

Trip Report: The Lake District

Date: 13th March 2005

Group: Neil MacPherson ("The Leader") Mike Arrowsmith, Lesley Arrowsmith, Colin Christie, Chris Jones, Chrissie Latter

Route: High Street, Frostwick, Ill Bell

Total Distance: Unknown

Total Ascent: Unknown

Weather: Unknown

What really happened.....

Met at Haweswater car park at 9.am. Weather bright with some cloud. Temperature 0 degrees C (can't believe I'm writing this on a Friday night!).

The Leader set off using an appropriate pace climbing steadily up the 4km climb that is Rough Crag heading due West. After 45 mins, The Leader was forced into agreeing a coffee stop. Muttering, "I bet Jim Grant wouldn't allow this kind of thing!" some 15 minutes were expended in this pursuit after which the first challenge to The Leader's authority (the first of a few it must be said) came from Colin who appeared to enquire whether everyone was OK. The walk resumed with Colin being told by the Leader that it was not his role to ask questions of anyone. High Street (820m) was reached approx 30 minutes later and what a sight it was. No-one had thought to bring a camera, except "The Leader" and several photos were taken of the glorious views looking West towards Helvelyn and Great Gable. The snow covered ground made it fun for everybody and the fact that a stiffish wind was blowing from the North meant that The Leader's decision to turn South towards Ill Bell was inspired.

There appeared to be some doubt about the precise direction to be taken and another challenge to The Leader's authority ensued when his compass was snatched from his hands by Mike only to confirm that the direction originally indicated was precisely correct (well, nearly correct anyway!). We all headed South for approx 3k towards Ill Bell deciding not to sidestep Frostwick (720m) on the way arriving at Ill Bell (757m) at approx 12.30. Yet another challenge to the Leader's authority occurred when certain members decided that eating lunch in the teeth of the gale on top of Ill Bell would be OK. The Leader decided otherwise and so lunch was enjoyed in the shelter on the South side of Ill Bell, the wind being from the North you see. Lunch was enjoyed by all.

After lunch the group set off South again, passing Star Crag to the East before swinging South East and then East descending into the Kentmere valley. The final challenge to the Leader's authority came when some

members protested that we were not turning quickly enough. In order to pacify this mini-rebellion, The Leader decided to follow the advice being offered. This proved to be an error as the ground rapidly turned very steep indeed and it was only through the calm authority of The Leader that panic was prevented and a series of traversing actions saw the group safely down at 220 metres. We then faced the climb back up to Harter Fell heading North by North East for some 4k with the Leader ensuring that all members were accounted for by going as slow as possible at the rear. True, he did face some ill-mannered comments about "The Leader's blowing a bit" and "It would be good to get back to Bunbury tonight!" but these he ignored and passed no comment (for the simple reason that speaking involved a use of breath!).

We then descended the 2k past Small Water back to the cars (which Colin seemed strangely keen to see all afternoon - nothing to do with the Man U kick being 5.15 eh?, Colin) arriving back, as predicted by The Leader, at 3ish (well, 3.45 wasn't too bad). A vote was then taken and all agreed that Jim Grant clearly had a control problem at home but wasn't missed in any event.

The Leader bade farewell, having received more carping criticism, this time about the actual number of k's walked. Some speculated that this might win The Leader an award of some sort! Anyway, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, the views were great and the company was excellent (Memo to Jim: you must do something about this insubordination though!)

Neil