



FORFAR AND DISTRICT HILL WALKING CLUB

Volume 1, Issue 21

June 2002



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President's Column

Dear Members,

Oh dear, what a summer so far! I guess all you 'Knoydarters' have used up all of the summer's good weather in one weekend. Let's hope things dry out over the coming months.

First of all, let me thank you for your support in electing me to the post of President. I consider it a great honour to hold this post, even for the second time. I will endeavour to do my best. It was exactly 10 years ago when I was first elected and one of the outputs of that first term of office was Newsletter No. 1 (or News Sheet 1 as it was called at that time). It's amazing to think that we've been publishing for 10 years. Among the articles of that pioneering news sheet were "Spotlight on Dorothy Towns - 25 years with the club" and John Norrie's Vango Mark 4 advert. Did he ever sell it? Since then, we've published twice a year and are at issue 21.

I must thank various people. Thanks are due to our previous president, Etta, for her 2 years in the hot

seat - these were difficult times to face : - falling meet attendances and the foot and mouth outbreak. And also thanks to Margaret - 3 years as secretary, the club's most time consuming post - great stuff. And of course Roy who has been a continual committee member since my first term and who has organised weekend meets for the last 7 or so years - we've been all places with him: - to Knoydart (twice - north & south), Skye (4 times), Rum, Arran, Dundonnell, Inchnadamph, Lairg, the Galloways, the Lake District, Arrochar, Roy Bridge, What an organiser. You will be sorely missed. Well done to all three - great contributions. Of course thanks too to the other non-retiring committee members and Angus, our Newsletter editor.

So what of the future? The committee has set the new meet calendar. We've put a few new locations on the list. There are a couple of extra buses - with options to extend after New Year. We've investi-

gated links with other clubs to share meets and possibly buses. We've added a "soft-date" meet to try it out - basically the meet in February will take place on the first good Sunday. Meet and meeting dates have been carefully picked to avoid holidays.

October 2003 will see the club's 40th anniversary. I've attended the club's 21st, 25th and 30th anniversaries. Who can forget that glorious day in October 1993 on Creag Meagaidh for a cloutie dumping on that 30th anniversary meet. Perhaps we should plan another special event. October 2000 saw a big group attend a meet to Mallorca. Another foreign trip?

It was encouraging to see so many new faces on the last day meet to Lochnagar. And some are bringing friends too next time.

I look forward to meeting most of you of the meets over the forthcoming year. May I wish you a good summer with lots of walking in pleasant weather.

Colin

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In Brief:

- ♦ *New President - - Colin Sinclairs first column—again!*
- ♦ *New Secretary- Bob Railtonn*
- * *Your items for the next newsletter urgently required - see Page 2 for contact details— This newsletter is light because of lack of articles from you—Please help for the next one!*
- * *ENJOY THE HILLS IN SAFETY*

Weekend Meets 2002 / 2003

Late News

- Angus Spence has been co-opted to the committee as weekend organiser.
- Minibus proposals fall through as we are a single pursuit club. More at next open meeting.
- NCR Club discuss FDHWC's proposal for bus sharing at their half yearly meeting on June 11th - they reject our proposal in the short term.
- Final Proposals Cairngorm National Park do not include Angus Glens
- Access Bill debated in Scottish Parliament

Friends of Whitehough

A separate organisation now runs the affairs of Whitehough (the club's old bothy). Finances are completely separate from club affairs. Contact Colin or Bob if you are interested.

Business and Communications

Plans are in place to use modern technology to assist communications - these involve an interactive web site (initial pilot-only site is <http://www.btinternet.com/fdhwc> and will be up running in late July), e-mailing and mobile phone texting. The benefits are speed, availability, cost of mailing, less paper, ... Please provide Ray with your email address and/or mobile phone number. Ray can be contacted on email at RAYMONDCAMP-BELL7@aol.com. Don't worry if you don't have internet access or a mobile phone. We'll still cater for traditional methods of communication too.

Your weekend meet co-ordinator had changed. The new co-ordinator is:

Angus Spence
5 Muirlands Court
Lunanhead FORFAR
Tel 01307 465644
Mob 07941843082
E-mail: angusspence@tiscali.co.uk

WEEKEND NOTES:-

Deposits for weekend meets should be sent to Angus with cheques made payable to "Forfar and District Hillwalking Club"

Note: To save copying costs, I am not enclosing property publications. Everyone who books will receive full details when booking. Unless otherwise stated, bedding is provided at all locations.

DUNDONNEL SEPT 13-15 2002

We have booked Sail Mhor Croft for this weekend meet, a hostel we have visited many times. There are 14 beds available and any extra can be accommodated on the floor, so book early to avoid disappointment. **£10 per person per night.**

ARROCHAR NOV 22-24 2002

Inverary Youth Hostel is booked for us. 28 beds available. The hostel is booked under the rent a hostel scheme, therefore the entire hostel is ours for the weekend. **£10 per person per night.**

GLEN FESHIE MAR 28-29 2003

An old favourite has been booked, Mill Cottage. There are 14 places available here and some camping by arrangement only. To get inside book early! **£6 per person per night.**

ARRAN MAY 2-5 2003

From the National Trust we have reserved Shore Lodge at Brodick Castle. 14 places are available. Shore Lodge has four bedrooms, each fitted with bunk beds, sitting room with wood burning stove, fully equipped kitchen and dining room. Frying room, four WC's with wash basins and three showers. **Cost £11 per person per night.**

GLEN NEVIS JUNE 20-21 2003

The Inchree Centre is our location for this weekend. 16 places have been reserved. The centre is located at Onich near Fort William. **Cost £10 per person per night.**

What is a Bothy?

Most MBA bothies are stone built buildings with a slate or corrugated-iron roof but a wide variety of materials are used. Our smallest building is the size of a garden shed and the largest are two storey cottages with 6 or 7 rooms.

MBA maintained bothies should all be reasonably wind and watertight and have somewhere dry to sleep. Quite a few bothies have sleeping-platforms - raised areas of floor which get you away from the traffic and the cold air and draughts which are at floor level. The usual place to sleep though, is on the wood or concrete floors - so come prepared with at least a sleeping-bag and a sleeping mat and a poly-thene sheet to lay down first. Very few beds remain long in bothies - they take up too much room! Blankets and mattresses are rarely if ever provided.

Although many bothies no longer have a sustainable source of fuel nearby, they generally have a fire-place or a stove. You will need to carry fuel in, or if wood has been left by a previous visitor, the tradition is that you gather more to replace what you burn. In some cases peat is the only local fuel, and you can try your hand at cutting and stacking peats for next season.

The difficulty of maintaining services in remote locations means that very few bothies have piped water, but there is nearly always a nearby spring or burn. Similarly we do not provide fuel - you will need candles or a paraffin lamp for your light and a stove to cook on. Some folk choose to cook on an open fire - a messy business which requires toleration by the shivering hordes who can't get near the fire! Its probably best to bring a stove.

The majority of bothies have no toilet facilities. The best toilet procedure while staying at a bothy is to go a good distance from the building and dig a hole well away from the water course. A spade is usually provided for this purpose.

Visit the Mountain Bothies Association at: <http://www.mountainbothies.org.uk/>