

### 33rd Surrey Hills Races, Sunday 16 May 2010

In this my 6th year as Organiser I am sad to report that numbers are down from last year – 78 runners as opposed to 99. We had hoped that by switching from the Bank Holiday Monday to a Sunday numbers would improve; but this was not the case. However, it was easier to find helpers within the club – very important, in view of how ‘helper-heavy’ this event is.

Noteworthy were the father–son winners of the Men’s trophies on the ‘B’ and ‘C’ races: Pete and Chris Nicholls; and mother–son winners of the Men’s junior and Ladies’ 40 classes on the ‘B’ race: Karen and Rob Jones.

We had the usual crop of runners who assumed they’d be able to navigate the ‘A’ race (30 km) without having reconnoitred the route; one, sensibly, switched to the ‘B’ race (16 km) after about 6 miles; another was persuaded to get a lift back with one of the water point marshals after 2 hours and 40 minutes, by which time he’d reached Control 8, with another 10 miles to go, having spent over an hour on each of legs 5 to 6 and 7 to 8.

This year we gave runners on the ‘A’ and ‘B’ courses bibs with their race numbers, so that the marshals on the water points could plot their progress. This worked fairly well, and will work better next year, when we will give ‘C’ course runners race numbers too (some who started on the ‘C’ race switched to the ‘B’ race!).

This year, for the fourth time, we organised 'Recce' runs a month before the race – 6 attended. Those who took part found it very helpful and we would urge all to recce the route with us in this way. The date of the recce run is always published with the race details.

As regards statistics: 78 started the races, 71 finished.

Finally, thanks as ever to all the helpers from SLOW, to the landowners (Surrey Wildlife Trust, Wotton Estate, The Hurtwood, Alex Brodie of Squires Farm) and to the staff of Priory School.

*Ginny Catmur*

*South London Orienteers and Wayfarers*

