



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

NEWSLETTER 12

December 1997

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I have again delayed production of the newsletter while Jim writes his column and again it has not been forthcoming.

Nick.

DAVE MURISON

As many of you will know, Dave was taken ill before Christmas and will be in hospital for some time yet. I am sure all the members will join me in wishing him a full recovery, even if it is unlikely to be a quick one. Our best wishes go to Dave and to Joyce. Stuart will be dealing with Hut Custodian duties in the meantime.

WINTER EVENING MEETINGS

These are now being held in the big kirk in Forfar (East and Old Parish Church). This is the one with Forfar's famous big steeple. We have asked for the heating to be switched on next time! Our next meeting on Feb 4th has George McLean of the British Red Cross talking about and demonstrating "First Aid for Hillwalkers".

AGM

The AGM and cheese and wine evening will be on March 4th. In the last newsletter we asked for any nominations or volunteers for any committee posts and had one reply. This was from Peter Hargraves, who was rapidly brought onto the committee as Press Secretary. Any further interest would be welcome as some of us are standing down at the AGM.

ANGUS SPORTS COUNCIL

The Club is now affiliated to the above body. This gives us a discount from G&N Wishart, who we hire the bus from. Members also get a discount from David Low Sports, Links Avenue, Carnoustie and 21 Commercial St, Dundee and from Sporting Look, 228 High St, Arbroath and 22-24 High St, Brechin.

ANGUS SPORTS MEDICINE CENTRE

I have been sent the following information on the above:

Cost £7.00 Adults, £4.00 Concessions, Opening Times 7 - 9 pm 2 nights a week. The Medicine Centre is staffed by fully qualified, state-registered physiotherapists. Enquiries and bookings can be made at Montrose Spoils Centre 01674 676211.

RUM WEEKEND May 2 / 3 / 4 1998

Roy Rennie

The Club plans to travel to Mallaig on the evening of Friday 1st May 1998. I have booked Sheena's backpackers hostel in Mallaig for the Friday night. There are 12 bunks in two rooms ALL of which are already BOOKED by members, but Sheena assures me that if more than 12 turn up, no-one will be left out on the street!?

On Rum itself I have booked two small hostels (Stables and Stalkers) which I understand are very close together. Each hostel has 8 bunks in 3 bedrooms . 15 of the 16 beds are already claimed. I have also booked 6 tent spaces at a nearby campsite, only one of which has been claimed.

All of the hostels are fully equipped with cooking, cutlery, crockery and shower facilities. The Rum hostels have only enough crockery etc for 8 in each.

No rubbish is to be left on Rum - it must all be carried out again.

Members requiring accommodation for all three nights are asked to contact me asap.

Ferry Timetable

According to the 1997 Cal Mac timetable, the ferry departs Mallaig at 5.00 am on Saturday mornings, arriving at Rum at approx 8.15am. There are no Sunday ferries. The Monday ferry leaves Rum at 1.30 pm reaching Mallaig at 5.30pm. The 1997 fare was £10.90 return. The 1998 timetable is expected to be along similar lines. Parties of more than 12 must book and pay in full well in advance. The Club will pay this and be reimbursed later by those who go.

SKYE WEEKEND June 20 / 21 1998

Roy Rennie

The Croft Bunkhouse at 7 Portnalong on the B8009 has been booked for the nights of Friday 19th June and Saturday 20th June 1998. The hostel is a modern converted barn with ample toilet and shower facilities. There is an all-electric kitchen with fridge, hobs, oven etc.

The sleeping area is furnished with a large double bunk sleeping platform with foam mattress for 14 people. There is also plenty of floor space for people with campmats in the amenity area. There is also room for camping around the barn. As we will be charged the same amount whether we sleep inside or out, I will need names with a £10 deposit from everyone who intends using the facilities asap. There are only a few places left.

MOUNTAIN MIND QUIZ

This year's quiz will be hosted by the Grampian Club and will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 11th March in the Woodlands Hotel, 13 Panmure Terrace, Barnhill, Dundee DD5 2QL. While we have never looked in any danger of actually winning this, we always send a team along and usually survive the first round. This is more of a social event than a Mastermind type challenge.

BLACKS

Blacks are now at 47 / 49 Commercial Street in Dundee (previously Garfunkels). (I've skipped the flowery language of their flyer!)

TISO'S CLIMBING COMPETITION

Tiso's are running a competition with a large amount of climbing gear as prizes. The competition is based on Scottish winter climbing routes. Details and forms from any Tiso's shop.

THE ROUGH BOUNDS OF KNOYDART NICK PARSONS

Five in the morning and its a bright and sunny May morning. Up and into the shower, a quick breakfast and I'm ok. Not much traffic about so I make good time to Perth. Round the bypass and up the A9, past Dunkeld and Ballinluig to Dalwhinnie. A brief stop and its on to Spean Bridge, where I find a bakers doing Danish pastry and Magnums. Another couple of hours and past some very rugged terrain between Loch Quoich and Kinlochhoun and I'm at Kinlochhoun by 12.

Well here I am, high noon, and the rest of the Club expected about 4. Nice timing! Feeling a bit knackered after such an early start and less enthusiastic somehow, but plenty of time for a couple of hours kip in the car. Afterwards I go looking for someone to pay the parking fee to. The farmer was soon found and he soon explained how he likes to organise the car park. This of course involves me giving him some money and then moving my car. The Forfar club are at the back of the car park.

Still ages before anyone else is expected. I go for a stroll along to the jetty, then back again. I sort out my rucksack again, then have another kip. After a while Roy appeared, then others came along.

Now that most of the team are here we shift the big sacks along to the jetty, for our trusty Assistant Meet Secretary has arranged for the big bags to go into Knoydart the easy way. Right on schedule the Estate boat appears and we put the bags into the boat along with a couple of members forced to take the boring way in and help unload at the other end.

We had a very pleasant walk in with the views getting more dramatic all the time until Larven looms into view, promising good hillwalking. The path had lots of ups and downs and I was quite happy not to be carrying the big pack. A few observant members saw an otter by the shore. Soon we were in Barrisdale and on a track leading past a busy campsite and bunkhouse to the White House - our home for a couple of days. The advance party had the fire going and the Estate tractor had our packs at the door.

After claiming a bunk upstairs or pitching the tent it was time to queue up for the cooker. Dave Murison being an organised sort had his camping stove going, but the rest of us (18 hungry walkers) had to light over four rings. Fortunately both the cooker and fridge were gas, as the electric generator had failed. Stuart's gas lantern was much appreciated in the evening and head torches actually got used for a change. Some experienced members were even organised enough to bring some beer - it was an awful long way to the nearest pub!

The evening was spent sorting out all the political ills of the country and deciding routes for tomorrow, accompanied by the delicate aroma of burnt broccoli. The walks on weekend meets are organised along the lines of "Who wants to do Larven?", "We're going to Ben Aden, anyone coming?". The Meet Secretary doesn't set walks. We soon sorted out who was going where and groups decided when they would start. Some always like to be up at the crack of dawn, while others can't see what the rush is. The Sinclairs arrived about 10ish after walking in in the dark with bats flying around them, and Brian and Janet got there after most of us were in bed. They of course climbed Larven previously on a day trip from Forfar!

Saturday morning and I was up bright and early and got first shot on the cooker this time. At 7:20 myself, Roy, Bill McDonald and John Dawson set off for Meall Buidhe and Luinne Bheinn. The start of the walk was on a very well made stalker's path - not much sign of the Rough Bounds there. It had been very dry and sunny and was easy underfoot as we headed off from the bealach to make our way steeply up Meall Buidhe, past some of the tamest deer ever. A well deserved rest at the top gave us time to admire some tremendous views.

After a while it was time to move - back over the Bealach He Coire and onto Druim Leac a'Shith where we had a kip in the sun. Another pull led up onto Luinne Bheinn and more spectacular views. From here it was downhill all the way back to the bunkhouse and a temperamental shower. In the evening one of our Munroists announced that he had found a new way to get his ticks and did anyone have TCP and forceps?

We had had a couple of pleasant sunny days but during the night Knoydart decided to show its true colours and it was pouring all night and most of the next day. The hills all sprouted white lines as the burns were soon swollen and the rise in water levels was impressive to see. Did this put us off? Of course not. I started towards Larven with John Dawson and Bill McDonald but soon turned back soaked to the skin and with my overtrousers still in the bunkhouse. They carried on of course and bagged the Munro.

After drying off I later went out with Brian and Dave Adam and we climbed the Corbett behind the bunkhouse - Sgurr a'Choire-Bheithe - in the rain. We did see a patch of blue sky from the top and the sun was strong enough to cast a shadow. We could even see the sea lochs from the summit. Another group waited till it stopped raining and climbed the same hill while staying dry, smart alecs! This Corbett is only 3 feet below the magic number and the climb starts at sea level, so it was a reasonable walk. I was soon having another go at getting hot water out of the shower, while the other two admired the view a bit longer.

Monday morning we packed our bags and cleaned the bunkhouse top to bottom (the owners even phoned Jim to comment on how clean we had left it). We left the big bags for the tractor again and people walked out at different times. This was again a pleasant walk accompanied by blackcaps and stonechats, passing people struggling with big backpacks. By the time we

got to Kinlochhourn the packs were off the boat and we set off to climb various hills. I climbed the Corbett Sgurr nan Eugallt by myself, much of it on another very good stalker's path. This gave good views of Knoydart in between hail storms, which turned to heavy snow. The drive out was also through heavy snow with lots of deer right down on the road. I have thoroughly enjoyed every Club weekend I have been on and I'm surprised that so many members never go on one. You are missing out on a great time, good walking, good company and a good break.

MORE MUNROS

As many of you will be aware, the SMC has after careful consideration created 8 more Munros by promoting subsidiary Tops. The new Munros are:

Spidean Coire nan Clach on Beinn Eighe in Torridon
Tom na Gruagaich on Beinn Alligin in Torridon
Stob Coire Raineach on Buachaille Etive Beag in Glencoe
Stob na Broige on Buachaille Etive Mor in Glencoe
Stob Coire Sgreamhach on Bidean nam Bian in Glencoe
Sgurr na Carnach on the Five Sisters ridge in Kintail
Sgor an Lochain Uaine or Angel's Peak next to Braeriach in the Cairngorms
An Stuc in the Ben Lawers range

During this revision one Munro has been demoted to the status of subsidiary Top: Sgor an Iubhar at the end of the Mamores ridge in Glen Nevis. There are now 284 Munros. Those who have already completed the Munros are still considered to be complete. Whether the rest of us think they're all there is another matter!

MORE TOPS

As well as Sgor an Iubhar, there are now 9 new Tops

Little Pap on Lochnagar OS44 265844
South-East Top of Meall nan Tarmachan OS 51 NN589386
Stob an Duine Ruaidh of Ben Starav in Glen Etive OS50 NNI25410
West Top of Druimm Shionnach on the South Cluanie Ridge OS33 NH062082
Stob Coire na Cloiche on Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan OS25/33 NH075227
Stob Fraoch Choire on Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan OS25/33 NH052253
Stob Coire Dhomhnuill of Cam Eige OS 25 NH138262
Stuc a'Choire Dhuibh Bhig on Liathach OS 25 NG942582
Knight's Peak on the Pinnacle Ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean OS32 NG471254

Due to the complexity of the Cuillin ridges, the position of Knight's Peak is an estimate only. It is also a difficult climb with an abseil off

SMT(Publications) have produced a free one page insert for "The Munros Guidebook" giving information about the 8 new Munros. Send a stamped self addressed envelope to SMT (Publications), 4 Morvern Rd, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 3BU. Baton Wicks, who publish Irvine Butterfield's "The High Mountains of Britain and Ireland" have also produced a free one page insert. Send sae (250mm x 200mm) to MC of S, 4a St Catherine's Road, Perth PH1 5SE

THE GREAT DEBATE

An evening of debate organised by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, sponsored by North Cape, is to be held in the Clachaig Inn, Glencoe on Saturday 14 March 1998 at 8:30 pm. Free entry. Raffle of outdoor gear.

Cameron McNeish: "Demolish all waymarking cairns in Scotland."

Nick Kempe: "Redefine a Munro as 3000 feet ascent and descent!"

Simon Richardson: "When is a winter route not a winter route?"

THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND THE SCOTTISH WINTER EXPERIENCE LECTURES 1998

Clachaig Inn, Glencoe. Lecturers Paul Moores and Alan Kimber

8pm Tuesday nights

Jan 27th, Feb 3rd, Feb 10th, Feb 17th, Feb 24th, Mar 3rd, Mar 10th, Mar 17th.

Clachaig Inn, Glencoe. Mountain Rescue and First Aid, Davy Gunn 8pm Mon

Feb 16th and Thu Feb 26th

Isle of Skye Hotel, Perth. Lecturer Paul Moores 7:30 pm

Thu Jan 22nd

Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore. Lecturer Pete Hill 7:30 pm Mon

Feb 2nd, Feb 9th and Feb 16th.