

2021 LITTLE STRETTON TO STIPERSTONES TIME TRIAL ON FOOT

RESULTS & REPORT

An extra year's training pays off for some



International athletes Sara Willhoit and Daniel Connolly nervously preparing for the reputed Time Trial

WEATHER: A bright, sunny and cold morning

GROUND: Generally firm – slippery in places

SOME SIMPLE STATS: 137 people took part: 49 Solo and 44 Pairs.

ORGANISER'S NOTES AND COMMENTS:

What a difference a year, and a day, makes! Last year was supposed to be my first year of organising this wonderful event, which sadly had to be cancelled due to the Covid lockdown.

When the weather storms hit us on Saturday, I feared the worst and thought I might have to cancel the event again as a safety measure, but when I woke up early Sunday morning I couldn't have wished for a better day. A cold and frosty morning, but the sun was out thawing the top of the Long Mynd - just enough to make the short tarmac descents a little less treacherous.

Not knowing how many people would enter as a consequence of Covid, I was delighted to hear from our friends at Boulton's a couple of days prior to the event that the bus was nearly full.

We had a total of 137 entries, including 44 pairs, which I was delighted with.

Sara Willhoit (Mercia) gets first mention on this year's race report with a fantastic run and time of 1:07:28 which knocked 2 and a half minutes off Polly Gibb's record which has stood since 2007. A new prize of £50 for breaking the record is yours Sara, and very well deserved. In second place was **Mina Jones-Walters** with 1:17:39 and in third was **Becky Griffiths** with 1:31:50

Fastest lady F50 was previous winner (and member of the elite Sub 77 group) **Anna Bartlett** with a time of 128:56 which is a F50 category record. Fastest F60 was **Janet Hill** with a time of 159:59 which was also a category best time.

First male, and his first-time taking part in the TT, was **Daniel Connolly** (Mercia) with an equally impressive run and time of 1:00:45 which takes him straight into the elite Sub 66 group and into the top ten fastest male times of all time, where he joins Tim Davies (fastest ever time of 56:52), Rob Baker, Andrew Davies and Richard Roberts. I hope that you return next year Daniel to challenge the record. In second place was **Oliver Perratt** with 1: 04:07 and third was **Tom Arthur** with 1:08:21

Fastest male M40 was **Mike Frost** with 1:18:09, and closely behind him was M50 **John Atyeo** with 1:18:55 - a category which was strongly contested by Paul Bowes. **Mark Pearson** got fastest M60 with a time of 1:26:53 and fastest M70 went to **Dave Nichols** with 1:59:15

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Fastest male pair were brothers **Kris and Richard McKenna** with a time of 1:11:06 – a great run bearing in mind Kris wasn't sure he'd be able to run a couple of days ago with a knee injury. Fastest female pair were **Mel Price and Deb Millington** with 1:29:37 and fastest mixed pair were **Oli Cox and Joules Toone** with 1:26:54

Spirit of the Time Trial was split this year, with a prize going to **Helen Corrin** for making the effort to come back to the Shire for the day which meant starting off in the car at 4:30am. Helen is well known to many local fell runners and it was great to have her taking part this year. The other prize went to **Amy Aldridge and Graham Adey** who had mistakenly thought that the bus brought them back after the race, rather than before it, but instead of not racing they ran back as well. I know some other participants choose to do this, but when it's not intentional, it showed great commitment - so well done both.

There were a few competitors who took "different" routes - one pair completing just shy of 12 miles and ending up down at Snailbeach before having to take the road back up to Stiperstones. It's easily done with the various path choices/junctions up on top of the Stiperstones. Ed Beards' route was equally impressive by all accounts, with other runners seeing him disappearing off into the distance in various different directions! This what makes the TT special, but maybe also why so many people choose to enter as a pair!

THANKS: Many thanks to Jenny Henn, Dave Nichols, Jim Tinnion and Dom Jones for processing the entries in the village hall (3 of them then taking part in the race itself afterwards) and to Dave Clarke and Charlie Leventon for manning the start line – Dave having no sympathy by keeping the runners back in the shade, whilst Charlie basked in the sunshine! A second thank you to Jim for then downloading the dibber times at the finish to give us the results that afternoon and for use of the Mercia dibbers, which helped enormously. A massive thank you also to Sue Johnson and Jan Stuart for stepping in at the last minute to do the finish and for staying on until the bitter end, especially when the weather started to turn for the worse. Thanks to the Stiperstones Inn for fitting us in and to John Sproson for allowing us to use one of the chalets to download the times, and a personal thanks to the WFRA who were extremely helpful with getting my insurance in place very last minute, and to Dave Farrow for helping me complete the Risk Assessment.

The final thanks go to former ROs Phil Clarke and Charlie Leventon, for all the help in making the transition of organising the event so smooth - hopefully we might get to see Phil take part as a runner next year.

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS: Income: £655; Expenditure: £281; Reserve £374 (a portion going to improve rights of way access).

AND SO My first time "in charge" and I really couldn't be happier. Fantastic weather and a great turnout and support made my part in everything very easy and more importantly very enjoyable. I've always loved taking part in the TT and am delighted to have taken over such a unique event. It was good to see so many walkers and runners out enjoying themselves and I very much look forward to seeing you all next year (Sunday 27th November) when I might look to close the time window for entry on the day slightly, from 11:15 to 10:30am, in the hope that more people will still be at the finish for the prize giving. In the meantime, I'll be distributing this year's prizes via the forthcoming Callow and Cardington Cracker races.

Cheers all; **Craig**

Craig Henn - E: craighenn@googlemail.com)



Jim Tinnion – route planning; Dave Clarke - sceptical

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THE RESULTS

(ranked by time taken)

Pos	Name	Club	Categ	Time
1st	Daniel Connolly	Mercia	M	01:00:45
2nd	Oliver Perratt	Ludlow Runners	M	01:04:07
3rd	Sara Willhoit	Mercia	F	01:07:28
4th	Tom Arthur	Chorlton Runners Black Sheep	M	01:08:21
5th	Richard McKenna / Kristan McKenna	Shrewsbury AC / Avalanche RC	M-PAIR	01:11:06
6th	Matthew Marston	Mercia	M	01:11:33
7th	Chris Atherton	Ambleside	M	01:11:40
8th	Phillip Wilkinson	Mercia	M	01:15:48
9th	Virgil Barton / Carl Aveyard	Barlick FR / Mercia	M-PAIR	01:17:09
10th	Minna Jones-Walters	Mercia	F	01:17:39
11th	Mike Frost		M40	01:18:09
12th	John Atyeo	Mercia	M50	01:18:55
13th	Paul Bowes	Shrewsbury AC	M50	01:19:57
14th	Jared Forte / Tom Treasure	Mercia	M-PAIR	01:23:39
15th	Mark Agnew	Mercia	M50	01:24:39
16th	StJohn Ashworth / Peter Jones	Oswestry Olympians	M-PAIR	01:25:35
17th	Dave Farrow	Mercia	M50	01:25:53
18th	Jim Tinnion	Mercia	M50	01:26:17
19th	Mark Pearson	Mercia	M60	01:26:53
20th	Oli Cox / Jules Toone	Mercia	X-PAIR	01:26:54
21st	Andy Watkins	Mercia	M	01:27:15
22nd	Guy Holloway	Bayston Hill Salad Dodgers	M40	01:27:21
23rd	Robin Bacon	Mercia	M50	01:27:41
24th	Anna Bartlett	Shrewsbury AC	F50	01:28:56
25th	Kevin Jones	Maldwyn Harriers	M40	01:29:15
26th	Deborah Millington / Mel Price	Mercia	F-PAIR	01:29:37
27th	Mark Bramall / Simon Cranmer	Shropshire Shufflers	M-PAIR	01:30:21
28th	Ryan Griffiths / Philip Thomas		M-PAIR	01:30:41
29th	Lawrie Jones	Mercia	M60	01:30:49
30th	David Egglestone	Shropshire Shufflers	M50	01:30:57
31st	Keith Burgess		M50	01:31:25
32nd	Becky Griffiths		F	01:31:50
33rd	Frank Atherton		M50	01:34:55

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Pos	Name	Club	Categ	Time
34th	Andy Reynolds		M	01:35:38
35th	Eddie Pomfret		M50	01:35:53
36th	Eleanor Hartley		F	01:36:09
37th	Adrian Pickles	WRE	M60	01:36:11
38th	Steve Atherton	Ambleside	M60	01:36:37
39th	Giles Carey	Shropshire Shufflers	M	01:36:41
40th	Huw Williams		M50	01:37:06
41st	Calvin Wright / Charlie Sandells	Shropshire Shufflers	M-PAIR	01:37:32
42nd	Paul Cadman / Emma Horne	Mercia	X-PAIR	01:38:44
43rd	Mike Bastow / Peter de Boer		M-PAIR	01:39:04
44th	Martin Green	Maldwyn Harriers	M60	01:39:21
45th	Dave Hills	Mercia	M50	01:39:41
46th	Chris Harvey		M40	01:39:44
47th	Peter Holmse / Robert Sharam	Whitchurch Whippets	M-PAIR	01:42:24
48th	Jan Jeffreys		F50	01:44:20
49th	Nickie Jones	Bridgnorth	F50	01:46:13
50th	Richard Grindle / Sarah Grindle	- / Shropshire Shufflers	X-PAIR	01:47:04
51st=	Tim Hockley		M60	01:47:09
51st=	Nigel Pritchard / Charlie Holland	Shropshire Shufflers	M-PAIR	01:47:09
53rd	Edward Beards	Mercia	M50	01:48:06
54th	Laura Gale / Alex Snow		F-PAIR	01:50:07
55th	Tom Cart / Dave Cragg		M-PAIR	01:50:24
56th	Lindsay Turner / Nina Walmsley	Ludlow Runners / -	F-PAIR	01:50:35
57th	Stephen Riley	Shropshire Shufflers	M40	01:51:12
58th	Ryan Foulkes / Callum MaGill		M-PAIR	01:51:36
59th	Steve Bajic	Mercia	M60	01:52:00
60th	Heather Kieniewicz	Mercia	F	01:54:20
61st	John Williams	Pennine Fell Runners	M60	01:58:19
62nd	Melanie Birmingham / Charlotte Birmingham	Chase Harriers / Bristol & West	F-PAIR	01:58:32
63rd	Jenny Norton	BRC	F	01:59:04
64th	Dave Nichols	Mercia	M70	01:59:15
65th	Cheryl Higgins / Sarah Cole		X-PAIR	01:59:34
66th	Darren Waters / Jennie Waters	Newport	X-PAIR	01:59:55
67th	Janet Hill	Ludlow Runners	F60	01:59:59

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Pos	Name	Club	Categ	Time
68th	Helen Yates / Victoria Fennell	Lonely Goat	F-PAIR	02:00:16
69th	Ann Perry		F	02:02:34
70th	Charlotte White / Sam Jones	Mercia	X-PAIR	02:04:54
71st	Maria Spurling	Mercia	F50	02:07:49
72nd	Henry Pomeroy		M60	02:08:17
73rd	Katie Brick / Jenny Henn		F-PAIR	02:09:22
74th	Amy Aldridge / Graham Adey	Lawley Running Club	X-PAIR	02:09:45
75th	Sally Tongue		F50	02:17:21
76th	Sharon Davies / Dianne Spencer	Dolly Mixtures	F-PAIR	02:19:14
77th	Philip Hadland / Michael Hadland	Mercia	M-PAIR	02:23:03
78th	Matthew Foulds / Tuchi Luong		X-PAIR	02:24:53
79th	Alastair Mitchell / Humphry Dunn	SYTRI	M-PAIR	02:26:22
80th	Katie Mitchell / Beth Thomas	SYTRI / -	F-PAIR	02:37:27
81st	Sarah Clayton / Jennifer Ball		F-PAIR	02:38:32
82nd	Jack Agnew / Molly Laycock	Mercia	X-PAIR	02:38:45
83rd	Anthony Marston		M50	02:40:03
84th	Jayne Atkins / Gail Bywater	Shropshire Shufflers / Shrewsbury RR	F-PAIR	02:41:14
85th	Geoff Sproson	Marches LDWA	M70	02:43:52
86th	Ed Stuart / Andrew Jones		M-PAIR	02:48:31
87th	Rachael Bollom / Naomi Watson	- / Mercia	F-PAIR	03:06:16
88th	Phil Chilver / Ursula Chilver		X-PAIR	03:16:19
89th	Stuart Chetwynd	Mercia	M50	03:19:37
90th	Owain ap Gruffydd / Helen Corrin	Caernarfon Tourists	X-PAIR	03:19:50
91st	Mallie Newbury / Phil Bamber		X-PAIR	03:21:29
92nd	Dave Clarke / Alice Clarke	Run Free FR Llangollen	X-PAIR	03:21:56
93rd	Becky Haydock / Steve Cole	- / Mercia	X-PAIR	03:30:39

A full (and up to date) list of all category records and all Sub 66 (male) and Sub 77 (female) category can be seen on the official TT website (www.timetrial.org.uk).

For more information on Fell Running go to the Mercia FR site at www.merciafellrunners.org.uk/

Or visit the Shropshire Fell Running Facebook page: [Shropshire Fell Running | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/shropshirefellrunning)

