

Capital Challenge 2020

The event is fully subscribed and scheduled for 4 April 2020. Registrations opened on 1 November 2019 and we had 200 people registered within two weeks. The event is currently overenrolled by 34 people (to compensate for expected no-shows and late cancellations) with a waiting list of 54. There are 22 marshals and we could use a few more.

We will be using, for the first time, a new route of about 26 miles that starts at St John's Church, Waterloo (same as last year), crosses the Thames to take in several Royal Parks, Holland Park, and Brompton Cemetery, then re-crosses the Thames to explore Battersea Park, Clapham Common, Brockwell Park, Dulwich Park, Dulwich Wood, and Crystal Palace Park. Checkpoints will be at Brompton Cemetery, Clapham Common, and the South London Scout Centre just outside Dulwich Wood, and the finish will be at St Hugh's Community Centre, Anerley, which has good rail connections.

From this year forward, we will try to eliminate bottled water from the supplies offered to walkers. The route description indicates sources of drinkable water along the route, and we will remind participants to bring a water bottle with them, along with a mug for hot drinks at the start and finish.

Thanks to Susanne Waldschmidt for taking the lead and doing the lion's share of the work to develop the new route, to the many volunteers who helped to test and fine-tune it, and to Pete Colley and Gordon Parker for helping to find and make arrangements with checkpoint venues.

We will be inaugurating a third route in 2021 that is mainly in South London and uses parts of existing trails (Thames Path, Green Chain and Capital Ring) punctuated by interesting or unexpected diversions.

As we will soon be using three routes in regular rotation for the Capital Challenge, we will offer three different certificates for completion. And perhaps we should give the routes distinctive names.