

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

NEW YEAR MEET, 1929—BRAEMAR.

THE New Year Meet was held at Braemar from Dec. 28, 1928, to Jan. 2, 1929, with headquarters at the Invercauld Arms Hotel. Hard frost prevailed during the whole time, and there were heavy falls of snow on the nights of the 28th and 29th which made going very heavy on the lower slopes; but, on the other hand, gave the skiers of the party the opportunity of exercising their skill even on the slopes near the hotel.

The following members were present:—J. A. Parker (President), N. Bruce, H. J. Butchart, D. P. S. Douglas, H. C. Dugan, J. L. Duncan, G. Geddes, H. Q. Irvine, W. Malcolm, J. M. Middleton, R. T. Sellar, G. R. Symmers, A. Taylor, A. M. Wilson, G. Wilson; and as guests—H. M. Bell, D. Burnett, J. Scrimgeour, J. W. Scrimgeour, and G. P. Thomson—total of twenty.

The weather conditions were, on the whole, not unfavourable throughout the duration of the Meet; but, of course, the very finest day with twenty-seven degrees of frost and a cloudless sky was reserved for Wednesday, Jan. 3, the morning of which saw the last of the party leave for home. The following notes record briefly the doings of the various parties:

Friday, December 28. Sellar, who had arrived the previous evening, motored to near the Invercauld bridge and found his way by way of the Garbh Allt to the top of the Stui; but proceeded no further as the weather conditions were getting very unfavourable. Butchart, who arrived by the early bus, skated in the forenoon, and in the afternoon climbed Morrone to make a reconnaissance as to skiing conditions on the hills but saw little as visibility was poor.

The President and N. Bruce arrived in the afternoon.

Saturday, December 29. N. Bruce and Sellar climbed Morrone in thick mist while the President and Butchart ski-ed about four miles up the Glen Clunie Road.



December, 1928

LUI BEG AND BEN MACDHUI.

R. T. Sellar

Sunday, December 30. The President, Burnett, Dugan, Duncan, Irvine and Malcolm motored to the bridge over the Garbh Allt and climbed Lochnagar by way of the Black Shiel Burn and the saddle behind Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe. The conditions were very bad with soft snow throughout and thick mist and slight drift above the 2,000 feet level. The summit was found without difficulty and on examination the Indicator was found to be in first class condition. The descent was made by the same route and the car reached 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours from the start. Few halts were made on account of the adverse conditions.

Butchart, Douglas, Geddes, Sellar, and A. M. Wilson motored up the Cairnwell Road to a point about one mile beyond Glen Clunie Lodge and then walked up to the summit of the pass. Butchart disported himself on ski on the slopes by the roadside while the others climbed the Cairnwell.

Bruce, Symmers and G. Wilson set out for Beinn a'Bhuird by way of the Slugain. The going was very heavy, especially on the south west slopes of Carn Fiaclach, and beyond this the wind and drift were so severe that the party decided to turn when a height of about 3,400 feet had been reached.

Monday, December 31. The President, Douglas, Geddes and Sellar motored to Derry Lodge and climbed Carn a'Mhaim from the summit of which they had magnificent views of Cairn Toul and Braeriach. A few short glissades were had on the return journey.

Butchart, Irvine and Thomson climbed Morrone on ski and explored the ridge southwards in the direction of Creag a' Mhadaidh, returning by the same route with reports of unfavourable snow conditions.

N. Bruce, Duncan, Malcolm, the Scrimgeours, Symmers and G. Wilson motored to Glen Clunie Lodge and climbed Sgor Mor and An Socach and had some glissading on the descent from the latter into Glen Baddoch.

This was a perfect day and the glorious weather conditions were enjoyed by all parties.

Tuesday, January 1. The President, Bell, Burnett, Malcolm, Middleton, the Scrimgeours, Taylor, G. Wilson and Dugan motored to Derry Lodge and walked up the Lui Beg to the foot of the Sron Riach where Dugan, who was on photography bent, returned to Derry Lodge, while the others continued up the ridge and reached the summit of Ben Macdhui in 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours steady going from Derry Lodge. The snow was very soft, but dry, as far as the foot of the ridge, but afterwards was in very fine condition with bits of ice in places. Thick mist was entered at about 3,000 feet and very careful staff work was necessary to find the summit cairn from the top

of the Stob Coire an Sput Dearg, and vice versa. View there was none and the cairn and the Indicator were thickly coated with ice crystals. The Indicator was partially cleared and was found to be in perfect condition. The party returned by the same route and reached Derry Lodge 6½ hours after they had left it in the morning.

N. Bruce and Symmers climbed some rocks on Creag Choinnich and afterwards, on the face opposite Invercauld House, found a "nice gully" containing two cave pitches and a good traverse on to a buttress.

Butchart, Irvine and Thomson motored to the Linn of Corriemulzie and climbed Carn Mor on ski. Returning early to the Hotel they had then some good practice on the "nursery slopes" nearby.

G. WILSON.

EASTER MEET, 1929—SPITAL OF GLENSHEE.

THE Easter Meet was held at Spital of Glenshee from March 28 to April 1. The following members arrived on Thursday, March 28:—J. A. Parker (President), Dr. Sellar, James Donald, James Bothwell, J. W. Levack, E. Birnie Reid, James Duncan. Also R. S. Walker and James Stewart were present as guests.

Friday, March 29. The whole party motored to Glenlochsie Lodge, and with the help of the light railway, used by the owner to convey his shooting parties for about two miles up the glen, and the kindness of Mr. Brunton, the manager, who drove the party up those two miles of glen, all the members, led by the President, ascended up the north side of the Clais Mhor Burn to the top of Glas Thulachan. From the top one party, consisting of the President, E. Birnie Reid and J. W. Levack descended the north slope of the hill to Loch nan Eun and from there climbed to the top of Beinn Iutharn Bheag returning to Glenlochsie Lodge by Glen Thaitneich. Another party, consisting of J. Duncan, R. S. Walker, and James Stewart, accompanied the President's party as far as the loch. From there they dropped into Glen Ey and then climbed to the top of Beinn Iutharn Mhor by the North Shoulder. The homeward journey was accomplished via Loch nan Eun and Glen Thaitneich and Glenlochsie Lodge. A third party, consisting of Dr. Sellar, James Donald and James Bothwell, descended from the top of Glas Thulachan into Gleann Mhor and from there made the ascent of Carn an Righ, returning again to Gleann Mhor and making the homeward journey via Loch nan Eun and Glen Thaitneich to Glenlochsie Lodge. The day was gloriously fine and the views from the tops of the mountains excellent.

On Friday evening Roy Symmers and N. Bruce arrived at the

Spital Hotel. They had been motored to the Glasallt Shiel and from there, starting at 7.30 a.m., had walked across Broad Cairn, Tolmount, Cairn na Glasha, Glas Maol, Creag Leacach, and arrived at the hotel about 5 p.m. Included in their itinerary was a sleep of two hours on the top of Glas Maol.

Dr. David Levack arrived at the hotel on Friday night.

Saturday, March 30. On Friday night a wager was undertaken between two members that one party, going via Glenlochsie, would reach the east top of Beinn a' Ghlo before another party motoring via Pitlochry and Blair Atholl to the foot of Carn Liath, and ascending from there over the top of Carn Liath, the west top of Beinn a' Ghlo on to the east top. The party which went via Glenlochsie arrived at the top an hour before the party which went by Blair Atholl. The party which ventured on the long walk via Glenlochsie, Glen Fernait and Loch Loch comprised Roy Symmers, Bothwell, Duncan and Donald. The other party who ascended Cairn Liath and the western top of Beinn a' Ghlo consisted of E. Birnie Reid, J. W. Levack, Dr. Sellar, Dr. D. Levack and Miller Morrison (guest), who attended the meet for Saturday. The weather was again beautifully fine, although a haze hung over the distant hills rather obscuring the view.

The President and N. Bruce motored to the foot of Mount Blair which they ascended. After accomplishing this they drove to Tulchan Lodge and walked up Canness Glen.

Sunday, March 31. On Sunday the weather turned much colder, a strong wind blowing from the north. However, this did not daunt a large number of the members who put in quite a strenuous day.

Roy Symmers and N. Bruce set tracks for the top of Glas Thulachan against a heavy north wind. From the top of this mountain they ascended to the top of Mam na Cairn, and then on to the tops of Beinn Iutharn Mhor and Beinn Iutharn Bheag, returning via Glen Thaitneich. On the way home they made the ascent of the pinnacle of Carn Bhinnein.

Bothwell and Walker ascended Creag Leacach via Carn Aighe. From there they walked over the top of Glas Maol to the top of the Cairnwell Pass. Then they climbed the Cairnwell Hill traversing the ridge of Car nan Sac to the top of Carn a'Gheoidh and Carn Bhinnein and home again by Glas Thaitneich. The President accompanied this party as far as the top of Carn Aighe and then returned to the hotel by the Cairnwell road.

Dr. Sellar, E. Birnie Reid and J. Duncan made an easy day of it by motoring to Tulchan Lodge, walking by Bessie's Cairn to the top of Chenloch Glen, returning the way they went.

J. M'Coss, C. P. Robb and M. J. Robb arrived at the hotel from

Kirkmichael and accompanied Symmers and N. Bruce to the top of Glas Thulachan, returning to the hotel via Glenlochsie.

Most of the party left for home on Sunday night and those who stayed until Monday were unable to do anything that day owing to the wintry conditions which set in. There was a heavy fall of soft snow during the night and the hills were all covered with snow which a strong north wind was causing to drift on the top of the hills.

All the members expressed themselves as highly delighted with the Meet, and thanks are due to Mr. A. Grant, the proprietor of the Spital of Glenshee Hotel, for the excellent way he catered for and looked after the comfort of the members of the Club.

J. A. S.

LOCH LEE TO CLOVA.

ON a fine Sunday morning, April 14, two members of the Club left Inchgrundle on Loch Lee at 11.40 a.m. and followed the path up stream through the trees to the first tributary coming down from the left. Here the path turns up the tributary for a short distance, and crosses it just above a small waterfall at about 1,260 ft. and about twenty minutes from Inchgrundle. The track soon becoming indistinct, a general south-west course was taken and the ridge gained somewhat to the left of a rocky outcrop overlooking the valley, and the rather flat ridge was followed over a good deal of soft ground, with peat bogs, to E. Cairn, 2,518 ft. Time 1.5 p.m.

From E. Cairn to Muckle Cairn (2,699 ft.), on a course almost due west, the ground was good with a path in places. From Muckle Cairn a good track was soon found which dipped into a hollow, and then rounded the west side of White Hill (2,787 ft.) close to the summit and passed close below a large pile of stones in which shelters had been built. From here a westerly course was taken, a prominent stone man on the 2,601 hill above the Craigs of Lock Wharral forming a useful guide, and further to the west the ruins of Logan Shieling on the side of Green Hill (2,837 ft.) were made for. The path from the Shieling was followed but was found to lead too far to the north and had to be left and a way made across peaty ground back to the crags above Loch Brandy. The best route from the Shieling would probably be to go directly west over the Green Hill till the loch is seen. A track can be found on the south-west shoulder of the hill which can be followed till the track from Clova to Loch Brandy is picked up at the south end of the loch. The total time taken from Inchgrundle to Clova Hotel was $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours or, excluding halts of more than five minutes' duration, 3 hrs. 40 mins. The route is not too easy to follow owing to the flat, indefinite ridges and uniform height of the neighbouring hills



May, 1929

BEN LAWERS FROM MEALL GARBH.

W. Malcolm

but Lochnagar was at times a useful check on direction. Had there not been considerable fields of snow on the northern slopes of the hills, it is probable that the track could have been followed more closely.

The climbers were indebted to a friend who motored them from Montrose to Loch Lee and afterwards took them back from Clova.

A. T. & W. M.

THE BEN LAWERS GROUP—SPRING HOLIDAY
WEEK-END.

ON Saturday, May 4, A. Taylor and W. Malcolm left Aberdeen by the 1 p.m. train and arrived at Aberfeldy about 5 o'clock. After tea they boarded the Fearnan bus at 6.30, reached Fearnan about 7.30, and walked the remaining four miles to their destination at Lawers Hotel.

On Sunday they left the hotel at 9 a.m. and, climbing past trees to the right of Meall Odhar, reached the cairn (3,984 ft.) on Ben Lawers in dense mist at 11.45. Descending to the north, An Stuc was climbed and the summit (3,643 ft.) reached at 1.25 p.m. The steep descent from An Stuc to the next col was very treacherous owing to the frozen turf and loose snow, and occupied forty-five minutes. Meall Garbh cairn (3,661 ft.) was reached at 3.15 p.m., and Meall Greigh (3,280 ft.) at 4.47 p.m. The descent was made direct to Lawers Burn about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the road, and then down the burn side, and the hotel was reached at 6 p.m. The climb was taken leisurely and included four halts of about twenty minutes duration each, besides time spent in photography and in compass work, the latter mainly on Ben Lawers. There were practically no distant views with the exception of Ben Voirlich and Stuc a Chroin, fourteen miles to the south, which, covered with snow and capped by heavy clouds, looked very fine. The feature of the day was the magnificent sun and cloud effects on the nearby snow-clad summits. The total height climbed was about 4,680 ft., and the distance $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Monday morning was spent in the vicinity of Loch Tay and at 4 p.m. the climbers regretfully took farewell of their good hostess, who had catered for them bountifully, the Aberfeldy bus being boarded at the hotel door and Aberdeen reached about 8.45 p.m.

MAY HOLIDAY EXCURSION, 1929—BROAD CAIRN.

THE May Holiday Excursion took place to Broad Cairn (3,268 ft.). The weather was fine at the start, but broke down later and became very cold and boisterous. The party which numbered thirty-nine,

including guests, assembled at Ballater Station, and through the courtesy of Major MacKenzie, the King's Commissioner at Balmoral, were able to motor up the private road to the Glassallt Shiel. From there they set out at 10.45. The route was by the Corrie Chash path to the moor between Sandy Hillock and Broad Cairn, where the party struck off to the right towards their objective. About noon some of the climbers saw a golden eagle in full flight in the corries at the head of Glen Clova. At 12.15 a thick mist came down, accompanied by driving snow. The top was reached by the main party at 12.45, and lunch was taken there in very unpleasant conditions, though there was some shelter on the lee side of the cairn. After lunch the party split, the smaller section, under J. A. Nicol, making for Cairn Bannoch (3,314 ft.), from which they descended to the head of the Dubh Loch, arriving at Glassallt Shiel at 3.30. The larger section, with the President as guide, proceeded to the edge of the cliffs above the Dubh Loch, intending to skirt these and descend at the head of the loch. This, however, was not found very feasible as the fresh snow was making the loose stones rather treacherous, and one of the party suffered from a mild collapse due to the cold and had to be helped along for a bit. It was decided, therefore, to return along the north side of the hill and descend between the Dubh Loch and Loch Muick. The going was rather slow and scrambling, but the journey was safely accomplished, the Glassallt Shiel being reached about four o'clock. A smaller section consisting of Roy Symmers and N. Bruce went from the Glassallt direct to the Dubh Loch crags with the object of trying one of the unclimbed buttresses; but as the conditions were hopeless, not to say highly dangerous, they had to relinquish the attempt. Although the weather conditions above 2,000 ft. were about as bad as they well could be the day's outing was thoroughly enjoyed, and the members, of the various parties reached Ballater in time for tea before taking the train back to Aberdeen.

E. W. M. W.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSIONS.

JUNE 1—GARVOCK HILL AND ST. CYRUS.

EIGHT members and one guest left the train at Laurencekirk station about 2 o'clock and proceeded at a leisurely pace to the golf course on the lower slope of the hill. The afternoon was sunny and pleasantly warm; the way through the village was bordered by neat cottages with gardens of massed flowers of glowing colour. In half-an-hour the road was left and the party was treading the

fine soft turf of the golf course. Passing the golf house, ten minutes' easy walking led to the top of the north ridge. Thence, sauntering along the ridge of volcanic rock southwards, Johnstone Tower, a structure surmounting the summit of the hill (915 ft.), was reached about 3 o'clock. The tower, a fanciful erection, with four wings and parapet on the top, bears no inscription to tell of its origin or purpose. A weather-beaten door apparently guards a stairway leading to the top: it resisted all lawful attempts to open it. From the summit the Howe o' the Mearns, with expanses of its red soil showing through the green fields and vividly contrasting with them, and its white-washed cottages scattered here and there formed a rich, colourful picture. The hills from Cairmonearn to Hill o' Wirran were gently defined in the sunlight. From this point the appearance of Clachnaben was somewhat unfamiliar. A mist veiled the south: only a glimmer of the North Esk could be caught now and then. To the east little more than the tower of St. Cyrus Church was clearly visible.

Descending along the ridge southwards for a little distance, a pleasant green path, to the left of Griggie Farm (there is actually a farm in the hollow of the hill), was followed as it wound eastwards through fields, woodlands, and woodland paths until a road was found leading through the fields and woods to St. Cyrus. At St. Cyrus Hotel an excellent meal was served and appreciated. Thereafter, strolling through the trim village, the party went down to the fine sandy beach. The return to Aberdeen was made by motor bus. The party consisted of the Misses Mavor, Messrs. W. Garden, W. Malcolm, Macqueen, George Smith, Duncan Ritchie and A. Taylor, and Miss Smith (guest).
A. T.