



# The 52<sup>nd</sup> Punchbowl Marathon

12<sup>th</sup> February 2023



## Event Report

### Organisation

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Punchbowl Marathon was the second running from Tilford. This year Covid restrictions were relaxed, so we could allow people indoors, which at least saved on the number of gazebos required.

There were a few changes to the organising team from last year, with 2 new Checkpoint leads and the Event Controller taking on more of the organisation of Marshals and HQ.

On the whole, the event seems to have gone well, but we are always open to any suggestions for improvements. Please send any feedback to [surrey.pbm@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:surrey.pbm@ldwa.org.uk)



Hot drinks at the start



Getting ready to start



First starters getting under way



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### Checkpoint Timings

This year we introduced recommended start times to try and ensure that we didn't have so many issues with people arriving at checkpoints early, or late. This seems to have worked reasonably well with e.g. only 3 walkers arriving at CP1 10 minutes outside of its scheduled opening times. This makes things easier for those marshals heading on to other checkpoints/duties, and helps us keep track of everyone, so thanks to all for keeping to the planned timings.

### The Weather

There had been a long relatively dry run-up to the event, so those hoping for Winter Tanners style mud would have been a bit disappointed ! There was also a lack of the winter storms that preceded, and in the end resulted in the cancellation of the 2019 event. There was a little bit of damp in the air, but conditions were generally good and not too cold for February.

### The Route

The 20-mile route was unchanged from last year. The 30-mile route however was altered somewhat, and Checkpoint 3 moved from Puttenham to Seale.

### Entries and Starters

As usual, the event filled up well before the closing date. To try and encourage as many to start as possible, we allowed refunds for people withdrawing up to a week before the event, with entries automatically re-opening to ensure there were 350 entered. In the end 274 started which was a good improvement on 2022 when a dire weather forecast may have put a few people off, but still over a 20% drop-out rate, and a bit below our expected 300 starters. There were a few swaps between routes, and in the end we had 158 on the 30-mile route and 116 on the 20-mile route.

Last year, exceptionally, there were no retirements. This year 8 dropped out, so our retirements driver at least had some retirees to pick up.

The spread of times on the 20 mile route was between 3:05 and 8:24. On the 30 mile route the spread was 4:37 to 11:10.





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### Parking

Thanks to you all for using the event car park, keeping the parking around the green in Tilford available for locals and local businesses. This helps ensure that we can continue to use this location.



Event car park

### Marshals Walk

As usual the Marshals walk took place on the preceding weekend, including a final route check. Starting early at Tilford, the Marshals stopped for elevenses at the NT café at the Punchbowl. We then continued on and introduced ourselves at the Checkpoint 2 location at Little Cowdrey Farm. One of the owner's daughters will be attempting a trek to the South Pole in November, if you would like to know more, have a look at <https://antarcticfireangels.co.uk/> Most of the Marshals completed the 30-mile route, finishing in the dark, retiring to a local pub, for a swift half.



Marshals Walk



Checking the RD



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### CP1 – Rushmore

The route initially heads roughly South West, around Frensham Great Pond then back up to Rushmoor (6.0 miles).



The CP1 Team



CP1 Pacer

### CP2 – Little Cowdrey Farm

From Rushmoor the route then heads roughly South, around the Devil's Punchbowl and back up North towards CP2 at Little Cowdray Farm (13.1 miles).



CP2 in action



CP2 Pacer





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The spread at CP2



CP2 hot drinks



A welcome cuppa



Still smiling at CP2



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### CP3 – Seale

Avoiding the need to cross the A3, the route then heads Northwards through Thursley and Thursley Common to Elstead where the route splits. The 20 mile route (20.6 miles) then heads back to Tilford, whilst those on the 30 mile route head via Puttenham Common and the North Downs Way to CP3 at Seale (24.4 miles).



Splits Marshal Elstead



Numbers Check – Lydling Farm



The CP3 Team



CP3 Pacer





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### The Finish

From CP3, the route then follows the North Downs Way and Greensand Way back to Tilford, where entrants could enjoy a sit down with hot drinks and a hot snack before heading home.



Finished !



Finish Kitchen staff



Event Control



Finish Food

### Certificates

Certificates have been emailed to all those who took part, if you haven't received yours, check your junk folder. If you still haven't got it, please get in touch.

### Lost Property

Handed in and still to be returned to their rightful owners are an Innovate lightweight waterproof jacket, and a pair of glasses. If these are yours, please contact [surrey.pbm@ldwa.org.uk](mailto:surrey.pbm@ldwa.org.uk) to claim.



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### Thanks to the Volunteers

Many Thanks to all those who gave up their time to organise the event and run it on the day. We could do with more volunteers for future events, and anyone helping will always have the opportunity of taking part in the Marshals' walks the weekend before.

**Route** – Tony Cartwright, Elton Ellis

**Bridge Building** – Tony Cartwright, Roger Sage

**Marshals walk leaders** – Tony Cartwright, Roger Sage

**Registration** – Mary Dee, Tim Bedwell

**Event Control** – Tim Bedwell

**HQ Prep** – Tony Cartwright, Mary Dee, Tim Bedwell

**Car parking** – Roger Sage, John Preston, Elton Ellis, Ruth Coleman

**Start kitchen** – Richard Ireson, Avril Stapleton, Elizabeth Bryan

**Retirements pick-up** – John Goody

**Closedown Marshal** – Mary Dee

**Start** – Frank Eberle, John Goody

**Splits** – Chris Woodward

**CP1** (Rushmoor) – Stephen Ford, Alan Shons, Jude Unsworth, Deb Heighes, Tony Cartwright & Fiona Cameron (PACER)

**CP2** (Little Cowdray Farm) – Mike Tuke, Elton Ellis, Ruth Coleman, Matt Carolan, John Preston & Frank Eberle (PACER)

**CPN1** (Pacer Numbers Check, Lydling Farm) Fiona Cameron, Jude Unsworth

**CP3** (Seale) – Janet Chapman, Richard Ireson, Avril Stapleton, Elizabeth Bryan, Keith Chesterton, Roger Sage, Tony Cartwright & Deb Heighes (PACER).

**Finish** – James Blogg (PACER)

**Finish kitchen** – Sue Charlesworth, Henri & Jennie de Bossart

**Entries, PACER & Website** – Elton Ellis, Tony Cartwright, Tim Bedwell

**Certificates** – Tony Cartwright

**Equipment** – Mike Tuke

**CP1 Permission** – Greenhills Estate

**CP2 Location** – Little Cowdrey Glamping <https://www.littlecowdrayglamping.co.uk/>

**Path Clearance etc** – Jeff Ellingham, Tony Cartwright, Roger Sage





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### Feedback Received

Very many thanks to the committee and many volunteers who put in so much effort over the days to ensure all aspects of the Punch Bowl marathon walk were a success and I'm sure enjoyed by all. I enjoyed it, my second of the year after the Tanners, so I greatly appreciate your unstinting efforts on behalf of so many people.

A great day walking the 30-mile Punchbowl Marathon, organised by the amazing @LDWASurrey! Huge thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible.

Well done to Surrey LDWA for hosting the Punchbowl Marathon today. 30 wonderful miles completed in near perfect conditions. Dry underfoot, interesting route and lovely marshals! Diolch yn fawr!

Thank you Surrey LDWA

Great fun and so lovely to catch up with many from within the LDWA community

That was a great day out, thanks to everyone concerned. The absence of mud was remarkable, especially after the Winter Tanners four weeks ago, which was quite likely the muddiest event I've ever been on.

It was a fabulous event and good to catch up with the news while enjoying the countryside.

Would like to thank all Marshals and helpers from helping me park my car to excellent checkpoints. Many thanks all.

Amazing day out in Surrey at the Punchbowl Marathon. Surrey LDWA did an amazing job and love being amongst my LDWA family.

Many thanks to all the Surrey folk for organising this weekend's fabulous Punchbowl Marathon ... otherworldly landscapes, minimal mud, only three stiles the entire day, and the best beans on bread at the end!