



# Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

## Newsletter #24, May 2011

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### Meet Report: Calluna, Fort William, 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011

With contributions from Neil Anderson, Steve Gray and Karen Fotheringham

Neil summed up the weekend as follows:

The full Cioch attendance list was:

Right hand house - David Currie, Ian Hay, Jim D, Kenny, Neil, Karen, Sam and Sharon

Left hand house - Steve, Mags, Olly, Brian M, Dave P, Stuart, John W and John R.

Friday Night:

With the full contingent of 16 beds taken in the 3 small bedrooms in each house and people arriving in penny numbers throughout the evening, priorities were focused on trying to avoid sharing a room with anyone with a reputation for loud snoring. There were no reports of bad snoring in the right hand house, so perhaps the usual culprits were all in the left house [pot-kettle-black!]. With the party split 8 per house, the evening banter in RH house was slightly quieter than normal but equally as enjoyable.

Saturday Day:

Neil, Brian M and John W climbed Sgurr Mor (Glen Kingie). David C climbed the Corryhully Horseshoe (clockwise). Karen took train to Curroul Station and climbed Beinn na Lap. Sam, Sharon and Ian climbed Sgurr a'Mhaim and it is believed that Stuart and Dave P climbed Beinn Fhionnlaidh.

After what seemed like an incredibly long car journey from Calluna to the west end of Loch Arkiag, Brian, John and Neil started walking west into Glen Dessarry before ascending north into the hanging valley linking to Glen Kingie. The first



real challenge of the day was the south to north crossing of River Kingie. Brian had two walking poles, Neil had an ice axe and John only had legs and arms to balance; as a result everyone crossed at different places and no-one admitted to having wet feet. It was decided to ignore the zig zag path west over the Corbett in favour of the no path, straight up, slightly east then west approach to the summit of Sgurr Mor. This proved to be a hard grind, although not overly steep, the first 600 m were a merciless slog. The final 200 m, although dusted with snow and with poorer visibility had the benefit of a well defined path. Wind conditions at the summit cairn were less than pleasant, so a quick descent to somewhere less windy was preferred before taking a well deserved break. Retracing the outward journey, the long descent proved easy going and the reverse river crossing anticipated and executed without concern at a

relatively easy place. Reaching the car, back in Glen Dessarry around 7pm, brought welcome rest after the return trudge over the hanging valley.

Saturday Evening:

Most people opted for an Indian curry down at Fort William High St. Just Sam, Ian, David, Neil, Brian and John W dined in Calluna. Apart from Mags, everyone congregated in the lounge of the right hand house afterwards for a traditional Cioch evening of refreshments and banter. Karen won the prize for stopping Olly from talking for the longest period by stuffing his mouth full of 21 mushroom sweets simultaneously. Apparently the 21 mushroom record is unlikely to stand for long since Gillian has been practicing and a contest is likely at the Rum meet. The banter was back at full volume with virtually everyone in the same small lounge.

On Sunday Neil and Sharon stopped off at Bridge of Orchy and climbed Beinn an Dothaidh.

### Steve describes his and Maggie's Saturday as follows:

We went up Glen Nevis to do Sgurr Coinnich Beag and Sgurr Coinnich Mhor. Beag was a wee beastie as it gets steeper the further up you get but the jaunt down and up to Mhor was easy going. We had a mixed day in that every time we stopped for food - it showered on us. However we had some clear views across the glen at times with some cloud free tops. Both Beag and Mhor were clear when we got there and even had some sun on the way back along Glen Nevis. Steve does admit however that they did have a wee detour on the way up to Beag in that they were following this path which took them a good 1km passed where they should have gone, making the ascent of Beag a cross-country uphill slog on ever-steepening ground. Not my best day's navigation.

### Karen sums up her weekend as follows:

After a long and dreary winter term of the most exhausting proportions I have yet encountered in my short teaching career, a club weekend was just the tonic I needed to begin the much anticipated Easter holidays! After a slightly tense drive to Fort William in a car this dodgy old man once sold me, a round of Olly-Steve-Dave banter provided the evenings entertainment. Unfortunately not the early night I had envisioned (thanks for the wine Mags), nor the peaceful one due to the giant spiders coursing above Sam's bed during the night, but...

Up and out early the next morning to catch the train to Corrour. I decided that it was time to put some of the skills I've been learning to the test for myself and display a little bit of independence. Despite previously mentioned car salesman's thinly veiled scorn at the meagerness of the hill I had chosen, I found Beinn na Lap perfectly satisfactory for a tired little school teacher's first solo venture. Setting off from the train station, the weather was a little dull and damp but it quickly dried out into a reasonable morning. It certainly wasn't very difficult to see where I was going and for the first hour I was treated to some very beautiful scenery over Loch Ossian and began to dream of camping out there over the summer and swimming in the Loch and... well anyway, towards the top it began to close in a bit and I didn't see much when I found the cairn at the summit. With a bit of balancing, difficult in the fairly strong wind that had picked up, and after only scratching my phone a few times from it toppling over, I managed to get my picture and set off to a convenient shelter for an early lunch. Once out of the cloud and wind on the way down it was a fairly enjoyable walk, aided no doubt by the overly inflated sense of achievement I gave in to. The restaurant at the station was fantastic and I thoroughly enjoyed the 2-hour wait for the train with cups of coffee and the most solid, massive chocolate brownie I've ever had the pleasure of eating.

Everyone seemed happy with their day, particularly those with the 11am lie-in! Korma and Cobra began the night, finished with wine and sweetie mushrooms. Olly set the challenge for Rum by managing 21 sweetie mushrooms in at once, though nobody seemed to find that terribly surprising...

### Foot Notes:

- ☺ **Club MRT Donation:** Because there were enough people participating in the Invergarry meet the club was able to book the whole hostel and get a very good block booking discount. The committee decided the best use of the surplus was to donate it to a MRT, Dennis has therefore sent a cheque for £104 to the Braemar MRT.
- ☺ **Wind Farm #1:** An application has been made to extend the Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm (due north of Ben Cluech) from 13 to 35 turbines – a public consultation will be held in Tillicoultry Community Center on 17<sup>th</sup> May from 15:30 to 19:30. See the Alloa Advertiser for more info.
- ☺ **Wind Farm #2:** Michelle advises of the following possible traffic disruption. There is a new windfarm (Griffin) being built on the A822 about 15miles south of Aberfeldy. Monday to Friday inc. three enormous lorries are leaving Rosyth at 9am and 12.30pm each carrying a wind turbine blade. They are so large they halt the traffic even on dual carriageway when turning at a roundabout. Their route is M90 to Perth then A9 to Dunkeld then A826 and finally A822. If you get behind them on single carriageway it is impossible to pass. They have a police escort. This will go on until October 2011 and they are not excluding the possibility of a 9am start on Saturday as well.

### In case you are missing the snow already - Ski Touring in the Rondane area of Norway

