



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

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Meet Report: Ariundle Centre, Strontian, 4th/5th April

Words from Neil Anderson, photos from Richard C taken on the 2012 Strontian meet.

There were 14 people on meet. David Currie, Karen Fotheringham, Pete (potential new member), Ella (potential new member), Vicky, Steve Gadd, Steve Gray, Mags, Neil, Sharon, Dave P. and Iain Hay. Most people arrived between afternoon and mid-evening on Friday having used the Corran ferry, however Olly and John Robertson arrived well after midnight without using the ferry after a long detour via Inverness, Fort Augustus and Spean Bridge. Yes Olly does things a bit differently from Mr Normal. His story goes something like this: He set off for Strontian after the early evening car auction in Kinross, he knew he would be too late for the last ferry, so he went directly up the A9 intending to go across the Laggan Road to Spean Bridge and out to Argour by road. Imagine his surprise when he discovered the Laggan Road closed for road repairs.



There were two good sized upstairs dorms allocated to the Cioch in the Ariundle Centre. Each dorm sleeping 8 in a mix of single and double bunks with duvets already supplied. Each dorm also had the benefit of an en-suite shower/wc, a couch and a small table. Downstairs, the kitchen come lounge area was a bit on the small side for anything other than eating, with kitchen corner being particularly small (the floor puddle due to the leaky sink didn't help either). A less obvious negative came to light on Saturday morning, after other Ariundle Centre residents complained about the lack of sound insulation between rooms in the building. Apparently some of our group were a bit loud on Friday night (Joyce is blame free since she wasn't on the meet, so we have no idea who this could have been on this occasion.....).

An overcast Saturday brought a broad mix of enthusiasm to the group. Pete and Ella opted to take in local attractions around Ariundle. Steve Gadd and Iain Hay left early to target the western munro (Sgurr nan Coireachan 956 m) of the Corryhully horseshoe. Dave P., John and Olly went off locally to do Sgurr Dhomhnuill 888m. Steve and Mags chose to investigate the local attractions around Strontian. Neil, Sharon, Karen F, David C and Vicky opted for a local east to west traverse over Beinn Resipol 845 m.

The Beinn Resipol walkers drove along then set off from Resipole farm caravan park around 10:25 heading initially north along the east side of the stream. About a kilometre after starting, the path got a bit lost and the option of following up the stream bed was quickly dismissed in favour of staying high on the right bank. This proved to be the correct decision with the well-trodden path soon being rediscovered further upstream. The path continued more easterly now, gaining height very slowly over several kilometres. With a cloud base around 400m, visibility to the west continued to be reasonably good until the path finally got steeper around one and a half kilometres before the summit. There was the odd patch of snow encountered among the crags above 750m, but walking was generally easy. With a bit more wind exposure on the summit, a late lunch was taken around 1:30 in lee of the Resipol cairn. Continuing east along the summit ridge after lunch, the path soon disappeared and the compass was followed through the mist as height was lost. The journey east continued through the mist over several kilometres of undulating hillside until visibility eventually returned and the old mine track was located. An easy walk following this track brought the group back to Ariundle around 4:30.



Iain Hay is just a few Munros short of 100 but unfortunately he decided to turn back at around 1400 ft. on this occasion, so it might be another few meets before he bags the big number. Steve Gadd, on the other hand, got his hill. So with well over 200 Munros in the bag, Steve's final target is looming larger after every meet.

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

The Sgurr Dhomhnuill team set off a bit later on Saturday morning. Dave P and John walked together while Olly made his own way (probably in trainers and without map or compass). Olly reached the summit first and on his descent met up again with Dave and John as they were still ascending. Dave and John also bagged their Corbett before walking all the way back to Ariundle.



The showers were pretty good and no one complained of a cold shower. Given the limited kitchen facilities, some of the meet attendees opted to dine out on Saturday evening. With the Strontian Hotel restaurant fully booked, the Resipol group and Steve Gadd opted to eat at the Ariundle Centre café/bar. The two ladies that run this were ever so nice although somewhat stretched by the arrival of another half dozen customers in addition to the other group of 8. Nevertheless, the ladies did very well and a fine meal was enjoyed by all.

By coincidence a fund raiser ceilidh was happening in Strontian on Saturday night, so after dining at the Ariundle café/bar, Neil, Steve Gadd, Sharon, Karen F, David C and Vicky hiked down to the Village Hall for a bit of a knees up with the locals. They made us very welcome, took our entry fee and then sold us some virtual raffle tickets that didn't win. It was all for a good cause so we didn't mind. The 3 piece band kept us entertained for a couple of hours of energetic dancing before the 2 km hike back to Ariundle.

The Argour weather on Sunday was very wet so everyone went to the ferry without considering any local hill walking.



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, Dundonnel
September 5 th /6 th	Invergarry Lodge
October 3 rd / 4 th	Inver Croft, Achnasheen
November 7 th /8 th	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
Decmber TBC	Christmas Meet Inchree

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