

## **2011 Canal Relay**

### **Manton Sports and Athletic Ground, and onto the Chesterfield Canal to Retford and Return.**

After last year's debacle, when Worksop failed to produce a team, things were back to normal this year, with both outfits supplying a challenge.

Retford had three of their best runners missing from their line-up and therefore always had their backs-to-the-wall! Nonetheless all that did run agreed that team spirit was in abundance, a challenge was raised and the course and requisites were completed.

In the first instance I will unreservedly thank Ollie Lord for his unconditional support having approached him and asked for his help in compiling this year's team and attending to other variables that arose.

Back to the race which had a new starting point this year and an approximate half mile run on pave before the toe path was reached. It soon became clear as to how much we would have our backs-to-the-wall as after the first 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile leg to Scofton Lock which was reached by Worksop in 19.45, Retford's arrears already stood at 3.33. There was a positive reduction back to just 2.20 as Ranby Bridge was reached however at Green Mile Lane the deficit had gone back out to 3.19.

At the Carolgate Town Lock turn around the Worksop outfit had a comfortable lead of 5.07 from their North Notts rivals; it is to Retford's credit then that they somewhat held themselves together as on the return journey they shed some 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> minutes less than they had outward-bound.

Lady Bridge returning was reached by Worksop in 1.19.59, with Retford 7.50 behind and we Retfordian's managed to lose little more as at the finish back at Manton we were just 8 minutes 59.98 seconds behind Worksop's completion time of 2.19.13.

Congratulations were proffered by me regarding Worksop's win at the social get together and as part of my response to Peter Fendley's Worksop victorious speech.

Retford's team comprised of: Andy Kinsley, Steve Wathall, Ollie Lord, Iain Storey, Nick Sears, Max Howard, Dave Corbett, Becky Chadwick, Dave Windle, Helen and Lynda Howard, and I thank them all for their commitment and effort.

Thanks also go to Derek Marsh for officiating at the turn around point at Retford Town Locks; Thanks are also reserved for the following that were there to help and support as necessary: Charmian Heaton and Ron, Maria Needham, Kath Cook, Frank Bird, Paul Geldeart and Ken Neal. If I have forgotten any other supporter, then I sincerely apologise to them.

Chris Ryan  
Canal Relay Secretary  
08/08/2011