

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

GENERAL MEETINGS

The Eighty-ninth Annual General Meeting was held on 23 November 1977. The Office-Bearers appointed were Hon. President Col. E. Birnie Reid, President Harold Watt, Vice-Presidents Ian Stephen and Graham Ewen, Secretary Richard Shirreffs, Treasurer Sandy Reid, Editor Donald Hawksworth, Librarian Jean Callander, Huts Custodian Denis Hardy, Meets Secretary Graham Ewen and Indoor Meets Secretary Neil Cromar. Other significant business included a decision to increase subscriptions by 50% as from 1 October 1978.

The Ninetieth Annual General Meeting was held on 22 November 1978. The Office-Bearers appointed at the 1977 Annual General Meeting were re-appointed apart from the appointment of Denis Hardy as Vice-President in succession to Ian Stephen. A resolution limiting expenditure on the Journal was passed.

A Special General Meeting was held on 16 May 1979 to consider proposals which the Committee had for the future of the Journal in the light of the resolution referred to above. The meeting failed to produce any clear indication of what members wished and ended in the anomaly of an amendment to the Committee's motion being carried by 13 votes to 9 and the amended motion then being defeated by 13 votes to 9.

A Special General Meeting was held on 21 November 1979 and passed unanimously a resolution proposed by the Committee for the alteration of the constitution to permit time-apportionment of subscriptions paid by members for the year of their admission and to allow greater flexibility in relation to reduced rate subscriptions.

The Ninety-first Annual General Meeting was held on 21 November 1979. The Office-Bearers appointed at the 1978 Annual General Meeting were re-appointed except that Peter Howgate was appointed President in succession to Harold Watt and Antony Chessell was appointed Editor. The life membership payment was raised substantially but other subscriptions were not varied. Further discussion of the future of the Journal took place with a slightly clearer view emerging.

ANNUAL DINNERS

The 1977 and 1978* Annual Dinners were held at the Northern Hotel, Aberdeen, and the 1979 Annual Dinner at the Station Hotel, Aberdeen. The Guest Speakers and their subjects were –

1977 W.H. Murray – Exploration on the Tibetan Frontier

1978 John Bartholomew – The Mapping of Hill Country

1979 Ronald Faux – Everest Goddess of the Winds

* At the 1978 Annual Dinner, the President, Mr H.M.R. Watt, proposed the toast 'The Cairngorm Club' in the following terms:–

If, ladies and gentlemen, what I said at the dinner last year, and the year before, was, as is quite likely to be the case, infinitely forgettable, I couldn't expect you to remember that, two years ago, after that scamp member of ours (Peter Davidson), who is also a member of the Grampian Club, had, wilfully or otherwise, publicly got the age of the Cairngorm Club and my age all mixed up, thus making an advanced

octogenarian out of me, I promised to tell you, at some other time, the favourite octogenarian story of mine with which I got my own back. I'll tell you it now. There was an octogenarian who mentioned that he had, during the past few days, received a perfect score in his medical check-up. In response to a question as to how he managed to keep in such fine shape, the old fellow replied – 'Well, when I was married nearly sixty years ago, my wife and I agreed that, if *I* lost *my* temper, *she* would remain silent and if *she* lost *her* temper, *I* would leave the *house*. I attributed my *good* health', he said, 'to the well-known advantages of an *outdoor* life!'

Well, none of us belongs to the Cairngorm Club to get away from our spouses (many of whom are members in their own right), but the Club does exist, in part, in order to allow its Aberdeen-based members (at any rate) to enjoy the advantages of outdoor life.

There are no rules, to the best of my knowledge, for Presidents, as to what line they are to take when entrusted with the responsibility of proposing this toast of 'The Cairngorm Club'. It would be easy, and of interest no doubt, to go over the past year and review the events and activities of the Club and submit, for the members' critical scrutiny, the conductance of the Club's affairs by the office bearers and committee members during that time. But, for one thing, that would be no way to treat guests, by talking Club 'shop'. For another, this all happened at last Wednesday's a g m. If you weren't able or entitled to be there, you did miss something, you missed confirmation that, over a tremendously wide range of lively activity, the Club is in good heart due, in large part, to the friendly, constructive, participation of so many members, and of all the office-bearers and committee team to whom the members have currently entrusted the day-to-day running of the Club. By range of activity you will see what I mean if I mention just some subject headings of business, or activity, dealt with, or in course of being dealt with, other than routine matters: the planning of a Club photographic library; basic hillcraft tuition for those who want it; the Linn of Dee caravan site; keeping down the rates on Muir; the encouragement/discouragement of children at Muir (tremendous importance attaches to the oblique stroke); spreading the news about other good places for climbers to stay in Scotland; helicopter interference on the hill; a new Geldie bothy; the Shelter Stone visitors' books; library service – bringing books *to* the members, at indoor meets.

These, as I said, in addition to so-called routine matters which themselves, of course, demand – and get – careful, indeed punctilious planning from the several people responsible: the 14 day meets, the 14 opportunities in the year for healthful exercise; the overnight meet; the Easter meet; the indoor meets: the Dinner meet and the pre-dinner lecture; the supper-dance; Muir and all that is involved in making it the civilised Club hut that it is; the subscription work and the careful balancing of the Club's books; the servicing of the Committee's work, the minute preparation, the correspondence and the hundred and one points of detail we expect of our Secretary; the maintenance of that great luxury, our Club library; and everything that goes into the upholding of standards in the context of the Club *Journal*.

Alternatively, a President could dwell on a few of the highlights of the past year. I don't think there were many highlights last year, but there were amusing incidents. For example, the day (the unprecedented day) the bus left Golden Square *early* (three minutes early, Graham's watch being three minutes fast), and the havoc *that* caused to the morale of Neil Cromar, that douce Aberdeen lawyer, who, before the

bus had doubled back to collect him disconsolately trekking homewards in the dark, really wondered if he was starting to lose grip on his normally very orderly mode of living. Or the Lochnagar meet, when we were crossing Ballochbuie with the full assurance of Colonel McHardy's written blessing, and when the Balmoral estate minion at the wheel of a Land-Rover did rather come to regret having queried Brodie Lewis as to whether he did 'realise that he and his companions were on private ground'. Or, the extraordinary guardedness, verging on outright suspiciousness, of our hotel hostess at the Fort William Easter Meet. Or, Angus Thomson's superlative entry in the Muir Log Book. Read it in full when you are up there next. I have copied some extracts. Under the heading 'Cairngorm Club: Geriatric Division', Angus, too long exiled in Newcastle, wrote:

Muir Cottage, on arrival, like a model on the cover of *Vogue* – beautifully groomed, incredibly clean, very good looking – and cold as charity. Treat her like a dollybird, warmth, food, drink and affection, and she becomes the friendly Aberdeenshire quine she has always been . . . Atmosphere very suitable for reverie on forty years of Club membership. Things which have not changed, so as you'd notice: the smell of the bakery in Ballater, and the best mutton pies in Scotland; the meallie Jimmys at the butchers in Ballater (Did you know that it is forbidden to import these – or the haggises – into Canada? This proves the sheer savagery of the things); Bob Scott at the bar in Mar Lodge (Sure, this is anachronistic, since the bar at the Lodge wasn't there forty years ago, but think about the enduring granite of Bob Scott's continued presence hereabouts) . . . I was a committee member when Muir was still a twinkle in the President's eye (though George Taylor was probably the real father). There were great discussions on the lines of 'keep the place clean, tidy and comfortable, and it won't degenerate into the usual kind of climbers' bothy.' It restores my faith in human nature to contemplate the quite remarkable success of that philosophy. Salutations to the present membership.

These few instance of how cheerfulness keeps breaking through are wholly within Club tradition, and are surely proof of the truth we all know, that solemnity is not particularly a by-word within the Club. Nor must it be allowed to become so.

This then is where I come to the single theme I thought I might hang a few reflections upon tonight. They are not original or deep. They are basic and simple, but I think deserve to be articulated from time to time.

The Club's constitution properly starts by enumerating the Club's objects in formal terms: to encourage mountain climbing in Scotland; to procure and impart scientific and other information concerning mountains; to consider right of access; to issue publications.

Well, in 1978, the Club is seen to be embracing all of these things in the range of its activity. But before the Club even had objects it became a club, and a club is a club is a club. By that dark saying I mean (I think) that this Club is a loose linkage, clean across the generations, of like-minded people, people who have different backgrounds and many different kinds of experience to contribute, but who share one mode of recreation, share also one perspective in particular. They see mountain climbing and hill walking – which the Club Constitution constrains them to encourage – not as ends in themselves, but as means to an end, and the end is simply, unashamedly – enjoyment. This end needs no special justification and doesn't require any special defence. We get enjoyment and we share enjoyment on the hill;

we are sharing it tonight; we keep on getting, and sharing – enjoyment.

We see this spare-time occupation of ours not so much as a sport, which is nearly always competitive and therefore something different in nature from ours, which is just a recreation, a refreshment if you like. It seems to me that we have to make a conscious effort to keep it just that.

Sir Robert Grieve, when President of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, was showing that he feels likewise when he spoke this year in opposition to over-promotion of mountaineering. He warned against 'undesirable professionalism' and 'unnecessary organisation'. The M C S should remain an 'unobtrusive organisation, in being simply to protect the interests of its constituent clubs.'

That, with proper acknowledgement and due humility, is the philosophy of the chap who is currently privileged to be your President, and I hope it shows through on Meets and elsewhere. I doubt whether any of my predecessors thought differently: they have I think always stood out for the freedom of members of the Club to do their own sensible thing on the hill.

And, if you are saying under your breath 'Yes, and they were much less solemn about it', you are probably quite right. But then they in their time were all maturer than I, had learned more about life, had 'arrived', whereas I am still 'journeying'. But I am learning, gradually learning, that there are some quite clearly defined Laws of life. For example, there's the one which states . . . 'Nothing is impossible – for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.'

There's another which goes quite simply: 'Any time that things appear to be going better – you have overlooked something.' There's a development of that simple truth which states: 'Anything that can possibly go wrong – will go wrong.' And a further refinement of the same theme: 'Even that which can't possibly go wrong – will go wrong.'

Then the well-known Law which states, a little discouragingly: 'It is impossible to overestimate the unimportance of nearly everything.'

But there is only a thin dividing line between Laws and Commandments. And, although there used to be a total of 10 Commandments, you may perhaps have heard of an 11th one, specially tailored, I believe, for wives: 'You shall not always be right'; or, put another way. 'Do not always appear to be right – even when you are.'

And that seems to bring me right back to where I started, about losing cool, leaving the house, and the well-known advantages of the outdoor life – the *outdoor life*, the safeguarding of which – by all – is one of the fundamental reasons for the existence of the Cairngorm Club, whose health and prosperity I ask everybody now to rise and join me in toasting: – 'The Cairngorm Club.'

INDOOR MEETS

Since the spring of 1979 indoor meets have been diversified by the addition of summer indoor meets with a more social content than the format of traditional winter indoor meets has permitted. The programme since the last Journal has been as follows: –

1977	Nov.	Members' Night
	Dec.	Cancelled due to clash with other event of interest to members
1978	Jan.	Dolomite Holiday – Donald Hawksworth
	Feb.	Red Deer in the Highlands – Brian Staines

Mar.	Exploring, Working and Surviving in Cold Climates – Donald Hadley
Nov.	Members' Night with Quiz
Dec.	Scotland's Hills as seen by me – James Will
1979 Jan.	Kanchenjunga 1955 – John Clegg
Feb.	A History of Mountaineering – Bill Brooker
Mar.	Mountain Rescue and Hazards – Malcolm Duckworth
May	Navigation classes (two evenings) and informal gathering
Nov.	Members' Night
Dec.	A Progress in Mountaineering – Greg Strange
1980 Jan.	A Little Bias – Bill Marshall
Feb.	Where Eagles Dare – Dick Balharry
Mar.	Films (original programme unavoidably cancelled)
Apr.	Navigation class and informal gathering
May	Navigation class and informal gathering
June	Car Treasure hunt
July	Slide competition
Aug.	Barbecue

SUPPER DANCES

The Supper Dance has become an annual event since instituted on an experimental basis in 1974. In 1978 and 1979 the venue was the Three Pocerros Restaurant, Aberdeen on 27th April and 26th April both Thursdays, but in 1980 a switch was made to the Amatola Hotel, Aberdeen, on 9 May, a Friday. Attendance is now normally between 70 and 80.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS 1977 – 80

The excursions continue to be well attended, although the average attendance of 35 shows a further drop from the 37 and 43 recorded for the period covered by the previous two journals. (The number attending is given in brackets after each excursion in the list at the end.) The pressure of bookings for the more popular excursions has been somewhat alleviated by the bus company's acquisition of larger buses. On no occasion has more than one bus been hired. The best attendance was recorded at the 1980 excursion to Glas Tulaichan when some additional members attended by car.

The 1978 Easter Meet was held at the West End Hotel in Fort William, the arrangements having been made much more easily than in the previous three years. Unfortunately it proved to be the wettest Easter weekend since our stay at the Falls of Lora Hotel in 1972. Very few hills were climbed due to the bad weather and very heavy snow conditions on the hills. Attempts were made on some of the lower Munros such as Sgurr Eilde Mor. Some were successful but on most occasions parties were forced to turn back short of the summits.

The 1979 Easter Meet was held at the Dundonnell Hotel. Once again the weather was disappointing and restricted the amount of climbing possible. Nevertheless a number of hills were climbed mostly in the area of the Fannichs and in the Beinn Dearg group. On this occasion the hotel proved to be very good and this was some compensation for the poor weather conditions.

The Easter Meet of 1980 was again held at the Dundonnell Hotel. About 50 members attended, most being accommodated at the hotel with a few staying at nearby houses. The decision to return to this centre was fully justified since, in contrast to that of the previous year, the weather was excellent. Members took full advantage of the conditions to indulge in a most immodest orgy of Munro bagging. The Ben Dearg group and the Fannichs were again very popular with just about all the main tops being climbed by parties from the meet. Several members climbed An Teallach, and further afield Stac Polly to the north and Sgurr Ban to the south were visited. Altogether the magnificent mountains in the area, the fine weather and the comfortable accommodation combined to make this a most enjoyable meet.

The weather looked threatening for the 1978 overnight excursion from Loch Tulla to Taynuilt but in fact, it cleared up by morning. Some parties walked through by the low level route via Glen Kinglas – itself a long walk. Others were more ambitious attempting a rather lengthy ridgewalk between Stob Ghabhar and Beinn nan Aighenan. Some went over Beinn Eunaich and Beinn a Chochuill while one party did the ridge of Ben Cruachan.

The 1979 overnight excursion was from Bridge of Orchy to Glen Lochay, scene of a very wet night on a previous visit several years ago. On this occasion the weather was very much better with the result that almost every Munro possible between Rannoch Moor and Glen Dochart was climbed by at least one party.

As usual there were excursions which were accompanied by extremely unpleasant weather conditions. On the 1977 excursion from Glen Isla to Glen Clova we had thick mist and heavy rain and latterly a high wind. On reaching the quarry at Braedownie early we found 'no bus'. It transpired that it had broken down three miles down the glen. It arrived eventually, towed by a Land Rover.

The 1978 excursion to Lochnagar did not get past Ballater, as all roads past this point were blocked and the snow was still falling. Most members went for walks around Ballater, the highest point reached being the summit of Craigendarroch. The High Tea at the Craigendarroch Hotel was rearranged for Lunchtime and we returned to Aberdeen in the afternoon.

The excursion to the Ochil Hills was attended by very thick mist which came down low enough to impede the progress of the bus on the way to Sheriffmuir. The route from here to Dollar proved to be extremely testing, due to the lack of definite features across the top and at least one party emerged at Tillicoultry instead.

The 1980 excursion to Glen Clova will be remembered for the road conditions which were experienced on the way home. Those who were there are probably still wondering how the bus got through the huge snowdrifts on the road from Kirriemuir to Tannadice. It was indeed good fortune that allowed the party to get home that night.

There were of course a large number of good days. The 1977 excursion to Ben Lawers had very good weather to make up for the many wet days we have spent there in recent years. Unfortunately only 23 people were there to enjoy it, the lowest attendance of the period covered by this report.

Particularly good winter conditions were found on the excursion to Cockbridge in 1979 and Glas Tulaichan in 1980. Summer excursions which stand out as having very good weather include Ben More & Stobinian and Ben Vorlich in 1978, and Schichallion and Crathie to Loch Muick in 1979.

One disturbing feature which has marred the excursions of the last two years has been the increased frequency of members returning to the bus late. This has caused a

great deal of inconvenience and worry to other members. On the two most extreme occasions the organisers had reached the stage of informing the police although, fortunately, the members concerned turned up before a search operation was mounted. On the occasion of the Glen Clova excursion reported on earlier the delay undoubtedly jeopardised the chances of the party getting home that night. Thanks to the bus driver's skill, all did – except for the Meets Secretary, whose car was buried in a snowdrift at Tannadice!

G. Ewen

EXCURSIONS

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|------------|---|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1977 | | 1979 |
| 27 Aug. | Linn of Dee to Blair Atholl (40) | 7 Jan. | Lochnagar (40) |
| 18 Sept. | Ben Lawers (23) | 28 Jan. | Morven (43) |
| 8 Oct. | Cairngorm (41) | 18 Feb. | Glen Esk (38) |
| 30 Oct. | Glen Isla to Glen Clova (35) | 10 Mar. | Cockbridge (33) |
| 13 Nov. | Ben Rinnes (35) | 31 Mar. | Cairngorm (35) |
| 3 Dec. | Clachnaben (25) | 29 Apr. | Glen Isla to Glen Clova (28) |
| | | 19 May | Schichallion (28) |
| | | 9 Jun. | Geal Charn (29) |
| | | 23/24 Jun. | Bridge of Orchy to Glen Lochay (31) |
| | 1978 | 26 Aug. | Ballater to Glen Esk (33) |
| 8 Jan. | Glen Clova (27) | 8 Sept. | Cairngorm to Linn of Dee (39) |
| 29 Jan. | Lochnagar (40) | 30 Sept. | Linn of Dee to Glenfeshie (45) |
| 18 Feb. | Inverey (34) | 21 Oct. | Crathie to Loch Muick (36) |
| 11 Mar. | Blair Atholl (28) | 10 Nov. | Glen Esk to Glen Clova (32) |
| 9 Apr. | Lochnagar (36) | 2 Dec. | Glen Ogil (Angus) (40) |
| 30 Apr. | Dorback to Tomintoul (32) | 16 Dec. | Bennachie (33) |
| 20 May | Ben More and Stobinian (35) | | |
| 10 Jun. | Ben Avon (40) | | 1980 |
| 24/25 Jun. | Loch Tulla to Taynuilt (37) | 13 Jan. | Lochnagar (43) |
| 27 Aug. | Ben Vorlich (28) | 3 Feb. | Glen Clova (43) |
| 9 Sept. | Cairngorm to Linn of Dee (43) | 23 Feb. | Glas Tulaichan (48) |
| 1 Oct. | Jock's Road (36) | 15 Mar. | Blair Atholl (28) |
| 22 Oct. | Clunie Lodge to Spital of Glenshee (35) | | |
| 11 Nov. | Ochil Hills (29) | | EASTER MEETS |
| 2 Dec. | Mount Battock (32) | 1978 | Fort William |
| | | 1979 | Dundonnell |
| | | 1980 | Dundonnell |

WEEKEND MEETS

The question of Weekend Meets was raised, not for the first time in the history of the Cairngorm Club, at a committee meeting in November 1978. Three members of that committee supported the suggestion to the extent that they each volunteered to organise a meet for the 1979 season. Thus for the first time in the history of the Club Weekend-meets appeared in the Club programme.

Those first meets were held at Glen Nevis (Hostel), Glen Coe (Black Rock Cottage) and Kintail (Guest House) and all proved to be most enjoyable even when the weather was far from ideal. The outcome of this rather tentative venture into Weekend Meets was pressure from all those who attended that there should be more arranged for 1980, a request accompanied by a long list of possible venues. Thus the three leaders met to discuss developing the meets on a more regular basis, taking into account the experiences of these first meets. The committee was subsequently presented with various suggestions which were discussed and accepted.

The sub-committee which was formed to organise the meets is deliberately a small one – Bill Barlow, Tibby Fraser, Anne Lindsay, Gillian Shirreffs – each member assuming responsibility for organising one or more meets.

There are various reasons for the development of Weekend Meets – one important one being to enable the more distant members to become more active in the Club – a fact which is being borne out in the number of 'regulars' from the south. Another equally welcome factor is that such meets enable those newer members who regularly attend Bus Meets to meet and get to know the more established members who, for some reason, may not so regularly attend the Bus Meets.

Several factors have been taken into account in arranging the meets. Firstly, the timing and venues of the meets must not clash with or be similar to any of the Bus Meets and it is hoped they will complement each other. There will be one meet a month between May and October excluding June. Venues include the more and the less remote areas but the shooting season and access is a major determining factor.

With the cross section of members interested in attending meets various types of accommodation are to be offered in order to cater for varying preferences. Experience will enable the organisation of this aspect of the meets to be improved upon. It is deliberate that no deadline for bookings is set since not everyone is in a position to plan well in advance – obviously if advance, block-bookings can be made this is of benefit to all concerned. Over a period of time a register of accommodation and information regarding access will be compiled which will be of general interest to all members.

The Leaders or Co-ordinators of the meets will have all information regarding bookings etc. and will be the points of contact for members attending specific meets.

The second season is now underway, 40 members were attracted to Ben Alder, being equally divided between bothies and Guest Houses. Cannich and Loch Tay have attracted 30 and 17 members, again divided between Hostel and Hotel, more particularly at Cannich. The two remaining Meets are still in the process of organisation but again seem to be attracting about 20 members with more interested.

The enjoyment and therefore the success of these first Weekend Meets certainly seems to override the doubts expressed in the past that such a venture is not a viable proposition for the Cairngorm Club.

Gillian Shirreffs.

Individual accounts of some of the weekend meets by members of the sub-committee are as follows: —

THE GLEN NEVIS MEET

The first Club weekend meet was held on the 25th to the 27th May 1979, the locus being the Glen Nevis Youth Hostel, Nine members were involved. The party motored across to Lochaber after work on the Friday and had two full days "on the hill". The tops "done" included Aonach Beag, Aenach Mor, Cairn Mor Dearg, The Ben and in the Loch Treig district, Stob a'Choire Mheadhoin and Stab Coire Easain. While the venture was not a Munro bagging expedition, all participants increased their scores. The weather was reasonable. The forecast had not been all that good and it rained for most of the way to Glen Nevis and for much of the return journey. However, while we scrambled on the slopes it was dry and we had a few lengthy sunny periods. Views were excellent, especially on the Saturday. For a number of those present the youth hostel was a new experience. The beds were alright but the dormitories were large and there was a near capacity booking. Nevertheless, even in such circumstances it was agreed that a youth hostel provided acceptable accommodation on such an occasion. The weekend was undoubtedly a success. If enthusiasm was the measure it was clear that the "weekend meet" would become a popular aspect of Club activities.

Bill Barlow

GLENCOE — JULY 1979

Eight people attended the first "official" weekend meet. In July 1979 we used Black Rock Cottage in Glencoe. This belongs to L.S.C.C.

The weather in Glencoe was what it so often is — damp! We drove to other areas nearby — Glen Etive and Bridge of Orchy — and climbed hills there. An abundance of wild flowers, a fox and a pair of golden eagles made our day on Beinn Achaladair and Beinn a' Chreachain outstanding. Glencoe hills were admired from a distance especially Buachaille Etive M'or which commanded one's attention, being just west of Black Rock.

The cottage was comfortable and the company congenial. Many thanks to John Hetherington for downing oil-skins and doing what he did with the Elsan!

Anne Lindsay

KINTAIL AUGUST 1979

20 members attended the meet to Kintail all staying in local Guest Houses. For most members the chief attraction of the weekend was the walk along the South Cluanie ridge so collecting up to about 7 Munros. This they did on Saturday in good conditions. Others of us opted for the more isolated An Socath and its neighbour time permitting. This proved to be a good if long walk with an extraordinarily bumpy private road to negotiate by car — our thanks to the landowner and Sandy Anton's car. There was a wealth of Alpine Flowers among the route up and some good views with swirling, low cloud on the top. There proved to be insufficient time for the second top. Other members ventured on to the North Cluanie ridge.

The Sunday dawned cloudy and this worsened as the morning progressed. Every one had plans for either the Sisters or the Saddle. However the rain became so heavy that only one of the Sisters was attempted and the party returned to the cars literally soaked to the skin. Those on the other side suffered a similar fate — some sensibly abandoning the exercise!

As a gathering of club members the weekend proved to be most enjoyable and for the Munro hungry it was most successful.

Gillian Shirreffs

BEN ALDER – MAY 1980

The first of this year's meets was held from 2nd – 5th May in the Ben Alder area.

A total of 37 people were in the area staying in a variety of accommodation – tent, caravan, bothy and guest house. We were also joined for the day by a group on Sunday.

Almost everyone saw almost everyone else during the weekend which gave a feeling of unity. Parties on the hill were fairly small though some 14 people converged on Ben Alder on Sunday. Loch Ericht must have been at its blue-est that day in the sunshine.

Saturday started off cold due to very strong winds which made walking difficult. As the day progressed the weather improved and it continued to do so over the rest of the weekend.

Early morning mist drifted away on Sunday to give us two days of beautiful sunshine.

The weekend was all the more successful due to the co-operation we received from Loch Laggan and Alder Estates. Through them we obtained keys enabling us to open locked gates.

Anne Lindsay

