

JOHN NISBET

John was born in Rosyth in 1922, the youngest of four brothers. After two years at Edinburgh University he was called up to the army in 1942. As Italian was one of his subjects he was offered training as a linguist for RAF Intelligence, at Edinburgh University. There, with a nod and a wink from the Dean, he continued studying for his Honours English degree and graduated in 1945 while on leave. After a year in the Far East he left the RAF in 1946 and started a teacher training course. As a “promising young teacher” he was persuaded to go for a Masters degree in Education at Edinburgh University, which he passed with distinction.

In 1949, with four job offers (changed days!), he opted to join the Education Department at the University of Aberdeen. In 1963 he was promoted to the first Chair in Education and remained in the department until well after “retirement”. His research was concerned with environmental influences on intelligence, but his professional interests and skills ranged much more widely, as reflected by his teaching and project visits to many countries, his six books, his editorship of the British Journal of Educational Psychology, his chairmanship of the Educational Research Board of the Social Science Research Council, and his first presidency (and later honorary life membership) of the British Educational Research Association. He was awarded an OBE for services to Scottish education in 1980 and an Honorary Doctorate by Edinburgh University in 2004.

John played golf from a very young age, at one time with a handicap of 5, and he continued to play 18 holes until the age of 88. With two others, he wrote a 71-page guide “The Limekilns of Upper Donside: a Forgotten Heritage”, with photographs and map references. After his retirement he took up orienteering and competed successfully in international events, being Scottish champion in his age group on several occasions. John’s article “Approach to the Hills” (CCJ No. 105, 1999) describes his introduction to mountaineering, from being taken up Beinn Bharrain on Arran in 1932, through penniless youth-hostelling (or worse, e.g. “the delights of sleeping under bridges”) before, during and after the War, to a marriage proposed in a tent in Glen Slugain and celebrated

at the Kingshouse Hotel in 1952. He joined the Cairngorm Club in 1955. John had always fancied climbing but could not afford the equipment when young. He was later able to climb some of Scotland's classic climbs with his son Andy and once also with his daughter Liz.

He died in October 2012, aged a few days short of 90, and his cremation two weeks later was attended by his family and friends, including several Club members.

Andrew Nisbet

WILLIAM DAVID ROBB

Willie was born in Aberdeen, in 1937, the only child of William and Christina Robb, and was brought up at Donald Place where he attended Skene Square School and Rosemount Junior Secondary. A quiet and unassuming man Willie spoke little of his own life on Club Meets, which he seldom missed, but when he did say something it was nearly always significant, at times profound and because of this many found him to be an ideal mountain companion.

As a young man Willie was a member of the Boys' Brigade and on leaving school took up his father's trade as a stonemason. National Service in The Highland Brigade saw him in Aldershot in 1961 and later some time was spent in Germany. His conduct whilst a reservist was found to be exemplary and a testimonial states he was a "first class tradesman... and a man of high character". Willie did not take to stonemasonry, though he was inducted into the Freemasons in 1964. A long period spent as a labourer with an engineering firm was followed by work in the food processing industry in Aberdeen. He would of course walk to and from work in all weathers and often this round trip was 7 miles or more.

Something of a dark horse, Willie enjoyed bowling when not in the mountains. A member of various Aberdeen Clubs he was a regular singles champion and was Northern Bowling Club Champion in 1977. He enjoyed Indoor bowling also and in 1963 gave a generous donation which helped to facilitate the building of the Aberdeen Indoor Bowling Rink. He attended Scottish Country Dance classes as a young man and could waltz on the dance floor almost as