



FDHWC Newsletter

Newsletter No 13 July 1998

Water Aid

The club had representatives in Drumochter on this sponsored climb, aimed at raising money by having someone on each top. Ironically the rain contributed too, by producing one of the wettest days of the year.

Tayside Mountain Rescue

Club members participated here also. The sponsored walk this year was from Achallater by way of Glen Callater, then over the Monega path and finishing in Glen Isla.

Ben Vuirich Trig Point

Jim Nicoll has visited the clubs adopted trig point recently and reported that all was in order.

Restoring the Clachnaben Path

Club members have been assisting in restoring the path.



Welcome to the 13th issue of the Forfar and District Hillwalking Club's Newsletter. Firstly, apologies for the later than usual distribution of this newsletter, work commitments being mainly to blame. Secondly a big thank you to Nick for all his efforts in sending out previous issues and dealing with all the club's secretarial duties. Thirdly - read on!

Memberships
The club retains a healthy membership. Ray Campbell is still waiting on response from a few previously listed members for their subscriptions. A letter is being sent to those concerned, who are urged for response, as the clubs MC of S subs are due shortly (this includes our civil liability insurance and is based on the total of club members).

Winter (Indoor Meetings)
The club held a number of indoor meets with some interesting lectures. We had a few shifts of venues, with the Scout Hut, the Crachie Inn, the East and Old Parish Church Halls and latterly, the Stag Hotel. After some enquiries there is to be (yet again) another shift, this time to the village hall in Kingsmuir, when we resume our indoor meetings in September. The time will continue to be the first Wednesday of every month

(except July and August) at 7.30pm.

Whitehaugh Bill McDonald organised a day with volunteers cleaning up the hut and transporting wood. The club's secretary now holds club documents relating to Whitehaugh.

Responsibilities
The issue of responsibilities and liability for taking people out hillwalking raised itself again, with the MC of S sending guidance notes. The club's response was to produce a new Meet List with a footnote on safety and responsibility in the hills. This will be signed by anyone attending our day meets. A motion will be put forward at the next AGM to alter the clubs constitution to reflect concerns on responsibilities.

Missing Information and Anomalies I
apologise if I have missed any material which you may expect to find in the newsletter. I am on the lookout for information from members for including in the next issue, so please send me your stories. Finally any mistakes found are not intentional and suggestions for improvement are welcome.

Thanks
Peter Hargraves
Secretary (and Newsletter Editor)

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Boots Across Scotland



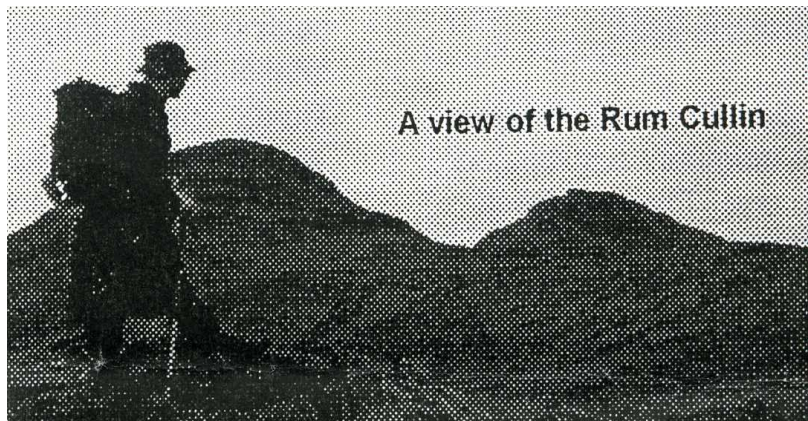
"Boots" continue to send us their well presented newsletter, in which the following quiz appears. A liquid prize awaits the best attempt. Answers by 1st September 1998 to Boots Across Scotland c/o Gordon Pierson, Braes View, Denny FK6 5NG.

- (1) Which, if any members of Parliament are 'Compleat' Munroists?
- (2) Name 4 Munros mentioned in song.
- (3) Grand race around this Munro (anagram).
- (4) What was Sir Hughies first Munro?
- (5) Where can you find the most Munros in 1 (Landranger series 1:15000) OS Grid Square?
- (6) Confused in the Ochils (anagram).
- (7) John Brown and Queen Victoria were familiar with Lochnagar. What was the connection between John Brown and Queen Elizabeth?
- (8) The 6 peaks race travels through Scotland, England, Wales and North and South Ireland and the Isle of Man. Name the 6 peaks and the record time.
- (9) You can find North from the Pole Star in the Northern Hemisphere. How

would you find it in the Southern Hemisphere?
(10) Andrew Johnstone and Roy Gibson attempted to climb all the Munros in 50 days, but failed. How many days did they take and how did they cross Loch Lomond?
(11) What is the record for the complete traverse of the Munros, solely (pardon the pun) on foot?
(12) Which way would a compass point to the moon?

A lodge has been booked at the centre and sleeps a total of 20 (5 rooms with 4 bunks), The lodge is "New, Clean and Comfortable" and is entirely self contained with cooker, television, cutlery etc.

The centre can provide duvets but they have asked club members to provide their own duvet covers or sleeping bags. Roy needs names by mid August (at the latest), with a £10



Future Weekend Meets

The following information was contributed by Roy Rennie, the clubs intrepid weekend organiser.

Galloways - 2 nights (Friday 18th, Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 1998)

The club will be based at the Galloway Sailing Centre, which is situated on the eastern shore of Loch Ken, between the towns of New Galloway and Castle Douglas.

deposit from members wishing to attend.

Torricon - 2 nights (Friday 30th, Saturday 31st Octo- ber and Sunday 1st Novem- ber 1998)

The accommodation is to be in a facility provided by the National Trust for Scotland. There are 10 beds in 3 rooms, but unfortunately the NTS will not allow any extra people to sleep on the floor. They may allow 1 or 2 tents but will need prior notification.

The club is required to pay the full cost for the

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accommodation, two months in advance. Due to this condition Roy requires names, with a £10 deposit by the end of August. An information sheet on the NTS facilities has been enclosed along with your copy of the newsletter.

Appin 2 nights (Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st March 1999)

Jim Nicoll has booked the club at Dalnatrat, which is a self-contained cottage, several miles south of Ballachulish, on the Oban road. There are 9 beds, with floor space for more members.

Dundonell 3 nights (Friday 30th April, Saturday 1st, Sunday 2nd and Monday 3rd May 1999)

The club first used the Sail Mhor Croft Hostel in May 1993 and liked it so much they returned again in May 1994.

There is central heating, showers, a lounge, drying room, cookers, cutlery, crockery etc. The hostel accommodates 16 persons in 3 bunkrooms (1 room sleeping 8 and 2 rooms sleeping 4).

The location is ideally situated for accessing An Teal-lach, the Fannichs, the Be-inn Dearg Group and several Corbetts. The costs are £8 per person per night and a deposit of £96 (25%) is required early in the New Year.

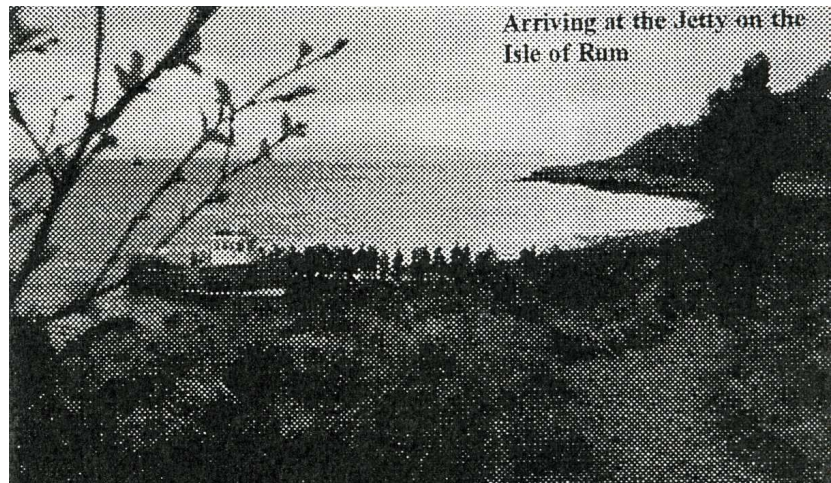
Roy is looking for names for

this weekend meet with a £15 deposit by early January 99 in order to justify the booking.

Arran 2 nights (Friday 18th, Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th June 1999)

Roy has booked the private bunkhouse above the village of Corrie for the Friday and Saturday nights, with an option for the Sunday night. The bunkhouse sleeps 23 in 3 dormitories (4, 9 and 10). Facilities include heating, cooking, drying room, showers, WC's utensils etc. Bring your own mug, plate and cutlery.

The last ferry to Arran on Friday night leaves Ardrossan at 8.30pm, with



the last ferry off the island leaving Brodick at 7.20pm on Sunday evening.

Past Weekend Meets Roy Bridge Weekend

A good weekend with reasonable weather and ten members attending. On Saturday three members traversed the Grey Corries ridge from Glen Nevis with the other members climbing Stob Choire Claurigh, the highest point on the ridge and heading on to Stob Coire an Laoigh.

The winner of the Snoring Competition was won easily by Ray Campbell who was oblivious to this, having exhausted himself by keeping up with the 'A'

Team (Bill McDonald and John Dawson). Attempts to stop him, ranging from shouting "shut up", to kicking his mattress, failed to have any affect. On Sunday one group elected for an easier day and enjoyed the views from

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Binnein Shaus on Loch Lagganside. Four members, undeterred from their previous day's efforts, headed off to Glencoe to climb Bidean Nam Bian. However, on the way back Margraet Baird's car was attacked by a rogue Glencoe stone which damaged the radiator sufficiently to warrant calling out the roadside services. All in all, an eventful weekend.

Isle of Rum Weekend

This weekend was very well attended and proved popular with all the club members that attended, despite the weather conditions.

Members made their way to Mallaig on Friday night, meeting at a local hostelry for a meal and a couple of drinks. Not much sleep was had, irrespective of whether you were lucky enough to have a bed or were ensconced on the floor. This was due to the all night street party, held directly outside our bunkhouse. As it was we had to be up early to board the boat, so early Saturday saw club members making their way, bleary eyed to the harbour. After a fairly calm crossing we eventually landed at the little jetty at Rum where we were instructed by a worker for the Scottish Natural Heritage on the do's and

don'ts when staying on the island.

Landing at a little after lunchtime provided members with sufficient time to get settled in their respective lodge rooms and then climb Orval, a hill situated in the North west of the island. A stiff breeze met us as we made our way along the top of the hill, however this was offset by the tremendous views of Skye across the sound of Rum. Sunday saw an early start by all, setting off to do the Rum Cullin. The day started promisingly, weather wise, but unfortunately low cloud robbed us of what would have been spectacular views, as we made our way along the undulating ridge. Some entertaining scrambling was had en route and members had to find some extra energy to allow them to complete the ridge, which eventually took approximately 12 hours. One group, who occupied one of the lodges concocted "The Order of the Bath" a rota designed to ensure that all were able to enjoy a hot bath (up to the pencil mark, anyway) on returning from their hard day on the hill. Monday provided members with an opportunity of visiting Kinloch Castle on Rum and being entertained by the guide (who doubles as the

ferryman) who related an interesting and humorous history of the castle and its playboy owner.

Isle of Skye Weekend

Club members travelled up to Portnalong, which is situated close to Talisker (famous for it's amber nectar) on the Isle of Skye. Members met in the little hotel near the bunkhouse on Friday night, plotting and planning their routes for the next day. One doubt was the weather forecast, which said that the mainland would be clear but Skye would see rain and mist persisting during Saturday.

Thank goodness for technology you can't rely on, as the weather forecasters got it very wrong. Members woke to a sunny morning with all the Cullin Ridge clear. With a short journey to Glen Brittle, the various parties set out on their respective routes. The larger group followed the track up to Coir a' Ghrunda, and after a break at the lochan continued up through the huge boulder field. They then reached the ridge proper and traversed south to the top of Sgur nan Eag. From here a group of four, feeling the effects of the hot sun, wisely decided that they would retrace their steps and head back. The remainder returned along

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the ridge and climbed Sgur Dubh Mor. From here the intention was to climb up on to Sgur Alasdair, but with time against them they decided to return down the high path to Glen Brittle. Meanwhile another two parties from the club ascended a gully on the north, in Coire Lagan, stopped to look at the Cioch, rock feature well known by climbers and then followed the ridge to the top of Sgur Alasdair, the highest point in Skye. From here three members descended the stone shoot and spent some well earned time relaxing in the sun and enjoying the views in Coire Lagan. The other members continued by the ridge all the way round the Coire and finished off in grand style by climbing the Inaccessible Pinnacle. Sunday saw the misty Isle live up to its name. One party travelled round to Loch Slapin to climb Bla Bheinn, while another headed off to the mainland to Glen Shiel.

Angus Sports Council
The club continued its affiliation the Angus Sports Council, with Colin Sinclair representing us at their AGM in May. The following is a summary of the benefits of being affiliated.

- ◆ Access to the latest information on sports issue eg coaching, sponsorship, seminars, courses and events. Also information on sports medicine and child protection
 - ◆ Grant assistance and information on grants available from other agencies
 - ◆ Eligibility for club concession rates at Angus Council sports centres and swimming pools
 - ◆ Eligibility for grant aid through the Angus Council grant aid to the voluntary/community sector
 - ◆ Discount with local sports retail outlets
 - ◆ Transportation discount
 - ◆ Advice on any other sports related topics
- The club has a copy of the Angus Sports Council magazine and the AGM report for anyone interested.

Mountaineering Council of Scotland

The club continues to be inundated with various publications from the MC of S, some of which are as follows:

- ◆ Access Consultation Paper

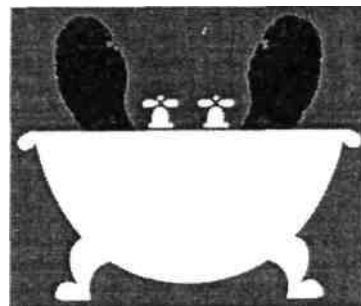
- ◆ MC of S Club Hut Guide
- ◆ Huts Working Group Strategy (questionnaire)
- ◆ Clubs and their provision for young persons (questionnaire)
- ◆ Guidance on the Safety and Liability of Clubs
Civil Liability Insurance through Club Affiliation

Other Bodies and Organisations

There is also a constant flow of information from other organisations, some of who are listed as follows:

- ◆ The John Muir Trust
- ◆ The Cairngorm Campaign
- ◆ The Scottish Rights of Way Society
- ◆ Scottish Natural Heritage

That's all for this edition folks!



After a hard day on the hill it's time for a well earned soak!
See you next Newsletter - Ed