

A tribute to Bill Penman who died on 20th of June 2002.

I do not know when Bill joined the Club. He was already a member when I joined in 1959.

In those days we were both very much involved in the outdoor scene. Bill's ready wit enlivened many a day on the hills. Of course, the sun always shone then. We even used to swim in peaty lochans.

With advancing years and creaking joints, I faded gradually from the high tops. Bill was not so lucky. He was struck down with ME.

He fought this scourge and returned to the Club, mostly to the social scene. He enjoyed dancing and was always most adept at charming the ladies. We men were kept amused by his endless fund of jokes. Bill had a good appetite and was usually first in the tea queue.

I wondered at one time why Bill never took office in the Club. I soon found out the reason. It was the one organisation where he could relax without the responsibility of office.

Otherwise, he spent most of his time helping the disadvantaged. He made audio tapes for the blind. He was most involved in the Forth and Clyde Canal Project for the disabled. Until very recently, he was delivering meals on wheels to pensioners younger than himself.

Bill and I both served in the Scots Guards. At his funeral there were twenty four members of the Scots Guards Association. We formed a guard of honour on both sides of the entrance to the Crematorium.

While we were waiting for the coffin, draped with the Association flag, our diminutive Social Secretary scampered down the lane, flanked by these six foot tall ex Guardsmen. A moment of light relief on a sad day.

Bill served as a Piper in the Regiment and a Piper from the Regiment played a lament as the coffin disappeared. There was an extremely good turn out of members of the Club. I gave an address and ended thus: "As a piper, I think that Bill would approve my choice of tune as his epitaph - Happy we've been a' the gether".

Jack Kerr
Honorary President
4th July 2002