

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 18th August 2013

Group: Tony, Mike H, Mike and Lesley, Jeff, Jim

Route: Moel Hebog Round

Total Distance: 8 miles

Total Ascent: 3313 ft

Weather: Unknown

With a last minute shift from Saturday to Sunday due to a poor weather warning we set off from Bunbury at 7 to arrive at Beddgelert and the start of the walk at 9.

It was great to see Mike A on his first proper BUMs walk after a number of months off, but what a pity he put his trust in a leader who forgot to put on his glasses for the first part of the walk out of the Beddgelert car-park, which resulted in a couple of wasted miles until the leader turned his OS map the right way up!

What the heck, the weather was good, the views of Siabod were stunning, Bill and Ben were in town, and the Beddgelert narrow-gauge steam railway was simply amazing.

The route was lifted from a popular walkers magazine and after three crossings of the railway we began our ascent of Moel Hebog (782m). The path was steep and we'd started from a low base (35m) and it became more interesting towards the summit as there was a fair bit of scrambling involved.

At Moel Hebog summit the views were unrivaled, Angelsey, Criccieth, Harlech and Snowdon (well nearly, the cafe was still covered in clag) and after Mike A had described how he'd become hopelessly lost on a previous Hebog ascent we followed the walk down to the next summit.

Our next target was Moel Yr Ogof (655m) and with a steep descent and then a steep ascent via Cwm Meillionen with a look-out for Owain Glyndwr's cave (couldn't find it) we reached the top. I thought it might be just be me but half way round this walk my thigh muscles were starting to shake as much as a Blackpool fracking well.

Just off the summit we sat down for lunch when the leader sat down on a bumble bee. Just half a sting really, but it didn't 'arf hurt !

The weather was improving and blue skies were approaching as we bagged our third summit, Moel Lefn (638m) complete with marvellous views of the famous Nantlle (no "i") Ridge, where the leader's wife on a previous trip got a touch of sun-stroke.

The path descended through to Beddgelert forest and with the ground getting wetter and wetter the walk home was getting a bit

uncomfortable, but after ignoring the mysterious Route 35 and surviving bramble lashings through terrain that really required a machete, we eventually emerged into Beddgelert Caravan Park. Not exactly to plan but Mike and Lesley were happy making notes for their future camper van trips.

For some reason Jim then became a bit excited about ice-cream vans so it was a great relief when we arrived in Beddgelert and its home-made ice cream shop doing a roaring trade on such a warm and sunny day.

Our usual re-hydration was at the Yew Tree and the end of a perfect day in the mountains.

Tony