

### **3rd Bent-Clees Challenge**

#### **Saturday 8 August 2009**

Organised by Glenn Hutton and Malcolm Young, with assistance from Ludlow Runners and Stanton Lacy Village Hall, with proceeds being donated to the charity, 'Help for Heroes'.

A total of £550 will be available for donation from the day's event.

The all day event for Walkers and Runners started and finished at Stanton Lacy Village Hall, Haytons Bent, following a largely off road route of public footpaths and access land. Two routes were available with distances of approximately 22 and 13 miles. The 22 mile route included the challenging ascents of Titterstone Clee, Brown Clee Hill and Abdun Burf, whilst the 13 mile route took in Titterstone Clee.

The sunshine and clear views were a great bonus after the deluges of recent weeks, the underfoot conditions although a little wet in places were largely good.

The small team of multi-tasking event officials helped set up the route, prepare and cook food for pre-start breakfasts, en-route food and refreshment stops, and a hot meal at the finish. The same people covered the control and time keeping, route marshalling and clean up party moving between several locations as the event progressed.

Participants arriving at the Village were welcomed with a breakfast bun, tea and coffee before a mass start for the walkers at 09:00 am followed by the runners at 10:00 am.

The first leg took walkers and runners via Hopton Cangeford, Cleestanton, Stantongate and the incline to the top of Titterstone Clee, 533mtrs.

A big treat for everyone, was the welcome sight of 'Pete's Café' (a temporary refreshment stop) on the top of Titterstone Clee, where Pete and Lil James provided a friendly welcome and served up a hot cuppa, sweet and savoury bites to recharge the batteries, with a little time taken to enjoy the magnificent views.

The 22 milers, following a section of the Shropshire Way between Titterstone Clee and Clee Liberty before descending towards Cleobury North, were greeted by Mel and Chris at Chris's Cafe, another temporary refreshment stop. A variety of snacks were available including freshly cooked burgers and chicken nuggets (orders taken and called through from an earlier check point). Or! just a quick top up, for those with a desire to make the best possible time and move to make the ascent of Abdun Burf, 540 mtrs.

Participants on the 13 mile route made their way off Titterstone via Callow Gate, eventually diverting from the 22 mile course towards Cleedownton and Stoke St. Milborough, and on to merge with the 22 mile route again at the first check point below the Scirmidge near Cold Weston.

At this check point another refreshment station, attended by Caroline Chauvin from adding a little continental flavour to fuel the muscles before the final three and a half mile leg to the finish line.

Certificates of completion were awarded to all finishing participants.

On return to 'The Stanton Lacy Village Hall' a Beef or Veggie Chilli was available with hot drinks or a cold beer to round off the day.

Finishing in a superb time of 4hrs 13mins, Russell Mapp of Ludlow Runners won the Men's 22 mile run, some 16mins ahead of joint 2<sup>nd</sup> David Rouse and Daniel Barnet. Ian Prentice, also of Ludlow Runners, put in a strong performance finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in 4hrs 39mins.

The Ladies' 22 miles was won by Joan Clarke of Stourbridge RC, finishing strongly in a time of 5hrs 29mins and over 1hr ahead of 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Jane Thomas, who finished in 6hrs 36mins.

#### 22 Mile Runners Finishing Order

Name	Run No.	Time In	Position	Men	Ladies
Russell Mapp	244	04:13	1st	1st	
David Rouse	261	04:30	Joint 2nd	Joint 2nd	
Daniel Barnet	247	04:30	Joint 2nd	Joint 2nd	
Nick Burchnall	268	04:31	4th	4th	
Iain Prentice	262	04:39	5th	5th	
Phil Butler	241	04:40	Joint 6th	Joint 6th	
Rob Morris	239	04:40	Joint 6th	Joint 6th	
Matt Giles	276	05:12	Joint 8th	Joint 8th	
Matt Raden	275	05:12	Joint 8th	Joint 8th	
John Owen	257	05:29	Joint 10th	Joint 10th	
Stuart Pedley	258	05:29	Joint 10th	Joint 10th	
Joan Clarke	229	05:29	Joint 10th		1st Lady
James Hallett	242	05:35	13th	11th	
David Wattass	250	05:36	14th	12th	
Jane Thomas	269	06:36	Joint 15th		2nd Lady
Alistair MacNaughton	270	06:36	Joint 15th	13th	
Joe Donnelly	263	06:39	Joint 17th		
Clare Donnelly	264	06:39	Joint 17th		3rd Lady
Grahame James	265	06:39	Joint 17th	14th	
Anne Day	254	06:40	Joint 20th		4th Lady
Jo Lord	253	06:40	Joint 20th		5th Lady

Dave Farrow of Shropshire Shufflers and Harry Wilder came in joint 1<sup>st</sup> in the 13 mile men's run in a time of 2hrs 55mins. Rupert Crew runner for the Charities BLESMA and Clock Tower came 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Patrick Doyle arrived late for the start having got lost on the way to the event. Patrick, an ex-paratrooper, was participating in the 13 mile walk in support of the Parachute Regiment and completed the course in a time of 4hrs 25mins, an amazing achievement especially as he carried a 40lb pack all the way!!

The ladies' 13 mile run was jointly won by Juliet Wheatley and Shelly Perkins of Ludlow Runners in a fine time of 3hrs 18mins. Gill Bullock was not far behind in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in time of 3hrs 39mins.

### 13 Mile Runners Finishing Order

	Run No.	Time In	Position	Men	Ladies
Dave Farrow	256	02:55	Joint 1st	Joint 1st	
Harry Wilder	274	02:55	Joint 1st	Joint 1st	
<i>Rupert Crew</i>	226	03:11	3rd	3rd	
Ian Clarke	228	03:15	4th	4th	
Juliet Wheatley	260	03:18	Joint 5th		Joint 1st
Stuart Hendren	271	03:18	Joint 5th	5th	
Shelly Perkins	272	03:18	Joint 5th		Joint 1st
Richard Squires	255	03:21	8th	6th	
Gary Wall	259	03:36	Joint 9th	Joint 7th	
Paul Archer	240	03:36	Joint 9th	Joint 7th	
Gill Bullock	273	03:39	11th		2nd
Jo Sharp	225	04:15	Joint 12th		Joint 3rd
Jane Mapp	227	04:15	Joint 12th		Joint 3rd
Joy Smith	245	Left Early (no official time)			
Angie Haines	246	Left Early (no official time)			
Sue Whittingham	238	Left Early (no official time)			
Julie Parker	237	Left Early (no official time)			
Dave Spurling	214	Left Early (no official time)			
Alex Rankin	231	Left Early (no official time)			
Wayne Guest	234	Left Early (no official time)			
Alan Morris	235	Left Early (no official time)			
Suzy Pyne	236	Left Early (no official time)			
<i>Patrick Doyle</i>	266	<i>Left Late - walker - 4:25</i>			

The event was well supported by the Long Distance Walking Association (LDWA), with 16 members participating.

Without the support and co-operation of our local land owners and farmers, events like this would not take place. Therefore we offer a sincere thanks to all those in the community who have played their part in making this event so successful.

Malcolm Young