

Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association

# News Letter



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ISSUE NO. 21

FOURTH SERIES

OCTOBER 1970

## EDITORIAL

### THE 44th A. G. M.

The 44th. A.G.M. was not particularly exciting. It was late starting and proceeded at a sedate pace throughout. The any other buisness raised only one question, that of Non-Catholics joining the club but even this failed to stimulate the floor. Des Titherington retired as Chairman after serving for two years. His final report is appended below in a condensed form.

" In this my retiring report, I wish to thank both the Officers and Committee members for the assistance they have given me in the running of the club during this last year.

Some months ago we had to move from the Design Centre as the management there decided to increase the frequency of exhibitions and displays in the main hall. It did'nt seem right that we hold dances with a plumbing display on one side and the latest toilets on the other, so we moved here to the R.A.F. Association in Bold Street.

This move has unfortunately aggreivated the situation of declining enthusiasm for the weekly socials. The last committee were aware of this problem but were not able to solve it. A new committee with fresh ideas will I hope speedily rectify the situation.

The Rambling functions have been hit in two ways, firstly by the Transport Act concerning drivers hours and secondly by the lack of long term POSITIVE leadership in the Rambling Sub-section. It may interest you to know that over the last two years no less than six people have attempted to hold the chair in this sub-committee. In my view this is a particularly critical situation for a rambling club.

In the General Committee no less than eight members, elected by yourselves, have failed to fulfill their obligations by not attending meetings or not assisting to run the various activities organised for the club.

In conclusion, I wish the new committee every success in their new ventures. And to you, the Club members, if you desire a successful club, do assist your committee in every way possible."

44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
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23rd September 1970

SECRETARIAL REPORT  
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1. In our 43rd year, membership reached a total of 244 which was an increase of 34 on last year.
2. A ramble was held almost every Sunday or Bank Holiday  
The average attendance was:- 25  
Special rambling events included:-
  - a) Camping Weekend (22 - 25th May) to Clitheroe
  - b) Invitation Walk (31st May)
  - c) Caravan Week-end (27-28th June)
  - d) Two Keswick Week-ends
  - e) Yuletide Walk
3. There were 49 socials held during the year with an average attendance of 81. 125 people turned up for the Christmas party and at quite a few socials we were entertained by groups such as the Poachers, Barley Mow and Hooters.
4. During the year we have had dances at the Mecca Club, Green Bank House, The Riverside Club and St.Oswalds and, of course, our annual Reunion Dance at Dovedale Towers. Weekly socials were moved from Design Centre because of its owners new plans. We moved to R.A.F. Club.
5. Several outings were arranged to go to Jodrel Bank, a visit around a Passenger Cargo Liner and to the Phil to see the Spinners. There was a special outing to Sefton Park for a Bowling Competition. The Club also arranged outings for Spastic Children to go to Chester Zoo and Pensioners to go to see "The Black & White Minstrel Show"
6. The 24th post war tennis season was preceded by a large amount of work by willing members on the courts and especially on the pavilion.
7. The Football team played its 22nd post war season in the Liverpool Central Amateur League finishing 19th and maintaining its reputation of sportsmanship.
8. The Annual Mass was held at St. Nicholas's Church on 20th September and was attended by 120.
9. A donation of £10. 15. 0. was made to Mencap.
10. The newsletter in its 25th post-war year was issued every month. During the year a Addressograph Machine was purchased to speed the issue of the newsletter.
11. The married members of the Club have arranged among themselves and with help from the club to organise walks which they and their children can go on. (These walks will be on the grounds of the Yuletide Walk.
12. Recently the Association was pleased to hear that Father Richard Atherton has consented to become Chaplain.

A.O.C.R.

"When do we stop for lunch Mum ? " Club.  
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Presents a comedy in four acts entitled  
" Shotwick and Puddington on the Costa Dee "

Sunday 11th October 1970

at Burton Village Hall.

Curtin Up 12 - 30 pm

Cast : Families of the L.C.R.A.

Prologue. Gather at Burton Village Hall not before 12 noon  
Ample parking space for cars outside. Refreshments may be  
obtained at Beech Cottage Cafe if required.

Act 1. Leave for Puddington by unusual route at 12 - 30  
pm sharp.

Interval Lunch at "somewhere "at approximately 1 - 30 pm.

Act 2. Continue via Shotwick to River Dee

Act 3. Return by unmapped route at a leisurely pace  
to Burton.

Finale " Feeding time at the Zoo " at approximately  
4 pm. Refreshments may be obtained at Beech  
Cottage Cafe.

Departure. Anytime up to 5 pm.

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RAMBLING.

LAKE DISTRICT WEEKEND.

23rd 24th & 25th OCT.

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.Names to D. News.

New members

Mary Cunningham  
Pauline Humphrys  
Francis Matthews

Margaret Mc Donald  
Joan Mc Lean  
Anne Valentine

F O O T B A L L  
\* \* \* \* \*

We started the season O.K. but Inter S.A. our opponents started even better for they won 5-0. But as they are tipped to come top of the league this year perhaps we didn't do so bad after all.

In our second game at home on our new pitch in Sefton Park on the 'Old Farm Field' not one player kicked the ball in anger. To be more precise the game was cancelled. Why? we had no goal-posts. Why? Because they were still at Long Lane recreation ground where we had our home pitch last year. Why? It could go on but A.C. 69 our opponents have agreed to replay later on in the season.

When next we meet we will be a new Team, at least in looks for the club have advanced us £25 to purchase new kit and accessories which may be required. In order to repay this we intend to hold some money raising functions to supplement the 10/- signing on fee and the 3/- per game charge we make on our members.

The team is still in a state of flux, so if you feel competent to fill a place, why not join us in our training sessions at our home ground on Tuesday or Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. Even if you only want to practise with us you will be most welcome, all the more if you bring your own ball.

Next Saturday (19th Sept) we play Cumberland at Kirkby and the team will be taken there in the ambulance. - No, we're not that desperate, it's really a converted ambulance and it's a cheaper form of transport than using the public kind. However, whilst on the grissley business of ambulances, we could do with a first aid man or lady - so if there are any budding Red Cross or St. John's Ambulance people about, you can watch all our games free in return for your medical services.

The Editor has informed me that I can have this space every month for the rest of the season, so I shall endeavour to keep you up to date on our position and prospects.

A. Ball

## THE A.O.C.R. GOES TO THE HILLS

On Sunday September 6th 1970, the Ancient Order of Catholic Ramblers was truly launched, or maybe I should say that the idea that had been in the minds of so many of the 'older' members, was at last being put into practice.

Whichever way you look at it, Rivington Barn was the meeting place for this first outing of the section. A quite heavy drizzle was falling, and I don't think our hopes were too high. But we need not have worried, no drizzle was going to dampen the spirits on this long awaited day, and soon the barn was reverberating to the steps of several junior ramblers.

I am not given to name dropping in the usual way, but this time I feel it would be helpful, especially to all those ex or near ex-ramblers, who were not out, because they thought their contemporaries would not be out. Here then is a list of all those who took part.

There were our leaders - late as usual!! Peter and Marie Atherton. Then came Bill and Peggy Potter, Johnnie and Kath Burns, Arthur and Sheila Leek, Harry and Nancy Sheridan, John and Maureen Johnston, Harry and Ronnie O'Neill, Leo and Pat Pearson, Eddie and Winnie Quinn, Tony and Mollie Roche, Harold and Betty Burns, Mike and Marie Coughlan, Ron and Agnes Boardman, Jack and Betty Highton, and May and Myself. To add to these of course were all the various offspring, making a grand total of 53! Not bad for a start, when you think that included were members from the early thirties to the mid sixties.

After the meeting and chatting at the barn, with some of us seeing each other for the first time for many years, you would think that the ramble itself would just be incidental. Not a bit of it. No sooner had our leader started off on the well worn tracks towards Rivington Pike, than some plaintive voice wanted to know when was the 'buttery stop!' After scrambling our way through several overgrown paths, to the delighted shrieks of the children, there were even more delighted shrieks from them when it was discovered that the ground was covered with nicely wrapped toffees! I wonder how they got there! Half an hour or so further on, lo and behold, a real 'lolly-pop tree' was discovered, and another stop was made until the tree was denuded of its unusual fruit. All this time it was drizzling, and some of the older young members decided on a new game - shaking the trees so that the drizzle became a downpour on their unsuspecting parents! All good fun, helping to keep up the light hearted atmosphere that had been so noticeable from the start. Eventually we reached the pike, and the children once more found the grass strewn with lolly-pops and toffees. More great shrieks as these were hunted for, and more amazement from the youngsters as they wondered how they got into the grass!

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TO JOHN O'GROATS ONCE MORE - The easy way  
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No doubt you will have read in an earlier edition (April?) of John Lovelady's helter-skelter weekend trip to John O'Groats. Now I have just been in a more leisurely fashion - by coach.

Our first overnight stop was at Dunfries - the 'Queen of the South'. The town has many associations, with Robert the Bruce, and M. J. Barrie, for instance, but is probably best known as the town in which Robert Burns spent the last years of his life. He is buried in the grounds of the Parish Church, in a Mausoleum in the form of a Greek Temple. He also has a statue in the Main Street. Our next stopping place was Skelnorbe, on the Firth of Clyde, which was reached after passing through Ayr. Directly opposite our hotel over the tall posts in the banks of the Clyde, which mark the 'measured mile' where all ships built on the Clyde undergo their speed tests after launching.

The next day took us along the banks of Loch Lomond, with Ben Lomond towering above us, and dominating the scene. There are several other peaks over 3,000 ft. in the vicinity too. After crossing the Moor of Ranscoch, we entered Glen Coe, where the notorious massacre of the MacDonalds took place in 1692. It is a gruesome story, and it was a gruesome sight in the Glen too, because the mists and low cloud gave it quite an eerie appearance. Safely through the glen we made for Fort William and Ben Nevis, only to find this, as so often is the case, enshrouded in mist also. However, the journey went on, and our next stop at Carrbridge was reached, after a look at the ski-slopes in the Cairngorms, at Aviemore. Carrbridge is a very good stopping place for anyone wishing to ski, and it also has some picturesque waterfalls, and a 'nature trail' through the forest, which occupied all our evening after dinner. The following day saw us on our way to a delightful little seaside village on the East Coast called Dornoch. The journey was uneventful, except for a lunch-time stop at the Capitol of the Highlands - Inverness, on the Caledonian Canal. From Dornoch our next trip was to Ullapool, on the West Coast, a quiet fishing resort in the hills, which continued right to the water's edge. After returning to Dornoch for the night, our early start was made for John O' Groats first calling at Thurso for lunch and then along the northern coast of Scotland, passing the Castle of Mey, home of the Queen Mother (I believe she is in residence there at the moment). At last we arrived at John O' Groats wrongly thought to be the most northerly point on the Scottish mainland. In actual fact, the distinction is held by Darnet Head, a few miles west of John O' Groats.

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John O' Groats, like its counterpart Land's End, consists only of an hotel, a gift shop, and one or two little cottages, but it also boasts a small jetty, from which a ferry sails to the Orkneys. The derivation of the name is from Jan de Groot, a Dutchman, who lived in these parts. He is reputed to have had family trouble with his seven sons as to precedence and position at the table. He therefore built an octagonal house, with 8 doors, so that each member of the family could have his own entrance. He also had an octagonal table made so that each one could be 'head' of the table. (Incidentally, no mention is made of his wife!) The house and table have long since disappeared, but the site is marked by a mound and a flagpole. Jan de Groot also organised the first ferry service to the Orkneys. For this he charged 4, which was a small coin of the time, and was nicknamed 'a groat'. Hence the name 'John O'Groats', and the threepenny piece in Scotland is still very often called a groat.

Now it was time to retrace our steps southwards once more. About three miles from John O'Groats, we passed three cyclists, two of whom were on normal cycles, and the other on an ancient penny farthing model! They were setting off on a 'sponsored ride' to Lands' End (about 900 miles!) for charity. Our return journey took us through Balnoral and Braemar (home of the Highland Games) for another overnight stop, and then on to Aberdeen, three days after leaving John O'Groats. Just as we were entering the town, who should we pass on the road, but our three cyclists, still going strong! Edinburgh was our next target, and after all the unspoilt beauty of the Highlands, which is as old as the country, and as natural as the country itself, it was indeed a contrast to see the man-made magnificence of the Forth Bridge, opened by the Queen in September, 1964.

Grim statistics never did appeal to me, but I feel that these few facts about the bridge are at least enlightening. It is just over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles long. The two main cables are made of woven wire, and are  $22\frac{1}{2}$  miles long. 30,000 miles of wire were used to make them. The shore anchorages for these cables are 200 feet deep in the rock, and are filled with 10,500 tons of concrete! An overnight stop in the capital city of Scotland, was followed by the last leg of our journey through Keswick and Grasmere back home.

Endpiece. May and I went out for a run in the car yesterday (Sunday, Aug. 9th) to Buxton, and who did we pass on the road near Knutsford, but our three cycling acquaintances from John O' Groats, still peddling strongly after about 450 miles! Whatever the charity they were cycling for, it certainly has three worthy champions of the cause.

Cyril.

# Social.

At this moment you have no social sub - committee so here are a few plugs for the things that make life worth living.



Let's start off with a big occasion dance - that of the Annual Re - Union Buffet Dance. The next one is being held on Saturday 30th January 1971 at the usual venue, Dovedale Towers.

January reminds me of snow and snow brings back memories of Skiing, and Gluvin, of Dancing and sliding one's way back to one's hotel in the early hours of the morning under the Alpine Stars. Have you tried it?

If you do'nt want to go so far for your sport why not get your Badminton racket out again? Many of our club members enjoy this particular game. And this applies particularly to the ladies, even if you are only an average sort of player you will be made most welcome in the majority of clubs as your kind are in very short supply.

I have heard rumors that some of the men are taking up cookery lessons. Perhaps they intend to go on more caravan weekends next year, or perhaps the ladies who went on the caravan trips last year could'nt cook? Can you imagine the menu :-

Croquettes de grenouilles, Parisienne.  
Pigeonneaux en bastion, Semonier.  
and to finish,  
Charlottes, aux noisettes.

Now theres a nice snack to look forward to

It's always an exciting time for those who reach their majority. So let us congratulate Maureen Mason and Brenda Parr who were 21 recently.

Some people go to great lengths to get into the news I speak of Rickie Warrington who is going to Zambia next month. I also believe that Monica Byrne and her friend Ann Sunsberg are also going there seeking adventure and perhaps their fortunes. I'm sure you all join me in wishing them every success.

