

Proceedings of the Club

by Ken Thomson

This review covers two years of Club activities, i.e. since early 2024.

General Meetings

Both the 2024 and 2025 AGMs were held at the Queens Cross Church Centre. In 2024, 37 members attended, and the following were elected or re-elected* as Office-Bearers: Judy Middleton (Hon. President), Helen Russell* (President), Mike Duguid* and Brian Purves (Vice-Presidents), Donald Thomas* (Treasurer), Craig Thomson (Day Meets), Helen Russell* (Weekend Meets Secretary), Eilidh Scobbie (Hut Custodian), Stuart Dick* (Climbing Activities), Tom Litterick (Social Activities Secretary), Colin Brown* (Communications Secretary); and the following as “ordinary” Committee members: Vay Mutch*, Esperanza Martin Gil*, Will Ellwood*, Grant Signorini, Kevin Adam, Anne Pinches and Carolyn Ainsbury. The Club Secretaryship was left vacant. During the year, Club membership rose slightly, from 359 to 373.

The 2025 AGM saw 23 members attending, and the following changes in office-bearers and Committee membership: Susan Jensen (Secretary as from 1 March 2026), Mike Duguid (Communications Secretary) and Chris Wilson (Climbing Secretary), and John Fenemore, Ian Sneddon and Caroline Watt (“ordinary” Committee members). It was reported that Club membership had again risen, to 380.

Day Meets

In both years, the traditional excursions were made to Lochnagar in January and across the Cairngorms in September, as well as some midsummer overnights. New ventures included the Convals near Dufftown and the ‘four coloured hills’ of the Corrennie Moor near Alford, while a centennial indicator visit to Lochnagar in July 2024 involved one or two speeches at the summit. A similar visit to the Ben Macdui indicator in August 2025 had to be aborted due to high winds. In addition, some snowholing and multi-day camping trips were made each year.

	2024	2025
January	Lochnagar	Lochnagar
February	Ladder Hills	Glas Maol - Carn an Tuirc
March	Carn an t-Sagairt Mor	Sgor Gaoith
April	Glen Feshie	Glen Esk - Glen Clova
May	Devil's Point	Beinn a' Bhuid
June	Mamores (overnight)	Beinn a' Ghlo
July	Lochnagar Indicator Centennial	Tarf Hotel (overnight)
August	Creag Meagaidh (overnight)	Ben Macdui
September	Cairngorm Traverse N to S	Cairngorm Traverse (Lairig Ghru)
October	The Convals, Dufftown	Ben Chonzie
November	Ben Vrackie	Mount Battock
December	Morven	Corrennie Moor

Weekend Meets

These meets proved very popular in both years, when many of the usual centres were revisited:

	2024	2025
January	Muir (Burns Night)	Muir (Burns Night)
February	Lagangarbh, Glencoe	Lagangarbh, Glencoe
March	Milehouse Cottage, Glenfeshie	Raeburn Hut, Laggan
April	Mol Mor, Torridon	Kintail, Morvich
May	Loch Ossian YH	Glenbrittle Hut, Skye
June	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric	Belfast Climber Hut, Mourmes
July	Orkney, camping	Jura, camping
August	Glassie Farm, Aberfeldy	Knoydart Bunkhouse, Inverie
September	Saddle Hostel, Invergarry	Galloway Centre, Loch Ken
October	Raeburn Hut, Laggan	Mol Mor, Torridon
November	Inver, Achnasheen	Muir Cottage
December	Corran	Corran

Climbing

In both years, climbing meets, both formal and informal, took place at least once a week, utilising the indoor climbing walls during the winter months. From spring to autumn, outdoor meets were held when conditions allowed at the sea cliffs, the inland crags, or in the Cairngorms.

Mid-week walks

Coordinated by Joyce Ritchie, these walks revisited several well-known locations.

	2024	2025
January	Beltie Hill, Torphins	Kincardine O'Neil - Lumphanan
February	Loch Kinord	Hill of Foudland
March	Bervie - Benholm Coastal	Cults - Countesswells Hazlehead
April	Stirling Hill, Peterhead	Mormond Hill
May	-	Carn Mor, Inverey
June	Kerloch	Clachnaben
July	Carn Ealasaid, Cockbridge	Glen Gelder
August	Lochnagar Contour	Ben Tìrran, Glen Clov
September	Glenbuchat Ridge	Bennachie
October	Cairn William, Pittfichie	Goauch - Scolty
November	Arbroath - Gourdon Coastal	Dunecht - Barmekin
December	Ellon Circular	Sgor na h-Iolaire, Glen Gironck

Stravaigs

Introduced in March 2024 by Gill Shirreffs, Judy Middleton, Eilidh Scobbie and Jay Turner, this new and well attended form of Club activity offered shorter and flatter walks on Fridays intermediate to the monthly Thursday Mid-Week Walks.

	2024	2025
January	-	Kingswells - Bucksburn
February	-	Girdleness
March	Drum Castle	Inverurie - Keith Hall
April	Bellwood, Aboyne	Huntly
May	-	Aboyne/Finzean
June	Monymusk	Leschangie Woods
July	Lumphanan - Tullochvenus	7 Bridges Ballater
August	Crathes	Huntly North-East
September	Monymusk	Aden Country Park
October	Tarland	Insch - Dunnideer
November	Torphins	Glen Tanar
December	Ellon	Potarch

Social Activities

These followed the usual pattern of monthly illustrated talks at Queens Cross Church during the winter, annual Dinners in November at the Royal Northern & University Club, and a summer BBQ at the RNUC, with an extra BBQ at Muir in August 2024. Most were organized by Eilidh Scobbie

in 2024, and by Tom Litterick in 2025. The talk at the 2024 Dinner was given by Kirsty Pallas, on social inclusion in mountaineering, and that at the 2025 Dinner by Anna Wells, on her Winter Round of the Munros.

Communications

Until autumn 2025, Colin Brown continued to maintain the Club's website www.cairngormclub.org.uk, and to edit the thrice-yearly Newsletters, which became electronic-only in June 2024, as did membership cards that year. The Google Group email system was well-used, supplemented by WhatsApp. By the end of 2025, the Forum had 195 members, about 1550 topics and nearly 8000 posts, but was being overtaken for meet reports by the Club Facebook account, with over 1000 followers. In November 2025, a new website, designed mostly by incoming Comms Secretary Mike Duguid, was introduced, to general acclaim.

Muir Cottage

In May 2024, Eilidh Scobbie took over as Custodian from Kees Witte, and Kevin Adam replaced her in early December 2025, Forbes Macpherson continuing as Muir Booking Secretary throughout. Bed-nights totalled 2244 and 2252 for the calendar years 2024 and 2025 respectively, and useful Work Weekends were held in both years. A WhatsApp group was set up to coordinate any help needed to "manage" Muir, and monthly safety checks were undertaken. In 2025, Kevin Adam coordinated safety-related electrical improvements, and remote heating controls. A Sub-Committee was set up to consider longer-term improvements, e.g. to toilet and plumbing arrangements.

Finance

Membership subscription revenue rose to £9,304 in 2023/24 and £9,739 in 2024/25, and Muir bednight receipts to £22,234 and £22,919 respectively. After incoming donations, legacies, etc., these resulted in total receipts of £52,104 and £50,313. On the expenditure side, higher affiliation fees became payable to Mountaineering Scotland, Muir costs were similar to the above receipts, and a £5,000 donation was made to a MS/OATS "It's Up To Us" footpath appeal. After meet subsidies, and the usual range of Club donations (including £1,000 donations for Mountain Training Scotland Bursaries in both years), subscriptions and training

grants, very similar small deficits of just over £1,500 were recorded for each year, while the Club's bank balance remained high, at £103,723 on 30 September 2024 and at £102,176 a year later.

Other

Over the two years under review, Garry Wardrope organized two training courses on winter skills, three on night navigation, and one on first aid. The Club provided financial support to several members taking mountain leadership courses.

The President organised a successful Club merchandise campaign, based on purchases of hoodies, T-shirts, beanies and snoods from Funky Panther Ltd. at Cove Bay.

With assistance from several quarters, Ken Thomson arranged the design and ordering of replacement mountain indicators for the summits of Lochnagar and Ben Macdui. At time of writing, the Lochnagar one awaits installation in Spring 2026, and the Macdui one should undergo the same fate in summer that year.

Jean Robinson produced issue no. 115 of the *Cairngorm Club Journal* in Spring 2024. Later that year, Mark Norris took over the editorship, and material for Journal no. 116 was accumulated by early 2026.