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WEEKEND MEETS 1999 / 2000

ARRAN June 99

Friday 18, 19, 20 + 21st June 99. There are still places available for our visit so why not join us for the best hill-walking in Britain other than Skye. The proposal is to travel by car to Ardrossan on the Friday night (cars can be left in a secure compound over the weekend) take the 8.30pm ferry to Brodick and then public transport to the hostel at Corrie (see enclosed brochure). Last ferry off the island on both Sunday and Monday is 7.20pm. There are earlier ferries at 1.50pm and 4.40pm passengers are required to CHECK IN 30 MINUTES BEFORE DEPARTURE. Anyone still interested in booking a place in the hostel should contact Roy on 01307-840271 as soon as possible. Colin is trying to organise a delivery of milk and bread to the hostel on Arran. Members should contact Colin on 01241-852928 before travelling.

ARRAN FERRY TIMETABLE:

Arran		Ardrossan-Brodick		Latest Check-in 30 mins before departure		Contact Ardrossan (01294) 463470 or Brodick (01770) 302166	
Sailings to and from		MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS				SUNDAYS	
Edinburgh	dep	A				F	
	arr						
Glasgow Central	dep		0833	1115	1415	1650	1915
	arr						
ARDROSSAN	dep	0700	0945	1230	1515	1800	2030
	arr	0755	1040	1325	1610	1855	2125
BRODICK	dep					B	
	arr	0820	1105	1350	1640	1920	2140
ARDROSSAN	dep	0915	1200	1445	1735	2015	2235
	arr	1022	1322	1622	1852	2122	
Glasgow Central	dep						
	arr	1200					
Edinburgh	dep						
	arr						

CODE: A - Does not operate on Saturdays 11, 18, 25 Sept, 2, 9, 16 October B - Fridays only - does not operate 10, 17, 24 Sept, 1, 8, 15 October F - Fridays only
NOTE: Bus services on Arran, including Brodick and Lochranza. For details contact Strathclyde Transport Tel: 0141 332 7133. Edinburgh bus service to/from St. Andrew's Square operated by Stagecoach.
PEAK SAILINGS: A premium rate is charged for cars, caravans, motorhomes, boat trailers, baggage trailers, midi coaches and motor cycles travelling on Peak Sailings, when one of the following tickets must be used - Peak Single/Return ticket, 'Day Saver' ticket, Island Hopscotch ticket, Island Rover ticket or 6 Journey ticket on which a supplement has been paid. There are no Peak Sailing restrictions for passengers. Peak Sailings on this route are as follows:
EX ARDROSSAN: All Saturday sailings (except 0700) from 22 May until 25 September, also, all 0945 sailings from 25 June until 27 August.
EX BRODICK: All Saturday sailings (except 0820 and 1920) from 22 May until 25 September and also all 1640 sailings from 25 June until 27 August.

Fares		Car, Caravan, Boat/Baggage Trailer (over 2.5m), Midi Coach, Motorhome (each)				Motor Cycle, Baggage Trailer (up to 2.5m)	DAY SAVER (car and up to 4 occupants): £63.00 Available Mondays - Fridays 2 April - 15 October
All tickets to be purchased before boarding vessel.	Drivers/ Passenger (each)	Up to 4.0m	Up to 4.5m	Up to 5.0m	Up to 8.0m		Single £1.00
		Ardrossan - Brodick	Single	£23.15	£28.00		
	Peak Single	£26.00	£33.00	£41.00	£52.00	£13.00	
	5 Day Return	£6.95	£40.50	£48.50	£61.00	£20.25	
	6 Journey	£17.20	£92.00	£108.00	£134.00	£46.00	

Would all members please note that because of large losses sustained during the Galloway weekend last year, the committee have decided that names will only be accepted for weekend meets provided they are accompanied by the appropriate deposit.. No deposit, no bed for the weekend!

LAKE DISTRICT SEPT 99

Friday 17th, Sat 18th Sept 99-2 nights. Roy has booked the Striding Edge Hostel in Glenridding for our stay in the Lake District. Please refer to the attached brochure which provides information on facilities and a map of the locations of the hostel. You must bring your own pillow case and sleeping bag. Names with a £10 deposit to be given to me as soon as possible.

SKYE OCTOBER 99

Friday 22nd, Sat 23rd Oct 99 - 2 nights. The Skyewalker independent hostel has been booked for the Skye Weekend. The hostel is at the old school in Portnalong. Members should note this is NOT the hostel we stayed at last June. A total of 12 individual bunks have been booked. Names with a deposit of £10 to Roy - 01307-840271 as soon as possible.

GLEN ETIVE

Friday 24th, Sat 25th March 2000. The Grampian club hut at Inbhirfhaolain, Glen Etive has been booked. Refer to attached information sheet for details.

A TASTE FOR HEIGHT AND VIEWS OF A DIFFERENT KIND - By A

M Robertson

When I joined FDHWC, I discovered the meaning of Munro-bagging! In no time at all I met, not a 'Munro-bagger' but a 'Munro-eater'. In less than one year, this greedy monster has devoured well over 50 Munros and hung upside down at the edge of more than one icy ridge!.... I feel dizzy just hearing the stories! This friendly monster can be seen all year round on most hills but as time goes it seems to be going further West! Hill-walking, I have discovered, does not confine itself to climbing up and down hills of various description. As you walk, you are usually in such a hurry to get back, that time to admire the views is too short. However, you do make up for it at the end. Provided you are amongst the first to arrive back at the bus, then you will have the added bonus of the most unexpected spectacle in the country where people are known to be reserved. Away with shyness, comfort is of the essence! Arms and legs are waved about as they bare themselves of sweaty clothes, chests and bosoms sprayed with refreshing odours, socks and boots changed.... Men and Women separate for the sake of decency but great hilarity to be heard as they unwittingly cross each others' paths either on or off the bus. The main reward after all this effort comes half way through the trip back home. A drink at the pub!

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE: -

By Catriona Blake

NOVEMBER 98 TORRIDON

On the Sunday, seven of us decided to go up Maol Cheon-dearg. This involved a drive about 25 miles round three sides of a rectangle in order to climb a hill that was three miles away! It was worth it though - the drive was beautiful, with dramatic views of the cliffs above the Bealach na Ba on the Applecross peninsula. However... when we arrived at the start, it had started to rain heavily and the faint-hearted amongst us were wondering whether anyone had a map of somewhere, anywhere as long as it was dry! Luckily we stayed with our original plan and were rewarded with a dramatic day of sunshine and showers.

A very good stalkers' path took us into the heart of the glen before we headed up to the bealach. At this point we had a close view of the adjacent Corbett, An Ruadh Stac, with its stone slab ascent - not to be attempted in wet, icy conditions. Another day ...

The last stretch to the summit was through lovely dry, powdery snow - a joy to walk through. At this point we were asking "will it, won't it" clear for us when we reached the top. And it did! The views were tremendous - across Beinn Alligin, Liathach and Beinn Eighe on the other side of Loch Torridon, out west to the Quirang and as far as Harris, and inland to loads of hills I couldn't name. Beinn Damph looked very imposing from this angle, which was an added bonus to those of us who had a great time climbing it the previous day.

The day continued to be enjoyable to the end, despite further hail and rain showers on the way down. The good path made a difference - not nearly so tiring as ploutring through mud or skating on ice. We also took advantage on the way up and down of a well-placed bothy to grab a bite to eat and slurp of tea in the dry!

The last section of the walk saw one member of the party take an early (very cold) bath in one of the burns in spate which we had to cross. This led me to conclude that we might all have been slightly damp from the occasional showers - BUT ETTA WAS DEFINITELY WETTA! We all said good-bye at the roadside after (another) wonderful day on the hills - only to meet up again (not by prior arrangement) at Harry Ramsden's in Inverness! Yet another example of FDHWC's impeccable route-finding...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY DAY WEEKEND 2000

28th April to 1st May 99

(3 Nights)

GLEN AFFRIC BACKPACKERS HOSTEL CANNICH

Most of the rooms are twin bedded.

Full details will be given in the December newsletter.

JUNE WEEKEND 2000

2nd, 3rd and 4th June

(2 nights)

THE ASSYNT FIELD CENTRE INCHNADAMH LOCHINVER

Again details in the December newsletter.

Mallorca - October 2000

The committee would like the club to hold some special event to celebrate the millennium, and have decided to examine the possibility of holding a meet to the island of Mallorca in October 2000. For those who don't know, this island has a chain of rugged hills running for 50 miles or so along its northern coast which offers excellent walking. Its highest peak is Puig Major at 1447m (higher than Ben Nevis).

Several club members have been on there on walking holidays - the Coulls, Norries, Redfords (and possibly

others). John Norrie gave us an excellent slide show 3 or 4 years ago, as part of our winter indoor programme -perhaps this can be repeated soon. There is also a good article about Mallorca in FDHWC Newsletter 8 (Dec 1995) written by Norrie/Redford. This article is reprinted in this edition.

It is likely that the holiday would be for one week, because of the timetable of charter aircraft and would take place either in the first week or second week of the school holidays. The committee thought that the meet could be completely free-format allowing a mixture of walking and other activities. This might interest the spouses or families of members to come along too.

Costs are unknown at present, but it is envisaged that a group discount would be available for both travel and accommodation. This is just an initial "feeler". If you are interested, please fill in the slip which will be in your package and return it to any committee member. From the responses received, the committee will decide whether to pursue the matter further.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello, again, and welcome to all those who are receiving this newsletter for the first time. This is the 15th edition and, looking through previous editions, a distinct change in format has taken place. The last edition, especially, provided a fairly wide range of items, some historical and others providing excellent reading - from a mishap on an ice route in the Cairngorms to mind-blowing heat in the Pyrenees and, of course, a very informative layout of the forthcoming weekend meets - there was a wide range of interests.

Production of that issue was the responsibility of Peter Hargreaves and he is to be congratulated on the layout and overall presentation of the issue.

Peter was Secretary of the club until the recent AGM when, unfortunately, he had to stand down due to pressure of work in his company. On behalf of all in the club, I say a big "Thank you, Peter" for all the good work and time you gave to assist in the running of F&DHWC.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all the other members of the committee who have worked very hard throughout the last 12 months and also to welcome our new Secretary, Margaret Baird - she is already making her mark; also to Frank Low, who will also bring new ideas and direction to the committee and, consequently, the club.

I started off relating to the changes taking place in the newsletter and these are, in a way, a reflection of the changes taking place within the club.

A more positive attitude towards setting fairer levels of Subscriptions and Day Meet Bus Fares will ensure that the level of subsidising Meets will decrease and this should, in turn, release more money to purchase equipment which is now being found to provide extra safeguards in the hills. Already a G.P.S. has been purchased and we have discussed the possibilities of purchasing 2 mobile phones, although recent experience has shown that reception is far from acceptable in many areas. It is felt by many that this equipment is becoming a necessity to ensure early calls for assistance in the event of a mishap or to inform other parties when members are overdue on a route.

This may appear a long way from the early days of going for a walk over a path or a couple of hills, but this again is

a reflection of a move in the club towards bigger and more adventurous meets whilst attempting always to ensure that safety is a first priority for members and guests alike.

Regarding safety and insurance cover in the event of an accident in the hills, the MCofS is currently investigating the possibilities of providing Personal Accident Insurance to all members. No doubt you have read about the 'ifs, whys and hows' of this in your personal copy of "The Scottish Mountaineer" and there is still a lot of discussion to go on yet before a decision is taken on the type of insurance to be supplied.

You may feel that I am assuming rather much in suggesting that Personal Insurance will become a mandatory part of the MCofS Subs but there appears to be a growing demand for a wider form of insurance rather than the existing Standard 3rd Party.

Obviously, the decision will be gauged on the demand for such insurance and, should there be a majority in favour, then all members of the MCofS will have to pay the increase necessary to cover the costs. This would mean that our present Membership Fee to the MCofS would be increased by approximately the same amount as the increase in our Club Membership Fee so that, in effect, we may find very little change by the next AGM, although the increase in Bus Fares will certainly help.

Financially, the club is still healthy but, to ensure that it remains that way and the members benefit from this, we must always be looking to the future and planning for it.

To end this ramble, I would ask you all to put forward suggestions for the winter indoor calendar and also let's have your thoughts on a real shindig, dance, party, whatever - just to get everyone together for a night, either this year or early next.

Thank you all for your friendship on and off the hill. See you all at the next meet.

JIM

Halloween Party

The Club intends to have a Halloween party at Whitehaugh on Saturday, 30 October. The last party was held two years ago and was well attended with more than thirty members, family and friends dookin' for apples (and an orange), eating treacle scones and generally getting in a mess.

The party will probably coincide with a hut maintenance day but more details will be available nearer the time. All members and guests are invited.

News from the Meet Secretary

For those who missed the AGM and indoor meetings, here is a brief summary of the meets since the last newsletter was published

Date	Location	No	Description
Dec 98	Glen clova	21	Nivana – a remendous day. Cold still conditions with clear skies and snow right down to the car park. What a view of the Cairngorms! Two groups. One walked from Vlova Hotel over Cairn Inks to Dreish. The other set off from Glen Doll, up Jock's Roads to Tom Buidhe. Some then proceeded to Tolmount and back via Jock's Road. Others returned via Bachnagairn. -7°C in Glen Doll car park.
Dec 98	Glen esk	12	The day after the hurricane. Snowy conditions in a deserted Glen Esk, Up Glen Mark to Balnamoon's cave and then over the top to Glen Lee. Very icy and not a crampon in sight.
Jan 99	Deuchary Hill	14	Lovely sunny conditions. Good views.

Notes from the Treasurer

Thanks to all members for sending their subscriptions to me. Membership for the current year stands at 72 at the time of writing compared to last year's total of 85. The increase in subscriptions to £12 for all members except juniors seems to have been well received and final membership numbers should not be far short of last year.

The increase in charges on the bus to £8 has also helped set the Club on a stable financial footing. Losses made on the bus typically stand at around £30 -£50 a time for the year to date which is quite acceptable. Hopefully no further increases will be required for a number of years.

Stop Press: The Great Outdoors Challenge 99

Congratulations to John Norrie who completed the west to east crossing of Scotland accompanied by Bob Greenhill, also from Arbroath. They started from Oban and finished in Arbroath. More in the next newsletter.

Hill Craft

If you happen to stray from a club group on the hills, don't panic. Follow these procedures.

- If the weather is good, retrace your steps to the last obvious landmark that your group visited, e.g. a top, a bealach, a river crossing, a cairn.
- If there is poor visibility, then sit tight preferably on the route that the others had taken e.g. a track
- Put on warm clothes. Get into a sheltered spot. Note the time - write it down if possible. Note which direction you were walking in. Note down where you think you are - a cross of the map. It's a good idea to take a **pencil** with you in your map case.
- Wait - a club group on the hill will always return to try to find you - although it may take sometime. Look out for them. Listen for them.
- If no one has found you within 30 to 45 minutes, then assume that they can't find you.
- If you feel that that you can navigate to safety, then do so. Walking on your own in bad weather or poor visibility is difficult, but believe the compass, use timing and pacing. Don't necessarily make for the bus. The nearest place of safety is fine. When you reach safety, if you can reach the bus do so. If not contact the police and tell them the situation. The club will have alerted the police.

If you don't feel confident about navigating to safety, then sit tight. Put all your clothes on. Get into your **bivvy bag**. Everyone should carry one - this may save your life. Eat and drink. Get your **whistle** out - 6 long blasts in quick succession followed by a pause of one minute. In darkness, 6 long flashes then a pause of a minute

Jan 99	Bennachie	30	Quite a bit of snow north of Aberdeen. 30 people on the hill. All climbed Oxen Craig and then proceeded to the rocky tor, the Mither Tap. Most returned to the cars. A smaller group completed the traverse to Millstone Hill and over to the river Dee. High tea at Luthermuir Hotel (36 for High tea, 39 people either on hill and/or at high tea)
Feb 99	Meal An Tarmachan	22	Excellent winter conditions, but very high winds. 2 routes offered. Both started at roadside below Ben Lawers. First group traversed the ridge in very icy conditions - crampons on all day. Second group took a low-level route below the ridge, eventually splitting for some to climb higher. Both groups ended up in Glen Lochay.
Mar 99	Glen Falloch to Balquidder	21	Switched from Linn o' Dee because of weather. 2 walks offered. High level over An Caisteal and Beinn a' Croin. Hard snow conditions and strong winds. Other route was lower level starting at the Inerarman waterfalls. Both groups met up for the final walk out to Balquidder.
Mar 99 w/e	Appin	9	Excellent accommodation at the cottage of Dalnatrat. Beinn Sgulaire on Saturday in horrendous windy and rainy conditions. Fraochaidh on Sunday in lovely spring conditions.
Apr 99	Dalmally/Cruachan	21	2 walks offered. Ben Cruachan & Stob Diamh as one and the Dalmally horseshoe as the other. Good spring conditions with a lot of new snow on the ridges. Pleasant weather with virtually no wind (for a change!). New stopping off place discovered - Comrie.
May 99 w/e	Dundonnell	18	Our 3 rd May weekend at Sail-mhor independent hostel. Very good conditions all weekend and Monday - Fannichs, An Teallach, Fisherfield, Seana Braigh, Sail Mhor, Beinn Airigh Charr
May 99	Bridge of Orchy	18	A wild windy day with good views. Left from Bridge of Orchy, climbed Beinn Dòthaidh, and Beinn Achaladair. The planned traverse to Beinn a' Creachain was abandoned because of the weather.

Majorca (reprinted from FDHWC Newsletter 8 (Dec 1995) Author: Redford/Norrie)

When planning a walking holiday abroad, Majorca is perhaps not the first place to spring to mind. However having seen an article in an outdoors magazine some years ago, giving details of easy interesting routes in glorious sunshine (and listened to horror stories from Brian Coull of bristling ridges and loose rock on the Formentor Peninsula), Bill, Barbara, John and Rita decided it sounded most attractive and booked a holiday in Puerto Pollensa in the North West corner of the island. It proved to be a wonderful centre for walking, the local transport was ideal for dropping off at the start of the walk and catching again at the end, although we had to get used to the terrain which consisted of sharp nodular rocks and thorny shrubs which required care, but whetted our desire to see more of the island. We now knew that there was much more to Majorca than beaches, hamburger stalls and T-shirts.

The following year, Bill and Barbara returned and armed with June Parker's Guide Book found new routes for long interesting walks with lovely scenery in the vicinity of Puig Major, at 1447 metres, the highest peak on the island.

In 1995, all four of us went back, this time staying in Puerto de Soller, a small village round a bay which is backed by high hills. We were out walking every day and each walk was different (& included seven mountains over 1000 metres), as will be seen from the following diary :-

Day 1: Bus to Ciiber Dam for easy walk to Coll de L'Ofre, climb north to summit of Cornadors (the Horns) 957m, then descent of 700m to Biniaraix by Pilgrims' Steps - a cobbled man-made mule track of approx. 2km. Back to Puerto de Soller by tram. 15km

Day 2: Short coastal walk from hotel by good path to Punta Panxeta, an impressive rock formation, using guide book. Unfortunately we misread book and cries of 'Far I wi noo' were heard for the first time (but not the last) that week. Having re-read the book, we reached our objective! Superb sea views but very unstable rock.

Day 3: Intention was the 'Circuit of Balitx' (13km 6¹A hrs). Again the start was difficult to find but diligent reading of the guide book paid off. The path traversed spectacular cliff with views of S'lletta island then over the crags of the Coll de Cordellina. However as the rocks were wet and dangerous, we aborted and returned to Puerta de Soller by Torre Picado - a look-out tower perched on vertical cliffs overlooking the sea.

Day 4: Circular walk from Puerto de Soller by old road to Soller (stopping off for fresh pressed orange juice (delicious)) and return.

Day 5: Joined Thomson organised walk. Went by train to Bunyola then by wide forestry track to a "mirador" (view point). Saw very little as it was heavy rain and cold - worth a re-visit on a good day.

Day 6: Bus to Ciiber Dam. Short scramble up scree filled gully to top of Puig de la Rateta (1084m) then undulating ridge walk to L'Ofre (1091m). Descent on path through scrub and trees to Coll de l'Ofre and Pla de Ciiber to Dam. Return by bus to Puerto de Soller.

Day 7: Parties separated. Barbara and Bill walked through olive groves up to Soller and back. Rita and John took boat trip to Sa Colobra - tiny cove between rocky cliffs with a pier, a shingle beach and numerous restaurants which is visited by thousands during the summer. The reason was to find out whether it was possible to exit from a planned walk or scramble down the

Torrent de Pareis - a drop of 3km by a river bed. However as there was at least 4ft of water lying in the exit, the idea was abandoned and the descent was closed by police two days later as it too dangerous.

Day 8: Bus to Deia intending to walk back by hill tracks following guide book. Again cries of "Far I wi noo" as guide book was out of date in this area. Re-started at Deia 2 hours later and followed proper high level paths through olive groves with great sea and mountain views back to Puerto de Soller.

Day 9: By Hired car to Valdemossa (a lovely town) to do a circular walk of 16km (6 hours). First ascended steeply into Cairats valley by Font de's Poll to a mountain hut where we were glad to have a break, The walk then followed a most enjoyable man-made cliff top path called Archdukes walk, taking in Puig Carragoli (another munro) and giving fantastic views. Coming down we had a choice of paths (the third one we tried was the correct one!) and this brought us through varied countryside to Valdemossa.

Day 10: By car again to go to the top of Massanella, the second highest mountain on Majorca at 1367m. A good path took us halfway to the Coll de Sa Linea, then a steep rough cairned track zigzagged to a flat coll from where it was a few minutes to the top by a rough boulder field. We were surprised to be overtaken by 3 men on trials motor-bikes bumping on huge types (no saddles) over the boulders right to the summit. We returned by the same route (11km)

Day 11: Off day at Puerto de Soller cafes - not before time!

Day 12: Thomson 'through' guided walk because independent transport was a problem. Bus dropped us at Coll de Soller from where a wide track through the oak woods led to the Pla de la Serp and then a cairned track was taken to the top of Feix (another Munro at 1062m) To our delight the party then joined the Archdukes Walk which meant that we could enjoy it all over again. We finished at Valdemossa and had time to see some of the town before catching the bus which dropped us at our hotel door!

Day 13: Bus to Gorg Blau reservoir to climb in the Tossals group of hills. Good start through a gate marked "No entry" by well marked path through woods to the Coll des Coloms passing many "sitjes" (sites of charcoal burning) then by huge boulders to the summit of Morro d'Almallutx at 1058m, where we found a glass case containing an embroidered nativity scene! The weather closed in at the top so we descended to look for and find the Canaleta de Massanella after some difficulty. As this would be an attractive walk in itself, it is noted for the future. Return to Puerto de Soller by bus.

This walking holiday was built around a basic half-board package deal staying in a hotel at reasonable price where the accommodation was adequate and the food good and plentiful. Public transport (i.e. bus and train) were handy and because we were with a tour company, car hire was at a special rate. Sept/Oct is a good time of year to visit Majorca because it is comfortably warm most of the time although an umbrella is ideal for the occasional rain-shower on the hill. Maps are available on a 1:25000 scale but an up to date guide book is essential to get round all these locked gates.