

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

GENERAL MEETINGS

The Ninety-second Annual General Meeting was held on 26 November 1980. The office bearers appointed were Hon. President Leslie Hay, President Peter Howgate, Vice-Presidents Denis Hardy and Richard Shirreffs, Secretary Richard Shirreffs, Treasurer Sandy Reid, Editor Antony Chessell, Librarian Jean Callander, Huts Custodian Eddie Martin, Meets Secretary Graham Ewen and Indoor Meets Secretary Neil Cromar.

The Ninety-third Annual General Meeting was held on 25 November 1981. The office bearers appointed at the 1980 Annual General Meeting were re-appointed apart from the appointment of Ruth Payne as Vice-President in succession to Denis Hardy. Other significant business included the election of Sheila Murray and Adam Watson as honorary members, a decision to increase subscriptions by 50% from 1 October 1982 and a resolution to allow direct debiting as a means of subscription payments.

The Ninety-fourth Annual General Meeting was held on 17 November 1982. The office bearers appointed at the 1981 Annual General Meeting were re-appointed except that Eric Johnston was appointed President in succession to Peter Howgate.

ANNUAL DINNERS

The 1980 and 1981 Annual Dinners were held at the Queen's Hotel, Aberdeen, and the 1982 Annual Dinner at the Royal Darroch Hotel, Cults, Aberdeen. The guest speakers and their subjects were –

1980 Richard Stroud – Ski-Mountaineering in the Alps and Arctic Sweden

1981 Dave Morris – 'Heroes, Souls and Nature Pure and Simple' – in the 1980's?

1982 Brian Sprunt – Alpine Climbing

INDOOR MEETS

The following indoor meets have been held since the issue of the last *Journal*:–

1980	Nov.	Members' Night, including quiz
	Dec	Deeside through the Seasons – Eric Jensen.
1981	Jan.	Four French Alpine films.
	Feb.	The Lure of the Hills – Rev. Archibald Grant.
	March	The Care of Boots – Ernest Baker
	Nov.	Members' Night, including quiz.
	Dec.	Glen Muick through the Seasons – Neil Cook.
1982	Jan.	French and Swiss Alpine films.
	Feb.	The Bailies of Bennachie – James MacKay.
	March	The Geological Base to the Scottish Hills – George Downie.
	Nov.	Members' Night.
	Dec.	Climbing in Scotland and the Alps; Trecking in California and Nepal – Dr. Andrew D. Nisbet.
1983	Jan.	Focus on the Cairngorms – Dr. Gordon R. Miller.
	Feb.	Trip to Nepal – Terry Wallace (deputising at short notice).
	March	Moments Spent in Joy – Ian Strachan.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Supper Dances initiated in 1974 continued on an annual basis until 1981, when one was held at the Amatola Hotel, Aberdeen on 8 May, but were discontinued in 1982 because of poor support in 1981. However barbecues (initiated in 1980) and cheese and wine parties (initiated in 1981) have now become annual events. Barbecues were held at Templars' Park, Maryculter, Aberdeen on Wednesday 26 August 1981, on Wednesday 30 June 1982 and on Wednesday 29 June 1983. Cheese and wine parties were held at Provost Skene's House, Aberdeen, on 18 February 1981 and 19 February 1982 and at the Winter Gardens, Duthie Park, Aberdeen, on 4 March 1983.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

A list of members, up to date as at 28 February 1982, was issued to all members with the spring 1982 Club circular.

R.C. Shirreffs

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS 1980 - 83

The attendance recorded at the excursions for the period covered by this *Journal* continues to show a drop, the average being 32 on this occasion compared with 35 last time. The drop however, is almost entirely due to a long run of poor attendances during the first six months of 1982. (The number attending is given in brackets after each excursion in the list at the end.) The biggest turn-out was at the 1981 Lochnagar excursion which attracted 50, whether for the climb or Christmas Dinner at the Craighendarroch Hotel is not clear! One bus has been sufficient for all the excursions but there were three occasions when one or two members failed to obtain a seat.

The 1981 Easter Meet was held at the Glen Affric Hotel in Cannich. Over forty people attended, most staying in the hotel but some farmed out in houses nearby. The hotel proved to be exceptionally good as was the weather throughout the week-end. The most popular hills were Mam Sodhail and Carn Eige which were climbed by almost everyone. All the other Munros in the area were visited by at least one party. The remote Beinn Fhionnlaigh was visited by two parties, the more enterprising of which actually hired a boat to go up Loch Mullardoch. The boat broke down half way along the loch but once repairs had been made the party continued.

The 1982 Easter Meet was held at the Tarbet Hotel on Loch Lomondside. On this occasion the turn-out was disappointingly small with only 24 members attending. It was a large hotel but it was quite comfortable. The weather started off misty and cold on the Friday but cleared up and was excellent for the rest of the week-end. Most of the Munros in the immediate area were climbed, the most popular climbs being the traverse of Ben Vane and the triple ascent of Beinn Ime, Beinn Narnain and the Cobbler. One keen Munroist travelled as far as Beinn Chalum. Two parties spent an enjoyable day on some lower hills to the west of Luss. On the Saturday there was a wedding reception at the hotel and Club members were invited to join in the dancing afterwards.

The 1983 Easter Meet was held at the Ballachulish Hotel. It was attended by about forty people. Winter conditions prevailed with rather deep wet snow lying from about 1500 feet upwards. Nevertheless a wide variety of hills were climbed from Beinn Sgulaireid in the South to the Mamores in the North and Glen Etive Hills in the East, while a smaller hill on the other side of Corran Ferry called Sgurr na h-Eanchainne attracted some interest. The snow conditions perhaps dissuaded members from tackling the steeper Glen Coe hills but one party climbed Buchaille Etive Beag. The hotel was very comfortable and enjoyed by all despite the rather unorthodox early morning call we had on the last day.

The 1980 overnight excursion was from Kinlochleven to Glen Nevis. After some heavy rain in the early part of the night the weather cleared to give a very fine morning. Brocken spectres were to be seen on various parts of the ridge near Binnein Mor in the early hours of the morning. Most of the party climbed several of the tops of the Mamores; one actually completed all ten.

In 1981 the overnight excursion was from Braemore to Kinlochewe. It was a beautiful night throughout making progress possible during the darkest hours. The main target seemed to be Sgurr Ban and Mullach Coire Mhic Fhearchair as on the last occasion that the Club did this trip. One party however went to Ruadh Stac Mor and A'Mhaighdean with one of their number climbing Slioch as well.

The 1982 overnight excursion, from Cluanie Inn to Morvich started cloudy but quickly cleared to produce a beautiful night. Most of the party chose the hills along the north side of Glen Shiel. It was possible to keep walking throughout the hours of darkness without difficulty, the hills ahead being visible all the time. Several members completed all the hills from Sgurr an Fhuarail to the Five Sisters. Several flocks of wild black goats were encountered high up on the Five Sisters.

Bad weather conditions were experienced as usual on several excursions. In 1980, on Meall Ghaordie, after a very hot humid climb, several loud peals of thunder rang out just as the President's Party was approaching the summit. All but one went on to the summit however and although there was some very heavy rain it was not accompanied by lightning.

In October of the same year the excursion to Glen Tilt was a very wet day. One member slipped on wet grass at Falls of Tarf and broke his leg. Perhaps this was one occasion where we could excuse the estate for having bulldozed a track to near this location. Help was sent for, and after a rather cold wait the casualty was taken to Bridge of Earn hospital by ambulance.

In 1981 another very wet day was experienced on the occasion of the Devil's Elbow to Glen Clova excursion. There had been a heavy fall of wet snow on the Friday followed by heavy rain all week-end. The effect of the melting snow and the rain together created a dramatic spate on the burns and rivers making them impossible to cross. Nevertheless everyone managed to find a suitable route over but on this occasion another member received a serious leg injury while descending into Glen Doll but managed to finish the walk.

Then in January 1982 we had the coldest day of the century (-28°C at Braemar). It had been intended to go to Lochnagar but the bus was left in Ballater and various walks were done from there. Steam was rising from the rivers and the air was crystal clear. Everything was plastered with deep snow and many trees were bent right over with the weight of it. Sandwiches froze solid and were uneatable. Most of those who attended found this quite a memorable day.

The excursion to Mount Battock in 1983 was attended by a high wind and it was snowing. It was felt too risky to leave the bus at Tarfside all day so it was sent back to Gannochy and members walked from Tarfside to there along the West side of the River Esk.

There were also many days when good weather was experienced. Those which stand out include the Monega Pass in 1980, although the good day brought out a rather annoying species of insect which was found even at the top of the hill. The Trossachs excursion in 1981 also had an exceptionally good day, most people climbing Ben Ledi. Very good weather was also experienced in 1982 on the excursions to the Steplar Pass and Ben Chonzie.

Some may wonder why we had two excursions to the Sidlaw Hills on successive years. On the first occasion we started at Lumley Den on the Dundee to Glamis road and hoped to follow the main ridge westwards at least as far as Pitcur. It proved far too much for us and we had to settle for coming off at Newtyle instead. On the second occasion we started at Collace Quarry and climbed Dunsinane Hill, of Macbeth fame, and continued eastwards to Newtyle thus completing the traverse of

the Sidlaws. Both trips were quite interesting with fine views over the hills of Glen Clova and Glen Isla to the North and over the Firth of Tay to the South.

It is not yet clear how the new EEC regulations governing drivers' hours are going to affect future meets programmes. These came into effect last year. Briefly it seems that we can now only be away for fourteen hours, or seventeen if two drivers are employed. If two drivers are used it obviously adds to the cost of hiring the bus. Only two excursions last year exceeded the fourteen hours, both from Speyside to Linn of Dee. On each occasion one driver took us to Speyside in the morning and then took the bus right back to Aberdeen. Another driver came out to Linn of Dee in the afternoon to meet us.

G. Ewen

EXCURSIONS

1980		1982	
27 Apr.	Beinn A Bhuid (36)	10 Jan.	Lochnagar (36)
17 May	Drumochter Pass (27)	30 Jan.	Glen Clunie (29)
7 Jun.	Meall Ghaordie (30)	21 Feb.	Morven (26)
28/29 Jun.	Mamores (28)	13 Mar.	Cockbridge (20)
24 Aug.	Monega Pass (33)	28 Mar.	Glen Clova (24)
13 Sept.	Cairngorm to Linn of Dee (42)	24 Apr.	Steplar Pass (18)
5 Oct.	Glen Tilt (40)	15 May	Ben Chonzie (17)
26 Oct.	Cairnwell to Inverey (47)	6 Jun.	Beinn a Bhuid (29)
15 Nov.	Bein Rinnes (35)	26/27 Jun.	Cluanie Inn to Morvich (21)
7 Dec.	Sidlaw Hills (29)	22 Aug.	Glen Feshie to Linn of Dee (41)
		11 Sep.	Cairngorm to Linn of Dee (31)
		3 Oct.	Ballater to Glen Esk (25)
		23 Oct.	Inverey to Spital of Glenshee (38)
		14 Nov.	Fir Mounth (43)
		5 Dec.	Coreen Hills (28)
1981		1983	
11 Jan.	Lochnagar (50)	15 Jan.	Lochnagar (46)
31 Jan.	Glen Esk (36)	6 Feb.	Mt. Battock (20)
21 Feb.	Cockbridge (42)	27 Feb.	Linn of Dee (38)
15 Mar.	Auchallater (45)	19 Mar.	Blair Atholl (35)
29 Mar.	Inverey (32)		
26 Apr.	Glenlivet to Strathdon (18)		
16 May	Ben Avon (30)		
6 Jun.	Meall Glas (31)		
27/28 Jun.	Braemore to Kinlochewe (29)		
23 Aug.	Ben Ledi or Ben Venue (16)		
12 Sep.	Cairngorm to Linn of Dee (47)		
4 Oct.	Devil's Elbow to Glen Clova (42)		
25 Oct.	Auchallater to Glen Muick (42)		
14 Nov.	Feughside Inn to Tarfside (33)		
6 Dec.	Sidlaw Hills (18)		

EASTER MEETS

1981	Glen Affric
1982	Arrochar
1983	Ballachulish

WEEKEND MEETS

Since the last *Journal* was published, weekend meets have continued to be a successful venture. Five meets are arranged each year by the sub-committee with each member assuming responsibility for organising one of them. They are arranged between May and October often coinciding with local holidays. The sub-committee tries to ensure that one meet will be to a relatively remote area e.g. Knoydart. The areas visited recently have included Achnasheen, Torridon, Glencoe, Roybridge, Bridge of Orchy and Ben Lawers.

In 1982 the Glen Brittle Memorial Hut was booked by the Club for a week during August; this was a successful gathering in all respects.

An Alpine meet is now being planned for summer 1984. It is proposed that two types of holiday will be organised; (1) a trek using mountain huts and following a recognised route e.g. round the base of the Matterhorn and (2) a centre-based holiday from which members can take whatever day walks attract them – ideal for those wishing to be less energetic and more comfortable and for those with families.

As in past years a variety of accommodation has been used from tents to hotels, although self-catering accommodation as at Mr. Matheson's in Roy Bridge generally proves to be the most popular and suitable. If any members know of or have had recommended to them any accommodation which they consider may be of interest to the Club, the writer or any sub-committee member will be pleased to hear from them as an accommodation list is kept for members' reference.

Although those attending the meets are largely local members, the sub-committee are pleased that a number of more distant members also attend and urge more to do so when they can.

The sub-committee recently underwent some changes. Bill Barlow and Anne Lindsey have both had to resign. They were both in the original 'gang of four' to promote and then to put into effect the idea of weekend meets and over the years their help has been invaluable. The sub-committee is most grateful to them. The new sub-committee comprises Ray Craig, Tibby Fraser, Frances Macrae-Gibson, Bob Scott and Gillian Shirreffs who are always pleased to have comments and suggestions concerning the meets in order to learn what members want.

Gillian Shirreffs

THE LIBRARY

For many years now, there has been no Library report in the current issue of the *Journal*, not because of inactivity on the part of Librarians but because everything was running smoothly in Advocates' Hall. The Library was moved there from 34, Bridge Street, in January 1969, when the late Mr. Eddie Bothwell became Secretary to the Society of Advocates and thereafter carried on his own Law practice from there. Members enjoyed the comparative privacy of a Library room in Advocates' Hall but, since office hours were adhered to, the number of books borrowed each year was small. Since 1974 however, a selection of around 50 books is taken to the monthly Indoor Meets, held between November and March, and this has increased the number of borrowings four-fold.

Unfortunately for us, alterations planned for Advocates' Hall necessitated the removal of the Library and, for about a year, members had been seeking a home for it elsewhere. The Club is very indebted to the Master of Christ's College, Dr. Sefton, for offering accommodation for the three large bookcases and our many hundreds of books and journals. The move, made easier by willing helpers who filled over 70 'banana' boxes, was accomplished on 26th January this year but much rearrangement of books had to be done after that. The two large bookcases are in Christ's College Library, 2, Alford Place, and they hold the lending books, including the large-