

Trip Report - Sunday 16th August 2020

Route : Carnedd Llewelyn from Llyn Eigiau, Snowdonia.

Distance : 11.1 miles

Ascent : 1121 metres.

Weather : Wet clag all day but little wind - limited visibility.

Squad : Tony, Jim, Mike H, Mike W, Colin, Bob, Steve and Sarah.

Mutts: Riley.

I had originally planned to do this walk (the second of our BUMs post-lockdown trips) over the more gentle hills of East Cheshire but then moved it to a more demanding hike up the high mountains of Snowdonia and a good chance for some Mount Olympus training for a number of us.

With the social distancing rules still in place it meant taking seven cars and an early start of 06:50 to be sure we'd all find a space in the car park at Llyn Eigiau. There are three gates on the steep and narrow road from Tal-y-bont which all need opening and closing and it's a right hassle with so many cars in convoy. But with luck we all managed to park and off we trudged along the east bank of the reservoir complete with its breached dam of 1925. We were also resigned to the fact that we'd probably be seeing no tops today.

Our first claggy top of the day was *Pen Llithrig y Wrach* which translates to *Slippery Peak of the Witch* and with a bit of steep bushwhacking we reached it and could only but imagine the views from our 799m summit.

The path over to Pen yr Helgi Du (833m) was a bit easier to follow and we stopped for coffee on the top. It was here that the leader lost his bearings a bit and with a swift intervention from some of the group we avoided going too far south but had a bit off-route walking to get us back on track. It was here that I lost the captaincy as quickly as Harry Maguire will lose his.

We had some great scrambles along Bwlch Eryl Farchog with Riley proving yet again that four legs are always better than two over wet and slippery rock. Bob had also felt he'd had enough and we waved him farewell as he descended down into the mist.

After a quick lunch stop just below the summit of Carnedd Llewelyn (it wasn't the weather to hang around) it was great to reach the summit and at 1064m makes it the second highest peak in England and Wales.

The descent was both gradual, wet and a bit boggy. We decided to forgo Foel Grach and took a north-easterly bearing to join a not too clear footpath which would take us alongside the shore of Melynlyn reservoir but because of the clag we couldn't even see it !

The path along the valley led us eventually to the cars and the end of a wet and demanding day in the mountains.

An enjoyable re-hydration session in the Dysart's ex-smoking sheds then rounded off a delightful day out.

Tony