

Best Estimate 14 Jan 07

My third year organising this and obviously time to hand the baton over to another willing Tod Harriers volunteer. Or, maybe, the map, the GPS, or whatever. For – was it 5.8 miles and 910 feet of ascent? Or, indeed, 6.9 miles and 1537 feet? Either way, there were maps aplenty. And, with just two exceptions, this New Year again found Tod Harriers to be in an optimistic mood.

One Harrier managed to get inside 5 minutes of her estimated time: to some of us it was a surprise that she personalised the route so as to get a good stretch of downhill tarmac, but in any case it paid off – a prize for the Best Estimate, and, no doubt, for Uncle Barry was taking notes, a good start for the 2007 toilet seat.

There were other excellent personalisations too. A trip to Cross Stone church: several visits to isolated farmsteads, and one contouring along from the Calderdale Way, thereby avoiding a bit of a drop and, presumably a bit of a climb too. This despite what one runner described as 'a striped tape every 5 metres' and 'an arrow or a RUN ROUTE sign every ¼ mile'. I am told that the FRA runs navigation courses, and is prepared to accept Tod Harriers on their courses.

There were some other misapprehensions. Hot tip for next year's organiser rolled up, explaining to all who could hear that he guaranteed one aspect of the 2007 route: wrong. I was fed up of having my markers removed, stolen, prettily rearranged. But I did manage to locate another property owner who removes striped tapes late on a Saturday night, and, when they are replaced, again on Sunday morning. Did not, happily, go to the extent of realigning them along an alternative route. The new Tod Harriers box came to me containing a big canister of white lining spray paint: pity that, after I'd carried it half way round the course, the can didn't work. Still tempted to go up with another can another day.

Two Harriers handicapped themselves by carrying big children with big child carriers right round the course – prizes went to them, of course, as well as to the most pregnant participant. And the unwanted Xmas presents were received with unalloyed delight – even (particularly?) the famous trumpeting dog. So – thanks for coming. You all went home well & truly windswept, though not rained on, and well and truly fed & watered thanks to Claire & Steve at the Keks.

Results

	Estimate	Actual	Difference
Jane Smith	85.20	83.33	1.47
Colin Duffield	72.05	78.50	6.45
Roger Haworth	53.30	63.58	10.28
Derek Donohue	55.21	67.15	11.54
Neil Hodgkinson + 1	119.59	132.24	12.25
Barry Chapman	72.05	87.33	15.28
John Newby	85.40	102.13	16.33
Kerry Edwards	52.30	69.04	16.34
Lisa Parsons	52.30	69.04	16.34
Derek Clutterbuck	68.00	85.26	17.26
David Wilson	62.48	81.17	18.25
Claire Duffield	91.30	70.04	20.26
Paula Haworth + 1	119.00	143.25	24.25
Jim Smith	90.00	116.25	26.25
David O'Neill	55.55	83.24	27.29
Helen Hodgkinson	110.32	139.17	28.45

My time? Oh – well, yes – marking the route on the Saturday – I set off at about 14.40 and got back at 19.00, cold & sodden & with a bit still to mark on the Sunday morning. So all those nice striped ties were for me to find my way in the dark.

Peter e(the former Best Estimate organiser).