



FOUNDED 1922

DURBAN RAMBLERS CLUB

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FIXTURES FOR NOVEMBER 1955:

TUESDAY 1ST:

Executive Committee Meeting at Colin Avent's home, 273 Chelmsford Road, Durban, at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY 5TH & SUNDAY 6TH:

Our annual weekend visit to Pietermaritzburg. (See Newsletter for all details). Please be at Stuttaford's Corner, ready to leave, at 2 p.m. sharp on Saturday 5th. TOTAL COST: £1.15.0.

SUNDAY 20TH:

It is many months since the Club visited the UNLAAS FALLS so to-day Colin is leading a hike to this beauty spot. The lorries will be traveling via Pinetown. COST: MEMBERS 5/6d.

VISITORS AND NON-PAID-UP MEMBERS 7/-.

THURSDAY 24TH:

BRAAIVLEIS AT BRIGHTON BEACH: We will meet outside Maddisons, Commercial Road, at 7 p.m. sharp. Coffee and bread rolls will be provided by the Club but you are responsible for your own meat. If you wish to swim in the pool bring your bathing costume, and don't forget your mug and any musical instrument you might have.

COST: CAR OWNERS 1/-.

NON-CAR OWNERS 2/6d.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4TH:

Please keep this Sunday free for a hike to WHITE ROCK HILL.

NOTA BENE: The Committee has much pleasure in advising members that the Annual Dance held in the Westville Town Hall on Saturday, October 1st, realised a profit of approximately £15. The Club is indebted to all members who helped make this possible by donating towards the catering.

FOUND: Will the owner of the red tie which was left at the Norwegian Hall after the Fancy Dress Dance in August, please contact Margaret Moore (phone 36676 between 6 - 7.30 p.m.)

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

THE DURBAN RAMBLER.

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EDITOR: HARRY THORSEN:
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EDITORIAL:

Thank you Helen, Maureen, Margaret and Hick for helping to keep the Newsletter going during my absence.

I can recommend a Basutoland trip for anyone who wants a complete break from normal life. The going can be very tough at times and there is nobody to help you out of trouble, but I remember the peacefulness of the Orange River where we camped at night, the thrill of emerging into a silent and frozen morning, and the security of our tent against constant winds (it proved to be less secure than we thought, since it was demolished by a particularly violent gale). The Basutos gaped as we came floating down the Orange River on our Lilos, and on one occasion we were mobbed by fifty frenzied black schoolgirls who had apparently never seen Europeans before - that was the most unnerving experience of the whole trip. It's a pity we can't take a party of Ramblers into Basutoland as it would be a wonderful outing.

HIKE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH.

by Hick Thomas.

The weather did not look very promising for this hike, but in spite of a party the night before 66 Ramblers turned out. This number obviously had not been anticipated by Manaram who only sent one lorry which was soon away with its load of energetic people. The rest waited for another lorry which arrived at about 9.45 a.m. (just as well, because by what I could see, a great deal of valuable hiking energy was being used up in playing rugby with Terry's cushion - what with other threats to waken up our more sleepy members in the fish pond!)

In spite of the late start we still invaded Naidoo's to buy our favourite eats for the lunch break. The first lorry had not waited at Pinetown, but had pressed on to Wyebank. Dark clouds appeared before we reached our destination, but the showers soon passed over, much to everyone's relief.

By the time the latecomers had reached the "lemonade shop" the occupants of the first lorry were at the bottom of the valley brewing tea. Such remarks as, "Just what I need", and "Just the goods", were heard amongst the latecomers as they joined them and hurriedly fished mugs from their packs.

Much refreshed by the brew, everyone started off briskly towards the Umgeni River. Because of the delay we did not go to the Island as had been planned, but instead found an equally attractive spot to relax for lunch. The tea orderlies soon had the fire merrily crackling away, whilst the rest relaxed and concentrated on filling the inner man!

The cliffs on the other side of the river soon attracted the climbers who did not miss their chances, and before long the broad ledges were dotted with keen enthusiasts.

Mackie missed her footing in her eagerness to cross the river and was soon very wet, much to the glee of the others and Dudley who got a good snap. That wasn't all, because Sheila (I don't know how she does it!) received the worst of a water fight with the boys and soon joined Mackie in her distress.

Mervyn, Willem and Rob Philp were soon the victims of the Laatz sisters who practised new mens' hairstyles on them.

Dymock persuaded us to clear up at 2.45 p.m. - little did we know the long hike he had prepared for us. First it was up a very long and tiring hill out of the valley, at the summit of which we enjoyed a well-earned rest before setting off along a rather sandy road. Our next stop was under a huge tree which spread its branches right across the road - Dymock, of course, seized this opportunity, and was soon in the tree with the others.

We intersected the "Amble" Course soon afterwards, but luckily did not have to continue to the N'kutu stream, as had been threatened by Dymock, because the lorries met us on the road.

It was a very tight squeeze on the lorries but we soon settled down for the homeward journey. In spite of the tiredness of our limbs we sung our favourite songs in true club style to round off another top rate outing.

RAMBLERS' ANNUAL SPRING BALL.
by Our Social Correspondent.

Everybody came dancing at the Westville Town Hall on Saturday, October 1st. It must surely have been one of the biggest concentrations of Ramblers, ever.

Ernie Clayton and Robin Dolton, seated at a table piled high with greenbacks, greeted us with broad grins as we came through the door.

The girls had competed against one another and looked stun-

ning in their tafettas, etc., and could those immaculate lounge-lizards be the same rough-necks who roam the veld on Sundays?

Reg Bourne's Quartet knew how to cater for the Ramblers' tastes. Before long a "Paul Jones" jumbled everybody up, and from then on the Dance went with a bang.

The waiters did not have to wait long for their orders. They scuttled between the dancers with their precious loads, bottles and glasses chinking.

We were very pleased to see a party of Maritzburg Ramblers, and in a short speech Frank welcomed the guests and then came out with the sensational news that Pierre had become engaged to Yvonne Tramontino. This was followed by an even more startling announcement that Lindie was engaged to Gloria Godwin - this engagement made history in the Club as the shortest ever known.

Bourne's Band then let fly with a Tiekiedraai which was as strenuous as a dozen Ambles put together, and resulted in the waiters and barmen having to work at a cracking pace.

Before long somebody got the idea of grabbing for the balloons that hung from the ceiling, the girls spurning their partners on to jump and jostle. Many a Rambler emerged from the scrum to present his girl-friend with but a deflated scrap of rubber to show for his efforts.

Nothing could stop Dudley and Lynnettes' jiving - they got to work with as much gusto and knee-action as ever.

The most startling event of the evening was when a prominent member of the Club demonstrated a new tropic-weight evening suit which would have been far too daring even for Woolfson's "Cooler Clothes Campaign".

Midnight came with the news that the Dance would continue for another hour. The lights were dimmed and the Hall took on the atmosphere of a Night Club. It was hard to believe that the same floor had resembled a Football field a short while before. The first hour of Sunday, October 2nd, passed on a wave of blissful melody.

At 1 a.m. the Band packed up and we made our reluctant way to the Car Park after a wonderful Dance, feeling, generally, that it was just as well that there was no hike scheduled for that Sunday.

Our very sincere appreciation is extended to Heather, Colin Frank, and their hard-working Committee for the efforts entailed in making this Dance the great social success it obviously was.

Our thanks go also to those who generously donated towards the catering, to Angela Gorman who made a replica of the Club Badge as part of our decorations, and to Colin's friend, Mr. Lambrick, for the two paintings he did.

UNCLE RAE'S COLUMN.

Dear Uncle Rae,

I came home at four o'clock in the morning after the Ramblers' Ball. Did I do wrong?

Annie.
.....

Dear Annie,

Try to remember.

Uncle Rae.

WEEKEND VISIT TO PIETERMARITZBURG - 5TH AND 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1955.

Once again the time is ripe for our annual visit to "Sleepy Hollow". Accommodation has been provisionally reserved for 50 Durbanites at the Camden Hotel, and the Maritzburg Ramblers have arranged an attractive programme for the weekend.

We will meet at Stuttford's corner at 2 p.m. on Saturday 5th and proceed to Maritzburg in cars (we hope!). That night a Social Dance has been arranged for us at the Collegians Club House in the Showgrounds, and the following day we will hike with our counterparts to the Karkloof Falls, which are about seven miles from Howick - from all accounts there is a good pool for swimming so don't forget your costumes.

The cost for Hotel accommodation and transport is 21.10.0., and the Social charge will be an extra 5/- per person. Please note that all passengers are expected to attend both the Social and the hike.

As accommodation is limited, the first 50 names handed in will be those accepted. We are obliged to let the Maritzburg Secretary know our definite number a fortnight in advance in order that she might confirm the hotel reservation, so please contact Margaret Moore (phone 36676 between 6 - 7.30 p.m.) before Friday, October 21st - no names will be accepted after that date.

SOCIAL NEWS:

We congratulate Laurel and Percy Reid on the arrival of the new addition to their family.

Our congratulations are extended to Pierre Wehner whose engagement was recently announced to Yvonne Tramontino.

NEW MEMBERS:

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

Avrille Boyce,
Dawn Connolly,
Joan Flahey.
David Kershaw.
Chris Pieters.
Dennis Reed.
Dorothy Whipp.
Nora Whiteley.
