

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1953

THE 65th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 18, 1953, Mr E. W. Smith, President, in the Chair. Only twenty-five members and five junior members attended: less than 10 per cent. of the membership. The Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ending October 31, 1953, already circulated to members, and these were approved. Thereafter the various office-bearers gave an account of the year's activities of the Club.

Office-bearers were appointed as follows: *Hon. President*, Dr R. M. Williamson; *President*, Mr E. W. Smith; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr A. L. Hay and Mr R. Bain; *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr J. E. Bothwell; *Hon. Editor and Librarian*, Dr R. L. Mitchell; *Hon. Meets Secretary*, Mr L. B. Perkins; and *Hon. Huts Custodian*, Mr R. Bain. The following were elected to the Committee: Miss A. A. Adams, Miss S. Alexander, Messrs W. M. Duff, N. F. Dyer, W. A. Ewen, Dr G. Mathieson, Mr A. Mutch, Col. E. B. Reid and Dr A. M. Thomson.

There was some discussion regarding the venue of future New Year and Easter Meets, and a proposal that, if possible, hut or similar accommodation should be available in addition to hotels was adopted.

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to communicate to Dr G. A. Taylor and Mr W. A. Ewen the appreciation of the Club for the services which they had rendered towards Club Huts and the *Journal* respectively.

The President read the messages which had been exchanged between the Club and Col. John Hunt at Katmandu following his successful leadership of the Everest expedition.

ANNUAL DINNER 1953

At the Annual Dinner in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 28, 1953, the Club were fortunate in having as principal guest, Mr Tom Weir, who, in his own inimitable way, took the party into the Highlands of Scotland. As usual, the lecture room accommodation was filled to capacity. Some 120 members and guests at dinner thereafter heard the President, as is the established custom, propose the toast of the Club and Mr A. L. Hay that of the guests, the latter being ably represented by Miss E. B. Burt of the Ladies' Scottish Climbing Club.

INDOOR MEETS

Indoor Meets were held in the Victoria Restaurant on January 20, February 19, and March 17, 1954. An exhibition of cine films by Mr F. W. Morgan, a description of the 1953 Baird Expedition to Baffin Island by Mr Adam Watson, and a Members' Night provided good entertainment.

On October 22, 1953, the Club were associated with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in sponsoring a lecture on "The Ascent of Everest" by Major C. G. Wylie and Mr T. D. Bourdillon to a packed audience in the Music Hall.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS

1953

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| Sept. 6. Lochnagar. | Nov. 15. Ben Rinnes. |
| Oct. 18. Glen Muick to Glen Clova. | Dec. 6. Mount Battock, Clachnaben. |

1954

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| New Year. Derry Lodge. | Mar. 21. Glen Clova. |
| Jan. 24. Lochnagar. | Easter. Ullapool. |
| Feb. 7. Glen Clunie. | June 6. Derry Lodge. |
| Feb. 21. Lochnagar <i>via</i> Ballochbuie. | June 19. } Speyside to Derry. |
| Mar. 7. Beinn a' Bhùird. | „ 20. } |

The excursions planned for early 1954 were less successful than they might have been, largely on account of unkind weather, and memories of these excursions tend to be concentrated on the members of the parties and their behaviour. At the Glen Clunie excursion, for example, the skiers debussed at Glen Clunie Lodge; rebussed; debussed at Sheann Spittal; didn't like it there, and went back to Glen Clunie Lodge. Disgusted by this, the President and three members of the Committee went away and did an unroped ascent of the Devil's Elbow. Five members returned late on this day, hard going in soft snow and wind having delayed them. The hotel, who estimated that eighteen members would require sausages for tea, as opposed to fish, found that twenty-three wanted sausages, but it is uncertain whether this contretemps was due to the skiers still being difficult.

The Meets Secretary was upset a fortnight later by everybody being back at the bus one and three-quarter hours early, due again to soft snow and wind. On March 7, nobody got to the summit of Beinn a' Bhùird, not even to the South Top, due to soft snow again.

The excursion to Glen Clova on March 21 started in good weather and a new route was followed by the bus. Weather deteriorated and most parties were back wet and early. The generally unpleasant weather conditions experienced in the excursions mentioned seem to have cooled our members' ardour, for the two excursions planned for April and May had to be cancelled due to insufficient support. On the other hand, the excursion to Derry on June 6, leaving Aberdeen in mist, arrived to see the skies clearing and a cloudless but not too hot day resulted, enjoyed to the full by all.

The weather for the Spey-Dee midsummer overnight excursion was back to normal, and it is difficult to know why one member of the party considered it a night worth prolonging unduly. The reception arrangements at Derry Lodge were greatly appreciated by the wet and hungry multitude, and the thanks of the Club are due to those who, so they claim, gave up a wonderful excursion for their benefit.

The reluctance of the upper Deeside hotel proprietors to open over the New Year period resulted in the first peace-time New Year without a hotel meet for many years, although a number of members from the south gathered at a very successful private meet at Craigendarroch Hotel, Ballater. The official New Year Meet was held at Derry Lodge.



MONT BLANC AND THE BREITHORN FROM MONTE ROSA

W. Ramsden

The popularity of hotel meets was emphasised by over forty members and guests going to Ullapool at Easter, where the Royal Hotel proved an excellent centre. Conditions were generally good, and most of the tops in the area, from Suilven in the north to An Teallach and the Fannichs in the south, were covered.

FARTHER AFIELD

A FEW accounts of what members did in the Alps during the 1953 season have been received. Others were abroad but have sent no information: it is hoped that this may be remedied in future years.

In July, Malcolm Smith, with G. R. Greig and C. Petrie in the Cogne area of the Graians, started with the Gran Sertz and Punta Nera-Punta Bianca from the Sella Hut and then traversed Mont Herbetet from the Herbetet Chalets. From the Bivacco Antoldi in the Valeille glen the party climbed the Tour du Grand St Pierre and crossed the Colle di Valletta, taking the Punta Tsissetta on the way. Finally the Punta Tersiva was climbed from the Grauzon Chalets.

T. W. Patey and J. M. Taylor had ten days at Chamonix in July and had a good season. Their opening climb, the Ryan-Lochmatter route on the east face of the Blaitiere, was acclaimed by a thunderstorm on the descent. After the north-north-east ridge of the Aiguille de l'M, fourteen hours were spent on the Republique Arête of the Grands Charmoz. Then from Charpoua they traversed the Verte by the Arête Sans Nom, descending the Whympier couloir (cf. *A.J.*, 59, 342). To round off, the Cardinal was climbed in moonlight.

Hamish and Millicent McArthur and Margaret Munro explored the Maritime Alps and the ranges northwards, from Nice to Chamonix. Mont Clapier, the first 3,000 metre peak north of the Mediterranean, and a few passes, led to Monte Viso, so well known as a feature of the southward view from the Valais. Then into France where, from Bonneval, after an ascent of the Aiguille Rouge, the glacier pass from Val d'Isere to Valsavaranche was crossed to Aosta. From Courmayeur, the Dent de Géant was climbed and thereafter the party went by the Col de Géant to the Requin and climbed the Aiguille du Plan. The final ascent was the Grepon by a variation of the C.P. route.

The Editor had three days climbing from the Weissmeis Hut in August with Toni and Margrit Biner. Following the short but exposed south-east face of the Jägihorn to initiate Margrit, the Fletschhorn and Laquinhorn were traversed. The third day was spent on the delightful Jägigrat with the south-east wall approach. Toni was a hard taskmaster and kept the party of three well to the head of the line of two-man ropes.

OFF THE ROPE

Two good friends of the Club have retired during the past year, and all will wish them a long and well-deserved retirement.

Mr John Robertson, stalker at Spittal of Muick, must be a familiar figure to almost all members. He has seen the development of Lochnagar climbing since before the Symmers-Ewen days and many first ascents have had their origin in John Robertson's barn. He has ever maintained cordial relations with climbers,