

PUNCHBOWL REPORT

13 FEB 2011

Organising the PBM is the 3rd year for us, does it get any easier?

I guess so but always quite a stressful few weeks just before making sure we have NOT forgotten anything.

We had 328 entries and 80 no shows on the day and 2 DNF and turned away probably about 80 that wanted an entry but we were full. (Always a shame we never know how many will not turn up on the day)

There is always an enormous amount of help that goes on behind the scenes, with people helping us, in particular our PBM secretary - Joan Wrenn. Emails and calls are made daily to her and I, in the last few weeks.

Food. We tried a new menu this year – homemade vegetable soup. This involved A LOT of chopping the previous evening and streaming eyes with raw onions, but going by the comments and empty bowls, it was very popular. Quite a task knowing just HOW much soup to make for 330 people!

Kitchen staff surpassed themselves on the day, with their slickness, efficiency AND big SMILES. It was the first time they had all worked in the kitchen, and together.

The hall desk staff sat all day, inputting, writing and scribing with such competence. They were unfazed by any problems that came their way.

Two of our group members spent a couple of hours early on the day – unblocking the hall toilets, with endless buckets of water. Thank you to you both.

Most of the marshals had pleasant warm locations for the day, but Pat and Dave Challenger seem to love the out doors and returned looking as though they had been to the Arctic, bundled in so many clothes.

Weather was not the kindest, with drizzle most of the day. Some people were returning looking VERY cold, one man was taken down to the showers with his hot cup of tea to shower to warm up enough to stop shaking.

Yet again, we had very good feed back from participants about the route, marshals, food and organisation. A couple of comments below.

Our thanks to ALL that help us run this event, because without you – it could not be done.

Jack and Ted

Dear Jackie, Ted and the PBM marathon team,

Thank you all very much for an excellent PBM on Sunday. I think you set the standards by which all runs should be measured - a great course, excellent organisation, superb volunteers, wonderful spirit and camaraderie and without doubt the best value event

anywhere in the UK. It is no surprise that the event is a sell out - so my friends were very lucky to get the late call for a 20 mile debut on Friday. They also enjoyed themselves immensely.

As a local resident, I am become a little intolerant of the way that race organisers litter the Surrey countryside with signs, paint, ribbons in trees etc. I wish everyone adopted the same approach as the LDWA - simple, clear instructions that negate the need to spoil the countryside for others. It shouldn't be beyond any runner or walker to follow such good route maps. Again, I wish all the MTB and run event organisers in Surrey followed your excellent example.

Perhaps the two guys who got lost several times on the Tanners and the PBM (I know because they overtook me three times!!) might be the only ones to disagree. But by know they should know how to follow LDWA descriptions - they are always happy at the end despite their navigational issues!

The only downside for me is suspected plantar fasciitis - I thought I had a bruised heel at the start and tried to run through the pain. Put paid to a decent time but more seriously, I cannot walk very far at the moment. Shame as I felt great otherwise. In hindsight, I should have pulled out at Tilford. Let's hope the ibuprofen, ice and massage do the trick.

I am looking forward to PBM 2012 already.

Thanks again for all your hard work and a truly great event,

Chris Mallin

From 2 runners-

Two of my running mates from Burgess Hill Runners & myself ran the Punchbowl today for the first time. We had a fantastic, wet & muddy time & I just wanted to say big thanks to everyone involved from Surrey LDWA for all their hard work in making the event such a great experience. We were amazed by the friendliness & generosity shown to us. I know we all look forward to participating in future events!

Thanks again,
Steve Roberts