

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 2nd July 2014

Group: Jim G (Leader), Mike H, Lesley, Bob. Sarah & Steve

Route: The Snowdon Horseshoe

Total Distance: 8 miles

Total Ascent: 3750 ft

Weather: Overcast with sunny spells

Time: 5 hours 15 mins

This trip replaced the original one that was cancelled due to the poor weather the previous Friday, it worked, we doubled the number of attendees despite being on a Wednesday!

An early 7am start and a test was conducted by the two drivers to see which is the quickest route to Pen Y Pass, via Llangollen and the A5 (Bob) or via the A55 (Steve). Steve won by 5 minutes.

Not many spaces left at the Pen-y-pass car park, despite the stiff £10 charge, but we are safely in and took advantage of the ablutions before setting off up the Pyg Track in sunshine heading for Crib Goch. This path, as with others on Snowdon, is now adorned with large granite markers telling you where to go and we duly reach one that tells us to turn right to Crib Goch, as if we didn't know, these eye sores should be removed.

We start the delightful scramble up the lower broken ground, following our noses, I don't think I have followed the same route twice on this bottom section. Above this you head left to reach the stepped ridge on the left hand side that leads to Crib Goch. We regroup at the top and head off along and over the summit of Crib Goch, reaching the famed Pinnacles, they provide some delightful scrambling in exposed positions but on large solid holds. Another regroup and a coffee break followed by a scramble up the ridge of Crib y Ddysgl in thickening clag, to the trig point. There is a short descent before we join the Llanberis path and the top of Miner's Track, graced with another pointless and slightly misleading granite marker. It is a short pull alongside the railway tracks to the summit cairn on the top of Snowdon. A visit is made to the summit cafe, where coffee is taken by Bob, Sarah & Steve, no need for further comment.

We set off down the Watkin path, with the aid of another granite marker, turn left at the Pinnacle (aided by yet another granite marker) and head down the loose path to Bwlch y Sethau. We find a sheltered spot for lunch and admire the views as the clag has now lifted clear of all the summits and we can admire the Crib Goch ridge and the summits of Crib y Ddysgl and Snowdon. Our next target is Y Lliwedd and we take the

purist line up the left hand edge of the ridge where easy scrambling takes us to the twin summits. We descend and there is some talk of taking in Gallt y Wenallt but common sense and the lure of the Yew Tree prevails and we rejoin the Miner's Track back to the cars at Pen-y -pass. An uneventful drive back sees us in the Yew Tree at an early hour for a well earned beer.

Jim G