

# The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

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Hello Folks we are in full swing now. In fact, the swing is so full it is nearly AGM time. Remember the change of venue; we will now be in the Cromlet Hall. Also and most importantly, you will find the Youth Committee Nomination form at the end of this newsletter. So, find a youth member and remind them it is time to fill it in! This year Craig retires and I get to pass on the YLO to some other lucky committee member. Only joking kids, sorry young adults. In addition, if it is the Youth AGM soon, just think it is the Adult AGM soon. So come along folks fill your own nominations in and join in the fun on the "adult" committee. Rally reports this time are mainly courtesy of Ian with a bit of editing from myself. I've been busy and things!

## **Grantown on Spey 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May. Free and Easy Rally**

Opener, Aleph Mohen, founder of the Scottish/Norwegian Ski School, found the weather to be decidedly chilly for the time of year, at the Friday evening opening ceremony. Before unfurling the flag, he gave everyone a quick local history lesson. Twenty-Seven vans, 25 Highland, 1 North and 1 Yorkshire Pennine, attended this new venue at the Black Park Playing Fields. Ian presented our visitors from Yorkshire, Sue & Derek Brice, with a Highland Centre Pennant to in recognition of them attending a rally at every centre in Britain. They would also have visited the three Irish centres had the F & M crisis not intervened. The annual boules competition for the Stuart Shield was held on the Saturday morning. After a fiercely fought competition, "Hey Jimmy" from Thurso who beat Les Stapleton in the final. After the Competition Don & Lena Aird laid on a lovely spread for everyone to celebrate their 250th Rally. The weather stayed fine for the bbq, but changed for the worse as soon as the marshals mentioned games. Our thanks go to the marshals, Bob & Mary Cowie and Bill Kerr for a great weekend.

## **Lairg 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June. The "Nearly" Rally**

Nearly as in nearly got to Grummore for those who did not know! The Woodend Caravan Park was a new venue for the Centre and when the weather cleared on Saturday the full splendour of the setting was revealed. The breakdown of vans for the 'Nearly Rally' was, 1 North, 1 Ulster Centre - Bert & Helen McShane (Bert is V/President of Camping & caravan Club, N. Ireland), 1 unattached - Les & Isobel Roberts and 16 Highland. The marshals pounced on Hamish Stuart to open the rally in recognition of Hamish & Joyce celebrating their 350th rally. Congratulations were also due to Don & Lena

who had just celebrated their Ruby wedding anniversary and kindly laid on the refreshments after opening ceremony. The weather stayed fine till the bbq finished and ominous dark clouds appeared, so it was time to pick up chairs and head for the barn. The site owners organized some local musicians at short notice when the marshals discovered that the accordionist was double booked (obviously he went with the booking where he would get paid). The stand in band did a fine job of keeping us entertained in the barn. Hamish Stuart deserved his Site Finder plaque for this super venue, which I'm sure we will return to in the future. The marshals to thank for another excellent weekend are Dave Fleming & Angie Clough and Dave, Lindsay & Craig Benison.

### **Dochgarroch 29<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Silver Jubilee Rally**

Dochgarroch caravan site was the eventual venue for our Silver Jubilee Rally and our thanks go to Gordon Charles, the site owner for his co-operation in rearranging the event. The marshal's prayers were surely answered, for apart from a short shower at Friday lunchtime, the weather for the weekend was superb. An excellent turnout of 77 vans joined us in our celebrations, including three from Caravan Club and six from SCC and we were delighted to see so many old friends make the effort to be with us for our special event.

Jacquie Innes piped in the platform party before Jim McBean, the first Highland Centre Chairman opened the rally, but no matter how hard Lillian McBean pulled, the flag just would not unfurl. Fortunately, that was the only hiccup throughout the weekend. Bob Black, Chairman of CC, then said a few words before cutting the splendid celebration cake. Next it was Sandy Adam, President of SCC who gave the breakdown of the vans followed by Marion Smith, Chairman of SCC, who drew the short straw by having to read out all the cards and letters of good wishes. I then displayed the beautiful lectern embroidery presented to the Highland Centre by Alison Collin, secretary of Fife & Tayside Centre. Before breaking for the cheese & wine celebrations I presented a visitors plaque to Mr. & Mrs. E Smith, Durham Centre, a First Rally as Highland Centre members to Les & Isobel Roberts and a lovely flag stand kindly donated by Alan Wilson, to Bert & Lillian Bottom who were celebrating their 550th rally.

The Dinner Dance at the Craigmonie Hotel was a superb night. Lorraine Gray & her very pleasant staff served the excellent meal, very efficiently. It was very pleasing to see all the past Chairmen present or represented and Bob Black paid a very moving tribute to those departed Chairmen, in his toast to the Centre. The Ardross Dance Band was in excellent form and our sincere thanks go to George Sutherland for sponsoring the band. All too soon, an excellent evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present ended.

The marshals to thank for this superb weekend are Neil & Liz Buchan with Fiona & Gordon, Alex Collins & Jacquie Innes and Alex & Moira Hendry. I would also like to thank all the other Committee members & other members who helped in many ways to make the rally the success it was.

## Portsoy 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July. The Marble Rally

Although the number of marshals kept changing on Friday, they still managed to get everyone sited before all the marshals had finally arrived at yet another new venue, at the 'Boating Pond', Portsoy, (That's Loch Soy to the rest of us!). This time it was thanks to Fiona Murray, she only had to look out her back window to spot this site. Again, this proved to be an excellent venue and a well-deserved Site Finders plaque for Fiona.

Alex's prayer mat must have been working overtime; for that was two rallies on the trot, that Alex has had excellent weather. Making up the 26 vans, was one unattached, Mike & Liz Watt & family (soon to be Highland Centre members despite the efforts of Patricia & Charles Young), 5 North Centre and 20 Highland. Jim Hardie who was celebrating his 150th rally (along with Nan) opened the rally on the Saturday morning before everyone disappeared to the spotty bag shop or other local attractions. Our thanks go to Nan & Jim for providing the baking on Friday night and the refreshments at the bbq. After the marshals served the bbq, Alan Sparling provided the music by playing with Angie's organ, before Fiona introduced the Portsoy way of playing bingo. The marshals to thank for another super rally are Dave Fleming & Angie Clough, Fiona & Robbie Murray with Jack & Luke and Moira & Alex Hendry with Vicky.

### Thank You

Donnie and Lena would like to thank everyone for their wishes, cards and gifts on the occasions of their celebration rally and Ruby Wedding celebrations.

Nan & Jim would like to express their thanks for the kind gifts and cards at the time of their 150<sup>th</sup> Rally.

Lex and Helen would like to thank everyone for their cards and phone calls on the sudden death of Helen's sister Nan, this was a great comfort and very much appreciated.

I would like to thank you all for your sympathy at the time of my Mum's death earlier this year. Thank you.

### Sales

I am not including the full sales is month as I am unsure of the contents. I do know that Donnie & Lena have an awning for sale. Please contact them for details.

# CAPTION COMPETITION

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**Prize: A glass of whatever Hamish decided what was in it!!**

**The Youth Committee Nomination Form.**

Nominations to Y.L.O. (Dave Benison) by 18<sup>th</sup> August 2001

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**The Youth Committee Nomination**

I propose ..... to the office of  
..... on the Highland Centre Youth Committee.

Nominee's Signature .....

Proposed ..... Seconded .....

Signature ..... Signature .....

CC No ..... CC No .....