



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

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Meet Report: Tulloch Station, 7th & 8th February.

Words from Neil Anderson, Photos from David Currie and Dave Paton

There were 16 people on meet. Sam, Martin, Sharon, Neil, Cath, Kenny, Brian M., Iain H., Jim D., Jess, Vicky, David, Steve Gadd, Olly, Dave P & John R.

There are good bunk beds with duvets already supplied at Tulloch and the Cioch had 4 out of the 5 bedrooms allocated, in fact there were only two additional London boys up for a weekend of hill walking in addition to the custodians. The small lounge, with open coal fire producing more than enough heat, needed a couple of extra chairs brought in from the dining area to accommodate our group. It was pretty cosy in there. *[David C suggests that everyone should have followed the cat's lead instead of walking on Saturday.....]*



Looking over the station platform on Saturday morning the weather was pretty much on par with the forecast, i.e. not great, however everyone in the group had a plan with a hill involved. Sam, Martin, Sharon and Neil set their sights on Carn Liath (east of Creag Meagaidh). Brian M., Jim D., Jess, Olly, Dave P & John R plumped for Leum Uilleim (west of Corroul Station). Cath & Kenny decided on Beinn na Lap (east of Corroul Station). David planned Stob Ban (Grey Coires). Iain, Vicky & Steve were heading for Stob Coire Sgriodain.

The train arrived outside the bunkhouse window exactly on schedule and the 8am and those heading for Corroul got aboard. The rest headed off by car in various directions to their target hills.



As the morning progressed, the weather gradually deteriorated, with low cloud, rain and strong winds playing their parts in the decision making process of the Cioch walkers. First to make the decision to turn back from his goal was Iain, who just stepped out car briefly at Fersit and decided, that's enough. The rest of the walkers progressed onto their hills to various extents before eventually also deciding the weather was too poor to complete. Sam, Martin, Sharon and Neil were probably the nearest to a summit (Carn Liath 1006m) when they aborted, being at a height of 1000m and probably 100m distant from the summit cairn but decided the 60 mph winds and 5m visibility were not good conditions to be searching out a snow covered cairn.

Cath and Kenny also decided to retreat from their target of Beinn Na Lap but were concerned about accusations of wimping out – they need not have worried – the Leum Uilleim contingent were already back at Corroul waiting for the train....

With people arriving back at the hostel reasonably early, there was no great rush for the showers (2 gents and 1 ladies, electric showers, some not quite as hot as you would prefer), although the opportunity to watch the 5:30 start Scotland v England rugby match on TV somewhere had caught some people's enthusiasm. In the end, 3 car loads of us, including the 2 London lads, went along to the Stronlossit Inn in Roy Bridge to watch England play rugby (Scotland scored 0).

A few people stayed on in the Stronlossit to eat after the rugby but most returned to Tulloch for their evening meal. The kitchen facilities at Tulloch are somewhat limited for 18 residents and the restrictions on use of the main gas oven asserted by the custodian made food preparation even more difficult. Cioch members and custodians crossed swords on this issue and I believe the heckles were up at one point with Sam stepping in somewhat hurriedly to play peace maker. However, it all panned out calmly in the end with dining concluded by mid-evening just in time for Brian to generously offer everyone a glass of mulled wine from his abundant alcohol reserves.

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

Around 9pm, Sharon decided that a parlour game was called for to liven up the evening. Most people found partners and took part in the highly skilled challenge to transport 3 empty beer cans from one end of the course to the other using a strand of dry spaghetti to lift them. After many heats, involving much hilarity, the triumphant pair of Martin and Steve lifted the honours. With Sam facing another 21st birthday after midnight, a tasty chocolate cake appeared from nowhere and Sam passed round slices to everyone to round off an excellent evening.

Although the custodians were somewhat reluctant to get the drying room powered up on Saturday afternoon, most of the kit left in the drying room was well dry by Sunday morning. Despite the weather forecast not being quite as poor for the Sunday, it is believed that only the London lads set off to do a hill, with Cioch members heading for the A9 and home.



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