

45th Punchbowl Marathon - 9th February 2014 - report

I lay in bed on the Sunday night unable to sleep due to so many things whizzing round my head from that day. We had just had another successful PBM, we had amazing weather all day, which considering what the sky had thrown down the previous day, week and month – we were all so lucky.

Entries

30mile 338 entered 98 no shows
fastest 4hr 54mins
slowest 10Hr 26mins

20mile 87 entered 27 no shows
fastest 3hr 20mins
slowest 8hr 40min.

Dave and Pat Challenger had done an extraordinary amount of work to reverse the route for me. Tony and Mary, Elton and Juliet had walked and run the whole route over the past few months to check all was correct. Debbie and I ran the 30 route just after Christmas on one of the most beautiful days of recent weeks, so much so, families were having BBQ's on the Punchbowl rim. Then of course checked the 20 route on the marshals walk a couple of weeks ago, where we waded underfoot and shaded with brollies from above. Everyone commenting on how lovely it was to do the route in the opposite direction and appreciate the different views.

The BIG day. This day can ONLY GO AHEAD with the help of everyone that either offers their continuous commitment to Ted and I or just cajoled into helping. Which ever way your help arrives – THANK YOU from the bottom of our boots for your loyalty!!

We had no serious disasters at the Witley this year to contend with. The no heating was resolved by fan heaters initially, until we either blew the fuses or melted the wires. So we just wore more layers. This of course posed an issue for Mike on the computer. So the loooong extension lead was set up from the kitchen, which fortunately was still live. This became a chilly job for the boys and girls doing registration all day and doors kept being left open. None the less, this did detract from the enjoyment everyone seemed to have.

The feed back I had from all the c/points was all positive. You are all so familiar with what you need to do that I know I can rely on your hard work there and don't need to worry. So many comments were made on how friendly, helpful and smiley you all the Surrey group are.

Sue Pollock was a star in buying all the food for Witley and Tilford. I have to say I had very much dropped her in it this year with not very efficient lists and of course the route being reversed, not knowing how hungry people would be.

But she surpassed herself, sadly it also means she will HAVE to return next year with her Witley catering team.

Please, if people have any suggestions or comments for the future, please email me.

Jackie Barker

Below are some of the emails I have had from entrants.

Yes thank you! Had a really enjoyable day. The organisation and amount of food was amazing! I are my way round the 30 mile route :)

Thanks - Jenni

To all the team,

I big thank you for a super event yesterday - the route directions were excellent, the check points well organised and friendly, the food and drinks much appreciated, and the weather could not have been better! Sploshing through the flood on the riverbank diversion was the highlight and will be remembered, in fact, the whole route was a joy.

Many thanks,

Anne and Ian Brown(Dorset LDWA)

I thoroughly enjoyed the punchbowl marathon today and was glad the weather was so nice for it, especially after hearing from fellow walkers/runners about last years weather!

My only disappointment is that on arriving home, I realised I forgot to ask about a badge for the event at the hall in Witley. It was my first LDWA event today and I really wanted to purchase a badge. Is it too late?

Regards - Sophie Ravenscroft

Jackie,

Many thanks to all the team who helped organise a very enjoyable challenge event yesterday. Great to have lovely hot food and drinks at the finish, and at the checkpoints. Even the weather stayed dry for a few hours! A good route description, and not as much wet ground as I was expecting!

Many Thanks to all - Alan Freer

Hello Jackie

Thank you very much to your team and you for organising a really great event yesterday. It's s huge amount of work to put these sort of events on, and thoroughly appreciated. Thank you!

Kindest regards - David