

A photograph of a runner in a blue shirt and black shorts running on a gravel path. The path is on a grassy hillside overlooking a large lake. In the background, there are rolling hills under a cloudy sky. Other runners are visible further down the path. The text 'SADDLEWORTH RES'S SATURDAY 1ST MARCH, 2025' is overlaid in white on the image.

# SADDLEWORTH RES'S SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2025

Race Director's  
Review





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It's Tuesday morning, 3 days after the Saddleworth Res's event and I am parking up at Wessenden Head carpark, the location of the 'Ice Station Zebra' checkpoint. The weather is amazing, but with a very cold breeze blowing. It almost feels like shorts weather, but I chicken out and opt for full length thermal leggings. My aim is to retrieve the two Orienteering kites over Toolyshaw Moor and Hey Edge trig point, a job I really fancied doing after watching everyone finish on Saturday with smiles and nothing but praise for the route. Now it was my turn, for a small section of the route, to enjoy the delights of the moors in glorious spring sunshine.

The Saddleworth Moors are truly showing off their beauty this week.

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Saddleworth Res's has been going for 5 years now (with a gap year in 2021) and the event has gone from strength to strength. I remember with fondness the first two events which were held in the nearby Dysarts Arms with kit check on every available table. We had 116 starters that year all squeezed into the small pub.

We spent two years at the Dysarts Arms, either side of Covid but the last year, we knew we had to change venues. This, after all, wasn't a run of the mill fell race.

So, in 2023, we based the event at Saddleworth Cricket Club, just down the road from the Dysarts Arms. This also allowed for the same start as in previous years, except for the extra bit back to the cricket club. This venue was fine but after a double booking with the Chairman's family christening, Saddleworth Rangers stepped in and we have never looked back.

Now in 2025, the event has grown to an average of 400 participants over the last 2 years and with the introduction of the 2 new races, I am sure we could see entries rise above 500.....but I think the Haworth Hobble would have to move dates for that to actually happen ;)





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The introduction of the 2 new distances will hopefully grow over the coming years and be as popular as the 10 Res route, a route that I first did back in 1988!

I wasn't surprised about the feedback on the 5 Res route. It's a lovely route giving you a taster of its bigger brothers and is a delight when coming back through Diggle and into Greenfield. Anyone new to the sport will see this as a great stepping stone to bigger and better things.

The mixture of terrain and technicality is all mixed together to keep any participant enjoying the route from start to finish. The Bolder field at the start may feel intimidating but the thought of simpler terrain, freshness in the legs will always make this section feel comfortable to do.....as long as you don't mind getting your feet wet!

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The 10 Res's course is truly a wonderful journey around the Saddleworth Moors. To do over 26 miles and only cross a main road twice is fantastic.

Of course, it wouldn't be the same without the boulder field which is why I wanted to keep this section in with the other races. Once people get past the boulders, the world is their oyster! Its also a great stepping stone from the 5 to the 10 and then onto the 15 (Hmm, maybe I should start to plan some sort of recognition for this achievement).

I think moving the Crowden Support point indoors also has helped. We had a lot of retirees at Crowden last year and keeping them warm was so important. Now we are indoors, it makes logistics so much better. And, the marshals are happier, too.

Of course, there are no indoor support points at 'Ice Station Zebra' but they now have a nice fancy new gazebo (but I never saw my tablecloths being used up there! ;) ) The team at the A635 crossing unfortunately have to grin and bear it there as there is no shelter which is why it's a much simpler support point than the others.

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I was excited to introduce the 15 Res route as this is something that I had been wanting to do for a couple of years. Although I feel it still needs a few tweaks, in general everyone loved it. I had 1 comment saying it felt a lot like an LDWA event on the northern section, but please remember that all my races have the LDWA ethos in them.

Doing 37 miles requires a good support unit and having the two indoor support points at Castleshaw and Marsden (the start of our Stanza Stones 50 mile ultra...just getting it out there) balanced the distance with support points well.

Commiserations to those who never made the cut offs but they are there to help marshals and to ensure you manage the event in the 12 hours. However, when I review the event in the coming weeks, I will be taking a close look at the cut offs once more.







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## KIT

The biggest question I got before the event. Yes, it did seem to be a lot of kit to carry, especially with the good weather we had on Saturday. But it's simple: this is a winter event that takes you to some lonely wild moorland far from roads. There is a large element of risk and to quote the Scouts, you need to be prepared.

Last year, the weather tested everyone. It was extreme on parts of the route, and it was evident that a lot of people were just not prepared for it and as they slowed down, they got cold. The Support points didn't offer much shelter either, so participants who retired were getting cold waiting around.

So, adding the extra jacket, along with the extra long sleeve top was a decision made without hesitation, even for the 5 Res's route.

Talking of the 5 Res route, we have already decided to remove the headtorch requirement from the kit list next year. This will be managed easier at registration as next year the 5 Res start time will have its own slot of 10am

Thank you all for carrying the kit. Any other year, the weather could have been a lot worse, and you may have been grateful for the extra jacket.

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# SUPPORT POINTS

It was great that we now have 3 Indoor support points amongst all the routes. This not only helps with retirees and the chance for participants to use a proper toilet, but it helps so much for the marshals and with food prep. Also, having wifi helps with communications especially now that we use the trackers.

Of course, the 2 outdoor support points have no choice and are at the mercy of the elements, like it was last year up at Wessenden when we couldn't even get the gazebo up! Anyone there last year will never forget it!

So we intend to keep the indoor support points for future editions and one day, we will be so glad of it (I had phone calls from marshals asking if they could just put everything outside!).



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# OPEN TRACKING

- Many thanks to James Thurlow and Daniel Carrivick from Open Tracking for their online support during the event. At Craggrunner, we have used Open Tracking a few times now but the Res's event was a new style of race for CraggRunner, having 3 different routes in one day, so their extra help in the morning was priceless. Apologies for anyone who's tracker wasn't playing ball on Saturday but just like anything technical, there are bound to be one or two mishaps.
- The use of trackers is certainly a game changer on events like this. The marshals in Race Control can see any issues arising from participants going the wrong way. Also, it's great for family, friends and supporters to watch the dots from afar. Plus it helped with catering getting the food ready for participants coming in.





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# PEAK MEDICAL & RESCUE TEAM

As you probably noticed, we had a professional team of Medical and Mountain Rescue people at the event this year. You see the theme I have approached for this year's event: extra kit; indoor checkpoints; trackers and now professional medical cover.

I have a duty of care for anyone entering Cragrunner races and I am slowly developing it so you can feel even more safe at our events. Having professional medics and Mountain Rescue people on hand makes my life a bit easier on race day.

The Peak M&R team volunteered this year so they could see the event and they made a big difference with many of you commenting that they felt more confident in the event.

So, thank you to Tim, Andy, Beth & Lindsay for their time on Saturday. Luckily, they were not too busy this year.....and that's the way I want it.



WWW.PEAK-MR.CO.UK

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# SPONSORS

Many thanks to Pilgrim Clothing who have been involved with the event for two years now. Based locally in Saddleworth, Pilgrim are keen to promote their name with us. The clothing ranges from expedition to casual attire, and you'll find something for everyone by visiting their website [HERE](#)

This year, Pilgrim supplied all our volunteers with a new CraggRunner T-shirt and they were on sale on their stand. If you missed out on purchasing a t-shirt and you would like to buy one, go to the page [HERE](#)

Sales of the t-shirt, and many other items to come later in the year, help with keeping cost down on race day so I really appreciate your help.



P I L G R I M

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# SPONSORS

You would have noticed the fuel tablets at each Support point and many of you may have taken advantage of the free taster pack which was on offer in your final email.

These are supplied by the Lakes based company, Voom. A technical nutrition company, they offer products designed to fuel performance, enhance endurance, and speed up recovery.

Along with our own events, they are also involved with other major UK events.

If you haven't yet taken up the offer of the taster pack and find out more about what Voom offer, click [HERE](#)





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# SADDLEWORTH RANGERS

Cragrunner, or mainly myself, have had a partnership with Saddleworth Rangers, going back to the 2010 when my lad started playing rugby there. My first ever Alderman's Ascent was back in 2016 when it was a fundraiser for the Under 15's team who represent the club and go on tour each year. To this date, we still run the Alderman's Ascent as a fundraiser for the current Under 15's team.

So once again, special mention to Ian Wolstenholme who has been a great supporter of my events over the years. He loves the running events, especially the Res's and secretly hopes he can manage a race soon.

Also, special thanks to John and Amy who worked the bar ensuring you were all getting that vital rehydration in you after the event.

I'm sure you'll all agree that it is a splendid venue and we hope to continue our partnership with them for many years.





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# C & C CATERING

Many thanks once again to Chris and his team at C&C Catering. They have helped at a few of our events now and their pies are legendary amongst participants and marshals. You can look forward to seeing their pies again next year.

If you wish to purchase pies from the Oldham based company, click on the link [HERE](#)



# RACECHECK REVIEWS

 <p>5.00/5</p>	 <p>4.99/5</p>	 <p>4.95/5</p>
Supporting Staff	Pre-event communication	Aid Stations

**AD** Andy D.  
5.0 ★★★★★ · 2025 15 Res's Ultra Marathon · [📌](#)

Exemplary. A great challenging course, seamlessly organised with brilliant marshalls. Pre race comms the best around. Outstanding value for money and great to see the event develop with the addition of the open tracking and the longer course. Looking forward to next year.

**EF** Ernesto F.  
5.0 ★★★★★ · 2025 10 Res's Off Road Marat... · [📌](#)

I love this event. This is my third year in a row taking part in it. Darren is a top friendly guy. The event is tough, there is no doubt about it; but equally rewarding. The facilities pre and post race are what you would expect at this type of event: coffee, tea and toast in the morning; pie and peas plus lots of yummy cake at the finish line; showers and changing rooms; an outdoor area where other runners who've finished before you start clapping as you arrive to make you feel like you've conquered the whole world. And so much more.

**HC** Helen C.  
4.3 ★★★★★ · 2025 10 Res's Off Road Marat... · [📌](#)

Very organised and friendly event. Superb route. Clearly run by people who know what they are doing. Support stations were well stocked even though I was towards the back of the pack. The tricky boulder field was flagged which was helpful. And the pie at the end was delicious! I would have like my map in advance - my only improvement. Can't recommend this event enough.

**SD** Sylvia D.  
4.9 ★★★★★ · 2025 10 Res's Off Road Marat... · [📌](#)

Well organised, everyone encouraging, great choice of food at aid stations and good hearty meal at the end. Loved the idea of spot prizes (even though I didn't get one!). Was very grateful for the showers afterwards. The early start was really helpful for slower runners like me.

**KH** Kieran H.  
4.8 ★★★★★ · 2025 5 Res's Trail Run · [📌](#)

One of the best races I've ever done. Incredible energy and great support Only thing I may suggest is kit list requirements if they need adjusting for the weather on the day. Or different kit lists for the different distances Apart from that this has been another fantastic race by cragrunner and I look forward to running in many many more.

**BS** Bob S.  
4.8 ★★★★★ · 2025 5 Res's Trail Run · [📌](#)

Outstanding Event - but don't be fooled into thinking that the 5 Reservoirs is an easy option Yes, it's the shortest distance, but it includes the crux section of the longer events - the notorious boulder field, two river crossings, and the lung busting zig zag to the top of the moor The whole event is super well managed and supported by cheerful race staff who smile with you and encourage you along your way. Epic event - would make a great introduction race for first timers Brilliant

**HD** Harriet D.  
5.0 ★★★★★ · 2025 5 Res's Trail

I absolutely love CragRunner events... So much so that I kind of want to keep them secret 😂 Daz and his team never fail to deliver an outstanding race. The Saddleworth res's and Moors the Merrier are two of my favourites in the racing calendar.



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# MARSHALS

I find it both wonderful and amazing that I attract such great volunteers to the events. It's certainly becoming like a family now. We have such great people on board who just love the sport. Many are from walking and running backgrounds and as such, understand the wants and needs of participants. Experience like this cannot be bought. For the Res's event, many of them gave up their whole day for me and for that, I am truly grateful.

If you would love to be involved with helping at CraggRunner, please drop me a line at the info email and I look forward to welcoming you to the team. You get race credit and watered and fed during the event.

The next page is a list of all who helped out on the day and help make the event such a success:





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**Registration:**

**Joolz Graham**

**Claire Shaw**

**Jane Slater**

**Mel Sykes**

**Rachel Williams**

**Sweepers:**

**Charles Colbourn**  
**Paul Colledge**  
**Hannah Greenlee**  
**Zoe Smith**  
**Giles Bailey**  
**Kevin Robinson**

**Catering:**

**Antonia Grace**  
**Phillipa Grace**  
**Louise Abdy**  
**Mel Whitmore**  
**Guy Whitmore**

**A635 Road  
Crossing  
Support Point:**

**John Allan**  
**Simon Fisher**  
**Jim Harris**  
**Kevin Simmond**

**Castleshaw  
Outdoor Centre  
Support Point:**

**Graham Milnes**  
**Elise Milnes**  
**Darren Smith**

**Crowden  
Outdoor Centre  
Support Point:**

**Mandy Goth**  
**Mark Dalton**  
**Fiona Dyson**  
**Fran Miller**

**Marsden Cricket Club:**

**Mark 'Curly' Caffery**  
**Andrew 'Larry' Regan**  
**Alan 'Mo' Davies**

**Wessenden 'Ice Station  
Zebra' Support Point:**

**Bob Holstead**  
**Phil Hodgson**  
**Barry Greaves**  
**Andy Brooks**

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## FINAL NOTE:

So, the 2025 event was an amazing day. The weather more than made up for last year's conditions on the tops and with the outdoor seating area at the clubhouse, created a great atmosphere at the end for many of you.

Although I always plan to put on a great day for you, at the end of the day you are all ambassadors for this event. Once you put on the race number and head onto the moors, our name and reputation is carried with you.

We had one or two comments from the general public, who are also enjoying the countryside about general courtesy from runners, mainly from the top end of the field. They would step to one side to let runners pass and received no thanks or any type of acknowledgement at all. Please remember that we do not own the paths and other users have equal rights to be there. I understand that some runners are so focused on what they are doing that they miss someone stepping to one side, but in general, most are aware. So please, acknowledge other users on the paths. Be polite and courteous even if it's a simple thumbs up due to being unable to speak.

Don't get me wrong, this is a small issue and 99% of participants are very polite for which I am so thankful. But in general, please ensure we all thank other countryside loving folks who we pass. I've always hated the phrase 'Bloody runners' from years gone by at LDWA events (although this really doesn't happen anymore and the LDWA have open arms for runners these days), and I certainly don't want it happening at CraggRunner events.



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# FINAL NOTE CONTINUED:



So, lets end on a high! The Saddleworth Res's was an amazing day, and I loved the positive feedback from all of you at the end. The additional races open up a wider range of runner and this can only be beneficial for future events. Entries will open for next year's Saddleworth Res's on April 1<sup>st</sup> so keep an eye out on socials.

Next year will see improvements so we continue to develop the races. As stated earlier, the 5 Res's will have a 10am start time. We will continue to use the trackers alongside Peak Medical & Rescue. But all this does come at a cost and unfortunately the price must increase if we are laying on all this for you.

Still, we are confident that you will still see this event as fantastic value for money and I hope to see you all again next year.

Darren and all the CraggRunner team.

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**CrAggRunner**  
GET OUT THERE

# FIVE TRIGS

18miles/29km

Enter on line via SiEntries [www.sientries.co.uk](http://www.sientries.co.uk)

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## NEXT UP

Our Five Trigs race is fast approaching on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at Castleshaw Outdoor Centre.

A 18 mile circular route, visiting five local trig points in the local area. But the route is open to interpretation, ie, you make your own route. Keeping to public footpaths, tracks and roads is the only rule.

Head over to SiEntries and enter [HERE](#)

Also, when entering, all participants on the Saddleworth Res's event can get 10% off the entry price by using the code: 5TRIGS10

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## NEXT UP

Fancy more of a challenge? Our Stanza Stones 50 mile Ultra will give you this.

Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 starting at Marsden Cricket Club, you will travel north to Ilkley along good paths and tracks and spectacular scenery as you visit the 6 famous Stanza Stones.


24 hours to complete, with generous cut offs makes this event an ideal challenge to both walkers and runners.

For more information, go to our website [HERE](#)

**STANZA  
STONES**  
50 MILE ULTRA

Starting at Marsden Cricket Club, 9am  
Finishing at Ben Rhydding Primary School, Ilkley  
Enter online via SiEntries [www.sientries.co.uk](http://www.sientries.co.uk)  
More info on CraggRunner website  
[www.craggrunner.com](http://www.craggrunner.com)

**POETRY IN MOTION**

More information on the  
Cragg Runner website [craggrunner.com](http://craggrunner.com) 



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# CrAgggRunner

GET OUT THERE

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