



Black Dog Meet

No. 249 Skye

Fri 12th - Sun 14th May 2023

In Attendance

Russell Shanks	Liz Kennedy
Davie Cameron	Owen Clark
Wull Clark	Tony Smith
John McGill	Alan Sewell
Val Inglis	Rachael Clark
Ruth Marwood	Lorna Smith
Richard Marwood	Roy Rennie (Guest)
Peter Robertson	Iain Matheson (Guest)

Mountains Climbed

Friday

Baca Ruadh (638m)
Creag a' Lain (609m)
Beinn Edra (611m)
Sgurr Choinnich Mor (1094m)
Sgurr na Banachdich (965m)
Meall Dubh (789m)
Sgurr na Fearstaig (1015m)
Sgurr Fhuar-thuil (1049m)

Suidhe Biorach Routes
Jamie Jampot (VS 4c ***)
Fertility Right (S **)
Fertility Left (HS 4c *)

Hairy Mary (HVS 4b ***)

Saturday

Cleat (336m)
Ben Volovaig (111m)
Dun Caan (444m)
Sgurr nan Gillean (964m)
Bruach na Frithe (958m)
Sgurr an Fionn Choire (936m)

Sron na Ciche Routes
Cioch Nose (VD **)
Archer Thomson Route (VD **)

Sunday

Sgurr a Mhadaidh (918m)
Sgurr a' Ghreadaidh (973m)
Sgurr nan Saighead (929m)
Stob a Choire Mheadhoin (1105m)
Stob Coire Easain (1115m)

Weather

Friday and Saturday were both sunny, however Sunday was cold and a bit dreich at times..

Notes / Highlights

Friday

Alan and Russell

After having spent a great week on Skye with James and Owen (the highlight of which was the Dubhs ridge on Thurs) a trip down to Elgol was required with Owen on Friday to pick up his car. This all came together nicely as it allowed us to pick up Russell on route at Broadford. Russell and I then went climbing to Suidhe Biorach (about a mile from Elgol) where we had a great day craggin by the sea. Bizarrely we bumped in to a few familiar faces - Stevie and Ross, and James and Mike - its a very small world!

Owen and Rachael

Owen picked up Rachael who had taken the train from Aberdeen to Kyle and they headed over to Talisker bay for a walk by the beach.

Tony & Lorna

An early start to catch the 06.55 bus from Portree to Lealt to start a traverse of the central portion of the Trotternish ridge. An easy walk in along a good road/track was followed by a very steep mainly grassy ascent to breach the cliffs just South of a very fine outlying top, Sgurr a' Mhadaidh Ruaidh, the first of eight summits on our planned route.

Thereafter we enjoyed great weather and fabulous views on a straightforward 'wander' (over 1000m total ascent though) North along the well used Skye Trail until descending to join the Gleann Conain road down to Uig for the bus back to Portree. A great walk including my 4000th British summit (not counting repeat ascents of course)

Liz

Sgurr Choinnich Mor - very hot day, brilliant views

John drove up Glen Strathfarrar taking in the Munro Sgurr Fhuar-thuil and the Munro Top Sgurr na Fearstaig.

Richard and Ruth had a leisurely drive up with Ruth doing some wild swimming on the Spey at Newtonmore.

Val, Wull and Davie had an early start from Glasgow and climbed the Corbett Meall Dubh from Glen Morison. Clear dry day, pleasant short walk, with good views.

Roy climbed Sgurr na Banachdich via Coir an Eich.

Saturday

Tony, Lorna and Liz

Our tour of the far North of the island included these two apparently minor hills but both offered rather more of a challenge than the height would suggest. The first (just South of the Quiraing) is one of a number of striking outcrops immediately below the main cliffs and involved steep grass to reach a very exposed summit knoll. The second, on The Aird, is a very fine viewpoint out to Lewis/Harris, the Shiantas and the North mainland. Access over farmland is however a little problematic and the coastal path not immediately obvious. Liz can vouch for the coffee and cake in the Community Coffee Shop at Staffin

Richard and Ruth

Ruth and Richard did the "Skye's Deserted Villages walk". A 16.5km circular walk starting at a ruined 16th century church, passing a disused marble quarry, later taking in the deserted villages (emptied by The Highland Clearances) of Boreaig and Suisnish at the coast on Loch Eishort. Sunny all day. No summits but some decent ups and downs on the way, and simply superb views all the way round. Young lambs everywhere. Cuckoos calls not infrequent. We met few people on this walk, one being a runner in training for the Skye Trail Ultra two weeks hence. He stopped for a chat and offered us accommodation the next time we visited Skye. We can really recommend this walk: A great option for a day down from the crags.

Moreover, one of Iain's favourite walks in Skye, as he informed us later over a pint back at the Old Inn.

John did Bruach na Frithe with its Munro Top Sgurr a Fionn Choire. The Munro top offered "some interesting scrambling".

Alan and Russell headed into the Sron na Ciche face with the vague plan of doing Median route on the West Buttress. However, on closer inspection that route was wet and so we headed up towards the Cioch and climbed it via Cioch Nose and then continued on the upper tier via the exposed route of Archer Thomson. This led to the upper Glacis where we topped out onto Sron na Ciche.

Roy ended up going to Rasaay on his own and climbed Dun Caan.

Wull, Val, Davie, Owen, Rachael, Peter, and Iain headed to Sgurr nan Gillean. Great day out, dry, some sun, some cloud getting in the way of a clear summit. Owen led the way up the 'tourist route' and supported those less confident (ie Val) on the scrambles. The step over to the summit was, as warned, a little airy, but not as bad as imagined. Great day out.

Sunday

John eventually persuaded himself to bag the westerly 5 Sisters Munro Top Sgurr Nan Saighead. After a couple of decent days it was a rather wet day on Sunday, with no views.

Val, Wull and Alan climbed Sgurr a Mhadaidh and Sgurr a Ghreadaidh. Alan did a fantastic job supporting the less able (ie Val again) over these two wonderful mountains. Roped us up and took us 'for a walk' with Wull supporting from the rear. The most awkward moves were on the step up (and worse down) from An Dorus onto Sgurr a Ghreadaidh. But with some gentle persuasion and some blasphemy on my part we did it. Huge thanks from me to Al for his calm confident support and also to Wull for helping my feet, and to both for tolerating my angst - 'where now? Where now? Where now?' 🙄

Liz climbed the Easains -Stob a Choire Mheadhoin and Stob Coire Easain - reasonable weather but very cold on the summit ridge.

Next Meet

Torrison meet 2nd to 4th June. Meet organiser Tony