# Tom Kopke defends Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling crown despite hazardous tumbles



For the second consecutive year, Tom Kopke, a determined YouTuber from Germany, seized victory at the annual Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling race, showcasing the chaotic thrill of one of Britain's most eccentric traditions. The event held on the late-May public holiday, saw participants irrespective of nationality risking life and limb in pursuit of a 7-pound wheel of Double Gloucester cheese. Kopke, having claimed the title last year as well, embodied the fierce competitiveness of the race, confidently declaring, “All the people at the top said they were going to steal my title, but this is mine. I risked my life for this. It’s my cheese. Back to back.”

The Cooper's Hill competition, which is believed to have origins dating back over two centuries, takes place near Gloucester, drawing thousands of spectators who line the hillside and gather behind fences at the base. The steep, 200-yard hill is famed not only for the rolling cheese but also for the dramatic tumbles and wipeouts it facilitates. As participants launch themselves down the slope, gravity and speed combine to create a display of athleticism tempered by peril; many competitors find staying on their feet nearly impossible, with injuries including twisted ankles and broken bones being a regular occurrence.

This year’s women’s race saw Londoner Ava Sender Logan triumph after an acrobatic course that left her with multiple somersaults and a smack to the head. “I will probably feel it tomorrow,” she remarked post-race, acknowledging the physical toll but maintaining her resolve. “I’m fine,” she affirmed, embodying the indomitable spirit shared by many competitors who accept the inevitable risks that define the event.

The chaotic allure of the Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling race is matched by its notorious reputation for injury. The competition has not been without its controversies, particularly regarding safety measures; the uneven terrain contributes to the high likelihood of a dramatic fall. Despite such risks, the event remains a staple in local and international sporting calendars. In 2023, Canadian Delaney Irving captured headlines for her incredible win, albeit after sustaining a concussion during the race and waking up in a medical tent moments later. Yet her experience reflects the unexpected nature of the contest, much like the previous year’s events when the race’s challenges left even seasoned players reeling.

Since its inception, the event has attracted participants from around the globe, transforming into a spectacle for fans of all ages. The 2023 iteration was no exception, reinforcing its place not just in local folklore but as a cultural phenomenon, symbolising the lengths to which individuals will go in pursuit of jest and glory. The race’s resilience, bolstered by participants' tales of bravery and the unique camaraderie it fosters, ensures its continuation for years to come, with both seasoned competitors and enthusiastic newcomers eagerly lining up for a chance at the rollicking thrill of the chase.

Despite its challenges, the race continues to captivate audiences, attracting both participants and spectators alike who revel in the unpredictability and excitement that defines this unique British tradition.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/runners-england-britain-london-gloucester-b2758046.html), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/35108c79613ed54579ca2f1d838ac22e)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/runners-england-britain-london-gloucester-b2758046.html), [[3]](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/755460-longest-running-cheese-rolling-race), [[6]](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/why-people-risk-their-lives-chasing-cheese/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/food/2023/may/29/woman-wins-coopers-hill-cheese-rolling-race-despite-being-knocked-out), [[5]](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/delaney-irving-wins-cheese-race-knocked-unconscious-coopers-hill-gloucester/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/runners-england-britain-london-gloucester-b2758046.html), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/35108c79613ed54579ca2f1d838ac22e), [[5]](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/delaney-irving-wins-cheese-race-knocked-unconscious-coopers-hill-gloucester/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/food/2023/may/29/woman-wins-coopers-hill-cheese-rolling-race-despite-being-knocked-out), [[6]](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/why-people-risk-their-lives-chasing-cheese/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/runners-england-britain-london-gloucester-b2758046.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/35108c79613ed54579ca2f1d838ac22e> - In the annual Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling competition in Brockworth, England, German YouTuber Tom Kopke from Munich claimed victory for the second consecutive year. The event, held every late-May bank holiday near Gloucester, involves participants racing down a steep 200-yard hill chasing a 7-pound wheel of Double Gloucester cheese. Kopke emerged victorious despite the perilous tumbles, declaring his triumph with pride. The centuries-old tradition is notorious for its high risk of injuries, with runners often tumbling violently down the hill. This year’s women’s race winner, Ava Sender Logan from London, experienced multiple somersaults and a head impact but finished the race successfully. Thousands of spectators witnessed the chaotic and exhilarating event, widely known for its unpredictability and intense physical toll. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/35108c79613ed54579ca2f1d838ac22e?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/755460-longest-running-cheese-rolling-race> - The Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake is a longstanding tradition in Brockworth, England, where participants chase a 7-pound wheel of Double Gloucester cheese down a steep hill. The event has been held annually for over two centuries, with records indicating its existence since at least 1826. The most successful competitor is Chris Anderson, a former British Army soldier, who has won the race 23 times as of 2022. Despite its popularity, the event has faced challenges, including cancellations during the COVID-19 pandemic and safety concerns due to the steep and uneven terrain. ([guinnessworldrecords.com](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/755460-longest-running-cheese-rolling-race?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/food/2023/may/29/woman-wins-coopers-hill-cheese-rolling-race-despite-being-knocked-out> - In the 2023 Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling race, Canadian competitor Delaney Irving won the women's race despite being knocked unconscious during the event. Irving, from Vancouver Island, recalled running, bumping her head, and then waking up in the medical tent. She expressed disbelief at her victory but felt great about it. The race, which attracts participants from around the world, is known for its chaotic and unpredictable nature, with competitors chasing a 7-pound wheel of Double Gloucester cheese down a steep hill. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/food/2023/may/29/woman-wins-coopers-hill-cheese-rolling-race-despite-being-knocked-out?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/delaney-irving-wins-cheese-race-knocked-unconscious-coopers-hill-gloucester/> - Delaney Irving, a 19-year-old from Canada, won the Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling race in 2023 despite being briefly knocked unconscious during the event. The race, which involves chasing a 7-pound wheel of Double Gloucester cheese down a steep hill, is known for its high risk of injuries. Irving recalled hitting her head and then waking up in the medical tent, expressing disbelief at her victory. She was taken for a CT scan after the race, which showed no serious injuries. ([cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/delaney-irving-wins-cheese-race-knocked-unconscious-coopers-hill-gloucester/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/why-people-risk-their-lives-chasing-cheese/> - The Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling contest in Brockworth, England, is a perilous annual event where participants chase a rolling 8-pound wheel of Double Gloucester cheese down a steep hill. The 2018 race made history as Chris Anderson, a 30-year-old soldier, achieved his 22nd career victory despite tearing his left calf muscle during the race. The event is notorious for its high risk of injuries, with competitors often sustaining concussions, broken bones, and other serious injuries. Despite the dangers, the race continues to attract participants and spectators from around the world. ([nationalgeographic.com](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/why-people-risk-their-lives-chasing-cheese/?utm_source=openai))