

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1957

THE 69th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 20, 1957. Mr A. Leslie Hay, President, was in the Chair. Reporting on the activities of the Club during the past year the Chairman referred in particular to the re-erection of the Parker Memorial Bridge, and expressed the indebtedness of the Club to Dr G. A. Taylor for his services in this connection.

The Accounts for the year to October 31, 1957, were submitted and approved.

It was unanimously agreed that Mr H. D. Welsh, who had been appointed Hon. President of the Club the previous year, should be reappointed to that office. The President and other Office-bearers were also reappointed.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr W. M. Duff, Dr George A. Taylor was made an Honorary Member of the Club, in recognition of the outstanding services which he had rendered, not only to the Cairngorm Club, but to climbers in the Cairngorms in general. The Meeting indicated its cordial approval and Dr Taylor expressed his thanks for the honour conferred upon him.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1958

The 70th Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 19, 1958. Before commencing the business of the Meeting the President, Mr A. Leslie Hay, made reference to the death of two members, J. B. McDonald (1939) and Hamish McArthur (1941). He recalled the fact that Hamish McArthur had been the Speaker at the Annual Dinner in 1956, when he had given the Club a most interesting and entertaining account of his visit with Mrs McArthur to the Lahul Himalaya.

In reponse to an appeal from the Scottish Rights of Way Society for a contribution towards the cost of repairing the Bedford Memorial Bridge it was decided to make a contribution of £5. 5s. It was decided to remit to the Committee the question of erecting a bridge over the Dee at Corroul. A proposal that the Club should take steps to resuscitate the local Mountain Rescue Organisation was strongly supported and this matter was also remitted to the Committee.

The following Office-bearers were appointed: *President*, Col. P. D. Baird; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr A. E. Anton and Mr G. R. Page. The other Office-bearers were reappointed.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1959

The 71st Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 18, 1959. In the absence of the President, Mr G. R. Page, Vice-President, occupied the Chair. He referred with regret to the deaths during the year of Dr William M. Alexander (1924), Col. A. G. Nicol Smith (1925), and Miss Una Ellis-Fermor (1925)

The Chairman reported that the usual programme of Club activities had been



carried through successfully during the year. He stated that the Committee had taken no action on the remit regarding the Corrou Bridge, as the Nature Conservancy had provided bridges at Corrou and elsewhere in the Conservancy area. He mentioned that Dr G. A. Taylor had been responsible for the plans of the Corrou Bridge and had supervised and taken part in the work of erection. It was noted with interest that on this occasion Dr Taylor made use of aerial transport. It was reported that a local Mountain Rescue Organisation under the Convener'ship of Mr George A. Roberts had been set up and had been in action on more than one occasion during the year.

The following Office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing year: *Honorary President*, Mr H. D. Welsh; *President*, Mr Robert Bain; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr G. R. Page and Mr G. A. Roberts; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr J. E. Bothwell; *Honorary Editor and Librarian*, Dr R. L. Mitchell; *Honorary Meets Secretary*, Mr E. F. Johnston; *Honorary Huts Custodian*, Mr P. F. Howgate. Mr D. Allison and Mr G. G. Cook were re-elected Auditors. The following were elected to the Committee: Miss A. A. Adams, Miss C. M. Baxter, Miss A. F. G. Cordiner; Messrs N. F. Dyer, W. A. Ewen, R. A. Gerstenberg, J. Y. L. Hay, J. Quarterman, and H. C. Rennie.

The Chairman expressed regret at the loss sustained by the Club in the departure of the President, Col. Pat Baird, who had left to take up an appointment at McGill University. He referred to the great interest which Col. Baird had taken in the affairs of the Club since coming to Aberdeen, and in particular to his willingness to take a share in the work of the Club.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1960

The 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on November 16, 1960, with Mr Robert Bain, President, in the Chair.

The various Office-bearers made their Reports and the Accounts for the year to October 31, 1960, were submitted and approved. The Office-bearers for the ensuing year were appointed as follows: *Honorary President*, Mr H. D. Welsh; *President*, Mr Robert Bain; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr G. R. Page and Mr G. A. Roberts. The Secretary and Treasurer, Editor and Librarian, Meets Secretary and Huts Custodian were all reappointed. The following were appointed Members of the Committee: Misses A. A. Adams, J. C. Arthur, C. M. Baxter, and S. Murray; Messrs N. F. Dyer and R. A. Gerstenberg, Dr R. M. McAndrew, Dr J. Quarterman, and Mr H. C. Rennie.

Mr A. C. R. Watt moved the adoption of the following motion: "That this Club, having among its objects the encouragement of mountain climbing in Scotland, and being anxious that access to the mountains should be facilitated, endorses the Resolutions of the Club dated December 20, 1918, and November 29, 1924, in favour of the construction of a road from Deeside to Speyside through Glen Feshie and urges the Government and the Local Authorities concerned to approve this long-delayed project." In support of the motion Mr Watt gave an interesting résumé of the history of the project to link Deeside and Speyside by a road from the Linn of Dee through to Glen Feshie. He expressed the opinion that such a road, though very much more expensive to construct now, was still as desirable as in the years after the First World War when the project was strongly



supported by the Club. Mr J. A. Bothwell seconded the motion. Mr W. M. Duff, as leader of the opposition, warned the Meeting of the possible dangers of turning Glen Geldie and Glen Feshie into public thoroughfares which would be desecrated by the litter of picnic parties. Dr R. L. Mitchell also opposed the motion on the grounds that such a road would spoil the seclusion and charm of the area, merely to save a few miles on a journey from Aberdeen to the west, at a sum which would be better spent in improving existing roads. Further views were expressed for and against the motion before an interesting discussion was brought to an untimely end by the acceptance of a motion from Mr P. F. Howgate that the Meeting proceed to the next business. This indicated clearly that the majority of those present opposed the motion.

#### ANNUAL DINNERS

The 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 Annual Dinners were all held in the Caledonian Hotel on Saturday evenings late in November. The pre-Dinner lectures were by Mr J. Grant Roger on "Scottish Mountain Plants," Mr David Thomas on "The British Caucasus Expedition, 1958," Mr William Wallace on "A Visit to the Peruvian Andes," and Mr W. D. Brooker on "Climbing in Scotland." In 1957 and 1958 the Chair was taken by the President, Mr A. Leslie Hay. In 1959 Col. Pat Baird was unfortunately unable to preside, and the Chair was taken by Professor A. E. Anton. Mr Robert Bain took the Chair in 1960. The Toasts of the Guests were proposed by Mr N. F. Dyer, Mr G. R. Page, Dr J. H. F. Crawford and Mr G. A. Roberts, and responded to by Mr E. A. Wrangham (Alpine Club), Mr E. W. Thomson (Grampian Club), Mr J. C. Donaldson (S.M.C.), and Mr J. M. Brockway (S.M.C.).

#### MEETS AND EXCURSIONS

##### 1957

New Year. Derry Lodge and Blair Atholl.

Jan. 22. Lochnagar.	June 9. Derry Lodge.
Feb. 17. Beinn a' Bhuid.	Midsummer. Blair Atholl to Inverey.
Mar. 10. Lochnagar.	Sept. 8. Lochnagar.
Mar. 31. Glen Clova.	Sept. 29. Spittal of Glenshee to Inverey.
Easter. Kinloch Rannoch.	Oct. 20. Glen Esk to Ballater.
May. 5. Lochnagar.	Nov. 17. Buck of Cabrach.
May 26. Glen Feshie.	Dec. 8. Clachnaben.

##### 1958

New Year. Derry Lodge and Ardlui.

Jan. 26. Lochnagar.	June 8. Derry Lodge.
Feb. 16. Invercauld.	Midsummer. Loch Laggan.
Mar. 2. Lochnagar.	Sept. 7. Lochnagar.
Mar. 23. Beinn a' Bhuid.	Sept. 28. Cairngorm.
Easter. Garve.	Oct. 19. Glen Esk to Glen Clova.
May 4. Glen Clova.	Nov. 16. Ladder Hills.
May 25. Ben Lawers.	Dec. 7. Bennachie.



1959

New Year. Derry Lodge and Newtonmore.

Jan. 11. Lochnagar.	May 24. Glen Feshie.
Feb. 1. Glen Clunie.	June 7. Glen Fernate.
Feb. 22. Lochnagar.	Midsummer. Cluanie to Glen Affric.
Mar. 15. Beinn a' Bhuid.	Sept. 6. Lochnagar.
Easter. Crianlarich.	Sept. 20. Dalwhinnie.
April 12. Lochnagar.	Oct. 18. Glen Clova.
May 3. Derry Lodge.	Nov. 15. Glen Esk to Feughside.
	Dec. 13. Morven.

1960

New Year. Derry Lodge, Muir of Inverey, and Bridge of Orchy.

Jan. 17. Lochnagar.	May 22. Ben Vorlich.
Feb. 7. Glen Clunie.	June 5. Derry Lodge.
Feb. 28. Lochnagar.	Midsummer. Cluanie to Loch Quoich.
Mar. 20. Beinn a' Bhuid.	July 16-30. Arolla.
April 3. Glen Clova.	Aug. 28. Spittal of Glenshee.
Easter. Onich.	Sept. 18. Lochnagar.
May 1. Ben Avon.	Oct. 16. Loch Lee to Ballater.

The Meets and Excursions have been well supported. The Club, as the above list shows, revisited many old haunts, and has also explored some lesser known areas. The weather has been kind more often than not, or perhaps just seemed so in retrospect, thanks to the congenial après-climb atmosphere when the Club sups. The winter climbing weather followed a remarkably set pattern, with either clear, crisp days and good snow, or conditions that have been aptly described as "uniformly scandalous."

The 1957 midsummer overnight excursion from Blair Atholl to Inverey demonstrated that it can be winter at any time of the year on Scottish hills. There was no rising sun at dawn for the devotees, but, instead, glorious if chilling views of the higher Cairngorms capped with snow which vanished as the day brightened. It was certainly not a night for lingering on the tops. The following midsummer found a rather smaller number of enthusiasts on the peaks north and south of Loch Laggan. They were rewarded with a fine sunset-cum-sunrise and a warm and sunny morning. Attempts at bivouacking were more successful than on the previous year, thanks in some cases to the appearance of sleeping-bags which were considered well worth the carry. In 1959 the midsummer trek took us from Cluanie to Glen Affric with exhilarating ridge walking and some rock scrambling in the early morning, and a sunny walk down to Loch Affric which was looking its best.

The 1960 Meet augured well. There had been a week of good weather and the glass was high. A lightly clad and cheerful party set out from Aberdeen bound once again for Cluanie, this time to traverse the peaks southwards to Loch Quoich. Alas, something went wrong en route and we arrived to find mist low on the hills. Conditions did not improve and it will perhaps suffice to say that all parties eventually reached their destination. It should be stated, however, that one group



*G. M. McAndrew*

ZERMATT PEAKS FROM THE ROTHORN HUT



which was reported as being within sight of the starting point at 7 A.M., some ten hours after leaving the bus, were not lost, but were shrewdly confirming their location, having abandoned route A and being about to embark on route B !

There have been good attendances at the Easter Meets where it has been a pleasure to meet members from the South once again. At Onich the weather could not have been better and we enjoyed some memorable days climbing in Glencoe and on the Mamores.

Happily, the trips have been free of mishap and, apart from one notorious exception involving numerous members on the excursion allegedly to Clachnaben, missing persons have soon turned up. The Committee considered it advisable to tighten up procedure, and parties are now asked to give details of routes and climbs to an official before leaving the bus. The desirability of reading the Club circular is illustrated in the sad tale of the member who arrived at Queen's Cross an hour too early one morning. Fortunately he was able to return home and finish breakfast, but the member who, on another occasion, turned up a week late at an out-of-town rendezvous spent a vexing day.

The last two excursions of 1960, which were planned to enter the cattle areas of Feughside and Donside, were cancelled because foot-and-mouth disease restrictions were in force, and there might have been unnecessary risk of spreading the infection.

#### THE ALPINE MEET

The first official Alpine Meet was held at Arolla from July 16 to 30, 1960. It was quite informal in character, and as several of the chief sponsors unfortunately found it impossible to attend, the attendance was smaller than had been hoped. In fact, some ten years ago, much larger gatherings of members congregated in the Alpina in Zermatt on many August evenings. There was nothing but praise for the hospitality of the Hotel Aiguille de la Tsa, or, for that matter, of the Mont Collon, where one or two late-comers had to stay.

The early arrivals found heavy falls of new snow high up, and got into training by visiting the Glacier de Cheilon over the Col de Riedmatten and the Pas de Chèvres. Jean Arthur, Sheila Murray and John Crawford were now joined by Jean Callander, Anne Cordiner and Ginette Dalleré, the first recovering from the attentions of an Alsatian en route and unfortunately immobilised during most of the Meet, and the last two fresh from the rock ridges around the Weissmeis Hut and Almageller Alp.

An unorthodox approach to the Col de Tsarmine, between the Grande and Petite Dents de Veisivi took the party up steep Alpine azalea before the path was eventually joined. Anne and Ginette took in the Grande Dent (3,418 metres) in the gathering clouds. It was bright sunshine again when the party went up to the Bertol Hut, perched on a rock pinnacle between the Bertol and Mont Miné glaciers, on the high-level route to the Col d'Herens and Zermatt. The ascent was facilitated by a ride on a hoist leading to a tunnel gallery of the Grande Dixence scheme—one of the privileges of a predominantly female party. While the others gathered their breath after their first ascent to 11,000 feet, Anne and Ginette scrambled over the Clocher de Bertol before an appreciative hut audience. Next morning a slow steady plod over the extensive snowfield of the upper glacier of Mont Miné led to the Tête Blanche (3,724 metres) by 7 A.M. There were endless