



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - October 2016

*President: John Peden,
Vice Presidents: Douglas Anderson and John Thorogood
Secretary: Iain Allison, Treasurer: Chris Calver,
Committee members: Matthew Burke, Chris Gilmore, Cameron Mackay,
Jenny Newall, Susie Ranford*

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.

Expedition Fund achieves charity status

The Committee is pleased to report that on the 22nd September, the Club achieved charity status for the expedition fund. It is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with the registered name of Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund and charity number SC046857.

The Trustees of the Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund are:

Iain Allison, Douglas Anderson, Ashley Buchan, Chris Calver, Kathleen Cartwright, Sue Fenton, Mike Lea and John Peden. John, Chris and Iain are *ex officio* and are chair, treasurer and secretary, respectively. It is anticipated that they will meet for the first time on the morning of the Gathering.

As a consequence the Club may now reclaim tax on donations through the Gift Aid scheme and a Gift Aid declaration form is included with this newsletter.

Annual Membership for 2016-2017

The subscription year runs from **1st September to 31st August**. All members should pay their subscriptions, still at the bargain cost of £5, to the SAC using the booking & subscription form attached to this newsletter whether you are attending the Gathering or not.

47th Annual Gathering and Supper

Saturday 19th November 2016

The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William

Phone number 01397 702331.

salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com

The Gathering and Supper will be held on Saturday 19th 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 18th and Saturday 19th November is £39 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 single rooms there is an additional supplement of £12 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 these costs should be paid directly to the hotel.

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. However, we do now offer payment by bank transfer straight into the Club's account. Our bank details are:

Bank: Bank of Scotland, Coupar Angus Branch
Address: Union Street, Coupar Angus PH13 9AE
Sort code: 80-06-18
Account number: 00835858
Reference: Please use your name as reference

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, your membership will not lapse after 2 years as is normal; instead it will continue in anticipation of attendance in the future and payment of arrears.

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, or bank transfer, prior to the 12th 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 and no later than 12th November. 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".

Displays at the Gathering

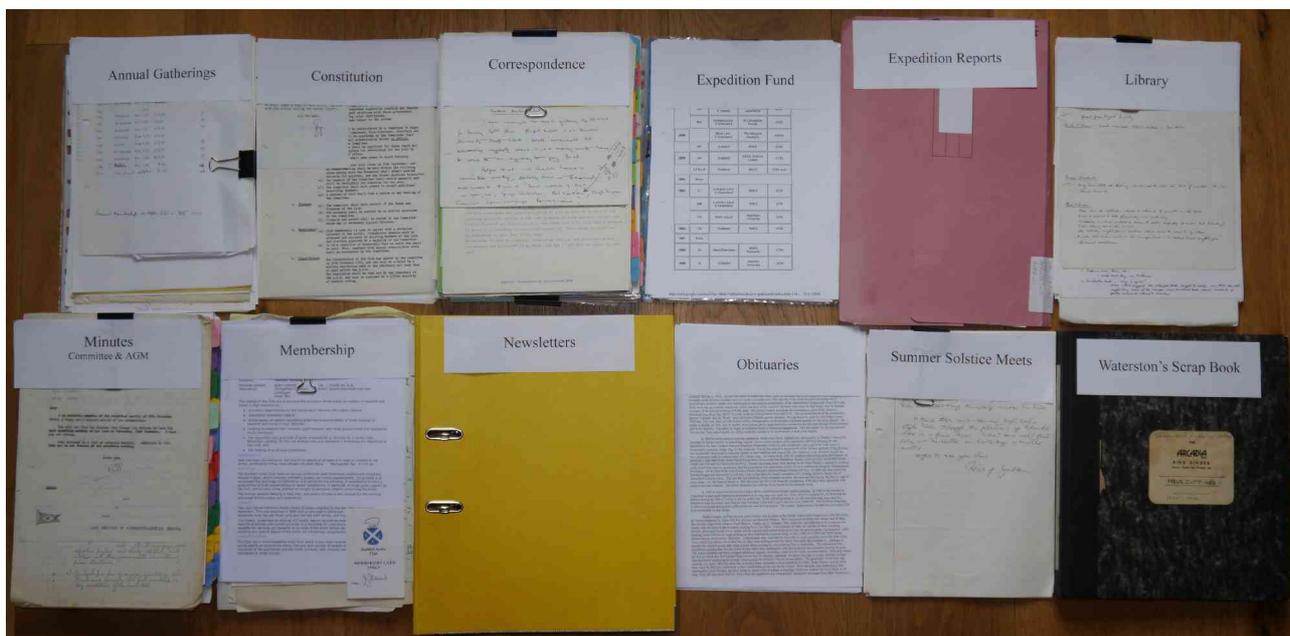
We have display boards and would encourage members to share their maps, photographs, paintings or any other items for display. It's an opportunity to blow the dust off the albums and select a few photographs from past expeditions. Unfortunately, there will be no bookshop by Glacier Books this year.

Spring Meeting at Attadale

Once again the Spring Meeting will be held at Attadale which proves a popular venue for walkers and kayakers in the Club. The dates are 13th-20th May 2017. Members who are interested in attending for a few days or the whole week are asked to make a provisional booking with Kathleen Cartwright (arcturus@btinternet.com) or contact her for further information.

Archives

The Club's archives, shown below, were delivered to the University of Dundee in early September and will shortly be available for perusal by any member wishing to do so. The most important papers are the Minutes of the Committee Meetings and Annual General Meetings. In addition the papers are organised into themes; the Annual Gathering and Supper, Constitution, Correspondence, Expedition Fund and Reports, Library, Membership, Newsletters, Obituaries, Supper Solstice walks, and a scrap book by Irene Waterston.



From the archives

From the first Supper up to the Supper last year, there have been 500 members, past and present, in attendance plus an additional 120 people as guests of members.

Committee Members

The Committee members due to stand down at the AGM are John Peden (President) Iain Allison (Secretary), Chris Calver (Treasurer), Douglas Anderson (Vice President), Jenny Newall. The committee has nominated Douglas Anderson as President and Ashley Buchan as Secretary. Chris Calver is willing to stand again for the role of Treasurer. There are therefore vacancies for a Vice-President and a committee member. Nominations or volunteers for these posts should contact John Peden prior to the AGM.

Raffle at the Gathering

As usual we shall be holding a raffle in support of the Expedition Fund. Please consider bringing an item to include in the raffle.

33rd Annual General Meeting

Agenda for the AGM to be held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William
on Saturday 19th November, 2016 at 5.00 pm

Apologies for absence

1. Minutes of the AGM of 21 November 2015 (previously circulated, but also copied below)
2. Matters arising
3. The Annual Report & Accounts for year to 31 August 2015
4. Membership Report
5. Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund
6. SAC Web-site
7. Social Media
8. Election of new committee members
9. Spring meet - Attadale, May 2017
10. Annual Supper 2017 - venue, date
11. Activities on Sunday 20th November 2016
14. Any other business

Advance Notice: Iceman Polar Challenge 2017

Inaugurated last year, this backcountry ski race is an endurance challenge set among the magnificent scenery of Liverpool Land in East Greenland. The event takes place on 12-19 April 2017 and full details are at: www.icemanpolar.com

Arctic Circle Assembly

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is to give a speech on climate change at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland. About 2,000 delegates from 50 countries are expected to attend the conference in Reykjavik, which is concerned with the development and protection of the Arctic region.

Other speakers include United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Secretary: Dr Iain Allison

Club email address - sacsecretaryia@gmail.com

Web site: www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk

**Club's official postal address: c/o Royal Scottish Geographical Society,
Lord John Murray House, 15-19 North Port, Perth PH1 5LU**

Please remember that the Club is active on both Facebook and Twitter and the Club has had its first member citing Facebook as the place where she found out about the Club



**SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the AGM held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Saturday 21st November 2015 at 5.00 pm with John Peden, President, in the chair and 64 members present

Apologies were received from: Susan Aikens, Joseph Cook, John Darlow, Kirsty Drummond, Penny & Dougal Goodman, Sandra & Jim Gregson, Brigitte & Hans-Peter Grossmann, Geoffrey Halliday, Elspeth Hamilton, Lynn & Graham Harker, Cameron Mackay, Jenny Newall, Rod Pashley, Peter Pearson, Mandy Peden, Pat Sellar, Victoria Slaymark, Iain & Margaret Smart, Jinty Smart, Averil & Gavin Stewart, Michael Thorogood, Paul Walker, Noel Williams, Angela & Heiko Wolle, Ray Woolmore.

The President welcomed members to the AGM and stated that although his intention is to have a shorter and less formal AGM there were a number of items for which it is important to hear the views of members.

1. **Minutes of the AGM of 15th November 2014**, which had previously been circulated, held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, were proposed as an accurate record by Iain Roy and seconded by Mike Lea.

2. **Matters arising**

Maps of Greenland: We were to acquire complementary maps of the whole Arctic area to complete the coverage started with the Stan Paterson's maps of Greenland. The committee has failed to source maps in the US Air Force navigation series and the existing maps are becoming fragile and, in some areas, there is little space to record recent expeditions. It was agreed that the committee would purchase a new complete set covering all Arctic areas and the existing ones would be 'retired' but will be on display at the annual Gatherings.

3. **Annual Report and Accounts**

John Peden summarised activities over the past year. He noted that 88 people attended the Supper here in the Ben Nevis Hotel. The University of Dundee has agreed to house the Club's archives. This is appropriate as the Club started in Dundee in 1969 where Iain Smart, one of the four founders, was employed by the University of Dundee. The president was very pleased to announce that Iain Smart had received a Polar Medal and the meeting sent their heartiest congratulations to Iain on receiving this honour. He noted that fourteen people were awarded grants totalling £2650 for this year. Twenty applications were received and in anticipation of these numbers continuing, the committee has agreed to refine the criteria for the awards so we can focus our support on those applications that we deem the most appropriate. The committee prefers to award significant grants to a few rather than small grants to the majority who apply. Organisations, such as the British Exploring Society and certain schools, which give youths their first Arctic experience will continue to be supported. The Spring meeting was held once again at Attadale and the President thanked Kathleen Cartwright for continuing to organise the meeting. It makes a significant contribution to the Expedition Fund each year. In closing, the President thanked

Chris Gilmore for organising the talks, once again, providing the equipment and introducing the speakers and keeping them to time. Regarding the administration of the Club, the committee met once, this morning, which was a departure from recent years when the single committee meeting was held about 4 weeks before the Gathering.

Treasurer's report

Chris Calver reported on the Club's accounts and stated that we had made a small surplus over the year. The details are attached to these minutes. The balance at 31 August 2015 was just over £7000. Approval of the accounts was invited by the President; Douglas Peacock proposed acceptance and Kathleen Cartwright seconded it.

4. Membership Report

Iain Allison reported that the membership remains stable at 164 members, a reduction of 2 over last session. The detailed report is attached with these minutes

5. Expedition Fund

The secretary reported that 14 grants were awarded totalling £2650. Details will be attached to these minutes.

6. Expedition Reports and Database

The President reiterated that it would be good for the membership to be kept informed about members' current activities in the Arctic. Members may wish to contact the secretary with reports which can be circulated in the newsletters and may also be accessed on the Club's website. In addition, notification of new reports can be publicised via the Club's Facebook and Twitter pages.

7. Website

The website is in the process of being transferred into the Club's name with the RSGS as the registered address.

8. Charitable status for the Expedition Fund

The President reported that the Club had made progress over the year towards the Expedition Fund being registered as a charity. A draft constitution has been prepared and will soon be finalised for submission to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator.

9. Iain Smart's Proposal re. William Speirs Bruce's Scotia expedition

The Club has received a proposal from Iain Smart to donate his recently awarded Polar Medal in memory of the Scotia Expedition in the hope that others so minded would contribute theirs to a display commemorating William Speirs Bruce and his crew on the Scotia. The president gave some background about Iain Smart who some, especially younger, members may not know well. He was one of the 4 people who founded the Club in 1969. He feels strongly that the Bruce expedition was unfairly treated in being denied Polar Medals. Iain has spoken to a number of those who have received Polar Medals and to both the RSGS and National Library of Scotland as places where such a memorial may be displayed. Iain wishes the Club to endorse the project and drive it on his behalf.

The President opened the discussion to the floor. It was suggested that there may be a protocol since the medal is a gift from the Queen although the medal itself is just the symbol of the honour. Some thought that his approach to other medallists might seem aggressive but one who had been approached assured the meeting that that was not at all the case and there was no sense of compulsion to join his project. It was noted that Dundee, the University, the Discovery Centre and the new V&A museum, are expanding their polar collections and a new exhibition about the Scotia would be relevant whether that included Iain's project or not. Some spoke of the danger of getting involved in what may be seen as a political statement. In summary, the meeting was nervous about the Club being involved and asked the President to report back to Iain Smart as tactfully as possible.

10. Committee

Those demitting office today are: Iain Allison, secretary, Chris Calver, treasurer, Chris Bartle, Ashley Buchan, David Shaw and Anthony Walker, vice president. The President thanked them for their service to the club over the past three years. The secretary and treasurer may be re-elected and both are willing to stand. The President asked for nominations from the floor with no response. Nominations from the committee are: John Thorogood as vice-president, Matthew Burke, Chris Gilmore and Cameron Mackay as ordinary committee members. All six were duly elected.

11. Spring Meet

The president thanked Kathleen Cartwright for organising the Attadale week once again and also for the large donation to the Expedition Fund which accrues from it. Attadale has proved to be so popular that it was booked again for 2016; the dates being Saturday 7th -14th May. A sign-up sheet will be circulated later in the evening. The President noted that this event start with Hugh & Myrtle Simpson's mid-summer walk and he hoped than another event such as a walk could be organised for summertime. He expanded this thought by suggesting that if anyone wants to organise an event at any time of year to which other Club members are welcome then they should contact the secretary who can publicise it to the membership.

12. Annual Gathering and Supper 2016

The secretary noted that Iain and Margaret Smart were absent this weekend along with other early members such as the Simpsons. The Club could perhaps investigate venues further east so that notable members could attend without have to stay away from home overnight. A number of places were mentioned – New Lanark, Perth and Dundee. The meeting was clear that the Club should not return to the hotel previously used in Perth and a resident in Dundee spoke out against Dundee, the cradle of the Club. The President then proposed that the Club return to this venue, the Ben Nevis Hotel, in November 2016.

13. Sunday morning walk

Liz Patterson agreed to lead a short walk from Sunday morning, leaving at 10 am. Members wishing to go should meet in the foyer. She suggested the falls at Inchree.

14. Any other business

There being no other business the President thanked the members for their attention and contributions. The meeting closed at 6.05 and 81 members and guests sat down to the Supper at 7.30 pm.