

Tricouni Newsletter

Spring 2013

The October meet saw sunny weather and much activity. Thanks to Malcolm for the trip report below.



October Meet 2012

Thursday 18 October

David Baggaley arrived early for the Meet and went solo into Longsleddale and climbed Harter Fell

Friday 19 October

David Baggaley dropped over into Buttermere and traversed under Scale Force to climb Melbrake before dropping into the valley and returning via Lanthwaite woods.

Tony Reynolds joined Peter Leigh for the traditional Kent to Cumbria time trial dash. Peter was driving and apparently, Tony made the entire journey with his eyes tightly closed. They met up with Lne Leigh and Jim, Jenny Wyatt Nicky, Sasha and Kira Androsov and Claire Manning at Hawswater in the Eastern Fells. They climbed High Street and traversed onto Mardale Ill Bell. At this point Lynn and Jim returned to the valley leaving the others to continue on over Harter Fell.

Saturday 20 October

Tony decided that it was high time that Malcolm and Patsy Barton climbed Skiddaw. Malcolm has been visiting the Lakes for 55 years and managed to avoid what he considered to be this big, boring lump declaring that he would only do it on skis. Pointing out that Malcolm had also previously announced that he'd now thrown away his skis, Tony was able to deploy the resulting logic to coax Malcolm towards the nether reaches of Bassenthwaite Lake and the start of the ascent to Skiddaw. They were joined by Patsy, Jenny, David, Lynn and Sean Hopson.

Bergsteiger-führer Reynolds decided that the most appropriate route for the 'defloration' of the Bartons would be to ascend via the Edge to Ullock Pike and thence on to Skiddaw via Carlsides Tarn. As the group approached the summit the clouds descended and the wind picked up making a lengthy stay for lunch on the summit a most unattractive proposition so a hasty retreat ensued. After shedding a hundred or so metres of height the clouds lifted and lunch was taken at a very pleasant spot overlooking Bassenthwaite. Following a steep and slippery descent to the valley the successful trip was celebrated in good Tricouni style in the bar of the Ravenstone Hotel – a good hostelry not a stone's throw away from where Tony had thoughtfully ordered the parking of the cars. Malcolm thinks he will wait another 55 years before repeating the expedition.

In conditions that might be described as damp and greasy, a party led by Jason Baggaley walked up Sourmilk Gill and into Gillercombe. There, they attacked Gillercombe Crag, North East Buttress - a scrambling route graded as 3*** in the guidebook. For those not familiar with scrambling, grade 3*** is the finest and hardest category. The guidebook notes that the route should be "avoided if the rock is at all greasy" a comment dismissed subsequently by Jason as 'mere detail'.

His party split into two ropes. Jason led Jacqui and Fraser Baggaley and Kira whilst Peter took charge of Nicky, Claire and Sasha.

By and large the climb was a great success – up to the point that Jason himself describes as 'when Jacqui fell 15 feet and Fraser had a meltdown'. These should, however be regarded as minor blips on what was a very notable outing. The good news is that Jacqui's bruises faded after three weeks and Fraser is no longer in therapy.

David and Joyce Clode having driven from the south coast were thwarted in their attempts at any walking because David was suffering a bad attack of sciatica.

Sunday 21 October

Sunday was a pearl of a day with the famed 'autumn tints' at their very best. Malcolm and Patsy set off from Seatoller and climbed past Rigghead Quarries and up on to High Spy. They followed the ridge across Maiden Moor and dropped back to the valley at Hause Gate returning to Seatoller by the path alongside the river.

Jason, Jacqui and Fraser hitched a lift to Honister from where they ascended Dale Head before heading for High Spy and the following in the footsteps of Malcolm and Patsy.

Tony and Peter were joined by Jenny, Lynn and Jim at Buttermere and took the woodland path up by the stream onto the fells continuing up to the top of Rannerdale Knotts with fine views all round. Lynn and Jim retraced their steps to Buttermere with Jenny because they had to get her to Crewe to pick up a train to Swansea. Peter and Tony descended to Crummock Water and circumnavigated this at a good pace so they were back in Buttermere at 15.00 hrs and, reversing the north south time trial, arrived in Kent at 20.30 hrs. You will already have worked out that Peter was driving!



Fraser, Jacqui and Kira on the central slabs section of the North East Buttress scramble

