

Hellhole 10k - 10th October 2010

In the car on the way to Stanley last Sunday, Katharine Russell, Claire Adamson and I debated just how bad a race called The Hellhole 10km could be. The organisers described it as multi-terrain. We read that to mean lots of mud.

At the race start we met fellow striders David Reed and Lesley Reed. Looking around the rest of the 72 runners there was a shortage of anyone who would pass as a casual or fun runner. Our fears were realised when everyone took off at the start like greyhounds leaving us to bring up the rear. Well, someone's got to.

The course itself has a steep uphill start which then comes downhill to a cycle track. Dodging all the cyclists you follow this for about 4km then enter Hellhole Woods. This started off tame at first, then I rounded a corner to see a steep uphill track of deep mud. I managed to slip, slide and squelch round the rest of the woods then finally returned to the cycle track at 8km. The final 2km are the reverse of the first two, so there was a steep uphill quite near the end which I managed to get up only thinking of the bacon sandwich I was going to have as soon as I got home. Then it's downhill to the finish where I collected my souvenir mug.

I was a bit disappointed that my time was just outside an hour, but I blame the mud. Overall it was an enjoyable race that should be better attended next year. For me, it was back home for a bacon sandwich and to clean my trainers.

Elissa Spoors

Official Results

David Reed 54.33

Elissa Spoors 61.05

Claire Adamson 65.27

Katharine Russell 68.28

Lesley Reed 68.58

