



The Editor Meets Tom Addie

Tom, you sound like a Glaswegian, how long have you been a member of the H.F. Club?

I can happily admit to being a Glaswegian, and a fully paid up member of the club since the last century i.e. 1991.

Tell us of some of the countries you have walked in, and what attracted you to them.

I've done less travelling than some, but I have enjoyed walking and climbing in France, Switzerland, Austria and Ireland. In fact any "big country", with wide-open spaces and mountains and hills, would attract me anywhere in the world.

Given the amount of walking you do Tom, you will have a favourite area or walk here in Scotland.

Usually the areas with big ridges and dangly bits. So Torridon, Skye, etc., but there is so much variety of landscape here at home, that there is always plenty to do and new experiences to gain.

Do you hope to complete the Munros some day?

Probably, but it's never been a major concern of mine. It's more important to me to do new hills, of whatever height, and climb old favourites in good company, that is the essence of hill walking for me.

Are you happy with the way things are going with the club at the moment?

Broadly speaking, yes. It's often said that we are two clubs (i.e. Saturdays and Sundays), but I think this is a strength rather than an implied weakness, since it allows any new entrant (of whatever level of ability) to find their own level of walk in our programme.

Surely this is what is important in attracting new members, and also retaining them so that some at least can become leaders in their turn or offer their abilities in some other way to the club. This is how we not only continue to survive, but also to flourish.

What music or singer do you like to listen to?

Very wide ranging, from Gregorian Chant, through the usual Classical repertoire, Stravinsky, Mahler etc., Modern Scottish (Capercaillie etc.), Rock Music, and of course the songs and airs of our own Sandy Henderson.

Tom, what do you like to watch on the box?

Big blondes!

What really annoys you?

The current fashion for political correctness. The compensation culture, and the substitution of the appearance of things over the substance of matters, e.g. producing a glossy leaflet full of half truths and lies which convinces no one but keeps a bureaucrat in a job, while public services and the quality of life in general is going down the drain.

Is there something you would like to change in today's world?

Yes, my socks, frequently.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of taking up walking? Apart from joining H.F. of course.

Check your insurance policy. Work out an escape route for yourself and always trust your leader.

Thanks for doing this interview and for all the good work you do for the H.F. Outdoor Club.

Ian