

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 18th June 2006

Group: Mike Arrowsmith (Leader), Colin Christie, Lesley Arrowsmith, Chrissie Latter

Route: Aran Benlynn from Llanuwchllyn

Total Distance: 7 miles

Total Ascent: 1855 ft

Weather: Misty and cool

Time: 4 hours

This was supposed to be a dare devil scramble over Broad Stand in the lake district taking in both Scafell and Scafell Pike.....however, due to feeble excuses from our only real mountaineer and therefore essential walk leader, Jim Grant, not being declared fit at the last minute a small but determined foursome changed the plans at the last minute to avoid death, and went for a relatively easy walk in Wales.

Getting there proved harder for the driver (Colin) than anyone could have anticipated. The first mishap was at the Tarporley roundabout which, reminiscent of Jim W's Long Mynd circumnavigation, we went round twice, set the doomy feel to the journey. Worse to come, as even navigating around Wrexham proved impossible for Mr. Tom- Tom himself. Still, Mike A managed to navigate the car to the start of the walk with the aid of a road map and barking instructions. We arrived at the start raring to go. Despite the carefully written BUMS kit list there were still some members of the party who seemed half dressed with no evidence of waterproofs (although enough sunscreen to sink a battleship). Chrissie and Colin, slightly unprepared admitted they hoped the weather would be good. (How wrong could they be).

The walk started well along a metalled path and Roxy, the fifth member of the group, was enjoying the sheep. Wise Colin put her on the lead but as we climbed the first stile into open fields decided to let her off. Not 10 steps further we met a sour-face shepherd driving a quad bike. He barked at Colin to get the dog on the lead. Not one word of welcome to us, we soldiered on, mightily put out but compliant.

An easy ascent to a very nice craggy top was ours for the bagging. The quartz speckled hills were holding their own against the mist, until we neared the summit. Within minutes visibility was down to 20 yds. We managed to persuade Mike that we were at the top and then retraced our steps on this short out and back route. Good progress was made apart from Roxy who's earlier brush with the farmer must have altered her mind-set. She disobeyed her master on numerous occasions, rolling in the

grass, eating Chrissie's apple and worse—galloping fresh sheep pooh. This left the party gagging and when that happens there's only one thing for it---it's back to the Dysart in double quick time.

Just outside the previous best we hit the pub at 3.20pm.

A great, short day was had by all, and despite the disappointing weather the four agreed the day had been a success.

Mike A