

The past three months, which I will not describe as “summer” have for the Club been dominated by two very successful events. These were the week on Rum at the end of May / beginning of June and weekend / day outing to Les and Irene’s final Corbett, Corryhabbie Hill at the beginning of August.

The numbers going to Rum kept growing such that when we assembled at Mallaig there were 11 of us but the numbers rose to 12 when Harry arrived on the early morning ferry next day in time to set off with the party who had their sights set on the two Corbetts. That first day turned out to be the best day of the week as far as the weather was concerned when all those aspiring to climb Askival and Ainsihval succeeded in that objective. Others who had done those hills in their younger days on earlier visits settled either for an ascent of Barkeval or an exploration of Kilmory in the North of the island. There was one other good hill day when it remained dry and the cloud lifted. On that day one group headed West to Orval and Ard Nev and another went even further west to Bloodstone Hill. During the week Most of the island was explored by somebody in the group as some went to Dibidil and others to the Mausoleum at Harris. Most found their way to Kilmory at some stage in the week. A wet morning was spent doing the Kinloch Castle tour. Regarding accommodation, 10 of us enjoyed the comfortable facilities of the new community owned Rum Bunkhouse which is totally palatial when compared with my previous experience of Rum accommodation, which was Dibidil Bothy in 1971 and 1972! Of the others one was in the only B & B on the island and the other camped but was able to use the facilities of the Bunkhouse. Despite the mixed weather it turned out to be a very enjoyable week.



Hallival and Askival from Barkeval



inside Kinloch Castle



Dibidil Bothy



near the summit of Askival



looking back at Askival



approaching Ainshval



View of Askival, Ainshval etc from Orval



Eigg from Ainshval



Canna from Orval



Skye Cuillins from Rum hills descent



Skye Cuillins from Kilmory

From these photos taken by Catherine and by me you can see that we really did have good hill days with views but the photos don't show the temperature! There were days when I was wearing myfleece, winter jacket and gloves at sea level and it was June!

In the last Newsletter I asked for suggestions for possible dates and destinations for another Club weekend. Things fell into place as Les and Irene gradually completed 4 of their 5 remaining Corbetts. Irene needed to climb the two Rum Corbetts as she wasn't sure if she had done them during her 1972 visit to the Island. She knew she had climbed something but couldn't remember and hadn't recorded what! Les knew he had done them on his visit in 1971. Those two hills were achieved on the first day of this visit leaving them with just two hills in the Knoydart / Loch Arkaig area and Corryhabbie Hill between Tomintoul and Dufftown. On their way home from Rum they diverted down to the head of Loch Arkaig on a not very nice day and climbed one of the hills and then went back to that area in early July during what has proved to be the best week of the summer and camped by Loch Quoich. From there they had a very long day climbing Ben Aden. All that then remained was the easy Corryhabbie Hill and they, for various reasons, fixed on the date of 2nd August and booked themselves into the hostel at Tomintoul for 2 nights wondering who if any from the Club would join them at this short notice. The result was that there were fourteen of us on Corryhabbie Hill (with another joining in the evening celebration) and as you will see from the photos even the weather behaved! Some stayed in Tomintoul for the 2 nights while others left Fife early and came up for the day. There was an appropriate celebration on the summit followed by tea and cake back in Tomintoul that those who had to return home were able to participate in before setting off. Those able to stay overnight continued the celebrating with a special meal. Les and Irene had both completed the Munros in 1989 so adding all the Corbetts proved more challenging, taking another 26 years!



preparing to set off



striding towards the



guard of honour on arrival



Summit celebration



the full group on top who climbed the hill and celebrated
(taken by the only other walker seen that day)

Some of the regular Day Meets have been victims of the weather but most have taken place with a small determined group setting out. Derry Cairngorm was climbed on a very mixed day with wind and rain but two weeks later the group who went to the boggy Corbett, Meall na h-Airse near Garva Bridge did at least have a view from their top. 19th July was clearly not a day for Ben More and Stob Binnein but the group still set out deciding en route to settle for the Corbett, Creag MacRanaich, from near Lochearnhead instead. In making this change to a lower hill they were rewarded with a view on top and could also see that the cloud had never cleared on the higher hills.

It is still not quite the middle of August so there is still a chance of getting some warmer more settled hill conditions but we are now into the time of year when stalking is taking place. This is more of an issue for those who can be flexible as to when they go out and are watching the forecasts for weather windows. Those with regular Monday – Friday work commitments who are only able to go on the Sunday Day Meets are less affected as stalking doesn't happen on Sundays. Hopefully all of us will manage some good days over the next few weeks.

Jean