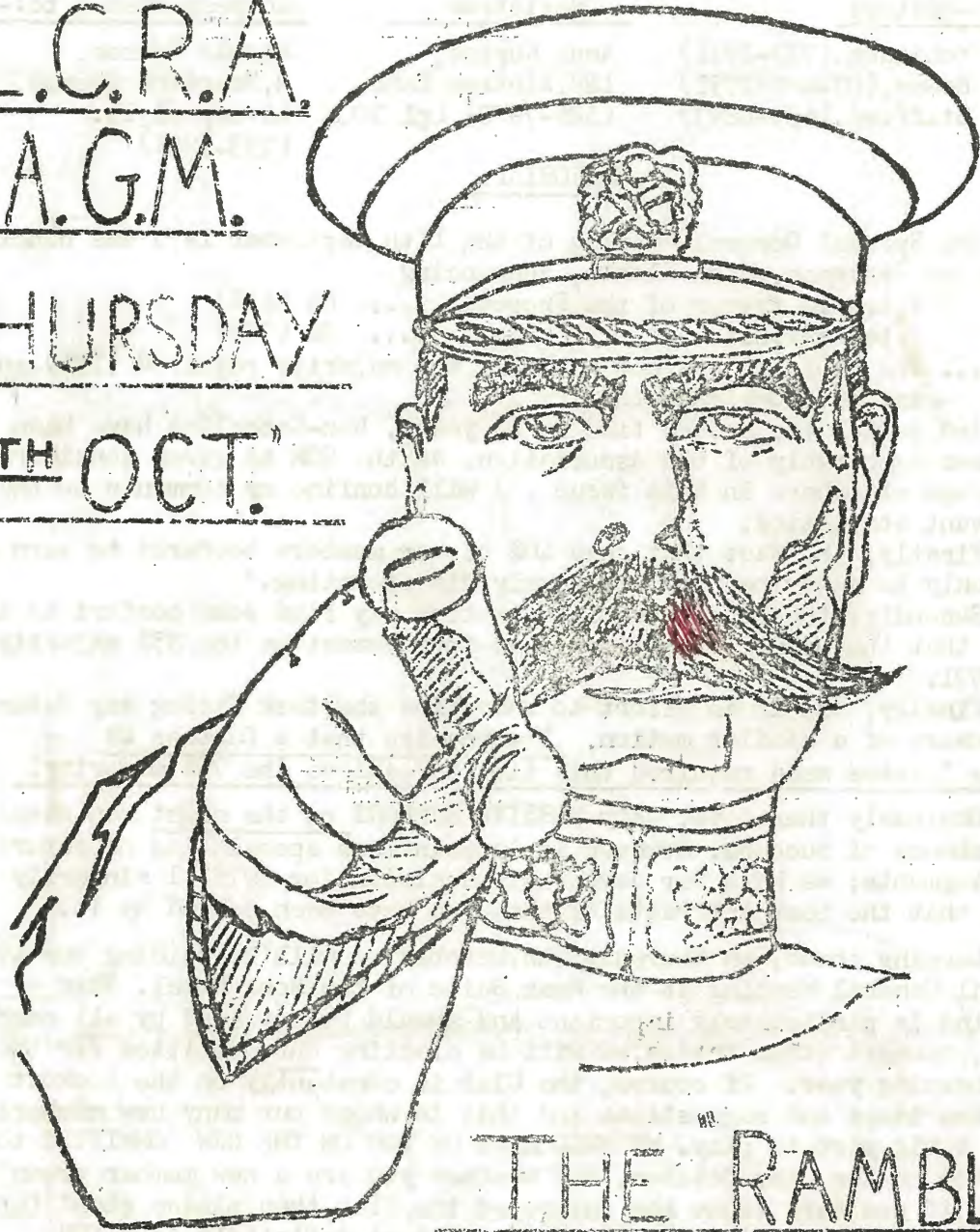


L.C.R.A.

A.G.M.

THURSDAY

9TH OCT.



THE "RAMBLERS"

NEED

YOU!

25th. SEPTEMBER 1975.

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EDITORIAL.

The Special General Meeting of the 11th. September 1975 was concluded with our Chairman, John Clarke, announcing

" Votes in favour of the Proposal 65 (63%)
 Votes against 38 (37%)

..... The Proposal has not achieved the majority required (75%) and is therefore rejected."

And so for the second time in $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, Non-Catholics have been refused membership of the Association. As the SGM is given considerable coverage elsewhere in this issue, I will confine my comments to the relevant statistics.

Firstly, the fact that only 40% of our members bothered to turn up can only be described as " extremely disappointing."

Secondly, the Proposers of the motion may find some comfort in the fact that the result this time is an improvement on the 55% majority of 1971.

Finally, and in an effort to underline the task facing any future Proposers of a similar motion, I emphasise that a further 49 " Yes " votes were required this time to achieve the 75% majority!

Obviously therefore, only MASSIVE SUPPORT on the night can give any chance of success. However it is pointless speculating on future developments; we have our democratic decision for 1975; I sincerely hope that the best interests of the Club have been served by it.

Looking ahead, on Thursday 9th. October we will be holding our 49th. Annual General Meeting at the Manx Suite of the Mona Hotel. This Meeting is particularly important and should be attended by all members for, amongst other things, we will be electing our Committee for the forthcoming year. Of course, the Club is constantly on the lookout for new ideas and suggestions and this is where our many new members have a big part to play. WE NEED MANY OF YOU ON THE NEW COMMITTEE to be elected on the 9th. October, but whether you are a new member or an "old" one, if you care about the future of the Club, then please stand for election to the Committee. The Ramblers most definitely need YOU.

In conclusion, and particularly as this is my last time as a Joint-Editor of the Newsletter, I would like to thank the many people who have given me such tremendous help over the last 16 months in producing Newsletters for your interest, information and enjoyment. I hope that the same generous co-operation will be given to my replacement, Richie Cannon. I wish him every success.

Pete McLindon.

Sick Bay,
H.M.S. Warrior,
Northwood

Dear Ramblers;

Thank you so much for continuing to send the monthly newsheet to me, keeping me in touch with the rambles you 'get up to' all the time.

It seems like an age since I last went on one myself, and it looks like another one coming up, for having 'just' (well, 8 months) returned from a 12 month draft to Malta I'm now due to leave for a spell of hospital work in Gibraltar. Well I suppose there is the 'Rock' (is there anything else!?) to climb and the 'reception' from the Apes on the summit, which is something that can't be offered on the Sunday Ramble. (pew!)

Wishing I could join you on another but, it seems not for the present. Meanwhile regards to those of you who do, good luck and good weather.

Yours sincerely

Babs Whittle

* * * * *

CHRIS McHUGH.

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Chris McHugh who died earlier this month in a Glasgow hospital. Chris had been very seriously ill for many months but made light of his problems, indeed he was more interested in helping others when possible, than worrying about himself. Last year he was one of our "regulars" and yet he was unknown to many for he moved in a quiet and gentle manner. Those members on our last retreat will perhaps remember him for his willingness to assist with the readings and services. Over the last year he has helped to produce a little variety in the Newsletter with the introduction of full page cartoons, the last of which is our back cover this month. Two weeks before his death Chris sent the following message to all Rambling friends:-

" The letters and card cheered me up and I badly needed that - the Novena Mass Bouquet gave me a profound feeling of Joy and Peace, for that I can't thank you enough. I wish you many years of Rambling fun - leaving you with the many happy memories of the adventures and mishaps of each Ramble. Your grateful friend, Chris McHugh.

May he rest in Peace.

The Skye Boat Lamppoon

D. Day for our Skye holiday, 22nd August, dawned cool and bleak, which was a bad omen for the following week was not only wet but we heard rumours that Noah had been seen hanging around Portree's harbour boat yard, but nonetheless a damn good time was had by all. The water was taken in the right spirit, mainly 100% Scotch Whisky.

The drive from Scouseland to the Haggis Bashers hotel is fast but long, the Roman Soldiers answer to the trek north, the 1.5. Sharing the driving between a car-load makes the 300 odd miles journey bearable, but I think Mike Bradley must still be suffering from tarmac blindness as he unfortunately had the total drive to himself. The monotony of the marathon was broken by the novelty of a Loch crossing, from Glencoe to Ballachulish on a ferry carrying six cars at a time, also advertising sheep carriage at 2p a head, but as none of us were prepared to travel steerage it cost us considerably more.

Here I should mention that I travelled in the company of Pat Moss Unsworth, Ursula 'teach' Norton and Phil Squashed Champion Gillies, in Pat's new Lamborghini which had a striking resemblance to a Viva SL converted into a 15 ton BRS Wagon by the luggage.

As we arrived in the car park of the Milton motor-in, (a 0.75 Star establishment) Peter Mac, who we hadn't seen at all that day, arrived in his MB. GT. GEC 1600 Gas Cooker with outboard motor, 1 minute behind us carrying no lesser personages than Phil Walsh, Daphne Kenna and Mike O'Shea, who made up the total arriving on Friday, the further seven's E.T.A. was for the following day.

That night the eight of us went to MacTavish's Kitchen in Fort William for a superb meal, followed by a cheeseboard, which was only accepted by the trotting Gourmet of no fame at all, who nearly bankrupted the management by his gluttonous acceptance of the waitress' generosity, including a portion of high Stilton, which got ripe acclaim from 25% of the people present, 50% left and 15% fainted, the remaining 10% must have already been dead.

Our first morning was clear and bright so some NUT suggested we climb Ben Nevis, and all having been tarred with the same brush, we did. Or at least half of it, because the weather changed and the mist enveloped us, so following a zany photographic session under influence of the rarefied air at that altitude (Hmmm) we descended to the valley floor and toddled home to the Milton to meet the remainder of our intrepid team, Clare Conlon, Theresia Griechisch, Mike Bradley, Mary Barrett, Anna Kupiec, Frank Johnson and Dave Newns.

And so to Skye via Lochalsh ferry, a more impressive 30 vehicle carrier. Our first impressions of Skye were of bleak but majestic mountainous landscape. The lower lands being carpeted with heather and peat, and the forbidding peaks piercing the low cloud. We found our caravan site nestling in a sheltered hillside, about 12 'vans in all. They were not ultramodern but comfortable and well equipped. The site owner greeted us on arrival with cups of tea in his palatial 'van, surprisingly he had a very southern English accent, with a tendency to occasional bouts of verbal rubbish which we were later to find also

guided his pen. As we found the following morning on closer inspection of the insectarium cum toilet and showers, where there were numerous hand written signs, advising, deterring and even threatening in their messages, ranging from advice to use the correct toilet roll to avoid embarrassment?? to the penalty for allowing ones dog to foul the site which was expulsion as "we do not want that kind of person here."

The capital of Skye, Portree is small and soon explored, but in mitigation had a terrific draught, McKewins Export, but only partaken of by the ramblers to be sociable and to quench the fire of the excellent whisky which of course was only taken for medicinal purposes to keep out the cold, or the heat whichever was appropriate at the time.

On the monday after arrival the big Secret was hatched or big Con if you happened to be the excluded party. The plan, to organise and execute a party and presentation for Phil and Peter to congratulate them on their engagement. All went well, ale, wine and present bought, butties and orses dooves made a nd hidden, but then it came to 9.45pm in the local hostelry and the attempt to con Peter that we had no desire to stay for the last drink but return to the site for a simple sing song dong with Mike. We all left and they stayed, we returned to the vans and waited in darkness for them to return, they did return later(!) and entered the 'van to be greeted by strains of "Congratulations" and the accordian and camera flash cubes which is a mind bending experience out of the total darkness I can tell you. But fortunately Pete and Phil were more surprised than we were and there followed a party the like of which will never be seen again, 15 people in what felt like a cupboard, but dancing was managed and from the experience, it is suggested that the next annual dance be held in a telephone kiosk, the effect is very friendly.

We attended a couple of ceilidhs, which were in true highland spirit, some of the folk there in traditional dress, complete with kilts, sporrans and dirks, the men of course were dressed a little more conservatively. (Tch) The atmosphere was informal, lively and healthy and a great success with us.

During our stay as I have hinted the weather was worse than poor, but being the hardy stalwarts we are, 14 Rambles were attempted, 12 of these to the toilets and showers and back and one which was only 500 yards long, butatough 'A' walk made more difficult by driving rain and the knowledge that the cars were getting wet so we returned to protect them. One ramble did get off the ground, but fortunately I was not on it as I was one of the advance party in deceiving Peter and Phil and had to go to town with Pat and Ursula to plot and buy.

One fateful day, which was our only clear day, we set off to the north of the island to catch the steamer to the isles of North Uist, Harris and Lewis. Tarbert the capital and harbour of Harris was much smaller than I had imagined, and was soon seen which is just as well because the steamer only allowed us 50 minutes before sailing back to Skye. Harris tweed was on sale at £1.50 a mile ??? sorry yard, which I gather is considered to be very cheap. We returned to the ship for its departure, and watched nostalgically as the quay side slipped away,

then to our surprise saw three Harris natives who were doubles of Frank Johnson, Mike Bradley and Phil Gillies, all running along the quay towards the fast departing ship. We had a quick head count and search in the bar just to ascertain that it was in fact our own three merry lads, we waved to them in recognition and to comfort their distress, and they waved back in farewell! We implored the ship's crew to act sensibly in this situation, but they assured us not to worry there was no chance of the ship turning about. Nor did their problems end there, when they did return to us we pulled their legs unmercifully, "Have you been feeling 'Harrised'" and "If you were cast away on a desert island which 8 gramophone records would you choose to take with you?" etc. but in fact by all accounts they had a damn good time whilst in exile for a full 24 hours, unlimited 100% whiskey and even young ladies being brought to meet such rarities, (a compliment lads I assure you)

Anyway as much as we enjoyed the holiday, I have to say the last day arrived too soon (and I daren't write anymore anyway, someones got to type this lot) As I close I must say to anyone who has not yet been on an L.C.R.A. Holiday, you are missing a lot, and as I have learn't you get out what you put in and if you laugh everyone will laugh with you. Try one.

Peter Glenn

Editors Note

This gives me an ideal opportunity to thank all our friends for the good wishes and kindnesses shown to Phil and I on our recent engagement.

Many thanks.

Peter Mc.

* * * * *

FAMILY SECTION DIARY.

OCTOBER 5th..... Tony and Mollie Roche's Walk

OCTOBER 17th..... Ken and Evelyn O'Neill's House,
16, West Oakhill Park, L13.
(off Broadgreen Road, by All Saints Church.)

* * * * *

To assist in the production of the next Newsletter, would the Family Section please ensure that the Family Section fixtures are in the hands of the new editor, Richie Cannon a.s.a.p.

Richie's address is shown on the front inner cover.

Many thanks.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 75/76

Please note that your Annual Subscription was due on 1st September 1975 *

If you have not yet done so, please pay your subscriptions to Anna Kupiec, our Registrar.

Please note the new rates

Single Members	£1.00p
Married Couples	£1.20p

Members wishing to pay by post should write to:

Anna Kupiec,
128 Aintree Lane,
Liverpool 10.

Tel.No. 526-7978

Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to "The Liverpool Catholic Ramblers Association".

Please help Anna by renewing your subscription as soon as possible.

Many thanks.

* AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS

The following new members who joined the Club in July and August of this year, that is the last two months of the financial year, ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RE-NEW THEIR SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE CLUB YEAR 1975/76.

THE LUCKY FEW ARE:

Madeleine Boyd
Steven Fergus
Michael Lewis
Clare Morris
Raymond Percival

James Church
Ann Hartley
Marian McNerney
Michael O'Brien
Mark Roberts

and Marian Wilson

The following notes were extracted from the minutes of the above meeting. It was not possible to refer to every person who spoke nor to ensure a correct interpretation of those comments detailed below. Thus your criticisms in reference to this report should be addressed to the Editor who will clarify any anomalies in the next issue of this Newsletter - all corrections must be in writing.

The meeting was opened with a prayer and then John Clarke as Chairman, introduced the people on the top table who were, Cyril Kelly (Vice President), Gerry Penlington (Treasurer), Daphne Kenna (General Secretary), Frank Mullin (Social Chairman) and Frank Johnson (Rambling Vice Chairman). John stated that a 75% majority was needed to pass the motion. He asked that non-Catholic 'members' present should spoil their ballot papers and also stressed that the people who did speak should speak as individuals (not as Committee Members etc.)

After officially proposing the motion, Frank Mullin explained "Associate Membership". He went on - "this subject has been raised before. Basically, change is desired because we are proud to share our Club with our friends. Members of the clergy have been contacted to ascertain their views, some are in favour, some against; Archbishop Beck has also been contacted and has no objection."

Frank Johnson formally seconded the proposal and then reserved the right to comment at the end of the meeting. He did, however, ask that members voted "with the best interests of the Club as a whole in mind."

Margaret Smith "I have been in this Club for about 7 years and I was one of the proposers the last time this issue was raised." She added "There are already non-Catholic 'members' in the Club and it seems that some members want to get rid of them, but why? They are good members and if the vote goes against them it is probable that they and their Catholic friends in the Club will leave. The basic objection seems to be mixed marriages....this is a "red herring"....after all this is a Rambling Club not a Marriage Bureau...Every argument I have heard seems to be in the past tense but as a Club we must look forward. We must progress and make sure that the Club is one everyone is proud to join as Christians."

Harold Burns "I understand provision has been made for the non-Catholics already in the Club. I am aware of the fear that they will be "hoofed" out tomorrow but I don't think anyone in the Club would be that heartless. As regards the future, the Family Section are certainly looking forward. I would like to think that my daughter in a few years time will join the same kind of Club as I joined. Why do we want to change the Club? It is unique, why not keep it so. Progress is not necessarily for the good."

John Winkley "I'm speaking as a Convert. I chose to be a Catholic because of the Catholics I knew. I saw their faith and what it meant to them. Talk does not mean very much. The most meaningful way is to

live your faith. We want people to share it and get to know about it but we we will not do this if we become insular. We have an opportunity to become missionaries in our enjoyment of Rambling by introducing non-Catholicsto Catholics."

Richie Cannon "I have served on the Committee for 2 years and it has been my experience that we are in debt to non-Catholic members for their support."

Bill Roberts "I object to Margaret Smith's comments re. Christian Club. It is not taught in schools that we should be Christians and not Catholics. As regards mixed marriages, marriage has enough problems without the partners being of different faiths. We want to keep the faith and we want our children to keep it also. Frank Mullin talked of safeguards, vetting prospective members etc. If prospective members have not been vetted in the past why will they be in the future? Are we going to change the Constitution because of such things as non-Catholics supporting our activities? This process will be a continuing one and we will not be able to reverse it."

Tony Roche Was worried about the reasons put forward for the change - "too vague - in a few years this will not be a Catholic Club - the Club will change completely, I am opposed to it."

Lesley Roberts "You can't say that the Club is no longer Catholic because non-Catholics attend. The Club only changes if it loses its ideals and this has not happened. Christian and Catholic are the same not opposite. There are bound to be marriages in the Club but this is not the aim of the Club."

Mona Roberts asked if someone from the Junior Section would speak against the notion. (no comment from Junior Section at this time).

Mike Marsden "I came to the Club, not with marriage in mind, to enjoy Rambling in the company of Catholics. I do not see the need to change the Club.... The change could destroy it and to lose something as unique as this would be a great loss."

Margaret Smith "I am a Teacher in a school which now accepts Non-Catholics and I find this situation very difficult.....I think the Club should remain Catholic."

Frank Fitzmaurice "Why is this Club unique?"

Bill Roberts It is unique because all the members are Catholics."

Frank Fitzmaurice This did not answer his question, "I want to know why the atmosphere is unique."

Lesley Roberts Raised the question of Parish Clubs.

Bill Roberts "Catholic Youth Clubs have now ceased as such and become non-denominational in order to obtain a grant....I repeat that this Club is Catholic and therefore unique.

Frank Fitzmaurice Does not think the Club is unique. "This Club has a middle class atmosphere the same as many other clubs."

Mrs. Brennan Did not agree. "I feel the Club should remain Catholic."

Phil Gillies "It seem that many people are opposed to the notion because they are frightened of change in my opinion this is a good club and should be open to Non-Catholics."

Harold Burns "The Club is unique because of the Annual Mass, Benediction Rambles, Annual Retreat etc - we also have another unique organisation in the Lake District - The aim of the club according to the original Constitution is to bring together Catholics and provide them with recreational and social facilities .. Legally if the Consitution is changed the word Catholic in the title should go."

Richie Cannon speaking on the religious aspect "The Catholic Church should be propogandist., should we be like the 12 Apostles before the Holy Ghost came, sitting in a locked room? .. If Non-Catholics are admitted they will not control the club and it will be in the power of the committee to bring the religious aspect to the fore."

Tony Roche "The Apostles would not allow anyone to join the early Church before becoing a Catholic."

Mike Bradley "I have been coming to the club for about 2 years and during that time I have very rarely heard religion discussed. I think is is a bad thing and I think the admission of Non-Catholics would stimulate religious discussion. We seem to be concentrating on the negative aspects of the change and not the positive aspects such as this I do not think that the admittance of Non-Catholics would change the ideals of the club and I do not think that in 2 or 3 years time the club will be flooded with Non-Catholics."

Gerry Finnegan "I think Frank Fitznaurice may have frightened some of the older members. But I think the club will always attract a certain type of person....I want a Catholic Club for my children but I think that the Catholic Ramblers will remain Catholic no matter who is here."

Arthur Brockway "I thought the Constitution allowed the entrance of mixed couples into the club."

Cyril Kelly "The Constitution does not say that, but it is an unwritten law of the club."

Margaret Ellison "I think the club will always remain Catholic and I do not see that putting 'yes' or 'no' on a ballot paper will make any difference."

Ursula Norton "It was said that the committee wished to allow Non-Catholics to join the club to boost membership. This is nonsense, the membership figures are already high and do not need boosting. ...The fear the club will be run by Non-Catholics in my opinion is not justified, only well meaning Non-Catholics will want to join."

Peter Glenn "I think this is a good club and we should share it with others.....I do not think Tony Roche was entirely correct in his statement regarding the early church."

Mona Roberts Quoted the number of non-Catholics in the club.

The Chairman asked where she got this figure from as it was not known how many Non-Catholics are in the club.

Bill Potter "It is unfortunate the committee itself is not allowed to speak." Here he was corrected and told that members of the committee had spoken, but as individuals. Bill continued "If we are advocates of democracy we must consider the position we are putting the non-Catholics in. They may share in the day to day running of the club, but have no part of the 'power'. I do not think this is democratic.

.....I see this proposal as gnawing away the pillar of Catholicism in the club. The Rosary and Benediction have not been said for a long time and I do not think it will be long before this Club is no longer Catholic. About 10 years ago the membership form had stated that the applicant must be a practising Catholic, the word 'practising' had been eliminated."

Richie Cannon "I would not expect to join a Jewish Club and run their affairs."

Frank Mullin .. "The General Committee would remain composed of Catholics and they would reserve the right to refuse membership.....The only way to show one's faith is to live it."

Frank Johnson "I would have liked to spoken for a long time but it is now getting late so I will make just 3 points. First I can guarantee there will be no infiltration of Non-Catholics. Secondly, if member's faith decreases it is not because of the non-Catholics in the Club. Thirdly the majority of people who spoke seemed to have a very insular view.

Ballot now held - result: 65 for and 38 against. This gives a 63% majority but as 75% is needed the motion is defeated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 9th. OCTOBER 1975.

" The position of our ' Non-Catholic Members' ."

You may by now have read the Catholic Fictorial report of the above Meeting and noted in particular the last paragraph which referred to the possibility of a motion being put to the A.G.M. on the 9th. October proposing that those Non-Catholics already in the Association should be 'invited' to remain. It is understood that such a motion is to be put to the A.G.M. on the 9/10/75, the exact wording of which was not available at the time of going to press, but , words apart, the intention of such a motion is plain enough.

Note:-

In accordance with the Constitution such a motion needs only to be in the hands of the Secretary 7 days prior to the A.G.M. and this does not permit of a separate notice being prepared and issued to each member prior to the A.G.M. Even if it were possible the postage cost alone would make it prohibitive.

Gerry Penlington.

RAMBLERITE

* Please note the changes to the original rambling programme.

5th. October Great Whernside Tony Donoghue.

12th. October Pystyll Rhaeadr Lesley Roberts.

*19th. October Invitation walk to
Wensleydale; please
bring your friends.
This walk is suitable
for all grades of
walkers. Alan Joynson.

* 24/26th. October Keswick Weekend.

2nd. November Liberty Hall Barry Dooley.

THIS AND THAT

FOR THE RECORD:- The first two Rambles of the 1975/76 L.C.R.A.
year produced the following figures.

7th. September Striding Edge 25 Ramblers.

15th. September Carneddau 26 Ramblers.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to PAUL WARNER following
his recent accident in the DOLOMITES.

FSSST. Has anyone seen our Records Index Book ? We appear
to have lost it.

PARTING SHOT:- Better luck next time 'pool..

"YES, WE RAMBLE ALL YEAR ROUND"

The above is the answer given to our newer members, when they ask the question, "Do you actually ramble during the winter?" Our regular members will know that normally we have a fixture every weekend of the year, and indeed looking back over the L.C.R.A. year ending 31st August 75 you will find that we had just 2 blanks. The first was on 29th December 74, the last, rather ironically on... the 31st August 1975! (A last minute coach breakdown thwarted the ambitions of some 25 potential Ramblers on this occasion) However, through the year, our newer members might be interested to know that we had:-

- (i) Our Annual Mass on 29/9/74 (at the Shrine, Clayton Square).
- (ii) Our Annual Retreat on 1/12/74 (at Bishop Eton).
- (iii) 38 Coach Rambles (2 of which included a Hot Pot Supper).
- (iv) 2 Car Rambles.
- (v) A Yuletide Walk/Hot Pot/Dance at Rivington Barn on 5/1/75.
- (vi) An Orienteering Competition for the F.C. Norbury Trophy (29/6/75).
- (vii) 2 Weekends spent at the Rambling Association Chalet at Maeshfn in North Wales.
- (viii) 2 Weekends spent at Lakeside House, Keswick (the next one - 24/26th October 1975).
- (ix) 2 Camping Weekends (Peterschurch and Scarborough).
- (x) 1 Caravan Weekend (Treaardur Bay, Anglesey).

In all, our 40 Rambles attracted a total attendance of 1,161 for an average of 29.03 per week. The monthly distribution through the year was:-

	<u>Rambles</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
Sept 74	4	109	27.25
Oct 74	3	95	31.67
Nov 74	3	80	26.67 (inclgd 41 for H'pot Walk)
Dec 74	2	36	18.00
Jan 75	3	72	24.00
Feb 75	4	129	32.25 (inclgd 44 for H'pot Walk)
Mar 75	4	107	26.75 (inclgd 13 for Car Ramble)
Apr 75	4	137	34.25
May 75	2	59	29.50
June 75	4	138	34.50
July 75	4	122	30.50 (inclgd 14 for Car Ramble)
Aug 75	3	77	25.67
<u>Totals</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>1161</u>	<u>Ave. 29.03</u>

From the Rambling viewpoint, the big problem through the year was the ever increasing cost of coach hire. To combat this a flat rate of £1-30 per week was introduced on 23rd February 1975. (The average for the 22 Rambles since that date is 30.45 per week compared with 27.3, the average before the increase). However, whether or not there will be further problems in that direction over the next year remains to be seen, but regardless all members can be sure that once again a varied and interesting time lies ahead. Happy Rambling.

P. Mc



"I wonder if there's any fella's here?"