

Lockdown 2020 was a bit of La Slog

Whiling Away the Hours

by Preston Ayres

Crow, occasionally known as Ray Crowther, decided to produce his own version of Le Jog and he had two specific aims. Firstly, how could rally nuts be challenged in lockdown and secondly, how can I, Crow, raise a worthwhile amount for charity?

So La Slog was devised. A table top rally from Land's End to John O'Groats in 100 easy (?!?) sections. Foolishly, I decided to enter, as did 128 others. Some were just making charitable donations but about 60 stayed the course. My own objective was to endeavour to knock a large quantity of rust from my navigational brain. I had never done a table top rally before and have entered only about three navigational rallies in the past 45 years! So the rust was thick (a bit similar to the brain it seemed on occasions).

Signing in each day to a new challenge was exciting. After lengthy plotting of the route, with a quick check—oh and perhaps a final double check, led to hitting the submit button. An interminable delay (of maybe approaching three seconds) revealed the result. Had I cleaned the section, had I just missed a couple of shortcuts or had I screwed the section completely and scored a maximum. In varying degrees, I achieved all three.

But it did remind me of many different ways a route card can challenge you to get from A to B and for me that was worthwhile. Indeed, it was amazing how Crow found such variety over so many sections (although on occasions he did resort to his somewhat devious and mischievous mind).

I have included below a selection of the route cards, including one in Welsh and one in Gaelic.

At the end of La Slog, what were the results? First, second and third were Iain Tullie (852), Marcus Duyzend (1,390) and Peter Rushforth (1,601). After a late start, which must have added a bit of pressure, Monica Dowson came a very creditable seventh on 3,206 penalties, closely followed by her regular rival Andrew Green in eighth with 3,688. I had set myself a target of a top 20 so a result of 21st on 6,212 penalties was clear failure, although having clocked up almost half those penalties in the first 18 sections, I was at least improving, even if a slow learner! Monica has listed the N & B finishers and their results below.

Perhaps the most important result is that through his massive personal efforts, Crow handed £6,800 to NHS Charities Together.

Monica's comment: Since receiving Preston's article, the final results have been published and Preston has been given the award of 'Best Newbie'.

N&B Results—Positions out of 95 starters

	Legs 1-25	Legs 26-50	Legs 51-75	Legs 76-100	Overall (Legs 1-100)
Monica Dowson	12 th	24 th	4 th	4 th	7 th
Andrew Green	3 rd	11 th	26 th	9 th	8 th
Preston Ayres	44 th	19 th	16 th	13 th	21 st & "Best Newbie"
Peter & Mary Hall	30 th	44 th	37 th	46 th	43 rd
Pip Secker	64 th	62 nd	55 th	53 rd	54 th

SAMPLE ROUTE CARDS

CROW (Coloured Roads One White)

TC95NNW to WSWTC96.

Some maths for via points:

$$(2*((56368*32767)+(35449*65565)+(46567*542103)+(100111*212222)+(999999*934567)+743)/10)+(2483456*77)+(9765*9564362)-(95164567*208)+1108774325-28329399+1535035488$$

$$(2*((56368*32667)+(44449*65465)+(45567*542143)+(112011*222222)+(989999*934567)+743)/10)+(12483256*77)+(9975*9464362)-(114863787*200)+3209168315-28329399+484250514$$

$$(2*((56478*33767)+(36349*64565)+(47567*532123)+(141111*212222)+(999799*936567)+743)/10)+(14900456*77)+(9765*8868362)-(77864077*192)+1114940616-29020083+300783971$$

$$(2*((56478*32567)+(34349*65545)+(46567*532123)+(100111*222222)+(982999*934567)+743)/10)+(7683456*77)+(9765*9564362)-(77164567*192)+1684775087-28000399+300029968$$

$$(2*((56468*32767)+(35349*65565)+(46567*542123)+(111111*222222)+(999999*934567)+743)/10)+(12483456*77)+(9765*9564362)-(65164567*192)+1108774325-28329399+299769971$$

[Use partly unmarked white]

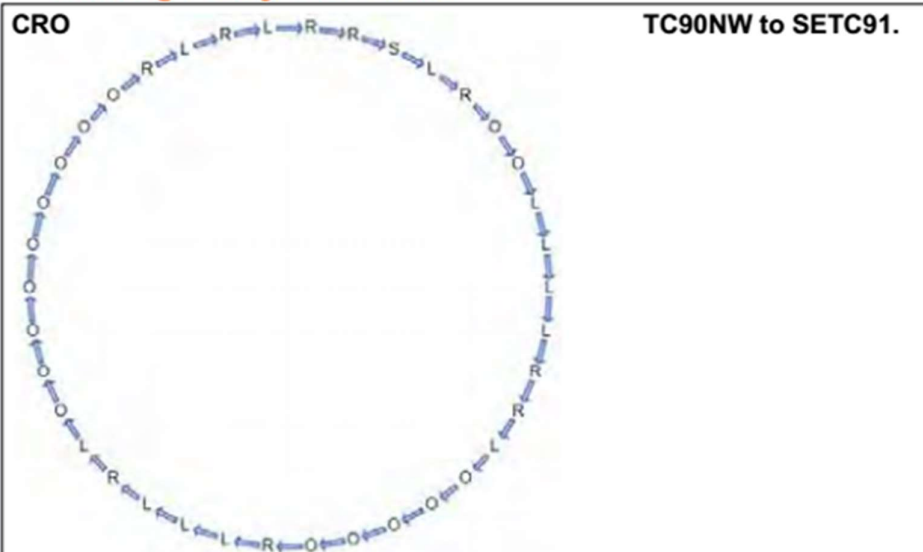
{The numbers here are too big to calculate on an ordinary calculator or spreadsheet, the trick was to search the web for a 'big number calculator' then copy and paste each sum into that to get the result which gave 12 digit map references.}

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{This looked like a sort of circular herringbone. The trick here was that going round the route you take R and take L (not miss R and miss L) and the O's were roundabouts where you took a suitable exit. The S was Straight over crossroads. The only other problem was then to find where it started. At least the direction round the circle was given.}

CRO **TC84ESE to SETC85.**

Via junctions and SHs

1.1..2.5.1..2.4.3..3.6..1.2.1..

{The way to read this was: go through 1 junction, then through 1 Spot Height, then 1 junction then 2 SHs, then 2 junctions, 1 SH, 5 junctions, 1 SH, 1 junction, 2 SHs, etc}

CRO **TC14E to SSWTC15**

1 x National Trail?
4 x National Trail
National
Ffordd eilaidd
Ffordd sy'n lletach na 4m yn gyffredinol
Ffordd eilaidd
Lle addoli
Cenedlaethol
1 x National Trail
National
1 x Llwybrau Cenedlaethol
Cenedlaethol
1 x National Trail
National
Cenedlaethol
2 x National Trail
(3338)(3141)

{This route kept crossing the border between England and Wales. These were the map symbols to be crossed in the appropriate language for the country. The numbers in brackets were map grid squares to be avoided.}

CRO after second instruction **TC92WSW to SSETC93.**

hWllafoHcidrdnldiddMtowmoneeC

{The letters appeared on the road e.g. as part of a place name, and were to be crossed in the order given.}

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CRO

TC83NNE to WNWTC84.

YYyyRyRRYORRRRRRRRRRR

yYyOyyOYyO?yyyYyyOYY?Y

{Fairly standard OS road colours to be used—
Y = wide yellow,
y = narrow yellow,
R = red, O=orange.}

CROW

TC93NNW to STC94.

Via the following Gaelic digits only:

dt ns os od ot sd ada ns co

ad dt da as dc dt c s o c s c

{Looking up Gaelic digits on the web you can find that dha = 2 and tri = 3, so dt = 23 and that gives the Spot Heights to go through. Yes, the route finished by going through a series of single digit SHs.}

WUW

TC99SE to SSWTC100.

Use Kinnaird Street.

SE



NW

S



N

Use Henrietta Street.

SSW



NNE

SE



SW

{The photos are from Google Street View, so you have to identify where they are on the map and approach from the direction given on the left and leave in the direction given on the right.}

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Ofcaws—this is good!

Crow's next venture to raise money for charity should be of interest to all people interested in maps and navigation, including importing geocache and other files. Ofcaws includes an ability to print from an assortment of maps including OS maps and historical maps. Subscription, which goes to charity, is £25pa.

To find out more and sign up, visit <https://tabletop.ity.me.uk/OFCAWS/OFCAWS.php>

Preston

<https://tabletop.ity.me.uk/default.php>



LaSlog—Virtual Meets Reality—Regular TTR Competitors (and closely matched competitors) Monica Dowson and Andrew Green met for the first time ever on WVW2020

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