

## Founders Challenge 2023

123 people registered for the 2023 running of this event, but perhaps dissuaded by the poor weather forecast only 85 people actually turned up on the day. The weather was definitely mixed during the day, there were some sunny spells but also some heavy showers, which enabled the marshals at Tanners Hatch to see a spectacular rainbow at least. Despite the conditions only three people were forced to retire, one from the 19-mile walk and two from the 30-mile version. The 19-mile walk had 23 finishers, the 30-mile run was completed by 20 people and the 30-mile walk by 39.

Thanks as ever go to all the marshals at headquarters and the three checkpoints, and Cathy Phillips who was the only person other than walk leaders Chris Blackwell and Gavin Fuller to help out on the Marshals' Walk.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Chris Blackwell whose efforts to put on this event since taking over have been seriously stymied by first Covid and train strikes, and at the fourth time of asking was finally able to put on a normal event.

Sadly, the stresses of putting on this event have taken their toll on Chris and he has decided to step down as organiser of the event. Despite a number of requests for a volunteer to succeed him as organiser none has been forthcoming. As a result the committee has decided that it is best to suspend the event for 2024. If somebody is willing to come forward and take over the reins for 2025 we would be delighted to hear from them; equally we would be interested to hear people's thoughts as to the future (or not) of this event.