

**Trip Report: The Snowdon Horseshoe**

**Date:** 12th June 2005

**Group:** Mike A (leader) Jim G., Tony, Colin, Selina, Chris Jones plus 3 guests from Bunbury Wheelers; Richard Calder, Chris Lamb, Frank McHale

**Route:** Pen-y Pass to Garnedd Ugain via Crib Goch and Crib y Ddysgl. Then to Snowdon summit and return via Y Lliwedd and the Miners Track

**Total Distance:** Unknown

**Total Ascent:** Unknown

**Weather:** Worse than expected

The final Dolomites training walk was the classic Snowdon Horseshoe which is not technically difficult scrambling, however the exposed ridge with bottomless pits to either side certainly provides a test of nerves and in case you're not sure, lets you know if you have a head for heights. (One of our guests definitely found it a bit of a knee trembler!).

The weather forecast was for sunny spells however on arrival there was no sign of the sun and Snowdon was covered in something horrible. Crib Goch was visible so we set off up the Pyg Track, battling with the coach loads who were (presumably) tackling Snowdon by the simple route. By the time we turned off to Crib Goch, it had turned decidedly chilly but fortunately we were on the leeward side of the mountain, so we were untroubled by the wind and visibility was still OK for the tricky scramble to come.

Selina had been horrified to find that she was the only girl on the walk (I had cunningly withheld the information from her until it was too late i.e Sunday morning). As a result I tasked myself to look after her on Crib Goch and as a result of my cajolings (or maybe not) she found this experience an improvement on her last attempt on this route. It's safe to say that she'll be fairly skipping over the ridge next time!

The second half of the ridge up to Garnedd Ugain is less hairy but still presents some good scrambling however the weather had turned nasty by this time and we were enjoying very cold rain which meant winter waterproofs being called upon. The path up to Snowdon was a seething mass of humanity - it seems that there were hundreds of us fooled by the weather forecast. Having visited the trig point we had lunch sheltering under the canopy of the café, not a location that fitted the ethos of BUM's, but it was shelter!

The return via Lliwedd is an attractive ridge walk with some easy scrambling and there are some great views through the mist to either side. This is followed by a fairly tedious descent and slog back to Pen y

pass on the Miners Track. I noticed the temperature was 9C at the car which means that the temperature on Snowdon summit would be approaching freezing. Do you think we could do this walk in the summer next time?

Mike A

PS I've come to the conclusion that the most entertaining trip reports include navigational cock-ups. Regrettably there were none so the report is pretty dull.