

Ty'n Lon Meet – April 18th – 19th April 2009

Without wishing to put a jinx on the rest of the year, 2009 weather is certainly being kind to us so far bringing on a bout of topless climbing and water fights in the garden.



Carreg Alltrem

Friday night saw the obligatory trip to The Vaynol which some weathered better than others! In his post Vaynol state, Rich decided to take a naked trip to the toilet at around 3am only to be confronted by Liz coming to bed at an inopportune moment!

Saturday dawned and once the requisite amount of tea had been drunk and breakfast consumed, everyone headed off in their separate directions to actually execute those carefully drawn up plans from the night before.

It was such a glorious day that John and Wilson decided it would be rude not to do a route in the Pass so they headed off to do Sabre Cut. Unfortunately quite a few other people had had the very same idea, so a quick rethink saw them on Dives and Better Things. John took the first pitch and Wilson lead through to do the final pitch. Apparently the bright sunshine was quite deceptive as it was blowing a gale and a bit chilly on those belay ledges!

Elly and Adrian set off to do Moel Siabod via the north ridge, Margaret and Laura went up to the Vags to help out at their work meet while Ellie and I took the dog for a walk up in the slate quarries while we waited for John and Wilson to return. Rich and Natalie had headed off to the Ogwen Valley to do Pulpit Route on Milestone Buttress in the morning.

Dan, Caroline and Andy came down on Saturday morning and once everyone had returned from their morning exploits, we all decided to head off to Carreg Alltrem.

This amazing crag is an absolute stunner. Fantastic routes, great position, easy walk in and off the beaten track enough to have the place all to yourself.

Andy and Dan got stuck straight in on Lightning Visit (VS 4c**) while Wilson, Caroline and I started out on Original Route (S). Have to confess that the initial crack and mantle shelf onto the horrendous ledge felt a bit steep for a Severe and I remember thinking I was glad I was seconding and didn't have to place gear whilst lay-backing all the way up it. On my return to Birmingham, a close inspection of the guide book would reveal that we actually started up Civetta which is an E2! Natalie and Rich also did this route but I think Natalie had actually read her guide book and went the correct way.



Dan topless climbing

We then decided a mass ascent of Laverado (VS 4b 4b***) and what a stunning route it turned out to be. I would go so far as to say it's the best route I've ever climbed, Dan rates it as the best VS he's ever climbed and his whoops of joy would have been heard right down the valley had there been anyone but us around.

John lead the first pitch bringing me and Wilson up and Wilson lead through to take the second pitch. Dan lead both pitches with Andy seconding, Caroline decided to sit this one out and very kindly looked after my daughter and the dog. Such a good time was had by all that we didn't get back to the car until 9pm – loving these summer light nights.

Unfortunately this late finish theme somehow carried itself forward to Sunday morning with Elly and I spectacularly failing to go to bed until 5.45am! Rich, (who had suffered a bit the day before) and Natalie however had done the sensible thing and went to bed before midnight. Therefore by the time we all surfaced they were long gone and probably half way up Tennis Shoe on Idwal Slabs.

Rich took the first pitch with Natalie leading through for alternate leads – they both report that it was a thoroughly enjoyable route and their early start was more than justified as the Slabs were heaving and there were 3 more teams behind them.

Everyone else had a lazy start which also involved a water fight in the garden. I dropped Liz, Caroline and Andy up the Pass mid morning to go and do Crackstone Rib but a change of plan saw then on Rib and Slab with Andy taking the first pitch and Liz the second.



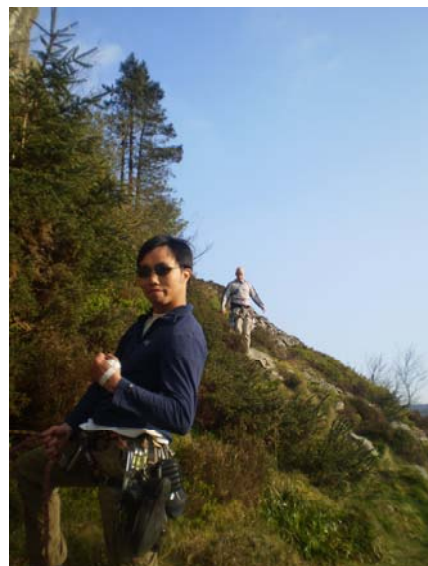
John on Laverado at Carreg Alltrem

The rest of us, minus Dan who didn't manage to surface all day, headed up to Dali's Hole to join the hoardes, including Mark and Sue, and introduce Laura to the joys of climbing. I think, like skiing, climbing must be in the Beddard genes as Laura took to it really well and did a couple of F4 routes and a F5b before my hangover finally claimed me.

John and Wilson then went off to tackle an horrendous looking 7a route. John managed to get to the first (and only) clip but couldn't quite manage the crimp on the miniscule razorblade hold. Wilson then picked up the baton and went into battle with said hold – and won! It is a flippin scary route – first clip is high and above a hard move then it doesn't let up to the top with no more clips and every likelihood of decking out if you fail and/or your belayer isn't paying attention.

Elly and Adrian were heading back early to go to the VW Campervan show in Shrewsbury. The remaining assembled masses returned to the cottage for a final sort out, a feed and a catch up while Dan and I had a lie down!

Another good meet and fun was had by all – hope to see you at the next one.



Wilson and Andy at Carreg Alltrem

Attendees: (13) Emma, Ellie, John, Natalie, Rich, Dan Ashfield, Liz, Elly, Adrian, Margaret, Laura, Caroline, Andy and Wilson.