



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

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Meet Report: Glenfinnan Railway Carriage, 7th and 8th October

Contributed by David Currie

A fully booked and attended meet! Perhaps the draw of Steve Gadd's Munro Completion was hard to resist, or maybe it was the prospect of staying in the Glenfinnan sleeping car hostel. It could even have been the good weather forecast for the week-end. Whatever it was, 11 members arrived at various times on the Friday afternoon and evening - myself, Steve, Vicky, Sharon, Neil, Tristan, Brian, Iain, Jim, Janice, Jeff.

The carriage actually only sleeps 10, but the owners had cleared out the linen store to provide the extra space. I was first to arrive so I nabbed it as it had a bit more room to store my motorcycle gear. The facilities in the hostel are basic, but functional: one loo, one shower, and the 'bunkrooms' are very small, but it is quite novel and quirky so it is worth a stay if you've never been. The old sign warning of fines for snoring was, unsurprisingly, ignored. I suspect 10 shillings was not enough to deter the miscreants. Perhaps £10 might be more appropriate...or a cattle prod.

Saturday morning saw a promising day weather-wise and it was a leisurely breakfast during which we were joined by Olly, Calum and Kenny who had driven up that morning. Iain decided to do Sgurr Thuilm, Olly and Brian went for a cycle ride and the rest of us joined Steve for his final Munro - Sgurr nan Coireachan.

The car park at the start of the track up to Corryhully was very busy, but we managed to squeeze the cars in then spent 5 minutes being entertained by the various attempts of other drivers to get parked too. Apparently the Jacobite steam train was due at the viaduct that morning, hence the unusual numbers. It was a pleasant walk up the track and we were treated to a friendly explanation of areas to avoid on the hills by one of the estate managers... even though they were not stalking that day....



At the bothy we were met by Brian and some group photos were taken before we set off, taking to the hillside shortly after. Iain was spotted below us as he headed towards Sgurr Thuilm and we eventually managed to get his attention so we could give him a wave. The pace was fairly easy as we made our way up the ridge - plenty of blethering and admiring of views. There are a few minor scrambly bits on this ridge, but no real difficulties. Eventually the summit was in sight and Steve and Vicky held back whilst the rest of us formed the reception party.. and then it was congratulations to Steve and some bubbly to go round.

After some lunch the group consensus was to continue along the ridge to Sgurr Thuilm and we duly set off. The ridge is quite rough and bumpy and time was getting on so the faster members continued up to the summit whilst the rest of us cut south to gain the homeward ridge sooner. Further down the ridge we caught up with Iain on his way back from Thuilm then the others who had also done Thuilm caught up too. On the descent we were treated to the evocative sound of several stags roaring in the adjacent corries - always a great highlight of the season. Further down there were also some lovely autumnal colours among the trees lining the burns.

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

At the start of the track back to the bothy we were met by a bloke in a posh 4x4 who seemed to be showing some concern. Turns out Olly had been slightly worried about Iain, so had driven up to the bothy where he was promptly challenged by said bloke (you are being watched!) who then drove further up the track. After assuring him that everything was ok he seemed happy enough and headed back. Olly was indeed at the bothy and he waited to give Iain a lift back (and some others who managed to cram themselves in).

Everyone was now accounted for... except Jim & Janice... they had fallen behind and didn't get back until after dark, but they did Thuilm as well (well done Janice!)

Vicky and Steve had kindly offered to provide dinner that evening - Spag Bog. It was a bit of a challenge to cook for so many with the limited facilities and space... I'm sure I heard Vicky swearing, but we managed it and everyone seemed to enjoy it as it was all eaten (sorry about the slightly singed pasta though!). Neil had baked a celebratory cake which went down a treat too and Brian had brought a good selection of home-made wine and beer. After dinner Steve was presented with his compleatist tankard, which was promptly taken off him again so that it could get engraved. He was also presented with a personalised OS sheet, centred around Sgurr nan Coireachan, kindly gifted by Dave Paton. Olly, Calum and Kenny departed south soon after and the banter continued with folk drifting off to bed as the night wore on.

Sunday morning was dry and somewhat chilly and after thoroughly testing the carriage's fire alarm system (grilled bacon = smoke) everyone started heading off. It was another nice day so I think a few people did some touristy stuff in the area. For myself, I had an enjoyable if cold ride home (air temp did not get above about 7 deg C until Tyndrum), stopping at the Broch Cafe at Strathyre for 2nd breakfast and some warm sunshine on their little sit-ooterie - Very nice.

A great week-end - good hills, good weather, good food, good company. Many thanks to all the caterers, chief cooks and washer-uppers.. and well done Mr Gadd.



2016 Meet Dates

January 8 th /9 th	Strathspey Mountain Hostel	July 8 th /9 th	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric
February 12 th /13 th	Tulloch Station	August 5 th /6 th	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell
March 4 th /5 th	Lagangarbh, Glencoe	September 9 th /10 th	Aite Cruinnichidh Hostel, Roy Bridge
April 8 th /9 th	Muir of Inver, Braemar	October 7 th /8 th	Glenfinnan Railway Carriage
April / May 29 th /30 th /1 st	Inchnadamph	November 4 th /5 th	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
June 17 th /18 th	Inver Croft, Achnasheen	December 2 nd /3 rd	Inchree, Onich