

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

GENERAL MEETINGS

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 9 November 2011 at the Aberdeen Grammar School Former Pupils Club Centre on Queens Road, Aberdeen, with 34 members attending, the following were elected(*) or re-elected as Office-Bearers: Graham Ewen (Hon. President), Anne Pinches (President), Derek Beverley (Vice-President), Marj Ewan (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 Secretary), Marj Ewan (Weekend Meets Secretary), Colin Brown (Communications Secretary). The following were elected to vacant Ordinary membership of the Committee: Peter Aikman (Associate), Eddie Alaszewski (Associate), Arthur Dickie (Ordinary), Sandy McIntosh (Ordinary), Ruth Payne (Ordinary), Kees Witte (Ordinary) and Garry Wardrope (Ordinary).

Notable external issues during the year had included: proposed windfarms at Pressendye and Corriemoillie; various MCofS issues, e.g. a "children in clubs" survey, the £1.25 rise in MCofS subscription rates, and its new Board, with Karin Froebel Overton as Clubs Director; the independent Mar Lodge Estate Deer Management Review; MBA bothies; and National Park planning issues. Internal issues had included: donations from Margaret Munro (books) and Diana Mahaffy (climbing gear); production of the final issue of Volume 21 of the Cairngorm Club Journal edited by Lydia Thomson; production of the 2012 wall calendar by Sandy McIntosh; revision of the Club Incident Protocol; tighter pre-approval of expenses; proposals to celebrate the Club's 125th anniversary.

The Treasurer reported that Club membership stood at 417 (5 down from the previous year), and that the bank account stood at £70,919. The main Club subscription rate was kept at £13, plus £14.25 for the MCofS.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 7 November 2012 at the same place, with 30 members attending, the following were elected(*) or re-elected as Office-Bearers: Adrian Scott* (President), Sandy McIntosh* (Vice-President), Derek Pinches* (Vice-President), Kees Witte* (Hut Custodian), Chris Wilson* (Climbing Secretary), other Office-Bearers being re-elected. The following were elected to vacant Ordinary membership of the Committee: Sue Chalmers (Associate), Arthur Dickie (Ordinary), James Friend (Ordinary), Donna Ryan (Ordinary), Stan Urbaniak (Ordinary), and Garry Wardrope (Ordinary). Mario di Maio, recently retired Leader of the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team, was elected, *nem. con.*, as an Honorary Member. (see page 102).

The outgoing President reported that 2012 had been a special year for the Club, with the main event being the 125th Anniversary Meet at Muir on 23-24 June. As reported elsewhere in this issue, this involved an Overnight/Weekend Meet to the Shelter Stone, and a barbecue at Muir. Projects during the year included the refurbishment of the Club Footbridge and its plaques in Rothiemurchus Forest, repair to a Pass of Ballater path, cloth Club badges, some commemorative whisky, and an extension to Piper's Wood, for which a generous donation had been made by Derek Beverley.

Notable external issues had included: windfarms at Pressendye, Glenkindie and Glen Lethnot; Club responses to consultations re CNPA (An Camas Mor), hill tracks, adventure licensing, and small-scale development in Aberdeenshire; the NTS Mar Lodge Management Plan 2012-16; and MCofS, NEMT (lead: Sandy McIntosh) and COAT (e.g. Adopt-a-Path). 'Internal' issues included donations and disposal of books (Donald Hawksworth) and gear (Mahaffy, Ken Mills), the appointment of Alister Macdonald as Journal Editor, a 'new' Slugain bothy and the future of the Garbh Choire shelter.

The Treasurer reported that Club membership stood at 415 (2 down from the previous year), and that the bank account stood at

£75,758. The main Club subscription rate was kept at £13, plus £14.25 for the MCoF.

MEETS AND EXCURSIONS

DAY MEETS

Derek Beverley acted as Day Meets Secretary over the period under review, and reported as follows at the 2011 and 2012 AGMs. In 2010-11, a total of 158 participants averaged attendance at 13.2 per meet, and made a surplus of £26.35. In 2011-12, a total of 164 people (guests as well as members) averaged attendance at 14.9 per meet, making a surplus of £95.85. The 2012 Overnight Meet from Muir formed part of the 125th Club commemorations. Travel modes included coach (some shared, at considerable financial advantage, given that a day's hire with driver now approached £500), the Westhill Community minibus driven by a Club member, shared cars, and train (to Inverurie). There were no major (or minor) accidents or other unfortunate incidents over the period.

	2011	2012
January	Lochnagar (coach)	Lochnagar (coach)
February	Cancelled	Bennachie (train and car)
March	Deeside (service bus)	Schiehallion
April	Monega Pass (shared coach)	Prosen - Clova (shared coach)
May	Drumochter	Ben Wyvis
June	Achnashellach (overnighter)	Shelter Stone (overnighter)
July	Ben a'Ghlo	Ben Vorlich/Stuc a'Chroin (car)
August	An Sgarsoch (cars)	Beinn a'Bhuird/ Ben Avon (overnighter)
September	Cairngorm Traverse (shared coach)	Cairngorm Traverse (shared coach)
October	Sidlaws	Mount Battock - Clochnaben
November	Corriehabbie Hill/Cook's Cairn	Carn an Righ/Glas Tulaichan
December	Glen Clova	Moray Coast

MID-WEEK WALKS

This popular series of monthly walks – usually originating by shared cars from Kingswells, and involving a 5- or 6-hour route – continued under Arthur Dickie's genial supervision. Both years under report were excellent for mid-week walkers, with reasonable weather even in 2012 apart from the walks to Creag Bhalg in April, Carn Liath in May and Loch Muick in June. Attendance ranged from 10 to 28. A few problems cropped up in 2011, such as part-participants, "stragglers" and even a "lost" group on Tap o'Noth(!), but in 2012 the only problem was with a gamekeeper on the Kildrummy walk who claimed that we were disturbing his pheasants - which, as far we could see, couldn't have cared less!



Mid week walkers heading for Kerloch, November 2012.

	2011	2012
January	West Aberdeen	Donmouth
February	Braes of Gight	Sands of Forvie
March	Portsoy to Cullen	Loch Kinord
April	Mount Battock	Creag Bhalg
May	Corgarff	Carn Liath
June	Glen Gelder	Loch Muick Circular
July	Falls of Damph	The Socach, Strathdon
August	Carn Bhac	Mona Gowan
September	Braeroddach Loch	Clochnaben
October	Hill of Fare	Kildrummy
November	Scolty	Kerloch
December	Stonehaven Coastal	Seven Bridges, Ballater

WEEKEND MEETS

Marj Ewan acted as Week-end Meets Secretary over the period under review, and reported as follows at the 2011 and 2012 AGMs. In 2010-11, there were 143 attendances over 12 meets, most of which broke even, with a small overall loss of £23.50. A special event (not recorded in the table below) was the Winter Skills Training Weekend held in February 2011, and voted a great success by the 3 participants, who snow-holed overnight in Coire Laogh Mor on Cairngorm. In 2011-12, there were 150 attendances over 11 meets: a December 2011 meet to Roy Bridge had to be cancelled at short notice due to power cuts, although some members found alternatives. The June 125th anniversary Meet at Muir and nearby Blackburn Cottage (recently transferred to the Air Training Corps) clocked up 59 bed-nights – probably a Week-end Meet record. Most meets broke even, but there were losses of about £103 for the Crianlarich meet in October 2011, offset by a surplus of £112 for the Tyndrum meet in March 2012.

	2011	2012
January	Muir Cottage (Burns Night)	Muir Cottage (Burns Night)
February	Glen Nevis Youth Hostel	Strathspey Mountain Hostel, Newtonmore
March	Invercroft, Achnasheen	By-the-Way Hostel, Tyndrum
April	Glenfinnan Railway Carriage	SMC Naismith Hut, Elphin
May	Causeway Foot Farm, Keswick	Drinishader, Harris
June	Inbhirfhaolain, Glen Etive	Muir and Blackburn Cottage
July	CIC hut, Ben Nevis	Ling Hut, Torridon
August	BMC Hut, Glenbrittle	Forest Way Bunkhouse, Lael
September	Lochranza, Arran	Morvich, Kintail
October	Crianlarich Youth Hostel	Great Glen Hostel, S. Laggan
November	Blackwater Hostel, Kinlochleven	Inverardran Cottage, Crianlarich

OVERSEAS MEETS

Stubai: in June 2011, six members and a guest based themselves in Fulpmes in the Stubai valley, and explored the Stubai glacier in Neustift, the Kreuzjoch and Schlick. Three in the party climbed the Elfer via ferrata.

El Chorro, Spain: in October-November 2011, 9 members spent a week (with some instruction) at this venue, with its many climbs (e.g. in the Valle de Abdalajis, Escalera Arabe) and via ferrata, e.g. the Camina del Rey (King's Walkway).

Pyrenees: in September 2012, six members plus a guest spent a week in the spa town of Cauterets on the French-Spanish border. A variety of lovely walks were undertaken, with visits by cable car to the Pic du Midi observatory, and on foot, especially downhill, to the impressive Breche de Roland in the Cirque de Cavarnie.

CLIMBING

James Hirst acted as Secretary for this aspect of the Club's activities during most of the period under review, being replaced by Chris Wilson at the 2012 AGM. Summer activities continued as usual, i.e. weekly evening visits to various coastal locales, with occasional forays elsewhere, e.g. to Clachnaben and the Pass of Ballater. The numbers joining these evening meets gradually increased over the 2011 and 2012 seasons, with several joining the Club. At the weekends, there were trips to both local crags and some that are too far away for evening meets, e.g. Glen Clova and Logiehead. In April six climbers participated in a one-day course held at the Pass of Ballater on "improvised self rescue".

Although 2012 was one of the wettest summers on record, Club climbers still managed to get out into the Scottish mountains and complete some classic mountain climbs at the weekend. Some notable climbs included Cairngorm classics such as Cyclops on the Creag an Dubh Loch and Eagle Ridge on Lochnagar. Further afield, on a weekend meet in Torridon, five members climbed the Cioch

Nose on Sgurr a' Chaorachain in Applecross and Ardverikie Wall on Binnein Shuas was climbed on a hot weekend.

During the winter months, most activities switched to the indoor climbing walls at RGU wall and the Transition Extreme facilities at the Beach. However, despite freezing temperatures, a number ventured outside on sunny days to climb on the bolted sport routes in Angus.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Annual Dinners

The two Dinners held since the last issue of the Journal were both held at the Old Mill Inn, Maryculter. Anne Pinches reports;

18 November 2011:

There was no customary speaker. Instead a twenty minute documentary film made for Japanese Television was shown. This unique event arose because the producer of documentary programmes, looking online to find out about Scottish mountaineering Clubs, came across the Cairngorm Club's impressive website. The weekend meet at the Great Glen hostel, the Lochnagar Day Meet and the 2010 Club Dinner were filmed. The then President of the Club, Anne Pinches and Eric Johnston, a former past President, were interviewed. In the latter case Eric's complete set of Club Journals was a focal point.

The TV recording was very entertaining. Much was in Japanese, including the subtitles used to translate comments spoken in English. It was good for the Club to have been the object of this little export to Japan, where mountaineering has been growing in popularity but where a tradition of mountaineering clubs is lacking.

14 November 2012:

The guest speaker was a Club Member, Mike Brian, who had been working for the British Antarctic Survey Team for eighteen months. His talk described some of the trips he made with other Team members during their breaks from work. Mike's photographs were wonderful and his stories interesting – an entertaining combination.

Indoor Meets

(* indicates presentation by one or more Club members)

2011

January: Members' Night*

February: Marj Ewan* and friends: The West Highland Way and Other Long Walks

March: Nicola Seal: Lyme Disease

October: Peter Aikman*: My Road to Shenavall - a Club member's account of his work with the Mountain Bothies Association

December: Colin Brown* and friends: The Resurgence of the Overnighter, 2007-2011

2012

January: Members' Night*

February: Karin Froebel Overton – MCofS Q and A Session, and personal slides

March: Glyn Jones: The Balmoral Ranger Service

October: Anne Harper: Timber on the Dee

December: Annie McKee: Highland Estates: not all Tweeds and "Monarchs"

Outdoor Social Meets

A barbecue was held at Templars Park, Maryculter, in June 2011.

The 125th Anniversary Event at Muir in June 2012 is recorded elsewhere in this issue.

Danders

During the period under review, Ruth Payne continued to organize these meets, which involve a gentle morning walk on a well-made path, before resort to a reliable lunchtime venue. Most were attended by about a dozen Members.

2011

January: Park Bridge/Drumoak

May: Castle Fraser; Kemnay

August: Dinnet

November: Shooting Greens/Finzean Farm Shop

2012

February: Dunecht

May: Haddo/Tarves

July: Scolty/Milton of Crathes

September: Fetternear/Kemnay Church Centre

November: Park Bridge/Drum Garden Centre

COMMUNICATION

During the period under review, Colin Brown continued as Communications Secretary, maintaining the Club's website, the Members' Forum which increased from 103 to 122 members, 351 to 614 topics and from about 1700 to about 3100 individual posts, and the Yahoo! email system. He also produced three Newsletters each year, and saw to the monthly updating of Club Meets posters for display at shops, libraries, etc.

The Cairngorm Club