 **Black Dog Meet**

**No. 231 Logierait**

14 – 16 January 2022

**In Attendance**

Charles Alexander, David Cameron, Owen Clark, Wull Clark, Gerry Feeney, Valerie Inglis, Liz

Kennedy, Richard Marwood, Lorna Smith, Tony Smith, James Yeats, Rachel Yeats

# **Hills Climbed**

**Friday**

David, Liz, Valerie & Wull Schiehallion (1083m)

Charles & Gerry Ben Vrackie (841m)

Lorna & Tony Tir Eilde (630m) and Meall Dun Dhomhnuill (622m)

James & Rachel Meall nan Caorach (625m) and Meall Reamhar (620m)

**Saturday**

David, Valeri & Wull Stuchd an Lochain (960m)

James & Owen Sgairneach Mhor (991m), Beinn Udlamain (1010m)

Everyone else (except Liz) Meall Dearg Far West top (737m), Creag Choille (619m) and

Meall Odhar (623m)

Charles, Gerry & Tony Monadh nam Mail (604m)

**Weather**

It was a game of two halves with the weather, Friday being a perfect, warm and cloudless day for some who were lucky enough to be above the clouds, whilst Saturday was cold and claggy on the higher hills.

**Notes / Highlights**

This was the first time the club had stayed in the lodges at Logierait and it turned out to be a great location with really good accommodation. Not as sociable as when we’re all in the same building, but we managed a short social gathering over a glass of mulled wine, only cut short because the booze ran out! 😊

**Friday**

David, Liz, Wull and I had a wonderful day on Schiehallion on the Friday, one of those days with a superb cloud inversion where we were walking in T-shirts in the sun, so warm for January. Only patches of snow remained on the hills which was quite extraordinary for the time of year. Charles and Gerry enjoyed a similarly stunning day on Benn Vrackie, but those on the lower hills weren’t quite so lucky.

Lorna and Tony did Tir Eilde (630m) and Meall Dun Dhomhnuill (622m) above Kenmore. Persistent mist but straightforward with good track to main summit. The subsidiary top was a rather different story - increasingly poor visibility, wet undulating ground and a typical "is that it?" unmarked top.

**Saturday**

David, Wull and I spent a cold miserable day on Stuchd an Lochan, largely in mist and quite a reversal from the day before. It was icy in the freezing conditions, but we managed to avoid having to use crampons. Still good to be out but not a day for hanging around and admiring the non-existent view.

Tony and Lorna were joined by Rachel, Charles, Gerry and Richard for an 11 mile round of some of the many Simms south of Aberfeldy. “Aided by estate tracks and the access road to the new wind farm starting from Griffin Forest our circuit took in Meall Dearg (far west top), Creag Choille and Meall Odhar. On the second hill we had the unusual sight (for us anyway) of a red kite circling below rather than way above us and Lorna had an encounter with a snow-white hare which she very nearly stood on.To round the day off Charles, Gerry and myself added a 4th Simm, Monadh nam Mial, as a final, rough, detour from the return route whilst others headed home via the Grandtully chocolate shop.”

Owen and James: “We set off from the A9 at 08:30 on a cold January morning under a patch of blue sky. An early breakfast conversation ensuring that one of us did have a bothy bag packed. Underlining that it is good to talk as both thought the other had agreed the night before.

Our destination is drifting in and out of view, the cloud bank (at approx. 900m) teasing us as it dared to envelope our blue. Sunrise was denied to us by the Cairngorms at our backs, their height and the rolling cloud robbing us of sun. The snow of the week before largely gone; ice axe carried through stubborn optimism that a significant field may lie out of sight.

 Setting off along the good land rover track with an early reward of a river crossing (gingerly crossed) putting smiles on faces (more so mine as I knew we had the fun of crossing it once again on the return!). A large bird of prey glided across our route, temporarily silencing the Grouse.

*Bold are the Grouse as they chatter from heather*

*Scorning walkers as they gain height together*

*And suddenly far less so as buzzard flies*

*Quiet now until once more below empty skies*

Soon we exchanged the good track for one of mud and water which pointed straight to the outlying top at 758m. Fortunately the terrain soon turned to frozen alpine tundra; the frozen ground bizarrely offering firmer and easier footing.

 From reaching the 758m top views back across the A9 still worth taking in despite clouds hiding many of the summits. Turning our back on the Sow of Atholl we set off once more. From here the gradient became kinder (the wind less so) and good progress was made reaching the summit of SGÀIRNEACH MHÒR 11:30 approx. Snow remained elusive with no significant patches encountered.

Fully in cloud the navigation across the broad summit was tricky and we were somewhat relieved when we dropped out of the cloud and the bealach below Carn ‘lc Loumhaidh came in to view.

The bealach was somewhat of a hot spot for our fellow walkers taking a quick bite in the respite offered by the terrain from the cold wind.

Being fully trained by COVID to avoid company we walked on a distance before stopping for our sustenance. Refuelled and reset we set off once more for our second Munro of the day Beinn Udlamain, the large wind shelter at the summit offering another welcome break from the wind as we stopped to enjoy a coffee at the highest point (1011m) of the day.

Leaving the summit at approx. 12:30 we continued along the ridge with the fence line a welcome hand on the navigation front.

Soon we were descending through wild heather; any path that was, was momentarily misplaced amid the muck and moisture. A suggestion of snow the only change in the weather of the day coming to nothing more than a suggestion. The Grouse (braver now that the buzzard was gone) chuckling and chattering at our exploits before angrily flapping out of our path. Eagle eye James spots some deer high on the hill; a welcome pause on my side to watch them as the legs graciously accepted the opportunity to rest. Onwards and in this instance downwards to regain the land rover track from the start of our day albeit much higher up the glen.

With good footing under our feet once more we got up a good pace (again to the amusement of the now identified black Grouse) and soon returned to the river crossing. Second time round both were bolder and bounded across the freezing water without foul.  Returning to our starting point at approx. 14:30. Thoroughly tired but very happy to have added two new Munro’s to my tally and another two to James’ round 2 tally.”

An altogether fantastic weekend.

Thank you 😊

*Valerie*

**Next Meet**

Corran, 11th - 13th February, 2022

Meet organiser – Wull Clark