



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - December 2015

*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.

Date for your diary

45th Annual Gathering and Supper

Saturday 19th November 2016

The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William

Phone number 01397 702331.

salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com



Lochan Lunn Da-Bhra and Ben Nevis on the Sunday morning walk.

Photo by Jim Barton

The 2015 Gathering & Supper

The 2015 Gathering and Supper was held on Saturday 21st November. Almost 50 members took advantage of the very reasonable dinner, bed & breakfast rates to arrive in time for dinner on the Friday night.

We had a very successful Gathering in the afternoon with over 75 members and guests present to hear a variety of presentations. The President, John Peden, welcomed everyone and after a brief introduction to the Gathering handed over to Chris Gilmore to act as MC for the afternoon keeping all the speakers to their allotted time for the presentations. We started with summaries from those who had received grants from the Club for expeditions during spring and summer this year. After the coffee break, the main talk of the afternoon was by Bryan Alexander on Traditional Life in the Arctic and we are deeply indebted to Bryan for sharing his wonderful photographs from all round the Arctic lands. Chris Gilmore once again provided all the technical equipment for projection of images and amplification of voice as well as running the afternoon's programme.

The talks were:

Sam Black: An academic session at UNIS, Svalbard

Felix Butschek: A multi-media presentation on Svalbard

Sue Clark, Ruairidh Mitchell & Jim Thomson: Geology expedition to Gardar, Greenland

Matthew Burke & Joshua Key: BES Leadership Training, Svalbard

Susannah Challenger: Northern Exposure's Arctic Skills training in Svalbard

Bryan Alexander: Traditional Life in the Arctic

Mairi Fenton: Three years on a BAS base, Rothera, Antarctic Peninsula

Eve Gilmore: Presenting artist Steve McQueen's pictures, sketches and photographs.

Louise Hollinrake: Canada's Northwest Passage

As all speakers kept to time we were able to start the AGM on time at 5 pm. The minutes of the AGM are attached to this newsletter. Those due to stand down at this AGM were Anthony Walker, vice-president, Iain Allison, secretary, Chris Calver, treasurer, Chris Bartle, Ashley Buchan and David Shaw. Iain Allison and Chris Calver were willing to stand again in their respective roles. John Thorogood was elected as vice-president, Chris Gilmore was elected onto the committee in recognition of his important role in the Gatherings; Cameron Mackay was elected as an ordinary member after having been co-opted a year before and Matthew Burke was elected as another ordinary member. Details of the rest of the AGM will appear in the minutes.

Displays at the Gathering

We are grateful to Glacier Books for providing a selection of Arctic books from their extensive collection for members to peruse and purchase. Bryan and Cherry Alexander also had their book, *Forty Below: Traditional Life in the Arctic*, on display and for sale. Also, David Matthews had his translation of Ivar Ytreland's book *A Trapper in North-east Greenland* on display and for sale. During the afternoon, the table for raffle prizes became covered with items donated by members. Elizabeth and John Hay exceeded their normal generous donation of a bottle of whisky in their "Guess the Malt" competition by adding to it a hand-made stand in wood and deer antler and three whisky glasses. In addition we had a further four generous donations which were auctioned after the dinner. Kathleen and Neville Cartwright donated a painting by Chris Furse of a gyrfalcon. This fetched £130. Two prints donated by Iain Roy and a bottle of Kilchoman malt whisky, donated and described by John Thorogood, completed the auction.

The Supper

Eighty one members and guests sat down to the annual Supper at 7.30. Once again the Ben Nevis Hotel provided an excellent meal and afterwards members took their coffee through to the ballroom for the auction and raffle and then lingered chatting to friends for the rest of the evening.



A view of the dining room during the Supper



Another view of the diners

The Auction and Raffle

The President, suitably attired in Arctic tartan, did a splendid job as auctioneer to encourage bidders to dig deep into their pockets. Four items were auctioned for the Expedition Fund. The raffle raised £347, very similar to last years £356. And the "Guess the Malt" competition raised £63. So almost £800 goes into the Expedition Fund in addition to the donations of over £1200 that the Club received when members renewed their subscriptions.

Sunday morning walk

We are once again very grateful to Liz Patterson for finding and leading an interesting walk for the few members who take advantage of this opportunity. It was a stunning day as the group left the hotel at 10 am for Inchree and a walk up Gleann Righ. Photograph above.

Polar Medal – Iain Smart

In this newsletter one year ago we congratulated Phil Gribbon on his honour of receiving a Polar Medal for his outstanding contribution to scientific knowledge of the northern polar regions in Greenland and Canada. We have already mentioned that Iain Smart, another of the founding members, was awarded a polar medal this year and in the last newsletter we reported that he would like to donate his medal in memory of William Speirs Bruce and his Scotia Expedition. We look forward to learning of progress on Iain's proposal.

Club's address

For some time now there has been a need for a permanent address for the Club; one which does not change every three years or so as President or Secretary changes. The President, John Peden, has been in negotiations with Mike Robinson, chief executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS). We are pleased to report a successful outcome and our permanent address will be: Scottish Arctic Club, c/o Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Lord John Murray House, 15-19 North Port, Perth PH1 5LU. With progress on gaining charity status for the Expedition Fund and registration of the website, this new permanent address will obviate changes every few years.

Archives

The secretary continues to deal with the archives and, at the Gathering, he received yet another box of Club materials which had been in the safe-keeping of the previous treasurer.

Newsletter

This newsletter is YOUR newsletter so it requires YOUR articles to make it interesting and informative to members. Yes, it also serves to allow the Committee to keep you informed of events and administrative matters but that is not its primary purpose.

Club 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

John Peden, President, and the committee send you

All good wishes for 2016