

Lakes Meres and Waters Adventure

Neil Stevens

16/06/2023 00:00 set off

A little report of the 35 hrs it took me to complete the Lakes Meres and Waters challenge with a wonderful group of friends and family.

Rob mentioned in an email that they have never had anyone set off at midnight before to have a go at the round, well there was method in my madness behind this and it was mainly a selfless reason as I have some wonderful friends that live in Kent that were making the journey up to here to support me on the round and as I thought I would be hopefully completed by 1pm it gave them time to see me in and not get home at a ridiculous hour on a Sunday ready for work come Monday morning, my other reason was its hot this time of the year so if we set off at midnight we will be cooler and only need the head torches for a few hours! well one of the two was correct, because oh my was it hot through the night it was 23 degrees with zero wind and the midges well I can only explain saying they were biblical!!!

Overwater



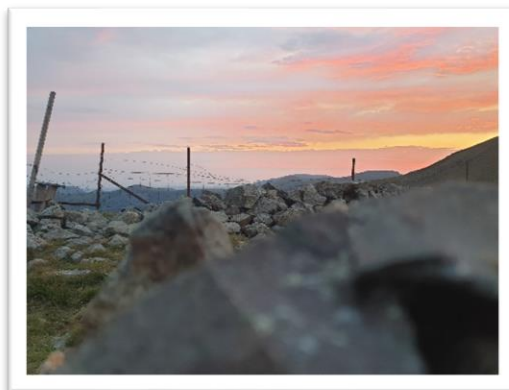
Note used the same finger for every visit

We set off bang on midnight and trundled our way towards Buttermere with all three of us commenting on how warm it was, once we started the ascent up to Red pike it was roasting hot with no breeze and getting attacked relentlessly by our flying friends! As we topped Sourmilk Gill a wild camper's night was ruined by us with their dog going full alert, we did chuckle a little, we hit Ennerdale then started the pull up to Scoat Fell where we were all very quiet at this point with very little conversation being had as all three of us were suffering a little, head lamps were off, grinding or way up to a beautiful sunrise as we hit Scoat our moods were lifted with the views and breeze that finally arrived.

Ennerdale



Scoat Fell



We had a lovely descent in to Wastwater skipping away much happier than the previous few hours towards water number five



Wastwater

We stopped for our first rest in Eskdale green where our wonderful road support had set up a full breakfast spread chairs and brews ready to go, re fuelled and feeling a million dollars we headed off to Devoke laughing at how we were all sulking a few hours previous!!!!

We made headway towards Coniston and gained time on the schedule all the way to our second check point just outside of Coniston as it was way to peopley at that point of the day!



Dow in the background always a favourite of mine ow crags, Richard White bringing me up the rear

Leg 3 was not that interesting roads and small paths it got a little warm at one point which slowed me down somewhat, we dropped 30 minuets off my schedule by the end of that leg, however I did get treat to a lovely ice cream in Hawkshead by my lovely friend Emma.



After a good refuel in Ambleside it was then time to head off towards Kentmere we had an ace night hitting Skeggless, Haweswater, Small, Blea, Hayswater and down to Brothers water gaining an hour and half to the surprise of my road support who were both fast asleep and we awoke them up, we had a good feed and brews before getting off for our next sun rise along Ullswater which was a lovely quiet morning especially with the road closer in place.

We headed up to Stake pass I was happy it was the last climb of that leg, and I was ready for a brew and breakfast, a lovely morning being among the hills.



After getting food and a brew on board we set off for the final four waters we moved well enjoying an ice cream out of Keswick and a couple more joined us to finish the adventure off we made good time my legs felt great just my feet were sore.

A brilliant adventure with great friends enjoying most the weekend and boxing off my first 100 miler in beautiful sunshine in 35 hours 04 minutes and 8 seconds

Darren Leeming, Carey Smith, Me, and Mark Braithwaite



