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President's Column

Newsletter time has come round once more. I have just finished reading again the president's column in the December 1999 issue, where Jim mentioned his concern with regard to the lack of younger members and families walking with the club.

Another year on, and I regret to say there is still a lack of response from members for the monthly day meets, this being in spite of the introduction of Saturday meets, and also giving members the opportunity to suggest venues that they would like to have for day meets.

It has now really become quite a serious cause for concern when we cannot attract enough members to warrant a bus, and even if we manage to get the stated numbers of 14 - we are still running at a loss. This begs the following questions:

1. How long can Whitehaugh go on subsidising the bus?
2. Do members prefer weekend meets?
3. Do we only use a bus for through walks, and cars for day meets?

Any ideas you may have that would attract more numbers on day meets would be most welcome. Come along to the next AGM or post your ideas in to either Margaret Baird or myself.

The winter programs so far have been well attended, and we can look forward to some exciting events in the New Year

The weekend meets have as usual attracted a good response -particularly Knoydart. A big thank you to Roy who has done an excellent job arranging these for us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked tirelessly throughout the year in trying to maintain the club and Whitehaugh. I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with lots of good days planned for the hills.

ETTA

WEEKEND MEETS 2001

MOIDART-ONICH 23-25 March 2001

As stated in the last newsletter, Roy has booked 12 places at the Alex McIntyre hut in North Ballachulish for the above weekend. All 12 beds have now been booked by club members. If any other members are interested, it may be possible to hire another room with a sleeping platform, so get in touch with Roy ASAP. Cost of weekend £7 + electricity.

KNOYDART 4-7 May 2001

When Roy announced in the June Newsletter that he had hired the Torrie Shielling Hostel at Inverie, little did he realise that all 12 beds would be snapped up within 7 days! Of the newsletter going out to members. Roy has now added the Kilchoan Farmhouse (8 beds) and the Kilchoan Bunkhouse (6 beds) to our booking to give us a total of 26 beds. At the time of writing 4 of these beds are still available, so any member still interested should contact Roy on 01307 840271 as soon as possible, with a £25 deposit. The total cost of accommodation for 3 nights will be £45 per member. The village of Inverie has a pub, restaurant and post office. The committee hope that most of the members going to Knoydart can get to Mallaig in time for the Friday afternoon ferry which leaves Mallaig at 2pm. The club are to hire a 12 seater boat to take those members who cannot make the ferry, across to Inverie late Friday evening.

KNOYDART CHECKLIST:

1. Contact Roy by Wed 7 February to let him know if you are going by ferry or boat.
2. The balance of the accommodation cost should be paid by 7th March. This is £20 per member.
3. Transport for baggage will be provided from the pier at Inverie to each of the hostels
4. Bed linen is provided at all 3 venues
5. The village shop has now closed down
6. Members who wish to go out for evening meals while staying at Inverie should contact Margaret Baird on 01356-625680 NOW as we are advised to book months in advance !

KINTAIL- 1-3 June 2001 Ratagan Youth Hostel

The club has booked accommodation at the Rattagan youth Hostel on the shore of Loch Duich 1.5 miles from Shiel Bridge (See enclosed information sheet).

The SYHA have asked for numbers and deposit by December 2000 so interested members should contact Roy with a deposit of £10 ASAP. Total cost for weekend will be £19 NOTE: The Hostel is open from 0700 to 2345 hrs and bed linen is provided.

WEEKEND NOTES:

1. Deposits for weekend meets should be sent to Roy with cheques made payable to Forfar and District Hillwalking Club.
2. Roy can be contacted at:

Nether Middleton
GLAMIS
FORFAR
DD81UP

Tel: 01307 840271
Mobile: 0771 9700628
e-mail: roy.rennie@lineone.net

Meets since the last Newsletter

(numbers attending in brackets)

June 3/4 - Weekend at Assynt (19)

Sat Good weather - Conival, Ben More Assynt, Sulven, Quinag, Am Faochgach, Glas Beinn, Ben Hope, Ben Klibeck, cave & beach exploration over weekend. Great accommodation & food on Saturday night.

June 18 - Glen Clova (11)

Bus to Glen Feshie cancelled. Cars to Clova instead. Broad Cairn, Cairn Bannoch, Cam Taigart Mhor, White Mounth, Dubh Loch, Lock Muick, Bachnagairn. Big day.

July 1 - Bridge of Orchy (6)

By car. Cairn Toul meet altered because of weather. Went west to Beinn a Chreachain & Beinn Achaladair instead. Hot day.

August 20 - Arrochar (14)

One group crossed Ben Vorlich north to south. Other group started west of Rest & Be Thankful and climbed Beinn Ime and Ben Vane. Thunder rumbling about all day. Paddle in Loch Lomond in the sunshine.

September 10 - Tomintoul to Invercauld (13)

Fine through walk up the River Avon, crossing shoulder of Culardoch and dropping into woods at Invercauld. Great weather and views. First visit to Fyffe Arms for a while.

October 1 - Ben Lawers area (13)

By car. One group on Meall Greigh and Meall Garbh. Another on Meall Corranich and Meall a'Choire Leith. Warm but rain and misty.

October 1-6 - Mallorca (16)

By air. Lots of good walking. Highlight was Masanella (1348m).

October 21/22 - Isle of Skye (20)

Our 3rd trip to Skye in 3 years. Inaccessible Pinnacle, Sgurr Ghreadaidh, SgurrThormaid, Sgurr na Bannadich and Blaven on Saturday. Good meal again at the Taigh Ailean. Strong winds on Sunday - Quirang, beaches, headlands on Skye, A' Glas Bheinn, Beinn Scrithéal on the mainland.

November 4 - Carn An Righ (11)

Bus to the Pentland Hills cancelled. Cars to Dulmunzie Hotel. Route to Loch nan Eun then onto Carn an Righ for first snow of the winter. Cloudy & cold

FOR SALE

All proceeds to go to Camus House Old Folks Home, Carnoustie

Contact Colin

- ◆ Buffalo fleece lined over salopettes - matches the top. A necessity for you ice climbers £10
- ◆ Bike Carrier - attaches to towbar £5

**Mallorca 2000 Been there, done that!
Come see the post mortem on January 15th.**

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER:
Please write early and send your articles to:

Angus Spence
5 Muirlands Court
Lunanhead
FORFAR
DD8 3NE

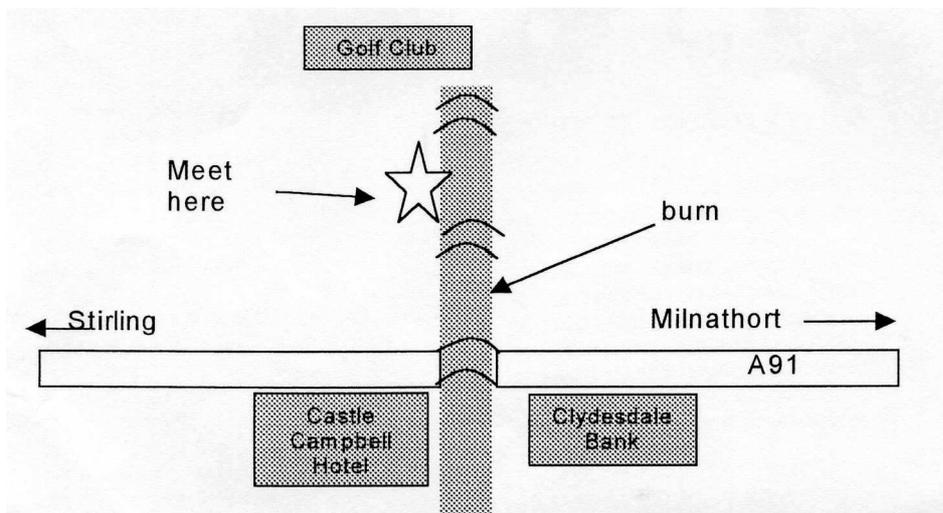
Tel: 01307 465644
Email: angusspence@totalise.co.uk

Festive Meets

For the first time, these unofficial meets are listed on the club calendar for Wednesday 27th December and Tuesday 2nd January. They've been going on for at least 20 years and we've had many a grand day out. Last year saw a group skate their way up an icy Glen Moy on a cold & frosty day after Christmas and another group enjoying fine weather on Cat Law just after New Year. Between these meets, an unofficial-unofficial meet was to Lochnagar while another group enjoying skiing in powder snow at GlenShee. So why not plan to get some fresh air on some local hills during the holidays - turkey sandwiches and mincemeat pies are not obligatory. Note that these dates are only provisional - the weather may mean a change of date. Keep in touch with Colin & John.

High Tea

It's about that time again. This year (or rather in January 2001), it will take place in the Castle Campbell Hotel in Dollar at 4.45 pm for 5pm. Cost £8.00. The meet is to the Ochils. The plan is to leave the Myre at 8.30pm for those sharing cars and then to meet again in Dollar at 9.45am. See sketch below. The easiest route is by the A90 to Perth then the M90 to Milnathort and finally the A91 to Dollar.



The plan is to leave from Dollar, walk up through the spectacular Dollar Glen, onto the old drove road which crosses to Glen Devon then to do a round of the Burn of Sorrow. We'll climb steeply onto WhiteWisp (643m), west to Tarmangie (645), across the Maddy Moss to Andrew Gannell Hill (670) and then onto the summit of Ben Cleugh (721), the Ochils' highest top. We'll retrace our steps to Andrew Gannell Hill and climb back over King's Seat (648) and then take in Dollar Hill (346) before returning to the town and our well deserved high tea. Distance 16km. This can be cut short if necessary. For those arriving later there are numerous wee walks around here - maybe walk to the top of Kings Seat to meet the others and see the sunset! (Last year we watched the sunset from the top of East Lomond).

Names for high tea to Margaret as soon as possible. For those intending to attend the full meet, please give names to the meet secretary as usual, just to make sure that we wait on you before departing!