

Dartmoor Meet – Easter 10th – 13th April 2009

Well the forecast wasn't too inspiring but it takes more than a few weathermen to keep the Ceunant crew at bay! To be fair most of us gave the Thursday night a miss as putting up your tent in the pitch black with horizontal rain coming at you vs warm house and duvet was always going to be an uphill battle. Liz is however made of much sterner stuff and faced it out on Thursday night, thereby winning the trips Iron Woman award!



Rich battling it out with Hydraulic Arete

Throughout Friday the rest of gang started arriving and whilst it was quite chilly, it was at least dry. We all set up camp and drank tea then headed off to Hound Tor to do some bouldering. John, Rich and Natalie did Hydraulic Arete which Rich found interesting! James, Andrew and Jared went to Chudleigh on Friday to climb on slightly slimy limestone.

On Saturday we headed off as a gang to Sheeps Tor. Dan lead Wind Wall (HVS), seconded by John but then got a very numb bum as everyone else decided to have a go on it too! Natalie lead Workers Wall (HS) which was a really good effort – I certainly didn't enjoy seconding it. Kevin and Fiona walked from the campsite to Sheeps Tor and were treated to the unusual sight of a guy cycling along the same track on a unicycle! Elly and Adrian were in the area and walked up to the crag to join us for an hour or so.

Sunday we headed off to Hay Tor, along with the tourist masses! All those people going up the steps don't half get in the way of your descent route! After we'd spent most of the day ticking a good few routes, Liz went off to do some Letterboxing and the rest of us set off for The Dewerstone. As Sunday was also Dan's birthday, John decided he should tackle Climbers Club Direct. I was really hoping to get onto Central Groove as I couldn't do it last year, but the ascent of CCD turned into a fine old struggle so time ran out.

Fiona and Kevin went bog trotting for the day and had an exciting encounter with a herd of horses. Their return route was via the Dartmoor Inn and back along the old railway line to the campsite.

On Sunday evening, Natalie had very kindly made a birthday cake for Ellie's 8th birthday, with a climber and a skull added for Dan's benefit, which we all enjoyed around a campfire, washed down with whisky supplied by Kevin.



The club at Sheeps Tor

On Monday, Dan had to head off home but the rest of us returned to The Dewerstone and I eventually got to climb Central Groove! There were a few people milling around so I dropped the bags at the bottom and started uncoiling the rope to make sure we got on it first. What a fantastic route – highly recommend it. Later on in the day John tried to sandbag Rich by sending him up some squirmy, grunty, small chimney climb much to our amusement. John had a go too but unsurprisingly he is a bit bigger than he was at 17 and couldn't actually fit in it anymore!

Rich and Nat decided to head off to the seaside and went for fish 'n chips on the way home at Dawlish Warren. We left just in time for it to start drizzling leaving Andrew, James and Jared still hard at it. Liz successfully completed her 200th Geocache which involved crawling through a water filled tunnel in what sounds like a truly scary location – but there again I still believe that monsters hide in dark places!

Attendees: (14) Emma, John, Ellie, Natalie, Rich, Liz, Andrew, James, Jared, Kevin, Fiona, Dan, Elly and Adrian.