

BUNYAVILLE MINI-ROGAINE REPORT FROM TEAM 14

As newbies to Rogaining, Elaine's and my concept of the sport was a little hazy, we knew it essentially involved getting lost and finding markers. After a Saturday of enlightenment from Dave Firman, Tony Scott & Richard Robinson at the train-gaine, we found ourselves in a much better position to comment on the sanity of rogaime competitors.

We have both always loved the outdoors but until now hadn't considered taking these pursuits to a sporting level. The 3 hour minirogaime on Sunday seemed a perfect opportunity to trial the sport, and meet other like-minded nutters who fancy bashing around the scrub in search of treasure.

So with a cup of coffee in one hand and a marked up map of Bunyaville State Forest in the other we set about planning our route. We gave ourselves a conservative start and an ambitious finish, and decided to see how things panned out. As newcomers, we found the most difficult part was judging travel times between controls.

By 9:00am we were able to unveil our shiny new compass and put our plan into action. For the next three hours we roamed the bushland from control to control, being genuinely surprised and pleased when bearings were correct and controls appeared where we expected them.

There was a brief five minute period where Elaine suffered a branch in the eye, some gaiter issues and a tumbling downhill fall. The tears and giggles were intermingled and after a dust off and drink we were both soon chuckling at the fact that in the chaos we'd managed to get ourselves off course.

We ended up cutting our planned route short and taking a more direct path back to the Hash House as time was quickly slipping away. We weighed up our options and sacrificed a few nearby controls to ensure we made it back in time. We kicked off our boots and reflected on our efforts.

All in all we collected over half the total points on the course. On the drive home we discussed our morning, unsure if we had achieved a respectable or laughable score but were unconcerned since we had a great time outdoors and that was exactly what we had set out to do.

I dare say we'll be back for more.

Damien & Elaine.