

Proceedings of the Club

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The *Eighty-fifth* Annual General Meeting was held on 28 November 1973. Office-Bearers appointed were: *Hon. President* Col. E. Birnie Reid; *President* Dr S. A. B. Black; *Vice-Presidents* Mr P. F. Howgate and Mr H. M. R. Watt; *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; and *Indoor Meets Secretary* Mr J. S. Galloway.

The other main item of business was the fixing of increased subscription rates to apply from 1 October 1974. A reduced rate of annual subscription was introduced for members over 65 years of age.

At the close of the meeting the retiring President Miss Sheila Murray was thanked for all that she had done during her term of office as President.

The *Eighty-sixth* Annual General Meeting was held on 27 November 1974.

The Office-Bearers appointed at the 1973 Annual General Meeting were re-appointed without change.

The Annual General Meeting received for the first time a written Committee Report in addition to verbal reports from individual Office-Bearers.

ANNUAL DINNERS

1973 'A Geographer's View of Mountains'.
Speaker: Dr Chalmers M. Clapperton.

1974 'At Home with the Golden Eagle'.
Speaker: Mr Lea MacNally.

Both functions were held in the Northern Hotel and were well attended (160 being present at each function).

In addition, two Supper Dances were held, on 10 May 1974 and 25 April 1975.

INDOOR MEETS

1973 Nov. Members' Night.

1974 Jan. 'A Naturalist in Greenland'—Mr Ronald Summers.

Feb. 'A Closer Look at the Scottish Landscape'—on tape and slide.
Presentation by Mr Ian Strachan.

Mar. Members' Night.

Nov. 'Music and Mountains'—on tape and slide.
Presentation by Mr Donald Hawksworth.

1975 Jan. 'Australia - The Red Centre'—Dr R. E. G. Aitken.

Feb. Members' Night.

Mar. 'Highland Heritage'—Mrs A. H. Sommerville.

All Meets were held in Beechgrove Church House and again the attendances were good - there being an overall average of 44 attending.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS 1973-75

The excursions have continued to be very well attended, with an average of forty-three persons present. The largest turnout was for the Ben Avon excursion of March 1975, while the smallest was for the Mount Keen excursion of November 1974. (Numbers attending the excursions are given in brackets after the excursion in the list at the end.) Two coaches were hired on four occasions, and on three others a minibus was required in addition. On a number of excursions some members attended by car.

A feature of the excursions for 1973 and early 1974 was that a tremendous pressure built up for seats on the bus, with as many as twenty or more on the waiting list and a very high incidence of cancellations, often at the last minute. This culminated in the situation where forty-three persons had asked to be placed on the permanent list, an impossible situation, as there are only forty-one seats available on the bus. We could perhaps have arranged a ballot for each excursion to determine which forty-one should have priority for that date. The Committee decided, however, that members should prepay for their seats instead of paying on the bus as had been the practice for many years. This decision has proved generally satisfactory.

The Easter Meet of 1974 was held at the Speanbridge Hotel, Speanbridge. The entire party was accommodated in the hotel, except for three members who were staying at a camp-site at Roybridge. For the latter this proved to be a somewhat cold experience. The weather was good and most of the Munros between Ben Nevis and Creag Meagaidh were climbed in the course of the weekend, together with some on the west side of the Great Glen.

The Easter Meet of 1975 was held at the Arrochar Hotel, Arrochar. Great difficulty had been experienced in finding a suitable venue and, in fact, arrangements were not completed in time for inclusion in the appropriate Club circular. Nevertheless, some forty-five persons attended the meet and were easily accommodated by the hotel, which is a good deal larger than those we have patronised in the past. Once again the weather was excellent with sunshine and clear summits every day. Quite a number of members completed the ascent of all six Munros in the area, with the addition of the Cobbler, while others ventured as far afield as Ben Lui and Ben More. There was more snow than in the previous year but it was in very good condition.

The 1974 overnight excursion started off in most unpromising fashion with lashing rain all the way from Aberdeen to Aultguish. The bus had an exceptionally clear run in the afternoon, as everyone else had obviously stopped to watch the World Cup tie between Scotland and Yugoslavia! Even in Inverness the streets were empty! The rain stopped somewhere around Aultguish and when we started walking it was overcast but dry. About a third of the party set off up Sgurr Ban and Mullach Coire Mhic Fhearchair, and watched the sun rise above a sea of cloud from the latter. It had been the second good overnighter in a row.

In contrast, the Ben Lawers excursion was once again marred by wet and misty weather. Everyone found their way back to the bus in reasonable time on this occasion although one member had become separated from the rest of his party near the top and they had spent a considerable time looking for him without success.

All the other long distance excursions were blessed with very good weather, except for the odd shower on the Monadhliath Mountains. The best days were on Ben Vorlich and at the Pass of Drumochter. The winters again have been surprisingly clear of snow, but those who visited Ben Avon on the recent Cockbridge to Invercauld excursion had heavy snow showers and this was on the first of June. The excursion to the Monadhliath Mountains proved to be rather long for the time available, the walk up (or down) Glen Banchor proving rather rough and time-consuming. The hills themselves provided very good walking but although no large drop separates any of them they are a good distance apart.

While friendly relations continue with most of the estates we visit, a number of problems have arisen recently. The route to Lochnagar via the Ballochbuie, which we have had the privilege of using for many years, has been closed to us without any apparent reason. At Ben More we interrupted a sheep-gather, one member getting a severe ticking-off when he made to cross a dry stone dyke. The shepherd in question claimed he had spent the whole of the previous week building it up. The moss must grow quickly in these parts! On Glas Tulaichean recently some members were surprised to stumble upon a shooting party on a Sunday in November. Here it was claimed that a party descending Glas Tulaichean had moved a wounded beast into another glen. If that were so, it was unfortunate; but we have not encountered shooters on a Sunday before.

It will not have escaped the notice of members that the cost of excursions has risen sharply. In the last seven years the cost of the bus has doubled, but hotel charges have virtually quadrupled. Alas, there seems to be no end to it.

G.E.

EXCURSIONS

1973

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Sept. Cairngorm Car Park to Linn of Dee (47) | 25 May Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin (42) |
| 15 Sept. Ben More and Stobinian (36) | 8 June Monadhliath Mountains (33) |
| 30 Sept. Jock's Road (49) | 22/23 June Braemore to Kinlochewe (35) |
| 13 Oct. Schiehallion (35) | 24 Aug. Linn of Dee to Glenfeshie (56) |
| 4 Nov. Lochnagar (45) | 15 Sept. Ben Lawers (38) |
| 17 Nov. Cairnwell to Inverey (38) | 29 Sept. Monega Pass (54) |
| 9 Dec. Culardocho (62) | 13 Oct. Glen Clunie Lodge to Spital of Glenshee (39) |

1974

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 13 Jan. Lochnagar (46) | 3 Nov. Auchallater to Spital of Glenmuick (40) |
| 2 Feb. Glen Clunie (42) | 23 Nov. Mount Keen (31) |
| 24 Feb. Glen Clova (60) | 15 Dec. Ben Tirran (36) |
| 9 Mar. Glas Tulaichean (47) | |
| 31 Mar. Beinn a' Bhuid (51) | |
| 5 May Broad Cairn (35) | |

- 1975
 11 Jan. Glen Clunie (40)
 2 Feb. Lochnagar (41)
 23 Feb. Glen Clova (40)
 15 Mar. Ben Avon (63)
 13 Apr. Auchallater (37)
 3 May Ben Chonzie (35)
 17 May Pass of Drumochter (44)

- 1 June Cockbridge to Invercauld
 (40)
 21/22 June Speanbridge to Glen
 Nevis (41)

EASTER MEETS

- 1974 Speanbridge
 1975 Arrochar

Although the Club *Journal* does not indulge in advertising, the following 'commercial' was handed in to the Editor by one of the more young in heart Club members. He was seen dancing vigorously at the most recent Supper Dance held by the Club, and perhaps he attributes his sprightliness at the age of 89 to the commodity all but named in this stanza!

'We needs must love,' the climber claims,
 'The highest when we see it;
 You think he means the summit,
 But that doesn't seem to be it,
 For having reached the lofty top
 Of Snowdon or Great Gable
 He scrambles down the other side
 As fast as he is able.
 The height of his ambition
 Is the valley where the inn is -
 Summit attempted, summit done,
 Has earned a glass of —!