



# THE HURTLEBERRY RACE REPORT

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday saw Tri-Adventure running the Hurtleberry for the second year in succession. Is it already a year since the last event?? We run this event on behalf of the Friends of the Hurtwood, to raise money for the upkeep and general maintenance of the area, and we were really pleased to be back again in this beautiful part of Surrey.

Unlike last year, the sun kept away for most of the day and, despite all the rain on Saturday, the course was in excellent shape. This is an annual off-road event, comprising Sprint and Full Duathlons as well as a 10k Trail Run, and a 10k Canicross. Set in the beautiful Hurtwood in the Surrey Hills, the network of trails here attracts Adventurers seeking a thrill.

The “**Hurtleberry**” is a mean, full purple fruit, that is native to this part of the UK. And, if participant reactions are anything to go by, they took part in a mean event that stretched their stamina and, in one or two cases, their hamstrings as well!



Nearly 70 athletes and 10 dogs lined up for the staged start beside the picturesque Holmbury St Mary Cricket Club. The two Duathlon events were first off at 9.00am, the Canicross runners then left at 9.15am, followed 5 minutes later by the 10k Trail runners. All of a sudden, what had been a noisy, bustling village area 15 minutes earlier, was now an eerily quiet place, with just the organisers and race officials left to get on with the business.

Participation in the different events was pretty evenly spread, and it was great to see 10 dogs at the start line, attached to their owners who, I am sure, welcomed the tug up the hills on the undulating course.

The events provided a high class of competition, with little to separate the leaders.



The Full Duathlon had the largest field and didn't disappoint. With the lead changing on each discipline, it was hard to predict who was going to cross the line first. Our winner last year, Andrew Lewis, was determined to hold on to his crown, putting in a huge effort. However, this time, he was pipped into fifth place, with the race being won by Gerald Tudor, in a very fast time of 2h15m35s. Undeterred, Andrew vowed to be back next year to reclaim his title! Ludovic Maillard was less than a minute behind the winner, with Andy Irons finishing a very creditable third for the second year in succession. The two laps of the bike circuit are particularly punishing, but they offer some of the best trails and single tracks Surrey has to offer.



The Ladies Full Duathon was convincingly won by Fay Cripps in a very impressive time of 2h20m52s minutes and she appeared to love every minute of the course. She was followed home by Danielle Rogers, with Sam Stretch grabbing third spot.



The Sprint Duathlon was, unfortunately, marred by the malicious removal (by persons unknown) of a key sign at a crossroads, causing riders to miss a turn at a track junction. Also, it appears that some of the early leaders were so involved in competing with one another that they inadvertently took a short cut and missed the awesome classic descent of the yoghurt pots. We have looked into this situation as much as we can, and have concluded that the result of the Men's Sprint Duathlon will stand as recorded, but that Rob Mills should be acknowledged as the first Sprint Duathlete to complete the full course.



The Ladies' Sprint Duathlon was a very closely fought affair with Sarah Nicholson improving on her 3rd position last year, and just managing to hold off Michelle Baeten by 15 seconds. Fiona Mackintosh picked up the third slot.



The 10k Trail run attracted a large number of runners, which ensured a keenly competitive spirit in both the men's and ladies' events. James Adams just managed to hold off Mark Spiller, finishing 24 seconds ahead in a time of 40m53s, with Leon Satplay taking 3rd place.



Donna McCourt was an impressive winner of the Ladies' 10k Trail Run, finishing over 3 minutes ahead of Ruth Poultney, with Nicola Dobson coming in third and just beating the one hour mark with 13 seconds to spare.



I'm not sure who enjoyed the Canicross more, the runners or the dogs, as, at times, it seemed that it was the dogs who were being held back by their two-legged owners! The winners were Andrew Ibbott and Kanie in a great time of 49.04 minutes in the Men's section, and Jennifer Spence and Über in the Ladies' section.

### OUR WINNERS

#### **Full Duathlon (10k run, 20k MTB, 5k run)**

Male	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Gerald Tudor	2h 15m 35s
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ludovic Maillard	2h 16m 18s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Andy Irons	2h 18m 59s
Female	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Fay Cripps	2h 20m 52s
2 <sup>nd</sup> Danielle Rogers	2h 36m 51s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sam Stretch	3h 02m 42s

#### **Sprint Duathlon (5k run, 10k MTB, 1.5k run)**

Male	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Doug Inge	1h 15m 57s
2 <sup>nd</sup> James Easterbrook	1h 15m 59s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Rob Mills	1h 19m 10s
Female	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Sarah Nicholson	1h 38m 04s
2 <sup>nd</sup> Michelle Baeten	1n 38m 20s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Fiona Mackintosh	1h 41m 13s

#### **10k Trail Run**

Male	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> James Adams	40m 53s
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mark Spiller	41m 17s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Leon Satplay	49m 00s
Female	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Donna McCourt	54m 08s
2 <sup>nd</sup> Emma Shirley	57m 39s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Alexandra O'Brien	59m 47s

## 10k Canicross Trail Run

Male	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Andrew Ibbott	49m 04s
2 <sup>nd</sup> Robert Whippy	53m 40s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Stephen Burd	58m 19s
Female	Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Jennifer Spence	55m 52s
2 <sup>nd</sup> Katerina Radova	1h 00m 07s
3 <sup>rd</sup> Faye Leadbeater	1h 04m 18s

Congratulations to all our worthy winners!

The full race results, with splits and transition times, are available on the Tri-Adventure website [here](#).

Photos taken at the event can be found and tagged in our Facebook album [here](#).

If you have photos to add from the event, please do [email](#) them, tweet them to [@tri\\_adventure](#), use the #hurtleberry or post them on [Facebook](#).

We spent a lot of time marking out the course, so it was very sad to find out that one of the arrows and red and white tape had been deliberately removed from a key junction spot on the MTB course, with only the cable ties being left in place. This mindless act of vandalism caused the riders to lose time unnecessarily, and was the only sour part of what was otherwise a fabulous day. It's totally understandable that racers' immediate reaction was one of frustration and anger but, once they realised that the sign had been deliberately removed, they accepted this setback with a smile on their face. For my part, I can only apologise, even though I know the course had been properly signed.

It was really great to see so many supporters turning out to see friends and various members of their family experience pain and exhilaration, the latter emotion being more observable a few minutes after they got their breath back.

This year, we were fortunate to have two sponsors on board - Alton Sports and K9 Trail Time - with both companies generously donating prizes to all the winners. Also, each participant received a T-shirt to commemorate a memorable day.



An awful lot of work goes on behind the scenes to stage an event like this, so we're very grateful to all the volunteers who turned up to help out on the course. In particular, I'd like to thank Mark Beaumont, the Hurtwood Ranger, for all his help and support. We'd have been really stuck without his tractor and off-road Nissan! Thanks, also, to Peaslake Village Shop, who supplied the volunteers with their lunch packs, and who brought along loads of lovely food and drink for us to enjoy.

Tri-Adventure run Adventure Races throughout the year, so do look out for them on [www.triadventure.co.uk](http://www.triadventure.co.uk), and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. The next event is on **18 September**, and will again be in the Surrey Hills, starting from Shere. I am also running a Navigation course the

previous day (17 September) from the same location, for anyone who wants to improve their map reading skills and their race strategy.

All in all, the event proved a great success, and there were lots of smiling yet exhausted faces. We look forward to welcoming everyone back again to next year's **Hurtleberry** event.

### **Future Tri-Adventure Events:**

[Autumn Series 1 - Shere Adventure Race](#), **Sunday 18th September 2016.**

4 hour event Experience, 2 hour Sprint, Trail, or NEW Mountain Bike ONLY.

[Autumn Series 2 - Tilford Adventure Race](#), **Sunday 9th October 2016.**

4 hour event Experience, 2 hour Sprint, Trail, or Mountain Bike ONLY.

[Autumn Series 3 -Holmbury St Mary Adventure Race](#), **Sunday 13th November 2016.**

4 hour event Experience, 2 hour Sprint, Trail, or Mountain Bike ONLY.

### **Save The Dates:**

Winter 1 - December 4 2016 at Albury Cricket Club

Winter 2 - January 8 2017 at Mickleham Village Hall

Winter 3 - February 26 2017 at Thursley Cricket Club

Finally, please use Social Media to tell others about Tri-Adventure – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. We want to keep putting on fantastic events, which challenge people whilst making them feel good (as those of you who take part will confirm), and we need to get our participation levels up to make this happen.

Yours in Adventure,

Adam

