



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988 – 25th Anniversary year

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Meet Report – Ochils Club Hut, Crianlarich 4th / 5th January 2013

Contributed by Brian Mitchell

This was my first visit to this hut, and it looked good, with a particularly fine extension, doubling as kitchen / dining room and "sitting about" area. The only drawback being that there were only two comfy seats - more on that later. The car park is a bit muddy at the bottom - could maybe do with a little attention [*However suspect mud is better than the 8" of snow that were covering the car park the last time the Club visited*]. The showers are good and the sleeping accommodation average. A good opportunity to try out my new 4 season bag - success.

On the Saturday, the weather turned out better than forecast. Ollly and I decided that a relatively easy day would be just fine as neither of us had done anything serious for a few months. It was only 10k of a walk to Bienn nan Imirean, and back. It is described by "Walkhighlands" as a sprawling, boggy mountain on the north side of Glen Dochart. One of the least distinguished Corbetts, its summit is a small rocky outcrop - a bit harsh, but true. There were no paths and although the slope was fairly easy, the ground was on the rough side. Low cloud added to the day and it became a navigation exercise on undulating terrain - a good challenge. As the day progressed it got a bit cooler and windier, with the cloud getting lower - accurate navigation required now. Having set off at around 10.30am, we were back at the hut by 4.30pm, having enjoyed a leisurely pace and a detour to try and find a phone signal - none found.

On returning, one of the comfy chairs was occupied by Dave, who had a lazy day due to his worn out body (hip) [*Marion having forbidden Dave from taking his boots – just in case he was tempted*]. Ollly immediately commandeered the other chair and remained there for the rest of the afternoon and evening. Jim Donald and I went off to Tyndrum in torrential rain, for superb fish and chips, so maybe Ollly vacated the chair during our absence, but 8 hours in the chair - don't know how he did it! Maybe he's got a secret drainage system?

To sum up: another good w/e, and a good start to the year. Could have done with a few more attendees.

Cioch 25 – First Event: Pub Quiz Night, 17th January

Contributed by Neil Anderson

The pub quiz went ahead as planned last night and I'm fairly sure it was an enjoyable event for all those taking part. 30 members and friends took part making up 6 teams of 4 and 1 team of 5 and, of course, me as question master. There were 3 rounds of questions; Movie stills, Events of 2012 and Scottish questions. The Quiz started at 9 pm and ran for an hour. The winning team; Dave P, David C, Steve Gadd & John R, collected 48 points out of a potential maximum of 64, the runners up weren't far behind with 42 (Sharon, Sam, Martin and Bill). There was a 3 way tie for 3rd spot at 37 points (Richard's team, Steve Gray's team and Vicky Simpson's team).



I over estimated the number of questions that were required to do an hour long quiz, I only used around half the material I had prepared. I also under estimated the effort required to speak loudly to a pub audience [*aka rabble*]. Initially my voice started to fail, but I managed to adjust and eventually I struggled through to the end. I think my voice had dropped an octave by the end of the hour, however I seem to be fine the next morning, so no harm done.

Many thanks to Neil for organising the first event to mark the Club's 25th year, there was a great turn out which hopefully bodes well for the rest of the celebrations.

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

Cioch 25 Clothing

At the last count we now have orders for 18 of the new Cioch logo tops. Hoodies and T-shirts are proving very popular. Michelle has now finalised arrangements with the supplier and hopefully we will have the tops in a couple of weeks.

A Hard day on the doorstep

Contributed by Richard Christie



The heavy snow that fell on the afternoon of Friday the 25th of January made the after work trip home to Dollar slightly interesting. Just as well I was not trying to go any further since the police were stopping all but local traffic from going any further up the Kinross road. The road conditions scuppered the plans Wattie and I had for going walking further afield on the Saturday so we settled on the 'standard' exercise circuit in the eastern Ochils from my house. This also had the attraction of not requiring an early rise – for me anyway. Wattie managed to negotiate the slippery roads over from Crossford and the skies were nice and blue when he parked in the drive. The walk up Dollar Glen was straightforward and there were good views of a sun

bathed Castle Campbell – then the hard work started. As soon as we left the Glen the snow depth increased to a minimum of 8". There was a trail of fresh footprints so we took the easy option and followed them as the

snow got deeper. By halfway up the snow was at least a foot thick and frustratingly inconsistent – each step you thought the snow would take your weight after sinking in a few inches and then you were up to your knee. The effort was however worth it with great views to the south across the Forth Valley. Shortly before reaching the summit of King's Seat we overtook the father and daughter who had been trail breaking and expressed our thanks – unsurprisingly the dad said he was a bit knackered but his daughter had been doing her share. It was then our turn to repay the favour and break trail for them across the summit plateau. We got a bit of a rest as we descended to the head of the Burn of Sorrow before the work really started as we



ascended Tarmangie Hill through deeper and even more inconsistent snow. Looking back we could see a skier descending down the slopes of King's Seat. Unfortunately the cloud had been moving in behind us from

the west and encompassed us as we topped out. The cloud stayed with us as we slogged our way across to Whitewisp Hill and were overtaken by the skier on his touring skis. We dropped out of the cloud as we descended down to the sheep fold above Castle Campbell – a bit of care was required because the snow was readily breaking away from the grass slope. The skier made it look relatively easy but he did have a bit of a wipe out near the bottom. Then it was a trudge across the lower slopes and down the forest track to Hillfoot Road and back to the house. A good, but hard day lasting over four and a half hours instead of the normal three. Looking back on the day it's not often you can have a great winter's walk from your door step.



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		

Forthcoming Event: Mountain Mind Quiz, Queens Hotel, Dundee, 13th March.

If the Cioch Pub Quiz has wetted your appetite for exercising your gray matter then Neil has volunteered to co-ordinate a Cioch Team for the above event. He has a couple of volunteers but more are welcome – please contact Neil directly.

2013 Meet Dates

Feb	8 th / 9 th	Strathspey Mountain Hostel, Newtonmore
Mar	1 st / 2 nd	Lagangarbh, Glencoe
Mar	15 th / 17 th	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	24 th	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

