

**Black Dog Meet**

**No. 248 Rum**

**Friday 14th – Monday 17th April 2023**

**In Attendance**

James Yeats, Rachel Yeats, David Cameron, Tony Smith, Lorna Smith, Charles Alexander, Valerie Inglis, Wull Clark, Alan Sewell, Owen Clark, Gerry Feeney and David McKay

**Hills Climbed**

**Friday**

Alan:Mullach Mor (304m)

Tony:Mam Tuath (310m) andAm Mam (360m)

**Saturday**

Alan, Val, Wull & James: Hallival (722m), Askival (812m), Trollabhal (702m), Ainshval (781m) and Sgurr nan Gillean (764m)

Owen, David M & David C: Hallival (722m) and Askival(812m)

Tony & Lorna: Trollabhal (702m), Gualann na Pairce (232m) and An Dornabac (263m)

**Sunday**

Tony: Sgaorishal (280m), Monadh Dubh (272m), Fionchra (463m), and Minishal (343m)

**Monday**

Tony, Gerry & Charles: Meall Breac (392m)

**Weather**

The ferry crossing was calm with blue skies on the Friday. Saturday was a nice clear day with excellent visibility. Sunday was a miserable day of overcast drizzle for most of the day. A clear calm day for the return trip to Mallaig on the Monday.

**Notes / Highlights**

**Friday**

**Alan:**

An uneventful night in the back of the car in Mallaig lead to an uneventful crossing to Rum on Friday. Calm seas and blue Skies. Upon arrival at the hostel, I set out alone to climb Mullach Mor (304m). Rough going led to superb views of both the Rum and Skye Cuillin.

**Tony:**

I walked out along the main Kilmory/Harris track and then up the slopes of Mam Tuath (310m) and on to Am Mam (360m). I had intended to add a third top but the widespread thick dead grass had hindered progress and dinner beckoned. Both tops offered decent viewpoints and the many adjacent lochans added something to the scene.

**Val and Wull:**

We walked along to the hide hoping to see an elusive otter or two, but they remained hidden.

**Saturday**

**Tony and Lorna:**

A 7.00 start for what was to prove a very long but highly enjoyable day in fantastic conditions. Having walked the Glen Dubh path as a group Lorna and I set off for the traverse to, and hence though, Atlantic Corrie to, eventually, reach Bealach an Oir. With some snow patches on the ground and low cloud obscuring the higher summits what we could see of Ainshval looked pretty challenging. We set off up Trollabhal (702m) as intended on straightforward but steep ground. Higher on the ridge the going gets more interesting with short scrambling sections to reach the summit. Stunning views!

Again, we debated our route and agreed to head down the (very) steep southerly slope to Bealach an Fhuarain with the revised intent of then dropping down to Loch Fiachanais and out to the track at Harris. A real feeling of remoteness here but a good spot to linger in the glorious sunshine, although thoughts of the long road home rather took the edge off the relaxation.

Lorna set off along the track whilst I took two relatively minor 'detours' to claim the local tops Gualann na Pairce (232m) and An Dornabac (263m), the latter again well defended by rocky outcrops and requiring some easy scrambling. We were both glad to reach Kinloch at the end of a long walk!

**Alan, Val, Wull and James:**

We traversed the Rum Cuillin from Hallival to Sgurr nan Gillean and all points in between. An interesting traverse made all the more memorable with the snow on the ridge. A classic day out and the weather didn’t disappoint. Completed the traverse in a 12 hr round trip. The Dibidil path can’t be recommend - with a two and half hour bog trot back to the hostel.

**Owen, David M and David C:**

We climbed Hallival and Askival with others but came off at Beallach nan Oir and returned on the Dibidil path.

**Rachel, Charles and Gerry:**

Walked to Kilmory beach. It was along a good track and was 16km return trip. The beach was beautiful with lovely views over to Skye.

**Sunday**

**Tony:**

My day started with a group departure at 10.00 with most heading to Kilmory. I split off onto the very muddy Guirdil trail (initially with Owen and James) to head up Sgaorishal (280m) and hence Monadh Dubh (272m) on the NW of the island. The breezy and overcast weather was in distinct contrast to yesterday and only the lower tops were clear.

After descending back into Glen Shellesder I crossed the burn to tackle the rough re-ascent to reach Fionchra (463m) by now in steady rain and strong wind. A rapid retreat to lower ground improved things a bit and I continued out to the fourth target hill Minishal (343m) before making my way back to that Harris track again for the return tramp.

**James and Owen:**

Started walking up Kinloch Glen on a good track and onto Glen Shellesder on a very muddy path to the remains of the fort on the coast. We spotted an otter at the bottom of the cliffs.

**Alan, Val, Wull, Lorna, David M and David C:**

A bit dreich today so a leisurely walk to the beach at Kilmory loosened off any tired limbs.

**Rachel, Charles and Gerry:**

Walked to Harris. We took the same path to start with as if we were going to Kilmory but branched off after a couple of kilometres. It was a dreich day so there weren’t many views. However, we did see ponies, goats and Highland cattle at Harris and also visited the mausoleum.

**Monday**

**Alan, Val, Wull, David C and David M:**

On Monday we took the early ferry and had a cruise around the small isles (again in glorious weather)

**Tony, Charles and Gerry:**

We walked Meall Breac (392m) via the Coire Dubh path. A good little ridge took us to both the main summit and the slightly lower NE top for the best view out over Kinloch and Loch Scresort. This was a good end to a good weekend of walking.

**Rachel, James, Owen and Lorna:**

Walked along to the otter hide, but no otters seen.

Alan took the opportunity to bag a few “Grahams” both before and after the meet:

On Thursday on route to Mallaig I climbed the “New Graham” Sithean Mor(601.5m). Having driven 3hrs through pouring rain the sun appeared just as I reached Beasdale. Views from the summit were fantastic with fresh snow on hills above 450m. On the way home, after another night at the Mallaig Hilton (i.e. the back of the car),  I took in Croit Bheinn (663m) and Beinn Gaire (666m) from Glen Moidart; and Sgurr a Chaorainn (761m) and Sgurr nan Cnamh (701m) from Ariundle.

The hostel was approximately a 10 minute walk from the ferry. It was very clean and well equipped. The dorms were clean and the showers had plenty of hot water and were powerful. The Manager was friendly and had arranged transport of all our bags for a small donation (£25). The local community shop was well stocked with essential items (and drink!) but unfortunately their delivery of fresh goods had not come in. Disappointingly Kinloch Castle, although still a magnificent building, is falling into even more disrepair and no longer offers tours around it.

*James*

**Next Meet**

Skye 12th to 14th May

Meet organiser – Alan