



PACK—CHAT

GLASGOW H. F. OUTDOOR CLUB

APRIL 1991

BILL KENNEDY - A TRIBUTE

"The man's the gowd for a' that"

We must all have been saddened to hear of the death, recently, of a much respected and long-standing member of the club. Bill Kennedy died of asbestosis on February 6th after ten days in intensive care following the removal of a lung in an unsuccessful attempt to prolong his life.

His services to the club were many and in particular the fact that for many years we continued to enjoy the facility of a cottage at Bridge of Orchy was largely due to him, for right from the beginning, when rotten joists needed replacing and damp walls cured there was always work to be done; - to the roof, the chimneys, the eaves, the water supply from the hill, the plumbing, and even trying to keep the private approach road fit for cars, besides repairing repeated break-ins. As cottage conveyer for fourteen years he did all this at virtually no expense to the club and often at considerable inconvenience to himself, using his weekends to drive up to the Bridge of Orchy to do whatever was necessary, sometimes in quite fierce weather conditions and on at least one occasion I had some doubt concerning his safety on the roof in such weather.

But Bill also had other qualities useful as cottage conveyer: his complete genuineness, his ability to see others' point of view and his sense of humour made him not only popular in the club but also kept him —and therefore the club — on good terms with Callum, the farm manager, and Lord Trevor, the estate owner, and indeed I know that on at least one occasion the three of them had some friendly chat over the whisky bottle! It was a pity, therefore, though predictable I suppose, that the owner's lawyers felt it necessary to treat things on a strictly business basis and for financial success, so that after making strenuous efforts to attract members to the cottage in sufficient numbers to make it pay its way it was a great disappointment to Bill to see all his effort "go down the drain" when we finally decided that we must discontinue the lease. We have a great deal to thank him for on this score alone.

He was also, of course, President of the club, as most of you will remember, from 1986 to 1989, carrying out his duties with characteristic thoroughness and efficiency and taking the chair at committee meetings with a commendable balance of authority and humour. His services to the club, however, started back in 1973 when he became Saturday Secretary, a post which he held successfully for three years.

Altogether Bill was a tireless worker on the club committee for sixteen years without a break and for several of those years was performing two duties at once.

However, generous as these contributions were, they were only official duties, and take no account of his many incidental activities on behalf of the club. He was, for instance, always active at our social occasions, hosting at country country dance nights and ceilidhs and generally getting involved in the social scene, and has also been an ever-willing and very capable outdoor leader, taking compass courses and leading parties on the hills. One way and another his name has appeared regularly on our programmes from 1970 up to the present one.

We have lost a popular and respected member and will surely feel the lack of his example and contribution in our future activities, and those of us who were close to him have lost a sincere and valued friend who will be sorely missed.

Norrie Pearson