

Only forty one people attended but we had a lively night. We are experimenting in having a late night using our own disco as perhaps the cost of a professional night is prohibitive. Members views on the subject are welcome.

COUNTRY NIGHT

A few brave individuals came in cowboy gear and we had a burst of Country/50's music from 10 to 10-30 pm together with the normal disco records.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

50's & 60's NIGHT - 19th July Admission 60p

Come along and hear the music that your mothers and fathers bopped to. (Will flattery attract bigger crowds?) If anyone has special favourites let us know or bring your own records along.

CHORLEY BARBECUE - 14th July

A great success last year, this night has a Wild West flavour and with good food, dancing and a bar it is likely to be very popular. Bookings to Pat Rothwell recommended to avoid disappointment. Note: Many of the Chorley crowd will be in fancy dress (cowboys or indians). Why not join in the fun?

George Riley,
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN.

THE FOURTEEN PEAKS OF NORTH WALES

On Saturday, 26th May, after a fine, sunny day, Brian Keller, Paul Amundsen, Peter Wilkinson, Paul Healy and myself turned our backs on the small support party and started the long climb up Snowdon. We set up camp near the summit and attempted to sleep. Our object, to climb all fourteen of the 3,000 foot peaks of North Wales.

4.40 a.m. on Sunday morning saw us crawling out of the tents into another world, the grass and rocks of the night before had been covered by a white blanket of snow. Having donned winter clothing we struck camp and strolled up to the cairn on top of Yr Wyddfa. At 5.19 a.m. we were off, down the railway track to the Col. Veering right we followed the ridge up to Crib-y-Ddysgl, then down on to Grib-goch ridge. The snow made it particularly difficult. Care and firm footing took us slowly down to the pinnacles. The cloud broke once or twice allowing us views of the lay-by 2,000 feet below, where breakfast awaited us. The pinnacles were crossed with caution, then up the ridge to the summit. The descent took us along the north ridge down tricky slabs, scree and a grassy gully which ended as a rock scramble. Then a footpath led us down to the road and on to where the girls were cooking breakfast at the lay-by. It was a treat, hot and edible, though Brian Keller's sausage was burnt to a cinder!

BATTLING AGAINST THE ELEMENTS

Breakfast over, we set off down the road. At Nant Peris we turned right and started the long ascent of Elidir Fawr..... 'Boring' (anyone who has walked this route will understand). Paul Healy found his fitness not up to the pace and thus retired gracefully back to the road, but Tommy Keenan had joined us at the breakfast stop so we still numbered five.

On reaching the top we again found ourselves in cloud. A short rest and drink then off along the ridge. The cloud cleared allowing us to look upon Marchlyn Mawr Reservoir. The path led on round the valley head, gradually up for a mile, then more steeply up to the peak, then a short rest followed by a jog down to Devil's Kitchen.

The steep climb up to Glyder Fawr took a lot out of us, Peter Wilkinson in particular. Each time we waited for him it would be about 5 minutes before his silhouette appeared through the cloud. Eventually the five of us were assembled on the top where it was too cold to stop for a rest. Leaving the top we were protected from the wind by the ridge itself. We crossed below the Castle of the Winds and climbed up to Glyder Fach, only stopping to take a look at the Cantilever.

We had now completed seven peaks - half-way! Tryfan next in line. On the descent of Bristly Ridge Peter and Tommy dropped behind, so the remaining 3 (hereby known as 'US') scrambled up Tryfan, stopped for a breath and to jump across Adam and Eve, then descended the North West gully. Paul Amundsen and myself left Brian and ran, tripped and slipped down, stopping for a rest we then made the mistake of waiting for Brian, who never arrived. Descending to the Valley we were greeted with the news that Brian had beaten us. He had taken a short cut by mistake. All nine of the support group met us at Lake Ogwen.

THE CARNEDDS TO THE FINISH

With lunch inside us and feeling refreshed, we started off for Penyrolewen. Following a stream gradually up, the rain started. To make us feel better a search and rescue helicopter flew into the Valley. The path now turned left up the ridge and the wind had strengthened, blowing from our right, bustling us. Rests were frequent but the wind ensured that they were short. The top came as a relief but we now faced into the wind. Struggling on for what seemed ages, we reached the top. Well at least we thought we had. After yet another rest we carried on and found ourselves climbing. Eventually we reached Carnedd Dafydd. Taking a bearing, we headed for Craig Ilogwy. The walking seemed endless. I was colder than I have ever been before. Three things kept me going, Paul and Brian, my partners, Peter who may have been just behind us and the fact that it was easier to go on than return by the same exposed route. On reaching Craig Ilogwy the wind dropped. We were now in the shelter of Carnedd Llewelyn. After some Kendal Mint Cake strength returned and the summit was reached.

Next was Yr Ellen, a mountain which was put in the wrong place, entailing a two-mile detour consisting of a descent and climb, returning by the same route. Having completed this trek we focused our attention on Foel Grach. We were in cloud and the ground was still covered in snow. Navigation consisted of taking a compass bearing and following the foot-prints in the snow. On reaching Foel Grach we entered the mountain hut to find it occupied by a man and his son, who intended spending the night there. The offer of oxo from a flask was accepted and did the trick, warming our insides.

The last peak was an anti-climax, as we nearly got lost, though the sense of achievement was strong, standing there on Foel Fras. The time was 19.45. We had been walking for 14 hours 26 minutes. The route down to Aber was uneventful and soon we were supping pints in the comfort of the Aber Falls Hotel.

Peter, Tommy and Dave Newns arrived back at 10.55 and were able to celebrate with a pint of shandy.

Four of the five starters had completed the Fourteen Peaks, an 80% record, and Tommy had completed eleven, missing out the Snowdon Range.

Our thanks go out to all the support team who helped more than they may realise and also to Dave, who guided Peter and Tommy over The Carnedds.

ANTHONY BROCKWAY

P.S. The support team were: Pat Rothwell, Joan Finegan, Marie O'Loughlin, Marie Douglas, Kathy Courtney, George Riley and Tony Bond with Paul Healy and Dave Newns both part supporting, part walking.

Accommodation was in luxury chalets at Glan Gwna Holiday Park, near Caernarfon, obtained at a special cheap rate for the weekend. (Incidentally there were fourteen people in total on this memorable Fourteen Peaks weekend!).

And now for something completely different
(PTO:

CLAIRVOYANCY? The following piece has been submitted by John MacDonald, who, incidentally, is a member of a writers' club.

BEST OF FRIENDS

Two men are sitting in a pub at a small table. A lady (Megan) approaches them and takes a seat. She studies one of the young men's hands, then speaks:

Lady: "I see a pretty girl with brown hair wearing glasses."

Bob: "Does she fancy me, Megan?"

Lady: "She is holding a book on philosophy at a page marked 'love'. Now she's smiling at you."

Ken: "Can you get me a girl, Megan, while you are about it? It must be all of two weeks since I held a girl lovingly in my arms."

Lady: "Her name has a 'w' in it. She seems to like you, Bob?"

Ken: "My girl had long ginger hair falling to her waist. She really cared about me, Bob."

Lady: "I see the name Knotty Ash in green lights. Funny, I wonder why the lights are green? It must have something to do with the Jam Butty mines."

Ken: "I was in ecstasy for a week when she kissed me."

Bob: "I thought you only took her out twice, Ken."

Ken: "It seemed like a lifetime when we were together."

Bob: "It would have been a lifetime if she had got you up the aisle."

Ken: "She would have done anything for me, Bob. She was so loving and kind."

Lady: "Miss 'W' is still reading the book and smiling."

Ken: "It's your fault we broke up, Bob. Why did you tell her I was going out with Jane?"

Bob: "I remember Jane. She was a big lass. She was so big. When she got in your mini her hands had to go out of both windows. No wonder motorists were confused. They didn't know if you were turning left or right. That was Jane."

Ken: "I thought you were my friend, Bob?"

Bob: "I am, Ken. Then I saved you from Diana, that small pretty girl you took a fancy too. How could you think of going out with a girl in a mini skirt and long auburn hair?"

Ken: "So it was your fault I lost her. A fine friend you are. I really thought she was the one for me. I dreamed about her every night."

Bob: "I did it for your own good, Ken. She would have worn you out with discos and parties. I was doing you a favour taking her from you."

Ken: "But I loved her. We spent long hot summer nights together, on the swing on the swing on her mother's veranda."

Bob: "Like I said before. I had to save you from her."

Lady: "Miss 'W' is cradling the book in her arms. She is dancing around the room near a large open window."

Bob: "Ken, I'll do you a big favour by taking Diana off your hands. Then you can have Miss 'W'. I'm sure she is your type."

Ken: "Could you make Miss 'W' love me Megan? Could you take her mind off Bob?"

Bob: "I would like to ask you to the wedding but I know the disco we are having this evening would upset you. So don't worry, Ken, I will look after Diana for the rest of her life."

Ken: "That's all right, Bob. I know you mean well. You are my best friend."

Lady: "Miss 'W's hands are shaking, she has dropped her book. Her face has turned a bright green. Oh no! She has turned into a frog and jumped out of the window. There must have been water outside."

Bob: "That's the way things go, Ken. I only dropped in for a drink before the wedding. I'm marrying Diana at eleven! Ask Megan to find you a princess, Ken."

Ken: "I don't think so Bob. She would probably turn into a toad and you know how I loathe them."
Lady: "I see a pretty girl with golden hair that shines in the sunlight. Her name is Sandra and she is thinking of you. Hard luck Ken, she's turned into a butterfly and flown out of the window."
Ken: "Maybe I should go to parties and discos Bob, at least the girls won't fly out of the window."

JOHN MACDONALD

BOOTS FOR SALE

LADIES - Do you take size fives? If so, contact Kathy Diver. She has a pair of almost brand new good quality rambling boots for sale. - She can be contacted at home on 259 4171.

THE WIRRAL MARATHON

Tommy Keenan and Paul Amundsen are running in the above on July 15th. They would like people to sponsor them to raise money for the North West Hosanna House Trust. Pat Rothwell has sponsor forms.

Tickets now on sale for the

ANNUAL BUFFET DANCE

on
Saturday, October 6th (at Atlantic House)
Hardman Street

Tickets only £4.50

See any committee member

SAFETY ON RAMBLES

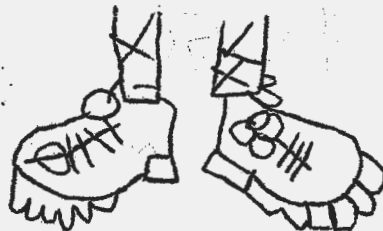
Many so called rambles are held in mountainous areas and a few commonsense precautions are necessary for the safety and enjoyment of those using the countryside.

CLOTHING Most important is correct footwear which is essential both for ankle protection and grip on slippery surfaces. Boots with a good tread and fitting comfortably are a must for all rambles. The leader can refuse to take a person on a ramble if he considers that person is incorrectly dressed. Warm and waterproof clothing must always be taken even on a hot, sunny day as weather can deteriorate rapidly in mountainous areas, and should be carried in a well-fitting rucksack when not worn. A complete change of clothes should also be taken, but please, not carried on the ramble, but left on the coach.

ENERGY The best way to get energy is to eat, and a picnic lunch should be carried with plenty to drink especially during the summer months.

DISCIPLINE The leader is in charge from the moment they step on the coach at Liverpool and no member may leave the party without the leader's sanction. If any member decides not to take part in a ramble on arrival at the destination, they must inform the coach driver of their intention to stay with the coach. In the unlikely event of anyone getting separated without the leader's or the whipper-in's knowledge they must get in touch with the LOCAL POLICE immediately so that contact can be made. No responsibility can be taken for persons leaving a party without the leader's sanction. In the case of an accident DIAL 999 so that police can contact the nearest mountain rescue team.

EQUIPMENT Torches, first-aid, compasses, maps, whistles, etc. are carried by all leaders. Members should also carry at least a torch and whistle in case of emergency.



THE CHURCH STRETTON RAMBLE - JUNE 10TH, 1984.

On a beautiful, sunny June Sunday morning, we gathered in the car park at Church Street to eat our butties and watch a small girl learning to ride her bike, with her grampy running frantically all over the car park trying to keep up with her. Then a coach arrived and we enjoyed watching a party of walkers (none of whom were a day under seventy) get booted up and start off for the hills. We admired their energy and were just wondering what other entertainment was laid on when a certain Arthur Brockway came and informed us that the show was over and we had to do a spot of walking ourselves - and us in our best pedal pushers and Sunday hats - shouldn't be allowed!

We told him we could see the hills quite nicely from here, thank you, but he had brought a certain young man with him who made sure we did what we were told - so off we had to go.

It was a great walk through fields of wild flowers, over streams and stiles and up into the hills - to eat more butties looking down there from up here that we had been looking at from down there - they even found a mini Matterhorn to climb with finger nails and teeth (ever-so-slight exaggeration), so all in all it was a most enjoyable day with good company, and well worth the journey. Many thanks, Arther and Michael for a job well done.

X.J.B.

P.S. Its just as well Church STREET has been pedestrianised or we could have had a few casualties before we even got started! Anybody know a proper typist!

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FAMILY SECTION PROGRAMME.

JULY 5TH. The house meeting is at Pat and Leo Pearson's, 81 Twig Lane, Huyton.

JULY 8TH. The Berwyns (Carrog.) Directions as last newsletter. Just one correction - the Rising Sun doesn't rise. Its The Sun Inn.

AUG. 2ND. The House Meeting at Angela and Noel Fishwick's, 74 Moss Lane, Maghull.

NO AUGUST WALK, you meanies.

SEPT. 6TH. This is the date for the Annual General Meeting. Once again Nora and Bill Naylor are loaning us 114 Moss Lane, Maghull. Do keep the date in mind and come if you possibly can.

SEPT. 9TH. Ronnie and Harry O'Neill are leading our walk in the Rochdale Area. Meet at Junction 19 on the M62 at 12.30.

JULY 7TH. A bit out of context, but this is the date for an open day at the R.A. Chalet. Mrs. Holland invites us to have a look at the improvements recently made. Tea and buns etc. will be available at a small cost.

Midsummer Madness on St. Sunday Crag. June 24th, 1984.

On a murky Sunday we all met up in Glenridding car park only to find that the McDonalds and Athertons had beaten us to it and were busily eating their butties (after a quick visit to the Hikers' Bar).

While innocently putting our boots on, Mr. Fishwick and I were nearly run over by another rambler - who shall be nameless. I hope you are reading this, Bill Potter.

The coachload soon arrived and we decided what walk we were going on. We set off up the Grisedale valley (where it started to rain) until we reached the Tarn. Here we were joined by the 'A' party and also by a pack of little orange gremlins coming out of the mist down the side of Sunday Crag. We then had a quick rest and some of the others went up the side of Sunday Crag. The sensible ones (meaning us) decided to retreat back down the valley, escorted by the little orange gremlins, who kept shadowing our every move. When we had let them pass us to go ahead we thought we had lost them for good. Later, to our dismay, they stopped at a little green hut we had passed earlier on. As soon as we had passed them they started off again. Eventually, luckily for us, we parted company and got on with the walk in peace.

Before long, we arrived back safe and sound at the car park and were soon trundling home. The McDonalds and Athertons were staying for Fish and Chips at the Hikers' Bar.

We all had a lovely day out, thanks to Dave Newns, Paul Healey and Anthony Brockway (and the Orange Gremlins)!

The Terrible Twins.

P.S. Has anybody seen Bill Potter?

May we offer our congratulations, prayers and sincere wishes to Rosemary's cousin, Frank Norbury, who is being ordained in Bristol Cathedral On July 7th. Rosemary, Ann and John will convey our wishes personally.

DON'T FORGET
AMERICAN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

at ~~Electric~~ Supply Club, Thingwall Rd, 1.30 p.m.
SATURDAY JULY 21st
