

The Eagle



The Newsletter of the Highland Centre Scottish Caravan Club

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Welcome folks the rally season is in full swing and the latest reports are in this issue. This issue is also early due to the cancellation of the Dunrobin rally, so at the back you will find nomination slips for the Youth Committee and the full committee. Please remember the completed slips must be in the hands of the Secretary two weeks before the relevant AGM. I am keeping the reports short because my guest writer has excelled himself with his report of the Inchberry Rally and I could not bring myself to edit it.

April 12th – 14th Rallying in the Glen, Aviemore

Dave Fleming with Kevin and Sally Westhall were our Marshals for the weekend. The rally was held in the Aviemore Mountain Resort. Tea and Coffee were served to get the weekend off to a relaxing start on the Friday night. Despite the chief marshal giving all a fright the weekend passed off quietly and successfully and those that attended had a good time. Thank you to the marshals.

May 3rd – 7th The SCC National, Inverness

Not strictly our rally and hence not really material for the news letter but hopefully by the time you have read this the Caravan Club will have printed the article sent to them. So come on smile everyone it is over for another seven years!

May 17th – 19th The Golden Mirage Rally, Dornoch

A breezy mystery tour to sunny Dornoch saw the venue demystified for this rally. Neil, Liz, Fiona & Gordon aided and abetted by Doug, Shona, Michelle & Stephen were our pardn'rs in the Gold Rush of good old 2002. The head of the local tourist board opened the rally, he had a lovely local accent, the problem being it was not local to Dornoch! Missing from his report was the news of a gold strike in the hills around Marshals Awning and panning soon started in Paddlin' Pool, thankfully there was plenty for all and no fights broke out over jumped claims. The Saturday social was held in the sloping foothills of the West Church hall. Bob Matheson and Sons from Rogart provided the entertainment for the night; people were surprised to see how the boys had grown. All to soon the sun set over the hills and it was time to rally round and head off into the sunset. The marshals forgot to remind me to take their picture for the book and I finally got round to it, a month later! Thanks for a great weekend folks.

May 31st – 2nd June Harry Potter Rally, Inchberry

After an uneventful tow from Caithness on the Friday evening it appeared that part of the Caithness contingent were using the power of magic to direct them to the rally. Simple Muggle abilities such as reading the book had totally deserted the happy wanderers. In the case of the Fraser family the offending book was in the caravan somewhere! After turning down the road to Inchberry (well you would if you failed to read the book) we somehow established that the Fraser family was lost. It might have been something to do with the green and pleasant surroundings and no sign of a caravan for miles. A quick call was made to the marshals. This quickly confirmed that the marshals were out enjoying themselves, as there was no reply. I left a message for the marshals and decided to try telephoning friends that are more learned. During this call Shona said I can see a caravan coming and what do you know our learned friends arrived. A ray of hope was quickly dashed that we might have been on the right road. Marshals to the rescue as Lindsay telephoned to give directions. Only thing was I wasn't sure exactly where we were, as there were no landmarks to speak of. After some explaining of the route taken, we were ably redirected to the venue. This turned out to be a road that Shona had asked about some minutes earlier and suggested from memory that we should turn down.

Getting back to the marshals it became clear why there was no answer earlier. The marshals were involved in potion making. I don't know if they used a cauldron but the brew had the following properties, delicious, very addictive, ensnared the senses and produced an effect of drunkenness. Some were so carried away that they had a glass in each hand. I myself had 3 or 4 glasses (even though we were late) and it seemed that the glass could never be emptied. This may have been a property of the potion but I think that it had something to do with Lindsay (Madam Hooch) Benison and her ability to pour when you're not looking.

Saturday dawned cloudy but warm and dry. This turned out to be perfect midge weather. By the time of the opening at 11am, a welcome breeze was keeping the midges at bay. After the usual formalities, the youth committee held a tom-bola stall and raised 40 pounds approximately for Crossroads Care. During the conversations, it became clear that the previous evenings potion had some unpleasant side effects in the form of headaches and tiredness. Of course, this would be nothing to do with mixing of other potions later in the evening.

The evening event was a themed social. A quiz was held with children's games in-between. Hagrid wearing his customary moleskin coat (Dave Benison) presided over the quiz with four rounds, with some interesting question selections. The winners of the quiz were the snitches comprising of Jim and Avril, Lex and Helen, Alan and Lorna, Neil and Liz, Doug and Shona and a couple from the North Centre. A number of people dressed up for the event and a few Harry Potter's were evident. Harry 'the' Potter (Alan Sparling) appeared to sell his wares complete with potters wheel and several examples of his craft. Well done to Alan for stretching the theme to the limit. Avril Ferrier dressed in a fetching cloak had her snitch with her (no not Jim, a little gold ball

with wings). This meant that with one hundred and fifty points and being first in and best-dressed Avril won the adult prize for dressing to theme. Stephen Fraser won the kid's prize for dressing as Harry Potter complete with cloak, hat, glasses wand and scar. Other notable persons that dressed up are:

Lindsay Benison	Madam Hooch complete with broom
Donny Aird	Not sure who Donny was?
Lorna Sparling	Hedwig
Fiona Buchan	The sorting hat

I probably missed somebody in this list but these are the ones I remember from looking in the video camera viewfinder.

Sunday dawned cloudy but dry with little wind and by the time the Sunday service was due it was raining so the service was held in the hall that was conveniently next to the rally field. The usual church service followed with an interesting rendition of the lords prayer sung from tape. Tea and then competitions followed. In the afternoon a few games of boules were played. Alan Sparling offered to thrash me in a game so accepting his challenge we played best of three. Alan lost 11 – 10, 6 – 11 and 4 – 11. Alan says his training for a first round defeat in the Stuart Shield is progressing to plan.

Sunday evening saw a barbecue on the field. Although the evening was dull, it was warm and people were enjoying the music. The rain threatened and caused a quick tidy up only to stop almost immediately. Monday morning saw heavy rain. Several caravans had the opportunity to stay on until Tuesday. They were invited to the jubilee celebrations that the Inchberry hall committee were holding. All in all a very good rally.

Doug Fraser

Footnote – The people that attended the Jubilee Celebrations on the Tuesday were invited to plant a tree. Craig and Avril planted the Highland Centre tree not far from the gate. To paraphrase a famous saying, this makes a tiny part of the North territory forever Highland. Thanks to Doug for an excellent report and not mentioning the incident with the police on Thursday night! If you don't know then I can probably be persuaded to tell you!

June 14th – 16th M*A*S*H Rally, Ardross

A new field saw the Staff of the 4077th hosting the M*A*S*H rally in Ardross. Alex and Ena with two of the grand children aided and abetted by Gary, Sandra and the boys were our marshals for the weekend. True to the theme, they were dressed in style as “characters” from the show. Many of the doctors present had to be restrained in their examinations of the nurses.

Friday night opening allowed for a relaxing start to the weekend, yep another lie in on Saturday morning. The weather and midges held off long enough on Saturday for the communal BBQ and M*A*S*H manoeuvres to be carried out. These manoeuvres involved the Koreans and Americans engaging in some military tasking, funnily enough it involved bottles. The Americans finally came out on top due to the Koreans not getting help from the referee in this case.

Many ralliers used the Sunday to visit the Vintage car show whilst others watched or listened to the Irish narrowly avoiding winning in the World Cup. Thanks again to the staff of the 4077th for a great weekend.

Changes to Rally Program

Dunrobin	16 th – 18 th August	Cancelled
Duffus	27 th – 29 th September	Chief marshal: Cath Wilson
Elgin	1 st – 3 rd Novemeber	Venue now North Alves Caravan Park
Inverness	29 th Nov – 1 st Dec	Now 6 th – 8 th December

Sales

Alan Aspinall has for Sale:

Kubota 400W AC/DC generator £150

Bike Rack – tow ball mounted £10

Bike Rack – door mounted £10

Contact him on the field or e-mail alan@aspinalla.freeserve.co.uk

That is all for now folks

Dave

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The Youth Committee Nomination

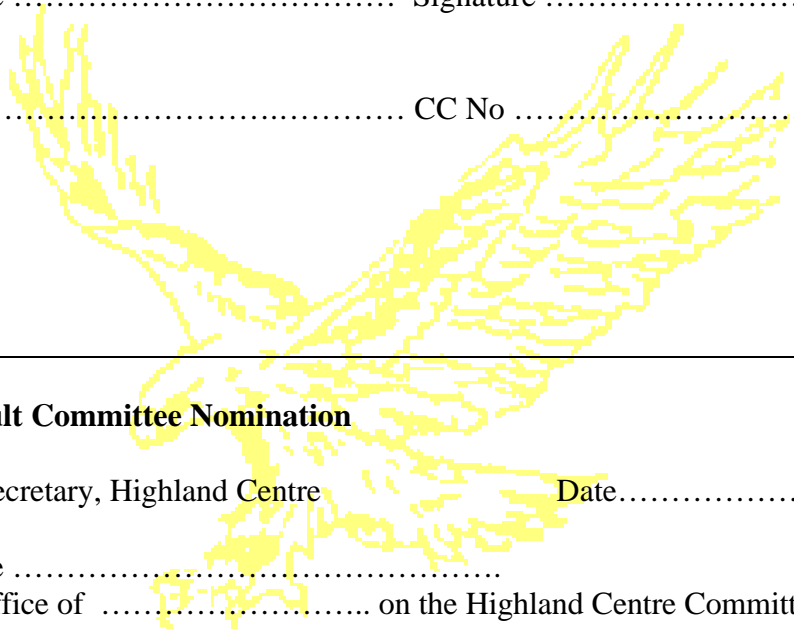
I propose for the office of
on the Highland Centre Youth Committee.

Nominee's Signature

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The Adult Committee Nomination

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

I propose
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