

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 31st August 2012

Group: Colin (Leader) Christie, Lynn (girl power) Quinn, Mike (rapidly losing his Snowdonia virginity) Hiscock, Jim (ace photographer) Grant and Roxie (top scrambler) Mutt.

Route: Moel Siabod

Total Distance: 7.5 miles

Total Ascent: 2599 ft

Weather: Warm with clear skies

Time: 4 hours 30 mins

This was a stunningly fine walk.

Due to busy Bunbury diaries, (paralympics, golf days and holiday season) the numbers were diminished with only four of us available for the day (plus Roxie of course), but the stars and the moon lined up for a great day out. The weather was unusually kind for Snowdonia, the skies were clear, the walk not too long, the views were great and the scramble was fun.

Mike has had limited experience in Snowdonia since his move from the Lakes largely due to the horrendous weather we have been having, so it was good to break away from the namby pamby stuff we've been forced to do recently, and get scrambling up a proper hill. Moel Siabod is well under 3,000 ft so is not as popular as some, but it's definitely under rated.

We got off to a bit of a bad start as poor Lynn got a wet bum due to my platypus getting squashed, resulting in a pint or so of water leaking on the back seat, but undaunted we parked up close to Pont Cyfyng, set off across the Afon Llugwy and started to climb quite quickly.

This is one of Tony's favourite walks and we soon found out why, when we encountered his unfailing ability to find the best bog trots in Britain. Poor Lynn suffered most, failing miserably to pick a dry(ish) route through the hazard resulting in wet feet and she had brought no spare socks (she clearly hadn't been a girl guide).

We passed a deserted quarry and soon reached Llyn Y Foel where we stopped for a coffee before we began the scramble up the ridge to the top. It's quite easy scrambling but really good fun, with Roxie being the "queen of the scramblers" finding the paths of least resistance, so that every time we looked up, she was always above us smiling down on us. We finally reached the trig point at the top where we had great views of Snowdon, Crib Goch, the Glyders, Tryfan and the Carnedd.

We dropped off the top a little to find a fantastic lunch spot, possibly one of the best in BUMS history, where we were out of the wind and perched high above Llyn Y Foel with great views of the ridge we had just climbed and even Lake Bala was clearly visible in the distance.

We decided to extend the original walk a tad, which required a bit of uncomfortable bush whacking before reaching a path which dropped us back down through the woods to finish with a pleasant saunter along the banks of the Afon Llugwy and back over the bridge to the car. A few drops of rain appeared as we set off home so the timing was perfect.

We headed back to Dysart to arrive about 4.30pm, whereby due to some very fine Moorhouse's ale, the leader overdosed on the rehydration therapy, so a final walk was required from Dysart back home with the car being abandoned in Dysart car park for the evening!!

Now that beats working on a Friday!

Colin.