

The OMM 2010 - report by Sue Sleath

During the week prior to the OMM, both John Horton and I came down with bugs. John decided to be sensible and drop out - meaning that Mick, who had dropped out some weeks earlier, had to drop back in again. I decided to chance it, on the basis that I could always drop out later...

Mick, Peat and I traveled down on Friday afternoon and met up with Brendon at the event centre at Okehampton Camp. We had an excellent meal at a local hostelry and a surprisingly good night's sleep, courtesy of the local Travelodge, before headed for the event centre at a quite respectable eight in the morning.

The weather on the first day was dry and clear - ideal running conditions. Peat (the navigator!) generally made good route choices; the only exception being that he took me through a gorse forest. His excuse? It wasn't on the map! (Pah!) I won't repeat the curses that I swore under my breath, but I wasn't a happy bunny. Despite that, and a dodgy stage in the afternoon when I thought that the bug from earlier in the week was re-surfacing, we were pretty pleased to 'dib in' with 8 minutes to spare in 22nd place.

The overnight camp was on open moor, and we found a slightly raised position, which proved to be a good decision later in the evening, when the rain set in. As is typical of this type of event, we spent the evening brewing up, cooking and eating, all from the comfort of our down sleeping bags. The evening's excitement was provided by our new purchases - both Peat and I had invested in a '[balloon bed](#)'; literally that - half a dozen balloons held in position by a light-weight sheath of fabric. My verdict - fantastic! Not a single balloon burst overnight and I had a much better night's sleep than last year. Peat's? Well, I think one or two of his balloons survived the night. There's obviously a technique that Peat hasn't quite mastered yet...

The second day wasn't quite so good, weather-wise. It was pretty wet all day and visibility wasn't as good. We didn't do too badly, but a couple of hesitations and slightly overestimating the time that it would take us to reach the finish (we arrived about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour early) meant that our overnight position slipped to 32nd. Never mind, better than last year and something to work on for next year.