

# Standard for Dark Peak



From many angles, Dark Peak Fell Runners is an odd club, full of slightly eccentric people who take pleasure from things which most of society considers to be a bit weird. Things like running around in the dark with torches on our heads, hiding whisky in odd places, or running up and down hills until we fall asleep, fuelled mostly by baked beans and custard. These things are strange to most people, but are standard for Dark Peak.

This strangeness is of course the best thing about our club and the people in it; it is what brings us together and is the reason we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of this fine institution. So, with this in mind, I have been asked to write a short piece about a recent run I did between some bits of concrete.

From the outset I must make clear that I owe this adventure to Alan Yates, who must take (at least) half the responsibility for it. It was Alan who over a pint in the Cobden View told me about a man called Pete Simpson. Pete had added the 15 trig points on the

1985 Dark Peak KIMM map to the 11 on the subsequent White Peak map, and ended up with 27. Standard for Dark Peak.

Further reading revealed that the additional peak was Flask Edge, which Pete had climbed whilst looking for White Edge during his 26 trigs round of 1991. He'd then realised his mistake, climbed the right hill and carried on, to complete his round in 23 hours 49. Since then, uptake of the route has been limited, so in May 2016 I became the second person to have a go. I parked at the Sportsman on a Tuesday afternoon and set off at 7ish, hoping to be back in time for a beer after the club run the following night. Standard for Dk Pk.

In the spirit of Pete's original write-up I will keep route details brief. The Dark Peak section will be familiar to anyone who knows the 15 trigs route and goes something like: Run to Rod Moor. Trespass to Emlin. Point compass at Back Tor. Cross bog to Margery Hill, Outer Edge, around Howden to Alport, out to Shelf stones then back to Cock Hill. Enjoy nightlife in Glossop. Climb to Harry Hut. Rejoice in a few hours on Kinder (Sandy Heys, Kinder Low, Brown Knoll, Blackden), then off to Win Hill and Mam Tor before the crowds. This section went surprisingly well and I reached the car park after Mam Tor, where I'd hidden a new pair of shoes and some food, in just under 13 hours. Scotch eggs and custard for breakfast. Standard for DP.

Feeling refreshed though pretty knackered, but glad the night was out of the way, I set off into the unknown and the festival of tarmac and trespass that is the White Peak section: Cop Mine, Daisymere, Bole Hill, Edgerake Mine, Durham Edge, Sir William Hill, Wardlow Hay Cop and High Rake took me to 23 trigs in about nineteen and a half hours. I plodded through Calver and Curbar and considered my options. Time looked tight, I

was flagging and it was peeing down, so I decided to give Pete's folly a miss but try to add one more trig: Ox Stones. After White Edge I was on home turf, I put the map away and tried to crack on a bit. Almost immediately I got lost around Longshaw and had to run down the main road. Std for DP.

Finally reaching Ox Stones in just under 22 hours, Cowper stone and High Neb remained. The rain had advanced from peeing down to pissing down and I was freezing, but I might just make it... Cowper stone 22:24 (Ooh, could be tight!)... High Neb 22:54 (surely now?)... A quick wave to the new pole and all that remained was a quad-killing descent to Redmires and the road run back to the pub. I cursed every metre of bloody tarmac and every little uphill but eventually arrived back where I'd started after 23 hours 40, also known as by the skin of my teeth. Std 4 DP.

The best thing about the entire experience was what happened next. I ran into the car park, stopped my watch and sort of collapsed on the wall. When I next looked up I was shocked to see Alan. I hadn't told anyone of my attempt so was pleased that he would be the first to hear of our success. I think he seemed pretty happy, and I'm sure I recall him agreeing to settle any trespass-related lawsuits on our behalf. Shortly afterwards I was sitting in the Sportsman with friends, a pint in my hand and a battered whale on my plate, discussing the recent achievements of superstars like Nicky Spinks and Dave Taylor and the origins of the Basque language. It was a great end to a perfectly odd adventure, and to me this is what our little gang of oddballs is about. Long may it continue.

Then I stood up, and fell over.  
S4DP.

*Stuart Walker*

|                         | Me | PS               |                  |
|-------------------------|----|------------------|------------------|
| <b>SPORTSMAN</b>        | ▼  | <b>Start</b>     |                  |
| <b>Rod Moor</b>         |    | 00.29            | 05.38            |
| <b>Emlin</b>            |    | 01.30            | 04.50            |
| <b>Back Tor</b>         |    | 02.08            | 03.49            |
| <b>Margery Hill</b>     |    | 02.55            | 03.00            |
| <b>Outer Edge</b>       |    | 03.13            | 02.49            |
| <b>Alport</b>           |    | 04.39            | 01.37            |
| <b>Shelf Stones</b>     |    | 05.32            | 00.59            |
| <b>Cock Hill</b>        |    | 06.11            | 00.27            |
| <b>Glossop</b>          |    | 06.31            | ▲ <b>Start</b>   |
|                         |    |                  |                  |
| <b>Glossop</b>          |    | 06.31            | <b>23.49 end</b> |
| <b>Harry Hut</b>        |    | 07.24            | 23.15            |
| <b>Kinder</b>           |    | 08.05            | 22.37            |
| <b>Kinder Low</b>       |    | 08.37            | 22.05            |
| <b>Brown Knoll</b>      |    | 08.56            | 21.42            |
| <b>Blackden</b>         |    | 10.11            | 19.55            |
| <b>Win Hill</b>         |    | 11.22            | 18.30            |
| <b>Mam Tor</b>          |    | 12.41            | 16.51            |
| <b>Cop Mine</b>         |    | 13.28            | 16.13            |
| <b>Daisymere</b>        |    | 14.44            | 14.51            |
| <b>Bole Hill</b>        |    | 15.21            | 14.13            |
| <b>Edgerake Mine</b>    |    | 16.09            | 13.37            |
| <b>Durham Edge</b>      |    | 17.13            | 12.36            |
| <b>Sir William Hill</b> |    | 17.50            | 12.00            |
| <b>Wardlow Hay Cop</b>  |    | 18.52            | 11.04            |
| <b>High Rake</b>        |    | 19.25            | 10.38            |
| <b>White Edge</b>       |    | 20.33            | 09.00            |
| <b>Flask Edge</b>       |    | 20.33            | 07.58            |
| <b>Ox Stones</b>        |    | 21.51            | 07.58            |
| <b>Cowper Stone</b>     |    | 22.24            | 07.04            |
| <b>High Neb</b>         |    | 22.54            | 06.33            |
| <b>SPORTSMAN</b>        |    | <b>23.40 end</b> |                  |