

THE NEW PRESIDENT

I am very honoured to be appointed as the 44th President of the Cairngorm Club, following in the footsteps of my many auspicious predecessors, most recently James Friend. The role still feels very new and it's going to take some time to wear in the "new boots".

It feels as if I have been climbing forever, at first with my brothers on the cliffs of Shetland, then when I was about 13 or 14, at all the places we were told not to go. After completing a climbing course at what was then Aberdeen College and needing somebody to climb with, I asked Stephen Kirkpatrick, then working in Tiso's to recommend a club and this eventually led me to my first climbing buddies in the Cairngorm Club. I enjoy the variety of challenges to be found on every hill and climb. Probably my greatest sense of achievement came from leading my first multi-pitch climb up Crystal Ridge of Sputan Dearg on Ben Macdui.

The Club is a big part of my life, getting out regularly to climbing meets (see colour photograph No 4), weekend meets, social meets and the odd day meet. I have about 40 Munros yet to do, and I pick up Corbetts on the way.

The Club's greatest strength is its ability to keep going, providing for a variety of ages, a range of activities, training, support and encouragement. I want the Club to be less formal and open to change, so as not to alienate prospective new members and to move with the times and life style of the younger generation. My aspiration and hope for the Club is that it remains in good heart and continues to expand. I want to promote a friendly club that appeals to all ages, from all walks of life and provides for its members as much adventure as I have had and am still having.

MARJORY EWAN