



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

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Meet Report: Sligachan Bunkhouse, Skye, 8th / 9th June 2012

Contributions from Steve Gray, Dave Paton and Jim Davidson.

Steve starts the report of with his description of the "Cuillin Cold Tub":

Having very nearly turned back at Dunkeld owing to the weather forecast and a very long traffic jam we were certainly glad that we persevered and completed the journey to Skye. The Saturday morning greeted us with a blue Skye sky and so we (Steve, Mags, Jim Davidson and Mary & Brian our two new potential members) made our way out from the Slig' towards our planned Cuillin of Bruach na Frithe with a possible attempt at Am Basteir if conditions allowed. Having plotted the route on my Garmin via the Bealach nan Lice route we promptly ditched that idea and headed straight up the Bruach na Frithe NW ridge which offered great views over to Sgurr a Mhadaidh and Sgurr a Ghreadaidh. For Brian and Mary this was their first ever time on Skye and they were a wee bit spoiled by the great conditions experienced, however the relative exposure even on the path up the ridge gave them cause to use an 'all fours' approach to reaching the summit.



Even for Jim this was the first time he saw anything as the last time he was up Bruach na Frithe it was a 'pea souper'. After a relatively straight forward scramble, the summit was easily reached where we met up with a lady (Jackie) who was attempting to complete her Cuillins that day. We teamed up with Jackie and after a short break



we attempted Am Basteir from the East as the conditions were very favourable with only the odd short spell of thin mist. We approached Am Basteir via the path that by-passes the 'tooth' on the Coire a Basteir side which resulted in a fair bit of decent and ascent but left a straight forward if not 'airy' approach up the East ridge. The 'granny stopper' nearing the top of the ridge proved too difficult for the team to complete and I was

not about to sacrifice a potential club member just for the sake of bravado. We re-traced our steps down the ridge until we got to a point where, having ditched our rucksacks, we were able to by-pass the bad step via a ledge this allowed an easy, if not careful, climb to the summit. We celebrated with our new team member Jackie as it was her last Cuillin summit and after the customary photo-stop made our way cautiously back down the ridge.



The decent was by way of Coire a Bhasteir as the path was clear all the way back to the 'Slig'. It was noticeable that the River Sligachan was low and very clear and so on the lower levels of the path both Brian and I decided to go in for a dip. I hadn't intended going in for a splash but as Brian stripped to his shorts I wasn't going to be outdone. Jim decided to stay on the bank as lifeguard or something to do with Health & Safety or just common

sense. To say the water was fresh was a massive understatement and after an un-gamely approach we both managed to get in fully submerged (not for long though). As ever, once we were 'in' the pain and cold subsided, I



don't know if this was due to plain numbness or paralysis but either way it was refreshing bordering on outright stupidity..... thanks Brian! There were some comments about being 'countersunk' after our splash in the frigid waters but as neither Brian or I were working with wood at the time we ignored the comments from the cowardly on-

lookers. We all enjoyed the day having achieved more than we set out to achieve and it was a great intro' for our two new potentials Mary and Brian.....if this doesn't encourage them to join, nothing will.



Dave describes what it was like a bit further along the Ridge:

As always I had been looking forward to going to Skye. There are a lot of places in Scotland that for me have the 'WOW factor'; Torrion, Assynt, Kintail etc. Skye, though, is a pretty special place and it takes an awfully good reason for me to miss a Skye Meet. This time I was a bit apprehensive about going. Firstly because the forecast was not good and secondly I had not done much scrambling since my hip has been giving me so much bother.



First a bit of advice for anyone who might think of calling off because of the weather - DON'T. From experience I can tell you that the forecast is not always correct. This was one of these weekends. The weather turned out to be great! Saturday was warm and dry, with a bit of cloud, fortunately well above the tops. There was no wind either which meant plenty of midgies and a dash to the car to avoid being breakfast for them.

Olly, David Currie, Steve Gadd, Jim D and myself headed off down Glen Brittle to park at the youth hostel to do Sgurr a'Mhadaidh, Sgurr a'Ghreadaidh and Sgurr na Banachdich, which is one of my favourite parts of the ridge. On the way up towards An Dorus it looked as if the cloud would come down and obscure our views. Fortunately they stayed high for the rest of the day, giving us great views. We sat for a while on the summit of Sgurr a' Mhadaidh taking in the views and being bitten by midgies (no wind here either!).

At this point Jim decided to take a left and head for Bruach na Frithe on his own, while we turned right towards Sgurr a'Ghreadaidh, a very enjoyable scramble in the conditions. The rest of the day was more of the same, just pleasant scrambling with no great urgency and plenty of time to take in the view and enjoy just being there. After a stop on the summit of Sgurr na Banachdich it was just a straight forward descent to the car with the sun eventually coming out and raising the temperature.

In the evening the usual glass of wine then down to the pub where, fortunately for Olly there was football on the TV.

By the way my hip didn't bother me TOO much.

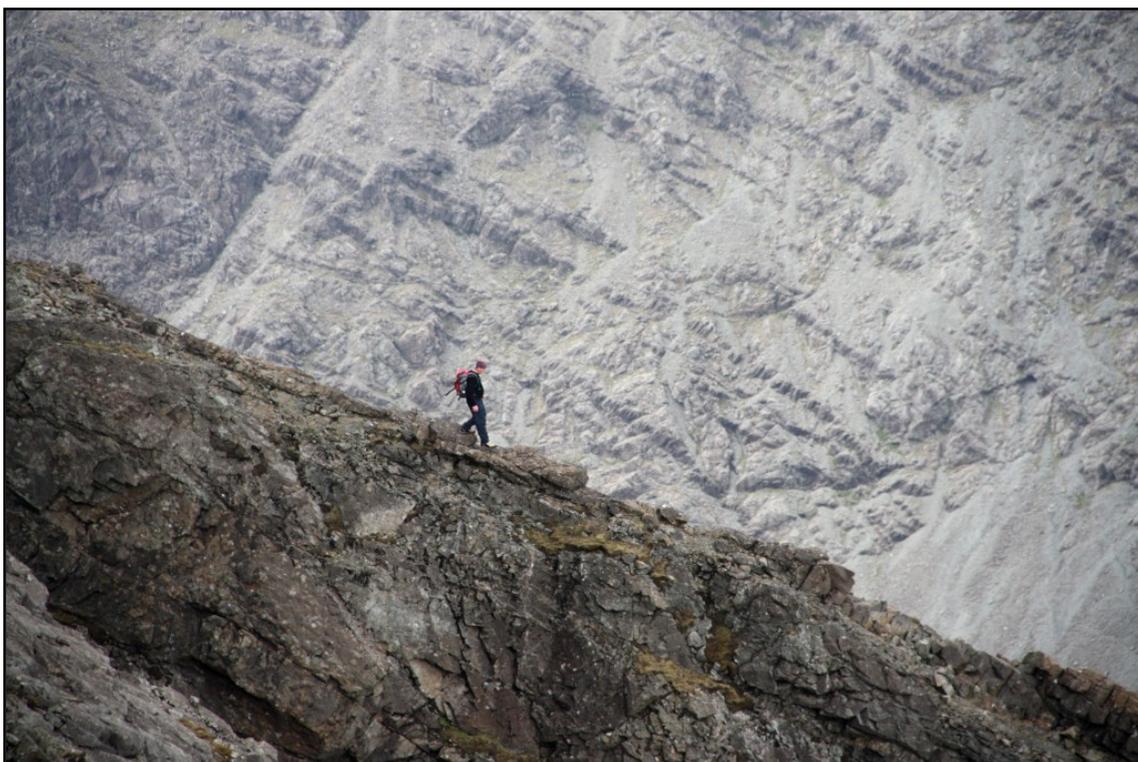


2012 Meet Dates

July	13 th / 14 th	Ling Hut, Torridon	Check with Olly
Aug	10 th / 11 th	Causewayfoot Farm, Keswick	Check with Olly
Sept	7 th / 8 th	Invergarry Bunkhouse	One place available
Oct	5 th / 6 th	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell	Booking: 19 th July
Nov	2 nd / 3 rd	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge	Booking: 15 th Aug
Dec	7 th / 8 th	Onich (Christmas Meet)	Booking: 13 th Sept

2013 Meet Dates

Jan	4 th / 5 th	Ochils Hut, Crianlarich	
Feb	8 th / 9 th	Strathspey Mountain Hostel, Newtonmore	
Mar	1 st / 2 nd	Lagangarbh, Glencoe	
Apr	5 th / 6 th	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell	
May	3 rd / 4 th / 5 th	Llanberis, North Wales	
June	14 th / 15 th	Morvich Outdoor Centre, Kintail	
Jul	12 th / 13 th	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric	
Aug	9 th / 10 th	Inver Croft, Achnasheen	
Sept	TBC	Skye: Skyewalker / Sligachan / Glenbrittle Memorial Hut	TBC
Oct	4 th / 5 th	Muir of Inverey, Braemar	
Nov	1 st / 2 nd	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge	
Dec	TBC	Christmas Meet, Inchree	tbc



Dave Paton has some kit for sale:

- Adjustable 'strap-on' crampons (ex club) - FREE.
- Salewa 'step-in' crampons (with minor repair) - OFFERS.
- NIKE Goretex snow board / Sky trousers, 32"/34" waist, never been worn, still has the original 'Goretex' label on them, probably worth £150 to £200 - will sell for £30 ono.

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk