

## In memoriam

COLONEL HENRY JACKSON BUTCHART  
D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., LL.D., B.L., J.P.

By the death of Colonel Butchart in August 1971, we see the passing of a great man, who has left us many happy memories of a long and useful life as administrator and sportsman. His boundless enthusiasm for both pursuits was most infectious to all who met him.

Colonel Butchart joined the Club in 1913, and had a very wide knowledge of the hill country from Aberdeen to Glenshee. He was made an Honorary Member of the Club at the Annual General Meeting in 1970.

He created a record by climbing in June 1908 the six main Cairngorms in nineteen hours. His companions were L. J. Davidson, H. G. Drummond, H. Kellas, and I. McLaren. Leaving Loch Builg at midnight, these are the details of timings, as printed in the 1950 revision of the *S.M.C. Cairngorms Guide* (p. 18):

Ben Avon – 02.23  
Ben a'Bhuird (North Top) – 03.50  
Cairngorm – 08.00  
Ben Macdhui – 10.34  
Cairn Toul – 15.16  
Braeriach – 17.30  
Glen Einich (Lower Bothy) – 19.00

This record was to remain unbroken until 1932.

Colonel Butchart was a founder of the Scottish Ski Club in 1907. For five years, he was President, and was accustomed to doing the necessary climbing on foot, and not by ski lift, chair lift, or téléferique – although in later years he made full use of mechanical aids. His favourite skiing resort was Kleine Scheidegg in the Bernese Oberland, where for many years he was a familiar figure in his Balmoral Bonnet.

It is interesting to read an account of one of his early skiing outings to Morven in the winter of 1905:

In those days, the motor car was practically non-existent. We therefore depended on the railway and on horse vehicles. In my first expedition, we took the train to Dinnet, where by arrangement we were met by a waggonette with two horses. W. J. Cook of Aberdeen, being an expert, went on his skis, being towed from the waggonette. We went to Morven from a point near Logie Coldstone, and returned to Ballater on ski, down the Tullich Burn, and took the train back to Aberdeen.



Colonel H. J. Butchart



His military career was both outstanding and varied. During the First World War, he held important staff appointments in France, Egypt, and Palestine, earning a D.S.O. and other decorations. Later, he commanded the University O.T.C. for eight years, was chairman of Aberdeen Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, and in the Second World War, set an excellent example by his service as a sergeant in the Aberdeen Battalion of the Home Guard.

For many years, he was County Commissioner of the Boy Scouts, and received the Silver Acorn – the movement's highest award.

A keen Rugby player in his younger days, he was a regular supporter of the University Rugby Football Club. I have heard it said that when he was touch judge at King's College, it often meant a gain of five to ten yards for the University!

A Memorial Service was held in the Chapel at King's College on 3 December 1971, and I should like to quote from Principal Wright's brilliant oration at that very well attended ceremony:

I remember him at a Grammar School Prize-Giving giving the boys this advice: 'If ever you have to choose between taking exercise yourself, or watching someone else doing so, choose the active alternative.' It was therefore very appropriate that we should have named the Butchart Physical Recreation Centre of the University after him.

Amongst his many other accomplishments, Colonel Butchart was an expert in Scottish Reels and Country Dancing. Before he had been long in a hotel anywhere in Europe, he had a knack of getting people of all nationalities to dance and enjoy an Eightsome Reel.

He had a wonderful life, and although not able to climb in his later years, his interest in all Scottish activities was evidenced by his continuing to wear Highland Dress with the bright Butchart tartan until his death at the ripe old age of 89.

E.B.R.

MARGARET GAULD

Margaret Gauld's unexpected and untimely death on 11 February 1972 was a great shock to her many friends. She was a person of such clear and honest thinking who perhaps took the pain of others into her hands too often, but always appeared so capable, and must have given such a feeling of trust and peace to her parents.

The interest and closeness of a conversation with Margaret while both she and yourself walked among the hills was something to stay