

Report for the 23rd Blackwater Marathon held on Saturday 26 October 2019

We would like to thank all the Marshals for their help on the Blackwater Marathon. There were many positive comments at the finish and on social media from participants who enjoyed the walk / run and the hospitality they received en route and at the finish. This is all down to the wonderful job done by the marshals in making the event such a success.

Event Marshals:-

Rosemary Abrey, Elaine Oddie, Heidi Miller, Rita Williams, Gill & Rob Struthers, Peter Tremain Georgie & Peter Hogg, Carol Toze, Linda Fordham, Richard Haynes, John Mountain, Mick Dodge, Anita Stamp, Chris Parrott, Ginny Powell, Brian Martin, Lisa & Jared Walbridge, Bruce Davidson, Kim Howard, Eddy Short, Jean & Bill Bowers.

Marshals' Walk Sunday 29 September supported by Jean & Bill Bowers

26 mile Elaine Oddie, Richard Haynes, Gill & Rob Struthers, Rita Williams, Heidi Miller, Peter Tremain, Carol Toze, Ginny Powell

18 mile Brian Martin

The route descriptions were also checked on two solo walks, the 26 mile by Ginny Powell and the 13 mile by Sue & Dave Wingrove

Special thanks to:-

Caretaker Ray for his help at Heybridge School. Steve and Barbara for their help at Goldhanger Village Hall. Rusty Webb for her help with booking the Tollesbury Activity Centre. David Brewer for his help with booking our new Checkpoint 3 at Little Totham.

On this event the work load was spread with different people taking responsibility for the tasks involved in organising the event. The team was:-

Jean & Bill Bowers	Route Planning, Booking Checkpoints, Overseers on the day
Elaine Oddie	Taking Entries, PACER (the online event control system)
Jean Bowers	Event Coordinator, Risk Assessment, Equipment, Food
Bill Bowers	Route Descriptions and GPX files, Event Control Paperwork, Certificates
Carol Toze	Food at Finish
Richard Haynes	Equipment
Linda Fordham	Food CP 1
Peter Tremain	Emergency back-up vehicle and roving marshal

"The Blackwater Bakers" who provided the home cooked food for the checkpoints and finish :- Anita Stamp, Linda Fordham, Gill Struthers, Heidi Miller, Ginny Powell, John Mountain and Jean Bowers.

There were 176 entrants. 129 started the walk; 102 on the 26.7 mile route, 10 on the 17.8 mile route and 17 on the 13.1 mile route. 125 finished with 4 retirements 2 of which were planned.

The results were added to the main LDWA website results list shortly after the final 26 milers finished at 4-34 pm.

The weather forecast before the event had been for heavy rain on Saturday afternoon. This forecast, together with England playing in the Rugby Union World Cup semi-final, was probably responsible for the large number of non-starters. Fortunately the drizzle didn't start until the early afternoon and the heavy rain didn't arrive until after everybody had finished.

All the checkpoints closed early. The last 26 mile walkers arrived at the finish with nearly one hour to spare, so we could start packing up early. We cleared up and left the school around 6.00 pm.

Thanks once again to all the organising team and the marshals.

Jean and Bill Bowers