



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - October 2015

*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 2015-2016

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

21st November 2015

The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William

Phone number 01397 702331.

salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com

The Gathering and Supper will be held on Saturday 21st 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 and mention the Scottish Arctic Club when booking.

Accommodation and Supper Costs for Hotel Residents: The cost of Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for both Friday 20th and Saturday 21st November is £38 per person per night sharing a twin/double room. For bed and breakfast only on Friday night the price is £33 per person sharing a twin/double room. For singles there is an additional single 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.

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 21st 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.

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.

Annual General Meeting

Agenda for the AGM to be held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
on Saturday 21st November, 2015 at 5.00 pm

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the AGM of 15 November 2014 (previously circulated, but also copied below)
2. Matters arising
3. The Annual Report & Accounts for year to 31 August 2015
4. Membership Report
5. Expedition Fund
6. Expedition Reports and Database.
7. SAC Web-site
8. Charitable status for the Expedition Fund: progress report
9. William Spiers Bruce and Scottish Polar Medals: a proposal
10. Election of new committee members
11. Spring meet - Attadale, May 2016
12. Annual Supper 2016 - venue, date
13. Activities on Sunday 22nd November 2015
14. Any other business

Committee Members

The Committee members due to stand down at the AGM are Iain Allison (Secretary), Chris Calver (Treasurer), Anthony Walker (Vice President), Chris Bartle, Ashley Buchan and David Shaw. Volunteers for these positions on the committee should contact the President John Peden prior to the AGM.

The Arctic Club

Kathleen Cartwright, President of The Arctic Club, invites all members to attend their annual dinner in Edinburgh on Saturday 12th December 2015. More details will be sent to you early in November. Something to look forward to!

A writer in Ilulissat Kunstmuseum



Nancy Campbell spent two months this summer in Ilulissat and funded her visit through a kickstarter campaign which we advertised to members. Here is her report:

The landscapes of Greenland have formed the focus of my work since I was Writer in Residence at Upernavik Museum in winter 2010, so I was delighted to be invited to return to Greenland last summer, to complete a similar residency at Ilulissat Kunstmuseum – a great opportunity to deepen my understanding of the region.

Ole Gamst-Pedersen, Director of the museum, and his wife Thrine, made me very welcome in Ilulissat, and helped my research in every way. Ilulissat Kunstmuseum holds a major collection of oil paintings of the Greenlandic landscape by the Danish artist Emanuel A. Petersen, as well as works by many contemporary artists. The museum is open only a few hours each day, and for the rest of the time I had the impressive (if somewhat weatherworn) former governor's house to myself; it was a great pleasure in the afternoons to take a coffee break and sit on the wooden steps looking out over Ilulissat's busy harbour. In my leisure time, I was able to explore the hills, which had been hidden under snow on my previous visit.

I broke my journey in Nuuk where I gave presentations on my work to the Groenlandica Collection at the National Library of Greenland and to a local artist group. It was interesting to meet the new director of the Nuuk Kunstmuseum, Nivi Christensen (formerly of the Greenlandic House in Copenhagen), who has great plans for the institution. I can certainly recommend a visit.

During my travels I met many remarkable people who showed me great kindness and hospitality. Especial thanks go out to all the supporters of my Kickstarter campaign, who generously covered the travel costs for this residency.

Some of the work from my residency in Ilulissat can be read in Disko Bay, published in December:
http://www.enitharmon.co.uk/pages/store/products/ec_view.asp?PID=728

Spring meeting - Attadale

The dates for the Attadale meeting for 2016 will be 7th – 14th May. A list will be passed round at Supper but if anyone is interested they can contact Kathleen Cartwright at any time.

Polar Medal

As reported in the previous newsletter, Iain Smart, one of the Club's founder members, was awarded a Polar Medal and this he has now received. Following this honour and citing a cause dear to his heart, Iain has written:

As you all know the Scotia Expedition of 1902-05 to the Antarctic was organised and led by William Speirs Bruce.

For rather ignoble reasons the scientists and crew were denied the Polar Medal. I am told a recent attempt to have the medal awarded retrospectively went as far as Cabinet level but was denied to avoid establishing a precedent.

I was wondering if we could remedy this situation by arranging for Scottish recipients of the polar medal to dedicate their medals to members of the Scotia Expedition.

I have asked the RSGS if they would accept and display a cabinet with the names of expedition members each with a donated medal hung below each name. They responded positively.

We are unlikely to get 25 medals but maybe half a dozen in the first instance.

I have discussed this with a few people who have responded favourably. We could probably initially get half a dozen medals as starters.

I would willingly pay for the display cabinet but the project would benefit from wider publicity.

Yours sincerely
Iain

You will note from the agenda above that we propose to discuss this at the AGM

NE Greenland in 2016?

Ulf Peterson, who is very well known for his field observations on the wolves in North-East Greenland (now sadly in decline), is planning a trip to Hvalrosodden in the summer of 2016. His last expedition to NE Greenland was in 2014, to Hold-with-Hope. Ulf writes:

"I just wanted to let you know, that I am looking for an expedition partner for a trip to Germania Land at 77°N in northern East Greenland, July - August 2016. The plan is to be based at Hvalrosodden - a hunting station built in 1919 and in excellent shape - and explore an area next to the Greenland Ice Cap very rarely visited by people. The cost is unknown at this time, but expected to be high, primarily for Twin Otter transportation, insurance, and permits.

Feel free to forward this email to others who might be interested, have funds to pay for their share of the expenses, and are qualified for an expedition to such a remote area.

There are many things of interest in this area: A fine station at Hvalrosodden for comfortable lodging, ruins of old stations like the Mørkefjord station, walrus, polar bears, and icebergs in Dove Bay, a modern and functional weatherstation (Danmarkshavn), and areas along the Greenland Ice Cap itself rarely, if ever, explored by people in modern times. Who knows what we might find there.....a wolf could still show up from North Greenland."

If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact Ulf on ulf.petersen@live.com

In passing

The Club was notified of the death of Edna Stewart who died in early August. She had been a member for 15 years.

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



**SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the AGM held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Saturday 15th November 2014 at 5.00 pm with John Peden, President, in the chair and 67 members present

Apologies were received from: Susan Aikens, Norma & Sandy Anderson, Richard Bott, Matthew Burke, Joseph Cook, John Darlow, Adam Davies, Laura Duncan, James, Sue and Mairi Fenton, Jordan Grigor, Alfie Ingram, Ulla Kristensen, Alistair McGowan, Duncan Mackay, Peter Mikkelsen, Louise Scott, Peter Talbot, John and Claire Thorogood, Michael Thorogood, Alistair Walker, Colin Williams and Duncan Winning.

In welcoming members to the AGM, the President stated that his intention is to slim down the bureaucracy of the Club and have a shorter and less formal AGM

1. **Minutes of the AGM of 16th November 2013**, which had previously been circulated, held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, were proposed as an accurate record by John Peden and accepted by those present.
2. **Matters arising**
 - 2.1 The report by the coroner into the fatal polar bear attack in Svalbard in 2011 was published a few months ago and it concluded that no one was to blame for the fatality of Horatio Chapple; the same conclusion that the Norwegian Police came to. At the time, some members thought we should apply greater scrutiny to applications for grants but the committee has concluded that we are not competent to do so and it would be invidious of us so we shall apply our stated criteria only to all applications.
3. **Annual Report and Accounts**

John Peden spoke to his report which was tabled. He noted that eleven people were awarded grants totalling £3200 for this year. The Spring meeting was held once again at Attadale and the President thanked Kathleen Cartwright for continuing to organise the meeting. This year we investigated changing the venue to Doune in Knoydart but it was concluded that it did not offer the same opportunities for members and the conclusion was to return to Attadale. He suggested that others in the club might investigate different venues which might attract a different section of the membership. The President invited the secretary to comment on the membership. It remains stable at 166 members and the report is attached with these minutes. The President commented on the demographics of the membership and thought that we need to be more visible to those in the 20s, 30s and 40s who continue to visit the Arctic as many of the older club members no longer go north. The Accounts were projected and Chris Calver, treasurer, spoke to these, going through the income and expenditure items. The President thanked the treasurer for his accounts; the club made a surplus of £843 over the year and currently has some £7300 in the bank. The President proposed these as an accurate record of the Club's finances and they were approved by the meeting. The committee had met once during the year, as is normal.
4. **Membership Report**

Iain Allison spoke about membership numbers during the President's report above.
5. **Expedition Fund**

The committee discussed the way funds were allocated and decided that the donations in this session, 2014-15, be used to fund awards in February 2016. We will therefore know in advance the sum to be allocated. Although the Expedition Fund monies will not be in a separate account they will be so identified in the accounts.

The President revisited the status of the Expedition Fund in relation to the most tax-efficient way of donating to it. The Club ceased to be a charity when our library moved to the Royal Scottish

Geographical Society for safe-keeping at a time when the rules of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator were becoming more strict. Although, at the last AGM, we made the decision not to seek charity status for the Club, we will investigate how the Expedition Fund can be a charitable entity within the Club operated by trustees appointed by the Club to support the granting of awards to young people. This is a work in progress and progress will be reported through the newsletters. In relation to this, Mike Lea, past president, noted the situation with the Arctic Club whose expedition fund is managed by the charitable body the Gino Watkins trust. John Hay noted that as a stand-alone trust with trustees appointed by the club, these trustees have to be independent of the Club. The trust may be set up with guiding principles. In a more sombre comment, Andrea Anderson stated that members can leave a donation in their wills to a "charitable organisation set up by the Scottish Arctic Club."

6 Expedition Reports and Database

The President suggested that it would be good for the membership to be kept informed about members' current activities in the Arctic and noted the excellent report we received recently from John Thorogood about his two-man expedition to East Greenland this summer. Members may wish to contact the secretary with reports which can be circulated in the newsletters.

7 Website

Fraser Sutherland has not been in touch regarding the usage of the website.

8 Committee

Fraser Sutherland demits office at this AGM and the President thanked him for his work on the website especially as he took over when it was changed to new software and for his work in promoting the Club on social media sites, Facebook and Twitter. A volunteer to replace Fraser is Susie Ranford and she was elected *nem. con.* Iain Allison also stands down but no volunteers for the role of secretary were forthcoming. We have two volunteers to look after the social media aspects of the club, Matthew Burke, who was awarded a grant this year but was attending an event at the RGS in London this weekend, and Cameron Mackay who also was awarded a grant and who is present. The meeting agreed to co-opt Cameron onto the committee for one year.

9 Spring Meet

The venue at Attadale has proved to be so popular that it was booked again for 2015; the dates being Saturday 16th to 23rd May. A sign-up sheet will be circulated later in the evening or contact Kathleen.

10 Annual Gathering and Supper 2014

The President proposed that the Club return to this venue, the Ben Nevis Hotel, in November 2015. A number of members spoke in favour of the Ben Nevis Hotel and the secretary had received only one comment that other venues were easier to get to from abroad. However, this was denied by other foreign members. It was agreed that we should book the Ben Nevis Hotel for the weekend of 20/21 November 2015 (Gathering on Saturday 21st), or failing that weekend, the 7/8 November. 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 from Fassfern, on Loch Eil-side into Glen Loy, a circular route of some 6 km, leaving at 10 am. Members wishing to go should meet in the foyer.

12 Any other business

1. The President noted that there have been no volunteers to take on the role of secretary and urged members to consider contributing to the running of the club.
2. Iain Smart mentioned the maps of Greenland which Stan Paterson had donated to the Club. Chris Calver said that the complementary maps around the rest of the Arctic will be purchased.
3. The President noted that the subscription of £5 had not increased for many years. However, the bank balance is healthy and there is no need to raise it. Members wishing to give more are encouraged to give donations to the Expedition Fund.
4. The President congratulated Kathleen Cartwright on her election as President of the Arctic Club for 2015. A members commented that the "other" club had at last seen the light! It was noted that their annual dinner will be held in Edinburgh in December 2015 and all members of the Club are invited to attend.

5. The President congratulated founder member, Phil Gribbon, on receiving the Polar Medal from the Queen at Holyrood in the summer

The meeting closed at 6.00 and 88 members and guests sat down to the Supper 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