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# Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 30 December 2007

## President's Column

Well what a summer? I think it must be one of the wettest summer's I can remember. OK, some of us just can't get enough of the wet stuff, but for you others, what a summer!

Despite the weather, we have been out on all our meets since the last newsletter. Ray has provided full reports. See later.

My favourite meet over this period? I think the Lake District day over Ill Crag, Scafell Pike and Scafell ending up in Boot for a beer and meal in the Boot Inn must be my favourite meet day over the last 6 months.

No doubt you've been following the Donald Trump golf course affair in the papers. There are obviously pros and cons of the plans. Who is to know what is right? In this newsletter you'll see some adverts from 1967, contributed by John Norrie. I started reading the Climber magazines from which they were taken. It was obvious the winters were harder then, for there were serious proposals to run a road through the Feshie via Geldie Lodge to White Bridge and then to Linn o' Dee. Another road was proposed from White Bridge via Bynack Lodge and down the Tilt to Blair Atholl. This was part of the Cairngorm Plan. It was ready to be sent to Willie Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland for consideration. The plan was to link Scotland's ski resorts together. Looking at these plans now, 40 years on, they seem unbelievable. The wilderness area of the Southern Cairngorms just wouldn't exist as it does today. And of course the snow has disappeared.

Hope to see you during at one of the festive meets or the forthcoming high tea meet or dance?

Festive greetings to all. A' the best for 2008. May it be a drier one in all ways!

Your president,  
Colin

## Curling

The club triumphed over Friocheim HWC in the match held on 27<sup>th</sup> October. Thanks to the experienced skips for leading the team. Unfortunately though, we couldn't field a team of 16.

## DANCE

The club are holding a stovie supper dance at Kingsmuir Village Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Tickets £10 from any committee member. Music by Deirdre Adamson. Any musicians or singers, please get in touch with the committee

## Forthcoming Meets

### **27 December 2007 : Glenshee**

The plan is to climb the Cairnwell from the south, walk round the corrie and head west to Carn Bhinnein. Meet at the Myre at 8am.

### **2 January 2008 : Auchnafree Hill**

Another Corbett! We haven't been to this area for a while, so why not? Meet at the Myre at 8 am.

### **13 January 2008 : High Tea Meet**

There is a bus from Luthermuir, departing at 8am. Meet at the Myre at 7.30 to car share to Luthermuir. Names are needed as soon as possible for the meal and for the bus. The walk will be somewhere in the region of the Ladder Hills. The meal must be ordered

#### High tea menu £11.00

- Beef and mushroom pie
- Gammon steak with pineapple
- Deep fried haddock in breadcrumbs
- Smoked haddock in mushroom sauce
- Beef olives with onion gravy
- Breast of Chicken in Stilton sauce
- Vegetable Lasagne.

All served with a choice of chips or potatoes and fresh vegetables.

Followed by

- home made cakes
- scones with jam and clotted cream
- choice of tea or coffee

## Weekend Meets

You should have received a copy of the booking form for the weekend meets in March (Kinlochleven), May (Durness) and June (Kintail). If not, contact a committee member or see the club web site for a download.

## **Paragliding?**

You too can own a pair of these astonishing Paramo trousers. They have impressive powers. Brian Coull's pair automatically released themselves from his waist during the final pull to the summit of Ben Ledi on the December meet, dropped to his ankles and prepared to fly! It was a bit "brass monkey" for that sort of thing. Best kept for the summer months!

## **Evening meetings now set for May & June.**

May 12<sup>th</sup> : 7.15 pm Arbroath cliff ramble

June 2<sup>nd</sup> : 7:15 pm Cycle/ramble in Montreathmont Forest.

See updated events calendar card.

## **Winter Programme**

### **September – December 2007**

The winter programme went ahead almost as planned. After the September meeting, John and Rita Norrie, our honorary members, presented a slide show of the "first 40 years with the club". John and Rita showed slides from 1966 onwards accompanied by tales of club meets from the past. Many of today's long-term members featured on the slides. The slides are currently being scanned and will be available on DVD soon.

In October, John Rogers from Perth Mountaineering Club returned for his 3<sup>rd</sup> visit to the club. He gave a stunning display of a trip to Tasmania involving climbing many of the island's 6000ft peaks. The annual quiz night took place in November. The quiz master, Brian Coull, had fled the country in fear of his life after the riots of the last few years. John Dawson again provided the excellent and challenging photographic element of the quiz and acted as quizmaster on the night.

Thanks to both. Teams were chosen at random. Colin, Linda and Sheila triumphed. No chocolate oranges were thrown about at the end.

Our speaker for December cancelled at the last minute and our honorary member John Norrie stood in, giving an excellent slideshow on the islands of Scotland, starting with a trip to the Bell Rock. Thanks John.

## **Data protection**

Remember if you do not have a club address list, it is because you have not signed a Data Protection form. You can opt out from have your details available to other club members, but if you do you will not receive a copy of the address list. If you wish to opt in, see form on club web site. Complete it and send to the secretary.

## **Club trig point repainted**

The adopted club trig point on Beinn Vuirich was repainted during the November 11<sup>th</sup> meet. It was pretty cold on top and most of the paint froze before drying. Thanks to the 3 painters – only 3 mad enough to bare their hands to the raw NE

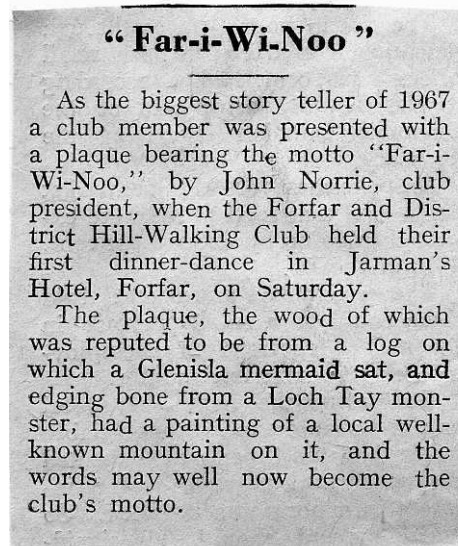
wind. Last visit there was on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2003. More in next newsletter about the Ordnance Survey follow-up.

## **Photographic Competition 2008**

This will be held after the Open Meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. The rules are specified on the new constitution, which was distributed with the last newsletter (also available online). Stan Farrow is the judge. The judge must have entries earlier than the competition. Closing date is therefore Tuesday 29<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 too. Cardboard cut-outs of stags are most welcome!

## **Historic "Far I wi Noo" Plaque retrieved**

At the open meeting in October, Jim Nicol presented the president with the first club plaque dated 1967. This was presented to Reg Fawcett, the first president of the club, for being the biggest story teller of 1967. The plaque had written it, the first mention of the club's motto. Jim retrieved the plaque from the house of the former president. It was thought that this had been lost but was found in a cupboard when the house was being cleared. Thanks Jim.



## **The Great Caledonian Challenge**

**16 June 2007**

**by Ray Campbell**

Towards the end of last year, some of my work colleagues were looking for an event for our annual charity fund-raiser and stumbled upon the Great Caledonian Challenge. For the uninitiated,

this is a 54 mile walk from Fort William to Ardlui on the West Highland Way and must be completed within 24 hours. Against my better judgement, I registered as part of our team along with 7 others.

Training was scheduled to start soon after the New Year, but January turned into February and February turned into March without much activity. However, with the longer light nights we all got cracking, starting with some rather unadventurous walks on disused railway tracks etc around Aberdeen. I converted some of my colleagues into hillwalkers by leading the way around Mount Battock and Clachnaben one sunny Saturday, an area which was to become a regular training ground for some of them. Later, in gorgeous summer weather in April, two of us effortlessly climbed Lochnagar in little more than two hours, giving us encouragement that our training was paying dividends in terms of fitness. There were clearly two training camps by this time, one which believed in more strenuous hilly routes and one which preferred lower-level routes. This, I think, was to prove telling on the big day.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June arrived all too quickly and we found ourselves speeding towards Fort William where we were to spend the night. After checking in and attending the safety lecture etc it was off to bed for an early night after only the briefest of visits to the pub (honest!)

We were up at 5am the next day for a cooked breakfast at 5.30 (pity the poor landlady!) as we had to be at the start by 6.30. After a bit of hanging about at the start we were finally off at 7.10, climbing up the track away from Glen Nevis. We started at a fairly brisk pace to try and get clear of the worst of the crowds, but unfortunately two of our team got left behind very quickly. Each time I glanced over my shoulder, the mist had lifted a bit more on Ben Nevis, and it promised to be good weather for such a long walk with the high cloud providing little threat of rain and a light breeze to keep the worst of the midges at bay. Onwards we walked, past the south face of Mullach Nan Coirean and Stob Ban, where we could clearly see the fault line where the red sandstone suddenly turns to white quartz. A gap in the hills to the south gave us our first glimpse of the Glencoe hills.

After a steep descent we reached the first checkpoint at Kinlochleven just before 11am – slightly quicker than I had anticipated. Our support team was ready with bacon rolls and goodies to put in our rucksacks. Spirits were very high at this point as the first 12 miles seemed like a mere warm-up, such was our fitness. The two girls who had been lagging behind came into the checkpoint as we were preparing to leave. One of them was feeling the strain and unfortunately dropped out shortly thereafter. The remaining seven set about the long ascent towards Blackwater dam. Near the high point we experienced our first shower of rain, a brief stop

being made to don waterproofs. The rain did not last long, and just as it stopped we reached the high point where Buchaille Etive Mor suddenly rears up into view in spectacular fashion. There then followed the descent down the zig-zags of the Devil's Staircase. From here we could see the tents and other paraphernalia of Checkpoint Two at the White Corries car park. This must have been about five miles away and it was amusing hearing someone say into a mobile phone "We can see you – we'll be there in about half an hour". At the second checkpoint, Glencoe lived up to its reputation by hurling vast quantities of rain down on us, and so it was on with the waterproofs again prior to enjoying our pasta which had been cooked for us by our intrepid support team. At this point one of our support team blotted her copybook by closing the tailgate of our car and tipping copious amounts of water on poor Donald in the process, who was sitting underneath it putting on some dry clothes.

And so it was on again in the direction of Inveroran. The rain stopped shortly after leaving and I was leading the way with Craig when we both became aware of people shouting. On turning round we discovered that we had strayed about 100 metres off the route – a bit of an embarrassment! By this time our team was well and truly split into two groups with Craig, Donald, Sally and myself in front with Derek, Michelle and Debbie fully half an hour behind.

The rest of the route to Inveroran was fairly uneventful, and we arrived at the checkpoint there at about 7pm. The support teams had no access to this point but the event organisers provided food, a Scottish Dance Band and masseurs if you so desired. We had a stop of about an hour here as Donald and I taped up our feet and Craig went for a massage. This was the 30-mile mark and my feet were beginning to complain just a bit. We set off once again with Craig claiming that he felt as if he had a new pair of legs after his massage. By the time we got to Bridge of Orchy he had left us trailing in his wake and we didn't see him again until the finish. (Craig is six feet three, twenty-six years old and built like a beanpole so he had an advantage over most of us in any case). The light was fading rapidly as we walked alongside the railway towards Tyndrum. By the time we got to Auch we had to stop and get the head torches out. At this point a foreign character befriended us and demonstrated some stretching exercises for our benefit. When he saw me rubbing my calf muscles he insisted on giving them a massage which I must admit was a great relief but, despite my assurances that my thighs were fine, he insisted on giving me the full works. I thanked him profusely and very quickly got on my way. The next stretch was a nightmare, through a forest on an indistinct track in the dark. To make matters worse, the midges had called out reinforcements and were all intent on having their supper. I had to use one hand to hold the

midgie net taut over my face as the slightest crease in the netting in front of my face meant that I was walking blind. Meanwhile the little track was winding around trees and over burns with curses ringing out in the dark as walkers discovered obstacles the hard way.

We reached Auchtertyre, the fourth and final checkpoint just after midnight. This was the 42-mile point and I was feeling exhausted. News reached us that our support team had not arrived. None of us were particularly hungry in any case and we settled for a hot cup of tea and some fruit. Donald put some more zinc oxide tape on his feet (he must have used miles of the stuff). Just as we were about to leave we got word that our support team had found the place. We went to see them just to say hello but when we got there they already had the burgers on the barbeque. The smell was too tempting so we stopped a while longer and had something to eat.

About 1.20 am we were on our way again, the thought of another 12 miles filling me with more than a bit of trepidation. My spirits were not at all lifted by the long, steep climb through the forest towards Crianlarich. Every step was an effort by this time but there was no way I was giving up at this stage. After what seemed like an interminable climb, we started to lose height as the path veered south-westwards into Glen Falloch. I could make out the silhouette of Cruach Ardrain and realised that dawn was not far away. The combination of a bit of light in the sky, a downward slope and an Ibuprofen (my first!) gave me a new burst of energy for a while. I needed this when we reached the road crossing. The underpass was obviously made for hobbits as it was only about 4 feet high. We had to squat down as we walked through – not what we wanted at this late stage. There was a soup and water stop at the other side of the road. The scouts manning the station cheerfully told us that there were only seven miles to go (only?). We were able to put away our head torches by this time. The cloud was much higher than the previous day with patches of blue sky hinting that a good day may lie ahead. I was looking at my watch frequently now, counting down the fractions of miles as time moved on. We stopped for a few minutes at the last water stop – only three miles to go. The constant roaring noise from the River Falloch, which had accompanied us for some time, died away and I realised we must be approaching Loch Lomond. Sure enough, we came over a small rise and there we were, looking straight down Loch Lomond, a beautiful and most welcoming site. After another twenty minutes or so, we met an event marshall who said "well done, 50 metres to go". This was music to our ears, although there was the small matter of negotiating

a style first. We checked in, had a cup of coffee before heading down to the loch-side where the Royal Marines were waiting to take us across the loch in one of their landing craft. This was quite an experience and quickly disposed of any sense of tiredness and any midges. At the other side, we received our medals and went to the marquee for our complimentary pint of lager. We were high as kites for about an hour, then the fatigue set in. It was a beautiful sunny day as I went back to the car to change. Within seconds of packing my gear, I was sound asleep.

### Statistics

	Arrive	Depart	Miles
Fort William		7.10am	
Kinlochleven	11.00am	11.40am	12
Glencoe Ski Centre	3.25pm	4.15pm	10
Inveroran	6.50pm	7.50pm	8
Auchtertyre	12.15am	1.20am	12
Ardlui	6.15am		12
			54

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored me. We raised a total of £5,300 for the Scottish Community Foundation, a charity which supports a vast range of causes throughout Scotland.

### From Climber Magazine February 1967 J. Norrie

FISHER

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

2 BORROWDALE ROAD  
KESWICK  
CUMBERLAND



**INSTEP CRAMPONS 24/- pair**  
ADJUSTABLE NYLON STRAPS 6/-



9/6 each  
METAL BASED  
CRAMPON HOLDALLS

**12 POINT CRAMPONS**

-  \* SALWA £5.8.6
-  \* GRIVEL (Lobster) £6.12.6
-  \* SIMOND EVEREST £6.6.0
-  \* STUBAI LIGHTWEIGHT £5.8.0
-  GRIVEL (with strap) £6.7.0

\* Straps extra

**EXPOSURE SUIT**

*This offers full protection from rain and snow. Made from proofed Nylon in Red or Blue. Note that both the Cagoule and trousers fold away into the small bag.*



SMALL · MEDIUM · LARGE

**£5.19.6**

NOW IN STOCK: ANDRE JAMET DUVETS Large Size £15.19.6

## More Adverts from "The Climber"

contributed by John Norrie

April 1967

# go VANGO Climbing '67

The 'FORCE TEN' Tent—specifically designed for all-weather Climbing—is made from selected materials to give greater strength, lightness, and small packed size, without affecting stability.

- Two 'A' Poles for unobstructed space inside.
- Inner has sewn-in groundsheet.
- Flysheets comes close to the ground.
- Spacious Bell-ends both front and rear to give fully protected doorway and extra space for kit storage, cooking, etc.
- Nylon zips used throughout.



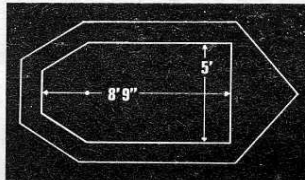
The 'FORCE TEN' Mk.2. Inner 8'9" x 5' x 4' high, with 6" walls, weight 15 lbs. costs £16 16s.

A smaller model, the 'Force Ten' Mk.1., costs £12 16s. and other Ridge Tents from £11 15s.

**VANGO (Scotland) LTD. 356 Amulree St., Glasgow, E.2**



'FORCE TEN' MK.2.



The VANGO range of equipment includes Tents, Kastinger boots, Sleeping bags, and other specialized items for the Climber.

Write now for fully illustrated leaflets.

The president and his wife still own two Mark 4 Force Tens. They're a bit heavy for backpacking, but are great tents for base camp. The older one is now regularly used at T in the Park.

August 1967

## MOUNTAIN SAFETY, SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES

Two 10-day courses will be run concurrently at  
**GLENMORE LODGE, AVIEMORE, INVERNESS-SHIRE**

(In co-operation with the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland)

from **SATURDAY, 11th NOVEMBER — MONDAY, 20th NOVEMBER, 1967**

- (1) **FOR THE EXPERIENCED MOUNTAINEER OR RESCUE TEAM MEMBER.**  
An advanced course of instruction in cliff rescue techniques (including use of winch and tragsitz), Radio communications, pyrotechnics, winter survival and avalanche search and rescue.
- (2) **FOR THE MOUNTAIN WALKER WHO WANTS A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO RESCUE SERVICES AND TECHNIQUES.**  
The emphasis of this course will be on personal safety and survival with practical search and rescue schemes using light-weight radio equipment. A course of lectures in first-aid will be included.

**SPECIAL FEE — £17:17:-**

Applications for places on either of these courses should be made immediately to:

**THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF PHYSICAL RECREATION**  
4 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, 2.

## **Meet Secretary's Reports**

### **23-25 June 2005**

#### **Torridon Weekend**

The Torridon Youth Hostel is a favourite of many of our members and a good turn-out swelled the already busy hostel on Friday night to such an extent that parking spaces were at a premium. The journey northwards and westwards on Friday night was made through ever-improving weather and hopes were high for a good weekend. Disappointingly, the cloud was very low on Saturday morning. Some members went on a low-level walk while others climbed Beinn Alligin, Beinn Dearg and Beinn Eighe. We enjoyed a good night out at the hotel and were entertained by live music and by people outside being eaten by midges. The following day the weather, if anything, was worse. Six members climbed Fionn Bheinn on the way home in very poor conditions while others tried their luck further south and some went home. Two members stayed for an extra few days and, wouldn't you believe it, they enjoyed some very good weather.

### **8 July 2007**

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

Glen Falloch was the destination for nine members on the traditional mystery meet at the start of the holiday period. The walk did not get off to a good start as one car load waited in Crianlarich while the other two passed each other several times going in opposite directions in Glen Falloch. We finally all arrived in the same lay-by and set off up the track towards Cruach Ardrain. It was a day of frequent heavy showers and the waterproofs were off and on all day. From Cruach Ardrain we made the easy re-ascent to Beinn Tuillachan. A straightforward descent saw us back at the cars in good time and we enjoyed our regular refreshment stop in Crieff.

### **19 August 2007**

#### **Creag Meagaidh**

Sixteen members were present on this bus meet. Once more, the weather was very unseasonal. Ten members were dropped off at the east end of Loch Laggan to take in the entire ridge of Carn Liath Stob Poite Coire Ardair and Creag Meagaidh. The other six started at Moy and headed directly up the south ridge of Creag Meagaidh, following the dyke for much of the way. The two groups passed each other just west of the Window, with the smaller group being on the way down and the larger group heading for Creag Meagaidh. The walkers all arrived back at the bus with a little more than half an hour between them.

### **9 September 2007**

#### **Beinn Dearg (Bikes)**

Eleven members plus bikes attended this meet. Most members had to push their bikes most of the way from Old Blair to the bothy in Glen Banvie and the wisdom of taking bikes at all seemed questionable at this point. The weather stayed dry although the final ascent was done in cloud. Back at the bothy, we reacquainted ourselves with our bikes and this was where the fun started. Eight kilometres of almost continual descent on a fairly rough track were covered by some of the members in little more than half an hour, with the unfortunate Colin Dell missing out on the last comfortable descent on tarmac due to a puncture. The day was completed with a refreshment stop at Dunkeld.

### **21 - 23 September**

#### **Lake District**

Only five members attended staying in Derwentwater YH. Since one member wasn't walking, it was possible to do a through route on Saturday. Four members began their walk from Seathwaite and followed the path up to Esk Hause. From here, a quick check of the map was made before climbing over Ill Crag and a last push up the slope to the top of England, Scafell Pike (977 m). With the top being very busy, all headed for Mickledore where an ascent of Scafell was made via a gill by three members before heading for the pick-up in the hamlet named Boot. One member made his descent by Cam Spout Crag and headed for Boot via Eskdale. A meal and a few drinks were enjoyed in the colourfully named Boot Inn on Saturday evening, although there was some confusion between Creme Brulee and Creme Anglais! On Sunday, the weather took a turn for the worse with low cloud on the tops with wind and rain thrown into the mix as well. One member headed for home. Two members were tourists for the day and two hardy lads took in the hill called Cat Bells before heading for home.

### **21 October 2007**

#### **Rannoch Station**

A good attendance of twenty-one members turned up for this car meet. Perhaps it was the attraction of a Corbett in addition to the two Munros we planned to climb, or perhaps it was the chance to give First Scotrail some money for the return from Corroul to Rannoch Station. We parked at Loch Eigheach, a mile east of Rannoch Station and followed the Road to the Isles at first. We soon branched off this right of way to head up to the ridge of Meall na Meoig. Visibility became very poor near the summit, which we found after some careful navigation. Conditions remained poor as we continued to Sgor Gaibhre, the first Munro of the day. We reached Carn Dearg ahead of schedule, and rather than have long wait for the

train we decided to change route and head back along the south ridge of Carn Dearg. Visibility improved as we lost height to give us some good views over Rannoch Moor to the Glen Coe hills. We got back to the cars just as dusk was creeping in but saved ourselves almost an hour by foregoing our train journey.

### **11 November 2007**

#### **Ben Vuirich**

It was time to pay a visit to our adopted trig point once more, and so it was that eighteen members plus paintbrush and weatherproof paint boarded the bus at the Myre. We set off from Tarvie on the Moulin Moor road on a cold, crisp morning. Higher up, we experienced the odd flurry of snow. As this was Remembrance Sunday, we joined the rest of the country in two minutes silence at 11am. The painting of the trig point was done quickly in very cold conditions before we descended quickly towards Shinigag. The day ended with a slight bit of confusion as six members plus the bus driver sat at Killiecrankie Visitor Centre while the rest of the party waited about three miles up the road. A phone call quickly sorted the problem however.

### **9 December 2007**

#### **Ben Ledi – Ben Vane**

This meet saw the Club taking in its fourth Corbett in three meets. (Are we seeing a power shift within the Club? - answers from Munro-Baggers to the Committee please). The bus left Forfar in heavy rain but we were assured by our weather guru that it would improve. This indeed turned out to be the case as the cloud lifted around dawn and by the time we reached Balquhidder there was fresh snow on the ground and the hills were clear of cloud. It promised to be a day of classic winter walking as we set off in perfectly still conditions. As we gained height we eventually became exposed to the northerly wind but eventually found a reasonably sheltered spot for a lunch stop near the top of Ben Vane. The snow slowed progress slightly and it took longer than

expected to negotiate the twisting ridge towards Ben Ledi. Four members went down at this point. On the upper slopes, the rest of us experienced the eighty miles an hour gusts of wind which were forecast, with several members being blown over and others crouching or kneeling during the worst gusts. As we descended, we could see the lights of the surrounding towns of Callander, Stirling and Grangemouth as it became obvious that we were going to run out of daylight. We reached the bus in complete darkness.

#### **Free Plastic Winter boots**

Having tried unsuccessfully to sell these in past newsletters, they are now available free to anyone. Size 43. A bit nipit on my ever expanding feet. Contact Colin.

#### **For Sale**

Ladies Mendl Boots – size 5, too wide  
Ladies Lowe Alpine 45L sac (as new)  
Contact Linda

