



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

Newsletter #63

January 2015



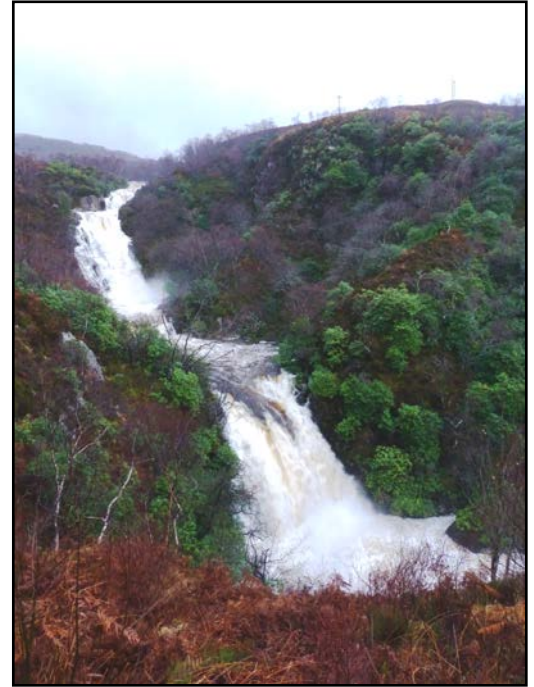
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Meet Report: Christmas Meet, Inchree Centre, Onich, 5th & 6th December 2014

Contributions from Richard Christie.

After a slow start the Christmas meet booked up well with 37 members / partners / friends attending in the end. Sharon had her work cut out juggling the chalet allocation to meet various people's requests but it all worked out in the end with the Club occupying four 6 berth and four 4 berth chalets. This included allowing the luxury of an all-girl chalet. The forecast for the weekend was far from good but climbing hills is not the main aim for the Christmas meet – would still be nice to get out for a wee bit of fresh air though....

Jim, Barry and new member Caroline did their best to beat the odds by driving up early on Friday morning with the aim of tackling the Aonach Eagach from West to East. Barry and Caroline left the Thursday club night with plenty of advice about turning back if the weather turned or if they did not feel safe. As it transpired all three successfully summited Sgurr nam Fiannaich and then collectively decided the intermittent snow showers and gusty wind made a retreat the best option. Those that had the option travelled up in during the afternoon allowing a relaxed journey in daylight and time to rest before heading out for a bar meal if that was their want. Those that went to the Onich Hotel had a reduced menu compared with previous years but the food was good and the helpings filling. After a further time to relax / let the food go down all started to assemble in the Four Season's bar for the usual Friday night catch-up and banter. Not to mention judging the photography competition. The poor weather forecast meant few were in a hurry to get up early on Saturday morning so people eventually drifted off to bed sometime around 1am. Or in some cases to sample Brian's Raspberry Vodka.....



The weather on Saturday lived up to the forecast with heavy rain and gusty winds in the morning confining some to their chalets. Others were more adventurous tackling Fort William high street – both sides with a stop for a bar lunch! An intrepid team led by Bill and Joyce walked up to the Blackwater Dam. There is a rumor that one person even climbed Sgorr Dhearg and Sgorr Dhonuill above Ballachulish but I don't know who it was. Eventually by mid-afternoon Richard had had enough of festering in the chalet and took advantage of a break in the weather to suggest a wander up to the waterfall in the woods above Inchree. Wattie and Maureen agreed to the proposal so the three headed off up the road. No sooner had they set off then the rain threatened to start off again – a fact Wattie was quick to point out, however they were out now and so continued, fortunately the rain didn't. The waterfall was impressive as, slightly further on, was the sight of John W trying to keep up with Margaret as she ran up the forest road. John, who had found the Raspberry Vodka to his liking, was relieved to have the excuse of stopping for a chat with Wattie, Maureen and Richard – well it was more a



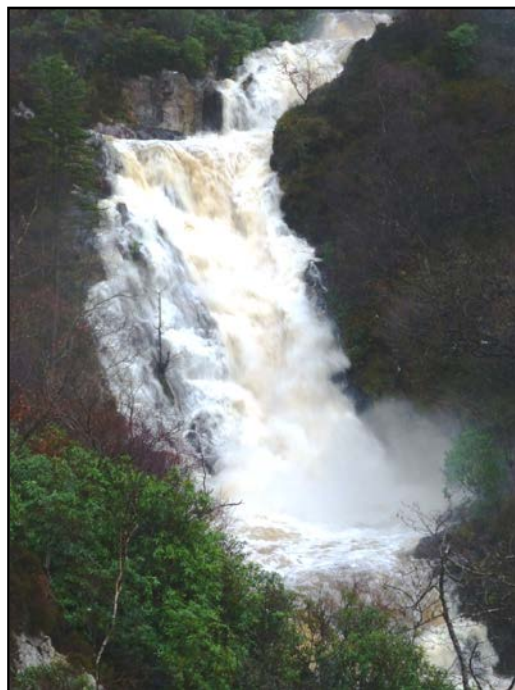
case of gasping for breath than chatting. Margaret and John continued on their run whilst Wattie, Maureen and Richard turned for home only to meet Mags, who had also decided to go out for a late afternoon run. In fact running may have been the exercise choice of the day since Sam and Martin had also been running earlier.

Suitably cleaned and spruced up, and in some cases fortified with Brian's mulled wine, everyone assembled back down at the Four Season's for the now traditional three course meal which was more that up to its usual high standard. Some club members were fully embracing new technology - although it did make some others try to run away. How fast your courses arrived was a bit of a lottery depending on where your table was but did leave plenty of time to vote for the overall winner of the photography competition.

After the meal Brian invited Wattie to say a few words in

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memory of Jim Robertson who will be sadly missed. The results of the photography competition were announced by Richard, details later, and Brian summed up the 2014 club year. Bill then stirred up the CD player and called people up for the Ceilidh. John W then took over and played some more general dance music until all too soon it was time for last orders and the end of another great night. The introduction of the new, tighter drink driving limit had been the subject of discussion during the weekend and all those who were due to drive on the Sunday morning had paid special note.



Meet Report: Calluna, Fort William, 9th & 10th January 2015.

Contributions from Barry Tindell.

Sadly the weather forecast meant a lot of people called off from this meet however seven intrepid soles decided to take a chance the Forecasters' had got it wrong. If they can say there won't be a hurricane and then there is one, perhaps it could also work the other way round..... Barry takes up the story of the weekend.

Me and Jim set off around 10 am on Friday morning having decided not to leave earlier as the weather was poor. We were going to see how it was near Drumochter and maybe attempt a couple of hills from there but due to the fact Jim had managed to potentially upset half the other drivers on the A9 with his interesting overtaking manoeuvres, we didn't think we would be able to stop the car without a fight, the weather was also terrible by this time so we continued along the Laggan road and into Fort William. We decided to take a drive up Glen Nevis to kill some time and discussed our Saturday route plans for the intended Carn Mor Dearg arête route onto Ben Nevis, afterwards we headed for Calluna. As expected we were the first there and before we knew it we were sound asleep with the tele on. Dave was the next to arrive and once he had woken us we all had a walk into the town for a pint and a fish supper. Thanks to the heavy rain we paid the chip shop delivery driver to deliver us back up the road [*10/10 for ingenuity*]. Friday night was quiet so after a few drinks and some of Brian's home-made potions we headed to bed.

When we woke on Saturday the weather was terrible so our plans for the CMD were out the window. After a wee discussion me, Jim, Olly and Karen headed off for the Ice Factor at Kinlochleven. Jim and Olly waited on the weather to improve a bit and went out for a walk while me and Karen spent a few hours climbing only to notice about the only other people there were my next door neighbours [*it's a small world*]. Once Olly and Jim returned we headed back to get washed and changed to go out to the Indian and after a really good meal, and everyone taking the piss out of Karen's "where's wally" hat, we headed back via the Spar Shop where a bottle of the absolute finest wine available in the highlands was purchased (buckfast) [*You mean this is better than Brian's home brew – or had that all been consumed on Friday night?*]. The usual topics i.e. pensions & politics were discussed whilst I educated myself with a book on wild flowers. The night passed on and it was time to go to sleep, although some decided to start sleeping before making it as far as their bed - as the photographic evidence shows.

So to sum it up not a very productive weekend hill wise but a good laugh and a welcomed break away from the drug busts, gun shots and murders that take place in a totally fictitious village in Fife most weekends.

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News from the 'Colonies'

Previous club member Calum has sent the following email update on how he and Alan are getting on in Canada

Hi Richard,

Just having my monthly look at the Cioch website and making myself thoroughly home sick and thought this time perhaps I should drop you a line. Hope everyone is doing fine and please tell them all we were asking for them. Life out here is pretty good now that we are all settled in. Alan is now working as a Lawyer and is very good at getting the Canadians to part with their hard earned cash as lawyers tend to do.

I managed to get a job with Wal-Mart and work my way up through management to become Compliance Manager which most of my time is spent trying to keep us out of the hands of lawyers. We are living in a small Scottish town out in the country called Fergus which each year host on of the biggest highland games outside Scotland. I do miss the club and the mountains as it is pretty flat out here and you can drive for seven hours north and the scenery does not change much.

We are both going to the climbing wall in Guelph which is about twenty minutes towards Toronto so I am keeping my hand in but nowhere near my old standard. It will be snowing here soon so we can dust off the ice skates as the local fire brigade usually builds skating rinks in all the local parks and fills them with water as outdoor hockey is big with the kids. Hope to try my hand at skiing this year as we have what are called "the blue mountains" (a couple of Corbett's) north west of here. They are forecasting another hard winter as last year we had a foot or two of snow every day from Nov right through to May with temps in the -25 to -40 region so a bit chilly but due to the dry air easy to keep warm when you are out, providing you have your furs on.

Cheers and Merry Christmas when it comes and a happy New Year.

Calum

Winter Slide Show Programme 2014 – 2015

Date	Show	Date	Show	Date	Show
22/01/15	Wattie Ramage Retirement the First Year	05/02/15	Available	05/03/15	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 Inver, 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



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2014 Photographic Competition Results



Wattie Ramage won both the Winter and Summer Categories



The Nature Category was shared between Steve Gray and Wattie Ramage



Dave Paton won the Open Category with his Star Wars homage

The People Category and Overall winner was Richard Christie
[taken using Steve Gray's camera]

