



# Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

## Newsletter #67

June 2015



Published by Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)  
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### Meet Report: Ariundle Centre, Strontian, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015

A new departure meet reporting in the Newsletter:

#### "First Meet"

A poem by New Member Ruth Wood

*It was with some trepidation and a little hesitation,  
I took Jim Donald's invitation, to the June meet at Strontian.  
My first visit to Scotland's North West,  
I was hoping to see it at it's best.  
After an amazing scenic show (and breakfast in Glencoe),  
We viewed an array of Munros, many still covered in snow.  
There was too much rain, to have a go at climbing though.  
Sunshine appeared as we drove onto ferry,  
which made us optimistic for the weekend ahead.*

*At the lodge around a table were sit,  
Six men of charm and wit, my climbing comrades.  
Although the lodge was not great, (four pieces of toilet paper between eight).  
I was made to feel very welcome.  
I heard not a single snore, although there was a creaky floor.*

*Saturday morning the weather was wet, and our plans were firmly set,  
to tackle Garbh Bheinn, a wee Corbett (Is that where Ronnie took his name?)  
Although we were exhilarated and determined, the rain did not retreat,  
the paths up were mini waterfalls, and after an hour we admitted defeat.  
Brian and Dave however, who often agree to disagree,  
stoically completed Carn na Nathrach.  
The two Jim's and I had an afternoon's 12K coastal walk of much delight,  
at Ardtornish estate along Loch Aine to the sea.  
with a few surprises, including upside down waterfalls,  
where the water is blown up by the winds.  
The intrepid Jim D hopped up the ancient castle walls to the top,  
as Jim P recorded our afternoon in photos.  
Although the Gaelic names were unpronounceable.  
And my first Corbett insurmountable.  
I had a great time,  
Made all the better with Brian's rhubarb wine.*



Brian Mitchell carries on to sum up his experience of the Strontian meet in a more standard fashion:

It's about 45 years since I last was in Strontian and climbed Garbh Bheinn. I don't think we even bothered with the summit then, as we were there for rock climbing. We camped and it was pretty wet as I recall, and we also visited the old lead mines. It must have been in very early spring of 1971. One thing that has certainly changed in the intervening years is the cost of the ferry crossing at Corran!



This outing was much more unpleasant, but we still had an enjoyable day. Climbing Carn na Nathrach had its ups and downs according to the book description, not to mention a brand new deer fence erected right across the ridge about  $\frac{3}{4}$  Km from the summit. Fortunately a well-meaning soul had seen fit to thread planks through the mesh of the fence to create something of a ladder. This still isn't exactly in the spirit of access?



The other interesting occurrence was trying to find the start to get on to the hill. The forest is pretty dense near the road and as it turned out the way up is marked by a small cairn at the road side. How neither of us didn't spot it, is a mystery, because we certainly spent time looking for it. I even remarked to Dave at one point "that looks like the obvious way up", but the forest was very dense and the track was hidden behind a tree root, so we dismissed it as the start. In fact the forest wasn't as dense as it looked and we eventually picked a much worse way up through small trees. We got the correct path on the way back and to our amazement it came out at the small cairn, which we had missed earlier. We had a good laugh at our own expense.

Don't worry Brian, you and Dave are not the first to fail to find the path into those particular woods – however if you had done your research and read the report on the May 2012 Strontian meet:

*From there the forest track proper started and they (Alison Bruce and Richard) began looking for the route through the trees onto the ridge of Carn na Nathrach. Unable to find the proper path they bush whacked their way up steep ground to eventually break through onto the ridge complete with pine needles down their necks and various other places.*

*They did manage to find the proper path down through the trees and emerged back onto the forest track to find the telltale cairn they had missed on the way up - it was hidden behind a track side baby fir tree.*

2015 Meet Dates	
Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup>	Calluna, Fort William
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>	The Pottery Bunkhouse, Laggan
March 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>	Ling Hut, Torridon
April 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup>	Muir of Invery, Braemar
May 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	Station Bunkhouse, Plockton
June 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup>	Ariundle Centre, Strontian
July 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup>	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric
August 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup>	Glenbrittle Memorial Hut, Skye
Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell
October 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup>	Inver Croft, Achnasheen
November 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
December TBC	Christmas Meet, tba

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