

Slaithwaite “Lockdown” Event

Planner’s Comments:

After my first “lockdown” event planning for Scammonden – a run round the pond – I was advised to put in more route choice and at my second attempt I think I managed that for the Long and Medium courses.

Between each control there was a choice of at least two routes and now looking at many of the routes tracked I think over the week every choice was used.

On the **Long** and **Medium** the most preferred from the start was the short road and path going north east. After control 2 the steps after the station bridge were fastest, even though they were tough.

Now we come to the **Long** from controls 3 to 4. The majority chose to weave their way on what appeared to be shortest route through the houses and finally the steep path down to 4. My analysis of the results shows that the quickest was the straightforward steady descent down the long road just to the north side of the railway.

Still on the **Long** I had not expected so many to choose the paths to the south side of the reservoir from 8 to 9, as with my local knowledge I knew that they were steep in places and had stiles to slow progress. Some even came off the first path (allowed as it was not in farmland) to cross directly through the wood and ford the stream. The longer flat route back across the dam and along the north side of the reservoir appears to have been the quicker.

Finally the position of control 4 on the **Medium** and 10 on the **Long** had to be there as it was my house, hence the kite hanging outside. I wanted a “spectator” control. The mapped path up from the bridge in Merrydale is a public footpath, but not often used perhaps due to its steepness, as you found.

For those on the **Short** course, whilst there were some route choices, I hope you enjoyed visiting parts of Slaithwaite that the “tourists” fail to see.

From the results you will see that some completed more than one course, one three courses in one day! Others returned later in the week.

Thank you for the kind remarks I received during the week and my elation when I found on the Thursday that I had had my best run of the lockdown “events” so far – but I think that shows that I must improve on my navigation and route choice, as in “planning and checking” I had walked the long course twice before (but avoiding the steps this final time).

Keith Sykes