

Bremex Mountaineering & Climbing Club

Weekend Review for 21-22nd June 2008

Attendees: Amanda Reddy, Tony Halliwell, Jeff Richardson, Sylvia Flohe, Jim O'Hare
Alison Stockwell

Apologies: Matt Morton, Mark Ainsworth, Bill Bailey

... and then there were four!

Eight members of the group were inspired to attend this Bremex Lake District weekend in June with a high camp planned for the Saturday evening on the summer solstice. Unfortunately, Matt didn't quite make it since he was forced to abort attempts to reach the Lakes due to heavy traffic.

The group met up Saturday morning at Brothers Water where it was established that there would now be six in the party since Mark Ainsworth would also not be able to join us. The forecast was for some wind and rain, varying in strength and duration, depending on which website was consulted.

It had been proposed that Saturday should be used as an open learning/revision forum and that members make suggestions on what they would like to practise. Ideas such as navigation practice, (later more specifically poor weather navigation), rescue procedures and river crossings were discussed.

A general route had been planned starting from Hartsop village and heading in an easterly direction towards High Street. Initially it was decided to split this in to legs enabling various scenarios to be practised: members taking it in turn to lead to a specified feature, one person leading to an unspecified destination and the others having to then pinpoint this on the map. There was a short exchange each time on the various navigational means employed which proved to be a useful exercise (there are definitely many ways to skin a cat).

During the course of the morning the weather soon started to deteriorate.



Jimbo, who was feeling the effects of setting off for the Lakes at the crack of dawn on the Friday and then proceeding to enjoy a full day's walking, decided to head back.

On the ridge near Riggindale Crag the worsening weather conditions and reducing visibility forced us to reassess the plans for the rest of the day. It was decided to abandon the original idea to camp over near Small Water and instead to seek some shelter from the SE wind at the south end of Hayeswater, also giving the added reassurance of a quick escape route. After a heavy Friday night (!) and not being quite prepared for the severity of almost winter weather conditions, Alison decided to head back to Hartsop.

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So then there were four!

A fairly flattish site offering some wind protection and with a nearby stream was hastily chosen and we fled to the shelter of our tents late afternoon with the hope of finer weather to follow for the Sunday.



Despite all night incessant pouring and strong winds and a section of Tony and Amanda's tent collapsing, we all emerged relatively unscathed from the rigours of the British solstice weather and made a rather damp retreat to the car park to adjourn for a well-earned full breakfast in Windermere.

As Alison so aptly commented: "it's been a great weekend but a horrible one!"



Damp in clothing but not spirit