

Derwent Challenge - 71 miles – 18/19 March 2005

The concept behind the Derwent Challenge was simple – to run the length of the River Derwent from its source in the northern Peak District to its terminus south of Derby where the Derwent joins the Trent near Shardlow. The actual length of the River Derwent is quoted as 66 miles but the route we decided to take which followed the high ground of the Derwent valley was 71 miles.

The source of the River Derwent is a remote spot on high moorland near Swains Head on the eastern edge of Bleaklow. The nearest access point by vehicle is Salter's Brook Bridge on the A628 Woodhead Road to the north which is where we dropped off the runners just after midnight.



Jon Kinder, Allan Pollock and John Thornhill at the start of the Derwent Challenge.

Starting at 00:50 the first leg to the road crossing support point at Moscar was 11 miles across mostly rough moorland. By the time the runners reached the next support point at the Upper Burbage Bridge in thick mist it was just getting light.



Finally the weather cleared as the sun rose and we progressed down the Derwent valley.

The original intention was for Jon Kinder, Allan Pollock and John Thornhill to run the entire route supported by Cliff Cooper and Steve Leach who alternately drove the support vehicle and ran legs with them. However having only one support vehicle meant the runners had to stick together and although Jon moderated his speed both Allan and John found the pace a little too hard and decided to retire at Little Eaton after 58 miles of running. From there Jon carried on alone for the final 13 miles increasing his pace to Borrowwash and the final leg to Derwent Mouth near Shardlow where the rest of the team met him with a well-deserved can of beer.



Location	Clock Time In	Clock Time Out	Elapsed Time	Stage Time	Running Time	Rest Time
Salters Bridge		00:50	00:00			
Moscar	05:00	05:18	04:10	04:10	04:10	00:18
Upper Burbage Bridge	06:31	06:49	05:41	01:31	01:13	00:18
Robin Hood PH - Baslow	09:02	09:24	08:12	02:31	02:13	00:22
Rowsley	10:29	10:41	09:39	01:27	01:05	00:12
Matlock Car Park	11:43	12:05	10:53	01:14	01:02	00:22
Whatstandwell	13:22	13:42	12:32	01:39	01:17	00:20
New Inn - Little Eaton	16:20	16:51	15:30	02:58	02:38	00:31
Derwent Bridge - Borrowwash	18:09	18:22	17:19	01:49	01:18	00:13
Derwent Mouth nr. Shardlow	19:20		18:30	01:11	00:58	
Totals				18:30	15:54	02:36

Report: Steve Leach