

DMC Big Walk – Kinder round

November 2014, Colin Harper

This year's walk took place on a mild November day towards the end of the month which usually guarantees some boggy sections and so it proved to be. As usual the event was meticulously planned using Tranter timings for the proposed route around the kinder massif. Alan and Gill had graciously offered to provide a bacon buttie stop in the morning and tea stop in the afternoon which was appreciated by all.

The first group set off from the Nag's Head in Edale at around 7am; the second at 9:10 and the third; the runners at around 11am with the premise that all would finish around about the same time. As it turned out the second group who set off a little early caught the first group at the bacon buttie stop (it's amazing what the promise of one of Alan's butties can do).



Group one set off first again and after leaving the butties behind both groups reached the top of Mill hill around about the same time. The descent from Mill hill via William Clough was the boggiest section and whilst most passed the troubles without incident some did not. Colin was in the lead of the second group at this point followed closely by David with Eddie and Helen a little further behind. Colin stepped into a fairly deep boggy section up to his knees. Almost immediately, as is always the case in such circumstances, came a smart comment by David "not the best way to go then Colin".

However, before the words had left his mouth the momentary distraction caused him to lose his footing and take a headlong dive into the peat. David got up and was covered heat to foot in black smelly peat (Ok maybe a little exaggerated there). With the time lost in cleaning up in the freezing cold waters of the Clough ten minutes or so was lost.

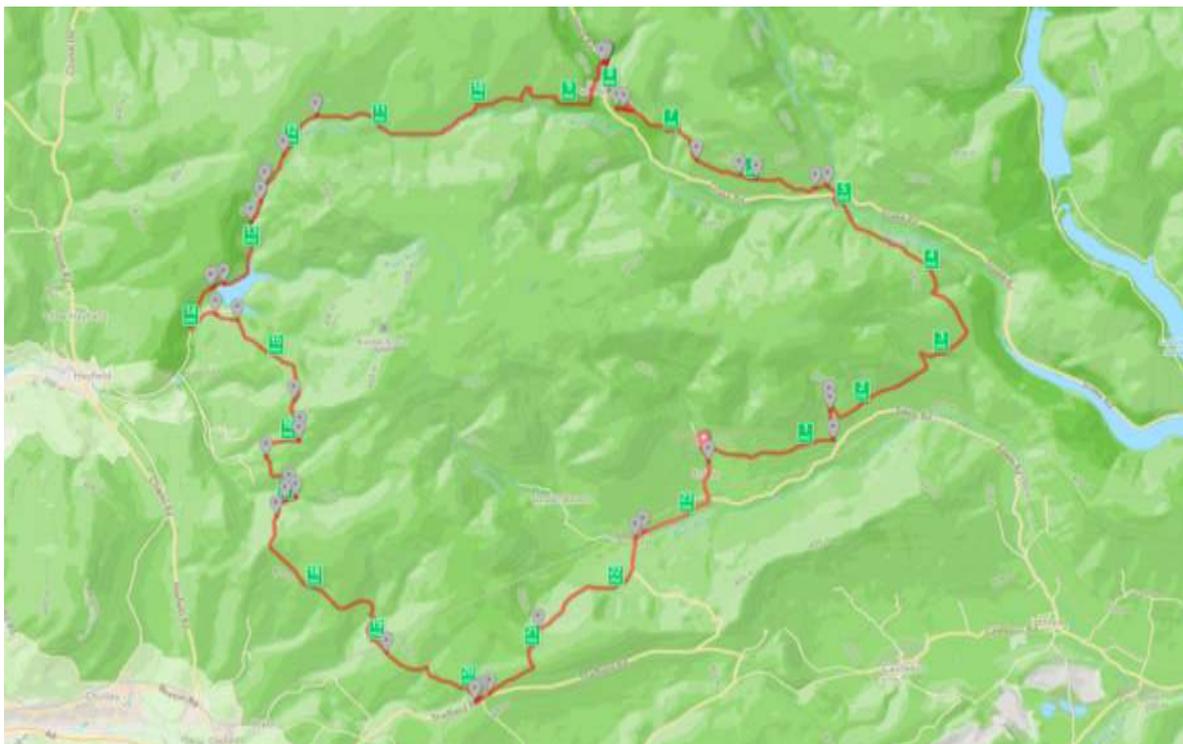


As the evening drew close the setting sun lit up the waters of the Kinder reservoir an much pleasure was taken strolling along its banks before the temperature dropped and darkness fell.

There was one major obstacle to tackle before this happened however; the steep sides of South Head. The path was a long way round so we decided to take the direct route. Looking round from the slopes we could just make out first sight of the runners who appeared to be closing fast. Several minutes later and somewhat out of breath we reached the motorway that is the Pennine Bridleway which would take us all the way down to the Sheffield road and our



final tea stop before the descent back into Edale. At this point the runners caught up to the second group and thus were first back to the pub (no surprise there). On reaching the Nag's Head it became apparent that Mike (of the first group) had cadged a lift from Alan and miraculously beat the second group. However, this was in fact a sterling effort on from Mike who had managed over 18miles after a period of illness. The remnants of the first group arrived at the pub around 7pm to finish another DMC extreme ramble.



The route