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2006/07 SEASON - ISSUE NUMBER 4

JANUARY 2007

Dear Member,

Happy New Year!

REMINDER No. 1 - AGM on Thursday 15 March 2007 (see details below)

2007: DAY TRIPS

Sunday 25 February	Ben More/Stobinian
Sunday 29 July	Glen Etive

2007: WEEKEND TRIPS

The intended programme is as follows (confirmation of dates in next newsletter):

23/24 March	Camping Barn, Lake District (Organiser: Eunice Coop)
4-6 May	Skyewalker Hostel, Portnalong, Skye (Organiser: Steve Turnbull)
25-28 May	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric (Organiser: Eunice Coop)
14-17 June	Section of the Southern Uplands Way (Organiser: Eunice Coop)
21-23 September	Gerry's Hostel, Achnashellach (Organiser: Frank McGavigan)
3-4 November	Pottery Bunkouse, Laggan (Organiser: Cedric Davies)

2008: WEEKEND TRIPS

March 2008	Glen Doll (Organiser: Jean Keddie)
2-5 May	Inverey Cottage, Deeside (Organiser: Steve Turnbull)

REMINDER No 2 - CAMPING BARN, LAKES (MARCH) and SKYE (MAY)

We have only a few names on these lists at the moment. If you wish to put your name on either of the lists, please get in touch with Eunice or Steve as soon as possible. Thanks.

Bookings: All bookings for weekend trips must now be accompanied by a £5.00 per night deposit to the trip organiser to secure a place (i.e. £10.00 for a 2-night stay or £15.00 for a 3-night stay). The reason for this change is to supplement Club funds as many hostels now require either full payment in advance or a higher level of deposit. We have to plan well in advance (sometimes over a year) to secure locations and ensure variety in the Club's weekend meets. Early bookings appreciated to give ample time to adjust numbers, if necessary. Late cancellations will have to pay full accommodation costs, unless this is waived by the hostel concerned.

REPORTS

Gran Canaria - December 2006 (Reporter: George Wood)

The 4th December saw ten stalwarts winging their way to Gran Canaria on a package holiday. The accommodation was the aparthotel Colina Mar which is perched on a hillside high above the holiday town of Puerto Rico, a suntrap on the southwest of the island.

Obviously the purpose was to discover the hillwalking possibilities, and it was necessary to hire two cars to reach the higher peaks. We soon discovered that the road surfaces were very good, although inland they were steep, narrow and twisty, but no problem to the efficient drivers. The weather was excellent and there was many a rye smile knowing it was 'pissing' rain back home!

Day 2 - A visit to the sand dunes at Playa de Maspalomas to see the promised camels. No camels, but plenty of nudists to observe! Soon tiring of this activity a decision was made to visit the nice wee village of Fataga, our first venture into the hills.

Day 3 - Back up the same road, GC-60, but much further, to the village of Ayacata and an excellent walk uphill by-passing the impressive Roque Nublo en-route to the highest point on the island, Pico de las Nieves. We walked through pine woods with wonderful views as far as Mount Teide on Tenerife. Eunice, Rebecca, Barbara, Anne Marie and Jack also scaled Campanario which is much more impressive than the highest peak.

Day 4 - Walk to the coast over the mountains to the Gui Gui beach, part of a nature reserve on a remote west side of the island. This proved to be a much tougher expedition than described in our guide book and the walk was not completed.

Day 5 – Used the excellent motorway, GC-1, to go north towards Las Palmas, and headed for the Caldera de Bandama, an interesting volcanic crater some 200 metres deep, full of lush vegetation. There was a rock wall riddled with caves allegedly used by the inhabitants before the Spanish arrived. This was followed by an interesting walk around the crater rim, with Cedric taking lots of photographs.

Day 6 - Now getting more adventurous and travelling north on the GC-505 towards the lakeland part of the island. Starting our walk at the Casa de la Data, a small farm at 960 metres, we split into two groups with Eunice, Rebecca, Anne Marie and Barbara speeding away downhill towards Soria and then uphill on the other side of the valley towards Cercados de Arana. The rest of us followed at a more leisurely pace admiring the views and rock formations down to the dam and this was followed by refreshments at the Casa Fernando bar, where we met Barbara. Then an excellent walk back to the farm on a forestry track high above the dam. The way back to Puerto Rico was on an incredible piece of road construction, with wonderful views, if you dared to look, down towards Mogan and the sea.

Day 7- The information was that it was raining in Las Palmas and also that all the shops there are closed on a Sunday so most of our group plumped for a walk high above the town of Puerto de Mogan, while Helen, Martin and I decided on a leisurely boat trip from Puerto Rico to Puerto de Mogan; which is a very upmarket town with the finest yacht I have ever seen moored in the harbour.

Thanks must go to Martin for driving and time spent waiting for us.

The hotel facilities were good, and Heather, Eunice and Jack ventured into the outdoor pool. The food was adequate but not as good as we have had in past holidays and the downside was the continual loud music that was on all day. The weather was wonderful. Overall, everyone enjoyed the break and there are a lot of walks and hills left for another time. The journey home was uneventful other than a sweat over a mislaid passport by yours truly which of course Helen was safeguarding for me all the time!!

Aite Cruinnichidh, Roy Bridge (January)

We are nearly into February already and the days are beginning to draw out (at last!). The KMC enjoyed its first 2007 weekend outing near Roy Bridge. Overall, the weather was seasonal with rain, wind and bright spots, including some sunshine.

Eunice and John drove north early on Friday morning, and using their bikes, cycled in from Corriechoille, and climbed the steep Stob Ban (a new hill for John). The icy snow conditions required crampons and ice axes. The howling gale on the top forced a quick retreat once the cairn had been touched. Steve left Kirkintilloch around ten and, having crossed via the Corran ferry, parked up by the farm at Stronchreggan on the Ardgour opposite Fort William, and spent the next four hours walking around the horseshoe which takes in the Stob Coire a Chearcaill Corbett (peak of the circular corrie). Plenty of snow patches but none of the icy conditions which Eunice and John faced.

On Saturday morning, the party of eleven split into three groups, the first two driving to the head of Loch Lochy with the intention of climbing Sron a Choire Ghairbh (nose of the rough corrie) or Meall na Tanga (hill of the tongue) or both. Heather, Sue, Ron and Peter climbed the former and retreated the same way, while Ann Marie, John, Eunice and Charmian climbed Meall na Tanga first (huge effort expended on the long steep snow slopes cutting footholds) then Sron a Choire Chairbh afterwards (new munros for Charmian and John). They decided to walk north along the ridge from this point but by the time they eventually arrived back at the car, they had had to detour and were using head torches. Meanwhile, back in Glen Roy, Sandra, Chris and Steve decided to climb two corbetts called Carn Dearg (red cairn) at the head of the glen (the former residents of the glen had obviously been stumped to come up with suitable names for each hill - there are other Carn Deargs near the glen too). By comparison with the efforts needed to tackle the two munros, this was an easier day by far but it required walking through lots of snow of variable depths, facing high winds and getting bitterly cold at one time. The glen features the parallel roads (the beach lines of a primeval loch). They walked over several of these lines but it is not obvious when one is standing there. They all fell over several times coming off the second hill as there was an abundance of hidden (beneath the snow) holes and stream gulleys which, despite careful ground navigation, they fell into laughing as they did so. On one occasion, Chris made a remark about the nice snow furrow he was about to walk on as Sandra and Steve, at the same moment, heard the gurgling of a stream. Too late! Chris fell in up to his thigh and pulled out a soaking water-filled boot. Nonetheless, they made it back to the car in the daylight and were first back to the bunkhouse for a shower and a cup of tea. That evening, everyone ate out at the Stronlossit Hotel in Roy Bridge.

There was a steady light rain with low cloud on Sunday morning and, after the efforts of Saturday, it was clear there was little enthusiasm for people to go back into the high hills and get wet and cold all over again. Charmian the Intrepid, flying the KMC colours, was the sole exception and she decided to go for two new munros east of Loch Treig - Chno Dearg (red nut) and Ston Choire Sgriodain (peak of the corrie of the scree). The rest of the gathering retreated south.

NEWS AND VIEWS

AGM - THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2007 at the Kirkintilloch Camera Club – 7.30pm prompt. Minutes of last year's AGM/copy of Constitution attached.

The AGM will be held before the break and members can show slides/films/talk afterwards. Please let Steve know as soon as possible if you have something you'd like to show. Thanks.

Steve and Helen will be stepping down from their Committee duties having completed their respective 3-year stints.

At the January Committee meeting, the role of the External Liaison Officer was discussed. In reality, this role has been largely superseded by the regular publication of the Scottish

Mountaineer journal. The Committee considered that the irregular correspondence sent to the KMC by MCofS could realistically, in future, be handled by the Secretary. The Club's Constitution states that:

The management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee of 6 members who shall be elected annually at the A.G.M.

The Committee shall consist of Chairman, Meets Contact, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Holder, and External Liaison.

Office Bearers shall serve for one year and be eligible for re-election. No Office Bearer may serve for more than three years in one position.

Notice has to be given to any proposed changes to the Constitution. The Committee is not proposing any specific changes other than that the AGM consider this item. Even if the formal title of this role was changed, the Committee consider that the same number of people should serve on the Committee. Over the last year, the Meets Contact has not attended the formal Committee meetings. This was agreed at last year's AGM.

Committee Meeting (held on 22 January 2007)

See above. Also, the Treasurer reported that the Club funds were standing a little in excess of a healthy £1,100. However, there was some monies to pay out for forthcoming trip deposits, mainly for 2008 trips.