

The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

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Dear Members,

Here is a report on the English National by Alistair Fisher :-

7 Highland Centre caravans went across the border to visit the ("other national") Caravan Club National being held at Harewood House, Leeds over the late May bank holiday weekend. So the Highland Centre was well represented and the Eagle was flying high.

We arrived at 07:30 with the sun splitting the sky over most of the weekend (over 2000 outfits attended the rally).

On the Saturday Morning Joanna Fisher carried out her duties by pulling the SCC Pendant at the Opening Ceremony and lowering it at the Closing ceremony on the Monday.

Saturday afternoon arrived and it was time for it's a Knockout Competition there were 6 teams taking part. The SCC team, Steve & Diane Dargie, Mark Weymess (North Centre) Yvonne & myself and some West Centre members.

Jonathan, our Mascot, lead the SCC team on and after a hard fought competition we finished 2nd.

On the Sunday evening it was time for the traditional SCC Barbecue and guess what we had some rain (just to keep the dust down) and poor Lex stood there in true Highland Centre tradition carrying on Barbecuing (no chance of Helen's Steak being over cooked) it soon dried up and the dancing got underway with the Music being provided by Willie Smith South West Centre a good night was had.

Monday saw the Fancy Dress Parade, the theme was cartoon or comic characters with a Scottish Twist .

Jonathan Fisher - Our Wullie - complete with mouse and dog + bucket

Joanna Fisher - Minnie Mouse

Yvonne Fisher - Beryl the Peril

Gordon Duncan - Gorilla

Edna Duncan - Minnie Mouse

Lillian Bottom - Minnie Mouse

Next Year The 2005 Club National will be held at Burghley House near Stamford, Lincolnshire just off the A1, approx, 508 miles from Inverness

The Fisher family has now attended 9 Club National Rallies - if you haven't been to one why not put it in your diary for 2005 as there is something there for everyone

Highland Centre Rally Reports**Gorthleck 23rd – 25th April.**

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Fifteen outfits attended the rally, which was opened on the Saturday morning by Mrs Mary Robinson the site owner.

Members were asked to inform the Chairman or any Committee member when they knew of an illness, accident or bereavement affecting any other member. So that the customary card could be sent from the Centre to let them know that they were in our thoughts and that we had not forgotten them. Members were advised that Flo Stapleton, Rosella, Sheena MacGillivray & Bill Kerr had been ill and that we wish them a speedy recovery.

In the afternoon a 'pipe & drum making' session took place in preparation for the Scottish National.

The social in the evening was a most enjoyable mix of games and dancing with Donnie as DJ in charge of the boogie box.

Sandy lead the church service on Sunday morning with the collection going to the 'I Can Learn Foundation' – an organisation that provides help for autistic children. Lena had her new stock for sale and did a roaring trade realising almost seventy pounds.

Thanks for their hard work over the weekend go to Cath & Sandy Walker and chief Marshals Lena & Donnie Aird.

Scottish National Rally 30th April – 4th May

A good contingent of Highland 'vans braved the various roadworks and delays and took the long road south to attend the 54th Scottish National Rally at the excellent venue of Springwood Park, Kelso.

The opening ceremony was performed by Sir David Steell, who, was both knowledgeable about the area and witty in the delivery of his address. Various events had been laid on for our entertainment following the opening and there were caravan and equipment sales and whisky tasting courtesy of Glenkinchie.

The Dinner Dance on Saturday evening also saw a good turn out of Highland members and a good time was had by all.

After the Church Service and sales came the time we had been all been waiting for – the Inter Centre Sports! Our team – the Fisher & MacMurray families and coach Lindsay Benison excelled themselves in their efforts to retain the Cup and we celebrated in true

Highland Centre fashion even though we were seventh! The final touches were made to the pipe band equipment and regalia and then we were ready for our big night.

Over five hundred people attended the ceilidh on Sunday evening and I was proud to lead our band into the hall to a standing ovation from the audience. I think that all who were present from the Centre were involved in some way with The Band and I thank all who helped in any way to make our “turn” the undoubted success it was.

The East Centre are to be congratulated on the running of this year’s National and I passed on our thanks at the SCC meeting.

Newtonmore Rally “The ‘Camanachd’ Rally” 7th to 9th May

Vice Chairman’s Report:

For the ‘Camanachd’ rally the marshals had arranged a rally in the undulating landscape of Newtonmore and that was just the rally field!

Friday night saw us celebrating with Ian and Christine MacLean, their 300th Rally, congratulations folks.

Saturday morning opening informed us that we had 20 caravans attending the breakdown of which was 3 SCC, 1 Fife & Tay, 1 East, 1 West, 1 East Hants, 1 Lancashire, 1 CC and 11 Highland Centre. Following the breaking of the flag we were informed that a Shinty match was taking place that afternoon on the field adjacent. Hamish assured us that he had been told that no balls had ever been hit in the direction of the vans. Except for the two found on the field! However that afternoon the match was played without incident. For those interested the match was a MacTavish Cup Quarter Final Replay between Newtonmore and Strathglass which the home team narrowly won 5 v 4 with 2 of the home side goals being scored by a Stuart Ferrier, any link there Avril?

Due to a double booking with the local hall we had the extra treat of a bus trip to the hall at Laggan. This was well worth the mix up as it gave a chance to see more of the countryside around Newtonmore. During the social the Highland Centre’s own Shinty cup was played out to Highland Centre rules. I am sure there was a winner but all enjoyed the contest.

Joyce conducted an excellent Sunday morning service.

Rally marshal plaques were presented to Don and Libby and to chief marshals Hamish, Joyce and Conner. Thank you folks for another “different rally”

Dunbeath 21st – 23rd May

This was the Sixties Revival rally and the Marshals had dug out their fashions from that era to remind us (those of us old enough to remember) what it was like. Some members were at great pains to explain that they hadn't even been born then!! Sixteen 'vans attended including SCC Treasurer Ian Maclean with Christine and first time Highland members John & Muriel Howlett & Colin Turnbull .

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Bacon rolls and wine courtesy of Nan & Jim Hardie who were celebrating their 200th Rally replaced Friday evening 'soup at the tent'.

The opener, Mrs Avril Ferrier , did an excellent job in keeping her cool and lengthening her speech to allow the Marshals time to fold and raise the flag so that she could pull it to declare the rally open.

We then had the rest of the day free until it was time for the barbecue. A representative of the Assynt Mountain Rescue Team had come along to be presented with a cheque by the Youth Committee as a result of their fund raising last year. Donna Sparling was presented with her Youth Committee retiral plaque as this was the first opportunity we had had to do so. The marshals had prepared a musical quiz for later and true to form Alan was the font of all knowledge on this subject – he wasn't too keen on the clothes pegs though and Donnie Aird beat him at this game.

Alex conducted Sunday' service in his own inimitable style helped by Fraser & Kieran with Keith playing the pipes at the beginning and end.

Our thanks for most enjoyable weekend go to Sandra, Gary, Keith, Fraser & Kieran Baxter and Alex & Ena Carson.

Resolis Rally “The Teddy Bears Picnic” 4th to 6th June

Vice Chairman's Report:

The “The Teddy Bears Picnic” rally was held at Resolis on a level playing field next to the hall.

Friday night the Teddy Bears were having a picnic as we arrived but we got to have some of their soup later on.

Saturday opening was conducted by Jackie who had been waiting for years to be asked to open a rally. However the anticipation must have been overwhelming as all she could manage to say was “Hello” and “I'm going to pull the flag now”. We had 17 vans attending the rally; 1 S.C.C, 1 Yorkshire Pennine, 1 Ulster and 14 Highland.

The local committee had double booked and we were “treated” to the spectacle of a Sunday school outing taking place very close to the caravans. It was soon all sorted out and I hope they enjoyed their afternoon.

The teddy bears were out in force for the social in the hall. With a Grand March of the Bears to start things off and a sedate "Hat Game" played of course to Highland Centre rules the social went well, it must have been good, Helen won a raffle prize.

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Avril conducted an excellent and moving Sunday morning service. Donnie and Lena arrived just in time for the sales. Lena was just out of hospital and has two sticks. Donnie was heard to explain one for support and another for hitting him with. She apparently has a grabber but we will say no more about that! Good luck for a speedy recovery Lena.

Helen and Lex McCall were presented with a card for their 47th wedding anniversary and Rally marshal plaques were presented to Avril and to chief marshals Hamish, Joyce and Conner. Thank you folks for a great rally.

Letters

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all those who sent me cards and good wishes during my recent illness.

Many thanks
Bill Kerr

For Sale

Motor mover (Eurotech Model) , battery operated with soft start , Automatic brake, Extra strong tyre, powerful enough to push a one ton caravan up a 1 in 10 gradient. Suitable only for external 'A' frame jockey wheel attachment, full instruction booklet. A demonstration can be arranged by contacting the Chairman, bought in 1992 for £487.00

Offers to the Chairman in a sealed envelope to be opened at the A.G.M. rally. The Motor Mover will go to the highest bidder and all money raised to go to Highland Centre funds as requested by the member who donated it.

Other Snippets

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

1. SCC Highland Centre at www.benison.co.uk/SCCHighland
2. The Scottish Caravan Club at 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

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 your welcome letter, 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?

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