



# Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

## Newsletter #54

### January / February 2014



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#### Meet Report #1: Christmas Meet, Inchree, Onich 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013

The Cioch MC's busy 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year drew to a close with the club's 23<sup>rd</sup> visit to the chalets at the Inchree Centre for the Christmas Meet. Whether this should remain a fixture in the Club's calendar is the subject of some continuing discussion however 32 club members and friends / partners signed up this year and enjoyed a great weekend.



With the Friday weather forecast being better than that for Saturday, Wattie and Richard set off early from Crossford heading to climb Ben Tee overlooking Loch Lochy. The drive up the A9 was not the fastest thanks to the number of Lorries on the road and then there was a good covering of snow on the road running along the side of Loch Laggan. The cloud was however higher than forecast allowing good views and a good walk was had although some soft snow made the going hard at times. They arrived at Inchree at around 5pm thankful that Maureen had arrived a bit earlier and had the fire on to warm up the chalet.

refurbishment. An alternative hostelry was located in the form of the Loch Leven Hotel where Wattie, Maureen, Stuart, Hazel, Richard, Bill, Joyce, Karen, Gillian and new member David Ward all enjoyed some excellent fare. There was then some time to let the food digest before heading down to the Four Season's bar and meet up with other attendees for the traditional Friday evening chin wag and the first round of judging the annual photo competition.

With not that great a weather forecast for the Saturday there was no great incentive for an early night and some stayed up quite late and into the early hours of Saturday [02:30ish / vaguely remember]. Jimmy Robertson was even persuaded to dust off his guitar to accompany a bit of a sing song in one chalet. Those a bit more sensible were up and moving at a reasonable hour on Saturday morning with Stob Coire Raineach on Buachaille Etive Beag being targeted by most. Bill, Joyce, Karen, Gillian and David were first to summit enjoying better than forecast weather on the way up.



They decided not to push their luck and headed back down rather than going on to Stob Duth, meeting Jim D and Jess climbing up as they started down. Wattie, Maureen, Richard, Mags, Steve, and Jim R had a more leisurely start with a cooked breakfast at 10am, thanks Steve, followed (for the first four) by a very pleasant wander in the woodland paths behind Glencoe village. A visit to a coffee shop was then required as the rain started to set in midafternoon. The woods behind Inchree also proved a popular place for a wander whilst Jan and husband James had their attempt to visit Mull for lunch foiled by inappropriate ferry times. There is a rumor that some even remained in their bed all day, only surfacing in time for the evening meal. With everyone safely back at the chalets Brian M, as is now usual, provided mulled wine as a pre evening meal aperitif for those so inclined. The meal itself was up to its usual standard with the size of the portion provided in the deep fried brie starter leaving



email contributions to [newsletter@cioch.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@cioch.co.uk)

even the hungriest diner a notable challenge. After the meal the start of Brian's Chairperson's speech was suitably interrupted by Steve presenting Brian with a tankard to mark his completion of the Munros. It only took Brian 50 years to complete – thankfully his subsequent speech was just marginally shorter. The 'formal' part of the evening was then concluded Richard announcing the results of the annual photo competition – see the results later in this Newsletter. Bill Gray kindly acted as compere and CD spinner for the ceilidh element of the evening which people entered into with the normal enthusiasm. The night was rounded off with the general dance session to music selected by a committee of Steve, Mags and Brian. Joyce particularly enjoyed the Saturday Night Fever section. It is believed most headed home on the Sunday morning with Hazel and Stuart being the first away, leaving before dawn since Stuart had a midday flight to catch.



# 2013 Photography Competition Results

Nature and Overall winner Wattie Ramage



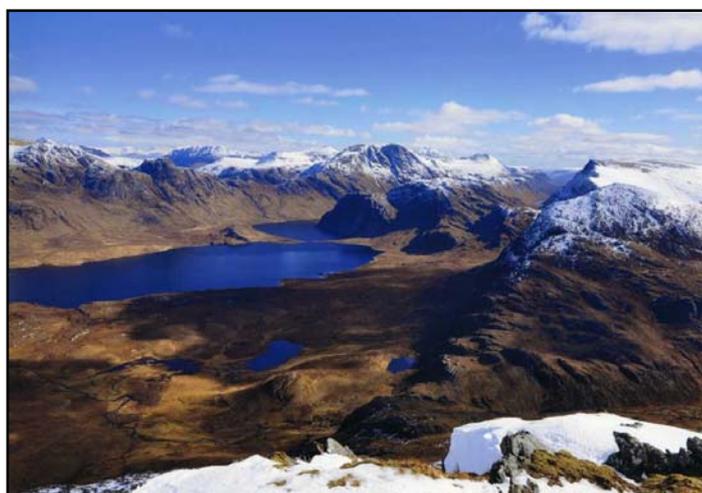
Summer winner Wattie Ramage



People winner Jane Mitchell



Winter winner Wattie Ramage



Open winner Richard Christie



## Meet Report #2: Strathspey Hostel, Newtonmore, 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014

The following members took the reasonably short drive up the A9 to Newtonmore for the first meet of 2014: Kenny, Cath, Jim D, John R, Olly, Dave P, Brian, John W, Richard, Steve<sup>1</sup>, Mags, Vicky, Steve<sup>2</sup> Gadd, Hazel, Stuart and Iain Hay. Second last to arrive were Vicky and Steve who decided to get in some extra walking practice by parking at the Hostel at the other end of the main street and then walking to the Strathspey. The Jacobite club members who were in residence in the other Hostel put them straight on which hostel they were booked into – thanks to the fact that Jean and Alan Turner were staying B&B in the other hostel owner's house. Suitably confused? – Richard, Steve<sup>1</sup> and Mags en-route to the pub certainly were as they passed Vicky and Steve<sup>2</sup> dragging / carrying their worldly belongings up the street. Needless to say Olly and his passengers Dave and John R were last to arrive but no doubt they took the shortest time to drive up the A9. Everyone was reasonably early to bed after doing their best to work their way through the various festive food leftovers people had brought up.

Newtonmore was resplendent(ish) in a fresh coating of snow when people surfaced on the Saturday morning. Richard, Steve<sup>1</sup>, Mags and John W had hatched a cunning plan for the Saturday to be environmentally friendly and use one vehicle to allow three different hills to be climbed, all along Loch Laggan. The snow started to fall quite enthusiastically as Richard drove the Freelander south from Newtonmore, with a reasonable thickness lying on the road by the time they approached the Creag Meagaidh car park. Plans were starting to be reviewed when just a bit further on the snow stopped falling and breaks of blue started to appear through the cloud. John W was dropped off at the Concrete Bridge at the outflow of Loch Laggan and headed off to climb Creag Pitridh. Next stop was at Roughburn where Steve and Mags were dropped off with the target of Beinn Teallach and possibly Beinn a' Chaorainn if the visibility was good. Iain Hay was already parked up and getting ready to head off separately for Beinn Teallach. Richard then continued to Roy Bridge and up Glen Roy to climb the Corbett, Beinn Iaruinn.

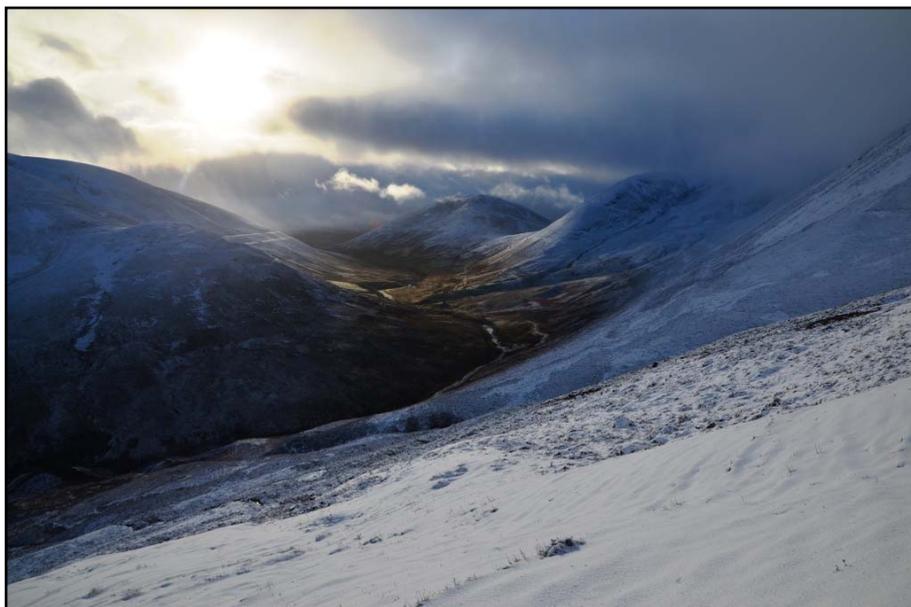


The further reaches of Glen Roy were reasonably uninviting with low cloud and drizzle as he set off up the steep, soft snow covered hillside. Richard chose a direct line of ascent which in hindsight was not the best since it led to some very steep and craggy ground requiring some care.....after the odd "knee trembler" the slope eased and the cloud started to break up allowing some tantalizing views. The walk round the edge of Coire nan Eun was good with Brocken spectres coming and going but the wind was starting to increase by the time the summit cairn was reached. Fortunately the cairn gave some shelter for a lunch stop. A text arrived from John just as Richard was eating his first roll to say John was on the top of Craig Pitridh – plan on track. The descent was reasonably straight forward although the cloud had once more closed in around the Glen blanketing the hill side.

Steve and Mags sent a text to say they were just leaving the summit of Beinn Teallach as Richard drove back past Roy Bridge so it looked like John would be ready for the first pick up. Steve and Mags had been delayed on their ascent by first the fire break mentioned in the munro book going AWOL and then they had to walk a fair way up the Allt a' Chaorainn before a crossing point could be found. The delay allowed Iain to catch up and they all crossed the river together. Steve and Mags pulled ahead of Iain on the ascent but he was always in view and was almost at the summit as Steve and Mags exited from their storm shelter after finishing their lunch. The wind Richard had experienced was quite a bit stronger at munro height. Steve, Mags and Iain then decided to stay together on the descent and Iain kindly volunteered a lift back to Newtonmore – again this was communicated by text freeing Richard up to give just John a lift. John arrived back at the concrete bridge only about 20 minutes after Richard arrived so all was good in the world.



Kenny, Cath and Jim headed off to climb Bynach More via the 'stables' with Jim aiming to carry on to climb the Corbett, Creag Mhor. Cath opted to stop short of Bynach More leaving Kenny and Jim to carry on. Kenny then descended steeply from the summit to catch up with Cath on the Lairig an Laoigh path. Jim carried on to successfully climb Creag Mhor. Brian, Stuart, Hazel, Vicky and Steve<sup>2</sup> were not that far away – as the crow flies – climbing Meall a' Bhuachaille via Ryvoan. They enjoyed an snow free day and had time for a coffee stop in Aviemore and a wander round the outdoor shops on the way back to Newtonmore. Olly, Dave and John R headed for Drumochter and Geal Charn [*I think*] – unfortunately for Olly this hill was not snow free. Olly was forced to admit defeat after a couple of hundred meters of ascent as they climbed into hard packet, icy snow. Dave and John put of their crampons but Olly had not brought his and his foot ware was not 'compatible' anyway. Dave and John successfully continued to the top whilst Olly waited back at the car. Back at Newtonmore that evening Jean and Alan came to 'first foot' bearing a gift of home-made tablet and a bottle of wine.



2014 Meet Dates	
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup>	Strathspey Hostel, Newtonmore
Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Tulloch Station
March 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Ochils MC hut, Crianlarich
April 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	Ariundle Centre, Strontian
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup>	Gwern Gof Isaf, Capel Curig, N Wales
June 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>	Skywalker Bunkhouse, Portnalong
July 11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>	Ling Hut
July 25 <sup>th</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lake District
August 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup>	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell
September 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	Invergarry Lodge
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup>	Inver Croft, Achnasheen
November 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
Decmber TBC	Christmas Meet Inchree

### Winter Slide Show Programme 2013 - 2014

Date	Show	Date	Show	Date	Show
24/10/13	Richard Christie Only a Munro away from the top of the world? Everest North Col	14/11/13	Chris Butcher Austria	21/11/13	Winter Safety Talk By Mick Tighe Pitbauchlie Hotel Starts at 19:30 [In conjunction with Mountain Aid]
23/01/14	Bill Gray World tour part 2	20/02/14	Wattie Ramage Last Twelve Months	20/03/14	Karen Fotheringham D of E in Morocco