

Proceedings of the Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The *Eighty-third* Annual General Meeting was held on 24 November 1971. Before commencing the business of the Meeting, the President Miss Sheila Murray referred with regret to the death of Col. H. J. Butchart, an Honorary Member.

Office-Bearers appointed were: *Hon. President* Col. E. Birnie Reid; *President* Miss Sheila Murray; *Vice-Presidents* Mr J. S. Galloway and Dr S. A. B. Black; *Secretary* Mr E. F. Johnston; *Treasurer* Mr W. A. H. Reid; *Editor* Mr D. Hawksworth; *Librarian* Miss J. A. Callander; *Huts Custodian* Mr P. F. Howgate; *Meets Secretary* Mr G. Ewen; *Indoor Meets Secretary* Mr J. S. Galloway.

The *Eighty-fourth* Annual General Meeting was held on 22 November 1972. Before commencing the business the President referred with regret to the deaths of Mrs A. E. Esslemont, Miss Margaret M. Gauld and Dr J. A. Sellar.

The President in her report expressed the thanks of the Club to all those who had contributed to the success of the project for the reconstruction of Muir of Inverey.

Before the election of Office-Bearers the President intimated that Mr E. F. Johnston would not be standing for re-election as Secretary, nor Mr P. F. Howgate as Huts Custodian. Both were thanked for their years of service.

Office-Bearers appointed were: *Hon. President* Col. E. Birnie Reid; *President* Miss Sheila Murray; *Vice-Presidents* Dr S. A. B. Black and Mr P. F. Howgate; *Secretary* Mr R. C. Shirreffs; *Treasurer* Mr W. A. H. Reid; *Editor* Mr D. Hawksworth; *Librarian* Miss J. A. Callander; *Huts Custodian* Dr D. G. Hardy; *Meets Secretary* Mr G. Ewen; *Indoor Meets Secretary* Mr J. S. Galloway.

Mr A. Leslie Hay and Mr Alan C. R. Watt were elected to Honorary Membership of the Club. Welcoming their election the President paid tribute to the service which both had rendered to the Club over a long period.

ANNUAL DINNERS Northern Hotel

- 1971 Dr R. A. North, 'Overland to the Hindu Kush'
1972 Mr Roy Dennis, 'Birds of Fair Isle and the Highlands'

INDOOR MEETS Beechgrove Church House

- 1971 Jan. 'Mount Mlanje in Malawi', Dr A. M. A. Hutcheson
Mar. 'Highland Excursions', J. Hector Gray, Esq.
Mar. 'In the foothills of Machapuchare', Miss Claire Geddes
Nov. Members Night
- 1972 Jan. 'Travels in Peru', Dave Marden, Esq.
Feb. 'Antarctica', Dr D. E. Sugden
Mar. 'South African Mountains are Different', Miss Jean A. Callander

- Nov. Members Night
1973 Jan. Showing of Old Cairngorm Club Slides, Miss Jean A. Callander
Feb. 'Everest Trek', A. Leslie Hay, Esq.
Mar. 'Scottish Coasts', Dr W. E. Fraser

All Indoor Meets were well attended, especially the talk by Mr Hay when there was an audience of ninety-three. Another feature is the popularity of the Members Night – it is intended to open each Indoor Meets session with a Members Night in future.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS 1971-73

The excursions have continued to be very well attended, with an average of forty-two persons present. The smallest turnout was for the overnight excursion, at one time a very popular event, from Bridge of Orchy to Glen Lochay; the largest for the Inverey to Spital of Glenshee Traverse in October 1972. (Numbers attending the excursions are given in brackets after the excursion in the list at the end.) Two coaches were hired on two occasions, and on two others, a minibus was required in addition; on a number of other occasions members 'on the waiting list' kindly offered their own cars as additional transport; very few, therefore, were ever disappointed.

The Corrieairack Pass has perhaps more historical than climbing interest, nevertheless it attracted a very large turnout. The minibus proved useful for ferrying people from Garva Bridge up to Melgarve, a distance of some three and a half miles, the bus failing to negotiate the hump back of the General Wade bridge.

On the Ladder Hills excursion, a large number of members were turned back by keepers at Glenbuchat Lodge on the track from there to Glenlivet, which is, in fact, a public right of way. Most people found alternative hills to climb on the north side of Glenbuchat. Those baulked of their objective may have been disappointed but, on the lowest plane, it is in the Club's long term interest not to insist too strongly on one's rights. For the Christian attitude, see *Journal*, vol. 12, p. 35, 'A Case for Forbearance'.

The Easter Meet of 1972 was held at the Falls of Lora Hotel, Connel, Argyllshire. Once again the hotel was unable to accommodate the entire party of around fifty members, the surplus being accommodated in various houses around the village. Three days of heavy rain restricted our activities, although a number of hills were climbed, both around Loch Creran and to the east in the Ben Cruachan area. One party missed breakfast on the Saturday to catch the early morning ferry to Mull, where the ascent of Ben More was accomplished. The less adventurous of the party paid visits to Oban; others pioneered a route up the highest mountain on the Isle of Lismore, all 269 feet of it! (The ferry boat was very small too!) Meanwhile the Meets Secretary spent the afternoon under the bonnet of his car, worried by noises from the engine and from the inquisitive herd of Highland cattle surrounding him. Mr Bain announced that he spent his day in New York. Close examination of the map showed that this was possible, although his 'New York' has no Statue of Liberty on its approaches.

The overnight excursion started off near Bridge of Orchy in torrential rain, which continued for much of the night. A large number of the party sought shelter at Tomochoarn at the head of Loch Lyon, having had great difficulty in crossing the Abhuinn Glas which was in full spate. Those who arrived at the burn before total darkness had set in found the ruins of a bridge, which facilitated the crossing a little, but some were unable to cross during the dark hours and so had to spend the night in the open. The morning, in contrast, was clear and bright, so the second part of the journey was much more pleasant than the first.

The excursion to Ben Lomond was the first day excursion, to my knowledge, to go so far afield. No meal was arranged so that more time would be allowed for the climb. The bus made very good time to Kinlochard, helped no doubt by recent improvements in the roads. A good but very windy day changed strangely at the summit, which we reached in mist and a flat calm.

The winters of 1972 and 1973 have been notable for their lack of snow. Nevertheless, few members reached the summit of Lochnagar in February 1972 owing to deep soft snow all the way up, and on January 1973, again on Lochnagar, it was snowing heavily and blowing, and few were able to find the top. The Morven excursion of February 1972 was noted for the huge bird-like statues, formed by ice around the fence posts near the summit, like a row of sentinels standing guard.

G.E.

EXCURSIONS

1971

- 11 Sept. Corrieyairack Pass (55)
- 3 Oct. Lochnagar (46)
- 24 Oct. Devil's Elbow to Inverey (50)
- 13 Nov. Ladder Hills (41)
- 5 Dec. Cairn Mona Gowan (50)

1972

- 16 Jan. Glen Clunie (40)
- 5 Feb. Lochnagar (39)
- 27 Feb. Morven (32)
- 19 Mar. Glen Clova (40)
- 23 Apr. Ballater to Glen Esk (41)
- 13 May Pass of Drumochter (41)
- 4 June Beinn a'Bhuird (38)
- Midsummer. Bridge of Orchy to Glen Lochay (30)
- 9 Sept. Linn of Dee to Blair Atholl (36)

1972

- 30 Sept. Ben Lomond (37)
- 22 Oct. Inverey to Spital of Glen-shee (57)
- 12 Nov. Lochnagar (43)
- 3 Dec. Hill of Wirren (41)

1973

- 14 Jan. Lochnagar (48)
- 10 Feb. Auchallater (38)
- 3 Mar. Loch Lee (41)
- 25 Mar. Glen Clova (42)
- 29 April Carn Bhac (29)
- 19 May Craig Mheaghaidh (39)
- 3 June Beinn a'Bhuird (36)
- 23/24 June Cluanie to Affric (29)

EASTER MEETS

- 1972 Connel
- 1973 Ullapool