

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

THE 61st Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 16, 1949, the retiring President, Colonel E. B. Reid, O.B.E., in the Chair.

The Chairman made reference to the resignation of Mr William Garden from the office of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, which he had filled for the past seventeen years with great satisfaction to the Club.

In presenting the Committee's Report for the preceding year, the Chairman said that a lease of a cottage at Inverey had been obtained and that it was proposed to have the cottage equipped and opened as a Club Hut. The Committee also had under consideration the reconstruction of Corrour Bothy. These two schemes were approved. The Accounts were submitted and approved and office-bearers elected for the ensuing year.

The 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 22, 1950. The President, Mr W. M. Duff, was in the Chair and there were thirty-eight members present.

The Chairman referred to the death of Mr William Garden, a past President and, until recently, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. The accounts for the year were submitted and approved. There were 305 members at the close of the year (235 Ordinary, 42 Junior and 28 Life Members). Office-bearers were elected as shown below. Dr G. A. Taylor reported on the Club Works and stated that the restoration of the Corrour Bothy had been satisfactorily carried out in July.

The meeting approved a resolution that the Club should resign from the British Mountaineering Council at the end of this financial year (June 1951).

Mr E. W. Smith proposed that Messrs William Malcolm, James McCoss and Hugh D. Welsh be elected Honorary Members in recognition of their past services to the Club. The proposal was carried with acclamation.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

Honorary President.—R. M. Williamson, C.B.E., LL.D.

President.—W. M. Duff.

Vice-Presidents.—Dr R. L. Mitchell and Dr G. A. Taylor.

Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.—J. E. Bothwell, 34 Bridge Street, Aberdeen. Phone 20931.

Honorary Editor.—W. A. Ewen, 242 Mid Stocket Road, Aberdeen. Phone 33446.

Honorary Librarian.—R. L. Mitchell, 75 Cranford Road, Aberdeen. Phone 35916.

Honorary Meets Secretary.—E. W. Smith, 6 Viewfield Avenue, Aberdeen. Phone 36067.

Honorary Auditors.—D. Allison and N. F. Dyer.

Honorary Custodian, Muir of Inverey.—R. Bain, 25 Ruthriehill Road, Bucksburn. Phone, Bucksburn 175.

Committee.—Miss A. F. W. Arthur, Miss E. J. Lawrence, R. Bain, Dr I. M. Brooker, A. D. Cameron, Dr A. D. Lyall, Dr W. Martin Nichols, Col. E. B. Reid and Dr A. M. Thomson.

ANNUAL DINNERS.

The 1949 Annual Dinner was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on Saturday, November 26, Colonel E. B. Reid presiding. Some 120 members and guests attended, the latter including representatives from the other Scottish Clubs. Dr D. P. Levack welcomed the guests and Mr R. M. Gall Inglis, S.M.C., replied. The President spoke in appreciation of the services of Mr William Garden to the Club. Prior to the Dinner, Mr Douglas Scott, S.M.C., showed a magnificent collection of colour slides illustrating climbing in Scotland.

The 1950 Annual Dinner was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on Saturday, November 25. Mr W. M. Duff presided and some ninety members and guests attended, including representatives from the S.M.C., L.S.C.C., the Grampian and Moray Clubs. The guest speaker was Professor Graham Brown, A.C., who described his ascent of the Via della Pera, Mont Blanc. The President and Dr A. M. Thomson both delivered highly amusing speeches, and Mr J. G. Osborne defended the S.M.C. in his reply for the guests.

INDOOR MEETINGS.

1949

- Jan. 31. Exhibition of Photographs.
- Feb. 24. Professor V. C. Wynne Edwards. "By Canoe down the Mackenzie River." (Film).
- Mar. 30. Dr R. L. Mitchell. "Zermatt and Beyond." (Slides).
- Sept. 21. Mr G. H. R. Spence. "Scotland in Colour."
- Dec. 7. Mr G. A. Roberts. "Around the Cairngorms." (Slides).

1950.

- Jan. 20. Mr Adam Watson. "Birds of the Cairngorms."
- Feb. 25. Mr Ian Charleson. Film and Slides; "A.C. Meet in Bernese Oberland."
- Mar. 21. Exhibition of Photographs.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS.

1949-1950.

Dec. 30.	} Braemar.	(—)	Dec. 30.	} Braemar.	(27)
to			to		
Jan. 4.			Jan. 3.		
Jan. 30.	Clunie Lodge.	(27)	Jan. 29.	Spittal of Muick.	(26)
Feb. 13.	Spittal of Muick.	(41)	Feb. 12.	Danzig Bridge.	(26)
„ 27.	Glen Clova.	(27)	„ 26.	Glen Clova.	(27)
Mar. 13.	Danzig Bridge.	(27)	Mar. 12.	Spittal of Muick.	(33)
„ 27.	Derry Lodge.	(26)	„ 26.	Derry Lodge.	(27)

Apr. 14.	} Kinlochewe. (23)	Apr. 6.	} Roy Bridge. (26)
to		to	
Apr. 18.	} Delnadamph. (26)	Apr. 10.	} Delnadamph. (27)
May 8.		May 21.	
June 5.	Spittal of Muick. (31)	June 4.	White Bridge. (27)
June 25.	} Aviemore. (27)	June 24.	} Blair Atholl (26)
to		to	
June 26.	} Schiehallion. (29)	June 25.	} Derry Lodge. (19)
July 10.		July 9.	
„ 31.	Derry Lodge. (22)	Sept. 10.	Ben Lawers. (25)
Sept. 11.	Spittal of Muick. (24)	Oct. 15.	Clova to Prosen. (29)
Oct. 16.	Isla to Clova. (27)	Nov. 12.	Loch Lee. (25)
Nov. 6.	Ey to Clunie. (28)	Dec. 10.	Bennachie. (22)
Dec. 4.	Buck of the Cabrach. (21)		

(Figures in brackets indicate the number present.)

It is, they tell me, a solemn obligation on my part to report on the Club excursions but my mentors have so far always omitted to enlarge upon my duties. Mitchell, I am glad to think, said nothing about sticking to the point; and Taylor avers that excursions have no point other than getting back to dry clothes as soon as is decently possible. True, after one or two visits to Inchrory, one has almost reached the final decision to resign from the Club and take up the trombone. Then comes the perfect day, the cloud cover rolls back, the valleys sparkle and the hills are alive with light. Inchrory forgotten, you seek out the Meets Secretary, ruminating in a secluded nook like some Olympian Zeus, and beg leave to put your name down for the next excursion. It is so easy, when you are on top of the world, to give him your bond, redeemable at a happily distant date, to be at Golden Square, or the Cross, or Mannofield at the appointed hour. At the appointed hour—come wind, come wrack! Away base thoughts: “In yonder forest there’s a little silver river, and whosoever drinks of it, his youth shall never die.”

So we are at the Cross again before it is yet day, the sleep barely shaken from us, just alert enough to observe the President is on time and curious enough to wonder why. Before it is full dawn we are within sight of Lochnagar, where the snows have a chilly look. We reserve judgment on the day. Shortly we are approaching Beinn a’ Bhùird and, suddenly, the party stirs and comes awake. The leaden snows are flushed with the first rays of the sun and the corries are ablaze above a cold grey world. The rarer and more evanescent the picture the more it is treasured and whatever happens this 30th of January, we have had one hour of wonder and curious satisfaction. As we wended our various ways into the hills from Clunie, all eyes turned back to Beinn a’ Bhùird from which the glow and the splendour had not yet died away.

Of course, there is, sometimes, disenchantment. I once went to the Buck of the Cabrach, but the mountain visions which that magnificent

name had conjured up did not outlive the visit. The magic lies often wholly in the name; so that, if all of you know about the Props of Fasheilach, or the Lair of the Altdararie, or the Burn of the Glittering Skerries in the name, I can only counsel you to be wary, if you would keep your dreams! But, if go you must, then take Angus Thomson with you and the result will be quite unpredictable. It may be that, moved by some dim memory of the diableries of his Celtic sires on Beltane's Eve, he will soon stop to light a fire, at which, between verses of poetry rarely finished as the poet intended, he will dispense a philosophy of mountaineering, at *circa* 1,500 feet. If, however, he protests that he is not very fit and will not be able to go far, then beware: he means to take in all the tops. So we were beguiled at An Socach, when he led us from Ey to Clunie, over steep heather slopes and stony uplands, at a good 3 m.p.h., while the man in the rear prayed audibly: "God grant that Thomson be speedily restored to health."

Among my pleasantest memories is that of Midsummer Midnight on the plateau of Càrn Bàn Mòr in a heat wave. We lay there an hour or two, watching the sun go down; a chilly dew fell; Past President E. B. Reid conjured up from the vasty depths of his rucksack the apparatus for making hot cocoa; dusk came and then the whistle, faint and far, of a train in the Spey valley. The world seemed far away. There were no other sounds but the piping of golden plover and the shriller whistle of dunlin as we came down by Loch nan Stuirteag in the morning. Rarely do we hear so many birds, although a January day on the Bachnagairn tops was also noteworthy. When we returned, we sought out Hendry to tell him about the blackgrouse, the peregrines, the eagles, the snow-buntings we had seen, satisfied that, for once, we had beaten him at his own game. I might have known by the light in his eye that he was not prepared to concede us victory. "Did you see," he asked, elation in his voice, "did you see the whooper swans on Loch Muick?" The wild Elk-swans, the trumpeters, the far-flying Sons of the Skein! Confound the man; we were reluctantly obliged to offer him a draw.

Still more exciting events occurred on occasion. There was the day when, because the rope was too short, Bain was left stranded on the upper snows of the Twisting Gully of Corrie Kander; the day when Crawford, indulging in his trick of sudden disappearances, turned to his companions on the Stuic with the remark: "I am going this way," and promptly stepped clean through the cornice; the night when E. B. Reid's conjuring failed him and the wonderful rucksack failed to produce the expected compass. There was next to no ski-ing and what snow we found was not always fit to climb on. When it was, the weather interfered. Ay de mi, never the time, the place, and the loved one all together!

Then there was the Fourth Annual Inchrory debacle. It was such a day as ought to have interested Taylor, part of whose professional task it is to study fluids in motion. But, no; we were ploughing our way up the Caol Ghleann, through a sea of peat, in driving rain, when

Taylor stopped and pointed to the Clach Bhun Rhudhtair looming through a rent in the mists above. "Jove with us," he exclaimed, "there's land on the starboard bow." The other bad days are forgotten; and the random notes the Hon. Ed. makes are invariably lost before he comes to use them. With the Meets Secretary, now, it is altogether different; his work is done in advance, the data tabulated, checked, duplicated, and filed, which explains his leisured air of unconcern on the day. Everything is under control, everything except the weather. I have read that the Malaguenian peasants take to the fields during August and, sleeping *à la belle étoile*, make certain observations which enable them to forecast the weather for the ensuing twelve months with accuracy and in detail. Well it's a far cry to Malaga but, if Smithy were even to try sleeping *à la belle étoile* at, say, Hazlehead, for a night or two before excursions, he might pick up some invaluable hints. And I might sign on for Inchroary again.

W. A. E.

MEETS.

The 1949 Meet at Braemar was smaller than usual. Deep snow defeated the annual pilgrimage to Lochnagar, *via* Ballochbuie, but two parties reached the top of the Stuib. It was, indeed, a major operation to reach the Lui Beg bridge. Nevertheless, parties were on Càrn Tuirc and on the An Socach, Sgòr Mòr, Morrone ridge.

The Easter Meet at Kinlochewe is the only one of which I have a full account—from Mr Gavin Alexander. There were twenty-three present and, on Good Friday, parties were on Slioch and on Beinn Eighe, one party climbing from Grudie Bridge, another by the rocks on the east side of Morrison's Gully, Sail Mhòr, and a third going straight up Ruadh Stac. The two latter parties traversed the whole of the main ridge. The day, having promised to be fine, turned by afternoon to steady rain. Sunday started with a warm and sunny morning, and thus encouraged, the Club sallied forth to spend the day, as it turned out, immersed in mist on Liathach. Some traversed all the tops but the weaker brethren descended to Fasag in order to get tea. The McArthurs, Mitchell and Miss Munro, walked up the Allt a' Choire Dhuibh Mhòr path in order to attack the Northern Pinnacles; unfortunately, shortage of time and thick mist prevented them from completing the climb and forced them to return the same way. Easter Sunday was a superb day and, taking full advantage of it, the Club disported itself over most of the surrounding countryside.

The 1950 New Year Meet at Braemar opened in good weather but conditions worsened daily. On January 1, parties were again on Lochnagar, *via* the Black Sheil Burn and Meall Coire na Saobhaidhe. Several parties had good snow climbs in the gullies of Coire Sputan Dearg but conditions on top were unpleasant.

Twenty-one members and guests weathered the Easter Meet at Glen Spean Lodge. Jupiter Pluvius was also present and rumour has it

that, on the second day, the President went looking for a white bull. All were on the hills the first day but, with blizzard conditions aloft and signs of avalanche everywhere, performance was limited to such tops as Aonach Mòr. Few ventured out on the second day, but, by the third, partial recovery had set in and one or two parties set out for Stob Coire Claurigh. Indeed the omens were ill-arranged; too late did the President realise the sinister significance of the flight of eagles over the Grey Corries at the hour of his arrival. A timely propitiation of the Fates might have spared him the car breakdown and any consequent misunderstanding regarding the number of his wives.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

The Editor regrets that, owing to pressure upon space, several articles have had to be held over. It is impossible to increase the size of the *Journal* and difficult even to maintain it at its present size. Articles, notes, photographs, etc., for the next issue should be sent to the Hon. Editor, William A. Ewen, 242 Mid Stocket Road, Aberdeen. I am indebted to Tom Train for the sketches in this issue and to E. W. Smith for presenting two of the blocks used.

At a meeting of the Association of Scottish Climbing Clubs, held in Edinburgh on February 10, 1951, Mr Ian Charleson, S.M.C., was elected Chairman and Mr J. K. W. Dunn reappointed Honorary Secretary. The Association has been invited to submit their views on the needs of climbers in the proposed Cairngorms National Park to the Working Party on this scheme. A Sub-Committee, comprising representatives of six local Clubs, has been appointed to consider the matter and report to the next meeting.

An account of the goings-on at Corroul in July is given elsewhere. It may be of interest to add that another bothy existed, prior to 1877, on practically the same site. Indeed, the present rubbish tip, which appears to be partially built up, is said to be the foundation of the older house.

The findings of the pre-war Cambridge Botanical Expeditions to the Cairngorms are now being published in the *Journal of Ecology*. The first paper (Vol. XXXVI, p. 233), by A. S. Watt and E. W. Jones, deals with the environmental and altitudinal vegetation, and the second (Vol. XXXVIII, p. 46), by G. Metcalfe, with the heather communities. From headquarters at Glenmore Lodge, the party studied the vegetation of Cairn Gorm and Cairn Lochan from about 2,000 feet upwards.

Members who possess the 1 in. Tourist map of the Cairngorms should treat it with unusual care. We learn from the Ordnance Survey that no re-issue will be made until the new Seventh Edition 1 in. sheets are revised and it is not expected that this work will be completed for several years.

Spring cleaning? Members anxious to dispose of any of the following items (by way of gift to Muir of Inverey) are requested to communicate with the Hut Custodian, who will arrange for their collection. Basin,

ewer or water can, clothes horse, kettle, mirror, bicycle(s) in good going order.

You may not be getting much for your £ these days but for 290 francs you can have instruction in rock climbing and ice climbing, with ascents of the Wetterhorn, Breithorn, Tschingelhorn, Gspaltenhorn, and Jungfrau (all W.P.), hotel, mountain-railway fares, and, as a grande finale, a night in the bar of the Oberland Hotel with dance and entertainment! The address: Stäger Werner, Bergführer, Lauterbrunnen. 34241 Interlaken Exchange, if you are in a hurry.

Alleingänger.—Students of Alpine history should note that the Matterhorn has now been climbed by a kitten. (*The Times*, 7.8.50; A. J., Nov. 1950). Having spent the night out, somewhere below the Moseley rocks, it reached both summits the next day and was assisted down to Breuil—

. . . and lived to carry
To Catland home his commentary ?

MUIR OF INVEREY.

THE idea of building a Club Hut among the hills has been a recurring item before Committees for the last twenty-five years or more, but financial and other difficulties have always proved insurmountable. Immediately after the war the matter was raised again and, for a time, we appeared to be in some danger of acquiring a Mountain Hut, a Club bus, and a Ski Lift in Coire Sputan Dearg, all without the means of paying for them. However, immediate needs boiled down to a Club Hut, and negotiations for a lease of Derry Lodge, having finally broken down in 1949, we returned to the building problem. But Taylor's estimate of costs soon convinced us that we should have to make do with some existing building which could be adapted to suit our purpose at a relatively small financial outlay. And that led, eventually, to Muir of Inverey, the nearest available cottage to the hills, providing reasonably adequate accommodation and requiring no major alterations.

Such work as was required was carried out entirely by volunteers, under the tutelage of G. A. Taylor, at week-ends and holidays, and was, consequently, rather protracted. The kitchen was enlarged by the removal of a wooden partition, and the dust of ages; the annexe was lined with hardboard, walls painted and sundry less enjoyable tasks completed. But the most spectacular operation was the installation of a water supply, involving the digging of an incredibly long trench and various other holes in almost solid rock. The original lead pipe, punctured in seventeen places, was replaced with a new copper one, Taylor performing in the role of plumber. Taylor is not a plumber; he is a magician whose chief stock-in-trade is a wonderful sequence of mystic runes, crooned over all joints to make them water-tight. One had only to listen to discover which stage of the operation he had reached. (I remember some of the words and shall be happy to impart them to any member thinking of setting up in the trade). I have sometimes



MUIR OF INVEREY

G. A. Taylor

wondered whether our faith in Taylor was altogether justified; certainly he was the one who exhibited most surprise when it was demonstrated that the thing really did work.

By June 1950 the work was sufficiently far advanced for the cottage to be opened to members, which was done without ceremony. The cost of equipment and renovations was met from the Works Fund, to which members had been asked to send donations. These amounted to £142. 16s. 0d., and the cost of furnishings and repairs to £211. 12s. 6d. A copy of the regulations governing the use of the cottage was posted to members, together with a description of the facilities offered. Mr William MacDougall, Bellaneye, Inverey, holds a key for use in an emergency but all bookings must be made through the Honorary Custodian. The following table of distances may be useful in planning excursions:

Altanour, Glen Ey	5½ m.	(Cycle or foot-slog.)
Auchelie, ,, (nursery ski slopes.)	2½ m.	,,
Derry Lodge <i>via</i> Canadian Bridge	4 m.	(Car or cycle.)
White Bridge <i>via</i> Linn of Dee	4 m.	,,
Linn of Quoich	3½ m.	,,
Invercauld Bridge	8 m.	,,
Loch Callater Cottage	10 m.	,,
Glen Clunie Lodge	11 m.	,,

I append a list of members who took part in the work and helped to keep costs at a minimum. They approached their various tasks in holiday spirit and at least appeared to enjoy themselves. They were: Misses A. W. F. Arthur, H. M. E. Duncan, R. K. Jackson, M. Hoggarth, E. J. Lawrence, A. M. Pittendrigh, and Messrs Bain, I. and W. Brooker, Cameron, Cordingley, Crawford, Duff, Dyer, Hendry, Hunter, Lorimer, Lyall, McAndrew, McConnach, A. and J. MacGregor, McKenzie, McLellan, G. Mathieson, A. S. Middleton, Morgan, Semple, A. M. Thomson; my own part in the task was to set Taylor going—and then to restrain him when he appeared to be going too far! I should also mention the energetic Mr Fenton, of Abadan, a holiday-maker looking for exercise. It was provided.

W. A. E.

NEW CLIMBS.

Pinnacle Gully, No. 1, Lochnagar.—A first winter ascent of this gully was made by T. W. Patey and C. Morrison on January 27, 1951, in three and a half hours. The climb was on steep hard snow throughout and presented little difficulty. The rock crevasse on the original summer route was filled with black ice and an exposed traverse to the right over ice-covered slabs immediately below had to be made. The ascent from the saddle to the Pinnacle was complicated by iced rocks and required care.