BLACKDOWN BEAUTY 2012 LEGS 1–6 inc 4b

LEG 1 - Priors Park to Queen's Arms ~ 3.0 mi

1. From Priors Park Farm follow marked route across fields down to gate. Through gate then turn left onto track.
2. Carry on along track down the wood for ¾ mile to a farm gate leading into a field **(DO NOT GO THROUGH)**
3. **Turn right** before the gate up grassy path and after about 200 metres go left just before a stile
4. Follow FP through the wood for half mile **(ignoring right fork)** to track junction
5. **Turn sharp left** (the most obvious route) and follow down to stile. Exit wood into field.
6. Follow left side of field to road & stile, then turn right to Woodram Farm
7. Follow FP round left of farm (muddy & slurry) and then follow FP to Pitminster Church.
8. Take 2nd entrance into churchyard and go through and on to the Queen's Arms – **DRINKS IN CAR PARK at the rear**

LEG 2 - QUEEN'S ARMS to MERRY HARRIERS ~ 3.3 mi

1. From pub take road (left) to Blagdon Hill for 100m to FP on left by large tree.
2. Follow FP to bottom of Blagdon Hill village. May be cattle in fields.
3. **Diagonally right** across busy road to FP to playing field. Follow FP down side of playing field and on to large field. FP goes straight up field to road.
4. Left on road and follow to a T-junction.
5. Turn right towards Lowton. **After 0.4 mi take left turn (straight ahead at bend)** towards Higher Wood Brook Farm.
6. Follow up road and round to the right then to sharp right turn. Go ahead through gate.
7. FP follows left-hand edge up just beyond the ben to the bend then turns right across middle of field, towards far hedge. Sometimes the path is cleared through the crop. If not then follow in the steps of other runners. We hope to have some tape out to mark the way. If field is impassable then best to follow road to Lowton and take 1st left
8. At road turn left. Up hill for 400m then **take angled road on right**, past Leigh Hill Cottage to junction.
9. Across junction & through **left-hand** gate into Quants Wood (sign). Follow FP up through wood **(ignoring_ RT turn)** to road.
10. RT onto road and up 400m to Merry Harriers pub.

LEG 3 – Merry Harriers to Half Moon ~ 2.9 mi

1. Take minor road at side of pub for 300m. Turn left onto FP then immediate right through woods. Follow path past campsite down to lane. **DO NOT FOLLOW LANE!**
2. **Turn left onto lane then turn right onto hidden path** (FP post obscured by undergrowth. Go down through wood and bog which can't be avoided, bearing right to stile.

3a. Follow FP down to gate (has to be climbed) then up to rt. of large tree & down to 2nd gate. Open & close with care. Go straight along top of field by hedge to footbridge. Across footbridge then follow FP (left) through reeds up to gate.

3b. Keep left to fence to where there is a gap with a bar across. GO UNDER bar and then over stile. Go straight ahead and follow fence round horse exercise yard – **avoid** footpath taking you through dog and horse area. Go through gap in fence opposite then ahead across field to stile and narrow track. Turn right and follow track up to lane.

4. Turn left up lane to road and turn right. (LEG B to Stapley goes left along the road at this point)
5. Follow road ahead for 600m towards Wiltown, then left at farm yard on FP and straight across small yard through gates.
6. Follow FP straight across fields to road (Red Lane) at Ashfields.
7.. Straight across road and follow FP on left of house to field. Over fields to house. Horse field now has roped-off path.
8. When you get to the stile turn left and follow fence all way round to gate with stile on left (read note on stile redirecting and follow these directions)
9. Follow hedge on the right through several fields and then on FP to church and Half Moon pub.

Leg 4a (part 1) - Half Moon to Brimley Cross ~ 1.7 mi

1. From pub follow road (NNE) 100m to Smiths Farm. Take FP to rear of farm buildings and follow left then down to gate.
2. Turn right down edge of field to stream and second gate. Then up boggy track through field to right-hand corner and wood. Up through wood to gate.
3. Turn right on road 200m to Cordwents Farm. (ignore footpath that goes left before you reach the farm - Leg 4b)
4. Through farm and onto FP across common. Straight along top of common to gate at far end. Continue on FP to stile.
5. Down track 100m then right at FP sign. Keep RT round fence and follow track to large dead tree, and turn left down FP (very unclear) through rough boggy ground then angle right through more bog to gate in the hedge.
6. Turn RT, go through 2nd gate then left to 3rd gate & follow hedge line down field to road at Bellet's Farm. Straight across road to FP down side of house. Please replace string after closing gate. Owner unhappy about this path so please respect property. FP goes through gates into field (please open then close gates) and then sharp rt. down hedge line. New walkway over bog then follow FP to road.
7. Left at road 400m uphill then right at junction, sign posted to Churchinford.

Leg 4a (part 2) -Brimley Cross to Pear Tree Cottage~ 2.4 mi

1. Follow road uphill for 300m to FP down lane on right. FP post propped up.
2. Follow lane down to gate but not through gate. Turn left along narrow, shady, very boggy path to FP sign on right.
3. Over stile and down fields to stepping stones (chance to wash your shoes) and follow FP up to Biscombe Farm and the road.
4. Straight across road through smart white gates & new FP sign and up drive for 100m to bend. Go straight ahead on uphill track.
5. Up track 40m to small footpath post and turn left **(ignore yellow arrow on post pointing ahead)** along narrow track to driveway below Biscombe Hill House with round tower.
6. Cross the driveway to track on the other side, then on through woods and across top of nettley fields to road.

OFFICIAL CHANGE OF ROUTE DUE TO DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL FOOTPATH CLOSURE

7. Turn left along track to T junction.
8. Turn right and stay on this road to Stapley and cream tea.

Leg 4b - Half-Moon to Pear Tree Cottage ~ 2.8 mi

1. From pub go 100m (NNE) to Smiths Farm. Take FP to rear of farm buildings and follow left down to gate.
2. Turn right down edge of field to stream and second gate. Then up boggy track through field to right-hand corner and wood. Up through wood to gate.
3. Turn right on road 50m and take FP left up drive (Leg 4a continues up the road) to gate into field. Chain unhooks.
4. Follow edge of horse exercise area round to hedge then right along hedge to two gates into v. large grass field. Cross bearing slightly right towards barn at far edge and gate. On through next field and gate to left of barn and then down to road.) Joins Leg B at this point.
5. Through gate opp. farm and down field to next gate. Then follow boggy path down to small lake and on out of the trees.

6 Bear left up the hill to rt of half-dead tree . Go round trees then left up to gap. **DO NOT head for the small building.** Go through gap and over boggy ground up to a field with fence and hedge on your right. Follow hedge line straight ahead to wooden gate. Carry on ahead alongside hedge through fields to road.

7. Turn right on road and follow for half mile down hill and over stream.
8. Just round the bend from stream turn left up bank to stile and FP.

9. Follow hedge to left and on up to top of field and road. Follow road left past house and up the hill to Court Farm.
10. Opposite the farm go over the stile by the left gate and follow the grassy track to hedge then follow hedge line left up to road.
11. Over road onto FP. Follow hedge to stile. Go straight over field towards 2 gates. Go through right-hand gate and follow track down to Grabham Fm and road at Stapley. Turn left and follow to Pear Tree Cottage (CREAM TEA!)

Leg 5 - Pear Tree Cottage to The York Inn ~ 2.1 mi

1. Retrace steps past phone box and left down FP. Go right by side of cottage to footpath junction just below the cottage.
2. Go straight ahead over stile. **DO NOT GO RIGHT AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS**
3. Follow narrow overgrown track to small footbridge. Continue ahead to second footbridge.
Track becomes unclear and winds left and right but basic direction is East. Look for footprints in wet ground.
4. Bear right up hill out of the trees into bracken. Eventually come to a stile (white drawing pin).
5. Over stile and continue ahead over wide track into rough ground opposite and another stile.
6. Follow footpath ahead to field. Continue up right-hand side of field to road.
4. Right on road 50m then left on track 600m to track T-junction.
5. Turn right then follow FP through gate.
6. Keep right across next field to stile, then diagonally left across next field to stile in middle of hedge.
7. Turn right and follow hedge line through 3 fields to gate on right & next footpath sign.
8. Follow FP through gate then diagonally left across field to steps over wall onto road. **CARE fast traffic**
9. Follow road opposite, half mile into Churchinford.

LEG 6 - THE YORK to PRIORS PARK FARM ~ 3.5 mi

1. Take Bishopswood Road (Royston Rd) for 300m then turn left up farm track under trees. FP post.
2. Follow track into field and follow left edge of field to gap in hedge and on through next field to a gate. Go over stile in hedge on left.
3. Into next field and follow hedge on right to gap in hedge in front and into next very big field.
4. Path goes diagonally right through the crop to far corner. Follow path that has been left through crop. If no path keep in single fileto track left by other runners.
5. Then follow footpath and wide track down through wood, turning right at T-junction until you reach a bridge and the upper lake.
6. Route continues on up the track rising above lake to lodge and road.
7. Left on road down to Otterford church.
8. Take FP on right of church, through churchyard to field then 600m to road.
9. Right (straight ahead) onto road and a mile to junction. Across junction to Holman Clavel.
10. Just past the pub cross road (CARE) and into lane. Go over gate then a short way to temporary route into field on the left. Follow hedge back to farm.