From the bustling streets of Bucharest to the Clachan Bar in Dornie. Which environment would you choose?

For local lad Colin MacKenzie MacKenzie there was no contest. Late last year the former IT Consultant got cheesed of with airports, deadlines and homesickness and decided to swap the jet-set lifestyle — with associated salary — for the welcoming warmth of the Clachan Bar. He hasn’t looked back since.

As an accomplished guitarist, Colin has also found that he has a lot more time to devote to his music (he plays in The Douglas MacKenzie Effect) and to draft in local musicians to help customers relax with a pint while listening to some traditional sounds.

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To say that I am enjoying being a Publican would be an understatement,” he said. “I have however found myself on a very steep learning curve but have had excellent support from both my staff and locals alike. The most significant thing I have learned so far is that it is very difficult to keep everyone happy all of the time, but I am trying my hardest!”

I am quite at home with the business side of things and this is probably due to the nature of the work I was involved in before becoming a Publican. I have a good working relationship with all my suppliers and manage my own accounts and business affairs from my office within the Clachan. All in all it’s great to be back home where I belong.”

Since taking over the bar — he pulled his first ever pint on Christmas Day 2004 — Colin has been determined to keep the emphasis on being a traditional local pub. As part of that philosophy the Clachan’s kitchen uses, wherever possible, the freshest local ingredients. Lunches are served daily from 12 noon to 2pm and evening meals from 6pm to 9.30pm.

“I was keen early on to recruit the services of local Chef Steven Callaghan and together we devised a menu which is fresh, varied and excellent value for money,” Colin continued. “Our seafood platter has been extremely popular and this is no surprise given that the customers can actually see the seafood landing daily at Dornie Pier opposite the pub by my cousin Duncan McKerlich. My brother Douglas is also a fisherman and helps both Duncan on the boat and me in the bar!”

Good music, quality pub grub — and the welcome return of a local lad to his roots. Life at the Clachan beats the city, even one as exotic as Bucharest, any day of the week.