



INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET GREIG

Who retires from office as President of Glasgow H.F. in March 1998.

Margaret

Q How long have you been in the H.F.?

A. Since 1980

Q Is the H.F. the only walking club you have been with?

A. Is there any other?

Q Is the H.F. a better club now than when you first joined?

A. That question is similar to 'have you stopped beating your wife?' It's different...Munro mania has struck the club, myself included...the club is more adventurous in terms of using ice-axes and crampons - we venture further at week-ends - and I feel overall skills are higher - I maybe wrong - but the club has always had very experienced and skilled leaders /members. Winter skills week-ends and map/compass classes are more common, also individual members are taking courses outwith the club. I consider the club reflects what is happening in hill-walking circles overall.



Q You have completed the Munros once; would you disagree with folk who say there is more to walking than Munros?

A. Yes, there's Corbetts!! The club functioned very well before 'Munros' - not everyone wants to be a Munroist therefore, hill-walking covers many different interest for different folk.

Q Would you agree that walking can be a bit selfish, considering the time spent away from home?

A. Yes, An understanding partner is essential if hillwalking regularly, and week-ending. It can damage your social life outwith hillwalking if care is not taken! - i.e. I have to leave this party early I'm hillwalking tomorrow!

Q You have walked in Europe, can you tell us where?

A. Yes, with other H.F. members - in Chamonix and Zermatt - climbing Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn, in addition to other mountains, using mountain huts and climbing over glaciers, brilliant, wish I had done all this years ago! Also around Zeefeld in Austria on my own.

Q Our past-time provides us with wonderful memories can you recall a day that stands out in your memory?

A. Many brilliant memories - which one -? It is usually the 'exciting' ones that stand out, e.g. After climbing Ben Kilbreck, scooting along the road to climb Ben Hope - then caught in a violent electrical storm -

we returned to the Crask Inn our abode, late for dinner, being in the bad books we were to have cold meat salad and chips only...unfortunately the chip pan went on fire and caused a reasonably serious fire in the kitchen, and smoked out the dining room - no serious damage done however - since the kitchen had been just 'done up' - all tiling! Another

time...A beautiful October day climbing Sgurr Choinnich and Sgurr a'Chaoirachain we were pulled along to include Maolile Lunndaidh - needless to say walking a LONG way back on a crisp, frosty moon shining evening, with blue- dark shadows looming around...we finally stopped outside 'Gerry's Hostel' at around 11.00 frightened to go in, because a stalker had told us earlier in the day that Gerry had chased a smoker up the road - a long way since my companion was a smoker she wouldn't go in! If I tell you that on both occasions I was walking with Doreen Watson and you remember her - you'll understand! My last Munro was also fantastic - Ben Sgritheall, absolutely fabulous - a late summers day, glorious sunshine - our group reached the summit

around 12.00 and departed in an unnecessary zig-zag downhill after 3.00 p.m. finishing with a swim in Loch Houm, with seals lazing on the rocks around. We celebrated at the summit, met a climber on his 2nd last Munro who then invited us to HIS last. In our meal later looking out to Eileen Donan castle I was just waiting for Kirk Douglas and his vikings to row up the loch in their longboats! The following day was just as magnificent we climbed the forcan ridge, the Saddle and Sgurr na Sgine...great! Thanks folks for joining me.

Q Having asked that one, where is your favourite spot in Scotland?

A. For sentimental reasons it has to be Rowardennan, Loch Lomond and Ben Lomond.

Q Have you enjoyed your time as President?

A. Very much. It has given me an insight as to how the club operates. It has allowed me to contact other organisations and individuals on various issues, such as the Concordat. And I have really admired and appreciated the amount of work the various secretaries and leaders put into the club. I have felt proud to say I was the President of Glasgow H.F.

Q Do you have any other hobbies?

A. Reading is probably my main hobby - at present I am reading "Memoirs of a Highland Lady" Eliz. Grant of Rothiemuchus mting in the middle of the last century - concurrently with George Elliot's "Middlemarch"... I like to be politically aware keep up with 'what's happening' recently 'into'

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computers...dying to 'surf the net' - maybe write down a few memoirs for fun - enjoy 'things' geographical...(whatever that means) - and grandchildren come into it too!

Q What sort of music do you enjoy?

A I used to be a folk music buff - still enjoy it but Eddy Gaughin is not Jimmy MacGregor! I have peasant instincts and enjoy music with rhythm -Latin, Greek, Russian, Caribbean, African. I also enjoy classical - to be honest usually the most popular - the 'four tenors have really brought a lot of people into the classics.

Q Do you think the club goes into the year 2,000 in good shape?

A Yes I do. The whole scene has changed, and is changing all the time, there are some excellent members who I have no hesitation in saying will continue the activities of the club in a manner in which the founding members would be proud. Sometimes change is difficult to accept, all change

is not automatically good, mistakes have been and will be made - but overall the learning curve is upwards! The growing number of hillwalkers has brought about a much higher awareness of safety - no doubt increasing E.C. legislation on safety matters will tighten up some practises - we see already the growing necessity for insurance cover - we have excellent insurance cover from H.F. Holidays Limited, but previously probably no one thought about it - but "I'll SUE you" philosophy is alarming some clubs.

Q Do you use a trekking pole?

A Yes, sometimes two. I noticed in the Alps that most of the guides (young ones too) all used poles to 'preserve' their knees -sounded good to me.

Q Is there any advice you would pass onto your successor

A Since my successor is Alice Galletly I think not, Alice has so much experience herself doing such excellent work as Sunday Secretary. Just enjoy the experience - .

Thanks Ian - I look forward to many years of "higher still" (teachers' joke) hillwalking with Glasgow H.F.