

## Innit 2 Winit Southern 50 Report February 2006

For us, injury ruled over determination. Despite all the perseverance of the distance, two of our teammates sensibly decided to call it a day, towards the end. However, we had all had a fantastic experience, and had stuck together as a team through the highs and lows (of our spirits and the hills).

We were the first team out for the 30k, but unfortunately we took a wrong turning after the 1<sup>st</sup> checkpoint (cp 5)! So wrong we ended up 2 miles east of checkpoint 5. Still, we managed to get back a lot of time. That was where the boys overtook us though! A bit earlier than we had expected.

On the way to the next checkpoint, we nearly got run over by dirt bikes racing down a track, that on the map was marked as a road. That was slightly confusing, as well as scary as we then had to walk up the track to get to the footpath. Going down one hill, Abi and Chloe decided they would roll down it, instead of walking! Not too sure if they did or not in the end. Would have been funny, seeing how their bags coped with it! We met Derek's team at the checkpoint, and we tried to keep them in sight, so that we didn't have to read the map but they walk too fast for us. We lost them after about 10 minutes.

10 toilet stops later we got to checkpoint 10 (Southend). They were wearing stickers that the Undertakers had been giving out. That meant that they had overtaken us as well! The 50-mile team!

After we had hobbled down the road we came to a bull field. Apart from they were all cows, not bulls. That was when we got our first glance of a famous windmill. We didn't know it was famous though, and complained about the steep hill we had to climb to get up to it. Once at the top we did get a good view of a very famous village, known as Dibley, but called Turville.

...Down...Up...Down...up slightly and we were at checkpoint 14..and toasties!!!!!!

Unfortunately Abi's leg started to play up, and by the next checkpoint, it had a bandage on it, with only a very slight effect. It was also dark, which dampened our spirits even more. At the next checkpoint (the one with clowns, though not too sure why), Abi and Chloe retired due to injury. Even if they had wanted to continue, we wouldn't have let them. It was obvious of their pain. So Laura and I joined another team who were doing the 50k, and finished the walk with them.

The last straight seemed to never end back into the town, and once the school was in sight a sudden rush of energy came back...at least to me.

In the end, Laura and I completed the walk in 11hrs 42 minutes. We were pleased with this, as it was our first timed walk. Luckily Abi and Chloe recovered, enough to take the mickey out of the sea scouts because of their hats! The walk gave us all a sense of achievement, just as much as we would have got if we had won, proving that you don't have to win to do well!

Komi Barnes