



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

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Meet Report: Invergarry Lodge, 5th/6th September

Contributions: David Currie, Richard Christie

September saw a welcome return to Invergarry Lodge and with a minimum of twenty places booked the whole bunkhouse was exclusively for the Cioch. The attractions of Invergarry include a spacious kitchen, good dining area and comfortable lounge with a pub/hotel within 10 minutes' walk – what more can you ask for.

David Currie starts the report as follows:

Friday evening saw the usual early and later arrivals, banter / 'passionate debate' about a certain forthcoming Referendum, weather and route discussions. After much humming and hawing guest Drew Crawford and I decided



to head for Sgurr Mor from the Loch Arkaig side. Joined by Margaret S, we drove down the long and very winding road to the car park at the end of the loch, spotting an osprey along the way. We set off in dry conditions at about 09.30, merrily chatting away. Sometime later we realised something was not right - we should have reached Glendessary Lodge by now... oh dear, turned out we were so busy blethering we had missed the rather obvious turn off to Glen Dessary and had wandered along Glen Pean for over 2km. A rather sheepish about turn to get back on the right track ensued. Even though we'd by now added an extra hour to our day we easily decided to carry on.

The crossing of the col into Glen Kingie was straightforward enough and we opted to head west up the glen to gain the ridge using the stalker's path, rather than tackling the steep southerly slopes head-on. Although we didn't seem to be going slow it took quite a while to gain the ridge and a strong wind made the going up to Sgurr Beag tougher than it should have been. Our spirits were good however as the views were fine and the last section to Sgurr Mor was relatively easy. We finally reached the summit at 16:00, six and half hours after setting out - the longest time I think I've ever spent



getting to the first Munro summit of the day!



After a fairly short rest for some food we descended south east along the ridge, then south down the steep, grassy, lumpy, boggy slopes towards the river. This was unpleasant and hard going and it was a blessed relief to reach the river, which was easily crossed. It was then a trudge up to the col and down the other side to the welcoming sight of the solid track back to the car, arriving at about 20:15, an 11 hour day.

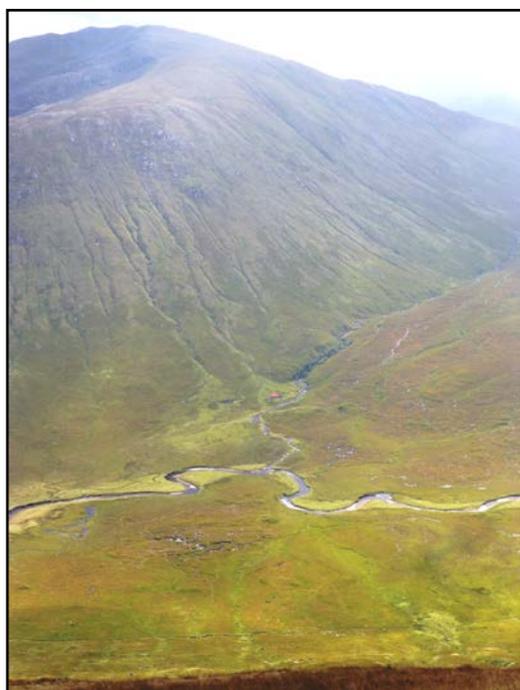
We all felt surprisingly fine - although the drive back along the loch-side in the dark seemed much longer than

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

on the way in. Once back in civilisation the phones started to receive "where are you" texts from Neil and Sharon... you see - Cioch members do care about each other! (and this was very much appreciated). Back at Invergarry the expected ribbing on taking so long was actually quite mild - either that or we were too tired to notice! Many of you will know that I often take to the hills on my own - but I was mighty glad of the company on such a long day, so my thanks to Margaret and Drew for coming along.

The hills accessed from Glen Garry just north of Sgurr Mor were the chosen targets for 10 of those on the meet.

Mags, Steve, Dave P, Alison (who had left Bruce to check up on his flat in Dundee after the current tenants had departed) and new member Barry set off to tackle Gleouraich and Spidean Mialach. It was a walk of two halves with the climb up to Gleouraich good underfoot on the excellent stalkers path but wet overhead with constant drizzle and low visibility. However by the time they had traversed over to Spidean Mialach the drizzle had stopped and the clouds started to break up giving views and an increasingly sunny descent down the boggy path back to the car. They were just driving past the Loch Quoich dam on their way back to Invergarry and gave a toot on the horn when they saw Wattie and Richard approaching the dam at the end of their yomp to climb the Corbett Sgurr an Fhuarain.



Wattie and Richard had been the first to set off on the Saturday morning with the weather looking not too bad for the 14-ish mile return walk to climb the reasonably remote Corbett. It would have been handy if Sgurr an Fhuarain had been bagged on either of the times Richard had climbed Sgurr Mor but on both occasions Sgurr Mor had been climbed along with the other three munros on the north side of Glen Dessarry so adding a Corbett was the last thing that came to mind! Although the walk in from the north was a fair bit longer it avoided the much longer drive down Loch Arkaig – a joy as David found out. The down side of the route choice was the potential 'squidg-fest' that usually marks the walk south from the Loch Quoich dam until you start to climb towards Gairich. As it turned out the path was not too bad and reasonably quick progress was made to the edge of the wood and the descent into Glen Kingie. Once over the col a good vehicle track was picked up past the ruined 'Lochan' cottage. Unfortunately the drizzle had now started in earnest leading to full waterproofs being put on before the long walk up the Glen to the foot of the hill – at least the vehicle track made for easy underfoot conditions. After crossing the Allt a Choire Ghlais by a newly refurbished bridge, Wattie and Richard stopped for lunch before heading up the reasonably angled (for a Corbett anyway) slopes of the east ridge of Sgurr an Fhuarain. The wet weather decided to reach a crescendo just as they arrived at the summit trig point so it was a quick about turn and head back

down the ridge. That was the intention anyway and they started to follow a clear path – after a few minutes the cloud thinned a bit to reveal a view of Loch Quoich which is not quite what was expected. A check of the map showed that they were actually descending the stalkers path on the north ridge so it was about turn (again) and a short climb back up to get back on to the east ridge. By this time the rain had stopped and definite breaks in the cloud were appearing. By the time they were back on the vehicle track the sun was out in earnest giving a very pleasant, but still long, walk back down Glen Kingie.

The final group walking in Glen Garry were Olly, John R and Brian who were climbing the Corbett Sgurr nan Eugalit overlooking Kinloch Hourn. Their walk was uneventful apart from Olly getting back to the car a couple of hours before John and Brian. Brian found he was not quite as fully recovered as he had thought from a recent op and so was walking a bit slower than normal, John kindly opting to keep him company.



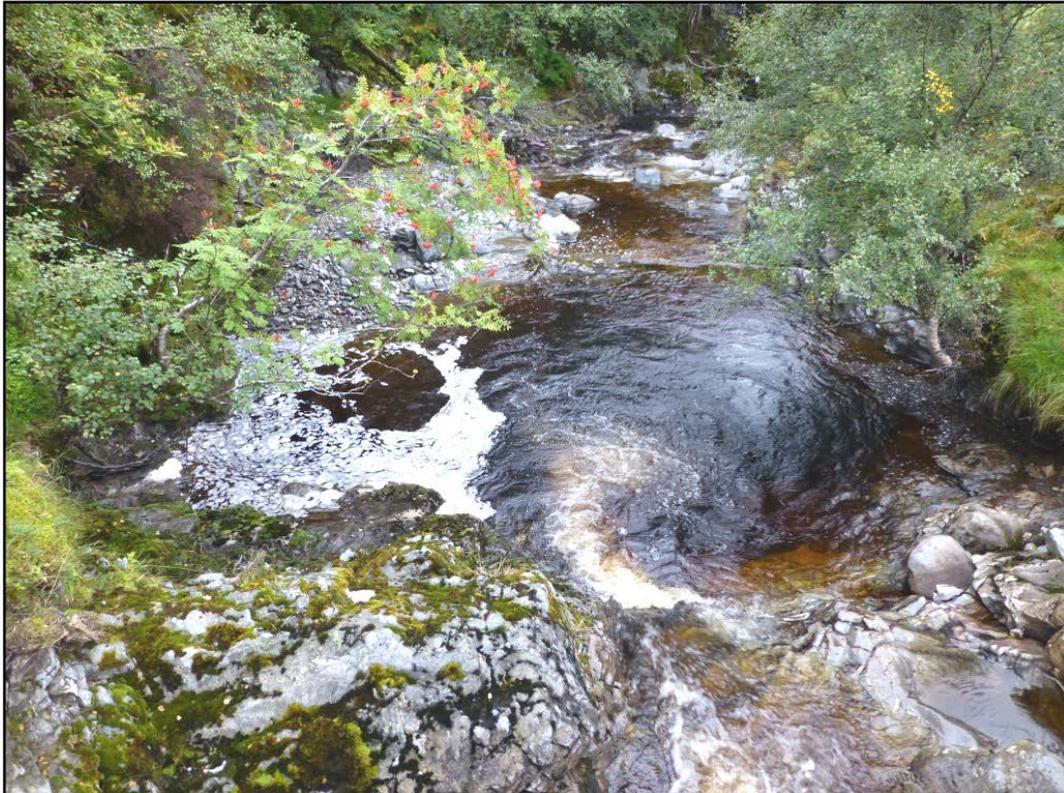
The final walkers out on Saturday [*that I can remember anyway*] were Neil, Sharron, Kenny and Cath who all went to climb the two Loch Lochy munros, Meall na Teanga and Sron a Choire Ghairbh. Cath decided that she had achieved enough when she reached the col between the two hills and headed back leaving the other three to bag the summits.



Wattie and Richard continued with Richard's Corbett quest on the Sunday by climbing Carn Chuilinn south east of Fort Augustus before heading home.

Winter Slide Show Programme 2013 – 2014

Date	Show	Date	Show	Date	Show
23/10/14	Richard Christie Ladakh three peaks	20/11/14	Bill Gray Subject TBC	18/12/14	Chris Butcher The Slovakian Tatras
22/01/14	Wattie Ramage The last 12 months TBC	05/02/14	Available	05/03/14	Available



2015 Meet Dates

Jan 9 th /10 th	Calluna, Fort William
Feb 13 th /14 th	The Pottery Bunkhouse, Laggan
March 13 th /14 th	Ling Hut, Torridon
April 10 th /11 th	Muir of Invery, Braemar
May 1 st /2 nd /3 rd	Station Bunkhouse, Plockton
June 5 th /6 th	Ariundle Centre, Strontian
July 10 th /11 th	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric
August 7 th /8 th	Glenbrittle Memorial Hut, Skye
Sept 4 th /5 th	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell
October 2 nd /3 rd	Inver Croft, Achnasheen
November 6 th /7 th	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
December TBC	Christmas Meet, tba

Remember the Cioch Club's new Thursday night venue is the
[Thistle Tavern](#) in Baldrigeburn, Dunfermline

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