



BREMEX MOUNTAINEERING AND CLIMBING CLUB

Peak District November 15th-16th 2008

Lessons learnt by biking team



View behind hut

Following on from Mark's write up of the Bremex October weekend and all the tips he leant on the hill in North Wales, here are the lessons which we should have learnt or at least known better, from the AGM weekend in the Peak District.

Two teams, biking and walking, left the dry comfort of the barn on Saturday. Although Jenny was sadly unable to come, the biking team: Matt, Steve, Amanda, Penny and Bill

decided to follow the route Jenny had planned "The Hathersage Classic Circuit".

1. If Metcheck says it will be raining at 9am, don't be surprised if it is damper than you would like at the start of the day
2. When mountain biking in the rain, bikes without mudguards mean incredibly wet padded shorts even before reaching Hathersage
3. There is no guarantee even if you are dressed in yellow and standing by an open gate, that people won't cycle straight past you & on down to the bottom of the hill. The rest of us were deafened by Steve shouting "Bill!"; the only person not to hear, unfor-

tunately, was Bill

4. Neither waterproof socks nor neoprene shoe covers keep your feet dry when the water depth comes over your knees, and this time they were no stepping stones, because it was supposed to be a track
5. Speed is your friend, as Matt found when he somersaulted off his bike downhill
6. If you chose to leave the team early for retail therapy, biking through a place called Thornhill can, naturally, result in thorns in the tyre
7. It is always handy to ride with a friend, Steve needed to be lifted off his bike by Bill when he got cramp in both legs!



Matt looks forward to the warm showers (or rather his companions looked forward to him cleaning up)



The whirlpool in Ladybower Reservoir

The walking team

The walking team of Jeff and Alison headed off around the hills behind Hathersage.

If it had been dry on Saturday morning, Alison would have missed Jeff as we all thought she was not arriving until the evening

The pair had a pleasant

walk through the woods, onto the hills around Ladybower reservoir, where they observed that there was good reason not to swim in a reservoir (see photo)

Always keen to keep up to date on the flora and fauna, Jeff spotted that fungi can grow out of fence posts. Unfortunately identi-

fying the actual fungus is difficult from the photo. Maybe we should start a wildlife quiz!



Above Ladybower

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What a difference a night makes

We were joined by other members for the AGM on Saturday night and enjoyed garlic bread, chili with jacket potatoes and apple crumble, all prepared by Bremex members.

Retiring for the night in the Hayloft bunkhouse required climbing skills. A steep ladder led to the two rooms, which was fine. However, it required a dangerous traverse in the dark across the open gap to the ground floor in order to move from

one room to the other during the night. Maybe the farmer thought this was good practice for El Capitan or some similar multi-day route!

Sunday dawned beautifully clear and dry, so it was a shame that Jeff, Tony, Alison and Bill had to leave.

The remaining bikers first went to the bike shop to pick up mudguards and neoprene over socks: neither of which were really needed that day. The bikes were unloaded at the carpark by

Derwent Reservoir. The presence of a bike rental shop indicated that we were in for a very different route to the previous day. It turned out to be a delightful cruise around Derwent and Howden Reservoirs, partly on traffic free tarmac, then on a well maintained tracks.

On the tarmac part, we met a couple who were pursuing Sylvie's sport of roller X-country skiing. They were moving too fast for a photo.



A definite contrast to Saturday



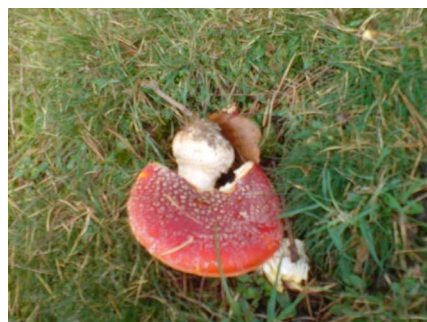
View across the water



Part of the Sunday biking team enjoy the sunshine

The route on Sunday was a lovely way to "warm" down after the day before.

Notices on the family track indicated steep and rocky terrain ahead were laughed at compared to the killer drop offs of the day before.



Fungi identification tasks continued on Sunday. This time it looks like a puffball breaking through a fly agaric. Interesting combination!



You missed a kayaking challenge there, Tony



Finally, we hope everyone has a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you on a Bremex Club meet in 2009