

This year we made the decision to be realistic and accept that, due to age and some health issues walking on 2nd January from Moniefieth out beyond Barry Buddon and round the corner in order to get shelter from a West or South West wind then search for wood, light a fire and cook on it, eat lunch and then the walk back in daylight when it is dark by 4.00pm is now too much for most of the regulars who have traditionally attended this outing. Despite the forecast being good the decision was made to go for what in previous years has been the wet weather alternative which has been to meet at Tayport and walk out to Tentsmuir Point which gives more options for extending the walk South along Tentsmuir Beach and returning through the forest or just returning by the outward route. This proved to be a good decision as instead of a turnout of about 5 or 6 we ended up with 13, not all of whom were members as some brought friends. Some were also members of other clubs who had also brought friends. It turned out to be a great day and as the photo below shows we had a day of blue sky and sun which is not what most people's recollection of the weather of January and February 2026 will be! We also felt pleased that some of the new faces had gone home after a lovely day liking what we did and showing interest in coming out again with us. A couple of weeks later there was another low level walk following either side of the River Almond between Almondbank and Methven which had a turnout of 7 of whom 3 were new faces who had either been on the New Year walk or heard about it.



Tentsmuir Beach



Methven Woods

The AGM followed the pattern which, since Covid has become normal for the Club, which is to hold it on Zoom avoiding the need for anyone to travel. The meeting's formal business was fairly straightforward with the committee remaining unchanged. An increase was, however, agreed to the level of the Club membership subscription. With the affiliation fee to Mountaineering Scotland (MS) rising to £28.75 for each active member this year it was agreed that keeping FMC membership at £25 was unrealistic. Bearing in mind it was several years since there had been any increase it was agreed that for active members it should rise to £30 but that there was no need to increase the fee for those who were members of other clubs if their fees to MS were being paid by the other Club. For these members it can remain, due to the Club's current healthy bank balance, at £7 and for purely social members £5. The fee to MS covers liability insurance for any Club related activity and also includes the cost of The Scottish Mountaineer (the MS magazine) which goes to every paid up Club member. Your subscriptions are now due so please, if you wish to remain a member or become a member, could you pay the appropriate sum into our new RBS account (sort code: 83 15 22; account no: 17925357). Please make sure you make it clear who the payment is from so that Irene, our treasurer, can identify who has paid. Alternatively you can still send a cheque to Irene made out to Fife Mountaineering Club. For anyone joining for the first time I will need to give your contact details to MS.

Under the heading of any other business I was able to advise members that we have already been offered the usual house at Boat of Garten for the weekend of 15th – 17th May. This is the equivalent Mid May weekend as last year when from arrival on the Friday evening to departure on Sunday afternoon we had brilliant wall to wall sunshine for the whole weekend! Please could you let me know if you are interested in attending that weekend. Anyone who has paid their Club membership subscription is welcome. It is a large comfortable house with flexible accommodation.

Regarding a Club week away in the summer I threw out the suggestion of Islay as it is a large enough Island with enough different things of interest to occupy us for a week ranging from wildlife, cliff walks, war time and ancient Scottish history monuments as well as lots of distilleries. It doesn't have any high hills but the PAPs of Jura are only a 5 minute ferry trip away. I would be happy to try and book a self catering house but I need to have some idea as to the numbers interested in going including dates you can or can't manage before I make any sort of booking and committing to it by paying a deposit. Sometimes there are members who are able to come just for part of a week but I still need to know if any of you are thinking along these lines. In recent years this Club week has been in June as houses can be a bit cheaper before the Scottish school holidays begin but it doesn't have to be in June. It will not be in the 2nd week of June this year (6th – 13th June) as I will be away elsewhere that week and I need to attend the Club week when I have made the booking for the house

The Club had already received notification that this year's Mountainmind Quiz is being hosted by Perth Hillwalking Club and will take place in Perth on 18th March and it looks as if we already have a team lined up, keen to participate and represent us there.

The business meeting was then followed by the usual enjoyable quiz which was presented by Irene who had been the joint winner with Les of last year's quiz. This was won by Len with Catherine being the runner up.

Since the AGM Catherine has been busy trying to get a consensus on a date and time for a Club dinner or lunch within the next couple of months. During the past 2 years we have had 2 very enjoyable meals at the Courtyard in Cupar. Apart from the restaurant proving popular with Club members Cupar is geographically a central location relative to where most members live. Let us hope Catherine can find a time when the restaurant can accommodate us that suits most of us who wish to attend. If she does it is likely to be the next Club occasion that I manage to attend!

Jean