

7/7/25

BAS Club Reunion, Fort William, 2025

The 2025 BAS Club Reunion and AGM were held on Saturday 21st June, at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William. These are some notes from the weekend, very much from the point of view of my two years (1964, 65).

For those of us who stayed at the hotel for dinner on the Friday night, there was an excellent spread. Chicken Balmoral as one of the options? I'd never heard of it before. (Stuffed with haggis, and topped with a whisky and pepper sauce. Delicious!) Better still, of the small number of attendees from my years, all but one were there and at one table.



From the left, Wendy Cotton, Phil Cotton, Lewis Jukes, Dave Petrie, Margaret McGowan.

There were various outings suggested for the Saturday, and we heard of people hoping to see the Harry Potter railway viaduct. Others mentioned the Glenfinnan Monument, and Neptune's Staircase (a flight of locks on the Caledonian Canal).



It probably does sell items other than penguin-themed.

7/7/25

Russ and I started in the centre of Fort William, and the High Street was dominated by the tourist trade. Plenty of places selling souvenirs and gifts, but is there really enough demand in Fort William to support a penguin shop?

Then back to the hotel, for the AGM. Nothing controversial this year, and all went smoothly.



Some of the Club Committee members, before the AGM. From the left, Jim Turton (Chairman), John Blunn (Treasurer), John Dudeney (President), Richard Johnson (Magazine Editor), and Dog Holden (Benevolent Fund).

Then drinks, followed by the Reunion Dinner.



About one half of the group present.

7/7/25

On this occasion, our table had much the same group as the night before. From my years, the only other one present was James Westwood. (He and Shelagh had been put on the next table along.)



Lewis Jukes, Dave Petrie, Tony Jackson – each with a different starter.



Andy Smith, Rosy Smith and Phil Cotton are also on their starters.

7/7/25



With Wendy Cotton, Russ Jukes and Lewis Jukes, we've done a complete circuit of the table.



Cranachan was one of the dessert choices. So that's what it looks like!

7/7/25



Jim Turton, Club Chairman, speaking after the dinner.

Our table included a prize winner! The Heywood Award was set up a few years ago in memory of the late Barry Heywood, Club President, and is given for services to the benefit of the Club or its members. This year, the recipient was Andy Smith.



Andy Smith speaks after receiving the Heywood Award from Club President John Dudeney (on the left).

7/7/25



The Heywood Award - a crystal iceberg!

That's 2025. Next year is a busier one, with the BAS Club Reunion in Birmingham on Saturday June 20th. Then Z70, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the first Base at Halley Bay, will be at Northampton (as were Z50 and Z60), from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th October. See you then, maybe?

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