

Trip Report: Snowdonia

Date: 24th September 2011

Group: Tony (leader), Lynn, Jim G, Mike, Lesley, John, Heather, Philip, Sue

Route: Llyn Crafnant, Craig Wen, Creigiau Gleision

Total Distance: 7.15 miles

Total Ascent: 2349 ft

Weather: Wet, very wet

The weather forecast wasn't great but we set off regardless to Llyn Crafnant (Welsh for Garlic Valley) off the Conwy valley and just 90 minutes drive from Bunbury.

The Crafnant valley hosts a cafe selling hot teas and home-made cakes right beside the beautiful Llyn Crafnant but such temptations are of no interest to the intrepid BUMs as we had more pressing damp ascents in mind.

The leader's original plan was for a circular route via Craig Wen (548m) and Creigiau Gleision (634m) along the shore of Llyn Cowlyd the deepest lake in Wales, and back round to Llyn Crafnant. A circular tour of about 10-15 miles and about 500m to 1000m of ascent(ish).

However, as we set off it soon hit us why Llyn Cowlyd is the deepest lake in Wales, and we trudged on with heavy rain threatening to fall.

The route took us along the edge of the lake and up to Crimpiau passing some wild welsh ponies on the way.

These were probably the last dry things we saw for the rest of the day as our ascent of Crimpau started to get wetter not only from above but also from below, as days and days of rainfall had made the route boggier and boggier. With Jim moaning that this was the boggiest bog-trot of the year and Sue naming the leader the Bog Meister it was getting more and more difficult to navigate in the wet conditions and the compass was now a constant companion.

We eventually found our way to the summit of Craig Wen but this was no time to hang around and admire the 'views' and we marched on in the driving rain along the ridge to Creigiau Gleision at 634m.

The original plan included a descent down to Llyn Cowlyd but with the weather and morale of the group deteriorating the leader thought it best that we make quick our escape off the fells with a descent through Crafnant Forest.

Finding the entrance to the forest was easier than it sounded and made further complicated due to the fact that the 'fence' marked on the OS map was actually two and half wooden stumps erected sometime after the

Great War.

After a quick and soggy lunch-break the trail through the forest also wasn't the easiest with a few fallen trees and quick-flowing water-features to master.

Well as they say in Wales "*popeth yn iawn sy'n dod i ben yn dda*" (*all's well that ends well*) and as we tramped our way back to the car-park and changed out of our sodden boots and clothes we were given a final lovely Welsh bon-voyage with the sun coming out over the lake !

Get me to the Dysart !

Tony