

## **Report of the 21<sup>st</sup> Founders Challenge Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

167 people started and 161 finished: 40 completed the 16 mile walk, 78 the 27 mile walk and 43 the 27 mile run. Their ages ranged from 11 to 72, all on the long route. Quite a feat for the youngster!

The number of starters was 30 more than in 2016 and 37 more than 2015. We had 11 entries on the day and only 16 No Shows.

Times ranged from 4 hours 7 minutes to 7h17m for the short route. For the 27 miles there was remarkably little difference between those classified as walkers and runners! 5h24m - 9h50m for the walkers and 4h58m - 9h53m for the runners. The key issue for the organisers is that participants arrive at checkpoints when they are open which almost everyone did.

Feedback so far has been very positive, thanks to the 30 marshals who helped on the day.

Special mentions go to Tony Cartwright and Mary Dumble from the Surrey Group who led on PACER, the electronic monitoring package that made times available so fast at the end and also made sure we didn't lose anyone. They were assisted by Janet Chapman, also from LDWA Surrey, and Andy Shoesmith who welcomed people back to HQ and made sure they received their certificates.

And particular appreciation to John Pennifold who voluntarily shouldered the responsibility for coordinating the catering. This is no mean task! It involved a complex spreadsheet of assumptions about how many 50 gm slices of cheese go into a loaf of bread and how many sandwiches come out of a tub of hummus or peanut butter. He was ably supported on the day by his wife Fiona and a team clad fashionably in new LDWA London logo'd aprons.

Sincere thanks go to the Friends of the Hurtwood who keep miles of forest in splendid condition for our enjoyment and maintain the car parks that we use in Peaslake, Surrey Wildlife Trust for use of car parks at Guildford Lane and Friday Street as checkpoints, to Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel for the checkpoint there and the National Trust for permitting access there for our cars. All these organisations either charged for access or will receive a donation from LDWA London.

The following gave lifts to marshals and participants arriving at Guildford Station: Aga Geborek, Hannah Gray, Sophie Ravenscroft, Tim Bedwell, Gary Allen and Andy Humphrey. Thanks to them and to those who also offered lifts but were not needed. All those who needed a lift out of Peaslake also got one – at least there was no one left when we locked up at 1945!

Car parking was managed by Hazel Stokes, Helen Franklin, Colin Saunders, Don Newman and Nigel Barraclough.

Catering and Hospitality: John and Fiona Pennifold, Susan Cannell, Jackie Fox, Lonica Vanclay, Joelle Gérin, Peter Aylmer, Colin Saunders, Ron Williamson, Cathy Phillips, Jeff Golland, Dave Williams and Deborah and Andy Shoemith.

CP1: Hazel Stokes, Joelle Gérin, Ken Fancett, Steve Garnsey, Andy Shoemith, Jeff Golland and Peter Aylmer.

CP2: Paul Lawrence, Helen Franklin, Linda Pan, Dave Williams, Peter Russell, Melissa Butcher and Simon Trott.

CP3: Nigel Barraclough, Tara Williams, Mary Dumble, Fabrice Leistner, Hazel Stokes and Cathy Phillips. Tara and Fabrice swept back to Peaslake very quickly but all had finished before they arrived!

The following helped to clear up in record time: Don Newman, Hazel Stokes, Colin Saunders, Dave Williams, John and Fiona Pennifold, Paul Lawrence, Andy and Deborah Shoemith, Peter Aylmer, Joelle Gérin, Nigel Barraclough and Lonica Vanclay. Several of these people were at the Hall in Peaslake before 7 a.m. and did not leave until 7.45 p.m.!

It's great having such a good team: my job becomes easy! Thanks to everyone.

Gordon Parker *on behalf of LDWA London*  
October 2017