

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 14th July 2007

Group: Mike A, Lesley, Tony, Elena, Ian

Route: Bethania - Snowdon via Watkin path - return by South Ridge

Total Distance: 8 miles

Total Ascent: 3700 ft

Weather: Dry with mist & clag down to about 2500ft

Time: 6 hours

BUMS MONTHLY TRIP REPORT - Saturday 14th July 2007

Firstly, a welcome to the 2 "rookies". Jim Grant must have refined his sales patter recently as we received his two new prospects. Elena Ghetau from Romania via the tennis club, & Ian Langford, who as a "Good Companion", probably needs no introduction. George was also scheduled to come but did not materialise on the day. Also it was good to see Tony again in the mountains following his footie injury.

The weather was not great on the journey over but by the time we started the walk, there was a definite improvement as the clouds began to lift. The approach to the summit from the south east is probably the most attractive of all, and it was especially so with the rivers and waterfalls working overtime to carry away all the rain water from recent weeks. There was a gradual ascent through the abandoned slate quarries and ruined houses, a scene that is common throughout Snowdonia. Then we started a steeper section up towards the east ridge which forms part of the "Snowdon horseshoe". From there we entered the mist and as long as we were ascending it was just a matter of time before we reached the summit. It was hard work on the scree slopes and both virgins performed admirably on their introduction. It was probably fortunate that visibility was down to a few yards so "looking down" was not an issue. Looking up was also a waste of time so it was just a question of keeping going and sure enough parts of the new mountain top structure suddenly loomed out of the mist not to mention hundreds of horaces who must have been making their way up the Pyg track or similar routes.

We managed to fight our way up to the trig point for the astounding views of building work and we left the scene with indecent haste. It has certainly changed since I was last up there and was obliged to use the compass to locate the south ridge and escape from the crowds. The only real drama occurred when we came to a narrow part on the ridge and poor Elena had a severe case of the collywobbles. Les and I led her by the hands to safety and she quickly recovered her composure.

Lunch was taken as soon as we were clear of the mist and stunning views towards the Nantlle Ridge and beyond were enjoyed. We continued the descent to Bwlch Cwm Llan where consideration was given to bagging Yr Aran or to make an immediate return left to rejoin the outward route. This would have been a summit too far for the gallant new recruits and Yr Aran was made to wait for another day.

By this time the sun was shining (a rare event this summer) and some delaying took place ready for the final descent passing the waterfalls again and through the woods returning to the carpark. Tony drove like a demon to get us back to the Dysat just after 1700. In the post match analysis, pleased to say that Elena and Ian had apparently enjoyed the experience and there seems to be a good possibility of new subscriptions to the club funds.

Mike A