



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

NEWSLETTER 8

December 1995

President's Column

Well, 1995 was another fairly good year for the club. We have lost a few members but gained as many more. A sincere "Welcome" to all new members. Sometime I will get round to talking to you all. I hope that you have enjoyed the first few months with the club and will continue to do so. What did we achieve in 1995? - well a very full meet calendar, including an extra weekend, a busy social calendar, several successful work parties at Whitehaugh, members attending the M.C.of S. winter training weekend.

You will see in this newsletter the results of a survey which was carried out during the year. This sought to obtain members opinions about the running of the club and the direction that the club should follow in the years to come. Thanks to you who replied. I presume that the 30 odd people who didn't reply, are quite happy with the current running of the club. The committee will analyse the results and present any necessary changes to the membership at the A.G.M.

What have we look forward to? 1996 looks like being another busy year in the access debate. Club-wise, we have our high tea after the next meet, and a busy social calendar culminating in the A.G.M. on 6th March, where among other things, the club's continued membership of the Mountain Bothies Association will be debated.

As always at this time of year, I and the rest of the committee would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Guid New Year. Hope to see you on the festive meets (See article "From the Meet secretary").

Winter Programme Update

John Norrie started the ball rolling in September with an excellent talk and slide-show on Majorca (see article entitled "Majorca"). Ron Hardy came in November to show us St.Kilda and Dr. Noreana MacAdam came only a week ago to talk about the Falkland Islands. All three events have been very well attended. Still to come we have Bob Berry on January 10th and Alf Ingram on February 7th. The social season ends with the grand finale - the social night / A.G.M. on 6th March where cheese & wine breaks will coincide with fun and games ! Sounds interesting.

Social events

A successful Whitehaugh work party followed by the 3rd annual club orienteering contest, won by John & Scott Macdonald and Dave Adam. This was followed by a barbecue (air vents supplied by an axe!) and a Halloween Party with the usual dooking for apples, treacle scones and fireworks (sorry about the duff ones - don't let the treasurer buy then again!).

Whitehaugh

Any small pots or mice-proof containers would be appreciated by the Hut Custodian.

Winter Training

Just to remind you that winter training will be provided at meets during this winter if suitable snow conditions exist. Winter Skills booklet available free from the secretary.

January Meeting

Please note that the January meeting is on the second Wednesday not the first, ie Jan 10th. Bob Berry will give a slide presentation after the meeting on "Skye to the Pyrenees".

Munroists

Congratulations to Colin on joining the growing ranks of Club members who have climbed all the Munros. Do we now have another Corbett-bagger?

Weather Reports

The Mountaincall numbers were unfortunately given the wrong way round in Newsletter 7. East is 0891 500 442 and West is 0891 500 441(without a 1 after the first 0). Radio Scotland gives hillwalking forecasts at 6.55pm Monday to Friday and at 6.25pm on Saturday. The shipping forecast is at 6 am and 12 midnight and is also useful for hillwalkers.

Boots Event

The Club has been allocated all 3 Munros on Beinn a'Ghlo for the Boots Event 1996. Boots plan to have people on every Munro in Scotland at the same time. This is on May 26th, which is a Sunday and not a Saturday as stated on the meet calendar

Patagonia

Alex Smith went on holiday to Patagonia this summer and took his photographs to the Onich weekend

June Weekend

This is the 22nd and 23rd and not the 20/21st as stated on the meet calendar

We Fixed It

The Inner Wheel asked if we could fix it for two 6 year old girls to climb Ben Nevis. This was felt to be a bit adventurous but Colin took them up the Cairnwell by chairlift, walked them over to Carn Aosda and bought them an ice-lolly when they came down again. One was car sick!

Tayside Mountain Rescue Association

Bill McDonald raised £526 for TMRA when he did a sponsored parachute in June. He did a second jump because the video camera didn't work first time! Well done Bill.

Motions for the AGM

The following motions will be put before the next AGM

1. That Rule 17 be amended to say that prospective members will be asked to join after one walk.
2. That Rule 3 be amended to state that the committee shall comprise 8 members, the additional member being the Hut Custodian, as long as we have a club hut.
3. That Rule 11 be amended to state that the Hut Custodian will also give a report at the AGM, as long as we have a club hut.
4. That Rule 24 be reviewed in that membership of the MBA be reviewed.

Heading For The Scottish Hills

Contact Nick for a sheet of the latest amendments to this book.

From The Meet Secretary

Since the last newsletter, the club's day meets have been comparatively well attended with excellent days on the Monadhlaith hills, in the Courour area of Rannoch Moor, which had the added bonus of the train ride from Crianlarich and the outing to the Cairngorms was also a good day. Unfortunately, the walk through the Larig Ghru on 17th September attended by 30 members and friends was somewhat spoiled by low cloud and mist. The Cruach Ardrain walk is one of those 'character' building outings probably best left for a while until it re-emerges as an epic with the "do you remember the mud on".

The "anniversary walk" (so called because this was the route of the first ever outing of the Forfar & District Hill Walking Club) over the Capel Mounth to Loch Muick and back via Bachnagairn also attracted a good attendance, a somewhat "soor" day but dry.

It seems that the weekend meets are less popular which is a great pity because they generally offer an opportunity to select your walk, in a more remote area, a relaxing evening after your day on the hill and a chance to socialise.

A weekend in Kintail was supported by 10 members who among them climbed the Five Sisters of Kintail - a superb walk, Ciste Dubh, and on a very wet Sunday A'Chralaig, Aonach Meadhoin and three other more remote hills north of Loch Cluanie, followed by a pleasant hot cuppie and home baked scones in Cluanie Inn.

The Onich weekend was attended by 8 members and greatly enjoyed by all, staying in two comfortable lodges and given the time of year having a good days walking on Saturday but due to very poor weather, abandoning Sunday walking for an earlier than planned trip home!

I hope you all enjoyed whichever outings you participated in and would encourage you to come along to a weekend trip - the next one is to Lochgiolhead in the Arrochar area with accommodation in a good hostel and I am assured plenty of restaurants and pubs serving food in nearby Lochgiolhead.

The ad-hoc Christmas and New Year outings are always enjoyable, generally fairly local using your own or shared transport; give me a ring nearer the time to find out what the plans are - normally 26th December and 3rd January.

Good walking in 1996!

Majorca

When planning a walking holiday abroad, Majorca is perhaps not the first place to spring to mind. However having seen an article in an outdoors magazine some years ago, giving details of easy interesting routes in glorious sunshine (and listened to horror stories from Brian Coull of bristling ridges and loose rock on the Formentor Peninsula), Bill, Barbara, John and Rita decided it sounded most attractive and booked a holiday in Puerto Pollensa in the North West corner of the island. It proved to be a wonderful centre for walking, the local transport was ideal for dropping off at the start of the walk and catching again at the end, although we had to get used to the terrain which consisted of sharp nodular rocks and thorny shrubs which required care, but whetted our desire to see more of the island. We now knew that there was much more to Majorca than beaches, hamburger stalls and T-shirts.

The following year, Bill and Barbara returned and armed with June Parker's Guide Book found new routes for long interesting walks with lovely scenery in the vicinity of Puig Major, at 1447 metres, the highest peak on the island.

In 1995, all four of us went back, this time staying in Puerto de Soller, a small village round a bay which is backed by high hills. We were out walking every day and each walk was different (& included seven mountains over 1000 metres), as will be seen from the following diary :-

Day 1: Bus to Cüber Dam for easy walk to Coll de L'Ofre, climb north to summit of Cornadors (the Horns) 957m, then descent of 700m to Biniaraix by Pilgrims' Steps - a cobbled man-made mule track of approx. 2km. Back to Puerto de Soller by tram. 15km

Day 2: Short coastal walk from hotel by good path to Punta Panxeta, an impressive rock formation, using guide book. Unfortunately we misread book and cries of 'Far I wi noo' were heard for the first time (but not the last) that week. Having re-read the book, we reached our objective! Superb sea views but very unstable rock.

Day 3: Intention was the 'Circuit of Balitx' (13km 6¼ hrs). Again the start was difficult to find but diligent reading of the guide book paid off. The path traversed spectacular cliff with views of S'Iletta island then over the crags of the Coll de Cordellina. However as the rocks were wet and dangerous, we aborted and returned to Puerto de Soller by Torre Picado - a look-out tower perched on vertical cliffs overlooking the sea.

Day 4: Circular walk from Puerto de Soller by old road to Soller (stopping off for fresh pressed orange juice (delicious)) and return.

Day 5: Joined Thomson organised walk. Went by train to Bunyola then by wide forestry track to a "mirador" (view point). Saw very little as it was heavy rain and cold - worth a re-visit on a good day.

Day 6: Bus to Cüber Dam. Short scramble up scree filled gully to top of Puig de la Rateta (1084m) then undulating ridge walk to L'Ofre (1091m). Descent on path through scrub and trees to Coll de l'Ofre and Pla de Cüber to Dam. Return by bus to Puerto de Soller.

Day 7: Parties separated. Barbara and Bill walked through olive groves up to Soller and back. Rita and John took boat trip to Sa Colobra - tiny cove between rocky cliffs with a pier, a shingle beach and numerous restaurants which is visited by thousands during the summer. The reason was to find out whether it was possible to exit from a planned walk or scramble down the Torrent de Pareis - a drop of 3km by a river bed. However as there was at least 4ft of water lying in the exit, the idea was abandoned and the descent was closed by police two days later as it too dangerous.

Day 8: Bus to Deia intending to walk back by hill tracks following guide book. Again cries of "Far I wi noo" as guide book was out of date in this area. Re-started at Deia 2 hours later and followed proper high level paths through olive groves with great sea and mountain views back to Puerto de Soller.

Day 9: By Hired car to Valdemossa (a lovely town) to do a circular walk of 16km (6 hours). First ascended steeply into Cairats valley by Font de's Poll to a mountain hut where we were glad to have a break, The walk then followed a most enjoyable man-made cliff-top path called Archdukes walk, taking in Puig Carragoli (another munro) and giving fantastic views. Coming down we had a choice of paths (the third one we tried was the correct one!) and this brought us through varied countryside to Valdemossa.

Day 10: By car again to go to the top of Massanella, the second highest mountain on Majorca at 1367m. A good path took us halfway to the Coll de Sa Linea, then a steep rough cairned track zigzagged to a flat coll from where it was a few minutes to the top by a rough boulder field. We were surprised to be overtaken by 3 men on trials motor-bikes bumping on huge tyres (no saddles) over the boulders right to the summit. We returned by the same route (11km)

Day 11: Off day at Puerto de Soller cafes - not before time!

Day 12: Thomson 'through' guided walk because independent transport was a problem. Bus dropped us at Coll de Soller from where a wide track through the oak woods led to the Pla de la Serp and then a cairned track was taken to the top of Feix (another Munro at 1062m) To our delight the party then joined the Archdukes Walk which meant that we could enjoy it all over again. We finished at Valdemossa and had time to see some of the town before catching the bus which dropped us at our hotel door!

Day 13: Bus to Gorg Blau reservoir to climb in the Tossals group of hills. Good start through a gate marked 'No entry' by well marked path through woods to the Coll des Coloms passing many "sitjes" (sites of charcoal burning) then by huge boulders to the summit of Morro d'Almallutx at 1058m, where we found a glass case containing an embroidered nativity scene! The weather closed in at the top so we descended to look for and find the Canaleta de Massanella after some difficulty. As this would be an attractive walk in itself, it is noted for the future. Return to Puerto de Soller by bus.

This walking holiday was built around a basic half-board package deal staying in a hotel at reasonable price where the accommodation was adequate and the food good and plentiful. Public transport (i.e. bus and train) were handy and because we were with a tour company, car hire was at a special rate. Sept/Oct is a good time of year to visit Majorca because it is comfortably warm most of the time although an umbrella is ideal for the occasional rain-shower on the hill. Maps are available on a 1:25000 scale but an up to date guide book is essential to get round all these locked gates.

The Past Secretaries

Following Colin's excellent article on the Past Presidents, it seems only fair that those who actually did all the work should get a mention! My 10 predecessors with the number of years they served are:

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 1963 | (1) Ian Reith |
| 1964-1965 | (2) Angus Grewar |
| 1966 | (1) Willie Milne |
| 1967 | (1) Alan Scott |
| 1968-1973 | (6) Rita Norrie |
| 1974-1979 | (6) Willie Milne |
| 1980-1983 | (4) Jean Jaffray |
| 1984-1988 | (5) Linda Sinclair |
| 1989-1991 | (3) Jane Fraser |
| 1992-1993 | (2) Angus Spence |

Ian Reith Acted as secretary from the club's inception until the first AGM.

Angus Grewar A founder member who hasn't been out with the club much since moving to Fersit. Angus and Etta are however moving back to this area.

Willie Milne Another founding member and, as has been previously mentioned, a real stalwart of the club for many years holding almost every committee post. A member of the Tayside Mountain Rescue Team.

Alan Scott Known as "Young Eck". Formerly a farmer at 100 acres farm near Kinnordy, now has a successful tree surgeon business in Grampian.

Rita Norrie Another past President and now Press Secretary. A member of the Tayside Mountain Rescue Association. Rita is also a Munroist.

Jean Jaffray A very organised secretary, whose husband Robert was meet secretary. Both are keen birdwatchers.

Linda Sinclair A teacher and a keen tennis player, married to our president and mother of one of our younger members. May expect to see more of her husband as his active Munro bagging draws to a close!

Jane Fraser Jane was forced to give up the post of secretary when promotion took her to Melrose. She continues to be an enthusiastic member of the club and manages most weekend meets.

Angus Spence Angus used to look after the Royal Yacht Britannia, and so was well placed to ensure that the club's books were always ship-shape. Now lecturing way up north, Angus still makes it to weekend meets.

The last 27 - A year in the life of a Munro bagger

Well, 1995 arrived. Yes, this was it - "the year of the hill". I had reached my 200th Munro with Martin on a snowy day in April 1990 on Stob Coir'an Albannaich in Glen Etive on a club weekend (the "Who was that snoring?" weekend). Since then, I've been up many hills including steady "bagging", but I had decided that 1995 would see my "completion" 27 years after I had climbed my first Munro and I had 27 Munros still to visit. Here is a rundown of my last year.

27: A' Chralaig (Cluanie Inn)- Sat 18th March

with Martin, Nancy & Stuart - club weekend to Roybridge. Nancy drove through a fresh covering of snow. Set off for the bealach between the two hills, but Martin led us up the sheer side of A' Chralaig - some 2500 feet of brick-hard snow - crampons on, calf-aching stuff and no slips allowed, for it was a long way down! Wonderful scenery - everything was white apart from the lochs and burns. Lunch on top, then set off for Mullach Fraoch-choire in worsening weather. Stuart feeling ill, so Martin and he set off down. Nancy and I crossed the narrow ridge (corniced) to the pinnacles. Joined by Martin who presumably had shoved Stuart down the hill. Crossed 3 pinnacles and then decided it was getting a bit too dangerous - powder snow covering all the ledges - retreated (but came back later - see no. 15)

26: Carn Na Caim (Drumochter)- Sat 8th April

with Linda & David. Late start, but a beautiful sunny day. Coffee in Dunkeld at 11a.m.! Parked car on A9 and set off for Carn Na Caim - a long flat top. Long slog up, but once up here, you can walk for miles. Gullies still full of snow and crossed over the top of one. Carried on in perfect weather to A'Bhuidheanach Bheag, which I'd previously climbed on that epic club meet to Drummochter in Feb 1988, where we performed a sweep search for the summit and reached the plastered bus in a blizzard just hours before the A9 closed. Today, polybagging on the way. David and Linda headed for the A9 and I went back north for the car and came across some mad English X-C skiers to whom I spoke for a while, before they headed down into one of these deep gullies - could still be there for all I know. Pub meal in Stuan Inn - good place.

25, 24: Moruisg, Sgurr nan Ceannaichen (Glen Carron) - Mon 1st May

with Linda & David. Club weekend to Torridon. What a beautiful day, but a chilly wind. Under the railway, then an incredibly steep slog right onto the summit of Moruisk. Joined by a party of SMC types - posh accents, tweed breeches and long wooden ice-axes! Crossed over to Sgurr nan Ceannaichen. Tremendous views all round. Down the north ridge. David and I glissading down big snowfields. Great stalker's track on the way back.

23: Meall Nan Eun (Victoria Bridge) - Sat 20th May

with Linda & David. My 3rd attempt at this hill - gave up back in 1990 when I'd done my 200th because Martin was ill. Attempted this with David to join club on Boots across Scotland in 1992, but turned back. This time, I'm determined to succeed. Rather later than planned, we set off on bike through the forestry track on the south side of the glen. Don't ever use it. It has several 6 feet locked gates and stops in a dead-end. It took ages to struggle through a forestry plantation and over a bog to the proper track. Dumped the bikes at the loch and crossed over to the bog to Meall nan Eun. My good-lady led us up a sheer buttress before we reached the summit on a very clear day. Oh dear. I had 2 hours to get to the Clachaig Inn for the M.C. of Scot. A.G.M. I set off quickly, leaving Linda & David. Reached the bike in half an hour and cycled madly back to the car (only coming off once). Left £20 under a stone and reached the Clachaig (25 miles away) only 10 minutes late - this must be a record for the descent from this particular hill. Drove back after the A.G.M. and found Linda & David enjoying a musical session in the Inveroran Hotel.

22: An Sgarsoch (Linn o' Dee) Sun 10th June

with Sam "Fuji" Flynn. Early start - biked into Geldie Lodge. Wet feet as the burn was quite high. Quickly dispelled all thoughts of putting on the shorts in my rucksack. This was "chilly for June" stuff. Climbed Carn an Fhithlier first, which I had previously climbed with some others (Janet & Stuart were there) back in Sept. 1983 during the infamous club meet across the Feshie when the "undercarriage" of one of our lady members gave way, resulting in a rescue by landrover. Thank goodness, for we were going to be late back to the bus. Then, it was very windy - we almost crawled to the top and quickly abandoned attempts to reach the second hill. Today it's snowing! Quickly snatched a sandwich just off the top and then some glissading down into the bealach. Weather improving - but even colder. Reached An Sgarsoch and then over to the east top and then back to the bikes. Under an hour back to Linn o' Dee. Sore backside for days!

21: Monadh Mor (Linn o' Dee) Sun 16th July

Solo. Things weren't going to plan. I had been forced to work most week ends in June and I was losing this good walking weather - now behind schedule. Set off early on a glorious day, cycling to just north of White Bridge. Shorts and T-shirt at last. Walked up into Glen Geusachan, where I met the only person I saw all day. Up to Loch nan Sturteag (loch of the common gull? but none there). Two ptarmigan performed their broken wing act for me and successfully lead me up the hill away from their nest before flying off, clucking in defiance "na na na na na, you baldie git". What superb views today. Over to Beinn Brotain which I last been on in April 1985 on a wild day (a club meet). Dotterel on top. Over to the second top and then on to Carn Clach-mhuilinn, which was a Munro when I was last on it, but is now demoted. This was the one hill that Sir Hugh Munro did not climb (I'm sure some of you historians will correct me). Back to the bike via a very tame stag - did not move as I walked by only 10 yards away. Ice cream in a crowded Braemar at 3pm. I had seen one person all day in the hills on a glorious day.

20, 19, 18, 17: Saileag, Sgurr a' Bhealach Dearg, Aonach Meadhoin, Ciste Dhubh - Sun 30th July

Solo. A boiling hot day. Climbed up from Glen Sheil onto Saileag where I met "Superman" and his wife from the campsite. This was a classic ridge walk. Up and downs. Surprising to see snow lying in this heat. There is a big drop before Ciste Dhubh and I've run out of water. All the burns are dry. Carried on without rucksack. Great hill. Walked out to Cluanie Inn where a pint of shandy and a pint of Gillespies later, Linda picked me up.

16: Maoile Lunndaidh (Glen Carron): Wed 2nd August

Solo. Another glorious day. Pushed my bike 3 miles up the track through the forest and then cycled to nearly Glenuiag Lodge. Up the west ridge - dotterel again. and onto the flat plateau - very much a Cairngorm-type hill - out of place. Reached the summit to find a couple of blokes there, one celebrating his last Munro. An ex-RAF Leuchars man who worked in Glen Clova as a barman with Sid for a season. I took the obligatory swig from both hip-flasks, wished him well and then didn't feel a thing as I set off down. Got very close to a golden plover on the way down. A very impressive northern corrie - must come back to investigate sometime. Biked back - didn't peddle for 3 miles but brakes were red-hot. Very hot and sticky so clothes off and into the burn in a deep pool to cool down. Cycled 11 miles down to Loch Carron village and another 2 pints of Gillespies later felt refreshed.

Great pub meal in the hotel.

15: Mullach Fraoch-choire (Cluanie Inn) - Sat 5th August

with Linda & David. see 27. A Scorcher of a day. Too hot to be walking. Poor David. He struggled going up between the hills but enjoyed the scramble out along the ridge. This was the same ridge that had defeated us in March in very different conditions. The pinnacles are bypassed by a path, first on one side then the other. Back across the connecting ridge to A'Chralaig. Met a couple of people who we later shared a table with in Cluanie Inn. This was Linda's first walk since her knee operation and the descent to Cluanie Inn was steep and never-ending. Had meal in Cluanie Inn, where the midges were biting everywhere.

14,13,12,11,10,9,8 An Gearnach, Stob Coire a'Chairn, Am Bodach, Sgor An Iubhair, Sgurr a'Mhaim, Stob Ban, Mullach Nan Coirean (Mamores) - Frid 11th August

Solo. A cracker of a day. I've been waiting on a good day to do this for a few years. Set off from the top Nevis car park, through the gorge, over Steall, which resembled Blackpool Beach and up into the hills. Good track up. Got the fright of my life as a sheepdog suddenly appeared over me on a steep section. I had seen the shepherd in the gorge, so I guess the dog was a bit lost. However, it was friendly enough and off it went. The ridge from Am Gearnach to its lower top, An Garbhanach, is interesting in places (crampon scrapes everywhere)! Am Bodach involves a stiff and rather loose climb. The Devil's ridge is misnamed though in winter it must be "interesting". Stob Ban is rather loose and it's a long way out to Mullach nan Coirean when you're hot and parched. The sun shone all day. I had brought lots of water this time and used it all. I met a few folk, though not as many as expected. On the way back to Polldubh, I came across a stoat in a pile of wood. It hid, then came out to watch me for ages. One of the classic days walking that I will remember forever.

7: Beinn Mhanach (Tyndrum) Sat 9th September

Solo. Drove from terrible rainy weather in the east to sunny weather in the west. Parked at the top of the brae from Tyndrum and walked north on the West Highland way. A pleasant start to the day. Up Glen. where I was passed by a mountain rescue landrover and then straight up the end of the second top - Over to Beinn Mhanach where I met a couple of people. Views all around. West Highland way now extremely busy. Drove back into pouring rain in Carnoustie.

6,5: Beinn Bhreac, Beinn a' Chaorain (Linn o'Dee) - Sat October 21st

with Sam "Fuji" Flynn. A seriously chilly day, but good visibility. Biked to Derry Lodge. Everything frozen. Walked up track for a while before cutting onto Beinn Bhreac - an easy ascent. It's a long way over to Beinn a' Chaorain and I'm glad the ground was frozen for it looks like it might be very wet. The Beag first and then the big hill itself. Dropped into Glen Derry to escape from the biting wind. Snow lying on Ben Macdui.

4: Carn Mor Dearg (Fort William) - Sat 18th November

Solo. The first cold spell of the winter - snow lying on Drumochter. Left Carnoustie at 5.30 a.m. and was walking across Fort William golf course at 8.15 a.m. Cold clear frosty morning. Met a few climbers heading off for ice routes (a bit early in the season I thought). RAF M.R. had driven to the top of the track! I slogged up the side of Carn Mor Dearg. The Ben looked magnificent. The views north and west were grand, then the clouds starting to roll in. Over the snow-line and into surprisingly deep snow. Reached summit about 11.30 and hummed and hawed about going across the arête to Ben Nevis for I had plenty of time. It started snowing. I wandered down the ridge for a bit and then decided that a solo attempt wasn't sensible given the conditions underfoot and the weather. Back next summer. I was in Carnoustie Library at 4pm! Ptarmigan galore - all in winter plumage.

3: Ben Hope - Sat 25th November

with Linda & David. All the snow of 2 weeks ago has nearly gone. Set off from base camp at Bonar Bridge on a dry but murky day. Clouds were coming and going. Up a rather wet tourist route and the cloud closed in. No views - will be back here too. Started clearing on way down and totally clear by the time we reached the car. Had an hour of daylight left, so drove back via Tongue. Ben Hope and Ben Loyal both clear. The latter looks a cracker of a hill - perhaps an outing for the May weekend meet.

2: Ben Klibreck - Sun 26th November

Solo. A dull but dry start. Set off across the 4km bog to the base of the hill. No messing around. Start up the side - steep craggy wet grass then up the snow fields on the summit in 1 hour 50mins. Great grey view! Lunch on top, then rain started, and got worse. Decided against a descent down my ascent route and returned over to the southern top navigating by compass in desperate conditions - horizontal sleet. Only Munro baggers would venture out on a day like this. Reached the road at 1.30 p.m., but no car. Soaked to the skin. Spent half an hour running up and down the road to keep warm before Linda appeared at her appointed time of 2 p.m.

1: Meall Chuaich - Sun 17th December

As I write this, I haven't yet done this. It coincides with the last official club meet of the year. More news in the next newsletter.

Summary: What a year! Blessed with a great summer. Statistics: 2 with the club, 6 with Linda/David, 3 with Fuji-man and 16 alone, proving that the last ravings of a Munro bagger are often seen by no-one. Weather: 1 dreadful day (Klibreck), 2 poor (Carn Mhor Dearg, An Scarsoch) and the rest in perfect or almost perfect conditions often in shorts & T-shirt. Regrets - none. Reflections: well, I do enjoy being out with company, but there is something special about being out on your own especially miles from anywhere (Why? - thinking time maybe - why is 42 the answer to the ultimate question? etc.) The future - back to Skye, Rhum, Arran. New areas - Moidart, Suilven, Ben Loyal, Foinaven, Arkle etc. Will I turn into a Corbett bagger? Watch this space!

Questionnaire Results

A questionnaire was sent with newsletter 7 and 49 replies have been received, summarised below.

1. How many evening meetings at Jarman's Hotel did you attend in the last year?

| None | 1-3 | 4-6 | 7-9 |
|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 14 | 14 | 10 | 10 |

2. What are the two most important reasons why you do not attend evening meetings?

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Wednesdays are not suitable | 15 |
| Work | 10 |
| 7.30 not a suitable time | 4 |
| Other commitments | 4 |
| Meetings are boring | 3 |
| Don't like any meetings | 3 |
| Babysitting | 3 |
| Don't like Jarman's Hotel | 2 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Live too far away | 2 |
| Away all week | 2 |
| Health Problem | 2 |
| Drinking and Driving | 1 |
| Hearing Problem | 1 |
| Clashes with football on TV | 1 |
| Speaker of no interest | 0 |
| Don't care how club is run | 0 |

3. What day and time would you prefer for evening meeting?

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Wednesday 7.30 | 10 |
| Friday 7.00 | 4 |
| Anytime | 3 |
| Thursday 7.30 | 2 |
| In Arbroath | 2 |
| Monday 7.30 | 1 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 7.30 | 1 |
| Thursday 8.00 | 1 |
| Saturday or Sunday | 1 |
| 8pm any day except Wednesday | 1 |
| None! | 1 |

4. Would you prefer a guest speaker after every meeting?

| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
| 7 | 25 |

5. How many day meets did you attend in the last year?

| None | 1-3 | 4-6 | 7-9 | 10-12 |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 10 | 13 | 18 | 6 | 1 |

6. What are the two most important reasons why you don't attend day walks?

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Weather (on the day) | 10 |
| Work | 9 |
| Unsure in winter conditions | 8 |
| Because walks are on Sundays | 7 |
| We are back home too late | 6 |
| Other commitments | 5 |
| Hill you've already climbed | 5 |
| I don't have winter equipment | 5 |
| Don't like going by bus | 4 |
| Walks are too long | 3 |
| We walk too fast | 3 |
| We leave too early | 2 |
| Live too far away | 2 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Can't make it at weekends | 2 |
| Work offshore | 2 |
| Injury | 2 |
| Too old | 2 |
| Don't like long bus trip | 1 |
| Bus stops at pub | 1 |
| Health problems | 1 |
| I walk too slowly | 1 |
| Out of condition | 1 |
| Too far way | 1 |
| Family commitments | 1 |
| Laziness | 1 |
| Club is not sociable | 0 |

7. Would you prefer Saturday rather than Sunday for day walks?

| Yes | No | Sometimes |
|-----|----|-----------|
| 7 | 29 | 4 |

8. Would you attend more meets if cars were used?

| Yes | No | Possibly |
|-----|----|----------|
| 2 | 35 | 2 |

10. How many weekend meets did you attend in the last year?

| None | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 |

11. What is the most important reason for not attending weekend meets?

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Family reasons | 13 |
| Work | 11 |
| Other commitments | 4 |
| Accommodation | 1 |
| Distance to travel | 1 |
| Wrong time of year | 1 |
| Weather | 1 |
| Too old | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Health | 1 |
| Not socially inclined / too expensive | 1 |
| Injury | 1 |
| Need day to recover from walk | 1 |
| Dad doesn't walk with me! | 1 |
| Walks are too long | 0 |
| Lack of equipment | 0 |

12. Would you prefer more weekend meets?

| Yes | No |
|-----|----|
| 9 | 24 |

13. Do you like the bi-annual newsletter?

| Yes | No | Not bothered | Put in Kids Corner |
|-----|----|--------------|--------------------|
| 41 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

14. Add any general comments about the club:

| |
|--|
| Not enough concern is given for the capabilities of total novices on meets (3 replies) |
| Members are not always keeping together on walks. Enforce rule of 4 in party or scrap it. |
| A meeting to review club rules could be considered |
| Alternative walks should be offered. (shorter if not low level) |
| Some would be interested in walks during the week (working shifts at weekends) |
| Any interest in informal trips of 2. (5 days possibly on weekdays?) |
| Weekend meets should be more promoted than they are |
| Organisation could be better at weekend meets to arrange walks and write down who is where. 4 replies. Some disappear in the morning |
| Better communication regards routes of walks, terrain etc on day and weekend meets |
| Social gatherings would enhance the spirit of the club |
| Wednesday clashes with TV football |
| Could do with alternative on day walks for those who don't want to stop all the time for cups of tea |
| Drinkers should quench their thirst at Forfar and allow non drinkers home earlier |
| Starting times too early for someone living in Arbroath |
| Too few people take an interest in running the club and helping at Whitehaugh |

New Members

Dave Miller 01307 818733 Hartshead, 55 Duncan Rd, Letham DD8 2PN
 Jim Robison 01307 820397 3 Kirkton of Kinnettles, By Forfar DD8 1TQ
 Bill Gilmour 01241 430170 Top Flat, 115 High St, Arbroath DD11 1DP
 Wm Mill 01241 876669 1A Seaton Rd, Arbroath DD11 5DX