

Your favourite races of 2014

"I Think I would have to say Tiree inaugural ultramarathon was my favourite race this year, for the views. Amazing weekend!! Booked again for next year. I also loved Equinox 24 for the atmosphere. Hardest race this year by far...white rose ultra 60 miles around the edges of Huddersfield the up hills were vertical crawling, on rough terrain the down hills were vertical road!! It almost broke me. Favourite run this year has to be the Leeds-Liverpool canal for sport relief!! Something I shall never forget"

Jilly Davison

"I didn't do many races last year, but the Fellsman stands out as the highlight. I surprised myself with a good level of stamina on a patchy training regime, the camaraderie en route was fabulous, and the food at each checkpoint was plentiful. 61 miles for £30 isn't bad value either."

Andi Mcfie

 *Must be Tandle Hill - 1st race after rolling my little wagon over me - held off Reg Czudek who has been running much better in 2014, AND won a prize. Which was definitely a surprise as I was about 3 minutes slower than the year before*



- not sure which one of these resembles me the more closely

Peter Ehrhardt

"British Masters 5K road championships at Horwich because of the very high quality of runners, the intensity of the competition, the 3 lap scenario enabling the race to develop and the sheer speed. It felt great to be in the mix competing at that level even though I was 7th."

Paul Brannigan

"Well, for me it has to be the trip to Iceland. The Laugavegur Ultramarathon was awesome. The race went really well for me and I was delighted to finish

what was my longest running race ever. The landscape was amazing. Everything from black volcanic sand, sulphurous mud and rock to sections of ice and snow. Some parts were like being on the moon. I tried to take it all in but there was too much so I want to go back. Anyway, I seem to have lost my finishers medal so I'll have to get another one! It was nice being somewhere so different to places I've visited before and it was also fun to be just one of a handful of Brits in it. Entries open 9th Jan!"

Simon Galloway

"I did some great events last year and was helped through the depths of winter with single minded focus - The Marathon (It deserves a capital M.) How could I claim to be a runner without ever doing at least one? After being Brannigained in the last half mile at Capesthorne HM in 2013 I put my frustration and second place £50 prize money to good use and with a bit rivalry to fire me up I got stuck into some serious training. I laid my cards on the table in the early days and said what time I was gonna do. The week before I was counselled by my Mentor (Robin) and revised my strategy to not run at pace. I decided to run faster than pace while I could and gain some time for potential latter stage fatigue. The plan was if I didn't fatigue it would be a win win situation. Proud to say I smashed my initial target time (2:41) and made a great Marathon debut in 2:37:16. The picture shows me coming in a few hundred metres from the finish with a very excited Robin Tuddenham and was taken by a great Tod Harrier Jim Smith"



Nick Barber

Bestest race for me was probably Jura, where I stole a few minutes off my previous PB on a lovely day on the hills. (Worst race was the Northern Irish melee in the mist, but that's another story)

Andrew Bibby

Having tempted fate (fate?) by having an argument with my little buggy, full of stone for dry stone walling (the buggy won, on points) I had something of a lay off and feared non completion of the grand prix and of the road

championship (the fell championship had already gone by the way - can't do the long ones any more).

So when Tandle Hill came up I really needed to do it. Despite the horrible run out - must be nearly a mile up that road. And back again at the end.

Anyway, as expected, most of the field ran away from me. Including Reg Czudek. I managed to haul in one or two in the wood, and then, going round the war memorial, I saw that Reg was only just ahead. So I speeded up a bit and tucked him away, gaining a few more places yet before the narrow path leading back to the road.

As expected 3 or 4 went past me going down the road. I was trying - though you might not have noticed if you were watching. Then I was surprised to hear a familiar puffing noise coming up behind me. Rather like a steam engine due for service. All I could do was weakly murmur 'well done Reg' as he came up to me. At which point he ceased overtaking and stayed on my shoulder.

Only about 1/4 of a mile to go - watching me 'sprint' that last distance may well have been entertaining for others. But I kept ahead - just; there was 1 sec between us at the finish.

About 2 1/2 minutes slower than 2013.

*Someone suggested we stay back for a pint and the prize giving - Toddies had done quite well, and to my surprise - **STEP FORWARD M65 PRIZE WINNER PETER EHRHARDT!***

Must be the best race of 2014.

Very difficult to choose with so many fantastic races but one which keeps coming to mind is the Kinder Trog.

The heat, for me, made carrying any sort of speed particularly difficult. Spraining my ankle about 6 miles in and having to rest it for 5 minutes also put me way further down the field than I would have liked so I just picked myself up, dusted myself down and enjoyed an almost leisurely 10 miles of sunshine, dry trails, clear sky's and beautiful Peak Distict scenery, whist taking on as much water as possible and trying to not get lost.

My ankle is still knackered now but I somehow really enjoyed the race.
John Allan

Apart from the rather special Queenstown Marathon, my favourite race was the Coniston 14. This is a 14 mile road race run round the Lake. I came 577th out of 1040 finishers in a time of 2.06. It was a lovely sunny day and everybody in the race seemed to be up for a bit of conversation on the way round. I have to also mention the Ian Hodgson Relay where I ran the last leg with Sue Roberts, and the Kentmere Horseshoe where I ran a good part of the way with Beryl Buckley.

David Leslie

*Swinton 10. Of course I didn't do it – but loved reading the feedback on the forum: “It was 2 laps of underpasses, rough pavement, dual carriageway, shopping streets and roadworks”, “...still the same urban decayed, contrived, dog **** strewn route”, “ the most tedious road race I have run in 11 years!!” Not included in this year's GP fixture list – shame.*

Dave O'Neill