

**Black Dog Meet**

**No. 220 Ratagan**

Friday 28th - Sunday 30th August 2020

**In Attendance**

Charles Alexander Bill Clark

Wull Clark Gerry Feeney

Valerie Inglis Liz Kennedy

John McGill Ruth Marwood

Richard Marwood Peter Robertson

Alan Sewell Russell Shanks

Tony Smith Mike Twigg James Yeats

# **Mountains Climbed**

**Friday**

Alan and Russell Sgurr Mor (1003m)

John Gairich (919m)

Liz, Gerry, James and Charles Meall Dubh (789m)

Valerie and Wull Biod an Fhithich (644m)

Tony Beinn Clachach W top (616m)

**Saturday**

Valerie, Wull, Mike,

Russell and John South Glen Shiel Ridge

Liz, Gerry and James “Five Sisters of Kintail”

Alan Carnan Cruithneachd (729m)

Richard and Ruth Falls of Glomach

Bill and Peter Beinn Sgritheall (974m)

Charles and Tony Sgurr Thionail (901m), Buidhe Bheinn N top (830m) & Cadha nam Bo Rhuadha (815m)

**Sunday**

Tony Meall Buidhe (654m)

**Weather**

Generally very good with clear conditions - apart from the occasional (sometimes briefly heavy) showers

**Notes / Highlights**

On Friday Alan, Russell and Graham Wyllie canoed across Loch Quoich and climbed Sgurr Mor. The weather played ball and the crossing was uneventful. Stunning views of the rough bounds of Knoydart were the highlight. John set off at midday to climb Gairich, by the same loch, on “an uneventful stroll, to the summit & back.

Meanwhile Valerie and Wull climbed the Graham Biod an Fhithich for great views of the Glen Shiel hills in all directions, Tony did the Arnisdale Simm (similarly good views to Knoydart etc) and Liz, Gerry, James and Charles climbed Meall Dubh (Loch Loyne). Liz reported “a fairly uneventful climb of a not terribly exciting Corbett (with excellent company obviously!)”.

Saturday was a busy day for us all with long walks for all three Glen Shiel parties.

For the South Glen Shiel Ridge group John reports: It’s funny how memory plays tricks on you and I assured Mike that it was really a bit of a stroll after you get up onto the ridge. By the time we reached the final (7th) Munro we were all feeling it as we completed the 1800m of ascent for the day. From the summit Valerie ably led us onto the direct ridge down, which is very steep and unrelenting. All were relieved to hit the road and know that a car was waiting, so there was no walk up the glen. Nevertheless the walk was a total of 10hours and 26.6k. For the baggers’ record the full ridge includes 7 Munros, of which 3 are Marilyns and 6 are Humps, a single Munro top and 2 Simms (10 tops, all Simms, in total).

On the north side Liz, Gerry and James had a great day out on the Sisters (similar timing and about 1550 m ascent and 17k). In this case the traverse includes 3 Munros (one a Marilyn) and one Munro top. All 5 hills are both Humps and Simms.

Further south Charles and Tony ascended the surprisingly indistinct track to Bealach Dubh Leac and traversed round Glen Quoich to the very fine Sgurr Thionail. From here it was a long descent into the glen and what seemed a longer re-ascent to the ridge of Buidhe Bheinn to ‘collect’ the tops between this and the more northerly demoted Corbett summit. Fine, wild and deserted country (apart from the couple we met by the bealach who, having just completed the SGSR at 10am were off to walk back to their car over the 3 Sisters Munros).

Bill and Peter both, independently, climbed Beinn Sgritheall whilst Alan climbed Carnan Cruithneachd, taking in the waterfalls of Eas Ban and Falls of Glomach on either side. The highlight was when a pair of golden eagles peeled off the summit as he arrived. Ruth and Richard also walked to Falls of Glomach (ascent 790m, distance 17.5k) and happened upon Alan. Richard comments “I was “deconditioned” and was testing my stamina” - slow but sure in the event. He and Ruth managed some spectacular views of the falls by shimmying down the ‘DANGER’ zig-zag side path whilst there. On return from the falls, they were surprised to encounter a large shaggy feral billygoat at about 500m altitude.

Mike also reports the accomplishment of completing the Aberdeen to Inverness trail during the meet “2 days, 35 Scottish highland towns, 147 distilleries and 43 shortbread factories”.  (Ed. I think it’s called the A96!).

Thanks to all (including Hostelling Scotland) who contributed to a successful meet despite the necessary Covid restrictions. It’s good to be back!

**Next Meet**

Glenshee 26th September. The meet organiser is Tony

*Tony*