



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - October 2014

*President: John Peden,
Vice Presidents: Douglas Anderson and Anthony Walker
Secretary: Iain Allison, Treasurer: Chris Calver,
Committee members: Chris Bartle, Ashley Buchan, Jenny Newall,
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 2014-2015

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

14th to 16th November 2013
The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
Phone number 01397 702331.
salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com

The Gathering and Supper will be held on Saturday 15th 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 14th and Saturday 15th November is £37 per person per night sharing a twin/double room. For bed and breakfast only on Friday night the price is £32 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 £20 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

A note about the booking form

If you are in the UK and have a sterling bank account, we prefer that you pay by cheque. If you have to pay by bank transfer, please email the secretary. If you do not have a sterling account, we will be happy to accept cash at the Gathering.

If you are NOT attending the gathering, please pay your subscription of £5 (plus any donation to the Expedition fund you may wish to give) by cheque to the secretary prior to the 15th November.

If you are attending the Gathering, then please pay your £5 subscription (plus any donation to the Expedition fund you may wish to give) and your £10 for the Gathering by cheque to the secretary as soon as is convenient. The cost of the Supper is included in the dinner, bed and breakfast payable to the hotel. If you are not staying in the hotel please add £20 to your cheque to cover the meal.

Cheques are payable to "Scottish Arctic Club".

If you have retained the plastic badge holder from last year, please bring it with you, thanks.

Annual General Meeting

Agenda for the AGM to be held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
on Saturday 15th November, 2014 at 5.00 pm

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the AGM of 16 November 2013 (previously circulated, but also copied below)
2. Matters arising
3. The Annual Report & Accounts for year to 31 August 2014
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 2015
10. Annual Supper 2015 - venue, date
11. Activities on Sunday 16th November 2014
12. Any other business

Committee Members

The Committee members due to stand down at the AGM are Iain Allison and Fraser Sutherland. Fraser has been very ably looking after the website so we are looking for someone to take over that role. Iain wishes to stand down. Volunteers for these positions on the committee should contact the President John Peden prior to the AGM

Displays at the Gathering

We have display boards and would encourage members to share their maps, photographs, paintings or any other items for display. It's an opportunity to blow the dust off the albums and select a few photographs from past expeditions. As usual Glacier Books will have on display, and for sale, a selection for Arctic books from their extensive collection.

Svalbard Polar Bear Tragedy 2011

Svalbard Inquest

The Coroner's Inquest into the tragic death of Horatio Chapple, on the 2011 Svalbard expedition organised by the British Exploring Society (BES) took place between July 7th-11th in the Salisbury Coroner's Court. The report commissioned by BES from Sir David Steel, a retired high court judge, which followed the independent inquiry he carried out, appeared on the BES website on the morning of the 7th. The inquest was widely reported in the press on a daily basis.

The Society was cleared of neglect over its responsibility to protect Eton schoolboy Horatio Chapple, despite the fact the group was missing items of equipment, including parts of the tripwire alert system.

The society's web address is: www.britishexploring.org, but the secretary has not been able to find details of the outcome on their web site.

Finding Franklin

Since the report in the last newsletter about Franklin's expedition, news has come in of the discovery of one of his ships, either HMS Terror or HMS Erebus. On September 9th, The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, announced the news: "I am delighted to announce that this year's Victoria Strait Expedition has solved one of Canada's greatest mysteries, with the discovery of one of the two ships belonging to the Franklin Expedition lost in 1846." A Parks Canada expedition with underwater archaeologists found the wreck south of the Victoria Strait.

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/culture/franklin/index.aspx>

The (other) Arctic Club

Kathleen Cartwright has been proposed as president of The Arctic Club for 2015. Their annual dinner for 2015 will be in Edinburgh in December 2015. Kathleen would like to support the current president, John McGregor, in his drive to reverse the trend of dwindling membership. She has told him about the SAC and the youngsters encouraged by our grants and the support the Club gives to young people.

As is the custom, all members of the SAC will be able to attend the Edinburgh Dinner. More details in due course. Something to look forward to!

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

**SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the AGM held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Saturday 16th November 2013 at 5.45 pm with Mike Lea, President, in the chair and 55 members present

Apologies were received from: Susan Aikens, Douglas Anderson, Robert Burton, George Downie, James, Sue and Mairi Fenton, Brigitte and Hans-Peter Grossman, Robin Lloyd-Jones, Allan and Evelyn McNicol, Donald MacRae, Craig Mathieson, Ruaraidh O'Brien, Rod Pashley, Chris Ravey, Louise Scott, Jean and Sheena Stenico, John and Claire Thorogood, Anthony and Janet Walker

1. **Minutes of the AGM of 10th November 2012**, which had previously been circulated, held at Scotland's Hotel, Pitlochry, were proposed as an accurate record by John Peden, seconded by Jean Balfour and accepted by those present.

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 The report by BSES (now BES) into the fatal polar bear attack in Svalbard in 2011 has still not been made public as the inquest into the death of Horatio Chapple has yet to start.

3. **Annual Report and Accounts**

Mike Lea spoke to his report which had previously been circulated and copies tabled. He noted the eleven presentations of a high standard which made for a successful Gathering in 2012. The Spring meeting again at Attadale was a success with 21 members and guests staying for varying lengths of time during the week. He will pass round a sign-up sheet for Attadale 2014 later. In 2013, fourteen awards were made from the Expedition Fund for the BES expedition to Finnmark and for other expeditions and research projects in the Arctic. The Accounts were tabled and Chris Calver, treasurer, spoke to these going through the income and expenditure items. The President thanked the treasurer for his accounts made under trying circumstances since he only gained access to the account a month ago following the change in treasurer a year ago. The President proposed these as an accurate record of the Club's finances, this was seconded by Douglas Peacock and approved by the meeting.

4. **Secretaries Report**

Iain Allison spoke to his report which had been circulated previously. The membership had increased slightly and stood at 163 at the start of this session. Three Newsletters were distributed with the majority by email. Social media served a valuable service in alerting members to items of topical interest.

5. **Expedition Fund**

Mike Lea noted that at the previous AGM, the Club had asked the Committee to look into the possibility of gaining charitable status for the Expedition Fund to take advantage of Gift Aid. Chris Calver, as treasurer, had agreed to take matters further and he spoke about his researches. He had looked at how the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator worked and at its English equivalent and noted that many charities are losing their status. To be a charity, the Club requires to offer a clear public benefit which at the moment is just our website. As noted in the previous minutes if only the Expedition Fund were to be the charitable entity we would need a separate trust, trustees and constitution or be closely linked to another charitable body. Not all income whether as fees or donations is eligible for Gift Aid. So, in conclusion the treasurer noted that we had a sustainable method of raising about £3000 each year for the Expedition Fund and the Club would be unlikely to be able to register the Fund as a charity. Although there would be only a small financial gain from Gift Aid at present, the situation may be different for a single significant donation. Discussion from the floor stressed that if we could link with another charity, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) was mentioned, we must remain firmly in control of how the fund is disbursed. Further discussion noted our very flexible criteria for awarding grants which then led to a very interesting programme of talks. In conclusion, the meeting agreed, *nem. con.*, to continue with the status quo.

6. **Expedition Reports and Database**

The President invited Kathleen Cartwright to address the meeting as she has been the contact between the Club and RSGS. Kathleen noted that our expedition reports and Angus Erskine's library now reside in Fair Maid's House in Perth. Although Club volunteers were planning to compile a list of our past reports, the RSGS is currently in the process of doing just that using their own volunteers who work once a week. When completed, they will all be accessible online. There was a query about copyright should a member request a copy of a report and Kathleen advised to contact

the RSGS. Kathleen further remarked that in the agreement drawn up by Peter Mackay at the time of the transfer of our library it was stated that the collection would remain separate. A member asked about future additions to the library and was referred to Kathleen.

7 **Website**

Fraser Sutherland commented on his report previously circulated. Louise Scott's funding of the website runs till September 2014 and it will be reviewed then. Fraser commented on the use of Facebook and Twitter to inform members of items of interest in the months between newsletters. There being no questions, the President thanked Fraser for his work in bringing the website up to date.

8 **Committee**

The President, Mike Lea, Vice President, John Peden, Secretary, Iain Allison and committee member, Chris Gilmore are all due to retire from the committee at this AGM. Mike Lea proposed John Peden for the post of President. There being no further nominations, John Peden was duly elected, *nem. con.* Douglas Anderson was proposed by the committee for the post of Vice President and there being no further nominations was duly elected, *nem. con.* No nominations for the post of secretary were forthcoming so Iain Allison agreed to serve one further year (followed by applause) so that President and Secretary did not change at the same time. The committee proposed Jenny Newall for the committee and, again, there being no other nominations, was duly elected, *nem con.*

9 **Spring Meet**

The venue at Attadale has proved to be so popular that it was booked again for 2014; the dates being Saturday 10th to 17th May. Nineteen places are available for 1 to 7 nights and there are normally two communal meals during the week. A sign-up sheet will be circulated later in the evening.

10 **Annual Gathering and Supper 2014**

The President proposed that the Club consider 3 venues, this one, the Ben Nevis Hotel, in Fort William, the Salutation Hotel in Perth and the Royal Hotel in Oban, all part of the Strathmore Hotels Group. There was a lively discussion of the pros and cons of each. Points raised include: the poor parking available in Oban and Perth and the need for some members to drive rather than use public transport which may not exist for some or in order to bring equipment; the excellent facilities in the Ben Nevis Hotel where we have a room separate from the dining room and also plentiful parking; other hotels in both Oban and Perth may also be suitable. The consensus was to book the Ben Nevis Hotel again for November 2014 for a suitable weekend in the first half of the month. It was further noted from the floor that some clubs are now booking their annual meetings two years in advance.

11 **Sunday morning walk**

Liz Patterson will lead a short walk to Steall Falls leaving at 10 am. Members wishing to go should meet in the foyer.

12 **Any other business**

1. William Stanley Bryce (Stan) Paterson: Iain Smart wished to inform the meeting of the recent death of Stan Paterson a Scottish glaciologist who spent most of his working life in Canada so, although a founding member of the Club, seldom was able to come to meetings. It was he who donated the Club's maps of Greenland and Iain suggested that the Club purchases complementary maps of northern Russia and Canada in his memory. His influential book, *The Physics of Glaciers*, has been in print continuously since 1969 and is now in its 4th edition. [Note, the Secretary has long had a copy of the 2nd edition]. It was noted that his wife is a cousin of Brian Duchart and that he wrote an autobiography of his time in South Georgia with Duncan Carse.

2. A round of applause marked the announcement that Myrtle Simpson had received the Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture at the 2013 Fort William Mountain Film Festival. See: <http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk/mountain-award/2013-myrtle-simpson/>

3. Chris Calver advertised a talk at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, by Ms Frigga Kruse, an archaeology/geology graduate of the University of Glasgow, on her PhD research on Historical British mining in Spitsbergen.

4. John Peden proposed a vote of thanks to President, Mike Lea, for guiding the Club over the past 3 years.

The meeting closed at 6.45 and 88 members and guests sat down to dinner at 7.30 pm

Scottish Arctic Club
Treasurer's Report for the AGM, 16 November 2013
 31 August 2012 – 31 August 2013

Balance at bank 31/8/12	£7227	
Balance at bank 31/8/13	£7023	
Reduction in balance	<u>£204</u>	
Income 2012/13		£
Subscriptions	595	
Gathering fees	780	
Raffle		357
Book sale		180
Print Auction	150	
Whisky Draw		60
Donations to Expedition Fund	900	
Attadale Meet 2012	100	
Attadale Meet 2013	<u>2236</u>	
Total Income		<u>£5358</u>
Expenditure 2012/13		£
Office expenses	12	
Gathering		402
Attadale Meet 2013	1832	
Attadale Meet 2014 Deposit	496	
Expedition Grants	<u>2820</u>	
Total Expenditure		<u>£5562</u>
Deficit 2012/13		<u>£204</u>

Chris Calver, Treasurer