## Derwent Challenge - 71 miles – 18/19 March 2005

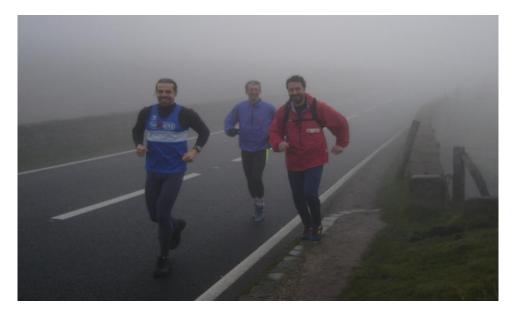
The concept behind the Derwent Challenge was simple – to run the length of the River Derwent from its source in the northern Peak District to its terminus south of Derby where the Derwent joins the Trent near Shardlow. The actual length of the River Derwent is quoted as 66 miles but the route we decided 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 Borrowash 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   | Clock    | Elapsed | Stage | Running | Rest  |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
|                               | Time In | Time Out | Time    | Time  | Time    | 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 -<br>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 -<br>Borrowash | 18:09   | 18:22    | 17:19   | 01:49 | 01:18   | 00:13 |
| Derwent Mouth nr.<br>Shardlow | 19:20   |          | 18:30   | 01:11 | 00:58   |       |
| Totals                        |         |          |         | 18:30 | 15:54   | 02:36 |

Report: Steve Leach