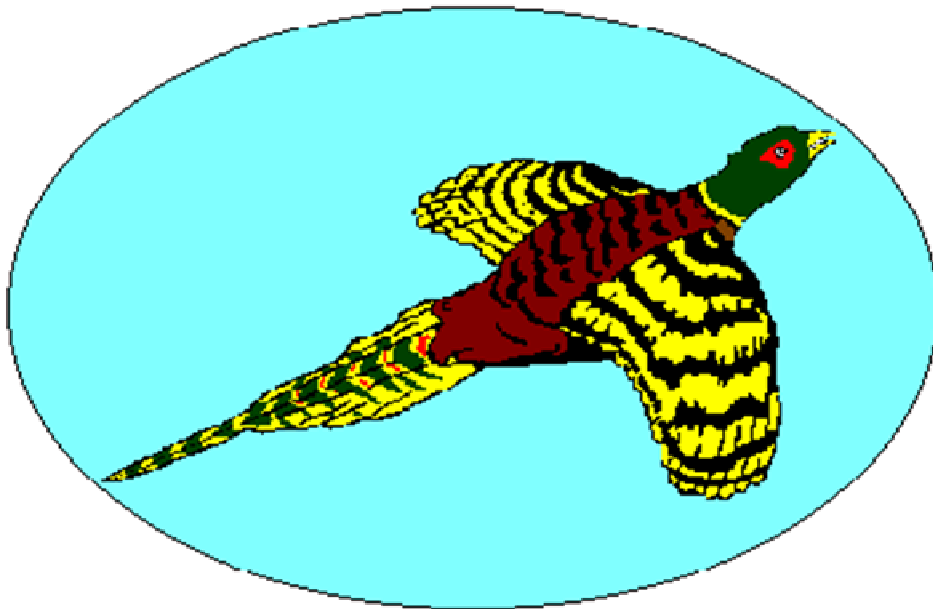




Pheasant Chatter

Spring/Summer 2014



Perth & Angus DA Newsletter
The Camping and Caravanning Club



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Hi everyone ... welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of Pheasant Chatter. For those of you who don't know me, I have taken over as editor from Julie Watson. On behalf of the PADA Committee, we would like to thank Julie for all her hard work in publishing the newsletter over the last 3 years.

Alan and I (sorry that's Monty to you ... I do confuse people when I give him his proper name) have only been camping for 4 years and we have enjoyed every minute. I want to give something back to the DA for all the fun and laughs we have had, therefore I decided to put my hand up at the AGM when Phil was looking for a new editor! However, I'm feeling a bit apprehensive at the thought of pulling together my first edition, but excited at the same time. I am sitting wondering what I think should be included, but then thought ... I can continue keeping you up to date with what we've all been up to and what we have to look forward to, but this newsletter is for you, the DA members. What would you like to hear and read about? Do you have some news for your fellow members? Do you want to share any anecdotes or photos from out on the field? Have you found some gadget that your fellow campers just can't live without? If you do, please send it to me at the email address above.

If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, please send me your name and email address. If not, look out for it on the website - www.perthandangusda.co.uk
Meantime, my camera and notebook are all ready to go ... I'll be watching and listening!

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a piece for this edition.

Happy camping!

Lesley

Chairperson's pitch:

Phil Grant

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Winter is now a distant memory with summer fast approaching. We have had a busy start to 2014 beginning with our New Year meet which was again a sell out. This will remain a booked meet due to its popularity. Details of how to book are available from Sarah Martin.

Our region dinner dance was again a huge success which everyone enjoyed. Roll on 2015 where the dinner dance will be at the Stirling Highland Hotel.

This is a great way to meet up with our camping friends and enjoy a little luxury.

We returned to camp at Noah's Ark Caravan Park for our AGM with an increase in camping units and a very busy meeting.

Since our last edition of 'the chatter' we have welcomed new youth leaders in Nick and Wendy Groome-vine, and junior youth leaders in Terry and Gail Carter. We also have a new editor, Lesley Montgomery. We wish them every success in their positions. We have three new committee members. They are Terry Carter, Nick Groome-Vine and Lesley Montgomery. Welcome aboard our happy ship guys!

Our next meet was at Cairnsmill Caravan Park with our live ceilidh band on the Saturday night. This meet continues to be one of our most popular which is not surprising with first class facilities on site.



Our Region meet was fantastic this year with over 200 units. There was a huge effort this year to retain the Inter-DA Competition Pennon and we managed to take our challengers to task. Next year sees us go for a hat-trick so we need everyone to dig deep again to allow us to achieve this. Not that we are competitive!!!!!!

I have just returned from the Montrose Music Festival which brought a huge turnout. A great THS with plenty to do for everyone. Roll on next year which I am sure we will be even busier. I was lucky enough to get breakfast delivered to me at 7am on Saturday morning. The photo was not my best look! Thanks Sheila, the roll was lovely.

Looking forward we have our big birthday bash at Glendevon from the 4th to the 8th of September. This will be one not to miss! There will be a marquee and full entertainment is planned for the weekend. Our FOL will be Saturday and the theme is The Wizard of Oz. Later in September we will run our Ryder Cup THS at the same venue, a must for all you golf fans as it's only 5 miles from Gleneagles.

I was given a challenge this year as The Jean Stewart walk was in our area. I was asked to go along and demonstrate my motivational and leadership skills to our youth. I completed the challenge, however, far from me being an inspiration to them, the opposite happened. They were an inspiration to me. They are all well mannered, independent young adults and are a pleasure to spend time with. They offered helpful advice to people like myself attempting their first walk. We as a DA and Region should be very proud of our youth. I hope Rhiannon continues to develop into one of these polite, grounded individuals.

I am now looking forward to our THSs and will hopefully catch up with many of you at some point in the near future.

Phil



Breaking camp ...

Although I've enjoyed my time as the Pheasant Chatter Newsletter Editor I think it's now time to hand over the reins to Lesley, who I'm sure, will inject more life into it. I wish her all the luck in the world and hope she manages to prize some interesting articles from everyone. She assures me she is very good at nagging and Monty agrees! Please help her as without your input there would not be a newsletter and from my experience everyone likes reading what you've been getting up to!

To help you Lesley here is a wee ditty you may find useful...
See you all on a field soon!

Julie Watson

The English Lesson

We'll begin with box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes.
Then one fowl is goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a whole lot of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be pen?
The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But the plural of vow is vows, not vine.
And I speak of a foot, and you show me your feet,
But I give a boot... would a pair be beet?
If one is a tooth, and a whole set is teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth?

If the singular is this, and the plural is these,
Why shouldn't the plural of kiss be kесе?
Then one may be that, and three be those,
Yet the plural of hat would never be hose.
We speak of a brother, and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.

The masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis, and shim.
So our English, I think you will agree,
Is the trickiest language you ever did see.

I take it you already know
of tough, and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you
on hiccough, through, slough and though.

Well done! And now you wish, perhaps
To learn of less familiar traps?
Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead; it's said like bed, not bead!
For goodness sake, don't call it deed!

Watch out for meat and great and threat,
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt)
A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth in brother.
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
And then there's dose and rose and lose –
Just look them up – and goose and choose,
And cork and work and card and ward
And font and front and word and sword.

And do and go, then thwart and cart.
Come, come, I've hardly made a start.
A dreadful language: Why, man alive,
I'd learned to talk when I was five.
And yet to write it, the more I tried,
I hadn't learned it at fifty-five!

Catch up with what we've been up to ...

Scottish Region Meet, Strathallan Games Park, Bridge of Allan

This year was a record breaking year with 214 units on site. And Scottish Region made it into the July edition of the Camping and Caravanning Club magazine!

Once again the youth ran a very successive breakfast cafe, Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, even though Debbie did have an issue with the number of rolls she ordered!

As usual, what a spirited contest the inter-DA competition was. Well done Heather Carter, Amy Groome-Vine, Ryan Martin and Nick Groome-Vine for competing in the sports and John Little and his crew for the decorated unit.

Congratulations also to Euan Johnstone who was presented with the Scottish Region Young Achiever Award from Andy Wilson, President of the FICC Youth Commission.

Unfortunately due to the rain the pennon parade was held in the marquee, but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits, especially Perth & Angus DA members when our chairman Phil lifted the trophy!!

A fantastic meet as always, lets look forward to another record breaking year next year.

Lesley Montgomery

"... The Scottish Region did a very good job in running this meet. We thoroughly enjoyed our 5 days there and once again Perth and Angus won the flag. The entertainment every night was first class and as always well attended..."

Kenny & Martha Band

Cycle Festival, Mill of Logierait, Near Aberfeldy

This year we made Logierait a four day meet and it helped us increase our unit numbers. The field was beautiful. We put up a party tent on Friday complete with heaters, and enjoyed a quiet comfortable get together.

On Saturday most of us ventured into Pitlochry for the cycle festival. There were bikes on show and a few stalls. Next year the organisers hope to move back to Aberfeldy and make it a much bigger event .

On Saturday afternoon we decided to have a CODE 10 (barbecue in code). The kids played various field games including Kubb, horse shoe game and of course volleyball.

Once we had digested our tea it was time to give the youth a lesson in volleyball. It was great and the competition was good, but we won! (Sorry youth!) We then picked mixed teams and were poised at one game each when bad light stopped play.



Everyone retired to the party tent for a double 50th birthday celebration. The junior youth played sweetie roulette and then the big kids played shot roulette. It was a fantastic evening with lots of birthday cake.

This is one not to miss next year.

Phil Grant

Jean Stewart Walk, Newton of Inshewan Farm, Memus, Near Forfar

The Youth – Heather Carter, Lewis Groome-Vine,
Euan Johnstone, Ryan Martin, Erin Peden,
Nicola Smith, Dave Walkden and Thomas Wright
Youth Leaders – Debbie Carcary, Lisa Etherson,
Nick Groome-Vine, Chris Johnstone and Allan
McDiarmid
Nearly Mountain Leader – Oli Jones
Invited Guests – Phil Grant, Chair of Perth and
Angus DA and Sam Canfield, National Youth PRO



After waiting all day for Jarrid to finish work, him and Jonny decided not to take part in the Jean Stewart Walk – not a good start for me. I have to re-pack my rucksack with more than just a sleeping bag! I had it all planned, the two lads could carry my stuff! I re-pack and set off to join Perth and Angus DA who have organised the parents meet at Newton of Inshewan Farm, Memus.

Saturday morning we head up to Glen Clova for the start of the walk, setting off on time at 10am. As is the norm for a Jean Stewart walk, it's not long till we're climbing Capel Mounth – a steep, long uphill trek! With lots of help and encouragement we all make it to the top, we drop down and find shelter in a quarry for our well earned lunch! We set off again and so far the weather is fine. Oli and Chris do a great job as mountain leaders doing compass and map work with the youth, which lets us slow coaches at the back catch up, and we have fun in the shelters as well. We decide to send an advance team ahead to lay claim to the bothy. They hadn't gone very far when they come across two guys, one has fallen off his bike and needs medical attention. Allan stops to help but the rest of our crowd are on a mission far more important! (It was fine a shelter was offered and a Land Rover was on route to pick them up).

We can now see Loch Muick (pronounced by locals Loch Mick), and just how far we have to walk to our camp site for the night, which stretches way out in the distance, and just when we think it can't get any worse, the heavens open, the wind gets up. It's a long slow haul fighting the elements, and I've never been so glad to see the bothy in all my life!

The bothy is behind 'the Widows Cottage', a spectacular Victorian building built for Queen Victoria on the Balmoral Estate. It's a great place to camp. We share the bothy with a couple who have three dogs, a Polish chap and his young son. But we have managed to lay claim to the upstairs sleeping area, it's not very big but Nicola, Dave, Sam, Chris, Oli and myself are in, the rest are happy to put their tents up, I think!! We all dry out, there's a lovely fire and we are all able to cook our tea in there too. Nick and Phil have everything in their pack but the kitchen sink! They have steaks, burgers, sausages, a disposable barbecue - I can't even lift their packs up! They are like a couple of big kids, so excited to be cooking their own food, sleeping in their own tents, which incidentally they have put up under the trees, so



all the youth thought that would be a good idea too. (Think I might need to send the two of them off to sit their youth test!) Eventually the rain stops, the youth and the 'two big yins' start a fire in a tin lid; we all have fun, climbing trees, cooking marshmallows, singing and dancing around the fire, before eventually falling exhausted into bed.

The next morning we're all up by 8am, Nick and Phil have a full cooked breakfast, the rest of us mere mortals have cereal bars!

The weather is a lot better although, still windy, we set off just after 9am – another steep hill, spectacular views and once at the top a big sigh of relief, it's now all downhill. We stop for an early, quick lunch, and then the race is on! Phil and Nick take off, hotly pursued by Oli, Chris, Euan and Thomas. The rest of us take a more sensible approach, but we're all back by 1.30pm.

Just a walk in the park for Thomas, Erin (her first walk, she was totally independent and carried all her own stuff), Euan, Heather, Lewis and Ryan. Sam, Dave and Nicola brought up the rear, and me and Lisa - we survived another year!

Are you a Youth member? Then why not join us next year? It's a brilliant weekend, tough, enduring but well worth the effort and sense of achievement, think you have what it takes? Speak to your Youth Leader- go on you know you want to!

Debbie Carcary

'MoFes' - Montrose Music Festival, Montrose Sports Ground

Just back from 'MoFes' where we had a brilliant weekend. Congratulations again to Dave and Isla West for organising what was a very busy THS.



Arrived on Friday night and decided to really paint the town red, but was in bed for 10pm instead! Didn't catch Status Quo, but some of our fellow campers headed over to the sand dunes where they had the best seats in the house for free.

Batteries charged for Saturday, Lesley and I headed in to town and heard some great bands, one of which we squashed into a charity shop to watch while they played in the shop window!

We also heard a great set from Chris Helme (for all of you too young to remember, he was singer/guitarist in The Seahorses). And of course we had to have some refreshments in the local watering holes!

Had a chilling day on Sunday after doing a wee bit DIY in the caravan and a stroll in Arbroath.

As we were on holiday, we headed off on Monday down to Riverview Caravan Park in Monifieth where the weather was glorious. From there we packed up the caravan and sunshine and headed off to meet our fellow campers at Bankhead Farm in Leven.

Monty



Bankhead Farm, Leven

What a fantastic weekend!

The site is lovely and the weather was cracking. The company first class! There were 12 caravans on site and 3 youth tents, so the 'party tent' was just the right size for our get-togethers on Friday and Saturday night. On Friday after we had set up we enjoyed a group Chinese meal collected from the local Chinese restaurant (thanks Ralph). We ate it al-fresco with the Perth and Angus Pennon and the Firth of Forth glistening at our backs. We washed it down with a few fruit juices! What a perfect evening.



On Saturday we enjoyed a lovely BBQ brunch while basking in the glorious sunshine overlooking the water (I could even see Bass Rock), followed by a leisurely stroll down to the Crusoe Hotel in Lower Largo in the afternoon. Ted and I didn't join the walkers – we were on a mission to Kirkcaldy Caravans to purchase a grey hook-up cable to replace the one which “fell out” and smashed while driving to site! We then went to Wallace



Caravans to get our back steady fixed – we had managed to somehow loose a pin which keeps it in place. I tell you, if it had started raining that would have been the third bad thing to happen which would have sent me packing! Yes – I'm a “fair weather camper”. Luckily the sun stayed out and we joined the walkers at the Crusoe Hotel in Lower Largo. Just as well we had taken the “rescue vehicle” as Amy had developed a very impressive blister! The adults enjoying a well deserved beverage after their trek. The kids and dogs loved the beach and the ice creams! Back on site, I discovered a few extra rucksacks in the boot! Good job it wasn't the Jean Stewart Walk or Debbie would have disqualified you

all!! Following a BBQ tea, Nick had arranged target practice for anyone that felt brave enough to take up the bow and arrows! More sunbathing and a get together in the party tent again at night. The fairies had been and given it a lovely new floor! Thanks Stephen!

The site is so peaceful and easy to find – I will definitely be back!

Julie Watson



Perth & Angus DA Happy 40th Birthday!

Come and help celebrate our 40th birthday. We have a fantastic programme of events planned with something for everyone to get involved in.

**The Haugh
Glendevon
4th - 8th September 2014**

For further information visit our
website:
www.perthandangusda.co.uk



The CCY and Junior Youth

I recently took on the role of Youth Leader for Perth and Angus DA on the back of a highly enjoyable and successful meet at North Berwick last year, where organised sports and games featured heavily in the programme. Their enthusiasm and appetite for fun and adventure is infectious and I am looking forward to the challenge of keeping them all occupied and driven.

There have already been a number of rallies that have featured our wonderful youth. Ryan Martin, Heather Carter and my own Amy Groome-Vine joined me in the inter DA sports competition during the Region Meet at Strathallan and put in a fantastic performance helping Perth and Angus to victory once again. That weekend the youth assisted in the breakfast cafe and helped raise some of the extra funds that go towards their activities and camping throughout the year.



There was also the skiing weekend back in February at Glenshee where we joined the Scottish Youth and took over Blackwater Scout Hall enjoying two days of fantastic snow sports. For the second year in a row the snow was plentiful and although the weather couldn't make its mind if it was Scotland (grey and windy) or the French Alps (clear blue skies and sunshine) the fun just didn't stop, on the slopes and off.

As a youth leader I was asked ... no expected ... to join those youth who took on the challenge of the Jean Stewart Walk in May. We set off from Glen Doll and completed around twenty miles carrying a full pack, we spent the night at the bothy on the North shore of Loch Muick. Some chose to take shelter in the bothy and others, myself included, spent the night under canvas.



Everyone carried their own camping equipment and food for the trip. With most choosing to travel light there were two notable exceptions that took everything but the kitchen sink!

Our intrepid Chairman and I thought we would take a few luxury food and drink items and although it was hard work on the first leg, it was well worth it as we enjoyed a hot lunch, steak dinner and cooked breakfast the following morning. I can honestly say that we could be the very first people to actually put on weight taking part in this endurance event. I have huge respect for all the youth who took part and yet again proved that they are capable, confident and ready to meet any challenge put in front of them.

On the 20th June the youth meet was held at the Aberfeldy THS. On the Saturday morning our youth and a few brave adults enjoyed a downhill mountain bike experience from the nearby Highland Safari Centre. All participants were given a lift to the top of the route and then allowed to make their own way back down at a speed that they felt comfortable. One or two choosing to race ahead leaving me and a few less daring to navigate down at a more sedentary pace and enjoy the spectacular views. After a bite to eat back at the camp site the youth made their way into Aberfeldy where we played volleyball, short tennis and football in preparation for competing in the Austin Trophy at the forthcoming National Youth Rally in Bedfordshire. A further practice session was undertaken back at the camp site for the races that also form part of the Austin Trophy. Euan Johnstone showed his prowess in the sack race and we may have just found a 'dark horse' in the pairing of Lewis Groome-Vine and Thomas Wright in the three legged race. On Saturday afternoon a barbeque was provided, followed by an evening of Scottish country dancing when we joined the rest of the campers at the local hall for a ceilidh.



The following morning we took the short trip to Kenmore and had a horse riding lesson where we discovered that we have one or two secret cow boys amongst us.

What a great weekend and good luck to all those attending the National Youth Rally.

A recent addition to the youth calendar is the Munro walks that I have started. I wanted to give the youth a further challenge that would involve a degree of wild camping followed by the physical challenge of walking some of Scotland's mountains. The first challenge was undertaken on Friday 13th June when a small but enthusiastic group travelled to Loch Earn where we camped right on the shore line enjoying an evening barbeque and campfire snacks.

After a peaceful night and a cooked breakfast we joined a few more walkers who had travelled up that morning and set off to conquer Ben Vorlich, accessed from the Ardvorlich Estate on the South shore of the Loch. After much huffing and puffing all party members from the youngest, Ethan Russell, to the oldest, Ralph Russell reached the summit.

We took lunch in the sunshine at the summit of Ben Vorlich after which the party split in two, with most of the group heading back down, however, six of us including two of the youth, Euan and Lewis, went onto climb the second Munro, Stac a` Chroin. The two Munro's took over 7 hours and we walked just over 10 miles but everyone who took part agreed that it was an awesome experience.



For some this was their first experience of a Munro and for at least one, Amy Groome-Vine, it will be their last (or so she says). I have already started planning the next walk, so look out for the upcoming posts on the Munro Baggers Facebook Page. The page is under a secret group so if you would be interested in joining us on one of our expeditions feel free to PM me or Phil Grant for more information.

Nick Groome-Vine
Youth Leader

Are you a golf fan?
Are you going to the Ryder Cup and
looking for somewhere to stay?



Join us at our THS

The Haugh
Glendevon
19 September - 5 October

For further information, visit our website
www.perthandangusda.co.uk

What have we got to look forward to? ...

13 July – 10 August	Scoughall Farm, North Berwick (THS)
18 – 20 July	Newton of Inshewan Farm, Memus, near Forfar
1 – 24 August	Dalkeith Country Park – Join Scottish Region
29 – 31 August	Bankhead Farm, Leven
4 – 8 September	The Haugh, Glendevon 40th Birthday Meet & FOL Theme: Wizard of Oz
11 – 14 September	Newton of Nydie, Strathkinness
19 September – 5 October	The Haugh, Glendevon (THS} Ryder Cup at Gleneagles
10 – 12 October	Lanark Racecourse – Join Scottish Region
24 – 26 October	Forresters Seat, Forfar – Join Grampian
31 October – 2 November	Bus Museum, Lathalmond – Halloween Meet
7 – 9 November	Gallowhill Farm, Kinross – Firework Meet
11 – 17 November	Cairnsmill Caravan Park, St Andrews
29 Dec ember – 2 January	Bus Museum, Lathalmond – New Year Meet (Booked Meet)

Scoughall Farm, North Berwick THS
13th July - 10th August 2014
What's happening at North Berwick?

Monday Evenings - Ralph's Movie Night - (No Movie on 14th July)

Thursday 17th July - Beetle Drive

Friday 18th July - Quiet get together in marquee - catch up with old and new friends

Saturday 19th July - 'Phil, Nick & Terry's Saturday Night Take-away', with fun laughter & games

Sunday 20th July - Crab Race on the beach at 3pm, catch your own crab for the race, only 50p per crab to enter and winner takes all

Tuesday 22nd July - 6.30pm - Junior Youth & CCY Bonfire and Disco on the beach.

Wednesday 23rd July - Bingo Evening in the marquee, £1 a book, cash prize to winner

Friday 25th July - Junior Youth camp out (weather permitting) See Terry for further details

Saturday 26th July - Cowboy's & Squaw's Hagg Doo, come to the marquee dressed in your outfit for a night of 'Battle of the Sexes'

Sunday 27th July - Youth Fundraiser night, come to the marquee for a penny fair

Thursday 31st July - Help celebrate Lee & Amy's Wedding, with Scottish Andy D'Jing, everyone is welcome to the evening reception in the marquee

Friday 1st August - Sand Sculpture Competition, make you own sand sculpture on the beach

Saturday 2nd August - Surprise Night with Leeds DA

Sunday 3rd August - BBQ at the Marquee 4pm run by the CCY, three course meal including a drink.

Monday 4th August - Men's night out to Dunbar. Make your own way to the local Pub (various start times, its up to you!!) and meet the men from the Campsite.

Tuesday 5th August - Ladies Day Out - heading to Dunbar for a couple of drinks and maybe a wee flutter on the 'gee gees' then to the restaurant for a bite to eat at about 6pm.

Friday 8th August - Cocktail Evening in the Marquee/awnings. To help make it a successful cocktail evening we would like everyone to donate a couple of things from the list on the notice board. Please buy the cheapest brand and remember to put your name against the items you are able to supply.

The Biggest fish Competition is run throughout the meet. Ralph won last year, again, with a small catch of 6.5lb!! So don't forget your tackle and see if you can get a pennon and win the trophy.

We also have a golf tournament run throughout the meet, John Johnstone won the trophy last year, so remember your clubs and see if you can get your name on the 'Driftwood Cup'.

If you see the youth, kids or bigger kids playing sports, football, volleyball, rounders or anything else, come and join in.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting holiday meet.

Going Logo!!

Looking for our DA merchandise?

Polo Shirt	£12
Sweatshirt	£14
Hoodie	£19
Zoodie (Hoodie with zip)	£22
Waterproof jacket	£42
Kids hoodie	£12.85 (up to 13 years)

Names £1.20 for adults and £1 for kids up to 13 years

Speak to Iolanda who has kindly offered to take orders.

Kilts

The Scotland Kilt Company
Unit 1 Bonnington Business Centre
106 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HG
Telephone: 0131 553 3472
Web: <http://www.thescotlandkiltcompany.co.uk/>

The tartan you are looking for is 'Pride of Scotland'

Any queries speak to Sarah Martin

Web wise ...

You can follow Perth & Angus DA through our web page:

www.perthandangusda.co.uk

Keep up to date with the latest news from your DA. This was particularly useful last year when one of the roads to one of our meets was closed. The webmaster was contacted and immediately alerted our followers through the website, sending notifications to their email addresses. To get this, you need to register through our web page:



log on to the website



click the pheasant to enter the site



select the + Follow icon at the bottom right corner

App aware ...

App for Iphone or Android

If you would like to have the PADA app on your device click the link at the bottom of the home page from your device. The app will not automatically update but does give you all the information to hand.

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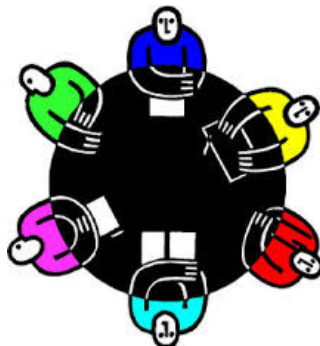
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Caught on camera ...

A different way to
dismount!



Soaking up the sun in Leven



Relaxing the night before
the climb!

Were they
still smiling
at the
bottom?



Send me your pics - padaeditor@gmail.com



www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk