

Perth & District Hillwalking Club
Monthly Bulletin: March 2020

Monthly Walks Reminder for Sunday 5th April 2020

This is the first of our Combined Coach outings in 2020, and we are heading to the Arrochar – Loch Lomond area. The Challenging walkers have 3 walks in the “Arrochar Alps” finishing at Inveruglas on Loch Lomond. The Moderates have 2 walks from Tarbet Station, including Glen Loin and Loch Sloy, and also finishing at Inveruglas. The coach leaves Broxden at **07.00**.

Please make your bookings/payment online via **EntryCentral.com**, or by post to Elsie Wilke. (Details of both on the website) All bookings, by either method, **by Thursday 26th March** at the latest please.

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Coach Reports

`A` Group Glen Tilt (Venue Change) With heavy snow and strong winds forecast for the Crianlarich/Tyndrum area, as well as a recce showing very deep snow, we decided on Sunday morning to go further north east. The forecast for the Glen Tilt hills looked like lighter winds and less snow. We agreed to have Challenging and Less Challenging groups do the Challenging walk on Carn a Chlamain. (This was to avoid expected deep snow on the Corbett hill used previously) We originally had 20 book: after weather cancellations and transfers to the `B` coach, we had 15 on the coach. We agreed to split the group up as the original groupings, leaving 9 on the Challenging Group, and 6 in the Less Challenging.

We left Broxden on time at 07.00, with dry weather and blue skies, which continued all the way to Blair Atholl and up Glen Tilt. The snow didn't start until around 11.00, and whilst we had a few hours of wind and snow, they were nowhere as bad as forecast. We started walking at 07.50, and the first group reached the summit at 12.10, closely followed by the second group around 20 minutes later. We all had deep snow on the track up the hill, and very poor visibility above around 700m. At 28km it was a long walk for the Less Challenging members, who all did very well to return in a reasonable time. The first group reached the coach at the Atholl Arms Hotel, which was our pub stop at 16.00, with the second group arriving at 17.00. We left the hotel at 17.45 to reach Broxden at 18.30. In spite of poor weather, all members enjoyed the day, with some members getting some new snow experience. *George Smart 3rd March 2020*

`B` Group Traverses from Broughton via John Buchan Way to Peebles

We had many changes in the numbers booking, as mentioned above, and before cancellations we had 20 for the coach. After 6 cancellations we had 14 on Sunday morning, including 1 guest. Although Storm Jorge was due to reach the Scottish Borders during the day, it was decided to travel to the Broughton area and gauge the conditions there, as any high winds would be on our backs most of the day. We left Broxden at 08.10, and when we reached Broughton, the amount of lying surface water, and the likelihood of very wet conditions underfoot, made it an easy decision for everyone to walk the Moderate/Easy route. We started from Dawyck at 10.15, and whilst we had strong blustery winds, the predicted rain and snow showers only arrived near the end of the walk. Blue skies and sunshine allowed good views of the surrounding Manor Hills, and some compensation for the very muddy conditions underfoot. The group reached Peebles at 15.30, for well deserved refreshments, and a chance to dry off, before leaving at 16.20. We arrived back at Broxden at 17.50, and despite the strong wind, the walk was enjoyed by all.

Stephen Ross 3rd March 2020

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Reminders

Membership Renewals

Subscriptions (**still £20**) become due on 1st March. Forms can be downloaded from the website, and will also be available at the club AGM. Please use the correct form (V1 05-05-18) which is on our website within the “Download Area” or “How to join the club” tab.

Payment can also be made via Entry Central: search for the link "PHWC renewal of annual membership".

Winter Walking Clothing and Equipment We are certainly now in the winter season, and it's important we are all suitably kitted out (list also on Club website)

For Club Outings in WINTER MONTHS we recommend that you are equipped with:-

1. Map, Compass, Head Torch & Whistle.
2. Boots, warm & waterproof, and **stiff enough for Crampons on `A` walks.**
3. Hat, Gaiters, Gloves & Overgloves.
4. Plastic Survival Bag & First Aid Kit.
5. Ice Axe & Crampons, if required for the grade of walk and conditions. For the bus journey the sharp parts of these need to be suitably protected (duct tape and foam will do) to prevent injury or damage as people reach for their bags.
6. Suitable Windproof and Waterproof outer and mid layers of clothing.
7. A suitable bag to store wet or dirty boots and clothing at the end of the walk so that these do not soil other people's luggage.
8. Please remember to store walking poles flat in the boot of the bus, separated from your rucksack.

(A` walkers should always carry ice axe and crampons in the “snow season”. They can be left on the bus if not required)

Winter Skills Courses Glenmore Lodge still has dates available for their 2 day courses (see their website). Several of our members have found them to be very useful.

Weekend Meets 2020 The **May** weekend will be held at the Ratagan SYHA Hostel in Glen Shiel, on the evenings of **15th, 16th & 17th**. The **September** weekend returns to the Ullapool SYHA Hostel on the evenings of **18th, 19th & 20th** There are currently vacancies for these dates at both hostels, but Ratagan and Ullapool are very busy hostels as we all know, so early booking is advisable. Please contact the SYHA booking office on **0345 2937373** and mention you are with the PHWC group.

Requests

Volunteers required! Ancrum Mountaineering Club hosts the **Mountain Mind Quiz** at Queens Hotel Dundee -Wednesday 18th March, 7pm. £3 per head: proceeds to Tayside Mountain Rescue Team. Teams of 2 -3. All welcome. Please ring Club member Tony Jackson 07734 886472, who will co-ordinate interested individuals.

Photos Please email your best shots from the walks to Stephen Ross if you are happy for him and Fiona to use them for publicity purposes/website/Facebook.

What's On

Tickets are on sale for the Crieff & Strathearn Drovers' Tryst walking festival 22-25 May. Details can be found at **<https://www.droverstryst.com/product-category/walk-tickets/>**

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“We don't stop hiking because we grow old – We grow old because we stop hiking.” **Finis Mitchel**