

## Glencoe, 25<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007



James also summited the Ben via the Carn Mor Dearg Arete, finishing in the dark on a compass bearing (James's first munro – in summer or winter!). Lizzy and Janet walked the Ballachulish horseshoe while Amanda and Nicola strolled around the Glencoe lochan.

It rained all day on Tuesday and Wednesday. Dave, Mark, Ali and James mountain biked around Nevis Forest while everyone else stayed indoors and played Trivial Pursuit.

Torren Cottages provided our base for the week, these proved ideal being warm, well equipped and only a short walk from the Clachaig. The forecast for Tuesday and Wednesday was dreadful so everyone was keen to make the most of Monday. Rob and Colin headed up to Aonach Mor and climbed Left Twin (III) while Dave, Ali and Jamie descended, and then ascended, Easy Gully (the first of the week's problems with queues). Andy, Janice and Neil went up the Ben, started up Number 3 Gully Buttress (III) but lured by some fat ice higher up, finished up Two Step Corner (V), (Neil's first winter climb!).

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Various teams headed up Stob Coire nan Lochan on Thursday. Andy, Janice and Neil did Twisting Gully (III), Chris and Rob went up Dorsal Arete (II) (a buttress route was deemed sensible since Rob forgot his crampons!) and Colin and Nicola did Broad Gully (I) (Nicola's first winter route). Ali, Amanda and James hiked up Beinn A'Chrulaiste while Lizzy and Janet were on the other side of the valley on Sgor na h-Ulaidh. Dave and Mark went mountain biking.

Friday started out nice so a return to the Ben was planned. Colin, Chris and Mark were the first out the door heading for Tower Ridge (III) and were followed shortly afterwards by Andy and Janice who had the same objective in mind. Rob and Neil were planning on the North East Buttress (IV) via Slingsby's Chimney (II). Andy and Janice were first back having ascended the ridge in a fine three hours. Rob and Neil were next having completed the chimney at about IV but then run out of time. We waited a long time for the other three who finally arrived back at 11 pm (queues at the Eastern Traverse and Tower Gap being the problem – apparently Chris was heard to threaten one of the culprits with an ice axe if he didn't get a move on). Dave, Ali and James climbed Forked Gully (II/III) at Stob Coire nan Lochan. Amanda, Janet and Lizzy walked up Meall a'Bhuidh and practised ice axe arrests on the way.



Most people were too tired to do anything on Saturday but Chris, Lizzy and Janet summoned up sufficient energy to hike up Stob Ban. We finished off the week in fine style, enjoying the antics of the Titanic Washoose Skiffle Band at the Clachaig.

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