



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – April 2011

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Programme:

Monday 11th April 2011

The Hurtigruten – Norwegian Coastal Trip

Mike Taylor

Station Hotel 20:00

Sun 17th April 2011

Carn an Tuirc + 3 other Munros

Focal Pt Gordon Spence (07789314956)

Community Centre Car Park 07:30

Carn an Tuirc, Cairn of Claise, Tolmount and Tom Buidhe OS Sheets 43 and 44

Mike Taylor

This walk 'bags' four Munros in a 20km walk with about 950m of ascent – probably a day of between 7 and 8 hours. If the snow is still around at high levels, it may have to be curtailed to Carn and Tuirc and Cairn of Claise.

The walk starts on the A93 between Braemar and the Ski Centre at the car park in Grid Square 1480. The Allt a'Gharbh-coire is followed eastwards until a path leaves the burn to go around the northern flanks of Carn an Tuirc to an old ruined, wooden hut. From here it is a steep climb up to the stony summit of Carn an Tuirc (Hill of the Wild Boar). After this climb of about 500m, there is now over 10km of high level walking which will provide some wonderful views in the clear weather which is anticipated for our April outing. To gain the next summit, we go east over boulders, south east to a col then SSE up a gentle grassy incline to the summit of Cairn of Claise (Hill of the Grassy Hollow). More grassy slopes lead ENE to a col from where a wide shoulder leads up to Munro number three: Tolmount (Valley Hill). The final summit is gained by retracing our tracks briefly then heading for the stream which separates Tolmount from Tom Buidhe (Yellow Hill) whose rounded top is gained after a short climb from the stream.

The return to the start is made by heading west over Ca Whims, then contouring south westerly around Cairn of Claise to find the spur which leads north west to Sron na Gaoithe. A northwesterly descent of this leads back to the A93.

This is a longish walk but should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part, please let Gordon Spence (07789314956) know by Thursday 14th April.

Forthcoming Events

May 14/15th Skye Weekend

May 15th Beinn Iutharn Mhor

June 19th Lochnagar Black Spout (LHB)

July 17th Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Stuic

Allan Brown - Update

As many of you will be aware, Allan has been in hospital for the past few weeks undergoing treatment. He is now back at home as should be able to continue his treatment as an outpatient. He should be at this month's evening meeting and, I understand, is hoping to come along to the Skye weekend for a spot of gentle hillwatching.

Clachnaben

Irene Jamieson

Les, Wendy, Alan D, George, Susan, Roger, George and myself enjoyed a good day on Clachnaben. There was very little space in the car park as we joined other walkers, dogs and runners on an obviously popular hill. A unanimous decision was made to take the longer but easier route making use of the longer daylight hours and good weather. A very good Landrover track took us to the Charr bothy for elevenses, past a flock of sheep George thought were kept there to get rid of ticks, saving the grouse and improving the shooting. It grew more of a tyaave as the track then steepened and

in some places was filled with deep snowdrifts. The group spread out slightly as we all found our own way through the snow, heather and pot holes to congregate on a very windy ridge. Was Les the only one to stand against the wind at the top of the Tor? We clambered over to the sheltered side to have lunch and enjoy clear views over Aberdeenshire. Descending by the direct route we were soon relaxing with our customary refreshment at the Feughside Inn.

Skye Weekend 13-15 May

Mike Taylor

As usual, the club will be visiting Skye in May. This time we are staying in the bunkhouse at Sligachan.

<http://www.sligachan.co.uk/sligachan-bunkhouse.php>

The bunkhouse is new to us but Sligachan is well-known. In the good old days the club used to camp at the camp site and we have often used Seamus' Bar as a place to eat – and drink.

The bunkhouse is described as follows:

Catering for up to 20 people, this recently refurbished building has all the essential facilities for the adventurous types: four dormitories – two sleep four and two sleep six.; lounge with open fire – fuel provided; kitchen with six burner cooker, 2 fridges and all utensils; large hall, two shower rooms, wash room and two toilet areas; utility and drying area. Towels and bedding are provided at an extra cost. Electric heating is available in each room. It is located across the river from Sligachan Hotel.

As we are unlikely to get more than 15 people and the cost per night is £300, the cost per person has been set at £20 (I assume we will all take our own sleeping bags and towels) If we do get more than 15 people we will arrange refunds.

There is a full range of walking and climbing activities on Skye: the Cuillin for those with a good head for heights; the Quiraing if you want to see something very unusual; Macleod's Tables for a straightforward hill walk; a trip to Raasay with a walk up Dun Caan for those who fancy a bit of small island hopping; and much, much more. Decisions about what is to be undertaken will be made in the bunkhouse on the Friday evening.

If you want to secure a place in the bunkhouse please send £40 (which is non-refundable) to Alan Murray (Flat B 298 Broomhill Road, Aberdeen, AB10 7NF), by the end of April.

Beinglas Weekend

I only have a verbal update on this – so apologies if it's brief and I have some details wrong. A group of 6 hardy members made it across to the Beinglas campsite last month and enjoyed (?) the fairly basic – but quite adequate facilities in the wooden wigwams. Conditions on the hill were fairly challenging – two groups set off with different objectives – Mike, Ingrid and Tom cut their intended trip short just short of the summit due to the snow and ice and Barbara, Gordon and Kenny had a 9 hour day on Ben Vorlich for a walk that in normal conditions would probably have been about 5 hours. However, to make up for it Mike and co bagged Ben Chonzie on the Sunday before returning home. So, in summary, a challenging but satisfying weekend.

Ladder Hills Trip – All photos by Ian McWilliam