

## Kanters



Kanters go back almost to the origins of the Surrey Group. They attracted walkers, runners and family groups alike with most offering a long (20mils) and short (12-13 mls) route. They were very much 'fun' events with entrants searching for clues (some cryptic) on buildings, in pub doorways and, if

Keith Chesterton was the organiser, probably buried somewhere deep in the undergrowth! Entrants were always mindful of the time element since some Kanters applied penalties for finishing late as well as missing clues!

In essence a Kanter is a walk (or run) between a series of unmanned checkpoints. Each has a grid reference together with a simple clue the answers to which are collected on the way round. This not only let the organisers know that the route had been followed but also adds to the involvement & enjoyment. The clues are given in sequence and the time started after the route was plotted on the map. In the early days 'Scores' Kanters were introduced where each CP was given a 'points' score with the more remote CPs being awarded the higher scores. The idea of the Scores Kanter was to maximise the points collected in the time available - a little more competitive than the normal Kanter and maybe even a forerunner to the present Karimoor Mountain and Lowe-Alpine Marathons!

Kanters have typically taken their names from their location eg Dunsfold Kanter, Bramley Kanter & Tilford Kanter with the most popular undoubtedly being the Surrey Inns Kanter which took its name from the Pubs and Inns used as clues. Other than the Surrey Inns Kanter which continues to attract a good number of entrants, Kanters have lost their popularity over the years. This may be a (sad) reflection of a lack of desire or confidence in plotting and following a route on the map as opposed to the relative 'luxury' of having a detailed route description to follow.

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