



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

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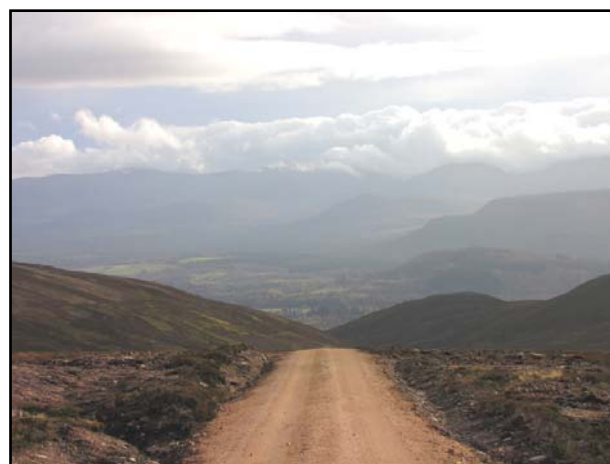
Meet Report: Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge – 5th / 6th November 2011

With contributions from Neil Anderson, Richard Christie and Jim Donald.

As best Neil can remember, there were 14 people on the meet; Olly, Dave P, Dave T & John R; Sharon & Neil; Cath Guest, Jim D & Kenny; Richard & Wattie; Iain Hay. Alison & Bruce camped Friday night only. Call offs were; Vicky S, John W, David C and no shows were; Louise Curtis & Eddy. This meant that all 5 the reserves that wanted to go on this meet managed to attend in the end.

Friday

Richard and Wattie were only ones up north early enough to tackle hills on Friday and climbed the Corbett Geal-charn Mor just west of the A9 opposite Aviemore. The ascent to the coll just north of the summit was quite quick thanks to a route march up the Burma Road. They enjoyed reasonable weather on the hill and a walk back to the car in bright sunshine with lots of very dim witted Pheasants scurrying to get out of the way including one albino pheasant. Most people drifted into Mill Cottage at various times during the evening; Cath's car load arriving back down the road after fish supper stop in Aviemore; Olly's car load arrived last having had to detour via Bankfoot to avoid an accident on the A9.



Saturday

Alison and Bruce were out the tent early to join Sharon and Neil for an early 7:30 departure targeted at the Creag Pitridh group. The Wells Mobile provided the transport along the Laggan Road to the concrete bridge marking the road end for the Pitridh group. Setting off around 8:40, Alison and Bruce set a cracking pace on the track round to the south of Binnein Shuas with Neil and Sharon wondering if they could ever keep up. With the only map in the group, Neil tried to slow them down by keeping the map to himself, but Alison's memory from doing the group 15 years earlier was good, so she instinctively knew the way ahead without pause. A pack of 7 hill walkers from a Glasgow club made sure there wasn't much time to experience hill solitude as they chased the Cioch team up the slopes of Beinn a'Chlachair towards a summit clad in mist. First lunch break was taken at the summit cairn (1087m) at around 11:45 before the enlarged group started to head back NE in the direction of Geal Charn. We allowed the following Glasgow gang to overtake us in the mist (we wanted to see if they knew the way on their own but fortunately for them it started to clear) and we set a more leisurely pace and chose a different ascent path to ensure we had a bit more tranquillity. After a swift 2nd lunch break by the cairn on Geal Charn (1049m) around 14:00 (with 1 or 2 snow flakes for company) the Cioch group wasted no time in heading W to the cairn on Creag Pitridh (924m) reaching there around 15:15. Return to the car was achieved in daylight marking a satisfactory dry day on the hills that almost doubled Bruce's Munro count.



Richard and Wattie were next away from the cottage scraping the frost of the car and then heading off to park beside Glenmore Lodge at 08:00. The target for the day was the "geographically inaccessible" Corbett Creag Mhor lying to the south east of Bynack More. Although located 12km from the Lodge, the distance was quickly eaten up, first thanks to the easy walking on the smooth forestry track at far as Ryvoan bothy and then on the newly repaired 'A Class' path leading up from Bynack Stable on to the northern ridge of Bynack More. The path as far as the top of the ridge was excellent and had just been finished – the path builders' equipment was still in evidence at various points. There was then the drop in to the Lairig an Laoigh and the 160m climb up to the summit of Creag Mhor before the first rest stop of the day admiring the excellent views to the north, east and south. Since it was only shortly after 11:00 there was plenty of daylight left so Wattie and Richard headed off to climb Bynack More as well. The ascent was

a bit of a slog up a steep slope clad in thick heather but the views as height was gained made it worth the effort. The first fellow walkers of the day were sighted near the summit but had left by the time it was reached. A second short rest stop

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and then it was down hill all the way. The low sun casting a fantastic light over the expansive landscape required frequent stops to take photos. The return trip down the path and through the forest were equally speedy with the car being reached just before 15:00 - although the feet were a bit on the tired side by now and Richard's ankles were a bit tender thanks to his brand new boots.

Ian Hay set off by himself to climb Sgor Gaoith, and having successfully reached the summit was caught up by Olly, John and Dave P who all persuaded him to accompany them on to climb Mullach Clach a'Bhair. The longish return walk up the valley to the car was shortened for Ian and Dave by Olly and John forging ahead to retrieve the transport and pick them up at Achleen Farm. Ian now has a munro in hand in the 'munro's climbed verses birthday's celebrated' race.

Jim D, Cath and Dave T were by far the last to return to Mill Cottage having climbed the 3 in the Monadh Laith group clockwise, coming out in the dark.

Kenny 'paracetamol' Milligan stayed in bed till noon then walked to the water sports center and back still suffering the after effects of his bout of shingles.

Stuart and Hazel were along in Newtonmore for the weekend catching up with friend Andrew. Stuart's plan to do Cairn a'Mhaim via Ben Macdui on Saturday did not come to fruition as he turned over and had a long lie instead. They did enjoy a stroll up to the Ptarmigan Restaurant at Carn Gorm for coffee and then wandered round the sculpture trail beside Mill Cottage before dropping into the cottage for tea and shortbread with Kenny, Richard and Wattie.



Since it was the 6th of November and just after Dave P and Richard's birthday's they clubbed together and provided fireworks for evening entertainment. Dave had selected three multi shot firework compendiums and a number of impressive looking rockets. Dave and Richard took turns with the lighting taper – much to Olly's chagrin – and all were impressed with the multi shot fireworks. The rockets were however a bit of a disappointment – exactly what the term 'damp squib' was coined for – just goes to show size isn't everything. Deprived of 'fix' of lighting the fireworks, Olly set about turning the wood burner stove into a blast furnace, firstly by burning the cardboard carcasses of the multi shorts and then his shoes (again). [The fire was still too



hot the next morning when Wattie went to try and clear out the ashes at 7:30.] For a change Richard went to bed before succumbing to nodding dog syndrome and it was Neil who fell asleep on the sofa and was snoring gently [allegedly].

Sunday

Kenny was so desperate to salvage something from the meet that he forced Cath and Jim to accompany him up Meall Chuaich (Drumochter) on Sunday on the way down the road.

With the weather perhaps even better on Sunday morning than it had been on Saturday, Richard and Wattie were up and out early. After depositing the various bottles and cans in the recycling bins at Kincaig they drove up to the top ski centre car park. They made good time climbing up the Fiacail a' Choire Chais and their efforts were rewarded with great views over the Cairn Gorm plateau. They reached the summit of Cairn Gorm at 09:40 and were on their way back down the other side of Coire Cas before they encountered the first of a series of walkers making their way up the excellent path between the car park and the Ptarmigan Restaurant.



Around the World in 210 Days

An update on Bill and Joyce's round the world trip, the following text and photos come from Bill's Blog:

Nepal

Have had an amazing 25 days of Himalayan experience on the Annapurna Circuit and over the Thorong La. The initial disappointment with Katmandhu's advance into the 21st century [*everybody has a mobile phone now!*] evaporated as soon as we set foot on our initial trek. The friendliness of the locals, the variety & grandeur of the scenery and the comradeship of fellow trekkers have all been outstanding.



This was followed by a great jungle adventure in Chitwan national park. Close up to rhinos, monkeys, wild boar, Himalayan deer & many exotic birds - FAR too close to the crocs in the river for my (Bill's) liking! Only one disaster so far - lost pics on one of our camera cards, still plenty in other.



Sikkim

Now been in crazy Delhi and have completed Singalia ridge in Sikkim, fantastic walk through pine and bamboo forest up to ridge from where we could see Everest, Lhotse and Makulu clearly on one side and Kanchenjunga on the other - wow!!! Lots of sunshine but also caught out in hail and snow. Guide cook and porters all providing superb British Raj service!



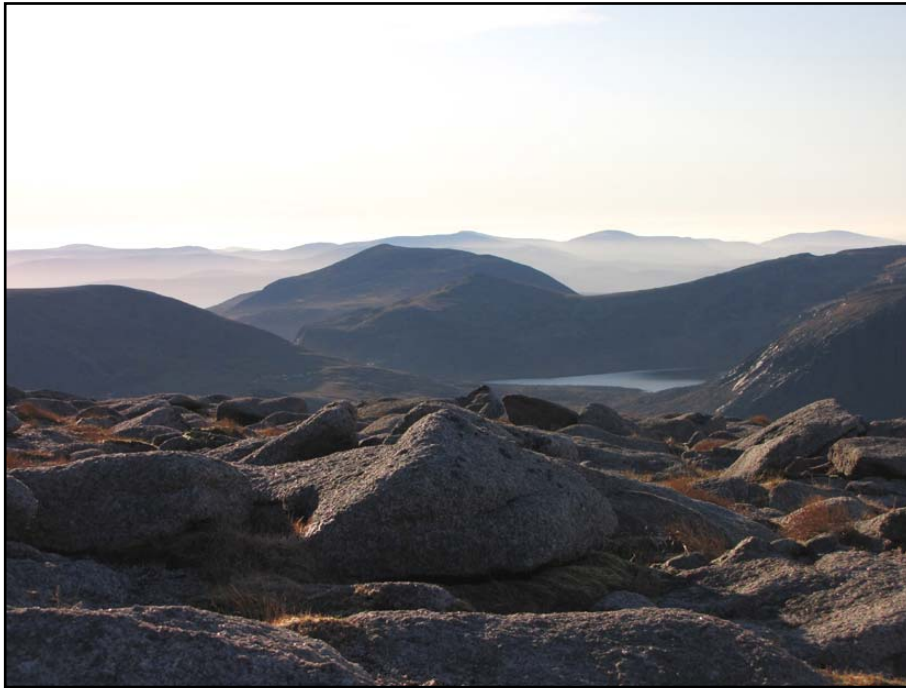
Kanchenjunga

Second part of Sikkim trek was much more demanding. Two days of pleasant walking up steep forest trails and across treacherous new landslides was followed by three days snowbound by blizzards at 4,500m - quite an experience!

Finally saw great views of the Kanchenjunga massif at sunrise (5.00 am) on day four.



Returned safe and sound to Dehli and now off on our golden triangle adventures. Motorway from Dehli to Jaipur proved to be more exciting than the Bahrain GP but arrived safely in Jaipur two days ago [*i.e. 13th November*]. Already sampled the delights of the amber palace, the city palace and Alice in wonderland observatory set up by a geek maharajah! Now ready to move on to the delights of Agra and the Taj.



Cioch Winter Slide Show Programme 2011 – 2012

Date	Show	Date	Show	Date	Show
15/12/11	Wattie Ramage: Same Old - Oct 2010 - Sept 2011	05/01/12	John Warnock: Cioch the Infotainment 2011	26/01/12	Richard Christie: Dolpo - Nepal's trekking secret
16/02/12	Dave Paton: Elements - Live	01/03/12	Jim Donald: Atlas Mountains	22/03/12	Chris Butcher: Picos de Europa

