



FOUNDED 1932

DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB

CHAIRMAN:
F. C. WOODWARD
PHONE 2-1651 (BUSINESS)

HON. SECRETARY:
MARGARET MOORE
PHONE 36676 (RESIDENCE)

HON. TREASURER:
DUDLEY SAVILLE
PHONE 21353 (BUSINESS)

P.O. BOX 1063,
DURBAN.

FIXTURES FOR JUNE 1955:

TUESDAY 7TH: Executive Committee Meeting at Frank Woodward's home, 2 Rocky Ridge Road, Hillary. Please meet outside Reed & Champion, cnr. West and Gardiner Streets, at 7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY 12TH: To-day we have our annual combined hike with the Pietermaritzburg Ramblers and Les will be leading us to Hope Valley, Eston. The lorries will be travelling via Camperdown. Come along, Durbanites, and meet your Maritzburg counterparts. COST: 8/-

FRIDAY 17TH: The Entertainments Committee has arranged a Beetle Drive which is to be held in the Navy League Hall, Field Street, commencing at 8 p.m. - see separate circular. COST: 2/6.

SUNDAY 26TH: The lorries will leave the Market Place at 8 p.m. sharp to-day to transport competitors and spectators alike to the Crestholme Circuit, Hill Crest for our annual walking race - THE AMBLE. After the Amble a picnic will be held at the Nkutu Stream, so do come along all of you, even if you are not participating - the competitors will need cheering on!

LORRY FARE: 3/6d.

COMPETITORS' ENTRANCE FEE (which includes refreshments supplied during the race) = 2/-.

FRIDAY:
JULY 1ST: Please keep this night free for a Scavenger Hunt.

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE OF THE TIME OF DEPARTURE OF THE LORRIES ON
THE DAY OF THE AMBLE - 8 a.m. SHARP:

NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, all outings will start from the City Market Warwick Avenue, at 8.30 a.m.

THE DURBAN RAMBLER.

MAY 1955:
VOL. 4. NO. 5:

EDITOR: HARRY THORSEN.
PHONE: 20843 (DAY).

EDITORIAL:

I believe the appointment of a new Editor was discussed on the Topp's Needle hike as I cautiously picked my way down the rock face. Apparently I appeared to be in some danger for, on reaching the bottom safely, I found my rucksack, camera and binoculars had already been sold, and the future of "The Durban Rambler" discussed! However - there will be no change in the Editorship after all!

BRAAIVLIES AT BRIGHTON BEACH - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH.

It was a dark and stormy night when a handful of Ramblers met in town: passers-by stared curiously as the immaculate and the disreputable together boarded cars and set off for Brighton Beach. On arrival there we found the weather had miraculously cleared. The advance party had made the fire and the flames lit up familiar faces as eager diners prepared their chops and sausages. It was a pagan scene as admiring males laid burnt offerings before the females.

It wasn't long before some headed towards the swimming pool with costumes and towels, whilst others curled up around the fire. According to our swimming correspondent the water was surprisingly warm. We had a pleasant dip and felt much better once the surplus dinner had been washed off us!

We returned to a scene of peace where Ramblers lazed in groups around the fire, singing happily. After the usual Ramblers' repertoire, Instrumentalist - Frank Hulley, and Vocalist - Gordon Payne, charmed the company with their Scottish and Irish selections.

The evening slipped away far too quickly, but we left feeling contented and firmly convinced that the simple pleasures in life are the best after all.

ROAD REPORT: DURBAN TO NONGWAAN FALLS.

Road is tarred to Isipingo. Smooth and comfortable travelling possible if you grab a good seat on the lorry. Beware of sudden jerky stops and Indian buses.

Isipingo/Umbumbulu: Road is bumpy and dusty. Lorry passengers should brace themselves.

Umbumbulu/Wongwaan Falls: (for pedestrians only)

Gravel road leads downhill through pleasant Natal scenery, with intimate glimpses of Native life - "Hau losaan! Amali ifoto, amali, hau!" Track leads to edge of Wongwaan Gorge and hiking becomes somewhat hazardous. Path is narrow and slippery, and the flora and fauna consists of stinging nettles and bloated spiders. Journey ends at pleasant picnic spot by the Falls.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS ON DAY-DAY HIKE TO NONGWAAN FALLS:

Colin was scheduled to lead this hike, but our right-hand man went down with a bad left foot and was unable to do so - Linda came to the rescue. There was an encouraging turnout, with a fair sprinkling of visitors - good show!

The lunch-break was remarkably quiet, in spite of the presence of Dymock, Hick AND Snakebite! Scotty hypnotized a new girl and really excelled himself - just as well she had such a fine sense of humour!

The return hike was not as difficult as had been feared. As Rosemary was heard to comment: "It's easier on the legs and harder on the lungs than this morning."

As we emerged at the top of the cliff we spied Dymock sitting on an overhanging bough ready to pounce on the innocent pedestrians. Snakebite was soon shaking the branch which snapped in a second, sending Parr and Gary flying into the undergrowth in a tangle of arms, legs and rucksacks! When we saw no casualties the hillsides echoed to our laughter!

The ride home was broken by another visit to the Jabula Fish and Chip Shop, and we rolled happily into Durban shortly after sunset.

POWER FAILS BUT SOCIAL CARRIES ON:

(by our Social Correspondent)

Durban experienced its worst power failure for many years on the night of Friday, May 13th, but even that did not hamper the fun and games at the Ramblers' monthly social held at the Norwegian Hall.

For a change, more girls than boys attended, having braved the cold and rain in order to come - no doubt being tougher than their male counterparts!

Even when the lights failed the dancing continued. There was a waltz in pitch darkness, and then, somehow, miraculously, candles were produced, so we waltzed and fox-trotted in their romantic glow. Anxious glances into the kitchen confirmed that the catering department was still under control and, as soon as the lights came on, we were handed cool drinks, and plates of sausage rolls and snacks were passed around. The eats were delicious and really appreciated.

At this stage a bottle of Scotch was raffled, and your Editor, partnered by Verna, surprised everyone, (including himself!) by winning an Honest Dance.

Our band, the "Semiquavers", was tireless, and the quick succession of the dances contributed greatly towards the success of the evening. Dudley Saville and his partner showed a remarkable and unsuspected talent for jiving, writhing over the floor for the benefit of an admiring audience.

Early in the evening Angela slipped and sat down abruptly in a tangle of potticoats - an amazed partner looked on as she picked herself up, reporting no damage.

The party broke up at midnight with three cheers for the Entertainments Committee and the Band. "The Durban Rambler" sounds a feeble echo of the applause. Thanks again for a top-line Social.

VISITORS TRIUMPH ON TOPP'S NEEDLE:

Topp's Needle: May 15th.

The top of the Needle was rather overcrowded to-day as one Rambler after another climbed up. It was good to see several of our visitors and new members tackling the climb. Frank and Len ran an efficient rope service - the "Holland Knot" worked perfectly and there were no accidents apart from minor scrapes and bruises. It even took a billy of tea to induce the climbers to come down!

Lunch was peaceful - it was a case of: no water - no horseplay, and as Scotty was absent the visitors escaped hypnotism.

We left early, since Lindie wanted a brew on the way home. Some returned along the route we had followed earlier in the day, but most bore left and hiked back along a cliff path.

A correspondent attached to the latter group reports:- Leaving Topp's Needle we walked along a narrow ledge about 150 ft. above the Ungeni Valley. The scenery was magnificent when we could spare the time to look at it. After 20 minutes we turned

right and made our way up a narrow fissure. Here the steep grade and sandy soil made travelling difficult, and as it was dark and gloomy one never knew where the next avalanche was coming from. At last we came to the head of the cleft where Frank ceremoniously dispatched a scorpion, and after a spot of rock-climbing we emerged onto solid ground and met the rest of the mob.

Preview of Amble Course: We joined the amble Circuit about two miles from the finishing post, and enjoyed the sensation of strolling along it with time to spare. The scenery along the Amble Course is quite pleasant, with views over the hills to the sea. The surface appears to be good, and we can look forward to fast times and exciting tussles there next month.

After a quick but welcome mug of tea at the Nkutu Stream we boarded the lorry and set off on our homeward journey. It was jolly cold, but we were well prepared with jerseys, scarves, blankets and balaclavas. Luckily Topp's Needle hike this year did not end up, as usual, with an imitation of the Water Folios!

Dudley had the right idea - he stretched out under his blanket and covered himself like a corpse. He slept all the way and awoke with a start when we reached Currie Road.

SOCIAL NEWS:

We are pleased to hear of the arrival of another prospective Ramblerette in the person of little Miss Saunders who recently presented herself to Wendy and Henry.

Our congratulations are extended to both Ivan Howell and Daphne Gorge on the announcement of their respective engagements.

At the moment our thoughts go out to George, Gordon, Edgar and Robin who are hiking in the Berg - these "Abominable Snowmen" must certainly be having a cold trip!

NOTA BENE:

On future hikes in the Native Reserve Areas any Members who have not paid the current year's subscription of £1.0.0. will be charged the extra 2/6d. Visitors' Fee to cover their entry into the Reserve.

In future the closing date for names to be handed in for Camps is to be strictly adhered to and late-comers will definitely not be accepted.

It is proposed to hold a Jumble Sale this year in an effort to swell Club funds, so please start collecting any old clothes, hats, shoes, etc. that you can lay your hands on. This is such an easy way to make a few extra pounds for the Club (with the minimum amount of effort required) so do rally round and give it your support - if you speak to any member on the Executive Committee it will be arranged for the "Jumble" to be collected from you.

NEW MEMBERS:

We welcome the following new members to the Club and hope they will enjoy many outings with us:-

Claude Ambler.
Ingrid Beatson.
Atholie Coulthard.
Elizabeth Crowe.
Basil Jones.
Shirley Jones.
Nancy Mothersole.
Robin Philp.
Shirley Smith.
Rosemary Tedder.

THE ANNUAL AMBLE: Sunday, June 26th:

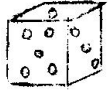
Our annual race is to be held over the same course as last year's Amble - the Crestholme Circuit in the Hill Crest area.

The Mens' Race is three laps of the Circuit (approximately 15 miles) as compared with the Girls' Race which is two laps (approximately 10 miles), and there will be three prizes in both events. Certificates of Merit will be presented to all competitors completing the course, irrespective of time taken.

First Aid and Marshall Posts will be established along the route and refreshments for competitors may be obtained from these. Volunteers for these posts are asked to contact Len Holland on the morning of the Amble.

It is essential to have a couple of cars continually cruising around the course in order to judge the fairness of the walking, and to render any first aid which may be necessary. If you have a car and can assist in this respect please tell Len before the lorries leave Durban.

YOU



ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A



BEETLE DRIVE

AT THE

NAVY LEAGUE HALL, FIELD STREET

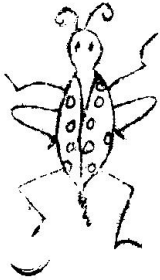
ON

FRIDAY JUNE 17TH, 1955

AT

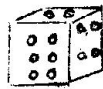
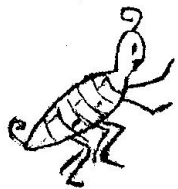
8.00. P.M.

COST 2/6d.

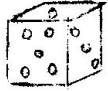


PRIZES

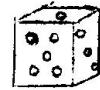
REFRESHMENTS



YOU



ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A



BEETLE DRIVE

AT THE

NAVY LEAGUE HALL, FIELD STREET

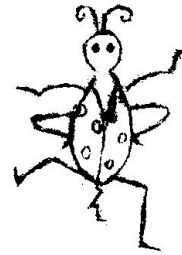
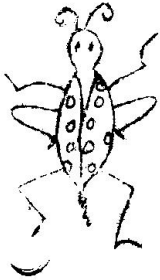
ON

FRIDAY JUNE 17TH, 1955

AT

8.00. P.M.

COST 2/6d.



PRIZES

REFRESHMENTS

