

2015/2016 SEASON RUN REPORTS

1. Frodsham, (05/09/2015) (By Steve Murray)

Thanks to the stationary, high-pressure weather system over the UK, we were treated to a dry day with some bright spells of sunshine. It was unseasonably cold however (15/15o C); once out of the sun it became necessary to take some form of exercise to keep warm. Some chose to run.

Stanton and Murray arrived, courtesy of Riley in a smaller vehicle than we'd usually expect from a property magnate who insists on describing himself as "only a bricky". As they arrived, so did Eastwood on his Harley (that's a motor cycle) and almost simultaneously, a large group of Tally Hoers set off running? McHarry was loitering around the entrance of the hotel, waiting for a fast boy to keep him company. Shipley and Whitworth turned up and the whole scene looked like the South Manchester and North Cheshire Synchronized Arriving-at-Hotels Team having a warm-up practice.

Arrivals were influenced by a poor soul on the bridge over the M56. The motorway was closed and various alternative routes had to be employed. The turnout suggests that not many turned back.

The large group of Ruddocks, Goulders, Welles', Potters, Jenkinsons, Taylors and others looked quite happy to be back in the routine as they set off. Taylor looked derangedly happy and trotting like a Lipizzaner, had to be kept on the reins.

Eastwood, Stanton, Riley and Murray set off at exactly the same time as Norman and McHarry but the latter pair were off like a shot, Stanton eschewing an offer to join the fast boys. Down the hill and past a wedding ceremony being held outside some space-age tepees. Stanton offered his warmest regards, "Don't do it", at some volume, momentarily bringing the ceremony to a halt. They never caught us; either they took it in good spirit or the quicker members of the party were wearing heels. We know how that can slow one down.

There were echoes of "The Dark Secret of Harvest Home" as we were running through elephant's eye (if you prefer a musical reference) fields of maize. Elephants were bigger when I was a lad, I'm sure. The ground was firm but giving, perfect for a first run of the season, the trail tricky at points, there was maize stubble, which needs great care taking and a few hidden turn-offs (all marked and visible when not gabbing). Our party found a lost little Tony Taylor but left him to find his own way. He'd crossed sawdust streams at the pinch point (who hasn't) but soon righted his wrong. Only a senior Ruddock a Bell and a Winterbone were passed. Riley and Stanton managed to turn down invites to both a barbecue and a drinks party (from some high spirited ladies). Because of the gabbing 7.9miles became 8.5miles and the run just over an hour and a half.

David Bell brought along a first timer, Eduardo; educated young and good looking but nobody held that against him. The canny Bell brought him along to the run with the best facilities; the only run with any facilities. To the pleasure of many, in attendance, doing his own thing, his own way, was George Dobson, a long-standing member of the club with his

guest Frank (who we've welcomed before). When you look at the old guard, it just shows how standards have fallen in recent years.

Murray spent twenty minutes at the bar waiting for an expensive glass of lager; not unexpected. For the meal there was a choice of either chicken curry or battered fish. Peas (at the request of the Hon. Sec. just to annoy the previous Hon. Sec.) Some were rice, some were chips and several were half rice half chip, but it's a broad-minded club and runners of all tastes are welcomed.

2. Buxworth (19/09/2015) (By Joe Park)

High and dry Weather: Sunny and warm at 19°C and no wind. Roger provided us with a room and shower.

Tony, Ade and Geoff laid a trail starting out along the tramway towards Whitehough where it was tempting to join the Old Hall beer festival but we had better press on. Still nice and flat going through Chapel Milton and Wash where the blackberry pickers were out in force.

After passing under the railway line the going got steeper up to Shireoaks and beyond. We soon reached the Pennine Bridleway where it was time to dodge the mountain bikes on our way up to south head. Over the mountain we went and down to the Hayfield road via Andrews Farm.

We crossed the road and down the plush meadows to the peep'o'day road and on to The Naze. A snoozing pony, taking advantage of the shade and in no mood to move, blocked the path here. Perhaps the pony knew what lay ahead and was telling us to turn back and avoid Cracken Edge. There followed a pleasant downhill section to Tithe Barn, then by Hollin Wood and back to the tramway and the pub.

A very enjoyable nine miles in wonderful weather. 18 enjoyed meat pie, chunky chips and peas except for two vegetarians, sorry Ade, three vegetarians. Eduardo was proposed and seconded as a new member and was accepted unanimously.

3. Sparrowpit (03/10/2015) (By Joe Park)

Weather 5-6 centigrade, misty, no wind.

Distance 9.1 miles (15km)

Potter and Stanton laid a trail across the 623 and through the cow plops to Higher Barmoor Farm before heading south over the lush grazing land to Bee Low. Here the trail turned east to Chamber Farm and across the 623 to Dam Road in Peak Forest and past Conies Farm continuing upwards in a North Easterly direction.

On reaching the high ground, about 470m, there were great views of Rushup Edge, Mam Tor, Back Tor and Lose Hill, in spite of the mist. The trail led down to Oxlow House, across

the 6061, and 625 up Windy Knoll to Rushup Edge. There were quite a number of people around mostly going up Mam Tor.

On the Edge a number of Hang Gliders were hanging around waiting for the wind. As we approached Lord's Seat (545m) we spoke to a Speed Winger who had already done one jump down to Manor House Farm. 40 secs down and 2 hours back up. A speed wing has little lift and needs a fast run to take off and can reach speeds of 120 mph (200kmh). The problem is slowing down and landing. The hang and paragliding associations will not accept nor insure them. We were rewarded with superb views of the Vale of Edale and Kinder Scout. The trail carried on to Rushup Hall and Rushup Farm to the pub.

17 attended with 15 sitting down to beef stew and dumplings with small bread roll thrown in.

Brian doesn't complain much but he went on about cows following him for most of the trail without showing their intent. Brian also complained that he didn't get a roll with his meal because some greedy b*****s had two. This produced two plates of bread and Brian was rewarded with a huge wedge of jam and cream sponge.

Sparrowpit gets its name from the ROW where fluorSPAR workers from the PIT lived.

NEXT RUN TOCKHOLES!!!

4. Tockholes, (17/10/15) (By Joe Park)

Overcast (later sunny), 10 Deg, little wind.

The route started across the road from the pub down through Plantation No 2 and crossed the dam separating the Roddlesworth reservoirs. The trail turned south through Plantation No3 and crossed Belmont Road onto Wheelton Moor.

There was a large number of Pendle Forest OC scuttling from control to control. They were celebrating their 50th anniversary. The first part of the moor was difficult with rushes, bog and Turk's Heads but eventually high ground was reached and Great Hill came into view. Over the hill we headed for White Coppice familiar as the turning point of the Steeplechase.

We soon turned sharply back towards the bog and Belmont Road. The trail chicaned around Piccadilly into the woods passing Hollinshead Hall (ruin) , across Tockholes Road and round the shoulder of Cartridge Hill. The last climb took us up Darwin Hill to the Jubilee Tower (372) before dropping down to RyaL Fold.

We came across an old squeeze box player surrounded by saw dust in the car park. We congratulated him on the excellent trail and queried the uncharted rush bog, he retorted that there was a dotted line on his map and carried on playing.

A disappointing 12 eventually sat down to hot pot and apple pie after five headless chickens arrived having been up to the tower several times and covering extra distance. We all cried into our beer.

Jocys did an excellent job laying a nine mile trail on his own.

5. Longnor (31/10/2015) (By Joe Park)

Earls and Beggars Exceptionally warm for time of year at 15 Degrees.

Shiple and Whitworth arrived with bedspread and cardboard to protect the room kindly provided by the pub. All of this preamble resulted in the trail layers leaving a little bit late.

The trail led out north towards Under the Hill and Yew Tree farm with the recent rain making the downhill path a little slippery. Crossing Glutton Bridge road the route led down to the track and over Swallow Brook Ford to Hollinsclough.

We turned back, chased by a cattle stampede, to re-join the track back towards Glutton Bridge. Avoiding Parkhouse and Hitter Hill the trail went through Earl Sterndale up to the limestone quarry and then back down to Abbotside farm.

We soon joined Green Lane and across the Dove at Beggars Bridge then up to Top o th' Edge to the pub.

The trail layers were caught a mile from the finish of the 7.75 mile route and had to buy drinks all round though several missed out on the free beer.

16 enjoyed an excellent, but most expensive, meal consisting of steak pie followed by apple pie.