

FORFAR AND DISTRICT HILLWALKING LUB NEWSLETTER 11 JUNE 1997

NEXT OPEN MEETING IS ON WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER IN THE SCOUT HUT ON
NORTH LOCH ROAD FORFAR AT 7:30 PM

JARMAN'S HOTEL IS NOW CLOSED

Apologies for the delay in producing this newsletter. I have been waiting for the President's column for two months. It has not arrived despite repeated reminders.
Nick

WHITEHAUGH -THE ARK **Dave Murison**

Thunder crashed, lightning flashed, the rain came down in buckets. It is Sunday 18th May. DM has done it again - it is bothy maintenance day. At the gate at 9am I am all alone; good; I'll get back home again, but better give it 5 minutes just in case. 4 minutes 50 seconds later Roy arrives, trust the A team. Nobody else appears. Repairs scheduled for Davy's Bourach up Jock's Road are quickly set aside for another day. Farmer Roy is the boy for setaside. We are tempted to head straight back down the glen but duty calls so over to the bothy we go in a downpour which continues all day long.

Recent information unfortunately proves correct, someone has kicked in the porch door and stolen our axe and saws, including the new one that I bought in December last. A party of Dundee driving instructors in residence pack up and leave, moving off after appropriate hand signals and a quick look in the mirror, leaving a present of an old bushman called Rolph. The saw problem was resolved, but does anyone have a heavy axe?

Joinery work with the tools and materials at hand saw the door secure again if none too pretty. Food time next and another problem. I have left my banana at home by mistake so have nothing to spread on my buttered bread (1 side only). Spare food left at the bothy fortunately includes a packet of crisps so I make up crisp sandwiches. (I am a graduate of the Nick Parsons School of catering), Roy shakes his head and continues scoffing his own food - tomato, lettuce and an apple (vegiefare). Knoydart weekenders will explain the last 3 references in brackets.

Electrical repairs next, replacing a broken light fitting, followed by a general tidy up. 2 black poly bags full saw us ready to go about 2.30pm. Down the track we go, poly bags in hand, until the sharp bend in the river!! BIG PROBLEM. The river has risen hugely, bursting its banks,-flooding the plantation, a 2 feet deep torrent has cut us off from our cars. Why is there never a little Dutch boy available when you need one?? Several attempts to bypass the flooding only get us into more trouble, deeper and deeper into the trees and deeper and deeper into the water, it is up to the top of our wellies now. Roy comes out with his favourite catchphrase This is another fine mess you have got me into" -straight out of the black and white era. We come to an impasse, a deep drainage ditch, no way over or round and decide to follow it down to the Esk, which we succeed in reaching eventually after much very cold wading, arriving with very damp wedding tackle 150 yards downstream from the bridge. The water level is very high, clearing the gabion basket by some distance so quickly over the bridge before it disappears downstream and an uncomfortable drive saw me back home for dry clothes but no sympathy from Joyce who said "l##d you so" and "It serves you right" - her favourite catchphrases.

The good news now - we will have to try again soon, bet you can't wait, see you all there.

WORKPARTIES - YOUR BOTHY NEEDS YOU

DAVE MURISON

Communications with helpers regarding bothy workparty dates have always been a hit and miss affair. Proposals at the last AGM were for a mailing list of active and willing members to be put together, and reminders to be posted out just before maintenance days. The cost of the postage would be offset by the increased numbers turning out and a subsequent reduction in the number of days required. Please indicate on the enclosed form the times most suitable for your attendance and in that way Dave can fix workparty timings to suit. Suitable and useful work is available for all. Please help your club. It takes about £1000 a year to run FDHWC, much of it coming from Whitehaugh income.

Are you throwing out any unwanted items? Please phone Dave at 01307 465724 before doing so. Items required at present include: a heavy axe, carpet, furniture, tea towels, cutlery, teapot, mugs, plates, etc. Note these are for the bothy, not my car boot sale!

I shall be stepping down as hut custodian at the 98 AGM having done my bit for 3 years, other interests and duties requiring their share of my attention. Would the next prospective hut custodian or custodians please step forward and make themselves known to the committee. Don't be shy; if I can do it so can you. Graham Davie does most of the booking's side, and the job is not without its enjoyment and satisfaction. The custodian's job is mostly on the organising side, the actual work being done by members on maintenance days. The custodian could be female so if you fancy a bit of a challenge, or would be prepared to take on even some of the duties, I know just the job for you.

FDHWC COMMITTEE

Committee posts fall vacant from time to time, in fact the Press Secretary post has been vacant now for over a year. Would you be interested in this or some other committee post?

Please complete the enclosed form detailing your willingness to do your bit by sitting on the committee at some time in the future. It would be helpful to know which post or posts would be of interest to you. Perhaps you have been on the committee before and would like to try another post next time or the same one again. New faces are always welcome and fresh input is healthy, so if you have a point of view to put across and would like a more direct input to day and weekend venues, winter talks and general club matters, your club and committee needs you.

The secretary will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM.

FROM THE TREASURER

RAY CAMPBELL

For those of you who are interested in the financial state of the club, I thought it would be useful if I provided an update on the situation for the Newsletter. For those of you are not interested- well, you'll just have to skip this bit!

The deficit for the period is not too alarming as the Hut Custodian assures me that there is a nice fat wad of cash to be collected for Whitehaugh.

FORFAR AND DISTRICT HILLWALKING CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 MARCH TO 10 JUNE 1997

Income	Notes	
Membership subscriptions	1	140
Buses		530
Weekend meets		344
Whitehaugh-hut fees	2	0
Whitehaugh-electicity		0
Bank interest		18
		1032

Expenditure	Notes	
Buses		705
Weekend meets		360
Whitehaugh - electicity		33
Whitehaugh - rates and insurance		34
Room hire		40
Printing, stationery & postage		47
Subscriptions & donations		45
AGM expenses		79
Honoraria	3	45
Miscellaneous		16
		1404
Deficit for period		-372
Current assets		
Cash in bank		2608
Cash in hand		1
Deposits paid in advance		80
		2689
Current liabilities		
Members subs-proportion in advance		420
Net assets		2269
Represented by: -		
Accumulated fund		
Balance at beginning of year		2641
(Deficit)/surplus for period		-372
		2269

Notes to the accounts

1. Subscriptions for the first quarter of the year only have been included as income.
2. No income is included for Whitehaugh although an unknown sum of money has to be collected from Glen Clova.
3. The open meeting in June voted for an honorarium of £15 to be paid to each of the meet secretary, assistant meet secretary and hut custodian. This is in recognition of incidental expenses incurred such as telephone, postage and petrol

RUM WEEKEND 2/3/4 MAY 1998

The club committee have decided to be a bit more adventurous than usual and have planned a weekend to the Isle of Rum for May next year. This involves a lot more planning than most weekends due to the remoteness of the island and the restrictions placed upon visitors to it.

Rum is owned by Scottish Natural Heritage and is managed as a National Nature Reserve. A study of red deer has been ongoing for many years and access to the red deer study area in the north of the island is very restricted. For those staying on the island overnight places in bothies or pitches for tents must be booked and paid for well in advance. The club has booked two small bothies and space for 6 tents. Roy needs names asap of those wanting to go and needs to know if you want bothy places or wish to pitch a tent. He is still working on the transport arrangements and whether or not we need to spend a night in Mallaig.

The island has a well stocked General Store and a Post Office but no pub. The store does however have an off-licence. The store may require advance notice to cater for large groups. Kinloch Castle has a bistro which provides breakfast and evening meals if booked in advance. Bothies have gas stoves, coal-fired room heaters, electricity and lights, toilet and instant gas water heated showers. There are beds and mattresses, cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery. Blankets are available for a small charge, but visitors must bring their own sleeping bags and pillows. Rum has limited facilities for rubbish disposal and we will be expected to carry out most of our rubbish. No pets allowed.

There is no transport to the bothy or campsite, so you will have a short walk carrying all your gear. (If a bag is left at the pier at least you know no-one will run off with it!) Mountain bikes can be brought onto the island but must not be used off road.

Last but not least, a word on the Rum midges. Hopefully we should be safe in May, but the official brochure states "It is possible that the most evil midges in Scotland reside on Rum", ie they think they are worse than Invergarry! - you have been warned.

ISLE OF SKYE WEEKEND 20/21 JUNE 1998

For this weekend the club is booked into The Croft Bunkhouse at 7 Portnalong on the B8009, 12 miles from the Cuillins. There is a pub, Post Office and shop nearby. The bunkhouse is a modern converted barn with ample toilet and shower facilities. The kitchen has electric fridge, hobs and oven, with running hot and cold water. The sleeping area is furnished with a large double bunk sleeping platform with foam mattress, for about 16 people. There is also ample floor space for those with camping mats. There is room for camping around the barn. No pets allowed except by prior arrangement. Cost is £6 per person per night.