

Trip Report: The Moels**Date:** 18th December 2011**Group:** Colin (Leader and driver), Jim G, "The Mikes" (A, W & new recruit and driver, H), Selina, Lesley and (more) new recruits Alan (driver) and Mandy**Route:** Moel Famau from Cilcain**Total Distance:** 9.31 miles**Total Ascent:** 2316 ft**Weather:****Time:** 4 hours 45 mins

It was the Sunday after what was surely the best ever BUMS annual dinner, and an excellent turnout given the inclement weather in recent weeks. However the BUM gods were smiling as after meeting at the playing fields on what can only be described as an ice rink, we set off at 7.30 in the dark, drove through some rain, but when we arrived in Cilcain it was almost sunny and remained clear throughout the walk!

A good turn out with new recruits Mike H, plus Alan and Mandy with their dogs Gus and the cutest little puppy ever, Dodge, although if Roxie could speak I think the word "annoying" would be more appropriate than cute, as Dodge wanted to "play" all the way round.

The original route was slated to be Win Hill from LadyBower reservoir but the leader was alerted at the dinner that Snake Pass was almost certainly not going to open, so a plan B was encouraged with Moel Famau the suggestion of Jim (or maybe Ian?). Anyway the previous year we had failed to climb it due to snow, and the week after Lynn and Tony had another attempt (which also failed), so here was a local Moel that had to be bagged! All 555m of it!

The leader ensured that he had Mike and his new GPS were close by and we set off from Cilcain and almost lost Alan and Mandy within the first 5 minutes as their dogs required some major comfort breaks after the journey. The initial path passed through several fields and only once did we slightly lose our way (which was still enough for the leaders ear to be bashed!). It has a thick skin on it though!

As we started to climb Moel Famau we enjoyed great views back towards Bunbury with Beeston Castle clearly visible in the distance. It was then a reasonable flog up Moel Famau with some heavy breathing from Mandy. Selina, (who incidentally being used to having her own servants in Jakarta, was "packless", as Mike stood in to carry her gear), was blaming decorators back as she emerged some time later at the trig point.

A quick coffee before joining Offa's Dyke Path back North towards Moel Arthur noting this track seems to be very popular with fell runners. Moel Dywyll (a rather pathetic cairn in truth) was duly bagged before heading past Moel Lys-y-coed (the true summit is actually on private land but was "doable" legally according to my instructions, but unlike the BUMS we decided against the diversion heading down to the car park below Moel Arthur for lunch.

The leader then risked the wrath of the new recruits (and Ian!!) by taking route one straight up to the top (the virgin snow betraying the fact there is a much easier way up) More heavy breathing from Mandy followed and Selina continued to find that the angle of her back when climbing hills must be same as when stripping wall paper, but not a whimper from either Selina or Mandy (true bricks!) as we reached the top and admired the views,

We descended down the "easy path" before heading east back to Cilcain. As we had made such a prompt start for a local walk there plenty time to enjoy the Timmy Taylor Landlord at the Dysart.
Nice day out!

Colin