

Dearest All,

Well, what can I say. Yet another PBM went off with great success. We got amazing and positive feedback from entrants and the weather. It had to be one of the best and possibly the warmest day so far this year. I know and appreciate the marshals that stood outside for many hours, especially the latter part of the day will disagree with this statement. As we had to thaw them out gently on return to the hall, feeding them with the girls homemade thick vegetable soup.

5 of us had a sleep over in the hall, 8 competitors in the back room and 1 motor home parked outside. As always the event started with a swing pretty early, marshals breakfasts was cooking in the oven, urn on and competitors arriving by 6.30am – Tea, coffee and toast for those early starters.

I don't want to name everyone individually, but there are a few I want to.

Tony and Mary I know, have put HOURS and HOURS of work into the new electronic numbering system, which appeared to go off really successfully. I hope everyone took note of how to do it, as we have been given 1 year's notice that they're not here 2016. This has cut down on all sorts of other jobs and hopefully will continue to run as smoothly for continuing events.

Richard, Glenys and Dave had taken ownership of their checkpoints and Sue Pollock took over ALL the food buying for Tilford (with Glenys' special requests) and Chichester Hall. Then a charming new man that stepped in was John Downing. He collected keys during the week and returned them for Tilford afterwards. I had spoken to headmasters PA at King Edward school, he went to meet her and locate all suitable parking areas for when the verge became too full – Ted only had to pull off 2 cars stuck in mud at end of event. Hopefully the local police had no complaints from locals residents or road users about the influx of cars around the village.

I have to praise the 'super chefesses' in the kitchen at Chichester Hall, just because they are my very personal and 'bestest' friends and we all spend many a holiday, meals, cycling and running days together. Mind you, they did make a grave mistake in a statement made yesterday. THEY SAID - All the time I continued organising the PMB – They would continue to help!! Yipee and a solemn **THANK YOU** girls.

It makes my life some much easier when people take ownership of their own sections of the event. Then of course there are all the helpers I never even see on the day! You come, you work and you go!! All those sarnis buttered, filled and cut, tea brewed, drinks poured and smiling friendly faces. Trust me, all these compliments from competitors are for you, as I could not possibly do it without you.

Then of course I have to thank a man called Ted. He quietly does things in the background without being asked, unblocks toilets, mends broken things, tows cars, sticks down floors, collects waifs and strays that can go no further, buys things forgotten. Because although he does very little to assist me beforehand, he makes up for *most* of this on the day J

I know statistics of the event will be issued at a later stage, as I don't know actual numbers of entrants, did not finish and no shows etc for you all to know.

Hopefully, one day, we can buy full quota of food for full quota of entrants and not waste things or have to give it away. A lot of left overs have been gratefully received Kent Group for the 7 Oaks Circular.

That's it for now, some of us have work to do!

Thank you EVERYONE and please pass this on to marshals I know don't have emails or anyone I have inadvertently forgotten.

A selection of emails received after the event:-

I would like to say once more ..... thank you to all at LDWA Surrey Group for the excellent event we had yesterday. The weather must have been the best we have had for many years . As I have missed the last 2 years of this my favourite winter event I noted the very good path now opened from shortly after crossing the A3 bridge in direction of Elstead. Has this path been laid slightly further west (in parallel) towards the open commonland? Previously we have had the very wet and pond-like stretch on this section. The recent way of booking a place on your event seems to work very well , the card system a good idea. Say hello again to Glenys K who I met at Tilford CP , always a friendly face from a few years back. Erik.

Many thanks to yourself and all the team that put on a another hugely enjoyable event on Sunday, especially to the checkpoint marshals that were outside for most of the day. It was lovely to get drinks and snacks at each of the checkpoints to keep up the carbo levels, and the food spread at the end indoors was a perfect end and much appreciated. Thanks for the very rapid results preparation as well, and to all the team involved on Sunday. Everyone else I spoke too really enjoyed it as well. Alan Freer

Thank you for the E-mail below. As it was I was taking a different route from a B&B. May I take this opportunity to thank you and all your crew for such a great, well run (excuse the pun) event. Your E-mail below just goes to show the level of dedication you have all shown to creating and maintaining a very high standard indeed. See you next year, Joe

Many thanks for a lovely route, route description perfect and so was the weather, it felt like a real spring day. We went home in daylight, with a wonderful sunset, and with 15 minutes to spare caught the 5.30 p.m. ferry and was another flat sail home, brilliant. Please thank all the helpers, they were friendly, happy and helpful. Best Regards, Janet and John

We had a great day today, many thanks to you for making it possible. Everything seemed to be working well and everyone was working well together. None of this would have happened without you bringing it together. Thanks and well done, Richard Ireson

I just wanted to say thank you for this weekend's Punchbowl. Please pass on my gratitude to members of LDWA Surrey Group who helped in putting on the event. This was my 9<sup>th</sup> event and first on the new "reverse" route. Whilst the weather was the icing on the cake the use of the old A3 made it very special. Thank you to everyone involved. Peter Amos