

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the Club was held on Saturday, 29th November, 1924, Dr. J. R. Levack, retiring President, in the chair. The accounts for the year were submitted and approved, and the following office-bearers were appointed:—President, William Garden; Vice-Presidents, T. R. Gillies and W. A. Reid; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, J. A. Nicol; Hon. Editor, Henry Alexander; Members of Committee, James Conner, H. G. Drummond, John Gauld, J. A. Hadden, J. R. Levack, W. Mitchell, J. A. Parker, E. W. Watt, and J. W. Levack. It was unanimously decided to send a memorial to the Ministry of Transport urging the construction of a road from Deeside to Speyside by Glen Feshie. The warm thanks of the Club were expressed to the retiring President for his services.

### THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE annual dinner of the Club, which took place in the Imperial Hotel on Saturday, 13th December, and which was attended by some 80 members and friends, including a number of ladies, was a very pleasant and enjoyable occasion, and was signalised by congratulatory references to the completion of the Lochnagar indicator and by the auspicious launching of a scheme for a similar indicator on Ben Macdhui and the raising of £120 towards its cost. Dr. J. R. Levack, the retiring President, was in the chair and, after dinner and the toast of "The King," he showed a number of interesting lantern slides illustrating the erection of the indicator on Lochnagar last year. Incidentally Dr. Levack mentioned that he had made his first ascent of Lochnagar 22 years ago and his 50th last year. He went on to describe the next task awaiting the Club—the erection of an indicator on Ben Macdhui. Mr Parker had prepared the design and it was a question of money, but the Club would have no difficulty about that.

A presentation was then made to Mr. J. A. Parker in acknowledgment of his great services to the Club in connection with the Lochnagar indicator. It took the form of a finely bound copy of the special Lochnagar issue of the Club *Journal*, inscribed with the signatures of all the members present at the dinner and containing also a copy of the letter from the King, conveying his gracious acceptance of the *Journal*, and an excerpt of the following minute adopted by the Committee of the Club:—

The Committee expresses to Mr. Parker the Club's appreciation of his zeal in promoting the scheme for the erection of an Indicator on Lochnagar, of his unsparing

efforts in preparing drawings and arranging for the manufacture of the Indicator, and of his devoted labours in connection with its actual erection. The Club and the public are deeply indebted to Mr. Parker for these most efficient services, ungrudgingly given.

Dr. Levack asked Mr. Parker to accept the gift as a small token of the Club's admiration, respect, and gratitude for all he had done for the Club, and with it their hope that he would be long spared to climb the mountains and be a help to all who went up into the hills.

Mr. Parker, who was enthusiastically received, said that anything that he had done had been a labour of love, and that the Lochnagar indicator was only the preliminary: the main idea was to get one on Ben Macdhui—a bigger proposition.

Mr. F. Fowlie, whose work as chief mason in connection with the erection of the indicator was also acknowledged, expressed his pleasure at having been associated with the club's enterprise at Lochnagar.

Mr. William Garden, the new President, in a felicitous speech, gave the toast of "The Retiring President." Joining the Club in 1905, Dr. Levack had been in the chair since 1918 with much honour to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the members. Under him the membership had risen from 140 to 181, the rules had been revised, and the Lochnagar indicator had been erected—a great achievement and a monument and testimony alike to Dr. Levack and the Club. He had the temperament and all the attributes that went to the making of a first-class mountaineer and not merely was he a mountaineer but he had a ready descriptive pen and was an excellent photographer. With him they associated Mrs. Levack and their two sons, who were also members, and their hope was that Dr. Levack might have many glorious days upon the hills which he loved so well, and in which he had interested so many in the Club and out of it.

Dr. Levack, in acknowledging the toast which was most warmly honoured, said that he had formed many friendships in the Club and on the hills, where he believed better friends were to be made than in any other form of sport. He laid down with gratitude to them the wand of office, and handed it over with satisfaction and confidence to Mr. Garden, their new president.

Among the members present at the dinner was Mr. William Porter, the veteran member of the Club, who, though 80 years of age, ascended Lochnagar to be present at the unveiling of the indicator. The Chairman, in a graceful allusion, mentioned that Mr. Porter was about to celebrate in a few days his golden wedding and he extended to him the hearty congratulations of the Club. Mr. Porter, in reply, said he had always had a great love for the hills, although now he had to keep mostly in the valleys. It gave him great pleasure to be at Lochnagar, and he was glad to

hear of the project at Ben Macdhuì, where he had been a good many times.

During the evening a delightful musical programme was contributed by the Misses Skakle, Miss Lena Dunn and Mr. Smith, and before the company dispersed the Chairman made the announcement that the success of the Ben Macdhuì indicator was already assured for there had already been intimated to him anonymous donations of £50 and £25 and other sums, totalling in all £120.

#### NEW YEAR MEET, 1925—BALLATER.

THE New Year Meet was held at Ballater, headquarters being the Invercauld Arms. Seven members of the Club arrived on December 31st—H. J. Butchart, I. D. Campbell, G. S. Fraser, Godfrey P. Geddes, W. Malcolm, Dr. J. L. McIntyre, and Dr. Ian S. Stewart. It was decided to attempt on January 1st the traverse of Lochnagar from Loch Muick to Ballochbuie. One of the members was making his first winter climb; for him, and indeed for all, the day provided an unforgettable experience.

As the party were setting out from the Glas Allt Shiel, two golden eagles were seen flying low over the loch, and a herd of deer was quite close to the house. Otherwise few signs of animal life were noticed on the hill. On the way up the Glas Allt, the wind was gradually rising to a blizzard, and on the open plateaus above the 2,500 line the conditions were peculiarly trying. From about the 3,250 line it became necessary to go by compass, Butchart leading. The South Top was joyfully located, but very delicate work was required on the part of the guides between the South and North Top, owing to the force and direction of the wind, driving towards the precipices. This part of the journey was incredibly painful; the cold was intense; faces were encrusted with ice; the eyes especially suffered from the piercing wind. The North Top was a welcome sight, but no one proposed even a moment's delay there; the compass continued in use during the descent, until a glimpse of the Sandy Loch relieved the guides of further responsibility. The going was now easier, and the Danzig Shiel was reached just as the daylight was fading.

On the same day a party comprising W. Garden (President), J. McCoss, Charles Robb, and M. J. Robb, left Aberdeen at 7.30 by motor, with Morven in view. At 9 they reached the croft of Ballabeg, from which the ascent was made. At 1500 feet snow began to fall, and they were soon in a raging snowstorm, icicles gathering on the eyebrows; while at one nearly level part below the east top they had almost to crawl, owing to the strength of the wind. An exceptionally rough time was experienced between the two tops. On the return journey some wonderful colour-effects were seen as the snow cloud was left behind. After joining the motor, the party proceeded to Ballater to meet the main group of the members.



*Easter, 1925.*

*James Watt.*

DUBH LOCH CORRIE: BEINN A' BHUIRD.



*Easter, 1925.*

*James Watt.*

THE LUIBEG.

Motoring home in the evening they saw the unusual phenomenon of a lunar rainbow near Aboyne.

On Friday, 2nd January, the seven members who remained at Ballater, kept to the low ground, as snow was again falling. They walked up the Gairn to Gairnshiel Lodge, and across the General Wade bridge, hoping to make out the road down the east side of the glen; but they strayed through bog, field and wood in the soft snow; the way was lightened only by the marvellous snow-pictures made by the bushes and trees. On Saturday, Butchart, Campbell, McIntyre and Stewart made for the Coyles of Muick, two of them with skis; but the snow was not deep enough or hard enough for smooth running and the wind was too fierce. The skiing was not too successful, especially on the part of one who was a novice. He returned with the conviction that ski-ing is a greatly over-rated sport.

J. L. M'L.

#### EASTER MEET, 1925—BRAEMAR.

PRESENT:—Members—Wm. Garden (President), Walter A. Reid (Vice-president), I. D. Campbell, J. McCoss, Chas. Robb, M. J. Robb, Edward W. Watt, James Watt. Guests—Miss H. M. E. Duncan, George D. G. Brown, James L. Duncan.

The weather was of a most delightful character, and great enthusiasm was shown by the members present, who made some very successful excursions to the more distant recesses of the Cairngorms. The meet (headquarters, Invercauld Arms) was one of the most enjoyable ever experienced. We are convinced that if the fine meets held at Easter were more generally known there would certainly be a very much larger turn out of club members. The thing that fascinates one at Easter is the snow. On the Cairngorms everything wears an Alpine garb, and some of the attractions are—the frozen lochan, the great snow slope down which one may glissade where broken rocks appear in summer, the delicately shaped snow cornice, the avalanche track and fan in the corries, and the upper plateau snowfields the largest in this country. A view from the Cairngorms at Easter gives one the impression that the whole of Scotland is still snow covered, such an array of snow peaks are to be seen. Then, for those who wish a snow climb there are an endless number of gullies filled with snow many of which have never been ascended. The president, Mr. Wm. Garden, and the committee welcome to the Easter Meet of 1926 as many of the members as may find it convenient to be present.

Thursday 9th April—Miss Duncan, J. L. Duncan, and Reid did Lochnagar. They ascended by the Callater route and descended by the Ballochbuie Forest route. Some little trouble was caused owing to mist, but this was overcome, and the cairn enveloped in frozen snow reached.

Friday, 10th April.—Brown, Campbell, Garden, and James Watt had a big day on the eastern Cairngorms. Their day consisted of the south and north tops of Beinn a' Bhuid, Cnap a' Chleirich, (The

Priest's Knoll), the Sneck, Leabaidh an Daimh Bhuidhe (The bed of the yellow stag) the highest summit of Beinn Avon. The party went up Gleann an t-Slugain, and ascended Carn Fiaclach (The toothed hill) to the south top of Beinn a' Bhuirid. The visibility was splendid and a magnificent panorama of white peaks was seen. They skirted the fine corniced cliffs of the Dubh Loch Coire, and Coire nan Clach, en route for the north top, where an easterly direction was taken to Cnap a Chleirich, and looking into the Garbh Choire in passing the party very much admired the now famous Mitre Ridge, plastered with ice and snow.\* The northern slopes of the Sneck toward the Slochd Mor, (great gap) looked wild and lonely in its winter silence. The 600 feet to Beinn Avon was then ascended and a return journey made to the Sneck again. A great quantity of snow was found at the Clach a' Chleirich (The priest's stone) and at the Slugain Bothy. This route entailed a walk of six miles over sunlit snow above the 3000 foot line, and the party enjoyed the round of the clock required for the trip.

Saturday, 11th April—Miss Duncan, J. L. Duncan, Reid, Chas. Robb, and Edward Watt ascended Ben Macdhui by Sron Riach (grey nose). The party got into mist as they passed Coire Caochan Caol on their left, and very little could be contemplated regarding the proposed indicator on the summit.

Another party composed of Campbell, McCoss, M. J. Robb, and James Watt did the long tramp to Braeriach. The ascent was made by the ridge to the north of Coire Bhrochain. From this ridge one gets one of the finest local views to be had on the Cairngorms. One looks from the winding Dee with its first two miles running under the snow to the delicately shaped snow skyline of Cairntoul, and from the moraine heaps at the mouth of the Garbh-choire to the sky piercing point of Sgor an Lochan Uaine. The eye also wanders from the great snow-clad walls of the Lairig Ghru to the majestic snowfields of Ben Macdhui. An avalanche which had come down the central gully of Coire Bhrochain sent a fan of great snow blocks to the bottom of the corrie. High up on the ridge the party went into a very thick mist and a tearing gale, and it was thought necessary to put on the rope to keep the party together. The cairn was found to be far below the snow, and was marked by a mound at the edge of the precipice, over which hung a gigantic cornice. At the summit strange to relate there was no wind, but immediately it was left behind the fierce wind was encountered again. The descent was made into Glen Dee by glissading 1200 feet in four minutes.

Sunday, 12th April—Brown, Campbell, McCoss, Chas. Robb, M. J. Robb, and James Watt did the great snow gully at Loch Kander, and a magnificent panorama of the Cairngorms was obtained from the shoulder of Carn an Tuirc on the way back to Callater Lodge.

J. McCoss.

\* See article and illustrations by Mr. J. A. Parker, S. M. C. J., Vol. 16 page 211.



*Easter, 1925-*

CORRIE KANDER.

*James Watt.*