

**HORSHAM ROUND**

**ROUTE GUIDE**

**2024**

*First edition, ed. Ted Coleman 1994*

*Second edition (minor revisions), ed. Ted Coleman 1997*

*Third edition (major revisions), ed. Andrew Mallpress 1999*

*Fourth edition (minor revisions), ed. Andrew Mallpress 2004*

*Fifth edition (minor revisions) ed. Peter Everett 2009*

*Sixth edition (minor revisions) ed. Julia Johnson 2014*

*Seventh edition (revised start/finish) ed. Paul Aylett 2015*

*Eight edition (thanks to members\*) 2023*

*Special edition for 40th anniversary 2024*

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**The Horsham Round**

**An Introduction**

‘The Round’ can be an extreme test of endurance and fitness in midwinter when the heavy Sussex soil and undulating countryside may drain life from even the strongest legs. Alternatively, spread over a few days once fine summer weather has arrived, it can offer the prospect of leisurely rambles along attractive paths with stunning views across the Weald to both the distant South Downs and to the Surrey Hills.

The idea for the route grew out of my desire to link some of my favourite training runs, which generally followed paths on the higher ground which encircles the town of Horsham. With enthusiastic support from John Preston and Ted Coleman, different combinations of paths were systematically checked, run, and in most cases, discarded. Eventually, after many training miles, ‘The Round’ emerged.

At 28 miles\* it presents a formidable but satisfying challenge to any walker or runner considering completing it in a single day. The Sussex countryside, much admired, but generally neglected, deserves closer attention. By walking or running ‘The Round’ you make a commitment to use, enjoy and conserve the countryside in which we live.

Enjoy the Horsham Round and take a first step towards ensuring that the countryside of Sussex has a future.

**David Bridges**

**1994**

\* Since this Introduction was first written, there have been a number of refinements made to the course. The best estimate of the distance now stands at an even more challenging 29 miles.

**How to use this guide**

The guide is designed to give enough detail to enable a user who is unfamiliar with the route to navigate it successfully. The problem with any guide of this kind is that once you leave the route, either accidentally or by design, it is useless. Grid references and mileages are usually provided where the route crosses a road, to help you stay or get back on track. Most of these points are suitable for meeting a car if you have the benefit of back-up transport.

Therefore, the use of a map is recommended and there really is only one that fulfils that task to the full: Ordnance Survey Explorer (1:25000) Map 134 (Crawley and Horsham). This covers the entire route. Landranger (1:50000) Map 187 (Dorking, Reigate and Crawley) also covers the route, but does not give adequate detail on the more intricate parts of it.

A compass is also recommended, although not essential. There are a few bearings given in the guide, usually where the route of a footpath across a large field is unclear. These will always be magnetic bearings, so you do not need to worry about compensating for the difference between magnetic north and true north. As well as that a mobile phone is also a must should all else fail!

Remember also that gates mentioned in the instructions are often open, and you may pass through them without even noticing. Gates may not have been mentioned if they were open and looked permanently open – when you come to them they may be closed! Stiles frequently fall into disrepair and are suddenly replaced. Gates can become stiles and vice versa often at very short notice. The message is that whilst we’ve made every effort to provide accurate instructions there may be the odd discrepancy.

# Changes

This guide is essentially the same as the earlier editions but have been updated to ensure greater clarity and to reflect minor changes to the paths, new bridges, stiles, fences, etc.

* Following the successful re-launch of The Round for HJ’s 30th anniversary in 2014 and the desire to make this an annual event, the start finish point has been moved from The Old Town Hall to the bandstand in Horsham Park. This allows for a more family friendly meet and greet place at the end of the day where members, family and guests can relax and take in some well-earned refreshments. The Round has also become open to other selected local clubs on an invitation only basis.
* For the 40th anniversary special weekend The Round will take place on Sunday instead of the bank holiday Monday in August, with the start and finish point at the Horsham Rugby Club, and hence a change to the stages. The start time will also be later time. There will be other activities at the Rugby Club over the same weekend.

The guide is accurate at the time of writing, but these features do change from time to time.

Please let the Committee know of any difficulties in using the guide or any alterations which affect the route description.

# Stages

The route is divided into 6 stages as follows, which provides reasonable break points should you not wish to tackle the whole Round in one go:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stage** | **Description** | **Distance in miles (approx)** |
| 1 | Rugby Club to Bohunt School | 5.60 |
| 2 | Bohunt to Mayes Lane, Warnham | 4.55 |
| 3 | Mayes Lane to Rowhook | 4.74 |
| 4 | Rowhook to Itchingfield Church | 4.45 |
| 5 | Itchingfield Church to Horsham Park | 5.24 |
| 6 | Horsham Park to Rugby Club | 6.28 |
|  | Total | 29.87 |

The Good Run Guide is a valuable tool to familiarise yourself with the stages or the entire route. Use the links below to access the stages and use the page tools to view map image, satellite image and footpaths.

The below can be converted to GPX. Please note that the mileages might differ to that specified in this document.

Stage 1 <https://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/1039665>

Stage 2 <https://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/1039666>

Stage 3 <https://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/1039667>

Stage 4 <https://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/1039670>

Stage 5 <https://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/1039671>

Stage 6 <https://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/1039672>

The link to the Complete Route for 2024 can be accessed here, <https://www.goodrunguide.co.uk/RouteMap/MyRoutes/1039950>

**Stage 1 - Horsham Rugby Club to Bohunt School (5.8 miles)**

Turn left on leaving the entrance of the Horsham Rugby Club and follow Hammerpond Road east out of Horsham for 800m (850 yards). The pavement will disappear so switch over to the right hand side of the road, you’ll pass St John’s Church on the right. (Distance into route: 0.75km).

Turn left and follow the track opposite Sunoak Farm where there is a sign in red lettering saying ‘Rugby club 700m’ and pointing the direction you came from, just before a very large veteran oak for 800m (850 yards).

Follow this track as it rises steadily before flattening off. Turn right at a gate with logs in-front, just before a set of ponds and join the High Weald LandscapeTrail (although the footpath sign has been removed) along footpath with a collapsed wire fence on your right in front of a field for 200m (225 yards). (Distance into route: 1.6km)

At the end of the field continue along the path through overgrown scrub to a private road after 200m (225 yards). Cross this road and cross stile to right of double metal gate opposite. Follow the track, which after about 50m (50yds) will turn right, heading towards Horsham Motocross track. On the right of the track there will be footpath with ruts and roots which descends steeply towards St Leonards’ forest. (Distance into route: 2.3km).

Continue as path descends with motocross track on left, once at the bottom and continue straight on. Cross over a set of culverts as you enter into St Leonards Forest, with the path widening into a forest track.

The main Forest track will veer off to the left after 100m (110yards). Don’t follow it, and instead continue heading straight on along a forest path climbing up towards Mick Mile’s Race.

400m after leaving the main track the forest path will fork, take the narrow left path, following footpath post (the foot path sign itself has fallen off). After 150m you’ll meet a 4 way cross road with a foot path sign, turn left to re-join the main path you previously left.

Upon regaining the main path after 50m turn right to head towards Mick Mile’s Race (the long straight track in St Leonards Forest).

Turn left (leaving the High Weald Landscape Trail) at Mick Miles Race (dead straight track, heading north) (GR 217312) Follow this path north for 800m (800yards). (Distance into route: 3.3km)

After 800m the main track will bear right, continue on main track for 1.1km, to the left there will be some ‘private property keep out signs on the left and a wooden bench behind an Oak tree a bit further to the right. Further up the path is the highest point on the Round at a modest 131m (430ft). At an equestrian gate just in front of the Rangers Lodge Wildlife Hospital, go through gap to right of gate and keep ahead to reach road. (Forest Road) (GR204327) (Distance into route: 5.2km).

Turn left on Forest Road. Take care! This road can be very busy and there is no pavement. Keep on the right-hand side of the road, facing the traffic, in single file. Pass the entrance to Roffey Park Management Institute on the left.

In a further 380m (400yds), opposite Beedingwood Drive on the left, past the Beedingwood water works, turn right onto the footpath off Forest Road.

Keep ahead to reach a drive and turn right on drive heading towards Roffey Park. Keep ahead to reach large gravel area in front of large house on left (this is Roffey Park). Do not enter this gravel area but keep straight ahead towards hedge, passing through a kissing gate on the right after a low stone wall.

Cross the stile and turn left along edge of field. Don’t continue down along the private road towards the A264. (Distance into route: 6.6km).

Continue past the Sequoias to field corner, and turn right, still along edge of field. After 60meters (60yards), turn right on footpath which continues along the edge of the field. Do not enter the forest at the end of the field.

In a further 50meters (60yards), at footpath sign, bear left, to remain on the edge of the field. There is a pond hidden in the bushes and trees on left.

In 100m (100 yards) keep field boundary on your left and keep ahead towards houses, heading down towards the A264. The footpath is to the left of the closest house and becomes enclosed between gardens to reach the road.

Cross road to footpath sign slightly to the left towards the dual carriageway. (A264 Horsham to Crawley Road) With extreme care, cross the dual carriageway and turn left on the verge opposite.

In 30 meters (40yards) turn right on to bridleway (Brook Lane). Pass house on right and keep ahead on bridleway to reach gate to cross the railway line.

STOP. Look both ways and, if clear, cross. Go through bridle gate on far side and keep ahead to pass Sunnybrook Farm on the right and a reach minor road. (Wimland Road) (GR 205335). (Distance into route: 7.4km)

Turn left on road. In 300m (330yds), before the level crossing, turn right on farm access road (sign to Owls castle House and Barn).

In 200m (200yds) at Owl Castle farm, turn left.

In 140m (150yds) keep straight on main track, ignoring footpath bearing left. Keep ahead on track for 1.0km (¾ mile) (GR 190336). (Distance into route: 9.0km)

Turn right just before Rusper Road towards Bohunt School, change over in Bailey Road at the School pick-up and drop off point. Finish here at Bohunt School.

**End of Stage 1**

**Stage 2 – Bohunt School to Mayes Lane, Warnham (4.55 miles)**

Parking: The changeover is at Bailey Road at the Bohunt School pick-up and drop off point. Please use parking nearby.

Head towards Horsham town and cross new bridge over the A264 and continue along Rusper Road for 300m (0.1 miles).

At the roundabout, take the Giblets Way exit and continue for 600m (0.3 miles) until you reach a mini roundabout. Turn right here onto Pondtail Road and take the first turning on the right, which is Old Holbrook Road.

Follow to the end of this section and cross the A264 to re-join the Old Holbrook Road (be careful cars can be fast on this stretch). (Distance into route: 10.8km)

Continue up old Holbrook until you reach the currently closed footpath on right.

Keep going on the road up the hill, which is steepening (1:6 gradient). Where the hill flattens out at top, take signposted footpath on left. Cross stile into field. Cross field to far corner to stile in wire fence. Follow clear path through woods, forking left after 30yds, once over bridge. Cross stile into field and cross field aiming for stile on far side. Cross stile and in 20yds turn right on crossing track. In further 15yds turn left on path between woods. Keep ahead, at first bearing right with field and then with tall wooden fence on left. Pass to right of barrier to reach drive and keep ahead in same direction to reach road. (Langhurstwood Road) (GR 174348) **7.1 miles**

Turn right on road. In 500yds pass under conveyor and in further 50yds turn left on bridleway.

Follow signposts as the path winds through woods, eventually bearing right to reach wire fence on right and railway on left.

Bridleway does u-turn through metal gate to reach railway crossing. STOP. Look both ways and, if clear, cross. Go through bridlegate on far side and follow track to reach road. (A24)

This road can be extremely busy and fast. Take care and keep in single file. Turn left on the road, keeping to the left-hand side. Pass the Dog and Duck pub on the right, and in further 300yds cross road with care and turn right on drive to Durfold at footpath sign. In 300yds cross stile on left halfway up hill immediately after opening in hedge. Turn right into the field, head up the hill, keep fence on right for 50yds, and then when fence bears away right, keep ahead in the same direction (260°) to field corner on the brow ahead. Follow the direction of the footpath arrow diagonally up and across field, heading for the telegraph pole at the top of the field.

Go through gate on left of the pole, entering the woods. Follow footpath through woods, soon joining larger path from right and continue to reach road*.* (Mayes Lane) (GR 156353) **8.9 miles**

**End of Stage 2**

**Stage 3 - Mayes Lane, Warnham to Rowhook (4.74 miles)**

Parking – Use limited parking along road verge adjacent to bridleway exit

Turn left into Mayes Lane. In 400yds, opposite old Warnham Animal Sanctuary, turn right onto footpath. Cross stile and follow left hand edge of field to cross stile at end. In 80yds cross stile into field. Straight ahead to join up with right hand field boundary. Continue ahead and on to enclosed track. In 200yds pass through kissing gate to Northlands Road. (GR 147349) 15.35 **miles**

Cross road bearing right and follow made up track towards Pear Tree Farm. Ignore turnings to left after 200yds and continue along deteriorating track. In 200 yds reach A29. Cross with great care and follow enclosed path opposite through a series of right/left bends and footbridges. In 400yds ignore path going straight on (which is now fenced off) and turn right towards the farm complex. Pass the gate and continue on gravel path. At that point you are in front of Mayes & Scrine Equine Vet practice. Then, turn left at the farm buildings, along the concrete road going uphill which becomes a rougher track. After 100yds go through the metal gate and along the grass track between fields. Track bears right then left before going through the metal gate into Monks Farm. Ignore footpath sign on left and turn right at the brick-built farm buildings.

Ignore bridleway going straight on (Ruckmans Lane) and turn left behind farm buildings onto the tarmac driveway (Monk Lane). Continue uphill through the electric gate until the driveway meets Honeywood Lane. (GR 127365)

10yds before road turn sharp left 180 degrees back on yourself into gateway of North Lodge. Follow path through rhododendron woods for ½ mile ignoring all side turnings. At small clearing with buildings opposite take path immediately to right of buildings and continue for 200yds to Horsham Road. (GR 121356)

Turn left and in 30yds turn right along the Sussex Border Path, through the electric/kissing gates towards the farm complex. Turn left at the white buildings, downhill on the concrete road then as the road turns right continue straight on into the rough track between two fields. At the bottom of the hill where the track continues straight, the footpath takes a right and left turn into woodland, follows a meandering path through the woodland, crosses two footbridges before emerging near a pond Go past the pond, following the left-hand-side of the field.

Continue on the left side of the field. Head for the top left corner. There is a gap in the hedge which leads to a track. Turn right along the track.

After 100yds this track widens onto a driveway. Continue straight towards Millfield House. As the driveway turns right, continue straight on through metal gate. Follow to the right of the treeline, downhill then turn left over the bridge and right towards the stile on the other side of the field.

Cross the stile, up through the woods, over the 2nd stile and emerge into a large field (watch out for cattle with calves!).

Continue straight over towards the small mound directly opposite the stile. Cross stile and after 20yds turn left along the footpath. After 400yds emerge onto driveway of Burnt House

and turn left. Follow road downhill to rear car park of Chequers Inn. (GR 123343)

**End of Stage 3**

**Stage 4 - Rowhook to Itchingfield (4.45 miles)**

Parking: Use rear car park of Chequers Inn pub.

Retrace your steps for 50yds and take footpath on left up steps. Follow path round garden to large field. Across field (170°) aiming some 30yds to left of houses ahead. On leaving field bear right to go through high kissing gate and follow footpath through wood, keeping fence on your right and through another kissing gate. Continue downhill, always keeping close to fence to reach the A281 Guildford Road.

Use the right-hand fork just before the road for better visibility

and cross road with care, then follow access road opposite to Town House Farm. On reaching buildings, bear right and in 20yds turn left around edge of field, at first with garden on left. Follow signposted bridleway across field, through trees, across footbridge, taking **extreme caution** as there is giant hogweed along this path. Continue on across fields.

At footpath junction bear right then left over concrete bridge and at next footpath junction turn left uphill. Pass Rowfold Farm on your right and descend track with hedge on right. Before gate and white buildings on right, turn right on footpath. Keep to right edge of field and into Slinfold churchyard. Fork left to keep church on your right. At church door, turn left to reach road. (GR 117315) **2.09 miles**

Turn left on road, pass the Red Lyon pub on right, and turn right into Hayes Lane. After 400yds turn left into Six Acres. In 100yds take signed path on left. Follow path as it turns right behind houses and at path T-junction turn left over bridge. Follow path across field keeping hedge on your left. Turn left on to disused railway line (Downs Link Path). In 500yds at cross path turn right through metal kissing gate. The footpath runs along the side of the field, with two yellow route confirmatory signs before a three-way sign. At the three-way sign, you can bear diagonally left (160°) across the field to top left-hand corner. However, when the grass is long, it is easier to proceed along the edge of the field, to the top and then left. Pass through two metal kissing gates and go across oblong field diagonally to far right corner. Cross stile and continue across a tiny field, cross another stile by the side of a house and proceed ahead on path to reach road (A264 Five Oaks Road) by side of Bramble Hill Farm entrance. Cross road with care, and cross stile opposite. Cross field to wooded area and another stile to reach Bashurst Hill. (GR 128298) **3.74 miles**

Turn right to reach Beggar’s Roost Boarding Cattery on right and take enclosed footpath on left. At crossing driveway keep ahead along side of gravel drive. Bear left on enclosed path and keep ahead over foot bridge to footpath junction.

Turn left and descend to bridge and up the hill to gate on right into Itchingfield churchyard. Take care along the very rooted section which has barbed wire on either side. Follow flagged path to skirt church on your left. Turn left past Church entrance to reach drive. Keep ahead to road. (GR133289) **4.45 miles**

**End of Stage 4**

**Stage 5 - Itchingfield to Horsham Park (5.24 miles)**

Parking: Use road verge adjacent to Itchingfield church driveway

Turn right and follow the road up to Itchingfield School. Turn left and follow road to t-junction. Turn right and in 50 yards turn left through kissing gate to footpath. Keep ahead to top of Sharpenhurst Hill and ignoring paths to right, descend with hedge on left and enter wood. Then cross narrow field to reach stile and steps down to railway line. STOP. Look both ways and, if clear, cross. Ascend steps opposite, cross stile and narrow field and go down steps to disused railway line (Downs Link). Turn left. In 150yds turn right to cross drive and keep ahead along right edge of playing field. Turn right on drive. Bear left with bridleway sign at first fork and then right with sign at second fork. Soon turn right, also with sign, along enclosed tarmac path to reach Two Mile Ash Road. (GR 152279) 2.28  **miles from the start of Stage 5.**

Turn left on road and cross with care turning immediately right on bridleway opposite. Keep ahead to reach Worthing Road, Southwater. (GR 160278) **2.72 miles from the start of Stage 5**

Cross road with care and turn left on pavement. In 200yds turn right on footpath, enclosed at first then a block paved path between 2 warehouses to reach road near roundabout. Cross road and follow signposted path, soon bearing right to keep

hedge and A24 on left and go up steps to Southwater Street. (GR 164276)

Turn left on road to cross A24 road bridge and in 150yds turn left on to Kings Lane. Near end, at “Rozel” on right, turn right up drive and take signposted footpath on left. Keep ahead on footpath. Go over one plank bridge and follow path through hedge line, turning right and following this path at the edge of the golf course. Go across the golfer’s path and head through the 5-bar gate. At the signpost cross the plank bridge, go left and take the first path on the right. Follow this to the end (it goes down the side of and then crosses a fairway), then at the signpost and red post go through the hedge line and turn left. Follow the public footpath signs.

Carry straight on tarmac drive and follow footpath sign on right opposite Golf & Fitness entrance. (GR 166287). As you turn to go around the buildings you will follow the green public footpath signs on your right across golf course and along the line of trees, eventually going down the side of the 18th tee and through a metal kissing gate. Cross drive, bearing slightly left to pick up path opposite.

Through kissing gate. Turn half right (50°) towards first lone tree and bushes, keeping tree to left. Ahead towards another clump of trees with broken tree and 4-direction finger post. Standing directly in front of sign, follow direction ahead (clockwise 3rd sign). Turn left at yellow footpath arrow on post to follow path descending through trees to reach metal kissing gate. Keep ahead, bearing right along edge of field, and then diagonally downhill across field in direction of church steeple in the distance. Turn left round trees to cross railway bridge. Follow path with cricket field on left and keep ahead. Cross bridge and pass through churchyard with church on your right.

Ahead out of churchyard into the Causeway, then bear right past the Old Town Hall (Bill’s restaurant) (NB depending on

weather this section is likely to be busy with diners/ shoppers etc) straight ahead through Carfax, bandstand on left, cross road by Crates and ahead up steps past church steeple and Black Jug pub into North Street and left opposite cinema to Horsham Park and bandstand.

**5.24 miles** from the start of Stage 5

## End of Stage 5

# Stage 6 - Horsham Park to Rugby Club (6.28 miles)

Parking: Use Council Offices, Rec Room or Pavillions car parks

Start: Horsham Park bandstand (GR TQ175308)

With the bandstand behind you and Kaya Cafe on your left head towards North Street and turn right opposite the Capitol Theatre.

Continue past the Black Jug pub and over the Royal Sun Alliance foot bridge towards the Carfax. Continue down the steps and straight on passing the bandstand on your right. Cross over and head straight towards the Old Town Hall (Bill’s). Pass with it on your right and go down the Causeway on the pavement to reach the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. Enter the churchyard and turn left to keep the church on your right. Join Normandy Road and follow to t-junction. Turn right and left in 75yds into Chesworth Lane. Where road bears left, continue straight along track (Chesworth Farm). In 400yds at first house turn left to leave cycle path and in 15yds turn right to follow gravel track.

Where track bears left carry straight on through small gate into field. Cross field (150°) to metal gate in opposite right-hand corner. Through gate and turn left along the gravel path. Go through the gate at the end of the gravel path and turn right which leads down to Kerves Lane (GR 181292) **1.52 miles from the start of this stage.**

Cross road and follow track opposite. In 50yds turn right over footbridge into field. Cross to opposite corner (140°). Through gate and continue through next field keeping hedge on right. At end of narrowing field, go through the gap in the hedge where there is a partially hidden footpath sign on right and turn immediately left to continue in the same direction through 3 more fields with hedge on your left. At end of third field, merge into concrete road. In 100yds go through gates and follow footpath across field passing behind corrugated iron sheds, through gate to concrete road. In 50yds turn left and in another 50yds turn right along enclosed path.

Through kissing gate, cross field and through a second kissing gate and continue in same direction to meet hedge from left. Follow hedge to end and join Sedgwick Lane. (GR 187277)

Turn right along road to white house and Sedgwick Park North

Gate. Turn left along enclosed footpath. Cross stile and field then over stile and bridge to follow path through wood (beware of fallen/low trees and tree roots) and then enclosed path between fences.

Over two stiles and cross field to enter wood. Path soon widens to grassy track. Follow track to reach stony track. Turn left to pass house on left. Continue ahead to open grassy space and ignore left fork to follow bridleway sign. The track narrows and goes downhill. Follow track for 1400yds, ignoring all side turnings until stile on left where bridleway and footpath split.

At the signpost where the bridleway goes to the right and the footpath goes to the left, follow the footpath by crossing the stile and ahead to cross another stile into a field. Follow field boundary on left and cross stile in corner to enclosed path.

Follow this path crossing stile and through kissing gate, follow path to reach main road (A281) at Mannings Heath. Cross road carefully to where the pub “Dun Horse” once stood. (GR 201286). **4.5 miles from the start of this stage.**

Continue ahead along Pound Lane on left-hand pavement to t-junction (shop on right). Turn left into Golding Lane. Ahead past Village Hall and recreation ground and continue steeply downhill. At bottom, where road bends right, go through metal kissing gate on left and follow track. At top, ignore stile on right and follow track through kissing gate into woods.

Ahead, past lake on right, over concrete bridge and uphill to cross stile and reach Hammerpond Road. (GR 203299). Cross road and turn left on Hammerpond Road to head back to the Horsham Rugby Club and into the club house. **6.28 miles from the start of this stage and a total of 29.53 miles if you ran all 6 stages.**

**The End - Well Done!**



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