

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

### GENERAL MEETINGS

Four Annual General Meetings and one Special General Meeting have been held since the last issue of the *Journal*, the first at the Aberdeenshire Cricket Club on Morningside Road, and the others at the Seafield Club, Seafield Road.

On 12 November 2007, with 31 members attending, the following were elected(\*) or re-elected as Office-Bearers: Anne Cordiner (Hon. President), Eilidh Scobbie (President), Adrian Scott (Vice President), Alec Macmillan\* (Vice President), Ken Thomson (Secretary), Derek Pinches (Treasurer), Richard Shirreffs (Hut Custodian), Alec Macmillan (Day Meets Secretary), Anne Pinches (Social Activities Secretary), Dave Ogden (Climbing Activities Secretary), Ian Bryce\* (Weekend Meets Secretary), Garry Wardrope (Communications Secretary). Derek Beverley, Colin Brown, Ben Mellor, Dave Kirk\*, Marj Ewan\*, Andy Lawson\* and Jay Turner\* were elected as ordinary members and Alex Barbour as associate member of the Committee, although Ben Mellor and Alex Barbour subsequently and separately expressed their unwillingness to continue on the Committee. Membership was reported as 453, 15 fewer than the previous year. The Club subscription rate for 2009/09 was approved as remaining at £13.00 (reduced rate £6.50, with categories as previously) *plus* the MCofS affiliation fee to be fixed in September 2008. Under AOCB, discussion focussed on the recent incorporation of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, with Richard Shirreffs supplying much of the requested information.

On 12 November 2008, with 39 members attending, the following were elected(\*) or re-elected as Office-Bearers: Anne Cordiner (Hon. President), Eilidh Scobbie (President), Adrian Scott (Vice President), Alec Macmillan (Vice President), Ken Thomson (Secretary), Derek Pinches (Treasurer), Richard Shirreffs (Hut Custodian), Anne Pinches (Social Activities Secretary), Mike Brian\* (Climbing Activities Secretary), Ian Bryce (Weekend Meets Secretary), Colin Brown\* (Communications Secretary). No nomination was made for the position of Day Meets Secretary, which therefore remained vacant throughout the year, Ken Thomson acting in default. Marj Ewan, Derek Beverley, Peter Fayers\* and Jay Turner were elected as ordinary members of the Committee. Membership was reported as 448, 5 fewer than the previous year. The Club subscription rate for 2009/10 was approved as remaining at £13.00 (reduced rate £6.50) *plus* the MCofS affiliation fee to be fixed in September 2009. AOCB discussion focussed on discounted charges and membership bookings at Muir.

On 11 November 2009, with 39 members attending, the following were elected(\*) or re-elected as Office-Bearers: Graham Ewen\* (Hon. President), Anne Pinches\* (President), Marj Ewan\* (Vice President), Derek Beverley\* (Vice President), Ken Thomson (Secretary), Derek Pinches (Treasurer), Richard Shirreffs (Hut Custodian), Derek Beverley\* (Day Meets Secretary), Anne Pinches (Social Activities Secretary), Mike Brian (Climbing Activities Secretary), Marj Ewan\* (Weekend Meets Secretary) and Colin Brown (Communications Secretary). Sandy McIntosh\*, Ruth Payne\* and Kees Witte\* were elected as ordinary members and Peter Aikman\* and Amanda Lyons\* as associate members of the

Committee. (In January 2010, Arthur Dickie was subsequently co-opted onto the Committee). Membership was reported as 427, 21 fewer than for the previous year. The Secretary reported that a Club-wide consultation over remaining with the MCofS had resulted in a definite but not overwhelming majority in favour of staying as a Club Member. The Club subscription rate for 2010/11 was approved as remaining at £13.00 (reduced rate £6.50) plus the MCofS membership fee, which, due to the recently agreed change in the MCofS financial year, would be £7.50 for the 7-month interim period in 2009/10, and £13 due in December 2010. Under AOCB, discussion focussed on (i) the possibility of installing a telephone at Muir, in view of a recent emergency, and (ii) on the Club's Constitution. On the latter, a number of issues were discussed, including membership categories and office-bearer rotation.

On 12 November 2010, with 30 members attending, a Special General Meeting was held to revise the Club's Constitution, partly to effect a consistent minimum membership age (of 18) to avoid legal complexities, and partly to update other minor items. These revisions had been thoroughly discussed via Club consultation and a Committee Working Group, and, after some discussion of the insurance position on guests and children on Club meets, were passed *nem. con.* at the SGM. The AGM took place immediately afterwards, and the following were elected(\*) or re-elected as Office-Bearers: Graham Ewen (Hon. President), Anne Pinches (President), Marj Ewan (Vice President), Derek Beverley (Vice President), Ken Thomson (Secretary), Derek Pinches (Treasurer), Richard Shirreffs (Hut Custodian), Derek Beverley (Day Meets Secretary), Anne Pinches (Social Activities Secretary), James Hirst\* (Climbing Activities Secretary), Marj Ewan (Weekend Meets Secretary) and Colin Brown (Communications Secretary). Arthur Dickie, Amanda Lyons, Sandy McIntosh, Ruth Payne and Kees Witte were elected as ordinary members and Peter Aikman and Eddie Alaslewski\* as associate members of the Committee. Substantial AGM presentations were made by Derek Beverley on Day Meets, and by James Friend on Piper's Wood. Discussion under AOCB and other items focussed on: the pre-approval of office-bearer expenses; MRT and MBA donations; minibus driving tests; and ideas to commemorate the Club's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Ken Thomson, Secretary*

## COMMUNICATIONS

It can be argued that a club is its communications, whether informally oral on the hills, in huts or by phone, or more formally as described below. The coming together of a group of people with common interests is bound to spark both enthusiasms and disagreements as ideas and experiences are exchanged, and the Club has amongst its Constitutional objects not only "to offer opportunities for such persons to engage in [mountaineering] in company with others;" but also "to issue such publications as may be considered advantageous". Such publications have since its earliest days included this *Journal*, which needs no description here, and for several decades a Newsletter has been distributed by post to all Members, currently in a 16-page A5 format, three times annually.

In 2004, with the electronic communications revolution well underway, the Club decided to add a Communications Secretary to its list of Office-bearers, with Garry Wardrope, an ICT specialist, taking on this role. He had for some previous years been editing the Newsletter and seeing to its duplication and distribution, jobs previously done for many years by Richard Shirreffs as the Club Secretary. In 2008, Colin Brown took over this role. However, as described below, Andy Lawson was also very active in promoting the use of e-communications within the Club.

The Club's first website hit the 'ether' around the Millennium, with Garry Wardrope setting it up and acting as webmaster over its lifetime. With pressure of work meaning that Garry was less able to keep the site updated, Andy Lawson, on his own initiative but with the Committee's enthusiastic approval, created the Club's current website (<http://www.cairngormclub.org.uk>), in an attractive format, with the Club's coat of arms prominent on the 'Home' page. Over the intervening years, the website has been extended until it now contains 12 sections with dozens of webpages including links to meets, membership details, Muir Cottage and the inevitable Miscellaneous. The website is the 'public face' of the Club on the internet, and frequently the route by which newcomers get in touch. Colin Brown took over as webmaster from Andy in September 2009.

The web domain, [cairngormclub.org.uk](http://www.cairngormclub.org.uk), also gives the Club the facility to set up email 'aliases' such as 'newsletter@cairngorm.club.org.uk' which, when linked to an individual's personal email address, allows us to maintain both anonymity and continuity.

Another initiative, started in 2001, was the setting-up of a Yahoo! e-mail system by which registered Members, who must also be Club members, can send out messages to others via a single e-address. Yahoo! now has some 100 registered members, and is actively used by those seeking informal meet partners, or to make intra-Newsletter Committee announcements.

In the summer of 2008, Andy Lawson, again on his own initiative, set up the Club Forum, which now has 100 registered members, over 400 topics (from Overnighter Meets to General Banter) and over 2,000 individual posts. Use of the Forum has perhaps not yet settled down, but it already contains a wealth of striking photographs (sparking a monthly competition), a large number of hillwalking accounts set out by hill 'category', and a variety of opinions. It has also been used for unofficial Club polls and most recently for an interactive web-chat to arrange the 2010 Day Meets calendar.

A number of other media are used by the Club to promote itself and its activities: these include monthly-updated posters in local shops and libraries, social meet entries in a RSPB-sponsored "syllabus" of evening talks in and around Aberdeen, and occasional articles such as those by Ian Bryce on Muir in *The Scottish Mountaineer* no. 32 in autumn 2006, and by Adrian Scott in the *Press & Journal* in early 2009. The Club has also been featured on a BBC Scotland programme, and several of its events were filmed over winter 2010/2011 by a London company for Japanese television.

As this issue of the *Journal* goes to press, Club discussion is underway over whether and how to move from purely 'snail-mailed' Newsletters and formal

communications such as AGM notices to more electronic media. Moreover, the Mountaineering Council of Scotland is advertising YouTube videos and Facebook entries. By the time the next issue appears, we may all be constantly online and even perhaps 'twittering and tweeting' via our personal e-screens!

*Ken Thomson, Secretary*

## SOCIAL MEETS

The usual series took place, and provided (it is hoped) enjoyable opportunities for the fit and the not-so-fit to meet, and to ask "fit like?".

## DINNERS

The four **Annual Dinners** held since the last issue of the *Journal* were all held at the Old Mill Inn, Maryculter, and featured speakers as follows:

- 16 November 2007: Mario de Maio, Leader of the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team, on the activities of the AMRT
- 14 November 2008: Paul Brian, President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, on some personal recollections
- 13 November 2009: Simon Richardson, on his winter mountaineering in Scotland and beyond.
- 19 November 2010: Adele Pennington, on her mountaineering career and double-summiting of Everest

This edition of the *Journal* (p. 344) records those honoured for 60 years of membership of the Club at the Dinner in 2009. In 2010 the members listed below were honoured for 50 years of membership (those present at the occasion are given in bold font):

John Mutch	(1951)
<b>Sheila Murray</b>	<b>(1953)</b>
Ginette Dallere	(1953)
<b>Eric Johnston</b>	<b>(1954)</b>
John Hay	(1954)
<b>Duncan Macrae</b>	<b>(1954)</b>
<b>John Nisbet</b>	<b>(1955)</b>
Martin Slocock	(1955)
Ian Rattray	(1956)
Peter Howgate	(1956)
Harry Anderson	(1957)
<b>Donald Hawksworth</b>	<b>(1958)</b>
<b>John Vigrow</b>	<b>(1958)</b>
<b>John Quarterman</b>	<b>(1958)</b>

**INDOOR MEETS**

(\* indicates presentation by a Club member)

2007

March: Donald Hawksworth\*, *Mountain Slides*

September: Members' Night

December: Dave MacKinnon, *Wildlife Crime Investigation*

2008

January: Fiona Banks, *The Social and Cultural History of Bennachie*

February: Alison Todd, *The Search and Rescue Dog Association*

March: Ellice Milton, *Photographing Wild Flowers and Landscapes*

September: Members' Night

October: Susan Currie, *From Penguins to Polar Bears*

December: Alistair Beeley\*, *Across Scotland from Ben Macdui to Ben Nevis*

2009

January: Robbie Middleton\*, *A Trip Across the High Plains and Andes of Peru (the Inca Trail)*

February: Eric Jensen\*, *Deeside Seasons*

March: Dave Shand\* and others, *Mount Kilimanjaro*

October: Sandy McIntosh\*, *Old Club Slides*, with musical and poetical accompaniment

December: Murray Duncan, *Restoring the Deeside Railway*

2010

January: Donald Barrie, *The Long and Winding Road*; a cycle trip in Africa

February: Gill Shirreffs\*, *Buitres, Boats and Boobies*, the Shirreffses in South America

March: Nic Bullivant, *Looking after the Cairngorms*

April: Sandy McIntosh, *'I have Been There'*; old Cairngorm Club slides

October: David Jarman, *Bad Steps, Narrow Places and Vanishing Munros*, the shaping of the Highlands by huge land slips and rock slides

December: Roger Houghton, *Walking in the Jura and Swimming the Corryvreckan* (cancelled due to snow)

2011

January: Members' Night

February: Marj Ewen\* and friends, *The West Highland Way and other long walks*

March: Nicola Seal, *Lyme Disease*

**OUTDOOR SOCIAL MEETS**

Barbecues were held at Templars Park, Maryculter, in June 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011. In 2009, some went to the Old Mill Inn for a bar supper instead!

*Anne Pinches Social Activities Secretary*

## MEETS AND EXCURSIONS

The sections below record the bare bones of the main outdoor Club activities (and most of our activities *are* outdoors, despite the occasional impression to the contrary!) over the period under review in this issue of the *Journal*, i.e. the four years 2007 to 2010. As recorded elsewhere, the establishment of the Club Forum on the worldwide web has enabled members to post accounts and pictures of Club meets, and so full(er) details of most of the meets recorded below can be found there.

### DAY MEETS



*The Lochnagar Bus Meet, January 2008*

Under the secretaryship of Alec Macmillan, and then, after a vacancy, of Derek Beverley, day meets continued almost every month but took various forms according to season, numbers, etc. The perennial problem of filling a coach, and paying for it, intensified during the period under review: a standard hire is now around £500, with strict driver's hours limiting flexibility for latecomers and pub-crawling. Thus, resort has been had to self-drive minibuses, members' cars and even the good old Deeside service bus. Each has their advantages and disadvantages in terms of prior organisation, organiser/driver burdens, flexibility and costs, but variety is the spice of life!

The tradition of Lochnagar in early January was maintained, though sometimes disrupted - and once (2010) even cancelled - by ice and snow. Similarly, the Cairngorms were regularly traversed in September, though with a base at Muir in 2007 for a change, and a coach share with the Stockets in 2010. The usual venues of Glens Shee, Clova, Quoich and Callater were all visited en masse, and Morven, Mount Keen, Culardoch, Braeriach (from the north) and

Creag Meagaidh were all ascended, some more than once. Particularly notable day meets included a Dee to Feshie traverse in April 2008 and a traverse of Ben Avon from Cockbridge to Invercauld in June 2008

The allocation of responsibility for Overnigheters between the Secretaries for (long?) Day and (short?) Week-end Meets has never been entirely clear, but this has proved no obstacle to their successful organisation and outcomes. The years under review saw Overnigheters to the South and North Cluanie Ridges (2007 and 2008), Dundonnell (2009) and the Moor of Rannoch (2010).

The August day meets have traditionally been of a more informal character. In recent years, these saw ascents of the remote Corbett near Glendoe in 2009 after two previous unsuccessful attempts, and a mini-overnighter to Cairn Toul in 2010.

Two other innovations (as far as is known) were (i) a Christmas Mystery Tour, organised by outgoing President Eilidh Scobbie in December 2009, which was voted a great success, especially the Donside hotel meal afterwards, and (ii) a coastal walk from Arbroath to Montrose, when we reached the giddy heights of 70m. in November 2010.

### **2007**

January	Lochnagar (coach)
February	Loch Ness area (car; cancelled due to snow)
March	Glen Clova (coach)
April	Beinn Dearg (minibus)
May	Linn of Quoich to Linn of Dee (coach)
June	Glen Feshie to Linn of Dee (coach)
June	South Cluanie Ridge (Overnighter)
August	Ben Vorlich/Stuc a'Chroin (cars)
September	Cairngorm Traverse (coach Muir to Glenmore)
October	Dorback Lodge to Tomintoul (coach)
November	Morven Traverse (coach)
December	Glen Callater (coach)

### **2008**

January	Lochnagar (coach)
February	Glen Lyon area (cars)
March	Glenshee (minibus)
April	Linn of Dee to Blair Atholl (minibus)
May	Glen Mark via Mount Keen to Deeside (coach)
June	Cockbridge via Ben Avon to Invercauld (coach)
June	North Glen Shiel (Overnighter)
August	Loch Laggan area (cars)
September	Cairngorm Traverse (Glen Morlich to Linn of Dee)
October	Auchallater to Spittal of Glen Muick (coach)
November	Aboyne via Fungle to Glen Esk (coach)
December	Braemar Golf Club

**2009**

January	Lochnagar (coach)
February	Glen Isla
March	Beinn a' Bhuid (coach)
April	Glen Lyon - Carn Mairg (cars)
June	Dundonnell - Kinlochewe (Overnighter)
August	Glendoe (Fort Augustus) (cars)
September	Loch Einich circular
October	Callater to Spital of Glen Muick
November	Ben Rinnes
December	Ladder Hills

**2010**

January	Lochnagar (coach)
February	Achnasheen (minibus)
March	Upper Deeside (service bus)
April	Inverey to Spittal of Glenshee (coach)
May	Creag Meagaidh (minibus)
June	Blackmount/Glencoe (Overnighter)
July	Mount Keen (Ballater/Aboyne via service bus)
August	Cairn Toul/Braeriach (cars, some overnight)
September	Cairngorm Traverse (Glen Morlich to Linn of Dee)
October	Jock's Road (minibus)
November	Arbroath to Montrose coastal (minibus)
December	Loch Lee (minibus)

**WEEKEND MEETS**

Weekend meets during the period under review were supervised successively by Ian Bryce, Tim Walmsley and Marj Ewan, and proceeded regularly i.e. almost every month, and successfully if judged by numbers of participants and experiences. Each year starts traditionally with a Burns Night weekend at Muir, and aims for a 'big' meet around Easter time, but otherwise each is different, according to suggestions made and accommodation available. One or two camping meets to the west coast were also undertaken, mainly to facilitate rock-climbing.

The weekend meet to Bridge of Orchy was distinguished, if that's the right term, by a member and her parent failing to return by the time of the evening hotel meal. This provoked a MRT call-out which eventually engaged several teams and a helicopter. The duo were located making their way down from the Ben Dorain col at around 1 a.m., and no public repercussions resulted.

By way of compensation for the hi-jacking of the Overnighters to the Day Meets section above, here may be recorded the Winter Training weekends, some from Muir, and others involving snowholes above Speyside. Like the Club's other training activities, these were all arranged by Adrian Scott.





*Above Glen Coe on the Weekend Meet, December 2010*

### **Weekend Meets**

#### **2007**

January	Muir Cottage (Burns Night)
February	Roy Bridge
March	Inchnadamph Lodge
April	Torridon Youth Hostel
May	Lazy Crofter, Durness
June	Alex MacIntyre Hut, North Ballachulish
July	Clachtoll Campsite, Lochinver
August	Newtonmore/Aviemore (climbing meet)
August	Ariundle Bunkhouse, Strontian
September	Loch Ranza Youth Hostel, Arran
October	Inverarden Cottage, Crianlarich
November	Inver Croft House, Achnasheen
December	Glen Clova Hotel Bunkhouse

#### **2008**

January	Muir Cottage (Burns Night)
February	Glenfeshie
March	Sleeping Car Bunkhouse, Bridge of Orchy
April	Cannich Bunkhouse
May	Skye
June	MacIntyre Hut, Onich
July	Muir Cottage

August	By-the-Way Hostel, Tyndrum
September	Torridon Youth Hostel
October	Station Lodge Hostel, Tulloch
November	Raeburn Hut, Laggan

**2009**

January	Muir Cottage (Burns Night)
February	Loch Ossian Youth Hostel
March	Corran Ferry Hostel
April	JMT bunkhouse, Knoydart
May	Glen Brittle BMC hut, Skye
May	Achlean (by minibus) - Muir
June	Loch Lomond
July	Jura
August	Sheigra, Kinlochbervie
September	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric
October	Muir (Ghillies' Ball)
November	Great Glen Hostel, Spean Bridge
December	Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe

**2010**

January	Muir Cottage (Burns Night)
February	Tyndrum Lodge Hotel
February	Fraoch Lodge, Boat of Garten (Winter Training Meet)
March	MacIntyre Hut, Onich
April	Glen Affric Youth Hostel
May	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell
June	Lagangarbh SMC Hut, Glencoe
July	camping
August	Glen Brittle, Skye
September	Morvich NTS
October	Raeburn Hut, Laggan
November	Trossachs Tryst, Callander
December	Great Glen Hostel, South Laggan

**ROCK AND ICE CLIMBING**

Secretaryship of this aspect of the Club's activities during the period under review was mainly in the hands of Dave Ogden (2006-2008) and Mike Brian (2008-2010), but passed to James Hirst in late 2010 after the Mike's departure to Antarctica. Summer activities continued as usual, i.e. weekly visits to various coastal locales, with occasional forays to Clochnaben and the Pass of Ballater.

During the winters, activities switched from the RGU wall to the new Transition Extreme facilities at Aberdeen beach.

## OVERSEAS MEETS

### TATRAS Summer 2007 and CORTINA July 2009

*Tatras:* The Club's website records (amongst other things, including photographs) 'eight seasoned Club members' starting off from Golden Square (of course) and heading for Zakopane, the principal mountain resort of the Polish Tatras, where the Club last met in 1990. After some days of walking in the National Park, including a *via ferrata* and the highest mountain in Poland, it was over the border via a beautiful wooded pass for eight days in Slovakia, where the rock is granite - good and grippy, compared with the 'marble' limestone of the Polish side - but some hotels turned out to be bankrupt!

*Cortina d'Ampezzo:* This involved seven members - some younger than others - staying in two apartments in the pleasant centre of Cortina. Forays were mainly to tea and coffee houses (some by cable car), but a few brave souls ventured out onto the excellent paths in the vicinity, and even onto a short *via ferrata*. Apart from the stunning scenery, interest was focussed on flowers and First World War remains.

## THURSDAY WALKS



*On the Hill of Fare, Mid-Week Walk, February 2009*

This popular series of monthly walks, usually originating by shared cars from Kingswells or elsewhere, and involving a 5- or 6-hour route, continued under Jack Connell's genial and efficient supervision until 2009, when Arthur Dickie took

over the well-oiled machinery. Yet more of Aberdeenshire was scoured, with longer-distance efforts penetrating beyond Braemar to Sgor Mor and Glen Quoich, while near-at-home forays were made to the wilds of Countesswells.

**2007**

January	Ellon & Formartine Way
February	Hill of Fare
March	Glencat
April	Glen Girnock
May	Longhaven
June	Sgor Dubh/Sgor Mor
July	Glen Feardar
August	Glenbuchat
September	Gordon Way
October	Lochnagar
November	Burn o' Vat
December	Scolty

**2008**

January	Kirkhill
February	Barmekin of Echt
March	Glentana
April	Cairn William
May	Glenfenzie
June	The Socach
July	Glen Callater
August	Art in Cromar
September	Carn Liath
October	Johnshaven
November	Correnie Moor
December	Clachnaben

**2009**

January	Bucksburn
February	Hill of Fare
March	St Combs - Rattray Head
April	Correen Hills
May	Pressendye
June	Deskry Water
July	Carnferg
August	Morrone - Corriemulzie
September	Mongur - Monluth
October	Huntly - Clashmach
November	Balmoral Cairns
December	Scolty - Blackhall Forest

**2010**

January	Fetternear
February	Braeroddach Loch
March	Airlie Ridge
April	Peter Hill
May	Carn na Drochaide
June	Gairnshiel/Shenval
July	Loch Phadruig
August	Suie Hill
September	Clais Fearnaigh
October	Tap o' Noth
November	Bennachie
December	Mortlich

**DAUNERS**

This addition to the Club's range activities was initiated by Ian Bryce in 2007, although Ruth Payne has played a major organisational role in recent years. Designed for members who may not feel up to the rigours of the Mid-Week Walks, they involve a gentle walk on a well-made path, before resort to a reliable lunchtime venue on Deeside or Donside, e.g. Milton of Crathes.