

Camp Hill 10k

Never mind all this talk of track training, a couple of weeks ago myself, Paul Haydon, Paul's better half Ange and her friend Karen all took part in the Camp Hill 10k (for those comic book readers, the event was called the Alf Tupper 10k last year) - and what excellent fun it was!

Camp Hill is a small country estate around 5 miles south of Bedale which has turned itself into an centre for various activities with aerial obstacle course, outward bound activities, camping, glamping etc. etc.

The event was fund raiser for a local charity, so had lots of fun runners and joggers entered and not too many fell runners, which greatly helped or chances of a decent finish.

The event publicity described the race as a good old fashioned cross country challenge - which was a fair description of a very runnable cross country run through woods and fields with mini obstacle courses, straw bales, ditches, trees to jump over, horse cross country obstacles, 3 ponds - 2 knee deep & 1 where wading / swimming was required.

All started at 11am in a mad charge from the hooter. The first water obstacle was not until 3km or so and not too deep, the second was the deepest and chest deep. Starting to run again after coming out of the swim was a major shock to the body, but once you got going you soon forgot the cold and concentrated on the next part of the run. You never quite knew what was next which was part of the fun.

Out of the 225 entries, I was very surprised to be in the top 10 early on - wondering if I had set off too fast - but kept going well and finished 8th overall in 50 mins 27 secs - a slightly frustrating 9 seconds behind 5th place, but I didn't have quite enough left to pass the 3 just ahead. Paul was 36th (59m 27s), with Ange & Karen getting their monies worth completing the course in 213 & 214th places in 1hr 44mins.

Every finisher got a t shirt, a Buff (for those who finished early enough), as much fudge as you could eat, and too cap it all free fish, chips & mushy peas and a pint of your choice. The centre has a barn with a licensed bar inside, plus a café. So instead of everyone immediately going back to their car after finishing then heading home, everyone was around the finish area eating, drinking and chatting as the later finishers came in and cheering them home.

Definitely a race to recommend if you like something a bit different, well organised and good fun.