

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

aim : to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking

SURREY GROUP

REPORT & RESULTS of the 33rd PUNCHBOWL MARATHON - 29.1.89

Organiser: Jeff Ellingham

Entries & Results: John Westcott

Refreshments Points: Anne & Tom Anderson, Mrs Celia Bishop, Roy Dilliway,
Mrs Linda Dixon & family, Caroline Donne,
Barbara Ellingham, Mervyn Harvey, Mrs Joyce Henley,
Richard Ireson, Glenys Kirkpatrick, Chris & Margaret Steer

Number Registration: John Westcott, Mrs Lesley Nightingale,
Ernie Cox, John Short, Peter Short, Dave Shore.

In the Kitchen: Bob + Vi Allen, Bob Brown.

Waiters: Roy Dilliway, Wendy Ellingham + Michelle Harvey

Certificate & Badge Artwork: Christine Butterfield.

Certificate Writing: Mervyn Harvey

Printing: Chris Steer

Entries 277

Starters 227

Finishers 216

We were once again very lucky with the weather. For the third year running we ended up with a really glorious day in which to enjoy our scenic Surrey Countryside.

Despite the miserable day of rain on the Saturday, 20 entrants came to sleep in the Hall on the Saturday night, in the hope that things could only improve. Their optimism was duly rewarded, and as I know this facility is appreciated, it will continue to be offered.

Reverting to a mass Start at 7.30, with the option of a later registered start, seemed to work, as 90 were head-counted from the verandah soon after first light. Due to the extreme coldness many asked for reassurance that their bodies would warm up after 1 mile!, and it was at least 3 hours before the all-enveloping icy-fog was to thin out. And many supposedly young entrants were to be seen with the front of their heads seemingly going grey even as far as Checkpoint 2.

A thorough check of Numbers was made at Braaley, and under John Westcott's usual methodical guidance, the system of monitoring entrant's progress from the Start to the Finish once again worked very well.

There was a notable mis-understanding in Hascombe at 4 miles when my helpful (!) instruction to "BL across B2130 + pass stile" was mis-interpreted as an instruction to ignore it. As 90% of the field seemed to take the same view I can only humbly apologise. I should have said something like: " BL across B2130, over/round stile + BR (100d) on TK." Luckily the field was made up of experienced LDWA members so maps were soon consulted when the "tarmac drive" did not appear, and the route was picked up again.

No more grumbles were heard about the Route Description so I hope that there were not any other bloomers, and I hope I am forgiven! If you have any comments on this or on any other aspect, you may like to complete the enclosed questionnaire, to help me make improvements for the 1990 Event.

As most Entrants were so full of praise for the Marshals and the Event as a whole, the 1990 Event will be identical to 1989. Apart from the excellent weather laid on by the Surrey Group, there were 3 items particularly praised: 1. The reduced amount of tarmac. 2. The extensions / alterations over Puttenham Common and in the DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL. 3. The welcome recieved at each of the Checkpoints (all undercover), especially at the last one at Keeper's Cottage where Linda's family and Glenys were able to give more individual service, as the field had become more strung out.

The relatively good conditions underfoot meant that the last finisher was well inside the time limit of 12 hours. And by using disposable cups, there was very little washing up to be done, so there was plenty of hot water available for the Showers, even for the few Ladies who made sure of their right to be fully refreshed. (The Mutiny was ably led by experienced Punchbowler (and ex-24 Hour world record holder) Rosalind Cox).

It was good to see LDWA Member Ray Jolly back in the Hall, and offering us all such a good discount on all the very relevant gear that he chooses to bring along for us. Ray is the Manager of a large well-stocked Multi-Sportshop - 4 SPORT OF FARNBOROUGH at 83 Lynchford Rd (Tel.543146). So if you're ever in the area do call in, Ray is well known for his helpfulness.

Ex-Yorkshireman Brian Haigh celebrated his 10th year of Residence in Surrey, with his 10th PUNCHBOWL completion, and now joins the exalted company of the likes of Martyn Greaves.

The end of the day is always the worst for me as, like everybody else, I am very tired, yet there is still so much to do. I was therefore very grateful that once again John Robinson, as well as Anne & Tom (Chairman) Anderson stayed on to sweep and clean the whole Hall. When I finally got to bed I didn't feel that I could go through the trauma again next year, and resolved to find someone to share or take over the Organisers' job; but by the Tuesday I had recovered my enthusiasm and had recieved letters (and a large Postcard!) thanking me & the Surrey Group Team.

So before starting this report I have spent the week tying up most of the loose ends, and planning for next year, to lessen the preparation work for the end of the year when it is hard to remember every detail of what actually happened in January.

I hope you all enjoyed this Event; and to those who have already written - or said so on the day - Thankyou. It's nice to find that your efforts are appreciated.

LOST EQUIPMENT

Did anyone inadvertantly pick up an extra blue bum bag? Full postage will be refunded on it's return. The following gear remained unclaimed after the Event:

1. A blue hat left at Checkpoint Two.
2. A Map Case
3. A grey pair of trousers
4. A Marks & Spencers Jacket

Jeff Ellingham, Farthings, Wheeler Lane, Witley, Godalming, Sy GU8 5QU
Wormley (042879) 3374