

# The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

**Dear Members,**

The countdown to Christmas has begun! All the shopping and the planning – but make sure you find some quality time to plan next years rallies and above all enjoy yourself over the festive period.

For those of you receiving this newsletter by post you will find with it the Scottish Caravan Club handbook for 2004 and you will be able to start planning your rallies for the coming year. Next years programme promises to be just as enjoyable as before with rallies from Newtonmore in the south to Wick in the north, Brodie in the east to Fort William in the west.

Our first event of the year is the Dinner Dance, which will be held in the Craigmonie Hotel, Inverness, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets can be had from Dave Benison, Alistair Fisher, Hamish or any committee member, the price is £20 and if you wish to stay overnight the hotel are doing a special deal of £30 bed and breakfast.

Congratulations must go to the Youth Committee for their sterling efforts in raising funds for their chosen charity the Highland and Moray Mountain Rescue Teams well done all of you. Unfortunately there being insufficient nominations received to form a properly constituted Youth Committee for 2004, it was regrettable that the Youth Committee would have be placed in abeyance until 2005.

Congratulations to Dave Benison who won the 2003 Murray Quaich and if you are not aware this is the coveted award for photography, not for its technical excellence but for depicting the “Spirit of Rallying”.

Congratulations also to Bert Bottom this years Boules champion who won a fiercely fought final at Inver to be awarded the 2003 Stuart Shield.

Finally have a very happy Christmas and a safe New Year.

**Rally Reports****H Halkirk - Sideshow Rally 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September**

I Eight outfits, all Highland, attended the rally at Halkirk including new Highland Centre members from Orkney Kenny & Sheila Buchan.

G Following the opening on Saturday morning Neil Buchan was presented with a Site Finder's plaque but perhaps this would have been more appropriately Liz Buchans as the field was on the farm owned by her parents!

H After the opening conducted by Mr Alister Henderson we adjourned to the barn where the marshals had set up side shows the proceeds of which were donated to the Youth Charity. There was a treasure hunt and I was delighted to win the main prize – a bottle of wine. This was duly replaced only to be won by Joyce! There was also rolling the balls, roll a penny, coconut shy, a shooting gallery and other attractions which raised the sum of £45.00 – an excellent effort considering the small number of 'vans present.

L The social in Watten Hall went well with the accordionist keeping us on the floor all night. The Sunday Service collection raised £28.65 for the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.

A Although the small turnout must have been disappointing for the marshals all who attended thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and thanks are due to Doug, Shona, Steven and Michelle Fraser and Neil, Liz, Gordon and Fiona Buchan.

**C Dornoch – The Back to Front Rally 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October**

E Billy MacKay the site owner conducted the closing ceremony on Friday night and Friendship plaques were presented to Ena & Alex Carson and Patricia & Charles Young. The Youth Committee who ran the rally was also presented with their Marshals plaques - Fiona & Gordon Buchan, Michelle & Steven Fraser and Daryll Napier.

T Twenty 'vans in total attended including two SCC the Youngs and the Macleans and one visitor from Cumbria Derek Scott.

R The social on Saturday evening was well attended and included a game of 'The Weakest Link' which, unlike the real show, included a great deal of audience participation. The young ladies who provided the music for the dancing were new to us but they soon had us all joining in a very energetic Orcadian Strip the Willow made all the more difficult by the slope of the hall floor!

S On Sunday morning in accordance with the theme of the rally we had the opening ceremony followed by bacon rolls.

C The Youth Committee provided a different but very good weekend and I would ask the liaison officer to pass on the Committee's thanks to all the members of the team.

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**Daviot - 350<sup>th</sup> Rally 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

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The wind and rain on Friday night, coupled with problems with the electricity supply got this rally off to a difficult start for the marshals but luckily they had the use of The Deerstalker premises for the preparation and serving of the soup.

By Saturday morning the weather had improved enough to allow the opening Ceremony to be conducted outdoors. The opener was Bert Bottom a past chairman of the Centre and he told us of his and Lil's connections with the area.

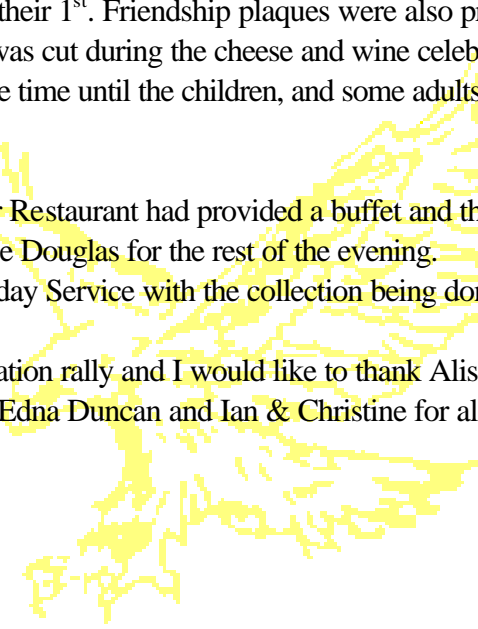
We were pleased to welcome the SCC Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and PRO, the North Centre Secretary representing his Centre, 4 other North members and one Fife & Tayside. Also celebrating special rallies were Dod & Mary Cowie 50<sup>th</sup>, Bill Kerr 250<sup>th</sup> and John & Shirley McKechnie their 1<sup>st</sup>. Friendship plaques were also presented at this time.

The commemorative cake was cut during the cheese and wine celebration following the opening and then we had free time until the children, and some adults, came guising in the early evening.

At the social the Deerstalker Restaurant had provided a buffet and then it was a mixture of games and dancing to Ronnie Douglas for the rest of the evening.

Yvonne Fisher held the Sunday Service with the collection being donated to Maggies Hospice.

This was an excellent celebration rally and I would like to thank Alistair, Yvonne, Joanna & Jonathon Fisher, Gordon & Edna Duncan and Ian & Christine for all their work to ensure its success.



**Other Snippets**

❖ Just in case you missed this years AGM the 2003/2004 committee members are as follows :-

Mr H Stuart	<i>Chairman</i>	Mr D Benison	<i>Vice Chairman</i>
Mr N Buchan	<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs L Benison	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mrs Joyce Stuart	<i>Rally Secretary</i>	Mr D Aird	<i>Equip Officer</i>
Mr A Carson	<i>PRO</i>	Mrs L Aird	<i>Sales Officer</i>
Mrs E Carson	Mr G Duncan	Mr A Fisher	Mr L McCall

❖ If you have access to the internet I can recommend the following sites:-

1. SCC Highland Centre at [www.benison.co.uk/SCCHighland](http://www.benison.co.uk/SCCHighland)
2. The Scottish Caravan Club at [www.thescottishcaravanclub.com](http://www.thescottishcaravanclub.com)

Letters, replies and comment may be sent to the PRO  
Address as in the SCC handbook  
or e-mail:- [ac831491@aol.com](mailto:ac831491@aol.com)

**Now remember; if you are new to the Centre or have not rallied before, why not give rallying a go; you can always be assured of a warm Highland welcome. With this newsletter, is a voucher, which gives you, your first rally free, so why not make use of it, you've nothing to lose and you will almost certainly enjoy it.**