

My Race report for Test Valley Tour New Forest Sportive – Challenge Route.

This started at the Hillier Gardens, Ampfield, and was advertised as 150km route. The route was really a big loop going south taking in New Forest, up towards Salisbury, across to Stockbridge, and back down to the start. There were also some pretty good hills on the way....

We had a good day on Sunday, the weather was good, etc. Good that is, apart from the fact that the route was really badly signposted in a couple of places and with zero marshalls to hand except at the watering holes. This meant that a few of us quite early on ended up doing an extra 13km loop over a really steep hill, and then it happened again on the way up towards Salisbury. Peter Dennett and myself eventually ended up going through Salisbury on A338 and then out on A36 before re-gaining the route again at West Grimstead!! One guy we met had gone round 3 times trying to find the route and had already done 75mi at that point (about half way). The actual distance we ended up doing was 166km instead of 150km but what really stuffed us was the time wasted trying to find the correct route. We had been averaging 27.5km/h but with all the messing about that was put back to about 24km/h – boohoo!

Anyway, as a club we all ended up finishing at about the same time:

Surname	First name	Number	Start	End	Total Time
Dennett	Peter	143	08:12:09	15:07:12	06:55:03
Upton	Dave	151	08:11:52	15:07:08	06:55:16
Woodhouse	Andrew	96	08:11:45	15:10:31	06:58:46
Briley	Jason	100	08:12:13	15:18:29	07:06:16
Venus	Paul	98	08:11:56	15:18:22	07:06:26
Brown	Martin	139	08:11:48	15:18:35	07:06:47