

Trip Report: Snowdonia**Date:** 14th July 2012**Group:** Selina (leader), Mike W (navigator), Jim G, Lynda, Anne, Tony , Lynn, Colin, Hugh, Roxie**Route:** Cwm Llafar Horseshoe including the Llech Ddu Spur**Total Distance:** 9.3 miles**Total Ascent:** 3458 ft**Weather:** Overcast with showers but eventually some sunshine**Time:** 7 hours 16 mins

After a very prompt start we set off for Bethesda, the leader a little nervous about where we would park Mike's big shiny new car in the very narrow lanes but luckily 2 perfect parking spaces awaited us. After a bit of phaffing resulting in Mike having to borrow socks from Lynda, we began the boggy walk up the valley towards the Lech Du Spur, the weather teasing us as we went, would it clear up we thought...possibly....but no about half way up the valley the first heavy shower struck and the wet weather gear came out and for most of us stayed on for the rest of the day always prepared for a shower, although Mike for reasons known only to himself insisted on walking the ridge in his shorts! Coffee was taken amongst the rocks before the real ascent began alongside a waterfall in full flow. The steep climb took us to the start of the Crib Lem scramble which was enjoyed by all including Roxie, in fact especially by Roxie, and there was only a little swearing and use of knees, mainly by the leader at the back of the pack.

As we reassembled at the top, Tony Lynn and Lynda took a short detour to bag Carnedd Dafydd, the rest of us didn't feel the need and took the opportunity for a short rest. Up on the ridge now we were unfortunately well up in the clag and the party had to accept the leaders word that the views were spectacular and listen to Hughs description of the Black Ladders cliffs below us. Heading across the ridge towards the next peak we took advantage of a little shelter from the wind behind a rocky crag to take an early lunch. In retrospect a good idea as the rest of the walk proved wet and windy with no further shelter to be had until later in the day.

The ascent to the top of Carnedd Llewelyn was tough after the ascent of the spur but all arrived in remarkably good spirits having been treated briefly to a bit of a view on the way. The third peak Yr Elen was also soon bagged, nobody being keen to hang around too long.

After a brief stop for a last cup of coffee we began the steep descent and then emerged from the clag into the sunshine and magnificent views across to the coast. As we continued our descent the clouds frustratingly disappeared behind us and the whole horseshoe was revealed, but at least we could see our route and congratulate ourselves on our achievement and we arrived back at the cars dry, tired and with that feeling of satisfaction that comes after a great day in the mountains.

All in all an excellent day out in the hills enjoyed by all with the leader demonstrating incredible delegation skills which resulted in us not getting lost once, well not until the navigation officer took us on a short detour to Bangor on the way back to the Dysart for our traditional rehydration.

Selina