

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 11th March 2007

Group: Mike A (Leader by default), Lesley (official leader), Colin, Jim W, Selina, Mike W, Rob Sinnott (guest), Roxy & Tess (Canines)

Route: Croesor - Cnicht - Llyn Cwm Corsiog - Bwlch Rhosydd - Croesor

Total Distance: 10 miles

Total Ascent: 1500 ft

Weather: Dry with cloud down to about 1500ft

Time: 5 hours 20 mins

OK , it was advertised as Cnicht & the Moelwyns, but the BUMS are if nothing else adaptable. Now read on.....

Following a 2 hour drive along the highways and byways of Wales we arrived as Croesor which must surely be translated into English as "the village in the middle of nowhere". It is also in the middle of some spectacular scenery - Cnicht being known as "The Welsh Matterhorn" on account of it's regular pointy shape. Trouble was you couldn't really see it on account of the low cloud. Anyway rain was forecast for later on so nobody was complaining about the cloud.

So we set off confidently heading for the south west ridge of Cnicht, only to miss the turn and regained our position by negotiating a dry stone wall which was well and truly wrecked by the time we were all safely on the other side. So, we climbed the ridge with the views becoming less and less spectacular as we entered the mist. It was also very windy on the wrong side of the ridge but the route was rocky and interesting even without the views and we reached the summit (apparently).

Shortly afterwards we found a sheltered spot for a coffee break (fortunately the Hon Sec. was at home packing his bags and was unable to veto the stop). I think Selina was wishing it had been vetoed because she looked away for a moment - just long enough for Roxy the dog to wolf down her remaining smoked salmon buttie. Despite a major bollocking, Roxy seemed completely unfazed - a chip off the old block! Meanwhile Rob was on his mobile - surely a potential fine to add to the membership fee?

So we made our way along the ridge towards Llyn yr Adar where we were due to turn south - unfortunately we missed the turning in the mist and walked about a kilometre beyond the point before reaching an unexpected fence. At this point there was a general feeling of unease amongst the ranks and the GPS was called for. Thanks to Mike for carrying the much maligned instrument, which gave us a chance of working out how to get back on track. After going off piste for a further kilometre, we made our

way to Llyn Cwm Corsiog where (despite the calls for lunch) we decided to press on to the ruined village of Bwlch Rhosydd where we would then make a decision about the remaining section of the walk. By now we were out of the mist and as we approached the derelict mines and cottages it presented a fascinating view of a bygone community (pictures to follow). Lunch was now taken and the popular vote decided that it made little sense ascending the Moelwyn summits when nothing would be visible. Also we were an hour behind schedule and arriving too late at the Dysart is the worst crime a leader can commit. Better to save the Moelwyns for another day and make our way back along Cwm Coesor.

Just to make it interesting we headed for a disused incline which provided a challenging drop of several hundred feet including scree slope. At this stage (when it was too late) it transpired that Rob is nervous of exposed heights and was displaying advanced signs of "disco legs". He was "talked down" and survived his experience. We continued the gradual descent and arrived back at the cars unscathed after a partially unplanned but interesting day out.

It's boring but true to say that we really ought to have another go at that on a fine day ; a) to try and get the navigation right and b) to enjoy the views.

Mike A