

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 10th December 2005

Group: Colin Christie (Leader), Jim Grant, Tony Quinn, Lesley Arrowsmith, Mike Arrowsmith, Jim Walker and Bob Capes

Route: Arenig Fawr from shores of Llyn Celwyn

Total Distance: 7 miles

Total Ascent: 1855 ft

Weather: Misty and Windy up top

Time: 3 hours 45 mins

This route was chosen partly because its one of the least walked of all the major mountains in Snowdonia, but because it's a relatively short car journey and moderate distance to allow those members paying homage to the Wall of Sound's "birthday bash" later that night to be in a fit state to enjoy it. An additional factor was a furore at mention of going up the Long Mynd which was considered too girly! Jim Walker has vowed to take us up Long Mynd the hard way, in 2006 (lets see if Jim G lets him away with that!)

Being a moderate distance, it also gave us the opportunity to encourage some "wannabe" BUMS to come along, which unfortunately didn't come to pass, but it DID happily see the return to Bum action of Mr Capes, and also the introduction of the leader's 4 legged BUM to be first dog to join us up the hills.

Mike Arrowsmith graciously volunteered to be second driver and after the leader and Tony had been stitched up by Sam plying us with Youngs 4.6% on the pre-match "early doors" Friday warm up, heads were thumping at 7am, so it was just as well this wasn't too strenuous.

The leader forgot his directions, but did remember to buy and bring a map, so off we went using directions from a scrawny piece of paper found in the car. The early pace was very gentle as we headed up to Lyn Arenig Fawr reservoir in pleasant weather causing mumblings of "this is a bit like the Long Mynd" but we soon hit a steep incline which spread us out with great views looking back to reservoir and Lake below. All too soon, however we entered the mist, the wind got up and with the wind coming from the North was bitterly cold.

On reaching the summit we cut lunch short before hypothermia set and we certainly couldn't see every major summit in Snowdonia which allegedly you can on a good day! In fact we could hardly see each other!

On a side note the summit of Arenig Fawr has a memorial plaque commemorating the loss of World War II bomber and its crew who my have experienced similar conditions but with grave consequences. The

eight man crew were flying a USAF Flying Fortress when it crashed in bad weather on 4th August 1943. The plaque lists their names, ranks, home towns and home states. Poppies had recently been added which was nice

The scrawny piece of paper now indicated we should be careful in descending to avoid crags and we set off knowing we should head North East for a mile. After about 800 yards, the wannabe leaders decided it was time to drop down, the leader not feeling comfortable called for the GPS as he knew the grid reference where we should drop, was ridiculed in usual fashion reserved for leaders, so down we went and surprise surprise no sign of the stream we were supposed to follow!

Eventually we did get down to lower slopes by default and the two Jims struck on ahead (with my map!) and we followed like the Welsh sheep! As we got close to home the two Jims thought it would be a good wheeze to take the wrong route to see if the leader followed which of course he did (baaa, baaa!)

Remaining walk back along lane uneventful and we were back in Dysart in record time.

Nice walk and one we should go back to a nice day!

MATTERS ARISING

Two weeks later ticket arrived through post as the Leader caught speeding in Bala even although we didn't actually go through Bala, and consensus states that we were not flashed but trapped by some hidden camera. For such a nice countryside it's a pity North Wales is run by such money grabbing (expletive) constabulary!!

Colin