

2024 LITTLE STRETTON TO STIPERSTONES TIME TRIAL ON FOOT

REPORT with RESULTS

Dom Remains Dominant

Dominic Jones wins again – making it 5 times in 10 years

Mel Funnell shows Shufflers the way to a win and;
at last, a women's 70+ benchmark time is set – by Janet Hill



Dad and 'the lad' combo – Steve and Chris Atherton (photo credit: Craig Henn)

WEATHER: Generally fine - improving after overnight rain

GROUND: Very wet underfoot ▼ (photo credit: Mark Agnew)



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SOME SIMPLE SUMMARY STATS: 139 people took part (94 male; 45 female): 61 Solo (10 female; 51 male) and 39 Pairs (10 all-female; 13 all-male; 16 mixed-sex; 5 comprising a junior).

WHY? A 'time trial' is an unusual type of event – intended to test the competitor's capacity to race without the benefit of the pace or help of others – or in the case of a pair to test their pace / racing compatibility. Furthermore, setting out to cross the Long Mynd and Stiperstones challenges competitors' judgement as to which route option suits their capability best.

SOME NOTES AND COMMENT:

♦ **Congratulations** to **Dom Jones** for recording his fifth win (64 minutes 40 secs.) in dreadful conditions underfoot - and only marginally slower than his 040 record time of last year. The times of the leading runners shows a healthy level of competition. A spirited effort by **Tom Hancock** in second place indicating he is now one to watch for next year and third place for **Jack Agnew** underscored his reputation as one of Shropshire's prominent hill runners.

♦ **Mel Funnell** posted a fine solo time (87:20) to take the women's title – probably unaware while running that she was comfortably ahead of **Jenny Preece** and **Christine Macam**.

♦ As we have come to expect at the Time Trial, veteran runners show their strength in depth. This year 33 of the 51 solo men recorded times in veteran (40+) categories with 6 of the first 10 being aged 040 or 050. **Virgil Barton** capitalised on a successful year to record 1st 050 in under 75 minutes and **John Langton** retained his 060 title.

♦ While Mel Funnell won her overall title and headed the field of 8 veteran (40+) women solo runners, the other big news was **Janet Hill's** performance as fastest of the others and setting a best time for an 070 woman of 131 mins 21 secs.

♦ Intriguingly the first three teams of paired runners were separated by less than 5 minutes. First were **Oli Cox & Jules Toone** (mixed) followed by **Adrian & Matthew Marsh** (1st male and junior) and then **Becky Griffiths & Charlotte White** (1st female pair).

♦ As ever, it was great to see youngsters taking part. **Mathew Marsh** seems destined for a Time Trial career as he bettered his winning time from last year by more than 4 minutes. And no doubt all juniors had a day out to remember.

♦ Parental chaperones were also in evidence among the older generations. **Steve** (first Time Trial in 1992) and **Chris Atherton** have put in very competitive independent performances over the years and, running together this year recorded a time just under 110 minutes, making the strongest claim for the 'Spirit of the Time Trial' prize. On the eve of her wedding, **Bess Robson** chose to spend some time with her dad **Rick** (first Time Trial in 1988) – a little over two-and-a-half hours enjoying her native Shropshire Hills.



Bess Robson enjoying her last day as a single woman
(married 25/11/2024)



Pink Ladies
(photo credits: Craig Henn)

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SUMMARY ACCOUNTS: Income: £1060. Expenditure: c £360 (Village Hall; web site fees; WFRA regn. and insurance; Mercia FR dibber hire; prizes; misc. X's). Donation to 2nd Longmynd Scouts: £650. Carry over £50.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE HELPERS:

- Jenny Henn and Charlie Brayne – Registration etc. in the village hall
- Dave Nicholls – Entries and results computing
- Mercia FR – use of timing kit
- Dave Clarke and Charlie Leventon - Start
- Jennifer Humphreys (and then Craig) – Finish
- Boultons Coaches for putting on the 'Finish to Start' bus.
- Stiperstones Inn for allowing us room to upload the results afterwards and providing those well-earned post-race pints and Sunday lunch.



Some of the celebrities preparing to start: **Andrew Davies** – still warming down after his hugely impressive victory in the 2024 Eryri Marathon and; **Janet Hill** – evergreen competitor over distances from Parkrun to the LDWA 100, here about to set the best time for W70+

AND SO it was once again a pleasure to see everyone enjoying the annual challenge. I very much enjoy looking after this unique event – and I look forward to seeing you all next year - **SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2025.**

Cheers all; *Craig*
Craig Henn - E: craighenn@googlemail.com

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THE RESULTS *(ranked simply by time taken)*

NB: Consistent with previous years' results record *(and appropriate for the size and character of the event)*, veteran age categories are expressed in 10-year intervals. The Mercia FR results service at <https://merciafr.club/results/time-trial-2024-results/> expresses them in 5-year veteran categories.

			<i>hrs mins secs</i>
1	Dominic Jones	Mercia FR M40	01:04:40
2	Tom Hancock	Unattached MSEN	01:05:42
3	Jack Agnew	Mercia FR MSEN	01:06:57
4	James Stuart	Mercia FR M40	01:09:24
5	Tom Leather	Tattenhall Runners MSEN	01:12:22
6	Andrew Davies	Mercia FR M40	01:12:24
7	Virgil Barton	Calder Valley FR M50	01:14:07
8	Mike Frost	Mercia FR M50	01:14:24
9	Daniel Swain	Unattached MSEN	01:14:39
10	Rob Arden	Tattenhall Runners M40	01:16:34
11	Dave Saunders	Mercia FR M40	01:16:51
12	Andy Davies	Mercia FR M50	01:16:52
13	Robin Spence	Unattached MSEN	01:18:22
14	Andrew Price	Shrewsbury AC MSEN	01:18:37
15	Oli Cox & Jules Toone	Unattached X-PAIR	01:22:19
16	Simon Duckett	Unattached M40	01:22:21
17	Matthew Barrett	Unattached MSEN	01:22:27
18	William Carlyle	Mercia FR MSEN	01:22:41
19	Joe Donnelly	Mercia FR MSEN	01:22:54
20	Adrian Marsh & Matthew Marsh	Unattached J-PAIR	01:23:25
21	Mark Agnew	Mercia FR M50	01:24:16
22	Jamie Hancock	? M50	01:25:04
23	John Langton	Mercia FR M60	01:26:36
24	Becky Griffiths & Charlotte White	Unattached F-PAIR	01:26:43
25	Mel Funnell	Shropshire Shufflers W40	01:27:20
26	Alli Arden & James Jenkin	Unattached X-PAIR	01:29:06
27	Robin Bacon	Mercia FR M50	01:29:22
28	Edward Davies	Maldwyn Harriers M60	01:32:06
29	John-Paul Hunt & Anne Hurrell	Unattached X-PAIR	01:33:54
30	Jack Tavernor	Unattached M40	01:34:01
31	Dan Sadd	Unattached MSEN	01:34:14
32	Duncan Clee & Chris Chapman	Unattached M-PAIR	01:36:33
33	Richard Grindle	Mercia FR M50	01:37:54
34	Mike Towers	Unattached MSEN	01:38:02
35	Giles Carey	Shropshire Shufflers MSEN	01:38:10

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36	John Ward	Unattached	M40	01:38:21
37	Philip Wilkinson	Mercia FR	MSEN	01:38:56
38	Charles Jones	Unattached	M40	01:39:05
39	Shay Baker & Pierce Bowsher	Unattached	M-PAIR	01:39:16
40	Nick Holmes	Tattenhall Runners	M60	01:39:22
41	Jenny Preece	Unattached	WSEN	01:39:35
42	Jean-Louis Le Roy	Unattached	M60	01:39:44
43	Vincent Borgraeve	Unattached	MSEN	01:40:00
44	Jordan Slater	Unattached	MSEN	01:40:08
45	Neil France & Carol France	Unattached	X-PAIR	01:40:31
46	Edward Craig	Unattached	MSEN	01:41:43
47	Darren Mitchelmore	SAC	M50	01:42:03
48	Eleanor Hartley & Franciss Pitt	Unattached	X-PAIR	01:43:12
49	Paul Gresty	Shropshire Shufflers	M60	01:43:40
50	Andy Latham & Graham Chidley	Unattached	M-PAIR	01:44:34
51	Steve Jones	Unattached	MSEN	01:44:52
52	Adam Baker & Stuart Richards	Unattached	M-PAIR	01:45:08
53	Christine Macam	Unattached	WSEN	01:47:40
54	Ian Williamson	Unattached	M50	01:48:20
55	Chris Atherton & Stephen Atherton	Unattached	M-PAIR	01:49:35
56	Alexander Rankin & Stelios Vasilikos	Unattached	M-PAIR	01:50:47
57	Tracy Hughes & Trish Payne	Unattached	F-PAIR	01:53:27
58	Sam Owen & Andrew Wood	Unattached	M-PAIR	01:54:37
59	Graham Oliver & Stuart Hughes	Unattached	M-PAIR	01:54:57
60	Sean Chubb	Unattached	MSEN	01:55:20
61	Naomi Watson & Helen Stokes	Unattached	F-PAIR	01:55:55
62	Nigel Prue & Maria Murphy	Unattached	X-PAIR	01:58:22
63	Stephen Bajic	Mercia FR	M60	01:59:56
64	Richard Curtis	Bayston Hill Salad Dodgers	M60	02:01:20
65	Tim Hockley	Unattached	M60	02:01:23
66	Matt Hill & Tom Phillips	Unattached	M-PAIR	02:01:24
67	Phil Clarke & Jenny Henn	Unattached	X-PAIR	02:01:25
68	Sarah Hall & Isaac Hall	Unattached	J-PAIR	02:01:27
69	Steven Brown & Caroline Caffery	Unattached	X-PAIR	02:01:35
70	Justin Shirra & Jaz Shirra	Unattached	X-PAIR	02:02:34
71	Alexandra Chickley-Ottley & Verity Jones	Unattached	F-PAIR	02:07:19
72	Duncan Bowdler	Mercia FR	M40	02:07:51
73	Katie Lloyd & Rachel Parkey	Unattached	F-PAIR	02:08:11
74	Janet Hill	Ludlow Runners	W70	02:11:21
75	Jonathan Harris	Unattached	M40	02:12:27

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76	Holly Sheldon	Unattached	W50	02:15:07
77	Julia Hill	Unattached	W40	02:15:15
78	Andrew Duggan & Rebecca Owen-Jones	Unattached	X-PAIR	02:16:11
79	Sally Tonge	Unattached	W50	02:16:36
80	Lynsey Cater & Stephen Bacon	Unattached	X-PAIR	02:19:30
81	Ann Perry	Unattached	W40	02:22:28
82	Derek o' Connor	Unattached	M60	02:23:53
83	Susanne o' Connor	Unattached	W60	02:24:06
84	Ian Harrington & Blake Harrington	Unattached	J-PAIR	02:26:46
85	Rick Robson & Bess Robson	Unattached	X-PAIR	02:35:07
86	Ed Stuart & Andy Jones	Unattached	M-PAIR	02:35:33
87	Jessica Pugh & Lucy Smith	Unattached	F-PAIR	02:35:39
88	Pamela Hardy	Unattached	W60	02:38:44
89	Marie Speight & Paul Speight	Unattached	X-PAIR	02:39:02
90	Derrick Tapscott	Unattached	M50	02:39:41
91	Michael Powell	Unattached	M40	02:40:00
92	Anthony Marston	Unattached	M50	02:47:43
93	Sonia Stuart & Catherine Stuart	Unattached	F-PAIR	03:14:39
94	Guy Holloway & Emily Holloway	Unattached	J-PAIR	03:21:37
95	Jackie Baker & Kate Mayes	Unattached	F-PAIR	03:21:44
96	Sarah Clayton & Jennifer Ball	Unattached	F-PAIR	03:23:18
97	Paul Fallon & Andy Hughes	Unattached	M-PAIR	03:43:00
98	Andy Buchan & Jensen Buchan	Unattached	J-PAIR	04:07:14
99	Laura Worrock & Abigail Worrock	Unattached	J-PAIR	04:07:42
100	Roger Smith	Unattached	M50	DNS/DNF?

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

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THE PRIZE WINNERS (CRAIG'S LIST):

- Senior Males x 3 - **Dom Jones** (01:04:40) **Thomas Hancock** (01:05:42) **Jack Agnew** (01:06:57)
- M40 Male - **James Stuart** (01:09:24)
- M50 Male - **Virgil Barton** (01:14:07)
- M60 Male - **John Langton** (01:26:36)
- M70 Male - None
- Senior Females x 3 - **Mel Funnell** (01:27:20) **Jenny Preece** (01:39:35) **Christine Macam** (01:47:40)
- W40 Female - **Julia Hill** (02:15:15)
- W50 Female - **Holly Sheldon** (02:15:07)
- W60 Female - **Susanne O'Connor** (02:24:06)
- W70 Female - **Janet Hill** (02:11:21)
- Female Pair - **Becky Griffiths & Charlotte White** (01:26:43)
- Male Pair - **Adrian Marsh & Matthew Marsh** (01:23:25)
- Mixed Pair - **Oli Cox & Jules Toone** (01:22:19)
- 1st Girl (Under 17 - part of a team) **Emily Holloway** (03:21:37)
- 1st Boy (Under 17 - part of a team) **Mathew Marsh** (01:23:25)
- Spirit of the Time Trial - **Chris Atherton & Stephen Atherton**

For more information on Fell Running visit the Shropshire Fell Running Facebook page: [Shropshire Fell Running | Facebook](#) or go to the Mercia FR website at www.merciafr.club/ which also displays an expanded version of this years' Time Trial results (<https://merciafr.club/results/time-trial-2024-results/>)



Tim makes it home



The satisfaction of reaching the finish

(photo credits: Jennifer Humphreys)

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