

## Roadhogg News

### Muddy Roadhogs Out in Force



**Richard leading the way  
at Allestree**

### Changes to LRRL

The 2018 LRRL programme has been cut to just 9 races with the cancellation of the Hungarton 7. The first 3 races (Stilton 7, Kibworth 6 and Desford 5) will still be closed but there will be no Winter League individual prizes. Combined winter and summer prizes will be awarded for the best 6 scores. Your age category for the season will be determined by your age on the date of the first race i.e. 25/2/18.

Roadhogs have been represented at most of the muddy happenings over the last few weeks. Members have been Galloping in Gaddesby, Hashing in Huncote, Racing in Rotherby and Arctic in Allestree. While all this has been going on, roving reporter and part-time tent technician, Kim, has been documenting all the thrills and spills for you to enjoy from the comfort of your armchair.

Make yourself a brew and sit back to enjoy the ride.



### January 2018



### Racing in a Winter Wonderland at Allestree.

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### SHORTS

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due. Please use the PayPal link on the website.

Don't forget the Club AGM is being held on Monday 19th February in the Charles Palmer Suite at LCCC.

Picture credits: Simon Hargrave, Mike McSharry, Louise Forsdyke, V&M Images.

## Gaddesby Gallop

The Gallop is a real local cross country race. It has slowly grown over the years from just a few competitors to almost 200 but still has that village atmosphere, with local people turning out to organise and marshal. Also it is unusual these days in being held on a Saturday, meaning that for a change you could have the Sunday off if you wanted to.



Prab getting his first taste of XC

The day was damp and cool. The runners wore Santa hats which added a nice Christmas atmosphere to the event. Roadhogs turned out in numbers, including three from the Barratt dynasty and new member Prab. The course is 5.25 miles of local farmland with hills here and there, a drainage tunnel and a muddy pond to challenge the runners. Many sections around the fields were through sticky mud which clung to your shoes, so that you carried more weight as you ran! The tunnel is tall enough to walk through in a Groucho Marx style, but the water and stones lining the bottom make it all the more difficult for runners who are already tired. This year the pond was more mud than water, and both Sam J and Dale managed to get themselves stuck in the mud and had to be pulled out by marshals. Mean-

time Dave Lod ran by, taking the opportunity to grab a lead over Dale, which he lost again later on by going the wrong way!

Sam J led our guys home with Dave Lod and Dale pushing each other not far behind, followed by some Barratts and Sam C. Jackie was first in for the girls, mixing it with the guys as she does, followed by Julie who was running her first race as a first-claim Roadhogg, our

new guy Prab and smiley Janet. The presentations afterwards are held in the Cheney Arms, where runners can enjoy bacon butties by the fire, mmmmmm.



## RESULTS

26th Sam Jolly 41.21, 33rd Dave Lodwick (V55) 43.44, 35th Dale Jenkins (V55) 43.51, 43rd Max Barratt 44.34, 77th Sam Crouchman 48.51, 88th George Barratt 50.27, 94th Jackie Brown (V50) 50.54, 134th Julie Dutton (V55) 59.01, 135th Prabjot Bhella 59.07, 144th Janet Hall (V40) 61.07, 194 finished.

Dale after making his escape from the Dew Pond

## Huncote Hash

The annual Hash is advertised as a 'back to basics' cross country race and lives up to this description. The 10k course has the complete mix of mud, woodland trails, grassland, a brook to wade through and climbs as tough as any you may find. The event is very popular with local muddy runners and in addition this year attracted competitors from Kettering, Stamford and Long Eaton, though overall numbers were down on previous years. For



**The brook was obviously cold!**

Roadhogs it was 'girls rule' as our ladies (Jackie, Janet, Valerie and Trudy) outnumbered the men (Dave Lod and Dale).

It was a grey and cool morning and the underfoot conditions were 'suitably muddy' after all the melted snow and ice. Helen Arthur came along to join me in supporting our fellow Roadhogs and we watched the start then ran over to Croft Hill to join the crowd of supporters at the top. From there you can see many parts of the course, as well as encourage your own runners up that last strength-sapping stretch to the top of the hill. Few run to the top, most have to walk this section fell-runner style (hands pushing down on thighs) but it's probably as quick to walk with longer strides than run slowly and with short steps. After the hills you still have the brook to get through, which at least cleans your shoes for a while, then the last mile to the finish.

Fancy dress is encouraged, in keeping with the festive occasion, though our own Trudy did not wear the cocktail dress she ran in last year but elected to run in normal kit instead. This year there were a bunch of cavemen and cavewomen (local people?) and we also saw a number of other costumed runners including Spiderwoman, Bananaman, an angry snowman and a number of Santas and elves. One lady Santa must have been quite cold. I must say that I admire them all; this race is tough enough without making it even harder by running in a full costume.

Dave Lod continued his resurgent form, with Dale not far behind. Jackie led the girls home, and Janet, Valerie and Trudy all ran good races and finished well up. Everyone ran them-



selves into the ground. After the finish at the leisure centre there is a welcome soup and roll for the runners, all part of the entry fee, thanks to Huncote Harriers.

#### RESULTS:

41st Dave Lodwick (V55) 51.55, 66th Dale Jenkins (V55) 54.11, 116th Jackie Brown (V50) 60.15, 210th Janet Hall (V40) 71.44, 261st Valerie Spezi (V40) 79.31, 291st Trudy Sharpe (V45) 83.47, 344 finished.

Trudy clearly wasn't impressed with something!

## County XC

Since Brian Feldman joined Roadhogs he has worked hard to promote interest in championship cross-country events, with some success. Last year our vet girls (these days veterans are officially called 'masters') did us proud with bronze team medals at the County Championships; this year a slightly changed line up of Jackie, Charlotte and Emma ran strongly and packed well at the end but missed out on the medals at Rotherby Lodge Farm. Great effort

though, and backed up by Julie, Aruna and Valerie who also gave it their all on this testing course.

The senior courses at Rotherby Lodge Farm are multi-laps of muddy farmland, with a hard climb at the beginning of each lap. It was cold and frosty, and looked like it could rain all day but there was just one brief shower as the final race of the day, for senior and vet men, got under way. Sam Crouchman was our only senior guy though we did have a few in the vets race. These runners had to contend with the muddiest ground of all as this was the last race; the Roadhogs guys all worked so hard all the way round to finish as high as they could. Brian himself, though he was detached at the back of the race, got his head down and kept going to the end as he always does.

Former Roadhogg Ludo Renou and second claim Roadhogg Dave Pearce both finished well up in the masters race for Leicester Coritarians ... clearly the benefit of running for Roadhoggs is paying off for them.

Well done to all of the Roadhoggs who ran. It was not an easy course and the standard was high in every race. Hopefully we will continue to build interest in championship events and see more Roadhoggs running at this level and raising the profile of the club at the same time.

## RESULTS:

SENIOR MEN 10km: 77th Sam Crouchman 60.43, 82 finished.

MASTERS MEN 10km: 16th Mark Ramsden 51.01, 25th Richard Garnett (V60) 53.19, 61st Terry Woodhouse 63.15, 64th Harry Short 65.18, 69th Brian Feldman (V70) 86.16, 70 finished.

MASTERS LADIES 6km: 20th Jackie Brown 34.14, 24th Charlotte Wood 34.46, 25th Emma Raven 35.02, 44th Julie Dutton 39.31, 58th Aruna Bhagwan 43.23, 60th Valerie Spezi 43.42, 68 finished.

## Derby Runner Leics/Derbys Cross-country League, race 5, Allestree Park, Sunday 21st January

It was still snowing at the start and it never stopped. At one point the tent collapsed under the weight of the snow. Amy and Jackie came along to support their teammates, neither being fit to run right now, and Amy set up her camera and did a brave job taking photos of our runners with freezing hands whilst Jackie shouted encouragement. The Allestree course is 6 miles around 2 laps of fields and parkland, each lap easier in the second half than the first, and with a wickedly steep climb half way round that it's probably easier to walk up than try to keep running.



Leah had a great run

Dave Pearce was first home for us in a brilliant 15th place, but as usual cannot count towards the team score as he is second-claim. Our first scoring runner was Mark Ramsden (welcome back Mark), followed in by Richard Garnett and then Dave Lodwick, both 'more mature' runners who can still show most youngsters a thing or two. Then James T and then Dale (another 'mature' runner) before Sam C and Max and George Barratt completed the team scores, with the Barratt boys having their own race. Leah led the girls home with a terrific run, followed by Julie and then Janet and Stevie in close order ... well done Stevie for scoring club points on your debut run! As for Prabjot, well he struggled round but I am sure he will come back for more. I must also recognise our other runners, as everyone worked so hard in the snow and cold, so a big thank you also to Hitesh and Steve W for the guys and to Aruna and Valerie for the girls. Overall numbers were down because of the weather,

but not as much as you might think, and anyway our hardy Roadhogs scored well and

climbed 2 places in the division.

Back in the tent there was some post-race cake and coffee to help the recovery, but most of the runners from Roadhogs and the other clubs just wanted to get home and thaw out. But there was one last challenge ... the car parks had iced over so getting your car out was tricky and you had to wait for your turn to manoeuvre carefully out to the road. Well done to all who ran on this toughest of days.

The next xc league race is at Grace Dieu school, near Shepshed, on Sunday 18th February.

PS thanks to Dale and the girls for helping me get the tent down!

#### RESULTS:

MEN: 49th Mark Ramsden 46.02, 58th Richard Garnett (V60) 46.19 , 93rd Dave Lodwick (V55) 49.34, 104th James Thurman 50.29, 135th Dale Jenkins (V55) 53.16, 146th Sam Crouchman 53.44, 172nd Max Barratt (U20) 56.31, 181st George Barratt 57.26, 193rd Hitesh Pandya (V55) 58.59, 210th Steve Wheeler (V45) 61.39, 243rd Prabjot Bhella 69.47, 260 finished.

2nd CLAIM: 15th Dave Pearce (V50) 43.17.

LADIES: 54th Leah Boatman 58.24, 76th Julie Dutton (V55) 62.48, 91st Janet Hall (V40) 64.27, 93rd Stevie Beeby 64.44, 116th Aruna Bhagwan (V55) 69.25, 121st Valerie Spezi (V40) 70.08, 142 finished.

TEAMS: Men 5th, Ladies 8h, Combined 5th.

TEAMS AFTER 4 RACES: Men 5th, Ladies 10th, combined 5th.