

**Perth & District Hillwalking Club**  
**Monthly Bulletin February 2018**

**March 2018 Monthly Walks Reminder on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

The 'A' coach (leaving Broxden at **07.00**) is going to Dalrigh near Tyndrum, where two walks are planned. The 'B' coach (leaving Broxden at **08.00**) is going to Ayrshire, where two walks are planned on the Ayrshire Coastal Path, a new venue for the Club!

Please send your bookings to Elsie Wilke by **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**.

**2018 Weekend Meets**

Please note the following proposed dates and locations for 2018 weekend meets.

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> Ratagan – please book directly with SYHA as soon as possible!

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> Inchnadamph – to be confirmed.

**2018 Club AGM & Committee for 2018 – 2019**

The AGM will be **on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March**, 19.30 at Craigie Hill Golf Club. Please make an effort to attend this important event, and have your say concerning the future direction of the club. Also there will be vacancies on the committee as usual, and if you would like to assist with the running of the club, please let Charles know.

**Membership Renewal**

Subscriptions are due at the end of this month. An application form can be downloaded from the club website. Please send completed forms and a cheque for £20, to Eric Pryde at 5F Croft Park, Perth PH2 0DX.

**2018 Mountain Mind Quiz on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March (19.00 for 19.30)**

This year it's being run by the Grampian Club. The venue will be the Queens Hotel, 160 Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4DU. Up to 3 people are allowed per team, and the cost is £3 per person. A raffle will be held, and all proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Kintail Mountain Rescue Team. If you would like to be part of our team please contact **Tony Jackson** (anthonyrjackson10@yahoo.co.uk) who is planning to participate.

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**`A` Coach Report - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Drumochter**

We had a booking total of 10 for this outing, and no cancellations. We left Broxden on a cold drizzly morning, with a lot of fog on the journey north. However, as we reached the Drumochter area, the skies cleared with daylight, to reveal a lovely morning.

After a speedy journey north, we dropped off the Challenging group of six a couple of miles north of Dalnaspidal, at 08.00. The Less Challenging group of four were dropped off at Balsporran Cottages shortly after, and were walking by 08.15.

We had blue sky conditions all day, with plenty of sun, and great views in all directions. There was plenty of deep snow, with some very soft areas, but above around 700m it was

mainly hard and stable. This made for reasonable walking conditions all day, and with negligible wind, it was not too cold. On the summit of Sgairneach Mhor, only a very small amount of the trig point was showing, with the shelter wall completely under snow! We used crampons for part of the day, although mainly for the first steep descent below Beinn Udlamain, on frozen snow.

Both groups made very fast progress, and met up on the summit of A`Mharconaich, where the Challenging group stopped for lunch. The Less Challenging group reached the coach first, earlier than expected, at just after 14.00, and the Challenging group not too long behind at 14.30. As Balsporran Cottages now have a tearoom, we decided to make it our refreshment stop, and we had very good service there.

We left Balsporran 15.20, to arrive in Perth at the very early time of 16.20!

A great winter walking day, with much better than forecast weather. What a pity the numbers were so low, but the combined total of `A` and `B` outings was good, at 35.

George Smart            5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#### **`B` Coach Report - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Peebles**

We had a total booking of 25 including 5 guests. There were two cancellations and we departed Broxden at 08.05, collecting one guest at Kinross and arriving Peebles at 09.30. After grappling with the high-tech toilets (30p charge) at Kingsmeadows car park we all set off in 3 groups at around 09.50, in bright, cold but windless conditions.

Two members followed the Moderate/Easy route on the riverside path to the north of the River Tweed, passing Neidpath Castle. They crossed Lynesmill Bridge to pick up the path on the south bank of the Tweed back towards Peebles.

The Moderate walk began alongside the river, then ascended through some forest to the Meldon Hills, where the sun came out and there was snow underfoot. A difficult section through muddy fields followed, then another short ascent and descent to Meldon Burn. The final section led them along the south bank of the Tweed into Peebles.

The weather was definitely in our favour, although the recent persistent rain made underfoot conditions challenging. The walks were new to everyone and were largely very well received. All arrived back at the coach by 16.15, and dispersed to pubs and cafes in Peebles High Street. We departed at 17.05, arriving back at Broxden 18.40 after returning the guest to Kinross.

Susan Duguid            5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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