

**Bernadette and Mathew Go Hashing
Ridgeway Relay 2006**

Like **Thomson** and **Thompson** it is difficult to tell them apart, but when dawn broke **Mathew** crowed and **Bernadette** was ready, if not willing or able. Both were to experience the excitement of the Ridgeway Relay – an event organised annually since 1990 by Marlborough Running Club and which KVH3 were entering for the fifth time.

Reveille was at 4am and by 7:30am the runners were at the start on Ivinghoe Beacon with **Catherine** waiting to cheer **GOM** on his way. However, on this first leg only **Bernadette** got any encouragement from the bystanders, but with this she was able to drag **GOM** onto the end – which arrived somewhat unexpectedly since they'd moved it again.

Luckily **Laura** had identified this change and to cries of "It's that chicken again" set off on her adventure. As a novel approach she had actually pre-checked the course with Janet from MRC, but despite this, managed to acquire 2 penalty minutes for going the wrong way. After due deliberation and with consideration of the fact that most runners appear to have been similarly led astray, the KVH3 standards committee has decided that no formal action will be taken. But please, no falling over next time.

MBA Mike cut his arrival short for the start of leg 3 and caused the changeover committee some stress. With **Laura** expected any moment **Iain** was preparing to step into the breach, but **Mike** appeared just in time and the moment passed. He then shot off and completed his leg in record time, knocking a full 6 minutes off of his trial run.

Keith had by this time strolled up in his inimitable relaxed manner with **Kathrina** and **Becky** and set off with the support committee laying odds on whether he'd make it to the far end. We all lost that bet and **Keith** continues to strive to beat his personal best; bad luck, not this time mate. **Bernadette** apparently was very subdued on this leg, whether in fear or awe we do not know, and it was only when she saw **Brian** that she again got excited.

With **Brian** on his way we all retired to the pub at South Stoke to await his arrival, which he duly did, looking rather fitter than with previous outings – it must have been Radio 2 on his mobile that carried him through, since the presence of **Linda** and **Margaret** indicated he couldn't have had a lift along the way.

All this time, **Phil** had been waiting patiently at the pub convincing us all that his thigh was in good shape, then he was off along the Thames and up onto the Ridgeway proper. **Iain** caught sight of him limping across the bridges at Goring and Streatley, but having ascertained that **Phil** had the moral fibre to continue to the end, it was left to **Bernadette** to provide KVH3 style care and encouragement.

Of course, with the mass start for leg 7 having been some hours previous, **Andrew** had by this time completed his leg, and did so in spectacular fashion, attaining one of the best positions ever for a KVH3 runner. Unfortunately he fell out with **Mathew** prior to starting and thus was running un-chaperoned.

Mike stepped up to the mark for his leg and was ably supported by his retinue for the whole of his run. The only concern was whether the weather had been warm enough to bring him out of hibernation, but a good time was achieved and **Mathew** re-appeared just before the handover.

Rew had been supporting **Mike** so didn't appear too early for his leg. **GOM** got a bit stressed at this point and started taking his clothes off for some silly reason, but quickly recovered his composure and behaved himself once **Annie** arrived. Although **Rew** admitted that he hadn't been training as much this year, his performance was well hard, just like the leg.

Becky, after having provided loyal support for most of the day, now had her chance to shine. Nervous at the start, having seen the performances from the rest of us, she soon settled into her stride and knowing that the leg this year had been extended beyond its normal 6 miles, paced herself well, arriving at the finishing post together with **Bernadette** who had flown in to share the limelight.

Most of us then retired in proper hashing style to the nearest hostelry to share memories and drink to the health of KVH3. **Linda** had apparently left early to do pole dancing and **Laura** couldn't make it as she was supporting **Iain** who had by this time gone off to play with another group of reprobates somewhere in North Wilts. **Margaret** said she missed being involved and asked could she come out and play with us next year. **GOM** finished off by thanking everyone for having done splendidly, having the fastest overall time ever (just!).

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Leg	Runner	Approx Distance	Time	Approx Pace min/mile	Individual Position	Team Position
1	Jeremy	11.2	01:21:06	06:59	22	22
2	Laura	5.8	01:22:06	14:56	34	31
3	MBA Mike	9.4	01:23:22	08:52	22	28
4	Keith	5.4	01:05:04	12:03	33	32
5	Brian	10.1	01:51:43	11:04	31	32
6	Phil	10.4	01:55:07	11:04	34	33
7	Andrew	9.1	01:12:16	07:56	17	33
8	Navy Mike	7.8	01:35:39	12:16	33	33
9	Rew	10.7	01:33:01	08:42	27	33
10	Becky	9.4	01:18:21	08:20	27	32
Totals		89.3	14:39:45			

Year	Total Running Time	Overall Position
2000	14:42:48	30 / 35
2003	15:02:33	34 / 35
2004	14:44:36	39 / 39
2005	16:19:04	36 / 39
2006	14:39:45	32 / 34

Position	Team	Overall Time
1	Headington R.R. A	10:00:12
2	Reading Road Runners A	10:10:15
3	Newbury A C A	10:40:27
4	Bearbrook Joggers A	11:05:15
5	Compton Harriers	11:12:10
6	Thame Runners A	11:12:43
7	White Horse Harriers	11:24:25
8	Eynsham Roadrunners A	11:28:17
9	Swindon Striders Wantabees	11:31:50
10	Swindon Harriers A	11:32:15
11	Headington Ladies	11:39:17
12	Handy Cross Runners B	11:42:09
13	Marlborough RC B	11:45:17
14	Reading Road Runners B	11:48:46
15	New High Street Hurdlers	11:50:37
16	Handy Cross Runners A	11:54:56
17	Headington R.R. B	11:56:30
18	Abingdon Amblers B	12:00:58
19	Pewsey Vale Posse	12:06:18
20	Bearbrook Joggers Ladies	12:07:15
21	Headington Vets	12:22:47
22	Bearbrook Old Masters & Rejects	12:30:32
23	Eynsham Roadrunners B	12:53:25
24	Newbury A C B	12:55:21
25	Abingdon Amblers A	13:04:30
26	Thame Runners B	13:18:53
27	Marlborough RC A	13:29:14
28	Handy Cross Runners C	13:56:17
29	Swindon Harriers B	13:57:44
30	Reading Road Runners Vets	14:15:55
31	Swindon Striders Hasbeens	14:22:50
32	Kennet Valley H.H.H	14:39:45
33	Oxford Brookes University	15:39:59
34	North Herts R.R. A	12:33:42

9 legs only

All lies, damned lies and statistics courtesy of Marlborough Running Club