

Perth & District Hillwalking Club Monthly Bulletin January 2016

February 2016 Monthly Walks Reminder – `A` and `B` Coaches. These will be held on **Sunday 7th February**, with the `A` coach going to the Drumochter Hills. The `B` coach will be going to the Blair Atholl area. The walks are planned to be as in the November Spindrift. Bookings to Elsie Wilke by **Thursday 28th January** please.

Winter!

This is another reminder about winter equipment and clothing. See the club website and Spindrift for the usual recommendations. Remember that for the `A` walks, ice axe and crampons should be carried, as soon as there is likely to be snow on our choice of hills. If, on the day, the group leaders confirm that axes and crampons won't be required, then it's easy to leave them in the boot of the coach. If in doubt, please contact us.

Winter Skills Courses; See the November Spindrift for details, and we strongly recommend them, especially for our newer members. Re the **Ancrum Centre**, some of their courses are now fully booked but they have an additional day course on **27th February**, and great value at **£50**.

February 2016 Weekend Meet

This will be held once again at the Great Glen Hostel, Loch Lochy, on the **19th and 20th February**. Full details are in the new Spindrift, and please book directly with the hostel as soon as possible.

2016 Club AGM on Friday 11th March at Craigie Hill Golf Club

Please make an effort to attend this important event, and have your say in the running of the club. Also, there will certainly be vacancies on the committee, and we all benefit greatly from the work they do. Please let us know if you are interested in joining.

Items for Sale

Gents Salomon Mountain Performance Boots, size 9 and a half. Winter boots and suitable for crampons. Little used and bargain price of £30. Please contact Jen Strachan. jenstrachers284@hotmail.com

* * * * *

`A` Coach Report for Sunday 10th January 2016 – Luss Hills

We originally had 16 book, but after one cancellation, we had 15 on the coach. As is normal in winter, 5 members transferred from `A` to `B` walks.

The walks were planned to take in several of the higher tops in the Luss area, some of the 8 Grahams locally. The original 3 walks started south of Luss, at Luss and north at

Inverbeg. With only 15 walkers, and with little difference between the Challenging Plus and Challenging walks, we all opted for Challenging, beginning at Inverbeg.

The weather forecast was for outbreaks of snow and rain, with increasing wind as the day progressed. Whilst we had rain most of the journey west, and a little drizzle at the start of the walk, we had thick mist and light winds all day, with only occasional light snow. There was much more lying snow than expected, above around 400m, which slowed progress, and allowed plenty of navigation practice.

Setting out at 09.05, all 15 members walked as one group, and completed the walk in good time, to arrive back at Luss between 15.45 and 16.00.

The pub stop was split between the Village Rest and the Loch Lomond hotel in Luss, near the coach parking area, which was just as well as the rain had started by then.

Whilst 16 is a low booking for the `A` coach, a total booking of 43 is very good.

George Smart 11th January 2016

‘B’ Coach report for Sunday 10th January 2016 – Campsie Fells

We had 27 bookings for the Moderate walk, and none for Moderate/Easy. All 27 walkers turned up in good time, and we left Perth at 08.00, arriving Killearn at 09.15. The walkers were divided into 3 groups of 9 walkers each, led by Eric Pryde, Margaret Band and Cris Bonomy.

The morning was overcast but dry, and we set off at 09.30 through Killearn to the start point where a tarmac lane leads to the ‘Pipe Track’. This track follows the water supply pipe from Loch Katrine to Glasgow and is a Heritage Path promoted by ScotWays. The track contours through farmland and woodland before dropping down into Blanefield, and the engineering works for the water pipe are clearly visible at various points along the route.

The views were also impressive, even in low cloud – from the fertile land of Strath Blane to the prominent volcanic plug of Dumgoyne Hill. From Blanefield we continued through Strathblane village and followed the dismantled Strathkelvin Railway, now a walking and cycling track, via Lennoxton to Milton of Campsie.

The afternoon weather turned to rain, then sleet, so after a brief lunch stop we pressed on and reached Milton of Campsie by 14.30. Our refreshment stop was the Beech Tree Inn at Dumgoyne. We set off at 15.55 and arrived back in Perth at 17.15. In spite of the afternoon rain, everyone seemed to enjoy this walk, a new one for the club.

Susan Duguid 11th January 2016

Monthly Bulletin Editor
susan_duguid@yahoo.co.uk