



# GLENROTHES HILLWALKERS CLUB



## Monthly Newsletter – July 2017

### Introduction

Welcome to a bumper edition of the newsletter covering June and July. I had intended to produce the June newsletter whilst we were touring round the top of the mainland on the North Coast 500 but had not factored in the almost total lack of internet access! I would thoroughly recommend the NC 500, although hopefully you will have better weather than we did! And who should we meet on the main street in Inverlochy but Club member Fran McLaughlan – small world indeed.

Contributions from members are always welcome - you can email them to the Secretary at [secretary@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk).

### Walks

The **May walk** on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> saw 28 members and potential members on the bus to the Dalwhinnie area, with walks planned on both sides of the A9. both the A and B walks climbing 2 Munros, albeit on opposite sides of the A9. The C walk goes from Dalwhinnie to Ben Alder Lodge, with an option of ascending The Fara (911m). All 3 walks end at the Snack Shack café in Dalwhinnie.

The first group to be dropped off was the B walk, with 3 members climbing the Munros to the East of the A9 from Dalnaspidal. 9 members were then dropped off to climb the Boar of Badenoch and then over 2 Munros and into Dalwhinnie. Next off the bus was George Walkingshaw with a group of 10 on a self-led walk up Geal Charn and A'Mharconaich from Balsporran Cottages. The group included 5 potential members, one of whom, David Calkin, climbed his first ever Munro – well done to him. 3 have subsequently joined the Club, and another is in the process of doing so, so they must have enjoyed the walk. Maybe it was the coffee and cakes on offer at Balsporran Cottage when they came down that made the difference.

The final group of 5 were dropped off at a track on the Laggan road the other side of Dalwhinnie and climbed The Fara. The most notable aspect of the walks was the marked difference in weather conditions over a relatively short distance. Despite some rain on the day the ground was very dry, which made for a somewhat surreal experience of walking on a sandy beach surrounded by hills!



Posing on the summit of The Fara



A sandy beach in the mountains

The **June** walk on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June saw 19 members travelling in luxury on a 59 seat coach to the Braemar area. Everyone had a double seat to themselves, and there was even an on-board toilet. Don't get excited – this was a last minute replacement as our normal 33 seat bus was off the road. This was also Ian Morris' swansong as Walks Convener after 3 years of hard work planning and writing up the monthly Club Walks.

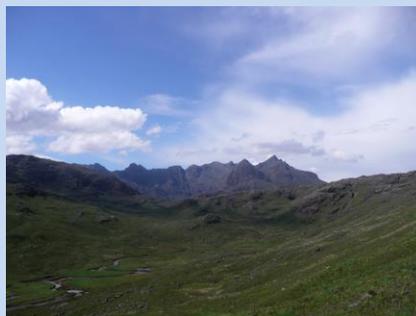
The group was met with a few spits of rain but had predominately dry, warm weather with excellent visibility. There were 5 groups out on 3 self-led walks plus the planned A and B walks.

The **July** walk on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> is the first walk planned by our new Walks Convener, Chair Steve Thurgood – the King is dead, long live the King! Many thanks to Ian Morris for his sterling efforts over the last 3 years as Walks Convener, and I hope he enjoys the quiet life.

There are 3 walks planned around the Loch Laggan/Creag Meagaidh area. You can find more details in the [walks programme](#). We have a 33 seat bus and only 20 names so far, so if you would like a seat please contact June Smith by [email](#) or phone on 01592 745613.

### Weekends

The third weekend of the year saw 8 members returning to the **Skyewalker Hostel** at Portnalong for a 3 night stay on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There were some notable highlights – Allan Wilson finished all his Skye Munros, Steve Wood, Nicole Wood and Anne Wharton bagged their first Munros on the Cuillin Ridges, Janice Duncan finished all her island Corbetts, Ian Morris bagged his 50<sup>th</sup> Corbett – and I survived 2 nights at Gerry's Hostel before the weekend started! We celebrated with the now traditional cake decorated with 12 candles, one for each Skye Munro before getting stuck into a fiercely contested Trivial Pursuit tournament.



The Bad Step with the Cuillins in the background Sgurr nan Gilleann in the distance before the rain started

The end of June saw 8 members staying at the **Great Glen Hostel** at South Laggan on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The main event was a trip by 6 members to Loch Mullardoch to bag the 4 Munros, but there were members out across a wide area despite some poor weather.

If anyone find a soggy black Berghaus beanie in the middle of Loch Mullardoch, it is mine! Not only was it windy on the loch, but it got progressively windier as we made our way along the ridge, so much so that the lead group of 4 were getting blown over at the bealach short of the final summit, and decided to take an escape route. Jim Anderson and Louise Cascarino managed to do all 4, so well done to them.

This time the hard fought games tournament was Scrabble, rather than Trivial Pursuit, and the kazoos even made another appearance on Saturday night. Fiona Frayser was heading off to a U2 concert in London after the weekend, so she was serenaded by a medley of their songs on the kazoo by Jim Anderson and Gordon Dickson - not sure what the other residents thought of that!



The late lamented beanie before it went for a swim



View from the boat on Loch Mullardoch



Intense concentration by Ian Gary and Jim during the Scrabble tournament

The next Club weekend is a 3 night stay at the **Rum Bunkhouse** on 28 July. The weekend was fully booked, but a couple of members have had to fall out, so please contact Louise Cascarino (details below) if you would like to go.

The full weekend programme is available on the [website](#). If you would like to go on any of the future weekends you can book and pay at a Club meeting, or contact Louise Cascarino by [email](#) or phone on 07708 628113.

## **Meetings**

We had 2 excellent speakers for the June and July meetings. In **June** the speaker was Ben Dolphin, who writes and blogs on the Walkhighlands website. He took us on a photographic tour of some place he stayed in around Scotland backed up by amusing anecdotes of his adventures and interesting information about where he stayed and the local walks around there. This included Cowl and the Isle of Harris. He proved to be a very interesting and entertaining speaker.

The **July** speaker was David Munro from the Kinross Museum, and his talk was about the Michael Bruce Way between Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell. This used to be known as the Tetley Trail. David gave us a fascinating talk about the life of Michael Bruce, a local poet who died at the age of 21 but had a significant influence on Robbie Burns, and also the history of the local area by means of a slide show following the Way. I think we all learnt a lot about the history of the area that we did not know before.

The **August** meeting is more of a training event, with some practical advice on First Aid from Dr Janice Duncan and myself covering a few key skills that are just as applicable to the High Street as to the top of a mountain. Come along and you might learn something that may save a life.

## **Club News**

**Club Anniversary.** In September the Club will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The plan is to have an early start to the September meeting with a buffet and drinks in The Lomond Centre with a display of photographs covering the 30 year history of the Club meeting. We will then have a guest speaker, whose identity is a closely guarded secret. If you know of any previous members of the Club living in the Glenrothes area, please let me know so that we can invite them along. We are particularly keen to get as many of the 35 who attended the first meeting as possible.

We are also planning to organise a walk along a section of the Fife Coastal Path finishing with drinks in a pub in Kirkcaldy – more details to follow.

**Membership Cards.** The new credit card size plastic membership cards are now available from the Secretary.

**New Members.** We have had a number of new members join the Club in the last couple of months. Welcome to Garry Crawford, Carolyn McPherson, Lesley Walker, Lyndsay Eason and Beverley Taylor. Well done to George Walkingshaw for mentoring them, and thanks to everyone who has made them welcome. Keep up the good work!

The Club relies on **volunteers** to help out with running the door and making refreshments at the monthly indoor meeting. If you would like to help out at future meetings, please put your name down on the roster [here](#).

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