



www.strawrace.co.uk



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WELCOME!

This pack will give you all the information about the Straw Race, what its aims are, how to enter and what to do on the big day. If there are any other questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us using the contact details above.

The Straw Race takes place every Summer in the Pennine village of Oxenhope, near Keighley. It was started back in the mid 1970s by local people who decided to raise money for local charities. It has gone from strength to strength, raising around £300,000 to date. The money is raised by teams collecting sponsorship for completing the course, often in fancy dress, whilst carrying a bale of straw and visiting each of the pubs in the village. It is great day out with a real carnival atmosphere. The sponsorship money is collected in by the Straw Race Committee, and in November it is distributed to local charities. Various other fundraising events take place throughout the year to add to the total money raised.



ENTERTAINMENT

The roads used are closed to traffic from the Bay Horse to the finish, and the streets are lined with people out to watch the spectacle. There is usually live music at pubs along the way and at the finish. Everyone is cheered on. All pubs are open all day for business, most serving food, so why not make a family day of it?



PRIZES

There are prizes awarded for the following:

- Highest sponsorship
- Fancy Dress winners
- Certificates for any team raising over £100 (The 100 Club)
- Medals for competitors finishing in the allowed time
- First team home
- First team home in each category



HOW TO ENTER

All the details are available on our website www.strawrace.co.uk. You will need to complete and send off the entry form together with the registration fee of £25. If you do not have Internet access then please write to us at the address on the front page enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Teams consist of two people. The categories are: male, female, mixed and, if appropriate, veteran and athlete.



SPONSORSHIP

Without sponsorship, we would not raise money and local charities who rely on us would lose out. It is vital that you raise money on the day. Sponsorship forms are available on the website, in local pubs or by writing to us. All entrants are encouraged to raise as much money as possible as the main purpose of the race is to help others. Please ensure that all sponsorship is collected and returned by 1st September to:

Rose Lea, 36 Canberra Drive, Cross Roads, Keighley, BD22 9DG

STRAW RACE DAY

Registration: All entrants have to register. This is to collect your race number and start time. Registration takes place on the Saturday before the race at the Bay Horse Inn between 1200 and 1600. On race day you may register at the Waggon & Horses Inn (The Start) from 1100 onwards.

The start: The Waggon & Horses, Hebden Bridge Road. Please arrive early, especially if you are registering. The pub will be serving drinks and sandwiches. The first teams will leave at 1200 with groups of 3 teams then leaving at short intervals. Please be patient as often there are over 200 teams waiting to start! Listen carefully for you race number.

The course: Teams of two start at the Waggon & Horses Inn, walk or run 1 mile to the Bay Horse Inn where a bale of straw is picked up (female teams may carry half bales if they wish), and head up to the finish at the Dog & Gun, some one and a half miles up a gentle hill, via the Social Club, The Lamb Inn and the former Shoulder of Mutton. A pint of beer (or half pint for female teams) is drunk by teams at each stop.

The Finish: The Dog & Gun. There will be a funnel which all teams will follow. As soon as each team crosses the finish line bales are collected and medals given.

There will be marshals along the route and the route to be taken will be obvious!



DIRECTIONS

You can get to Oxenhope by train, bus, car or bike. We would encourage you to arrive by public transport but realise that this may not be possible.

Train

The nearest Metro station is Keighley (Leeds/Skipton train) www.networkrail.co.uk or tel. **08457 484950**. From Keighley you can get the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway steam train to Oxenhope. This is free for competitors on production of their race number. www.kwvr.co.uk tel. **01535 645214**

Bus

Number 500 & 663 from Keighley bus station, which is between 5-10 minutes walk from the railway station. www.wymetro.com tel. **0113 245 7676**

Car

If you arrive by private transport, please take care when driving through Oxenhope to park. There is limited car parking at the Dog & Gun and must be approached along Long Causeway due to road closures. See map.



GETTING TO THE START

Shuttle buses are in operation (kindly donated by Hodgson's of Oxenhope), from 11am which run from:

1. Oxenhope station to the Waggon & Horses Inn (Start)
2. Dog & Gun (The Finish) to the railway station

Note that Hebden Bridge Road is closed from 12:00 through the village but remains open all day subject to the diversion from Shaw Lane, so it is possible to drive and park your car at the start, although there is limited space.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Timing

Timing of teams is done manually and the organisers ask that you accept that this is open to human error, the emphasis being on taking part and having fun, as opposed to competing. The use of personal stopwatches is encouraged for informal competition!

On the Monday following the race (30th June 2008) there is a Presentation of Trophies at 8pm in the Social Club. All timings will be available at this event.