



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

Newsletter #75

July (Spring / Summer) 2017



Published by Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)
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Meet Report #1: Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe 7-8 April 2017.

Contributed by David Currie

Meet Attendees: Jim & Janice, Dave P, David C, Ian Hay, Stuart.

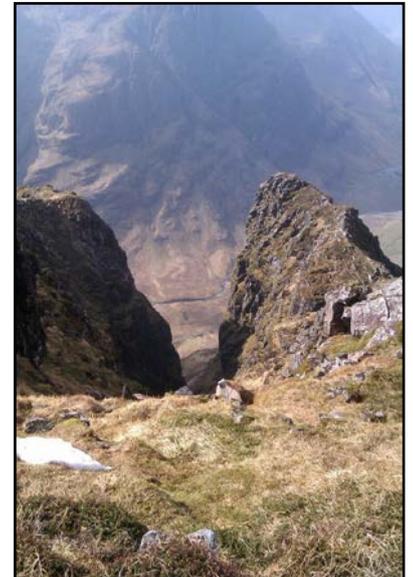
I travelled up on Friday afternoon armed with the knowledge that Jim and Janice had the key and would already be up there. Alas on arrival there was no sign of them - they had gone for a drive down Glen Etive, but had no phone signal. I passed the time in the ski cafe just along the road (not a bad wee place). Turned out Jim had put the key under the only stone I didn't inspect - sod's law.

Saturday's weather looked promising as we all set off for different hills: Ian for Buachaille Etive Mor, Dave and Stuart for Glen Etive and Jim and I for the (deep breath)... Aonach Eagach....

We left my car in Glencoe village and Janice kindly dropped us off at the east end of the ridge. (She was heading back to the cottage to do some studying) A steady plod up the good path to Am Bodach, no problems with the steep down climb just beyond and good views down to the Chancellor. Then it was across and up to the Munro of Meall Dearg, reaching the summit just after noon.



The next section is all up and down - gullies, pinnacles, chimneys - quite good fun actually, but it is indeed narrow and exposed in places. We kept to the ridge proper as much as possible, however at one point we skirted right (north) to pass a pinnacle - not a good move. The route was mossy, loose in places and rather unpleasant. To make matters worse some people behind us started to follow us - more fool them! We made it round ok, but definitely better sticking to the ridge.



It was then a steady pull up to the second Munro, Sgurr nam Fiannaidh, reaching it about 3pm. With quite strong sunlight on one side of the ridge and

mist coming and going on the opposite, we were lucky enough to get a reasonable brocken spectre - always a bit special. We



continued W then WNW to pick up a descending

traverse path (rough and stony in places) that eventually joined the path coming down the Pap of Glencoe col and back to the car just after 5pm. The compulsory pint in the Clachaig was most welcome.



Dave and Stuart managed a couple of the Glen Etive hills (I can't remember which ones) and Ian had a successful day on the

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Buachaille, even managing to get temporarily adopted by some female tourists on the summit!

This was clubs first visit to Blackrock in a while and it was a shame the meet was not better attended.

It's a good wee place. There is no fridge or running water in the kitchen ("don't fill the urn from the burn") but there is a cosy fire, flushing toilets, good shower (£1 coins), beds not bunks and a great setting. I hope we go back.

Meet Report #2: Sligachan Bunkhouse, Skye - 28th/29th & 30th April

Contributed by Dave Thomas

It was early morning 8:45am approx on Saturday the 29th April when Dave Paton, Jim, Reg, Steve, Marie and myself headed off from the Glenbrittle campsite. The weather was a bit overcast and some mist on the peaks of the hills. We walked on up the path into Coire Lagan and there was a strong wind from time to time along the way. When we got to about the scree the wind seemed to drop a bit and we decided to have a break. With the break



over Jim decided to turn back as his knee was sore due to a previous injury. The remaining five of us headed up the An Stac scree to the left of Coire Lagan. Once we got up past the scree, where there was very little wind with a bit of mist on the peaks, as per the photo on the left.

We started to walk along to the start of the climb up to Sgurr Mhic Choinnich, then we started to scabble up on to the ridge, the



mist seemed to clear and there was a bit of exposure along the way across the ridge but we all got to the summit at about 1:00pm. It was nice and clear with no wind and lovely views from the summit including over to the 'In Pin'.

For me it was great to reach the summit of Sgurr Mhic Choinnich at the 4th attempt, my last munro on Skye. We had our lunch at the summit, then headed on back along the ridge with back climbing, scrambling and exposure along the way. It was then back down the scree along the track, reaching the car for about 5:15 pm. Back at the bunkhouse I got loads of cheer for



completing my last munro on Skye.

Many thanks to Dave Paton, Steve, Marie and Reg for their kind support, overall it was a great weekend.

Continued:



Meet Report #3: Sligachan Bunkhouse, Skye - 28th/29th & 30th April

Contributed by David Currie

Meet attendees: Dave & Marion, Neil & Sharon, Dave T, Reg & Theresa, Jim & Janice, Steve & Mairi, David C, Sam. (Apologies if I've missed anyone)

A welcome return to the Slig bunkhouse - I like it because the hills and pub are right on the doorstep. This time we didn't have the place to ourselves - the other guests were mainly a loose group who come together and hire guides wherever they go, a friendly bunch they were too. Since I'm writing this at the start of July I can't remember what anyone else did hill-wise, apart from Dave P and Dave T did Sgurr Mhic Chonnich on the Saturday. - [see Dave T's report above]

Neil, Sharon, Sam and I headed up toward Coire a Bhashtier with the intention of doing Am Bastier and perhaps even across to Gillean (we took harnesses and rope). The weather was not too bad, but the wind became stronger and gustier the higher up we got, so we decided it was not the day for being on the ridge. Instead we had a leisurely lunch overlooking the Bastier Gorge then crossed over into Coire Riabhach for a pleasant stroll back to the bunkhouse. Dinner that evening was a communal meal, kindly supplied by Reg & Theresa: curry with all the trimmings, and very good it was too.... there were no leftovers!



The weather on Sunday was slightly better so Sharon, Sam and I left a poorly Neil behind and headed for the tourist route to Sgurr nan Gillean. The main ridge was gained without difficulty, but higher up it gets a bit trickier. The wind was also getting stronger, very gusty at times and Sharon and Sam were starting to get out of their comfort zones. I couldn't quite remember the 'easier' ways up the ridge from the last time I did it, so there was a bit of to-ing and fro-ing to try and find the best route. The final section just before the start to the summit roof proved a step too far for the girls and I couldn't persuade them to go on. They had done great to get as far as they did and on a calm day with perhaps a rope for peace of mind they should get all the way. Leaving them to retrace their steps down, I hopped up onto the final section and across the narrow and exposed roof to the summit. The gusting wind made it quite unnerving at times. The summit is an airy place and I was joined by a few climbers coming up from the Bastier side ('threading the needle'). A quick chat with them then it was back down to catch up with the girls and the 'feels-longer-than-it-is' walk back out for a refreshing beverage at the Slig.

That evening Neil was feeling better and drove the four of us up to Portree for another curry, this time at the Prince of India on the shore front. Not much of a place to look at, but the food was good. Reg and Theresa turned up later too. Just as we were leaving there at the bar was Donnie Munro (ex of Runrig fame) ordering his take-away. I had a brief chat with him - he was very pleasant to talk to.

Steve and Mairi had been rock climbing in Coir a Ghrunnda, but darkness had fallen with no sign of their return. At about 9pm Neil, Sam and I set off to see if we could spot their car in Glen Brittle. Just as we were turning off at the Slig, there they were! Easiest 'rescue' mission ever.

A good week-end spent in good company rounded off at least for me by a somewhat speedy ride home on the motorbike :>)

Meet Report #4: Inver Croft, Achnasheen. 9th/10th June 2017

Contributed by David Currie

Meet Attendees: Jeff, Jim, David C, Dave T, Callum

With only the five of us we had plenty of room to rattle about in this fine hut. Callum had climbed some Cairngorm hills on the way up, Jim another hill somewhere (sorry, can't remember). There was some good banter to be had in the evening.

Jim and Dave T were away early next morning - their target was Lurg Mhor, so a long day in store for them (how long? read on!).

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The weather was poor initially - wet and windy - so Callum and I enjoyed a leisurely breakfast waiting for it to improve. Jeff was, of course, still sleeping. About 10ish the weather improved, Callum set off to do Slioch and I headed south to Craig for Sgurr Choinnich and Sgurr a Chaorachain.

A short cycle was followed by a lot of bike pushing up the track until just beyond the forest gate. As the track follows the river is gets a bit rougher, but I soon came upon Jim and Dave's bikes, left mine there and headed up the stalker's path to Bealach Bhearnais. It's a reasonable path so steady progress was made to the pass. Many peaks were clear despite the broken cloud layer, though Lurgh Mhor seemed determined to hold on to its cover. A left turn eastward from the pass and a fine walk up the ridge with a few rocky steps to turn gets you on the summit of Sgurr Choinnich.



A spot of lunch then off along the ridge, steeply down to the col. I briefly saw a figure a good bit up the ridge to Sgurr a Chaorachain - it was actually Jeff: he had ascended directly to the col and went on to climb Bidean an Eoin Deirg. He disappeared and I never saw him again until back at the hut.

A very heavy shower came and went just before the summit of Sgurr a Chaorachain where the views were intermittent. Second lunch then headed N then NW down steep, grassy slopes that eventually levelled out at some pretty waterfalls. Easy crossing of the Alt a Chonais, a short walk back to the bike, some cycling

followed by the fast and free ride back out to Craig (note to self: replace brake pads!). The midges were very bad at the little forest car park at Craig - midge net had to be deployed.

Callum and I arrived back at Inver at the same time, Jeff a couple of hours later. As for Jim and Dave....

Jim got in at 2am, Dave at 4am - Epic! As we suspected, they were never in any difficulty, just a bit slow (painfully at times apparently).

This was my first time at Inver Croft - I liked it: good facilities, flushing toilets, great setting. There are no showers, but there's always the option of going for a splash in the river... not this time though.



2017 Meet Dates	
Date	Venue
13 th / 14 th January	Strathspay Mountain Hostel, Newtonmore
3 rd / 4 th February	Ochils MC Hut, Crainlarich
10 th / 11 th March	Ling Hut, Torridon
7 th / 8 th April	Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe
28 th / 29 th & 30 th April	Sligachan Bunkhouse, Skye
9 th / 10 th June	Inver Croft, Achnasheen
14 th / 15 th July	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric
11 th / 12 th August	Causewayfoot Camping barn. Keswick (TBC)
8 th / 9 th September	Muir of Inverey, Braemar
6 th / 7 th October	Naismith Hut, Elphin
3 rd / 4 th November	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
1 st / 2 nd December (TBC)	Inchree Centre, Onich