

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2002

It is now a year since the outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease which devastated the farming community and caused closure of the countryside for many weeks. We were somewhat fortunate that we only had to cancel three of our scheduled early season walks. However, you will note on the programme of outings for 2002, which was approved at the February A.G.M., that we have reinstated these three walks as well as providing what we consider to be a balanced programme of walks for the remainder of the year.

Many similar organisations, like ourselves, have been bemoaning the Foot & Mouth crisis which may have caused a drop off in numbers attending outings, and a slight reduction in overall membership. As I have mentioned in the past, a strong membership is the basis of a healthy and successful club and therefore we should do all we can to encourage new members to join, and lapsed members to rejoin and come on future outings. A membership renewal form is enclosed for those who have not yet been out this year but would like to renew their membership. Please complete it and return it with £5 (Cheques payable to Aberdeen Telephones Hill-Walking Club) to Sally Henderson, 5outh Loirston, Nigg, Aberdeen. *AB12 3LJ*. Your membership card will be posted out to you.

Bus hire charges this year have risen by at least 10% which inevitably leads to a rise in bus fares. The maximum fare will remain at £10. The more people attending outings the less the fare per person, or the less the loss on the day. In these days of ever increasing costs, we would like to keep fares at a reasonable level. Why not encourage a friend or acquaintance to come out with you on a future outing? Details of our next few walks are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

The *A.G.M.* took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2002 when around 20 members attended and elected the following committee.

President	Frank Kelly
Vice President	Jim Henderson
Secretary	Heather Eddie
Treasurer	Sally Henderson
Booking Secretary	Alex Joiner
Committee members	Audrey Banner, Kris Howard, Claire Johnston, Sue McHardy, Bill Marr, Graham Sangster <i>and</i> Vi Walker.
Auditors	Marjorie McLeod and Rosemary Kelly

The meeting proceeded with the set business agenda and club officials gave reports of last years'

activities. The club accounts continue to show a healthy balance of around £1200. The committee recommended no changes to the membership fees, which remain at £5 for adults, 50p for children under 16 and £1 for day members. The bus fare for children under 16 will be half the adult fare. Donations of £50 each were agreed for the Braemar Mountain Rescue Team and the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland. Our continued affiliation to the North East Mountain Trust was approved. It was also agreed that we become affiliated to the Ramblers Association in order to avail ourselves of Public Liability Insurance through them at a considerably reduced cost. Ramblers Association magazines and accommodation list will be available on the bus for members to read from time to time as are the N.E.M.T. newsletters.

We considered it appropriate to hold another Claik Night (our ninth) and this will take place on Thursday 18th April 2002 at the Health Board Club, 403, King Street, at 7-30pm. Stovies and tea or coffee will be served and all for the price of only £3 per ticket. This is an opportunity to catch up on news with other members and is a very informal meeting. Tickets are now available on the outings or direct from our Secretary, Heather Eddie, tel.630239.

The committee is also considering another social event later in the year around October 2002, either a quiz, slide or film show if there is sufficient interest. We welcome any suggestions or ideas for this event.

Fourteen members have booked for the Week's Hike walking holiday from 18th to 26th May 2002. We had hoped to visit the Torridon area but were unable to secure accommodation at the Youth Hostel for the whole week. The venue was changed to Glen Affric staying at Cannich Youth Hostel. A programme of outings is being drafted which should see us visiting the Loch Mullardoch and Glen Strathfarrar as well as Glen Affric in the course of the week.

**Discounts** are available to members at the following shops on production of a signed current (2002) membership card which you receive on payment of the annual membership fee.

1. Blacks George Street 10%
2. Nevis Sport (formerly Marshalls) George Street Selected discount on specific brochure items
3. Craigdon Sports 5, St Andrew's Street 20%
4. Millets Union Street 10%
5. Tiso's 26, Netherkirkgate Discounts on club sales nights only, when up to 25% discount

may be available on selected items.

**Stop Press** The next Tiso's discount evening will be held on Wednesday 1 May 2002 from 6-30 to 8-

30pm. Please note that they have ceased the hand out of individual tickets so as not to restrict the number of

members who can attend. However, you must bring your signed membership card along with you.

Answers to the NORTH EAST HILLS OF ASSORTED SIZES QUIZ from the last issue.

1. Morrone. 2. Lochnagar. 3. Dreish. 4. The Devil's Point. 5. Culardoch. 6. Mormond Hill.

7. Clachnaben. 8. Mayar. 9. Pressendye. 10. Culardoch. 11. The Buck. 12. Morven.  
13. Hill of Fare. 14. Braeriach. 15. Mount Blair.

Jim & Sally Henderson apologise for getting the B & H swap the wrong way round in 13, and for inadvertently putting Culardoch in twice. Vi Walker managed to get them all right, with Margaret Leslie having only one wrong. Well done both!

By the time this newsletter appears we will be well into the 2002 programme of walks. Let us hope the weather improves a bit by that time and remains good for the forthcoming walks.

On <sup>14</sup>th April we drive over the Devil's Elbow, through Kirkmicheal and up Strath Ardle heading for the village of Moulin above Pitlochry. From there we climb the prominent hill of Ben Vrackie before descending into Glen Girnaig to take us down to Killiecrankie. From there the River Garry is then followed past Loch Faskally and into Pitlochry.

The <sup>28</sup>th April sees us traversing some of the Donside hills, starting from the Gairnshiel to Colnctbaichin road at the head of Glen Fenzie. Mona Gowan is climbed first then the ridge of hills is followed eastwards over the Slacks of Glen Carvie and Mullachdubh to reach the Forest of Bunzeach, part of which we pass through on our way to Boultenstone.

We go further afield on <sup>12</sup>th May to the Kingdom of Fife for a traverse of the Lomond Hills from Balgedie, overlooking Loch Leven, eastwards to finish at Freuchie near Falkland.

Ben Tirran is the main objective on <sup>26</sup>th May for a circular walk on the hills south of Loch Lee.

On the <sup>9</sup>th June we tackle one of our longer walks from Tomintoul up the valley of the River Avon to Inchrory and then through by Glen Builg and Loch Builg to cross the Bealach Dearg pass and finish up at Inver on Deeside.

We are back in the Angus glens again on <sup>23</sup>rd June for a crossing from Glen Prosen to Glen Clova, taking in the climbs of Dreish and Mayar for those so inclined.

Another long through walk is scheduled for <sup>7</sup>th-- July starting from Achlean in Glen Feshie and taking either the low level route by Glen Feshie and down Glen Geldie, or crossing over by Cairn Toul and Corroul to Glen Dee. The finishing point in either case is the Linn of Dee car park.

On <sup>23</sup>rd July we have a climb nearer home when we tackle Beinn a'Bhuird starting from Keiloch at Invercauld and descending by the Quoich Water to finish at Allanaquoich. There is the option of climbing the South top only or taking in both North and South tops in a traverse of the hill.

Another circular walk is programmed for <sup>4</sup>th August this time from Blair AthoII where our objective is one or more tops of Beinn a'Ghlo.

And finally, if you have any interesting articles, poems, stories or anything with a hillwalking theme that you would like to share with others, send on the details to our Secretary, Heather Eddie, and have it published in the next edition of the newsletter. We would also welcome your comments on the content of the newsletter.