

**PUNCHBOWL MARATHON 2010**  
**February 14th**

**Event Report**

Marshals

**Start/Registration :**

Ted Swift, Jackie Barker, Val and Chris MaClaren, Fiona Cameron, John Westcott

**Cateres :**

Glenys Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth Bryan, Ian and Cindy McLeod, Chris Hayward, Keith Chesterton

**CP1**

**Little Cowdray Farm**

Pat and Dave Challenger, Chris McLaren, Mervyn Harvey

**CP2**

**Tilford Village Hall**

Tony Cartwright, Jan Chapman, Glenys Kirkpatrick, Vala West, Gillian Bull, Molly Groundsell, Elizabeth Bryan

**CP3**

**Puttenham Village Hall**

Richard Ireson, Joan Wrenn, Bill Grace, John Dixon, Ray Rowe

**CP4**

**The Moat**

Pat and Dave Challenger, Andy Fogel

**Routes 20/30:** Dave Challenger

**Closing Marshal:** John Lay

**Results:** Mike Diebel

**Photographer:** Reg Chapman

**PBM Secretary:** Joan Wrenn

Overnight entrants rudely awaked as the 5 marshals woke from the warmth of our sleeping bags, having spent a night sleeping on the stage of Chichester hall and switching on all the lights.

**This was the 34th Punchbowl Marathon AND it was Valentines Day.**

The kettle and urn are switched on in time before our commuting entrants start arriving. Val and I are ready for the already growing queue of people waiting for their numbers standing at the front of our desks. Ted is doing his usual of running around and sorting out any last minute problems.

The morning outside is looking like a promising start to the day with the early sunshine on the frost. Glenys was in the kitchen making hot and cold drinks for the early starters with biscuits to set them up, later to be joined by Elizabeth who also starts on cooking the marshals their sausage and egg sandwiches for breakfast. The first of the 30 mile walkers have already moved off and are on their way all wrapped up for the cold weather; there are flakes of snow in the air to add a bit of romance to the day. A lull appears in our queue long enough for us to grab a cup of tea and regain a little organisation to our desks whilst a few more trickle through for numbers, before the last wave arrive which are mainly the runners, clothing removed rather than added, Vaseline and characteristic odour of embrocations being applied, bags stowed around hall walls, then all of a sudden there is peace and quiet to the hall. Now was time for Val and I to start filling out the names on the finishing certificates for all entrants

All checkpoint marshals have now taken their designated CP boxes and had gone to their posts for the day to feed and water competitors.

This peace did not last for long as the first person was back in just over 4 hours having completed the 30mile route. The next few hours were a blur of individuals returning, muddy, smiling, tired, hungry, elated, and wet but the majority extremely happy with their day – you name it they poured in.

It goes without saying these events could not happen if individuals had not given up their spare time to help Ted and I and as this is only our second year of having taken over this already unbelievably successful and popular event, everyone's input and

help before, on and after this day are the reason this continues to be such a success, [as you can see by comments below](#).

Sincere thanks form Jack and Ted.

**Entries:** 295. 30 mile - 172. 20 mile - 123. **Retirements** 2 (one from each distance)

**Marshals walk** took place for this event o January 16<sup>th</sup>, where we had an excellent turn out considering the conditions underfoot were pretty tough going. We had had the heavy snows earlier that week and it was still lying thick on the ground but thawing fast and several paths involved clambering over, through or under fallen trees covered in snow. It was voted for an early lunch at the Punchbowl Café then rounded off well by drinks in the pub back at Witley.

Some Comments sent

Hello

I just wanted to drop you a brief line to say thank you so much for organising a wonderful event on Sunday. I was really nervous coming in to it as its only the second time I've attempted 30 miles and I knew this would be a 'testing' course. I had a lovely day out though despite the snow – mostly due to the wonderful atmosphere on the course and your very supportive and friendly marshal team. It took me a bit longer to get round than I would have liked but looking back I stopped to chat on a few occasions and sat down to have tea and biscuits at two check points – Brilliant!

The scenery was just lovely even in the low cloud and it was a refreshing change from the usual races I take part in. I very much hope to be back again next year.

Thanks again to you and your team for a lovely experience.

Best wishes

Jill Holliday

Charlton, SE7 7UE

Hello Jackie

Just to say Thank You for a great event yesterday.

My son James is going to Costa Rica and Nicaragua this summer for a month with World Challenge where they will spending time on local community projects, plus some exciting sounding rainforest and volcano trekking.

Yesterday was James' first event of that distance as preparation and he got a tremendous experience out of it. We'd both like to thank you and the Marshalls for such a well organised, friendly and enjoyable event. We met some tremendous people along the way and had a great time.

Thank You

Best Wishes

Kim and James Johnston

Thoroughly enjoyed today's excellent event and will certainly be back again. Could I ask you to pass on my thanks to all the helpers who did a first class job and seemed to be providing an endless and most welcome supply of sustenance at the CPs and Chichester Hall. Thank you also to the organizing team, I know that events like this don't just happen and the hard work is really appreciated. See you at Tanners.

kind regards

Paul Allen

Just wanted to say thanks sooo sooo much for a wonderful weekend! We all really enjoyed it and the organisation and route and friendly people and stacks of food were all great – such a beautiful area and def. the best event I could have chosen for my first 'ultra'! Absolutely brilliant from start to finish!

Didn't get a wink of sleep in the hall sadly – one particular snorer sounded like a chainsaw all night! Anything but romantic! But, it was lovely and warm at least! On the other hand – couldn't think of a better way to spend Valentine's Day – running around the most beautiful countryside in the snow! Lovely!

Do thank all your colleagues on the team and all those great folk in the checkpoints – all really friendly and they must have worked so hard keeping us all going! So, sorry for being such a pain before the event – am so grateful to you for making sure we all got in and all got a place to stay – I wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Thanks again and hope to see you next year – if not before!

All best wishes,

Paula

Just to say that at a time when the 100 Marathon Club is debating the increasing trend of adventure company's organising events, and charging usually in excess of £30, what fantastic value your event remains.

My view is that most LDWA events are probably too cheap, which is why I always make an effort to buy a badge when available. I do understand the concept of putting on events by using volunteers, as I have arranged many LDWA type events, plus several for the restricted use of members to fill in empty spots in the calendar.

This was my 5th Punchbowl on the bounce, and hopefully not my last. It was certainly the best underfoot conditions of the 5, although not my fastest. A back strain dictated speed more than the course this year.

I've done well over 100 events of this nature, and while it's difficult to compare backwards, your event is right up there at the top.

Well done. See you next year!

Regards  
Roger Biggs  
Chairman  
100 Marathon Club

ps. Please take this as a thank you on behalf of the 100 Marathon Club, as well as a personal one.

Thanks to you and all the organisers for another excellent event. Not surprising it is always a sell-out - this is everything an LDWA event should be and we all really appreciate the work that goes into making it happen. Thanks also for letting us start late so we could come by train.

Alan Hall.