



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter – March 2010

Secretary: Alan Murray, 7 Earlsparke Avenue, Bielside, Aberdeen, AB15 9BU. Tel: 01224 869896 email: [aamurray@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:aamurray@tiscali.co.uk)

### Programme:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Hillwalking Gear – Cotswold Outdoor**

Station Hotel 20:00

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**Sgor Mor**

Focal Pt Malcolm Leach (01358 723314)

Community Centre Car Park 08:30

### Sgor Mor OS Sheet 44

#### Mike Taylor

Sgor Mor is the highest point on a ridge when extends westwards from the Linn of Dee between Glen Lui and Glen Dee. The ridge offers some spectacular views of the Cairngorms on a good day. According the SNC Cairngorm Guide, this ridge is called *Faina Skor*, from *Feith nan Sgor* which means *the bog stream of the peaks*.

From the Linn of Dee car park (GR063897) follow the track westwards to the White Bridge and on past the Chest of Dee, where the river cascades over a number of rock ledges. Leave the footpath at GR 002896, where a stream crosses the track and walk up the southern spur of Sgor Mor to the summit – 8 km with 450m of ascent from the start, probably about 3 hours walking. On the walk up this ridge, the rock changes from Moine schist to Cairngorm granite and the mountain has some interesting examples of weathered granite tors and pot holes.

A broad ridge of granite and gravel leads eastwards in about 3 km to Sgor Dubh – this is where the wonderful views should be seen.

The return to the car park could be made via Derry Lodge and Glen Lui – making a total distance of 18.5 km. With the ascent earlier in the day this is likely to be a walk of 5-6 hour. Another possibility is to drop SE down the shoulder of Sgor Dubh to the track along the Dee. This makes a slightly shorter total distance of 16km.

This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but remember it is only March, so it could be cold.

If there is a demand for a low level walk, there are possibilities up Glen Lui or along the Dee.

There are plans to have a bar supper somewhere on the way home.

If you are interested in joining the walk, please get in touch with Malcolm Leach (01358 723314) by Thursday 11 March.

### Forthcoming Events

Mar 15<sup>th</sup> Sgor Mor (from White Bridge to Derry Lodge) & Bar Supper

Apr 18<sup>th</sup> Lochnagar

May 15/16<sup>th</sup> Skye Weekend

Jun 20<sup>th</sup> Fairy Glen

Jul 18<sup>th</sup> Derry Cairngorm

### The Falls of Damff

#### Alan Murray

It was an inauspicious start for me; I was on the A90 passing Portlethen when I suddenly thought “Boots – oh \*\*\*\*”. I knew exactly where they were – but they weren’t in the car. A quick U turn and back to Bielside to collect the boots – then a spirited drive to the meeting place at the head of Glen Esk; all I can say is that I would not have liked to have been a passenger in my car on the drive up Glen Esk! However, rather than being 10 – 15 minutes early, as planned, I arrived about 10 – 15 minutes after everyone else but luckily the party had not yet set off. A quick change into the wayward boots and we were off.

There were thirteen of us – a good turn out on a day with a variable weather forecast – and, indeed, the weather was kind to us all day with only a short snow shower and glimpses of sun on occasion. We made our way up the side of Loch Lee, stopping to take photos

by the old church and soon had our first sight of waterfall number one – the Falls of Unich.



Photos Alan Murray

Our path then started to climb and became a little more slippery as we ascended above the snow line. Then our second waterfall of the day hove into view – very different from the last time the Club visited this area in 2004. The main flow was cascading down ice covered rocks but we couldn’t get the best view without crossing over to the other bank. The bridge was a short distance upstream and five of us doubled back and kicked steps down the steep slope by the side of the falls – just far enough to get a good view and take the obligatory photos. Then we retraced our steps and caught up with the others as they made their way to Cairn Lick. From there it was a straightforward walk down the snow filled track back to Inchgrundle at the western end of Loch Lee. After a short rest there it was back to the cars and off to the pub in Edzell to rehydrate after a very satisfying day on the hill – definitely a quality walk.



Falls of Damff Feb 2004



Falls of Damff Feb 2010



Cairn Lick



Inchgrundle

**North East Mountain Trust Lectures**

19:30 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Simon Richardson**

***Ben Nevis – Britain's Highest Mountain***

The history of climbing on Ben Nevis focusing on some of the exciting developments in recent years

Belmont Club, 218 Hardgate Aberdeen

Tickets at the door £4