



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

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Meet Report: Lagangarbh, Glen Coe, 3rd/4th February 2012

Many thanks to Michelle Sweeney for the following report:

Friday:

I first stayed at Lagangarbh a year ago and thought that Jim (Donald) was joking when he told me on route up that the sleeping arrangements involved a communal bunk! Being used only to wild camping - that was something of an eye opener! [Lagangarbh was Stuart's first meet with the Club - where his nighttime gymnastics earned him the nickname of 'wriggly' and secured 1/3 of the sleeping platform for his sole use]

Pam, Stuart and I had initially planned to head off together early on Friday morning to make the most of the excellent forecast but changes in plans meant that neither was able to make it along. With the forecast as good as it was I headed off alone having picked up the keys for the hut from Olly en route. Stob Dubh in Glen Etive was the plan. Sam and Martin were also heading up early, hoping to do Creise and Meall a Bhuiridh so I agreed that I'd leave the key under a rock in the vicinity of the door in case they arrived back before me.

The day was cracking - one of those perfect winter days with azure blue sky, dry cold and no - yes you can believe it - absolutely no wind! For a change! Steep ascent to the top of Stob Dubh but with the day there for the taking I decided to head over to Beinn Ceitlein and then returned back down Glen Ceitlein.

There was loads of wildlife to be seen on the day - red deer, sika deer, a golden eagle - a perfect day.



Lots of discussion in the evening re plans for the Saturday which from the forecast promised to be awful! Having already had a super day it was easy for me to decide on a valley walk as the best option for me. Great night by the fire followed with the usual high quality of lively intellectual debate led of course by... GUESS?

Saturday:



It was grim when we awoke and Stuart was the first to venture out of his sleeping bag. Having made the fatal error of saying he was just going to get a cuppa he was immediately deluged with requests for same from those of us less inclined to jump out and meet the miserable morning! Healthy dialogue followed which resulted in him very kindly agreeing to make tea for all of us. By this time Chris had also got up and made tea for Janice. A lovely lazy morning followed, with lots of philosophical discussion on everything from the hazards of the weather to Vicky's upcoming favourite cousin's wedding! I don't actually recall the last time - in fact I'm sure there hasn't been one - when I sat up in a bed with so many others drinking tea and putting the world to rights! A bit tricky to describe to my other half when he phoned to check if the weather was as awful there as it was where he was.

The conversation went something like:

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

'So I suppose you'll be well on your way up something by now?'

'No actually we're all still in bed'

'We?'

'oh yeah hadn't I mentioned the sleeping arrangements at the club? They're all very intimate really!'

Anyway eventually folk began to disperse reluctantly towards the door. Stuart, Jim and I headed off to a do circuit around the small Beauchaille. To say it was wet would be an understatement! But undeterred we completed the round despite the fact that the huge thaw saw the snow/ice melting and rivers rising to an alarming degree. It was impossible to cross in the Lairig Eilde due to the thick ice and raging torrent running over it.

Back at the hut, most folk decided to head out to see the rugby but the fire was too tempting for a few of us so we stayed put and enjoyed the silence till a healthy debate was struck later in the evening on the merits of being a member of the intelligent vs the unintelligent working classes! From there it moved swiftly, and quite logically of course, to the rigors of childbirth! And there it stayed until that particular line of discussion was brought to a stunned - if momentary silence - with the statement that 'child birth would be easier for women if they were just used more!'

The thing I love so much about the Cioch is the balance and perspective which permeates all philosophical debate AND let's be honest in what other club would you get to put the world to rights from the comfort of a giant communal bunk bed! Another superb weekend!

Cioch Winter Slide Show Programme 2011 – 2012

Date	Show	Date	Show	Date	Show
16/02/12	Jim Donald: Atlas Mountains	08/03/12	Dave Paton: Elements – Live	TBA	Chris Butcher: Picos de Europa

[As you can possibly guess the photos in this edition of the Newsletter were not taken on this Lagangarbh meet – the once below certainly weren't – these are from Finland, 100 miles inside the Arctic Circle]



Thinking Ahead: the Club will be 25 years old next year and it has been suggested that this could be a good excuse for a celebration. One suggestion is that we organize a special meet along the lines of the twentieth anniversary meet at Inchnadamph – if you have any suggestions please let a member of the committee know.

2012 Meet Dates

9 th / 10 th March	Aite Cruinnichidh, Roybridge	Full
13 th / 14 th April	Inver Croft, Achnasheen	Full
4 th / 5 th / 6 th May	Strontian, Ardgour	Full but possibly could book more
8 th / 9 th June	Sligachan Bunkhouse, Skye	Booking opens: 15 th March
13 th / 14 th July	Ling Hut, Torridon (note date change!)	Booking opens: 19 th April
10 th / 11 th August	Causewayfoot Farm, Keswick	Booking opens: 10 th May
7 th / 8 th September	Invergarry Bunkhouse	Booking opens: 14 th June
5 th / 6 th October	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell	Booking opens: 12 th July
2 nd / 3 rd November	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge	Booking opens: 15 th Aug
7 th / 8 th December	Onich (Christmas Meet)	Booking opens: 13 th Sept

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