The Second Surrey Tops 50 Mile Event - March 29th/30th 2008

"Harder than a Hundred"?

After the 1st event in 2005, we made a number of changes. We moved the event to the Spring (its original intended season), changed the start time from evening to the traditional morning start, had 4 Checkpoints instead of 3 & made 1 of them in a hall and provide hot food. We also increased the quantities of food provided at CPs. These were intended to make the event less Spartan but still challenging. I hope you feel we got the balance right.

How did it go?

We were very pleased to get 126 entries, but were surprised by the 20% of no-shows. They must have known what it would be like! But this still gave us 101 starters.

As you all know, the weather was poor and it rained at varying strengths from 1pm at the runners' start till the event finished at 6am on Sunday. But what made the event so difficult was the condition of the ground.

Keith Michell said it should be called "The Slurry Tops".

Julie Welch said "I can cope with all the climbing, but the endless squish and slosh of feet got me down. It's the hardest walk I've ever done".

Another walker said it was harder than the Welsh Hundred.

Someone else said "If Jelley's Hollow gets any worse, we'll need crampons"

As Event Organiser, I remained at Chichester Hall, received reports from the different CPs & worried that we'd have loads of retirees & might not be able to cope.

One walker worried us a lot – he hadn't been seen at CP2, no-one seemed to have seen him and no message had been received. As we asked other walkers we heard he'd been seen on the Drove Road by Hackhurst and had obviously missed the route. We did consider notifying the Emergency services but realized they couldn't do anything till light and he eventually turned up at CP3 & finished the event – to my relief.

In the event, only 14 weren't able to do the whole 50 miles.

My sincere congratulations to all of you for struggling through so manfully and womanfully. Whether you did 50 or "only" 23, you all demonstrated great fortitude in such conditions.

And I'd particularly like to congratulate Jonathan Kirk who did his 1st 50 mile event at the age of 16. Well done.

In spite of the conditions, there was only 1 injury and that was to a marshal! George Evans went round to the side of Chichester Hall to get in, fell down the steps to the pavilion in the dark and sprained his ankle. Despite this he continued to help at the finish. Unfortunately, 2 of the lights had gone by the way in for finishers.

I've had some comments in after the event.

Dave Holland & friends from Cornwall/Devon wrote "Thanks for putting on such a great day.....your helpers at the checkpoints were so friendly and the food was about the best we have ever found at an event"

Graham Smith "First class route description"

Janet Chapman reports one walker "The unexpected luxury of hot drinks at Smithbrook Kilns helped me to complete the event" A welcomed private initiative provided by John Westcott.

Ted Swift & Jackie Barker wrote "... Biggest of thanks to all the marshals who stood at their cold, wet and windy locations for so many hours....and were so welcoming to us"

A personal account of the event by Jackie & Ted is attached at the end of this report.

George Evans "Can we get the outside light replaced.... 2 other walkers fell there (as well as me)" Note – we are talking with the Hall about this.

A retiree "I'll be back in 2011 & finish it!"

Marshals' Walk

This took place on March 1st/2nd. The weather was windy but the weather was better than on the main event. For pictures showing blue sky look at the ST Marshals' Walk on the Surrey Group website. The walkers were ably supported by Reg Chapman & Elton Ellis, who supplied food and drink at the 3 checkpoints.

Marshals and Helpers

Checking route description, publicity & design of forms, results, closing marshal (CP3-4) and assistance throughout the preparation & on the day – Tony Cartwright.

On the Friday before the event, when we were getting the equipment and hall ready, four of us were there – one had breathing problems, a 2nd a new hip & my skiing injury prevented me using my right arm. Fortunately, Tony could breathe, walk and use both his arms and did most of it for us.

Organization & obtaining Marshals, & booking start venue – John Lay

Food for event – Janet Chapman

Equipment for event, entries and closing marshal (CP 1-2) – Reg Chapman

Caterers at start – Molly Groundsell, Janet Chapman

Registration & Start Desk – Tony & Louise Cartwright & John Westcott

CP 1 - Kent Group (Graham Smith & colleagues)

CP 2 - Pat & Dave Challenger, Ray & Rosemary Rowe, Ruth & Andy Coleman

CP 3 - Sussex Group (Anthony Mitchell & colleagues), Janet Chapman, Roger Sage

CP 4 - John Lay, John Westcott, Olive & Roy Barnsley, Glenys Kirkpatrick

Kitchen at end – Cindy & Ian McLeod, George Evans, Avril Stapleton, Vala West

Retirement Drivers – Juliet Eberle and John Lay

Finish Marshals – Joan Wrenn & George Evans

Design of Certificates (and their supply) – John Whiteman

My grateful thanks to all of you, and to anyone I've accidentally omitted. Without you, there would have been no event.

I'd also like to thank the owners of Smithbrook Kilns for permission to have CP4 on their site and thank the Evelyn Hall, a new CP for us, for being so helpful.

As the organiser, I'm pleased we ran this event successfully and would also like to thank all those who supported this event by taking part.

A snippet - I had my pace counter on during the event, and found I'd walked over 6 miles just doing various jobs in Chichester Hall. But I won't put that in my LDWA walking mileage charts!



The First Four Back Martyn Greaves, Keith Michell, Andrew Boulden & Kevin Marshall

Many more pictures of the event will be found on the Surrey Group website

Lost Property – The only Item still not claimed is a pair of trainers left on the balcony.

The Future

The next event in the KSS Triple Challenge will be the Kent Group's White Cliffs Challenge on September 12/13 2009. They are organizing a shorter White Cliffs on September 28th this year. The Sussex Stride will be in 2010 – date not yet agreed.

Surrey Group's next challenge event is the 20 mile Guildford Boundary on Sunday October 5th 2008

Lastly

If you **have any suggestions** for changes, after your experiences, or any other comments, please let me know – either by letter or by Email.

Keith Chesterton,

Firle, Chestnut Ave, Guildford GU2 4HD chestertonk@guildford.gov.uk

April 2008

Now read Jackie & Ted's story on the next page.

A Personal Account of the Surrey Tops by Jackie Barker & Ted Swift

Walkers had already started 3 hours ago, now it was our turn, the runners. After a quick pep talk from Keith, all 17 of us were on our way dot on 10/c. Within 5 mins the drizzle had started, coats on – coats off, too hot on and too wet off! The group had split up quite quickly; the two of us, were in the middle somewhere.

The first few miles covered familiar ground for some, but we found to our cost, a little information can be dangerous sometimes.

No takers as we pass the 'old swimming pool' mind you, as we crossed the following field – we might as well have gone for a dip, no dry feet any more as we negotiated the boggy field to the stile in the corner!!

First of many climbs over the next few hours, was Gibbet Hill, giving us great surrounding views also the same as we ran round the rim of the Punchbowl passing families out walking in the drizzle dressed in brightly coloured wellies and waterproofs.

We were fooled by a different route, through the flowering gorse, to the top of Kettlebury Hill. Our first stop was **CP1 at 12 miles**, situated in a car park in the middle of Elstead Common. Here the marshals were all huddled under the green canopy sheltering from the rain, all with wonderfully cheerful smiles. Having quickly taken on board drink and food, storing any excess in our cheeks, we ran on towards Puttenham Common. This place is always a nightmare for Ted and I we got lost on it a month ago and AGAIN, today, but embarrassingly this time, we had two other runners with us at this point – SORRY to them. Fortunately, it did not take us long to get back on track again, through the village and then following the North Downs Way for the next 13 miles.

Did OK for a while, and then got lost, AGAIN!! Ended up coming down Chestnut Avenue ... for those that know this area. I told you a little knowledge of the area was dangerous and I had to hold my hand for the second time today and apologise to the other two runners, who were still tagging along with us - SORRY. We crossed the River Wey making our way to **CP2 at 23 miles**; this was also in a car park, situated at the bottom of Martha's Hill. All marshals looking cold but still smiling, stamping their feet to keep warm, they had been there since 15.30 and on guard to 19.15. We put on our night attire before setting off, including our head torches. We left Merv one of our 2 companions behind at this point due an injury and the other runner had gone on ahead – did that say something about our company or navigation? Left that CP and now halfway up Martha's Hill to the church, Ted realised he had left his glasses and compass behind, sorry mate, you left them, you have to return, but on his way down, found Pat walking up the hill to find him – now that's service for you.

Familiar territory again to Newlands Corner enabled us to run for a while without looking at the instructions. Ted tested out the ground consistency on route, slipping on the camber of wet and slippery grass, glasses, compass and pride now very muddy. It was quite spooky along NDW path, concentrating with the limited light coming from our head torches, trying hard not to trip over the many protruding stones. With tiredness beginning to creep in, there were many imaginary shapes around us and very little chat at this point as we tried to jog as much as possible to catch up some time.

Seeing Abinger was on the instructions and we were coming off the NDW heading in that direction, hopes were high that we did not have far to go until next CP – wrong!! After getting slightly lost AGAIN, as we headed 160 degrees across an 'open grassy area' then another 130 degrees – we were now lost and had to back track on ourselves to find correct path. On reaching the A25 to cross, directions took us east; completely in the opposite direction to the next CP. Now reading it correctly, we find it was at Abinger Common not Abinger Hammer, which I had in my head ...are some miles apart!! Hey Ho. We arrive at CP3 at 31.5 miles. 10 mins of bliss as we indulge in some hot food a chair and heating Heinz tomato soup has never tasted so great, still that could not last, another 19.5 miles to go – quite a daunting thought, thank you and goodbyes to all marshals as we left them sitting in the warm – promise I won't tell the marshals at 1,2 and 4 standing out in the cold!

We are used to navigation in the dark by now, still this did not stop us making another slight error, I found the constant rain in the headlight quite hypnotic, anything to lose a bit of time and lessen those miles ahead.

If we thought the last 30 miles had been muddy, it was nothing to what we were going to experience over the next 20!! Mud, Mud glorious Mud, as if our energy was not sapped already Oh, and the Hills, even though we had been forewarned about the latter 20 miles; this was definitely taking it out of us. We completed Holmbury Hill, retracing our steps as instructed, then losing count of barriers we had to go through before going through lovely school grounds of The Duke of Kent. Pitch Hill is next, the wind was really blowing hard, the mud and suction being very unforgiving on tired legs, passing the windmill in someone's garden before descending! Trouble is, you know when you go 'down' it is always followed by another 'up'

I am sorry to go on about MUD and we had been warned about Jelleys Hollow, BUT it was horrendous with no way of avoiding any of it, with high fences either side for a couple of miles. If you lost a shoe in this you would NEVER find it again – still, what's a challenge event without a few challenges? Jogging along Smithwood Common slipping and sliding was then followed by the hard surface of Rowly Drive for 900yds, Ted was decorating the side of the road with carrots and peas, in true loving sympathy – I left him to it – well, what could **I** do for him! Still never mind, **CP 4 at 42.5 miles** situated in Smithbrook Kiln car park, was not far off, so at least he could rinse all the bits around his mouth with a quick cup of coffee and boy, were we pleased to see the marshalls, they also appeared to be pleased to see us. Nore Hanger came next, which was preceded by a long up hill then the Hill itself, yes, you guessed it, MORE MUD.

Whilst I was looking for the sawn off tree and the initials carved into it "TE" to write on our check point cards, Ted was again checking out the last of the peas and carrots left inside him. I spotted some head torches, well above us up the bank, on shouting up to then "Were they lost?" – YES. We now had the two walkers join us for the last 5 miles, as it was proving quite impossible to run because of the conditions underfoot. Up to this point, the two walkers had dry feet – lucky them, that was soon resolved by another enclosed path we went through, that was flooded - half way up our legs. Now they were in the same boat as us – so to speak.

Oh bliss, instructions tell us, to pass a garage on Right then Witley Hall, our finish, was in view. I made my last effort to sprint up to the veranda leaving the other three to stroll in. We are now welcomed by heat, smiles, tired faces and a cooked hot breakfast and hot drinks. ON leaving the hall we were so pleased that it had stoped raining just in time for a day in the garden.

What a day and what a challenge, we feel quite proud of our first attempt of running a 50 miler, it took just over 15 hours. Next time we will try in the summer and clip a few hours off.

Now home shower, a couple of hours sleep, then scrape the mud out of everything.

We thank ALL HELPERS from the bottom of Ted's stomach, for a fabulous day.

Jack and Ted April 2008

Forename	Surname	LDWA no Affiliation	start	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	finish	time
1000 start									
Andrew	Boulden	12022 Kent	10:00	13:01	15:40	17:55	21:09	23:37	13:37
Kevin	Marshall	11417 Norfolk and Suffolk	10:00	13:01	15:40	17:55	21:09	23:37	13:37
Roger	Michell	2410 Marches	10:00	13:01	15:40	17:55	21:09	23:37	13:37
Martyn	Greaves	1368 Sussex	10:00	13:08	15:49	18:10	21:09	23:37	13:37
Julian	Brown	19600	10:00	12:45	15:21	17:48	21:26	23:53	13:53
Jo	Miles	19600	10:00	12:45	15:21	17:48	21:26	23:53	13:53
Jonathan	Comber	10468	10:00	13:03	15:54	18:17	21:45	00:28	14:28
David	Steel	17121 Wessex	10:00	13:12	16:07	18:25	21:45	00:28	14:28
David	Findel-Hawkins	4054 BBN	10:00	12:59	16:10	18:31	22:39	01:31	15:31
Merrian	Lancaster	18380 BBN	10:00	12:59	16:10	18:31	22:39	01:31	15:31
Elton	Ellis	25180 Surrey	10:00	13:34	16:24	18:42	23:39	01:32	15:32
Paul	Sorensen	9156 Beds Bucks and Northan	ts 10:00	13:02	16:07	18:40	22:44	01:32	15:32
Andrew	Clabon	4843 South Wales	10:00	13:11	16:10	18:36	22:20	01:34	15:34
Gerry	Jackson	2694 South Wales	10:00	13:11	16:10	18:36	22:20	01:34	15:34
Richard	Jasper	4803 Bristol and West	10:00	13:12	16:10	18:36	22:20	01:34	15:34
Julie	Ewers	24875 Beds Bucks and Northan	ts 10:00	13:09	16:05	18:36	22:20	01:41	15:41
Nick	Vanson	25367 Thames Valley	10:00	13:09	16:05	18:36	22:20	01:41	15:41
Brian	Harwood	18516 Beds Bucs and Northant	s 10:00	13:02	16:06	18:36	22:20	01:41	15:41
Michelle	Armour	23682 Norfolk and Suffolk	10:00	13:09	16:08	18:38	22:39	01:42	15:42
Michael	Fletcher	18306 Norfolk and Suffolk	10:00	13:09	16:08	18:38	22:39	01:42	15:42
Flip	Bakker	22082	10:00	13:12	16:13	18:38	22:20	01:44	15:44
Luis	Broz	14897 Beds Bucks and Northan	ts 10:00	13:15	16:12	18:37	22:53	02:10	16:10
Don	Newman	6585 Kent	10:00	13:15	16:12	18:49	22:53	02:10	16:10
Tara	Williams	26921	10:00	13:15	16:12	18:49	22:53	02:10	16:10
Steve	Bott	25006	10:00	13:20	16:29	19:00	23:32	02:36	16:36
Stephen	Edwards	24972 Cornwall and Devon	10:00	13:08	16:21	18:57	23:32	02:36	16:36
Nicola	Ghent	23468 Cornwall and Devon	10:00	13:08	16:21	18:58	23:32	02:36	16:36
Dave	Goodfellow	26338	10:00	13:20	16:29	19:00	23:32	02:36	16:36
Kay	Rees	24972 Cornwall and Devon	10:00	13:08	16:24	18:57	23:32	02:36	16:36
David	Holland	18398 Cornwall and Devon	10:00	13:08	16:21	18:58	23:32	02:36	16:36
John	Clarke	23840	10:00	13:01	15:41	18:01	21:45	02:41	16:41
Brian	Layton	15203 Beds Bucks and Northan	ts 10:00	13:50	16:34	18:54	23:32	02:51	16:51
Chris	Chorley	5311 Norfolk and Suffolk	10:00		16:42	19:37	23:48	02:51	16:51

Surrey Tops 08 - results - 6 of 9 - LDWA Surrey

Forename	Surname	LDWA no	Affiliation	start	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	finish	time
Paul	Flynn	19434	Beds Bucks and Northants	10:00	13:26	16:48	19:42	23:48	02:51	16:51
Suzanne	Flynn	19434	Beds Bucks and Northants	10:00	13:27	16:48	19:42	23:48	02:51	16:51
Bobbie	Sauerzapf	9986	Norfolk and Suffolk	10:00	13:20	16:42	19:37	23:48	02:51	16:51
Julie	Welch	18276	London	10:00	13:08	16:12	18:58	00:19	03:43	17:43
Julian	Pursey	11182	Cornwall and Devon	10:00	13:29	16:48	19:35	00:19	03:43	17:43
Keith	Warman	3800	Kent	10:00	13:37	17:03	20:09	00:19	03:43	17:43
Gerry	Garland	23736	Thames Valley	10:00	13:28	16:48	19:40	23:48	03:48	17:48
Martin	Burnell	19006	Thames Valley	10:00	13:26	16:48	19:42	23:56	03:48	17:48
Jeff	Smith	14177	Thames Valley	10:00	13:28	16:48	19:42	23:56	03:48	17:48
Arthur	Metcalfe	9322	West Yorkshire	10:00	13:22	16:44	19:32	23:56	03:50	17:50
David John	Adams	22498	West Yorks	10:00	13:15	16:40	19:27	23:48	03:52	17:52
David	Kirk	23129	West Yorks	10:00	13:15	16:40	19:27	23:48	03:52	17:52
Jonathan	Kirk	23129	West Yorks	10:00	13:15	16:40	19:27	23:48	03:52	17:52
Martin	Crawley	3547	Essex and Herts	10:00	13:22	16:41	19:27	23:48	04:39	18:39
Lee	Beales	None		10:00	13:20	16:29	19:25	23:56	04:39	18:39
Ian	White	None		10:00	13:20	16:29	19:25	23:56	04:39	18:39
Mike	Pursey	17002	Kent	10:00	13:20	16:40	19:32	00:19	04:39	18:39
Matthew	Hand	21654	Mid Wales	10:00	13:33	16:56	20:05	00:54	04:39	18:39
Jane	Hand		Mid Wales	10:00	13:35	16:56	20:05	00:54	04:39	18:39
Abigail	Elrick	7648	Surrey	10:00	13:29	17:03	20:05	00:54	04:42	18:42
John	Elrick		Surrey	10:00	13:29	17:03	20:05	00:54	04:42	18:42
Paul	Lovelock	16035	Marches	10:00	13:31	16:52	20:09	01:12	05:22	19:22
Richard	Lovelock	None		10:00	13:31	16:52	20:09	01:12	05:22	19:22
Simon	Humphry		Bristol and West	10:00	13:26	16:44	19:32	00:49	05:28	19:28
Peter	Ibison	20074		10:00	13:22	16:44	19:32	00:22	05:32	19:32
Clive	Fraser	11249	West Yorkshire	10:00	13:31	17:03	20:40	01:32	05:56	19:56
Francis L	Thomason	1035		10:00	13:54	17:26	20:58	01:32	05:58	19:58
Roger	Swift	17324	Wilts	10:00		17:11	20:40	01:32	05:59	19:59
Michele	Ekderton	27075	Sussex	10:00	13:31	17:03	20:20	01:32	06:00	20:00
Hilary	Farren	20258	E Lancs	10:00	13:31	16:56	20:07	01:12	06:03	20:03
Phil	Butterfield	20345		10:00	13:30	16:54	20:07	01:12	06:03	20:03
Alan	Tinker		The Irregulars	10:00	13:31	16:56	20:07	01:12	06:03	20:03
Melvyn	Walker	21105		10:00	13:31	16:56	20:09	01:12	06:03	20:03
Jane	Dicker	2097		10:00	13:41	17:09	20:09	01:12	06:03	20:03
Paul	Hillier	25722	Bristol and West	10:00	13:30	16:56	20:15	01:32	06:03	20:03

Forename	Surname	LDWA no	Affiliation	start	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	finish	time
David	Milne	None		10:00	13:30	16:58	20:15	01:32	06:03	20:03
Christine	Usher	21966	Thames Valley	10:00	13:31	17:09	20:20	01:32	06:03	20:03
Beatrice	Therin	26031	Wiltshire	10:00	13:37	17:11	20:40	01:32	06:03	20:03
Pat	Edmunds	24947	Cornwall and Devon	10:00	13:50	17:49	22:00	03:00	06:20	20:20
Tim	Hughes	15016	Staffs	10:00	14:05	18:04	22:09	03:00	06:20	20:20
Chris	Pitt	23554	Dorset	10:45	15:50	16:50	19:27	23:48	03:50	17:05
Malcolm	Howse	20625	Thames Valley	10:00	13:27	16:48	19:42	23:56R		
Roderick	Smith	27224		10:00	13:26	16:29	19:25	23:56R		
Bill	Grace	1023	Surrey	10:00	13:59	18:00	21:52	03:30R		
John	Edwards	24661	Norfolk and Suffolk	10:00	13:03	15:55	18:25R			
Abigail	Hounsell	26913	Norfolk and Suffolk	10:00	13:03	15:55	18:25R			
Chris	Coats	2380	Sussex	10:00	13:15	16:29	19:32R			
Ben	Russell	26954	Nidderdale	10:00	13:22	16:56	20:08R			
Penelope	Russell	26954	Nidderdale	10:00	13:22	16:56	20:08R			
Laurence	Foe	19172	London	10:00	13:27	16:56	20:32R			
Denise	Hughes	15016	Staffs	10:00	14:05	18:04	22:09R			
Steve	Rackett	3731	London	10:00	13:51	18:04	22:12R			
Chris	Boden	23905	BBN	10:00	13:26	17:13R				
Gerald	Bateman	5767	Essex and Herts	10:00	15:14	20:00R				

Forename	Surname	LDWA no	Affiliation	start	CP1	CP2	CP3	CP4	finish	time
1300 start										
Robert	Cameron-Wood	8255		13:00	14:58	16:54	18:45	21:41	00:10	11:10
Fabrice	Leistner	23128	London	13:00	14:58	16:54	18:45	21:41	00:10	11:10
Glyn	Morris	26408	Gravesend road Runners	13:00	15:02	17:03	18:56	21:41	00:10	11:10
Jeff	Treadway	3918	Essex and Herts	13:00	15:17	17:39	20:02	23:32	02:17	13:17
Jeff	Campbell	6305	Surrey	13:00	15:17	17:39	20:05	23:32	02:17	13:17
Dave	Whitehead	1330		13:00	15:17	17:45	20:09	23:32	02:51	13:51
Andrew	Sansum	23884		13:00	15:17	17:49	20:40	00:40	03:47	14:47
Peter	Hanson	9076	Essex and Herts	13:00	15:19	18:20	21:12	00:47	04:19	15:19
Jackie	Barker	16491	Surrey	13:00	15:28	18:20	21:20	01:32	04:42	15:42
Ted	Swift	16491	Lingfield RC	13:00	15:28	18:20	21:20	01:32	04:42	15:42
Edward	Chapman	24892	Cornwall and Devon	13:00	15:20		22:30	02:50	05:58	16:58
Roger	Osgood	4229	Wessex	13:00	15:36	18:33	21:58	02:50	06:20	17:20
Paul	McLauglin	27127		13:00	15:57	19:04	22:17	03:00	06:20	17:20
Merv	Nutburn	14252	Kent	13:00	15:28	18:20R				
entries =12	6, starters = 101	(+ dog), re	etirements = 14							
Marshals \	Walk Sat 1st -	Sun 2nd	March							
Christophe	Delogne			09:30	12:15				02:30	17:00
Gordon	Harker			09:30						17:00
Stephanie	Lemen			09:30						17:00
Tony	Cartwright			09:30	13:45	17:30		02:00	05:30	20:00
Juliet	Eberle			09:30	13:45	17:30		02:00	05:30	20:00
Ian	MacLeod			09:30	13:45	17:30		02:00		20:00
Graham	Smith			09:30	13:45	17:30		02:00	05:30	20:00
Ruth	Coleman			09:30	13:45	17:30	23:00R			

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