

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

THE 73rd to 79th Annual General Meetings were all held in the Caledonian Hotel Aberdeen, on the Wednesday falling in the period November 20-25 in the years 1961 to 1967. The more important items of business are summarised in the following abstracts.

1961 : The President, Mr Robert Bain, referred with regret to the deaths during the year of three members, Mr F. P. Milligan, Mr John Angus and Mrs Hilda M. Duff. The Huts Custodian reported the reconstruction and decoration of the kitchen at Derry Lodge and the Editor appealed for material for the next issue of the *Journal*. Messrs E. W. Smith and W. M. Duff were unanimously elected Honorary Members.

1962 : The President, Mr Robert Bain, in opening the meeting, made reference to the deaths of a former President and Honorary Member, Mr E. W. Smith, and of five other members, Mr James C. Duffus, Professor J. D. McLennan, Mrs Margaret J. Dunt, Mr John Morgan and Dr A. H. S. Holbourn. Mr J. E. Bothwell was elected *President*, Mr R. A. Gerstenberg and Miss A. F. G. Cordiner, *Vice-Presidents*, Mr J. Y. L. Hay, *Secretary*, and Mr F. E. Coull, *Treasurer*. The other office-bearers were re-elected. Subjects discussed included the arrangement of some Saturday excursions, and the suggestion by Mr A. L. Hay that long cross-country excursions should not be arranged during the winter months. It was agreed, on Colonel E. B. Reid's suggestion, that the Club would co-operate in arranging some outings for members of the 1963 British Association Meeting in Aberdeen.

1963 : The President, Mr J. E. Bothwell, referred to the deaths of three members, Miss E. A. Garden, Mr R. R. Macdonald and Mr Malcolm Smith, and of two good friends of the Club, Miss Davidson, who for many years had attended to the Club accounts, and Mrs Robert Scott of Luibeg. Conflicting views were expressed regarding the continuation of Saturday excursions and it was agreed to leave the decision about their future to the Committee. The President reported that the landlord of Muir of Inverey was not yet in a position to consider a renewal of the lease for that Hut and that the terms offered for the revision of the Derry Lodge lease had been unacceptable.

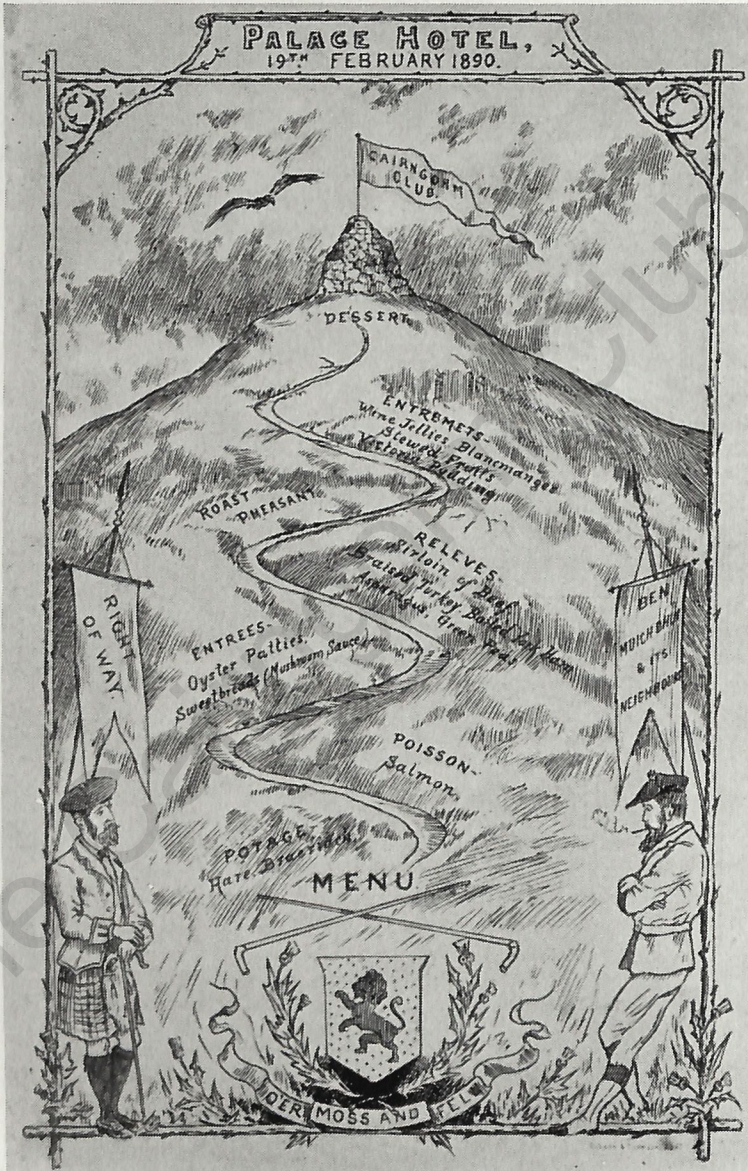
1964 : The President, Mr J. E. Bothwell, opened the meeting by referring to the deaths of three members, Dr G. F. Cables, Mrs W. Duncan and Mr John L. McNaughton. Mr R. A. Gerstenberg was elected *President* and Mr G. R. Page and Miss A. F. G. Cordiner, *Vice-Presidents*. The other office-bearers were re-appointed. In the course of the discussion preceding the election, Mr A. L. Hay considered it desirable that the Vice-Presidents should be younger members than had been the case in the past. The Honorary President, Mr H. D. Welsh, expressed the hope that the Club would soon have its own Club Rooms and added that he proposed to present to the Club the chair which had formerly been the property of Miss Maggie Gruer

of Thistle Cottage, Inverey. In moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mr A. L. Hay expressed the great indebtedness of the Club to Mr Bothwell for the efficient and pleasant manner in which he had carried out his duties as President during the past two years and as Secretary for the thirteen years prior to that.

1965 : In opening the meeting, the President, Mr R. A. Gerstenberg, referred with regret to the death of our Honorary Member, Dr G. A. Taylor, and five members, Mr R. H. Calvert, Mrs G. J. Catto, Mrs H. D. Garden, Mr A. D. Lyall and Mrs E. J. Penwill. He expressed, in particular, the Club's great indebtedness to Dr Taylor for the many excellent works he had carried out in the Cairngorms for the benefit of climbers and for the magnificent bequest, amounting to some £4,000, that he had made to the Club "for the improvement or acquisition of its Club Huts". The Editor expressed his regret for the delay in issuing the *Journal*, due to lack of material and to his indisposition. The Huts Custodian reported that provisional agreement had been reached with the landlords for new leases for Muir of Inverey and Derry Lodge, on a short-term basis. At the request of Mr W. A. Duff, the Secretary detailed the terms of the Derry Lodge lease, namely £100 per annum, and the charge for the use of the road, £150 per annum. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to leave the decision regarding Derry Lodge to the Committee in conformity with the powers delegated to it regarding arrangements of this nature. Mr W. A. Baxter was elected *Vice-President* and Mr W. A. H. Reid, *Treasurer*. The other office-bearers were re-elected. In order to facilitate the administration of the George Taylor Bequest and other funds, arrangements were made at a Special General Meeting preceding the Annual General Meeting for the appointment of Club Trustees. Messrs J. E. Bothwell, W. A. Ewen and A. Leslie Hay were appointed, and the meeting unanimously resolved to place the management of the assets of the Taylor Bequest and the income arising therefrom in the hands of these Trustees.

1966 : In opening the meeting, the President, Mr R. A. Gerstenberg, referred with regret to the death of the Vice-President, Mr G. R. Page, and four members, Mr G. W. Murray, Mr George Cumming, Mrs Audley Chapman and Mr Donald H. Marr. The question of library accommodation was raised by the President, as the facilities previously so generously provided by Mr J. E. Bothwell would shortly no longer be fully available. It was remitted to the President and Secretary to make suitable arrangements. After full discussion of the unsatisfactory nature of the Derry Lodge lease, it was agreed to leave to the Committee the decision regarding future policy. Sheriff J. Aikman Smith and Mr E. F. Johnston were appointed *Vice-Presidents*. The other office-bearers were re-elected. The meeting unanimously agreed with acclamation that Messrs E. Birnie Reid, James E. Bothwell and William A. Ewen be elected Honorary Members of the Club.

1967 : Before commencing the business of the meeting, the President, Mr R. A. Gerstenberg, referred with regret to the deaths of a former President and Honorary Member, Mr William Malcolm, and three other members, Mr William Mitchell, Mr W. D. Hutcheon and Mr Ian F. Rose. Mr Malcolm bequeathed a legacy of £100 to the Club. The Huts Custodian reported that the lease of Derry Lodge had been given up in May 1967. Mr W. M. Duff raised the question of life membership charge and it was agreed that the Committee look into this. The following office-



THE MENU FOR THE FIRST CLUB DINNER

bearers were elected : *President*, Mr A. C. R. Watt ; *Vice-Presidents*, Sheriff J. Aikman Smith and Mr E. F. Johnston ; *Secretary*, Mr E. F. Johnston ; *Treasurer*, Mr W. A. H. Reid ; *Editor and Librarian*, Dr R. L. Mitchell ; *Huts Custodian*, Mr K. W. Fraser, and *Meets Secretary*, Mr Graham Ewen.

At a Special General Meeting preceding the 1967 Annual General Meeting, a resolution that premises in Braemar be purchased and equipped as a Club Hut failed to obtain the two-thirds majority required to satisfy the Trustees that members were substantially in favour of the project, which the Trustees themselves did not support.

ANNUAL DINNERS

The tradition of holding the Annual Dinner in the Caledonian Hotel on a Saturday in late November has been maintained, with the pre-dinner lecture being given by an authority on some aspect of mountaineering or mountain lore. During the past years the Club has been particularly fortunate in its speakers, who were :

- 1961 Tom W. Patey : Ascent of Rakaposhi.
- 1962 A. Graeme Nicol : The British-Soviet Pamirs Expedition.
- 1963 Mrs Elsie G. Cairns : Bird-Life in the Scottish Highlands.
- 1964 Robin Chalmers : The 1964 Scottish Andean Expedition.
- 1965 C. H. Gimingham : Arctic-Alpine Plants in Scotland.
- 1966 Hugh Simpson : Crossing the Greenland Ice-Cap.
- 1967 William B. Spiers : Climbing in East Africa.

After the dinners, members listened contentedly to the accounts of the years' activities by the various Presidents and acclaimed fully the welcome to the representatives of our Kindred Clubs whom we were, as always, delighted to entertain. Their spokesmen in turn responded with a brief reply that was often the highlight of the after-dinner proceedings.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS

1961

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| Jan. 15. Lochnagar. | June 11. Glenmore Lodge. |
| Feb. 5. Glen Clunie. | Midsummer. Inveroran to Kingshouse. |
| Feb. 26. Lochnagar. | Aug. 27. Lochnagar. |
| Mar. 19. Beinn a' Bhuird | Sept. 17. Cairnwell to Inverey. |
| Easter Fort Augustus. | Oct. 15. Tarfside to Aboyne. |
| April 10. Derry Lodge | Nov. 5. Glenbervie to Feughside. |
| May 21. Glen Lyon. | Dec. 10. Bennachie. |

1962

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| Jan. 21. Lochnagar. | June 10. Blair Atholl. |
| Feb. 11. Glen Clunie. | Midsummer. Speyside to Linn of Dee. |
| Mar. 4. Lochnagar. | Aug. 26. Newtonmore. |
| Mar. 25. Beinn a' Bhuird. | Sept. 16. Lochnagar. |
| Easter. Kinlochewe. | Oct. 21. Glen Clunie. |
| May 6. Glen Isla to Glen Clova. | Nov. 18. Cock Bridge to Glen Gairn. |
| May 20. Ben Lawers | Dec. 9. Clachnaben. |

1963

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| Jan. 20. Lochnagar. | June 8. Derry Lodge. |
| Feb. 10. Beinn a' Bhuid. | Midsummer. Glen Spean to Glen Nevis. |
| Mar. 3. Lochnagar. | Sept. 8. Lochnagar. |
| Mar. 24. Glen Clova. | Oct. 5. Schichallion. |
| Easter. Tyndrum. | Oct. 20. Cock Bridge to Glen Gairn. |
| May 5. Glen Clunie. | Nov. 17. Mount Keen. |
| May 26. Drumochter. | Dec. 7. Correen Hills. |

1964

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| Feb. 2. Lochnagar. | Sept. 6. Lochnagar. |
| Mar. 15. Beinn a' Bhuid. | Oct. 3. Glen Clova. |
| Easter. Ullapool. | Oct. 25. Cairnwell to Inverey |
| May 3. Ben Lawers. | Nov. 15. Ben Rinnes. |
| May 24. Cairngorm to Linn of Dee. | Dec. 6. Bennachie. |

1965

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| Jan. 20. Lochnagar. | May 23. Glen Feshie. |
| Feb. 14. Mount Battock. | Sept. 5. Cairngorm. |
| Mar. 6. Glen Clunie. | Oct. 3. Linn of Dee. |
| Mar. 28. Lochnagar. | Oct. 24. Lochnagar. |
| Easter. Glen Affric. | Nov. 14. Glen Esk to Aboyne. |
| May 2. Glen Isla to Glen Clova. | Dec. 5. Morven. |

1966

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| Jan. 23. Lochnagar. | June 4. Glen Tilt. |
| Feb. 13. Cairn Taggart. | Midsummer. Dundonell to Kinlochewe. |
| Mar. 6. Lochnagar. | Sept. 4. Achallater to Glen Muick. |
| Mar. 27. Glen Clova. | Oct. 2. Lochnagar. |
| Easter. Onich. | Oct. 23. Loch Lee. |
| May 1. Ben Avon. | Nov. 13. Carn Bhac. |
| May 22. Ben Chonzie. | Dec. 4. Hill of Fare. |

1967

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| Jan. 22. Lochnagar. | Midsummer. Achnashellach to Torri- |
| Feb. 12. Glen Clunie. | don. |
| Mar. 5. Lochnagar. | Sept. 10. Mount Keen. |
| Easter. Invergarry. | Oct. 1. Lochnagar. |
| May 21. Ben Vorlich. | Oct. 29. Glas Tulaichean. |
| June 3. Speyside to Linn of Dee. | Nov. 19. Ladder Hills. |

In addition, Muir of Inverey and Derry Lodge were available each year for informal New Year Meets, but there is no longer a demand for a Hotel Meet at this time.

During the period under review, several projected excursions had to be cancelled. The experiment in 1964 with more excursions on Saturdays rather than Sundays was unsuccessful, three out of the five being put off because of lack of support and one because of the typhoid outbreak. In 1967, the December excursion to Clachnaben was cancelled because of the foot-and-mouth epidemic that was widespread in England and Wales. It would appear that the now traditional pattern of 14 outings or meets per annum, largely on Sundays, satisfactorily meets the requirements of most members, and that changes in the nature of the programme seldom meet with enthusiastic support.

The outstanding excursion was, of course, that to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Club. This is dealt with fully elsewhere in this number, as is the 1965 substitute for the midsummer overnight outing which, most exceptionally, failed to obtain the usual support, possibly because no traverse of the type traditional to overnight excursions was apparent from the circular. The 1964 midsummer excursion also failed to find adequate support, presumably because it did not venture outside Cairngorm country.

THE SIX TOPS

THE round of the six main Cairngorm tops in the day has become something of a classic since it was first done 60 years ago (June 20, 1908) by H. J. Butchart and four companions in 19 hours (*Cairngorm Club Journal*, vol. 6, p. 49). Butchart's route omits Beinn Mheadhoin (3,883 feet), which is actually 40 feet higher than Ben Avon. To include it and thus take in all seven of the highest tops would add another 1,500 feet up and down to what is already a strenuous day; but it has been done at least once (*The Cairngorms*, 3rd Edition, p. 18). Recorded times for the Six Tops up to 1932 can be found in *C.C.J.*, vol. 13, p. 98 (1932).

The "Butchart walk" is now accepted as having a standard course between Loch Builg Lodge (long in ruins) at one end and the Corrour Bothy at the other. The fastest practicable route is about 24 miles, with a rise and fall of a little over 9,000 feet. About a third of the distance follows some kind of path, the rest is more or less rough going. As Mr E. F. Johnston has said (*C.C.J.*, Vol. 17, p. 210, 1961), it is not so formidable as is generally believed. Having dry going underfoot is a very great advantage and so of course is good clear weather.

I have made the round three times, from west to east on June 23, 1963, and from east to west on August 11 and September 1, 1968. On each occasion the actual journey was between the locked gate on the Corndavon road at Daldownie at one end and Derry Lodge at the other, a distance of 33 miles. On each occasion also there was mist on Ben Avon and Beinn a' Bhuid, though otherwise the weather was excellent, and the hills very dry.

After making the trip on Sunday, August 11, this year I looked up Mr Johnston's note on his own times for the same course in 1960, and found that I had taken only 15 minutes longer than he did. In fact, I finished at the Derry with some energy still to spare and walked on almost to the Linn of Dee before meeting my homeward transport (kindly provided by Dr Adam Watson). Fortunately the dry weather continued and gave me a chance to better my time three weeks later on September 1. The August trip could then be regarded as a useful rehearsal; I knew what mistakes to avoid and how fast a pace to keep up. I travelled as lightly shod and