

**Trip Report: The Eastern Carneddau**

**Date:** 16th January 2005

**Group:** Mike A (leader) Jim G., Colin, Selina, Chris Jones, Claudia

**Route:** Tal-y-fan, at 2000ft the smallest and easternmost Carnedd and then a clockwise route back to the start via Moelfre

**Total Distance:** 9 miles

**Total Ascent:** 1952 ft

**Weather:** Chilled horizontal rain (but nice in Bunbury)

It all started well - a timely rendezvous at School Lane, and a tight convoy (of 2) to the carpark at the Sychnant Pass (between Conway and Penmaenmawr). The weather was Ok'ish and there was the prospect of an educational tour of Standing Stones, Druid Circles and the like (where was Bob Harris when you needed him?). We welcomed the attendance of Chris Jones, a new recruit who has been lured by the slick advertising contained in the latest edition of the Bunbury Journal.

The target was Tal-y-fan, at 2000ft the smallest and easternmost Carnedd and then a clockwise route back to the start via Moelfre. It is true that we walked off in the wrong direction at the start but there was something wrong with the map and anyway, it served as a useful 10 minute warm up. The weather was distinctly colder and windier than expected and after a mile we were in full winter gear and the standing stones were proving to be elusive. Lets face it, one group of rocks looks very much like another whether standing or otherwise! To compensate, there were excellent views of Conwy Valley, Great Orme etc but after reaching the summit of Tal-y-fan, the rain joined forces with the wind and we descended in miserable conditions and crossed a very boggy section before ascending what appeared to be Moelfre but turned out to be an unnamed hillock but with far better views!

We eventually found Moelfre which was not all it had been cracked up to be, but it did put us on the right path to visit the unmistakable Druid Circle where there was talk of sacrificing a virgin - however nobody volunteered and the moment passed.

From there, the terrain was easy farmland and we descended to the village of Capelulo which boasted a PUBLIC TOILET and two pubs and hardly anything else! This at first seemed to earn the leader several brownie points however these were almost immediately lost when it was announced that there remained a mile tarmac slog back over the Sychnant Pass to the car park. Amazingly Selina and Claudia received permission from the chairman to terminate their walk at Capelulo Arms (or whatever

it was called) and await collection. This is a dangerous precedent which surely requires some sort of censure by the committee.

We reunited at the Dysart as usual to rehydrate. Chris said that he wasn't too depressed by the leadership / route / weather and would be up for the next one. Meanwhile Selina and Claudia showed no contrition for their brazen disregard of club rules (the one about leaving people to fend for themselves in difficult conditions!)

Mike A