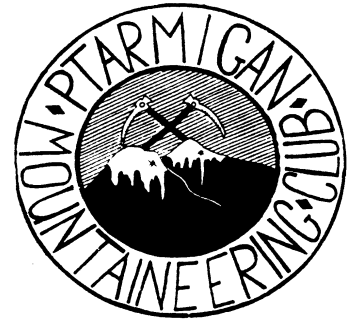


# Ptarmigan Mountaineering Club



Website: [www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk](http://www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## Monthly Newsletter

5 May 2019

### The meet on 5th May is to Linn of Dee via Blairgowrie. Fare £20.

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn and Drum Brae.

The bus will leave Linn of Dee at 17.30pm prompt.

Bus convener: Kevin Russell

**Bookings and cancellations:** either 1. Text and phone Tim Featherstone 075 49 48 0321  
or 2. Email [bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

**Emergency Number 075 49 48 0321 must be taken on the hill with each party.**

**Maps required: OS Sheets 43 Braemar & Blair Atholl, 36 Grantown and Aviemore and 44 Ballater & Glen Clova**

## The Club's Code of Good Practice

*The Club's Code of Good Practice notes that parties should comprise two, preferably three, people and those members must have a map of the area and compass and know how to use them. A first aid kit, survival bag, whistle and torch should also be carried. The group should stick together and be alert for signs of anyone feeling unwell or getting into difficulties. For those members who have one it does no harm to carry a mobile phone, though it is important to understand that there is no guarantee of signal availability and this should never be relied upon.*

***Disclaimer:** The routes outlined below are merely descriptions of walks in the area; they do not represent invitations or recommendations by the Club or any of its Officers to members to go on these routes. It is the individual and sole responsibility of each club member to choose a route that is within their capability taking due account of the timings given and the weather conditions prevailing.*

## Route Options

### Munros

From Linn of Dee [NO 064898]:

Beinn Bhreac, 931m, [NO 058971]

Carn a' Mhaim, 1037m, [NN 994952]

Derry Cairngorm, 1155m, [NO 017980]

The Devil's Point, 1004m, [NN 976951]

From Spittal of Glenshee [NO 108700]:

Glas Tulaichean, 1051m, [NO 051760]

Carn an Rìgh, 1029m, [NO 028773]

Beinn Iutharn Mhor, 1045m, [NO 045792]

A combination of all three would be suitable for fast parties only.

From Glen Shee ski centre [NO 141779]:

An Socach, 944m, [NO 080800]

Alternatively it is possible to climb An Socach from [NO 138833], going up the Baddoch Burn and descending via Glen Ey to Inverey or ESE to the ski centre

The Cairnwell, 933m, [NO135773]; Carn Aosda, 917m, [NO 134792]; Carn a'Gheoidh, 975m, [NO 107767]. All three could be done with the option of returning to the Spittal of Glenshee either by going south over Carn Mor or by a scenic descent westwards into Gleann Taitneach.

From the A93 north of the ski centre, at [NO 148800]: Glas Maol, 1068m, [NO 167765]; Creag Leacach, 987m, [NO 154745]; Carn an Tuirc, 1019m, [NO 174804]; Cairn of Claise, 1064m, [NO 185789]; Tolmount, 958m, [NO 210800]; Tom Buidhe, 957m, [NO 214788]

From Auchallater on A93, [NO 156882]: Carn an t-Sagairt Mor, 1047m, [NO 208843]; Carn a' Choire Bhoidheach, 1110m, [NO 226845]

Parties have in the past attempted Beinn a' Bhuird, 1197m, [NO 093006], though it is a long haul to the North Top, so advisable for fast parties only. For anyone considering Beinn a' Bhuird, the Corbett Carn na Drochaide or the Graham Creag Bhalg, you could leave the bus at Victoria Bridge [NO 103895] and cut through the policies of Mar Lodge (owned by the National Trust and freely accessible to walkers). This would also open up additional options for low-level walkers who want to explore the Glen Quoich/Glen Lui area.

Various through-routes can be followed up Glen Ey. One for fast parties only takes in the remote Munro Carn Bhac, 946m, [NO 051832], traverses some rough ground to Loch nan Eun and then descends Glen Taitneach to the Spittal of Glenshee. This can be shortened by staying low and omitting Carn Bhac, or made really challenging by adding on Beinn Iutharn Mhor as well. The Morrone-An Socach ridge can also be tackled in various ways from the Glen Ey side.

### **Corbetts**

From A93 at Dalhenzean [NO 127681]: Monamenach, 807m, [NO 176706]

From A93 at [NO 114714]: Ben Gulabin, 806m, [NO 100722]

From A93 at [NO 140834]: Creag nan Gabhar, 834m, [NO 154841]

From Chapel Brae, Braemar: Morrone/Morven, 859m, [NO 132886]

From Victoria Bridge: Carn na Drochaide, 818m, [NO 127938]

From Linn of Dee: Sgor Mor, 813m, [NO 007914]

### **Grahams**

From junction of A93 & B951 at [NO 142633]: Mount Blair, 744m, [NO167629], Mealna Letter or Duchray Hill, 702m, [NO 161672]

From track at [NO 079900], 2km east of Linn of Dee: Creag Bhalg, 668m, [NO 091912]

### **Low Level**

A wide range of low-level walking is available from the Spittal of Glenshee onwards, with possibilities in Glen Cluny, Glen Callater, Glen Ey, Glen Lui, Glen Derry and Glen Quoich. The route from Spittal of Glenshee to Inverey via Gleinn Taitneach and Glen Ey (24 km) is recommended as "a fine direct pass" in *Scottish Hill Tracks*.

Jock's Road and Glen Callater: from Auchallater, [NO 156882], 3km south of Braemar on the A93, follow the Callater Burn south, continuing along Loch Callater. Jock's Road, a historic drove road, climbs steeply to a pass at about 880m on the way to Glen Doll, Glen Clova and the cattle marts in the south. Return by the same route.

Morrone Birkwood is a nature reserve of very fine birch and juniper. From the centre of Braemar take Chapel Brae to a car park. A track gives access to a way-marked loop and view point...and there is always the path up Morrone!

The Lairig Ghru loop, 18miles/29km: from Linn of Dee west to White Bridge; north up Glen Dee into the Lairig Ghru; then from [NN 986956], near the site of the Corrou bothy, south-east into Glen Luibeg and Derry Lodge; south-east then south to Linn of Dee.

## What we did last month

The destination was Glen Creran - a name almost synonymous with gales and torrential rain; but, despite the day being dull, with cloud hanging around on the tops, it was dry and fairly still, and small flocks of Ptarmigans (only 16 on the bus) headed cheerfully for the hills.

First to take off were Colin, Benedetta, Michael, Anna and Christine, who set out from Corryghoil to climb the Graham Meall nan Gabhar. This turned out to be...

### Not just a Graham, more an assault course

Christine writes: "Off we went up the forestry track to Succoth Lodge, where alien skunk-cabbage (*see photo right*) was growing in the burn, and then along a soft, green lane that was formerly a drovers' road from Dalmally to Inverarnan. The fairy-tale woodland around us eventually gave way to the stark outlines of a power line and we had our first proper look at the imposing NE-facing cliffs of Meall nan Gabhar. In the foggy conditions we couldn't find the "official" way up so followed someone else's bootprints up a steep gully, scrambling through wet moss, mud, loose rocks, a waterfall - and pretty purple saxifrage.



"At this point discretion took over and Michael and Benedetta decided to go back down. Colin nobly offered to accompany them but Anna and I, being Ladies Not For Turning, carried on up. As we ascended over steep grassy slopes we found the path we should have come up! We got to the col between the hill's two tops, went to the named top (no views) and took a bearing to follow the western ridge down, alongside the Eas a' Mhadaidh. At the bottom, Anna was initiated into the sport of climbing a deer fence and then we followed forest tracks WNW and over another deer fence to Brackley. The farm there looked in a bad way - the buildings dilapidated, a sheep eating the contents of the garden, a dead fox lying on a pile of rubbish - but the roof was being repaired and we hoped the farm's fortunes were on the turn. From there it was an easy walk to rejoin our companions at Dalmally but - final insult - the hotel was shut!"

Next off, at Druimavuic, was the main contingent, heading for the Corbett Creach Bheinn and the Munro Beinn Sgulaird. Kev, Graham, Ewan, Emma, Tim H, Bob and Eva headed Corbett-wards. Tim abandoned his ice axe and crampons on the ascent to the bealach between Creach Bheinn and Beinn Sgulaird (and took a bit of time to find them on the way back...). Meanwhile Kev was busy taking photos and recording his route on Strava. With an app called Relive he made an animated route, with pop-up photos taken at points along the way, that you can view by clicking on this link: <https://www.relive.cc/view/2274749385>

Meanwhile Bill, Kathy and Tim F tackled the long slog up towards Beinn Sgulaird. Bill says, "As we ascended a landrover track the views south-west over Loch Creran looked great, with a hint of sun. Unfortunately until our descent we were stuck in thick clag from around 750m upwards. This made navigating slightly tricky! I was left puffing behind the other two on the ascent as it took me a fair while to get into the swing of things, but a quick lunch stop made all the difference and we made good time up. Following a slightly easier route down from the summit, we picked our way north and then east between the crags initially, towards the lochan under Stob Gaibhre and then to a small ravine close to Airigh nan Lochan to find the path. We even saw some wild goats on the way down!" (See photos on next page)

Two of Bill's photos:



*Loch Creran's down there somewhere*



*Ravine close to Airigh nan Lochan*

Dave, being the bus convener, and not fully fit, went to the terminus at Elleric: "With my left calf still recovering from injury, an easy walk round The Pine Marten Trail (including the Fairy Bridge) was a fine start. I had great views towards Glen Ure and a sighting of a pine marten as I sat drinking my coffee, contemplating what route I would do. I ended up following Glen Ure and crossing the river high up to pick up a new forestry path leading up to the north side of An Grianan (549 m), a little-known little hill. Having said that, it was a tricky, craggy, heathery wet-moss climb up its north face, then coming off its east flank and down to Glen Ure and Beinn Sgulaird. There were some great views from this small hill with a couple of big Munros on its north and south sides, but their summits were covered in low cloud!"

A couple of Dave's photos:



*The Fairy Bridge*



*Huh? You talkin' to me?*