



Weird Rabbits Score at Easter

"I definitely need to improve my navigation", said Emma, having lost time by following me on a highly dubious line through knee deep heather in the Midgeley Moor race. "You should have a go at some score events" I advised. "Even better, I could organise one" she replied with a scheming glint in her eyes. It wasn't long before her plans were enthusiastically presented to us in the pub. "It's nearly Easter - we could dress up like bunnies!" she enthused. So it was that the Bunny Score was born - no clips at the checkpoints, just bunny ears, and chocolate eggs, and white bobtails, and face paints and real eggs...and underwear!! The objective - visit as many checkpoints as possible, dress up in what you found, paint yourself in artistic fashion, collect as many eggs as you could - and return to the start within the hour and a half deadline. Any broken or eaten eggs didn't count. Oh, and a last minute variation ... if there were no items left at a checkpoint you had to leave an item of your own clothing. A little risqué you might think, maybe that was why most of the 13 intrepid, bunny competitors carried numerous items of spare underwear with them as they frolicked around the hills above Hebden Bridge. (Kath's knickers were particularly impressive in a skimpy sort of way!)



The big event took place on the Thursday evening after Easter. Emma, no doubt a tad warm sat in front of a big fire in full furry Easter Bunny outfit, handed out start times. Richard, assistant rabbit and course planner, handed out the maps as we sprinted out of the blocks - well, out of the Hole in the Wall pub, our race HQ for the evening. I was unfortunate in first visiting the checkpoint with the bunny ears - from then on the ears, perched on my head and held in place by a bunny fur coloured buff, proceeded to catch on every low lying branch I ran under. And there were plenty of low branches around the cunningly located checkpoints. Scouring a wood in bunny ears for a checkpoint described as "in the roots of a tree" was no mean feat. Eventually locating said roots, among the hundreds of other equally rootlike locations, I applied the red face paint with no mirror. "Do rabbits have red noses?" I wondered. I daubed my nose anyway... and a big red smile for effect. There'll probably be letters to the Hebden Bridge Times about the strange creature lurking in the woods below Heptonstall as numerous

dog walkers appeared rather startled as my cross between a were-rabbit and Heath Ledger's Joker sprinted past. A cottonwool bobtail added to the deranged image as I legged it down to Hardcastle crags.

Visits to obscure wall corners, wicker gates and the monument at Peckett increased my collection of eggs. The woods were full of similarly attired wannabe bunnies clutching maps and dubiously daubed with body art. Dashing back down the river I passed the archery club. My white bobtail must have been an enticing target but sense prevailed and they stuck to bulls eyes. Having frightened a number of small children in Hebden town centre I finally reached the finish. The barman and clientele looked nonplussed as I ran in through the door of the pub; large rabbitlike customers are no doubt a common occurrence.

Once all the bunny racers were back in the pub we tucked into a grand feast of spicy carrot curry. Emma announced the results. Winning Doe – Sarah W. Winning Buck – Batman

Best facepaint (a foregone conclusion!) – Skinz

What a top event. I'm sure it'll be on again next year so you'd better start practising self-decoration. I've heard Emma's got lots more ideas for events???...watch this space! 😊