

## **Solihull MC - Late May Bank Holiday Trip to Laggan, Scotland (24-30<sup>th</sup> May 2019)**

Five SMC members made their way up to Laggan, (near Dalwhinnie) to stay in the Scottish MC Raeburn Hut.



**Scottish MC's Raeburn Hut**

Jo & Andrew arrived first with the keys and Rob arrived shortly afterwards, having driven up the night before to wild camp in Glen Tilt and tick off Beinn Dearg on the way. Mike and Kai arrived a little later and we planned some things for the weekend to come, despite the weather forecast.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May Kai and Mike went for a run around Inshriach Forest whilst Andrew, Rob & Jo opted for a big 24km day out from Newtonmore to tick off A' Chailleach, Carn Sgùlain and Carn Dearg amongst the cloud and showers with occasional views. This more than doubled Andrew's Munro count in one day whilst all 3 were repeats for Rob.



**Rob & Andrew heading out from Newtonmore for A' Chailleach**



**Andrew makes himself at home in a bothy hut**



**Carn Sgùlain Summit**



**Jo & Rob on Carn Dearg summit**

With poor weather forecast for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> all 5 opted for a 'quick' yomp up Sghairneach Mhòr in the pass of Drumochter, with some fun crossing the Allt Dubbhaig in full flow after rain (options were for the leap of faith or assault course bridge climbing). Through changing clag and showers with occasional rainbows they climbed the 758m hill then across to the main summit in some wet and wild conditions. After lunch on the way down, Rob and Andrew toured round to climb the Sow of Atholl whilst the others headed back down, all meeting up before getting back to the cars. Mike & Kai bagging their 1<sup>st</sup> Munro in full-on Scottish weather plus river crossing – quite a good introduction to the highlands!



**Kai, Rob, Andrew & Mike on Sgaineach Mhòr summit**



**Kai & Mike opting for the 'bridge' crossing option**

Monday saw Andrew return to Birmingham by train (eventually – after cycling to Dalwhinnie station, being turned away as too many bikes on the train despite booking for one, cycling to Blair Atholl rather than waiting 5 hours for the next train and then paying for another ticket! Epic award nomination for sure.) Mike & Kai set off west for the rest of the week to climb Ben Nevis then go sea kayaking. Jo & Rob headed out for Geal Charn via Glen Markie in unexpectedly great weather.



**Rob on the summit of Geal Charn**

Tuesday was also a good weather day so Rob & Jo headed to Blair Atholl to do Beinn A Ghlo (3 Munros, 1 of which Rob had already done) but instead of the normal route, they cycled up beautiful Glen Tilt to Marble Lodge and made their way up the western side of Carn Liath, before making the traverse over to Bràigh Coire Churinn-bhalgain and finally Carn nan Gabhar, dropping over Meall à Mhuirich and back to Glen Tilt – an epic 26km on foot and 16km on bikes and an impressive fighter jet fly-by.



**Beautiful Glen Tilt**



### **Rob on Carn Liath summit trig point & view to Blair Atholl**

Rob headed back home straight afterwards and Jo stayed a bit longer at the hut to tick off Meall Chuaich on the last good weather day on Wednesday (a slightly easier day needed after Tuesday's monster day!) and headed back south on Thursday, having met Clive and John the SMC hut wardens whilst tidying up that morning.

A fab few days despite a dreadful weather forecast - first Munro tick for Kai & Mike (hopefully shortly followed by Ben Nevis), Andrew's tally rising from 2 to 6 (and definitely caught the bagging bug), 9 new ticks for Jo (and crossing the ½ way milestone) and Rob now with only 10 Munros left to do (we await the details for when the final ticks of Ben Cruachan will be done and we'll make sure there is a suitable party to celebrate!)