

Traverse of Lakeland Waters by Alan Heater

0900 Saturday 31st July - 1016 Sunday 1st August 1983

Started promptly at 0900. Wopping day, but first of many showers began at Brummoak Water fresh South East ^{WIND} hills. Ground conditions generally very good after the long dry spell. First section went well except for having to leave Jack on Red Pike traverse and a wet grass descent into Bannisdale.

The next leg was straight forward; the only difficulty was the greasy rock traverse between Little Gowder Crag and Gowder Crag. Valley crossings can often prove to be time consuming mainly because of access problems. The traversing of Wasdale, Watredale and Eskdale was interesting and was accomplished within the schedule due greatly to excellent route planning.

At Eskdale Green the sun came through so that with the high humidity the road section was uncomfortable as also the ascent to Devake Water.

The section to Newfield passed quite quickly in spite of slight route diversion because of high foliage near Alpha.

The first proper break at Newfield coincided with heavy showers which persisted when we left. On Wainia Pass the high wind driving in to us made me feel cold. The traverse into Goats Water was treacherous because of the greasy rocks but the rain ceased making the climb over to Lew Water, Levers Water and Benister Water quite pleasant.

What I said previously about route planning involved in valley crossings was again evident on the way to Windermere. A slight swing off route near Hawkshead was quickly rectified so apart from being held up by herd of cows at Barthwick and a touch of hunger which a few pastilles put right, we arrived at Windermere on schedule.

After a short stop we quickly left the hustle and bustle of Waterhead behind for a quiet and pleasant journey to Troutbeck where at Lumphits Campsite we met a busy scene with a "site full" notice displayed. Just had enough daylight for the rough descent of Garburn. The stop at Kentmere Church was marred by very active midges. Departed five minutes in front of schedule. Good progress until approaching Skeggles Water where we made a detour to miss the worst of rough, marshy ground. Found the track down to Sadgill quickly. Could see lights in front of us on Gafesarth Pass. Later parked van, from Outward bound Centre, parked well up the Pass.

Ran into thick mist and lost the track for short time near the Summit. When we reached Ganeswater the water was about half a mile from its normal shore line.

Had a bad patch on climb to Small water, recovered quickly after food and drink. Rough traverse to Blea Water.

It was on the steep climb to Riggindale Head that I began to have problems with left knee. Thick mist and strong wind on High Street, but good navigation enabled us to find the track from the steps of Wharf, down to the shelter of Hayes water. A quick visit at the dam. On the way down to Hartop I had increasing difficulty with my knee on the downhill. Could see lightning to the West.

The first light of dawn came as we started down the road to Milswater. The climb over Stricks Pass went well, but the descent was rather painful. After leaving Stanah ran only to the Thimere Dam, then it was working for the remainder of the route.

The diversion to Bassenthwaite at Mine House was pleasant change from the road. Managed to maintain good rhythm so miles went reasonably quickly before my first eyes and welcome sight of Ouse water marked the end.

When Leo asked me to attempt his "Water" run he promised to provide the necessary support. He kept his word so that I think my successful completion was greatly due to the excellent help I received. I can truly say that I have never been better supported during all my years of attempts.

My sincere thanks to everybody who assisted me in any way.

		ARRIVE	DEPART
1	LOWES WATER	-	0900
2	CRUMMOCK WATER	0926	0926
3	BUTTERMERE	0941	0941
4	ENNERDALE WATER	1047	1047
5	WASTWATER	1226	1228
6	DEVOKE WATER	1349	1349
7	GOATS WATER	1603	1603
8	LOW WATER	1635	1635
9	LEVERS WATER	1647	1647
10	CONISTON WATER	1716	1727
11	ESTHWAITE WATER	1805	1805
12	ELTER WATER	1908	1908
13	GRASMERE	1926	1926
14	RYDAL WATER	1936	1936
15	WINDERMERE	2003	2008
16	SKEGGLES WATER	2240	2240
17	HAWES WATER	0036	0036
18	SMALL WATER	0112	0115
19	BLEA WATER	0135	0135
20	HAYES WATER	0255	0300
21	BROTHERS WATER	0328	0328
22	ULLSWATER	0423	0423
23	THIRLMERE	0622	0622
24	DERWENT WATER	0738	0748
25	BASSENTHWAITE LAKE	0903	0903
26	OVER WATER	1016	-

ADDITIONAL REST TIME TO THE ABOVE

NEWFIELD	1450 - 1503
SKELWITH BRIDGE	1856 - 1901
KENTMERE CHURCH	2137 - 2155
HARTSOP	0334 - 0356
STANAH	0602 - 0611
MIRE HOUSE	0953 - 0957

TOTAL REST TIME 1h 37mins

SECTION

LOWESWATER - ENNERDALE
KIRKSTILE - CRUMMOCK WATER

ENNERDALE - WASDALE

WASDALE - ESKDALE

ESKDALE - DEVOKE WATER

DEVOKE - NEWFIELD INN

NEWFIELD INN - CONISTON

CONISTON - WINDERMERE
SHELWICH BRIDGE - WINDERMERE

WINDERMERE - KENTMERE

KENTMERE - BROTHERS WATER

BROTHERS WATER - STANAH

STANAH - DERWENT WATER

DERWENT WATER - OVER WATER

ASSISTED BY:-

MIKE MCGOVERN, BOB GREEN, JACK BETNEY,
JOE MORRISSEY.

LEO and GARY POLLARD.

WILF. CHARNLEY, LEO and GARY POLLARD.

FRANK WHITTLE, LEO POLLARD.

MIKE MCGOVERN.

EDWIN COOPE, JIM DAWSON, BOB GREEN.

ROY PHILLIPS, MIKE LOMAS.
JACK BETNEY.

MIKE MCGOVERN, PETE SCHOLFIELD, NEIL SALE, JACK BETNEY

ANDREW BARBIER, PETE SCHOLFIELD, NEIL SALE, MIKE MCGOVERN

BOB GREEN, MIKE LOMAS.

LEO and GARY POLLARD, ANDREW BARBIER, MIKE LOMAS.

WILF. CHARNLEY, LEO and GARY POLLARD, JACK BETNEY
MIKE LOMAS, BARRY AYRE.