

1995 Surrey Summits report by Roger Moss

An ex-Prime Minister once said "a week in politics is a long time". I am sure Neil Kinnock would agree. Equally, few would disagree that in challenge walking a month can also be a long time. The 33 days which separated the Marshalls' from the Summits proper provided two events which bore the same relationship to each other as that shared by the Winter and Summer Tanners. On the one hand deep mud, waterlogged tracks and a penetrating night frost and, on the other, heatstroke, rock hard paths and blisters.

For most entrants the Summits starts on Friday night with a careful checking of weather forecasts and calculations of how many layers will be needed for the night as well as a last check on batteries and bulbs, socks, compasses and maps. Incidentally, does anyone know why when you own some 50 Landrangers, it is always the one you want to use the next morning that you cannot find? For some walkers Friday also meant a long drive and a nights sleep on the floor of Chichester Hall, where any attempt to organise an impromptu rave party was nipped in the bud by "night watchman" Martyn Greaves.

198 walkers entered this year's event with 188 making it to the start line. All negotiated the 20k to CP1. A few of the early arrivals earned finger waggings from the mobile trees on the slope after St. Martha's church, whilst some of the backmarkers showed early and ominous signs of wear and tear. All displayed tell-tale damp patches beneath their backpacks - the hot weather catching many people out, with few sun hats in evidence. The orange, blackcurrant, tea, plain water and TLC on offer at CP2 and 3 ensured that despite the increasing heat of the day, 170 people sat down to the delicious chicken/vegetarian rice dishes served with speed and a smile by the team at Wotton. All but 15 plunged onwards into the pitch dark of the Surrey hills at night.

The night, though cold, was milder than any Summits night since 1987, an event etched forever into the memory of anyone involved in it, when torrential rain on the Saturday tested the resolve of all but the most resilient walker. The only reports of bad underfoot conditions came from the approach to CP5 at Holmbury from High Ashes Farm. The Forestry Commission had been cutting and transporting timber. The only complaint that permeated as far as the sleep fuddled ears of the committee was a walker, who shall remain nameless, whose night time companion regaled him with non-stop and unwanted banter. Even CP6 at Smithbrook Kilns, widely regarded by Marshalls and walkers alike as possibly the coldest spot in Surrey, was tolerable. Not surprisingly, there were no retirements so close to the finish - and with only "that" gully path on the approach to Hascombe Hill to overcome.

William Brown was the first to finish in a time of 15.56. The air-flow round the tights must have played a part!! Hannah Brown, whose father Ron did sterling work helping at the finish, was the youngest and possibly the bravest, as her badly blistered feet would have stopped a less determined walker. 155 intrepid souls claimed the sausage and beans on toast breakfast washed down with as much tea as you could drink, tirelessly prepared in the kitchen by Glynis Kirkpatrick, Vala West and Mike Seale.

All in all another happy and successful Summits, and let us hope, (was) the perfect preparation for the Shropshire "100".

COMMITTEE

Louise Cartwright:	Chairman and Saturday controller
Tony Cartwright:	Start, route description and equipment hire
Dave Challenger:	Entries
Janet Chapman:	Publicity and main meal catering
Reg Chapman:	Certificates, catering and statistics
Roger Moss:	Marshalling
Peter Waterhouse:	Finish and Sunday controller
Brian Haigh:	Communications
Sue Boyman:	Treasurer

Marshalls' Walk 25.2.95 - 9 marshalls slipped and slithered, waded and shivered their way round the final route check, having been cheered on their way at the ungodly hour of 06.30 by Jeff Ellingham, whose pyjamas could just be seen protruding from beneath his Rohans. Reg Chapman, aided by Peter and Betty Waterhouse provided his usual heroic support from Mickleham church and through a frosty night to Witley. John Lay and Thierry Masson called it a day at 33 miles. Janet Chapman, Martyn Greaves, Diane Scaife, Roger Moss, John and Gail Elrick completed in 23.35. Gerald Bateman, in a magnificent solo effort, finished in a finely judged 26.00.

Thanks to all of those before, on and after the event without whom there simply would be no event...

Mobile trees	Roger Le Moine, Angus MacArthur
Roving Marshall	Reg Chapman
Emergency phone	Saturday - Louise Cartwright: Sunday - Peter Waterhouse
Retirement drivers	Ray Jolly, Roger Moss
Computer results	Harry Wickens
Certificate, cover & logo designs	Tony Youngs

Start

Martyn Greaves, Roger Moss, Jeff Ellingham, Ray Jolly, Dave Challenger, Tony Cartwright, Michelle Laurier, Peter Waterhouse, Glynis Kirkpatrick, Joe Corefield.

Check point one - St Marthas

Janet Chapman, Martyn Greaves, Richard Ireson, Michelle Laurier, Glynis Kirkpatrick, Joe Corefield, Ray Jolly, Kate Chapman, Dave Challenger.

Check point two - Crocknorth Farm

Peter Waterhouse, Betty Waterhouse, Michelle Laurier, Glynis Kirkpatrick, Joe Corefield, Gerald Bateman, Ray Jolly.

Check point three - Headley Heath

Roger Moss, Ken Styan, Colin Wood, Bob Andrews, Michelle Laurier, Glynis Kirkpatrick, Joe Corefield, Gerald Bateman.

Check point four - Wotton

Tony Cartwright, Kate Chapman, Janet Chapman, Mollie Groundsell, Peter Groundsell, Thierry Masson, Gillian Bull, Diana Scaife.

Check point five - Holmbury

Dave Challenger, Colin Wood, Bob Andrews, John Elrick, Gail Elrick.

Check point six - Smithbrook Kilns

John Lay, Peter Edwards, Elaine Edwards, Phyl Jackson.

Finish

Mike Searle, Vala West, Glynis Kirkpatrick, Peter Waterhouse, Thierry Masson, Joe Corefield, Ron Brown, Michelle Laurier, Dave Green, Jeff Ellingham, Roger Moss, Reg Chapman, Tony Cartwright.