

Investigation of Cross-US Run Attempt by Rob Young

Roger Pielke Jr. and Ross Tucker

September 2016

**EMBARGOED UNTIL
900AM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA TIME
SUNDAY 2 October 2016**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND BOTTOM LINE	4
TERMS OF REFERENCE	6
METHODS AND DATA	8
SUBMISSIONS	8
DATA ANALYSIS	10
DATA SOURCES	10
ORIGINAL TOMTOM DATA FILES	10
<i>Obtaining the TomTom record</i>	10
<i>The TomTom Data-of-Record</i>	11
WHAT THE DATA-OF-RECORD SAYS	11
<i>Overall record</i>	11
<i>The analysis of cadence data</i>	12
<i>Figure 1: Cadence during sessions longer than 3 miles</i>	13
<i>Figure 2: Change in cadence after Asher Delmott LetsRun post</i>	13
<i>Figure 3: Stride rate during sessions faster than 9 min/mile pace</i>	14
<i>Figure 4: Calculated average step length for every session longer than 3 miles</i>	17
<i>Figure 5: Calculated step length for sessions faster than 9 min/mile pace</i>	18
<i>Figure 6: Change in step length after Asher Delmott LetsRun post</i>	19
<i>Figure 7: Pace per mile as a function of step length for longer sessions (A) and faster sessions (B)</i>	19
<i>Figure 8: Pace during day and night sessions as a function of average step length</i>	21
<i>Table 1: Comparison of sessions logged during day-time and night-time hours</i>	21
<i>Figure 9: Pace vs step length before (9A) and during (9B) observation by the Geezers</i>	23
<i>Table 2: Comparison of sessions longer than 3 miles logged before and during observation by the Geezers</i>	23
<i>Figure 10: Histogram plots of time spent at various running paces as a function of time of day</i>	25
OTHER DATA SOURCES	26
<i>Strava and MapyMyRun records</i>	26
<i>Spot-3 Tracker</i>	26
<i>Testimonies and email submissions</i>	26
EVIDENCE OF DATA MANIPULATION	28
INTERVIEWS	29
THE ASHER DELMOTT INCIDENT	29
SUBMITTED MATERIALS FROM ROB YOUNG	32
AUDITING OF SELECTED ONLINE ANALYSES	33
BOTTOM LINE	33
RV BREAKDOWN INCIDENT	33
<i>The final record prior to the breakdown</i>	33
<i>The next run after the breakdown</i>	34
<i>Missing data and evidence of data manipulation</i>	35
<i>Missing data</i>	37
<i>Summary of the RV breakdown incident</i>	40
KANSAS INCIDENT	41

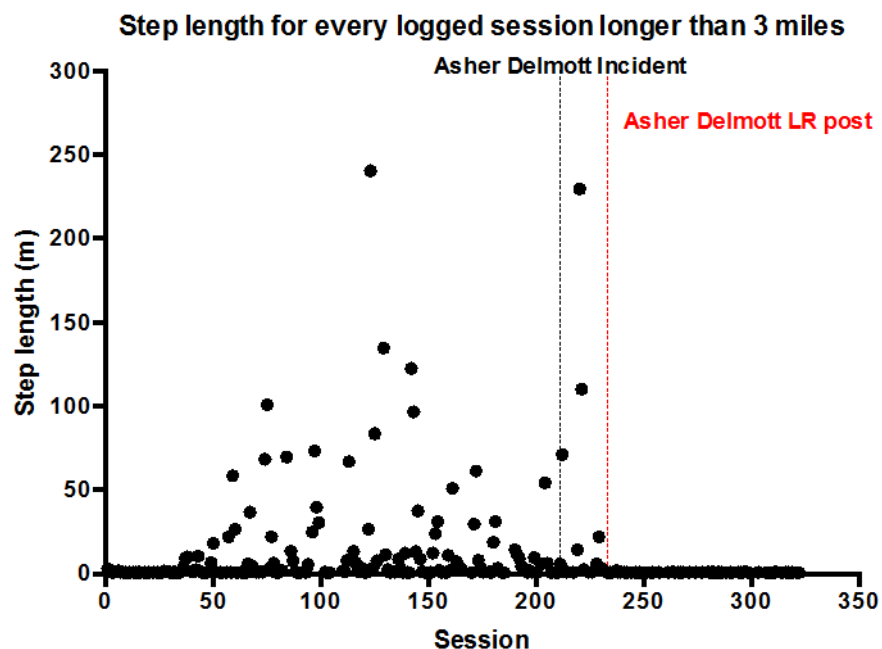
BEST PRACTICES FOR DATA COLLECTION, DISCLOSURE AND VERIFICATION FOR “GUINNESS”-TYPE ATHLETICS RECORDS	48
COLLECTION	48
VERIFICATION	49
APPENDIX A: FULL RECORD OF LOGGED TOMTOM SESSIONS	50
APPENDIX B: SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED BY THE INQUIRY	58
MICHAEL CONNOR 1 JULY 2016	58
ANNE GARNISH 1 JULY 2016	59
JORDAN MARSHALL 1 JULY 2016	68
ASHER DELMOTT 1 JULY 2016	69
REQUESTED ANONYMITY 3 JULY 2016	70
MARKUS MUELLER 6 JULY 2016	73
PAUL ALSDORF 7 JULY 2016	79
JORDAN MARSHALL 9 JULY 2016	81
CHRIS FINILL 28 AUGUST 2016	90
APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS WITH ROB YOUNG AND MICHAEL SPEICHER	91
INTERVIEW WITH ROB YOUNG 17 AUGUST 2016	91
INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL SPEICHER 17 AUGUST 2016	96

Executive Summary and Bottom Line

The bottom line: The evidence that we reviewed for this investigation indicates that Rob Young received unauthorized assistance in his attempt to run across the United States. We have identified no alternative plausible explanation for the data-of-record other than assistance, most likely in the form of riding in or on a vehicle for large parts of the attempt.

To summarize our findings:

- The data-of-record for the attempt comes from two TomTom watches.
- There are multiple other sources of data and information that have been provided to us. None of this data contradict the data-of-record, and much of it supports the data-of-record.
- Our top-line conclusion is based on the totality of data, but the strongest evidence of unauthorized assistance comes from a comparison of the data-of-record during (a) the period prior to Young being under observation to (b) the period under which he was under independent, 24-hour observation.
- That comparison indicates that long stretches of the attempt can only be explained by Young having ridden in or on a vehicle.
- Specifically, much of the data indicates that very long distances were covered with unreasonable step rates and step lengths, suggesting that the watches travelled long distances in or on a vehicle. Malfunctioning of the watches has been ruled out.
- The figure below shows that the unreasonable steps ceased after Young was intercepted in Kansas by Asher Delmott who subsequently levied an accusation of cheating in an online forum. This led to round-the-clock observation of Young's attempt, and the data from this period are noticeably different from that prior to the Delmott allegations.
- The data from the watches thus offer a "smoking gun" of unauthorized assistance.



- There were three members of the team during the attempt.
- In an interview, Young denies unauthorized assistance.
- A second member, a SKINS intern, Michael Speicher, distanced himself from Young and any responsibility for the data that we have analysed. Speicher told us that he did not have Young under constant observation and could not be responsible for what happened during those times.
- A third member of the team, Dustin Brooks, was unavailable for a scheduled interview on 17 August, 2016.
- We document evidence of data deletion and manipulation, both during and after the record attempt. This behaviour is consistent with the data record showing unauthorized assistance.
- We have revisited irregularities in the attempt in episodes in Nevada and Kansas that have been examined online, and we concur with several online analyses of these episodes that indicate unauthorized assistance, and we offer only several minor clarifications.
- We recommend any such future effort follow recommended best practices, specifically, that data in any such attempt follow best practices for collection, disclosure and verification, none of which occurred in this attempt.

Terms of Reference



Terms of Reference

Investigation into the circumstances of the attempt by Rob Young
to break the record for running across the USA

This is a brief for:

- Roger Pielke; and
- Ross Tucker -
(collectively referred to as the “**Investigators**”).

The Investigators are participating in this Investigation as individuals. Any reference to the affiliations or background information of the Investigators is only as an identifier of their individual capabilities, experience and suitability to carry out the Investigation. The Finding of the Investigators will represent their collective judgment alone without reflection, influence or association with any other affiliation, employment or role (outside of this brief) of the Investigators.

Purpose of this document is to brief the Investigators to:

- investigate the attempt by Rob Young (“**the Attempt**”) to break the record for running across the USA (“**Investigation**”);
- determine a clear independent finding, on the balance of probabilities, whether there is sufficient evidence or not to reasonably find that Rob Young received any unauthorised assistance in the Attempt to break the record for running across the USA (“**the Finding**”).

The Investigators will:

- provide SKINS with completed and signed Conflict of Interest Disclosures in the form set out in Annexure 1 prior to commencing the Investigation;
- carry out an independent investigation into the Attempt free from influence of any stakeholder, person or company;
- access, inspect and review all GPS and other digital data collected by Rob Young during the Attempt including but not limited to:
 - the TomTom MySport account for Rob Young; and
 - any other device and online portal holding or containing digital data from the Attempt –

(“Analytical Data”);

- analyse all non-Analytical Data relevant to the Attempt including but not limited to:
 - interviewing Dustin Brooks and Michael Speicher;
 - runners that participated in the Attempt with Rob Young;
 - eye witnesses to the Attempt - names to be provided
- carry out interviews in writing (by email) setting out the direct questions to the witnesses and a deadline for the responses;
- call for submissions from all parties with information concerning the Attempt by Rob Young (**“the Submissions”**);
- receive Submissions where:
 - the identity of the person submitting the information is identifiable;
 - the Submission is sent to the email address: submission@skins.net; and
 - the Submission is received within 10 days of the public announcement of the Investigation and the release of these terms;
- carry out the Investigation between 1 July 2016 and 31 August 2016;
- provide updates upon request regarding the Investigation and any preliminary findings;
- jointly publicly publish the Finding and reasons for the Finding in writing by 30 September 2016.

SKINS has provided the Investigators with all correspondence it has received directly from third parties, where the identity of those parties has been disclosed, concerning the Attempt.

If during the Investigation, the Investigators do not receive full cooperation from Rob Young, staff of SKINS or other relevant parties to the Attempt, the Investigators are to report such matters immediately to Jaimie Fuller (jaimie.fuller@skins.net) and Benjamin Fitzmaurice (benjamin.fitzmaurice@skins.net).

30 June 2016

SKINS International Trading AG

Jaimie Fuller

Chairman of the SKINS Group

Methods and Data

Submissions

SKINS set up an email address and solicited submissions to this inquiry as follows:

Statement from SKINS:

The brand DNA of SKINS, integral to its core, is that it upholds and promotes the true spirit of competition. This is not a marketing message. It shapes everything about our business, including our corporate culture. It is woven into our contracts with sports teams and athletes. It also makes clear how we act.

When in 2010, Australian rugby league club Melbourne Storm was found to be systemically involved in salary cap fraud, SKINS was the first to stand up and terminate its contract with the club. It was not a popular position but it was the only decision to take if you believe in your core principles. In cycling, SKINS took up fight in the UCI Presidential election, calling out hypocrisy, nepotism and self-interested neglect. In football, SKINS campaigned directly against Sepp Blatter and the FIFA Executive, calling on FIFA sponsors (including Coca-Cola, Visa and McDonalds) to hold the body to account for corrupt activities and tacit endorsement of human slavery and degradation in Qatar.

Watch our Hypocrisy Video [here](#) and watch our Brand Manifesto video [here](#).

There are no half measures when you apply and live by your principles.

SKINS applauds attempts by athletes to break records, to smash their best time, to be the best they can be. Recently, one such athlete was SKINS sponsored Rob Young, in his attempt to break the Trans America running record. Unfortunately, due to severe injuries suffered, approximately two thirds of the way through Rob was forced to retire. However, in his attempt, questions have been raised as to Rob's conduct of whether he took unauthorised assistance during his run.

These are serious allegations. As such, SKINS has requested the assistance of eminent and respected professionals, Roger Pielke and Ross Tucker, to investigate the claims. The investigation will occur from 1 July 2016 and will conclude with findings being published on 30 September 2016. Terms of Reference have been drafted and can be read below. SKINS encourages all persons with information to contact the investigators at: submission@skins.net. A copy of Rob's contract with SKINS and biographies are also available.

SKINS wishes to thank the Roger and Ross for their invaluable assistance in this process to establish the truth of the attempt to break the record of the Trans America run.

The inquiry received 8 submissions from 7 individuals as follows, these can be found in full in the report Appendix B:

- Michael Connor 1 July 2016
- Anne Garnish 1 July 2016
- Jordan Marshall 1 July 2016
- Asher Delmott 1 July 2016
- Requested Anonymity 3 July 2016
- Markus Mueller 6 July 2016

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

- Paul Alsdorf 7 July 2016
- Jordan Marshall 9 July 2016
- Chris Finill 28 August 2016

Data Analysis

Data Sources

The analysis drew upon a number of different sources of information. These included:

1. Original TomTom data files (provided online by Young);
2. The TomTom watches used during the record attempt (which had been cleared of all data);
3. MapyMyRun & Strava records, produced from the TomTom watches by Young and thus derived from the files from #1);
4. Facebook postings;
5. Tweets;
6. Interviews (with Young and Speicher, as well as several reporters who joined the attempt for very short periods);
7. Hand-written log;
8. Miscellaneous materials, including emails relevant to the measurement of data and the various allegations levied in various online forums.

We consider the TomTom watches to be the data-of-record for the attempt. However, we examined every other data source. None of these sources contradicted the data-of-record, and much of it supported the data-of-record (and some was just not useful for our purposes).

The following sections describe the process and overview of the various data sources.

Original TomTom data files

Obtaining the TomTom record

During the record attempt, Rob Young used two TomTom watches, described below. The data from the TomTom watches was uploaded to Young's TomTom account throughout the run. It is known that this was happening because screen shots of the uploaded records were being posted to the Rob Young Facebook page during the attempt, though these records, and the associated Facebook posts, were deleted from Facebook once allegations of cheating began to surface (See the sections below on the Kansas incident).

The TomTom record was however the final data source provided to investigators, after Strava and MapyMyRun files had been initially provided via log-in details to these sites where Young had uploaded the original TomTom data. The Strava and MapyMyRun data were however found to be incomplete and otherwise unsatisfactory. Those records, discussed below, were compared to the TomTom record for validation purposes, but either did not have cadence data, or produced a calculated cadence number based on a formula, and were thus deemed inappropriate for reliable analysis.

Further, we established that TomTom data, uploaded directly, could not be altered, unlike MapyMyRun and Strava entries uploaded from files, which can be edited. Therefore, a priority for the investigators was to obtain both the watches (to have a record of the data in their collected, “raw” form) and the original TomTom data files, which would have been backed up to a local computer (two laptops that accompanied the attempt).

TomTom log-in information was eventually obtained on July 11, 2016 (the investigation began July 1). We requested, but were not provided access to the backup TomTom files from the two laptops that accompanied the attempt. These would have included all TomTom files uploaded from the watches. The watches were provided to us but had been completely cleared of all data. We know that the TomTom files that we were provided were a subset of all runs recorded during the attempt. An unknown number of files were not provided to us.

The TomTom data that was provided to us (the “record” of the attempt) formed the basis for the primary analysis of the record attempt, with other records serving validation purposes only. None of the other evidence that we looked at, including interviews, provided any basis for an alternative explanation for what was displayed in the TomTom data.

The TomTom Data-of-Record

A total of 322 running sessions, spanning from May 13 to June 16, were found in this record.¹ This compares to 299 sessions recorded in the hand-written log book. Furthermore, we have evidence that more than 322 sessions were actually collected by the TomTom watches, based on screenshots for certain runs and segments of runs not present in the data files that we were provided. Certain sessions were duplicated, and overlapping segments were also found. Taking these issues into account, the exact number of total running sessions is unknown.

With these issues understood, we proceeded to use the TomTom data provided to us as the *Data-of-Record* for the analysis of the attempt.

What the data-of-record says

Overall record

The TomTom record of 322 sessions covered 2113 miles between May 13 and June 16, 2016.

Session length ranged from 0 miles to 33.99 miles, with 230 of the 322 sessions covering 3 miles or more. 64 of the sessions were run at a pace faster than 9 min/mile. In order to account for some of the “noise” in the data, we focused specifically on these subsets of the

¹ The attempt actually began May 14. We believe that a duplicate run on May 13th may have been the result of a time zone mis-setting on one of the watches. The hand-written log records the first run as May 13th which was subsequently corrected to May 14th.

total record with longer runs (more than 3 miles, 230 sessions) and faster runs (faster than 9 min/mile, 64 sessions).²

Appendix A contains a tabulated record of these sessions, which are also summarized in an Excel file that accompanies this report. We have also made available to accompany this report all of the TomTom records that were provided to us by Young.

The analysis of cadence data

The primary focus of the analysis is cadence data, rather than speed or the performance during the runs. We chose this approach because analyzing the running performances invites allegations and rebuttals that are by nature subjective and unprovable – any individual can claim to be capable of running at a certain speed for a certain period provided that speed is reasonable (that is, not obviously unrealistic). In the absence of direct observation and bench-marking against that athlete's known capabilities, any claim, even if exceptional, is impossible to confirm or to refute. Since we have no direct evidence of what Rob Young is capable of, and since the data of record is the only performance data relevant to this analysis, this approach would be fraught with subjectivity and suppositions, even if suggestive.

Cadence data, on the other hand, might reveal cheating, irrespective of performance, because:

- a) It is more constrained than actual running speed – even elite athletes running at vastly greater speeds do so at cadences that are similar to those achieved by recreational runners
- b) It is a direct means of assessing the primary investigative focus in this case, namely whether Young gained unauthorized assistance in the attempt.

Consequently, cadence data are key to our focus.

The TomTom record allowed us to examine the cadence data, which had previously been absent from any analysis of the attempt. The MapyMyRun record does provide a step number for each session, but we analysed this data and discovered that it is not a true step count, but rather a number calculated by the software based on an estimated relationship between the number of steps taken per mile and running pace (min per mile).

1. Infeasible and impossible cadence values

Figure 1 on the following page shows the cadence in steps per minute (counted as each foot-strike) as recorded by the TomTom watches for the 230 sessions longer than 3 miles. These are displayed on the graph in chronological order from left to right. The typical ranges for slow walking, normal walking and a typical minimum for jogging are shown. Also, the incident involving Asher Delmott is shown, as is the timing of Delmott's first post on the LetsRun website which led to subsequent analyses and accusations against Young.

² Some sessions fall into both categories.

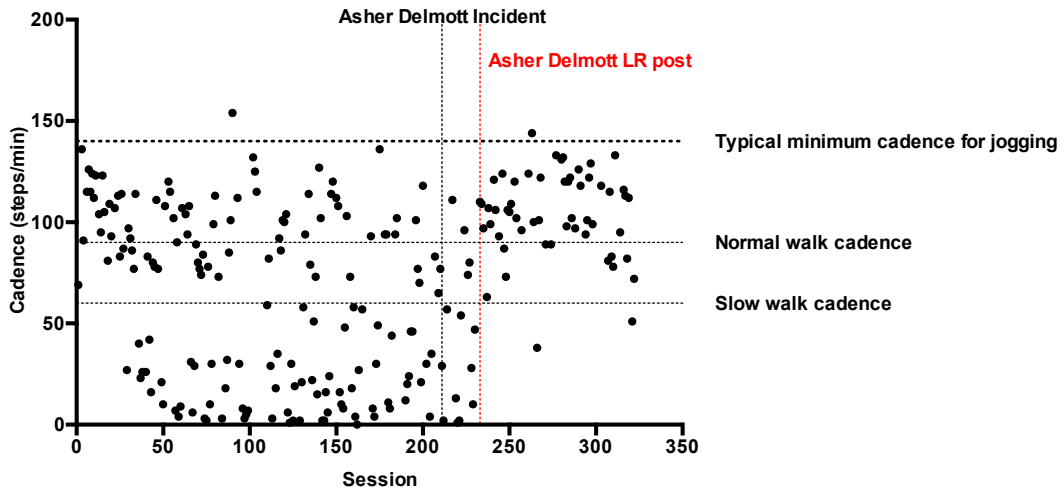


Figure 1: Cadence during sessions longer than 3 miles

It is clear from this figure that many sessions have extremely low cadences. Of the 230 logged sessions longer than 3 miles:

- 44 have a cadence lower than 20 steps/min
- 26 have a cadence between 20 steps/min and 40 steps/min
- 16 have a cadence between 40 steps/min and 60 steps/min

What is most notable is that after the Asher Delmott post (June 7), the number of sessions with a cadence below 60 steps/min (corresponding to a slow walk) virtually disappears, as shown by the figure below:

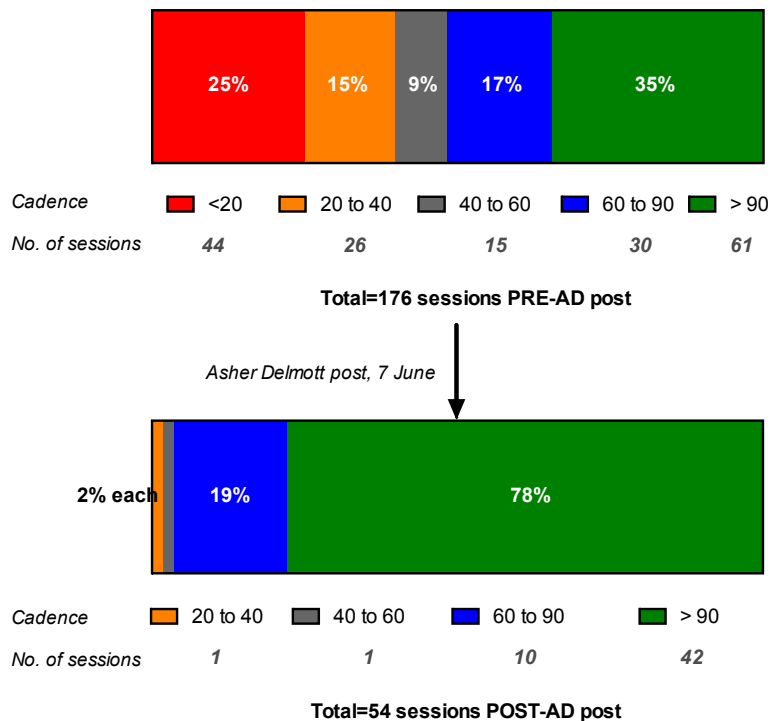


Figure 2: Change in cadence after Asher Delmott LetsRun post

That is:

- Two sessions out of 54 runs after the Delmott post have a cadence below 60 (4%), compared to;
- 84 out of 176 sessions (48%) prior to the Delmott post on LetsRun
- Instead, most sessions after the Delmott post fall within the range that is expected for a mixture of normal walking and typical running (42 out of 52 sessions, 78%), and which is consistent with the paces logged by Young during these sessions

Cadence data can only be interpreted when the other details of the running session are known, however, because a person who is traveling very slowly on foot would be expected to have a very low cadence. They may stop frequently, causing both speed and cadence to drop, and this could account for those sessions observed to have extremely low cadence values.

Therefore, we next looked at the relationship between cadence and running pace for sessions that were completed at a faster running pace, specifically by examining only sessions that were run at a pace faster than 9 min per mile. The graph below shows the cadence values of those faster paced sessions only.

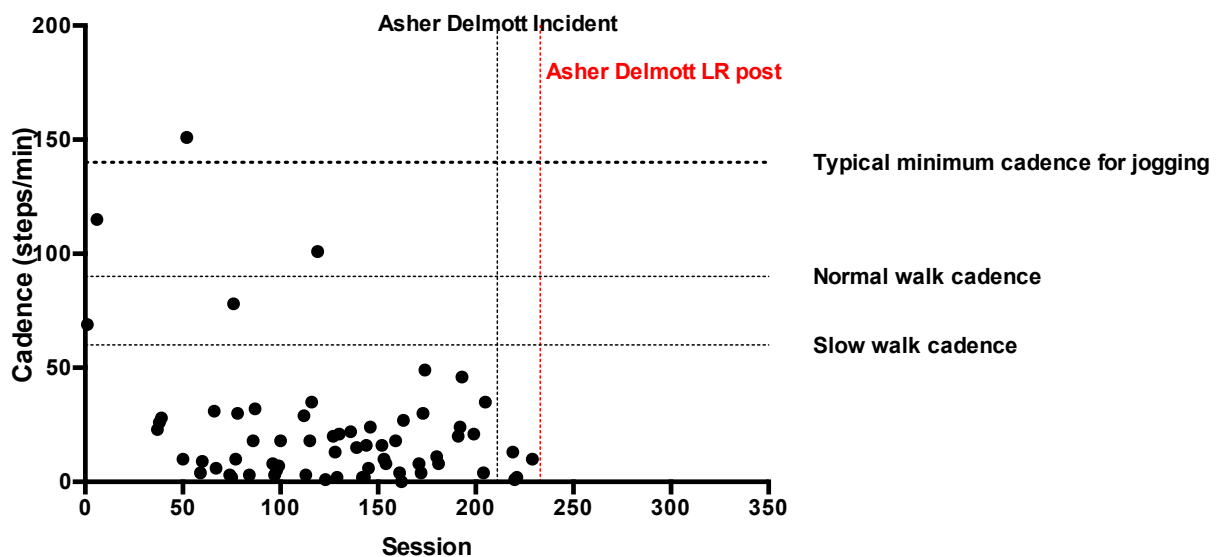


Figure 3: Stride rate during sessions faster than 9 min/mile pace

It is clear that when Rob Young was running faster than 9 min/mile (64 sessions in total), there were a number of sessions with an implausibly low cadence. These sessions ranged in distance from 1.02 miles to 31.98 miles, and in pace from 4:56/mile to 8:51/mile. Of these 64 sessions:

- 39 had a cadence lower than 20 steps/min
- 18 had a cadence between 20 steps/min and 40 steps/min
- Only three had a cadence greater than 90 steps/min

It is unequivocally impossible for a runner to maintain a pace of 9 min/mile or faster with cadence values this low. The data strongly suggest that the TomTom watches cannot have been worn by a runner during these sessions – they must have covered the distance without the taking of steps, which implies inside a vehicle for all or part of the logged session.³

One potential counter-argument that could be made is that the watches were malfunctioning or otherwise not working properly. We note, firstly, that no one has made this argument to us. Secondly, and specific to the data, referring to Figures 1 and 2, if both watches were not working properly, then the pattern of very low cadence would continue all the way to the end of the record attempt.⁴ This did not happen – immediately after the Delmott LetsRun post, and during the period of observation, the cadence values (on both watches used in the attempt) returned to what would be described as ‘typical’ or normal cadence values.

Furthermore, Figure 3 reveals that after the LetsRun post, not a single run faster than 9 min/mile was achieved, at any cadence. In combination, Figures 1, 2 and 3 show that Young continued to run after the Delmott post, but at slower speeds and with typical cadence values. This refutes any suggestion that the atypical cadence data can be attributed to simultaneously malfunctioning watches.

Another explanation of the data is that Young was running while the watches were repeatedly left (accidentally) in a vehicle. But when this question was posed to both him and Michael Speicher, both emphatically denied that any runs had been performed without the watches on Young as he ran.

Specifically, here is what Rob Young told us when asked:

[7:27:08] Ross Tucker: Next question, straight forward, Did you, at any stage of the run, benefit from driving in a vehicle, as indicated by the watch data?

[7:29:15] hania: No!!!! but i did jump on the truck several time less than 5 times as a dog chased me and only for 100meters maximum. We did run that distand (sic) to make it up

We asked Rob if he had ever traveled in the vehicle:

[7:30:44] Ross Tucker: Sorry, just to come back to that, we want to be clear about the data that we've got and have analysed. that the watch data indicates that fairly long distances, much longer than can be explained by signal loss or a short run away from dog, were travelled at speeds suggesting a vehicle.

[7:31:03] Ross Tucker: And we wanted to give you a chance to respond to that data

³ It is, of course, possible that the watches were either inside or outside (e.g., on top of) the vehicle, the available data does not differentiate.

⁴ An online search of known problems with TomTom watch cadence data revealed a few examples of cadences that are too fast, but none in the other direction.

[7:31:16] Ross Tucker: The data is very clear on this, so any further comment?

[7:37:10] I was never in the vehicle at any point unless we had stopped and went for food or to a safe resting point - oh i did at points when i came in the vehicle for a break leave my watch and live tracker and headed back out to run again but fairly quickly realised and put it back on me - i state again on everything, at no point did i use the vehicle for self gain in the run

We put similar questions to Michael Speicher:

[17-Aug-16 9:27:25] Roger Pielke Jr.: The cadence data indicates that the watch-of-record was in the vehicle at times. When we spoke to Rob earlier today, he indicated that there were instances when he did leave the watch-of-record in the vehicle by mistake and would quickly realize it and put it back on. Do you recall any such incidents?

[17-Aug-16 9:29:50] Michael Speicher: I have no knowledge of him coming back into to vehicle

[17-Aug-16 9:30:19] Roger Pielke Jr.: Ok, thanks.

[17-Aug-16 9:31:11] Roger Pielke Jr.: Before leaving the cadence data, we want to be very clear here that we are following what the data says. The cadence data is unequivocal in what it shows. It will be released with our report to be openly examined. The data shows, without a doubt, that the watched traveled in a vehicle. We want you to have every opportunity to respond to this now, as it will become public. Any further comment?

[17-Aug-16 9:34:35] Michael Speicher: Rob, at all times, was in charge of the watches and in charge of the data. He was in charge of changing the watches. I was not his minder.

Absent any explanation offered by the team to counter the implications of the data, we therefore conclude that the only potential explanation for these infeasible low cadence values, present despite relatively high running speeds, is that **the watches had to have been in a vehicle for part or all of the logged sessions.**

2. Impossible step lengths

The next part of our analysis involved calculating the average step lengths that would be required for Rob Young to cover the known distance at the known pace. Because there is a known and established relationship between running pace and step length, this method allows all the performance factors – cadence, speed, distance and pace to be factored into a single outcome that may be deemed feasible or infeasible.

By way of introducing this method, in order to cover a given distance at a given pace, a certain combination of cadence (steps/min) and step length is required. If the distance,

pace and stride rate for a session is known, then it is possible to calculate the required step length of that session.

Consider the following illustrative example:

- Cadence, as reported by TomTom = 170 steps/min
- Distance covered during session = 5 miles
- Time taken for session = 47:00

The step length can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Step length (m)} = \text{Distance in meters}/(\text{cadence} \times \text{time in minutes})$$

For this illustrative example:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Step length (m)} &= (5 \text{ miles} \times 1609\text{m})/(170 \times 47) \\ &= 1.00 \text{ m per step} \end{aligned}$$

We present the step length findings below for the Rob Young attempt, again based on the data-of-record:

Figure 4 shows the calculated average step length during runs longer than 3 miles.

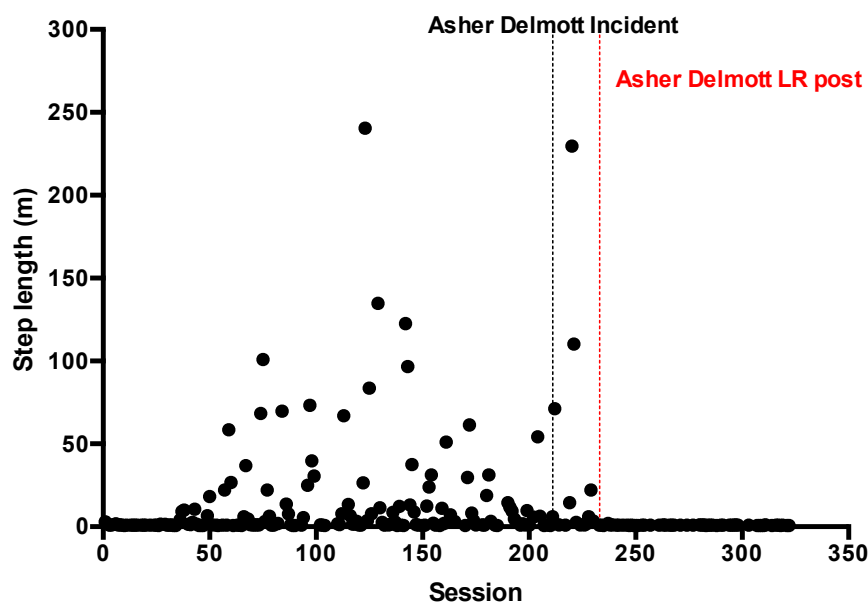


Figure 4: Calculated average step length for every session longer than 3 miles

Of the 230 sessions longer than 3 miles:

- 82 had a step longer than 2m, which we deem to be a conservative cut-off for implausible step length given the average pace Young was running for these sessions
- 18 had a step length longer than 40m

- 14 had a step length between 20m and 40m
- 14 had a step length between 10m and 20m
- 19 had a step length between 5m and 10m
- 148 sessions had step lengths of <2m

The 82 runs with step lengths >2m are all clearly implausible and impossible for running, and are the result of the exceptionally low cadence combined with relatively fast running speeds that we described previously (Figures 1-3).

For reference, a runner who is running at 3-hour marathon pace would be expected to have an average step length of between 1.30m and 1.50m, given typical cadence values at this pace.

Similarly, a runner who is taking 2m long steps, and who is running with a typical cadence (150 to 180 steps/min) would be running at a pace between 4:30 and 5:20 per mile. These are the stride parameters that would be observed in world class half marathon and marathon runners. We would deem any step length longer than 2m to be clearly infeasible and unrealistic for Rob Young during a Trans-USA Record Attempt.

It is clear from the data that Rob Young's TomTom record has a number of sessions with step lengths much, much higher than this, despite never reaching these running paces. Some of the step lengths are clearly not humanly possible by anyone.

This is further confirmed by Figure 5, which shows the calculated step lengths for sessions faster than 9 min/mile:

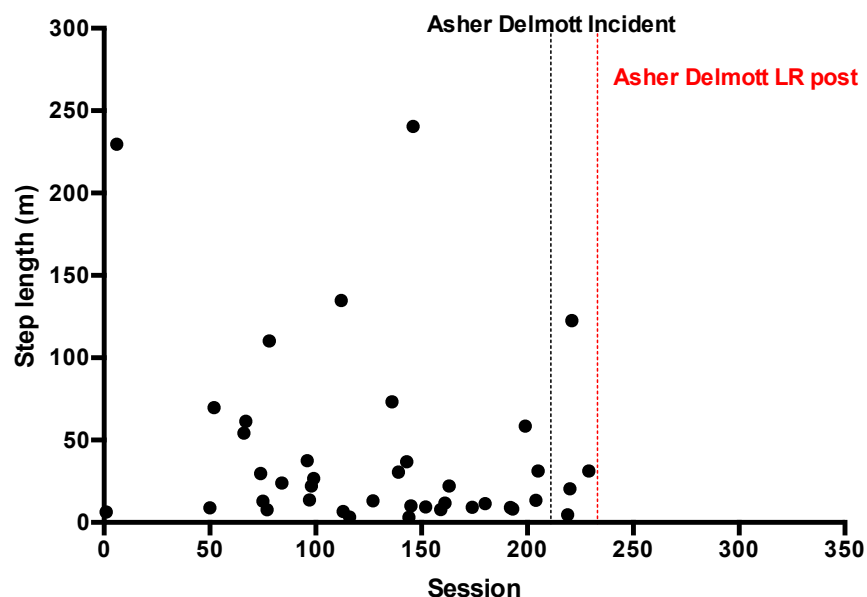


Figure 5: Calculated step length for sessions faster than 9 min/mile pace

Confirming the previous findings, for faster paced runs:

- 62 out of 64 sessions have a calculated step longer than 2m

- 57 out of 64 sessions have a calculated step length greater than 5m
- 29 of 64 sessions have a calculated step length over 20m
- 16 of 64 sessions have a calculated step length longer than 40m

Notably, not a single instance of impossible or infeasible step lengths was observed after the LetsRun post on July 7 (Figure 4 and Figure 5), and no sessions faster than 9 min/mile pace were logged after this point either (Figure 5).

The change in the proportion of sessions with different calculated step lengths for sessions longer than 3 miles after the Asher Delmott LetsRun post is summarized in the figure below.

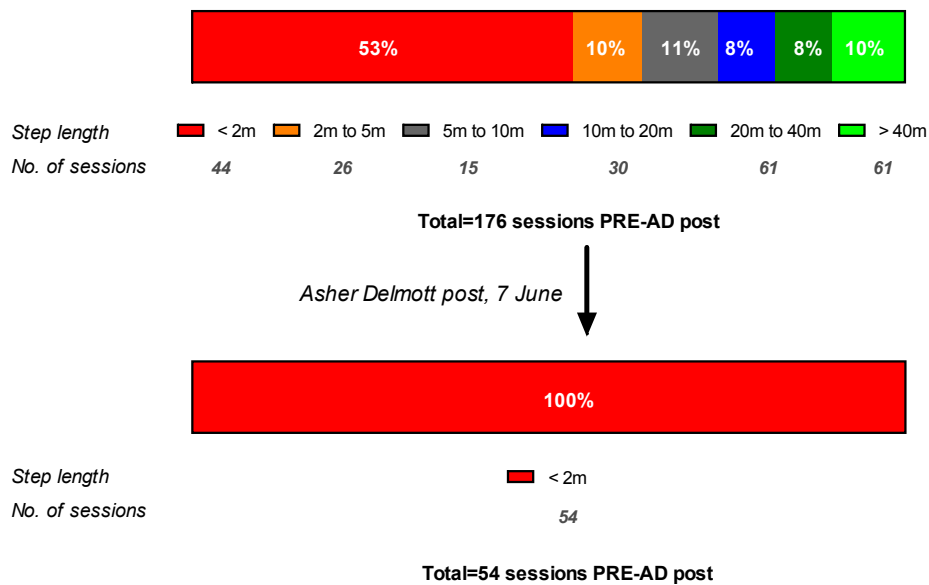


Figure 6: Change in step length after Asher Delmott LetsRun post

Finally, we analyzed the relationship between running pace and step length. This method allows us to identify sessions that are infeasible or impossible taking into account the cadence, calculated step length and the running pace. Figure 7 below shows the findings for sessions longer than 3 miles (Fig 7A) and sessions faster than 9 min/mile (Fig 7B).

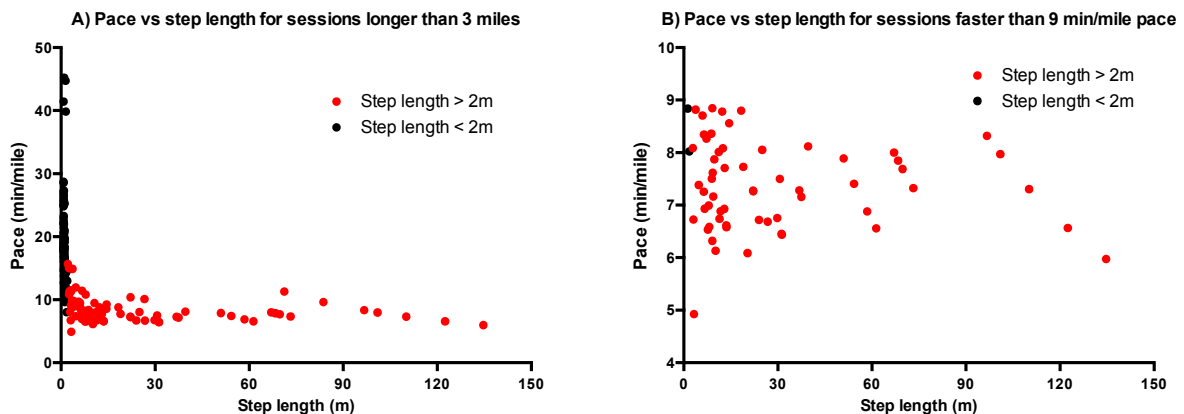


Figure 7: Pace per mile as a function of step length for longer sessions (A) and faster sessions (B)

For ease of viewing, we have removed the most extreme values from both graphs. These were sessions which had an average step length greater than 150m (three sessions). We also highlight the sessions deemed infeasible, having step lengths longer than 2m, with red symbols.

It is clear that in the majority of the longer runs, and in almost all the faster paced runs, the pace achieved is done with step lengths that are impossible (longer than 2m). Indeed, only 2 faster paced runs out of 64 were achieved with a step length less than 2m (Figure 7B).

One of these two runs was the first run of the attempt. The data we were provided includes a duplicate file (i.e., identical) of the very first run in the attempt. These two files have different dates, May 13th and 14th. We hypothesize that these two files reflect (a) a time zone error on one of the watches (during its first use); and (b) one of the watches traveling by bicycle while Young ran alongside.⁵ One of the duplicate files has step lengths above 2m (consistent with a bike) and one below (consistent with a run). In addition, the Reinvestigation website has documented several other instances of duplicate files being uploaded from the two watches indicative of a bike being used while a run was taking place.⁶ The duplicate files do not bear on our bottom line conclusions.

We conclude that the sessions with impossible step lengths could only have been achieved with the watch traveling for part or all of the route by vehicle, because we can rule out faulty equipment and the possibility that Rob Young ran without the watch by accident.

3. Impact of time of day on performance, cadence and average step length

Figure 8 below shows the pace and calculated step lengths for sessions longer than 3 miles logged during the day, and for sessions longer than 3 miles logged at night. We have again cut the x-axis off at 150 to provide a clearer picture of the finding (because several sessions had step lengths of >150m).

⁵ The GPS track takes the watches on bike paths and across areas where a vehicle could not travel.

⁶ See: <http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.com/2016/06/was-bike-used-to-cheat.html> and <http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.com/2016/06/yet-another-bike-ride.html>

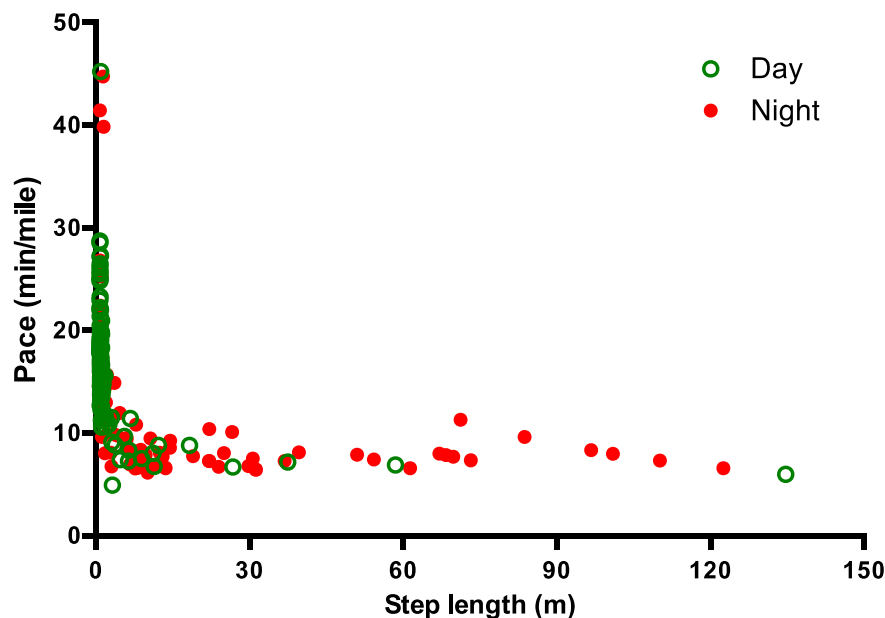


Figure 8: Pace during day and night sessions as a function of average step length

This figure reveals that the vast majority of the infeasible and impossible step lengths occur at night. The breakdown is as follows:

Table 1: Comparison of sessions logged during day-time and night-time hours

	Day	Night
Number of sessions logged	125	105
Miles covered	761	1210
Average pace (min/mile)	15:31	10:27
Average cadence (steps/min)	90	54
Average step length (m)	1.15	2.86
Number of sessions with step length less than 2m	106 (85%)	42 (40%)
Number of sessions with step length greater than 2m	19 (15%)	63 (60%)
Number of sessions with step length greater than 5m	13 (10%)	52 (50%)

The average pace of night sessions is faster, with a greater average step length. 60% of night sessions have a step length greater than 2m (which we deem infeasible). Indeed, the average step length at night is 2.86m, which is considerably higher than both the day average (1.15m) and any step length that would be considered possible given the pace of the runs.

Of the 82 infeasible sessions with a step length longer than 2m, 63 or 77% come during the night-time hours.

We conclude that during at least more than half of the night time runs, the watch covered all or part of the logged sessions in or on the vehicle. That this did not occur in the same high proportions during the day:

- a. Provides us with further evidence that the watches are not faulty, since their measurement of cadence and related parameters clearly differs from day to night and is not consistently or uniformly wrong, and;
- b. Is suggestive that the cover of darkness, and the reduced likelihood of being discovered, was likely a factor in deliberate attempts to cover the route with vehicle assistance.

The possibility that observation and risk of discovery changes the behavior is explored next.

4. Impact of observation by the Geezers on step length and implications

After the LetsRun post, we observe the almost complete disappearance of infeasible and unrealistic cadence and step length data. This period coincided with Rob Young's observation by a group who called themselves the "Geezers." This group joined Rob on June 11, and accompanied him uninterrupted for the next five days before the Record Attempt was ended on June 16.⁷

The period of observation by the Geezers makes for a useful comparison against the period prior to observation, both for sessions logged at night, and during the day. The two periods offer a quasi-experimental design for this part of the investigation.

The day vs night comparisons are also important, because we have already shown that the majority of the impossible cadences and step lengths were found to occur at night (Figure 8 and Table 1).

Figure 9 shows Rob Young's pace as a function of calculated step length during the period before and during the observation by the Geezers in order to examine how the presence of observers influences the stride parameters and performances.

⁷ Some details on the "Geezers" and their accompaniment of Young can be found here: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/jun/22/robert-young-marathon-record-attempt-cheating-rumors>

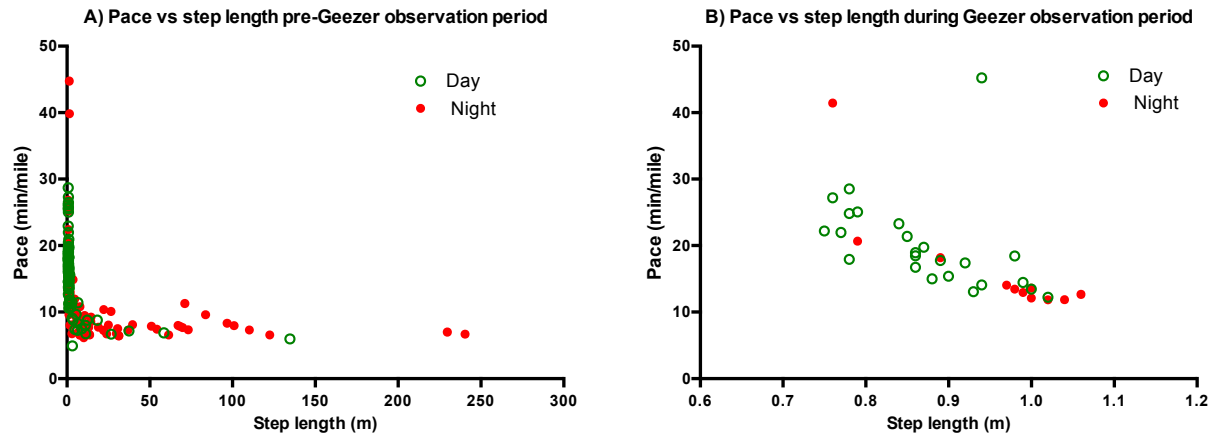


Figure 9: Pace vs step length before (9A) and during (9B) observation by the Geezers

The breakdown and summary of the two periods is shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Comparison of sessions longer than 3 miles logged before and during observation by the Geezers

	Before observation		During observation	
	Day	Night	Day	Night
Number of sessions logged	101	94	24	11
Miles covered	611	1099	150	111
Average pace (min/mile)	14:39	10:02	19:04	14:42
Average cadence (steps/min)	88	45	96	113
Average step length (m)	1.24	3.57	1.14	1.03
Number of sessions with step length less than 2m	82 (81%)	31 (33%)	24 (100%)	11 (100%)
Number of sessions with step length greater than 2m	19 (19%)	63 (67%)	0	0
Number of sessions with step length greater than 5m	13 (13%)	52 (55%)	0	0
Longest calculated average step length for any session (m)	240.49	134.71	1.02	1.06

These graphs and Table represent the “smoking gun” in the analysis of the TomTom data.

They show:

- A. **Before observation, a high number of sessions had impossible step length** implications. This has been shown in various ways previously (Figures 4-7 and Table 1).
- B. **Before observation, there was a significant difference between day-time and night-time** sessions, with the majority of impossible stride parameters coming from night-time sessions (see also Table 1 for details)
- C. Once the Geezers joined Rob Young, two critical changes can be observed:
 - i. First, the **impossible stride parameters disappeared completely** (Figure 9 and Table 2). During the period of Geezer observation, not a single session longer than 3 miles had a step length above 2m, and the longest step length calculated was 1.06m. Prior to observation, 82 out of 195 sessions had step lengths longer than 2m. Most of these came during night-time hours.
 - ii. Second, the **difference between day-time and night-time sessions disappears**. Rob Young continued to run at a slightly faster pace at night than during the day, but the relationship between pace and step length (Figure 7) is consistent with published literature and is similar between the day and night-time sessions
 - iii. Of interest is that the greatest 'outlier' of all these performances are those that occurred before observation, during the nighttime hours. Here, Young had infeasible step lengths (3.57m average), cadence (45 steps/min) and pace (10:02 min/mile) compared to all other categories (daytime before observation and both day- and nighttime during observation).

Finally, as confirmation of our analysis described above, we report a key finding of an analysis that was conducted by a group of investigators who began mining Young's data, uploaded to Strava, to analyse his performances after the allegations of cheating emerged. One of their key findings, described on a website established to report various lines of evidence (<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.co.uk/2016/07/strava-data-analysis.html>), was the pair of histograms shown below.

They show the time spent (in hours) at various running paces during one-hour time bands. The top panel shows the period prior to observation by the Geezers, and it is clear that a significantly larger portion of Young's runs are spent running faster than 8 min/mile (orange and red shading) between 6pm and 8am than during the daylight hours.

In contrast, during observation, there is a marked change, with much less time spent running at faster paces during the night-time hours.



Figure 10: Histogram plots of time spent at various running paces as a function of time of day
(Source: ryinvestigation.blogspot)

We interpret this analysis to strongly support our conclusion, based on the cadence data rather than running paces, that Young gained assistance using a vehicle, predominantly during the night-time hours, to achieve all his faster pace runs (see Figure 7B) prior to observation. The presence of independent observers eliminated this practice, and profoundly changed the running paces he was capable of, in accordance with changes to the measured stride parameters achieved (Figures 4 – 7).

5. Bottom Line

We conclude that this data is strongly suggestive that before being observed by the Geezers, Rob Young was receiving assistance in or on a vehicle for all or part of his runs. This was particularly the case during night-time hours. Once the observation from the Geezers begins, with no opportunity to cover distance without running, performance (pace per mile) and the stride parameters (both cadence and step length) immediately return to typical values, and are more consistent with what was observed during daylight hours before observation.

This analysis also confirms that the watches cannot have been faulty, because time-of-observation would have no impact on the measured parameters if this were the case. Instead, the data indicate normally functioning TomTom watches, which had to have travelled by vehicle for some or part of the logged sessions during the period prior to observation.

When asked about these anomalies and infeasible parameters, neither Rob Young nor Michael Speicher was able to offer any plausible explanation.

Our conclusion is expressed in terms stronger than the “balance of probabilities” threshold stated in the terms of reference. The data tell a very compelling story.

Other data sources

Strava and MapyMyRun records

As described, the TomTom record, as provided by Young, was used as the data of record. However, prior to receiving this record, we had access to Strava and MapyMyRun records, also uploaded by Young, and for which we were provided with passwords. Ultimately, these records were not used for the direct analysis, because these secondary records were created using the original TomTom data files, and there is a possibility of data editing and manipulation that we determined was not possible in the TomTom record.

However, these records are still germane to the report’s findings, because there was some evidence of inconsistencies between the TomTom record and those of Strava and MapyMyRun. Those inconsistencies were centered around specific incidents that had been discussed on various forums after the initial cheating accusations on June 7th, and were strongly suggestive of data manipulation. These incidents and the manipulation of data are however covered in specific sections elsewhere in this report.

Spot-3 Tracker

Young was provided with a tracker, primarily for safety and security purposes, as a means to monitor where the RV was. The tracker was meant to remain in the RV at all times, acting as a communication channel between Michael Speicher, a SKINS employee, and SKINS in the event that an emergency occurred.

We did use the data obtained from the SPOT-3 tracker as a means to verify the TomTom, Strava and MapyMyRun records for specific runs. Nothing in the Spot-3 data led us to question any of the analyses based on the TomTom data.

Testimonies and email submissions

Among the submissions received were some that detailed what might be described as supplementary data, intended to help assess the viability of Young’s performances. These data included information on Young’s previous running history, as well as allegations that he had fabricated his running credentials on his own website and in promotional materials. Other runners contacted us to share their experiences of running across the USA, or in ultra-distance running, with the view that Young’s shared records were not feasible. Many

pointed us to discussions that had been taking place on various websites and internet forums since the initial allegations. The email submissions can be seen in Appendix B, while the general discussion around Young's capability as an Ultra-distance runner can be found at various sources referenced in this document.

We considered this information with caution. First, we were focused primarily on objective data, which was provided in the form of the TomTom record provided to us by Young. This data is understood by all involved to be the data-of-record and thus provided an objective basis for our investigation.

Second, subjective opinions on whether an athlete is capable of a performance or given set of performances are flawed by subjectivity and estimation. It may be possible to accurately predict how an athlete would perform if a set of their prior performances in controlled events is known, but this proves difficult for Ultra-endurance running and is fraught with complexity and confounding variables. No person can claim with certainty that another is incapable of a given performance, even if seemingly incredible, without knowing substantial background context to that athlete, unless the performances are so outrageous as to be physiologically impossible (e.g., running at faster than the marathon world record pace for longer than marathon distance). Thus, any discussion of his capability of producing the runs is not a basis for our conclusions.

Third, our remit did not include an investigation into Young's prior running credentials, and so the discovery of the context and background to Young's performances, which certainly would be important and useful for performance analysis, was not a direct objective. Note that this is not to say that such information should be disregarded altogether, and if evidence exists for embellishment or fabrication of performances, previous races or running history, then it is significant in terms of the trustworthiness or character of the athlete in question. However, this evidence was moot for this investigation, because the data so clearly suggests assistance by a vehicle, as we have described previously.

As such, this information and allegations over Young's running history and previous performances was unnecessary and not explored further. That said, we found much in both the submissions and online analyses that was solid and provided compelling evidence that the attempt received unauthorized assistance. Had Young released his original TomTom data to the public while performing the attempt, this investigation would almost certainly have proven unnecessary. We will return to the issue of best practices in a later section.

Evidence of data manipulation

Given the overwhelming evidence of unauthorized assistance in the TomTom files, we have not performed a comprehensive analysis of efforts to delete or alter the data record. Here we simply note that we are aware of multiple such efforts, which we view to be intentional and indicative of an effort to cover-up the unauthorized assistance. Such efforts include:

- Deletion of Facebook photos of the TomTom website showing completed runs during the effort;
- Deletion of MapyMyRun and Strava files after the effort was completed (and continuing through the writing of this report);
- Manipulation and truncation of MapyMyRun and Strava files;
- Deletion of TomTom files on the watches;

In many instances, the deleted and manipulated sessions are those that were widely discussed after the online discussions of potential cheating began. In some instances, sessions were identified and discussed specifically because online investigators had observed data manipulation or deletion, while in others, records for specific sessions were deleted after online investigators had raised questions about that session's legitimacy.

We would simply note that this is not the behavior of someone interested in transparency and data accuracy.

Interviews

We interviewed Rob Young and Michael Speicher consecutively on 17 August 2016 using Skype Chat. This method of interview was chosen so that both Young and Speicher would have the opportunity to consider replies to questions asked in writing, and to write their own answers down, thus providing a record of the interviews.

Young and Speicher were in separate locations, and were interviewed consecutively, on the same day. The full text of these interviews can be found in Appendix C. The third member of the team, Dustin Brooks, was unavailable for the interview scheduled on August 17, 2016.⁸

In general, the interviews shed little light on the attempt, the data, or responsibility for the evidence of unauthorized assistance. Neither Young nor Speicher were able to explain the anomalies in the data indicating that the watches had traveled for long stretches by vehicle.

Here we simply highlight several passages that bear directly on our investigation of the attempt.

The Asher Delmott incident

In a Facebook video posted after Asher Dermott encountered the RV without Young running alongside, Speicher said:

There have been some allegations about him [Young] cheating and not running everything. I can assure you that he has run every step, every foot, every yard, every mile by himself.⁹

When asked about these comments Speicher provided a much less fulsome defense. He explained (from Appendix C):

[17-Aug-16 9:45:27] Roger Pielke Jr.: In other words, are you vouching for the fact that the TomTom data that we have been provided are accurate representations of actual runs and not vehicle travel?

[17-Aug-16 9:47:28] Michael Speicher: I can only vouch for what I saw or what I was in control of. I cannot vouch for times when I was either asleep or with Rob (sic, corrected by MS below) or when I didn't have visual contact with Rob. I cannot vouch for the data, because I was not responsible for or in control of it.

*[17-Aug-16 9:48:48] Michael Speicher: *I cannot vouch for times when I was either asleep or not with Rob*

⁸ Following the scheduled interviews, neither SKINS nor the investigators followed up to reschedule, since the data-of-record provided a convincing explanation of what had occurred during the record attempt

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/marathonmanuk/videos/1024241607660097/>

[17-Aug-16 9:50:07] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, thanks, before we proceed to a few more specific questions before concluding, this statement distancing yourself from Rob is not nearly the very strong endorsement that you provided in support of Rob via Facebook. What has changed?

[17-Aug-16 9:52:10] Michael Speicher: The video was done in the heat of the moment. It was done from the point of view that I did not see and was not aware of any cheating or such behaviour from Rob. Again, I cannot vouch for times when I was asleep or could not see him.

We asked Speicher to explain the Asher Delmott incident, he told us:

On that night, I saw a light from a distance and thought Rob needed assistance so I decided to slow down till I came to a full stop. All of a sudden the side door opens and Rob asks me what I'm doing. I tell him that I saw a light and thought that that was him. I look in the mirror and the light keeps getting closer and closer, faster and faster. Meanwhile, Rob has both feet in the vehicle while the vehicle being at a complete stop. All of the sudden the light is right next to the window on the side door, with no indication of who this person is. Rob tell me Go Go, so I drove. This light continues to follow the vehicle for around 10-20 seconds. All of a sudden the light makes a sharp left turn and disappears. Shortly after I make a full stop with the vehicle and return back to the spot where I first made a full stop, thinking Rob was flashing his Flashlight needing a break. From that point on we continued.

However, in an interview with *Runner's World* magazine, Young and Dustin Brooks (the third member of the team) offered an alternate explanation, that was notable for its complete lack of the details shared by Speicher:

Young denied that he was in the van when the two [Asher Delmott] videos were taken. He said that while he normally runs as close to the vehicle as possible, there are times when he has been separated from it. He also said that on a few occasions, he has left the live tracker in the RV instead of carrying it.

He said that the RV could have stopped for gas while he continued running and the RV needed to catch up. He also said on busy roads, he sometimes runs on the opposite side of the road, facing traffic. "I could have been on the other side of the road. I don't know. I could give you 50 different reasons," Young said.

He pointed out that many of his running clothes are black with few reflective elements. He carries a hand torch at night but does not wear a headlamp. . .

In a later email, Brooks provided a more detailed explanation of what happened that night. "At some point Rob dropped off the pace and Michael [a member of the crew],

who was driving, failed to notice. So Rob ended up isolated. He continued on to a town and called Michael from a stranger's phone to tell him to stop.”¹⁰

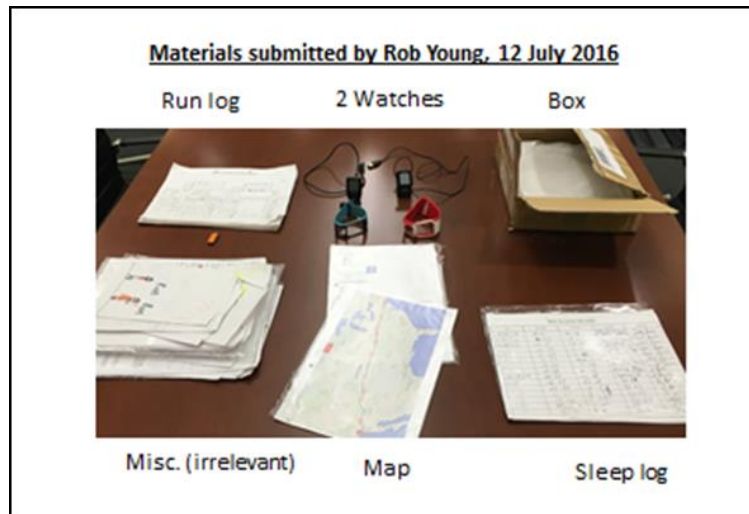
We view the confusion over the explanation of the Delmott incident to be suspicious. Further details on the Kansas incident are provided in a subsequent section.

In addition to the submitted materials, we corresponded with Delmott following his submission. We asked Delmott to confirm the accuracy of the time stamp on the gas station video taken. He told us: “I just heard from the owner of Mr. G's, and he said his cameras are 5 minutes and 55 seconds behind the actual time.” This proved useful in our reconciliation of the Kansas episode, discussed below.

We also spoke with Sashar Sahar, of CCTV and Todd Kapostasy of ESPN, both of whom spent time with the Young during the attempt. Neither Sahar nor Kapostasy told us that they had witnessed any improper assistance. Sahar witnessed two long runs (based on the written run log, which she signed as a witness, of 18 and 13 miles). Kapostasy said that his team did not witness any runs longer than a mile, which were used for filming purposes. Our interviews with Sahar and Kapostasy do not factor in our conclusions and did not provide any evidence to the contrary.

¹⁰ The journalist who wrote that article, Kit Fox, shared with us the original emails with Brooks. It is clear from that exchange that Brooks had confused two episodes in Kansas, one being the CCTV footage from a gas station early in the evening and the other the video footage taken by Delmott late at night. Brooks wrote: “Just to let you know regarding the cctv camera footage of the RV without Rob around that was posted on social media, we realised when that was and it was a time when the RV was moving with Rob tucked in behind it through the night and at some point Rob dropped off the pace and Michael, who was driving, failed to notice. So Rob ended up isolated. He continued on to a town and called Michael from a strangers phone to tell him to stop.” The CCTV footage was taken early in the evening in the middle of a town. The Delmott video was taken in the middle of the night. At no time did Young go from being “isolated” to a “town.”

Submitted Materials from Rob Young



Rob Young was asked to send the watches to the investigators. He did so and included some additional materials;

- The run log allegedly used in the attempt documents 299 runs;
- The two watches were cleared of data when we received them;
- A memory stick was included with photos (the same ones that appeared on Facebook) and data files (the same ones we had previously been sent);
- There was no additional useful material in the package for our purposes.

Auditing of Selected Online Analyses

Bottom line

The investigations into Rob Young's alleged unauthorized assistance resulted in very detailed scrutiny by various people online of the files by that he had made available publicly in various forms during the run. Our intention was not to rehash these analyses, but rather to confirm or deny their veracity by comparing the theories espoused in these internet investigations, by using the data of record (TomTom) and other data sources. We find the following:

- Generally, the internet investigations are robust and accurate, and have identified segments of the Young record attempt that are strongly suggestive of gaining assistance by vehicle travel;
- In several instances, the analysis and theories offered by these internet investigations are of high quality, and support the data of record and our conclusions;
- We therefore confirm many of the allegations made by such internet investigations, and describe summary versions of two of the main such incidents in the following pages.

RV breakdown incident

The RV breakdown incident occurred on May 18th, less than one week into the record attempt, when the RV accompanying Young broke down in the early hours of the morning near Bannock, CA, on route to an RV stop in Laughlin, NV. The incident was identified by online investigators, who isolated it because Young covered a significant distance (approximately 35 miles), unaccompanied through the desert over challenging terrain during the day, at relatively high speeds. The detailed description of their investigation can be found at the following links, on the Rob Young Investigation website, by an author that is unknown to us:

<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.co.uk/2016/06/rv-desert-adventure.html>

<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.co.uk/2016/06/bannocklaughlin-incident-follow-up.html>

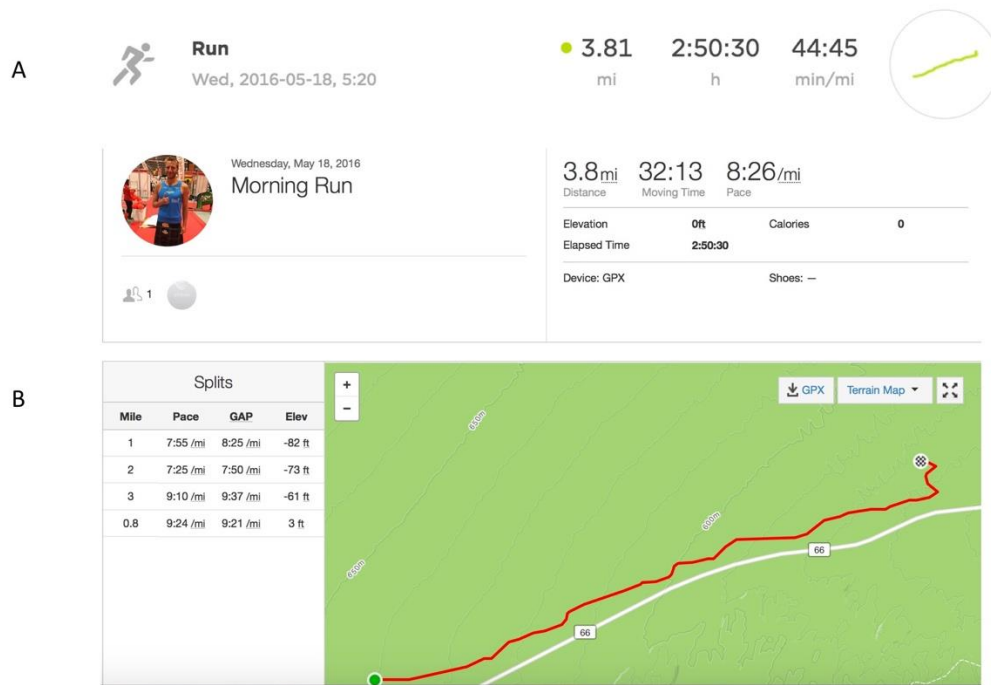
It then emerged that the data record of a part of the run that Young would have had to perform to get from the RV breakdown to the RV stop in Laughlin had been deleted. As a result of specific suspicion of this incident, we identified it as a target for evaluation, and describe our findings briefly here, with the emphasis that much of this analysis repeats what has already been published elsewhere, but is offered here for the sake of completeness of this report.

The final record prior to the breakdown

In the TomTom record provided to us, a run of 3.81 miles begins at 05.20, on Wednesday 18 May. This session lasted 2:50:30, covering only 3.81 miles (pace 44:45 min/mile), because it was

interrupted by the RV breakdown, and Young and the team presumably forget to stop the watch while they attempted to dig the RV out of the sand.

This session is further confirmed by matching the TomTom record to the Strava record of this session, where the actual moving time in a session lasting 2:50:30 was 32:13 at a pace of 8:26/mile, as shown in the figure below, where A is the TomTom record summary and B is the detailed Strava map and record.



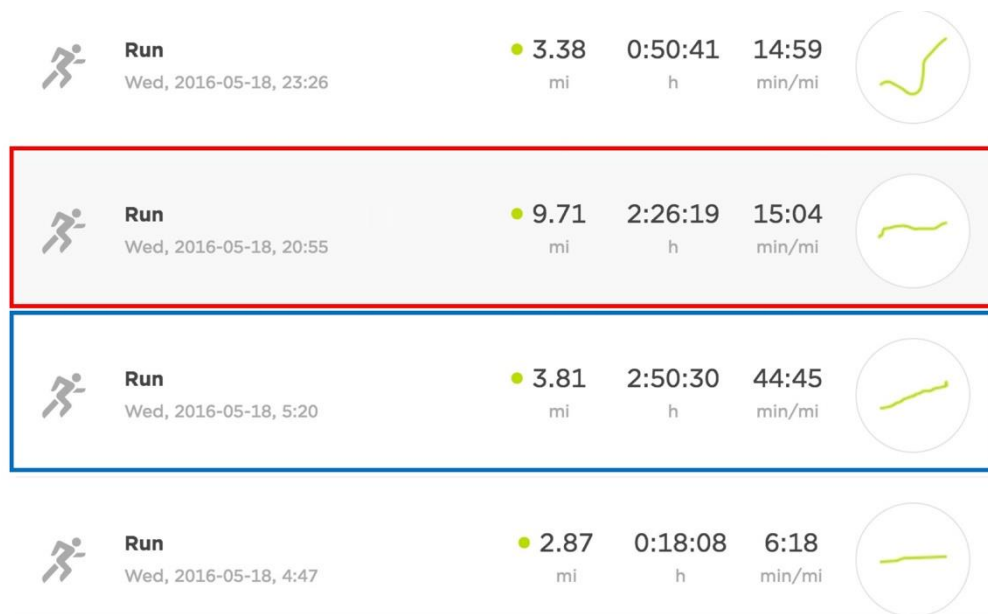
Note that the TomTom record provides a thumbnail of the route map on the far right (a thin green line), which is shown below in more detail in the Strava record. These thumbnail images of the route map provided by TomTom will become important shortly.

For this particular run, we were able to match the TomTom thumbnail with the Strava and MapyMyRun detailed route maps, as well as the more detailed TomTom route map (not shown here) to determine that these runs are indeed logged with identical records. The Spot-3 tracker also confirms the location of the RV in agreement with these records.

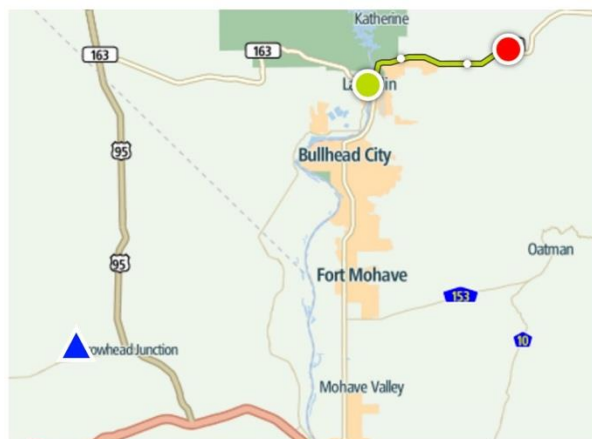
The RV breakdown was established by the Spot-3 tracker, and photographic and testimonial evidence posted on Facebook, including one photograph whose time stamp revealed it had been taken at 8.50am. Using the Strava run record, we can determine that Young would have stopped running at between 6.00am and 6.10am.

The next run after the breakdown

The next run after the breakdown incident in the TomTom record is recorded at 20.55pm on the 18th May, almost 15 hours after the RV breakdown occurred. This is shown in the following graphic.



The RV breakdown run is highlighted in blue, with the very next session being a run that same night (20:55 start time), approximately 15 hours later, highlighted in red. The detailed record reveals that this 9.71 mile run began from the RV stop in Laughlin. The map below indicates the start and end points of this 9.71 mile run (green and red circles, respectively), while the blue triangle to the south-east indicates the location of the RV breakdown near Bannock (end of the 3.81-mile run).



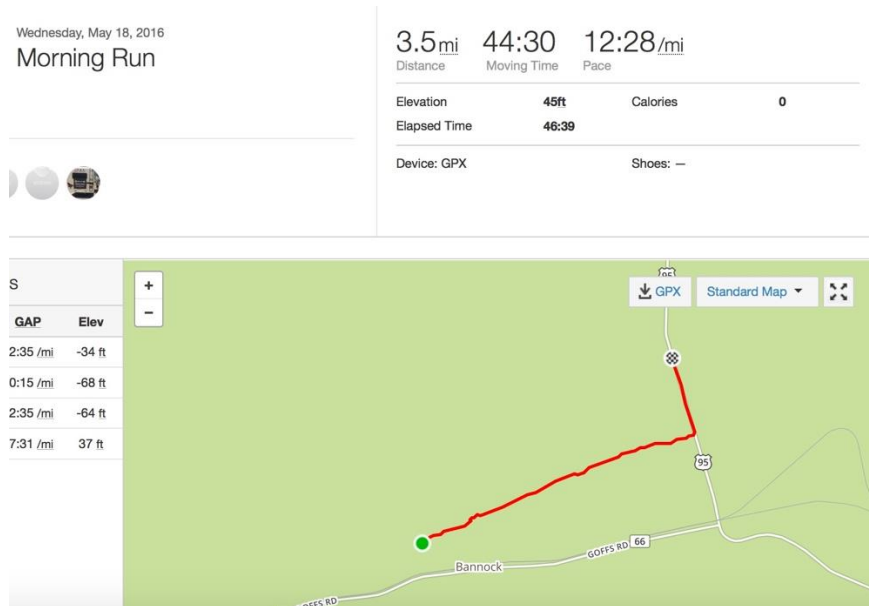
We note that **there is no record of any run between these two points in the TomTom record that was provided to us. This corresponds to a distance of just under 40 miles using available roads.** This is despite Young posting on Facebook that he left the RV and his team at some time that morning to continue running into Laughlin. This missing data is the subject of the following analysis.

Missing data and evidence of data manipulation

First, despite being absent in the TomTom record that was provided to us, a **data record for a run immediately after the breakdown did exist in the original TomTom record**, and also exists in the Strava record that was provided to us.

That is, in Strava, the following session was part of the data record:

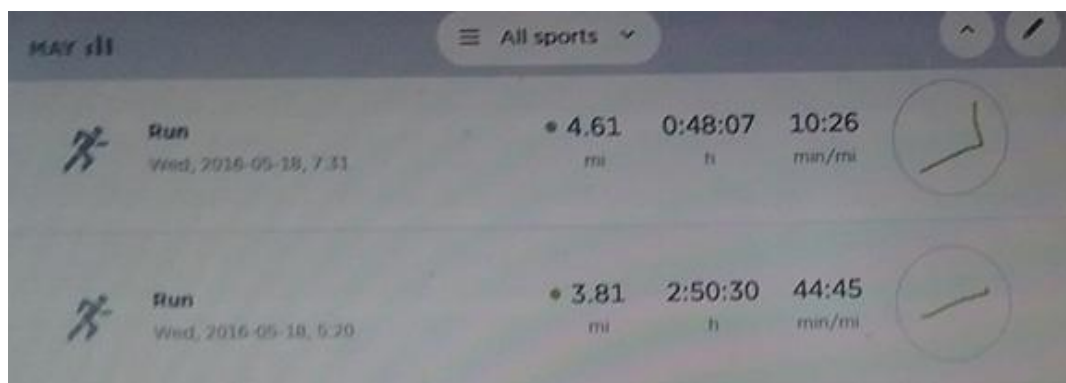
FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016



Note that while the exact start time is not provided, this session begins on the morning of May 18th, and departs from the exact location where the previous (3.81 mile) run ended at the point of the RV breakdown. It takes Young towards the I-95 over 3.5 miles and 46:39 of total time.

This run was not present in the TomTom library provided to us, and nor was it present in the MapyMyRun library that Young provided to us, suggesting that it may have been deliberately deleted from both those records.

However, this run was indeed present in a now-deleted upload of the TomTom sessions by the Young team, as shown in the image below (resolution is poor, as this is a photograph taken off a computer screen by internet investigators):



Note from this image that the 3.81 mile run is present, as described, and corresponds to all three sources (TomTom, Strava and MapyMyRun) for the run that ended with the RV breakdown.

The 4.61 mile run follows this run immediately, beginning at 07:31, and its thumbnail image is identical in route outline to the 3.5 mile sessions logged on Strava on the morning of May 18th. It differs with respects to its total distance (4.61 miles vs 3.5 miles), the total time (48:07 vs 46:39) and the average pace (10:26 vs 12:28 min/mile).

To repeat, this 4.61 mile run has been removed from the MapyMyRun and TomTom records that were provided to us after the record attempt, but exists here as a screen capture before allegations had been levelled against Young in online fora.

Further, it is our conclusion that the 3.5 mile in the Strava record has been manipulated, to cut out a section of 1.1 miles. We surmise that this has been done to eliminate an obvious indication of driving in a vehicle, illustrated as follows:

- The now deleted TomTom record is 4.61 miles and 48:07 long. The corresponding Strava record is only 3.5 miles in 46:39 long;
- The difference is thus that the TomTom record is 1.1 miles and 1:28 longer than the Strava session;
- The speed that would be required to cover 1.1 miles in 1:28 is 45.4 miles per hour. This is consistent with what would be expected of a vehicle traveling along I-95.

We therefore surmise that it is likely that Young left the RV where it had been stuck, and ran to the I-95, where he was picked up by a vehicle, traveling at least an additional 1.1 miles in the vehicle before ending the watch recording. When files were uploaded, this file was initially uploaded to TomTom, with internet investigators taking a screen shot before that 4.61 mile session was deleted after accusations of cheating began. Part of that sessions was however still uploaded to Strava, but in an edited form, with the 1.1 miles of vehicle travel removed.

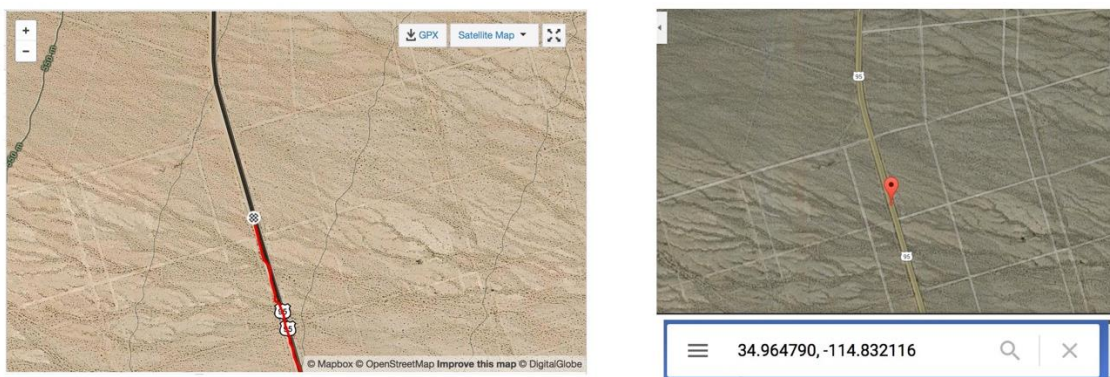
Eventually, the entire session was deleted from the TomTom library of sessions when that was provided to us for this investigation.

We conclude that Young is likely to have received vehicle assistance and acted to cover it up through the provision of edited data and the deletion of the entire record at a later stage.

Missing data

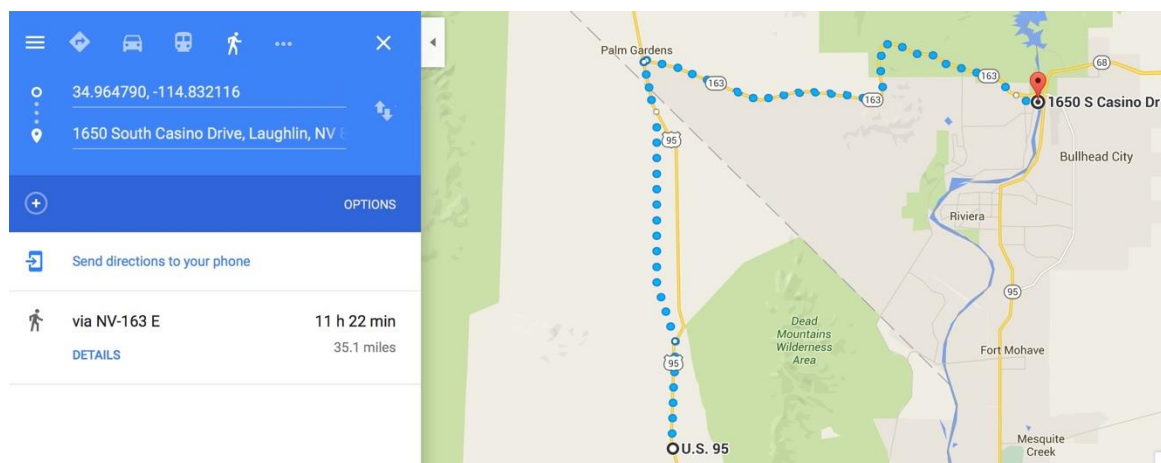
This still leaves a gap in the record for how Young traveled from a point along the I-95 to the RV rest site in Laughlin, where he would later be joined by the rest of the team and the RV.

Using the previously discussed Strava session of 3.5 miles that took Young from the RV breakdown site to the I-95, we can establish that at approximately 08.11 that morning, he was at the following co-ordinates:



Confirmation of the location of RY at 8.11am on May 18th. This is the endpoint of his last documented run on Strava before Laughlin. No record exists for this run in either Tomtom or Mapmyrun records provided to us

From this position and time, had Young taken the shortest possible road route to the RV stop where he was later joined by the team and RV, he would have been required to run 35.1 miles in approximately four hours.



In the internet investigations, the feasibility of the performance that would have been required to get Young from the start point at 08.11 to the RV camp in Laughlin, arriving sometime between 12pm and 12.40pm has been questioned. It is possible that Young left the road, and took a more direct route to Laughlin, which would have involved traveling in a north-easterly direction over the Dead Mountains Wilderness area. Indeed, a blog entry by the Young-team alluded to this possibility (not shown). This would have shortened the distance, but increased dramatically the difficulty level of the run.

As we have described, the feasibility of any of Young's performances would have become important in the absence of any other evidence. However, arriving at conclusions based solely on subjective opinion of the likelihood of a performance is fraught with difficulty, confounding factors, and uncertainty, and would certainly not be fair in isolation.

Our priority, as described, was the objective data, which we have described previously. It suggests that Young did receive vehicle assistance, and we conclude this without needing to judge Young's physical capacity to perform these sessions. Thus, while a discussion of whether Young would be physically capable of running 35 miles in approximately four hours unassisted on a hot day (93F on May 18) is not entirely without merit, it is unnecessary for the purposes of this analysis, or for our conclusion.

Instead, our primary interest is the fact that the data for runs that get Young from the location where the last documented run ended along the I-95 to the RV camp in Laughlin remains missing from all records we were provided with.

Internet investigators were however able to grab a screen shot of another TomTom record that has since been deleted, and was not provided to us as part of that record. Below is the TomTom summary of the record provided to us, highlighting the pre-breakdown run in blue, and the first post-breakdown run in red. We have already described at least one missing run between these two runs – the 3.5 mile/4.61 mile run that exists in Strava and was deleted from TomTom.

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016



A second run also appears to have been deleted, though this run does not exist anywhere other than in a screen shot obtained by online investigators prior to its deletion. This session is shown below:

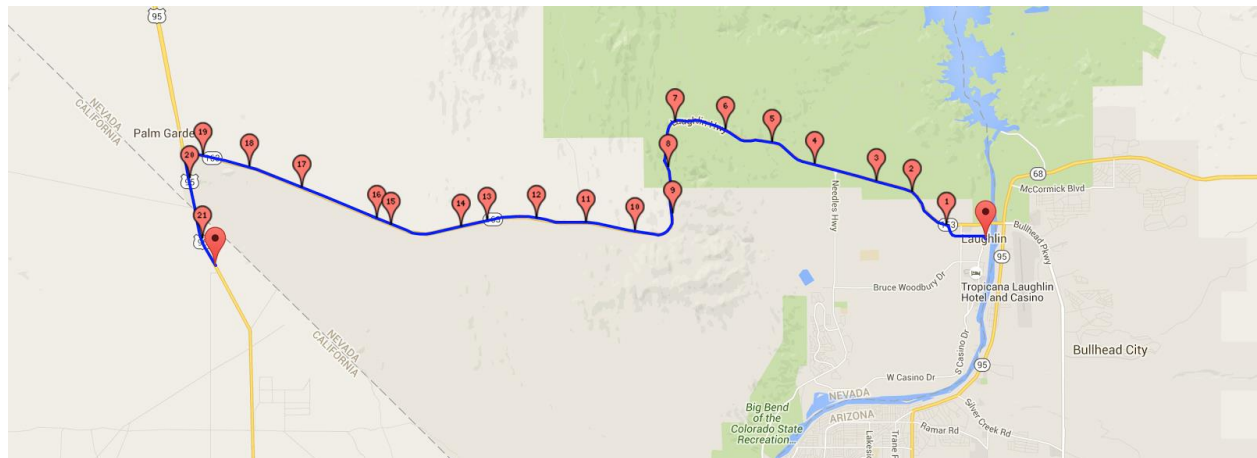


Note the 9.71 mile and 3.38 mile sessions – these overlap with the TomTom record provided to us, as shown in the figure above, and are the first and second sessions done that night, from the RV camp in Laughlin.

The 21.97 mile session, whose date and time are cut off at the bottom of the screen shot, has to have preceded those Laughlin sessions, but is now completely absent from all data records (and the watches we were provided), with the exception of this screen shot.

This 21.97 mile session would cover a large part of the missing data, and a duration of 3:42:16. Of interest is that the thumbnail of the session, to the right of the session details, is not visible, which suggests that it runs along a west-east axis (that is, is horizontal).

Internet investigators surmised that working backwards from the rest-site in Laughlin, a distance of 21.97km would produce the following map:



This map would produce a thumbnail that runs approximately west to east, and was surmised to be consistent with that observed in the cut-off screen shot of the now deleted TomTom record. We believe this is a valid possibility.

We have no explanation for why this 21.97-mile session has been deleted from all three records (TomTom, Strava and MapyMyRun), as well as from Young's post on Facebook. The run, 21.97 miles at 10:06 min/mile, is not by itself suspicious, yet is part of a series of deleted and potentially questionable runs on this day. It is possible that time-stamps and its start point would point to suspicious behavior in arriving at that start point along the I-95. That remains a subject of speculation, but it is indisputable that sessions have been altered and deleted for this part of the record attempt.

Summary of the RV breakdown incident

The overall summary from this RV breakdown incident is that:

- Data has been manipulated, both in the form of deletion of entire sessions that would have been deemed suspicious, and in the deletion of a segment of the record that is strongly suggestive of distance travelled in a vehicle;
- Data that was clearly logged and uploaded during the record attempt has been omitted from all three records provided to us – TomTom, MapyMyRun and Strava – for the purposes of our investigation;
- There is strong evidence that at least part of the distance between the breakdown point and the rest-site in Laughlin was covered in a vehicle
- In conclusion, the internet investigation (Source: Robert Young Investigation blog) has provided high quality evidence that is rigorous and supports both data manipulation and vehicle assistance. This can be read in more detail at the following link:
<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.co.uk/2016/06/rv-desert-adventure.html>

Kansas incident

On June 7, Asher Delmott posted the following to the website LetsRun.com, reproduced here in its entirety:¹¹

Robert Young, or Marathon Man, is currently attempting to break the record for fastest crossing of the USA on foot. (His website: <http://www.marathonmanuk.co.uk...a-on-foot/>)

I went out to to run a few miles with him since I thought he would be lonely running at 1:00 am in the middle of nowhere Kansas, and I thought it would be cool to be a part of something big like this. Below is my account of realizing this guy is faking it:

I wanted to run for a couple miles with the guy running across America, since I saw he was coming very near Lebo. I saw he was within 10 miles of Lebo, so I got in my car to find exactly how far away he was. I started driving west on old highway 50 from Lebo, and eventually passed an RV going east with an American flag on the back corner of the vehicle. I recognized that as the runner's RV, but I did not see anyone running. I thought the runner might have another support vehicle further back, so I kept driving. After a couple of miles, I checked his live tracking, and saw that the runner was indeed east of me. I took a screenshot of where the map said he was, then drove down the road. When I got close to the RV, I started filming, and still did not see a runner. They did not have hazard lights until I got somewhat close behind them. I decided to get out of my car at the next intersection to stand on the south side of the RV to get a better view. The next intersection was a main road, so I turned toward Lebo, and parked a block down the road. I ran back to old highway 50 and started going toward the RV. I didn't want them to stop before I got to them, so I ran up next to a house, and watched as the RV drove by with no runner in sight. I also took a screenshot of the map and took a video of the RV driving by. After it drove by, I ran into the highway, turned on my headlamp to strobe mode, and started running behind the RV. It was driving running speed, so I was making progress, but they saw my light and stopped. Someone got out of the passenger side of the RV, but when I got closer they got back in, and the RV drove off too fast for me to follow on foot. I ran back to my car, then drove to the highway. By that time, the RV had returned to the intersection of Fauna road and old highway 50. Someone was standing outside the RV, but I just drove past it heading east. I parked on the south side of the next intersection, and again, waited for the RV to pass. While waiting, I looked at the live tracking, and saw where the RV had driven away, and then come back, so I took a screenshot of that. I waited in my car for a few more minutes, and as the RV approached, I took another screenshot, and then another video as the RV drove by once again without anyone running beside it.*

**note: I turned my camera from vertical to horizontal around the two minute mark, so you have to turn your head 90 degrees to the left to see the RV driving by (or understand it is driving from bottom of the screen to the top).*

All of the screenshots and the first two videos are shared in Google Drive at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B0i6cerKgSc0cjdjMFQ3NW1JY1E>

¹¹ http://www.letsrun.com/forum/flat_read.php?thread=7355147

Unfortunately, they don't show my location in relation to Rob's, but I think I have location services turned on with my phone, so someone should have access to that data. The final video, I am having trouble sharing it any other way than Google Photos, so that link is: <https://goo.gl/photos/oK8L339ndAqJFZiPA>

I realize it is dark, so the videos don't show a whole lot, but here are some points to consider.

1) The highway he was running on has no shoulder, so he likely would have been running in front of the RV in order to use its lights, and to keep safe from cars. Cars behind would see the RV and avoid it, while cars in front would see him in the [headlights](#), as well as the RV. Rob does not appear in the [headlights](#) of any of my videos. If he did choose to run in the grass on the side of the road, I expect he would use a headlamp or flashlight, but again, there is no sign of a light other than those on the RV. The first video shows he was not running behind the RV, or in the oncoming traffic lane.

2) In my first video, you can also see the hazard lights of the RV turn on as I drive up from behind. It seems like support vehicles usually drive with their hazard lights on the whole time, but it makes sense that this group wouldn't if they are trying to avoid drawing attention to themselves.

3) Also, see his recent blogpost where Nancy Bennett attempted to run with him at night, and we unable to see him until the vehicle stopped (allowing him to exit the vehicle). It would be interesting to get her input on her experience compared to mine. The blog explains that Rob was just on the other side of the RV, but my multiple attempts allowed me to see all sides of the RV to ensure I did not just miss him on the other side (unless he is running circles around the RV).

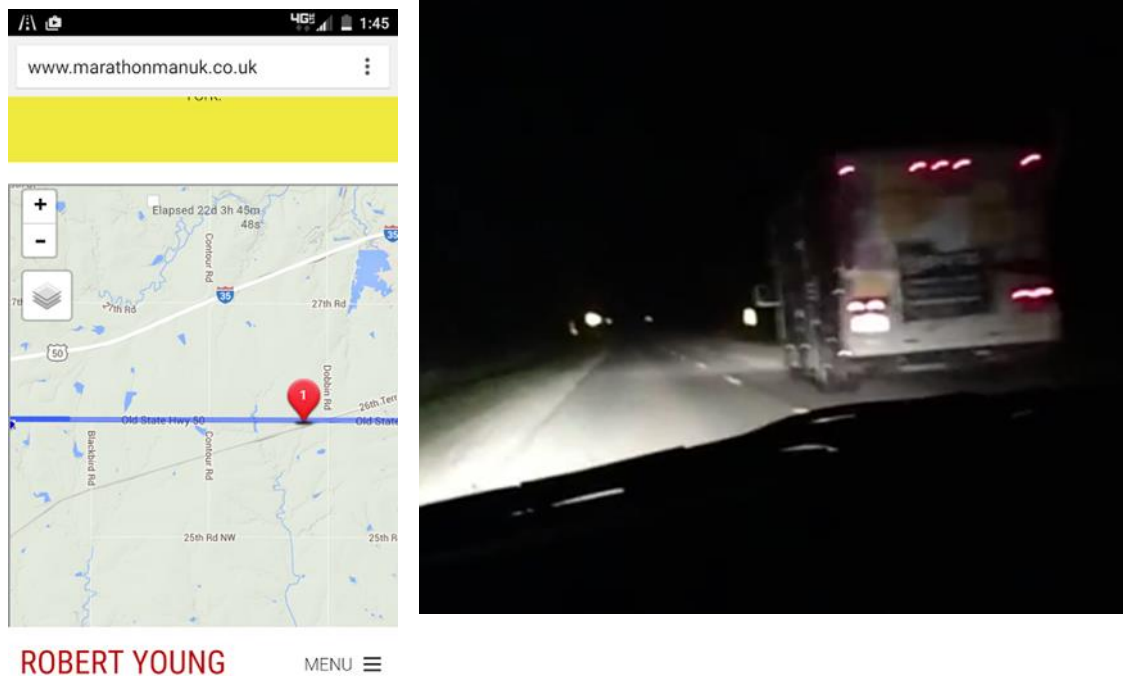
I am convinced that Robert is not completing all of the distance on foot, and I understand my screenshots and videos cannot definitively prove it, but I think it at least warrants a very close inspection of his attempt if he is to be awarded recognition for this. Maybe other people have an experience and/or evidence that also indicates he is not running the whole distance.

The posting kicked off a long series of discussions about Young's attempt (including about 500 pages of responses to Delmott's post, as of this writing), several stories in the mainstream media, the presence of the "Geezers" to observe Young, and ultimately, this investigation itself.

Delmott followed up this post by obtaining security footage from a gas station taken earlier in the night, which showed the RV used by the attempt driving by with Young nowhere in sight.

Here we review the "Kansas incident" based on the data made available to us, focused on (a) Delmott's late-night encounter, and (b) the gas station security footage. The evidence suggests that (a) Young was likely traveling by van when Delmott encountered it late at night, and (b) was not traveling by van when it was filmed by the gas station security camera earlier that same evening.

Below are images of the late-night encounter taken from a screenshot of Delmott's phone and a frame capture from one of the videos that he took.



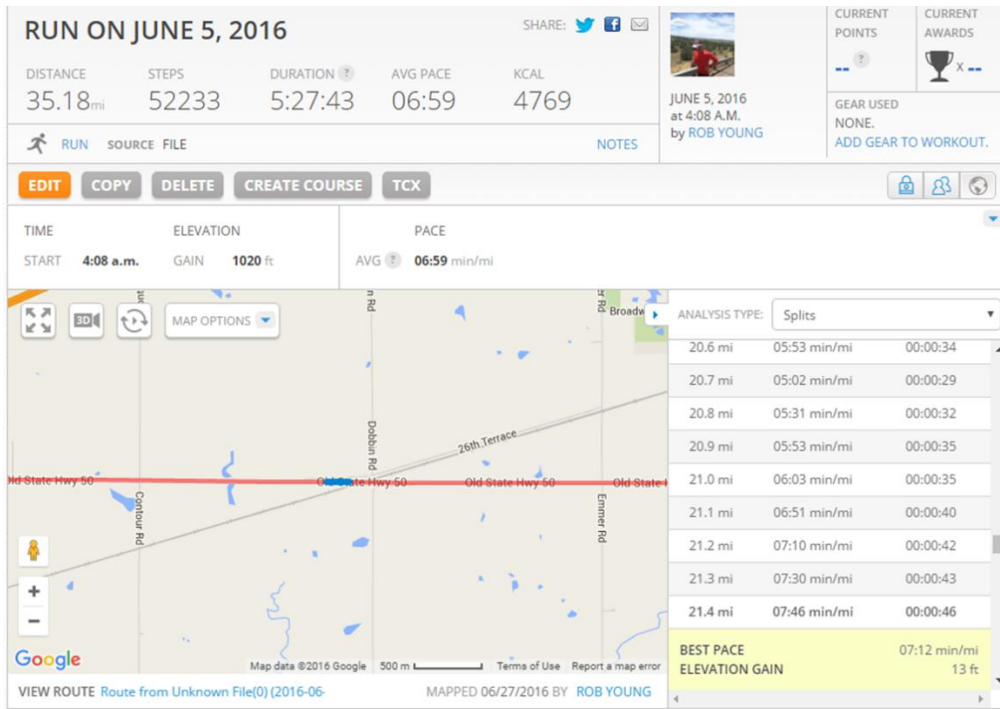
The mobile phone screenshot image above left shows the location of the RV according to the SPOT-3 tracker as displayed on Young's website when the video above right was being taken early in the morning (1:45am according to the screenshot) of June 5th. The time stamp on the phone image is the same as that on the car dashboard in the video (1:45am, not shown here)¹², indicating that they were taken at almost exactly the same time (within a minute).

We are able to match up the location shown on the mobile phone screenshot shown above with data from one of the runs uploaded by Young to MapMyRun, and that is shown below. The Strava version of this same run, posted publicly, was truncated by Young well before the Delmott encounter occurred (but included the time that Young had passed the gas station). Such truncation could only have been done deliberately.¹³

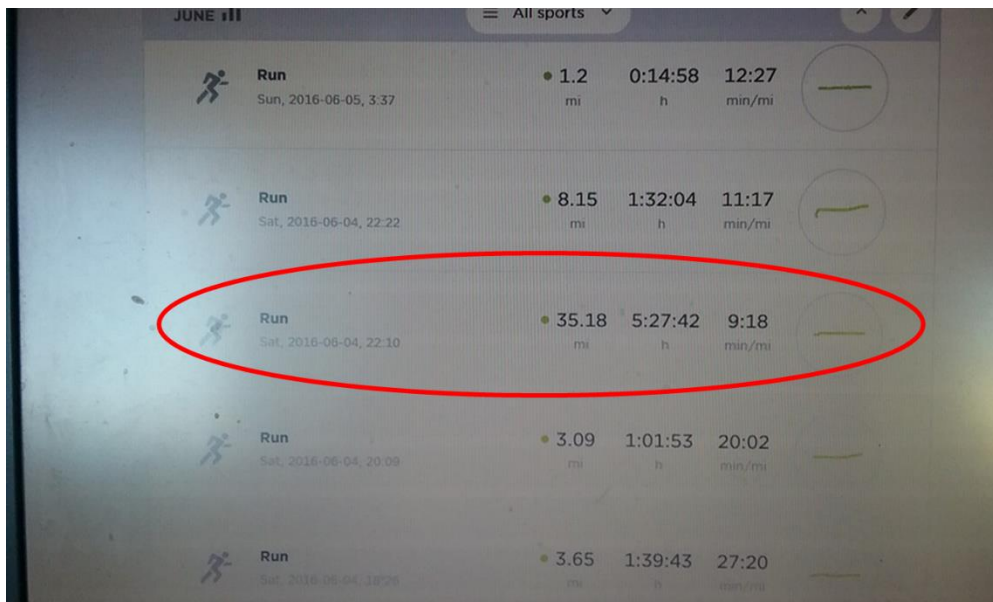
¹² The videos shot by Delmott can be found here:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B0i6cerKgSc0cjdjMFQ3NW1JY1E>

¹³ The truncation was made at the location of Mary's Bar, where the team had stopped for an extended period during the run that evening, see <https://www.strava.com/activities/617473068>

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016



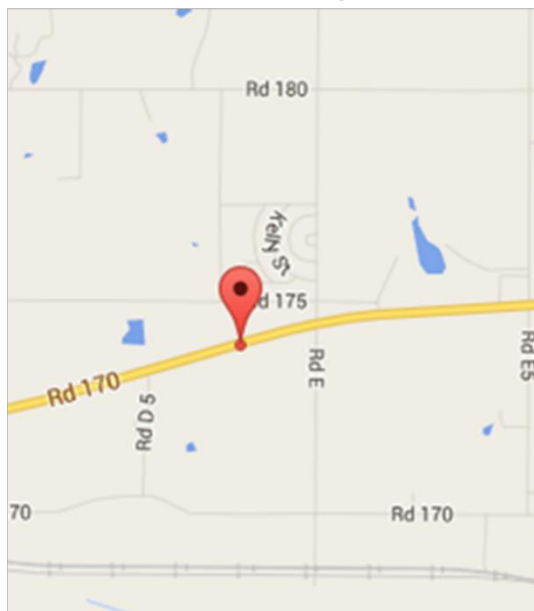
At the location indicated above in the MapMyRun file, Young was 21.4 miles and 3:30:19 into this run. This run started at 10:12PM the previous evening, according to the MapyMyRun file, which is 2 minutes offset from (later than) the starting time that TomTom reports for the same run, based on a screenshot that was uploaded to Facebook (and since deleted).¹⁴



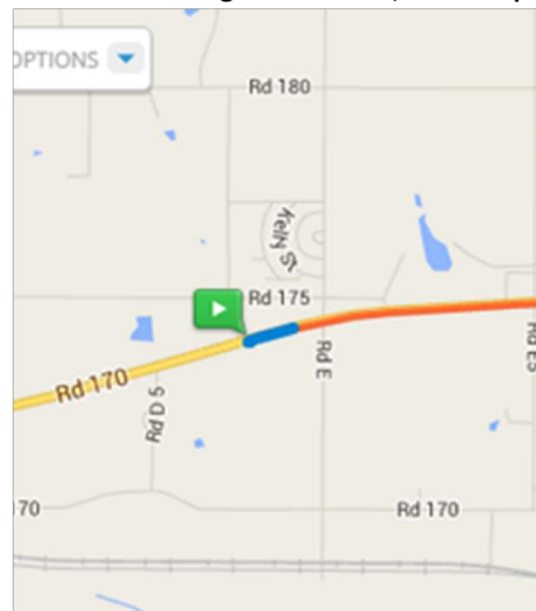
In addition, the SPOT-3 tracker locates itself at the starting point of the run at the nearest time that it reported its location (10:14PM), as shown below.¹⁵

¹⁴ The 2-minute discrepancy appeared consistently across all files between MapyMyRun and TomTom.
¹⁵ The SPOT-3 tracker reported its location periodically.

SPOT Tracker GPS at 10:14pm June 4th



Start of RY run night of June 4th, at 10:12 pm



Thus, we know that the SPOT-3 tracker (in the RV) and the TomTom watch (on Young) were co-located at the start of the run. The data also indicated that the SPOT-3 tracker and the TomTom watch were also co-located at 1:45AM, when Delmott encountered the RV.

From the videos taken by Delmott at 1:45AM and after, it is clear that Young is not running on either side of the vehicle, behind it or in front. The combination of location devices and the absence of Young running along with the vehicle can be explained in only two ways:

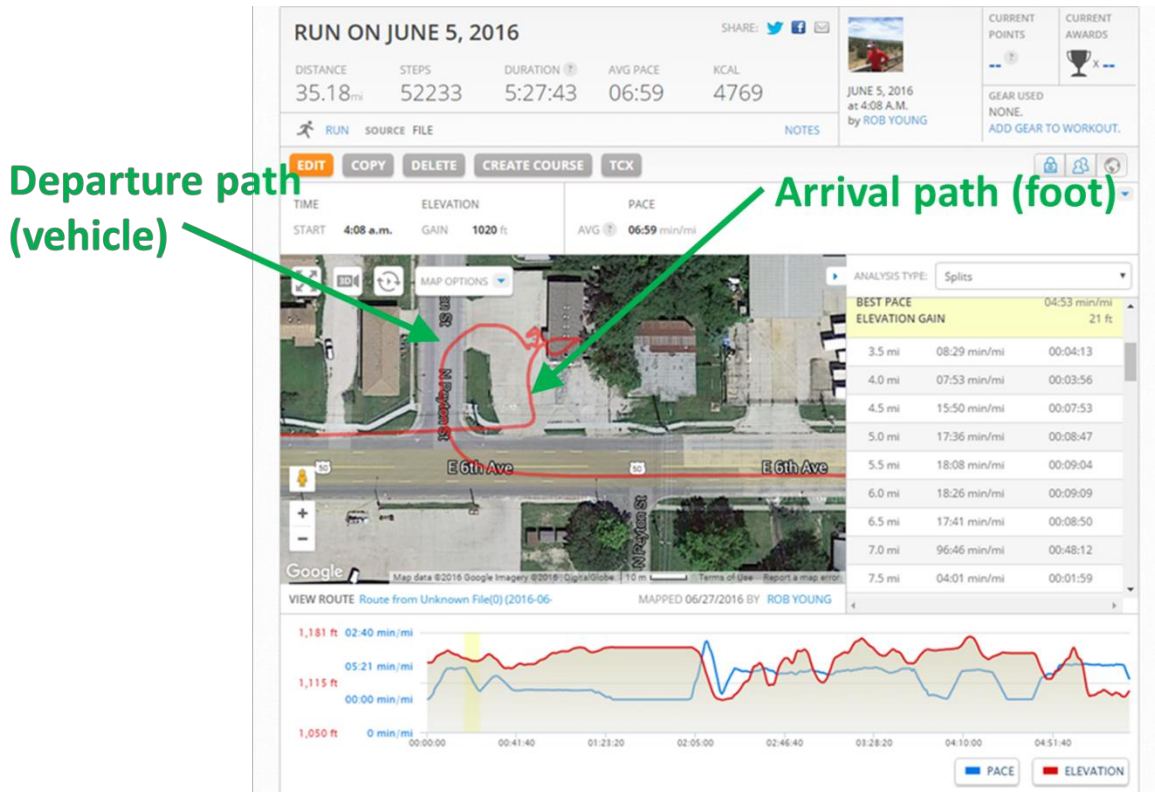
- 1) Young is running without the watches away from the RV, or
- 2) Young is traveling inside (or on) the RV.

There is no 3rd option. Young and Speicher emphatically ruled out the possibility of (1) and denied (2). We believe this combination of evidence indicates that Young was traveling with the vehicle.

Further evidence in support of Young traveling by vehicle can be found in the GPS track of the run that evening. The evidence indicates that during the run, earlier that same evening, Young became separated from the RV (discussed below) and reunited with it at a bar in Emporia, KS called Mary's Bar. The GPS data, displayed below with MapyMyRun clearly indicates that the watch-of-record being used that evening arrived at the bar on foot, based on the meandering path that it took through town, crossing streets, traveling by sidewalk on both sides of the road, and stooping at several bars, a liquor store and a residence.

The GPS data also suggest that the watch-of-record left Mary's Bar traveling in a vehicle, based on a path attributable to a vehicle rather than someone on foot. In addition, soon after leaving Mary's Bar the MapMyRun data indicates several stretches of travel at unrealistic speeds, such as 2.0 miles covered in less than 6 minutes (mile 6.7 to 8.7 was covered in 5 minutes 56 seconds).¹⁶ That spike in speed can be seen in the image below (blue curve) just after 2:05 hours.

¹⁶ That file is available at <http://www.mapmyfitness.com/workout/1567628768>



Before leaving this episode, we will briefly discuss the gas station security footage that showed the RV passing by without Young in sight, shown below.



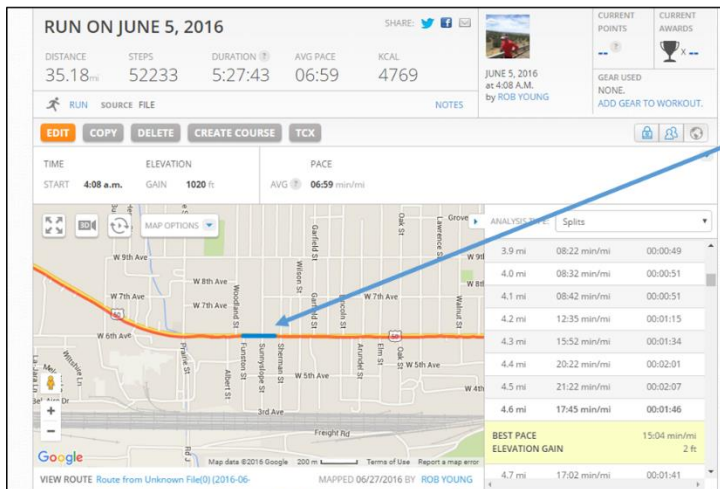
We asked Delmott to confirm the accuracy of the time stamp on the video with the gas station, and he related to us that the security camera was running 5:55 minutes behind the actual time. This correction allowed us to accurately match up the SPOT-3 Tracker and the run data, as posted to MapMy Run.

A person with a light walked by the gas station at about 10:50 pm, as shown below.

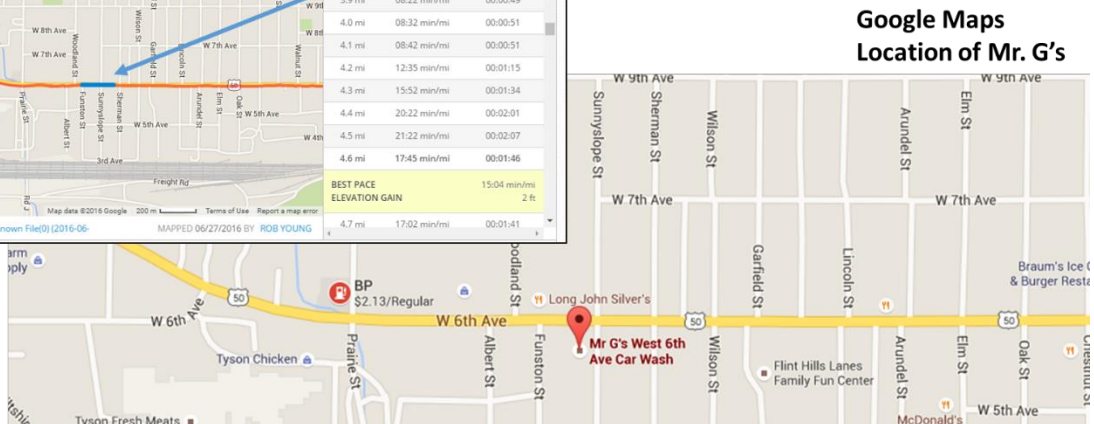
FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016



The MapyMyRun data indicated that Young passed the gas station during the segment 39:52 to 41:38 minutes into the run, shown in the figure below.



Location of watch-of-record during run, based on data provided by RY. Blue segment indicates passage of Mr. G's



If Young's run started at 10:12 pm (10:10pm according to TomTom), then he would have passed the gas station at approximately 10:50-10:52, which matches up extremely well with the corrected security footage time stamp. Thus, we find it plausible that the person in the footage walking by could have been Rob Young. Regardless, we do not believe that Young was riding in the van when it passed the gas station cameras.

Here again, we find the online analyses of the Kansas episode to be largely correct, with the exception that we do not believe Young to have been in the vehicle when the gas station security footage showed the RV passing by with no runner. The evidence does suggest that Young was traveling by vehicle when encountered by Delmott later that evening.

Best practices for data collection, disclosure and verification for “Guinness”- Type Athletics Records

We offer brief comments on data collection, disclosure and verification for efforts to break “Guinness”-type athletic records.

Collection

Given the wide availability of accurate, wearable GPS technology, and the speed with which data gathered from watches can be shared to multiple platforms, any record attempt involving time and distance feats should be very manageable and the emphasis should be on total transparency and full disclosure. Such transparency is neither difficult nor costly, given today’s technology.

It is also not feasible to require a record attempt to have independent observers for its entirety, given the length and duration of many of these attempts. Therefore, while having the level of observation that was provided to Young for the final six days of this record attempt would be desirable, it should not be a pre-requisite. Instead, the provision of data that includes GPS parameters and cadence and heart rate would be sufficient. The TomTom data collected by the watches used by Young would have been sufficient to identify irregularities in his attempt, in real time, had the data been uploaded in full each day.

Disclosure

- Data must be uploaded daily, at a minimum. At least two platforms/apps should be used, and both should be updated directly from the device, using the raw files, rather than uploading into one platform and then using the data file for another, secondary platform;
- Data must include cadence, and heart rate;
- For redundancy, it would be preferable that two watches should be worn at all times, and uploaded into two separate accounts;
- The raw data, in the form of the watches, must be kept for a minimum of 12-months prior to completion of the record attempt; No data should be manipulated or deleted;
- During attempt itself, any interruption to the normal progress of the run should be indicated either in the form of a marker in the record, or the termination of that record and continuation in a new record/session. For instance, if the runner/cyclist is forced to stop for any reason, or to suddenly get into a vehicle, the session must be ended or marked for future identification, with a new session or lap created when the attempt resumes; The data record should be complete from start to finish, with no data gaps;

- An up-to-date, regularly updating tracker of the location of the runner must be provided at all times, which would allow any observer to intercept the runner, either to join them for a period or to simply observe them unannounced

Verification

Such attempts will be more legitimate if an independent group of experts is used to verify the collection and verification of the data of the attempt and to vouch for it. Such experts should be compensated for their time, which would not compromise their independence, as such compensation will inevitably be small in the context of the consequences to their public reputation should they be found to be complicit in any falsification of the attempt. Such expert verification should be considered analogous to the role played by independent financial auditors in evaluating business finances.

Appendix A: Full record of logged TomTom sessions

Session	Date	D/N start?	Distance (miles)	Min	Sec	Pace (min/mile)	Stride rate (steps/min)
1	13-May	n	30.17	244	0	8.1	69
2	14-May	d	2.23	31	21	14.1	131
3	14-May	d	6.14	84	25	13.7	136
4	14-May	d	5.27	90	59	17.3	91
5	14-May	d	0.01	2	50		9
6	14-May	n	30.2	242	17	8.0	115
7	15-May	n	5.99	68	24	11.4	126
8	15-May	n	13.04	162	30	12.5	115
9	15-May	n	16.33	210	57	12.9	124
10	15-May	n	6.48	114	15	17.6	112
11	15-May	d	9.17	124	44	13.6	123
12	15-May	d	2.7	55	39	20.6	82
13	15-May	d	3.06	52	38	17.2	104
14	15-May	d	7.05	127	43	18.1	95
15	15-May	d	4.82	65	9	13.5	123
16	15-May	d	3.35	56	42	16.9	105
17	15-May	d	1.65	65	37	39.8	50
18	16-May	n	4.81	98	48	20.5	81
19	16-May	n	8.1	126	51	15.7	109
20	16-May	d	9.05	179	16	19.8	93
21	16-May	d	1.59	27	8	17.1	109
22	16-May	d	7.17	118	58	16.6	107
23	16-May	d	2.59	92	50	35.8	25
24	16-May	d	4.48	72	40	16.2	113
25	16-May	d	6.65	146	15	22.0	83
26	16-May	d	6.22	113	1	18.2	114
27	16-May	n	18.72	207	9	11.1	87
28	17-May	n	0	23	7		0
29	17-May	n	7.14	284	30	39.8	27
30	17-May	n	5.3	94	0	17.7	97
31	17-May	d	3.97	81	18	20.5	92
32	17-May	d	4.07	67	37	16.6	86
33	17-May	d	3.53	90	52	25.7	77
34	17-May	d	7.31	129	10	17.7	114
35	17-May	d	0.43	22	11	51.6	43
36	17-May	n	14.29	139	33	9.8	40
37	17-May	n	5.99	45	37	7.6	23

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

38	18-May	n	8.08	49	33	6.1	26
39	18-May	n	2.87	18	8	6.3	28
40	18-May	n	3.81	170	30	44.8	26
41	18-May	n	9.71	146	19	15.1	83
42	18-May	n	3.38	50	41	15.0	42
43	19-May	n	13.8	130	38	9.5	16
44	19-May	n	7.96	112	58	14.2	80
45	19-May	d	3.49	91	13	26.1	78
46	19-May	d	5.65	102	37	18.2	111
47	19-May	d	8.21	205	36	25.0	77
48	19-May	d	2.81	32	3	11.4	129
49	20-May	d	26.82	306	23	11.4	21
50	20-May	d	10.18	89	33	8.8	10
51	20-May	d	6.11	82	24	13.5	108
52	20-May	d	1.02	9	1	8.8	151
53	20-May	d	4.44	62	17	14.0	120
54	20-May	n	6.18	112	17	18.2	115
55	20-May	n	1.96	33	51	17.3	110
56	20-May	n	5.5	89	43	16.3	102
57	21-May	n	24.09	249	58	10.4	7
58	21-May	n	4.76	93	40	19.7	90
59	21-May	d	5.64	38	48	6.9	4
60	21-May	d	8.18	54	41	6.7	9
61	21-May	d	6.17	110	0	17.8	107
62	21-May	d	1.29	34	17	26.6	100
63	21-May	d	4.75	83	41	17.6	104
64	21-May	d	4.91	89	46	18.3	94
65	21-May	n	3.82	74	8	19.4	108
66	21-May	n	24.76	215	32	8.7	31
67	22-May	n	11.55	84	5	7.3	6
68	22-May	n	8.26	98	42	11.9	29
69	22-May	d	4.02	56	41	14.1	89
70	22-May	d	5.46	99	52	18.3	80
71	22-May	d	3.96	78	36	19.8	77
72	22-May	n	8.42	161	33	19.2	74
73	22-May	n	3.56	63	26	17.8	84
74	23-May	n	10.34	81	8	7.8	3
75	23-May	n	11.17	89	2	8.0	2
76	23-May	n	4.26	28	39	6.7	78
77	23-May	n	14.7	106	59	7.3	10
78	23-May	d	7.15	59	40	8.3	30

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

79	23-May	d	6.13	103	6	16.8	99
80	23-May	d	3.78	61	59	16.4	113
81	23-May	d	2.88	30	20	10.5	83
82	23-May	d	12.47	140	54	11.3	73
83	23-May	n	2.2	37	43	17.1	108
84	23-May	n	14.27	109	43	7.7	3
85	23-May	n	0.38	58	7	152.9	16
86	24-May	n	7.94	52	15	6.6	18
87	24-May	n	11.99	78	22	6.5	32
88	24-May	d	5.48	85	27	15.6	85
89	24-May	d	5.73	108	40	19.0	101
90	24-May	d	3.28	41	37	12.7	154
91	24-May	d	2.91	50	58	17.5	111
92	24-May	d	2.04	44	27	21.8	90
93	24-May	d	3.27	52	15	16.0	112
94	24-May	d	14.34	138	43	9.7	30
95	24-May	n	2.91	33	11	11.4	42
96	24-May	n	15.26	122	52	8.1	8
97	25-May	n	6.57	48	8	7.3	3
98	25-May	n	4.98	40	26	8.1	5
99	25-May	n	5.28	39	36	7.5	7
100	25-May	n	2.28	15	48	6.9	18
101	25-May	n	0.03	0	47	26.1	-
102	25-May	d	5.75	64	39	11.2	132
103	25-May	d	3.25	47	34	14.6	125
104	25-May	d	3.46	62	7	18.0	115
105	25-May	d	1.1	12	13	11.1	117
106	25-May	d	1.46	17	47	12.2	152
107	25-May	d	1.48	30	38	20.7	99
108	25-May	d	0.52	8	4	15.5	117
109	25-May	d	2.1	45	50	21.8	71
110	25-May	d	3.26	50	45	15.6	59
111	25-May	d	4.78	76	21	16.0	82
112	25-May	n	20.67	144	31	7.0	29
113	25-May	n	10.82	86	34	8.0	3
114	26-May	n	0	8	16		5
115	26-May	n	11.19	74	0	6.6	18
116	26-May	n	10.18	70	33	6.9	35
117	26-May	d	5.82	65	0	11.2	92
118	26-May	d	5.16	61	16	11.9	86
119	26-May	d	4.27	21	2	4.9	101

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

120	26-May	d	8.94	122	34	13.7	100
121	26-May	d	4.88	81	7	16.6	104
122	26-May	n	16.84	169	53	10.1	6
123	27-May	n	4.61	30	51	6.7	1
124	27-May	n	4.65	69	15	14.9	30
125	27-May	n	5.27	50	41	9.6	2
126	27-May	n	3.77	40	48	10.8	19
127	27-May	n	2.69	23	48	8.8	20
128	27-May	n	2.97	18	5	6.1	13
129	27-May	d	6.73	40	12	6.0	2
130	27-May	d	4.46	30	4	6.7	21
131	27-May	d	3.22	34	55	10.8	58
132	27-May	d	6.13	111	56	18.3	94
133	27-May	d	1.46	31	33	21.6	90
134	27-May	d	4.69	58	53	12.6	114
135	27-May	d	5.54	81	37	14.7	79
136	28-May	n	25.6	214	0	8.4	22
137	28-May	n	13.03	145	59	11.2	51
138	28-May	d	3.05	80	48	26.5	73
139	28-May	d	15.04	132	3	8.8	15
140	28-May	d	6.12	89	16	14.6	127
141	28-May	d	8.25	158	44	19.2	102
142	28-May	n	25.36	166	33	6.6	2
143	29-May	n	5.49	45	41	8.3	2
144	29-May	n	11.61	89	29	7.7	16
145	29-May	d	8.24	58	58	7.2	6
146	29-May	d	4.49	33	41	7.5	24
147	29-May	d	4.81	54	39	11.4	114
148	29-May	d	4.16	56	38	13.6	120
149	29-May	d	2.25	32	40	14.5	115
150	29-May	d	3.94	70	10	17.8	112
151	29-May	d	4.75	81	56	17.2	108
152	29-May	n	31.98	258	30	8.1	16
153	30-May	n	15.2	102	9	6.7	10
154	30-May	n	8.25	53	15	6.5	8
155	30-May	n	5.85	91	48	15.7	48
156	30-May	d	3.83	60	11	15.7	103
157	30-May	d	2.23	50	13	22.5	91
158	30-May	d	3.6	103	23	28.7	73
159	30-May	d	14.22	113	57	8.0	18
160	30-May	n	3.71	54	4	14.6	58

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

161	30-May	n	20.66	163	0	7.9	4
162	31-May	n	6.56	43	57	6.7	0
163	31-May	n	7.69	63	34	8.3	27
164	31-May	n	2.82	28	50	10.2	39
165	31-May	d	5.12	46	32	9.1	57
166	31-May	d	2.7	58	10	21.5	97
167	31-May	d	1.92	38	7	19.9	102
168	31-May	d	0.18	15	8	84.1	14
169	31-May	d	2.01	37	42	18.8	95
170	31-May	d	6.02	138	6	22.9	93
171	31-May	n	25.74	173	52	6.8	8
172	01-Jun	n	16.21	106	18	6.6	4
173	01-Jun	n	12.2	80	22	6.6	30
174	01-Jun	d	3.95	34	50	8.8	49
175	01-Jun	d	6.4	67	45	10.6	136
176	01-Jun	d	1.11	21	59	19.8	102
177	01-Jun	d	1.17	23	18	19.9	99
178	01-Jun	d	3.84	63	1	16.4	94
179	01-Jun	d	5.07	97	12	19.2	94
180	01-Jun	n	30.18	233	17	7.7	11
181	02-Jun	n	20.65	132	54	6.4	8
182	02-Jun	n	7.14	81	6	11.4	44
183	02-Jun	d	1.3	20	2	15.4	77
184	02-Jun	d	4.21	80	4	19.0	94
185	02-Jun	d	8.94	167	42	18.8	102
186	02-Jun	d	2.47	52	9	21.1	95
187	02-Jun	d	1.01	20	8	19.9	100
188	02-Jun	d	1.84	35	48	19.5	104
189	02-Jun	d	0.92	22	14	24.2	73
190	02-Jun	n	35.99	333	4	9.3	12
191	03-Jun	n	6.42	44	11	6.9	20
192	03-Jun	n	4.97	35	36	7.2	24
193	03-Jun	d	8.07	59	34	7.4	46
194	03-Jun	d	5.16	59	22	11.5	46
195	03-Jun	d	0.37	13	25	36.3	35
196	03-Jun	d	4.06	68	24	16.8	101
197	03-Jun	d	3.79	44	31	11.7	77
198	03-Jun	d	3.46	72	29	20.9	70
199	03-Jun	n	25.04	197	8	7.9	21
200	03-Jun	n	8.38	124	56	14.9	118
201	04-Jun	n	1.5	25	49	17.2	112

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

202	04-Jun	n	10.35	94	43	9.2	30
203	04-Jun	n	0	29	5		-
204	04-Jun	n	8.74	64	45	7.4	4
205	04-Jun	d	6.06	43	58	7.3	35
206	04-Jun	d	1.13	24	4	21.3	71
207	04-Jun	d	5.04	128	34	25.5	83
208	04-Jun	d	2.95	45	57	15.6	110
209	04-Jun	d	3.65	99	43	27.3	65
210	04-Jun	n	3.09	82	53	26.8	77
211	04-Jun	n	35.18	327	42	9.3	29
212	04-Jun	n	8.15	92	4	11.3	2
213	05-Jun	n	1.2	14	58	12.5	26
214	05-Jun	n	4.47	112	57	25.3	57
215	05-Jun	n	0.21	5	46	27.5	77
216	05-Jun	d	0.04	0	0		-
217	05-Jun	d	3.2	51	11	16.0	111
218	05-Jun	d	1.57	25	39	16.3	40
219	05-Jun	n	10.54	90	13	8.6	13
220	05-Jun	n	9.86	69	5	7.0	1
221	06-Jun	n	8.82	64	26	7.3	2
222	06-Jun	n	18.19	205	41	11.3	54
223	06-Jun	d	0.07	2	7	30.2	60
224	06-Jun	d	3.73	61	5	16.4	96
225	06-Jun	d	2.2	26	51	12.2	86
226	06-Jun	d	3.75	73	34	19.6	74
227	06-Jun	d	3.19	33	53	10.6	80
228	06-Jun	n	28.09	267	8	9.5	28
229	07-Jun	n	9.83	71	24	7.3	10
230	07-Jun	n	9.24	91	11	9.9	47
231	07-Jun	d	0.03	1	24	46.7	39
232	07-Jun	d	2.22	20	2	9.0	146
233	07-Jun	d	11.69	195	35	16.7	110
234	07-Jun	d	8.73	133	46	15.3	109
235	07-Jun	n	3.42	68	26	20.0	97
236	07-Jun	n	2.88	63	48	22.2	77
237	07-Jun	n	5.95	77	9	13.0	63
238	08-Jun	n	7.58	107	14	14.1	107
239	08-Jun	d	6.15	94	26	15.4	99
240	08-Jun	d	0				3
241	08-Jun	d	3.41	47	29	13.9	121
242	08-Jun	d	4.03	68	19	17.0	106

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

243	08-Jun	d	2.55	48	35	19.1	107
244	08-Jun	d	7.03	133	30	19.0	93
245	08-Jun	d	0.37	5	27	14.7	126
246	08-Jun	d	13.43	182	25	13.6	124
247	08-Jun	n	7.96	178	22	22.4	87
248	09-Jun	n	9.05	232	32	25.7	73
249	09-Jun	d	7.83	144	53	18.5	106
250	09-Jun	d	3.78	68	38	18.2	105
251	09-Jun	d	5.16	96	10	18.6	109
252	09-Jun	d	2.02	43	38	21.6	99
253	09-Jun	n	9.08	132	21	14.6	120
254	09-Jun	n	5.25	91	26	17.4	102
255	10-Jun	n	2.98	53	6	17.8	108
256	10-Jun	n	0.64	15	58	24.9	92
257	10-Jun	d	9.6	187	44	19.6	96
258	10-Jun	d	1.03	21	26	20.8	97
259	10-Jun	d	2.36	96	43	41.0	47
260	10-Jun	d	0	16	25		3
261	10-Jun	d	7.35	106	41	14.5	124
262	10-Jun	d	2.23	25	12	11.3	133
263	10-Jun	n	3.63	34	52	9.6	144
264	11-Jun	n	5.49	99	50	18.2	100
265	11-Jun	d	0	0	25	-	31
266	11-Jun	d	4.44	200	52	45.2	38
267	11-Jun	d	15.13	263	10	17.4	101
268	11-Jun	n	19.41	261	11	13.5	122
269	12-Jun	n	2.91	39	6	13.4	108
270	12-Jun	d	0.03	3	28		21
271	12-Jun	d	5.66	104	22	18.4	89
272	12-Jun	d	1.83	39	30	21.6	99
273	12-Jun	d	0	0	2	-	-
274	12-Jun	d	9.04	193	18	21.4	89
275	12-Jun	d	2.32	45	12	19.5	99
276	12-Jun	d	2.37	44	10	18.6	109
277	12-Jun	d	3.26	42	36	13.1	133
278	12-Jun	d	1.92	28	35	14.9	126
279	12-Jun	d	0.52	9	3	17.4	108
280	13-Jun	n	6.12	72	35	11.9	131
281	13-Jun	n	6.18	75	0	12.1	132
282	13-Jun	n	5.29	67	2	12.7	120
283	13-Jun	n	3.13	64	42	20.7	98

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

284	13-Jun	d	11.02	148	26	13.5	120
285	13-Jun	d	7.93	111	49	14.1	122
286	13-Jun	d	6.7	119	1	17.8	102
287	13-Jun	d	2.71	37	30	13.8	119
288	13-Jun	d	4.87	108	10	22.2	97
289	14-Jun	n	0.09	0	8	1.5	-
290	14-Jun	n	9.07	117	32	13.0	126
291	14-Jun	n	10.58	144	0	13.6	118
292	14-Jun	n	2.21	55	18	25.0	79
293	14-Jun	d	0.22	6	53	31.3	78
294	14-Jun	d	9.8	193	34	19.8	94
295	14-Jun	d	4.46	82	23	18.5	101
296	14-Jun	d	5.34	80	6	15.0	122
297	14-Jun	d	5.99	73	22	12.2	129
298	14-Jun	d	4.05	76	43	18.9	99
299	14-Jun	d	0.4	8	37	21.5	91
300	14-Jun	d	2.06	44	55	21.8	85
301	14-Jun	d	2.93	29	38	10.1	138
302	14-Jun	d	2.58	83	47	32.5	52
303	15-Jun	n	17.74	249	23	14.1	118
304	15-Jun	n	0.64	13	24	20.9	93
305	15-Jun	n	1.37	64	43	47.2	40
306	15-Jun	d	1.43	36	5	25.2	86
307	15-Jun	d	6.67	167	5	25.0	81
308	15-Jun	d	3.25	58	15	17.9	115
309	15-Jun	d	4.43	109	56	24.8	83
310	15-Jun	d	3.62	98	26	27.2	78
311	15-Jun	n	22.91	271	23	11.8	133
312	16-Jun	n	2.18	33	30	15.4	114
313	16-Jun	n	1.84	41	17	22.4	104
314	16-Jun	d	4.66	102	27	22.0	95
315	16-Jun	d	2.35	192	30	81.9	27
316	16-Jun	d	10.1	155	29	15.4	116
317	16-Jun	d	7.58	109	34	14.5	113
318	16-Jun	d	3.35	78	2	23.3	82
319	16-Jun	d	4.86	81	22	16.7	112
320	16-Jun	d	1.58	29	45	18.8	101
321	16-Jun	n	5.21	215	56	41.4	51
322	16-Jun	d	4.19	119	32	28.5	72

Appendix B: Submissions Received by the Inquiry

Michael Connor **1 July 2016**

Dear Sirs,

I understand Rob Young has committed to offering access to the actual TomTom files. Just in case that doesn't work out, you may or may not be aware of a large crowdsourced data collection and analysis effort already underway, based on lesser quality data sources such as his RV tracker and Strava account.

No doubt you will conduct your own analysis, but I hope the following references and data sources may be of use to you. I urge you to consider them carefully along with your independent findings, as internet users have already made several uncanny observations and analyses:

<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.com> (I am the author)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NBkfw48Jv6JIP0gBLP5JbPt6qz5Qfyf105fIXYa_hAk/edit?pref=2&pli=1# (document produced jointly by LetsRun.com forum posters)

Thank you,

Michael Connor

Also, please consider digital media as a part of the dataset. Photos and videos taken along the way may prove useful to determine his location via EXIF data (which is stripped by Facebook) or, for example, to determine his physical condition (looking awfully pale and fresh early on...)

Likewise, a lack of photographic evidence may also prove useful (for example, Rob claims to have run hundreds of sub-7 miles, yet there is not a single video depicting even a brief time at this pace on his Facebook - they are nearly all of him walking or jogging).

Good luck,

Mike

Anne Garnish **1 July 2016**

Dear Professor Pielke and Professor Tucker

I am providing the following submissions to be taken into account during your investigation into Robert Young for SKINS. Although my points may be minor, I believe they provide background insight into Robert Young.

1. Robert Young inappropriately described himself on social media as "Professional Athlete with British Athletics". I contacted British Athletics by email on 13th June to query this title, as did other runners, and Robert swiftly removed it from his page. A screenshot of the claim is attached (Fig 1). I used my personal email address, the one I am using now, to contact British Athletics, and will provide a copy of this email if requested.
2. Robert Young's previous race results are listed on the international resource "Power of 10" and runbritain rankings. One of these, the Thames Meander marathon from August 2014, incorrectly recorded his marathon finishing time as 3:11. The official race results showed him completing it in 3:56. I contacted Power Of 10 using my own athlete ID to question this result, and received a response two days later stating "Not sure why it was changed, but we've had a check and have amended to match the official results". Unfortunately I did not screenshot the PowerOf10 page showing the incorrect listing, but attach a copy of my email and the reply (Fig 2)
3. He claims he won win bronze in a European Triathlon championship in 2004 at Immenstadt. This was referred to by a contemporaneous post on Runners World forum by a user "Doubly Bionic Ironman", who continues to be a regular poster there (Fig 3). However, after some research I finally found the results from this race, which does not list him at all. I verified these were the correct results by cross-checking the other athlete names. (Fig 4). An anonymous, unsubstantiated commentor on LetsRun stated that Robert had previously been disqualified from other triathlon competitions, although as yet the race organisers of the 2004 Immenstadt race have not replied to advise whether or not Robert gained 3rd and was subsequently disqualified. However, the results clearly show that he did not win bronze, or any other accolade, at that event.
4. His three marathons in two days, the order of these, and the creation of marathonmanuk in 2014 do not match the claims in his book. If you would find it helpful, information from his MapyMyRun and Facebook page, plus the date of website registrations, can be provided. This evidence also shows he had previously registered websites to act as a run race director several years previously. The implication of points 1 to 4 here is that he has not always been honest and transparent regarding his claims, results or motivations.
5. Following the termination of his TransCon attempt, he uploaded TomTom data to two new Strava accounts. He did not use his existing Strava account. One of the new accounts

was in his name (Rob Young), the second in the name of his wife (Joanna Hanasz). The uploads were partially duplicated between the two accounts, so did not reflect one TomTom watch being uploaded to one account, and a second watch to a second account. The uploads to the Joanna account were direct from a TomTom watch, as can be seen in the top right of the screenshots (Fig 5 attached for reference), whereas the data uploaded to the Rob Young account were .gpx files, hence not a direct upload from a watch (Fig 6). Note that Fig 5 would represent a marathon-pace run and a 2:52 km pace, several days into his TransCon attempt, which is highly unlikely.

6. A quantity of the data uploaded to the Joanna account showed highly unlikely speeds and splits, and a lot of these were deleted very shortly afterwards and have not been added to the now-public Rob Young account. Further to the Joanna run attached as Fig 6, I show here the data from a run on the following evening of May 20th - again uploaded to Joanna - which shows in-credible consistency of speed and splits over a sustained climb (Figs 7 to 9)

I understand that a number of other runners and investigators will be contacting you with the results of the interrogation of data from LetsRun, Marathon Investigator and other sources. Whilst the Google Doc is not easy to follow, the blog posts by Derek (Marathon Investigator, known on LetsRun as RYInvestigator) provide interesting analysis in straight forward language. However, if you have NOT been contacted regarding these documents and analyses then please visit:

<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.co.uk/>

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NBkfw48Jv6JIP0gBLP5JbPt6qz5Qfyf105fIXYa_hAk/e/dit?pref=2&pli=1#

These contain compelling evidence that portions of the TransCon attempt were not completed under Robert Young's own locomotive power, but possibly using a bicycle (supported by at least one GPX file on a bicycle ridden by Dustin, which duplicates the same section run by Robert Young), or by riding in the support vehicle.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Kind regards

Anne Garnish

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

Joanna Hanasz – Run Give Kudos 0 0



Name	Time	Distance	Pace	Elev Diff	HR
★ Historic U.S. 86 Climb	44:39	8.1km	7:18/km	238m	—
★ Historic U.S. 86 Climb	10:59	2.0km	5:15/km	108m	—

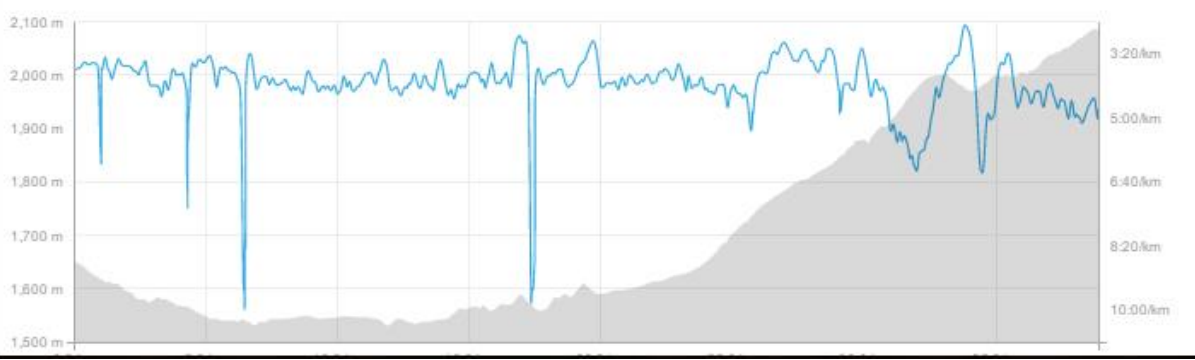
STRAVA LABS [View Flybys](#) Device: TomTom GPS Sport Watch Shoes: —

TOP RESULTS

- Best estimated 30k effort (2:38:19)
- 2nd best estimated Half-Marathon effort (1:48:21)
- 2nd best estimated 20k effort (1:43:02)
- 2nd best estimated 1 mile effort (5:20)


Splits

KM	Pace	GAP	Elev
1	3:38 /km	4:08 /km	-35 m
2	3:54 /km	4:10 /km	-24 m
3	3:48 /km	3:58 /km	-14 m
4	4:05 /km	4:14 /km	-12 m
5	4:04 /km	4:21 /km	-18 m
6	3:43 /km	3:51 /km	-9 m
7	4:33 /km	4:31 /km	-3 m
8	4:03 /km	3:58 /km	6 m
9	4:08 /km	4:04 /km	4 m
10	4:13 /km	4:14 /km	-2 m
11	4:10 /km	4:08 /km	1 m
12	3:51 /km	4:03 /km	-15 m
13	4:11 /km	4:07 /km	2 m



FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

Joanna Hanzasz – Run Give Kudos 0 0




8:56 PM on Friday, May 20, 2016
Evening Run

STRAVA LABS
View Flybys

38.8km <small>Distance</small>	2:39:55 <small>Moving Time</small>	4:07/km <small>Pace</small>
<small>Elevation</small>	667m	<small>Calories</small> —
<small>Elapsed Time</small>	4:09:58	
<small>Device: TomTom GPS Sport Watch</small>	<small>Shoes: —</small>	

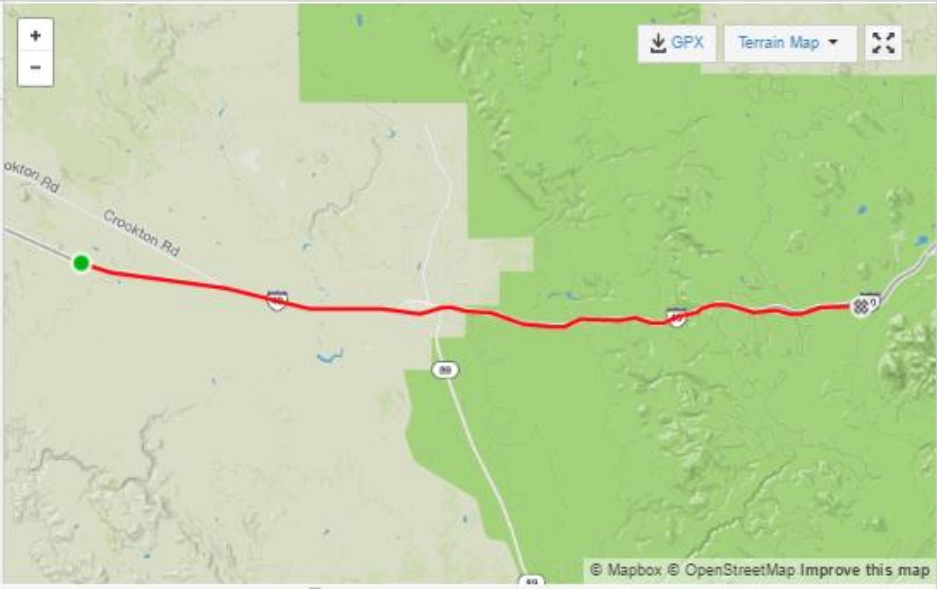
TOP RESULTS



- Best estimated 30k effort (2:38:19)**
- 2nd best estimated Half-Marathon effort (1:48:21)**
- 2nd best estimated 20k effort (1:43:02)**
- 2nd best estimated 1 mile effort (5:20)**


Splits

KM	Pace	GAP	Elev
1	3:38 /km	4:08 /km	-35 m
2	3:54 /km	4:10 /km	-24 m
3	3:48 /km	3:56 /km	-14 m
4	4:05 /km	4:14 /km	-12 m
5	4:04 /km	4:21 /km	-18 m
6	3:43 /km	3:51 /km	-9 m
7	4:33 /km	4:31 /km	-3 m
8	4:03 /km	3:56 /km	6 m
9	4:08 /km	4:04 /km	4 m
10	4:13 /km	4:14 /km	-2 m
11	4:10 /km	4:08 /km	1 m
12	3:51 /km	4:03 /km	-15 m
13	4:11 /km	4:07 /km	2 m



© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

rob young – Run
Give Kudos 👍 0 💬 0



Thursday, June 16, 2016
Evening Ride

8.5 km **1:33:56** **11:03/km**

Distance Moving Time Pace

Elevation 34m Calories —

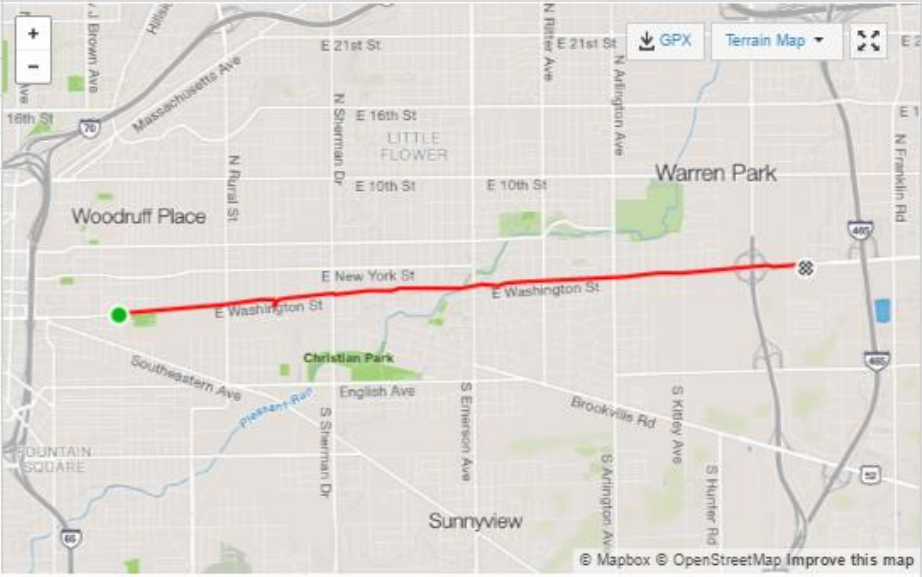
Elapsed Time 3:35:55

Device: GPX Shoes: —


TOP RESULTS

🏆 9th overall on [Irvington Strip Slingshot \(Emerson to Arlington\)](#) (33:06)

Splits			
KM	Pace	GAP	Elev
1	12:39 /km	12:34 /km	1 m
2	11:38 /km	11:20 /km	6 m
3	10:27 /km	10:08 /km	4 m
4	9:54 /km	9:50 /km	2 m
5	12:34 /km	12:23 /km	3 m
6	10:06 /km	9:49 /km	7 m
7	10:09 /km	10:10 /km	-1 m
8	10:37 /km	10:16 /km	8 m
0.5	11:35 /km	11:16 /km	3 m




© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map



FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

Joanna Hanzasz – Run Give Kudos 0 0



10:25 PM on Thursday, May 19, 2016
Night Run

STRAVA LABS
[View Flybys](#)

43.2 km **3:16:36** **4:33/km**
Distance Moving Time Pace

Elevation **954m** Calories **—**
Elevation Elapsed Time

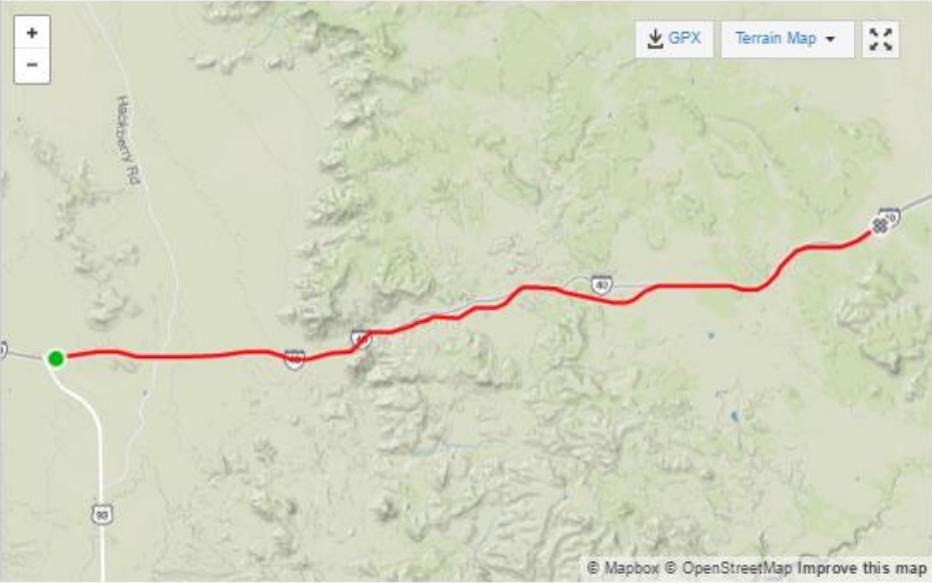
Device: TomTom GPS Sport Watch Shoes: **—**

TOP RESULTS

- Best estimated 30k effort (3:38:25)**
- Best estimated 2 mile effort (8:57)**
- Best estimated 1 mile effort (3:44)**
- Best estimated 1k effort (2:52)**

Splits

KM	Pace	GAP	Elev
1	3:52 /km	3:58 /km	-6 m
2	3:47 /km	4:03 /km	-18 m
3	3:33 /km	3:29 /km	-4 m
4	3:40 /km	3:44 /km	-11 m
5	3:46 /km	3:53 /km	-16 m
6	4:47 /km	4:07 /km	34 m
7	5:08 /km	4:13 /km	45 m
8	4:38 /km	4:09 /km	25 m
9	4:03 /km	3:39 /km	21 m
10	5:08 /km	4:53 /km	7 m
11	3:47 /km	3:43 /km	1 m
12	3:46 /km	3:35 /km	9 m
13	4:57 /km	3:54 /km	53 m



© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

www.trisport.dk/Immenstadt%202004%20EC.html

9	Thomson Beth	GBR	08:12:12	00:51:55	04:30:24	02:39:53
10	Wiklund Tove	SWE	08:34:43	00:59:58	04:30:49	03:03:56
11	Fallows Anne	GBR	08:36:55	01:05:38	04:58:52	02:32:25



Men 20 - 24						
Place	Name	Nation	Total	Swim	Bike	Run
1	Hehle Daniel	GER	07:18:32	00:49:33	04:05:55	04:05:55

Men 25 - 29						
Place	Name	Nation	Total	Swim	Bike	Run
1	Marland Nick	AUS	06:56:20	00:49:40	04:02:49	02:03:51
2	Wainer Jan	TCH	07:03:10	00:52:26	04:05:27	02:05:17
3	Bayliss Stephen	GBR	07:12:16	00:53:14	04:08:30	02:10:32
4	Stougaard Ole	DEN	07:14:23	01:01:06	04:04:32	02:08:45
5	Santos Luis	POR	07:22:22	00:54:48	04:20:03	02:07:31

Women 25 - 29						
Place	Name	Nation	Total	Swim	Bike	Run
1	Nováková Eva	TCH	07:58:22	00:52:00	04:39:35	02:26:47
2	Thomson Beth	GBR	08:12:12	00:51:55	04:40:24	02:39:53
3	Wiklund Tove	SWE	08:34:43	00:59:58	04:30:49	03:03:56
4	Fallows Anne	GBR	08:36:55	01:05:38	04:58:52	02:32:25

Men 30 - 34						
Place	Name	Nation	Total	Swim	Bike	Run
1	Fluhme Ulrich	GER	07:13:04	01:00:05	04:09:56	02:03:03
2	Meymann Jürgen	GER	07:14:34	01:03:27	04:05:25	02:05:42
3	Rüger Olaf	GER	07:15:45	00:53:48	04:06:45	02:15:12
4	Sahn Marco	GER	07:26:02	00:59:35	04:15:40	02:10:47
5	Eggebrecht Harald	GER	07:36:03	01:09:13	04:14:27	02:12:23
6	Wyrwoll Dr. Alexander	GER	07:38:07	00:59:05	04:13:37	02:25:25
7	Schrauben Alexander	BEL	07:39:44	00:58:36	04:20:25	02:20:43
8	Dienmeier Martin	GER	07:41:08	01:09:44	04:27:29	02:03:55
9	Meyer Carsten	GER	07:48:52	00:58:58	04:19:48	02:30:06
10	Keller Clemens	GER	07:51:15	01:03:19	04:19:30	02:28:26

www.runnersworld.co.uk/forum/triathlon/european-long-course-champs/41553.html



 **Doubly Bionic Ironwolf**  pirate 22/07/2004 at 12:27

ok folks, here's the results from the EM in Immenstadt. Course was 4km lake swim, 136km bike (3 laps with 2 massive hills on each), 29km run.


M35 result:
1st - 7-25.02 (57.23/4-13.07/2-14.32)
2nd - 7-34.16 (57.53/4-18.17/2-18.06)
3rd - 7-36.48 (1-07.16/4-16.57/2-12.35)


M40 Result:
1st - 7-26.14 (59.56/4-15.11/2-11.07)
2nd - 7-33.36 (1-02.10/4-15.09/2-16.17)
3rd - 7-40.04 (1-02.01/4-23.04/2-14.59)

W35 Result:
1st - 9-41-16 (1-16.50/5-32.30/2-51.56)
2nd - 10-12.03 (1-03.32/5-46.36/3-21.55)
3rd - 10-18.13 (1-06.24/6-00.06/3-11.43)



 **Doubly Bionic Ironwolf**  pirate 22/07/2004 at 12:29

Forgot an important detail. Best placed Brit was W35 Tracey Haseldine, 5th in 10-50.22

 **candy ollier** 22/07/2004 at 12:42

 where did mellsy come?

M35, despite looking like W65

 **Doubly Bionic Ironwolf**  pirate 22/07/2004 at 12:43

Oh how unforgivable of me! 3 lashes with a wet noodle.

I completely overlooked 2 super placings - Louisa Edmonton WON TW25 in 7-57.25 !!!
Robert Young 3rd in TM20 in 8-48.46

yeah, we have a European Tri Champion!!!

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016



Race result query

Anne <anne.garnish@gmail.com> 19 Jun (12 days ago) ☆
to admin

I have a question over the result of the **Thames Meander** Marathon of August 2014, for this athlete: <http://www.thepowerof10.info/athletes/profile.aspx?athleteid=687776>

The result on your website shows a finishing time of 3:11, however the official results show a time of 3:56 - http://www.swifttiming.co.uk/cgi-bin/list_race_result.php?meet_event_id=360001 in 121st position.

Please would you advise whether a request was made for the result for this athlete to be corrected after the results were submitted? If not, please would you update your records to show the correct finishing time.

Kind regards
Anne Garnish (athleteID 730344)

Power of 10 <admin@thepowerof10.info> 21 Jun (10 days ago) ☆
to me

Hi Anne

Not sure why it was changed but we've had a check and have amended to match the official results.

Kind regards
Linda

From: Anne [anne.garnish@gmail.com]
Sent: 19 June 2016 12:01
To: Power of 10
Subject: Race result query

Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

The image shows a Facebook profile page for Robert H P Young. The header includes the name "Robert H P Young" and navigation icons for "Home" and "Friends". The main cover photo features a man in a purple athletic top with the text "dreams come true" and "Bringing hope through running". Below this, there are logos for "100 MILE CLUB" and "SKINS". The name "Robert H P Young" is prominently displayed in the center of the cover photo. To the right of the name are "Follow" and "Message" buttons. Below the cover photo is a navigation bar with "Timeline", "About", "Friends", "Photos", and "More" options. A section titled "DO YOU KNOW ROBERT?" contains the text "Follow Robert to get his public posts in your News Feed." On the left side, there is an "Intro" section with details: "Professional Athlete at British Athletics", "Lives in London, United Kingdom", "From London, United Kingdom", and "Followed by 663 people". On the right side, there is a post by "Andy Persson" from 2 hours ago, which says "Only 1000 or so miles to go and Robert is on course to break a record that has stood for three decades. Running in over 90 degrees but still hitting 50 miles days. Keep going!" and includes a photo of a blue sky with clouds.

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

Jordan Marshall **1 July 2016**

A well sourced and high level summary of the evidence against Rob can be found here:

<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.com/p/a-summary-of-major-pieces-of-evidence.html>

I have been following the case very closely. If you need clarification, detail, or an explanation of anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

Jordan Marshall

Asher Delmott **1 July 2016**

Hello,

My name is Asher Delmott, and I attempted to run with Robert during his World Record TransCon attempt; however I was only able to find his RV driving slowly down the road. The details of my experience are described in the first post of the Let's Run forum: http://www.LetsRun.com/forum/flat_read.php?thread=7355147. I also took some videos which are available in links in that post. Much information has come out since I made that original post, but I feel there are still many questions about that night which have yet to be sufficiently answered.

If there are any questions about my experience, I am happy to provide those answers.

Thank you,
Asher Delmott

Requested anonymity **3 July 2016**

Dear Ross and Roger,

I was happy to hear that you two will be investigating Robert Young's transcon attempt. Ross, I've read your blogs for years now. I have enjoyed your fascinating and detailed analysis of so many athletic events.

I hope you will have access to the cadence and HR from Young's TomTom watches, not just mileage, pace, and routes. Cadence & HR will make your job much simpler. I can't imagine anyone attempting a record attempt withholding that, unless they were intentionally hiding something. But be that as it may.

Fwiw, I think Young cheated extensively out west between California and Missouri since the distances and paces seem well beyond his running ability, especially uphill, at altitude, and after weeks of high mileage.

That said, I think the runs on his first three days (13, 14, 15 May) were actually covered on foot based on the strava data:

https://www.strava.com/athletes/15967040#interval?interval=201619&interval_type=week&chart_type=miles&year_offset=0

Initially, I didn't think so. I thought his first run on 13 May at 8pm from Huntington Beach to Corona (30.5 miles in 3:56, with the first 26.2 miles in 3:18) might have been on a bike since 20+ miles were on the Santa Ana River Bike Trail across Orange County. I also thought he wouldn't be so foolish to run that fast to open up with 81.7 miles (in 9 legs) in his first 24 hours of running a transcon... but I guess he was.

I live in Riverside and I know the roads and bike trail for much of that opening day very, very well. I looked at the initial 30.5 run closely to see if I could spot places indicating he was on a bike rather than foot. I found the opposite. Several places he deviates from the bike path.

<https://www.strava.com/activities/619872089>

Three are especially notable:

Mile 14.3 when he crosses the Santa Ana River bottom instead of crossing either the Orangewood Ave bridge or Katella Ave bridge (which is the normal route for the bike path). The crooked line across the river indicates he was not crossing a

bridge. There is no water at all in the river bottom there... only very loose dirt which is why his pace slowed to a walk there.

Mile 17.0-17.3 when he backtracks and finally goes to the Circle K convenience store, presumably to get water, soda, or food. (There is no public restroom at that Circle K.) I've stopped there many times on bike rides. His meandering and backtracking resemble foot travel, not a bike.

Mile 25.0-27.3 when he takes an odd shortcut on surfaces streets and parking lots to cut some distance off the bike path. This would be exceptionally odd on a bike. He leaves the bike path by going up a steep embankment with no path... to cross Weir Canyon Road diagonally (a busy boulevard, even at 10:00pm). No cyclist would do this because it would be too inefficient.

I say all that to point out some things I know about that part of the route, and that it looks like the first 24 hours were actually on foot. Those 9 legs in the strava data get slower and involve much walking. The fastest he can muster (after the initial 30.5) is downhill through Cabazon (presumably with a strong tailwind since there are windmills positioned there for power generators).

To me, the data for May 13th, 14th, 15th seem to represent foot travel... which is why the strava data suddenly on 17 May stands out:

<https://www.strava.com/activities/619872646>

14.4 at 7:14/mile pace with 1 mile best of 5:00 and 2 mile best of 10:32... going uphill (!!!). It looks like he walked the final 0.7 miles (maybe while Dustin and Michael gassed up the RV at Najah's hi sierra station). Also the gps line for the first 13.7 is very straight, while in the last 0.7 the gps line wobbles and zigzags more like a person on foot. There are a few stops in the opening 13.7 miles, maybe to make the data look more like a runner needing a walking break... but the uphill paces here are suddenly faster than anything Young was actually running on the opening 30.5 miles on the flat bike path when his legs were fresh.

<https://www.strava.com/activities/619872612>

6 more miles at 6:06/mile pace... uphill.

<https://www.strava.com/activities/619872609>

8.1 more miles at 5:40/mile pace... with the fastest miles being the opening four uphill in 5:26, 5:27, 5:30, 5:35... splits he didn't once run in his opening 30.5 mile run on flat ground with fresh legs.

All 3 of these runs are at night in very remote places (the California desert) where no one would know if he was riding in an RV, biking, or running... unless there was corresponding video or HR or cadence data. But the paces are exceptional outliers to what he was running on May 13, 14, 15.

And then there are even faster runs of longer distances further west in Arizona, Colorado, etc. that I'm sure you'll find.

And there are noticeable large gaps in the data after May 15 until he started being watched and scrutinized closely when he was in Missouri. So it's very, very curious that the fast paces, huge distances, and missing data starts occurring in the remote California desert and continues until mid-Missouri when he was scrutinized.

Anyway, I'm sure you will be looking at all the data very closely. I wanted to express some of my findings in case it might help your investigation in some way.

As a runner and cyclist, I appreciate both of you taking the time to look into this matter closely and to document what you find.

Markus Mueller **6 July 2016**

Robert Young Skins investigation report

Hello Mr Pielke and Mr. Tucker

Hello Mr. Fuller

I was one of the first ultrarunners who had doubts about Robert Young's claims and that's why I followed his Transcontinental run very closely. Here is my take on this matter as it developed.

Before the Trans Continental run

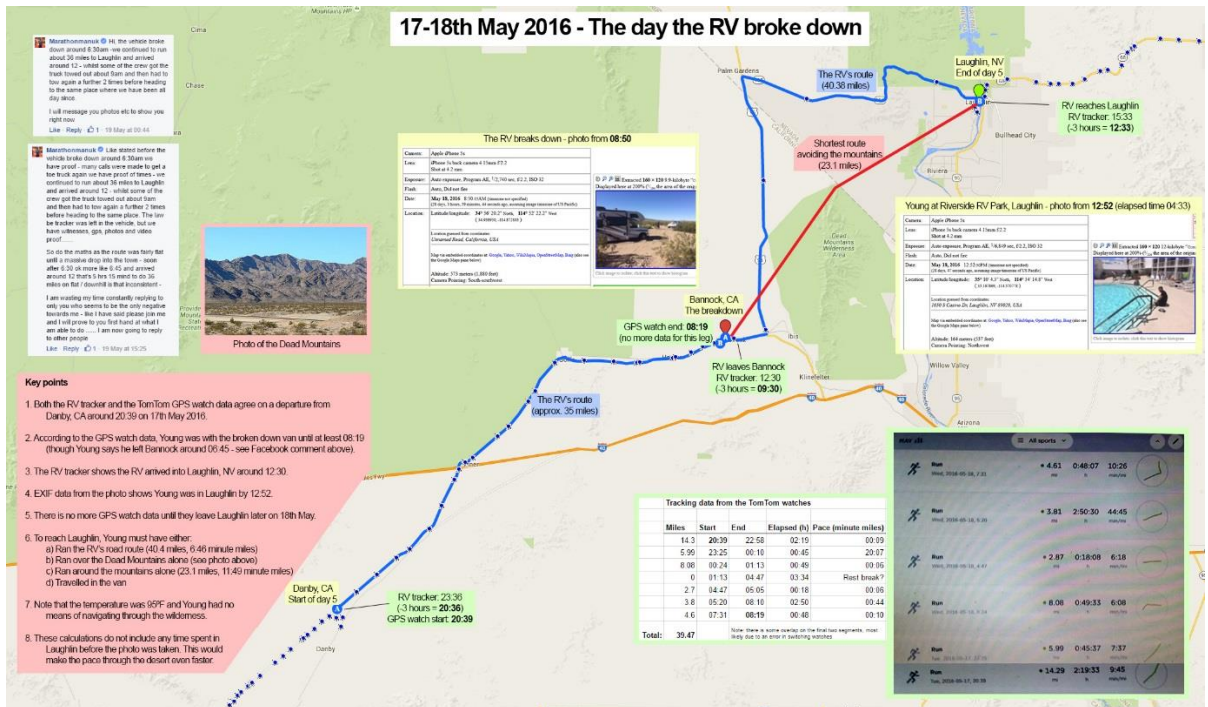
In July 2015 the first doubts about Robert Young's 373 mile run in 88 hours were mentioned at the "ultralist" an popular US based ultrarunning email list. When I saw this, I thought this is impossible that a runner with just a year or two running experience could run 102 miles over 3.66 days. It just seemed impossible. So I started watching Robert Young's when he started in Huntington Beach in the evening of May 13th this year.

Joe Fejes, US top 6 day runner for the last couple of years wrote: "Here is my interest in the RY affair: I'm still miffed at his PR of 350 miles in 75 hours which is superior to my 329 at ATY short loop with bountiful aid stations. I'll extend this offer to him --a thousand dollars (or equivalent pounds) if he can beat me in 72 hours at a time and course of his choosing after this event is done. My wager money will come out of my own pocket and I'm doing it for myself not the kids. I win I pocket it--for profit. RY wins he can do what he wants with it."

Joe Fejes: jbfeyes@gmail.com

Mojave incident

The first 4 days of running followed a normal pattern: 81.4 mi and then 3 days of 51 miles. Which seemed a standard pattern for a 6 day races or transcontinental attempts. On May 18th there was a big jump in the mileage and the tracking looked different. Graphic from LetsRun.com



RY wrote me on fb:

"I tracked 68 miles Livetracking was turned off but it's back again. Hi buddy the live tracker was left in the rv when it broke down in the sand and had to be towed out - we decided to continue with GPS, witnesses etc and left crew to sort it out (\$600 later) the reason live tracker was left is I changed and was in my dirty clothing - millage was done and correct Hi, the vehicle broke down around 6:30am -we continued to run about 36 miles to Laughlin and arrived around 12 - whilst some of the crew got the truck towed out about 9am and then had to tow again a further 2 times before heading to the same place where we have been all day since."

This was really strange and I contacted Skins immediately on their blog. Here is the response from Michel Pham:

Dear Markus,

Many thanks for your intervention on our blog. We are following Rob's story every single day with his tracker and we will be careful with the management of his performance if any inconsistency occurs. We would like to let you know that Rob is always on the run with. He was in this case inadvertent with his tracker, the van was indeed stuck in the sand very early in the morning and as he mentioned he left it in the camper.

The run was still going on even though the van was stuck in the sand and, therefore the tracker as well, this is the reason why you can't see any progression in the morning even though the race was ongoing. The important point is to prove that situation and Rob notified us as soon as he was aware that he forgot the tracker in the van. We will keep an eye on the tracker and be sure every situation can be proved and witnessed. If you have any doubts about his record attempt I'll invite you to join him for a few days and run with him as many other people are doing as you can see on the list here: <http://www.marathonmanuk.com/crew>

We remain at your disposal if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Michel Pham michel.pham@skins.net

There was no way, that Robert Young could have covered this distance alone without support in the Mojave desert during his transcon attempt. What happened was the the RV got stuck in the sand in a weird attempt to take a short cut on a 4 wheel drive track in the Mojave desert. They had to call a tow truck and supposedly Robert ran without support to Laughlin, NV.

After this incident Robert Young posted ridiculous high mileage days until June 3rd, ranging from 60 to 89 miles per day.

Asher Delmott meets Robert Young in Kansas

Things changed when Asher Delmott tried to find Robert at night in Kansas. I believe Asher Delmott send in his evidence to the Skins investigation.

http://www.LetsRun.com/forum/flat_read.php?thread=7355147

Robert Youngs mileage dropped significantly after June 8th. He never had continuous 60 mile days again.

Daily mileage explained

For normal people and even for ultrarunners it is difficult to understand what kind of mileage is possible in a multiday race. While running 100 miles in less than one day is not a too difficult of a feat. Running 60 miles over multiple days is a lot more difficult. The reason is that you need enough time to recover and get ready for the next running day and the more you run the less time for recovery you have.

From LetsRun.com

That is a speed chart of Joe Feje's 606 mile 6 day race:
<http://imgur.com/OUrZJhv>

Robert Young's running paces from 5/13 to 6/9/16
<http://i.imgur.com/CSb0dHK.png>

Robert Young's miles logged at different times of the day
<http://imgur.com/a/UgLXT>

Robert Young's running pace before and after 5/18/16
<http://imgur.com/a/e9Jlf>

Trans Con records explained

A lot of runners have run across the US with support in the 50 mile/day range. But there is not one undisputed claim over 60 miles per day. Frank Giannino's claim of having run across the US in 1980 in about 67 miles/day is impossible to believe since he never did an ultrarace according to his website. Frank was just "faster" because Stan Cottrell another scammer did a new "World record" a couple weeks earlier, in 1980.

Nobody had the experience in the 1980ies to run 67 miles per day over weeks. Al Howies Trans Canada run averaged only 64 miles per day in 1991 and he had great multiday experience.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al_Howie

Frank ran 48.067 miles/day in 1979. A year later he improved his mark by 39.6% to 66.935miles per day. 39.6% improvement in a year. Very hard to believe.

Robert Young meets crowdfunded investigation group of ultrarunners

Robert had invited me to come out and he extended his invitation to my running friend but then Robert didn't follow up anymore when he realized somebody would actually show up. On Sunday June 12th, a crowd founded team lead by Gary Cantrell (Laz) arrived. Cantrell is a highly respected ultrarunner and race director of the famous Barkley Marathons. Please email him if he hasn't submitted anything yet: drystoneman@hotmail.com

They followed Robert Young for 5 days 24/7 and what they found was not a typical ultrarunner. He didn't know how to treat his blisters, he finally got sun burn, he still did fast running bursts but was walking for most of the time. Not exactly an ultrarunner who was able to run 60+ mile days for a month.

Findings of other runners

<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.com/2016/06/rob-young-uploads-driving-gps-file.html>

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TcRqUwOFIF-t_BLz47D85mcR4txTmgpLmN0gvXYEJs/edit#gid=0

<http://ryinvestigation.blogspot.com/2016/06/rob-young-uploads-driving-gps-file.html>

Damage to the skins brand:

<http://imgur.com/c9vSIGY>

Conclusion

It was fascinating for me to see that a runner could run 60 mile days without sweating and having any problems at all while posting photos of side trips to the Grand Canyon and making hand stands at the RV. Everything was very unusual about this attempt. Robert Young looked just like a happy traveler in a RV not like an ultrarunner running. His videos posted didn't show an ultrarunning stride or anything close to that. Once the ultrarunning observation team arrived Robert Young looked exhausted.

In the meanwhile runners on LetsRun.com investigated all of Robert Young's claims and their came to the conclusion that most of it was faked.

Robert Young with just one 100 mile finish to his name never looked like the ultrarunner he claimed to be.

<http://www.centurionrunning.com/results/2014/eventbrite-ndw100-2014-race-report/results/>

As of yesterday July 5th Robert Young is deleting critical comments on his facebook page.

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

Please let me know if you have any more questions

Sincerely

Markus Mueller

I am doing ultra races for more than 30 years now and I ran in two transcontinental races myself.

I am finisher of the Trans Australia Footrace 2001 and I ran 3074 miles in the LA-NY Footrace 2011.

More here: markusmuellerultrarunning.com

Paul Alsdorf **7 July 2016**

Hi,

I appreciate your taking the time to read this submission. I trust that you've already been directed to the voluminous document(s) prepared by LetsRunners. I can't imagine I'd raise anything they missed, so I'll not rehash evidence for you again. I also hope you'll be able to disregard all of the allegations about Rob's past/fake followers, etc., which just isn't relevant to your limited inquiry (though it might inform your judgment about Rob's credibility).

I'd like to offer my perspective as an experienced investigator. I've represented numerous boards of directors in internal investigations in the US on SEC, DOJ, and other matters; I currently manage litigation and perform similar investigations at one of the largest companies in the world - and I've published and spoken on the topic as well.

The key issue at the outset of any investigation is collecting and preserving any and all relevant data. I'm sure you've already done this, but I'd encourage you to take possession of everything Robert has. Don't let him keep any originals of anything, ever. Then copy/image the devices he's handed over and store the originals. Only analyze the copies/images to ensure everything is backed up and to be able to prove there was no tampering by you if you're accused of that later.

What sticks out to me here is the data and Rob's behavior. We know (from Rob's own videos) that he was wearing TomTom watches that tracked cadence and HR; we know (from the blurry screenshots posted to facebook) that he wore them during the early part of his run. The public hasn't seen that data, which should include cadence and heart rate info. If all of it's still present, I would defer to you on analysis. However, if there's anything missing (it will be simple to match the data you have up to the runs in the pictures and to see if there are any discrepancies), I would encourage you to be extremely skeptical of Rob's explanations. Particularly if any of the suspiciously fast segments are deleted. You could also match his data against the runs posted to Strava (and then deleted). Those have been documented by LetsRun exhaustively.

In the end, there may be no absolute "smoking gun." Rob may deny cheating with his last dying breath. Don't let that deter you from going with your gut and making a real conclusion if you think he more likely than not lied about the run.

Too often in these contexts people are afraid to conclude anything without black and white proof. I believe the circumstantial evidence here - both the eye-popping paces Rob hit and his evasive behavior about the data - is sufficient to support a conclusion that he cheated. I certainly have no special insight into the facts but I hope you won't just accept a plaintive "you've got to believe me, I did run, I just forgot my watch on two dozen super-fast runs in the first two weeks before anyone was looking" as a basis to exonerate a very suspicious, evasive character.

FINAL REPORT as submitted to SKINS
29 September 2016

If you do think he did the run legitimately, I hope you'll release all of the data (including cadence and heart rate) to the public. It would be quite interesting to analyze!

Thanks for reading.
Paul Alsdorf

Jordan Marshall **9 July 2016**

I have attached two documents to this email. Both are original and have not been shared with anyone else. If you would prefer I would be happy to share the original Google Docs as well.

"Investigation_Summary.pdf" - a detailed and well sourced outline of the investigation so far. It includes an overview of the trans-con effort, a timeline of events, a summary of the night in Kansas, and a look at the primary data sources.

"Questions_For_Rob.pdf" - a short list of questions that would be hard for Rob to answer. Each has an explanation as to why it is relevant.

Jordan Marshall

Investigation Summary

Overview of Transcon Attempt

1. Current record for fastest crossing of USA on foot is 46 days, 8 hours, 36 minutes by Frank Giannino Jr. set in 1980 ([Guinness](#)).
 - a. According to Frank, he had never run an ultra marathon before setting the record. This made many ultra runners skeptical of his claim. ([Facebook screenshot of book excerpt](#), [LetRun Post](#)).
2. Route ([All from Rob's Website](#))
 - a. Per the Guinness World Record guidelines, "It is up to the runner to choose the shortest/most suitable route between the two cities..." so long as "...the route distance [is] equal to or greater than New York City to Los Angeles." Any two coastal cities may be chosen as long as their distance apart exceeds the 2,766 miles from Los Angeles to New York.
 - b. The route begins in Huntington Beach, California, and will finish at Time Square in New York City, New York. Robert will run through 14 states: California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.
 - c. In a video, Rob states that he wants to do at least 3000 miles. ([Facebook Video](#))
3. Rob's training Philosophy and Preparation ([All from Sports Illustrated](#))
 - a. "Everyone else has gone into the race fully fit, race lean. I think by doing that, you can only deteriorate in fitness straightaway. Whereas if you go in slightly underfit, slightly overweight, I think as you climb over the mountain, or around it depending on the route you go, you'll gradually get fitter."
 - b. According to the article, Young will start the record attempt at more than 190 pounds. [Wikipedia](#) lists him as being 6 feet tall.
 - c. "As you get fitter, and lose weight, hopefully you then start to hit 100% of your race peak. And then you'll start deteriorating. So hopefully, the deterioration process that you go into, because of the period [of time] that you've taken to get to that point, will get you over the line a lot more fit, and you'll have a faster race."
 - d. Does not follow a rigid dietary regime:
 - i. "As soon as I would finish a run, I would eat three burgers, and a chocolate milkshake. That's three to five thousand calories right there,"
 - ii. "Welcome relief came a little ways down the road as a Sonic fast food restaurant came into view. Rob had enthused about their milkshakes in many a conversation. The calorie count was ridiculous, just what a Trans Con runner needs." ([RY Blog](#))
4. On planning and logistics
 - a. Rob started the record attempt without informing his crew ([RY Blog](#)).

- b. "In truth we had no plan before we'd begun, Rob wanted it like that." ([RY Blog](#))

Timeline

Date and time of significant events related to the effort

1. **May 13th, 8 PM PST** - Rob Young starts his transcontinental attempt from Huntington beach California ([Rob Young Blog](#)).
 - a. The start was unplanned, as Rob had left for a 'little run' and had not told his crew that he was starting the attempt.
 - b. 81.4 miles covered on day 1 (first 24 hours).
2. **June 4th, 10:20 EST** - Rob's RV videotaped slowly driving through Emporia, KS, with no runner in sight. ([Security Footage](#), retrieved by Asher Delmott).
 - a. The RV is clearly Rob's, as evidenced by the flag in back. ([RY Blog](#), second photo)
3. **June 5th, 2:45 - 3:18 AM EST** - Asher Delmott, a runner living in Lebo Kansas, observed and videotaped the RV going by with no runner in sight. See "The Night in Kansas" for a full summary.
 - a. Asher took two videos, one as he was driving past the RV, the second as he waited nearby an intersection. ([Both Videos - Google Drive](#))
 - b. [Video 2, brightness adjusted.](#)
4. **June 7th, 1:39 PM** - Scrutiny of Rob's attempt intensifies as [Asher posts his account](#) on popular running website LetsRun.
 - a. Serious scrutiny began as early as June 4th on the Ultra List, a message board for primarily ultra marathoners.
 - b. One observer became suspicious in early May, after Rob claimed to have run unsupported through the desert ([Facebook](#) - comment deleted, [later analysis of this run](#)).
5. **June 12th, 12:30 CST? PM** - The "Geezers", a crowd funded team of ultra runners arrive to observe Rob 24/7. They also assist with the effort in many ways.
6. **June 16th, ~10-12 PM EST** - Rob visits a hospital in the Indianapolis area and is diagnosed with Cellulitis in his right foot and a fractured pinkie toe ([Facebook](#), times estimated from tracker data).
 - a. It is not clear how much (if any) running was done after this.
7. **June 20th, 4:30 PM** - Rob officially announces that he is abandoning the record attempt. ([Facebook](#))

Data Sources

1. KML Data from Tracker. The team had a tracker that continually moved on the map, showing their real time location. It stored their GPS coordinates every 12 minutes and

put a pin on the map. Visitors to the marathonmanuk website could see all of this stored data. On June 9th at approximately 10:19 EST the saved tracker data disappeared and stopped being saved. One poster claimed that the tracking company took it down because it was so large, but there is not a verifiable source for this. The current location was still being broadcast.

- a. The tracker was sometimes with Rob and sometimes with the van.
 - i. For example, on May 18th, when the RV broke down, the tracker stayed with the RV and not Rob.
 - ii. *"The tracker, in response to a couple of queries on social media, had remained in the RV during our separation, which it does much of the time. It's purpose is for folk to see where we are at, at any given time, not to measure speed, mileage or performance – that's what the GPS watch is for."* (RY Blog)
 - iii. While explaining his equipment, Rob seems to imply that the tracker is usually with him ([Facebook Video](#), starting at 1:00).
 - b. Original Upload of kml data from Rob's website from start of trip through June 9th ([Pastebin](#), [LetsRun Post](#)).
 - i. Same data converted to .CSV, no unit conversions ([Pastebin](#)).
 - c. Data converted to .csv format and adjusted to have distances and MPH ([Pastebin](#), [LetsRun Post](#)).
 - d. Starting on 6/11 at 10:53 somebody started recording the tracker position every 3 minutes ([Pastebin](#), [LetsRun Post](#)).
 - e. KML segments corresponding to Tom Tom data from May 18th ([Day in the desert](#)). ([Pastebin](#), [LetsRun Post](#)).
 - f. Misc Analysis ([PasteBin](#), [LetsRun Post](#)).
2. TomTom Screenshots. On 6/10 @ ~8:30 PM Rob posted screenshots of data from his GPS watches to facebook ([Facebook 1](#), [Facebook 2](#), [Facebook 3](#), [imgur backup](#)). The data shows time, distance, average pace, a timestamp, and a rough picture of the route.
- a. Rob used two TomTom GPS watches. ([Facebook Video](#)). The model is thought to be the "Spark" or "Runner 2".
 - b. A watch was worn by somebody on a bike at least once ([RY Investigation Blog](#)).
 - c. According to some posters, TomTom watches record cadence that cannot be turned off.
 - d. All of the TomTom data combined into one spreadsheet ([Google Drive](#)).
 - i. A separate spreadsheet based on the same data, includes daily mileage and speed ([Google Docs](#)).
 - e. A second spreadsheet created by a different person ([Google Docs](#), [LetsRun Post](#)).
3. Strava Data
- a. Robert Young Strava account ([Strava](#)). Some "exceptional" runs:
 - i. 24.1 miles @ 6:37 /mi pace @ 5000ft ([RY Strava](#)).
 - ii. 25.5 miles @ 5:40 /mi pace @ 6000-8500 ft ([RY Strava](#))
 - iii. 34:45 10k @ 8000ft of altitude ([RY Strava](#), [Screenshot of GPX Analysis](#)).

- iv. 13.8 miles @ 5:53 /mi pace ([RY Strava](#)).
- b. Backup account containing all of Robert's uploaded Strava data, including some deleted runs ([Strava](#)).
 - i. 32.0 miles @ 6:27 /mi pace. Deleted from Rob's strava and uploaded to the backup ([Backup RY Strava](#)).
- c. Somebody (presumably Rob) uploaded Strava data to an account in his Wife's name, Joanna Hanasz. It was discovered by a LetsRun user using the Strava "flyby" feature on his original data. It was deleted, but some screenshots remain. ([imgur](#)).
- d. Rob's explanation of the questionable data:
 - i. "The Elapsed Time is longer than the running time hence breaks during the run, something "Lazarus Lake" of the Barkley marathon saw for himself. This means my actual running (moving) time is different than my actual Elapsed Time (overall time), the link you also show is a 3000ft decent (downhill running) during that period." ([Run Ultra](#))

The Night in Kansas

1. Original Account (Posted 6/7 @ 1:39 PM). Kansas resident and runner Asher Delmott attempted to join Rob when he was near Lebo KS at approximately 1 AM CST. He located the RV via the tracker. This is what happened ([LetsRun](#)):
 - a. While driving, Asher passed the RV going the opposite direction with no runner in view.
 - b. He turned around and approached the RV from behind (going the same direction), while filming. Again, no runner in view. This is captured in [VIDEO 1](#).
 - c. Asher passed the RV, drove farther down the road and parked close to a nearby intersection. He observed the RV drive past with no runner in sight.
 - d. Asher continued, this time on foot, and caught up with the RV (as it was going at driving speed). He had his headlamp on "strobe" mode.
 - e. The RV stopped and someone got out of the passenger side of the RV. As Asher ran closer to the RV, the person got back in the RV. Then the RV drove away, faster than Asher could follow on foot.
 - f. Asher ran back to his car and headed back to the highway. During this time the RV backtracked to the original intersection.
 - g. Asher drove by the RV and saw someone standing outside.
 - h. He continued farther down the highway and parked again.
 - i. He watched and filmed as the RV passed by, again with no runner in sight. This is captured in [VIDEO 2](#). [Rotated and brightened](#).
 - j. Further Detail from Asher
 - i. [Post from Asher](#), second to bottom.

- ii. [Post from Asher](#), middle of page.
2. Response to Asher's Account (posted 6/10 @ 1:38 PM). Video posted on facebook, showing Michael talking to the camera ([Facebook](#)). His explanation summarized below:
 - a. Rob typically runs behind the RV with a flashlight. He waves the flashlight to signal a stop.
 - b. When Michael saw the light behind them they thought it was Rob, and stopped the RV. Rob got in the RV.
 - c. The observed the light still behind them and panicked, thinking that it could be "someone following us with a knife." They start driving away.
 - d. The light follows them at approximately "20 mph" before taking a "strong left turn" and "vanishing".
 - e. At this point they stop the RV and backup to the point where Rob got in. Rob gets out and they continue the run.
3. Response in Outside Magazine, Published 6/9 ([Outside](#)):
 - a. *When we reached Young on the phone from Missouri, he doubted the conclusiveness of Delmott's video, and said he wished Delmott would have made himself more visible—Young would have happily run with him*
4. Carwash Video. Asher obtained video from a [carwash in Emporia Kansas](#) showing the RV driving by slowly with no runner in sight. Note that Emporia is West of Lebo, so this occurs before Asher tries to meet with Rob ([Cell Phone video of Security Footage](#)).
 - a. The van is clearly Rob's van as evidenced by the flag in back. ([RY Blog](#), second photo).
5. Response in Runner's World, published 6/13 ([Runners World](#)):
 - a. *Young denied that he was in the van when the two videos were taken. He said that while he normally runs as close to the vehicle as possible, there are times when he has been separated from it. He also said that on a few occasions, he has left the live tracker in the RV instead of carrying it.*
 - b. *He said that the RV could have stopped for gas while he continued running and the RV needed to catch up. He also said on busy roads, he sometimes runs on the opposite side of the road, facing traffic. "I could have been on the other side of the road. I don't know. I could give you 50 different reasons," Young said.*
 - c. ***In a later email***, Brooks provided a more detailed explanation of what happened that night. *"At some point Rob dropped off the pace and Michael [a member of the crew], who was driving, failed to notice. So Rob ended up isolated. He continued on to a town and called Michael from a stranger's phone to tell him to stop."*
6. Carwash Video #2. Asher obtained more footage from the carwash, this time showing the time period after the RV passed by. Posted 6/13 @ 11:20 AM ([Original Post](#), [Video](#))
 - a. Before posting the video, Asher messaged Rob on facebook asking for more details about what he was wearing ([LetsRun](#) - middle of the page). No response was received.

- b. The video shows a dark figure slowly walking down the road. Gender cannot be determined. The person seems to have something in his or her left hand - either a phone or flashlight.
7. Rob's Response to Car Wash Video #2. In what looks to be a joint statement, Rob, Dustin, and Michael explain what happened in Emporia Kansas ([Facebook](#)). The statement seems to confuse Asher's story (which happened AFTER Emporia) with the gas station video. Summary below:
 - a. The RV drives at a set speed while Rob runs behind. He signals with his flashlight when he needs to stop.
 - b. While driving through Emporia, the RV missed his signal and kept driving. This had happened on a few other occasions. As a result, Rob was left alone and the RV continued on by itself, appearing (in video) to be driving without a runner in view.
 - c. Rob went to a bar, borrowed a stranger's phone, and called Michael, who went back and picked him up. They claim to have the contact info for the stranger and a barmaid who can verify the story.
 - d. They claim to have obtained separate copy of Car Wash Video #2 in order to clear Rob's name, and even post it after the statement. The video appears to be different from any that Asher has posted.
8. Facebook Response. In a facebook comment questioning his speed through Kansas (Posted June 5th, before Asher's account went live), Rob says that ESPN was filming in the segment though Kansas. ([Original post](#), but Facebook comments deleted, [screenshot on imgur](#))
9. Bunny Costume. Asher was not the first person to surprise Rob in the night. Nancy Bennet, a runner in the RAUSA series, joined Rob without telling them. The blog post describes her as unable to find Rob at first until he "emerged around the other side of the van" ([RY Blog](#)).

Miscellaneous

1. Originally, Rob had several PR's on his website that could not be verified. This included a marathon PR of 2:41 and a half marathon PR of 1:08. These have since been removed from his [stats page](#), but still remain if you click the red arrow on the very top of his website. ([imgur backup](#)).
 - a. Listed marathon PR of 2:41 removed from his website as of 6/10 ([LetsRun](#) - last post on page).
 - b. Claims a 2:41 marathon PR in a facebook video, but gives no details as to what race it was in ([Facebook video](#) - around 31:30).

- c. He still has his 10k PR listed as 30:47. No record of this has been found, but somebody found a Duathlon result where he ran a 7k leg in 30:47 ([Triathlon Participant Details](#)).

Tough Questions for Robert Young

1. What is your Marathon PR? When/Where did you set it?

Context: His website and Wikipedia previously showed a marathon PR of 2:41. This has since been deleted from both (although is still visible in the dropdown portion of his website). He also mentioned it in a video ([Facebook](#), approximately 31:30 in). It seems like he is trying to cover up this claim. His top verified marathon PR is 3:07, from London 2015. Possible follow up: ask about 10k and other PRs.

2. In your explanation of video showing the RV driving by itself you said that you got left behind by the RV, and called Michael from a stranger's phone in a bar. Can you provide the name of the bar, the name and number of the stranger, and the name and number of the barmaid working there?

Context: [This Facebook Post](#) explains that Rob got left behind by the RV in Emporia Kansas and had to use a stranger's phone in a bar. In the explanation they said that "*We even have the phone numbers of the stranger and the barmaid there if required to support this explanation.*"

3. Your TomTom watches should automatically record Cadence data. Why has this data not been released? It would certainly quiet all of the skeptics.

Context: In a recent article he declines to answer this question ([Run Ultra](#) - near the bottom). Many LetsRun users seemed to think that Cadence was impossible to turn off in his watches, so the data should exist somewhere.

4. On June 10th you uploaded close to 70 pictures of your TomTom watch data to Facebook. These pictures showed data that had already been uploaded to your TomTom mysports account. Why did you go through the trouble of taking so many pictures and uploading them to facebook, instead of simply uploading the data to any number of run mapping services?

Context: He uploaded close to 70 pictures of TomTom watch data to facebook ([Facebook 1](#), [Facebook 2](#), [Facebook 3](#), [imgur backup](#)). The pictures clearly show a web browser open to his [TomTom MySports](#) account ([MySports Dashboard](#) for comparison). It would have been much easier to share data directly from his TomTom account than to take 70 photos. No way to upload directly from TomTom Mysports to facebook, but should be easy to do via Strava ([TomTom Help Forum](#)).

Chris Finill 28 August 2016

Guys,

I ran across the USA in 2011.

I am British and hate to see the reputation of British ultrarunning dragged through the mud.

Below is my recently published letter to Jason Henderson, the Editor of Athletics Weekly, the world respected British athletics magazine.

Dear Jason

As someone who ran across the USA coast to coast with Steve Pope back in 2011 I read this week's Dip Finish feature on Rob Young with particular interest.

The record for running across the US currently stands at 46 days by Frank Giannino - a world class performance by any standards representing roughly 65 miles per day. This record has stood for 36 years.

Rob Young is surprised and hurt that there are people doubting the authenticity of his run up to the point when he dropped out about 2,000 miles into his attempt to break this record. In my view he shouldn't be surprised, he should instead consider the facts.

- 1) His athletic credentials as shown on Power of 10 show a marathon pb of 3.07, a half marathon pb of 91 minutes and a best parkrun time of 18.55 in 85 overall appearances. It is difficult for many to square this with an ability to run 65 -70 miles per day across the US often in the hostile and isolated conditions especially such as those offered by the far Western states.
- 2) Despite these modest personal bests his own website claims a 10k personal best of 30.47. A far superior performance to anything verifiable on power of 10.
- 3) He was by his account on track to break Frank's record beyond halfway but unfortunately his mileage per day fell dramatically when his run was actually observed and his statistics came under the severe and sometimes hostile scrutiny of the US ultra running community.

It is worth remembering that when Yiannis Kouros ran the first Spartathlon as an unknown in 1983 he won it so convincingly that established ultra runners wrongly assumed that he had cheated and he was therefore regarded with scepticism by many. His subsequent performances, under the microscope of scrutiny, proved his doubters wrong and cleared his name of suspicion. My fear is that Rob's name will be clouded with similar suspicion until he comes up with an independently verifiable world class performance over 6 days or further. I understand that he intends to do just this in 2017 and we look forward to him performing at this level and will watch with great interest. Until he successfully performs when subject to this independent verification the doubts as to his authenticity will naturally and rightly remain.

Chris Finill

Harrow AC

Appendix C: Interview Transcripts with Rob Young and Michael Speicher

Interview with Rob Young 17 August 2016

Note: Young is identified as "hania" in the interview below.

[7:04:16] *** Ross Tucker added hania, Roger Pielke Jr. ***

[7:04:17] *** Ross Tucker enabled joining this conversation. ***

[7:04:25] Ross Tucker: Hi Roger. Just checking if you are on>

[7:05:59] Ross Tucker: Hello, can either of you see these chats?

[7:06:07] hania: I am here

[7:06:16] *** Ross Tucker has renamed this conversation to "Rob Young 17 Aug" ***

[7:06:26] Ross Tucker: Roger?

[7:06:43] Roger Pielke Jr.: Here

[7:06:50] Ross Tucker: OK, great, then let's begin!

[7:07:00] hania: Perfect

[7:07:22] Ross Tucker: Rob, thanks for setting aside the time! I know it's a bit laboured to have to type, but we decided to go this route because a) it gives a bit more time for deliberate and considered answers, and b) it allows us to keep a record of the discussion

[7:07:24] *** Group call ***

[7:07:25] *** Missed group call. ***

[7:07:38] Ross Tucker: So the way we will run is to ask some questions, and then just get your responses to those.

[7:08:23] Ross Tucker: Ok so we have questions in three basic categories:

[7:08:26] hania: No problems my friend i will answer all question

[7:08:27] Ross Tucker: First is some general stuff.

[7:08:32] Ross Tucker: 1) Why did you not use the heart rate function on the watch at all?

[7:08:58] hania: Do i type the answer

[7:09:07] Ross Tucker: yes, please!

[7:09:26] Ross Tucker: I know it slows it down, but it gives a chance to cover the stuff a bit more thoughtfully

[7:10:29] hania: The heart rate was not used as a. wanted to save as much battery as possible on device plus i never thought about using the function

[7:10:43] hania: Guinness never stated it as well

[7:11:58] hania: I wish i had done that and next time i will use it - it is hard to maintain the battery life on such a long event

[7:12:39] Ross Tucker: OK, no problem thank

[7:12:55] Ross Tucker: Next question concerns the data from the Tom-tom and MapyMyRun records you provided:

[7:13:11] Ross Tucker: Why do the watches indicate that long portions of the runs have been covered at unrealistic speeds?

[7:15:19] Ross Tucker: Rob? You still on?

[7:16:53] hania: Hi guys sorry i tried recording to sent to you but it failed typing now

[7:17:16] Ross Tucker: We would prefer it typed. I know it's slower, but it also gives a written record

[7:20:03] hania: The run time was not the same as elaped time i believe - if i run 3/4 of a mile and then rested and then run again fast it gave a faster mile split which i think is the main showing and when i spoke with tom tom etc i was given the same answer - run time and elapsed time are different

[7:20:55] Ross Tucker: Ok, got it. But I'm talking specifically about segments in the record that show half a mile, or a mile, that is covered in about 30 seconds. So there are sections covered at 40, 50, and even 70 miles an hour, that it is impossible for any person to run.

[7:25:36] hania: Yes i think if you look at certain maps you will see the mile pointers at correct spacing and then for no reason they are closer to each other - it is my understanding that watch loss signal and then connected or uploaded points are incorret at points i went upto 700 miles per hour even 800 - which means i would ha e used a plane to go that fast - when speaking to experts i was told loss of signal

[7:26:31] Ross Tucker: OK, I recall those segments also

[7:26:39] hania: I really dont know the answer to the question

[7:26:57] Ross Tucker: OK

[7:27:08] Ross Tucker: Next question, straight forward, Did you, at any stage of the run, benefit from driving in a vehicle, as indicated by the watch data?

[7:29:15] hania: No!!!! but i did jump on the truck several time less than 5 times as a dog chased me and only for 100meters maximum. We did run that distand to make it up

[7:29:28] Ross Tucker: OK, thanks,

[7:29:37] Ross Tucker: I wanted to ask about the cadence data next.

hania

[7:30:11] hania: Sure

[7:30:44] Ross Tucker: Sorry, just to come back to that, we want to be clear about the data that we've got and have analysed. that the watch data indicates that fairly long distances, much longer than can be explained by signal loss or a short run away from dog, were travelled at speeds suggesting a vehicle.

[7:31:03] Ross Tucker: And we wanted to give you a chance to respond to that data

[7:31:16] Ross Tucker: The data is very clear on this, so any further comment?

[7:37:10] hania: I was never in the vehicle at any point unless we had stopped and went for food or to a safe resting point - oh i did at points when i came in the vehicle for a break leave my watch and live tracker and headed back out to run again but fairly quickly realised and put it back on me - i state again on everything, at no point did i use the vehicle for self gain in the run

[7:38:49] hania: I wished you could hear my thoughts and emotion on this to fully understand and see

[7:39:10] Ross Tucker: Thanks, but we have to work and follow what the data says.

[7:39:23] hania: I fully understand

[7:39:49] Ross Tucker: And on that note, just to focus on cadence. There was a magazine article published a week or so after the run, in which you were interviewed. In that interview, they asked about the cadence data, and all it said was "declined to answer"

[7:40:05] Ross Tucker: Why did you refuse to provide the cadence data, both to the general public when questioning began, and to the media after the attempt?

[7:43:44] hania: NO i did not decline i just did not answer the question as i did not know how to answer that question so i sent back the questions to oliver, skins and the magazine without the answer on that question

[7:44:18] Ross Tucker: So when they asked why you had not provided the cadence data, can I just understand what your response was?

[7:45:19] Ross Tucker: Related to that, there were (and still are) many people who were appealing for the data (cadence and HR) that would help to explain your account, and we wonder why you did not make that available to them? Because the cadence data IS there - we have it in the tom-tom record

[7:49:43] hania: I did not and still dont fully understand how it all works and one of the watches i was lent by up and running (it was a display model) 2 weeks before the run. I asked tom tom even how to find the data to put it in the drop box to you - i wished now that more people were with me to sort this side of stuff out whilst i was running

[7:51:30] Ross Tucker: OK, so just on that cadence data, the data we now have in tom-tom shows that there are some very long runs where almost no steps are taken. In other words, the cadence is incredibly low, impossible for running or even walking

[7:51:52] Ross Tucker: Do have any comment on that very low cadence data?

[7:52:00] hania: On the run i did keep asking for more stuff to be shared to social media as people kept asking but the team thought it was enough being posted (especially dustin) and all in line with what others did and more but we were wrong

[7:55:35] hania: In respect to any of the recordings i only put on the watch and ran/walked and tried when possible to upload the data - in respect to the recording itself i dont know what say i

[7:57:23] hania: It was done correctly and the recording is what it is i suppose - im sorry i just dont know how to justify any issues with the data recordings

[7:58:29] Roger Pielke Jr.: Rob, we want to be very clear here. The cadence data is unequivocal in what it shows. It will be released with our report to be openly examined. The data shows, without a doubt, that the watched traveled in a vehicle. We want you to have every opportunity to respond to this now, as it will become public. Any further comment?

[8:03:43] hania: I had issues with the data even when i had ESPN, CCTV AMERICA AND OTHER RUNNERS WITH ME - i state again at no point did i travel in the vehicle and it saddens me that doing something truthfully has lead to this..... with you stating that i travelled in a vehicle - i did not

[8:05:05] hania: I hope you ask all those that were out on the road with me if i had cheated

[8:07:35] Roger Pielke Jr.: Thanks, and yes, we have been in contact with others. One of the very clear messages in the data is that there are not data issues when you ran with others, but there are when you were with your team, especially at night. All of this analysis will be in our report. Any further comments on this before we move to the next questions?

[8:08:23] hania: No sir

[8:09:15] Ross Tucker: Ok, next one - when we looked at the data set that you provided, we noticed that some runs were MISSING from that compared to what had been reported during the run, where you were uploading screen shots of runs to Facebook

[8:09:16] hania: I know that i did nothing wrong

[8:09:42] Ross Tucker: Why did you delete certain runs from the data set, and why were those Facebook posts deleted with those records too?

[8:13:51] hania: I did not delete - just re uploaded after my conversation with tom tom - they were deleted after conversation with various people - i have had loads of people giving advice all over the place upload to here and there - delete it all and upload it there and so much more -

[8:14:04] hania: I had no guidance as to what to do

[8:14:31] hania: I am an honest and open person listening to many voices

[8:14:34] Ross Tucker: There are runs that are visible in screen shots of the Facebook page, which are then not present in the Tom-tom record

[8:15:07] Ross Tucker: There are also missing segments of data. So who suggested that you delete information or files?

[8:19:52] hania: Sorry - No information or files were asked by anyone to delete apart from TomTom inorder to try and sort out the data i did this after several people asked me to talk with TomTom ----- people asked me to upload to strave, mapmy run etc etc and i did then others asked me to do other things - i spent days doing it. Downloading the files and uploading to another platform - it got confusing and stressful for me - with no real guidance etc i endlessly tried to do what everyone was asking

[8:21:16] Ross Tucker: OK, understood.

[8:21:59] Ross Tucker: We have a time constraint, so we are going to have to wrap up here - are there any final comments you'd like to make in the light of what we've discussed here, regarding the data and it's eventual publication?

[8:22:08] Ross Tucker: Or anything else that you would like on the record?

[8:28:04] hania: If any other questions need answering please post it here and i will answer all asap. I will also write here tomorrow also. I do this running for a reason, not to impress anyone nor get records but it really is to do my bit. Children are special and i just try to bring hope and inspiration in my own way. I have in my view a talent for long distance runs and have connected with many and will continue to do my bit. I did do this truthfully and with integrity. I will prove my running in the 6 day events

[8:28:53] Ross Tucker: OK, Rob, thanks for your time and for typing out - a bit painful I know, but the best for our methods. Thanks a lot!

[8:29:00] hania: I wish you both a good afternoon and please let me know if there is anything else i can do.

[8:29:18] Roger Pielke Jr.: Thanks from me as well, appreciate your time.

[8:29:49] Ross Tucker: Thanks again.

[8:29:57] hania: Thankyou never give up xron listening to many voices

[8:14:34] Ross Tucker: There are runs that are visible in screen shots of the Facebook page, which are then not present in the Tom-tom record

[8:15:07] Ross Tucker: There are also missing segments of data. So who suggested that you delete information or files?

[8:19:52] hania: Sorry - No information or files were asked by anyone to delete apart from TomTom inorder to try and sort out the data i did this after several people asked me to talk with TomTom ----- people asked me to upload to strave, mapmy run etc etc and i did then others asked me to do other things - i spent days doing it. Downloading the files and uploading to another platform - it got confusing nd stressful for me - with no real guidance etc i endlessly tried to do what everyone was asking

[8:21:16] Ross Tucker: OK, understood.

[8:21:59] Ross Tucker: We have a time constraint, so we are going to have to wrap up here - are there any final comments you'd like to make in the light of what we've discussed here, regarding the data and it's eventual publication?

[8:22:08] Ross Tucker: Or anything else that you would like on the record?

[8:28:04] hania: If any other questions need answering please post it here and i will answer all asap. I will also write here tomorrow also. I do this running for a reason, not to impress anyone nor get records but it really is to do my bit. Children are special and i just try to bring hope and inspiration in my own way. I have in my view a talent for long distance runs and have connected with many and will continue to do my bit. I did do this truthfully and with integrity. I will prove my running in the 6 day events

[8:28:53] Ross Tucker: OK, Rob, thanks for your time and for typing out - a bit painful I know, but the best for our methods. Thanks a lot!

[8:29:00] hania: I wish you both a good afternoon and please let me know if there is anything else i can do.

[8:29:18] Roger Pielke Jr.: Thanks from me as well, appreciate your time

Interview with Michael Speicher 17 August 2016

[17-Aug-16 8:30:20] *** Ross Tucker added Michael Speicher, Roger Pielke Jr. ***

[17-Aug-16 8:30:20] *** Ross Tucker enabled joining this conversation. ***

[17-Aug-16 8:30:27] *** Ross Tucker has renamed this conversation to "MS interview 17 August"

[17-Aug-16 8:30:44] Ross Tucker: OK, I have added Roger. Roger, can you see these yet?

[17-Aug-16 8:30:49] Ross Tucker: Michael, you can?

[17-Aug-16 8:30:58] Michael Speicher: Hello Ross and Roger

[17-Aug-16 8:31:35] Michael Speicher: I can see everything

[17-Aug-16 8:31:44] Ross Tucker: OK, perfect.

[17-Aug-16 8:31:55] Ross Tucker: Roger is just taking a quick break, we should be good to go in 2

[17-Aug-16 8:32:10] Michael Speicher: no problem

[17-Aug-16 8:32:38] Ross Tucker: Basically, we have a set of questions we'd like to ask, in a few broad categories. I know it's a little painful to type it all out instead of speak, but it's so that we can have answers in black and white, and also maybe gives a bit of time for considered response, a bit of time to think it through.

[17-Aug-16 8:33:13] Michael Speicher: yes I understand

[17-Aug-16 8:33:27] Ross Tucker: First is some general stuff.

[17-Aug-16 8:33:38] Ross Tucker: 1) Why did you not use the heart rate function on the watch at all?

[17-Aug-16 8:34:17] Roger Pielke Jr.: I am here

[17-Aug-16 8:34:38] Michael Speicher: Hello Roger

[17-Aug-16 8:34:44] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, thanks

[17-Aug-16 8:34:49] Michael Speicher: pleasure to both meet you virtually

[17-Aug-16 8:35:01] Michael Speicher: in regards to question 1

[17-Aug-16 8:38:32] Michael Speicher: I had no knowledge of the watch and it's functions. I was in charge of handling the social media content, the RV, chores (such as washing, buying food) and communication with the reporters

[17-Aug-16 8:38:54] Ross Tucker: Ok, fair enough

[17-Aug-16 8:39:20] Ross Tucker: who was in charge of the watches? And the uploading of data, its storage etc?

[17-Aug-16 8:43:38] Michael Speicher: Rob was in charge of the watches. The only time I ever touched them was when the battery was running low. He would give them to me and I would plug them in to the control panel of the vehicle to charge. Rob was also in charge of the uploading of data and it's storage. I was never told how to do any of that

[17-Aug-16 8:44:33] Roger Pielke Jr.: Did you feel that Rob was technically qualified to handle the data, its storage and upload?

[17-Aug-16 8:47:02] Michael Speicher: I feel he should've explained Dustin and myself how to do it and we could've taken care of that

[17-Aug-16 8:47:31] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, thanks. Over to Ross.

[17-Aug-16 8:47:40] Ross Tucker: OK, so next question:

[17-Aug-16 8:47:58] Ross Tucker: Why do the watches indicate that long portions of the runs have been covered at unrealistic speeds?

[17-Aug-16 8:50:02] Michael Speicher: can you specify your question, I'm not sure what you mean

[17-Aug-16 8:50:43] Ross Tucker: Sure, I'll explain more. We have data from the tom-tom watches now, and when we look at that, we see long segments, miles at a time, that have covered at impossible speeds, in the range of 40mph to 70 mph.

[17-Aug-16 8:50:53] Ross Tucker: We wonder whether there is an explanation for that?

[17-Aug-16 8:53:54] Michael Speicher: I can only guess , because I wasn't in charge of the watches. There were situations, where we had to get go get food or do laundry. These stores were a little out of the way, which could've lead to the 40-70mph?

[17-Aug-16 8:55:40] Michael Speicher: In the above occasions that I'm aware of, we drove back to the exact same spot to where Rob had stopped running

[17-Aug-16 8:56:28] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, the instances we are referring to occurred in the middle of recorded runs, and did not involve any turnaround. Were there instances of the watch-of-record being left tracking while in the vehicle?

[17-Aug-16 9:03:05] Michael Speicher: To my knowledge, Rob was always wearing one watch, while the other one was charging. The only time that I'm aware of, that the watch-of-record was tracking while in the vehicle was during the incident that happened in Kansas. I also drove back to the spot of the incident.

[17-Aug-16 9:06:41] Roger Pielke Jr.: Thanks, we will get to the cadence data shortly. But, to be very clear about the bottom line from the cadence data, it is unequivocal in showing that the watch-of-record traveled in a vehicle for long stretches. Can you explain this?

[17-Aug-16 9:11:51] Michael Speicher: I honestly cannot explain this

[17-Aug-16 9:12:15] Ross Tucker: Ok.

[17-Aug-16 9:12:25] Ross Tucker: Let's move on to the cadence data.

[17-Aug-16 9:12:58] Ross Tucker: When the accusations began, a lot of people were calling for the cadence data to be made public. What is your recall of the response to those calls, and why was the data not made public?

[17-Aug-16 9:14:22] Ross Tucker: Did the three of you discuss this, what was the attitude towards making the data available? I know you've said that Rob was in charge of that, but we want what you felt about those appeals for data, and why the cadence data was not provided at the time?

[17-Aug-16 9:25:00] Michael Speicher: I kept my distance from all the comments that were written. I saw it as a distraction and didn't want that to bring us down. The three of us discussed about the data needing to be uploaded, I was in favor of making the data available. Why the data was not made public, I'm not the person who can answer that question.

[17-Aug-16 9:27:25] Roger Pielke Jr.: The cadence data indicates that the watch-of-record was in the vehicle at times. When we spoke to Rob earlier today, he indicated that there were instances when he did leave the watch-of-record in the vehicle by mistake and would quickly realize it and put it back on. Do you recall any such incidents?

[17-Aug-16 9:29:50] Michael Speicher: I have no knowledge of him coming back into to vehicle

[17-Aug-16 9:30:19] Roger Pielke Jr.: Ok, thanks.

[17-Aug-16 9:31:11] Roger Pielke Jr.: Before leaving the cadence data, we want to be very clear here that we are following what the data says. The cadence data is unequivocal in what it shows. It will be released with our report to be openly examined. The data shows, without a doubt, that the watched traveled in a vehicle. We want you to have every opportunity to respond to this now, as it will become public. Any further comment?

[17-Aug-16 9:34:35] Michael Speicher: Rob, at all times, was in charge of the watches and in charge of the data. He was in charge of changing the watches. I was not his minder.

[17-Aug-16 9:39:50] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, we put these same questions to Rob and he told us (a) he did not understand the watches or posting, and (b) "the team thought it was enough being posted". Was Rob solely in charge of the data or a team effort?

[17-Aug-16 9:40:20] Roger Pielke Jr.: Not sure where the emojis came from. Sorry

[17-Aug-16 9:40:59] Michael Speicher: Rob was in charge of the data collection at all times

[17-Aug-16 9:41:29] Michael Speicher: and that was the understanding right from the beginning before we even started

[17-Aug-16 9:44:56] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, is it at all possible that Rob was in or on a vehicle (yours or another) without your being aware of it?

[17-Aug-16 9:45:27] Roger Pielke Jr.: In other words, are you vouching for the fact that the TomTom data that we have been provided are accurate representations of actual runs and not vehicle travel?

[17-Aug-16 9:47:28] Michael Speicher: I can only vouch for what I saw or what I was in control of. I cannot vouch for times when I was either asleep or with Rob or when I didn't have visual contact with Rob. I cannot vouch for the data, because I was not responsible for or in control of it.

[17-Aug-16 9:48:48] Michael Speicher: *I cannot vouch for times when I was either asleep or not with Rob

[17-Aug-16 9:50:07] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, thanks, before we proceed to a few more specific questions before concluding, this statement distancing yourself from Rob is not nearly the very strong endorsement that you provided in support of Rob via Facebook. What has changed?

[17-Aug-16 9:52:10] Michael Speicher: The video was done in the heat of the moment. It was done from the point of view that I did not see and was not aware of any cheating or such behaviour from Rob. Again, I cannot vouch for times when I was asleep or could not see him.

[17-Aug-16 9:52:23] Roger Pielke Jr.: Thanks

[17-Aug-16 9:52:33] Ross Tucker: If we can just talk about a specific incident or two to get your perspectives...

[17-Aug-16 9:53:03] Ross Tucker: when the RV broke down, Rob struck out ahead on his own, presumably while you and Dustin waited for a tow? This was in Nevada, approaching Laughlin?

[17-Aug-16 9:53:20] Ross Tucker: Do you recall what time you arrived in Laughlin, and what Rob's account of that run was?

[17-Aug-16 9:56:44] Michael Speicher: As far as I remember, we were stuck in the Mojave desert around 6AM - 630AM. Rob stuck around for about a half an hour. The next time we saw him was just before noon in Laughlin, NV.

[17-Aug-16 9:57:06] Ross Tucker: So you arrived just before noon? What did he tell you about his run?

[17-Aug-16 9:58:00] Michael Speicher: all I remember was that Rob said it was a tough run and that he was tired.

[17-Aug-16 9:58:04] Ross Tucker: OK.

[17-Aug-16 9:58:20] Ross Tucker: You said earlier that you managed the social media, including Facebook?

[17-Aug-16 9:58:48] Ross Tucker: During the runs, at fairly regular intervals, a photograph of a TomTom record was being posted to Facebook. Was that you?

[17-Aug-16 9:59:50] Ross Tucker: This type of image was going up onto Facebook.

[17-Aug-16 10:00:10] Ross Tucker: A couple of points about those:

[17-Aug-16 10:00:28] Ross Tucker: They are now deleted. Why was that, and where did the decision to delete those images/posts come from?

[17-Aug-16 10:01:58] Michael Speicher: No, I had and still have access to his facebook social media account. The only things I posted were the video of myself and a photograph not related to the TomTom data. That picture and other pictures like that were posted by Rob. I have not deleted anything nor have I made any decision to delete anything.

[17-Aug-16 10:02:41] Ross Tucker: There was no discussion at all between you to delete those posts?

[17-Aug-16 10:02:52] Michael Speicher: No

[17-Aug-16 10:02:57] Ross Tucker: ok

[17-Aug-16 10:03:31] Roger Pielke Jr.: A few final questions about the Kansas incident. Thanks again for taking the time.

[17-Aug-16 10:03:58] Roger Pielke Jr.: We think we have pieced together the timeline. But we have a few questions about specifics.

[17-Aug-16 10:04:19] Roger Pielke Jr.: Who was driving the van when you left Mary's Bar that night? Where were you?

[17-Aug-16 10:04:45] Michael Speicher: I was driving the RV

[17-Aug-16 10:05:22] Roger Pielke Jr.: The data indicates that the watch was in the van when you left. Was Rob also in the van?

[17-Aug-16 10:06:20] Michael Speicher: When we left Mary's Bar, Rob was not in the RV.

[17-Aug-16 10:07:51] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, thanks. After the Asher D incident occurred the team offered two public, incompatible explanations, one was that he had been dropped and the other was that he was running with the van out of sight. Which version was correct?

[17-Aug-16 10:09:50] Michael Speicher: Which incident do you mean? The video from the petrol station or when he approached us in the middle of the night?

[17-Aug-16 10:10:05] Roger Pielke Jr.: Middle of the night, thanks.

[17-Aug-16 10:18:31] Roger Pielke Jr.: Michael, are you still there?

[17-Aug-16 10:18:50] Michael Speicher: yes I'm still here it's quite a lot to write though

[17-Aug-16 10:19:06] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, no worries, just making sure, thx

[17-Aug-16 10:21:31] Michael Speicher: Rob, Dustin and I had a system. Whenever he was tired, needed to change clothes, grab a bite to eat from the vehicle etc. he would hold his flashlight out to the side so I could see it and I would come to a full stop so he could do what he needed to do. After that he did what he needed to do, he would go back out and continue. On that night, I saw a light from a distance and thought Rob needed assistance so I decided to slow down till I came to a full stop. All of a sudden the side door opens and Rob asks me what I'm doing. I tell him that I saw a light and thought that that was him. I look in the mirror and the light keeps getting closer and closer, faster and faster. Meanwhile, Rob has both feet in the vehicle while the vehicle being at a complete stop. All of the sudden the light is right next to the window on the side door, with no indication of who this person is. Rob tell me Go Go, so I drove. This light continues to follow the vehicle for around 10-20 seconds. All of a sudden the light makes a sharp left turn and disappears. Shortly after I make a full stop with the vehicle and return back to the spot where I first made a full spot, thinking Rob was flashing his Flashlight needing a break. From that point on we continued.

[17-Aug-16 10:23:13] Roger Pielke Jr.: OK, so you are saying that the claim that he was dropped when this occurred is incorrect. Why then was that statement made?

[17-Aug-16 10:25:48] Michael Speicher: What statement are you referring to?

[17-Aug-16 10:28:20] Roger Pielke Jr.: The statement from the team indicating that when AD approached RY could not be seen because he had been dropped, as he had been earlier in the evening. Both versions will be included in our report, and we'd like to know why there are two public explanations here from the team. Any further comment?

[17-Aug-16 10:33:39] Michael Speicher: To be fair you need to be a bit more specific so that I can answer you properly. When you say team, does that mean Rob or me or Dustin or some collective statement. I have answered what happened above. If you want me the address a specific statement, you should give me the statement, who made it and when. I was supporting SKINS in the project. I was driving the RV and not in charge of Rob's person or his data. There have been a lot of statements made by so many parties that if you want me to address any particular point you really need to put it clearly to me, because I am telling you everything I know.

[17-Aug-16 10:34:02] Roger Pielke Jr.: Ok, thanks.

[17-Aug-16 10:34:43] Ross Tucker: OK, we have no more questions, so if there is anything else that you'd like to add, in light of the last few months, and the last couple of hours, then please feel free. If not we are happy to wrap up.

[17-Aug-16 10:37:04] Michael Speicher: I've told you what I know and my experiences. Thank you for your time.

[17-Aug-16 10:37:13] Ross Tucker: Ok, thanks also for yours.

[17-Aug-16 10:37:16] Roger Pielke Jr.: Thanks Michael