**Herts Hobble 2019**

**Report**

It was a hot day (24C), though a gentle breeze and the build-up of cloud cover throughout the day made the going tolerable during the event. In spite of this, however, there were 2 retirees that fell victim to the heat. It was apparent early on that dehydration might pose a problem, so a common ad hoc water stop was added for both walks.

The route appeared to be enjoyed by most in spite of the ground being hard, thought the last section from Reed to the finish was deemed to be a bit of a sting in the tail.

There were 185 participants scheduled to take part on the event which dwindled to 156 scheduled to book at the start, which reduced further to 135 actual starters on the day, a quite precipitous drop in numbers. We could have accommodated more, however due to having to attend to a family matter we were forced to close the event intake of participants early.

 This was the lowest number of starters in the 15 plus years that I have been running the event, which, needless to say was quite disappointing, especially as there were a number still on the waiting list when we closed the event. As usual, there were a high proportion of runners, which, seems to be the trend on the Hobble over the past few years, considering it is advertised as a walking event. All most welcome, though.

PACER again proved to be a very useful tool to control the event, which provides a means of accounting for participants passing through checkpoints in real time back at HQ (Buntingford) and at forward checkpoints, too. After our experience with an intermittent internet connection at our checkpoint on the Hadrian 100 we deployed ‘belt & braces’ by having an off-line capability which we used at one checkpoint. E&H are very much in favour of PACER and will be using it on all future E&H events.

A very big ‘Thank You’ for the many helpers without who’s contribution to these events would not run; namely, Jackie Burnett, Carol and Harold Toze, Dennis Jacobs, Mick Dodge, Eddie Short, Bob and Rosemary Abrey, Rob Struthers, Terrance Outridge, Ann and David Freeman, Brian Martin, Richard Haynes, Dave and Sue Wingrove, Jack Rossiter, Linda Fordham, Heidi Miller, Rita Williams and Andy Clark. Thanks, too, to for cakes from Sue and Dave Wingrove and teabread from Brian Martin.

I was most grateful too, to Elaine Oddie for the setting up of CSV files and the printing of the certificates, and Wayne Eagle for converting my GPX SatNav files as to be readable on Garmins.

**Peter Hogg**

Event Organiser

2 July 2019