

#### Black Dog Meet

**No. 253 Ratagan**

**Friday 18th - Sunday 20th August 2023**

**In Attendance**

Charles Alexander, Davie Cameron, Owen Clark, Wull Clark, Val Inglis, Liz Kennedy, David Mackay, John McGill, Alan Sewell, Russell Shanks, Tony Smith and James Yeats.

**Routes and summits**

**Friday**

Alan & Russell Glen Nevis (Polldubh):

Vampire HS 4b \*

Promises HS 4b \*\*

Dundee Weaver HVS 5b \*\*

James & Owen Carn Ghluasaid (957m), Sgurr nan Conbhairean (1109m) and Sail Chaorainn (1002m)

James Munro Tops - Creag a’ Chaorainn (998m), Carn na Coire Mheadhoin (1001m), Tigh Mor na Seilge (929m) and Drochaid an Tuill Easaich (1001m)

Tony Sgurr na Feartaig (819m) with N, W & far W tops and Eagan (690m)

Val, Wull & Davie Beinn Sgritheall (981m) and North Top (928m)

**Saturday**

Alan Beinn a Chuirn (603m)

Davie, Liz, Wull, Val & David Biod an Fhithich (644m)

Charles & Tony Druim Iosal (329m) and Meall Breac (293m)

**Sunday**

Charles & Tony Meall an Tagraidh (760m)

**Notes / Highlights**

Friday

James, and Owen

Parked overnight at the Lundie parking area. Started off crossing the road and walking up the old military road then onto the stalkers path to reach Carn Ghluasaid. The warm sunny start had now turned to a cold breezy day. We followed the ridge north with James going over the top Creag a’ Chaorainn and on to Sgurr nan Conbhairean. From the summit we carried on down the ridge to Sail Chaorainn, Owen opted to return from this point, but James continued to the tops Carn na Coire Mheadhoin and the outlier Tigh Mor na Seilge, returning by the bypass path around Sgurr nan Conbhairean and on to its top Drochaid an Tuill Easaich. Ahead was the downwards ridge south back to the old military road back to the car park.

Tony

From Craig forest car park branching off the familiar Pollan Buidhe track to follow (most of the time) the marked trail up the NE ridge of Feartaig. After a very pleasant walk along the main ridge I continued to Eagan before descending towards Lair for the return leg via the forest road (which seemed longer than it actually was)

Davie, Wull and Val

Davie reports: “We did Beinn Sgritheall in very good conditions, quite warm and not much of a breeze.  However it is one of the steepest most consistent ascents I can remember.  This was my third ascent of this Scottish hill, however the views would let you think that you can see half of Scotland from at they are quite spectacular.  The day’s weather allowed us to see quite far and wide. Val and Wull talked me into diverting from the usual route off to take in the outlying north top. It was the best bit of the whole day.”

We also met nine out of a 57 completer party who were off to do Bla Bheinn the next day.  Hope they had helmets?! They kindly gave Wull a lift back along to Arnisdale to collect his car saving us a walk back along the road.

**Saturday**

Alan

Climbed the new Graham Beinn a Chuirn (603m), although breezy managed to avoid the showers. The SMC addendum route description helps in making the route slightly easier, over what is particularly rough and boggy ground.

Davie, Liz, Wull, Val and David

Saturday was looming to be a different prospect and it did not disappoint.  High winds were forecast and chucked around we duly were on Biod an Fithich (644m) in Glen Shiel. We managed to get ahead of the weather with a few rain showers, but we did have a bit of falling down wind short of the Summit.  All off and safe by early afternoon.

Charles and Tony

In view of the weather we drove round by Glen Elg and walked Druim Iosal, a delightful light hill, from the helpfully indicated parking space at Balvraid. A good traverse took us onto Meall Breac but the descent from there back to the car was an ‘interesting’ mix of bracken, trees and very steep ground.

On Saturday night we helped Tony celebrate his 200th club meet with cake and a good malt which was dutifully polished off in time honoured tradition. Well done Tony! What an achievement and here’s to many more meets!

**Sunday**

Charles & Tony

On the way home we diverted at Spean Bridge onto the Arkaig road and parked by the Eas Chia-aig waterfalls to walk the good track heading north up the glen to the steep slopes of Tagraidh. A fine end to the trip.