



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 39

June 2012

www.fdhwc.org.uk

President's Column

I've just had a Ricki Fulton flash-back again. Why? It's as if I'm preparing my 6 monthly sermon – just like the Rev. I. M. Jolly. Hopefully I'm not as droll as his character, but I must admit I'm beginning to feel that way as a very wet and cold start to "summer" continues. Mid-summer is approaching fast, and the miserable weather, with mainly easterly winds, doesn't appear to be changing. Having said that, we have unusually when blessed with great weather for meets for the last few months.

So far this year, I've collected 3 ticks, and not of the exploring kind. There is an interesting article in this month's Candis magazine about Lyme's disease and the problems faced by one woman after just one tick bite. So fellow members, remember to carry these tick twisters and get them out as fast as you can.

I hope you like the next programme that the committee has prepared. One extra weekend has been added in February – it's in an area where one can walk, climb, downhill ski or ski-tour. The social meets continue with the emphasis on eating. And there is a dearth of Corbetts and Grahams on the programme!

Let's pray for a drier and warmer end to the summer.

Colin,
President

Incident of the year – 2011

Three entries were received.

- "Scott, I think I forgot to tie you on", Colin Sinclair
- "Am I supposed to be tied onto this?" Scott Cameron
- "Long hitch home" Colin Dell, on ending up in Glen Etive instead of Glen Coe.

A vote was taken at the AGM, and Scott was duly awarded the incident of year. He was presented with the plaque at Girds night.

First Munro

Colin Barnett, a new member, climbed his first Munro, Lochnagar, on the March day meet

Change to Constitution

This was approved at the AGM in March. Basically the post of Press Secretary has been removed. The Assistant Meet Secretary will take on the press duties. The updated constitution can be found on the web site.

Weekend Meets - Autumn 2012

September	Cannich area
October	Glen Clova
November	Bridge of Orchy

Five Corbett Challenge

The president will attempt this challenge during the late summer, as part of his ongoing "explorations". A few members have expressed interest in joining him. Get in touch if you want to be kept informed. The five Corbetts lie to the east of the A85, just north of Tyndrum. You start high on the pass through to Bridge of Orchy, but pay for it at the end of the day with a climb back. The day involves a total ascent of 2100m – more than a wee daunder! Two members have achieved this in the past :- Nick Parsons, an ex-secretary of the club, and Brian Coull.

Curling

The club held a joint curling night with Carnoustie Panbride Badminton Club. We were on the ice for two hours, given instruction by real curlers and then divided into teams for matches on 4 rinks. Most folk stayed for a supper afterwards. Thanks to Bob Railton for organising this very successful event. The badminton club want a repeat, and many of our members have expressed interest in a repeat too. So look out.

Climbing Night

Five members and a guest (Colin, Stuart, Connor, Neil, Steve & Laura) attended a night at AVertical world in Dundee, where they were instructed by Maddie, a very tall lean instructor. She showed the group belaying techniques, then the group split into threes and had turns at climbing and belaying. A good night was had by all.

Caird Hall Capers

by John Norrie

Foreword by Colin Sinclair: In April, Linda and I spent a weekend at GlenMore Lodge, while I attended a BASP First Aid course. During the course of the weekend, the mountain rescue committees in Scotland met for a summit in the Lodge. Alfie and Joy Ingram attended and on Saturday evening, the four of us met up in the bar and had a good blether. During the course of the night, the tale of the Caird Hall event unfolded. Hence this article...

In June 1990, Tayside Mountain Rescue Team was invited to help launch the first Dundee Festival, which entailed the unfurling of banners down the front of the Caird Hall, which had just undergone an expensive clean up with gull deterrent painted onto the roof.

On the evening prior to the event, team members set up a number of belay points on the roof area behind the small front wall, and the idea was to abseil down the pillars.

To start the abseil meant a climb over a small wall, then step out onto the frontage, before contacting with the pillar. It was soon realised in practice that the strings keeping the banners closed could not be reached, so it would have to be a free abseil between the pillars on the day. It was then discovered that the gull deterrent was displayed in trainer sole pattern all over the front of the newly cleaned building!

After the official opening speeches to a very small audience, the abseilers launched themselves over the wall in timed sequence to unfurl the banners. But, nobody had consulted the council workmen who had tied them up with various knots. Consequently, some banners came down and some didn't, so for a minute or two, the team members were left suspended, shrugging their shoulders, wondering what to do next.

Rhyme of the Explorer

by Stuart Donald

To the tune of "Popeye the sailor man".

He's Colin the Corbetteer;
A habit we think is queer.
He claims he's exploring;
An excuse that is boring.
He's Colin the Corbetteer.

He's Colin the Corbett bagger
Behind him poor Linda must stagger.
But David's done more;
A point very sore!
He's Colin the Corbett bagger.

Fortunately, the local media were giving all their attention to a Radio Tay "celebrity" who had done a crash course on descending by Leuchars MRT, and so missed out on the fiasco going on at the other end.

Apart from the City Council and the MRTs, not many Dundonians had ever heard (or cared) about the Dundee Festival.



Photo (L to R) : Alex Henderson (Black Alec, CDMC), John Davies (Grampian MC), John Norrie (FDHWC), Other 2 unknown.

He's Colin the Corbett man;
He does them whenever he can.
He's becoming obsessed;
Linda ISN'T impressed
He's Colin the Corbett man

He's Colin the Corbett ticker;
As a hobby it's hard to find thicker.
When his Corbetts are done;
He'll start Grahams for fun
He's Colin the list ticker.

Open Meetings Reports

January – Wildlife in the hills

Lisa King, an Angus Council ranger at Crombie, gave us very informative talk on wildlife in the hills.

February – Photo competition

Graham Wilkinson returned to judge the annual competition. The number of entries were down from the previous year, but according to the judge, the quality is good. Congratulations to Brian Coull who won with a photo of a Donegal beach. All the entries can be seen by following the Photos link on the club web site. (www.fdhwc.org.uk/photos)

March – AGM and Shipping forecast

After the AGM, the president gave a rather rushed presentation on the shipping forecast, including a practical on listening to a recorded shipping forecast.

April – Members night

We tried a new idea calling it a Member's Night. Members were given 10 minutes to talk about 10 of their recent photographs. Only 4 members brought photos, but it seemed popular so we will try this again.

May - Girds Championship

won by Neil Sangster.

June - Treasure Hunt

This was organised by Mel and her sister Sarah. This was quite a challenging hunt, involving Whigstreet and Letham. Four teams of 4 competed – a great night. Thanks Mel and Sarah. Wee photos on club web site. (www.fdhwc.org.uk/photos)

Registration of Munroists

Following, the article in Newsletter 38 about the growth of Munro bagging, the two non-registered FDHWC members were contacted. They are now registered with the SMC – a bit out of chronological order, but they do have numbers.

- Garry Adam (2001) = no. 4962
- John McDonald (2003) = no. 4963

At the time of publication, the number of registered Munroists is 4999.

Meet Reports Dec-Jun 2012

Sorry. The usual reports are not available due to the early publication of this newsletter. They will appear in Newsletter 40. In the meantime, a very brief summary is given.

Dec- January Festive meets.

A Shakespeare theme – Dec27th on Dunsinsane Hill, January 3rd on the Obney Hills and Birnam Hill, What a contrast! One a lovely winter's day, the other a gale, including the clearing of the road from fallen trees to reach the hills.

January – High Tea meet

Bridge of Dye – Clachnaben – Mount Battock – Glen Esk

Good attendance on a fabulous winter's day. Very little snow. The usual high quality High Tea at Sauchieburn Hotel.

February – Lochnagar

A cracking winter's day. Stunning views. Two members also climbed White Mounth.

March -Glen Lyon to Lawers car park/ Fearnan

Walks mostly undertaken in thick cloud, but did clear up very late on. Where has all the snow gone?

March Weekend – Corran Ferry

Very pleasant warm sunny weekend – better than our summer so far. Walks in Glen Nevis, Moidart, Glen Coe and Glen Etive.

April – Loch Laggan (south side)

Back to winter as the snow returns. Geal Charn and Creag Pitridh climbed.

May weekend – Arran

Fabulous two days walking.scrambling on this wonderful island. Some groups up on the ridges, some groups round by the coasts.

May – Geldie Lodge

A cycle into this very remote area to climb Carn An Fhidhleir and An Sgarsoch – very good weather with fantastic views of the snow covered Cairngorm plateau.

May social – Glen Moy

Another beautiful day. Good turn out for the walk. The highlight of the day was the lunch provided by Aileen and Carolyn at the stalkers' hut. What a feast! Thanks ladies.

June – Meal Chuaich

The planned round of Beinn a Ghlo was dismissed. Small group climbed Meal Chuaich instead. Ray described it as mingin'.

Manywee 643m

- a Graham Top (of a Corbett)

This excellent wee hill was climbed by the club on the social meet of June. We had one special guest on the meet, Peter Fewell, the father of Kate. This was his first walk out in Scotland and unusually the weather was very warm and sunny – in fact it was South African in nature. A very pleasant day and an extremely pleasant banquet supplied by Carolyn and Aileen.