



Nor' West News



The NeWSletter of the Nor' West Sgurramblers

Issue No. 143 – July 2010

www.sgurramblers.org.uk



MEET REPORTS

GREAT WINTER DAYS: Meet No.269 (Thursday 1 - Tuesday 6 April 2010)

Being otherwise occupied on the official first day of the Meet I travelled to Inverary on Good Friday with Matthew O'Neill. After a surprisingly trouble-free journey we arrived at the youth hostel late in the afternoon to find several Sgurramblers enjoying a post-expedition pot of tea. While Matthew headed off to check into the George Hotel (teachers' salaries must be better than in my day!) I was eager to discover what the others had been up to. But first we had to settle the problem of whether it was permissible to enjoy Janet Cassell's superb Simnel Cake before Lent had ended. I was not too disappointed at being outvoted as we eagerly tucked in!

That day Roger Reeves had climbed Beinn Luibhean, a Corbett in Glen Croe. Chris Knowles had bagged The Brack and Ben Donich (on the other side of the same valley) from which he had enjoyed splendid views of Ben Ime and many other snow-bound hills. Paul Cassell and David Douglas had ventured further afield to tackle the Appin Beinn Fhionnlaidh some distance to the North. Although David reached the summit, unfortunately Paul, feeling unwell, had to turn back.



Having enjoyed a mug or two of tea (not forgetting Janet's lovely cake), I set off to find Matthew for a wander around town, though it didn't take long as there was not a great deal to see. We arrived back at the hostel as Alan Harvey and his friend Jackie turned up having floundered through knee-deep snow on a successful ascent of Beinn Ime. Chris had booked a table for a meal at the George so the eight of us headed there at 8 o'clock to find ourselves seated at a large circular table with only seven chairs, a difficulty soon overcome by hiding Paul in an adjacent wall alcove (in reach of the table I must add). Had I realised the quantity which would be served as a main course it would have been sensible to forgo the starter but that didn't prevent me 'helping' Jackie to

finish her sweet - by invitation of course! I really shouldn't succumb so easily to temptation.

Still feeling below par, Paul decided to head homeward on Saturday morning, though he kindly left the remainder of Janet's excellent cake for us to finish off over the next couple of days. It being a fine morning, Matthew was keen to climb the Loch Lomond Ben Vorlich and David and I agreed to join him. I was commenting on a previous ascent in miserable conditions from Ardlui when Chris suggested we might try the South Ridge as an alternative. This proved to be a far superior approach though it left little choice than to descend by the same route. Setting off from the Visitor Centre at Inveruglas we followed a good track up Coire Grogain, taking the right fork close by the electricity sub-station to its highest point before striking off up the pathless hillside; covered initially in rough tussock grass but increasingly rocky with patches of snow as we rose higher. Almost total snow cover above 700 metres, with the summit obscured by the bulk of the ridge before us, made for an interesting and intricate climb until the summit was reached at last - not the trig. point of course, the true summit lying some 200 metres further North. There was time for a bite to eat and a few photographs before mist started to swirl around providing a strong hint that we should begin our descent. The intricacies of so many minor bumps made this more difficult than expected as we veered slightly off course a few times but at last we were back at Inveruglas after a satisfying day.



The only other one to claim a successful hill day was Chris, our second member in two days to stand on the summit of Beinn Luibhean. Roger had missed out, having to make a trip to see a doctor in Lochgilphead. An excellent meal of Spicy Chilli Beef prepared by Masterchef Chris rounded off a most pleasant day.

Intent on making the best of continuing fine weather on Sunday, Chris headed for Stob Coire Creagach in Glen Kinglas and Roger, our other Corbetteer, for Creach Bheinn some distance away above Loch Creran. Inspired by the best snow conditions we'd experienced for some years, Matthew, David, Alan and I decided to climb Ben Lomond via Ptarmigan and the North ridge - hopefully far more interesting than the obvious Tourist Path. And so it proved! It was a long drive to Rowardennan but, booted up, we were soon on our way along the lochside looking for the start of the Ptarmigan path. Missing a not particularly obvious notice, we overshot by a short distance but soon corrected and began a steady climb. Higher up there is now a clear path though I was disappointed that it traverses across the slope rather than along the top of the ridge as I had done on a previous ascent. All went well until beyond the Ptarmigan top when we began to meet other walkers retreating, having found the snow conditions higher up more formidable than expected. Carrying ice axes and crampons, however, we were not overly worried. A snow bowl at the foot of the North ridge led to a corniced edge, easily surmounted by a pull up the steep scree alongside. Ahead lay the abrupt final slope



immediately below the summit which I must admit had given me some concern when considering this route. The only difficulty however was the need to queue, single file being obligatory thanks to steep snow on either side. A couple of people climbing down, ultra-cautiously, caused us some delay but at last we stood on the crowded summit. Photo opportunities were enjoyed again before we turned southwards down the busy Tourist Path which afforded easy walking on soft snow. There were a surprising number of people still heading upwards.

Back at Rowardennan we said goodbye to Alan for whom the Meet had come to an end. After relaxing on the loch shore for a while we other three set off on what proved to be a far more lengthy drive than anticipated - diverted as far as the outskirts of Glasgow thanks to a serious accident on the Balloch road. Eventually back at the hostel, enjoying tea and more delicious Simnel cake, we discovered the others had also succeeded on their chosen hills. Roger however, having chosen to relax in his car on the shore of Loch Fyne afterwards, had managed to expire his car battery, necessitating a day off on Monday to get things fixed. He suffered no great loss as it turned out, with miserable conditions prevailing the following day - rain, low cloud and gale force winds forecast on the tops. Matthew was the only brave soul venturing onto the hills with a 'bad weather navigation exercise' on the wee hills Northwest of the town. Chris, David and I opted to play at tourists with a visit to Inverary Castle which I certainly found interesting. After lunch David and I climbed through the forest to the tower on Dun na Cuaiche (in the castle grounds) with a superb view out over the town.



The Meet officially ended on Tuesday but Matthew and I, having missed a day at the start, had planned to stay over. Conditions, however, were no better than on the Monday so there was no great reluctance in our deciding to head off home shortly after the others had departed - the only delay necessitated by the opening time of 'Loch Fyne Whiskies' and my desire to add another obscure single malt to my collection. Soon after ten o'clock we were on our way homeward. Two wonderful winter days had amply made up for any later disappointment.

Thanks go to Chris, not only for organising but for his culinary expertise too. Thanks also to everyone else for their company - in my case to Matthew for enabling me to get there - not forgetting of course, Janet and her wonderful Simnel cake.

Brian Billington

INDIVIDUALITY RULES: Meet No. 270 (Various dates in May 2010)

Members of the Nor' West Sgurramblers have a long established reputation for indulging in individuality. On any day of a meet it is often the case that the participants will go off in ones and twos in many different directions. But this year's planned meet proved to have even more diverse features. An officially planned meet with only one person on it - is that a record? I had agreed to organise this year's May meet and it will come as no surprise to anyone that, if I organise a meet in a particular area, I will have hills there that I want to

do. This May other objectives and different dates seduced other members into making their own separate arrangements. So, with no takers for the officially planned dates and venues, I went on my own.

Driving up to Edmundbyers after work on Thursday 20 May gave me the chance to do a half-day walk up Ben Arthur on the Friday. I parked at NN284038 and followed a lesser-used path which went through a nice bluebell wood before joining up with the main path at about 350m. There had been a light shower of rain as I left the car but it was a humid day so there was no point in wearing a waterproof. As I had plenty of time I went to the NW top first and found an exposed path up onto its summit. From there the pinnacle of The Cobbler was clearly visible. I found a non-exposed easy path back down from the NW top and went across. It was a nice sunny dry day, ideal for an exposed scramble onto the rocky pinnacle which is the highest point of the hill. I was the only walker there and, after viewing the pinnacle from all sides, I was unsure what the route was. There were two routes that I



I thought I could get up but was unsure if I could get down. Unfortunately I did not have David Douglas's work phone number with me so I would not be able to ring him if I couldn't find a route down. Some other walkers came to the summit and I waited to see if they were summiting but they were not. Finally I decided that further research was needed before I made an attempt.

That night I stayed at Inveraray - which gave me a 38 mile drive on Saturday to Oban for the ferry to Mull. I was quite looking forward to the adventure of a ferry trip like there was to Skye in days gone by. But after paying £82.25p, I was thinking it's about time a bridge was built. I had sufficient time to do Beinn Talaidh after the crossing. This was a Corbett in the days when my Corbett book and map were printed but has now had the ignominy of being relegated to Graham status. But I had started climbing all the hills on the list in my book and map, so I will finish that list - subject to me finding a way up (and down) The Cobbler! It had been a fine sunny day but humid so, having added Beinn Talaidh to my list of summits climbed, I had several cups of tea while I waited for the hostel to open. That evening I was chatting to someone in the hostel who had done the Munros, Corbetts and had about thirty Grahams to do. All this he had done in ten years. I correctly deduced that he lives in Scotland. He claimed that he only realised that the Munro's are a list of hills over 3000 feet when he got his tie back, noticed "3000 feet" on it and wondered why. In spite of this I quizzed him on how to get up and down The Cobbler. But there was still much of the evening left when we parted. What does a lone Corbett bagger do on a Saturday night on Mull? Hit the night lights of Tobermory? I decided to write up the meet report.

On the Sunday I did Dun da Ghaoithe. The morning started cloudy but the sun soon broke through to give another sunny, humid day. At the summit I met a young man (my age-ish) who had about eighty Corbetts left to do: so I quizzed him about routes on The Cobbler. We went down together and had a long chat about the hills.

Monday was much cooler - about ten degrees "Vauxhall". I have always regretted the way I had done Ben More when I was first climbed the Munros, racing up between ferries by



the easy path. At the summit that day I had found that my jacket with my car keys in a pocket had fallen off my rucksack. Luckily someone found it, noticed the keys and was waiting for me at my car. This time, with car keys in a zipped up pocket and a spare set in my rucksack, I set off to do the horseshoe ridge. I was soon in cloud but this cleared by the time I got to the 702m top. I calculated that this must be where I had to take the ridge over to A' Chioch. I could see what seemed to be the right lochan but there was another one which wasn't marked on the 1:50,000 map. I decided to take a compass bearing to check. Well, luckily, the cloud had thinned a little so I could see what I thought must be Ben More. But the bearing I got off my map didn't indicate what I had expected. I sighted my compass to match the map but could see no higher hills that way!!! I re-checked my bearing which



came out the same. So I did a GPS fix which came back with exactly the grid reference I was expecting. "That's good, I am on the right hill!" I thought. Well I don't think it is a good idea to ignore your compass if you don't like what it is indicating to you. So I decided to go in the direction it was indicating and make 100% sure there were no higher hills in that direction. As I set off the compass swung about 90 degrees in about twenty paces. Magnetic rock! [When I got

back home I consulted my SMC guide to the Munro's (which now sits collecting dust on a "not used very much" shelf) but it made no mention of such an anomaly. Butterfield's guidebook, being far more comprehensive, did.]

So I headed off towards the highest point which I extrapolated must be in the cloud and, sure enough, once away from the top my compass was giving me a bearing I was happy with. It was a fair drop to a bealach before the climb up the A' Chioch ridge. When negotiating other ridges named A' Chioch I have found them formidable. This one proved to be no different. The hood of my waterproof was flapping furiously in the strong wind. A couple of times when the scrambling looked a bit tricky for the conditions I took what looked like a path around the obstacles. But these paths petered out and I had climb back up to the ridge. I had no problems with this but it would have been nice if the cloud had allowed me see where I was heading. I took a compass bearing from the summit, which sent me the wrong way again: but I was ready for this and soon noticed the compass needle had swung. This was my first Munro for six years and I intend to do another this year. I hope this doesn't become an obsession!

Next morning I was up at 6am and succeeded in getting on an early ferry. This gave sufficient time to do Fraochaidh from Ballachulish. This hill has fine views of the Glen Coe hills and, luckily, I had sunshine to enjoy them in. That night I stayed at Corran bunkhouse where I had a twin room, en suite, with a TV, for £16. On the Tuesday morning I discovered that many of the people staying there had as their first priority going outside for a cigarette rather than preparing breakfast. This included a young lady from Newcastle with an almost undecipherable accent who wanted a conversation with me. Although the bunkhouse is only a hundred or so metres from the Corran ferry, I managed to get to the terminal just as a boat had left. Even so, catching the next ferry saved driving around Loch Linnhe and was worth the £6.40p. That day I had in mind a walk to the summits of Fuar Bheinn and Creach Beinn which are some of the more remote hills in



Morvern. I drove south along the B8043 and parked at Glengalmadale. As it was a nice sunny day, I decided to leave my spare fleece behind and take a trekking pole. After a short walk on the road, I began a long slog up steep ground onto Beinn na Cille. Eventually the slope eased but by then I was on a broad ridge exposed to a cold wind. So I found myself in bright sunshine but frozen to the bone – despite wearing hat and gloves, with hood up and draw string tightened - wishing I had my spare fleece. The walk was a horseshoe ridge with



good views over Loch Linnhe but it was 1478m of ascent. I was quite glad when it was over and I could drive off to the “Chase the Wild Goose” bunkhouse where I was the only

person staying that night.

The weather forecast for the Thursday was not good - showers (heavy at times), snow on the hills, with a risk of thunder. So I discarded my trekking pole - too much of a lightning conductor for my liking – and put my spare fleece back in my rucksack. There was heavy rain as I drove out on the Mallaig road. I had intended to do Strep that day but the Corbett book describes it as having a steep-sided, knife-edge ridge: so this didn't seem to be an appropriate hill in view of the forecast. As I drove I reviewed my options and chose (as a Plan B) the ascent of Beinn Mhic Cedidh and Beinn Odhar Bheag near Glenfinnan. I parked at NM857814 - a starting point which avoids having to use the stepping-stones on a shorter route - and headed up through cloud towards Beinn Odhar Mhor. As I got to about 750m I came to fresh snow; and by the time I got to what remains of the trig point at the summit it amounted to about two inches. It was also wet and slippery and I thought better of continuing to Beinn Odhar Bheag when I saw the narrow ridge which led to it. I was happy with what I had done for the day so I went down and had a doze in the car outside the hostel in warm sunshine.

I was up at 6am on the Friday morning and started walking just after 8am towards Meall Lighiche in Glencoe. Following the usual track for Sgor na h-Ulaidh on another cool day with showers, I heard a Cuckoo. I had heard one every day of the trip which is encouraging as there seems to have been less of them about in recent years. I got back to the car at 12.15pm and looked into the possibility of doing Stob Dubh – a hill that I had planned to climb the next day. But 970m of ascent after 722m on Meall Lighiche seemed too much. And in the time I would have to wait to be able to get into Glen Coe youth hostel I could be half way home. So I headed south pleased with the hills I done in less than ideal conditions.



Roger Reeves

It was a shame that Roger was left to stride the hills alone because others had opted for different areas and different dates. [But he may recall a few occasions in the past – which we called “exiles meets” - when he and I went our own way (averaging 4 Munros a day!) rather than joining an official meet visiting areas of less interest to us.] I know some others would have gone with him this May but, by the time they had resolved potentially clashing commitments, it was too late do so. I was not an “innocent party”. I had to choose between joining him or joining David Douglas a week earlier at the “By The Way” hostel in Tyndrum. This hostel is adjacent to a large number of Munros on my “to do as many as

possible very slowly whilst decreasingly able” list. After dithering until it would be difficult to find accommodation closer to the Bank Holiday weekend, I took a belated and selfish decision to renew my defection to the “exiles” philosophy. Arriving on Friday 14 May, I set off next day in fair weather and bagged Beinn Dubhchraig. Although not a hill I consider to be particularly noteworthy, it afforded grand views of the snow-rimmed crest of



Ben Lui – too far away for my elderly legs. Returning to the bunkhouse I found that David Douglas had arrived earlier that afternoon. He had agreed to keep Colin Bradley company on the hills during the following week but it was pleasant to have his company in the evenings. I managed to climb Beinn an Dothaidh next day and Ben Starav (very slowly!) the day after – both in excellent weather. But by then back pains - which had caused me to abort attendance at the Easter meet – had become severe: so I

settled for my three single-summit “exile” days and returned home.

Paul Cassell

I travelled up to Tyndrum on Saturday 15 May and got to the “By the Way” hostel early in the afternoon. I had not been able to bring all the food I would need for the coming week: so I was glad to have time to visit “The Green Welly” shop and top up my supplies. Later that afternoon Paul joined me. Meanwhile, Colin Bradley had driven up to stay at a B&B in Penrith on the Friday; and this enabled him to reach Scotland next day in time to climb Meall Corranaich and Meall a’ Choire Leith that afternoon. He was staying – with Elwyn Williams, Elwyn’s son and Steve Williamson - at a farmhouse near Auchtertyre. They were Munro bagging whilst Colin and I had agreed on a selection of Corbetts and Munros on his “to do” list.

On the Sunday morning Colin picked me up and we drove down the lovely Glen Etive to climb Beinn Fhionnlaidh. On previous occasions I had approached this Munro from Glen Creran so it was good to take a different, shorter route. The walk started at Invercharnan where there was only enough parking space for four cars. Luckily, Colin’s car was the fourth. We followed a track through forest for a couple of miles to reach open hillside where mountain views opened up to us. This Munro affords excellent views as it is tucked away behind Bidean nam Bian and Glencoe to the north whilst to the south lie Ben Cruachan and Ben Starav which rose impressively above Loch Etive. We were looking forward to enjoying even better views but, as we climbed, the cloud grew thicker. There was some brightness in the cloud and we had hopes that visibility would improve. Putting such hopes aside, I enjoyed walking along the ridge and using my hands to ease my way up a couple of short, easy rock steps. A leisurely lunch was had at the summit but after half an hour we were starting to give up hope of seeing anything other than the trig point and the nearest ridges disappearing into the cloud. Perversely, five minutes after leaving the summit the cloud started to disperse and we stopped to admire the views we had been looking forward to.



On the Monday Colin and I were joined by the rest of the group from Wales to climb Beinn Heasgarnich and Creag Mhor. Colin, spotting the Hydro-Electric Board road which links Glen Lochay and Glen Lyon, suggested that we take this road and park to start walking higher up the glen. As this had the advantage of starting to walk 130 metres higher than the approach from Glen Lochay, everyone was in favour. After some careful driving up the steep road (to avoid the potholes), we parked at the side of a track along which we walked for a couple of miles before heading up the grassy slopes of Beinn Heasgarnich. With the sun appearing periodically from behind the clouds it was pleasant enough to stop for lunch at the top; though the odd patch of snow reminded us that Spring had been late in coming to the Highlands.

Leaving the summit, we set off down the gentle southwest ridge to reach a minor top (Stob an Fhir-Bhogha). Here we paused to stare at the imposing mass of Creag Mhor before descending the steep but well defined ridge to the bealach below Creag Mhor. It looked too steep and craggy to head straight directly up to the top of this Munro: so we took the easier route up the slopes to the bealach between it and Meall Tionail and then followed gentle north ridge to the summit of the Munro. The subsequent descent was made by going down into Coire-cheathaich and then picking up the track we had used at the start of the day. Back at the cars, everyone agreed that they had enjoyed the walk – with the bonus that two more Munros had been bagged by those who had not previously climbed these hills.



Colin had scheduled the Tuesday as a rest day but the forecast that it would be a sunny day made him change his mind. This pleased me as well: having had two good days on the hills, I was in favour of taking full advantage of another day of good weather. Colin had been poring over the map and detected that an interesting horseshoe walk could be had by combining the ascent of Beinn Chaorach and Cam Chreag (two Corbetts) with an ascent of Beinn Challum (a neighbouring Munro). So we started walking from Auchtertyre, heading for the broad grassy side of Beinn Chaorach (2,685 feet). It was warm going but, as we got higher, a gentle westerly wind made the conditions ideal for walking. We reached the summit of this Corbett at 12 o'clock. As this was a bit early for lunch, we continued towards Cam Chreag. There is not too much of a drop between the two Corbetts as the bealach is at 2,100 feet. So we were soon at the top of Cam Chreag where we had lunch. This is quite a high Corbett (2,900 feet) but it seemed dwarfed by Beinn Challum which looked all the more imposing because of its steep and craggy north face.



After the easy walking of the first part of the day we faced a far more challenging ascent. We dropped down 1,000 feet to the bealach and paused to consider the best route up Beinn Challum. The ridge ahead was rocky as well as steep but, if we veered to the right, there were grassy patches we could follow between the rocky outcrops. As is often the case, the way up proved easier than it looked and it was an enjoyable ascent with no difficulties. At the summit of the Munro we stopped for a rest and to finish what was left of our lunches. We had a good view of the route we had followed over Beinn

Chaoarach and Carn Chreag. Ben More and Stob Binnein looked grand with snow still remaining on their summits. Leaving the summit, we followed the ridge leading to the south Top and then made our way down the broad, grassy slopes back to Auchtertyre.

After four days of walking Colin was ready for a rest day on the Wednesday. He certainly chose the best day for a rest as the cloud was well down on the hills. Provided that the weather did not get any worse, I was quite keen to do an easy walk from the hostel. Beinn Odhar is a quick and easy Corbett, lying to the north of Tyndrum and, therefore, an ideal hill for me to climb that day. In fact you get a very good view of Beinn Odhar from the large window in the hostel's dining room and I stared at it as I finished my breakfast, looking for some signs of an improvement in the weather. The forecast suggested that the cloud might lift around midday so I headed off from the hostel at 10.30. With the cloud level at 1,500 feet, I was soon in the thick of it. But at least it was dry cloud and there seemed to be a brightness overhead, which made me hopeful that it might lift. I reached the summit at 12.15. It was very still, with little or no wind, and, feeling drowsy, I sat down at the cairn and closed my eyes. Half an hour later I woke up but the conditions were just the same as when I fell asleep. Occasionally the cloud would thin and allow me to make out the vague features of Loch Lyon. But there was time for only the briefest glimpses before the cloud thickened again. So it was time for me to leave the summit and think about another visit to "The Green Welly" shop.

The forecast for the Thursday was that low cloud would remain on the westerly hills but would lift on hills further to the east. Colin had planned a day bagging the four Munros on the north side of Glen Lyon but had deferred the endeavour until the weather forecast favoured a walk on the more easterly hills accessible from Tyndrum. We parked at Invervar and headed up the path alongside the Invervar Burn. It was very humid in the glen and we were pleased when we reached the ridge of Carn Gorm where we could enjoy a cooling breeze and admire the views across to the fourth of our target Munros towering above Glen



Lyon in the distance. On current OS maps this Munro is named Meall na Aighean but formerly it was listed as Creag Mhor in the Munro Tables. As we climbed the cloud level settled well below 3,000 feet on Carn Gorm (3,376 feet) and the views disappeared. I had done these hills on two previous occasions, both times in the cloud, and was beginning to resign myself to another walk in poor visibility. But my pessimism was ill founded for, as we headed down to the bealach between Carn Gorm and Meall Garbh (the next Munro) the cloud began to lift and we could see Loch Rannoch below. By the time we reached the summit of Meall Garbh the tops of all four Munros were in the clear, though the cloud was still clinging to the tops on the Ben Lawers range and on Schiehallion.

Able to enjoy a view at last and facing a long walk to Carn Mairg (the third Munro) it seemed like a good time to have lunch and restore our energy levels. Although the round of these Munros means walking a considerable distance, there is not much of a drop between their summits: so the walking was reasonably easy and pleasant. That is what I thought, anyway, when I reached the top of Carn Mairg and looked back along the route we had followed. In the far distance we could see the Grampians, still covered in snow. From the rocky crest of Carn Mairg we made a careful descent to the grassy slopes below and moved on to Meall na Aighean and up to its summit. Leaving it we wandered half a kilometre to a minor top and then made our way down the well-defined west ridge which led to the path we

had taken at the start of the day. I remembered the difficulty we had in finding this ridge in the mist the last time I was there. What a difference it makes when you can see where you are going!

On the Friday Colin and I set off to climb Sgiath Chuil and Meall Glas which can be approached from either Glen Lochay or Glen Dochart. The latter involves an uninteresting walk across moorland so we opted for the drive round to Glen Lochay where the approach would allow us to enjoy the better features of the hills. We set off from the car park at the end of the private road and made our way alongside a pipeline, which runs through the break in the forest. At the end of the forest we worked our way up to Meall a' Churain (917m) on the north ridge of Sgiath Chuil. This is a Munro Top but was listed as the main summit in the original (1891) Tables. It was easy to see why Meall a' Churain was mistaken as the highest point because there is only 4 metres difference between it and Sgiath Chuil (821m) which is less than a kilometre further along the ridge. We had lunch at the summit and admired the excellent views. We could see as far as Ben Nevis, which was free of cloud.

Up to this point it had been relatively easy walking but we were now faced with a steep descent to the bealach below Meall Glas and a steep ascent up its flank. Instead of taking the direct route upwards we edged our way diagonally to reach a point on the ridge a kilometre from the summit. It was then an easy walk to the top. The sun was beginning to appear from behind a thin veil of cloud and it was tempting to stay and bask in its warmth but for the fact that this we cause us to get off the hills rather late. So we headed down along the northeast ridge to Beinn Cheathaich from which we could now see back across to



Sgiath Chuil. Beinn Cheathaich is a distinctive summit but only categorised as a Top in the current Munro Tables. It was listed as the Munro summit in the original (1891) version of the Tables. (Having climbed all the Munros, I find that I am also interested in those on the original list which have since been superseded.) It seemed a fitting end to the week to be heading down Meall Glas in bright sunshine after being lucky enough to enjoy a week in the Highlands without any rain.

My thanks go to Colin for his company and for planning our walks, and to Paul for his company at the hostel.

David Douglas

FORTHCOMING MEETS

MEET No 271: Laggan & Cannich

Dates: Friday 9 - Sunday 18 July 2010.

Area: The Central and Western Highlands.

Accommodation: The Pottery Bunkhouse (Laggan) and Cannich Bunkhouse.

Programme: A two centre Meet with scope for climbing numerous Munros and Corbetts. There is also the possibility of staying at Glen Affric youth hostel, for those interested in climbing some of the more remote hills.

Transport: By car. Picking up arrangements will be made once the participants, availability of cars and routes are known. If coming by car, please advise the organiser how many passengers you can take and your approximate route and time of journey.

Maps: OS 1:50,000 Nos 25, 34, 35 & 42.

Food: To be provided by the Meet organiser, unless requested otherwise, from the evening meal on the first Friday to breakfast on the second Sunday inclusive.

Bookings: **To reserve a place, contact the Meet organiser immediately but please note that it may be too late to book accommodation in respect of all belated requests.**

Meet Organiser: David Douglas

MEET No 272: The Dolomites

Dates: Late August/early September.

Area: Dolomites.

Accommodation: Mountain huts and small hotels.

Programme: **Seven days of walking on a route covering part of the Alta Via 1 (which is straightforward trekking with optional stretches of Via Ferrata).**

Transport: TBA

Maps: TBA

Food: TBA

Bookings: Contact Meet organiser to establish whether booking is still possible.

Meet Organiser: Chris Knowles.

MEET No 273: Glencoe

Dates: Friday 3 - Monday 6 September 2010.

Area: Glencoe.

Accommodation: Glencoe youth hostel (subject to availability).

Programme: An opportunity to visit (or revisit) the exciting peaks on both sides of Glencoe.

Transport: By car. Picking up arrangements will be made once the participants, availability of cars and routes are known. If coming by car, please advise the organiser how many passengers you can take and your approximate route and time of journey.

Maps: OS 1:50,000 Nos 41, 50 & 51

Food: To be provided by the Meet organiser, unless requested otherwise, from the evening meal on the Friday to breakfast on the Monday inclusive.

Bookings: To reserve a place, please contact the Meet organiser and send him a deposit of **£30** (cheques payable to him in person). He will attempt to reserve accommodation in respect of all bookings received by **31 July**. The balance of costs will be payable on the Meet

Meet Organiser: David Douglas

MEET No 274 Re-union and AGM

Dates: Friday 8 - Monday 11 October 2010.

Area: North Wales.

Accommodation: To be notified.

Programme: The AGM will be held on the Saturday evening, followed by a slide show if members care to bring their slides.

Transport: By car. If coming by car, please advise the Meet organiser how many passengers you can take and indicate approximate route and times of journeys.

Maps: To be notified.

Food: It is planned to purchase all meals at the hostel. Those who prefer self-catering will need to bring and prepare their own food. Anyone asking the Meet organiser to reserve rooms for them should advise him which hostel meals are required on each day of the Meet.

Bookings: To reserve a place, send a **£30** deposit to the Meet organiser who will book beds in respect of all requests received by 15 September. The balance of costs is payable at the Meet.

Meet Organiser: Dave Cheesman

MEET No 275: Hogmanay

Dates: Wednesday 29 December 2010 - Monday 3 January 2011.

Area: TBA.

Accommodation: TBA.

Transport: By car. If coming by car, please advise the Meet organiser how many passengers you can take and indicate approximate route and times of journeys.

Maps: To be notified.

Food: To be notified.

Bookings: Accommodation gets booked very early for Hogmanay, so David Douglas needs to know by no later than 15 July whether you plan to attend.

Meet Organiser: TBA