



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter October 2017

Secretary: Irene Jamieson, Mains of Leask, Slains, Ellon. AB41 8LA. irenemjamieson@hotmail.com

Programme:

Monday 9th October 2017

A Greek Odyssey – Allan Brown
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sunday 15th October 2017

An Socach
Focal Pt. Alan Murray
Text 07825002385
Riverside Car Park 07.00

An Socach Mike Taylor OS Sheet 43

There are several An Socachs (gaelic for 'snout') in Scotland and three of them are Munros. This one, like all the others, is a long, bare, stony whaleback of a hill. It has two tops about 2 km apart. The westerly one is the higher at 944 and the easterly one is 938m.

Our usual starting point for this walk is in Glen Clunie at GR 138832. From here the walk goes along the Land Rover Track to Baddoch then follows the Baddoch Burn to its upper reaches. From here a climb to the north west brings you to the ridge and thence to the 944m summit.

If it's a fine day a walk back along the ridge would be very pleasant before descending back to the Baddoch Burn.

The walk is about 16km with 600m of climbing – 5-6 hours.

The walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but remember that conditions can be starting to get wintery in October.

If you're interested in joining the walk let Alan Murray (07825002385) know by Thursday 12 October.

Forthcoming Events

Oct 28th/29th Sail Mhor . Dundonnell
Nov. 13th Mountains of Mourne. Mike Taylor
Nov.19th Corryhabbie Hill and bar supper

The Dundee Mountain Festival takes place this year on 23-25 November

<http://www.dundeemountainfilm.org.uk/>

A free mountain safety talk from Heather Morning, Mountaineering Scotland takes place at Tiso Aberdeen, on 21st November.

<https://m.tiso.com/winter-mountain-safety-lectures-with-heather-morning-aberdeen-21112017>

Glas Maol, Little Glas Maol and Monega Hill. Report and photos - Richard Paton

Irene, Kat and I met at the usual car park in Ellon and set off to Glenshee via Inverurie and the Raemoir Road.

After a short comfort break at Braemar we met Alan at the Ski Centre car park where the walk begins, completing the quartet of hillwalkers.

Glas Maol from here has been referred to as a "cheat" Munro as the car park is already 660 metres above sea level, leaving an ascent of just 408 metres to the summit.

However, as soon as we stepped out of the cars our resolve was challenged, by a very strong cold wind carrying light rain from the disappointingly dark overcast sky. There is no gentle walk-in here as the path slopes steeply upwards from the outset towards the ski tows.

Our perseverance was soon rewarded at Meall Odhar by a break in the clouds lighting the magnificent view that was unfolding below towards the Spittal of Glenshee.

Despite the low cloud that was shrouding the top of the mountain we could make out the beginning of the path that zig-zags up the final steep slope towards the summit. On reaching the plateau we stopped to ponder the purpose of what appeared to be some kind of dome shaped cage. At the Glas Maol summit we took advantage of the shelter cairn as there was still a strong wind.

As visibility was poor I decided to practise navigating with a compass to find the direction for Little Glas Maol which lies to the South East of Glas Maol. Soon the compass became unnecessary; as the cloud lifted and the wind eased and we had a pleasant walk over the featureless Little Glas Maol to Monega Hill, where we enjoyed a magnificent view of Glen Isla below and Canness Glen to the North.



At one time the site of the ancient Caenlochan Forest, the area is now covered in lush grasses, sedge and wood rush with little heather and, as such, provides excellent grazing for the impressive herd of red deer

that was heading North on the lower slopes of Monega Hill. Irene counted at least 70 of these majestic animals. Our spirits lifted, we headed back in the direction from which we had come, agreeing that we would leave Cairn of Claise for another day, and return to our cars, a decision which proved to be popular as the clouds and rain closed in again. We finished our day out with a cup of tea and a scone at 'The Bothy' in Braemar.

