

Carry On Up the Kingie
A Sequel to *Carry On Up the Khyber*'
Gordon Stalker

Traditional Cairngorm Club overnight meets seem to be a thing of the past, but a weekend meet was arranged by Derek Beverley for the Aberdeen Holiday weekend of the 5th - 7th July 2002 at Camban bothy, West Glen Affric. The record low attendance (I maintain that two is the minimum number for a meet, as if you turn up on your own there is nobody to meet with!) made it easy to change the venue to Kinbreack bothy in Glen Kingie. After all, there was nobody else to consult.

The drive along the Loch Arkaig switchback road on Friday evening was in glorious sunshine, which persisted during the two-hour walk in to the bothy, where we found some Paisley 'buddies' already in residence, drinking cans of Tennant's Super Lager.



Walking in to Kinbreack

Kinbreack is unusual in that the accommodation is upstairs only, above what may have been the byre. There is a fireplace and the place is light and airy due to perspex panels in the roof. The original house nearby is in ruins and there is a third small building, possibly an icehouse. The Rev A.R.G. Burn²

mentions Kinbreack in his diary on 6th January 1920: "The house was ruinous with no doors that would shut, no window frames or glass. It's a very draughty room and most uncomfy." So nothing has changed very much in the last 80 or so years!

An early start was made on Saturday 6th July by the two of us, and after fording the Kingie a pleasant ascent of Sgùrr Mor was had, on an excellent stalker's path with superb views of Sgùrr na Ciche. The good weather lasted as far as the Corbett, Sgùrr an Fhuarain, between Sgùrr Mor and Gairich, when the usual Loch Quoich squalls started. Gairich was just a blur of hairpin bends on the stalker's path, mist and rain. After a rapid descent, the Kingie was again forded and the bothy regained before the weather really deteriorated. I was glad to have a roof over my head and not be campIng.

A pleasant evening ensued with our Paisley 'buddies', the conversation at one point centring on what was the most unusual item to be carried up a hill in mistake for a packed lunch. They claimed a club member who had taken a raw salmon in place of his lunch. This compares well with a senior Cairngorm Club member, who is alleged to have taken his dirty laundry up the hill!

We walked out from Kinbreack on Sunday morning and after an afternoon in the fleshpots of Spean Bridge and Fort Augustus, Derek decided to return to Aberdeen. I hung on for another day and was rewarded with a wet day on Sgurr a' Mhaoraich (Loch Quoich) but a good view of the island-studded upper reaches of Loch Hourn was seen from the summit. As usual, I had left my camera in the car, as the weather was so bad when I set out.

Such weekends in the hills leave great memories. Today's younger generation ought to tear themselves away from their computers and climbing ropes and get in some proper mountaineering for a change. Hope to see some of you in a bothy next year!

Notes

1. See the *Cairngorm Club Journal* Volume 21, Number 106, 2001, p.40.
2. Allan, E.A., *Burn on the Hill*, Bidean Books, Beaulieu, 1995.