



Forfar & District Hillwalking Club

www.fdhwc.org.uk

Newsletter 23 July 2003

President's Column

Well we've almost reached our 40th birthday – we were formed in October 1963. In the last newsletter, you were asked to fill up a questionnaire regarding what the club should do to celebrate this achievement. From the results, the committee have drawn up a programme including a trip to Madeira, a ceilidh and a repeat of the first walk. Details are to be found in this newsletter.

Unfortunately, at the end of May, Bob Railton (secretary) and Carolyn Noble (committee member) handed in their resignations from the committee. This followed an item of business raised by a member at the last open meeting on May 14th. Despite pleas from the rest of the committee, Bob and Carolyn have not changed their minds about standing down. They plan to remain active members of the club. Angus Spence has volunteered to fill the post of secretary until the next AGM. Since the committee work will be considerable over the next few months as we near the anniversary, it felt that Carolyn's position should also be filled and Grant Dawson has been co-opted onto the committee as ordinary member. I would like to thank Bob and Carolyn for the work they did in their 14 months as committee members, and hope they might consider further committee work in the years ahead.

We had a good collection of speakers for the second half of the winter programme – John Rodgers (Wind River, Wyoming), David Downie (SNH) and Roger Wild (Navigation) :- all very impressive speakers on interesting topics. There is a change for the coming winter programme – the venue and day for open meetings has changed. We'll see how it goes.

The committee has come up with the new meet calendar, mainly solicited from members' requests. Some new ideas again – hope you approve. Mid summer has come and gone, but not hopefully the good weather. I hope you all enjoy any holidays you might have, especially if you're out on the hills somewhere.

Colin

Winnie Reid

A past member and munroist (1983) has passed away. Winnie is survived by her husband Davie, another past member. Winnie and Davie completed their Munros together on a glorious winter day on Beinn Sgulaire during a club weekend to the BMC hut Onich in March 1983.

The club web site

Did you know this newsletter is also available on our web site along with past newsletters? The site is updated on a regular basis. Check it out!

40th anniversary celebrations

Madiera Trip	22 members are booked for a week to Madiera. Good walking awaits!
Anniversary Walk	October 26 th – Glen Clova to Loch Muick via Capel Mounth returning by Sandy Hillocks. A repeat of the first walk done 40 years before. Repeated on the 21 st and 25 th anniversaries. Followed by a get-together in Clova Hotel
Ceilidh	28 th November in Queens Hotel, Forfar

Open Meetings - change of venue and day

We've moved meetings for the coming year to the lounge bar of the Queens Street Tavern in Forfar on a Monday night at 7.30pm. This is initially a trial and will be reviewed at the next AGM.

New weekend booking arrangements

Due to substantial losses on some weekend meets because of late cancellations, the committee have decided that from July 2003 onwards, full payment must be made up front. There will be no refunds unless you manage to fill your place. Weekend meets were suffering due to members booking, paying a deposit and cancelling. The club would keep the deposit, but in many places this did not cover the actual cost of the hire of the accommodation.

North Face of the Eiger

Climbed in March by Alastair Coull (ex-member), son of Brian and Janet – congratulations from all.

Boots across Scotland

The committee has been in touch with the Boots Across Scotland Trust to make sure we covered the Boots Across Scotland event on 6th June 2004. We had Gordon Pierson from Boots as a speaker in October of 2002. Boots is a charitable trust originally setup to help one injured climber, but has expanded to cover safety training. The Boots event involve climbing all the Munros on one day and being at the top at a particular time. Obviously an individual or group picks one hill. The event is sponsored. The club took part in 3 previous Boots events :- 1992 : Meal nan Eun, 1996 : Beinn a Ghlo, 2000 : Slioch. After the meeting Gordon asked if the club was willing to organise one of the annual Boots Safety lectures. Well we have. Mick Tighe will be in Angus to give us one of the Boots Across Scotland Winter Safety lectures in November. Date and venue yet to be confirmed. Boots pay for everything, the club is only required to organise the event – a great chance to advertise ourselves in Angus.

Provisional Winter Programme

(Queens Street Tavern in Forfar on a Monday night at 7.30pm.)

September 1 st	Shirley Hill, Nepal
October 20 th	to be decided
November 3 rd	Quiz night
December 1 st	to be decided
January 12 th	Hamish Lean, Access Code
Feb 2 nd	Burns theme
Mar 1 st	Annual General Meeting
April 29 th	Tom Ward, John Muir Trails
May 10 th	to be decided

New bus company

May 25th saw the first trip with the new bus company "Black Jock". The bus was fine, but I think the driver needs a lesson on how to get out of Forfar and then out out Angus! This new company is very competitive compared with Wisharts, our previous company and will help to drive down the costs.

New Bus fares

The committee has decided that bus fares for the new meet calendar will be £10 per person (£5 junior).

One to go

Our meet secretary has one Munro left – Beinn na Lap, to be tackled some Saturday in August. This follows a successful assault on Skye by the 3 grey beardies in June.

Email addresses / mobile numbers wanted

Please give us your email address and mobile number. The next phase of club communication improvements is to make use of email. The committee already make heavy use of email.

The next newsletter - Newsletter 24 will be a 40th anniversary bumper issue. Anyone willing to lend a hand in its production should get in touch with any committee member.

Mountaineering Council of Scotland AGM

The president attended this AGM held in Glenmore Lodge on 21st June. There is a new president – John MacKenzie, fees are to rise due to insurance costs rising – now £8.00 per head. Debate on the Access Code followed.

Land Reform Bill - Access Code

The 4th month period for review of the draft Access Code ended on 30th June. There will be a second draft to be put before the Scottish parliament. The new Access Bill and its practical companion the Access Code will become law in early 2004.

Meet Secretary's report

4th Jan, Fern Hill.

Attendance 7

Started at Afflochie farm climbed Craig of Trusta, Oldman and along ridge to Laidwinley where the group contoured below the hill of Garbet to gain path back to Afflochie. Clear sunny day, lots of powder snow very deep in drifts making going hard.

19th Jan, Mount Battock.

Attendance 33

Started at Mill of Aucheen taking the track north we climbed Mount Battock returning by Bennygray to Aucheen. Cold wind a bit of mist but we got a view from the top. Three members walked up the water of Saughs from Hunthill Lodge in Glen Lethnot. The High Tea turn out was tremendous 43 members and guest attended.

9th Feb, Drummochter.

Attendance 11

Starting at Drummochter summit we took the track up Corie Dnomhain crossing the river and up the shoulder on to Sgairneach Mhor. From here three members returned to the cars. The rest continued on and were treated to amazing view of Ben Alder. The rest continued onto Beinn Udlamain and along the high ground to A'Mharconaich at this point two returned to the cars the remainder carrying to Geal Charn and down to Balsporran Cottages to the waiting cars.

20th March, Glen Shee

Attendance 14

Starting at Dalmunzie Hotel in Glen Lochsie we followed the old railway track leading to Glen Lochsie lodge and on to the ridge to Glas Tulaichean. It was a rather dreich day with mist, rain and strong winds. We returned by Glen Taitneach crossing swollen burns on the way.

28th-30th March, Glen Feshie.

Attendance 13

Accommodation in MCoF S Mill Cottage.

Saturday: Groups on Ben MacDui via Fiachill Ridge, Monalaighs and Bynack More.

Sunday: Groups on Bynack More again, Feshie Fills, Geal Charn Mor (Corbett) and low level in Rothiemurchus. Brian Coull started a two day cycle home to Forfar by cycling through Glen Feshie to Linn o' Dee.

20th April, Linn o' Dee. Bus.

Attendance 19

Three walks were done.

12 members climbed Beinn Bhrotain by the white bridge, and climbing the ridge to Carn Cloich-Mhuilinn and on to the summit, returning by Allt Garbh and Glen Dee, Visiting the Chest of Dee with its crystal clear water, and back to Linn o' Dee.

3 members climbed the Corbett, Sgor Mor via the white bridge and up the south ridge to the top. From this point the views were excellent. Then over Sgor Dubh and home to Linn o' Dee.

3 members climbed Carn a' Mhiam passing Derry Lodge and up Glen Luibeg ascending south east ridge the top and returning by the outward route.

An older member walked up Glen Dee.

2th-5th May, Arran.

Attendance 13

Saturday,

Starting at Shore lodge (excellent) in the castle grounds the group went up Glen Rosa and on to Beinn nua, Beinn Tarsuinn and A'Chir good views all round. Some tricky scrambling, but we were well looked after by the rope man. Thanks Bob. Then down the bad step and home in the pouring rain for all except for the party goers, Brian and Bill (BBQ under tree)

Sunday,

A wash out. Angus and Linda waded up Goat fell from Corrie. Brian, Janet, Tom took bus to Lochranza and walked via the coast to Sannox.

Monday, Colin and Bill, climbed Cioch Na h'Oighe, North Goat Fell along Stacach Ridge to Goat Fell. Tom and

Brian C set off on a bike journey back to Forfar in 3 days.

25th May, Beinn Lawers. Bus

Attendance 20

Starting at Camusurachan in Glen Lyon, Two groups crossed to the visitors centre at Loch Tay. A group of 6 members walked over Meall a' Leith, Meal Corranaich then on to the visitors centre. Two of that group also climbed Beinn Ghlas. The other group of 14 members climbed Meall Garbh, An Stuc, Ben Lawers and Beinn Ghlas and on to visitors centre. The weather not bad only a couple of showers. Visibility was very good. The Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth was spotted from the top of Ben Lawers.

8th June, Victoria Bridge. Bus. Cancelled.

Attendance 11

Changed venue in pursuit of better weather went Loch Awe could not get out of cars for torrential rain !!

Starting at the head of Loch Awe we climbed up Beinn Chocuill on a very hot and clammy morning (22°C) reaching the top 1pm, then on to Beinn Eunaich reaching the top in a shower of rain (10°C) returned to cars 4.0pm. On the way home an Osprey was spotted carrying trout at Loch Earn.

20th-22th June Onich

Attendance 14

Friday, One member climbed Stob a' Choire Mheadhoin, Stob Coire Easain from Fersit before travelling onto Onich for the weekend.

Saturday, Two parties went to the Mamores. One party starting at Achriabhach climbed Sgurr a' Mhaim along the Devil's ridge to Sgorr an Iubhair then back to the cars. The other party starting at Mamores Lodge hotel climbed Na Gruagaicheah, Stob Corrie a' Chairn, Am Bodach and back to the cars. From the top of Glen Nevis two members climbed Aonach Mor and Aonach Beag passing the ruins of Steal on the way. Brian Coull took three members up the Corbett Stob Coire a' Chearcaill across the sea in Ardgour then to a coffee shop at Strontain.

Sunday, Only one hardy member ventured and climbed An Gearanach on the Mamores.

The weather over the weekend was very disappointing but everybody enjoyed themselves.

Please phone the meet secretary or assistant before walks so numbers are known for buses.