

The DMC Big Walk - Edale Skyline

25th November 2012

As with many outdoor activities in November, the weather dictates and the forecast for Sunday 25th November 2012 was not looking good. Most had sussed out that it was probably going to rain and get a bit better later. Despite the forecast and several half hearted attempts to withdraw before the event, a respectable number (16 walkers + 2 support) turned out to brave the weather, suitably dressed for the occasion with full waterproofs and gaiters.

Three teams were anticipated before the walk started; a fast team who would run and expect to complete in around 5 hours, a fast walking team in 8hrs and a slower walking team in 10½hrs. In order to ensure that the 'bacon buttie stops' could be accommodated each of the teams set off at different times; 9:30, 8:30 and 7:30am respectively. This worked almost perfectly with all of the teams arriving at the first stop at the same time.

Although Tony and Judith had their work cut out providing for all at the same time; a task which they performed admirably under great pressure. Grateful thanks go to them for providing some essential sustenance.

Whilst everyone anticipated that it was going to be wet for a while, few had bargained for the gale force winds which presented themselves on the ascent of Ringing Roger; the first waypoint on the route. Several of the smaller, lighter members had to be restrained lest they be blown away. The going continued to be difficult most of the way to Win Hill but it was at least manageable. The arrival at the first food stop was a very welcome break from the battering.

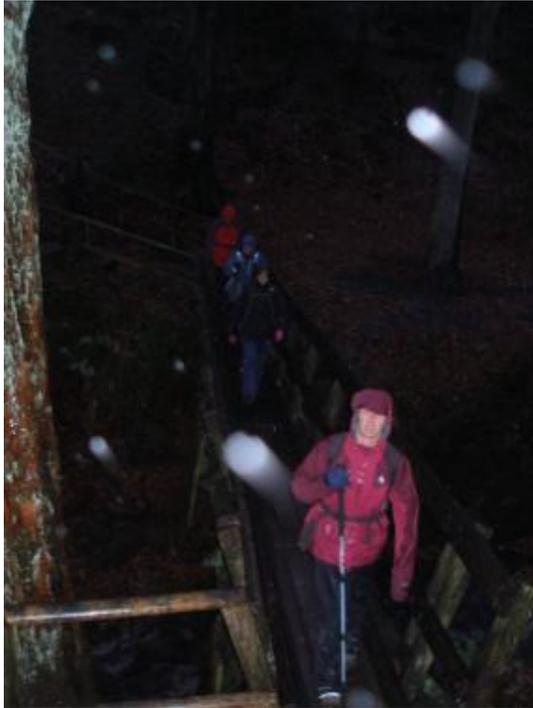
Once everyone had been fed and watered, groups broke off to the next leg in a random fashion; the runners set off first eager to maintain their initial pace, some of the slower group set off to form another group, and the fast walkers set off together. The last of the teams set off for the next leg to Lose hill at a leisurely pace. This part would normally be the most demanding - the slow grind up Lose hill but this proved to be just the start of an epic struggle to the next fuel stop.

The Mam Tor ridge in characteristic style was very windy but the summit proved too much for some with one or two being blown from their feet. Such that the next stop was a great relief for most and the end of the road for Roman who retired with cramp and severely blistered feet and promptly spent the rest of the afternoon in the pub (very sensible). At the second food stop the runners had already past through but the breakaway contingent from the slower walking team and the fast walking group met again. This time, after suitable refreshment (thanks again Tony and Judith) all set off together to form a bigger single group for the plod to Brown Knoll.

As predicted the rain had stopped, the sun had made an appearance, and the wind had dropped but this section turned out to be just as arduous as the previous two. The rain from the previous week and probably some time before made the ground in these parts especially boggy; Gill sunk in to her knees and had to be rescued and Colin was also glad he had worn knee length gaiters and waterproofs. Once at Brown Knoll two of the team ploughed through the knee deep bog to reach the trig point.

On the last leg five of the team went the proper way whilst the other four took a short cut across Grindsbrook missing out Grindslow knoll. This resulted in all of the team arriving at Ringing Roger for the final descent at the same time. The nine arrived at the Nag's head at five o'clock with just enough light to avoid head torches. Already sat in the warmth of the dining room were Russ and Andy (the runners) who had managed a respectable (given the conditions) seven hours including stops.

Mike, Sally, Kris and Daniela maintained their pace until the top of Grindslow knoll but were slowed by darkness but donning head torches carried on to complete arriving at the Nag's head at 7pm



An early start for the first team away



The first stream crossing



On the way to Win Hill



Win Hill Summit (Sally, Daniela, Kris, Mike taking photo)



All teams reach the first fuel station together (Hope road crossing)

Kris, Dean, Colin, Helen, Geoff, Ruth, Gill, Daniela, Pete, Roman, Mike with Paul, Russ & Andy in the background. Chris is taking the photo and Tony, Judith and Sally are out of shot



Chris and Gill on a windswept Lose Hill summit



Mike Kris and Daniella on the Great Ridge



Pete and Geoff approaching Mam Tor



Approaching Back Tor



Russ catching the wind on Mam Tor



Looking back towards the Great Ridge



The second pit stop



Mike at Lord's Seat looking back over the Great Ridge



The second team at Lord's Seat



Paul on Brown Knoll trig point



Colin knee deep in the peat bog that is Brown Knoll



Dean at Brown Knoll



Across the moor to the top of Jacob's Ladder path



Edale Head at golden hour



Towards Noe Stool



Noe Stool



The final leg



Paul in the semi-darkness just before the final descent



Russ and Andy back before dark