



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter September 2010

Secretary: Alan Murray, 7 Earlsparke Avenue, Bieldside, Aberdeen, AB15 9BU. Tel: 01224 869896 email: aa.murray@btinternet.com

Programme:

Monday 13th September 2010

Bob Davies – Mount Meru Tanzania

Station Hotel Ellon 20:00

Devil's Point OS Sheet 20

Mike Taylor

The Devil's Point is a prominent landmark from the Lairig Ghru path. Its name derives from Bod an Deamhain, demon's penis.

Drummond (Drummond, 1991) describes it as a sharp peak of scaly black slabs and goes on... 'In the early 19th century it was sometimes known as Poten Duon, a corruption of the Gaelic possibly with the intention of providing some modesty through opacity! Early writers ducked the problem of translating the offending word into cold print, referring to it as 'the devil's ---, or simply as 'a literal translation'. The 'problem' of its name was solved by the Victorian clerics and professors, the early mountaineers, whose demure english translation of 'bod' into 'point' made hillwalking safe for decent people in the area, draping a veil of modesty across the name!

The Linn of Dee is the starting point for this walk from where the summit is 15.5 km with 700m of climbing – probably about a nine hour round trip. This will be a long day out so those taking part will need to be in good shape.

If you intend to go on this walk please get in touch with Gordon Spence (01358 788998) by Thursday 16 September.

Drummond 1991: Scottish Hill and Mountain Names, Peter Drummond, SMC

Forthcoming Events

Oct 17th Morrone

Oct 30/31st Bunkhouse Weekend

Nov 14th Meall a Buchaille & Bar Supper

Dec 19th Ben Rinnes

October Weekend 29-31 Oct - Bridge of Orchy

Mike Taylor

This year, the club is going to a bunkhouse in the old railway station at Bridge of Orchy for the October weekend. Details can be found on their website;

<http://www.westhighlandwaysleeper.co.uk>

This is a first for the club but some of our members have visited it and given a good report.

The cost is £17 per person per night which includes duvet, bed linen, towel and tea/coffee. There are no self catering facilities but an evening meal can be provided for £10 - £13 and breakfast for £4-6. Special rates for groups and dinner, bed and breakfast packages are offered. Once I know how many people are going, and how many of these want to take all their food there, I will find out what sort of deal we can get.

There are plenty of very interesting walks in the area. A few people have expressed an interest in Ben Cruachan, a fine mountain off the Oban road, which is not too far away.

If you are interested in joining this club weekend please send £34 to Mike Taylor (Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, Aberdeen, AB21 0UQ) by the end of September indicating which meals you would like to take in the bunkhouse. Beds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis on receipt of the £34, which is non-refundable.

Sunday 19th September 2010

Devil's Point

Focal Pt Gordon Spence (01358 788998)

Community Centre Car Park 07:00

Ben Wyvis – Sunday 15 August

Barbara Wyatt

There was no club bus and so 7 of us, Malcolm, Margaret, Ingrid, Gordon, Mike, myself and Eric - a new member – took to 3 cars at 7:00 am – picking up Alan Murray along the way. We reached Ben Wyvis car park just before 10:00am and set off. The weather “came into flower” as the day progressed. Every dog and his owner thought so too – the trail was swarming with our wee four legged friends – not to mention the tiny winged pests too!

Eric was a new member to our club, but not new to hillwalking – the pace Eric set challenged the fitness of many of us – as breathlessly some of us paused frequently to take in the extensive views. Huge slabs of stone formed a path for much of the way up; unfortunately, the depth of the slabs proved an unwelcome hike up each and every one of them.

The walk across the table-like top was fabulous – characterised by far reaching views and glorious sun. We reached the summit just before 1pm and joined other hillwalkers who were also basking in the scenery.



Photo: Barbara Wyatt

We were back at the cars by 4pm and looking for a drinking hole to quench our thirst soon afterwards. The local hotels (we didn't sniff out any pubs nearby) were closed until later and so the 3 cars parted company, throats parched, and independently looking out for somewhere to have a drink. We, in Malcolm's car, finally stopped at Tesco's Inverness and satisfied ourselves with soft drinks.

Without a doubt, the general consensus was that it was a great day, albeit definitely at the periphery of our hillwalking territory.

John MacIver - Munroist

Many Club members will remember John MacIver – a past member of the Club and still our frequent guide in the Cuillin of Skye where he now lives. Jim Davidson emailed me to say that John completed his round of the Munros on Saturday, 21st August on Ben Klibreck in a howling gale!

Conditions were less than perfect for the ascent though - it was all the party could do to stand upright and on the way down they met two young (30's) (Jim's words – not mine – Ed.) lads who gave up at the foot of the final cone because of the wind. “We were probably on the summit at that point” said Jim.

Just goes to show how the more mature hillwalker has more staying power than these young whippersnappers!

Congratulations to John and I'm sure we will be able to share a dram with him when the Club visits Skye next May.



Ben Wyvis (An Cabar) – Alan Murray

An Teallach from Ben Wyvis – Alan Murray

