



Winter Tanners 2019 Report



The 41ST Winter Tanners was held on Sunday 20th January 2019, the weather forecast had been for a cold dry day, but the early morning saw the sun out for much of the day (light showers late afternoon). The ground was very dry and there was little mud. It provided excellent conditions for the time of year! Most recent records were broken.

There were 475 entrants less than the 500 limit (so no waiting list) and less than last year however there were slightly more starters. The 'did not show' proportion, 22%, was lower than four of the previous five years. There were only 2 retirements (both from the 30) compared to 7-14 in recent years. Summary results analysis is on the next page. Full results can be seen at https://www.ldwa.org.uk/results/full_results.php?event_id=161 where you can see individual results and download as a spreadsheet (then rank and compare as you wish).

The average time for the 30 was 1½ hours less than last year, faster than all recent times (the median time was about 1hr 10mins faster). The 20 was, on average, 1hr 20 mins faster than last year and also faster than all recent years. On the 30 the lead finishers were faster than recent years as were the leads on the 20.

The reasons for this are probably principally related to the great conditions on the day with it being particularly dry underfoot. There was a failure in provision of mud compared to a 'normal' Winter Tanners (look at 'event information' on next page).



WINTER TANNERS SUMMARY STATISTICS

| Route miles | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 40 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Year | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2018 |
| <i>Times: hours/minutes</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Average | 07:30 | 08:55 | 08:31 | 07:40 | 07:43 | 07:54 | 05:35 | 06:57 | 06:22 | 06:48 | 05:45 | 06:27 | 11:29 |
| Median | 07:22 | 08:30 | 08:28 | 07:35 | | | 05:47 | 07:04 | 06:32 | 06:53 | | | 11:25 |
| Max | 10:59 | 14:16 | 12:52 | 10:54 | 11:43 | 12:01 | 08:15 | 10:31 | 09:04 | 10:32 | 09:42 | 09:35 | 15:12 |
| Min | 04:43 | 05:23 | 05:21 | 05:10 | 05:01 | 04:15 | 03:17 | 03:48 | 03:29 | 02:56 | 02:53 | 03:33 | 07:39 |
| Mileage | 30.6 | 30.4 | 31.4 | 30.4 | 30.4 | | 20.8 | 20.8 | 20.9 | 20.9 | 20.6 | | 40.7 |
| Average mph | 4.2 | 4.2 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.9 | | 3.8 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.6 | | 3.1 |
| Fastest mph | 6.5 | 5.6 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.1 | | 6.1 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 7.1 | 7.1 | | 5.3 |
| Entrants | 317 | 162 | 329 | 309 | 301 | 266 | 158 | 138 | 121 | 141 | 147 | 184 | 193 |
| Started | 223 | 131 | 225 | 242 | 200 | 166 | 149 | 129 | 116 | 118 | 122 | 131 | 103 |
| Retired* | 2 | 1 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Finished | 221 | 149 | 214 | 203 | 192 | 161 | 149 | 133 | 114 | 143 | 120 | 129 | 76 |
| <i>All routes</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entrants | 475 | 494 | 450 | 450 | 448 | 450 | | | | | | | |
| Started | 372 | 366 | 341 | 360 | 322 | 297 | | | | | | | |
| Finished | 370 | 358 | 328 | 346 | 312 | 290 | | | | | | | |
| Retired | 2 | 8 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 7 | | | | | | | |
| Did not show | 21.7% | 26% | 24% | 15% | 26% | 24% | | | | | | | |
| Finished % | 99.5% | 97.8% | 96.2% | 96.1% | 96.9% | 97.6% | | | | | | | |

** based on route recorded at retirement stage, may have already switched (ie retired from longer route)

Event information:

2018: Added 40m route for 40th event (5 CP's organisationally demanding), started dry but light snow later in day, however established new records for mud and was very challenging. Routes went SE, Reigate Hill, Box Hill (v muddy/slippery descent). 40m went further S across fields towards of end of Gatwick runway. Upped entry limit to 500.

2017: Light snow previously, turned to rain over icy patches (weather off putting to many intending entrants), mud worse than 2016, Both PACER recording and MatOrtho HQ used for first time. Short route Fetcham Downs, Gomshall, Ranmore/Tanners. 30 also went on to Shere, Winterfold and Holmbury/Leith Hills.

2016: Poor weather previously, chilly but largely dry, mud freshened up and much standing water. Last use of Leatherhead Leisure Centre. 20m route East Horsley, Netley Heath, Ranmore with the 30m also going through Shere, Albury Heath and Gomshall.

2015: Poor weather previously, cold, initially overcast but dry throughout, mud freshened up by previous rain. Online recording first trialed. South past Dorking, Chadhurst Farm, and back through Ranmore. The 30 added Holmbury + Pitch Hill, Peaslake.

2014: Wet week before, sunny morning with beautiful views, but cloud/drizzle/wind later, skidded and slogged through still frozen fields. 1st use of Leatherhead Sports Pavillion. 20m went Headley, Westhumble, Ranmore with 30 also taking in Holmwood Common S of Dorking.

2013: Thickening snow from Saturday onwards made accessing some CPs impossible and some paths dangerously icy. With regret event cancelled on Saturday evening.



At registration: Tony Cartwright who implemented PACER for Surrey with John Westcott who has devised the WT routes.

There was positive feedback about the routes with many saying that they were the best they could remember (there may be a bias in such comments as entrants could actually see distant views and did not slip slosh through the route!). We were again grateful to John Westcott for devising the route and Mary Dee for implementing and checking.

The map gives a schematic of the 30 route. The 20 route shared much of the 30 route but cut back at Abinger Bottom and returned to Ranmore, west of, and largely parallel, to the outward route. Both routes used the necessary but less interesting Leatherhead to Bagden Farm section as the way in and out of Leatherhead.

It was good to pass Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel again and use many of the core paths of the Surrey Hills.

There was less feedback about the routes compared to last year where entrants reported their own demise and the demanding underfoot and weather conditions with a degree of feeling. That event was etched on their memories for totally different reasons! However for this year one judgement came from Tara Williams, a dedicated WT'er and *Strider* correspondent who wrote:

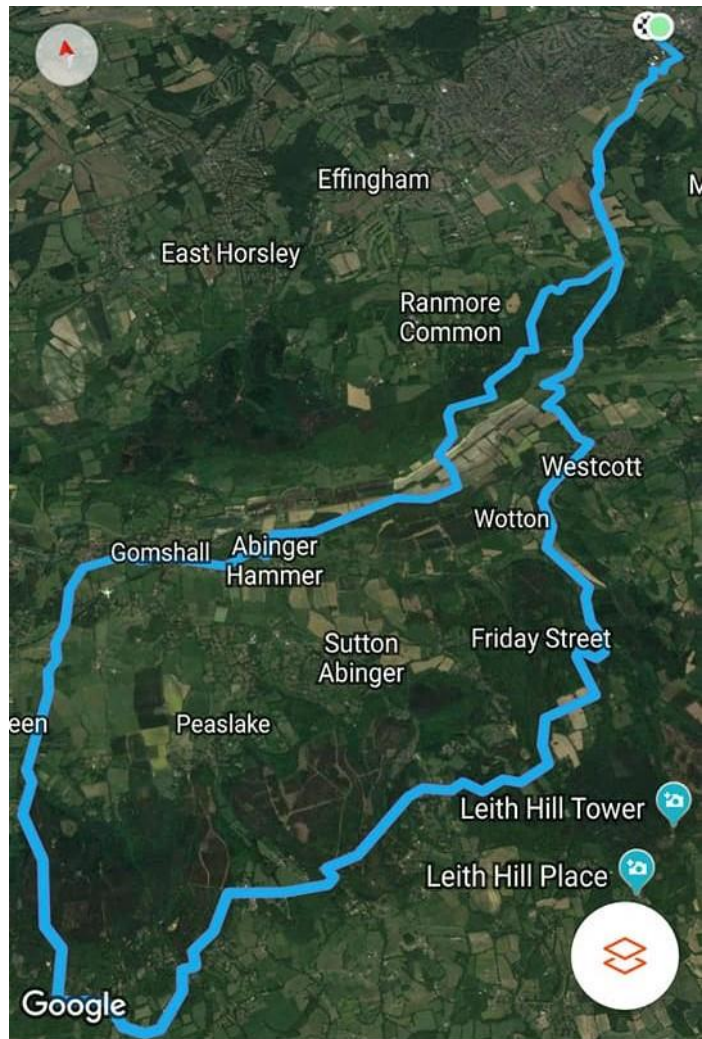
The route was the most enjoyable WT route I have done and with the added bonus of dry ground and even a glimpse of winter sun, it was a fantastic day. Such contrast from the (memorable!) bog wading of last year...but this year will, no doubt, be an exception so I certainly made the most of the easy going terrain. I can actually walk today...rather than the usual post WT hobble of tired legs from fighting the mud!

Thank you everyone who was helping us out from getting us parked on arrival, looked after on the way round, to fed, watered and presented with our certificates at the end of the day.

Being a local, no doubt that this route will become one of my regular weekend runs, but with an added detour into Shere for tea and cake and possibly to Peaslake as well as we passed close by!

Same again next year please!

Alas perhaps 'normal' conditions will return next year!?



Putting on the event was very much a team effort and that team (see last page) worked together to make it the tremendous event that it is. We really appreciate their efforts to make the event. Many thanks. We were also grateful to all at MatOrtho at Leatherhead who made every effort to welcome the event to their building. We also received very efficient service from Fabian4 who handled our entries.



CP 3 at Tanners Hatch

We were pleased with the way that the PACER time recording system worked which gave us (and your on-line supporters) real time event information. This is now a mature system in which we have confidence.



Ascending Jelly's Hollow towards CP2

You contributed £200 towards the National Trust. Surrey LDWA also makes an annual voluntary donation to the Trust. We had a few issues with NT over their administration, licensing and pricing for access to their estate and paths across it. NT is reviewing its approach and this is being discussed at national level with LDWA. We have had a long friendly association with the Trust and hope that their more 'commercial' approach will not get in the way of that.

The 42nd Winter Tanners will be on
Sunday 19th January 2020
 We look forward to seeing you there.

Richard Ireson, Organiser,:
 For Surrey LDWA, 23RD January, 2019
surrey.wt@ldwa.org.uk
www.ldwa.org.uk/surrey



Thanks to the Marshals

Registration/Start:: Tim Bedwell, Fiona Cameron, Mary Dee, Pickard, Tony Cartwright, Fiona Cameron, Frank Eberle
Car Parking: Mike Tuke, Gordon Roots, Colin Jones, Ruth Coleman



Checkpoint 1, Severells Copse: Ray Rowe (Ldr), Liz Bryan, Ruth Coleman, Susan Charlesworth, Henri de Bossart



Checkpoint 2, Winterfold Heath: Janet Chapman (Ldr), Alan Shons, Avril Stapleton, Ertan Ali Faik, Colin Jones



Checkpoint 3, Tanners Hatch: Mike Tuke (Ldr), Fiona Cameron, Stephen Ford, Tim Bedwell, Tony Davis

Finish: Juliet Eberle, Elton Ellis (Certificates).
 Tony Cartwright

Driving/Pick-up: Henri de Bossart, Colin Jones
(who also worked on CP's, no pick ups were required!)

Splits Marshall: Christopher Woodward

Equipment and logistics: Roger Sage and Andy Fogell

Thanks also to Adrian Moir and Ellie Salisbury at Fabian4 and all at MatOrtho.

You can see the archive of previous WT routes, results and reports at:
www.ldwa.org.uk/Surrey/W/2326/winter-tanners.html



Oliver Warner, aged 13, with parents Henna and Chris, after completing the 30 mile route