



The Munro Society

NEWSLETTER

No. 64, August 2025



A blue-sky day on Buachaille Etive Beag in May, with the rhyolite outcrops dominating the foreground of this view of Stob Coire Raineach

D Sime

President's Report

Oliver Bartrum

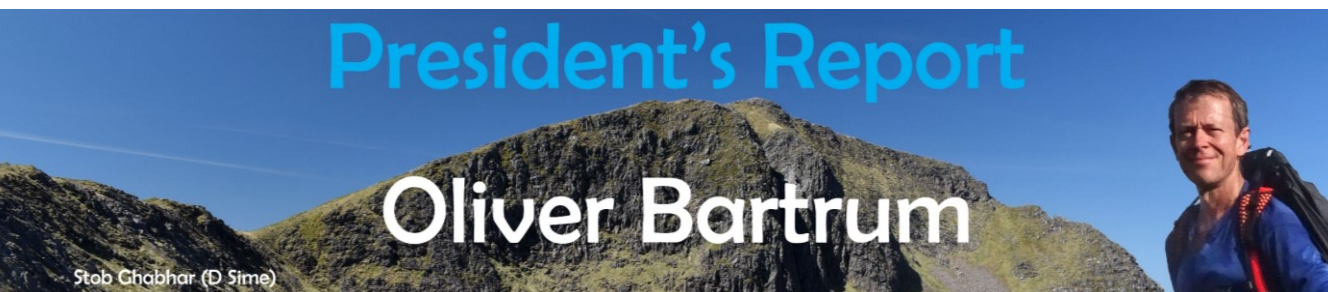
Stob Chabhar (D Sime)

Standing atop Sgùrr a' Mhaoraich Beag (948m), about 800m east of its parent Munro Sgùrr a' Mhaoraich (1,027m), I was struck by a sense of achievement in climbing my 219th Munro Top and the ridiculous effort it had required. If only I had taken the time back in August 2010. An extra 15 minutes or so then compared to over nine hours now!

I had set aside the first day of the TMS Kintail meet (see page 7) to climb this Munro Top en route from Fort William to Morvich. However, I had not considered the closure of the Loch Cuaich road. Repairs, due to be finished by early May, had been extended to the end of June. Arriving at the turn-off on the A87, I saw that I was too late to make it to Kingie by 8.00am, when the road closed, and I wasn't

willing to wait until 12.30pm, when it re-opened for an hour, to get through to the normal start point for Sgùrr a' Mhaoraich. I discussed the options with a fellow hillwalker who was also trying to get down to Kinlochourn. He decided to continue in the hope that, being a Bank Holiday, the road would be open. I hoped it was not a wasted trip. Rain was forecast so I cut my losses and carried on to Glen Shiel for an afternoon on the Graham Biod an Fhithich. The rain had eased as I parked up in Glen Shiel which was encouraging but, it soon returned with heavy cloud. I met two groups retreating from an attempt on the Saddle via the Forcan Ridge, one of whom joined me on the Graham.

However, I still had to get to Sgùrr a' Mhaoraich Beag, for my gratification and to keep on track for my completion of the Tops at the Glen Feshie meet in



September. Rather than drive all the way from Morvich to the Loch Cuaich start for Sgùrr a' Mhaoraich, I decided to walk in from Glen Shiel. This involved going over two bealachs (twice) before a steep, pathless ascent of the Munro and its Top. Probably twice the height and over triple the distance than the standard route. I blame the Highland Council's road repairs and my own, narrow-minded Munro tick-listing back in 2010. On the upside, I visited Sgùrr a' Mhaoraich from an unusual direction, and had some marvellous sightings of golden eagles. All in all, it was a wonderful day that fully justifies a round of Munro Tops in their own right. It followed a superb day I had on two of the Fisherfield Tops in Torridon in April, a report on which appears on page 12.



28th May: On the Munro Top: Spidean Dhomhuill Bhric (939m)
subsidiary of the Saddle

Turning to Society matters, the AGM was held at Birnam Arts on 5th April. 39 members were present, and a further 25 had sent their apologies. The reports presented by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, Mountain Reporting Coordinator and Archivist appear in the AGM minutes, a copy of which you will receive electronically. The committee members were re-elected and there were no new members standing for election. The subscription for this year was held at £30.00. Three resolutions had been proposed by the committee, two relating to the widening of membership criteria, and one to combine the date of the AGM with that of the Annual Dinner. All members were notified of the outcome of the voting by email after the AGM but to recap: the first resolution to change the purpose of the Society from one that provides a Society for persons who have *completed* the Munros to one that is for those who are *climbing* the Munros – was approved by

74%, passing the necessary threshold of 66%. The second resolution, to extend membership to include persons who have climbed a majority of the Munros or are actively climbing them – was approved by 65%. As this failed (by 1%) to be accepted by the two thirds majority required, it will not be adopted. This leaves us with a Society whose purpose is to attract those who are climbing (rather than have climbed) the Munros but still need to have completed a full round to be eligible for membership. The committee will continue to review what more can be done to make membership of the Society more appealing to all compleatists as well as those who are actively climbing the Munros. My thanks to those of you who have already sent their suggestions; they will be considered at the next committee meeting. If you have any thoughts you'd like to share on this matter, please email me at president@themunrosociety.com.

The third resolution to combine future AGMs with the Annual Dinner was passed by 80%. The next AGM will therefore be combined with the Annual Dinner on Saturday 25th October. Further details can be found on page 29.

It is good that we have had the chance to vote on these matters. The results on the membership criteria reflect a split in opinion and it is only right that the majority opinion, albeit a very small one, prevails. However, I will end with the observation that about two thirds of our members did not vote – either in person or by email or post. You can draw your own conclusions about the views of this 'silent' majority.

Wishing everyone good days in the Scottish hills and perhaps further afield over the summer. I look forward to seeing those of you attending the Ballater and Glen Feshie meets in July and September.



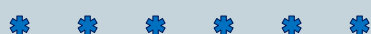
Looking towards Sgurr Thionail from Sgurr a' Mhaoraich Beag
(Oliver Bartrum)

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August 2025

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Lots of News in this issue, and many tales from our members as usual. The Spring Meet followed many weeks of superb weather in the Highlands, but alas it all broke down just in time for TMS to visit Kintail – Anne Butler tells the story. From spring back to winter, Alan Brook recalls building snow caves and igloos back in the day then Mike Weedon continues his Cairngorm adventures. Someone who did get good weather was our President, Oliver Bartrum, for his Torridonian escapade this year. Iain Robertson recalls an early completion on Ben More on Mull while Roger Drye looks back on his ascents of Snowdon (or Yr Wyddfa).

Then Hamish Brown recalls his favourite 'Munro' (which isn't a Munro) and Richard Young is inspired by the legendary Alfred Wainwright to climb Ben Lui from the east. Andrew Fraser comments on the mountain challenges that appear to be proliferating these days and Alan Rowan reveals the trials and tribulations of a mountain group organiser, and Mike Weedon comes back with a tale of lost and found on Scaraben. Then Shona Marshall tells the story of her Full House with Betty. Following the Lindertis Diary, and dates for your own diary, there are some brand new, and possibly rather challenging, categories for this year's photo competition.

Please send material for the December issue **by 31st October 2025** to simed44.ds@gmail.com (max. 1,500 words). As always, the earlier an item is received, the better the chance of it appearing in the next Newsletter.

Photos should be sent as separate jpg files (**max. 2MB per photo**), with suitable captions (preferably in the file name) and not as embedded files. Also, why not drop a line to the Postbag section – we like to hear from you!

TMS