

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

GENERAL MEETINGS

A Special General Meeting of the Club was held at the Treetops Hotel, Springfield Road, Aberdeen on 24th November 1999. Its purpose was to change the Constitution by creating two new office-bearer positions - Climbing Activities Secretary and Weekend Meets Secretary - whilst avoiding any enlargement of the committee by removing from the list in the constitution the offices of Editor and Librarian, on the basis that these positions could be held by ordinary committee members or by non-committee members. The committee's proposal was approved.

The 1999 Annual General Meeting was also held on 24th November. Andy Lane was elected Climbing Activities Secretary, and Geoff Cummings was elected Weekend Meets Secretary. Derek Pinches was elected Treasurer in succession to Alex Matthewson, and Anne Cassidy, Ian Shand and Garry Wardrope were elected to vacant positions as ordinary committee members.

The 2000 Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd November. Ken Thomson was elected President in succession to Richard Shirreffs and Ian Bryce was elected to the vacant position of Vice-President. Fiona Cameron, Derek Beverley and Fred Belcher were elected as ordinary committee members.

ANNUAL DINNERS

The 1999 Annual Dinner was held at the Amatola Hotel - now named the Jarvis Aberdeen Hotel - Great Western Road. Bill Brooker, recently made an Honorary Member of the Club, gave a talk on his mountain memories.

The 2000 Annual Dinner was also held in the Jarvis Aberdeen Hotel. Robin Campbell from the SMC recounted the history of Scottish mountaineering up to the First World War.

Les Batt

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS 1999-2001

The average attendance for the period covered by this journal was 23.3, a drop of 4 from the average of the previous period. The attendance for each one is given in the list at the end of this report.

The New Year of 1999 started off with the traditional excursion to Lochnagar. On this occasion there was a lot of snow, but nevertheless many members got to the top, most by the Ladder route, but some members went up the Black Spout. Unfortunately one of our members was involved in a fall in Raeburn's Gully and although unhurt himself a member of a following party got his leg broken. The following excursion to Glen Clova was also a day of wintry conditions. Some members climbed Driesh and others Mayar, and two members did a climb in the Winter Corrie. In March the excursion to Glas Tulaichan also experienced very wintry conditions with a very strong cold wind blowing. Most

members climbed Glas Tulaichan, but there were at least three who contented themselves with the more lowly Ben Gulabin.

The 1999 Easter Meet was held at Kinlochewe with fourteen people staying in the hotel and a further ten in the bunkhouse. The weather over the weekend was rather mixed, but nevertheless a good many hills were climbed, including Beinn Eighe, Fhionn Bheinn, Maol Chinn Dearg and a number of Corbetts. The hotel was rather basic but cheap with good food and a friendly atmosphere.

In April the excursion was to the Capel Mounth. It was a clear day but there was still a lot of snow on the ground which made progress slower than normal. On the Capel Mounth track itself there seemed to be more snow on the track than elsewhere and so one had the choice of wading through snow or walking on rough ground nearby. A number of more ambitious members did the traverse via Broad Cairn. The excursion to Ben Vorlich and Stuc a Chroin turned out to be a very misty day. A large party set out to cross the hills from the east end of Loch Earn to Ben Vorlich, but were forced to give up before reaching Ben Vorlich due to slow progress and navigational difficulties. Another party climbed the two Corbetts, Creag Macranaich and Meall an t-Seallaidh, at the west end of Loch Earn. On the following excursion to Beinn a Bhuird the weather was poor in the morning but improved as the day went on. Most of the party reached the summit.

The overnight excursion of 1999 was very poorly attended on what turned out to be a very wet night. Three people got off the bus at Kinlochranoch and did a traverse of Carn Mairg finishing off at Coshieville. The rest continued to Bridge of Ericht and walked in from there to Ben Lawers Cottage. It still being wet in the morning they all walked out by the easiest low route from there to Rannoch Station.

The August excursion was from Inverey to Spital of Glenshee on a fine day, most members doing either An Socach or Beinn Iutharn Mor. On the Cairngorm Traverse it was a beautiful day after some early morning mist had cleared. Most members went over Ben Macdhui, some descending via Derry Cairngorm and others via Carn a' Mhaim. On the Monega Pass the weather conditions were particularly unfavourable with a fierce north wind blowing and it was also a bit wet. Most members, on leaving the bus in Glen Isla, decided to cross the hills using the Caenlochan Glen as their approach route rather than the Monega path in the hope of getting more shelter. This proved a wise decision as the one party which tried to use the right of way route were forced to turn back and get a taxi round to Glen Clunie.

In October the excursion was to the Mounth from the south end. On this occasion the day was pleasant enough, but we walked through thick mist from just above the Queen's Well almost all the way to the footbridge across the Tanar. Thereafter we had clear views on the section leading over to Ballater and the autumn colours in Glen Muick below us made a pleasing end to the walk. The excursion to Morven took the form of a traverse from the Boultenstone to the Burn of Vat. All but one member went over Morven, despite the fact it was mist covered, and went on from there to Culblean Hill which was clear. The descent from there to the Burn of Vat proved to be particularly rough with a mixture of long heather, rocks, bog, bracken and trees and so took much longer than anticipated. On the December excursion to Invercauld most members set off to go to Culardoch but were very much hampered by deep soft snow almost all the way



A Happy Group on the Summit of Culardoch!

and very few managed to get there, in fact those that did were all late for their tea at the Inver Hotel. There followed a short but much-enjoyed ceilidh dance.

The first excursion in January 2000 was as usual to Lochnagar. It was a fine sunny day with quite a bit of snow underfoot and most members reached the top via the usual route from Allt-naguibhsaich, with at least one party going by the Black Spout, and descending the hill via Glas Allt Shiel. The following excursion to the Lecht was very poorly attended. It had been intended to take the bus up to the ski car park, but on reaching Cockbridge we found that the road was for the moment impassable beyond that point. Most of the party headed westwards along the Don into a very strong headwind and returned via Craig Veann, Tolm Buirich and Carn Ealasaid, where at least they had the wind behind them. The excursion to Ben Chonzie took the form of a traverse from Glen Lednock to Hosh. It was quite a pleasant day but unfortunately the mist never cleared from the upper reaches of the mountain.

There was no Easter Meet arranged for the year 2000, largely because of the weekend that was planned for Mar Lodge and the Committee felt that to try and run an Easter Meet as well would be too much. The first excursion after Easter was to Ben Avon from Altdourie Cottage. Almost the whole party attempted to go to Ben Avon but most turned back at or before the Sneck due to heavy snow conditions and lack of time. All those who reached the top were late in getting back to the bus, but not seriously.

The decision to have a retake of the 1890 photograph on Mount Keen in May certainly attracted a lot of interest with a total of 107 people altogether appearing in the photograph. By far the largest number travelled by the route up Glentanar, some using bicycles on the glen road, while others walked over from Ballater and a sizable party made the trip from Glen Esk. Fortunately it turned out to be a

beautiful day and everything went according to plan. This was followed by an excursion to the Pass of Drumochter which took place on a rather wet day. Nevertheless most of the party climbed the four Munros on the west side of the A9. In June on Carn Bhac we had a good clear day with members ascending and descending the hill by a variety of different routes. This excursion of course replaced the usual overnight excursion. It was with some regret that the Committee decided not to run an overnight excursion but lack of interest and mounting losses over the past few years made this decision inevitable.

The August excursion was from Glen Clunie to Spital of Glenshee, with most members climbing Glas Maol, Creag Leacach and a number of smaller hills to the south. It was a beautiful day with good views all round until mid-afternoon when the heavens opened. On the Cairngorm Traverse the omens did not look good in the morning with thick mist covering the hills but after about two hours it suddenly cleared to give a good clear day. As usual most members went over Ben Macdhui but the president's party went over Beinn Mheadhoin. From Auchallater to Glen Muick there was thick mist, which did not prevent most members reaching the top of Cairn Taggart, but led to a change of plan beyond that point with most members descending from there to the Dubh Loch and Loch Muick.

From Cabrach to Glenbuchat it was clear with a rather unpleasant wind for most of the day. On this occasion almost the entire party followed the same route starting with Buck of the Cabrach and following the ridge south and west from there as far as Hill of Three Stones and afterwards descending into Glenbuchat. On the Ochil Hills it was a misty day on the higher reaches with the odd shower but quite pleasant lower down. The majority of the party climbed Ben Cleuch via the Alva Glen and descended to Dollar via the Dollar Glen, visiting Castle Campbell en route. At Gairnshiel the day was clear but there was a rather unpleasant wind which was quite cold at times. A variety of routes were completed including a traverse of Geallaig Hill from Gairnshiel Lodge to Ballater, an ascent of Brown Cow Hill and a round including Carn a Bhacain and Camock Hill.

The year 2001 started off as usual with the excursion to Lochnagar. It was a beautiful clear frosty day with quite a strong wind blowing. Most of the party reached the top of Lochnagar by the Ladder route and quite a large number via the Black Spout. The going was somewhat slow due to the underfoot conditions with the result that few people returned by the usually popular descent via Glas Allt Shiel. The February excursion to Loch Lee took place during a very snowy day. It was decided not to risk taking the bus up the glen. The bulk of the party attempted an ascent of the Hill of Wirren from Gannochy but had to turn back short of the summit due to the underfoot conditions and lack of time. We had the misfortune to get stuck in a snowdrift on the way to Marykirk. Another bus had to be sent for to take us home, and we missed our tea. The excursion planned to Glen Clova in March had to be cancelled due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

The Easter Meet was held at the Glen Affric Hotel in Cannich. Activities were largely but enjoyably restricted to the hills around Glen Affric as Glen Cannich and Glenstrathfarrer were closed due to foot and mouth precautions. Around a dozen people stayed at the hotel and a similar number at a nearby private hostel.

The excursion after Easter was to Beinn a Bhuid from Alltdourie Cottage and finishing at Allanaquoich. It was an overcast day with a lot of snow higher up but most of the party reached the top, finding it with the aid of a GPS. There followed an excursion to Schiehallion in May. There were still some restrictions in this area because of foot and mouth precautions which precluded the possibility of traversing the hill as intended, and as a result of this and two other large parties on the hill, many members chose to climb the nearby Corbett of Beinn a Chulloch instead. In June we went from Glenfeshie to Linn of Dee, which turned out to be a beautiful day despite an uncertain start. A small party followed the right of way throughout, but the bulk of those attending did a traverse of Carn Ban Mor, Monadh Mor and Beinn Bhrotain. The last excursion in the period covered by this report was to Jock's Road, on another beautiful day. Most of the party followed the right of way, taking in the summit of the Tolmount on the way. Others chose to debus at the Cairnwell Car Park and traversed the hills from there to Glen Clova.

Graham Ewen

EXCURSIONS

1999

10 January	Lochnagar (38)
7 February	Glen Clova (23)
7 March	Glas Tulaichan (23)
18 April	Capel Mounth (20)
9 May	Ben Vorlich/Stuc a Chroin (23)
29 May	Beinn a Bhuid (30)
19/20 June	Bridge of Erricht to Rannoch Station (10)
22 August	Inverey to Spital of Glenshee (21)
12 September	Cairngorm Traverse (43)
3 October	Monega Pass (29)
24 October	The Mounth (17)
14 November	Morven (21)
5 December	Invercauld to Inver (43)

2000

9 January	Lochnagar (28)
13 February	Lecht (12)
12 March	Ben Chonzie (21)
16 April	Ben Avon (17)
6 May	Mt Keen (37)
28 May	Pass of Drumochter (23)
25 June	Carn Bhac (17)
20 August	Clunie to Spital of Glenshee (19)
10 September	Cairngorm Traverse (23)
1 October	Auchallater to Glen Muick (22)
22 October	Cabrach to Glenbuchat (20)
12 November	Alva to Dollar (20)
3 December	Gairmshiel (23)

2001

14 January	Lochnagar (43)
4 February	Loch Lee (12)
22 April	Beinn a Bhuid (16)
27 May	Schiehallion (16)
17 June	Glenfeshie to Linn of Dee (22)
26 August	Jock's Road (14)

EASTER MEETS

1999	Kinlochewe
2001	Cannich

WEEKENDS 1999-2001

Since the last Journal in 1999, the Weekend Meets group have continued with their tour of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Several of the previous regular meet attendees have moved on, while some new faces have appeared, keeping the average attendance of the meets at approximately twelve; and though this number keeps the logistics simple we always welcome new faces.

Although the weekend meets sub-committee tries to select a variety of different venues which will appeal to Club members, it's fair to say that we sometimes get it wrong. Favourite venues like the Burns Supper at Muir and Kath's Hostel in Glen Affric always attract high numbers, but locations like wild camping in Ardgour on a midge-infested wet weekend don't seem to have the same appeal. I hope this isn't a sign that Club members are turning soft, but we do welcome suggestions from other Club members.

With the growing prevalence of independent bunkhouses, many of them such as Station Lodge at Tulloch and the Potteries Bunkhouse at Laggan offering excellent accommodation, we have recently tended to make less use of the SYHA Hostels. However with the news that the SYHA has lost £1million as a result of foot and mouth it may be appropriate to help to support an organisation that helped to introduce many people to the outdoor world.

Highlights since the last report have undoubtedly been the week-long trip to Ireland where Brian Davey's detailed organisation gave everyone the opportunity to climb the Irish "Munros"; the Muir-Mar Millennium meet; and Ian Bryce's berry-picking trip to Arran. We tried to maintain the idea of an annual week-long meet, but unfortunately the outbreak of foot and mouth forced the cancellation of this year's trip to North Wales. However, we are hoping to reinstate this trip in 2002. The Ling Hut meet planned for earlier this year also had to be cancelled because of the foot and mouth outbreak.

In recent years the overnight meet has been poorly supported and this year the weekend meets group took on this responsibility. Ian Shand did an excellent job, planning a trip based around Bearnais Bothy in Strath Carron and despite indifferent weather it proved highly enjoyable for those who attended. Many Club

members feel that the overnight meet should remain a feature of the Club calendar, so if anyone has ideas for suitable venues please forward them to the committee.

In June of this year a weekend meet was held at Glenmore Lodge in order to coincide with the AGM of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland. During the weekend a series of activities and talks took place, and Club members who attended were so impressed that it will probably become an annual event: they even managed to get one Club member - Fred Belcher - elected onto the MCoS Committee.

Geoff Cumming

WEEKEND MEETS 1999 – 2001

1999

January	Glencoe: Torren Cottages
February	Muir: Burns Supper
March	Loch Morlich SYHA
April	Kinlochewe Bunkhouse
May	Skye: Camping at Glen Brittle
June	Ireland: Week-long trip
July	Kintail: Ratagan SYHA
August	Ben Nevis: CIC Hut
September	Arran: Loch Ranza SYHA
October	Killin SYHA
November	Arrochar: Ardgarten SYHA
December	Torrison: Ling Hut

2000

January	Muir: Burns Supper
February	Laggan: Potteries Bunkhouse
March	Glen Affric: Kath's Bunkhouse
April	Mar Lodge/Muir Millenium Meet
May	Knoydart: Torrie Shieling
June	Skye: Portnalong
July	Fisherfield: Shenaval Bothy
August	Ardgour: Camping
September	Glencoe: Lagangarbh
October	Ullapool SYHA
November	Callender: Trossachs Bunkhouse
December	Tulloch: Station Lodge Bunkhouse

2001

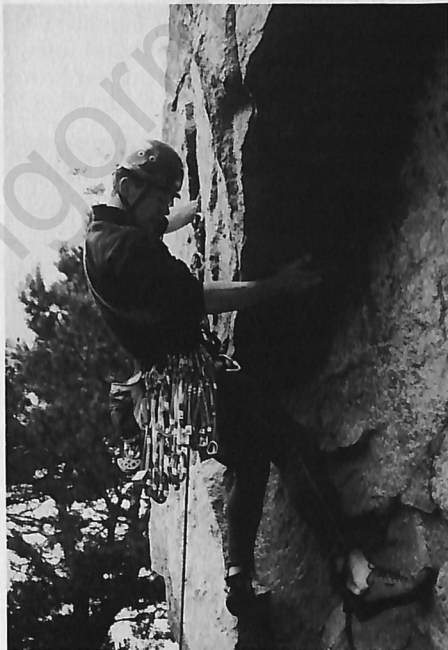
January	Muir: Burns Supper
February	Crianlarich SYHA
March	Torrison: Ling Hut (cancelled due to foot and mouth)
April	Glen Affric: Kath's Bunkhouse
May	North Wales week-long meet (cancelled due to foot and mouth)

June	Glenmore Lodge (to coincide with the MCoS AGM)
July	Strath Carron: Bearnais Bothy (overnight meet)
August	Ben Nevis: CIC Hut

ROCK AND ICE CLIMBING

In the three years since the last report, climbing as a Club activity has consolidated its position as one of the most active section of the Club. A wide range of climbing events have taken place, from simple summer cragging on the NE sea cliffs through to winter climbing in Scotland, bouldering in the Peak District, competing in indoor climbing competitions, bolt clipping in the south of France, ice climbing in Colorado and full-on mountaineering in the Alps.

Attendances have remained constant at climbing events, although some of the faces at the centre of things have changed. Stuart Stronach has stepped down from the climbing sub-committee after 10 years in the thick of things, and Stephen Kirkpatrick has left the Aberdeen area to pursue a career in outdoor education. His unfailing enthusiasm for nurturing beginners proved a key feature in the development of the climbing section. Andy Lane was elected as the first ever Climbing Secretary for the Club, following the restructuring of the committee at the 1999 AGM. He has been ably supported by Anne Cassidy and Diane Giulianotti, who currently comprise the Climbing Sub-committee. Fred Belcher and Garry Wardrope also made a notable contribution on a more *ad hoc* basis.



Stephen Kirkpatrick Cragging at Saas Fee

The core activity of the climbing section has been the weekly Tuesday meets. Attendances have typically been in the region of 20, sometimes escalating to the 30 mark on particularly fine summer evenings. Out of season, the momentum has been sustained with the weekly venues moving indoors to the Beach Leisure Centre wall with spells at the wall at Summerhill Education Centre, and then the climbing wall at Peterhead.

Garry came up with the inspired suggestion of a group e-mail facility and this new development has been a great boost to the climbing section and has allowed many impromptu weekend meets.

Highlights from the past three years are many. In 1999, one of the main events was the sport-climbing trip to the Ardèche region in the south of France in April. This was plagued by bad weather, but every day nevertheless saw some climbing as everyone adapted to the continental lifestyle, staying in a gîte in the mountains, enjoying the cheap wine that was also on offer and in Adrian's case, driving like a local!

On the seacliffs, we dabbled in the new-routing scene at Alan's Cliff, just south of Aberdeen, where up to fifteen first ascents were recorded by assorted members. The summer season finished off with an indoor meet at the Blue Lamp, which was attended by over 40 climbers, and consisted of a slide show, quiz and buffet.

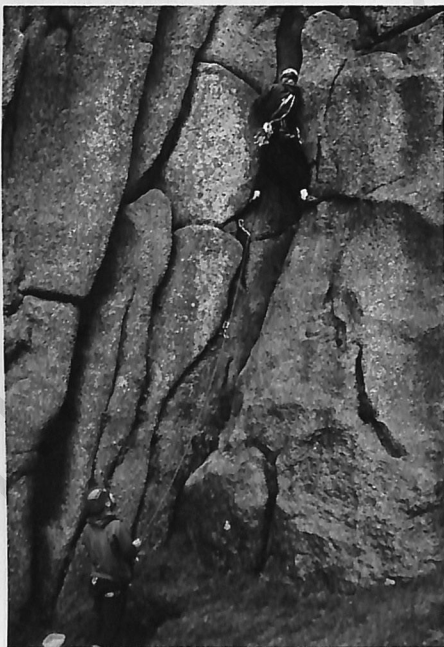
The Millennium was seen in with style at Muir, where the place was full to bursting (and that was just the beer and whisky!). Party games, firework displays, walks to the Linn of Dee, bottles of warm milk (well, one of the partygoers was only 18 months old!), champagne and cake make for a memorable occasion for all.

In 2000, another trip was organised to the Ardèche. This time, we went in

May, stayed in an apartment in a holiday village and enjoyed scorching sunshine for much of the week. Later on in the year, a huge gathering was organised at the Reiff sea cliffs, near Achiltibuie on the west coast. Stuart brought the football, Anne brought the barbecue and Dan found a dead tree that fuelled the campfire well into the night.

While some were in France, others were attending a Single Pitch Award training course. This course has now been attended by several members and has provided invaluable in ensuring that best practices are used as far as possible during all Club climbing activities. The climbing group wishes to acknowledge the support of the committee in helping to fund these training courses.

In summer 2000, a group went to the Alps and accomplished ascents of the Mönch, and the Weissmies. Unfavourable conditions meant that the Jungfrau had to be abandoned tantalisingly



Maggie Whyte and Kevin Bannister at the Cairngorm Club Crack on Clachnaben (Severe)

close to the summit,

During the winter season, while some members took to the snow and ice climbing, other members competed in an indoor bouldering league. Diane put in a consistent performance to finish as second placed female, and Helen succeeded on one problem that even stopped top local climber Wilson Moir! Stuart also competed in an event held in Dundee, managing a respectable joint second place finish.

The annual spring climbing trip 2001 went to the Peak District in May, just as things were opening up after the Foot and Mouth outbreak. Again, we were lucky with the weather, having a week of unbroken sunshine in which to learn the art of climbing on "God's own rock", as the locals refer to their beloved gritstone. Some managed this better than others - Dan led his first E4, but Stuart on the other hand decided it was all too scary and stuck to bouldering!

Another Reiff weekend in July saw better weather, more climbing and less partying (although we did discover that 12 people really can squeeze into Maggie's wee van as we attempted to escape the chill of the evening!)

Anne organised a weekend at Muir at the end of August that had the hut almost as full as at the Millennium. Rock climbing instruction at the Pass of Ballater given by Pete Hill, MIC, was the main focus of the meet, and sixteen members took the opportunity to receive training. Much was learned about new techniques. The weather was great and in addition to the climbing activities at the Pass, several mountain routes were accomplished. A barbecue on Saturday evening (liberally seasoned with midges) topped off the meet and everyone came back raving about a wonderful weekend. The Club's generosity in subsidising the instruction costs was much appreciated.

A new feature of the weekly climbing meets this year has been the publication of a meets list. This has allowed people to turn up at a time that suits, enabling earlier starts, further afield venues and much more climbing each evening than the previous system had allowed. This success will therefore be carried on for next year's events.

Last year, Fred went on a winter reconnaissance trip to the Ouray ice park in Colorado. Suitably inspired, he is organising a return trip for those interested this year. Other forthcoming activities include another bouldering league, and some talk of a climbing trip to Spain.

The climbing section continues to attract new members to the Club. Whilst there is still a steady flow of novice climbers, interestingly, several of our new members are climbers of significant experience. The signs are that climbing as a Club activity will continue to go from strength to strength.

Anne Cassidy

THURSDAY WALKS

The monthly Thursday walks remain popular with members who do not have a work commitment. The planning of these outings is made easy by the variety of locations so readily accessible from Aberdeen. The new Millennium saw a change in the organising of the walks. Under the Chairmanship of Jack Connell, a meeting of walks participants is now held at which all are invited to put forwards routes

that they are prepared to lead. From these a programme of walks for the year ahead is planned.

Bill Alexander

C - circular AB - A to B TB - there and back by the same route

1999

January	C	Benholm Mill - Johnshaven - Inverbervie - Gourdon Hill
February	C	Dyce - Liddell Monument
	AB	Dyce - New Machar (Formartine Way)
March	C	Mulloch Hill
	AB	Nine Stanes - Durriss TV Mast Car Park
April	C	Rothiemy - Fourman Hill
May	C	Old Aberdour - Pennan Head
June	C	Mount Battock via Turret and Hill of Saughs
July	AB	Tombae - Glen Tanar - Bridge of Muick
August	C	Braenaloin - R. Gairn - Blairglass - Geallaig Hill
September	AB	Donview - Millstone Hill - Bennachie Centre
October	C	Banff - Bridge of Alvah - Old Town
November	C	Ballater - Creagam - Riabhack - R. Dee
December	C	Kirkhill Forest

2000

January	C	Dunnottar Woods - Castle - Cowie Church
February	C	Huntly - Battle Hill - Kinnoir Wood - Ba' Hill
March	AB	Craiglich - Lumphanan
April		Cancelled because of flooding
May	AB	Three Stane Hill - Mt Shade - Clachnaben
June	C	Loch Muick - Glas Allt - Lochnagar Crosspath
July	C	Lazy Well - Broom Hill - Baderonach Hill
August	C	Gartly Moor
	TB	Dunnideer
September	TB	Morven from Lary
October	C	Cheyne Farm (Stonehaven) - Cowie Water
	C	Fetteresso Forest
November	C	Arbroath - Auchmichie
December	C	Shooting Green Car Park - R. Dee - Scolty