

Glossop Fell Race

Approximately 19 miles, 4,600 feet. Years Active 1981 to 1989.

Information courtesy of Nev McGraw....

'Studmarks on the Summits' reported that the original Glossop Fell Race was first held in 1981 and was organised by Dark Peak Fell Runners. The route was thought to be 22 miles with 4200ft of ascent. The first winner was Rob Pearson of the host club with a time of 2 hrs 58 minutes 36 seconds. Glossopdale's own Bill Buckley, then running for Rochdale Harriers, was 15th in 3.31.28.

In 1983, the race was won by Hugh Symonds (Kendal AC) in a record 2:43:33, with two Glossopdalers hot on his heels in Mike Prady coming 4th (2:52:12) and Adrian Jones in 8th (2:55:07).

The race continued the 1980's and was held during the Glossop Festival Weekend, the Carnival Parade was on the Saturday, the fell race on the Sunday part of 'A Day in the Park' with stalls, sideshows and other events.

According to Nev, "The race always clashed with the Tour of Tameside except in 1986 when it was on the day after. I just managed to get round at the back of the field, feeling knackered but wanting to complete my local fell race at least on one occasion. In that year it was won by Glossopdale's Andy Trigg in 2hr 50.52. His clubmate David Ibbetson was 2nd in 2.55.20 and helped secure the team prize. A local firm supplied huge cloth numbers for the race which had to be collected in at the end. No chance of pinning these on your shorts!"

The 1983 record set by Hugh Symonds was to be tested in 1988, when Glossopdales Andy Trigg again won the race coming within 5 seconds of it. Andy won again in 1989 this time 2 minutes off the record.

This is a fantastic run out, and has sparked much debate as to which is the better race route between the original and New Glossop Fell Races. Without doubt, both are great, but which do you prefer?

Checkpoints for the Glossop Fell Race...

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| Start | Turning Circle | 046 948* |
| CP1 | Pond, bottom of Ashton Clough | 079 941 |
| CP2 | Higher Shelf Stones | 089 948 |
| CP3 | TPT Small Carpark | 082 993** |
| CP4 | Crowden Little Brook (ruined sheep pen) | 074 022 |
| CP5 | Laddow Rocks | 057 015 |
| CP6 | Path Junction | 067 995 |
| CP7 | Stile at top Rawkins Brook | 045 993 |
| CP8 | A628 Road crossing | 040 983 |
| CP9 | Gate on Torside Clough (PW) | 063 976 |
| CP10 | Glossop Low (ruined cabin) | 066 967 |
| CP11 | Gate on Mossy Lea track | 053 950 |
| Finish | Turning Circle | 046 948* |

*In line with most other local challenges, and to avoid the roads where possible, the start finish is moved to the Turning Circle at the end of Shepley Street. The original start finish was a few hundred metres away in Manor Park O41 946.

** The original position of this checkpoint was Old Mill O79 990. This is now private land (The Boar Clay Shooting Ground), so checkpoint is moved to the small carpark on the Trans Pennine Trail, and the suggested route is down Lawrence Edge.

CAUTION – The top part of Lawrence Edge can be a very tricky decent. Please take extra care in this area. It is suggested to take a descent line down the open heather near the top of Fair Vage Clough, rather than the rock gully to the East, which is commonly used on the ascent line (see inlaid map below). The alternative is to continue down the west side of Wildboar Clough to the Tran Pennine Trail, and turn East toward CP3.

