

Sundon Saunter - 18th November 2012

When I suggested I had an idea for a new SS route to the committee the thought of a 'triple challenge' proved irresistible! So I spent much of the previous winter jogging around the route writing the Route Description – most memorably some sunny days with snow on the ground. The route was then checked by other members of the SS committee during the summer.

I have to thank Central Beds Rights of Way officers for their sterling work improving parts of the route. Richard for diverting a path around a muddy, smelly farm onto a more walker friendly line; as well as personally brush-cutting a line through a jungle in a wood. And Gemma, for getting a line of stiles on the short route changed to K-gates – the work finishing just 3 days before the event. Though we didn't have the same success with the lines of stiles in Chalgrave.

The Marshal's Walk took place on a dire, wet and gloomy day. Thanks to Dave & Merrian for their support. My main memory is that I seemed to do most of the second half in the dark – despite finishing by 3.30pm.

The day of the event was bright sunshine and blue skies – so all could enjoy the views on the route. Though rain over the previous week or 2 meant we had the usual SS mud on cross field paths. I had specifically wanted to take the long route through Woburn Park, which was why it ended up as 27 miles, and I know that some who came from further afield particularly enjoyed this section.

For checkpoints we used Sundon Village Hall, the Queen's Head at Tebworth the cricket pavilion at Eversholt and the Scout hut at Harlington. All seemed to work well, and though the bar at Tebworth was small it was cozy. The variety of food on offer was appreciated, especially the wraps, and the hot fruit pie & custard at Eversholt was very popular. At HQ we had a great team dishing up beans or spaghetti on toast with an assortment of puddings. A massive thanks to all those who manned checkpoints & HQ.

Entered: 314 Started: 270 Retired: 1
Completed: 12M, 55; 18M, 82; 27M, 132

Entry income: £1,666 Badge sales/donations: £118.03
Total income: £1,784.03
Expenditure on walk: £901.19 Donation air ambulance: £150
Total expenditure: £1,051.19
Excess: £732.84

Thanks to all on the SS committee, and all the marshals, who helped to make it a memorable event. The feedback was that most people had a great day – I certainly did.

David Sedgley