



# Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 28      December 2006

[www.fdhwc.org.uk](http://www.fdhwc.org.uk)

## President's Column

Where did 2006 go? It seems no time this I wrote this column at this time last year. I hope you all had a good walking year. It certainly was a glorious summer: - too hot for walking on some days. Some of us were busy celebrating too: - congratulations to our first ever Corbetteer and two more Munroists. These were very sociable occasions: - big gatherings.

From reports coming in, our members have been all over Scotland: - enjoying the hills in generally good weather, apart from the abortive expedition to Fisherfield in appalling conditions. Some members have been walking further afield too: - England, Ireland, Nepal, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

One of the new hot topics of the year was "carbon footprint" – how our lifestyles contribute to pollution and hence climate change. We should all be examining our carbon footprint and see how we could reduce it. Dropping dead might be the ultimate solution. As hill-walkers and lovers of the outdoors, we, individually, probably contribute more carbon pollution than the normal person just because we drive more (and we eat more bananas!) The issue is quite interesting for the club because it would make us review how we see our transport arrangements for meets. As a club, do we minimise our carbon footprint? The October meet to Glen Dochart/Glen Lochay had 19 attendees in a bus with a big engine and high fuel consumption. The November meet to Glen Lyon had 19 members attending in 7 cars, some efficient, some gas-guzzlers. On a per-mile, per-head basis, how did we rate? Interesting topic. More to follow.

Hope to see you at one or both of the festive meets.  
Colin

## Our first Corbetteer

Congratulations to Brian Coull who completed his Corbetts on Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup> in Glen Etive on Beinn Maol Chaluim (907m). Quite a crowd attended on a beautiful day. Brian had tears in his eyes. The president presented him with an engraved hip-flask from the club. A lovely dinner was served in the Grampian club hut at Inbhir-Fhaolain where the majority spent the weekend.

## New Munroist

Congratulations to Willie Mather, Munroist: - on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, on Maol Chean Dearg in the Carron/Torridon area. A large group assembled at Morvich campsite and made their way to Strath Carron on a lovely day. Willie's wife Sheila was on the top to congratulate her husband. Janet presented Willie with an engraved tankard from the club. John Easson missed the walk but drove up for the meal afterwards!

## And another Munroist

Congratulations to Nan Hargreaves, Munroist. : - on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August on Stob Choire Odhair at Victoria Bridge. A mixture of Friockheim and Forfar club members saw Nan reach the top in a squally shower – things never change. She wore one of her best woolly hats as the president presented her with an engraved tankard from the club. Yes, tankard! For the cider, of course! The party returned to Forfar for meal.

## Weekend Meets

There are two planned – March and May. You should find a booking sheet with this newsletter. If not, you can download one from the web site or obtain one from the treasurer.

## Gird Championships

This was last held in 2005. We need 12 or more entries for this to take place. An attempt will be made to hold these at one of the festive meets: - the first that has at least 12 people willing to take part.

## Festive Meets

The traditional festive period meets will be held on Tuesday 26 December and Tuesday 2 January. Meet at the Myre car park as usual. Come along. Show off the new gear. What colour of Paramo underpants did Santa bring you? What do I do with this strap on my sac? Is my new water system leaking already? And more? Because of the shorter holidays this year, the following dates have been chosen:- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Please see the web site <http://www.fdhwc.org.uk> for latest details. If the weather is bad, the meets may be postponed until later in the week for those that don't have to go back to work. Last year, we were on Mayar at Christmas and we had a super day out at New Year in Glen Shee in the snow on Glas Maol and Craig Leacach.

## High Tea Meet – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January

This will be to the Ochils. Meet at 7.30am in Forfar (optional) and at 9.00 am in Dollar. Meeting place in Dollar is on the Burnside. When you cross the bridge, turn immediately right up the west side of the burn. Meeting place will be about 100m up the road. We left from here last time (in 2001), but may move along the hill-foots to Tillicoultry or Alva, so it is important that we know you are coming before we move. Make sure you phone Ray or Willie. High tea will be served in the Castle Campbell Hotel, Dollar (just at the bridge) at 5pm-ish. Price £12. Choice is:- beef, Guinness and mushroom pie or grilled salmon fillet with lemon and parsley butter, followed by scones & jam, fruitcake or chocolate cake, and shortbread. Please book with the meet secretaries by at least 4 days before the meet, so that we can tell the hotel our numbers. It would be helpful if you could indicate your choice of meal.

## **New Constitution**

It seems a long time ago since we started this exercise to modernise and clarify our constitution. During the past 12 months, the whole membership has been presented with drafts 2 and 3 and feedback has been encouraged. You will find a copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the constitution enclosed with this newsletter. The only changes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> draft are highlighted in section 6 on Finance, basically just enough to cover us for VAT exemption, if we ever have to register. What's not included yet is any form of child protection statements other than that children must be accompanied by parents or guardians at all times. The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MC of S) will include child protection recommendations in their new constitution (see separate article), so we may have to review our own constitution in the coming year. Also there is no mention of our compliance with the Data Protection Act for storage of your personal details. This should be added before adoption. The plan now is that the entire membership has one last chance to comment on the draft document. Any comments must be sent in writing to the secretary by 20th January 2007 (both email and letter-post comments will be accepted). The comments will be reviewed by the committee. The committee will prepare the 5<sup>th</sup> draft if necessary before the open meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February, where copies will be made available. At that meeting, the president (or acting chairman) will propose the motion that the final draft constitution should be formally accepted at the AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007. This motion will be recorded in the minutes as stated in the current constitution. Any objections to the final draft can still be raised at the AGM. If there are no objections or only minor objections (for which changes can be made and accepted on the night), then a vote will be taken for adoption. If accepted, the constitution will be formally adopted and come into force immediately following the AGM. If major objections are received at the AGM, then a vote will still be taken. If the constitution fails to be accepted, then those objecting will be asked to help with the next draft and the review process will continue until a satisfactory draft can be prepared.

## **Photographic Competition**

This will be held after the Open Meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The rules are specified on the new draft constitution. Graham Chalmers (Monifieth) is the judge and will also give us tips. Graham is a freelance photographer of the Scottish landscape, and knows the hills well. Graham has indicated that he needs the entries by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Closing date is therefore Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Please make sure your entries reach a committee member by then. Note that if using digital photography, your entry must consist of a printed version of that image :- this is because a digital image looks different according to the software used to view it. The image file from which the print was taken can be submitted on a CD (the judge may want to show off his mastering skills with various graphics software, to show the results of tinkering with adjusting the data.).

## **For Sale**

Mens Scarpa winter boots – see John Dawson  
Ladies Mendl boots – see Linda Sinclair.

## **Meet Secretary's Reports (July-Dec 2006)**

### **9 July 2006**

#### **Meet Secretary's Mystery Meet**

The Meet Secretary's Mystery Meet became the Secretary's Mystery Meet in the absence of both Willie and Ray. Mel opted for Geal Charn at Laggan and led a small party of members to the top.

### **20 August 2006**

#### **Carn a' Chlamain**

The original plan was to climb Ben Cruachan but a poor weather forecast persuaded members to stay further east and they headed for Blair Atholl and Carn a' Chlamain. As it turned out, the walkers enjoyed a fine day on the hill with much of the surrounding country escaping the worst of the weather.

### **3 September 2006**

#### **Beinn a Bhuid and Ben Avon**

This meet was well attended despite the fact that there was no bus. A total of 18 went by car. The pace was pretty fast and furious as the 'A' Team was obviously keen to ensure that there was enough time to take in both hills. The top of Beinn a Bhuid was reached in record time and the group then split in half, with 8 members going on to Ben Avon and the others turning homewards at the Sneek. The two groups reached the car park about half an hour apart.

### **15-17 September 2006**

#### **Bridge of Orchy Weekend**

The club had booked the Glen Coe Skiing Club Hut for the weekend, which proved to be well equipped and cosy, if smoky, with the wood-burning stove going full blast. Eleven members were rattling about a bit inside as the hut can potentially sleep more than forty. Saturday was a fine day, but started off with thick low-lying mist which quickly cleared for all except the unfortunate group which chose to climb Beinn Achalladair which was shrouded in mist all day. The largest party made good use of the weather by tackling the Aonach Eagach Ridge while one other member went solo on Meall a Bhuidh and Creise. Sunday was a much poorer day although most members did venture out on to the hills again. The Corbett-baggers headed towards Strath Orchy while two other groups climbed Beinn Fhionnlaidh and Ben Challum respectively.

### **22 October 2006**

#### **Meall Glas and Sgiath Chuill**

This was the first bus meet for a while so we took advantage of this by taking in these hills on a through walk from Glen Dochart to Glen Lochay. Most of the nineteen members climbed the two Munros and the subsidiary top of Beinn Cheathaich although a few opted for a slightly less strenuous day by missing out the second Munro.

### **12 November 2006**

#### **Glen Lyon**

Eighteen members wound their way along the single track road in Glen Lyon in a colony of cars, almost to the end. The target was Meall Bhuide, a much-maligned hill which provided good walking for a bracing short winter's day. We observed two minutes silence, this being Remembrance Sunday, before the final pleasant walk round the corrie rim to the summit. We

retraced our steps for about a kilometre before heading east to Cam Chreag. This was done not only to extend what would otherwise have been a rather short day but also to keep the Corbett-baggers happy. The showers which had been threatening for much of the afternoon finally materialised when we were within sight of the cars.

### **17-19 November**

#### **Fort William**

An "unofficial" weekend meet was arranged and held at Fort William. Seven members attended, with four staying at the Glen Nevis Youth Hostel and three opting for the creature comforts of Bed and Breakfast. The first taste of winter weather arrived on the Friday, making the journey a bit hair-raising in places. The last car of the group helped with a rescue of a car through the fence on the Loch Laggan road. On Saturday six members started from the end of the Glen Nevis road and walked through the gorge to Steall. Four members intended to climb Aonach Beag and Aonach Mor. The other two members headed a bit further up the glen and tackled Sgurr Choinnich Mhor. The seventh member climbed Ben Nevis. The two Glen Nevis groups quickly encountered knee-deep, fresh snow which drastically slowed progress. The "Aonachs" group abandoned any hope of continuing to Aonach Mor and were glad to top out on Aonach Beag after five hours. The last part of the descent and the walk out were completed in darkness. Their head torches were spotted on the hill by the other Glen Nevis party, who were slightly ahead. The Nevis man was down in daylight! It was a brilliant day of sunshine for the most part but was extremely exhausting. The decision to head home on Sunday was unanimous.

### **10 December**

#### **Balquidder**

No phone calls received. Dreadful weather forecast. Meet cancelled.

### **Curling**

Last year a challenge was made by the president of Friockheim for a curling match between our club and Friockheim Hill Walking Club. The match took place in March at Forfar Ice Rink. It was a very enjoyable night and many of us had our first taste of curling. The committee have agreed that our president should challenge the Friockheim club to a return match this year. Arrangements are still being made, but the match is likely to be held in March.

### **Editor Wanted**

We're missing Angus Spence. He was the editor of the newsletters for many years. Does anyone fancy the job? It doesn't have to be a committee member?

### **Committee Members wanted**

At least one committee member is stepping down at the forthcoming AGM in March. Bob has indicated that he won't be continuing as press secretary after March. Think about it – it could be an ideal job for you. All committee positions are up for re-election at the AGM – realistically though there is not a long queue of volunteers. If you feel you'd like to try it, get in touch with a committee member and your name will be proposed at the AGM.

### **History of the "High Tea meet"**

In the first few decades of the club, there were many social activities in addition to the meets:-regular dances, Halloween parties. The club also had special events for anniversaries at 20, 25 and 40 years. The committee of 1989/90 headed by President Brian Coull introduced the concept of a high tea meet :- whereby we could hold a meet and then have a high tea afterwards – quite sociable, so in January 1990 the first high tea meet was held in Glen Clova. The event has continued since, always in January. Most have been fairly local, but we have ventured to Bennachie twice, to the Lomonds and to the Ochils. We've taken a bus once (last year to Bennachie, which enabled us to do the complete traverse). In the early days, the numbers were around 20. The numbers have risen to over 30 now. Not everyone joins the main meet. Others have shorter walks and meet up for tea. The peak was 2003 in Edzell when we had over 40 for the meal. On one occasion in Glen Isla (1992 or 1993), we didn't know that the snow has started and had to leave in a convoy to make sure we got the cars up all the hills. Next day the Forfar bypass was closed.

1990	Glen Clova
1991	Glen Clova
1992	Glen Isla
1993	Glen Isla
1994	The Wirrens (and the gamekeeper) - Edzell
1995	Glen Clova
1996	Glen Prosen – DykeHead
1997	Glen Isla
1998	Glen Isla
1999	Bennachie – Luthermuir
2000	Lomonds – Freuchie
2001	Ochils – Dollar
2002	Glen Clova
2003	Mount Battock – Edzell
2004	Ben Vrackie – Moulin
2005	Glen Isla
2006	Bennachie – Edzell
2007	Ochils - Dollar

### **Barbeque**

This was held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August at Crombie Country Park. There was a reasonable turnout of members families and friends. After a good feed, there were gird races (not the official club championships) followed by two games of rounders, played to some dubious makeshift rules.

### **Quiz Night 2006**

This was held after the open meeting in November. After last year's rammy, the quiz masters of Colin and John came prepared with battle armour. The quiz was hotly contested – being won by a ladies team of Janet Coull, Rita Norrie and Linda Sinclair. There has been a proposal to draw the teams randomly next year – sounds sensible, the next committee will decide. Thanks to John Dawson for another wonderful set of photographs to the quiz.

## **Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MC of S)**

The club is affiliated to this worthwhile umbrella organisation which looks after all types of mountaineering interests and issues in Scotland. The MC of S has been trying to draw up a new constitution for the past 18 months: - driven by Scottish Sports Council requirements. A Special General Meeting has been called for 17<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in Perth. The club will have a block vote at this meeting. The committee are studying the draft documents and will decide the way that the club representative should vote at the meeting. Have a look on the web site,

**<http://www.mountaineering-scotland.org.uk>**

Contact a committee member to pass on any views you may have. Here is the agenda for the meeting.

### **Agenda**

- 1) To receive a report from the Executive on the discussion of the incorporation proposal since the 2006 AGM and on the Executive's conclusions.
- 2) To consider the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association available on the MCofS website as the Definitive Draft [20 January 2007] and any amendments proposed in advance of the SGM.
- 3) To authorise the Executive –
  - (a) to procure the incorporation of a company under the name The Mountaineering Council of Scotland, in terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association available on the MCofS website as the Definitive Draft [20 January 2007 or earlier] as modified by any amendments accepted under Agenda Item 2, and on the basis of the subscribing directors at the time of incorporation being persons who are elected members of the Executive of the unincorporated Mountaineering Council of Scotland;
  - (b) subject to the completion of such incorporation to the satisfaction of the auditor of the unincorporated Mountaineering Council of Scotland, to transfer the entire assets, liabilities and operations of the latter to the new company; and
  - (c) once the foregoing transfer has been accomplished and the auditor has signed a certificate confirming his satisfaction with it to proceed, to wind up the unincorporated Mountaineering Council of Scotland, without any further members' meeting or resolution.
- 4) To approve the adoption of the [Child Protection Policy Statement](#)

## **Open Meetings**

Thanks to the presenters from the club so far. Graham Brown took up to New Zealand and Brian and Dorothy Laing took us to Slovenia. Both excellent illustrated presentations. Bill Sneddon, from Brechin, began the series with a talk on photography in September. After New Year, the illustrated talks continue on 8<sup>th</sup> January, with Mick Pawley on the topic of a long-term stay in Antarctica.