

October 2025



The Cairngorm Club

Established 1887

Registered Charity

Number - SC047567

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The Newsletter of the Cairngorm Club

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My Work Here is Done!

On checking the validity of using the above title, I found that there are two meanings. One is the satisfaction of having completed a task successfully and the other is said after an individual creates deliberate chaos or confusion.

As my term as Communication Secretary comes to an end after I have produced approximately 50 editions of the Newsletter, I will let you choose which of the above fits. There have been a few faux pas along the way but I think mostly I have been satisfied with what I have produced over the 17 years I have been in post. Whether the Newsletter remains in its current form or in a more e-friendly format, is for the next Comms Secretary and/or the Club Committee to decide.

I have enjoyed my time in the role and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped along the way with contributions and advice. Also my thanks go especially to my proof reader extraordinaire, and unofficial sub-editor, Ken Thomson. He has kept me on track and made sure all the punctuation (which is not my forte) is in it's [sic] proper place.

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The most significant event recorded in the newsletters were the 125th Anniversary celebrations. These lasted almost the full year and was recorded in several editions.

The low point in my time however was having to publish the obituary for Jim Bryce, with whom many of us wish we were still having fabulous days on the hill.

So it's goodbye from me from the Newsletter, and my Comms Secretary post, and I hope to see many of you on hills and on Club meets in the years ahead.

Colin Brown
Editor (retired!)

Donations

The club has made donations of £500 to each of the Mountain Rescue Teams in Aberdeen, Braemar and Lochaber, and £250 to Scottish Mountain Rescue .

We've also made a third donation of £1000 to Mountain Training Scotland to provide bursaries for outdoor training. MTS report:

- 15 candidates were approved since August last year, including 10 female applicants
- Awards included 9 Mountain Leader, 1 Climbing Wall Instructor, and 5 Winter Mountain Leader qualifications - a notable rise in WML awards
- Applicants represented a range of ethnic backgrounds, including individuals identifying as White, Black, and Asian
- Every candidate highlighted the wellbeing benefits of climbing, hillwalking, and simply accessing the countryside
- All applicants demonstrated financial need, with circumstances ranging from single parenthood and unemployment to challenges related to physical disabilities and mental health
- Post-qualification ambitions were inspiring, with candidates aiming to broaden access for the LGBTQ+ community, the arts community, and individuals with disabilities.

Club BBQ

The Club hosted its annual BBQ on the 2nd August at the RNUC on Albyn Place. 22 members attended on a warm sunny evening allowing the event to take place outside (with no midges). A good evening was had by all.

Quiz

Just for a bit of fun I have listed below various front page 'leading articles' from the past 15 years. There are only 2 from the same year. See how many years you can guess, Answers are at the bottom of page 14.

1. Altanour Fencing
2. The Cairngorm Club is 125 Years Old!
3. CASC/Charity Status for the Club
4. The Cairngorm Club and Japanese Television
5. This is the Last Newsletter you will Receive by Post!
6. Flooding and Damage on Deeside etc.
7. Cairngorm Club Journal Online!
8. Do Mid-Month Stravaigs Take Your Fancy?

Muir Cottage

While it had been hoped that the work on "Muir Improvements" would happen this summer, the target date is now next April, when 4 weeks have been blocked off to enable the tradesmen to complete the work without interruptions.

While weekend bookings are looking good, Club members who are not caught by the Monday to Friday work routine might think of a midweek trip to Muir. There are also a number of weekends when Muir hasn't any bookings in January 2026 and from May 2026 - when you should be able to enjoy the improvements. After all, Muir is yours to enjoy!

Annual General Meeting

The 2025 Club AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 November, in the Fountainhall at the Cross Church Centre (formerly Queen's Cross Church), Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YN. The AGM Notice accompanies this Newsletter.

Annual Dinner

The 2025 Annual Dinner will be on Friday 14 November in the Royal Northern & University Club, 9 Albyn Place, Aberdeen. There will be an illustrated talk by Anna Wells, the first woman to complete a winter Munro round. A Dinner Notice / booking sheet accompanies this Newsletter. Information: Tom (social@cairngormclub.org.uk)

Day Meet News

Summer has come and gone, and during the months since the last newsletter we've had several enjoyable Day Meets, with many members (including new faces) coming along on these trips. In June, at the tail end of one of this Summer's heatwaves, members had to deal with a bit of rainy weather on our outing to Beinn a'Ghlo. It didn't dampen the spirits though, and a grand day's hill walking was had. In July a few adventurous members spent the night at the very remote 'Tarf Hotel' (Feith Uaine) bothy. August's Day Meet was to commemorate the centenary of the Ben Macdui indicator. However, due to manufacturing delays, the installation of the new indicator will now take place on a future trip. As it turned out, the high tops of the Cairngorms were experiencing gale-force winds and an attempt at summiting Macdui would have been near impossible. Those attending split into two groups and battled the winds on some slightly lower-level routes.

September's annual Cairngorm traverse was an epic south to north hike through the Lairig Ghru, with the majority leaving the mountain pass at Chalamain Gap and finishing at the Sugar Bowl car park. One member completed the Lairig Ghru proper, finishing at Coylumbridge (well done Rob!). An enjoyable 30km day was had by all.

The remaining Day Meets of the year are on Saturday 18th Oct (Ben Chonzie, Perthshire), Sunday 16th Nov (Mount Battock) and Sunday 14th Dec (The 'Coloured' Hills of Alford). The November and December meets will leave Aberdeen at 8.00am, a starting time I know lots of members like!

Following a planning session at Ma Cameron's on the last Wednesday of September, the 2026 Day Meet locations are now decided and are on the website calendar. On the Day Meets from February until May 2026 we will be running a coach (instead of a minibus) as a trial. This will offer members a bit more luxury when travelling to and from our destinations. Hopefully we can make coach travel a regular thing on future Day Meets. However the success of using buses as a regular means of transport is very much dependent on the number of attendees, so please support your club by coming along. Where possible we will offer shorter walks to accommodate attendees. As always, a big thanks to the organisers whose fine efforts allow these days to happen, and to everyone who has come on these trips. See you on a day meet soon!

Craig Thomson, Day Meet Secretary.

Payments to the Club

The Club's business bank account details are:

Name "Cairngorm Club" Sort Code 83-15-31; A/C 19165508.

Please only use the purpose of the payment as the reference e.g., "Traverse" or "Membership"; your account name is provided by the bank and need not be repeated. The reference field may be limited to 18 characters, including blanks.

Club Subscriptions

The Mountaineering Scotland affiliation fee for 2025/26 has risen by £5.

Cairngorm Club subscription rates for 2025/26 are:

	Full Rate	Reduced Rate
Club	£13.00	£6.50
MS	£26.75	£26.75
Total	£39.75	£33.25

Direct Debits are due to be collected on 1 October 2025. Members not paying by direct debit should arrange payment during October. An electronic membership card for 2026 will be sent out following receipt of subscription.

The reduced rate applies to Club members who have informed the Treasurer that on 1st October 2025 they will be 65 or over, 21 or under, or in full-time education, or are normally resident and working more than 80 km from Aberdeen. Members wishing to pay at the reduced rate should tell the Treasurer of the reason.

Members who do not participate in any Club-organised outside activity and do not use Muir Cottage may, if they desire, withdraw from paying the MS Affiliation Fee. Please discuss this with the Treasurer.

Members of multiple clubs (or Individual Members of MS) wishing to pay the MS affiliation fee other than through the Cairngorm Club should tell the Treasurer their MS membership number and which club it will be paid through if appropriate.

All members are encouraged to pay their subscription by Direct Debit and, where appropriate, to make a Gift Aid Declaration. Forms for each are available from the Treasurer.

Donald Thomas, Treasurer

Mid-Week (or Thursday) Walks

The parameters for these Club meets are:

- the last Thursday of each month (except December)
- car-sharing, usually from the lower section of Kingswells Park & Ride
- a drive of no more than an hour and a quarter
- 4 to 5 hours of walking including stops, usually involving a hill or the coast, and a visit to a local café afterwards.

MWWs for 2026 have been largely decided but ideas and volunteers are always welcome. Here are those programmed until May 2026

Jan 29	Brimmond - Elrick	Joyce Ritchie
Feb 26	Coastal North e.g. Cullen	Kees Witte
Mar 26	Glen Brindy	Ken Thomson
Apr 30	Correen Hills West (Rhynie/Kildrummy)	Jay Turner
May 28	Goyle Hill (Glen Saugh)	Brian Purves

Day Meets

Further to the meets mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter, here are the rest of the Day meets until May 2026 -

Feb 7 (Sat)	Ben Rinnes (W to E traverse)	Craig Thomson
Mar 8 (Sun)	Glen Callater	Will Ellwood
Apr 12 (Sun)	Mount Keen	Ivan Hiscox
May 10 (Sun)	Beinn Bhrotain	Mike Duguid

Weekend Meets

As above, here are the rest of the Weekend meets until May 2026 -

Feb 13 (2 nights)	Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe
Feb 20 (2 nights)	Muir Cottage
Mar 20 (2 nights)	Inverardran Cottage, Crianlarich
Apr 24 (2 nights)	Naismith Hut, Elphin
May 22 (2 nights)	Saddle Hostel, Invergarry

Stravaigs

The only dates that have so far been set for 2026 are -

Jan 16	Location and leader TBA
Feb 13	Location and leader TBA

Spam/Phishing Emails

Members should remain vigilant and only follow links or reply (in Club and personal emails) if a message appears genuine and appropriate.

Unfortunately there is little the Club can do if a member's email address is hacked and they have posting rights to the Google Group.

Day Meets take place once a month and can be by coach, mini-bus, car, or service bus. Meets are generally on Sundays but occasionally on Saturdays. Members should contact the Meet Organiser to book a place. The organiser or Day Meets Secretary can be contacted if any additional information is sought.

Meets generally leave Aberdeen at St. Margaret's School, Albyn Place, at 7am, with pick-ups possible on the route out (which may vary with meet location). Departure times and cost are listed on pages 8 and 9 of this Newsletter. On all Meets, an organised "President's Party" walk will be available for those new to the Club or for members who simply want a day out without the challenge of route-finding or navigation. The following Day meets are offered for Winter 2025/26.

October 18, Ben Chonzie (Saturday)

This minibus meet will depart from St. Margaret's at 7am, proceeding to the Invergeldie car park. The President's Party will ascend Ben Honzie before traversing to Hosh; a shorter option will return to Invergeldie. To book, contact Garry Wardrope by email at training@cairngormclub.org.uk.

November 16, Mount Battock (Sunday)

The minibus will leave St Margaret's at 8am and will park at Finzean Sawmill. The first part of the walk will follow the path west, on the south side of the Feugh until we reach the path along the Glaspits Burn. The route from there is pathless until we get to the track at Cock Hill which will lead to the summit of Mount Battock. The President's Party will return by the same route. Alternative descents are via higher ground. over Baudnacauner and Glaspits, or the Water of Avon. To book, contact Kolbjorn Akselvoll by email at meetorganiser36@cairngormclub.org.uk.

December 14, The 'Coloured' Hills of Alford (Sunday)

With an 8am start from St Margarets, this polychromatic meet includes the Green, White, Red and Black Hills south-east of Alford. Starting at a farm track off a back road to the south, we go past Ewens Croft, and ascend Green Hill on a mix of track and footpath, then descend NNE to White Hill (some heather; trig point). Then NW over open grassland to the abandoned farmstead of Culthibert, then a twisty landrover track back up to a col below Green Hill before heading SW up to Corrennie Moor and Red Hill. From here, down past a stone circle to Forkins, for a short stretch of road/track before a short diversion over lowly Black Hill (which we might do first) near the starting point. The almost figure-of-eight route would allow short cuts to omit White Hill and/or Red Hill. To book, contact Ken Thomson by email at mww@cairngormclub.org.uk.

January 11, Lochnagar (Sunday)

The coach will depart from St. Margaret's at 7am. As is traditional, the President's Party will ascend Lochnagar but there are many alternatives including the other Glen Muick Munros and Corbetts, walking back to Ballater, or simply a walk around the loch itself. Afterwards we will stop for High Tea; details will be announced nearer the time. To book, please contact Ken Thomson by email at mww@cairngormclub.org.uk.

October 2025

1	Wed Indoor	Graham Watt - 'Magnificent Obsession - Climbing Scotlands Munros'. (Tom Litterick; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
7	Tue Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Burn o' Vat (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
10	Fri Weekend	Mol Mor, Torridon (Sue Miller; meetorganiser24@cairngormclub.org.uk)
14	Tue Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Location TBC (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
17	Fri Stravaig	Insch/Dunnydeer (Henry Webb; ctte6@cairngormclub.org.uk)
18	Sat Day	Ben Chonzie (7am; 52; 743273; 6hrs; £18; minibus; Garry Wardrope; training@cairngormclub.org.uk)
21	Tue Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Hidden Inlet (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
29	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
30	Thur MWW	Scolty Hill and Gouach (Judy Middleton; honpresident@cairngormclub.org.uk)

November

5	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
7	Fri Weekend	Muir Cottage (Will Ellwood; ctte7@cairngormclub.org.uk))
12	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
13	Thur Stravaig	Glen Tanar (Fiona Lyall)
14	Fri Dinner	Club Dinner at RNUC - Speaker Anna Wells - 'Winter Munro round' (Tom Litterick; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
16	Sun Day	Mount Battock (8am; 44; 590914; 6hrs; £18; minibus; Kolbjorn Akselvoll; meetorganiser36@cairngormclub.org.uk)
19	Wed AGM	Club AGM at Fountainhall at the Cross Church Centre (formerly Queen's Cross Church), Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YN. (Donald Thomas; membership@cairngormclub.org.uk)
19	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
21	Fri Weekend	Inverardran, Crianlarich (Tony Jack; meetorganiser32@cairngormclub.org.uk)
26	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
27	Thur MWW	Barmekin Hill and Dunecht Estate (David Christie)

December

3	Wed	Indoor	Iain Young (SMC Secretary) 'Cold Mountains, high winds and big seas' (Tom Litterick; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
3	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
5	Fri	Weekend	Corran Hostel (Esperanza Martin; ctte9@cairngormclub.org.uk)
10	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
11	Thur	MWW	Sgor na h-Iolaire (Richard Frimston)
12	Fri	Stravaig	Potarch and Craigmore Woods (Gill Shirreffs; stravaigs@cairngormclub.org.uk)
14	Sun	Day	The 'Coloured Hills of Alford' (8am; 37; 631079; 6hrs; minibus; Ken Thomson; mww@cairngormclub.org.uk)
17	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)

January 2026

7	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
7	Wed	Indoor	Mark Diggins SAIS (Scottish Avalanche Information Service) and Mike Reading (Met Office) - 'Avalanche awareness persentaion.' (Tom Litterick; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
11	Sun	Day	Lochnagar (7am; 44; 311852; 7hrs; TBC; coach; Craig Thomson; day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
14	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
16	Fri	Stravaig	Location and leader TBC
21	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
23	Fri	Weekend	Muir Cottage, Burns Supper Weekend (Caroline Watt; meetorganiser31@cairngormclub.org.uk)
28	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
29	Thur	MWW	Brimmond - Elrick (Joyce Ritchie; meetorganiser40@cairngormclub.org.uk)

February

4	Wed	Indoor	Imogene Newlands and Sam Percival - 'Cuillin ridge traverse and challenging health conditions.' (Tom Litterick; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
4	Wed	Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)

Please note: bookings not confirmed until payment is made.

October 10, Mol Mor, Torridon (2 nights)

Part of a converted farm steading at the head of Loch Torridon, Mol Mor provides good-quality accommodation for up to ten people. This meet has proved very popular with all 10 places snapped up very early. A waiting list is now in operation so if you wish to be added to it, please contact Sue Miller by email at meetorganiser24@cairngormclub.org.uk.

November 7, Muir Cottage (2 nights)

If you haven't yet stayed at the Club hut at Muir of Inverey, this is a great opportunity. With the southern Cairngorms and the Glenshee hills a short drive away you will be spoiled for hiking choices. Low-level walking, mountain biking and perhaps some early winter climbing are also available nearby. To book, please contact Will Ellwood by email at ctte7@cairngormclub.org.uk

November 21, Inverardran, Crianlarich (2 nights)

Stay in the comfortable Ochils Club hut and take your pick from literally dozens of walks on Munros, Corbetts and Grahams around Crianlarich. Low-level walks on the West Highland Way, winter climbing and skiing are also options a short drive away. To book a place, contact Tony Jack by email at meetorganiser32@cairngormclub.org.uk.

December 5, Corran Hostel (2 nights)

This is a favourite with the Club due to its accessibility to so many hills in the area and the superb standard of accommodation. To book, or for more information, please contact Esperanza Martin by email at ctte9@cairngormclub.org.uk.

January 23, Muir Cottage, Burns Supper Weekend (2 nights)

Celebrate Scotland's Bard Robert Burns with some traditional Scottish food, drink and possibly some traditional music. Over the weekend you could also tackle some of the Munros, Corbetts, skiing or ski touring, and low-level walks as well as your haggis, neeps and tatties. To book, contact Caroline Watt by email at meetorganiser31@cairngormclub.org.uk.

Day Meets - where appropriate for some meets - departure time; map sheet(s); grid reference(s) of drop-off and pick-up points; walking time; cost; means of transport; organiser contact details)

Mid-Week Walks (organiser; contact details, if available)

Weekend Meets (organiser; contact details)

Climbing (Summer) (organiser; contact details)

Membership News

The following Associate Members have been admitted since the last Newsletter:

Lewis Shand	(Dalkeith)
Monique Keraudran	(Echt)
Walter Andrada	(Aberdeen)
Calum Neilson	(Aberdeen)
Alexander Ironside	(Ellon)
Margaret Hodge	(Alford)
Elizabeth Willox	(Aberdeen)
Paul Nelson	(Montrose)
Michael Tonge	(Aberdeen)

The Club is sorry to hear of the death of the following member:

John Hay (Aberdeen; Ordinary Life member since 1954)

The Club has also attracted 10 new Interim Members since the last Newsletter.

Transfer to Ordinary Membership

The Club aims to “promote competence, safety, knowledge and responsibility of attitude amongst persons who engage in mountaineering”. Our membership structure reflects this, with “Ordinary” and “Associate” memberships. Ordinary Membership (OM) recognises a basic level of experience and competence, “to look after yourself and to lead one or two others in all conditions normally encountered on the Scottish hills, without expecting any proficiency in the use of ropes”. We hope most members will become OMs but many join as Associates and never consider progressing to become an OM.

If you are an Associate Member with appropriate experience, why not apply now? We ask for a brief written declaration of experience and the support of two Ordinary Members - just send a completed application form (see website) to the Membership Secretary. If you wish to improve your skills first, please let our Training Officer know. We run various subsidised courses, including navigation and winter skills, and also offer financial support to attend some external courses, including at Glenmore Lodge.

Donald Thomas, Treasurer

Stravaigs

Stravaigs are continuing to be popular. They tend to follow lower routes often on local estates and National Trust Properties, using tracks and paths, sometimes with a short climb but not necessarily aiming to climb a hill. The walks are around 6 miles with a shorter option for anyone who wishes this, and it is becoming a custom to finish the day at a coffee shop . There is a no dogs policy on Stravaigs.

As with Midweek Walks we usually start from the Kingswells car park for car sharing. Alternatively members may go straight to the start of the walk destination.

Please note that the November Stravaig will be on Thursday 13th and not on the Friday as usual. This is because the Club Dinner is on the Friday evening.

Our thanks to those who have volunteered to lead walks, which is a great help to our small group of organisers, Gill, Jay, Eilidh and Judy.

Indicators

Members may have expected to see by now a couple of brand-new replacement indicators on Lochnagar and Ben Macdui. But life ain't so simple, and we have been held up by difficulties, including weather (even in the non-winter of 2024/25), recalculation of bearings (Ben Wyvis appears to have moved since 1924), engineering anxieties (ceramic distortion, welding queries, adhesion uncertainties, etc.), and then the Forfar engraver breaking his kneecap!

However, at time of writing (early September), the indicators are being engraved, and delivery is expected by the end of the month. Whether installation can be managed this autumn is up to weather, Sherpa availability, etc.; if no go, it'll be in spring 2026. Several people, including Club members, have generously offered financial support, and there may be little or no demand on Club funds. If and when, a full account will be published in the Cairngorm Club Journal, as in 1924/25.

Ben Nevis

For 25 years, the John Muir Trust has owned and managed The Ben, where it owns 1700 ha on the upper southern and western flanks, the Carn Mor Dearg arete, the Steall Gorge, and the Aonach ridge as far as Sgurr Choinnich Beag. Most of the area around the JMT estate, about 30,000 ha including the Mamores and the Grey Corries, belongs to the Simec mining group as Jahama Highland Estates. JMT conservation work includes deer

(continued on page 13)

and sheep management, and drain-blocking on peatland, e.g. in Glen Nevis. Safe and sustainable paths lead to the summit (160,000 visitors per year, over twice the 2001 rate) and through Steall Gorge (60,000); the Trust does not own any other visitor infrastructure on its estate. Short-term priorities include species monitoring and pollution control, e.g. plastics, while longer-term visions include the restoration of woodland, including rainforest. The current culling plan for the Mid West Deer Management Group, whose area extends from Ben Nevis and the Mamores as far as Loch Laggan and Loch Eriicht, aims at halving numbers to 5.8 deer per sq. km.

Merchandise

There has been a good response to the new merchandise this year. The hoodies and T-shirts have been very popular, and it's great to see our members wearing them at Club events. Beanies have recently been added to the list of offerings as well, and if there is popular interest in other garments we will look to add more items to order.

If you are interested in ordering an item please contact Helen Russell, indicating which garment, colour and size, and transfer funds to the Cairngorm Club account. Details of the items available can be found via a link on the Home page of the Club website at <https://www.cairngormclub.org.uk/index.htm>.

The items are sourced from Funky Panther which is a local firm that you can visit at <https://www.funkypanther.co.uk> if you wish to see the quality of the garments. Note: check they are in stock before you visit but please **do not** order directly from them.

Mountaineering Scotland (MS) Insurance

MS asked clubs for their view of whether they were for or against the addition of personal accident insurance cover as part of the club MS membership. An individual MS membership now includes this cover. The additional cover would require an additional £1 annual subscription. It was previously rejected by clubs at the 2018 AGM. If the majority of club vote in favour, it will be put forward as a vote at the MS AGM in November. The Cairngorm Club committee were consulted and the majority were not in favour of adding this coverage, primarily because the subscription has increased and the level of cover was not considered adequate. We therefore responded to MS that the Club was not in favour of the addition of personal accident insurance. We will update members of the outcome of the AGM in due course.

Training

Navigation

An evening of night navigation will be organised for Wednesday 3rd December. This will be suitable for anyone, irrespective of experience. It is also hoped to organise a further practical session early in the new year.

Winter Skills

This seasons winter training will take place in Muir Cottage on Sat 21 / Sun 22 February. Topics covered will depend on the wishes of the group but will likely cover such things as moving on snow and ice, ice axe arrest and avalanche awareness. Suitable for complete winter novices or more experienced members looking to brush up on their skills.

Watch the club mailing list for more information on these. To book or express an interest in either of these events, please contact Garry Wardrope by email at training@cairngormclub.org.uk.

Incorporation

Following legal advice in support of moving the club to become incorporated, a subcommittee with the help of Richard Shirreffs is working on a draft SCIO constitution that will be put to the committee for review. If the new SCIO constitution is supported by the committee there will be an opportunity for members to review it. It is hoped that this will be available before the AGM.

Cairngorms National Park Consultation on Core Paths

In summer 2025, the Park Authority carried out an “informal consultation” on proposed re-alignments, removals (11km) and additions (79km) to its Core Path Plan. A review is now underway on the 155 comments submitted via an online map (still available) and a further 48 comments received directly. A formal (public) consultation will take next spring, with a revised Plan to be approved in summer 2026. Little publicity was given to the recent consultation, but a few members submitted suggestions, e.g. the White Bridge - Lairig Ghru path on the LH bank of the Dee, and the Clash Fearnaigh link between Glens Lui and Quoich. Core path status does not mean that the Park Authority has to maintain it, but it should be kept free from obstruction, and have priority for signage, maintenance and improvement – though not, hopefully, to the detriment of “wildness” in the core Cairngorms.

Quiz Answers

1. 2015, 2. 2012, 3. 2016, 4. 2011, 5. 2024, 6. 2016, 7. 2018, 8. 2023.

Game Birds in the Cairngorms National Park

Members will have noticed on their excursions many “game” birds under-wheel if not under-foot. A recent report on a recent survey of 22 “shoots” in the Park area - mostly on Speyside, but some on Donside and Deeside - provided the following data:

	Pheasants	Red-Legged Partridges
No. Released		
2022/3	50,900	8,000
2023/4	61,200	36,000
2024/5	49,800	29,240
Densities (per km ⁻² shoot area)	582	772
Average “Return” (i.e. shot!) Rate	32%	33%
Source: Fletcher, K. <i>et al.</i> (2025) <i>Scottish Gamebird Releases: focusing on the Cairngorms National Park</i> . Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust. Available at cairngorms.co.uk/documents/scottish-gamebird-releases-report .		
The average number of shoot days per year across the shoots interviewed was 24.2.		

The releasing of gamebirds and their management have a range of potential effects on habitats and other wildlife. In general, negative effects (e.g. damage to woodland flora or insects) are caused by the birds themselves, while positive effects (e.g., woodland and game crops) are a consequence of management activities to support them. Radio-tracking studies across sites in lowland England indicate that typically 90–95% of released pheasants and red-legged partridges remain within 1 km or so of the release point.

National Trust for Scotland - Cards and Stickers

The Club has renewed its membership of the NTS, and there are cards and stickers available to borrow which allow access to all NTS sites and car parks. It also allows the same access to National Trust England properties etc. Please contact Brian Purves by email at vp@cairngormclub.org.uk for more details of where they can be used, or to borrow them.

Club Office-Bearers and Other Positions

Hon. President	Judy Middleton (honpresident@cairngormclub.org.uk)
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Vice-President	Brian Purves (vp@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Vice-President	Mike Duguid (vp2@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Club Secretary (temp), Treasurer & Membership Secretary	Donald Thomas (treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk)
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Huts Custodian	Eilidh Scobbie (huts@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Muir Booking Secretary	Forbes McPherson (muir-booking@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Day Meets Secretary	Craig Thomson (day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Weekend Meets Secretary	Helen Russell (weekend@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Climbing Secretary	Stuart Dick (climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Social Activities Secretary	Tom Litterick (social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
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Journal Editor	Mark Norris (journal@cairngormclub.org.uk)
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