

## **RRH Treasure Hunt – South Derbyshire** **December 2020 to April 2021**

This treasure hunt was based around the village of Ticknall in South Derbyshire. A number of Harriers took on the challenge around the end of last year (2020) with conditions ranging from very wet and muddy to snow and ice on the ground. Lockdown 3 in early January forced a stop to other attempts with the Police out in force around Ticknall. The date for completion was extended to mid April and three more results have come in. So here are the final results in reverse points order.

**Karolina (score ?/30)** was one of the first to make the attempt but still being on crutches was forced to do a shortened version of the route on the mostly hard surfaced tramway track to escape the worst of the mud. Top marks to Karolina for attempting it though!

**Andy Ward (score 27/30)** completed the route in 2:34. That is a good time but for Q9 gave the answers as raw milk and beer (I wanted the name of the places not the drinks) and for Q11 surprisingly a Lion not a Jaguar (as in Jaguar Lount Woods).

**James Ward (score 28/30)** did the route in two stages (one a walk with a friend) in a time of 3:45 but despite several loops failed to find the ancient oak tree (Q16). However he did return on New Years Day and ran the whole circuit again, this time finding the tree, in a time of 1:58.

**Jon Kinder (score 29/30)** walked the whole route in one go with wife Tracy even stopping for a picnic on the bench (Q8) covering the whole route in 4:21. Jon's only mistake was in the Ticknall Limeyards where for Q17 he gave the answer as 'crushed limestone' not coal as the fuel used (they used coal to burn the limestone). Jon returned and ran the whole route again in 1:51.

**Ian Page (score 29.5/30)** did the route over two outings, one with wife Jane in a time of 4:43. Between Q4 and Q5 he found the board showing a picture of a Kingfisher but somehow

missed the equal sized board of a Greater Spotted Woodpecker along the same path. Top marks for photos though.

**Dean Smith (score 29.5/30)** came in with a late entry just inside the closing date and cruised round in one go in a time of 3:40. His only mistake was the bird on the board for Q4b – it was a Greater Spotted Woodpecker not a Heron!

**Andy Norman (score 30/30)** did the route over two slow but enjoyable outings late last December including some fine pictures of the snow. Having realised he had missed a couple of clues he went back a third time to get the final answers so top marks for perseverance.

**Bob Bond (score 30/30)** did the first half of the route on the 7<sup>th</sup> January and narrowly escaped the Police lockdown outside the entrance to Calke Park. There was no chance the boys in blue were going to catch Bob though, the fastest 70+ year old in the Harriers! Bob returned and completed the route on 31st March so taking a record 83 days to complete the challenge.

It is worth noting that both Bob and Dean had a handicap on Q15 in that the giant blue steel structure, a memorial to Albert and Winifred Harper Crewe, had been removed. However both found the answer required by other means.

**Jon Leek (score 30/30)** jogged the route in one go with Richard Fildes in 3:01. He nailed all the answers correctly and on doing the route in one outing looked to be our winner until...

**Martin Perry (score 30/30)** emailed me his results recently. Martin actually did the route back on 16<sup>th</sup> January in very wet and muddy conditions but again nailed all the answers and did the whole route in one go in 2:26. A great time. **So Martin is our WINNER!**

The fastest times to complete the route were Jon Kinder in 1:51 closely followed by James Ward in 1:58 but these were both follow up runs after having completed the challenge of finding all the answers on previous outings so don't change the scoring listed above.

## Questions and Answers.

Q1. Beside Windmill wood a yellow CAUTION sign. What is this sign warning about? (1 point).

A1. Horses travelling at speed.

Q2. A place to get your neck stretched but the answer is on the map. It's not easy to find though, look carefully along the hedge row to the north east of the path junction. Take a selfie with the stone – rope not required! (2 points).

A2. Photo evidence with the Hangman's Stone

Q3. The entrance to Foremark Reservoir, there are lots of signs here. Some showing opening and closing times and dire warnings if you park here on the verge. The one I am looking for is a white sign – what shouldn't you do in Public Areas? (1 point)

A3. No Fishing in Public Areas.

Q4. Past the parking area keep your eyes to the right down near the water. I am looking for a place in California. Can you name me? (2 points).

A4. Long Beach

Bonus 4 to 5. On this stretch you may see two birds on boards. Name them (1/2 point each).

A Kingfisher and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

Q5. On an information board for Carver's Rocks nature reserve you will find your answers.

1. How big is the reserve in hectares? (1 point)
2. The picture board shows a male and female what? (1 point)

A5. 16.5 hectares and Chaffinch

Q6. Passing below Scaddows House, a fine building, what colour are the massive floor to ceiling window frames? (1 point)

A6. Black / Dark Grey

Q7. A sign to the right of a metal gate, low down. Danger of Death? What is odd about this sign? (1 point)

A7. The sign is upside down (clearly part of an old recycled electricity pole).

Tip: at Q7 pass through the stile and immediately turn right through another gate and then down onto the Ticknall tramway track which is below you. If you started from Ticknall and want to do just half the route then this is a good place to return. If not you can follow the tramway track to points 8 and 9, probably the fastest running surface on the entire route.

Q8. At this point you might be needing a rest. Look for a bench with a message – what is the message? (1 point)

A8. Rest Awhile On A Rail.

Q9. At the crossroads there are lots of signs. I am looking for two signs to nearby places (not the road signs) which might provide a pint of something you could drink. Name them (1 point for each).

A9. Dumelow's Dairy and Tollgate Brewery.

Q10. The path you need to take is opposite Heath End Farm, a very nice house. Bearing in mind it is a traditional brick building with a tiled roof what is unusual about the covering of the porch above the door? (1 point)

A10. It is thatched.

Q11. Another information board to find. But which big cat may you find in these woods? (1 point)

A11. A Jaguar (As in Jaguar Lount Woods).

Q12. I am easy to find as I guard the entrance to the Ferrer's centre. Take a selfie with me and earn a point!

A12: Photo evidence with the Iron Knight guarding the entrance.

Q13. Down in Dimmingsdale nature reserve find an information board. This is a place famous for its late winter display of snowdrops but that is not what we are looking for today. The board shows two things which contain words meaning big or large in their names. Name them both (1 point for each)

A13. Great Crested Grebe and Giant Bellflower.

Q14. An old brick built structure with an old wooden door. How many hinges hang my old doors? (1 point)

A14. 4 hinges.

Q15. I am easy to find, a large blue steel structure in the grounds of Calke Park. This is a memorial to a famous local couple. Known as Bertie and Winnie when did they marry and where? (1 point for each correct answer)

A15. They were married on Monday 10 August 1914 at Ticknall Church.

Q16. You are looking for an ancient oak tree more than a thousand years old which was growing when William the Conqueror invaded Britain in 1066. It is now short and stout but still alive producing both leaves and acorns. It has a little wooden fence around it to stop you trampling on its ancient roots and on the fence is a small plaque.

1. What is the tree's name? (1 point)
2. Who named it? (1 point)

A16. The tree was named 'The Old Man of Calke' by Joy Thacker.

Q17. In a clearing in the centre of the old Ticknall Limeyards find an information board on a stone pedestal.

1. What did they use as a fuel? (1 point)
2. When was this yard abandoned? (1 point)

A17. Coal was used as the fuel and the yard was abandoned in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Q18. An information board by the entrance to the Ticknall tramway tunnel.

1. Which year was the tunnel built? (1 point)
2. How many grills are there letting in light in the tunnel roof? (1 point)

A18. The tunnel was built in 1805. There are 3 grills in the tunnel roof (though you would have needed to walk through the tunnel to answer this).

Q19. An information board next to a wooden bench. According to this board what year was lime burning first recorded in this area? (1 point)

A19. Limeburning was first recorded in 1462.

Q20. Ticknall is famous for its green painted water taps or pillar fountains, there are 15 in all. Find one and take a selfie with it (1 point).

A20. Photo evidence of a green water tap.