

Tissington Trail half marathon – John Skinner

A small group of Ripon Runners made the trip to Ashbourne this weekend ahead of the Tissington Trail Half Marathon.



With an even smaller group staying at the picturesque Ilan Hall YHA hostel in the National Trust's Ilan park. The rain came in biblical proportions, not ideal for the Garbutt's who were camping nearby and hardly slept!



All credit to Fiona Alder who competed in the Saturday event, partly in those awful conditions, and recorded a time of 2:20:35.

Saturday night for some involved tapas, more rain, police attending the hostel and the sad demise of a frog....

Sunday's race was blessed with glorious sunshine and blue skies - perfect conditions for enjoying the stunning Derbyshire countryside and that wonderful gentle downhill trail. We met at the Leisure Centre to be bused along winding Derbyshire dales lanes to the start where the South African run director set out the rules, plain and simple.

We headed off along the mainly sand coloured old railway line through woodlands, cuttings, under bridges and the lush green fields edged by the Peak District. Once the field thinned out the only obstacles were cyclists, walkers and other trail users enjoying the weather.



There were sunny smiles all round at the finish where we were welcomed by Trish and Michaela's sister, Heather. There was great support along the route from Rachel Holmes and Andy Purll on his bike impersonating Sam Musambini, Harold Abraham's coach (for the younger readers watch 'Chariots of Fire'), shouting 'come on what are you playing at, you can go faster'!

But whether sunshine or showers, the Tissington Trail didn't fail to deliver a fantastic and well organised race and a brilliant weekend away.

Well done to everyone who ran, and thanks to the crew who made it such a fun trip.

