

# **Wadsworth Slog**

## **by Pete Jackson**

I entered the race thinking it would be a good stamina builder and I hit the nail on the head because, for me and many others, it was a case of survival and downright determination to get to the finish. How Karl Gray could finish this route in 2hrs 49mins is remarkable to a mere mortal - I salute you!

It all began by heading the usual way down the road from the start then leaping over a wall onto the bog of a path along the beckside. We then climbed back up to the village to run past the adoring crowd before things began to get serious. Hitting the moor from the track out, I was soon under no illusion of how tough this was going to be.

I began to think I just hadn't done enough longer runs to go into a race like this but, once I resigned myself to running my usual comfortable pace and not pushing it, I felt more relaxed. I met a German lass en-route who had started fell running after moving to U.K. 3 years ago and she was loving it - why wasn't I?

Running over to Withins ruins was a long, long slog and I was relieved to turn and head towards the reservoir below Wadsworth Moor. I wasn't sure whether this was around the halfway point but I did know there was some tough running to come; food was needed before I got too drained.

I met Sam Wadsworth a few miles further on. He was having a tough time and even a few of my jelly babies and drink weren't really enough to help him. I continued towards Cock Hill, met James (Jack) Robinson, who was having a cramping phase, and Rachel Hill, who passed me before the checkpoint. I attempted a smile for the camera when I met Graham and Pat but by this time I could only manage a grimace.

Finally, we turned for home across Midgley Moor. I was following Jackie Scarf of Calder Valley; she helped drag me across the moor which was heavy going.

By this time I had seen enough bog to last a lifetime and was ready for a hot shower and a cuppa but with just a few miles to go that would have to wait. On the way in I met Scott Baistow who was suffering after a fast first half of the race.

Thanks to the organisers and race marshalls for a challenging race which I am delighted to say I met – more bog for your buck.

On the way home I drove straight to Kelbrook chippy and treated myself to fish, chips and curry - it wer luvly!! Oh, one more thing, the girl in the chippy used to run for Lancashire but she can't run anymore because of the poor healing of an appendix operation. Even though I complain about the bogs and ice, I am still fortunate enough to be able to run!!

To Infinity and beyond!!

Pete Jackson