

The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

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First of all I must apologise for the late production of this newsletter but my excuse is that some gremlin invaded my PC and I was unable to do anything with it until Dave Benison came to my rescue. So a big thanks to Dave (I'll buy you a pint the next time we meet in Orkney).

This newsletter marks another milestone in the history of the Highland Centre, it being the 100th edition we will be giving it away free to paid up members who attend the Strathpeffer Rally.

A Committee Nomination Form is attached, Strathpeffer Rally is your last chance to nominate/be nominated before the AGM.

Rally Reports

Inver 18th -21st April

Twenty-one outfits including two SCC, one North Centre and one Fife & Tayside Centre gathered for the Mad Hatters Rally over the long weekend. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs Viv Wemyss of North Centre and celebration cakes were presented to Bert and Lilian Bottom who were attending their 600th rally and to Gordon and Edna Duncan who were attending their 100th. They kindly provided wine and bacon butties for all attending the rally. Rosemary Nisbett and Avril Ferrier paid visits to the field on Saturday afternoon and both joined us for the social in the village hall in the evening. A three course meal followed by dancing to Frankie Fraser made a most enjoyable evening. On Sunday after the church service the annual competition for the Stuart Shield took place and after a fiercely fought contest Bert Bottom ran out the eventual winner. A DIY barbecue and games later in the afternoon completed the weekend.

Thanks for all their hard work on our behalf go to Lex and Helen McCall with Adele and Kayleigh and to Rachel and Duncan Munro with Anne.

Grantown on Spey 9th -11th May

Again we had twenty-one 'vans in attendance at Grantown Caravan Park - a new venue for the Centre resulting in a site finder's plaque for me.. As I was rally marshal Lindsay Benison officiated for the weekend and an excellent job she made of it even under sometimes difficult conditions.

The opener on Saturday morning was chief water bailiff on the local beat of the River Spey - Mr Ivor Gessing. This turned out to be none other than Dave Benison resplendent in full fishing gear and midge bonnet! The social was held in the Royal British Legion Hall and consisted of a games and quiz night. In true Highland Centre tradition rules seemed to vary throughout but I think all who attended enjoyed their evening. The beam on

Connor's face as we danced to 'For he's a jolly good Fellow' certainly made my night. I have to thank Lindsay for acting Chairman and my co marshals Roy and Sheila Massie for their help before and during the rally.

H Dunbeath 23rd - 25th May.

I This was another new venue for the Centre resulting in a site finder's plaque for Chief Marshal Alex Carson.

G Thirteen vans attended this rally with panoramic views over the North Sea to the oil rigs beyond. Unfortunately the weather was not always very good and some caravans had to be towed on - mine included.

H Landowner Mr Magnus Henderson pulled the flag to open the rally and then we were free to visit the nearby Laidhay Museum - a necessity if one of the competitions was to be done as the answers were there. We had been asked to bring an antique or two with us and this was the basis of another of the competitions in that we had to identify, date and value these items. A DIY barbecue on Saturday evening was brought to a sudden end by the weather and we all crammed into the marshals' awnings for a game of charades.

L The Sunday service was conducted by Gary with help from Keith, Fraser and Kieran with the collection being donated to local charities.

A Thank you Alex and your co marshals Ena, Gary, Sandra, Keith, Fraser and Kieran Baxter.

N **D** **C Brodie** 6th – 8th June

C This was the Hawaiian Paradise rally and an invitation had been made to North Centre to join us for the weekend. A good turn out of twenty-eight 'vans attended – four North Centre including the Chairman Graeme MacKenzie and his wife Jessie, four SCC and one Fife and Tayside Centre.

E After the opening on Friday evening by past chairman of the Centre Joyce Stuart a cake was presented to four families who were celebrating special rallies. Alex & Ena Carson 100, Alistair & Yvonne Fisher with Joanna and Johnathan 200, Robbie & Fiona Murray with Jack and Luke 300 and Hamish and Joyce Stuart with Connor 400 and Lindsay Benison again stood in as chairman to present the commemorative plaques.

N As Saturday was a 'free' day many of the ralliers took the opportunity of watching the battle re-enactment which took place in the grounds of Brodie Castle or walked along to Brodie Country fare in search of 'bargains' at the sale there.

T Prior to the social in the evening the 'special' ralliers laid on wine and nibbles for all and then it was time to get into our Hawaiian gear and make our way to the hall. The hall had been decorated in accordance with the rally theme and there was a limbo dancing competition, which was won by Lee Radcliffe.

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On Sunday morning Pam Ross held the church service and the collection of £53.00 will be donated to the National Trust. The tea and coffee was followed by the presentation of prizes including the lucky pineapple draw.

The theme of the rally had been followed throughout and we must thank Avril & Elaine Ferrier and Stuart, Ian & Jean Menhinick and Shannon and chief marshals Pam & Doug Ross with Ashleigh and Bradon for a most enjoyable rally.

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Scottish National Rally, Dumfries. 1st – 6th May

The dinner dance and Sunday social were well supported by the Centre and despite the Highland Centre was well represented at the Scottish National Rally in Dumfries and I think all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves in spite of the appalling weather that prevailed over most of the weekend.

It did manage to stay dry for the two most important events -the opening ceremony and the inter centre sports.

Lindsay Benison stood in the absence of a vice chairman to look after the Centre flags during the rally and she and David were relieved to see it open on cue as Joyce and I were introduced to the opener .

pouring rain we submitted an entry to the decorated gazebo competition the theme of which was announced at the opening ceremony as ' A TV Soap'. Centre members did well in contributing props for The Monarch of the Glen and we even had a stag's head, which had, been 'bagged' by Bobby Black, Caravan Club Chairman. Despite our efforts the North Centre were announced worthy winners of the competition.

The highlight of the rally was our retention of the Sports Cup although I have yet to hear the official announcement as, as soon as the second place was announced, we realised that we had won so you can guess the effect this had on team and supporters. After the presentation of the trophy and lap of honour all the Centre members gathered to celebrate in style until social time. Thanks are due to the team Alistair & Yvonne Fisher, Steve & David Robertson and Moira & Karen Porter and coach Lindsay Benison. Heres to next year! Can we make it three in a row?

Thanks to all Centre members who traveled so far to represent the Centre.

Ardgay Midsummer Rally 20th -22nd June

Sixteen outfits including three SCC and one visitor attended the rally held on the same field but in much better weather conditions than our last visit to Ardgay.

The opening ceremony was performed by Fiona Murray SCC Secretary and then we were free to explore the area or to go shopping at 'Harrods' at Shin Falls until it was time to head to Bonar Bridge for a games night.

First of all we played caradrive and after refreshments it was back to our childhood with snakes and ladders, ludo, frustration -you could hear a pin drop such was the concentration. After the service on Sunday morning the competition prizes were awarded as usual but the results of the caradrive were a bit worrying as the prize winners had counted their scores incorrectly. Nothing wrong with that you might think except that the culprits were SCC Treasurer Ian Maclean and Centre Treasurer Lindsay Benison!

Thanks for their work over the weekend goes to Don & Lena Aird, Fiona Murray and chief marshal Dave Fleming.

Orkney Holiday Rally 4th – 12th July

Thirteen Centres plus SCC were represented on the rally and there were twelve first time visitors to the Highland Centre -all having had smooth crossings from either Gills Bay or Scrabster. By the very nature of our arrival on the island the marshals had a very busy time getting everyone sited as all arrived in groups so it must have come as a relief to them when the last ferry of the day docked and the final 'van was in place.

Tea and coffee were served in the evening and then it was time to renew old friendships and forge new ones.

At the opening ceremony we were welcomed to Orkney by Mark Harrison, Manager of the Pickaquooy Centre who encouraged us to make use of all the facilities within the Centre and had donated vouchers for various activities throughout the week. On Saturday evening the social was held within the Centre where we were entertained by a local band who were excellent to dance to or to just sit and listen to.

The Sunday Service was lead by Ian Maclean SCC treasurer and the collection was donated to Kirkwall Toy Library for disabled children. On Sunday Bert Bottom got the boules competition underway and this continued as and when people were available to play. In a closely fought final the winner was Bill Kerr and runner-up Jean Melville.

On Monday a bus tour of some of the attractions on the island had been arranged and this just served to whet the appetite for further sight seeing and exploring. There was plenty to see and do throughout the week the marshals having provided us with a

wealth of information. Some took the opportunity to join the locals at the dancing on Tuesday or to attend the Bingo. An invite had been extended to attend the Accordion and Fiddle Club's practice session on Wednesday evening and I think they were taken aback by the number turning up. It really was an excellent evening and was enjoyed by young and old alike, Monday evening saw a surprise party for Ron Gilmour who was celebrating his 70th birthday and despite the rain carried on in true rally fashion.

There was plenty to see and do from sites of historic interest, museums, craft trails, workshops, visitor centres, shops -everyone was catered for.

The final social was also held in the Pickaquooy Centre with music by Willie Smith and a guest appearance by the Highland Centre Bodran Trio. In appreciation of all their hard work a collection had been organised and the marshals were presented with miniature decanters and matching glasses while Craig was given a tee shirt with a Celtic design.

Thanks for all the hard work resulting in an unforgettable holiday from all who attended go to Dave, Lindsay and Craig Benison and Alex and Ena Carson.

Petty Tourist Rally 25th -30th July

Easter Dalziel Farm, Petty was again the venue for the annual tourist rally -our tenth year at Petty.

Soup on Friday night was followed by the barn dance where Donnie Aird was in charge of the music and kept us dancing till late.

Mr Jimmy MacDonald, Councillor for Scorguie , came along on Saturday morning to open the rally and welcome the thirty seven families attending to Inverness. His opening address was in Gaelic but thankfully he soon reverted to English! He was quite unconcerned that the flag refused to open and had to be run down, opened and hoisted again.

The social was in Croy Hall with dancing to Frankie Fraser and there was a display of Highland Dancing by Adele Forbes.

A group from the Salvation Army at Huntly House joined us to carry out the Sunday Service and the collection was donated to them to help with their work for the homeless in Inverness. A barbecue with food prepared and served by the marshals was held on the Sunday afternoon followed by games and dancing with Frankie again providing the music.

On Monday a number of the ralliers went in search of Nessie as they took part in the cruise on Loch Ness but they were unsuccessful in their search. There was a games night in the barn that evening and the outright winner was David Calvert.

Our annual visit to Scottish Showtime was on Tuesday evening and as usual we were treated to a very professional show which the visitors thoroughly enjoyed.

Can I ask you Duncan to pass on our thanks to your team -Mary & Dod Cowie, Helen& Lex McCall with Adele & Kayleigh , Cath & Alan Wilson with Ashley and not forgetting Rachel.. I would also like to thank Lindsay & Dave Benison for their help in cleaning the barn and printing the rally programme and Donnie Aird for his DJ duties at the barn.

English National Rally

Five caravans represented Highland Centre at this year's English National Rally.

Joanna Fisher broke the SCC Pennant at the opening ceremony and lowered it at the closing ceremony on behalf of SCC.

The SCC team for "It's a Knockout" was captained by Alistair Fisher and came in second (out of 4 teams)!

There was a good representation from Highland Centre Members at the Fancy Dress Parade.

LETTERS

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed to the sponsorship of Adele's recent 5 kilometer "Walk for Life" in aid of Cancer Research. The total amount collected was £95 with much of that coming from Highland Centre members.

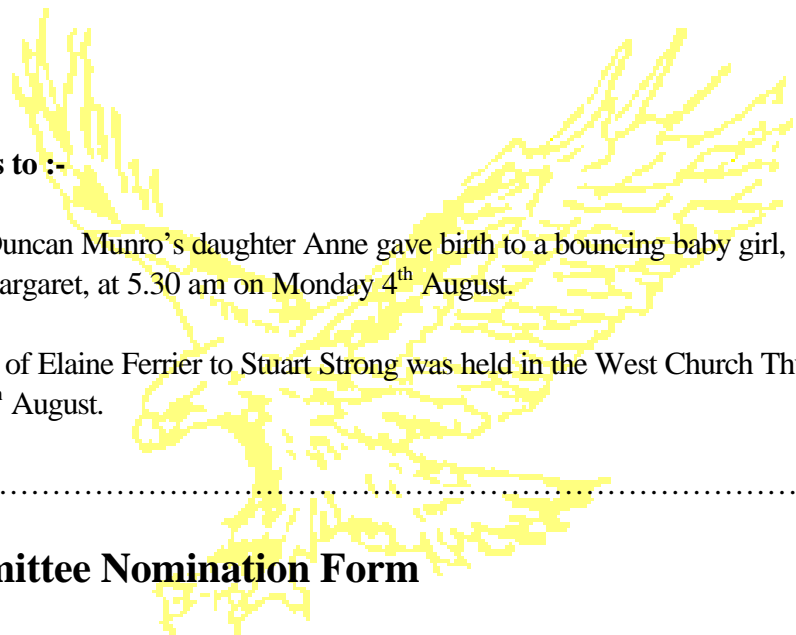
Thank you,

Helen McCall.

Other Snippets

Congratulations to :-

- ❖ Rachel and Duncan Munro's daughter Anne gave birth to a bouncing baby girl, Christine Margaret, at 5.30 am on Monday 4th August.
- ❖ The wedding of Elaine Ferrier to Stuart Strong was held in the West Church Thurso on Saturday 16th August.



Committee Nomination Form

To the Secretary, Highland Centre Date.....

I propose

for the office of on the Highland Centre Committee.

Nominee's Signature CC No

Proposed Seconded.....
(Block Capitals) (Block Capitals)

Signature Signature.....

CC No CC No

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