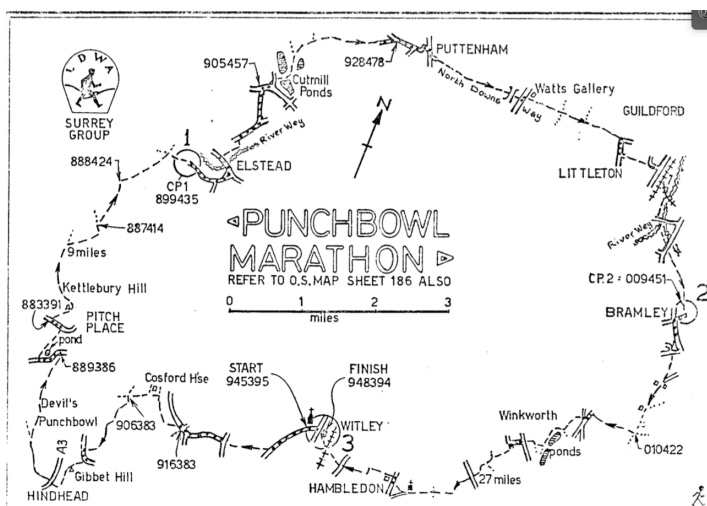


## The 50th Punchbowl Marathon - Feb 10th 2019

The Punchbowl Marathon predates the LDWA itself. It was first run in 1967 and organised at that time by the Guildford & Godalming Athletics Club. Unfortunately there are no details remaining of this first event but the likely organiser was almost certainly Jeff Ellingham, one of the very early members of the LDWA. In those days the PBM often alternated with the Guildford Boundary Walk. It was 'donated' to the Surrey Group in about 1972, settling into its traditional Feb slot in 1979. The route map of that event is reproduced for interest.



Normally we would expect the weather conditions on the Winter Tanners to be dire with copious mud and that for the Punchbowl to be more clement with better conditions underfoot. Always dangerous to predict, with this year things rather reversed. A brilliant, sunny day for the WT with hardly a hint of mud with the few days of rain before the PBM and the forecast for the day itself suggesting poor conditions. There was mud but the day turned out much better than expected with sporadic sunshine to accompany those out in the late afternoon.

<- negotiating the standing water in the A3 underpass.

Due to parking restrictions we set an entry limit of 350 and, with no waiting list, withdrawals and no shows on the day brought us down to a little under our working entry of 300. This year 272 started with 111 on the 20 mile route and 161 on the 30. The split point at 13 miles, at Stockbridge Pond, allowed people to switch routes and several took the option of changing from the 30 to the 20.

Although by no means a race it's always interesting to note the spread of times with the fastest and slowest on the 20 being 3:18 and 8:37 and those for the 30, 4:50 and 10:33. There were a total of 10 retirements.



A special congratulations to our youngest walkers this year - Charlie Wilkinson and Lorelei Silver who finished the 30 route in times of 9:59 & 10:33 respectively. A very well done to both of you.

<- Charlie looking good after 30 miles

Lorelei with her well earned certificate ->



Full results can be seen at:-

[https://www.ldwa.org.uk/results/full\\_results.php?event\\_id=157](https://www.ldwa.org.uk/results/full_results.php?event_id=157)



The new route seemed to work well and received several favourable comments. In previous years the 30 route has visited The Moat to give it the required distance. The new route looped entrants out under the railway, then over it at Wormley station and through Sandhills before joining the 'old route' down the Brook gully on the Greensand Way. CP1 was sited at Highcombe Edge on the rim of the Devils Punchbowl, with great views across Hankley Common, Crooksbury Hill and the escarpment of the North Downs.

<- Kettlebury Hill Trig

The split point at Stockbridge Pond saw the 30 milers continuing through Tilford, up the stepped Crooksbury Hill and down to CP2 in the delightful Sands Room. From here the route visited Puttenham village (where in previous years a checkpoint was sited). A numbers check, then south to CP3 at Elstead Village Hall. From the split, the 20 mile route skirted the northern edge of Hankley Common to CP3. The routes, now common, passed over Ockley and Witley Commons to wend their way back to the finish at Chichester Hall.



Split marshals Cathy & Claire Turton ->

Following the event Andy Clark posted a most illuminating report. I would challenge anyone, regardless of the number of completions, not to learn something new from Andy's report. It can be seen at:- <https://andyclarkwalks.wordpress.com/2019/02/11/punchbowl-marathon/>



<- arriving at CP1, Highcombe Edge

a busy CP2, The Sands Room ->



None of our challenge events could take place without the generous and enthusiastic help of our many Marshals. For myself and on behalf of all of you I would like to publicly record my thanks to each and everyone of them.

Registration	- Tim Bedwell, Mary Dee
Car parking	- Andy Fogall, Rod Philpott
Start kitchen	- Claire & Cathy Turton
Event Control	- John Pollock
Retirements pick-up	- Andy Fogall, Roger Sage
Equipment	- Roger Sage
Route description	- Elton Ellis
Closedown Marshal	- Mary Dee
Start	- Frank Eberle (PACER)
Splits	- Claire & Cathy Turton
CP1	- Ted Swift, Steve Ford, Alan Shons. Tony Davis & Mary Dee (PACER)
CP2	- Richard Ireson, Gillian Bull, Avril Stapleton. Frank Eberle (PACER). Also Janet Chapman, Chris Haywood, Glenys Kirkpatrick, Keith Chesterton
CP3	- Fiona Cameron, Clara Haket, Elizabeth Bryan. Tony Davis & Tim Bedwell (PACER)

Finish	- James Blogg (PACER)
Finish kitchen	- Alastair & Sue Charlesworth, Henri & Jennie de Bossart (the 'Dream Team')
Certificate printing	- Elton Ellis

I would also like to thank the National Trust for permission to site CP1 at Highcombe Edge, Chichester Hall, Elstead Village Hall and the Sands Room.

Below is some of the feedback received by email or on social media.

*Just wanted to pass on my thanks to the Surrey LDWA for putting on another great event last weekend. Everything about it was brilliant, and I loved the new route. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to support, it is very much appreciated. A wonderful day was had!*

*Another classic Surrey event. Loved it!*

*Fantastic event! And thanks so much for looking out for our kids!!!*

*Thank you so much to all the all organisers and helpers. It was great event, you put on some very welcomed food and drink. and did it all with a smile. We certainly felt very well looked after. Thank you all.*

*Thanks for a great day, my first LDWA event.*

And now for next year! I'm sure you will be pleased to know that a new organiser has stepped forward to organise next year's event. Details will follow in due course I'm sure. So the PBM continues! Make a note Feb 9th 2020.

Tony Cartwright - Organiser, 2019