

## Punchbowl Marathon 2018

Well, lots of excitement for our day. New marshals, guns and blue lights.

Firstly, thank you to everyone for all the serious hard work and commitment and time donated to help make this another fantastic day. Yes, unlike Tanners, we had GLORIOUS weather and this helps in so many ways, so little mud for a start.

We had a new team, some ultra experienced and some newbies in Chichester galley. They yet again, served lovely food and great selection of nibbles for entrants to pick at. This was appreciated by all the cold, tired and sweaty people returning (and us). Roger is not going to look at another tomato soup for a while.

Registration team worked tirelessly and efficiently over a very long day. Dealing with a few technical hitches regarding the new scanning system a long the way, helped by being plied with food and drink to keep them sustained.

Checkpoint 1 and 2 enjoyed the warmth of halls and C/p 3 had to stand in a cold and draughty barn all day. Most of Tilford helpers were new to assisting the LDWA. I'd drafted them in from Surrey Search and Rescue (SurSAR) team, where we all volunteer. I was informed by wonderful team leader Glenys, that their efficiency exceeded all expectations. Not that I would expect anything else from this well respected team of people (so *special thanks* to sar people for giving up their time to help me)

I took a trip over to Tilford to say hello, only to receive a T/c from first runner who was up on Punchbowl ridge. The army were firing across the 2 valleys and would not let him through. OK, I have not had to deal with this issue before. He informed me more runners were tailing him and now several waiting. I was passed to army 'chief' who told me they would be firing for a couple of hours and no one could go through ..... errrrrr, yikes ..... only 250 people to re route!!

Glenys held up people in the warmth of Tilford Hall, while I jumped in the car and drove round to Thursley, started hiking up the path to the hot zone. On route, flagged down a truck of army lads, explaining my importance there. He smiled and said they'd stopped firing and were moving to a new area - phew. Quick call back to C/p 2 to release the champing entrants.

Returning to safety of Chichester, faster entrants now coming in and galley crew getting into serious action, Ted still running around with buckets of water - UNBLOCKING they toilets, a yearly issue for us .

13.03, I receive another call, from an entrant and personal friend. He and his buddy have come across one of PBM walkers collapsed on the ground on the latter half of Punchbowl rim. Apparently he had blacked out because his ICD (small and VERY important device that shocks heart into working - if heart stops working!) I

don't know the ins and outs, but man was very cold and disorientated in the middle of paths some distance from roads. 999 called and ambulance on route. Meantime, Ted and I jump in car heading to location, having regular updates from finders, now having been joined by another couple of runners. They flagged down a battered land rover, having fun for the day, off roading with family inside. They kindly transported man to road location where he was eventually picked up by flashing blue lights, and taken to Guildford A&E. Anyway, long and short of that and several tel calls, man was being checked over, had at least a nights stay in hospital before somehow, returning to Ipswich and his wife . Not the end he expected for his day out doing PBM.

The rest of the day at Witley was uneventful - fortunately. Only one person was pulled out at C/p 3 for over running time limit, then quite a long wait for last man. He was very apologetic and armed with bread rolls, cake and biscuits, was going to make his long drive, back to Birmingham!

Floors swept, rubbish bagged, lost property collected, hall locked everyone retired home tired, but happy.

So, what else can I say but THANK YOU everyone. This is the last PBM that Ted and I are organising, although many people said we should end on the 50th ..... Personally, I reckon, you should make the 50th a 50 mile route option - did ***I really*** say that??

Jackie Barker