

**Black Dog Meet**

**No. 242 Boat of Garten**

**Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd October 2022**

**In Attendance**

James Yeats, Rachel Yeats, David Cameron, Tony Smith, Lorna Smith, Charles Alexander, Liz Kennedy, Valerie Inglis and Wull Clark

**Hills Climbed**

**Friday**

Tony, Lorna and Charles:Meall na Leitreach (771m) and Meall Breac (685m)

Val and David: A'Bhuidheanach Bheag (936m)

**Saturday**

Tony, Lorna, Charles and Rachel: Creag a'Chalamain (787m) and Airgiod- meall (644m)

James: Sgor Gaoith (1118m) and tops

Val, Wull and David: Mullach Clach A'Bhlair (1019m) and tops

Liz: Mullach Clach A'Bhlair (1019m) and Sgor Gaoith (1118m)

**Sunday**

Tony , Lorna and Charles: Creag an Fhithich (405m)

**Weather**

Mixed. Misty and wet sometimes sunny.

**Notes / Highlights**

**Friday**

**Tony, Lorna and Charles:**

We parked just off the A9 where both railway and river can be crossed to gain the hill track from which we climbed Sron na h-Eiteich intending to swing round the head of the glen to reach Meall Breac. A more direct ascent would have been better! Consequently, we headed along the 'ridge' to the Corbett first and then faced a long and at times wet traverse between the two hills. Nevertheless, a reasonable afternoon walk and another tick in the book.

**David and Val:**

Stayed at the Old School Bunkhouse in Dalwhinnie on Thursday night and climbed A'Bhuidheanach Bheag in fairly calm conditions. Reasonable track for most of the way.

**Saturday**

**Tony, Lorna, Charles and Rachel:**

Starting from the Sugarbowl car park we made our way steadily towards the Chalamain Gap on the good track passing by the reindeer centre. Not wishing to tackle the gap itself we cut up a very steep 'path' directly onto the first of the two Simms of the day. We were greeted with very atmospheric views as the misty clouds periodically parted and, a short way further on by, firstly, a lone reindeer and then a small herd.

Heading NE we dropped to the path just below the Eag a'Chait ravine before an easy final ascent to our second hill (apart from a very awkward crossing of the deer fence where both the gate and broken stile were surrounded by several inches of water and mud). As we paused for a bite to eat Andy and our fellow guest from Fraoch Lodge arrived to enjoy the views down to Loch Morlich and Aviemore. A direct descent north took us to a good path through the woods to join a forestry road back to the main ski road and hence up to the car park. En route we stopped, as recommended by Andy, at the tiny Utsi's hut, built by Mikel Utsi who first introduced reindeer to Cairngorm in 1952.

**James:**

Dropped the car off at the Allt Ruadh Bridge car park and jumped into Wull’s car for a lift to the Achlean car park. Set of with Wull, Val and David and parted company just beyond the end of the road, with me heading west towards Carn Ban Mor top. It looked like it would be a miserable day with low cloud, however I walked through the cloud in to clear blue skies at 400m. On reaching the plateau I turned south to pick up the first top, making good progress in the clear weather. On reaching the top I did an about turn and headed towards Sgor Gaoith passing over Carn Ban Mor along the way. A short walk north took me to the top Sgoran Dubh Mor then west on the ridge picking up Meall Budhe and Geal-charn finally a drop down into the trees and back to the Allt Ruadh Bridge car park.

**David, Valerie and Wull:**

Climbed Mullach Clach A'Bhlair with two tops, Druim na Bo (918m) and The Cairn (974m). We got a nice inversion after walking through the clouds up the steep pull of Coire Caol and then a long, but not steep, climb to the Munro. Cloud coming and going through the day with a heavy shower coming back from the Cairn. Then the long walk back to the car at Auchlean.

**Liz:**

Parked at Achaean in Glen Feshie and headed for Mullach Clach a Bhlair with Val, David C and Wull. As they were planning to do tops, I left them part way up and went directly to the summit. I then walked across the plateau to Sgor Gaoith, navigation being easy as I had excellent visibility. And finally, straight down Coire Fhearnagan back to the car.

**Sunday**

**Tony, Lorna and Charles:**

A short morning walk in the woods just north of Boat of Garten before heading up to Tomatin. Good going on the main track but heavy machinery used in felling operations had left deep muddy ruts on the final climb to the rather enclosed summit (no views).

*James*

**Next Meet**

Pitlochry

Meet organiser – Richard