



THE HURTLEBERRY RACE REPORT

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

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!

Sunday was Tri-Adventure’s third running of the Hurtleberry, and it turned out to be one of the best events we’ve run. Time and again, participants commented how great the course was: challenging, yet not impossible, and beautifully laid out, thereby offering something for everyone. 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.

Thank you for all the positive feedback - at time of writing, we've had 21 Reviews on Eventrac and 1 Review on RaceCheck. All the feedback is very positive, and many of you have said you'll be back next year, which is just what we want to see. We'll also take action on the suggestions, so that next year's event is even more memorable than this year's. Those of you who have still not posted a review, I encourage you to do so, as that helps us to learn and make our events better every time.

Despite all the rain over the last few days, the course was in excellent shape. The sun stayed away until the afternoon, but it was still and mild, offering the racers excellent conditions for running and biking. 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.



Year on year, this event grows in popularity and, this year, we had almost 100 athletes and 16 'canicross' 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, followed a few minutes later by the 10k Trail runners, and then, finally, the Canicross runners were off, pulled down hill by their enthusiastic dogs. 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. It is really pleasing to see so many of our regular Tri-Adventurers taking a break from our usual navigation based events, and following a waymarked route.

Participation in the different events was pretty evenly spread, and it was great to see 16 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, especially in the two Duathlons, with little to separate the leaders, as they took it in turn to lead their race. It was good to see so many people back from last year, trying to better their times, which many did.



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. The speed with which three racers went in and out of their second transition (final leg) was very impressive. Our winner this year, **Paul Floodgate**, bettered last year's winning time by just over a minute, completing the course in 2hr 14m16s. He was closely followed in by **Dan Cole** (Dorking CC), with **Mark Kemp** (Bristol & District Triathletes) in third place. Just over 2 minutes separated the top three, and well done to you all. 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. A special mention is warranted for Jon Heasman who completed the 20km bike section in a very fast time and breaking the hour, in 59m35s.



insta: @wakeford9

Nick Peters was a comfortable winner in the Sprint Duathlon, making up most of his time with a very fast bike ride, and coming in almost 3 minutes ahead of **Richard Wakeford** (Greenwich Tritons), with **Jim Morris** finishing a further 5 minutes behind.



Annabel Morton really stamped her authority on the Ladies' Sprint Duathlon, beating last year's winning time by 24 minutes! She completed the course in an excellent time of 1hr.14m.08s, a full 8 minutes ahead of second placed **Sam Stretch**, who had a real battle with 3rd placed **Debbie Morton**, only overtaking her on the final leg, and finishing 18 seconds ahead. Great to see mother and daughter on the podium.



The 10k Trail run attracted a large number of runners, which ensured a keenly competitive spirit in both the men's and ladies' events. **Leon Stapley** improved on his 3rd place last year by coming in first, shaving off just over 1 minute from his time last year for good measure. **Mark Batchelor**, and **Paul Adams** finished in second and third place respectively.



There was a tight race between **Jules Claridge** and **Rachel Roberts** in the Ladies' 10k Trail Run, with Jules finishing with a winning time of 53m47s. **Katie Coyle** was third, and the first three all finished in under 1 hour.



The Canicross start was fabulous to watch, with so many dogs full of beans and exuberance, waiting patiently (if a little excitedly) for the signal to start the race. I'm not sure who enjoys this event 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 Leadbetter** and **Ella** in a great time of 53m56s in the Men's section, and **Jo Wood** and **Pippa** did even better in the Ladies' section, beating Andrew and Ella's time by 39 seconds; well done team!

OUR WINNERS

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

Male	Time
1 st Paul Floodgate	2h 14m 16s
2 nd Dan Cole	2h 15m 15s
3 rd Mark Kemp	2h 16m 34s

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

Male	Time
1 st Nick Peters	1h 02m 26s
2 nd Richard Wakeford	1h 05m 09s
3 rd Jim Morris	1h 10m 04s
Female	Time
1 st Annabel Morton	1h 14m 08s
2 nd Sam Stretch	1n 22m 24s
3 rd Debbie Morton	1h 22m 42s

10k Trail Run

Male	Time
1 st Leon Stapley	47m 44s
2 nd Mark Batchelor	49m 10s
3 rd Paul Adams	56m 46s
Female	Time
1 st Jules Claridge	53m 47s
2 nd Rachel Roberts	54m 28s
3 rd Katie Coyle	58m 10s

10k Canicross Trail Run

Male	Time
1 st Martin Leadbeater	53m 56s
2 nd Nicholas Frost	58m 44s
3 rd Duncan Wells	1h 00m 55s
Female	Time
1 st Jo Wood	53m 17s
2 nd Sarah Ead	53m 58s
3 rd Sophie Biggs	55m 31s

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, as you would have seen from all of the tape. It was very sad to find out that some of the arrows and tape had been deliberately removed from the running course on Saturday, even before I had finished setting it out. So, I had to re-do this part of the course. I went round the course early on Sunday morning to check it again, and it was as it should be. The course was all good for the start, but it was later when collecting in the course, I found that some more arrows and tape had been removed. These mindless acts of vandalism are annoying, but I am pleased to say that you were all too quick for this to have any effect on your event.

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.

We were again fortunate to have on board the same two sponsors as last year - [Alton Sports](#) and [K9 Trail Time](#) - with both companies generously donating prizes to all the winners. Also, each participant received a medal to commemorate their achievements.



We had some Hurtleberry T-shirts for sale and they proved very popular, especially the Small and medium sizes. We still have a few left, so if you missed out on a real bargain (£2.50), let me know by email if you want to buy one, there are no S and only one M, many L and XL.

An awful lot of work goes on behind the scenes to stage an event like this, and this year, we were very fortunate to have some Scouts from [Rickmansworth](#) helping out. They enjoyed themselves enormously, despite the early start, and it was very rewarding to hear all the positive comments about how helpful they'd been, and how cheerfully they'd set about their tasks. I'd also like to thank Mark Beaumont, the Hurtwood Ranger, for all his help and support, and for preparing the ground for the Event Village. Thanks, also, to Tracey Blandford, who helped out at Registration, took photos and video, and then helped us clear up after the event. Finally, many thanks 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.triaventure.co.uk, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. The next event is on **15 October**, and will again be in the Surrey Hills, starting from **The Tilford Institute**, - we hope to see you there.

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, which is planned to take place on **Sunday 14 September, 2018**, so do put the date in your diary, and tell all your family, friends, and running/biking colleagues.

Future Tri-Adventure Events:

[Autumn/Winter Series 2 - Tilford Adventure Race](#), **Sunday 15th October 2017.**

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

[Autumn/Winter Series 3 – Tyler Hill \(Canterbury\) Adventure Race](#), **Sunday 19th November 2017.**

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

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

