

Lady's 24 hr Lakeland Record of 62 peaks

Friday 15th July 1994, 10:45pm. I set off from the Moot Hall for the fourth and hopefully the last time. The weather conditions were almost perfect, definitely a first for my rounds. I felt, as should be expected, in good spirits and very fit. Had very pleasant company from Andrew Addis and Derek Hodgson. Andrew was on his second night without sleep as he'd been recceing part of the Pennine way the night before, for a record relay attempt the following week. Arrived in Threlkeld, a few minutes down on schedule.

Enjoyed a delicious bowl of tinned peaches but couldn't face the rice pudding. There were about 8 tins of it in the car so I hoped my appetite would change later. Set off from Threlkeld with Paul Driver and Phil Cheek. By the top of Clough Head it was starting to get light. This was a relief as I'm not a great fan of running in the dark, probably why I chose to do the first section in the dark, to get it behind me.

I was looking forward to going out to Catstycam, my first additional peak. Just after 5am, Swirral Edge and Catstycam came into view. It looked magnificent with the red sun rising in the sky behind. We were soon on Catstycam and the view was incredible. I don't think I've been in the Lakes on such a clear beautiful morning. It was inspiring to say the least. For the rest of the section I gained time on all the peaks. It felt so easy and I hoped it would stay like this for the rest of the round. I think Paul and Phil enjoyed the run as much as I did.

Arrived in Dunmail 16 minutes up. It was starting to warm up so I changed into shorts and T-shirt. It wasn't yet 7am!. Had some more tinned fruit. Still didn't fancy the rice pudding. Three minutes later I was off with Mark Hartell and Craig Harwood for company. It still felt far too easy. I was sure I would suffer later, as I was eating very little.

Once again, it was just so beautiful and inspiring with hardly a cloud in the sky, the peaks stretching out for miles and miles. Craig could not contain his enthusiasm and started performing chicken impressions. Mark drawn in by Craig's enthusiasm joined in with his own monkey impressions. Both were very vocal and entertaining. Shame there were no other people around to enjoy the entertainment!

I had a bad patch on Bowfell. Felt very sick and light headed. Either due to lack of food or Craig suggesting we climb Bowfell buttress. It eventually passed and it wasn't long before we were heading for the Scafell's and the next additional peak, Lingmell.

The route to Lingmell was quite exciting. Down Great gully, into Lords Rake and along the West Wall traverse. Very rocky, steep and loose. I'd have thought twice about doing it if the weather had been bad.

We were soon descending off Lingmell into Wasdale and arrived 39 minutes up. By now it was really hot and I changed into a cotton shirt and sunhat.

Climbed strongly to the top of Yewbarrow then I started to fall apart. The lack of food and the heat was taking effect. The change from feeling on top of the world to this was dramatic. I could hardly eat but managed oranges and bananas. Had plenty of company with me now, Geoff, Colin, Jo and Ruth.

By the time we were coming off Steeple my vision was strange. I was seeing double and hallucinating. The rocks around me appeared to be moving and looked unstable. Coming off

Pillar, thought I could see animals, they were just rocks. My legs still felt strong but I had the most horrendous stomach cramps.

Just before Honister I had the option to include Fleetwith Pike. I was feeling so bad, I decided against it, not knowing if I'd recover. I arrived in Honister, looking and feeling my worst so far. Drank some tea, had a few spoons of tinned fruit and set off with Dave and Miriam Rosen and John Axson. By the top of Dale Head I was starting to feel slightly better. It was a bit cooler now. I was dreading the climb up Whiteless Pike which is bad enough when you're fresh!

At Newlands Hause, slurped some tinned strawberries down, hardly aware of anyone around me and set off up Whiteless Pike. Two thirds of the way up it becomes incredibly steep. This was the only time on the whole round my legs felt any fatigue. Once at the top, I felt confident again having run the next few peaks many times in the last few months. By the time we reached Wandope, Dave had persuaded me to include Grassmoor. I was worried about time but needn't have been, as we still got to Eel Crag ahead of schedule. I then eased back a bit as there were no more peaks I could include and I had plenty of time.

Running along the ridge in the now cool evening was superb. The clarity of the peaks was fantastic and the Isle of Man looked so close. Paul met us on Causey Pike and we did the last descent to the road.

The road to Keswick was painful, my stomach was cramped and knotted. After what seemed like hours we were at the Moot Hall. I drank some champagne, so glad to be here. There were loads of people standing around. I was very tired and happy.