



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – January 2010

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

Programme:

Monday 11th January 2010

AGM & Slide Presentation

Station Hotel 20:00

Sunday 17th January 2010

Bin of Cullen and the Knock

Focal Pt Barbara Wyatt (01358 711733)

Community Centre Car Park 08:00

The Bin of Cullen and Knock Hill (OS Sheet 29)

Mike Taylor

The Bin of Cullen is a pleasant wooded hill of 320m which offers good views over the Moray Firth to the hills of Sutherland and Caithness. There are a number of good tracks on the hill and numerous possible starting points. One of the recommended walks on the web site of a local hotel (The Seafield) suggests starting just to the east of Braidbog (490631) near a forest gate where there is a sign saying 'Private Road – no entry to unauthorised vehicles'. The summit is under 2 km from here with about 200m of ascent.

I haven't been able to find out much about 'The Bin'. I was a little more successful with Knock Hill (430m):

'The Knock hill, part of which belongs to this parish, is about 2500 feet (sic) above the level of the sea; and, as its towering head is seen from afar, it becomes an excellent landmark to those who trade in the Moray Firth. It is situated, as it were, in a large capacious plain; and, while it produces a variety of excellent game for the amusement and health of the sportsman, and suggests to the contemplative mind an idea of the grand, the sublime, and the beautiful, it affords a delicious repast for the flocks and herds of those that live near. The parishes of Grange, Fordyce, and Ordiquhill meet on the top of this hill; and, on the very spot where they meet, is a terminus, or mark, from which is seen the greater part of Caithness, Ross, Banff, Murray, & c. the windings of the Devern, part of Spey, the Murray Firth, the German ocean, & c. & c. as far as the eye can reach. In short, this hill affords one of the most grand, beautiful, and variegated prospects south (sic) of the Tweed.'

'Parish of Ordiquhill' by the Rev Mr Robert Ogilvie in 'The Statistical Account for Scotland, 1791-1799. Volume XVI. Banffshire, Moray & Nairnshire'

There is a path marked on the map starting at the end of a minor road at GR 547553 which gets to the summit in under 1 km with 240 m of ascent. But...will this path actually exist?

These walks should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but it is winter so remember to wrap up as it could be very cold. If you are planning to go on the walk, please let Barbara Wyatt (01358 711733) know by Thursday 14 January.

Forthcoming Events

Jan 18 th	Bin of Cullen and The Knock
Feb 15 th	Falls of Damph Glen Lee
Mar 15 th	Sgor Mor (from White Bridge to Derry Lodge) & Bar Supper

2010 Programme

The draft programme for 2009 is overleaf. As ever the committee welcomes any comments or suggestions –if you wish to make any suggestions please contact any member of the committee.

Annual General Meeting – January

The AGM will be held on Monday 11th January and nominations for the 2010 committee should be sent in to the secretary– please consider getting more involved in the running of the Club. Whilst all but one of the existing committee members have indicated that they would be willing to serve for another year, all would be happy to make way for new blood on the committee. So we definitely need at least one nomination for the committee and others would be

welcome. If you are interested please contact any member of the committee for more details.

This year's AGM will follow the pattern of previous years, with the following agenda:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report of 2006 Activities
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Election of Honorary Auditor
- Setting of Annual Subscription
- Any Other Business – Club Transport

Broon's Tours goes to Bennachie by Allan Brown

Snow had been falling for a couple of days resulting in ideal conditions for a real winter outing. Unfortunately for a few the snow was so deep that they were unable to make it out. Nine of us left the Back o' Bennachie carpark and headed westwards along the forestry road. The snow was several centimetres deep but it was very dry and light so the walking was easy. Once out of the trees the views across to Premnay and Tap o' Noth were impressive. The sun did try to break through several times but never managed. Had it done so there would certainly have been a few entries for the membership card for 2010. According to the map the road came to a dead end after about three kilometres but luckily for us it continued as a footpath up on to the next ridge and track. The latter part of the path led us through snow clad broom and gorse. From there it was a short gradual incline to the alleged picnic tables. The best we could find was a solitary bench and far too short for nine walkers to sit on while we had a brief snack.

The Gordon Way crossed our route at this point which would account for the presence and then demise of the picnic tables. We followed our track southwards until it ended in an old granite dyke where we joined the Old Track which comes up from My Lords Throat. This is where the going got tougher. The ground was frozen and snow covered slippery stones and of course gravity was against us. It certainly took its toll on the least fit member of the group. Our immediate destination was the trig point on Black Hill, a point most of the party had never seen let alone been to.

By now snow clouds were building up to the west and were not far away. We had time for a couple of photos before we had to move on to Hermit Seat, another rarely visited top. Our track joined the Gordon Way briefly before we headed across the heather to the small Hermit Seat path. It was here where we came across a lone runner dressed in shorts! The things people do for the sake of fun or fitness. By now the snow had started but fortunately for us it was largely in our backs or side. We continued along our wee path towards Watch Craig in order to find the Purple Path back down to the forestry road. Under normal circumstances finding the path is quite easy but when everything is covered in snow locating the path was more problematical. But find it we did and downwards we went for one and a half kilometres. Eventually we came onto the road and easy walking again. In a short while we arrived at the burn that led us down to the cars and the end of a very enjoyable winter walk.



Broon's Tours to Bennachie – Photo Gordon Spence

2010 Draft Programme

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	11	AGM & Slide Show	20:00	Barbara Wyatt
	17	Bin of Cullen and the Knock	08:30	
Feb	8	Namibia – Alan Murray	20:00	
	14	Falls of Damph Glen Lee	08:30	
Mar	8	Gear Night	20:00	
	14	Sgor Mor (from White Bridge to Derry Lodge) & Bar Supper	08:30	
	27/28	Bunkhouse Weekend – Inchnadamph?		
Apr	12	New Zealand – Mike Taylor	20:00	
	18	Lochnagar	07:30	
May	10	Club Quiz Night	20:00	
	15/16	Skye Weekend – Carboist bunkhouse		
	16	Broad Cairn / Loch Muick area	07:30	
Jun	14	Navigation Exercise	19:00	
	20	Fairy Glen / Ben Avon	07:00	
Jul	12	Evening Walk - Hill of Barra	19:00	
	18	Derry Cairngorm	07:00	
Aug	9	Brimmond Hill	19:00	
	15	Ben Wyvis	07:00	
Sep	13	?? Bob Davies	20:00	
	19	Devil's Point	07:00	
Oct	11	Costa Rica – Allan Brown	20:00	
	17	Morrone	08:00	
	30/31	Bridge of Orchy Bunkhouse Weekend		
Nov	8	Members' Slide Night	20:00	
	14	Meall a Buchaille (Glenmore Lodge) & Bar Supper	08:00	
Dec	13	Christmas Party	20:00	
	19	Ben Rinnes	08:30	

North East Mountain Trust Lectures

Wednesday 20th January 2010

David Jarman

New Twists for Old Hills

“Hide the guide books, lose the GPS, get round the back and sides of the Munros and Corbetts and discover unseen and untrodden delights-including Ben Macdui off-piste”.

Belmont Club, 218 Hardgate Aberdeen

Tickets at the door £4