

Perth & District Hillwalking Club
Monthly Bulletin February 2017

April 2017 Monthly Walks Reminder on Sunday 2nd

This is a combined coach outing to Glenshee, leaving Perth at **07.00**. Two Challenging walks are planned, on the east side of Glenshee. Two Moderate walks are planned, on Mount Blair, and the CATERAN TRAIL.

Bookings to Elsie Wilke by Thursday 23rd March please.

2017 Club AGM & Committee for 2017 – 2018

The AGM will be on **Friday 10th March 2017, at CRAIGIE HILL GOLF CLUB. (7.30pm)**

Please make an effort to attend this important event, and have your say concerning the future direction of the club. Also there is still a vacancy on the committee, and if you would like to assist with the running of the club, please let George know.

Copies of the Agenda; Annual Accounts; Minutes from the 2016 AGM, will all be sent out by e-mail next week. Copies will also be available at the AGM.

May Weekend Meet on 12th, 13th, 14th

We have booked places at the Bearnock Country Centre Hostel, near Cannich. We had very poor weather when we went in 2015, so hopefully it will be better this year. There's certainly loads to do within easy reach of Bearnock! Bookings to Margaret Band please.

Please note the closing date is 10th April!

Membership Renewal – It Soon Comes Round!

Subscriptions were due at the end of February. An application form can be downloaded from the club website. There will be forms available on the coaches today, and at the AGM. Please send completed forms and a cheque for £20, to Eric Pryde at 5F Croft Park, Perth PH2 0DX.

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`A` Coach Report - Sunday 5th March 2017 – Glen Esk

We had a booking total of 18 for this outing, but after 2 cancellations, and 1 transfer to the `B` coach, we had 15 on the coach. We left Broxden on a cloudy and wet morning, after heavy rain all Saturday and overnight. Forecast was for early showers of rain, and snow at higher level, to clear by midday, with a chance of sunny intervals in the afternoon. This is how the weather turned out, with very poor visibility above around 700m, with deep soft snow, and poor walking conditions. Good views and clear skies after around 13.00 however!

We decided to cancel the Challenging Plus route, with only 3 booking, and the likely poor ground conditions. We had 9 on the Challenging walk and 6 in the Less

Challenging, and both groups started from Auchronie in Glen Esk. The Challenging group had very poor conditions on the summit of Mount Keen, and we abandoned the traverse over the 2 outlying tops, to return the same way. (The group returned late on our last visit to the area in 2014, due to very deep snow on the eastern side of the hills).

The Less Challenging group had a very tough day, due to ground conditions. They still returned in just over 8 hours, which was very good, considering the time estimate for all walks was 7.5 to 8 hours! All groups completed their walks in good time, considering the difficult walking conditions. The Challenging group reached the coach by 15.15, and the Less Challenging at 16.55.

A reasonable outing in tough conditions, and it may be we visit Glen Esk in Spring or Autumn next time, and better walking in such a lovely area. Our total booking of 34 for 'A' and 'B' coaches is low, but slightly better than our budget level of 31.

George Smart 6th March 2017

"B" Coach report – Sunday 5th March 2017 – Haddington to Dunbar

There were originally 17 booked, 16 members and 1 guest. Three members cancelled so we departed Broxden at 08.00 with 14 on the coach and Christine, our driver for the day. We arrived Haddington at 09.30. The forecast was for settled weather with chance of light rain at 15.00 at Dunbar our destination.

3 members, led by Liz Whelen, made up the Mod Easy and were bussed through to East Linton for the shorter walk to Dunbar.

The Moderate group split into two parties, one group of 5 led by Frances Berry and a group of six led by Susan Duguid. We quickly found our starting point on the outskirts of Haddington. It meandered alongside the River Tyne, and due to previous heavy rain, the path was quite muddy. Apart from that, it was a very pleasant walk. At East Linton we walked through the town to join the John Muir Way. All groups stopped along the river bank for coffee breaks. We were held up outside Dunbar by local school children using the Way for cross country running. Moderate 2 cut across the beach, (tide out and surf up!!) to a green bridge just below the local golf course. Skirting the course above the cliffs we arrived at the bus, parked near Dunbar Leisure Centre. The Mod/easy trio had already arrived an hour earlier so had sampled the local delights. The restaurant used was just across the street from John Muir's birthplace.

Mod/easy arrived approx. 15.00, Mod 1/2 arrived 16.00. Bus departed 16.45 arriving Broxden 18.30. A fine day, enjoyed by all and the rain did not materialise.

Charles Evans 7th March 2017

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Monthly Bulletin Editor

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