**Keighley & Craven AC**

**'Gathering Winter Fools' Relay**

**Saturday 7th December 2024**

**Route Description**

**LEG 1 c. 9 miles**

**START: 9.00am Carlton Keighley (formerly University Academy Keighley - UAK)**

(New for 2023) Start in the bottom car park adjacent to the main hall, go up the school access road to exit the grounds out of the top entrance turning left up Greenhead Lane. Go up the hill for approximately 100m and turn left onto High Fold Lane, there is a footpath between two houses at the top end of the lane, the path is to the left of house number 2 (Grey door, detached house facing you). Go up this and exit at the top onto Spring Gardens Lane. Caution here as the path comes out directly onto the road (no footpath). Turn left crossing over the road (again caution) then immediately take a right up the track with Holy Family School playing field on left.

At top of the track bear left on a wider, pot-holed track (Hawkstone Drive) and follow round to right until you come onto Springfield Road. Go up Springfield Road, then take a right up Whin Knoll Avenue to West Lane. Cross West Lane aiming for Braithwaite Road approx. 50m up the hill.

Follow Braithwaite Road to the top of Braithwaite Avenue on the left and cross diagonally to follow the old road through the village and re-join Laycock Lane. Turn left and follow the road through Laycock Village. After Chapel Road on the right (Millennium Way), take the public footpath on the left to cut the corner to Goose Eye Brow and descend steep road hill and pass Turkey Inn on right. Cross bridge on road and take footpath immediately on right, down steps and over beck, and follow as it rises up to join Fallow Lane (rough track). Left then right on Millennium Way route up track (Dean Lane) to eventually join Todley Hall Road. Turn left and ignore the Millennium Way sign and carry straight on to sharp left hand bend. Take the bridleway on the right and follow along the track and across fields to Pole Road.

Turn left and descend along the road and then turn right into America Lane (track).

Part way along notice wooden footpath marker pointing left towards group of houses. Take this track to 2 large steel gates with way markers. Pass through both gates and between houses. Follow the path towards another building. Pass just to the right. Avoid path going off up the hill to the left.

Head right down a walled path into an open field and to a small stream bottom corner of the wood. Take care on the stones which can be very slippery when wet. Cross the stream then through the stile. Climb briefly before descending the hill keeping the stream on your right as you enter the wood following a clear path. After a lovely descent through the wood follow the path over the stream but bear left through a hole in the wall before an iron fence. Follow track then minor road down to the road bottom of Ellers. Pick up the track which runs from Ellers to the Church. Cross the road and enter Sutton Park. Exit the park far left corner and turn immediately right along the road going over the bridge. Immediately after the bridge take a footpath on the right and follow Beck until the main Skipton road at Landis Lund.

Turn left and run through traffic lights (Caution here) heading towards level crossing. Just before level crossing turn left along the minor lane (no through road for vehicles) and follow to the end to meet Station Road in Cross Hills. Cross Station Road (CAUTION) and turn right. Just before the roundabout bear left along footpath beneath the roundabout and emerge onto Main Road, Kildwick.

**Changeover at White Lion Pub** 50m along Main Road.

**LEG 2 c. 9.5 miles (Please note route change Ilkley Moor to plantation)**

**START: White Lion, Kildwick**

Bear right at the pub into Priest Bank Road and turn right along canal towpath just before the swing bridge.

Follow towpath to Silsden, and remain on towpath beneath Keighley Road (past Bridge Pub) and

continue to the first swing bridge (Brunthwaite Bridge).

Turn left over the bridge and follow the track (Brunthwaite Bridge Lane) to meet Holden Lane. Turn right then immediately left on to the public footpath and alongside beck to join Brunthwaite Lane (otherwise known as “Murder Mile”!). Turn right and follow up Murder Mile to top (turns into Lightbank Lane at sharp left bend).

Turn right at bend up the initially surfaced farm track towards Doubler Stones House.

Before house turn left and follow public footpath past Doubler Stones on right and up moor to stile in wall. Over stile and turn right to follow wall along ridge to reach ladder stile over

wall at plantation edge (Shepherd's Hill). Cross stile and follow footpath through conifer plantation over footbridges and eventually over stile on to open moor. Footpath carries straight ahead across the moor towards High Bradup, Bradup and Ilkley Road (the road up to Keighley Gate).

Turn right along the road and then left on to the public bridleway through Upwood Hall Farm (Grass Road).

Path bears right and descends to track – carry straight on and bear right at the bottom along Upwood Lane and Green End Road to meet Main Road in East Morton.

Turn right and follow the road down to **changeover at Busfeild Arms pub**.

**LEG 3 c. 6 miles**

**START: Busfeild Arms, East Morton**

Cross road (CAUTION) bear right and then first left down Dimples Lane. Follow to the end and then turn right down the public footpath to Hebble Bridge. Over bridge and then up track (Acre Lane) to Peas Acre and Micklethwaite. At road turn left up hill and follow road round to right and up to sharp left-hand bend round village green. At the apex of the bend turn right along a public footpath in front of houses and follow via High Fold and Fairlady Farm along the track (Wood Lane) to meet Greenhill Lane. Turn left up hill and at road junction with Lady Lane then turn right and proceed down the hill on Lady Lane.

Passing Dene Bank on the right, turn left onto College Road and then left into Nicholson Close, then right, heading for a footpath sign at the very top. Go across and up fields to eventually emerge on Heights Lane just below Lower Heights Farm. Cross Heights Lane before the farm and go straight across and along the public bridleway (Tewitt Lane).

Follow the track to Tewitt House where it bends sharply right. Proceed 200m and then take track on the right (public footpath) down to Green Lane and past Acorn pub to meet Otley Road at Eldwick. Cross Otley Road (CAUTION) and turn right then immediately left into Saltaire Road.

Fork left before the road rises into Lode Pit Lane and follow the track upwards and round to the right, following Baildon Green parallel to Glen Road as far as Shipley Glen pub.

Keep to the left of the pub on Prod Lane and follow a steep path down the side of Shipley Glen Tramway to Roberts Park.

Through Roberts Park and over a footbridge across River Aire adjacent to Boat House pub at Saltaire.

Turn right on canal towpath and follow past Hirst Lock, over Dowley Gap Bridge and along to

**changeover point on towpath next to Fisherman’s Arms** just beyond Scourer Bridge.

 **LEG 4 c. 7 miles**

**START: Fisherman’s Arms, Wagon Lane, Bingley**

Proceed along canal towpath towards Bingley. Progress to Bingley 3-rise locks (Damart Factory on right) and then turn left across footbridge over by-pass and railway to meet Keighley Road in Bingley, opposite church. Cross Keighley Road and turn left then right into Harden Road.

Cross river on Ireland Bridge and then turn right up Altar Lane (track). Follow Altar lane all the way to the top (St Ives Estate to the left) where it meets Harden Road between Harden and Long Lee in Keighley. Cross straight over (CAUTION) and progress along track which then becomes narrower public footpath rising over stiles and round small old quarry to meet track on Harden Moor near Hainworth.

Turn right down the track past Moor Side Farm on the right and down along Back Shaw Lane and past Back Shaw Farm on the left to meet Shaw Lane. Turn right downhill and round bend and then left down the track at Glen Lee (Woodhouse Road). Follow Woodhouse Road as it winds downhill to join the tarmac surface.

**[\*\*If dark and uncertain see alternative "lit" route to finish from this point below.]** Keep following Woodhouse Road past the junction with Hainworth Wood Road in Keighley and across Keighley & Worth Valley Railway. Road bends sharp right then sharp left – take public footpath on right just before beck crossing (Worth Way) down steps and follow path alongside River Worth.

Follow the path to the end where it emerges onto The Walk and Coney Lane by railway bridge. Cross Coney Lane (CAUTION) and go through an archway with bollard and up and over old railway bridge with mural. Immediately after the bridge turn sharp left on path down and under railway and follow until the path emerges between high stone walls on to Low Mill Lane.

Turn right under the railway bridge along Pitt Street and follow past the turning on the left into the industrial estate, take a public footpath signed to the left. Descend path over cobbles and then follow sharp left under railway and sharp right to bridge. Turn left over the bridge and then follow the path as it bears right alongside Dalton Mills to Dalton Lane.

Turn right and then cross Dalton Lane (CAUTION) and turn left between factory buildings into

Chesham Street. Follow right to the end (even though it looks like a factory area) past old Harold

Town College site and turn left past fire escape steps to follow path linking to Bronte Street. Up a short hill to meet Bradford Road in Keighley opposite Victoria Park.

Cross Bradford Road (EXTREME CAUTION) and proceed straight ahead along the road exiting from the park. Just before the playground on the right, bear to the left of Eastwood School ahead and follow the path round the school playground to exit into Victoria Road (terraces). Follow Victoria Road to the end to meet Lawkholme Lane. Cross Lawkholme Lane (CAUTION) and follow straight on along East Avenue, crossing the railway footbridge and rising up to meet Skipton Road opposite the entrance to Cliffe Castle Park. Cross Skipton Road (EXTREME CAUTION – there is a Pelican Crossing just to the left of the road junction) and enter Cliffe Castle Park via gate.

Turn immediately right and run over grass and along an avenue of trees in Cliffe Castle with park wall on right, following fixed cross country course markers. Carry straight on past the XC finish marker, through a gap in the wall at the corner, across the path and carry straight on over grass and through trees with a wall on right. Cross second path and follow new tarmac path towards **Carlton Keighley**.

Path turns left and goes up a ramp by bike sheds. At top, turn right and follow school road round

building to the left to finish at school entrance.

**ALTERNATIVE ‘lit route’ LEG 4 (if weather / light is a problem), Instead of crossing** **Woodhouse Road, turn right and along it to Park Lane, then right down Park Lane to the bottom, under the bridge then sharp right to pick up the course footpath. (Use this as a last resort please to maintain the accolade of being a Winter Fooler** 😊**)**

**Cut-off times are:**

9.00am start

10.30am mass start at Kildwick

12.00pm mass start at East Morton

12.45pm mass start at Fishermans Arms in Bingley