

Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

NEWSLETTER 5

June 1994

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I remember writing an introduction to the last newsletter just before Christmas and saying to myself that I would definitely prepare these few lines several weeks before they were needed. Well, here I am, only hours from the printer's deadline, still typing away. Always at the coo's tail, as my mum says. I seem to be one of those people who do everything at the last possible moment. Time is never on my side. I remember once chasing the bus out of Forfar with headlights flashing, much to the delight of Stan Taylor. There's even been a song written about my 80mph sprints up the road from Carnoustie to Forfar on Sunday mornings.

Woke up, fell out of bed.

Dragged a comb across my head (what for, asks you!)

Found my way downstairs and drank a cup

And looking up I noticed I am late

Found my coat and grabbed my hat

And made the bus in seconds flat

These lines of course are from the Beatles' classic 1967 album Sergeant Pepper in the song "A day in the life". This brings me on nicely to the subject of songs of the hills - not the raucous chanting of "The Golden Cagoule", but real songs sung by real people. Who are those people in the audience? I wonder if they're paid to go along. Anyway, here's a challenge - your starter for 10. How many songs can you name with hills/mountains in the title or chorus? Here's one "The hills are alive with the sound of music..." sung by Julie Andrews in The Sound of Music. Answers, please, on a postcard to the secretary. First prize is the chance for you to write the introduction to the next newsletter.

I'm ranting and raving again. Still this brings me on to my next subject - access. How on earth is access related to a Beatles' Song? What is the man going to say next? Has the president finally cracked? Well, access is a hot subject at the moment and of course the new criminal legislation is being put in place to combat "raves". (Is the choral orgy at the end of The Golden Cagoule regarded as a rave? We can only hope so!) Those who have attended the last few open meetings (not many of you!) will be aware of the correspondence that has been received and sent on the subject of the new Criminal

Justice and Public Order Bill which is currently being ratified in the House of Lords. If you have any problems with access, please let me know.

It's time for me to go as I've filled a few lines. Which reminds me that I'm due an apology to many new members - I just can't remember all your names. There have been so many new faces over the past few months that I'm having problems coping. Sorry again to all whom I've spoken to recently and addressed anonymously. Welcome to the club.

Hope you enjoy this newsletter, and the new meet calendar. May everyone have a good summer. Hope to see you on one of the meets over the summer.

Colin, Pres.

Address List

The address list has been updated with the numerous telephone changes that are taking place. If you change address, then let the secretary know as soon as possible.

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due. (£10 for seniors, £5 for concessions/juniors).

Stop Press

Congratulations to Jim Douglas for completing the Great Outdoor Challenge (formally the Ultimate Challenge) last month. Jim walked across Scotland from coast to coast. He has promised a full report for Newsletter 6.

Also congratulations to Rita Norrie for gaining a Silver Award under the Duke of Edinburgh's "Discovery award scheme". Her activities included completing the Munros, aerobics, swimming, gardening and working for Radio North Angus (Hospital Radios)

Committee Changes

Your new committee is listed on your meet calendar. Two committee members retired at the AGM in March. Thanks to Linda Spence for her 5 year stint as Press Secretary and to Angus Spence for his two years as secretary (and editor of newsletters 1-4).

Summit Sweep

The next day meet to Stuchd an Lochain is part of the John Muir Trust's operation "Summit Sweep" to clean up the Marilyn's of Britain. Bring a large rucksack - you may have to carry down some rubbish. Polythene bags will be provided.

New Trig. Point

After January's confrontation with the gamekeeper on the Crannel, we were advised by Ordnance Survey that our choice of trig. point had not been allocated to us because of access problems with the landowner! We re-applied for another stating Ben Vuirich as our preference and have provisionally been allocated it. Provisionally means that we are waiting on access being arranged. For those who don't know Ben Vuirich is a Corbett (2961 ft) lying to the South East of Beinn a' Ghlo and normally reached from the Kirkmichael - Pitlochry road. We have included a visit to it in the meet calendar as part of a through walk.

Information for All

Copies of the following newsletters of organisations to which the club is affiliated are available from the secretary

Mountaineering Council of Scotland No. 19 (Feb.94)	No. 20 (May 94)
Scottish Rights of Way Society	Spring 94

Glen Clova Road Race

Team Members are required to run this half-marathon in November. We entered a team in 1992 and didn't come last!

Brief meet summary since Newsletter 4

Full report in Newsletter 6

Boxing Day

While most of us were still indulging in the Christmas festivities, eleven members walked to Burnt Hill in Glen Esk over light powder snow and with good visibility.

Jan 3rd

A dozen or so people set out to climb Ben Gulabin at the Spittal of Glen Shee. Conditions were far from perfect with wet snow, poor visibility and strong winds but 4 reached the summit.

Jan 9th

Twenty-two people went on a trig point tramp to the Crannel, East Wirren and Hill of Wirren. Our access to the hills was challenged by the gamekeeper, who was concerned about the effect walkers would have on pheasants. There were strong winds and the hills were up in the clouds. After the walk the party enjoyed tea at the Panmure Arms in Edzell.

Feb 6th

This trip to Ben Vrackie found 17 members up in the clouds again. It was also very icy. Fortunately it cleared up on the descent.

March 6th

The bus was cancelled and 9 people went by car. Ben Vorlich was climbed, with one group reaching the summit in very bad conditions

March 20/21st

The weekend meet to Roybridge found 18 members enjoying lots of snow and good weather. It was very icy and crampons were needed all weekend. 10 Munros and a number of Corbetts were climbed with one group doing Stob Ban and all the Grey Corries. Great bunkhouse, and right next to the pub!

April 17

This was a brilliant day with sunshine and excellent visibility. 21 people walked from Glen Lochay to Kirkton Farm on the A82. Most went over the top of Ben Challum through deep snow, while some chose a low level route via the Bealach Glas Leathaid.

April 30, May 1/2

The May weekend meet was to Dundonnell for the second year running. There were 22 members in all, mostly staying in the Sail Mhor Croft. A good number

of Munros and several Corbetts were climbed. Ice axes and crampons were needed for most hills. The weather on Sunday was fantastic.

May 22nd

This meet was very popular with the bus making a profit for once! 30 people walked from Auld Brig o' Dee to Lock Muick, over Carn-an-t-Sagairt Mor, White Mounth and Lochnagar. It was a fine bright day. A good chip shop and a reasonable pub were found in Ballater.

June 5th

19 people attended this meet to Beinn a Bhuird and Ben Avon, 16 on the bus. It was a clear day, with strong winds and was very cold on the summits

MY FIRST BIG HILLS - memories of an ageing hippy (guess who?)

July 1969 - almost 17 years old. Me - plooky youth, shy schoolboy. Companion - Willie Harley, apprentice electrician, extrovert. Borrowed ex-army rucsac from my uncle (with tent from the Scouts). Hitched north to the newly built centre of Aviemore. Camped at back of Coylumbridge campsite - didn't pay but used all facilities! Spent days in Aviemore - ice rink - music - Cream "Sunshine of Your Love" - swimming - go-carts - underage lager (yuk). Midweek - left tent with nurses from Kirkcaldy - headed south - not a cloud in the sky - Sinclair Hut - top of Braeriach - boiling hot - no water - snow fields - cool - Angel's Peak - Cairn Toul - saw not a soul - nightmare descent to Corrour - plunged into burn - night in Corrour - heather beds - next day - back through Lairig Ghru to campsite - vowed to give up this hard life - resumed life of ease for rest of week.

Tea Person Wanted

A number of people have enquired why tea has stopped being provided at the bus on club meets. In times gone by, the equipment (stove, gas bottle, kettle) was kept by the bus company and brought along on each meet. The meet secretary brought water, tea-bags, sugar and milk (and tea-spoon). Unfortunately, with today's bus company it's necessary for a club member to bring everything along. So the system has broken down. We are interested in any volunteers to run the tea system

This could be organised on a rota basis if necessary. If you can help then please get in touch with a committee member.

Clubwear!

Are you interested in obtaining a T-shirt and/or sweatshirt with the club's logo printed on it? If so, then get in touch with our treasurer, Neil giving your preferred colour and size. If there is sufficient interest we will order a batch. There are still a few metal badges available from Neil. Cloth badges have run out. Again if enough interest is shown we will order another batch.

Whitehaugh Workparty

An evening work party will take place on Wednesday 29th June from 6pm onwards. A pint will be taken afterwards in the Glen Clova Hotel. Interested? Get in touch with John Norrie who will co-ordinate lifts.

It cannot be said often enough - Whitehaugh subsidises club buses (£264 last year and £328 the year before). If you want to keep these fares down, then Whitehaugh must be kept in good order. Why don't you come along and help?

Winter programme 94/95

If you have any suggestion get in touch with a committee member.

REMEMBER REMEMBER the 7th of September!

There are no open meetings until this date.

Training

After the lengthy discussions at the AGM concerning hill walking skills (or lack of them) and the club's responsibilities, the committee have decided that training will be provided during the year for interested members. This will take the form of navigational skills and winter skills. A short course in navigation will start in September after the open meeting. This is intended for newcomers but everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a compass and an OS map of Glen Clova (sheet 44) if you have one.

All I want is a photograph!

At last, we are able to print photographs. Here are some of our club's munroists taken after Rita Norrie's had "completed" (sounds horrible, just hope she took enough toilet paper!) last June on Sgor na-h Ulaidh.



Back row : Willie Milne (1981), John Norrie (1990), Dave Adam (1987) Bill Redford (1991) Brian Coull (1981) Front: Barbara Redford (1992), Winnie Reid (1982), Rita (1993)

Martin next. I'm sure he'll take a full roll of Andrex

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THE OLD MUNRO BAGGER

"You are old Munro bagger; the young man said,
"The locks that are left you are grey,
And yet you go on bagging tops all the time,
Now give me the reason I pray."

"In the days of my youth," Munro bagger replied,
"I remembered that youth would fly past,
and abused not my health and my vigour at first,
that I might go on right up to the last."

"You are old Munro bagger; the young man said,
"And pleasures with youth pass away,
And yet you lament not the hills that are done,
Now give me the reason I pray."

"In the days of my youth," Munro bagger replied,
"I remembered that youth could not last,
So I saved up some hills that I could have done then
To do them when life's nearly past."

"You are old Munro bagger," the young man cried,
"There are some you still have to do,
If death comes first, as you know that it might,
Whatever will come of the few?"

"I am cheerful young man." Munro bagger replied,
"Some day you will understand too,
the challenge is not in the ones you have done,
But in those that you still have to do."

"I am patient young man," Munro bagger said,
"For I have enjoyed a long life through;
It is not the ones left that are keeping me going
But the new ones they are making me do."

ANON

(First recorded in the Shenaval Bothy Book)