

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

THE 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 20, 1951. The President, Mr W. M. Duff, in submitting the report of the retiring Committee referred to the acquisition of Derry Lodge as a Club hut. The Meeting unanimously approved of the Committee's action in taking a lease of the Lodge and authorised an appeal to members for funds to meet the cost of renovations and equipment.

The Accounts for the year to October 31, 1951, were submitted and approved, and the Office-bearers and Committee for the ensuing year were appointed.

The 64th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 20, 1952. Mr W. M. Duff, the retiring President, presented the Annual Report and the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer submitted the Accounts for the year to October 31, 1952. The following Office-bearers were appointed: *Hon. President*, Dr R. M. Williamson; *President*, Mr E. W. Smith; *Vice-Presidents*, Messrs A. L. Hay and R. Bain; *Hon. Meets Secretary*, Mr L. B. Perkins; *Hon. Huts Custodian*, Mr R. Bain. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, the Hon. Editor, the Hon. Librarian, and the Hon. Auditors were reappointed, and the following were elected to the Committee: Misses A. Adams, S. Alexander, and E. J. Lawrence, Dr G. A. Taylor, Dr G. Mathieson, and Messrs A. E. Anton, A. D. Cameron, W. M. Duff, and A. Mutch.

On the motion of Mr E. W. Smith, the retiring President was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks for the able manner in which he had conducted the affairs of the Club during his period of office.

Prior to the meeting a Special General Meeting was held to deal with certain proposed amendments to the Constitution. Members were notified of the alterations made in the circular of January 1953.

ANNUAL DINNER, 1951.

Affairs of international importance in Edinburgh on November 27, 1951, involved the absence from the Annual Dinner of several senior members and the principal guest. The shoes—or should we say the climbing-boots—of the latter were admirably filled by Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards, who gave a most interesting talk on Baffin Island, illustrated by a large number of excellent slides. On the call of Mr H. D. Welsh, the Professor was cordially thanked. After Dinner the President, Mr Duff, proposed the toast of the Club in a happy speech,

brimful of humour. In equally merry mood Mr Martin Nichols proposed the toast of the Guests, who included representatives from the Scottish Mountaineering Club, the Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club, the Grampian Club, the Moray Mountaineering Club, and the Etchachan Club. Mr G. C. Williams, S.M.C., replying on behalf of the guests, modestly psycho-analysed his reactions to a difficult climb and an after-dinner speech.

ANNUAL DINNER, 1952.

Accommodation at the Caledonian Hotel was severely taxed on November 29, 1952, when the Annual Dinner was preceded by a talk by Mr W. H. Murray on the Everest Reconnaissance Expedition of 1951. Mr Murray gave an interesting account of the useful work done by this expedition, of which Mr Eric Shipton and he had been members, in prospecting the approach to Everest from the south-west. A magnificent selection of slides included views of Everest itself and the practically unknown peaks to the south and west. Mr A. L. Hay thanked Mr Murray on behalf of the Club. Mr W. M. Duff, the retiring President, performed the final act of his office in presiding at the Dinner which followed. In an amusing speech he proposed the toast of the Club. Mr E. W. Smith, the President-elect, proposed the toast of the Guests, to which Dr J. M. Brewster of the Moray Mountaineering Club replied.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS.

1951.

Jan. 21. Lochnagar.	June 3. Derry Lodge.
Feb. 11. Glen Clunie.	Midsummer. Glen Feshie.
„ 25. Lochnagar.	Sept. 9. Lochnagar.
Mar. 11. Beinn a' Bhùird.	Oct. 14. Ben Avon.
Easter. Ballachulish.	Nov. 11. Glen Clunie to Glen Ey.
Apr. 29. Glen Isla.	Dec. 9. Glen Muick to
May 20. Cairngorm.	Auchallater.

1952.

New Year. Braemar.	May 18. Glen Isla.
Jan. 20. Lochnagar.	June 1. Cairn Mairg.
Feb. 10. Glen Clova.	Midsummer. Ben Alder.
„ 20. Lochnagar.	Sept. 7. Lochnagar.
Mar. 9. Glen Clunie.	Oct. 19. Derry Lodge.
„ 20. Derry Lodge.	Nov. 16. Glen Clunie.
Easter. Aviemore.	Dec. 7. Loch Lee to Glentanar.
Apr. 27. Ben Avon from Corn- davòn.	

1953.

New Year. Braemar.	Apr. 26. Glas Thulaichean.
Jan. 25. Lochnagar.	May 17. Derry Lodge.
Feb. 8. Glen Clunie.	„ 31. Ben Vorlich and Stùc a' Chròin.
„ 22. Lochnagar <i>via</i> Balloch- buie.	Midsummer. Coylum Bridge <i>via</i> Tomintoul ; returning from Derry Lodge.
Mar. 8. Derry Lodge.	
„ 22. Beinn a' Bhùird.	
Easter. Glen Affric.	

The foregoing list shows many familiar names repeated again and again, with here and there a new venture, such as Cairn Maig and Ben Alder. The former excursion was marked by really bad weather, when a soaking could only be avoided by following the example of the Meets Secretary and staying in the bus. It certainly was a long journey for that return, but our medical members probably found it interesting from the study of the impact and cure of bus sickness.

Ben Alder gave our present Meets Secretary good training in the carrying through of a difficult excursion, but that is reported by him more fully below.

E. W. S.

The diversity of routes offered to members attending the 1952 overnight excursion may have been one reason why less than 50 per cent. failed to appear at Dalwhinnie until after the expected time of arrival, which was fifteen hours and ten minutes after the actual time of departure ; but the excursion was one of the most ambitious yet attempted by the Club, and credit is due to the Meets Secretary for getting the trip organised, in the face of more than normal difficulty. Our thanks are due also to the owners and factors of the various estates traversed, to the North of Scotland Hydro-electric Board for their co-operation in getting the bus up to the Erich Dam, and of course to Mr J. Duguid for driving nearly 250 miles.

The impact of an almost sleepless night, striking at both brain and stomach, prevents the accurate recollection of details ; but in general, members who traversed Ben Alder or Beinn Bheòil got to Dalwhinnie in time, whilst those who traversed both Beinn Bheòil and Ben Alder, or who visited Loch Ossian, were late. The general opinion, recorded here for posterity, is that Ben Alder should be climbed before Beinn Bheòil, if a descent is to be made to the north, and that Loch Ossian is better visited by rail.

The stultified memory recollects only dimly the brighter events of the journey, but mention must be made of the acting Meets Secretary's

private suite at the front of the bus, the astonished looks of tourists who saw a bus full of sleeping folk ascend the Devil's Elbow, and the reasonable charges for what was a most excellent excursion.

L. B. P.

TWO NEW BRIDGES.

During the early summer of 1951 the 51st (Highland) Divisional Engineers replaced the timber bridge between Spittal of Glenmuick and Allt-na-giubhsaich. The work was carried out by Territorials from Aberdeen and Dundee, who found that the trestles of the old foot-bridge were rotten at water level. The new bridge, also of timber trestle construction, lies only a few yards from the site of the old and is wide enough for a vehicle. The River Muick is 37 feet across at this point and the length of the bridge 64 feet. At the same time improvements were made to the track connecting the two sides of the glen and to the Capel Mount path, so that a Land Rover from Balmoral can now reach the moors south of Loch Muick.

Also last summer a double-wire bridge was erected across the Dee near the Corrou Bothy, where a drowning accident occurred during a spate in the previous year. Parts of the bridge were constructed by Mr Jack Milne in Aberdeen and then transported to Derry Lodge. Cement, wire, and two telegraph poles were carried the remaining five miles through the hills by Mr Milne, with the assistance of Mr John Gadd and others. The bridge was built to the same design as those used for crossing ravines in the foot-hills of the Himalayas, where Mr Milne had seen them forty years ago during leaves from the King's Dragoon Guards.

O. C. F.

NOTES

In July 1951, Lt. A. De Watteville and Lt. R. F. Finch, R.E., with the assistance of two friends and an Austin A40, climbed the Scottish Four Thousanders in the twenty-four hours. A third member of the party accompanied them over the Cairngorm tops; they had unbroken cloud over Cairn Toul and Braeriach. (The two unnamed members had to be on parade in the south of England next morning!)

TIME TABLE.

Left car at open-cast workings at foot of	
Aonach Mòr	2.45 P.M.
Aonach Mòr summit	4.35 "
Aonach Beag	5.10 "
Càrn Mòr Dearg	6.45 "
Ben Nevis	7.50 "