



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 50

August 2018

www.fdhwc.org.uk

President's Column

Well, what a difference a year makes!
Looking back on July newsletters there is a recurring theme about summer weather, or rather the lack of summer, not this year!
On the July day meet the chat was very much of hoping it wouldn't be too hot!!, carrying plenty water and ditching the waterproofs!
Reading reports of members excursions into the hills the theme is very much of long, hot days on big hills in the west.
My personal feeling is when the weather is like this there is no better place in the world to be, the Scottish hills are fantastic to explore when the weather is like this, and one can actually plan trips into wild and remote places with a degree of certainty. The only downside is water carrying/availability and the increase in biting insect activity.
Hopefully this settled spell will continue into August and September as the club have some fine meets lined up.
Just remember one thing..... wear sunscreen!
Continue to enjoy the summer.
Graham

P.S. This is the club's 50th Newsletter. No. 1 was issued in June 1992.

New Members

by Graham Brown

On behalf of the club, I would like to welcome the following people for joining the club recently and hope they enjoy their time with us

Kenny Cruikshank
Morag Sangster
Eric Ladbrook
Jackie Arbuthnott
Kay Erskin
Gillian Linnen
Caroline Donald
Judith Robertson

Previous Newsletters

All 49 previous newsletters are available online at <http://www.fdhwc.org.uk/newsletters>.

When is a Corbett not a Corbett?

by Graham Brown

That was a discussion raised on the June social walk to Ben Earb, with the main summit on that ridge, Meall a Choire Bhuidhe, reaching the height of 868m, well above the requisite height to get on Mr Corbett's list.
The assembled party, whilst lounging on the top, began to ask the question why it wasn't a Corbett. The summit seemed to be separate enough, there wasn't anything else in the area it appeared to be joined to. Had we stumbled up a new Corbett, true exploring!
After perusal of the trusty OS map, there seemed to be a connection with the south west ridge of Glas Tulaichean, which seemed a bit odd, as that summit is some distance from Meall a Choire Bhuidhe.
Once home I consulted the New Testament to read what the apostles had to say on the criteria for a Corbett. And I quote from the good book.
"Corbetts must be between the height of 762m and 914.4m with a drop of at least 152.4m between each listed hill and any adjacent higher one. In this way the separation between the Corbetts is more clearly defined than is the case for Munros. The fairly large height drop between Corbetts ensures that they are quite distinct hills"
So, like any good map addict (or slightly OCD sufferer) I fired up the memory map and traced the ridge lines of Ben Earb and discovered the lowest point between Meall a Choire Bhuidhe and Glas Tulaichean was at point NO 02851 73316 with a height of 727m, unfortunately it needed to be a low point of 715.6m to attain the requisite separation. At that point the ridge undulates then begins to rise up and join the south west ridge of Glas Tulaichean.
Thus the conclusion from this exercise in hill/mapping geekery was that we hadn't discovered a new Corbett but that Meall a Choire Bhuidhe was a Corbett top of Glas Tulaichean. It is still a very fine walk and one I would recommend for the different views of the Glenshee hills.

The Year so far....

The club has run a varied programme of events since the turn of the year.

In January we were entertained by Nicola Hay & Graham Brown on their recent trip to Nepal and their attempts to scale Mera Peak.

February brought the annual photographic competition, with a new judge, Jim Anderson. The overall winner was Linda Sinclair with Nicola Baillie winning the best group of three photos.

In March we held the AGM, the only changes being Debbie Kenward being replaced by Penny Lockwood as an ordinary member, thanks go to Debbie for her time on the committee, but she is still our Facebook page controller.

Our ever-popular member's night was held in April with seven members presenting their slides or slideshow. It is always entertaining to see what people get up to outwith club meets.

May and June were outdoor meets, starting off in May with the annual Girds completion at the spiritual home of girding, The Reid Park. The competition followed the usual format with Neil Sangster beating Graeme Harris in the final. There is talk of lengthening the course next year to see how our seven-time champion handles distance on his trusty gird.

In June we hosted a sausage sizzle at Carlingheugh bay near Arbroath, which was well attended by 19 members on a chilly, dry evening.

Data Privacy

The club now has a Data Privacy Policy, covering the UK Data Protection Act 2018 (incorporates GDPR). The old data protection form has been deleted and added to an expanded application form. See documents on web site.

Weekend Meets Autumn 2018

28-30 September - Gairloch Sands Youth Hostel - lots of places available.

3-4 November Carn Dearg Hut, Glen Clova
Social event - Boules, banquet, Halloween party, fireworks - stay the night optional. Walking Sunday optional.

23-25 November Roybridge
Aite Cruinnichidh hostel (12 places)

See web site for further details.

Member News

Role of Honour

- Brian Coull Trophy for best photo : Linda Sinclair
- Norrie Trophy for best collection of photos : Nicola Baillie
- "Event of the Year" trophy : Chris Coles for his dip in the water in May 2017
- Gird Champion 2018 : Neil Sangster

Matches

On behalf of the club, best wishes and congratulations go to Mel Henderson and Ian Shand who got married on Saturday 9th June in Corrie Fee, followed by a reception in the Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell.



Retirals

After many years of unsung service, **Bob Railton** hung up his clerk of works cap and handed over the custodianship of Davie's Bourach to **Graeme Harris** on May 19th 2018



Graeme is currently organising a potential major repair of Davie's Bourach, hopefully with some assistance from the Mountain Bothies Association, but there will be a work party required for remedial work prior to the winter. Updates will be made when available, watch emails and website for details.

Jim Nicol, ex-president (1996-2000) and long term member of the club has sadly decided not to renew his membership this year as he felt he wasn't able to take part in club activities any longer. On behalf of the committee and the members, I would like to thank Jim for his many years of service and support to the club and wish him all the best in his retirement from Forfar & District Hillwalking Club.

Meet Reports (since last newsletter)

Note: Slightly fuller reports (with statistics) appear on the club's web site. Full reports (including list of attendees) are presented to club meetings and distributed as part of the minutes by the secretary.

Sunday 11th February 2018 - Day Meet - Glen Clunie

The promised dump of fresh snow hadn't occurred (instead falling further south), so the A93 was open. However, the planned meet to An Socach was cancelled due to the soft snow conditions. Instead a circular ascent of the Corbett, Creag nan Gabhar was done from Auchallater car park. The group headed up the landrover track to Lochcallater Lodge, where a short break was taken in the MBA bothy. The route then climbed to Bealach Buidhe and over the flat top. Going was hard in deep soft snow and a biting NW wind. There, another break was taken among some peat hags with spindrift filling the sandwiches, as there was no shelter beyond this point. It was then a short pull up to the summit, where the

views were stunning. However, it wasn't a day for hanging around, so the group dropped down the long north ridge to Sron Dubh with fabulous views northwards to the Cairngorms. A fine clear day with good views. Very cold NW wind with a lot of spindrift. Many mountain hares and large flocks of grouse spotted. The group headed to "The Bothy" in Braemar for refreshments afterwards.

Friday 16 – Sunday 18 February 2018 Weekend Meet - Lochgoilhead Activity Centre, Arrochar

Stayed at the Scout Association's National Outdoor Centre in 2 chalets, with full board. 16 attended (14 members and 2 guests), though only 14 stayed.

Saturday Fairly good day with cloud drifting in and out of the tops. Light winds.

Cnoc Coinnich, a recently promoted Corbett, just above Lochgoilhead. A group of 7 followed the Cowal Way up through Glen Donich, then cut up to the hill. Good views on top right down the Clyde estuary. Thoughts of a longer ridge walk went by the way, due to deep soft snow, so the group circled back via a westerly ridge.

Ben Vorlich

Another member and guest arrived in time for breakfast, then a group of 6 drove round to Inveruglas Clear all day on the hill. Deep snow.

Loch Goil Coastal Walk

A group of 3 headed south down the track towards the end of the Goil peninsula. A long walk. One member did a bit extra by climbing to the Duke's pass

Sunday Weather closed in. Very low cloud and much warmer. Rain spread in.

Loch Goil Coastal Walk : A group of 5 headed south for a few hours.

Beinn Luibhean : One member climbed

Dumgoyne : 2 members climbed this. No views, up in the clouds. And a visit to Glengoyne Distillery shop!

The other members headed home.

Sunday 11th March 2018 - Day Meet - Beinn Chabhair

6 members attended. The scheduled meet to Stob Binnien and Ben More from Balquidder didn't take place because of the weather on the previous day. The meet was moved to Beinn Chabhair from the A83. The groups met in the Drovers Inn car park where the president presented Nicola Baillie with the Norrie trophy (for winning best photo collection in the 2018 photo competition). They then set off along the road, made their way through Beinglas farm and on up by the waterfall to the lochan. They then made their way up through snow and low cloud. However, they climbed through the low cloud into sunshine on the ridge, from where they had a fantastic view of the tops of several other mountains including Ben Lui and Ben More. A real temperature inversion. Crampons and ice axes were deployed for the final ascent to the

cairn of Beinn Chabhair. The group returned by same route to reach the cars around 5pm. Those going back to Forfar enjoyed a fish supper in Comrie.

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th March 2018 - Weekend Meet - Mill Cottage - Glen Feshie

9 booked. 2 call-offs earlier in week due to injury & family matters. 3 other members called off on the Friday due to weather plus one other member decided to hold off and travel up on the Saturday instead due to potential road conditions. This left 3 in the cottage on Friday night.

Saturday

Woke up to glorious sunshine 3 set off to climb Mullach Clach a' Bhlaire at the end of Glen Feshie by the land rover track and if weather improved possibly include Sgor Gaoith. Conditions sunny and clear up to around 800m but bitterly cold as we increased in height. Wind and spindrift blowing over the top made the last 200m of ascent "interesting" with periods of total whiteout on slope but clearer as we reached the top. Any ideas of continuing to Sgor Gaith quickly lost their appeal and they returned by route of ascent. 3 more members arrived on Saturday evening, one with a view to walking on Sunday and 2 for skiing.

Sunday

3 members plus another member who had driven up for the day headed off to climb Sgor Gaoith, with 2 keen to traverse over to Mullach Clach a' Bhlaire. Conditions mainly overcast and very cold again as we increased in height. The 2 who were planning on taking in both Munros were slightly ahead and turned back at the ridge before Sgor Gaoith due to wind/visibility/cold and met the other 2 just below the ridge and all headed down. One member headed home on the Sunday morning and the two who had come to ski also headed home as the ski centre was shut. Weather on the tops were full-on winter conditions and challenging.

Sunday 8th April 2018 : Day meet - south of Loch Laggan

11 members attended. Walking started at 09:30, where some had difficulty finding the start! 3 walks took place.

2 members climbed Beinn a' Chlachair by ascending the path by the Alt Coire Pitridh, and returned by the same route.

5 members climbed Geal Charn and Creag Pritridh ascending the path by the Alt Coire Pitridh and returning in a circular route.

A group of 4 elected to climb Binnein Shios and Binnien Shuas, including much rough ground, bog and some scary ascents and descents!

It was a clear day with good views, mostly with broken cloud and sunshine. Light winds, and still a lot of snow on the hills - though soft. Several herds of deer were spotted as well as 2 golden eagles, All members stopped at House of Bruar for fish & chips.

Friday 4th - Monday 7th May 2018 - Weekend Meet to Tongue

Stayed at Tongue Hostel.

Saturday

Fine weather. 10 climbed Ben Loyal, 2 did Ben Klibreck, 2 did Ben Hope, 2 went to Durness.

Sunday

Dull morning with drizzle on the mountain tops. 8 climbed Ben Hope, 2 did Cranstackie & Ben Spionnaidh, 2 went to the Smoo Caves, 4 went for a run in car, 1 went for low level walk around Tongue. All 17 went along to Ben Loyal hotel for supper

Monday

Dull again with mist on the tops. 2 did Ben Klibreck on way home, 2 did Ben Hope on the way home. A funtime had by all with cards played Saturday and Sunday evenings. The hostel was very comfortable with very pleasant staff.

Sunday 13th May 2018 - Social Meet - Kindrogan Forest and Hill

15 members and a guest attended. The group left Forfar at 9:30 in heavy rain, but conditions improved as they headed west and the day was spent in warm sunshine, with great visibility. We left from the car park at Enochdhu. We crossed the Ardlie (which was in spate) and headed south on the Cateran Trail. Then a short climb up a forest road led to an 8 foot deer fence which had to be scaled. A faint path led up up beyond the native woodland onto the moor. The next obstacle was bog, but all reached the safety of a landrover track. We then climbed a short distance up to Loch Curran, where we saw a flock of black-headed gulls nesting on the island. Lunch was taken on the beach. We then continued on more solid ground (forestry roads), until the turnoff to Kindrogan Hill. A short boggy section, then a short pull up to the trig point on the summit. The group lingered here in the sunshine where a new pursuit of "sedging" was conceived. Nicola then "planked" on the trig point and Neil stood on it on one leg. May madness had set in? Great views from the summit, then an "interesting" descent through the forest - wet slippery ground and lots of fallen trees, but we made it back to Enochdhu. Then, it was only then a short drive to the Strathardle Inn, where 14 of the group enjoyed an excellent bar meal.

Sunday 20th May 2018 - Day Meet - Glen Feshie

5 members attended. This meet was scheduled for Victoria Bridge but altered because of the weather forecast for the west, so changed to Glen Feshie. Climbed out to Mullach Clach a' Bhlaire and then round to Sgor Gaoith. Dry and very windy with strong blustery gusts at times.

Sunday 3rd June 2018 - Day Meet - Bike & hike - Linn o' Dee

Meet was cancelled due to bad weather and lack of interest.

Sunday 17th June 2018 - Social Meet - Spittal of Glenshee, Ben Earb Ridge

6 members attended. The group climbed the Cateran Trail to the bealach of An Lairg and followed the undulating ridge over Ben Earb along to the high point of Meall a' Choire Bhuidhe (868m) then dropped down into Glen Lochsie and walked back to the Spittal along the road from the hotel. Weather improved as the day went on, a hint of a shower in the morning but didn't come to anything, good views east, not so good west. Got back to the cars just as the rain came on, good timing! Everyone enjoyed their day out and they had sit-down fish & chips in Blairgowrie on the way home.

Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th June 2018 - Weekend Meet - Inverie, Knoydart

25 attended (23 members and 2 guests), staying at the Knoydart Foundation Bunkhouse

Friday

Good weather. 4 crossed on the 10:30 boat, the others on the 14:00 boat

Saturday

Weather started fair, but low cloud and drizzle came in at midday covering the tops. 5 went to Beinn a' Chailleach. 4 did circular lower-level walk to Inverguseran and Airor and the Road-End Cafe, back by the tarmac, 2 climbed Sgurr Coire Choinnichean, 2 walked to Sandaig, 6 walked to Mam Barrisdale, 6 climbed Luinne Bheinn and Meall Buidhe

Sunday

Hot sunny day with a cool breeze on the tops. 5 climbed Ladhar Bheinn, 9 climbed Beinn Bhuide in 2 separate, 1 climbed to Mam Meadail with one of the Ben Bhuide groups, 1 climbed Luinne Bheinn and Meall Buidhe, 7 did the circular lower-level walk to Inverguseran and Airor (and Cafe) with 2 returning from Airor by car. 1 climbed some of the Ladhar Beinn route before returning to base, 1 with sore feet strolled locally in sandals.

Monday

Good weather continues. All caught the 11:00 ferry to Mallaig. Most headed home, or to Torridon, but a group of 6 headed for Arisaig for an 8km walk to find Carlotta's Eyrie.

Sunday 8th July 2018 - Day Meet - Beinn a' Bhuird & Ben Avon

11 attended (10 members and a guest). The group set off from Linn of Quoich and all walked to the North top of Beinn a' Bhuird. From there 6 set off to climb Ben Avon while the other 5 walked over the high ground to the South top of Beinn a' Bhuird. From there 3 went down to the Quoich water, and 2 crossed over to the Corbett Carn na Drochaide and back to Linn of Quoich. Wild life spotted included several ant nests, a

covey of Ptarmigan chicks, and a few red grouse. Distances for all walks were big.

Sunday 12th August 2018 - Day Meet - Beinn Mhanach

Bus cancelled due to low numbers. Meet changed to Glenshee. This was cancelled due to weather and only 2 names.

1966 - Davie's Bourach

How the club helped build the original bourach



Mountain Mind Quiz 2018

This annual quiz was held in Dundee in March. A team of Graham B, Linda & Colin was entered to represent the club. Nicola H was the only fan who came along. The quiz was organised by the Grampian Club and consisted of 3 rounds of 35 pictorial questions (105 marks total). 10 teams took part, and the questions were a mixture of Scottish Munros, Corbetts and Grahams, some English, Welsh and Irish tops, and some from Europe. There were a few flowers, birds and mammals thrown in too. The club team finished a respectable 3rd (if only they hadn't screwed up the first round). 1st: Dundee Mountain Club (92), 2nd: Perth Mountaineering Club (91), 3rd: ourselves (88), 4th: Carn Dearg (84).