



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988 – 25th Anniversary year

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Meet Report – Christmas Meet, Onich 7th & 8th December 2012

Bookings for the Christmas meet were a bit slow off the mark compared to recent years with some members voicing their opinion that the format was past its sell by date. A booking cut-off date was agreed by the Committee which allowed the cancellation of 10 places to minimize any financial loss. In the end 24 members and 5 rambling friends booked up the 30 chalet places with 28 people actually attending. Unfortunately a last minute change of job meant that Stuart was unable to make it back from the continent.

Wattie, Maureen and passenger Hazel were the first to arrive on the Friday afternoon and were well settled in time to head off for the now traditional bar supper at the Onich Hotel. They were joined by Bill, Joyce, Richard, Bruce, Alison, Jim Donald, Val, Dot and Eleanor. The food and banter were good in equal measure. Richard made use of a short rest back at the chalet to sort out the entries for the annual photo competition before heading down to the Four Season's bar where the rest of the weekend revelers were assembling. In between catching up and consuming a small libation to assist unwinding from the working week [*with reference to those unfortunate to not have retired yet*] people found time to vote for the category winners in the photo competition. There were at least 8 entries in each of the five categories and all the photos were of a high quality - making the choice quite difficult. Members of the RAF Mountain Rescue Team, who were also in the bar, were asked to help with the judging. With the forecast for Saturday not being spectacular there was no rush for an early night and people drifted back to their chalets around midnight.



Various loose arrangements had been made for the Saturday with only Dennis having a definite bagging plan. Although the weather could play a useful part, thankfully he did not need to rely on the weather for the success of his mission – he was on the hunt for four sundials to add to his collection. Working from a rough idea of their locations he ranged from Fort William to Ballachulish and ended the day with a 100% bagging success rate. With the cloud at its predicted 1500' to 2000' level it is not thought that anyone ended up tackling a Munro. Neil, Sharon, Sam, David Currie and Steve Gadd tackled the Pap in Glen Coe. They enjoyed their walk but turned back just short of the summit when the bolder field became increasingly slippery and the mist turned to rain. The other group to attempt a longer walk was Wattie, Richard, Bill, Joyce, Bruce and Alison who took up Wattie's suggestion of a circular walk up from Kinlochleven to the Blackwater dam. Full waterproofs were donned

as a precaution from the start and the upward path ascended at a reasonable angle through mixed woodland on the north side of the River Leven. Snow cover, and the cloud, was encountered at around the 200m level beside the Dubh Lochan which was mirror calm. After a further kilometer the face of the dam came into view and it was time to stop for a quick bite of lunch at its northern end. In true Olly style they ignored the 'do not cross' sign and climbed



over the gate to walk across the dam. The cloud made it impossible to see the other end of the kilometer long structure and some care had to be taken due to the icy condition of the walkway. After leaving the dam a short detour was made to visit the small graveyard for the workers who died whilst the dam was being built. The construction work itself was not necessarily the cause of peoples demise – the walk to and from the pub on dark winter nights proving as, if not more, hazardous. In theory the hardest part of the walk was now over with a



landrover track leading the way back down the south side of the river. This did not turn out to be the case however since the track stayed high up for most of its route and was therefore covered in a 6" layer of stodgy snow in its rocky middle with the tyre tracks of unpredictable slipperiness on either side. This all meant that the return part of the walk took longer than expected leading to an overall time of 5 hours for the walk. The group was a bit spread out by the end with Bruce arriving back at the car park a few minutes ahead of Richard and Alison. Whilst Alison and Bruce headed off to get a paper, Wattie and Richard hung on to see Bill and Joyce safely back – Joyce being particularly grateful that Richard drove a little way up the track and provided a lift for the last 500m. Others who ventured out for some exercise during the day opted for various combinations of the tracks in the woods above Inchree.

There was plenty of time to relax and get ready before it was time to go and sample some of Brian's (im)famous mulled wine as an aperitif to the evening's festivities. There was a good turn-out for the sampling with standing room only left and people headed off down to the bar with a warm inner glow. The meal was as good as usual with the slightly reduced number assisting speedy serving of the three courses. The overall winner of the photo competition was voted for during the meal. The results were: Wattie won the Summer, Winter and Nature categories, Brian won the People category (with a 'cheeky' photo taken on the Invergarry meet) and Richard won the Open category which was also the Overall winner - the winning pictures can all be viewed on the website. After the prize giving Dave P made a departure from the norm by delivering his swan song Chairman's speech in the form of a song, self-accompanied



on the ukulele – see words below. There was the odd unintentionally repeated line when the song sheet holder Joyce failed to keep the sheet steady as she laughed, but entertaining and a hard act for the next chairperson to follow. The final element of the 'formal' part of the evening was the presentation of the Compleatest's Tankard to Neil to mark him finishing his first round of the Munros in Septemeber. Neil almost did not get the normal full size tankard due to the involvement of a certain gondola on the actual day..... Once the tables and chairs were cleared out of the way it was time for Bill to encourage people up on to the floor for the Ceilidh part of the evening. No encouragement was required however since all seemed to be in the mood for a dance. With Bill occupied spinning the CDs, Richard stepped in as substitute dance partner for Joyce who had recovered sufficiently from the earlier walk and was in full dancing mode. After a longer Ceilidh section then usual Bill was all spun out and the dancers were sufficiently slaked and it was time for DJ Brian – with some help from Sam - to take over. At the end of the night it was 'all' back to Brian's chalet to see in the early hours with Jimmy Robertson persuaded to provide the musical accompaniment for a bit of a sing song – the last remnants were finally sent off to their beds at 3am. All those spoken to afterwards agreed that they had had a great time at the 2012 Christmas meet and that it would be hard to find another venue / organise a Christmas meet for a similar cost – no doubt the Committee will be looking at options for 2013 in due course.

Winter Slide Show Programme 2012 - 2013

Date	Show	Date	Show	Date	Show
18/10/12	Richard Christie Corsica GR20	15/11/12	Bill Gray Round the World	22/11/12	Chris Butcher Spanish Picos
17/01/13	Cioch 25 Pub Quiz Night	24/01/13	John Warnock Cioch Musical	21/02/13	Wattie Ramage The Last Year & 20 years ago
14/03/13	Available	21/03/13	Available		

Dave's Chairman's Song

[to the Dylan tune 'You Ain't Going Nowhere']

January's meet was dull and grey
 What a way to spend a day
 But raise a glass to the New Year
 All that matters is that we are there.

OooEee ride me high, today's the day the sun's gonna shine.
 How high are we gonna climb? Higher than we've ever done.

Blow wind blow we're in Glen Coe
 It's raining hard, it should be snow
 Once more we're soaked to the skin
 I can't believe the state we're in

March came and the wind it howled
 The rain didn't fall it was horizontal
 Three months gone, I haven't climbed a thing
 I'm struggling to find things about which to sing

Blue skies at last, sun shining bright
 Slioch rises, almost out of sight
 At last we've had a perfect day
 I wish it could always be this way

Ardgour without a Munro in sight
 But I've done them all, so that's all right
 This kind of blues makes me feel all right
 Blue sky, blue sea, sun shining bright

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
Mar	15th / 17th	Clan Cioch Gathering, Blair Atholl
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
July	12 th / 13 th	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric
July	26 th / 27 th	Lake District (extra meet)
Aug	9 th / 10 th	Inver Croft, Achnasheen
Aug	24th TBC	BBQ, Dunfermline
Sept	6 th / 7 th	Glenbrittle Memorial Hut, Skye
Oct	4 th / 5 th	Muir of Inverey, Braemar
Nov	1 st / 2 nd	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
Dec	TBC	Christmas Meet, tbc

Not so much of an island now there's a bridge
 But Skye's still special, it's got the ridge
 Pick you corrie in which to ramble
 Or climb up high for an airy scramble

August took us to a foreign land
 Striding edge was what we planned
 We were swept along on a human tide
 At the top tea and food was supplied

Neil's last Munro was Anoch Mor
 And when he reached the top there was a roar
 The champagne corks made a popping sound
 Before he started his second round

We're one year older Richard and I
 While stars, bangs and whistles filled the sky
 Cake and candles helped make our night
 But let's hope next year Joyce gets it right

So here we are again one year on
 Meets have come and meets have gone
 Let's hope next year's at least as good
 To celebrate mountains on which we stood

