

**Trip Report: Snowdonia**

**Date:** 20th February 2012

**Group:** Jim G (Leader), Mike A, Lesley, Tony, Lynn, Colin, Della, Richard, Mike H, Jim W, Roxie and Polo (did not come under starters orders)

**Route:** Aran Benllyn and Aran Fawddwy

**Total Distance:** 11 miles

**Total Ascent:** 3265 ft

**Weather:** Cold, misty, sleety, snowy

**Time:** 6 hours

Last minute changes to personnel: Ian a no show with man flu and Bob Harris with a burst boiler! (Sounds painful). Surprise attendees Richard, Della and Polo just pitched up at the Pavilion car park with no prior warning. Tony is complaining of a bad back!

The drive to the start at Pont y Pandy in Llanuwchllyn was quite exciting as the overnight snowfall (forecast) seems to have caught the road gritters on the hop and there was lying snow on the main roads with the best accumulations around Wrexham. Passing through Bala the road snow disappeared and we arrived at the start in bright sunshine.

Polo is consigned to a day in the car as her mountaineering days are now over, the rest of the squad set off up the track and across a field before picking up the permissive path that gives access to the ridge to Aran Benllyn. We set off in bright sunshine a really nice winter's day if a bit chilly. We look north and can see showers of snow or is it sleet, or is it hail, or is it rain? Sweeping down towards Bala Lake. Following a clear path we eventually find a sheltered spot in the lee of the ridge below Aran Benllyn for a coffee break. Walking with Colin, I get the latest medical bulletin on Amanda, we all wish her a speedy recovery, you will need it if Colin is your prime career!

The clag that has been hitting Bala is creeping ever closer but we manage the snowy and icy path that brings us to the summit of Arran Benllyn (884m) via a small detour across the fence, before we are enveloped by the clag and a bit of spitting sleet.

We are now well and truly clagged in but there is a fence to guide us to a col at 850m, Richard swears this is the long lost Fawddwy glacier, which we cross before a fairly steep pull up to summit trig point of Aran Fawddwy (905m). A few summit photos before we drop back down to the glacier for a well earned lunch break. Tony is made up that he has finally scaled Showaddywaddy, said in the style of Jimmy Saville!

A fairly easy flog back down retracing our steps, mainly by following our foot prints in the snow! We eventually drop down beneath the clag to reveal a nice sunny day over Bala.

An uneventful drive back to the Dysart as the sun has now done the work of the gritters and we have our normal rehydration therapy to round off another great day in the Mountains.

Jim G