

Canal Relay 2009

The Canal Relay was staged this year on the 11th June and commencing at Worksop and unlike some years we were able to field 60% above the minimum number required. Obviously the 'press-ganging' worked and we also fielded a female in the shape of Becky Duggan! Who conceded that she could not extricate herself from the demands and the need of the team?

The weather for the event saw a warm sunny evening, and having lost ground to Worksop through the initial three stages our 'big guns' rose to the challenge and a 150 second deficit at Green Mile Lane was erased by the time Pete Tallents and Andy Sly arrived at the turn around point at Carol Gate Town Lock. At this location Derek Marsh did a sterling job of observing each team touch the beam of the lock before returning on their way back to Worksop.

It became somewhat apparent that we would likely be crowned 2009 champions when Steve Wathall and Steve Woodward returned to Green Mile Lane with the Worksop team not yet in sight.

A little confusion reigned at Scofton Lock when Worksop appeared to send a team off adjacent to what we believed would be our 'Glory-Leg' it was here that Giles Harrison became animated and believed the enemy were cheating slightly. After a little deliberation I asked John Harrison from Worksop Harriers to explain and he conceded that this was just a team from Worksop cooling down and so as much as it appeared confusing and not right, our finale` of Ian Holmes, Ollie Lord and Richard brought the team home to the Manton Inn over four minutes clear of Worksop..

The score just three years ago had been 5-2 to Worksop and three wonderful years on and Retford have levelled the ten year series; well done and thank you to all of you:.

Speaking with Andy Pedley a few days later he informed me that He had indeed started the turn around leg with Peter and Andy, however attempting to 'hang on to their shirt tails' may have been the expression. I had asked Andy to turn up at Lady Bridge and in case of mishap and as insurance be with racing shoes at the ready. Andy's pride doubtlessly forced him to compete on that turn around leg to Retford and back

Our triumphant team comprised of Steve Wathall, Steve Woodward, Chris Ryan, Giles Harrison, Dave Pickering, Becky Duggan, Max Howard, Simon Lord, Rob Lord, Ross Howard, Iain Holmes, Ollie Lord, Richard, Pete Tallents, Andy Sly and Andy Pedley

Special thanks also go to Tom Bell and Ken Neal for transport services and Charmian Heaton and Amanda Howard for supporting the team in their celebrations at the Kilton Inn; were my pride and that of my charges was doused with 'Gods nectar' Worksop Harriers were magnanimous in defeat and laid on a splendid buffet to accompany the liquid refreshment.

C.R. Ryan, June 2009.