

70 in 70

So – my birthday's in March, and I started with the Flower Scar, and the Roddlesworth Roller next day. Then 5 miles of concrete & 5 miles of tarmac on the front at Blackpool; I staggered round Heptonstall, and followed it with the first Andy O'Sullivan 5k trail race of the season. After which came the Elterwater fell race during a very wet Langdale weekend, though it did not rain during the race itself. That was March.

April started with the Caldervale 10, probably my favourite road race. Then on the Sunday the Guiseley Gallop, Monday the Hollingworth Lake 5k in misty conditions, Tuesday Bunny Run 2 and Wednesday another Andy O 5 k trail. The number of races completed was starting to stack up. Wardle was very windy and as a result I found it really really hard; first of my 2015 Radcliffe races followed the next day, 10k trail. Then another Andy O 5k trail and at the weekend the Overgate Hospice 10k. Andy O Diane Modahl 5k I felt to be a success, as I ran the whole route, which I had not been able to do 5 weeks earlier; then at my first ever BOFRA race, over Ilkley Moor, I was first v 65. After which it was off to the Wray scarecrow 10k where I enjoyed getting past a couple of runners just near the finish line. Orchan Rocks topped the month off nicely.

Another Andy O 5k trail race the next night and the Cake race at the weekend, another windy day. On to the Blacksticks Blue 10k and the Wholan Nook 5k, a trail race and my first race in the Burnley & Pendle Grand Prix. Leg 5 of the CWR, run for the Search & Rescue team came next then Blackstone Edge, the Burnley Lions 10k and Hutton Roof on a very hot day. I like Hutton Roof. Ilkley Trail came next and Edenfield on the 31st. That was May.

1st v65 at the Littleborough 5k was a nice start to June. Some grubby virus meant that the next race wasn't till the 13th; this was Weets, a nice route I thought. Got 3 races at midsummer madness, where I passed the halfway mark, completing in total 36 races. 1st v65 at Eddie's Revenge, a curious race at Newhey. Another one with nice cakes. Whaley Waltz was again a curious set up, a very hot day with a nice route and a water splash at the end.

July started hot at Cragg Vale; the mud bath at the end of the wood was almost dry by comparison with what one expects. Then the Eccup 10 was my 40th race. Next was the Radcliffe 3 day event; fell race Thursday, cross country Friday and trail race Saturday. I found the cross country the hardest. A new event is the Pendle family running festival and they had a splendid route for their 5 mile trail race where I was in grave danger of being beaten by daughter Jenny, but I managed to tuck her safely away at the BOFRA race at Ambleside sports, a fast and furious 2 miler with 800ft of climbing.

That's the lot so far. 45 done and I've got till the end of February to complete the 70. Should manage it.

Curious – as I read through this I seem to be short of a couple of races. It'll probably come to me what they were.

Peter Ehrhardt

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