

AN INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME FROM COLIN

Hello folks! Eight months have gone by since you received the club's first newsletter in April. Did you like it? Keep it, it may yet become a collector's item. The committee decided to issue two copies per year, and this is what you've been waiting for - issue number 2. We hope you find it interesting.

We are continuing our 'Spotlight on' series with an - almost founder member of the Club Stan Taylor. It could be your turn next!

While playing my Beatles' Sergeant Pepper album, the words 'It was twenty years ago today..' inspired a new series of articles entitled 'Twenty years ago today...'. We will delve into the Club archives to give you events of twenty, ten and five years ago.

In addition to the newsletter, you have been given a current list of members with addresses and telephone numbers. This follows the example of other clubs.

I hope that it provides useful in knowing who everyone is and in arranging lifts.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year, as well as many a long and happy tramp o'er the hills.

Your President.
COLIN.

SPLIGHT ON – STAN TAYLOR

Look back through the press books from the very beginning of the club and the name Stan Taylor appears almost every meet report. He has been a stalwart club member -always there, but always in the background.

The reason he liked to stay in the background was that the wee box he carried on every walk was quietly opened when nobody was looking and his cine-camera would be whirring away recording all the events of the walk, the wild life or flowers, and nearly always catching somebody stuffing a banana or a roll into a wide open mouth. At the end of the year the members would have great time re-living happy days on the hill and "seeing themselves as others saw them" - not always a pretty sight. If it wasn't for that camera most of the early walks would be long forgotten and it's good to know that at any time it's possible to go back over the years, if Stan can be persuaded to show his movies.

Long before the club was founded in 1963 he spent weekends on his bike and hoofing it over some of Scotland's wildest and most difficult mountain

tracks. The bike was no mountain bike with numerous gears, comfy saddle and wide tyres - just an ordinary touring bike that needed lifted up and carried bodily a lot of the time! It was hard going but a good way to get to know Scotland's out of the way places.

In the early days of the club almost a third of the members were juniors and that was when Stan was at his happiest. Not that he was nice to them he was too busy throwing them in burns or stuffing snow down their necks, but they all learned fast how to get their own back and many a pitched battle was held on the hillside and in the bus with rolled up newspapers! But at the same time he'd be carrying their rucksack, making sure they had all the necessary gear and weren't lagging behind - looking after them in-fact.

Maybe the reason we see less of Stan these days is the shortage of youngsters - things are too tame!

Stan has a great attitude to a day on the hill - plenty of time to stop and admire the view or have another cup of tea, and if the weather's good, make the most of it!

He has been very careful to avoid becoming President or Secretary of the club even though asked often, but the committee has only had to suggest something was needed and he would do his best to produce whatever it was.

A good club member for almost thirty years and it's hoped for many more years yet.

FUJI-SAN CLIMBED

President Sinclair became the first member of the club to climb Mount Fuji (12,334 feet) in Japan. He was part of an international NCR team of Scots, Americans and Japanese who made the ascent on Sunday 20th September. He was reputed to have thrown up when, at the summit, fellow Scotsman Sam Flynn bent into his rucksack, pulled out a copy of the Munro Tables and coolly stated that Fuji wasn't a Munro after all. A short slide show will be presented after one of the meetings, possibly April or May.

WHITEHAUGH UPDATE

As most members are aware the club hut was badly vandalised recently. However thanks to donations of crockery, furniture, glass, window frames and electric meter the place is again quite habitable. Thanks also to a willing workforce who turned up on the 'work party days' and got stuck in to the long list of jobs that I had drawn up. Some people surprise themselves by the type of practical jobs they can do when they volunteer for a work party!

Bookings for the hut are steadily coming in and in order to keep this source of income continuing Whitehaugh has to be kept in a reasonable condition. A few of us were invited to the Cam Dearg hut recently, one great difference in hut use between clubs is, their club members continually use their hut, our hut is very seldom used by club members. WHY!?!? IT IS A GREAT ASSET. WHY NOT MAKE USE OF IT?

John Norrie

ORIENTEERING

A short introductory event was held at Whitehaugh at our Summer(!) BBQ on 30th May. Brian set the course. Teams consisted of pairs. Checkpoints had the usual orienteering marker and punch. The instructions were given as distance in metres and direction in degrees - this seemed to satisfy everyone except Alistair (Coull) and Anne (Tee)? who initially reversed these instructions - and wondered why they couldn't find anything! Everyone had a go - including two 5 year olds. The accuracy of Brian's timing was dubious - did his watch work? Was he wearing one or just counting sheep? Did he count the hairs on his face or just make it up? The event was won by John and Rita Norrie.

There's no doubt that everyone who participated enjoyed it. So much so, that we hoped to have a night (or dusk) orienteering session at Whitehaugh at

Hallowe'en but our great timekeeper was unwell (he couldn't count sheep in the dark!) and anyway, it was raining.

We will definitely organise another event next year. Longer course! Bigger trees! A stopwatch for the timekeeper!!

HALLOWE'EN ** PARTY**

After a year's absence, the party went ahead again this year after the work party Sat 31 Oct. Fifteen members (and guests) attended. We were joined by a Japanese visitor, Yasukiiki Terai, who was working with Colin at NCR. Colin handed him an OS map of the area, a piece of paper with a rough drawing of the car park, stile, bridge etc and a torch. Miraculously, he made it to the car park and was confronted by a witch called EMMA, complete with warty mask and hair. They flew over to Whitehaugh on Emma's broomstick.

We barbequed inside, over the fire in the kitchen, before beginning the traditional festivities. Treacle doughnuts were used this year (scones for the latecomers). It takes a long time to eat a doughnut, doesn't it Rita? Over 12 minutes!!

After the treacle came the apples. Stalks were removed and anyone had a go. Highlights were David's goggles and John's bubble blowing! The president used his privilege of position to go first and so avoid the "slavers"!

And of course, no Hallowe'en party is complete without fireworks. Despite the miserable weather, we all dashed outside to see a spectacular display culminating in a terrific series of bangs which finally quietened the stags who had been roaring all day.

This didn't quite end the entertainment, for on reaching the car park we had to push a few folk out of the boggy conditions. You've heard of mud baths, well some of us had mud showers.

Very many thanks go to the organisers of this event without which, of course, there would be

NO event. Looking forward to next year!!

A LETTER FROM JAPAN

Nov 23 1992

"Hello Colin-san. Thanks for your kindness at last time. Please tell your friends my feeling. It is "Thankyou, I enjoyed and felt your heartwarming feeling".

And to you and John I am sorry you were cover with mud. Thank you for good memories Anne, John, Neil, Ema, Lita, Johny, Euan, Steaven, Jemie, David, Linda, you and Whitehaugh.

Yasuyuki Terai."

CLUB TEAM COMPETES IN CLOVA ROAD RACE

A team of runners represented the club in this year's race on Saturday 14th November. A team consisted of 4 runners. Unfortunately a 4th team member was not found to join Angus, Martin and Colin so an ex-member was co-opted onto the team - Fin Taylor, Stan's brother. All four members completed the race. Results were:-

ANGUS	98:18mins
COLIN	98:50mins
MARTIN	101:49mins
FIN	102:08mins

John Norrie also ran this race representing Arbroath Footers. His time was: 108:34mins

How about a ladies team next year?? Congratulations to all those who completed this scenic but cold race. Looking forward to next year?

CLUB CHEESE & WINE NIGHT

This evening took place on Dec 2nd in Jarman's Hotel. A talk on walking in Greece was followed by Cheese and Wine and a Quiz. The Quiz was organised by John and Colin and was reasonably hard. The cheese & wine was arranged by Stuart & Marion. Many thanks to all concerned.

IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY..(sgt Pepper taught the band to play)

Open Meeting Dec 1st 1972.

J.Norrie presided. 12 members, 2 joiners attended.

Membership of M.C. of S.

J.Norrie read a letter from J.Cosgrove of Grampian Club and it was discussed, but as it was a subject on which more members should vote it was decided to wait and take a vote at the AGM.

Meet Secretary's Report.

Schiehallion. There were 22 adults and 8 juniors on the walk. The conditions were quite wintry and though 2 parties each walked about 6 miles in snow, the top was not reached. The fares were 60p £ 30p and there was a profit of 50p on the bus.

Press Secretary's Report.

No coverage in Courier or Journal, but good write up in Dispatch.

New Members.

J.Norrie read letters from Hamish McPherson (Kirkcaldy) & Roddy McLeod (Auchterhouse) one making enquiries and the other joining.

Glen Moy Walk.

The navigators to be A.Grewar & S Gourley who would decide best route.

BOTHY BOOK ENTRY 2nd-3rd DEC 1972

"Saturday 2nd Dec. Rose rather late and got the fire and breakfast under way. Intending to have a not too strenuous day. Might go over Mondgie way. (? the writing is not too hot!).

Willie and Angus (Grewar) arrived as about two were leaving the car park. We 'pushed' them on their way and arrived here just after eleven. Angus left for a wander into Corrie Bonhard and returned from the sunny side of the glen about 4 o'clock.

All had tea and were comfortably seated by the fire when there was a rattle at the door - two Glaswegians from Glasgow caught out by the darkness and couldn't find the bridge over the burn.

They were duly invited for a cup of coffee and a bittie cake. It turned out that the gentleman (David Herd) was with our John N at Glen More in the spring. John had told him to 'drop in' some time so he did!

Feeling somewhat refreshed the couple (one female) were duly escorted to the road by a member of the resident company.

Then after several oors of dominoes, the four inmates retired around 2.00a.m.

Sunday 3rd December. All up at the crack of 8 - Jim set out first for a short walk alone followed by Ewan and Willie bound for Driesh. Angus last to leave at 10.00a.m. for Ben Reid & Loch Brandy area. Jim sawed wood but couldn't find the invisible axe. Restocked the boxes with kindling and logs. Salvaged some more slates from the byre.

Ewan and Willie went into Winter Corrie & Driesh weather misty on tops. Ian Reith arrived for a few days - best of luck to him. The Norries arrived for a belated tea."

IT WAS 15 YEARS AGO TODAY

Open Meeting Dec 9th 1977

Club President:- John Norrie

A very short meeting was held on this date. Transport was discussed for the annual dinner dance. A walk to the Fungle path attracted 33 members and 11 junior members! - It's not often we get numbers like this now!

Income for the month was £3.25. Expenditure £8.91 and the carry forward balance is £104-97.

Sunday 11th Dec 1977

Ben Vrackie, three miles from Pitlochry, attracted 29 members of The Forfar and District Hill-Walking Club for their December meet on Sunday. The walk started from the top of Moulin Moors, where the party split into two groups - one to go over the top of Cam Dubh and Cam Geal and the other to start from the village of Moulin.

The parties ultimately met at the summit of Ben Vrackie, at 2,757 feet up. The return journey was over Meall an Daimh, where one group kept to the ridge and the other went into Glen Gimaig, both groups completing the walk at the car park at the Pass of Killiecrankie.

The weather was misty, with showers of rain, which made it a good day for navigating with map and compass.

IT WAS 5 YEARS AGO TODAY

Open Meeting 2nd Dec 1987

Club President:- Stuart Fergusson

The bridge to Whitehaugh was being discussed at this time.

A work party consisting of John,

Willie, Stan, George and Brian was formed to finish repairs to Davies bouroch.

The social evening in the Clova Hotel had been held recently and this was reported to be a most enjoyable evening 'as usual'. The hallowe'en party and BBQ had been held at Whitehaugh.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening and thanks went to Hendo and Tracy for organising the night.

The winter skills course at Glenmore Lodge was offered with 4 places available. Next meet was Glen Esk to Glen Clova.

IT WAS 5 YEARS AGO TODAY - CONT'D...

Stan was thanked for an excellent job of making plaques for the bridge at Whitehaugh. Bridge was opened during August 1987.

Sunday 13 Dec 1987. Glen Esk to Glen Clova

The route passed Loch Lee and the Falls of Damff to the old stables where, because of the ice, the crossing of the burns presented quite a problem except for one member who decided to cross bare-footed, (no names but a brave person!). After a lunch stop, the ascent was to the top of Muckle Cairn (well known for its aircraft wreckage). Then it was on to the White Hill. By this time the sun was still shining, the temperature had dropped, giving a crust to the snow. The descent to Clova was by the way of Brown Shank, on the east side of Loch Brandy, where impressive views of Come of Clova were witnessed just before daylight faded.

MEET REPORT SUMMARY 1992

Jan 12 Glen Isla

25 members . Glas Maol climbed. Weather Cold and sunny. High tea at Glenisla Hotel.

Feb 2 Loch Tay

18 members. Meall Garbh and Maell Greigh climbed. Weather wet then wetter.

March 1 Ben Lomond

21 members. Ben Lomond climbed. Weather dry then wet.

March 20 Killin

13 members. Glen Lochay cancelled. Walked Butterstone to Ballinluig. Dorothy Towns 25 years with the club. Those on the bus got a wee dram from Dorothy! Weather misty and wet.

May 1 - 4 Torridon weekend.

24 members. Some cut down to 2 days due to weather. Weather was everything but heat! Hills climbed included:- Slioch, Beinn Eighe, Liathach, Beinn Alligin, Maol Chean-dearg, Beinn Liath Mhor, Fionn Bheinn.

May 24 Ben More

28 members. Barbara Redford's last Munro. Barbara became only the second female member of the club to complete her Munros. Stob Bin-nien climbed. Weather was mainly good. A wee party at the top. John provided music with his pipes. A busy hill that day and a few startled on-lookers!

June 7 Linn o' Dee

11 members attended. Two groups. One climbed Ben Macdui. The other opted for lower level walk. Excellent views. Good sunny weather.

June 20-21 Summer weekend

Glen Orchy. 20+ members. David Sinclair completed his first munro. A baptism by fire! The Aonach Eagach. One lady member notched this up as Munro no. 200. A very safe climb however. Weather good all weekend. Hills climbed:- Beinri Fhionnlaidh, Ben Starav, GlasBB-heinn Mhor, Bheinn nan Eighenan, Aonach Eagach, Meall nan Eun, Stob Ghabhar and Stob a Choire. Meall nan Euan was the club hill for Boots across Scotland's sponsored climb of all 277 Munros on Sunday 21 June 92.

July 5 Laggan

13 members. Weather was perfect. Hills climbed Creag Pitridh, Geal Charn, Stob Choire Sgriodan, Beinn Chno Dearg and Beinn na Lap.

August 9 Ben Alder

13 members. Very very wet. Hills climbed:- Ben Alder, Beinn Bheoil, Aonach Beag Geal Charn and Cam Dearg. Two groups split these.

Sept 6 Calvine to Kingussie

16 members attended this through walk. Torrential rain at start, better by the end with some sun. Very swollen burns to cross. Very wet feet at the end!

Sept 19-20 weekend

Mill Cottage, 16 members attended. Reasonable weather Saturday. Cloudy Sunday, eventually turned to thunder storms. Hills climbed included:- Cairngorm, Bynack More, Sgor Gaoth, Ben Macdui, (An Sgarsoch and Cam an Fhidhleir, group cycled in to the hill), Braeriach, Geal Charn and a low level walk.

October 18 Scotlandwell - Falkland Through Walk

Small numbers. Bright sunny day. Lots of tourists along the paths. A

flutter of snow up Bishops Hill. Good views all round.

November 6 Blackford - Tillicoultry through walk

25 members. Path up Braes of Ogilvy up to Upper Glen Devon. Weather cold wet and foggy. Top of Ben Cleugh quite busy. Steep descent on busy route.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For a boxing day meet contact Colin or Brian .

Club High Tea will be on January 10th at Glen Isla Hotel. The price is £8.50 for 3 courses. Meet at Auchavan 0930. Names for the high tea, to Angus Spence on Forfar 65644.

Winter programme:- Jan 6th John Muir Trust - Terry Isles. Feb 3rd Access to the Hills - Bob Reid M.C.of S.

**NOTE- THE MARCH MEETING
WILL NOW BE TUESDAY 2ND
MARCH.** Mr Robertson will talk on Mountain Plants and flowers.

AGM - Will be held in Jarman's Hotel on March 17th at 7.30pm

PERSONAL COLUMN

Keith Headridge, a recent ex-member who served as Hut Custodian and Assistant Meet Secretary was married on October 31st in Aberdeen to Fiona. We wish them well.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

As we didn't ask for any there are none! But, if you have something you wish to write about, why not send it in to the Secretary and we'll consider it for the next newsletter. To: Angus Spence, 5 Muirlands Court, Lunanhead, Forfar DD8 3NE

FUN COLUMN

What do you call a Carn Dearg meet on a hillside??

Answer:-A thicket.

REMEMBER

**IF THE MEET INVOLVES A BUS,
PLEASE PHONE BRIAN
(FORFAR 63087) ON FRIDAY
EVENING BEFORE THE WALK.**