

Hadrian's Hike Saturday 02nd July 2016

This year's event saw a field consisting of 33 Long distance walkers taking on the 21-mile route and 47 short distance walkers tackling the 12-mile route.

Both routes started and finished at the Twice Brewed Inn.

With two separate routes "in play" on the day the short distance route would take its walkers South to Bardon Mill and checkpoint 1 via Vindolanda Roman Fort and then on to Ridley Hall area before heading North across Thorngrafton Common back up to Hadrians' Wall and joining it at checkpoint 5 located up on the Wall at Housteads Roman Fort.

The long distance walk would take its competitors South to Vindolanda Roman Fort, then East over Thorngrafton Common to checkpoint 2 at Cubstock; then from there on to Newbrough and checkpoint 3. From there they would head North to Mithraeum Roman Fort, checkpoint 4 and join Hadrians Wall where they would continue West to Housteads Roman Fort to checkpoint 5.

From checkpoint 5 both routes would then head back to the Twice Brewed Inn following the Wall to Steel Rigg where the competitors would drop down to the finish line.

Having had a week of rainy days leading up to the date of the event it was no surprise that on the day those taking part would be "dogged" by the usual inclement weather.

For those who regular attend this event their wry grin and shrug of the shoulders was a sign that they'd seen this all before and would not be put off from enjoying the day.

By 0900 hours all long distance entrants were smiling and ready to get started regardless of the conditions. After the obligatory safety brief by Hadrian's Hike Chairman Dave Wilson, Community Safety Area Manager Phil Clark thanked them for their support, offered them a few words of encouragement and well wishes for the day then set them off on their way.

The checkpoint 2 team set off for their location accompanied by a Raynet Communication team member whose job would be to keep them in contact with the Base team and Medic should the need arise.

Back at the Twice Brewed Inn, the Base team were busy setting up ready for the short distance walkers who were to go off at 1000 hours and hopefully like their long distance counterparts would not be put off by the weather.

All short distance entrants checked in on time and were duly sent off once again by Phil.

At checkpoint 2 the first long distance walkers Marian Fletcher, Ricky Scott and Dave Clifton sped through at 1020hrs – 1025 hrs.

Checkpoint 3 was opened and at 1100hrs the first of the long Distance walkers started to arrive.

Meanwhile on the Short route checkpoint 1 was open and waiting for the first of the short distance walkers, with the first arrival being John Traynor at 1100hrs, followed by Brian Feherty, Mark Roberston and Stephen Balmer at 1109hrs.

Back at checkpoint 2 the last of the long distance walkers had been through and this checkpoint was closed at 1105hrs and the checkpoint team sped off to Mithraeum Roman Fort to set up checkpoint 4.

At checkpoint 1 with the last walker through this was also closed down at 1120hrs and the checkpoint team moved up to Housteads Roman Fort to set up checkpoint 5.

As expected the weather was going through its various stages of heavy rain followed by sun and then again quickly followed by more heavy rain, topped off with a “smidgeon” of wind! By now both competitors and checkpoint teams were thoroughly soaked.

Checkpoint 3 was closed down.

At checkpoint 5 the walkers still wearing waterproofs moved on toward Steel Rigg and “home”.

At 1347 hrs back at Base the first of the short distance walkers Mark Roberston, Darren Chambers and Stephen Balmer were arriving with times of 3hr 47mins – well done! with Lucy and Trevor Tague hot on their heels with times of 3hrs 48 mins – great effort!

All short distance walkers who completed the route were back in and drying off at the Twice Brewed Inn by 1500hrs (one of the fastest short routes we’ve had for a while) where they received a choice of soup, checked their raffle tickets and received the famous Hadrians Hike Polo Shirt.

At 1425 hrs the first of the long distance walkers began to arrive with Ricky Scott, Dave Clifton and Des Mitchell achieving times of 5hrs 25mins – well done!

As all competitors arrived they were met by the smiling faces of our base team Peter and Jan Louth, Simon Tulley and Chris Maddox our Medic, who recorded the times, issued out the t-shirts and ensured that they were all fit and well (on top of the thousand other jobs they do during the day).

Around about this time the vehicle support teams were at their busiest, running the routes to close down checkpoints and offer lifts to those who felt the need for one, so a big thanks to Ray Walker and Dave Wilson.

All competitors were in and accounted for and the event closed down by 1700hrs. The event team packed the equipment up and made ready to go officially bringing to an end Hadrian’s Hike 2016.

All proceeds raised on the day will be donated to the Firefighters Charity, The Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team and the Great North Air Ambulance.

The Hadrian's Hike Committee would like to thank the following for their continual support and kind donations

TWFRS:

CFO Tom Capeling TWFRS, for permitting us to once again hold the event

ACO John Baines TWFRS, for his continued support in the organising of the event

AM Phil Clark TWFRS, for his attendance at the event on behalf of the SMT

Sports and Social section TWFRS, for their administration duties and making my job easy

Our Sponsors:

Sainsbury's for their kind donation of food and drink for the event checkpoints

The Great Outdoors, Ringtons Tea, Go Outdoors, Mountain Warehouse, Outdoor World, United British Caravans and Dickies Outlet Store for their kind donation of raffle prizes and discounted goods.

Event Partners:

The Twice Brewed Inn for allowing us the use of their facilities and providing the end meal

Raynet for their continued Comms support

Event Committee and Staff on the day:

Base Team.

Peter and Jan Louth

Chris Maddox

Simon Tulley.

Checkpoint Marshalls

Dave Shiel Ch 2 + 4

Dave Fleming Ch 2 + 4

Sam Lee Ch 3

Steve Graham Ch 3

Jim Sabiston Ch 1 + 5

Mick Fell Ch 1 + 5

Sweepers

Steve Clark Long Walk

Graham Smith Long Walk

Long walk

Bruce Gormley Short Walk

Bill Dunne Short Walk

Vehicle Support

Steve Barnett

Dave Wilson

Ray Walker

and finally but most importantly...

To you the competitors, without your continued support and enthusiasm we would not be able to hold the event or have such a great fun day, so to all our old friends and new thank you and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Steve Barnett TWFRS.

PS

Look out for the photos we took here on our website and if you have any that you'd like to share we'd love to see them.