

Bremex Mountaineering & Climbing Club February 2009 winter skills

A fabulous frosty February for the winter skills weekend in Glencoe! Ten club members met on Thursday night at Inchree bunkhouses just north of Ballahulish. The group was mixed ability from members who were looking forward to wearing crampons and using an ice axe for the first time to experienced winter walkers and climbers, all with a common ingredient of excitement and enthusiasm! Friday morning started with a kit and crampon check. Then we set off to Aonach Mor for a gondola ride, up on the Nid ridge conditions were mixed visibility, sugary snow and light winds. After building a hasty pit and looking at snow conditions half the group practised ice axe breaks and moving on snow and the other half ascended grade 1 ground to practise lowering on stomper belays, snow bollards and bucket seats. We returned to the bunkhouses about five thirty and Mark alias Gordon Ramsey made the most fantastic sausage and pasta dish!!



Day 2 conditions were similar, seven set off for Creag Megaidh to do the ridge on Beinn a Chaorain. Every one got to within 150m of the summit, then five members decided to turn back. Kent and Amanda continued on to the summit and then navigated down in a white out. The group of five found an area of steep ground to practise moving around, kicking steps in ascent and descent and setting up belays.

On day 3 one group headed to the Mammores where they navigated towards Stop Coire à Chairn to SW of Na Gruagaichean. Tony and Kent headed off to Aonach Mor to do a couple of winter climbs Left Twin III and Tunnel Vision III.



Day 4 was a trip into Glencoe to do Zig Zags Grade I (Three sisters area) then continued up the ridge on Gearr Gonach, traversed N side of Stob Coire Nan Lochain to Coire nan Lochan and down.

So a fab few days were had by all topped off by good food and a wee dram!!