

The 44th winter Tanners started out as usual in the dark as the car park marshals directed the entrants using newly acquired coloured light wands. The starters queued to reach the spot-lit registration desk, pick up their cards and walk over to the start. The River Mole was high that day and so entrants were directed along the flood route - though that too was far from dry and few continued with dry feet! This led to much laughter and banter very early on.



The first checkpoint lay on the other side of Box Hill, complete with Juniper Top added in for good measure. By this time the sun had risen and stayed out for most of the day affording glorious views of the surrounding hills. After the second churchyard and some rather muddy fields the routes parted at the first checkpoint. Those on the 20 route had a level interlude followed by another steep ascent of Box Hill and a very steep descent. Again they were afforded a pastoral interlude through Denbies vineyard followed by a gentle ascent to the final checkpoint and a familiar route to the finish. The 30 milers were in for a real treat with large quantities of excellent Surrey mud interspersed with standing water. Leaving the second checkpoint they faced a steady climb followed by a steep ascent of Leith Hill, Surrey's highest summit, further undulating miles and another sharp climb to gain the last checkpoint on Steers Field.



Leith Hill on the 30 on the left, and Steers Field on the right. Below left - out beside the Mole early in the route, & below right the view from Juniper Top



At the finish, apart from the hot drinks and goody bag on offer, the most popular attraction was the hose and brush which was in constant use as entrants tried to limit the amount of Surrey mud they took home as a souvenir.. And all left with muddy footwear, aching limbs and happy memories. All except one that is - I still have their orange Hokas!



Our newly refurbished first aid kits were duly deployed on a couple of occasions as was the recovery vehicle. All the returned equipment was duly collected up, the toilets cleaned yet again. The car park emptied, supplies were reallocated to next month's challenge event and the leader of the first checkpoint went home to embark on a baking session bananas to her remaining fruit into banana cake. Mud, sunshine and hills had proved the perfect ingredients for another superb Winter Tanners.

We were very happy to welcome back the Blackwater Valley Scouts to our event. Their group all successfully finished the 20 mile route and were still cheerful at the end.

It was noted that particularly at CP3, unlike the marshals, some of our gazebos were showing their age and their replacement is now under active consideration.

Statistics

Our entrants ranged all the way from 12 up to some in their 80s - all going strong.

There were 441 entrants, ie with 88% take up of the 500 places available. 365 entrants started - that is 82.8% of the entrants. We had 14 retirements - 11 on the 20 route and 3 on the 30 route and 3 entrants missed the first checkpoint and were thus disqualified. This event is not a race and entrants took it at their own pace, which varied from 2.5mph on the 30 route up to 5.5mph on the 20 route - the mud and hills taking their toll. This was the slowest top speed on both routes since the infamous event of 2018, reflecting the terrain and conditions on the day.

Both routes were both hilly and muddy - the 30 more so than the 20. The 20 route was 21.4 miles long with 3881 feet of ascent and the 30 route was 30.8 miles long with 3881 feet of ascent.

The full results can be found at https://ldwa.org.uk/results/full_results.php?event_id=298 and summary statistics below.

Thanks are due to

Car parking Mike Tuke, Roger Sage, Simon Delph, Steve Ford,

HQ Avril Stapleton, Cathy Turton, Elizabeth Bryan, Mike Tuke

Registration Tim Bedwell

Start Frank Eberle, Richard Ireson, Tony Cartwright

CP1 John Goody, Paul Chamberlain, Ruth Coleman, Sue Charlesworth, Tim Bedwell

CP2 Alan Shons, Ertan Ali Falk, Frank Eberle, Jan Chapman, John Preston

Numbers check Fiona Cameron, Roger Sage

CP3 Mike Tuke, Nigel Barraclough, Richard Ireson, Steve Ford, Tony Butterick, Tony Cartwright

Recovery Vehicle Simon Delph

As well as all those marshals listed above I would also like to thank John Westcott for devising the route, Mike Tuke for sorting, delivering and retrieving all the equipment, all those who helped with the route checking, those landowners who kindly granted us permission to site our checkpoints, all those entrants who made all that hard work worthwhile and last, but not least, the Almighty for the perfect combination of sunshine, mud and standing water.



On L & below marshals' walk, on R registration



Above L CP1, above centre CP2, on R CP3

Winter Tanners Summary Statistics

Year	2014			2015			2016			2017			2018			
Route	20	30	All	20	30	All	20	30	All	20	30	All	20	30	40	All
Times: hours/ minutes																
Mean	06:27	07:54	—	05:45	07:43	—	06:48	07:40	—	06:22	08:31	—	06:57	08:55	11:29	—
Median	—	—	—	—	—	—	06:53	07:35	—	06:32	08:28	—	07:04	08:30	11:25	—
Max	09:35	12:01	—	09:42	11:43	—	10:32	10:54	—	09:04	12:52	—	10:31	14:16	15:12	—
Min	03:33	04:15	—	02:53	05:01	—	02:56	05:10	—	03:29	5:21	—	03:48	5:23	07:39	—
Mileage	—	—	—	20.6	30.4	—	20.9	30.4	—	20.9	31.4	—	20.8	30.4	40.7	—
Mean mph	—	—	—	3.6	3.9	—	3.1	4.0	—	3.3	3.7	—	3.2	4.2	3.1	—
Fastest mph	—	—	—	7.1	6.1	—	7.1	5.9	—	6.0	5.9	—	5.5	5.6	5.3	—
Entrants	184	266	450	147	301	448	141	309	450	121	329	450	138	162	193	494
Started	131	166	297	122	200	322	118	242	360	116	225	341	129	131	103	366
Retired	2	5	7	2	8	10	5	9	14	2	11	13	5	1	2	8
Finished	129	161	290	120	192	312	143	203	346	114	214	328	133	149	76	358
Did not show	—	—	24%	—	—	26%	—	—	15%	—	—	24%	—	—	—	26%
Finished	—	—	97.6%	—	—	96.9%	—	—	96.1%	—	—	96.2%	—	—	—	97.8%

Winter Tanners Summary Statistics

Year	2019			2020			2022			2023		
Route	20	30	All	20	30	All	20	30	All	20	30	All
Times: hours/minutes												
Mean	05:35	07:30	–	06:00	06:27	–	06:47	08:03	–	06:59	08:20	–
Median	05:47	07:22	–	05:58	06:22	–	06:55	08:29	–	07:04	08:08	–
Max	08:15	10:59	–	08:50	10:38	–	10:12	12:16	–	09:59	12:31	–
Min	03:17	04:43	–	03:11	04:03	–	03:37	04:38	–	03:54	05:41	–
Mileage	20.8	30.6	–	20.5	30.8	–	22.6	30.8	–	21.4	30.8	–
Mean mph	3.8	4.2	–	3.6	4.2	–	3.5	3.9	–	3.9	3.4	–
Fastest mph	6.1	6.5	–	6.4	7.6	–	6.2	6.6	–	5.5	5.4	–
Entrants	158	317	475	206	296	502	170	295	465	175	266	441
Started	149	223	372	201	236	412	119	236	355	184	181	365
Retired	0	2	2	1	1	2	8	10	18	8	3	11
Disqualified	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0	3	3
Finished	149	221	370	189	223	410	144	193	337	172	177	349
Did not show	–	–	21.7%	–	–	17.9%	–	–	23.7%	–	–	17.2%
Finished	–	–	99.5%	–	–	99.5%	–	–	95.0%	–	–	96.2%

Winter Tanners Summary Statistics

EVENT INFORMATION

2013

Thickening snow from Saturday onwards made accessing some CPs impossible and some paths dangerously icy. With regret the event was cancelled on Saturday evening.

2014

Wet week before, sunny morning with beautiful views, but cloud/drizzle/wind later, skidded and sloshed through still frozen fields. First use of Leatherhead Sports Pavilion. 20m went Headley, Westhumble, Ranmore & 30m also taking in Holmwood Common S of Dorking

2015

Poor weather previously, cold, initially overcast but dry throughout, mud freshened up by previous rain. Online recording first trialled. South past Dorking, Chadhurst Farm and back through Ranmore, the 30 added Holmbury, Pitch Hill & Peaslake.

2016

Poor weather previously, chilly but largely dry, mud freshened up and much standing water. Last use of Leatherhead Sports Centre. 20m route East Horsley, Netley Heath, Ranmore with 30m also going through Shere, Albury Heath and Gomshall.

2017

Light snow previously, turned to rain over icy patches (weather off putting to many entrants), mud worse than 2016. Both PACER recording and MatOrtho HQ used for first time. 20m - Fetcham Downs, Gomshall, Ranmore, Tanners, 30 also went to Shere, Winterfold & Holmbury/Leith Hills

2018

Added 40m route for 40th event (5 CPs organisationally demanding), started dry but light snow later in the day, however established new records for mud & was very challenging. Routes went SE, Reigate, Box Hill (v muddy/slippery descent). 40m went further S across fields towards end of Gatwick runway. Upped entry limit to 500

2019

Excellent conditions, sunny crisp day with little mud. 30m route went S - Bagden Farm, Westcott, Holmbury St Mary, Pitch Hill, Winterfold, Shere, Abinger Hammer, Ranmore, Tanners Hatch & back through Bagden Farm. 20m left the 30 at Abinger Bottom to go through Wotton & up through Ranmore. Fast times

2020

Excellent conditions - sunny, crisp with initially frozen mud, rain freshened earlier in the week, cold pm. 30 route: S to Norbury Park, Debbie's, along N Downs, Abinger Roughts (CP1), Shere, St Martha's (CP2), Newlands Corner, NDW, Effingham Forest, Tanners (CP3) & Fetcham Downs. 20 cut across to 30 at Hackhurst Down. Fast times

2021

Aborted due to Covid Pandemic conditions

2022

Mostly overcast, dry (but wet mud), brief sun. 30m route went to Shere Heath, Pitch, Holmbury & Leith Hills & returned via Tanners. 20m route to Shere Heath, back via Tanners. Extra 'Covid Safe' precautions

2023

Sunny am, cloudy later. Flood route (with large puddles) utilised. Muddy, especially on the 30 after CP1. All went out via Mickleham, Juniper Top & Box Hill to Strood Green (CP1), & met at Steers Field (CP3) to return via Tanners. The 20m continued via Brockham, Box Hill (again) & gently up to Ranmore, the 30m went SW via Holmwood Common, Sheep Green (CP2), steeply up Leith Hill, Duke's Warren, Logmore Green & steeply up to CP3.