

Bob Graham

Meanwhile the various Bob Graham attempts met with mixed fortunes. The usual mid-summer date was plagued by some dreadful weather. Noone would have blamed any of the contenders if they had dropped out after only two hours at Honister; the hour I spent on Robinson-dale head would have suggested a bad March or October day. After being almost blown to a standstill on Gable everyone descended direct to Wasdale to try again another day. On the same day, Pete James (Jenny's brother) actually completed the round. Running clockwise (and with an earlier start) on a 20 hour schedule he did superbly well to finish with a few minutes to spare. With no other pacers willing to endure the conditions, Hilary Bloor had the unenviable task of setting out from Honister on the last leg in darkness with a gale still blowing but successfully got Pete into Newlands where he sped off for Keswick still running strongly.

The "re-tries" were more spread out and met with mixed success. Jim Lawrenson ran strongly to complete the round on the 29-30 July. In contrast to the "standard" club plan. Jim's second attempt was a clockwise effort starting at 18:30. Colin Lago and Dick Pasley unfortunately had to drop out at Wasdale but Jim gained time as the attempt progressed with some pacers having difficulty keeping up! On a separate occasion Maggie Gallagher also went for a clockwise attempt and had the heartbreaking experience of hearing the clock chime signal her out of time as she was entering the Keswick streets. She now is one of the few Dark Peak runners to have completed the route in both directions... both just outside 24 hours!