

Surrey Summits 1999

Committee

Louise Cartwright	Chairperson, CP1 & Event Controller
Tony Cartwright	Route Description, Results, Emergency Phone, Finish
Pat Challenger	CP4 main meal catering
Dave Challenger	Route Description, Entries, Event Controller
Janet Chapman	Publicity, Tee-shirts, CP2
Reg Chapman	Equipment, Driver, Certificates
Brian Haigh	CP5
John Lay	CP3
Roger Moss	Marshaling
Peter Waterhouse	Emergency Phone

As usual a debt of gratitude to those that gave of their time to marshal the Surrey Summits. Without that small army of willing individuals the event simply would not happen. Thanks to our 'regulars' who returned yet again to help us – but new faces are always welcome. A special thanks must go to Janet Weller who helped throughout the event - on no less than 5 checkpoints! I am sure I speak for all the walkers when the Summit's Committee says a very big and sincere THANK YOU to all those who helped in both big and small ways. A particular thanks to Mike Mardle who again made possible Downsends School as a successful venue. If we have failed to include you in the following list we do apologise most sincerely - it is not that we did not appreciate your support!!

START: Tony Cartwright, Louise Cartwright, Dave Challenger, Pat Challenger, Janet Chapman, Reg Chapman, Martyn Greaves, Phyl Jackson, Mike Mardle, Peter Waterhouse, Janet Weller

CP1: Louise Cartwright, Tony Cartwright, Dave Challenger, Reg Chapman, Martyn Greaves, Phyl Jackson, Betty Waterhouse, Janet Weller

CP2: Janet Chapman, Reg Chapman, Bill Grace, Trish Hewlett, Richard Ireson, Alan Knight, Jon Moore, Sylvia Nagarkar, Mary Perry, David Russell, Linda Sharman, Colin Saunders

CP3: John Lay, Reg Chapman, Elaine Edwards, Peter Edwards, Trish Hewlett, Ray Jolly, Alan Knight, Sylvia Nagarkar, Mary Perry, David Russell, Linda Sharman, Colin Saunders, Janet Weller

CP4: Pat Challenger, Len Wilson, Don Bolton, Gillian Bull, Dave Green, Ray Jolly, Roger Moss, Sylvia Nagarkar, Janet Weller, Joan Wrenn

CP5: Brian Haigh, Jon Moore, Ann Sayer, Martin Tringham, Ray Jolly

CP6: John Westcott, Olive Barnsley, Roy Barnsley, Les Rose, Reg Chapman

FINISH: Tony Cartwright, Pat Challenger, Janet Chapman, Dave Green, John Lay, Paul Lawrence, Ted McCabe, Martin Tringham, Peter Waterhouse, Janet Weller, Vala West, Dave Williams, Louise Cartwright, Dave Challenger, Len Wilson

Results: Compilation - Harry Wickens

Marshals' Walk: 27/28th February

Congratulations to the dedicated band of hardy individuals who completed the Marshals' Walk, even though with their combined experience they managed to miss the last support point! These were Bill Grace, Martyn Greaves and Ann Sayer. Martyn Greaves thus maintains his record as being the only individual to have completed ALL the Surrey Summits since its inception as a challenge walk. Incidentally, for those that don't have such long memories, you may like to know that originally the Summits was a social walk!!! This must have been particularly tough since it was unsupported!!!!!!

Like the main event, the Marshal's Walk needs its supporting marshals. Thanks to Reg Chapman, Peter & Betty Waterhouse and Tony Cartwright for their time. The bacon butties were again good Reg!

Did You Know?

- that the **total ascent** on the event is 9000ft? The organisers thought it was about 7000 but this year a walker carrying a cumulative altimeter provided the evidence - who says that Surrey has no hills!
- that there is a simple remedy for **blisters** – here it is:-

Put a few crystals of potassium permanganate in to a bowl of warm water and dissolve fully. The solution should resemble red wine in colour. Soak your feet. Repeat over a few days. Potassium permanganate can be bought at a pharmacy – the only disadvantage is that it turns the skin brown, but that seems a small price to pay for such rapid relief.

Taken by mistake

A pair of Adidas Response trainers (originally white but by then muddy) left outside the finish after the event were mistakenly picked up and taken home by a walker who called in later to tell us of his mistake. If anyone is missing a pair of such trainers please contact Jeff Campbell on 01372-468819.

Walkers Report

Our thanks to Ann Beeching for her report giving the walkers perspective of this years event.

The Surrey Summits is a walk I enjoy, but in 1998 I decided that I would stop doing overnight walks after that year's hundred (my tenth). I told all who might be interested, and many who were not, that it was my last Surrey Summits. Then I changed my mind. I thought it would be good to do ten and I had enjoyed the new route despite Redlands and the gully up to Nore Hangar. So, I sent in my entry and Thursday 15 April saw us making the journey down the dreaded M6.

The weather that week in Cumbria had been terrible. Snow on the tops, very windy and lots of rain. "If the weather in Surrey is anything like this then I am not doing the walk" I said, but Saturday morning dawns misty and chilly but promising to be a good day with only the odd shower. I have always been lucky with the weather on the Summits, my first one being in 1988, the year after the wettest and muddiest Summits ever – non-stop rain throughout the event. Since that year the weather has been kind – this year is no exception.

One of the pleasures in doing long events is chatting to folk only seen on these occasions, and I reach the start in good time to do this.

I set off just after the crowd departed but as I queue to enter the field at Langley Vale Farm I reflect that even later might have been better. However, I am glad of the crowd as we try to cross the Dorking Road to Walton Heath. Impossible until a kind motorist stops for us and we all cross safely. We could have done with him (or her) when we recrossed the same road a mile further south on our way to Headley Heath.

Conditions underfoot are really good and few people seem to slip going steeply down off Colley Hill. I look back along the hill from the monument and thought what an attractive and colourful procession we made. At this stage everyone is in a long crocodile and chatting away.

I reach the first checkpoint at Headley Heath feeling that I am walking well. A quick drink, a thank you, and across the heath and on to Juniper Hill. A stiff climb where I am passed by Andrew Boulden walking as if the gradient was 0%. Juniper Hill to me means orchids but it is too early for them. June is their month but April has bluebells and all the woods so far have had sheets of them - lovely colour, lovely smell.

Box Hill has lots of folk sun bathing looking in amazement at these strange folk dashing by with determined looks on their faces. Steeply down again, across the stepping stones after waiting for a family with a young family to cross. Then the A24 – another busy road full of impatient motorists who hoot their displeasure at our daring to cross: no thought of slowing down. Still, none of us shares the fate of hedgehogs and we stream on up the North Downs' Way to Ranmore Common. I still mourn the loss of the wonderful hedge which bordered the track before the coming of the vineyard. It had some rare plants in it. Also, the loss of the public footpaths across the common. The new landowner has closed all paths except the rights of way, despite local people having been free to roam for generations. Perhaps this will change.

Another sad reflection as I cross Steer's Field – thinking of Chris and hoping that Margaret has settled well into her new home. Then steeply down yet again to

cross the valley to Chadhurst Farm and Checkpoint 2. A bite to eat then on to the wetlands! South of the escarpment is always wet, but it is a lot drier than last year. Redlands lives up to its muddy reputation and after the farm I, and the people around are concentrating so much on getting up the hill despite the mud that we can't remember how many tracks we have crossed and go one too far! Fortunately we reach a track which joins the one we should have been on. No problem. By now it is raining but not enough to put on waterproofs. It soon stops.

The route now recrosses the road into Pondfield Copse where there has been extensive tree felling. Lots of the discarded canopy is on the ground obscuring the track, but after a brief discussion we decide that we are on the correct route and reach Coldharbour to recross the road and on down to Buckingham Farm. How many bars on the fence? Two, or are we meant to add them up? I opt for two.

Through more woods with lots more bluebells. They are a lovely feature of the walk this year. Back up hill on what I regard as the hardest climb of the route and Leith Hill Tower comes into view. It seems a long way above me. Sandra, Robert and Arthur from the Black Country pass me as I toil up the hill. By now it is very warm and I am running out of steam. It is 5.30pm and by the time I get to the top of the steps I feel ill and have to stop for a few minutes. I eat some food and carry on, over Holmbury Hill. Bill Grace is coming up the enclosed track and gives encouragement.

More encouragement from the marshals at Checkpoint 3. It is difficult to eat but I decide to continue. Up Pitch Hill and more thoughts of our founders, Alan Blatchford and Chris Steer as I pass the site of their memorial. Round Reynards Hill, still with lovely views to the South. Down Jelleys Hollow which seems a lot drier and less stony than usual, but by now I am feeling bad again and I retire before Hascombe Hill.

So now I have to go back next year if I am to complete 10 Surrey Summits.

When I felt better, I reflected on why I ran out of steam. There may have been other causes but a main factor must be that I had not eaten enough. From breakfast at 7.30am to reaching Leith Hill at 5.30pm, I had eaten two rich tea biscuits and a small amount of rice. When I walk on my own in events I forget to eat unless it is put under my nose. Entirely my own fault – after all these years I should know better. I had plenty of food with me but next year I shall carry more appetising food – and eat it!

My thanks to the Surrey Group for another excellent event, for the route description, easy to read and follow, and to all the marshals who give so unstintingly of their time. See you in 2000.