

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1954

THE 66th Annual General Meeting of the Club in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 24, 1954, was attended by thirty-eight ordinary and five junior members, a somewhat higher proportion of the membership than in the preceding year, but still a rather unsatisfactory turnout. Mr E. W. Smith presided, and the various office-bearers presented reports of the year's activities.

Office-bearers were reappointed 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 E. Cruickshank, Messrs A. D. Cameron, W. M. Duff, N. F. Dyer, W. A. Ewen, Col. E. B. Reid, Dr G. A. Taylor, and Dr A. M. Thomson.

On a motion of Dr Taylor the Club agreed to make a contribution of £50 from the General Works Fund towards the cost of the Mountain Shelter in Coire Etchachan, erected in memory of Dr A. G. Hutchison.

The question of access to and maintenance of the indicator on the Blue Hill was raised, and remitted to Mr H. D. Welsh to discuss with the proprietor.

### ANNUAL DINNER 1954

The Annual Dinner was held on the usual date, the last Saturday of November, when a company of about 100 members and guests met in the Caledonian Hotel. Before the meal Miss Anne M. Sheriff showed a series of slides of Alpine scenery. The President took the opportunity offered in proposing the traditional toast of the Club to review the year's activities. Mr Graham Ritchie of the Grampian Club replied to the toast of the Guests, which was proposed by the Meets Secretary.

### INDOOR MEETS

Four Indoor Meets were held during the 1954-55 season. On October 7, 1954, Mr Robert Bain presented a collection of slides of the Lochnagar, Cairngorms, and Arran areas, many being records of Club meets and some taking us back to pre-war outings. On January 19, 1955, Mr J. Hector Gray's talk about "West Highland Excursions" covered areas as far apart as Glencoe and Coigach, and was finely illustrated by his own slides. Mr William Kirk's subject on February 23 was "Kashmir and the Indus Basin," when he sketched in much of the background, geographical and cultural, to the areas traversed by many Himalayan parties. On March 24 the venue changed from the Palace Restaurant to Provost Ross's House in the Shiprow for the Members' Night, at which short items were presented by Mr Martin Nichols on Switzerland and Mr A. Tewnton on Scottish Sea Birds, in addition to films of the Cobbler and Hydro-electric Schemes. To all who entertained the Club at these meetings we offer our sincere thanks.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS

1954

Sept. 5. Lochnagar.	Nov. 14. Glen Isla to Glen Clova.
Oct. 17. Ben Avon.	Dec. 5. Bennachie.

1955

New Year. Derry Lodge.	June 5. Derry Lodge.
Jan. 23. Lochnagar.	June 25. } Bridge of Orchy.
Feb. 13. Ballochbuie.	„ 26. }
Easter. Lochcarron.	Sept. 4. Lochnagar.
May 15. Monadhliaths.	

An exhilarating, cold, and sunny day on September 5 at the Spittal of Muick produced a bag of over seventy Munro ascents by members and guests who had declared intentions on setting out on no more than a training stroll after the holidays. How different at Corndavon, where a wet day—and that is putting it mildly—restricted the tops to nothing higher than the Brown Cow and two bus-loads could not claim a single 3,000-er. The crossing from Isla to Clova on a clear day with a lot of firm snow was more successful. Concern regarding the fate of one member, last seen engaged in photography of equine subjects whose man-eating habits were discussed by the worried members, was allayed by his only just punctual return.

At Derry at New Year there was the usual party, while a rebel group held an unofficial gathering at Tyndrum. Snow cover was abnormally slight at this period, and skiers had to search far for suitable stretches.

The first Lochnagar outing of 1955 was on a pleasant day with good firm snow, which led to a mishap to a young guest on her descent of the Ladder on the return journey, but immediate skilled paternal attention ensured no lasting complications to the arm. And there was another mishap—a lady member reached the bus rendezvous late through failing to read the circular, and as a result had to take the first bus to Ballater and walk up Glen Muick. As this is not an infrequent occurrence, may we suggest to all members that they check excursion times and even dates carefully—before the event!

After an uneventful outing to Lochnagar by Ballochbuie, the two following excursions were cancelled, through lack of support—the prevailing snow conditions tending to encourage ski-ing. One at least might have been held had intending participants sent in notification by the appointed date, which, may we remind members, is also the last approved date for withdrawals, although the Meets Secretary has a kind heart!

The 1955 Easter Meet at Lochcarron was not favoured by good weather: in fact, it coincided with a really wet spell on the west coast; those who stayed on a few days longer had excellent conditions. The main party were well looked after at Loch Carron Hotel, and excellent reports also came from those who were at Strathcarron Hotel. Despite the wet going most of the local Munros were visited, but Lurg Mhor proved just too far for a late start. The attendance of some twenty members and guests was not quite up to the usual Easter Meet standard.

The Sunday outing to the Monadhliaths was popular and enjoyed good weather—until about 4 P.M., when a snowstorm started, and several inches were lying in Glen Banchor as the bus returned to Newtonmore. Fortunately the storm was fairly local, and the journey to Aberdeen was made in better time than seemed probable. Some members question the justification for such long-distance day excursions, but the support they receive is often better than for the more local trips.

The midsummer excursion to Bridge of Orchy found the hills enveloped in mist, but the night-time navigation over Beinn a' Chreachain, Beinn Achaladair, Beinn an Dothaidh, and Beinn Mhanach was generally satisfactory—more than can be said for the attempts to find the col leading to Beinn Dorain after daylight! However, all the party were up to time for a good breakfast at the Royal Hotel, Tyndrum.

The hills around Spittal of Muick were busy on September 4, 1955, for the final excursion of this report, for our colleagues of the Moray Mountaineering Club were also there. After the long dry spell rocks were in good condition, and although the time limit kept members off the more difficult climbs, they were able to watch, for instance, the first ascent of the Black Spout Pinnacle from its base.

#### FARTHER AFIELD

MILLICENT and Hamish McArthur and Margaret Munro were in Jugoslavia and the San Martino area of the Dolomites in August 1954. After some days lazing in the sun and lotus-eating in Venice and on the island of Rab off the Dalmatian coast, they summoned up enough energy to head north to the Julian Alps. From Zlatarog on Lake Bohinj they crossed this range, climbing Triglav (2,863 m.), the highest peak in Jugoslavia, and staying in the Vodnikova Koca and Dom Planica huts. These huts were very good, and generally food and hotels were cheap, the people most friendly, and the language impossible. Some knowledge of German is a great advantage, as the Jugoslavs find English as difficult as we find Serbo-Croat.

Unfortunately the weather broke badly, so after some days of thick mist and heavy rain they fled west to San Martino di Castrozza in the hope of better conditions. Ascents were made of the Rosetta, Cimon della Pala, Dente del Cimon, and Pala di San Martino. The last was made more exciting by a blizzard which started as the party began the descent, leaving vivid memories of a hair-raising abseil on an iced rope.

Gordon McAndrew was in the Hohe Tauern with an Austrian Alpine Club party in July 1954. The climbing was restricted by heavy snowfalls. From the Warnsdorfer Hut the Sonntagkopf was attempted in a snowstorm, then the Krimmler Torl was crossed to the Kursinger Hut. After three days' snow the weather allowed ascents of the Schwarzes Hornl, the Gross Venediger, and Kleine Venediger in deep new snow by the ordinary route, the Keeskogel, and a traverse of the Grosser Geiger by the north-east face and north ridge with descent by the ordinary west ridge.

The Editor went first, late in July 1954, to Fafler Alp in the Lotschental, where, with a Swiss geologist friend, who was equipped with a guide and a porter to carry the specimens, the ridges of the Petersgrat gave good scrambling for a few days.