

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

effortlessly as he could deliver a good bowl or glide up a mountain. What he did he did well.

But it is in the mountains that most of us knew him. His first real taste of hillwalking was with a Christian club. He joined our club in 1982 and completed his round of the Munros on A' Mhaighdean in 1998. In later years especially he enjoyed organised foreign excursions which took him to the Swiss, French, Italian and Austrian Alps, the Pyrenees, Spain, Poland, Slovakia and Ireland. Many trips were with the Cairngorm Club.

Willie worked till age 65 and recovered from a serious illness in 2008. His return to the hills saw ambition only slightly dampened; Willie spent a night under The Shelter Stone to mark the Club's 125 years in June 2012 and managed an ascent of Ben Macdui on the Cairngorm Traverse in Sept 2012. He very much enjoyed the BBQ buffet which accompanied the 125 event at Muir Cottage and his liking for High Teas (especially cakes) is legendary, as was his indefatigability and stamina in the hills when a younger man. Willie died suddenly on the 30th of October, 2012, whilst out walking on The Speyside Way.

Both a gentleman and a "hard man" on the hill, Willie Robb will be fondly missed.

Derek H. Beverley