

**Trip Report: Snowdonia**

**Date:** 13th September 2014

**Group:** Tony (leader), Lesley, Mike H, Jim and Ian.

**Route:** Tryfan, Bristly Ridge, Glyder Fach, Gribin Ridge

**Total Distance:** 4.4 miles

**Total Ascent:** 3700 ft

**Weather:** : Cloudy and misty at first but clearing throughout the day

**Time:** 6 hours

A switch to a Sunday from the usual Saturday walk wasn't the only change from the norm on this BUMs trip as we made our way to Idwal in Snowdonia with an early start from Bunbury. This walk was billed as 'putting the mountaineering back in the BUMs' and a classic scramble up over Tryfan North Ridge, Bristly Ridge, Glyder Fach and Gribin Ridge was planned for the day.

We started at Milestone car-park off the A5 by Llyn Idwal and the scrambling up Tryfan started almost immediately, with the leader taking a tumble within sight of the cars and luckily for him no injury. We kept climbing/scrambling up the north face and we eventually reached the ridge and along to the canon stone - a massive finger of rock sticking out at 45 degrees, which Mike decided to try and climb, well part of it ! The way forward wasn't all that clear in this rocky terrain and all hands, feet and knees were needed for an exciting ascent of Tryfan when we finally reached the foot of Adam and Eve, the two natural pillars that crown the central summit. It is traditional to gain the 'Freedom of Tryfan' by jumping from one to the other, but today there were no volunteers. By now the earlier mist was starting to clear and we could see the mountains in all their majestic glory.

After a quick coffee stop we continued over the summit and down to Bwlch Tryfan and now we could see Bristly Ridge rearing up ahead. This was probably the most demanding scramble of the day as we ascending a long and steep gully up the ridge. There were quite a few loose stones on the way and a rather large one which a member of another party behind carelessly dislodged and luckily it hit nobody. The top of the ridge brought us out onto the rocky plateau of the Gylfers and we headed for the famous cantilever stone and the rocky summit of Glyder Fach with a little scramble in itself to reach the top summit. Off the summit and with the weather getting better and better we stopped for some lunch near the pinnacles of the Castle of the Winds (Castell y Gwynt).

Refreshed and back together (we had split up quite a bit on the day due to continuous scrambling over the rocks) we moved on to the Nameless Cwm.

Next was the descent of the Gribin Ridge and in parts the upper part of this ridge was very rocky and involved a lot of scrambling in reverse, (almost like abseiling without a rope.) Well the reverse scrambling was for some of us but Lesley and Ian took a slightly lower path which for some reason seemed to cause Jim a bit of distress and kept shouting to them "Oi, get back on the ridge !"

The ridge then got easier and we walked on to the edge of Llyn Bochlwyd (which is also known as Lake Australia after its shape when viewed from the ridges above). The path got a bit marshy in parts (aah, finally the bogs !) before we finally got back to the car.

Well done to everyone for a great mountaineering day out and as we were reminded by Ian, last time on this route we took the dogs !

The weather had improved so much and was so sunny that we supped our Yew Tree beers in the pub garden and we were joined by Mike A, Lynn and Tilly.

Tony