

The Joe Beswick Sandstone Trail Challenge

Sunday 14th May 2023

Event Report



It was a warm, sunny morning as 197 runners and walkers left Whitchurch at 08.37am. The Challenge was kindly started by Andy Hall, Mayor of Whitchurch.

The front runners quickly pulled away and continued to make good time arriving at the checkpoints within minutes of each other. Chris Larkin established his lead midway along the trail and finished in a time of 4 hours and 28 minutes. Alex Cann and Andy Brookshaw (Helsby Running Club), followed with times of 5.06 and 5.07 respectively.

Olivia Drake, was first lady home in a time of 5.46. Both male and female winners are unattached runners and were competing for the first time in the challenge.

Trophies were kindly presented by Alan Beswick, Joe's son.



A steady stream of runners continued to arrive back at the community centre including; Joe McCarthy (North Endurance) V50 winner, in a time of 5.58, Cath Applewhite (Run Knutsford) V50 female winner in a time of 6.58, and John Booth (South Cheshire Harriers) V70 winner in a time of 7.31.

The very warm weather early in the day made going quite tough but fortunately in the afternoon the temperature dropped and the later finishers even had some refreshing rain.

Well done to all finishers and to those who didn't quite make it this year, we hope you will attempt the challenge again. We appreciate the 10 hour cut off time is a challenge for walkers but several just managed to pass through CP5 before it closed and made it back to the community centre before we had packed up!

Many thanks for all the positive feedback and constructive comments. A majority were happy with the minor diversion avoiding the busy A54 despite having to face the Yeld!

"Big shout out to Helsby Running Club for another spectacular day on the Sandstone Trail Challenge. Brilliantly organised as ever. Friendly and supportive marshals at all CPs and at the end in the hall" Chris Lees

Thank you to everyone who helped out in any way to support the Challenge, without the time and support of our volunteers we could not stage this event.

See you next year on Sunday 12th May 2024.