

Saturday 25th July – alternative ‘micro’ meet at Bamford Edge

Andy, Michelle and Emmeline (Michelle’s daughter) decided at short notice on this alternative micro meet in the July sunshine. Sunshine which has been in short supply recently! Bamford Edge, elegantly positioned over the village of Bamford and Ladybower reservoir, consists of a series of isolated gritstone buttresses offering quality routes at all grades. The crag is surrounded by grouse moorland and has been opened to access for climbing in the last two or three years.

This was an ideal opportunity for Michelle to make her lead climbing debut outdoors and put into practice all the knowledge recently acquired on climbing courses at Plas y Brenin (where her instructor has been none other than the mixed climbing maestro Andy Turner!).

Without any of the ‘first night nerves’ that might be expected on such an occasion Michelle confidently led four routes at around Diff – Hypotenuse, Concave Slab, Bosun’s Slab and Artillery Corner. None of the gear fell out and Michelle didn’t fall off, so a successful first foray into the world of trad climbing at the sharp end of the rope!

Later, Andy led the delightfully named ‘Randy’s Wall’ at HVS 5a, using both knees and an ample stomach to make the finishing moves onto the top of the buttress! A fun day out in a fantastic Peak District setting, we’re all keen to get back there to enjoy the superb views and excellent climbing.

Andy Bond

