



Tri-Adventure Race Report

Tilford 15 October 2017

After all the mixed weather we've had recently, it was a relief to witness a beautiful dawn welcoming us to Tilford. This is the third year in a row that we've held our October event here, and each time we've enjoyed good weather. Sunday was no exception, although there was a lot of cloud around once dawn had broken, and we had a great day for our event – warm and still, yet pretty challenging in some areas, as a result of all the recent rain. We really enjoy putting on events in the Surrey Hills and, even though we may return to certain venues, we guarantee that the course and Check Point location will be different every time.

The course provided a variety of conditions, with some muddy bits, some sandy bits (the bane of a MTB rider's life), and some really dry and fast bits – just the sort of challenge Tri-Adventurers enjoy. The results would suggest that the layout, and location of the CPs was just about right.

We had a really good turnout this time, with nearly 80 people taking part, and lots of first timers again. There was also quite a number of people who entered on the day; they'd no doubt seen the very positive weather forecast, and decided it was worth getting up early and having a go. All in all, the large number of entries in the different categories ensured some keen competition during the race, and some great banter afterwards.

We love seeing dogs taking their owners for a run in the Trail event, so it was good to see several taking part this time. Do, please, spread the word that our events are Canicross friendly, as we'd like to see many more dogs taking part.

Out of all the many strong performances, I want to single out Mark Glaister, who won the **Men's Trail** in a very tightly fought race. Mark has been taking part in the Trail event for a long time, and he repeated his last year's Tilford performance by winning today's event – a result that he was really chuffed with. Well done, Mark.

The Hall was full to bursting as people studied their maps and planned their routes, and there was a great atmosphere all the way through the event and, as the start horn went off at 10am, people set off in different directions, following their various strategies. Tracey Blandford, our Marketing Adviser, was on hand, filming and talking to participants about their experiences, and posted [a live stream of the Start](#) on FB just moments after the start of the race. Look out for her "Snap Chats" on our YouTube page.

We had a number of youngsters taking part this time, some of whom are becoming proper regulars, and some who were trying it out for the first time. We want to see more youngsters coming with their

parents and taking part, as they'll grow into our next generation of Tri-Adventurers. We don't charge for youngsters and, if they want their own map and dibber, we just make a £5 administration charge.



The flexible start time for the **Experience** event has taken off well, with almost all the participants setting off before 10am.

I'm really encouraged to see so many first timers trying out our events each month. We've recently started listing our events on various race listing sites, and it seems that the wider publicity is having a positive impact on our numbers. Yesterday was no exception, and probably as many as a third of the people on the Start Line were taking part for the first time. We hope all you "newbies" enjoyed your experience, and that you'll spread the word to your friends and family. You've got your first Tri Point, and you're on your way to getting a discount.

Please also remember that, every time you recommend someone who comes along and takes part, you also receive a Tri Point.

All the events were keenly contested, and there were some outstanding performances. 4 of the participants in the **Men's Experience** were within one checkpoint of one another, with finishing times being the deciding factor. Their rivalry epitomises everything Tri-Adventure stands for; they all selected very different routes, so they probably didn't see one another during the entire four hours, yet they finished with little between them!



The **Female Experience** was won by Rachel Clay, and commiserations to Laura Ashfield, who had a PB in terms of Checkpoints collected, yet finishing in the runner up position. The **Male Experience** was won by Peter Burdett at his 8th Tri-Adventure Event and first time Experience.



Karen Jones won the **Female 2 hour Sprint**, and there was a very close battle between the top three in the **Male 2 hour Sprint**. Three racers all finished with the same number of Check Points, and they all finished without any time penalties, so finishing times were all that separated them. The **Pairs Sprint** event was, once again, won by Michelle Baeten and Iva Kalášková, who equalled their best points score to date: 110 points. Well done, girls!



Mark Glaister managed a repeat performance from when he was last at Tilford, by winning the **Men's 2 hour Trail**. His decision to go for 11 Check Points meant he finished with just 2.5 minutes in hand, but it was the right decision, as 2nd and 3rd all finished ahead of him on time, but with 1 Check Point less.

The **Ladies' 2 hour Trail** provided, arguably (see below for Male MTBO) , the race of the day. Tracey Mills and Caroline Wharton both followed the same route, with Tracey just coming out on top by 12 seconds.



Interest in the **MTBO** category is slowly increasing, and we again had a good scrap in both the Male and Female sections. They had a pretty tough course to contend with, and Wendy Hardy collected the most check Points in **Female MTBO**, finishing well within the two hour limit. The **Male MTBO** witnessed two very impressive performances – both Sam Barnett and Sean Venables collected 18 Check Points, with Sam achieving this tally in just 7 seconds less than Sean.



This event is clearly a popular addition to our suite, and we'll be continuing with it every month.

Experience (4 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Peter Burdett	250 03:50:31
Female	Points/Time
1 st Rachel Clay	226 04:01:35
Pairs	Points/Time
1 st Matthew Lewis/Andrew Collins	132 04:13:42

Sprint (2 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Phil Gubby	130 01:51:23
Female	Points/Time
1 st Karen Jones	96 02:02:26
Pairs	Points/Time
1 st Michelle Baeten/Iva Kalášková	100 01:51:18

MTBO (2 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Sam Barnett	180 01:56:55
Female	Points/Time
1 st Wendy Hardy	120 01:51:29

Trail (2 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Mark Glaister	110 01:57:26
Female	Points/Time
1 st Tracey Mills	100 01:55:56

Congratulations to all our worthy winners!

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

Photographs can be found and tagged/shared in our Facebook album [here](#).

If you have photos to add from events, please do [email](#) them, tweet them to [@tri_adventure](#), or post them on [Facebook](#).

As usual, thanks to those who shared their thoughts and made suggestions on the day. I am always open to suggestions to improve and expand the Tri-Adventure experience for more and more people. If you have had a thought to add since Sunday, please pop it in an [email](#) now! Thanks, also, to my band of volunteers who, this month, included Leszek, Ed, and Tracey.

NEXT EVENTS

Our next event is at **Tyler Hill (Canterbury) in Kent** on **Sunday, 19 November**. Online entry is already [open](#). **PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION FOR THE NOVEMBER EVENT**, which takes us away from the Surrey Hills and into another AONB – the Kent Downs. Don't miss this opportunity to experience Adventure Racing in another part of the country.

The dates and locations through to February next year are now confirmed, and can be found on our website [here](#), so please put them in your diaries. There will be prizes at the end of each series.

Once again, thanks for coming along to Tilford on Sunday. I know I say this in every Report but, quite simply, without you, there would be no Tri-Adventure. Please help us to spread the word about these great weekend events so that we can get the numbers up, and I look forward to seeing you again in November.

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 keep increasing our numbers to make this happen.

Yours in Adventure,

Adam

