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Forfar & District Hillwalking Club

Newsletter 25 June 2005

President's Column

Well, It's quite a time since we had our last newsletter: - no.24 was published in December 2003 in fact, to mark our 40th anniversary. Newsletters started in June 1992 and were bi-annual thereafter until 2003. The editor of most of these newsletters was Angus Spence – come back Angus! There were then no newsletters at all in 2004 and quite a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since no. 24 was issued. I think the club is in very good shape. It's good to see increased participation in meets. The reintroduction of buses two years ago has been very successful and these tend to be the most popular meets. You will see in the new meet calendar that the number of bus meets has increased again. Following the popular 40th anniversary ceilidh, another was arranged for last November. Again it was very successful, though it was a bit of an effort to raise the numbers in the end. Also, the gird race was run. Congratulations to a new champion, John Dawson.

I have to thank those members of the last committee who stood down at the last AGM. Thanks to John Dawson for his work as meet secretary (2 years, following his 5 year stint as assistant meet secretary), and his able assistant Mat (2 years, following a year as press secretary). Thanks to Michelle (2 years as press secretary) and Grant (2 and a half years as "ordinary" committee member, but special task were the last two ceilidhs). Thanks also to Brian for his work as secretary (1 year) – he's now retired to become a full time cyclist. And of course thanks to Ray for an incredible 9 years as treasurer. Ray has taken the post of treasurer at TMRA and is staying on the committee as Meet Secretary (see below)

At the AGM in March, a brand new committee was elected: only myself and Ray remain from the previous committee. In order to get to know your new committee some self-scribed notes now follow about people you may or may not know.

Ray Campbell – Meet Secretary

No, seriously! I am the new Meet Secretary. After nine years as Treasurer I thought it was time for a change. I've gone from counting the money to counting people on the bus and on the hill. I haven't lost anyone yet; still, it's early days. Many of you will know me for my exploits in straight-line navigation, snoring on weekend meets (ask Frank), and turning back when ten metres short of the summit. These are all good qualities for a Meet Secretary. I am almost down to my last hundred Munros but it's getting more difficult to pick them off now. Perhaps I can abuse my position as Meet Secretary to accelerate my Munro-bagging. Apart from climbing hills, I act as Treasurer of Tayside Mountain Rescue Association, sit on the Management Committee

of a housing association, try to play the guitar and enjoy listening to weird music like Pink Floyd.

Melanie Henderson - Secretary

I first started hill walking in 2004 after a wander up the Sidlaws and thought "that was good but how about a little higher!".

Ally and I did our first Munro on the 15th May 2004, Mayer then Dreish and haven't looked back since. I work for The Pension Service doing Quality and Accuracy and enjoy the satisfaction this work brings. I love to read, shop for shoes and bags and listen to music as well as cycling. It will also come as no surprise to some that I also like to go out for meals and attempt to cook.

I live with Ally and have two cats which we spoil rotten. I spend a lot of time with family and friends and like the "occasional" tipple.

Shirley Hill - Press Secretary

I joined the group about two years ago in a moment of madness. Since then it's been all downhill....and up....and down again! Anyhow, climbing mountains has been a passion for a very long time and I spend pretty much every spare moment indulging in mountain therapy somewhere. When I'm not climbing mountains, working or trying to keep fit (who laughed?!), I'm a body. Yep, every other Sunday or so, you'll find me buried under piles of rubble waiting to be rescued by a hairy, smelly but completely adorable little friend who answers to the name of Gus. He also happens to be a German Pointer and barks a lot. What else? Oh yes, I'm half Italian/half Scottish which probably explains a lot and I spend every spare penny getting lost in airports en route to far flung mountainous corners of the world. Did I mention that I'm not too hot on navigation? Better get that in before someone else does! But then why bother when some chap is willing to get the map out and set a bearing and count paces and check the time and all that very important stuff when the wind's howling and the rain's tipping it down and your hands are nice and toasty where they are thank you very much! Right. Can sense I'm wittering. Apparently some fool voted me in as Press Secretary and in another moment of madness I agreed. Promise to try my very best though can't promise to be completely sane ☺

Dorothy Laing – ordinary committee member

I was voted on as Ordinary member for our club. I've been a member with the club for a number of years now having joined with my husband Brian. We live in Forfar with our daughter (Madeana) and dog (Prince). We have really enjoyed going out on the day and weekend meets and have especially enjoyed the company of the other members. Going to Madeira for the club's 40th anniversary spurred Brian and I into trekking in Morocco (climbing Mount Toubkal) last year. Next April we hope to complete the Annapurna circuit in Nepal. I hope to enjoy many more

trips with the club in the future and have to say (not that I'm biased) this year's selection of walks is certainly very enticing.

Willie Mather – Assistant Meet Secretary

Occupation: farmer. Usual hill walking gear : tweed bonnet! Started hill walking 13 years ago when my wife Sheila bought me a pair of boots for my 40th birthday. Joined FDHWC in September 1995. 253 Munros later, I have been voted on as Assistant Meet Secretary. Although I am the person who advised Ray to turn back 10 metres from the summit of Creag Mhor (Glen Lochay), I only realised how close we were six days later, when I returned to the said mountain to discover that steep sided exposed ridge which we'd climbed up in blizzard conditions, was in fact the summit cairn! So you can see that Ray will always listen to my advice and that between us we can always be relied upon to lead you successfully in all our ascents! However, as the person with the most important post, Ray will always take the blame! Apart from assisting Ray during club meets, I have plans to spend 3 weeks in Patagonia in November 2005, trekking in Fitzroy and Paine National Parks with our illustrious member Brian Coull...and he will be doing the slide show!

Colin Sinclair – President.

In the 4th year of my second term as president (last was 92-96) so you've probably had enough of me by now! I describe myself as a complete hill-walker (can't understand the mentality of baggers!), although at the Kinlochleven weekend, I deliberately climbed my first Marilyn – a fine damp wee bump in the middle of a bog somewhere north of the Blackwater Reservoir. I'm a Fifer and of course a fanatic Raith Rovers supporter (look out Forfar, we're going to cuff you this year in the mighty SFL Div. 2). I keep guinea pigs as pets and as many Scotsmen do, I love a guid howk and scalf at the wee white ba' out on the links every Saturday morning I play a LOT of badminton, though now classified as a veteran! And I have a very understanding wife!

Steve Wilson - Treasurer

There I was, the new boy at the AGM, trying to show some interest in the workings of the Club. Pretty tedious stuff and embarrassing, everyone looking to the ground as the President asked once again for a volunteer to take on the role of Treasurer. Not my problem, I was just wondering when I would have the chance to order another pint?

The next thing, I feel a sharp pain in my upper arm. I turn to identify my attacker and partly raise my arm to check the injury and rub away the pain. The eagle-eyed President saw this involuntary action and it was the chance he'd been looking for. In a split second I was thanked for volunteering, someone else said they would second the motion and before any words were able to leave my mouth I was your new Treasurer. Thank you Willie Mather.....

Now the question is, can you trust the new guy with the money? Unlike your last Treasurer I'm not an accountant. However, I must say I've already experienced great enjoyment in being given bundles of cash. I suggest the auditors keep a close eye on the books to ensure any temptation is avoided!

So what are my credentials for the post of Treasurer? Well it helps if your family is well connected. Colin

Sinclair, your renowned President, is my brother-in-law. The connection is on the female side. Elaine, my wife, is the sister of Linda Sinclair. Hope that's not too complicated?

For anyone who is yet to meet me I have to declare that I'm from south of the border. Newcastle upon Tyne in fact, which means the number of 'Geordies' in the Club has now doubled. I don't think you'll have a problem with my accent but the reverse can be an issue for me. So please be patient with me if at times I look lost in the middle of some conversations – I am slowly adjusting to the new dialects and expressions.

I've now been in Angus for 7 months, working for the Council in the economic development unit. Unfortunately, the family is still living in N Yorkshire and therefore I try to return home every other weekend – working around the Club meets if at all possible! The plan is for Elaine and our three kids to move North in the Summer of 2006, when the next set of school exams are out of the way.

The one benefit of being away from the family is that suddenly there is more to life than working through the day followed by the provision of a taxi service to the kids during the evenings and at weekends. I have some time to myself. This has allowed me to go hill walking once again, something I am thoroughly enjoying.

I look forward to meeting the rest of you and walking with my new friends in the months ahead.

Weekend booking arrangements

It was decided back in 2003 that due to substantial losses on some weekend meets because of late cancellations, the 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.

Open Meetings - change of venue and day (again!)

In 2004-2005, we held the club's open meetings on Wednesdays in TJ's, Castle Street, Forfar. At the AGM, the membership thought that TJ's was not suitable: - very often unheated, had a very smoky entrance and often had a few NEDs hanging around. The number attending meetings was also well down from the previous year. This may be because of one of two factors, the location and the move back to a Wednesday night.

The committee have decided to move the location of the open meetings back to the Queen Street Tavern, (as was the case in 2003-2004) This location is only available on a Monday evening, so it means changes back to Monday nights as well.

Also it is difficult to plan open meetings for up to 9 months in advance, so the detailed calendar for open meetings has only been set until New Year, with only dates set after that date. An update will appear in late November.

Bus Fares

It was decided at the AGM that they are to remain at £10 (£5 junior)

Ben Vuirich , December 2003

Many years ago, the club adopted a trig point from Ordnance Survey. We were allocated Ben Vuirich (south-east of Beinn a Ghlo). This was our 2nd adopted trig point. Our first was The Crannell near Edzell – which we visited once even when guarded by a fierce gamekeeper who didn't want us near his pheasants. Anyway, our new hill was visited in December 2003 and repainted with Snowcem. It was a log walk in under a blanky of grey frosty mist, but we climbed through the mist and were treated with an amazing temperature inversion. See the photographs on the web site.

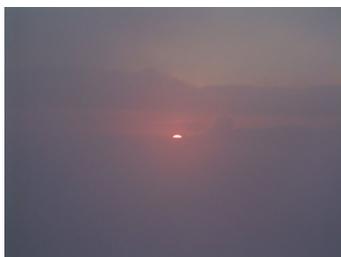


Dance 2005?

The club has had a dance (ceilidh) for the past 2 years. When arranging the Nov. 2004 event, the booking was based on number from the year before (the 40th anniversary event). Although last year's event went ahead successfully, it was quite a struggle to raise the numbers. Many non-hill walking folk attended. What do you think about another one this year? Pass on your thoughts to a committee member.

Lochnagar revisited by night

In late June 2004, the club resurrected the traditional overnight tramp to Lochnagar to see the sunrise. Three brave members (Colin & David Sinclair & Iain Hogg) made the trip, leaving Clova at 9.30pm crossing by Bachnagairn and Sandy Hillocks to reach the west end of Loch Muick and then to Glas Alt Sheil. They ascended by the waterfall to reach the summit at 3.30 a.m. and saw the sunrise at 4.12am. Then the long tramp back via the visitor centre at Loch Muick and then over the Capel Mounth.



www.fdhwc.org.uk : 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!

Gird Ca'in Championship

The annual gird ca'in competition took place outside the Glen Clova Hotel on 20th April, 2005. A respectable crowd of spectators, made up principally of sheep and occasional curious passers-by, watched the fourteen members going through their paces.

The first round draw was duly made, and defending champion and favourite Tom Ward came through comfortably against rookie Ally Hay. Linda Sinclair qualified for the second round as best loser but was rewarded for her trouble by becoming Tom's next victim.

The semi-finals were keenly contested with John Dawson emerging victorious against Jerry Husband and champion Tom seeing off Brian Coull.

A third place play-off then took place between Jerry and Brian to give the finalists a breather. This ended in controversy as Jerry complained that he had been interfered with. After a steward's enquiry the appeal was turned down as it was pointed out that no-one would want to interfere with Jerry. Brian therefore won third place.

The final was a very exciting affair with Tom making an excellent start and looking good to retain his crown. However the pace began to tell and John caught him on the home straight and edged home with a length to spare.

After being presented with the trophy, John headed straight for the bar, declining the opportunity to perform a lap of honour.

1st Round

John Easson beat Willie Mather
John Dawson beat Steve Wilson
Jerry Husband beat Gwen Watson
Christine Bailey beat Janet Coull
Brian Coull beat Ray Campbell
Mel Henderson beat Linda Sinclair
Tom Ward beat Ally Hay

2nd Round

John Dawson beat John Easson
Jerry Husband beat Christine Bailey
Brian Coull beat Mel Henderson
Tom Ward beat Linda Sinclair

Semi-finals

John Dawson beat Jerry Husband
Tom Ward beat Brian Coull

3rd place playoff

Brian Coull beat Jerry Husband

Final

John Dawson beat Tom Ward

Please! Please! Please!

Please phone the meet secretary or assistant before walks so numbers are known for buses, and we have a chance to cancel the bus if necessary.

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. You should have received a separate form with this newsletter. Because of the new data protection laws we need your permission to share your details with other members.

Contributions required for the next newsletter

Why not write an article for the next newsletter. Any topic though preferably hill walking. Send it any committee member (email address are on the web site).

Orienteering

The June open meeting took the form of an orienteering event in Crombie Country Park. Luckily the heavy rain stopped just in time, though it left the park soaked. Wellies and waterproof trousers were the order of the day. The park rangers had prepared a map with 15 of the 37 checkpoints within the park and the group has roughly 90 minutes to find them. In fact it took some nearer two hours. All agreed it was good fun and should be repeated at some stage, though allowing more time and having penalty points for late returns!

Another Climbing Night

Last year, one group of 8 spent a successful night at Vertical World climbing centre in Dundee. They even managed to get in at children's rates. A second night was always going to be arranged. It will cost double that of the first group. Get in touch with the committee if interested in taking part. Possible dates in October / November.

Next Foreign Meet?

The club held a foreign meet to Mallorca in October 2000 and then to Madeira in October 2003. What do members think about another in October 2006? Get in touch with a committee member if interested.

How to spell Hill Walking

This interesting question arose at the last committee meeting – raised by our new Geordie, Steve! Well the press and web seem to be puzzled too. Some use it as one word, some are hyphenated and some use words. What do you use? What do you think it should be?

Meet Secretary's reports (since last newsletter in December 2003)

Sunday 5th June 2005

Ben Alder

Attendance: 14

by car and mountain bike

Ben Alder (1148m) and Beinn Bheoil (1019m) were the targets on what was to be a long and strenuous day. The weather looked less than promising as we drove to our starting point in but had cleared nicely by the time we arrived. Mountain bikes were then the order of the day for the long "walk" in and proved the source of much entertainment. "Farmers in lycra" were truly a sight to behold while old hands just back from epic bike

adventures proved themselves just as entertaining by pitching head first into Loch Pattack. Others were less fortunate and had to call it a day before even setting foot on a mountain and, while fourteen set off with every good intention, only a hardy twelve eventually completed the 45 (yes 45!) km circuit.

Muddy ditches and rickety bridges aside the bike in was very pleasant and thankfully dry. Unfortunately, this favourable weather was not set to continue and, just in time for the interesting scramble up the Short Leaches to the summit of Ben Alder, the cloud descended and the proverbial heavens opened. Concentrated effort on steep, greasy rock saw all safely to the top where navigational skills were tested and briefly doubted – proof, if proof were needed, that wearing lycra does affect self-confidence!

An easy walk round the rim of Garbh Coire then steeply down and up again to the "splendid viewpoint" of Sron Coire na h-Iolair. We could only imagine the wondrous sight as the intermittent rain came back on with a vengeance. The summit of Beinn Bheoil was eventually reached and quickly left before a slithering, sliding descent over knee-jarring boulders to the welcome sight of the path back to the bikes. Ah yes, the bikes. Somehow that little detail had slipped the mind. Thankfully the rain had by now stopped and soggy, reluctant limbs were encouraged back onto soggy, reluctant mountain bikes. Some soon regretted the decision to take the scenic route back to the main track and, after some unintentional pirouettes and other such impressive stunts, the decision to get off and push was reached. At last the car park! After a total of ten hours of tough, but thoroughly entertaining, graft. Whose idea was this anyway?!

Ascent: 1325m Distance: 45k Weather: Rain at first and clear spells. Low cloud.

Sunday 15th May 2005

Linn o'Dee to Blair Atholl

Attendance: 20

by bus

Twenty members took part in a lengthy through walk from Linn of Dee to Blair Atholl. As the walkers prepared rucksacks and had breakfast at the start of the route they were entertained by two playful red squirrels shooting up one pine tree and down the next, totally oblivious of their audience.

The group headed along the broad track to White Bridge where they veered south to a tricky crossing of the Geldie Burn. A lengthy stop was enjoyed at the picturesque Falls of Tarf. This proved to be a surprisingly popular picnic spot considering it is ten miles from the nearest public road. The path then led the walkers through the main part of Glen Tilt, past the remote Forest Lodge and down to Gilbert's Bridge, where an extremely deep pool in the river almost tempted some members to demonstrate their diving skills on such a warm day.

It was a very tired but happy group which reached the bus at Old Bridge of Tilt some eight-and-a-half hours and twenty-one miles after setting off from Linn of Dee. On the way home, the spectacle of an osprey carrying a fish provided the other book-end to the day to complement the sight of the squirrels earlier. The beer stop at Dunkeld was even more welcome than usual. Distance 33k

Weather: warm and sunny.

Sunday 29 April – 2 May 2005 Kinlochleven Weekend

Attendance: 14

Fourteen members of the Forfar and District Hillwalking Club attended the club's May bank holiday weekend meet to Kinlochleven. After successfully completing what turned out to be the most challenging task of the weekend (finding our hostel accommodation!) the group split into three separate parties for our Saturday adventures in pleasantly warm and dry conditions. A party of two chose to climb Beinn Fhionnlaidh (959m) in Glen Etive while another double act climbed Stob Coire a Chearcaill, a Corbett near Fort William.

The biggest group of ten opted for an assault on four of the Mamores. An easy walk-in along the stalker's path to Coire an Lochain led to a steep and entertaining climb up the south ridge to the summit of Sgurr Eilde Mor (1008m). The loose scree descent down the west ridge was somewhat less entertaining and creaky old knees gave thanks to the inventor of walking poles. Rucksacks were recklessly abandoned at the midway bealach between Binnean Beag and Binnean Mor and all revelled in the unmitigated bliss of climbing mountains without a sack. The straightforward summit of Binnean Beag (940m) was soon reached to reveal stunning views of the Grey Corries and the unmistakable, if rare, sight of a cloud-free Ben Nevis. Easily back down to the bealach where packs were reluctantly shouldered for the next climb up to the highest Mamore, Binnean Mor (1128m). "Aye, it's a wee bit steep" proved to be the understatement of the day when even rough, tough mountain rescue types were reduced to a crawl up the nigh-on-vertical grassy shoulder. Breath caught, it was a pleasant rocky scramble to the top and then easily onwards to the final summit of the day, Na Gruagaichean (1055m). Limbo-dancing skills were tested on the scenic route back down before the very welcome sight of the road leading to the pub.

Sunday dawned less warm, less clear and a lot less dry. In fact, let's be honest, it was good weather for the proverbial duck. Sane members of the club climbed to the heady heights of Fort William while the masochists bagged various Munros, Corbetts and Marilyn's (hills of any height with at least 150m drop on all sides). The summit of Creise (1100m) again proved elusive for one member as horizontal rain and zero visibility sent his party scurrying back down from the neighbouring summit of Meall a Bhuiridh (1108m). We never had any doubt that we knew where we were going until we noticed we were going back up. Hmmmm. Several bearings later we were back on track albeit a tad wetter than we might have been.

The workers headed home on Sunday night and, on a wet and unpromising bank holiday Monday, eleven club members remained to fight another day. Some wisely played the tourist game but several more Munros were bagged by various parties on their way home. One couple reported avoiding "an impromptu toboggan slide" on Bidean nam Bian (1150m) as their planned route down into Coire Gabhail (the Lost Valley) was found to hold unexpected amounts of hard winter snow. As ice axes were safely tucked up at home (well, it was May after all) sensible heads decided a rethink was necessary and an alternative route back down was found.

Altogether a peak bagging extravaganza of a weekend with a total of fifty-one new ticks on various lists. Not that we're counting of course!

Sunday 10th April 2005 Loch Laggan area

Attendance: 21

by car

We set off at 9.50 from Luiblea at the end of Loch Laggan 18 members and 3 guests followed the track to Lochan na Earba. From there we followed a very wet path to a point just short of the bealach between Beinn a Chlachair and Geal Charn where a path went off to the left. A few hundred metres up this path we found a sheltered spot for a lunch stop. The main group of 16 (plus the bus driver) headed for Geal Charn and came back over Creag Pitridh (walk 'A') while 5 members opted to climb Creag Pitridh only (walk 'B'). It was very windy on the tops but at least it stayed dry with the exception of the first half-hour when we set off in steady rain. The cloud was hovering around Munro level most of the day and visibility was very poor on the upper slopes of Geal Charn.

The group of 5 chased a large herd of deer all the way from Creag Pitridh to Lochan na Earba. After a leisurely stroll back along the track, they got back to the bus at 4.30 with the main group only about 15 minutes behind.

Walk A: Ascent 930m Distance 21k

Walk B: Ascent 680m Distance 19k

Weather: Cloud at 3000ft, very windy

Sunday 18-20 March 2005 Glen Etive Weekend

Attendance: 4

Four members enjoyed an unseasonably warm and sunny weekend at Inverfhaolain cottage in Glen Etive. On Saturday, a party of three set off to climb the three westernmost Munros in the glen. From the bridge across the River Etive at Coileitir a boggy path led the group to the foot of the north-east ridge of Ben Starav and the start of a steep and relentless ascent to the highest point of the day at 1,078 metres. Progress was slower than expected due to the warm weather and frequent stops for photographs and this was to result in a rather unexpected end to the day.. From the summit of Ben Starav the threesome headed along a narrow rocky ridge to a col where they split up, two members taking a detour south to climb Ben nan Aighenan while the third headed east to Glas Beinn Mhor. The three were reunited again some two hours later on the summit of the third Munro of the day, just in time to admire a beautiful sunset. The path in the glen was reached just before dark and a torchlight procession followed back to the car. The group returned to the cottage to find the Club President had arrived three hours before but was locked out.

On the following day the supposedly easier Corbett of Beinn Trilleachen was the destination for Colin, Brian & Ray while Dorothy opted for a more relaxing day. If anything, the weather was even warmer than the day before. The views on both days were tremendous, if a little hazy in the distance. Lismore Island could just be distinguished to the west with Ben Nevis standing out quite clearly to the north-east.

Sunday 6th March 2005

Glen Lyon

Attendance: 20

by bus

Starting at Invervar in Glen Lyon 20 members climbed to the summit of Creag Mhor by the west ridge then continued over to Carn Mairg where we had lunch. A group of ten pushed on to climb Meall Garbh and also Carn Gorm and returned by to the start point at Invervar. Six of the other group continued to Meall Garbh descended to the Invervar burn passing the Sheilings on the path back to the Bus, The remaining four and the bus driver returning to the bus down a ridge just west of Carn Mairg. Another tremendous day with varying snow conditions and great weather with sun cream required.

Walk A: Ascent 1360m Distance 16.3k

Walk B: Ascent 1149m Distance 14k

Weather: Glorious sunny day

Sunday 6th February 2005

Crianlarich area

Attendance:20

by car

Starting on the A92 just south of Crianlarich twenty members split into three groups, Nine climbing Cruach Ardrain and Beinn Tulaichean (Walk A) Four climbing An Caisteal & Beinn Chabhair (Walk B), Seven climbing An Caisteal & Beinn o'Chroin (Walk C). All had a tremendous walks and fun in glorious sunshine and soft snow on the tops. The views from the summits were really great with Arran, Ireland Jura the Firth of Forth and all the surrounding mountains and countryside bathed in sunshine.

Walk A : Ascent 1219m Distance 13.2k

Walk B : Ascent 1241m Distance 15.3k

Walk C : Ascent 1022m Distance 13.1k

Sunday 16th January 2005

Beinn Vrackie

Attendance: 32

by car

Just as the rain went off we started from the car park beside Balnakeilly just north of Moulin heading north up the track and onto the moor and passing Creag Bhreac and Loch a'Choire then onto the cloudy summit of Ben Vrackie. We sheltered on the north side and had lunch and then continued along the ridge towards Meall an Daimh but dropped off west before reaching the summit to then follow the track back over the bealach west of Meall nah Aodainn Moire and back to Balnakeilly. Wild life spotted Buzzard, Red Grouse, White Hares. Unfortunately the weather on the summit was disappointing because later in the day the views were excellent. We then had high tea in the Moulin Hotel which was excellent.

Ascent: 765m Distance: 10.1k Weather: Rain at first and cloud on top but a good day later

Monday 3rd January 2005

Clachnaben

Attendance: 19

by car

Starting at the Spittal Cottage ruin in Glen Dye we took the track following the burn west to Charr where we had a bite to eat in comfort in the bothy. We then went north along the track to the Hill of Edendocher and onto the summit of Clachnaben. Here we clambered onto a very

windy tor to enjoy excellent views of the surrounding countryside returning to the cars by the new path. We stopped at the Panmure Hotel for refreshments and another blether

Ascent: 587m Distance 15.1k Weather: Cold wind but a good day

Monday 27th December 2004

Ben Gulabin

Attendance: 20

by car

Starting at the Spittal of Glen Shee crossing to the north side of the burn we followed the track up into Gleann Taitneach then turning northeast and up the northwest side of Ben Gulabin to the summit. We stopped here for lunch then we descended northeast passing the site of an old ski hut then down to road and back to the Spittal Hotel for refreshments and a blether.

Ascent: 500m Distance: 9k Weather: Cold wind with rain not far away

Sunday 5th December 2004

Schiehallion

Attendance: 33

by bus (31 on bus)

Starting at the Braes of Foss and following the new path we climbed to the summit of Schiehallion unfortunately one of the members slipped and cut a finger on the sharp rocks but we patched him up he continued on none the worse for it. On the summit we sheltered from the cold and had lunch, the views from the summit today were quite hazy; We then descended down the northwest ridge in very blustery conditions to the road at Dunalastair Water and back to the bus stopping at Dunkeld for refreshments then home to Forfar. Wild life spotted red grouse, black cock Ascent 744m Distance: 8.66k Weather: Good weather but a cold wind on top

Sunday 15th August 2004

Beinn a Bhuid & Ben Avon

Attendance: 14

By car.

Starting at the Linn of Quoich on a glorious sunny morning the group walked up Glen Quoich after crossing the burn they climbed up the shoulder of Carn Allt na Beinne and onto the summit of Beinn a' Bhuid. From here the views were excellent. Here group split up some (4) returning back to the cars by the ascent route. One member did all the tops of Beinn a' Bhuid, while the remainder carried on to Ben Avon all climbing the tors on the summit. They then returned due south by Carn Eag Dhubbh and over the shoulder of the Corbett, Carn na Drochaide, and back to the cars but one hardy soul climbed the Corbett. It was a very long and hard day but was very enjoyable with great views of the surrounding countryside. Wild life spotted eagle, grouse, mountain hare, red deer, roe deer, grey wagtail. Glorious sunny morning a odd spot of rain in afternoon. Distance Walked: -30km (27.6 km). Ascent: -1420m (950m).

Friday 25th/ Saturday 26th June 2004

Lochnagar sunrise

Attendance : 3

Starting at Glen Doll Car park at 9.15pm the group went up to Bachnagairn over to Loch Muick round to Glas-alt-Sheil up on to the summit of Lochnagar arriving at

3.30am in time for the sun rise at 4.12am photo's were taken and they returned by way of the Spittal of Muick and back over the Capel Mounth road to Glen Doll arriving at 09:50am a distance of 33.7km ascent of 1760metres

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th June Weekend Lake District, Glenridding

Attendance 12 +1 guest

Ten members stayed in the hostel beside the disused mine above Glenridding and three stayed in B/B in Glenridding.

Saturday : Starting at the hostel the group climbed Helvellyn going by White Side and Lower Man to the summit continuing to Nethernmost Pike and Dollywagon Pike before descending to Grisedale Tarn at this point Colin and Alex went off Wainwrighting going over Fairfield and St Sunday Crag. The rest of the group then followed Grisedale Beck down towards Patterdale then back to the hostel. The weather was very cold with showers of rain. The group went to the White Lion Hotel in Patterdale for a meal in the evening.

Sunday : Starting at the Inn at the top of the Kirkstone Pass six members climbed High Street going by Stony Cove Pike then to Thornthwaite Crag here there was a number of beautiful black fell ponies with natural dreadlocks in their manes and tails touching the ground. We continued on to the summit of High Street where we had excellent views of the surrounding fells and dales also Blackpool Towers was spotted. After walking along the High Street we climbed over The Knott and we descended by Hayeswater Gill to Hartsop. The weather was good and the showers missed the group all day. Two members were tourist for the day. Four Ladies went shopping in Ambleside.

Sunday 6th June 2004

Beinn Mhanach - Boots Across Scotland

Attendance: 19 by bus

Starting at Auch following the burn into Auch Gleann round the south shoulder of Beinn Chuirn then a stiff climb northeast to the summit of Beinn Mhanach descending west into the coire then south west round the coire passing south of Beinn Achaladair then down into Coire Achaladair then to farm at Achaladair As the cloud was low at times the day turned out to be a good navigation exercise. The views were limited from the summit due to the cloud. The ground was quite wet as there had been a lot of rain over night. An enjoyable day was had by all with refreshments at the Bridge of Orchy Hotel.

Ascent:995m Distance:17.7k Weather:Low Cloud with mist and drizzle at times

Sunday 16th May 2004

Glen Clunie to Loch Muick (bus)

Attendance : 22

Starting at weir in Glen Clunie we crossed over to Loch Callater and on to the path leading to the summit of Carn an Sagairt Mor at this point sum of the members inspected the wreckage of a Buccaneer fighter plane which crashed here many years ago. We continued on towards Lochnagar passing an old whiskey still and closeby the still was the remains of an old wooden barrel 'whisky perhaps'. We climbed to the summit of Carn a'Choire Bhaidheach and onto Lochnagar then returned down by the Fox's Well and back to the bus. During the day we were treated glorious weather and great views of the surrounding countryside with Ben

Nevis being picked out. The new members had a tremendous introduction to Lochnagar and it wild cliffs and views. (distance 22k ascent :1193m)

Friday 30th April - Monday 4th May 2004

Inchnadamph Lodge, Assynt.

Attendance 24

Nineteen members stayed in the excellent Inchnadamph Lodge

Various walks and quite a number of mountains were climbed over the weekend in weather conditions varying from warm sunshine to snow showers. The group on Ben More Assynt on Saturday spotted a pair of Red-throated Divers at Dubh Loch Mor. Also a Red Kite was seen on Friday at Contin. On the road home a Black Cock lek was spotted.

Most of the group dined at the Altnacealgach Hotel on the Sat and Sun nights - also excellent. It was a good and enjoyable weekend

Friday

Two climbed Am Faochagach

Weather-Showers

Saturday

Fourteen climbed Ben More Assynt and Conival via the south-east ridge and south top.

Three climbed Ben More Coigach.

One climbed Seana Bhragh

Two climbed Breabag.

Two explored Gleann Leireag.

Weather -Warm with broken cloud

Sunday

Fifteen climbed Canisp

Five climbed Cul Mor

Three explored the Bone Caves and also tried to go to Suileag Bothie

Weather-Low cloud with cold wind

Monday

One climbed Beinn Laith Mhor a'Ghiubhais Li

Four climbed Beinn Wyvis

Two climbed Fionn Bheinn

Five were tourist for the day

Weather- Heavy showers with snow on tops

Wildlife spotted

Red Kite - Red Throated Divers - - Black cock Lek - Snow Bunting - Red deer

Sunday 18th April 2004

Ben Lomond

Attendance: 14, by cars

Starting at the car park 1km north of Blairuskinmore taking the track from Blairuskinmore to Comer then going up the ridge on the south side of Coire a' Bhathaich then on to the summit by the main south ridge. The weather at this point started to clear up and we were treated to glimpses of Loch Lomond and the surrounding area. It was a very tough days walking due the wet under foot conditions but everybody enjoyed the day especially the new member on her first on the hills. Three members climbed the main northeast ridge and joined the main group on the summit. The group stopped at Aberfoyle for well-earned refreshments before returning to Forfar.

Ascent:1201m Descent:1201m

Distance:24.3k Weather:Intermit rain with snow clearing up in the afternoon.

Sunday 7th March 2004

Tarmachan Ridge

Attendance: 20 by bus

Group of 14 started at the Ben Lawers visitors centre taking the track west then striking north up the hill to the summit of Meall nan Tarmachan along the ridge to Beinn nan Eachan continuing to Creag na Caillich returning to the road at power station. Some members tried their crampons for the first time on the approach to the summit of Meall nan Tarmachan. A few Ptarmigan in winter plumage were spotted on the Ptarmigan Ridge. It was a very enjoyable day.

Ascent: 864m Descent: 1146m Distance: 10.2k Weather:

Meanwhile group of 6 walked at low level route: Starting just west of the Falls of Dochart at Killin following the track south then southwest to Glen Ogle there onto the dismantled railway line to Lochearnhead, continuing along the line all the way to Woodhouse then along the road to St Fillans. Some of the line was all right but in parts a machete would have been helpful. Quite a walk ! Ascent 427m Distance 21k.

Weather: Cold wind with cloud in the morning clear sunny afternoon

Sunday 15th February 2004

postponed from previous Sunday. Cairngorm, Ben Macdui Attendance 7 Cars Left Forfar 6.00am Frank Low John Dawson Jerry Husband Jim Dickson John Easson Ray Campbell Matt Torrie Starting at the Coire Cas car park and going by Sron an Aonaich we climbed to the summit of Cairngorm, Here we just about had another temperature inversion, but did get a very unusual Brocken Spectre. We continued along the corries then headed off to the summit of Ben Macdui and again here another Brocken Spectre. On the return we passed Lochan Buidhe - "the highest lochan in Britain", and continued down the ridge on the west side of Coire an Lochan and back to the Coire Cas car park. Good navigation was required today as visibility was very poor. Weather: - Cloud with sun trying to come on the tops Distance Walked: - 16 km Ascent: - 1036m

Sunday 18th January 2004

Glen Isla

Attendance: 25 by car

Starting at Auchavan we followed the track west up on to Monamenach navigation being required here as the cloud was down also the going was quite hard in the soft snow. We continued on to Black Hill at this point a snowball fight started and continued most of the way to the Tulchan Lodge. We then returned down the road to the cars at Auchavan. This group were joined by ** other members for high tea at Glen Isla Hotel. Ascent 626m Distance: 10.2k Weather: Low cloud rain showers with snow on high ground

Festive Meet : Sunday 4th January 2004

12 members attended. Left Myre at 8.10am for Glen Clunie, parking at the foot of the Monega path. Climbed Carn an Tuirc - patchy snow. Up through the clouds for yet another temperature inversion. It was hard going round to Cairn o' Claise through soft snow. Descended by Sron na Gaoithe and did some practice of ice-axe breaking before reaching cars at 3.30pm. Pub stop at Bridge of Cally.

Festive Meet : Sunday 28th December 2003

19 members attended. Left Myre at 8am. Proposed meet to Glen Clunie was not possible because Cairnwell road was blocked with snow. Instead 10 at Cat Law and 8 at Loch Ordie.

Sunday 7th December 2003

Beinn Vuirich

The walk started at Loch Moraig following a track as far as Shinagag Farm then along the Sron na h Innearach ridge to Ben Vuirich on reaching the summit the club were to be repairing the trig point, however they found it in quite good order. The only thing needing any touching up was the paintwork. The members waited eagerly to paint part of the trig point, one member even decided to make his jacket look bonny whilst waiting for his turn! Amazing views were seen at the summit, the clouds were actually lower than some of the tops around and including Ben Vuirich. The return was the reverse of the ascent route.

Ascent: 896k Distance: 23.2k Weather: Crisp frosty day.