Bob Graham Round, 29th July 2000

It was Nicky Lavery's fault. I knew all about the BG, seemed to know a few people who had done it, but to me it was one of those things that other people did, my fitter friends, only for me in my dreams when I wasn't thinking about going climbing. Then the phone call from Mick, December '97 - could I pace Nicky from Wasdale to Honister in January(!!!), we want a mountaineer, it might be snowy, or icy. Well they are good friends so what could I say despite doubts about whether I could keep up even if it was good conditions. Conditions were good, warm and dry, and running alongside Barry Johnson he kept telling me it was "a good day out" and "don't bother asking yourself whether you are ready for it because you will never know 'til you try it so just pick a date and aim for it"! It was great just doing that bit of it and a week later I was picking a date and aiming for it!!

Well the first attempt in May '98 was great in that we had a great time, but if your knees start to hurt coming off Skiddaw then it is no surprise that I only got as far as Wasdale. A few lessons learnt and, the real value of the BG perhaps, a few friendships strengthened – everybody helping and willing you on.

Two years later at the end of July all my previous pacers were all on holiday or given up running, so I had a few fraught evenings phoning round, but again found people so willing. This time it really was a "great day out". My knees hurt like hell coming off Skiddaw, but this time it was the last hill; no trouble eating (John Slater reckoned I ate more at Wasdale than he did on his whole round!); great views during the day and the clouds parted at night when really needed (a bit earlier would have saved a bit of heartache!). One tip for future attempts - get someone to give you a rope down Broad Stand even if your pacers want to avoid it, then stop and eat a banana and saunter up to Scafell Pike while they catch up from Fox's Tarn!

And the people were great again - fancy running with all that food and drink, for someone else!!! I only wish they could all have been there on the last 5 minutes up Skiddaw to see the cloud inversion and Brocken spectre. Never to be forgotten, and all thanks to them for getting me there!

Graham Watson

Low Gillerthwaite,

Ennerdale

31st July 2000


SALE
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