



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988 – 25th Anniversary year

Newsletter #45

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Meet Report – Strathspey Hostel, Newtonmore 8th / 9th February 2013

Contributed by Cath Guest and Richard Christie

By heading off from Crossford mid-afternoon on the Friday, Wattie and Richard thought that they would be among the first to arrive in Newtonmore. They were therefore a bit surprised when they entered the hostel car park to find it almost full – triggering concerning thoughts of a meet double booking! Thankfully all was well, some cars belonged to another party who had booked the separate cottage and Neil, Sharon, Cath, Kenny and Jim were already installed with fire lit and busy cooking their teas and settled in as if it was a home from home. Neil and Sharon had intended to climb Geal Charn at Drumochter on the way up. They had started to walk up the hill but then Sharon could not remember if she had locked her car – to be better safe than sorry they turned back and this was just as well

since the car was indeed unlocked. Steve and Mags were the next to arrive followed by Jimmy Robertson who was making a

rare and welcome, non-Christmas meet attendance. Jim opted to eat out, so after finishing their meals Wattie and Richard headed off to join him for a pint – assuming that he had gone to The Glen. Jim was not in The Glen so after a pint, to make the extra walk worthwhile, they headed back to the Braeriach. They found him in the refurbished bar along with Cath and Kenny and stayed to sample the delights of karaoke - Newtonmore style. The singing was ok but the volume control could have been turned down a bit.



With the forecast indicating better weather the further east you went, Richard, Wattie, Steve and Mags headed for Glen Livet and the Corbett Corryhabbie Hill. The route took them via Tomintoul with some roads lightly covered in snow. They thought that they had made a good choice since the sun was shining as Richard parked on a snow covered verge. As they gained height however the top of the hill gained a dense cloud blanket. Steve's GPS was consulted to confirm the correct point from which to turn for the final ascent and the tracks of a snowmobile were encountered shortly before the summit trig point. There was sufficient shelter at the summit to allow a stop for food with two other walkers arriving just as they were packing up. As suggested in the Corbett book they



headed east to join a track which passed close to the summit before turning north following the line of some snowy footprints made by someone who had ascended by their intended descent route. Initially they wondered why the ascender had been wearing crampons however the reason became obvious as a steeper slope of hard snow emerged out of the cloud. Since the length of the slope and its ultimate steepness were not obvious the group opted for caution and stopped to put on their crampons. Suitably equipped the slope was easily descended and, as height was lost, they emerged out of the cloud layer to views of Ben Rinnes and the coast beyond. After a bit of a tramp across the lower slopes and a couple of fields the circuit was complete and car reached.



email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

Having hummed and hawed about which hill to climb, Sharon and Neil eventually settled on Sgor Gaoith which turned out to be a popular choice with other hill walkers. Vicky and Steve Gadd headed for Bynack More. Although the snow cover obscured the recently upgraded path leading up the hill, they enjoyed their day climbing through a number of cloud layers to be rewarded with good views from the summit.

Meall a' Bhuachaille above Glenmore Lodge turned out to be the chosen target for a number of meet attendees. Kenny & Cath chose to go up directly from Glenmore since Cath was not permitted to do strenuous exercise post her eye op. They first met Olly (the dog) looking good in a dog bone coat, hunting sandwiches and having the most doleful eyes. Apparently Steve G & Vicky had had to prove their stick throwing abilities to Olly earlier in the day. Shortly after John Robertson followed by (the much less good looking) Olly & Jim D arrived on the summit having come up from the Ryvoan Bothy. Cath managed to organise a 'team photo' – "4 grumpy men & me?" They all descended together.



Jimmy Robertson was foiled from climbing Craig Dubh, south west of Newtonmore, by a wired shut access gate in the roadside deer fence so headed back to the hostel and dragged Dave Paton out for a walk round Loch an Eilein. Finally Iain Hay had set off to climb Carn Dearg in the Moandhliath but decided to turn back due to the poor visibility as he climbed up the hill side. Having been tied up (metaphorically – not literally) in Dunfermline on the Friday night Brian Mitchell drove up on Saturday morning and stopped off to climb Meall Chuaich before carrying on to Newtonmore.

With all safely back in Newtonmore; Steve, Mags, Richard, Wattie, Sharon, Jimmy and Neil all headed to the Glen for a bar meal which was as tasty as usual.

It is not known if anyone ventured up a hill on the Sunday – possibly not since the wind was a lot stronger with heavy snow showers blowing through Drumochter on the drive back down the road turning the outside lane white.





Cioch 25 Update

Cioch 25: The Darwins

Nominations are now being accepted for Cioch's 1st Darwin awards.

Entries are invited in the following categories:

- Most geographically challenged award
- Most politically incorrect
- Worse for wear
- Most fashionable faux pas
- Most disastrous meal

Both photographs and stories will be considered for each category and entries should be submitted between now and 31st October 2013 to Sharon Rankin.

Winners will be announced at the Christmas meet.

Cioch 25: The Tales

To mark the 25th anniversary we are keen to put together a selection of tales and anecdotes (factual and not so factual!) from down the years. If you have any such stories we'd love to hear them, be they in prose or poetry. Entries should be no longer than 1000 words. All stories submitted will be published in a one-off special edition newsletter in Dec.

All entrants should be submitted, electronically if possible please, to Richard Christie between now and 31st October 2013, a small prize will be available for the best overall tale.

Winter Slide Show Programme 2012 - 2013

As an update to the printed version of the March Newsletter the official Winter Programme is now complete

Vicky Simpson's show based on her trip to Australia and New Zealand has been postponed to a later date.

2013 Meet Dates

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	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

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Although there are Reindeer in the Cairngorms – this is not one of them.
This is a Finnish cousin who was skulking up the cross country ski track trying (unsuccessfully) not to draw attention to himself.

