



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - October 2013

*President: Mike Lea,
Vice Presidents: John Peden and Anthony Walker
Secretary: Iain Allison, Treasurer: Chris Calver,
Committee members: Chris Bartle, Ashley Buchan, Chris Gilmore,
David Shaw and Fraser Sutherland*

www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk

New members are welcome: the Club is for people of all ages and nationalities who have an interest in the Arctic, particularly if they have already been, or are planning to travel there. See the web site for an application form.

Annual Membership for 2013-2014

The subscription year runs from 1st September to 31st August. All members should pay their subscriptions **to the SAC using the booking & subscription form attached to this newsletter** whether you are attending the Gathering or not.

43rd Annual Gathering and Supper

15th to 17th November 2013
The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
Phone number 01397 702331.
salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com

The Gathering and Supper will be held on Saturday 16 November, though members are also invited to an informal get-together on Friday evening. Please book your accommodation now, if you have not already done so.

Accommodation and Supper Costs for Hotel Residents: The cost of Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for both Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November is £35 per person per night sharing a twin/double room. For bed and breakfast only on Friday night the price is £30 per person sharing a twin/double room. For a single room, there is an additional supplement of £10 per person per night. Please note that the price for Saturday night includes the cost of the Supper for hotel residents. Members wishing to stay over on Sunday night may take advantage of these same rates.

All this should be paid directly to the hotel by the individuals.

Supper Costs for those not staying in the Hotel: If you are attending the Supper but not staying at the hotel, the price of the Supper will be £19 per person.

This should be paid to the SAC using the booking form not to the Hotel.

The Gathering, with talks and presentations, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 2-5 pm, followed by the AGM. For this there will be a charge of £10 per person, to include tea/coffee/biscuits, conference costs and the costs of our guests.

This should be paid to the SAC using the booking form.

**Please COMPLETE THE BOOKING FORM and
RESERVE YOUR ROOM WITH THE HOTEL.**

For alternative accommodation over the Supper weekend, see www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

Agenda for the AGM to be held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
on Saturday 16th November, 2013 at 5.00 pm

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the AGM of 10 November 2012 (previously circulated, but also copied below)
2. Matters arising
3. The Annual Report & Accounts for year to 31 August 2013
4. Membership Report
5. Expedition Fund
6. Expedition Reports and Database.
7. SAC Web-site
8. Election of new committee members
9. Spring meet - Attadale, May 2014
10. Annual Supper 2014 - venue, date
11. Activities on Sunday 17th November 2013
12. Any other business

Committee Members

Those due to stand down at the AGM this year, after three or more years service to the Club are: President, Mike Lea, Secretary Iain Allison and committee member, Chris Gilmore. We have a President-Elect in John Peden but seek nominations for a second Vice-President, Secretary and committee member.

Book Review

Norway, The Outdoor Paradise by James Baxter,

Scandinavian Publishing Edinburgh 2012
448pp, ISBN 978-0-9550497-1-2, £29.95

Although mainland Norway is not the High Arctic, this book has much to offer, particularly to SAC members with a little experience of ski touring and/or sea kayaking. On New Year's Day 2009 James Baxter began a solo ski trip from Lindesnes lighthouse on Norway's south coast. 118 days later he reached the north coast at Kinnarodden with over 2600km distance and 46km ascent behind him, an effort with which most of us would be more than well satisfied. However, Baxter then cycled 400km east to rendezvous with his sea kayak near Kirkenes and proceeded to follow the coast back south. He was back at Lindesnes lighthouse on day 235 and completed the journey by reaching Oslo on 6th September, day 249, after travelling over 6200km without relying on any powered vehicle.

The book is a diary-style account beginning with an outline of the daunting logistics of planning a trip based on two quite different modes of travel. Descriptions of long journeys can easily become tedious for the reader, but I didn't find it so in this case as the author includes material on wildlife, history and geology, as well as his experiences good and bad. The book is well illustrated with photographs from the journey and with route maps. The book concludes with a short chapter on Baxter's fund-raising efforts to help equip and staff schools in the Limi Valley, Nepal, and this appeal remains open until the end of 2015.

Highly recommended as a record of a staggering and inspiring journey that most of us can appreciate but very few could accomplish.

Jim Barton

Club secretary: Dr Iain Allison
Club email address - sacsecretaryia@gmail.com
Web site: www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk

Please remember that the Club is active on both Facebook and Twitter

Minutes of the AGM held at Scotland's Hotel Pitlochry on Saturday 10th November, 2012 at 5.15 pm with Mike Lea, President, in the chair and 61 members present.

Apologies were received from Susan Aikens, Susie Allison, Douglas Anderson, Keith Billington, Nancy Campbell, Simon Courtauld, Sue & James Fenton, Dougal & Penny Goodman, Brigitte & Hans-Peter Grossmann, Evelyn McNicol, Dougal Ranford, Pat Sellar and Helen & Jim Thomson.

1. **Minutes of the AGM of 19th November 2011**, which had previously been circulated, held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, were proposed and accepted by those present.
2. **Matters arising:**

The History of the Club on the web-site has been brought up to date thanks to Sue Fenton.

The Club had sent a letter of condolence following the fatal polar bear attack on Horatio Chapple during a BSES expedition in 2011. The President read a statement from the BSES website to bring members up to date with the situation which still has not been concluded.
3. **The Annual Report**

The President spoke to his Report which was tabled. It detailed the talks at last year's Gathering, the successful Spring Meet at Attadale and the list of grants awarded for 2012. Of particular note was the improvement to the website (see item 9).
4. **Accounts for year to 31 August 2012**

The Income & Expenditure account was tabled. In the absence of the Treasurer, the President spoke briefly and noted that our financial position was healthy. The 2011/12 income and expenditure account showed a surplus of £442, with a balance of £7,622. The President thanked Helen Thomson for her work as Treasurer over the past four years.
5. **Membership Report**

The membership has increased slightly and, on 31st August 2012, stood at 158. There were 16 new members and 4 members had moved to the 'lapsed' category having not paid subscriptions for two years.
6. **Expedition Fund**

As the President mentioned in the Report, 8 grants were awarded for summer 2012. We had heard an excellent set of talks during the afternoon from some of the awardees (and many others). Members have been very generous and the Expedition Fund benefits from a number of sources. The Committee has allocated £2,000 again for grants to young expeditioners in 2013. Jean Balfour suggested that we try to gain charitable status for the Expedition Fund so that we could benefit from Gift Aid. Gavin Stewart noted that this would require a separate Constitution, Accounts and Trustees. He has looked at the level of donations and reckons that we could gain a further £400 p.a. in this way. Ray Woolmore noted that the Arctic Club is linked to the Gino Watkins Memorial Fund (with the University of Cambridge and the RGS as Trustees) and so gains charitable status in that way. John Peden suggested we try to link to the Gino Watkins Memorial Fund but this was felt not to be desirable as we are a Scottish club with different criteria. Gavin Stewart then suggested the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Chris Ravey noted that if we go this route then the examination of accounts may incur an additional expense. The President, in conclusion, proposed that the Committee investigate gaining charitable status for the Expedition Fund and this was passed *nem. con.* Chris Calver offered to start the investigation.
7. **Committee membership**

Those retiring from the Committee at this AGM are: Andrea Anderson, Chris Calver, Ronan Dugan and Stella Spratley and the President thanked them for their contributions to the smooth running of the club. A year ago Helen Thomson agreed to continue as Treasurer until a replacement was found. **Chris Calver** has volunteered and the Committee proposed him. The meeting accepted his nomination *nem. con.* A second Vice-President is required and **Anthony Walker**, a founder member of the club, was proposed by the Committee. This nomination was also approved by the meeting *nem. con.* John Peden remains as the other Vice-President, and President-in-waiting. The following were nominated for the Committee and approved *nem. con.*: **Chris Bartle**, **Ashley Buchan** and **David Shaw**.
8. **Expedition Reports and Database**

These are held in the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's Fair Maid's House in Perth. The RSGS has not made a decision on where they will be stored finally. Kathleen Cartwright has been compiling a catalogue of them. We need to look at a system for cataloguing which allows electronic searching and can be accessible via the website. Progress will be made soon. Duncan Winning suggested the use of Archivists' Toolkit, an open source resource for this purpose.
9. **Website**

The President thanked Louise Scott for her work on the website over the years and for continuing to fund it (until 2013) and Fraser Sutherland for taking on the task of keeping it up to date. Fraser

explained that Louise and her partner had converted the site to Wordpress, a free online web design package which was easy to use. Fraser now has control of the content – please send suggestions to him. Thanks to Fraser, the Club also now has a presence on Facebook and Twitter and news and links are posted onto these sites. John Peden commented that these have been most interesting. Chris Gilmore will contact today's speakers to seek permission to upload their presentations to the website.

10 Spring Meet

The report of the last Spring Meet from 5th to 12th May 2012 in Attadale, had appeared in the *Newsletter*. For 2013, the Club will return to Attadale from 11th - 18th May. A sign-up sheet will be displayed at Supper. The cost will be £20 per person per night and members are encouraged to book with Mike Lea as soon as possible.

11 Annual Gathering & Supper 2013

Next year's Annual Gathering and Supper will be at the **Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William**, on **Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November 2013**, as it was a very good venue in 2011.

12 Activity on Sunday 11th November 2012

Liz Patterson will organise a walk in the hills north of the town for anyone wishing to come. Meet at 10 am in the hotel foyer.

Glacier Books will be open from 9 am to 1 pm.

13 AOB

There was no other business

The AGM ended at 5.45 pm. 87 members and guests sat down to supper at 8.30 pm.