

Tri-Adventure Race Report

Shere 8 December 2019



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Shere 10 December 2019

Once again, despite all the bad weather in the days leading up to the event, we had a rain-free day and ideal race conditions. The sun even put in a bit of an appearance, which allowed the guys on transition to have a quick five minutes on the bench, as they waited for the racers to return. We do seem to pick the right days for people to have a great day out, and long may it continue.

It was one of those days when everything seemed to work like clockwork, and we even managed to keep the registration flowing without any major hold ups. That hour leading up to the start time can be quite frenetic at times, as people queue to get their maps and numbers.

We had another very good turnout, with 109 athletes taking part. Quite a few signed up on the day, and I was very pleased to see the better numbers in the **4 hour LONG** event. The **2 hour TRAIL** continues to be the most popular event, and we now regularly break through the 50 mark.

Clearly, from the really positive feedback we get on the day about the course layout, the challenge, the atmosphere and the camaraderie, people really do enjoy our events, so do spread the word. I know that we had at least one person from the south coast.- Littlehampton – so maybe folks are beginning to realise that it's not that far to the Surrey Hills.

It was lovely to see Caz Bullard of Dingle Adventure on Sunday. I have known Caz a long time, as we used to race together in multi-day adventure races, which included the World Champs in 2009. She came along and promptly won the **2 hour Female Trail**!



The **Men's 2 hour Trail** was won by Matt Reed, in what proved to be a very tight race, with three athletes finishing with the same number of CPs and within the time limit. So, finishing times determined the winner. Matt had attended one of my Navigation courses the previous day, so well done Matt – I couldn't have asked for a better bit of promotional advertising for my **Navigation Courses**! Instant results! Details of these one day courses are available on the Tri-Adventure website.



A lot of the racers really pushed themselves to achieve their personal bests. Tom Hards collected 26 of the 31 CPs in the **4 hour LONG**, which meant that he was a comfortable winner in this event. Welcome back to Helen and Daniel Murphy, whom we'd not seen at our events for quite a while. They don't seem to have lost their edge, coming in second overall in the **LONG**, with 23 CPs.



Ian Cartwright had a great run in the **MTBO**, collecting 22 CPs with only a slight time penalty, pushing Julian Hemsted into second place. It's great to see two of our regular Tri-Adventurers competing so fiercely for the top spot.



Although the numbers in the **Mini Trail** continue to be lower than I would like to see, it was pleasing to see so many youngsters taking part this month. 3 pairs collected all 10 CPs, with the first two arriving back within the one hour. Congratulations to Jamie Maker and Daniel Banks. One of my mates from the Clapham Chasers, Martin Rutter, has been recovering, so well done to him for managing to get 9 of the 10 CPs within the time limit.



Andrew, aka Basil, Headney, a Scout Leader, was back again with his two Scout navigators, Felix and Arthur, to take on the 4 hour **LONG** challenge. He told us that the lads, who, I think, are the youngest we've ever had tackle this event, did virtually all the navigating, and they did very well to collect 13 CPs without any time penalties, although I got the impression that they found the course a bit tough this time.



Nigel Davison is one of our regulars, and we've shared with him his joy at becoming a parent for the first time, and now his family has increased again. There may be a few more grey hairs showing now, but the competitive spirit is alive and well, and it was a real pleasure to award him the winner's prize this time in the **2 hour SHORT**. Well done, Nigel.



I would like to clear up some concerns that people had regarding CP25. Some of the early racers reported that they had found this CP without any trouble, yet quite a number of those arriving later at this CP thought that it was missing. These CPs do, from time to time, go missing, but I'm pleased to say that, on this occasion, it was still there when I collected the course in on Tuesday. The evidence is here! However, what I did find when I was collecting the CPs in was that someone had tried to hide some of the CPs, making them harder to find. I found bracken had been used to hide some of them, and the tape I use to highlight them had been moved to the back of the tree or post, making them less visible. I do hope that this isn't being done by our competitors. It's never my intention to hide CPs, so that people waste time looking for them, so I can assure everyone that I'm not the culprit! My events are about people using their navigation skills to find the CPs without delaying them so, if anyone sees anything suspicious, please let me know.

It's funny how things vary from month to month. On Sunday, we had quite a few dogs taking part, with one (no name disclosed) who was particularly excited to be taking part and making sure that his registration was completed! They all came back, covered in mud, having clearly enjoyed themselves.

The catering arrangements continue to be popular, with the soup and cakes going very well. In order to keep costs down, we operate an Honesty Box principle, which does mean that, sometimes, people can't get the change they need. Please, when this happens, just give us a shout on registration, as I always carry a lot of change on the day. I'd hate for someone to miss out on a cake or a cup of tea because they do not have any loose coins.

The flexible start for the 4 hour event is popular, and seems to work well. I've been asked several times whether we can introduce this flexible start in the other, shorter events. The reason we have a fixed starting time for all the other events is that I want to make sure that there is a buzz in the Hall after an event, as people share their experiences and have a laugh together. This would not happen if we have a flexible start, as people will finish at different times and then drift away, so I have no plans to extend the flexible start time to the 2 hour and 1 hour events. I could consider making the mass start a little early, say at 9.45am instead of 10am, but we also need to take account of the additional pressure this may put on the Registration team. Anyway, this is something I may consider in the future.

LONG (4 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Tom Hards	242 04:08:36
Female	Points/Time
1 st Hannah Cooke	199 03:00:07
Pairs	Points/Time
1 st Helen Murphy / Daniel Murphy	227 04:01:29

SHORT (2 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Nigel Davison	80 01:58:54
Female	Points/Time
1 st Chrissie Glew	50 01:58:24
Pairs	Points/Time
1 st Clare Gibson / Chris Gibson	70 01:53:34

Trail (2 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Matt Reed	120 01:56:43
Female	Points/Time
1 st Caroline Bullard	107 02:06:28

Mini Trail (1 hour event)

All	Points/Time
1 st Jamie Maker / Daniel Banks	100 00:58:35

MTBO (2 hour event)

Male	Points/Time
1 st Ian Cartwright	218 02:00:43
Female	Points/Time
Natalie Creswick	180 01:55:18

Congratulations to all our worthy winners! The full race results, with splits and transition times, are available on the Tri-Adventure website [here](#). If you have photos to add from events, please do [email](#) them, tweet them to [@tri_adventure](#), or post them on [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#).

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!

One question I have for everyone – how do we get people from the South Coast to realise that the Surrey Hills are virtually on their doorstep? How can we market to this group? Suggestions, please.

NEXT EVENTS

The venue for our next event, the first in 2020 will be Mickleham Village Hall. The first event of the New Year always attracts a large entry, and I hope this will be the same again. This is a location we have used before, and the event will take place on **Sunday, 5 January**, when I hope we'll be enjoying a lovely, crispy morning. Online entry is already open, and the **Early Bird prices** are still available until Sunday 22 December. I'll also be running a navigation event the day before, on Saturday 4 December. So, if any of you want to brush up your map reading and strategy skills, why not book a place [here](#), after you have found out more details here: [Navigation Courses](#).

Thanks to the team of Chris, Tracey, Ed, and Leszek for helping me to ensure that we put on another great event. Once again, thanks to you for coming along to Shere on Sunday; you helped to make it a great event. 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 keep the numbers over 100+, and I look forward to seeing you again in December.

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

