**Arran**

**September Long weekend**

**Saturday 7th September 1974**

We met at 8 o’clock and dumped all our equipment in the minibus.1 It was pouring. David Banner 2 drove us all down to Ardrossan where we would meet Dim3 and the Venture Scouts Ian Robertson and Gordon Knight. We boarded the car ferry. The journey was not as rough as I had thought it would be, but as we huddled in the tea-room with a cup of coffee and a bun, we knew it would not be a dry weekend.

Soon, we could see Arran, relief. It was fantastic to know all we had to do was to walk 3 miles in the rain. 4

Fifteen minutes later, there we were hiking through Brodick – no mini bus. Soon, nearly an hour and a half and a wee bit more, we reached our campsite, a wet muddy joint.5

There I was. I could see the canvas on the tent filling up with about 6 inches of water. Hurrah. There were my morons, about 300 yards away6. It took then half an hour to reach me. In no time at all, my tent was pitched and my morons Malcolm Dixon and Harry Lochhead7 were inside the tent.

I helped Roderick two pitch his Clan8 and I decided to sleep with him (in his tent.)

When the rain let off, Kenny Paton took us all to the Boathouse Café for coffee and a hamburger. He paid.9

We then went to visit Brodick Castle but as it was too expensive, we did not. Then we went into Brodick for an hour or so and then returned to our camp for our tea, to find a cracker fire going and to dig trenches10 before going to pit.

*Editorial notes*

1. This was the first minibus owned by the 70th Group. It is still to be determined when it was purchased and from whom as it must have been second hand

2. David Ian Banner/

3. Douglas Morrison

4. The distance from Brodick pier to the wild campsite in Glen Rosa.

5. Greatly exaggerated. Photos show it was a wild campsite with lush green grass

6. The Scouts camping in the same tent as the author.

7. There has always been great uncertainty as to whether to spell Harry’ name as Lochead or Lochhead.

8. The Clan tent was designed and created by David Chalmers who owned the Clan tent company with a property opposite the Battery Park. It was an early example of an affordable lightweight hike tent.

9. This would have been Kenny’s first weekend camp with the 70th Scouts and he started off as he meant to continue. Scotland’s hospitality industry would have collapsed without Kenny’s input.

10. Narrow trenches round the hike tent, supposedly to diver water away from the tents.

**Sunday 8th September 1974**

Got up and got breakfast going. After breakfast, we decided to build a bridge, but this soon became a shambles as we had no sisal or rope, but the fun we had in the water was not able to be described.

Then we had a game of football in which Gordon Robertson got soaked1. What a lark!

Then it was time for lunch, but I was not feeling well and I could not go on the hike. Lucky me. They all got soaked.2

When I woke up, Dim and the two venture Scouts had built up a lovely fire to warm us all. I went to gather some wood and soon the hikers arrived back. Then we chatted and had tea and hot coffee and then about two packets of tomato soup in one Dixie. Then as we drank our soup, we chatted until it was time for Pit.

We had really enjoyed today.

*Editorial notes*

1. A photograph shows Gordon about to take a swim in the river. This might have been a dare given to the Scouts that only Gordon was prepared to accept.

2. Photos show that the hike up the glen was in sunny weather, so presumably the heavens opened on the way back.

**Monday 9th September 1974**

It took a lot of persuasion from Glip1 to get me up. It took ages to have our breakfast. Then we packed our kits and packed the tents (struck). Then we prepared to hike into Brodick on a lovely day. This did not take long and so we had ages in Brodick. We shopped around, played about five games of crazy golf and had our lunch. We enjoyed this very much and a number of us bought fishing equipment. Soon, we saw the ship and had to run to catch it. As we had left our rucksacks on the pier2, it did not take us long to reach the pier.

We had coffee on board and met the two Miss Johnston’s and Miss Fyfe3. Soon we reached Ardrossan and David Banner who drove us to the headquarters.

It was the end of a very enjoyable weekend.

*Editorial notes*

1. Graham L. Patrick

2. Guarded by Kenny if the photographs are anything to go by.

3. Possibly schoolteachers in Greenock Academy (to be confirmed).

Scribe: Sandy Eadie (P.L. Seagull)

*Editorial additions*

A list of Scouts and Scouters present at the camp was not provided, but the following were known to be present based on the log book and available pictures.

**Scouters**

Douglas Morrison (Dim); Kenny Paton; Graham Patrick (Glip)

**Venture Scouts**

Ian Robertson and Gordon Knight

**Scouts**

David McCallum, David Bolster, Malcolm Dixon, Harry Lochead, Stuart Patrick, Gordon Robertson, Sandy Eadie, Roderick Boyle, William Whitehouse

*Personal recollections*

\*Kenny Paton primarily remembers falling into the mud, although he has not yet identified where this took place exactly.

\*Glip recalls that Douglas Morrison organized the weekend and was the Group’s Outdoor Specialist at the time. Glip didn’t have the confidence to organize anything in those days. Glip and Dim were actually close neighbours when they were growing up and were often involved in football games in Kincaid Street, cricket matches in the Playing Fields, explorations up the Lyle Hill or monopoly games in Dim’s garage.