

The Trotter

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Bravo Barcelona!

This year's Teignbridge Trotters foreign trip promises to be something rather special – a picturesque Mediterranean marathon on the outskirts of beautiful Barcelona. **Stephanie Ross** has the details.

The 2012 Trotters on Tour Europe experience is targetting the Marato del Mediterrani, which takes place in the town of

Castelldefels, approximately five miles south of the historic city of Barcelona, on Sunday, 21 October.

News Desk

Can you believe it's February already? We seem to be flying through the winter and what a different winter it is to the one we had last year, *writes Roger Hayes*. I'm not a lover of running in the cold, so these last few months have been a real joy. It seems the Trotters have gone marathon mad at the moment. In all my time as a Trotter (over 25 years), I can't recall so much enthusiasm and eager anticipation for the 26.2 miles as there is now. There are a record 23 Trotters down to run the Dartmoor Discovery and this seems to have had a knock on effect with the rest of the club. Such has been the demand for the minibus

for the Duchy 20 and marathon events, that I've booked a second one (full details on page twelve) There are 25 Trotters signed up for the North Dorset marathon on 6 May. If we all finish, I think we'll create a club record for the most amount of Trotters to finish a marathon, even surpassing the numbers we used to have completing the London marathon.

Talking of the London, if you're running it, please let me know, as I'd like to do a feature on the race in the March or April edition of *The Trotter*. I am also hoping to have a banner at the London. It's going to be big! And I'm hoping that it will get a mention on the telly. I'll be starting in the blue start so, if you fancy holding the other pole, give me a shout. Don't worry, you'll only be carrying it until you cross the start line.

The Bovey Tracy Westward League Cross Country event, organised by the Trotters, takes place on Sunday, 12 February. It is without doubt the best course out of the six that make up the series. But don't take my word for it, give it a go yourself. Entries are only accepted on the day. If you are planning on giving it go, please can you also offer your services up for a spot of marshaling. As the men's and ladies' races go off at different times, it's perfectly feasible to run and marshal. If you're not running and would like to marshal anyway, then great! Please contact our chief marshal, Mark Wotton: mark.wotton7160@live.co.uk or phone 07521 299363.

Nominations are now being taken for your 2012-2013 committee. All positions are available. Names, along with a proposer and seconder need to be given to our club secretary, Mark Becker, two weeks before the AGM. A list with all positions can be found on our noticeboard in Coombeshead Academy. Any resolutions will also need to be submitted to Mark, along with a seconder, again, two weeks before the meeting. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, 29 February, at 8pm. Your committee have discussed at length a set of resolutions that we believe will benefit the club. These, along with any others we may receive, will be included in the agenda that will be sent to all members prior to the meeting. Please make every effort to attend. Training will start promptly at 6.30pm that night.

In this month's edition of *The Trotter*, you'll find details about some of this year's social events. Dennis has found us an excellent camp site for the club camp, a real favourite with the Trotters and sure to be popular (see page five). Stephanie Ross

Club Trip update



We have elected to go to the Battle of Sedgemoor 10K in Langport, on Sunday, 26 August, *writes organiser Kevin Besford*. A link to entry forms will be posted on our website as soon as it is available. You can find out more about the race at www.langportrunners.co.uk There will be hard copies of the entry form available in the key box from Monday, 6 February.

The venue for a pub meal and merriment has yet to be decided, but it will be a nice family day out.

If you want to put your name down for coming on the bus, give me a shout. If you can't catch me at club, my email address is kbesford@uwclub.net

If you know you are eligible for a free race entry, pass your entry form to me on any club night. I'll update when there is more news.

Membership Report

Devon's finest running club has broken another record, reports Dave Dunn.

We Trotters are getting quite adept at setting new records and I can report that we've set another one this month. The total number of members now stands at 236, higher than it's ever been before. Our membership is now so high, in fact, that it is constantly vexing the minds of your committee and, more particularly, our coaches, as they grapple with the issue of overseeing our training in a safe and competent manner.

While the debate over whether to cap our membership or not rumbles on, let me introduce our latest recruits, whom we are very pleased to have on board.

Martin Hibbs (43) lives on the Dartmoor Discovery route, very close to the final drinks station between Postbridge and Princetown. Martin is one of the 32 members of staff and governors at South Dartmoor Community College in Ashburton who have entered the London Marathon to raise money for Whizz Kidz, with several of the group now regular attendees at Coombeshead Academy on Mondays and Wednesdays.

I believe that Kate Josephy (41), from Littlehempston, is running in the Brighton Marathon in April to raise money for WaterAid. So many Trotters doing so many marathons, there's never been a time quite like it! Louise Kilshaw (28), from Dartington, ran her first half marathon last September, but a whiplash injury prevented her from building on that experience. So Louise is using our Monday training to find her way back to full fitness.

Daniel Wride (29), from Exeter, is Smiler's son. No doubt Daniel has joined us because he's keen to see what it is that has put a perpetual smile on his father's face! Matt McGrath (22), from East Ogwell, demonstrates that our club is attracting new members across all age

groups. Matt has shown a clean pair of heels to some of our faster guys during one particular training session on Brunel, and we expect to see Matt showing up well in races as this year progresses.

Neil Whitelaw (42), from Newton Abbot, is another of the South Dartmoor posse to join us in order to benefit from some structured training, as Neil sets his sights on London in April.

We welcome back Geoff Davison (45), from Newton Abbot, who has rejoined us after an absence of a couple of years. I'm sure that Geoff will have been surprised by the numbers attending training compared with even two or three years ago.

Anne Bellchambers (51), from Cockwood, has a rowing background, but has now turned her attention to training for her first marathon. Anne has come to no better place than the Trotters to feed off the wealth of experience at distance running that exists within our ranks. Stuart Parkes (37), from Newton Abbot, is husband of member Jess. Stuart is a first-claim member of Torbay AC, but has joined us on a second-claim basis, so that he can party like a Trotter at our social events.

Beverley Dennis (47), from East Ogwell, only started running last May, but has already competed in three 10K races, including the Torbay Regatta 10K, and a 5-mile race. Bev clearly has the racing bug, so she will fit right in with Fizz and her team of ladies who like to get out and sport the royal blue vest.

There are four members who will be celebrating a milestone birthday in February. Clare Youngman will be 45, Nigel Penwarden and Tony Stepney will both reach 50, while Marion Witham will become 60. Let's wish all four many happy returns, and may you all enjoy running in your new veteran category!

facebook

The Trotters now have a Facebook group! Although the Teignbridge Trotters website is the main place for official Trotter information, such as details of club training and Trotter races, as well as official Trotter club news, it has long been thought that some kind of more informal internet-based discussion group or blog would be useful.

Facebook provides the ideal platform for this and the Teignbridge Trotters Facebook Group has been created to provide a forum for Trotters to discuss issues and arrange social runs and events. So, if you want to know what social or long runs are

being arranged at the weekend, or if you want to arrange a Trotter get-together, the



Trotter Facebook group is exactly the place for you!

All Trotters are invited to join the group, which will provide a very useful tool for everyone to keep in touch and exchange ideas.

This is definitely an exciting time to be in the Trotters and being part of this online social group will definitely ensure that you keep your finger on the pulse of the club!

If you would like to know more information about this new group then please get in touch with either Tarquin teignbridgetrottertarquin@btinternet.com or Fizz Sharonbowman65@aol.com

Barcelona is undoubtedly one of the most vibrant and inspiring cities in the world



Featuring a picturesque route hugging the Costa Dorada, this event has something for everyone: the full distance, a half marathon and, for those who prefer not to have their weekend ruined by pain and suffering, there is a 10K race, too.

It is not expensive to enter: 35 euros for the marathon, 20 euros for the half and 12 euros for the 10K.

Barcelona is undoubtedly one of the most vibrant and inspiring cities in the world, famous for the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, whose stunning, still unfinished, Sagrada Familia church simply has to be seen to be believed.

The city is also renowned for its rich Catalan culture. As a result of the 1992 Olympic Games, Barcelona has had a dazzling face lift and its splendid, cosmopolitan city centre and port now rival those of Nice and Cannes.

While there are no guarantees, we are hoping for some clement weather and the possibility of a frolic in the Mediterranean Sea on Barceloneta beach at some point. There is also talk of the gentlemen watching some football match or other, while the ladies enjoy a selection of tapas in a convivial little bar.

A panel of experts have, on your behalf, identified a charming 2-star hotel (I know, we're pushing the boat out this time!) It lies in the heart of Barcelona's atmospheric Gothic quarter, close to many of the city's top attractions, including the Ramblas, the Gothic cathedral and the fabulous port.

The AAE Rey Don Jaime Hotel has rooms ranging from £5-£25 per person per night, depending on the type of accommodation you choose.

Chairman Rog has managed to negotiate a 5 per cent discount with the AAE Rey management for members of the Trotters group. So, if you wish to stay at the hotel and claim the discount, use the hotel website www.aareydonjaime.com to make your booking, entering the code 'Save 5 JJG' in the 'Messages for the hotel' box before checking out. Individuals (ie non-couples) need to get together to book a private room for four. This method is much cheaper. Without doing this, individuals will end up with more expensive single rooms. Once you have made your booking, please let Roger know.

Flights to Barcelona are available through easyJet from Bristol. At the moment, they cost approximately £50 each way, but they will go up, so it is worth booking early to avoid disappointment. Eleven intrepid Trotters have already signed up for this most exciting trip.

Hope you can make it, amigos! Hasta luego.

Images courtesy Marato del Mediterrani and Barcelona Turisme.



Under canvas

Dennis Milstead has been combing the best campsites in the south west for a venue fit to host our fine tribe of campers. And he's found a corker.

The campsite: we'll be in the bottom right field.

This year's club camp will take place at Budemeadows Touring Park, Widemouth Bay, Bude, Cornwall EX23 0NA on Friday-Saturday, 15-16 June. You can check out the site's great location and facilities at www.budemeadows.com

We will all be located together in one field. All pitches will be sheltered and have electric hook-up. We have negotiated a reduced rate of £17 per pitch per night, which will cover up to six people, one tent and one car. There is a heated swimming pool, together with a paddling pool for very young children. There is also an onsite bar called Grumpy Pete's,

which sells alcohol and coffee. An onsite shop offers a good selection of grocery items. There will be a BBQ area, should we wish to collate our culinary skills and have an informal club BBQ.

If you would like to come, here is the procedure. It will be necessary to pay a deposit of £5 to me as soon as possible, but in any event before Friday, 4 May 2012. This date is a formal cut-off date by which we have agreed to provide the exact numbers of campers to the campsite owners. A balancing payment of £29 will then be payable to me on or before 15th June 2012.

What's it all about?

Those of you who haven't attended club camp before may be wondering just what we all get up to.

The camp is open to all Trotters and their families. There will be organised events which you can join in with as much or as little as you like. There's a run each morning at 8am and usually an afternoon run, too. These runs are not compulsory and, depending on numbers, there will be runs going out at different paces.

There may also be children's and adults' obstacle races or fun runs.

We have a fabulous surfing beach nearby, where it will be possible to hire surfboards, bodyboards and wetsuits.

Tommo and Fizz usually organise a Welly Wanging competition for both

children and adults. There are glittering prizes to be won for the gifted and talented.

If none of this appeals, there is a possibility that a drinking session may take place in Grumpy Pete's, which may lead on to a women's arm wrestling competition. Caroline Hayes is the defending champion and she is already in intensive training for any rematch.

In short, if you have not been before, come along and try it. Camping together as a very large extended family is fantastic fun and not to be missed. There's plenty to do but you're not obliged to do any of it.

If you have any further questions, please speak to me at club training, or after training in the White Hart on a Wednesday evening.



Heave-ho: serious welly wanging at Weymouth, 2008.



Spish-splosh: the water's lovely at Budemeadows' pool.

Captain's Corner

Tarquin just doesn't know where
the time goes...

It hardly seems like we have a 'close season' that gives us time to recover. No sooner has one racing season ended, we find we're on the starting line for the first race of the new season.

And so it was as I stood on the starting line of this year's First Chance 10K on 8 January, with 32 eager Trotters. Although this race was one week later into January than last year, it's always seen as the traditional curtain-raiser for the new race season.

It's also a race where a lot of people do considerably better than they had hoped they would do, considering the potential for Christmas and New Year excesses, and the fact that their training might not have been of the same quality as normal during the December period.

This year's event has been no exception, with a number of PBs for the Trotters. Neil Pallant (with a time of 46:42) and Jon Martin (50:20) ran fine PBs for the Trotter men. Neil has been quietly improving, since he started running, just over a year ago and is a shining example to any new member. On the back of running two half marathons last year, Neil is now training for his first marathon, which will be the

Milton Keynes marathon at the end of April. Neil has come on in leaps and bounds. To think that he started in the Monday evening Beginners Group, little over a year ago! It shows the

level of determination and self-belief the guy has.

Neil is now a regular attendee of both the Saturday morning long marathon training runs and the new Monday evening ten mile group.

Without even chance to catch breath, many of the Trotter men were back in action again at the ever popular Oh My Obelisk race, near Dawlish. This 11-mile off-road event is a perennial Trotter favourite and takes the runners on a gruelling climb from Dawlish Leisure Centre, up to the Obelisk in Haldon forest, and back.

Fine performances by Dave 'Tommo' Tomlin (5th), Adam Caunter (10th) and Nick Stevens (14th) ensured that the Trotters again clinched the 1st male team award here.

Despite again running with a rather serious injury (which he also did at the First Chance 10K the week before), Lance

Mason forced his aching body around this most gruelling of courses to win the 1st MV50 award.



Allen Taylor hits his stride during last November's Templer Ten.

To complete three ultra marathons in three consecutive days is something else

Lance is probably paying the price physically from his super performances at the back end of last season. He won Vet award prizes at the Bicton Blister (2nd MV50), Drogo 10 (2nd MV50) and Deviock Bounder 10 (1st MV50), to round off a very impressive first season with the Trotters.

Team prizes have been coming thick and fast for our Trotter men of late. At the end of the last season, at the Bicton Blister, we won two male team awards: Tommo, Stephen 'Ronnie' Barker, Allen Taylor and myself won the 1st Senior Male team and Lance, Garry Smart, Wavell Vigers and Alan Boone won the 1st Male Vet team award.

On the previous weekend, our Trotter men brought home some more team silverware at the Drogo 10. Tommo, Adam and Garry won the 1st Male Team prize in the tough event, outdoing many of the other top clubs on show that day.

Sunday, 11 December, marked the day when our marathon King, Chairman Rog, completed his 60th marathon! This occurred at the on the second day of the Broadmeadow Double Marathon (two marathons on consecutive days). Our Chairman has been packing the marathons in and does, on average about three a month. During November he led a very hardly band of three Trotters (with Roger 'Smokes' Hales and Marsha Garrard) to run and complete The Druid Challenge Ridgeway Multistage Ultra, which takes the runners over 84 miles over three consecutive days. A marathon is an amazing achievement in itself, but to complete three ultra marathons in three consecutive days is something else.

Chairman and Smokes have kept up the marathon running since then, and are well on their way to both completing their 100th marathon, which they both plan to do at the 2013

Dartmoor Discovery! Please wish them luck with this challenge and we will watch their progress towards that with interest! But they are carrying on their marathon exploits not entirely on their own, as more and more Trotters are being tempted to join them each time they go off in search of another marathon. Just recently (22 January) Phil 'Latte' Perry and Allen Taylor joined them (along with Sally Ingledew) to run the Gloucester marathon. Phil is proving as hard as nails and finished with a time of 4:02 and Allen Taylor ran in with a massive PB of over

24 minutes to finish in a time of 3:28:01. Well done to Allen, but I can see him improving on that time again, as he completes a couple more marathons on his way to running in his first Dartmoor Discovery this year.

The racing is about to pick up again in earnest, with some important fixtures coming up in February and early March. The new Exeter half marathon, on Sunday, 12 February, looks like a tempting, if a more than a little boring (three laps around the First Chance course) prospect, but the potential for a PB is high here. Even though this event filled up quickly, a good number of Trotters got their entries in early and are down to run. The following weekend sees the annual and very popular Plymouth Hoe 10. This event has been billed as one of the Devon vs Cornwall events, and so our Trotter men will be required



Roger 'Smokes' Hales digs in during the three-day Druid Challenge 84-miler.

to give their all for that! Look out for a report on these two races in the news reports on our website!

Finally, can I encourage all Trotter men to take a look at this year's Lads' Weekend Away. This year, we're having a more of a low-key camping weekend in Midsomer Norton, before tackling the local Jack and Jill Challenge off-road 10k on the Sunday. The weekend should be a complete hoot, so clear your diaries and get your name to Chairman Rog ASAP!

Lads' weekend



Roger Hayes lifts the lid on the legendary Trotters Lads' Weekend Away. This year's trip has the added advantage of camping! What could possibly go wrong?

With no sign of a stag do this year, I thought it best to take the bull by the horns and organise our annual trip away. After last year's trip to Salisbury, dressed up as the Village People and trying our best to imitate Tiger Woods, (in more ways than one!) the bar has been raised, as it was generally felt by many of the regulars on the bus, to be the best lads' weekend away yet. But I think I've put together a pretty good package for this year, although sadly (well I think so!) we're sticking to our civvies. So here's the plan...

We will be leaving Newton Abbot Leisure Centre at 8am on Saturday, 12 May. We'll stop off en route for the first of the mandatory fry-ups we'll consume during the weekend. We should arrive in Midsomer Norton by late morning. This year, and for only the second time (Dangerous Dave and Snowdondia - you can't count the Callow 5, there were girls in the tent!) we will be camping. I've found a great little campsite a couple of miles out from the town. I say great, because it's cheap... Hopefully, just a fiver a head (currently in negotiations) and there is a pub directly opposite the campsite. That's where we will have our second fry up, on the Sunday morning. But I'm getting ahead of myself!

Don't worry if you haven't got a tent. The idea is to take a couple of big 'uns and all squeeze in together. We'll draw straws for who sleeps next

to Tarq and, for different reasons, Big Al. Then, before the alcohol ruins your day, we'll have a game of footie and maybe even cricket — something healthy anyway!

I'll then drive us into town, planning to pick the bus up in the morning. Apparently, my sources tell me, Midsomer Norton is quite a good place to spend a few hours on the lash!



'It's fun to stay at the YMCA...'

The next day, after having no sleep whatsoever (he really does impersonate a giant walrus), there is the small matter of the Jack and Jill Challenge. An off-road, six-mile race, with a little bit of everything, it's organised by Somer AC, who used to stage the Cowpat Canter, a race that was our club trip a few years ago. There are showers and, more importantly, a bar at the finish. What more do you need?

We'll stop off on the way home for a carvery, where we will learn the winner of the sweep stake and no doubt sing the horse's arse song to the weekend's worthy Trotter.

There are already three virgins signed up for the trip (The Boobster, Travis and Dennis) as well as some of the hardcore! So, if you would like to join us, please let me know ASAP. Depending on its popularity, there may be a case for two minibuses. At the time of going to press the first bus was full.



Girls Night Tuesday 19 - Saturday 23 June

The return of the hit show, this time starring **Gillian Taylforth** (*Eastenders*, *The Bill*) and **Kim Taylforth** (*London's Burning*, *Bad Girls*). Real-life fun loving sisters appearing on stage together for the first time ever, playing sisters Carol and Kate in this fantastic show.

Five friends celebrate the past on a hilarious karaoke night out packed with girlie anthems including *Dancing Queen*, *I Will Survive*, *It's Raining Men* and many more...

From *Where the Heart Is* writer, **Louise Roche**, this thoughtful, brilliantly funny and down to earth musical comedy follows five girlfriends on a riotous, cocktail fuelled karaoke night out.

This unmissable show is bursting with energy and jam-packed with anthems. Grab your own girlfriends, your sisters and your workmates and prepare to laugh like never before, as our gal pals remember the many years of tears, joy and hilarious antics that have created their special bond.



Fancy a fun night out at the theatre? Well, how about we get together and go to see *Girls Night*? This show sounds like it might be quite a laugh. Take a look at the blurb (left) for more details.

If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. The show is on from 19–23 June 2012, so check your diaries and get get back to me by email, on clare.youngman@nhs.net or just let me know at the club before the end of February. The actual date we go will depend on the availability of the majority interested.

Clare Youngman

News Desk (continued)

and I have put together a package for this year's foreign marathon — the Marato del Mediterrani, near Barcelona. There is something for everyone and, with any luck, it will attract similar numbers to those we had for the Venice trip in 2007. More details can be found on page four. And, of course, there is the lads' weekend away! See page eight for details on this event.

The club's charity Christmas card managed to raise a record amount of £162.50. The club will match that figure, which means we will be presenting our local branch of St John Ambulance with a cheque for £325. Thank you to all those who contributed and special thanks to Rod Payne for organising it.

The unofficial Saturday morning long training runs have been a massive success. Thanks must go to Tarq and the powers of Facebook! See page three for more details about our new Facebook group. As I write this, I've just got back back from Boonie's 17-miler, which was a real cracker of a run. It's so nice

to run in areas you have never been before, and the footpaths and country lanes around Ipplepen were a delight. There are still a few vacant dates for anyone who fancies taking out a group and showing them their neck of the woods. Please see Tarq if you're interested.

A reminder to all members who swap race numbers: please ensure you contact the race director to obtain permission for the swap and to give details of who you have given your number to. As organisers of events ourselves, we would expect similar behaviour from those entering our races.

I know it's a way off, but I am looking for a volunteer to organise the BBQ for the Totnes 10K on 5 August. We have not staged a BBQ at Totnes before but, with nearly 700 runners and fun runners taking part, I think it's a massive opportunity to make some money for the club. The Heller's BBQ and beer tent has proved a real winner and I'm sure a similar system would work at Totnes. There are those that want a slice of cake and cup of tea and those that want a burger and beer. We'll be able to offer both. I am looking for someone to buy the food, hire the BBQ and generally take control. I will provide helpers to assist you on the day, as it's likely to be a five-person job.

I'm going to enjoy a bit of a taper now, before taking on the challenge of the Quadzilla, which I'm running with Sally Ingledew, our marathon queen. I'll tell you how we got on in the next edition of *The Trotter!*

Calling all marshals



Sitting pretty: Kevin Besford and his son, Tom, soak up their glorious surroundings while marshalling the DD's 50K checkpoint in 2011.

DD Chief Marshal Tarquin needs your help for the 2012 event.

After the success of our club taking over the organisation of this event last year, thoughts have now turned to the planning of this year's event.

I have now taken over the role of Chief Marshal and it is my job to find volunteers to assist with general marshalling duties around the course and to run the various drink stations. Ian Langler set the standard for this role last year and I have big shoes to fill if I am to be able to live up to the hard work he put into this role. The DD race committee have put great faith in me to continue the good work and I don't want to let the club down!

The DD has become our flagship event and we have received high praise from far and wide on how well organised the event was. All this is down to the support and hard work that everyone in the Trotters (and friends and family members) put into the event. As someone who ran in the race last year, I can certainly say how appreciative I was of all the marshals out on the course and the support team at HQ in Princetown.

I need your help again this year, please! The race will need approximately 80 marshals, covering the ten feeding stations, the numerous cattle grids on the course, the busy town of Ashburton and

the small matter of various key points along the 32 and a bit miles. A number of you have already approached me stating your willingness to assist – thank you if you are one of those. I now need more of you to

come forward and offer your services. This year we have a massive 23 Trotters running in the event, so that in itself is a large number of potential helpers unable to assist. However, with our club's membership total of over 235 members, this still leaves 200-plus members who could help.

So, can you please check your diaries to see if you can spare Saturday, 9 June, to help make this year's Dartmoor Discovery the success it was last year? The actual requirements are not that onerous. Although the race time limit is six and a half hours, marshals will certainly not be expected to stand out there for that length of time! Please text me or drop me an email, on 07513 544938 or teignbridgetrottertarkin@btinternet.com



Sector Marshal Jan Caunter at work in 2011.

I will also be approaching you all at club to press gang you into helping and to explain exactly what will be required. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. Remember, without your help, our great club simply would not be able to stage events such as this!

Horse's Arse Trophy

The Trotters are often picking up fine pieces of silverware, gained only after the courageous application of talent and determination. But there is one Trotter trophy that owes nothing to talent and very little more to determination. **John Skinner** explains.

The horse's arse trophy — love it, loathe it or most likely remain indifferent towards it, this illustrious award certainly brings some levity to the otherwise austere occasion of the annual presentation evening.

What exactly is the horse's arse trophy? I suppose it's all in the name, self-explanatory really. Throughout the year, trotters or trotettes can accumulate horse's arse points with breathtaking displays of stupidity, foolishness, misfortune, or simply my whim. At the end of the year, the trotter with the most points wins. Alternatively, at the eleventh hour, I make a snap decision based on one mighty effort.

This year, we had Mark Wotton in Ljubljana, but more of hat later. Here are a few early 2012 examples. Gary Clark, having left his trousers at home, sitting in the White Hart resplendent in boxer shorts — horse's arse points. Watsa leaving his brand new trainers in the changing room — horse's arse points. Tarquin — horse's arse points.

A short Ljubljana story

Steph had just run a great, record-breaking marathon in this beautiful Slovenian city and was enjoying a warm post-race wine. We were positioned ideally at the finish to cheer home those Trotters still out on the course. It had been a cold morning and consequently Steph had kept her tracksuit bottoms on until the last minutes, ditching them in a bar seconds before the off. I had been dispatched to retrieve them.



The incomparable Mark Wotton, pictured during the 2011 lads' weekend.

I was leisurely making my way back to the bar while loudly encouraging the finishing marathoners as they trickled past, when a familiar face hovered into view. I elbowed my way through the sheering throng to the barrier and gave a hearty bellow. Mark 'Worzel' Wotton hears me and beams his toothy grin in recognition. Despite his evident fatigue — remember he is just completing a marathon — I can sense I'm about to witness something special.

What happened next will be forever etched in my memory. As Mark drew level, he hitched his thumbs into his shorts and shuddered to a halt. The crowd held its breath. Our hero, still grinning inanely, gave a half-bow and pulled his shorts down to his knees providing the admiring hordes with a grandstand view of his twin moons. The look on the faces of the two young athletes in his wake was a picture.

Sadly, for Mark, this was not the end of the tale. As he attempted to re-short his nether region, his undercarriage betrayed him. It was all too much for the system. Equilibrium gone, he windmilled his bulk forwards and, with legs giving way below, he pitched himself foursquare into the bitumen, the twin moons of not-so-gourdisous *gluteus maximus* still proudly on display for the good citizens of Ljubljana to survey.

Oh, how they cheered! Oh, how we all laughed.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Mark Wotton, a most worthy horse's arse champ, 2011.

On the Buses

Our minibuses for the Duchy and North Dorset events have been very popular. Here's the lists of who's on the buses.



1st Duchy Bus

Chairman (Driver), Tarquin, Smokes, Steve Barker, Phil Perry, John Tweedie, Gary Clark, Caroline Clark, Alan Boone, Emma Sidebotham, Simon Boobyer, Alan Taylor, Stuart Moulson, Wavell Vigers, Travis Wood, Sarah Schutte, Tracy Elphick

2nd Duchy bus

Tommo (Driver), Jacki Woon, Angie Blakesley, Angie's friend, Carrie Ann Hewings, Sue Hewings, Eleanor Taylor, Wilf Taylor, Fizz, Guy Roberts, Inky, Dave Dunn
NB: There are five places left on the second bus!



North Dorset bus

Chairman (Driver), Chris Wride, Dan Wride, Phil Perry, Stuart Parks, John Tweedie, Sarah Schutte, Waves, Nick Stevens, Dave Dunn, Brenda Dunn, Emma Sidebotham, Simon Boobyer, Smokes, Alan Boone, Stuart Moulson, Travis Wood.
First reserve: Allen Taylor

If for any reason you no longer need a place on any of the buses, please let Chairman Rog know ASAP.

The Trotter

Editor: John Ludlam

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition.

Next month: Chairman Rog takes on The Quadzilla!

Have you got a Trotters story to tell? Is there a feature you'd like to see included? We'd love to hear from you.

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