

## **Trip Report: The Nantlle Ridge**

**Date:** 25th June 2010

**Group:** Jim G (leader) Mike A, Lesley, Lynn, Mike W, Selina

**Route:** Y Garn (633m), Mynydd Drws-y-coed (695m), Trum y Ddysgl (709m), Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd (653m), Craig Cwm Silyn (734m), Garnedd-goch (700m)

**Total Distance:** 10.5 miles

**Total Ascent:** 4025 ft

**Weather:** Unknown

**Time:** 7 hours 30 mins

Great news, we achieved 50% male content for the squad, a rare occurrence these days and no mutts!

Depart Bunbury pavilion at 7.15am a beautiful warm sunny summer's day. Relying on Tom Tom to get us to the tiny village of Rhyd-Ddu it takes us through some very narrow, windy lanes the other side of Llanberis, glad we are not in a big truck!

The route starts from a car park just south of the village of Rhyd-Ddu, complete with toilets! The route then crosses fields and then a long stiff 1500ft to the summit of Y Garn where we regroup for the ridge ahead.

The views of Snowdon and all around are fantastic.

The ridge then goes up to the summit of Mynydd Drws-y-coed along a spectacular grade 1 scramble, great Dolomites training!

Then we continue along the ridge to the summit of Trum y Ddysgl drop down and then up to the summit of Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd whose summit is topped by a large square stone tower, erected by some quarry workers to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The official coffee break is taken here.

We drop down a long way to a col and then take a long pull up to the summit of Craig Cwm Silyn, where lunch is taken. After some debate we decide to continue along the ridge to the summit of Garnedd-goch before returning back to Craig Cwm Silyn for the start of the route back to Rhyd-Ddu.

Crossing the summit of Craig Cwm Silyn we head over large boulders to find the top off the south-east ridge. A faint alpine path leads along the very steep cliff edges before we have to cross a wall and then head down very steep grass slopes to the valley below. We are heading for a ruined cottage in Cwm Pennant where we cross a field and then a bridge before a 300 ft pull up to an old dismantled railway track. This track, which ran from here for five miles to join the Porthmadog Railway, closed in 1894.

Left along the track and then right through some boggy slopes brings us to the Prince of Wales Quarry. The heat and lack of fluids is taking its toll on Lynn and we have a few rests and liquid exchanges before we finally reach the top and cross Bwlch-y-Ddwylor.

After taking the wrong track we finally locate the correct path which takes us down through the Beddgelert Forest and back to the car park at Rhyd-Ddu.

An uneventful drive back for some rehydration therapy in the Dysart garden

Jim G