**Glip’s Log Book Entry for the 21st - 22nd August*, 1982.***

**Cycle / fishing camp - Ardentinny.**

**Present:** Glip1 (that's me); Kevin Byng2; Andrew Firth3; Ewan Blair4;

Graham Bolster5; Colin Roach6; Richard Barclay7; Kenny Blair8.

***Saturday 21st August 1982***

This camp was primarily a fishing camp, or that was the intention. Kevin2 organised the numbers; i.e. got 6-8 people to come. I got the food and got permission for the hut9. Lochgoilhead got confused again and forgot to send a key10 so we hoped to get same from the Caretaker (ex)11. I took all the rucsacs in Percy12 with ease. Ewan4, Kevin and Firthy3 set off from HQ13 in the morning, while the rest came after lunch. We said goodbye to Kenny14 and went across by Caledonian MacBrayne15 on a reasonable morning as far as weather was concerned.

In Dunoon, the fishers went bait shopping, while I bought some extra food and a book to read. Also stopped at Sandbank briefly then Ardentinny for a cup of tea16. The rain began at this point so we rushed to the ex-caretaker's house for the key so that the rucsacs on the roof rack wouldn't get wet. He didn't have the key - somebody in Dunoon had it. I thought about driving to Lochgoilhead and it didn't appeal. Fortunately, the bathroom window pane was broken, so I was able to perform acrobatics and contortions to gain access and open the back door. I then unloaded Percy which took quite a while.

The hut had been overhauled since we were last there. There was a new coke stove and chimney so no more smoky fires17. New curtains, tables, & shelves and chairs were in evidence. Very impressive. Mind you, the fee had shot up to £10.0018 for the weekend.

The cyclists arrived extremely wet and soon, damp clothing was dripping from the ceiling.

We had lunch then the fishermen went fishing, while I drove back towards Dunoon to see a) the other cyclists and b) to see if I could find ABC19 who was over in Glen Masson20 this weekend with his PLs. The second group of cyclists were wet but in good spirits. I explored Glen Masson without success; not surprising since they were actually in Glen Lean21. The cyclists22 were at Ardentinny when I passed them again, so I was able to greet them at the hut.

The weather was atrocious, so they spent the afternoon on games23. Even the fisherman gave up.

Clyde4 made the evening meal and made an excellent job of it as well.

After tea, the weather eased slightly so Gandalf7, Frodo8 and I1 went off for some wood, passing a trio of Americans24 preparing an overnight barbeque of 2 full grown pigs.

Shrew6 tried out his kite. At this point, ABC19 arrived with minibus to visit us, complete with K. Byng in front seat. How he got there, I don't know. We showed him the hut and Rivet5 greeted ABC with surprising enthusiasm. Fortunately, he didn't give ABC a hail fellow - well met slap on the back25.

We w*a*ndered about and explored the bowls green, then ABC went off to check his hikers.

We settled down to another games session of Risk26, Careers27 etc.

After supper, there was general larking 28about & ~~pit~~ peace didn't reign till well into the wee sma’ hours.

**Sunday*, 22nd August 1982***

The weather was pretty miserable, but it did remain semi dry for most of the morning. We tried a game of non-stop cricket which wasn't very successful since half the players weren't too keen on the idea.29

Firthy3 and Kevin2 went fishing while the rest of us tried rock climbing up the coast a bit. Although the rock was wet and slippy, this proved very successful and is worth repeating. 30

Back at the hut, we prepared lunch, ate it, then played more games. I introduced Shrew 6 and Riv 5 to Diplomacy 31.

During the clear up, a notice from ABC was discovered by Riv, announcing that he'd visited us during the morning and thanking us for the grapes.

Firthy felt ill, so he was placed in Percy. Gandalf’s7 bike was ill32, so it was placed on top of Percy12, while Gandalf took ‘Jolly Green’ (Firthy’s bike). Ewan4, Gandalf, and Frodo8 set off first over Glen Finart33, followed about 1/2 hour later by Shrew, Riv and Kevin. Firthy and I drove round the coast during which Firthy ‘boked his load’34. Fortunately, we had a plastic bag with us or Percy would have got ever so slightly messy. Firthy seemed slightly better after that and was able to consume a little at the restaurant (Copper Kettle?). 35

The younger cyclists arrived first and spent a while in the restaurant guzzling themselves. Once they were on their way again, we started back to look for the other 3 who appeared quite soon, drenched to the skin as the rain pounded down. The race for the ferries began.

The first group tried for Caled. MacB  36 while the older group went for W. Ferries37. The first lot missed Cale. Mac. by the skin of their teeth, but with commendable speed, they were able to sneak onto W. Ferries to join the others. W. Ferries, of course, was 15 minutes behind Caled. Mac. Thus, we got home at a reasonable time.

*Additional Comments for 18th-20th June 1982*

1. *Graham L. Patrick (Glip) was a Wolf Cub and Boy Scout with the 70th Renfrewshire from about 1962 to 1970, and was then a Venture Scout in the Cloch Venture Scout Unit until 1974. He then rejoined the 70th Renfrewshire as an Assistant Scout Leader at the same time as Kenneth W. Paton.*

2. *Kevin Byng (Kev) joined the troop in March 1978 and was PL of the Falcon Patrol from 1981-1983. Kevin spent a long weekend at the Pitlochry Summer Camp of 1977 when he was a Cub, then attended every summer camp from 1978 to 1983. In 1981, he gained the honour of being declared Camp Twit at the summer camp held at Coldstream. When Kevin was aged 12, he completed the Everest Challenge held in 1979. He was probably aged 15 during the summer of 1982. Kevin had a wicked sense of humour, which included the potentially dangerous habit of ‘winding up’ Graham Bolster (Rivet). He moved up to the Venture Scouts in September 1983.*

3. *Andrew Firth (Firthy) joined the 70th in August 1980 from the 80th, much to the annoyance of Colin Carson (SL of the 80th). Firthy attended all the 70th Summer Camps from 1980 to 1983. He was promoted to PL of the Seagull Patrol in August 1982 and moved up to the Venture Scouts in September 1983. Firthy was the inspiration for the Camp Twit Award at Summer Camps and he was the first recipient at Wray Castle in 1980.*

4*. Ewan Blair (Clyde) joined the troop in March 1980 at the age of 11. He won the Best Novice Award at Summer Camp Camp at Coldstream in 1981. He also attended Summer Camp at Templar’s Park in 1982 and was promoted to APL in September of that year. In 1983, he attended Summer Camp at Parton and was promoted to PL in September 1983. He led a Patrol during the 1984 Summer Camp in Wales before leaving the Troop in August 1984. It is reputed that Ewan’s nickname of ‘Clyde’ was a reflection that his mouth was as big as the Clyde estuary. In other words, he talked a lot.However, it is not certain whether this is true or not.*

5. *Graham Bolster (Riv, Rivet) joined the troop in November 1977 and was aged about 16 during the summer of 1982. He was promoted to PL of the Eagle Patrol after the summer of 1981 for the 1981-82 session. He attended every summer camp from 1978 to 1982 and was PL of the Eagle Patrol at his final Summer Camp at Templar’s Park. Graham was the only Scout to achieve a ‘Double Everest’ during the Everest Challenge held in 1979. It is believed that Graham may have gained his nickname at Logie Summer Camp in 1978 because his name ‘Bolster’ resembled ‘Bolter’, which signified a ‘Riveter’. Graham’s nickname stuck and he is still called Riv or Rivet (as of 2024). Graham joined the Venture Scouts after the summer of 1982, then returned to the troop as an Assistant Scout Leader for several years.*

6. *Colin Roach (Shrew) joined the troop in March 1977 and turned 16 during the summer of 1982. By that time, he had been PL of the Seagull Patrol for two years (1980-82). Colin attended every Summer Camp from 1977-1982 and had been PL at both Coldstream and Templar’s Park. He also achieved his Everest Certificate during the Everest Challenge held in 1979. It is believed that he gained his nickname at the Summer Camp held at Logie in 1977, but the reason for him gaining his nickname has not been recorded. Colin joined the Venture Scouts at the end of the summer of 1982.*

7. *Richard Barclay (Gandalf) joined the troop in 1980 when he was 10 years old. He attended 70th summer camps held at Templars Park (1982), Parton (1983) and Newtonmore (1985) and was one of the more frequent attenders at weekend camps, He was promoted to Patrol Leader after the summer of 1985. He gained his nickname of Gandalf on the 20th June 1981 during a weekend camp in Glen Nevis when Glip decided that all the younger Scouts should be designated as Hobbits. In fact, Richard was meant to be ‘Pippin’, but he must have refused point blank. As a result, he was called Gandalf instead. Gandalf wasn’t a Hobbit, but it was another character out of the Lord of the Rings. During the summer of 1982, Richard was probably aged about 12.*

8. *Kenneth Blair (Frodo) joined the Troop in March 1981at the age of 11. He attended every Summer Camp from 1981 to 1985 and won the Novice of the Year Award in 1982, followed by the Camp Twit Award in 1985. He also achieved ‘Everest’ during the Everest Challenge held in 1983/84. He was promoted to PL in 1984 and Senior Patrol Leader in 1985. He also led a winning Shannon Cup Patrol in 1985. Kenny gained his nickname, Frodo, on the 20th June 1981at a Glen Nevis weekend because he was one of the smaller Scouts attending, and was quickly identified by Glip as a Hobbit. Glip was reading ‘Lord of the Rings’ at the time. In the summer of 1982, Kenny was 12 years old and one of the younger Scouts in the Troop.*

9*. The ‘hut’ referred to a wooden Scout hut at Ardentinny close to the shoreline and next to the Ardentinny bowling green (Grid ref 187884). It was also close to where the river flowing down Glen Finart entered Loch Long. The hut may originally have belonged to the Forestry Commission but was owned by Lochgoilhead Scout Activity Centre at the time. It was primarily used by kayakers and yachters setting off from Lochgoilhead on weekend trips.*

10. *The 70th usually used the Ardentinny hut for cycling weekends and Xmas ‘camps’. Bookings were made over the phone, but it was not uncommon for Ardentinny to forget to post the key.*

11. *The Caretaker (ex) lived in Ardentinny. Although he was no longer the caretaker, it was hoped that he might still have a key.*

12*. Percy was Glip’s first car – a Morris Mini (PVS329H) that had become a cult figure within the 70t h*. *Virtually every Scout in the 70th belonged to the Percy Club and there was a monthly newsletter called the Percy Perusal.*

13. *The Headquarters for the 70th Renfrewshire was converted from an old Civil Defence Building situated at the SE corner of Madeira Street and Finnart Street. It was opened as the 70th’s HQ in the late 1960s and made possible a rapid expansion of the Troop to eight Patrols. Before that, the Troop met in Finnart Church.*

14. *Kenneth W. Paton (KWP) had been a Scout in the 45th Renfrewshire Scout Group during the 1960s and went on to become a teacher of history and religious studies at Greenock High School. He joined the 70th Scout Group as an Assistant Scout Leader in 1974 at the same time as Glip, when Alistair Cram was Scout Leader. When Alistair resigned as Scout Leader in the summer of 1981, Kenny took over the reins of the troop.*

15*. By 1982, Caledonian MacBrayne had reduced the number of ferries running between Gourock Pier and Dunoon Pier to one per hour. The ferries concerned were the Jupiter and the Juno which were categorised as ‘streakers’. They carried both passengers and vehicles but were unsuitable for commercial vehicles which could not negotiate the right-angled turn required to get on or off the ferry.*

16. *From memory, there was a small teashop on the north side of Aredntinny which only opened up if you rang the bell.*

17. *On previous occasions, everyone had returned from Ardentinny reeking of smoke.*

18. *It is assumed that this was the total cost of the weekend hire. £10.00 in 1982 was the equivalent of £44 today (June 2024).*

19. *Alastair B. Cram was a Wolf Cub and Boy Scout during the 1950s/60s and ended up as Troop Leader. He then took over from Bob Millar as Scout Leader from 1966 to 1981. In 1981, he was forced to resign from the 70th as he was moving house to Jordanhill; He had been appointed Headmaster of Jordanhill School. Once he was settled in Jordanhill, he took charge of a Scout Troop in one of the more deprived areas in Glasgow.*

20. *The road up Glen Masson is a single track road that goes past the southern boundary of Benmore Garden and eventually ends up as a dirt track. There is a record of the 70th visiting Glen Masson on a day trip on bicycles during the Second World War. However, it is not known what hike route Alastair was planning for his PLs.*

21*. Glen Lean is the glen through which the single-track road from Dunoon to Colintraive travels after leaving the A815.*

22*. Graham Bolster; Colin Roach; Richard Barclay; Kenny Blair.*

23*. Various board games had been brought in case of bad weather.*

24*. The American Submarine Base in the Holy Loch was still present. As a result, there were a sizeable number of Americans living in the Dunoon area. The base did not fully close until 1992, following the so-called end of the Cold War.*

25*. Rivet had become substantially bigger and stronger over the last year or two and probably did not fully appreciate his own strength. Kevin’s regular attempts to wind up Rivet were now a far more risky undertaking.*

26*. A Waddington’s board game aimed at dominating the world. Usually, the player starting off had a distinct advantage, while the last player to take his turn was virtually doomed before he had his first go.*

27. *Another Waddington’s Board game which was less predictable in terms of the winner. Players aimed to achieve set targets of Fame, Happiness and Money by undertaking a variety of career paths.*

28*. It was not recorded what this involved. However, one of the favourite activities at Ardentinny was to pile all the mattresses on top of each other at one end of the hall and then sprint from the other end and perform spectacular dives onto the mattresses. The mattresses were intended for sleeping on and were placed on the floor around the hall once the bedlam subsided. There were no beds or bunks in the hut.*

29. *The lack of enthiusiasm might have been due to the weather. Alternatively, some people might have been more interested in continuing games inside or to go fishing. Non-stop cricket was usually more feasible than actual cricket as it could be played on different terrains and took less time. Only one batsman was in at any one time, and he had to run if he hit the ball. The batsman ran to a marker at right angles to the ‘pitch’, which usually confused experienced cricketers at some point or other. The bowler was allowed to bowl the next ball before the batman regained his crease. All bowling was underhand. Only the bowler could run the batsman out by bowling the next ball. If a batsman was out, the bowler was allowed to bowl the next ball before the next batsman got in.*

30. *From memory, this involved travelling along the coastline for about a mile past Shepherd’s Point to a beacon at Grid reference 199893. Somewhere around here, there was a rock formation on the shoreline that was ideal for novices to practice some scrambling and simple rock climbing. It was probably about 12 feet high.*

31. *Diplomacy was a more complex game than Risk and involved writing down moves on paper in an attempt to win the 1st World War. Success depended on one’s allies agreeing to coordinate their moves with yours. It was very easy to double cross players, but that had a long-term disadvantage in that nobody then trusted you for the rest of the game and you became isolated and vulnerable. It appealed more to the older Scouts, but was almost impossible to finish in less than a week!*

32*. Possibly a puncture or a broken chain.*

33. *This was a longer route back to Dunoon than the one taken to get to Ardentinny, and involved climbing to a height of 162 meters (534 feet). This was followed by a steep descent down to Whistlefield on Loch Eck, before following the main road south all the way back to Dunoon. This journey was a popular 1st Class 2-day hike route during the 1960s before it became impractical as a result of increasing vehicle traffic.*

34. *This was the popular expression for describing somebody who was violently sick.*

35*. Glip is not 100% sure whether the restaurant was called the Copper Kettle or not. It now seems to be called Shiela’s Diner (as of 2024).*

36. *Caledonian MacBrayne. The abbreviated expression these days is usually ‘Cally Mac’.*

37. *Western Ferries started operating their ferry service between Hunter’s Quay (Dunoon) and McInroy’s Point (Gourock) in 1973.*