

Burns' Night at Muir **Garry Wardrope and Fiona Sutherland**

The now traditional January Weekend Burns' Night Meets at Muir are reported later in the Club's Proceedings. These pieces were part of the entertainment in 2004.

The Toast to the Lassies

Garry Wardrope

I was intrigued when Fred asked me to propose the toast to the lassies, as here am I, three years separated and wondering what cost the divorce. I would have done well to heed Burns' (possibly apocryphal? Ed.) words:

*The lover may sparkle and glow,
Approaching his bonnie bit thing:
But marriage will soon let him know
He's gotten-a buskit up naething.*

However marriage isn't a bad thing for everybody, several Club members even make a living from it. And as has been said, marriage is the number one cause of divorce; statistically 100% of all divorces started with marriage!

You might be aware that I work in IT, so I thought I'd try logging a call to the Helpdesk to see if they could offer me any assistance. This is what I told them:

I have a problem. It all started a long time ago when I upgraded to Girlfriend 1.0 from Drinking Mates 4.2, which I'd been using for years without any trouble. However, there are apparently conflicts between these two products and the only solution was to try and run Girlfriend 1.0 with the sound turned off. To make matters worse, Girlfriend 1.0 is incompatible with several other applications, such as Lads Night Out 3.1, Munroes 2.83 and Ceilidh 6.2. Successive versions of Girlfriend proved no better. A shareware program, Party Girl 2.1, which I tried, had many bugs and left a nasty virus in my system, forcing me to shut down completely for several weeks. Eventually I tried to run Girlfriend 1.2 and Girlfriend 1.0 at the same time, only to discover that when these two systems detected each other they caused severe damage to my hardware.

I then upgraded to Fiancée 1.0 only to discover that this product soon had to be upgraded further to Wife 1.0. Whilst Wife 1.0 tended to use up all my available resources, it did come bundled with FreeSex Plus and Cleanhouse2000, although these have now stopped working. Shortly after this

upgrade I found that Wife 1.0 can be very unstable and costly to run. For example, any mistakes I make are automatically stored in Wife 1.0's memory and cannot be deleted, and they then resurface months later when I have forgotten about them. Wife 1.0 also has an automatic Diary Explorer and e-mail filter, and can, without warning, launch Photo-strop and Whinge-zip! These latter products have no help files and I have to try and guess what the problem is. Additional costly problems are that Wife 1.0 needs updating regularly, requiring Shoe Shop Browser for new attachments and Hairstyle Express which needs to be reinstalled every other week. Wife 1.0 can also spawn unpredictable child processes that further drain my resources.

It also conflicted with some of the new games I wanted to try out, warning me that they were an illegal operation. I have also discovered that when Wife 1.0 attaches itself to my Audi TT hard drive it often crashes or runs the system dry. Wife 1.0 also comes with a rather annoying pop-up called Mother-In-Law, which can't be turned off.

I have recently been advised that I should uninstall Wife 1.0 but will have to be very careful as this can also delete all my money files, and will require a total rebuild of Finances3 along with replacing my systems housing. Once this has been done I can then install Wife 2.0 but am having difficulty locating the version of this product that comes bundled with NiceLooks1 and OwnHouse4. Can you help me find this?

Of course we lads do greatly appreciate you lassies, for all you do for us, and for putting up with us. It's a pleasure to be here with you. I'd like to finish with this piece that I think is appropriate for tonight by Jim Rothschl:

I've never seen a prettier sight
 Than the lassies gathered here tonight,
 Rabbie would agree I know
 And in better words would tell you so,
 If I could reach back o'er the years
 And snatch Rabbie here among my peers,
 A sweet word to each lass he'd say
 And sweep all their hearts away.

Gentlemen, be upstanding. To the Lassies!

The Reply

Fiona Sutherland

With apologies to Rabbie B,
He was a far better poet than me,
I'll attempt to read this little verse
But bear in mind it could be worse!

Well, thank you Garry for your little ditty,
But I have to say it was really quite sh... disappointing
Your comments were not quite PC,
Rabbie was much more flattering than thee.

Us lassies are not in the least bit feart,
We'll keep up with you loons, even without a beard!
We've learned to tie knots, clip in and belay,
We can even drink pints, though we'd rather not pay!

We're happy to bivvi or bothy or camp,
As long as the weather disnae get too damp!
We can be first to the top o' a mountain, you'll see,
And still be back in time to cook the tea!

We've broken fingernails and our mascara's run,
But we've never said a word to spoil the fun.
Just ask us to tie a quick figure of eight
And we wouldnae need tae hesitate.

A bowline, a fisherman's or even clove hitch,
Ach, we've learned all that on a single pitch.
With our rucksack, compass and a map
There's not one of us you could call a sap!

Us lassies have got great style and form,
But of course, we're all fae Club Cairngorm!
Garry, you simply made us all smile,
But you loons will never crampon our style.

We appreciate all that you do for us,
You put up with our quirks and you never fuss,
So from all the fair lassies in the Cairngorm Club
Here's to you - now let's go doon the pub!