



## Colleague *stories*

# 2024 Wolf Run

**Think you can take on a tough mudder? Our Product Manager for Mortgages, Andrew Foster did with his university friends. Take a read as he talks through his experience.**

On a balmy afternoon in September near Lemington Spa, I tackled the 'Wolf Run' with a group of university friends. The Wolf Run is a 'tough mudder' obstacle course; some of the delights include climbing over haybales, crawling through narrow tunnels, scaling sheer walls, diving down a 100 ft water slide, and swimming across icy ponds. While this may shock my work colleagues, I'm not a naturally outdoorsy person so the Wolf Run represented a serious test, and sadly my preparation consisted of a few lengths at the local pool and buying new trainers.

Many sections of the Wolf Run involve you clambering up steep muddy banks, so it helped tremendously to have more nimble members of our 'pack' who could race up ahead and then help pull others up as they grasped at any twig or branch to progress!

In this way the event rewards teamwork, and I would have struggled to overcome many of the obstacles without the help of my friends. Even strangers were lending each other a shoulder to climb onto at tricky climbing sections.

A notable challenge was jumping from a footbridge and swimming along a lake to the far bank; unfortunately, while my comrades took the plunge and jumped, I remained rooted to the spot at the edge of the bridge and simply couldn't convince my legs to move; my primary concern building up to the event was the lengthier lake swim, not that I might balk at the jump itself!

Thankfully everyone in my pack was gracious and understanding, as I sheepishly joined them having journeyed around the lake on foot!

Having tackled the other obstacles with varying degrees of success (except for carrying myself across a set of monkey bars; which are frankly impossible), there was a final opportunity to jump together into a sea of thick muddy water before the finish, the organisers clearly feeling we wouldn't be sufficiently dirty by this point.

After washing ourselves down as best as possible, we decamped to the local pub for a celebratory drink, nursing our various cuts and bruises together in the later-summer sun.

We took part in memory of our friend Becky, whom we met during our time at Leicester University and who passed away suddenly in 2014, aged just 24. Back in 2015 a group of us tackled the Wolf Run for the first anniversary of her passing, and we decided to roll back the years as the ten-year mark approached. Becky was immensely kind-hearted with an exceedingly bright future, and her unfailing positivity and enthusiasm remains an inspiration. For us above all, she was a wonderful friend, and I'm sure she would have been equal parts delighted and amused to see us all battling against nature together.

Will we keep the tradition alive in another ten years-time? Time will tell!

*Andrew*

**Andrew Foster**  
Product Manager (Mortgages)