



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

NEWSLETTER 10

December 1996

President's Column

It's January, but it's got Newsletter No. 10, December 1996 on the header. Och, this modern technology is a wonderful thing and it lets me wish you all what you wish for yourself in 1997 with the headaches and stomach aches already behind us.

For a short time in November/December, it looked as if we were to have an exceptional Winter, with the snows and frost coming early, but as can be seen by those who are out regularly, it looks more like Spring at present. For those who have been out recently, I get the feeling of real enjoyment from the members and there seems to be a mood of anticipation of what's to come and so that this does not end in disappointment, I would like to ask the members to begin thinking now of ideas for the 1997/98 Meet Calendar. I know we are only half-way through the present year, but if we want to do something really different, then forward planning is necessary. A long weekend to the Lake District or Wales, a week in Ireland, or even a trip to the Alps are well within our reach and have been done before, but as more and more new members join the Club, a slightly more ambitious outlook can only be to the advantage of the members. This is not suggesting that we move away from our normal diet of tops and through walks, but if we are to continue to flourish and keep our members, then we must always be ready to produce something just a little different. To end this paragraph I will just say that I have spoken to some members recently whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting on the hill and who feel that the Club always goes to the same places and therefore it doesn't help them to complete their Munros. I think you all know my feelings on that subject but there is plenty room for suggestion and I expect to hear comments and maybe read about them in the next Newsletter.

The Guest Speakers at the indoor meets have again been very good and I have made an approach for next winter for another "Star" so that leaves only four to get.

Between now and July we have some magic meets and I am looking forward to meeting as many members as possible on them, so let the Meet Secretary know as soon as possible if you are going on the weekends and remember we are asking that a deposit be paid for those meets.

To all members who have just joined the Club, I wish you many happy days in the hills. To those who have been around a while and are still enjoying our outings and pulling their weight, I say thank you and keep it going. To those whom we miss on the hill, I say "FAR I WI NOO".

A Happy New Year to you all.

JIM

CAIRNGORMS WEEKEND

The weekend meet to the Cairngorms on March 22- 23rd will now be to Tom Jones Bothy at Carrbridge and not Mill Cottage. This will cost £6 a night per person. Names to Stuart ASAP (01241 873991), with £6 deposit

KNOYDART WEEKEND

The Club has booked the Barisdale Bunkhouse from 1600 hours on Friday 2nd May 1997 to 1130 hours on Sunday 4th May 1997. Club members who wish to use the bunkhouse will be charged a maximum of £21 each. As the Estate require full payment to be made in advance, the Committee has decided that interested members should phone Roy (01307 840271) as soon as possible, and that a deposit of £15 should be sent to Roy Rennie, Nether Middleton, Glamis, Forfar DD8 1UP.

NAMES TO ROY BY WED 5th MARCH 1997

If we do not get a good response by this date, the booking will have to be cancelled.

Meets since the Last Newsletter

Beinn a'Ghlo May 26th. All three Munros on this mountain were climbed as part of the Boots Event in which walkers were on the summit of all the Munros at the same time.

Lochnagar June 9th. It was planned to walk in the Blackmount, but the forecast for that area was very bad and it was decided instead to go to Lochnagar. The group walked past Loch Callater and up to the summit of Lochnagar. They descended by the waterfall to the Spittal of Glen Muick to be picked up by the bus. It was windy but dry.

Roy Bridge weekend June 20/21st. On the Saturday some members went to Glen Dessary and climbed Sgurr na Ciche and Garbh Chioch Mhor, with good views to Eigg and Knoydart. Another group went to Loch Treig and climbed the Eassains. On the Sunday some went to Gairich at Loch Quoich, while others had a walk in the Grey Corries.

Ben Alder July 7th. Roy managed to get permission for cars to be taken past the normally locked gate, so cars could be driven up to Loch Pattack making this walk much more manageable in a day. Several numbers took advantage of this to climb Ben Alder.

Linn o' Dee August 11th. Twenty four members went up to Linn o' Dee and split into three groups. One group climbed Beinn Bhrotain and Monadh Mor. The other two groups ascended Cam a' Mhaim, with one group also climbing Ben Macdui and Derry Cairngorm. The group stopping at Cam a' Mhaim had a very leisurely lunch and a kip, before walking the narrow ridge above the Lairig Ghru and dropping to the col before Ben Macdui. An easy descent from there led down to Glen Derry again. A very hot day with clouds of midges and greenfly lower down. The walk was of course followed by the traditional stop in the pub in Braemar.

Shiel Bridge September 7/8th. On the Saturday one party went along the South Glenshiel Ridge with its 7 Munros in a row. Another party slogged up onto the Five Sisters Ridge and climbed Saileag and the Five Sisters Munros. This walk a very pleasant high level walkway with tremendous views, especially of the Cuillin Ridge. Lots of ups and downs and one short scramble. Fortunately we found a stream just before Sgurr Fhuaran as it was a hot day and our water was soon used up. We saw a small lizard on the way down. It was dark by the time we descended and not too many torches were in evidence. A good walk fell wed by a very welcome pint (or two). On the Sunday several members ascended the Saddle by the Forcan Ridge and traversed Sgurr na Sgine.

Ben More and Slobbinian September 22nd. This walk had a surprisingly low turnout. The party walked from Loch Voil over Stobbinian with some then descending to the low level route past Ben More and some climbing the second summit. Through walks are of course on of the advantages of going by bus!

Glen Lochay to Glen Dochart October 13th. The planned route had to be abandoned due to severe weather. A pleasant walk was however taken along part of the West Highland Way between Crianlarich and Bridge of Orchy.

Inchre weekend October 26/27th. Nine members went on this weekend staying at the Inchree Bunkhouse. Some climbed the Aonach Eagach Ridge, while others climbed some of the eastern Mamores. The party spent a pleasant evening in the Corran Ferry Hotel. On the Sunday the weather deteriorated and so they went to Nevis Sport in Fort William instead of getting blown off a hill.

Ben Chonzie November 10th. Twenty four members went on this walk from Glen Turret up the South Ridge. One group carried onto Auchnafree Hill as well, in pleasant conditions with some snow underfoot.

Glen Esk to Glen Clova December 8th. Nineteen members went on this walk. We went along the shore of Loch Lee and past the Falls of Unich. There had been a lot of melted snow and the falls were very spectacular - numerous photographs were taken. The path followed the burn onto higher ground and a good spot for lunch - not too windy on this occasion! The party then headed towards Green Hill, but the burn in between was impassable due to spate conditions, and the decision was made to turn back to a footbridge. There was a problem

conveying this change of plan to those at the back of the party and four members became separated from the main party. While most crossed the footbridge, 4 carried on upstream until the river could be crossed and arrived at Clova Hotel much later. These were very experienced members but there was some concern for their safety. Headtorches were required by these four, and if any of you don't routinely carry one you should!

Broad Cairn December 26th. The traditional Boxing Day walk saw 3 members setting out from Glen Doll to climb Broad Cairn via Bachnaagairn, and 2 making it all the way to the summit. There was firm snow underfoot and wintry conditions on the summit - good for blowing away the cobwebs after any overindulgence over the festive period.

Mayar January 3rd. The other traditional seasonal walk saw several members climbing Mayar from Glen Isla.

Evening Meetings

Our programme of winter evening meetings kicked off on 6th November with Bill Batson from the RAF Leuchars Mountain Rescue Team. Bill gave an interesting and informative talk on the work of the rescue team and an insight into the adventurous climbing they do in their spare time. On 6th December we had Neil McAdie from North Cape Products, who discussed the sort of clothing suitable for different conditions and showed the theory being put into practice on some big climbs in Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Four days climbing and bivvying on a very large pillar of rock may not appeal to all! On 8th January our own Bill Redford showed excellent slides of the Cuillins and gave advice to newcomers to these hills, which require some respect. He also took us on some coastal walks and up to the Trottemish ridge. He then jetted off to the Alps, Crete and Yugoslavia.

On 5th February Jim is arranging a guest speaker whose name will be familiar to anyone with an interest in the Scottish Hills - as our calendar says this should be "something special". Last but not least is our AGM on 5th March. This will also be a cheese and wine evening. The committee would obviously like to see a good turnout, and give everyone the chance to comment on how the Club should be run. We'd also like a volunteer for the post of Press Secretary- Jim has covered both posts this year.

Photographic Competition

Congratulations to Roy on winning this year's photographic competition.

Access

Copies of the Letterewe Accord and the Concordat are available from Nick (01382 641603). There is a new edition of "Heading for the Scottish Hills" in the shops. This gives contacts for stalking information.

Changes to the Constitution

The AGM on 6 March 1996 approved several changes to the Constitution. A copy of the new constitution was sent out as part of Newsletter 9. Copies of the constitution are available from Nick.

Munroists

Congratulations to Nancy on joining the Club's growing ranks of Munroists. It looks like Nancy won't be holding onto the Munroist's scroll very long however, as Dorothy is also very close to completion. Dorothy is planning to complete her round on Gairich on the weekend of 14th and 15th June.

Whitehaugh

There is once again a question mark over our right of access to Whitehaugh, as the forest around it may be put out to tender. This is being investigated by the President. Whitehaugh is our main source of income and subsidises the buses.

Seasons Greetings from Nigeria

Tilda has sent her best wishes to the Club members from her VSO post in the sun, and wishes all her friends in FDHWC lots of fun in the snow! Nick has a letter from her addressed to the Club.