



Southern 50 Challenge serves up a walking feast

The green light shone for this year's Southern 50 to go ahead at exactly the right time. A total of 76 teams from across sixteen different Scouting counties registered to take part. Half of the teams were from GLN with all four Districts being represented, and wow, didn't they do well!



Princes Risborough School, nestling in the heart of the Chiltern Hills, was the chosen start and finish for this year's event, and this was where nearly 300 participants arrived to enjoy a walk in the countryside and challenge themselves. They had the choice of three routes, the 30km distance for Explorer Scouts only, or the 50km or 50 miles routes which were open to all. Weather conditions proved to be more favourable than in previous years. There was no repeat of ice, snow or vicious storms from previous years. Without having an event taking place last year for the first time in 42 years, this produced a total of 68% of participants being novices for their chosen routes, so for many of them, this was a trip into the unknown. This year's route followed paths through the delightful villages of Naphill, Cadmore End, Turville, Maidensgrove, Stoke Row, Christmas Common,



Ibstone and Stokenchurch before heading back to Princes Risborough, with an excellent 90% individual finishing rate. The first two team places in the 30km event was fought out between Phoenix Flyers Young Leaders from 201st Islington who finished over an hour ahead of 22nd Southgate Young Leaders. Completing the placings was a team from 7th Purley, a Group which had been coming along to this event for the past thirty years. Our friends from 20th Torbay (picking up the Novice trophy), Luton Hydra ESU, Nomads ESU in Brent and Hitchhikers ESU from Cambridge were not far behind.



The 50km event was won by three Leaders from 8th Muswell Hill who had been winners in 2019 and runners-up in the 50 miles the previous year. They finished half an hour ahead of Team Hellfire Originals from West Warwickshire, the most northerly team taking part this year. Hot on their heels were Leaders from Genesis ESU in Basildon, ahead of the Basildon Active Support Unit, then a local Group of Leaders from 1st Aston Clinton (picking up the Martin Hornsby Tankard, presented to the fastest team whose average age is 50 years per walker), and then a team of novices from Dionysus ESU based in Billericay & Wickford in Essex (picking up the Chairman's Cup, presented to the fastest team who are all under the age of 25 years). Then came the Potters Bar Plodders and the Phoenix Flyers Ladies (picking up The County Trophy, presented to the fastest GLN team not picking up any other trophy). One of The Hatters ESU Teams won the 50km Novice Trophy, and another Hatters team collected The Ricky Bickley Memorial Award, presented to the fastest team with all walkers under 18 years not winning any other trophy.



The 50 miles event produced some remarkable stories this year. Four of the eight teams which started, successfully completed as complete teams. In fourth place was a delightful team of 17 and 18 year olds from Merlin ESU in Barnet Borough. They first appeared on the scene in 2019 when they finished 12th in the 30km event. The following year, they moved up in class and finished the 50km event in 26th position. This year, all eyes were on the ultimate challenge, the unforgiving 50 miles event. They kept going through the whole of Saturday and into the night, crossing the finishing line in a time of 22-30 at 04:30 on Sunday morning. They picked up the Chief's Cup, the first under 25 team, to remind them of their efforts.



Moving into third place, some six hours ahead, were more old friends, Ten Gallon Dixie from Didcot ESU in Oxfordshire, who regularly either come first or second. They were presented with the Grove Trophy for being the fastest team whose average age is 33 years per walker. The runners-up award this year went to Phoenix Flyers, comprising Mark Thompson and daughter Gemma, two 201st Islington Leaders, who added two spare walkers, Martin Kjollesdal-Creasey, a Leader from 14th Southgate and David Liddle, a Leader in Greater London South.



Finally, a fanfare for this year's 50 mile winning team, the 22nd Southgate, comprising Tom Nagle, Leader at 22nd Southgate, Paul Coleman, Leader at 6th Southgate, and Joseph Moulton, a former 22nd Southgate Scout and now a member of The Hatters ESU. Tom said that winning the fifty miles event at the Southern 50 had been one of his lifelong ambitions. But Tom's master stroke was to recruit Joseph as the third member of his team just a week before the event, after Joseph had originally been down to walk in the 30km event. Joseph saw that this was an opportunity not to be missed and created history by becoming the youngest ever member of a winning 50 mile team in the entire history of the event.



A massive Thank You to the 100 adults who rose to the occasion yet again to support and ensure that this year's Southern 50 Challenge was a huge success.



#Southern50
Scouting at its best

Southern 50 Challenge 2022 - 50 miles Event

Position	Time	Team	Team Name	Team Location	District	County
1	13:44	8	22 nd Southgate	22 nd Southgate	Southgate	GLN
2	14:20	6	Phoenix Flyers	201 st Islington	North London	GLN
3	16:31	7	Ten Gallon Dixie	Didcot ESU	Thames Ridge	Oxfordshire
4	22:30	2	It's Broomstick Time	Merlin ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
Not classified		1	HH Last Timers	3 rd Staines	Spelthorne	GLSW
Not classified		2	The Cheddars	Hornchurch Network	Hornchurch	GLNE
Not classified		3	Brian's 50 at 50	Southgate ESLs	Southgate	GLN
Not classified		4	Argo Agincourt	Hampstead (Argo) ESU	North London	GLN

22nd Southgate: 50 Miles Challenge Shield (fastest team and overall winners)

Phoenix Flyers: Robert Walters Trophy (overall runners up)

Ten Gallon Dixie: Grove Trophy (fastest team whose average age is 33 years (whole years) per walker)

It's Broomstick Time: Chief's Cup (fastest team with all walkers under 25 years not winning any other award)

Southern 50 Challenge 2022 - 50 kms Event

Position	Time	Team	Team Name	Team Location	District	County
1	08:16	51	Don't Wait Up, Mum	8 th Muswell Hill	North London	GLN
2	08:45	47	Team Hellfire Originals	1 st Salter Street	West Warwickshire	Warwickshire
3	09:01	32	Genesis Leaders	Genesis ESU	Basildon	Essex
4	09:20	52	Beast	BEAST	Basildon	Essex
5	09:37	29	1 st Aston Clinton Leaders	1 st Aston Clinton	Vale of Aylesbury	Buckinghamshire
6	09:52	53	1 st Runwell Overtakers A	Dionysus ESU	Billericay & Wickford	Essex
7	10:07	31	Potters Bar Plodders	Potters Bar District	Potters Bar	Hertfordshire
8	10:30	43	Phoenix Flyers Ladies	201 st Islington	North London	GLN
9	10:41	48	CLVU Back Together	Hitchhikers ESU	Cambridge	Cambridgeshire
10	10:52	49	Cirque de Sore Legs	The Hatters ESU	Southgate	GLN
11	11:01	46	1 st Runwell Overtakers E	Dionysus ESU	Billericay & Wickford	Essex
12	11:14	36	SSAGO	Southampton SSAGO	Southampton	Hampshire
13	11:43	21	Up Ya Kilt	10 th Edmonton	Enfield	GLN
14	11:45	37	The Sixth Sense	6 th Friern Barnet	Barnet Borough	GLN
15	11:57	45	The Muswell Hillbillies et al	9 th Muswell Hill	North London	GLN
16	12:04	41	The Wok and 4 Pans	The Hatters ESU	Southgate	GLN
17	12:46	39	Burger Time	Evolution ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
18	12:51	33	Quack	Vernon Venturers ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
19	13:01	55	Dartmoor Die Hards	20 th Torbay ESU	Torbay	Devon
20	13:20	22	Fire Breathing Danish Dragon	Vernon Venturers ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
21	13:49	35	Bulizunk	11 th Edgware	Barnet Borough	GLN
22	13:55	50	The Hard Ankles	Tottenham ESU	North London	GLN
23	14:02	38	Oh My Quad!	10 th Edmonton	Enfield	GLN
24	14:50	27	The Walking Batmobile	Evolution ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
25	15:44	30	Akela's Angels	Hitchhikers ESU	Cambridge	Cambridgeshire
26	16:13	54	Red Hot Chilli Steppers	Hornchurch Network	Hornchurch	GLNE
27	16:22	25	COVID 1984	Tottenham ESU	North London	GLN
28	16:28	24	Genesis 1	Genesis ESU	Basildon	Essex
29	16:32	23	Pan-Galactic Gargle Blasters	Hitchhikers ESU	Cambridge	Cambridgeshire
30	18:47	57	Golden Discos	Discovery ESU	Lewisham	GLS
Not classified		26	Argo Lisburne	Hampstead (Argo) ESU	North London	GLN
Not classified		28	Hydra Leaders	Luton Hydra ESU	Falkes	Bedfordshire
Not classified		34	Go Ape	Tottenham ESU	North London	GLN
Not classified		40	1 st Runwell Overtakers D	Dionysus ESU	Billericay & Wickford	Essex
Not classified		44	Cheddars	Hornchurch Network	Hornchurch	GLNE

Don't Wait Up, Mum: 50 kms Challenge Trophy (fastest team and overall winners of the 50km Challenge)

Team Hellfire Originals: Galleon Trophy (overall runners up)

1st Aston Clinton Leaders: Martin Hornsby Tankard (fastest team whose average age is 50 years (whole years) per walker)

1st Runwell Overtakers A: Chairman's Cup (fastest team who are all under the age of 25 years)

Phoenix Flyers Ladies: County Trophy (fastest team from Greater London North not winning any other trophy)

Cirque du Sore Legs: 50 kms Novice Trophy (fastest team, none of whom have entered the 50 mile or 50km event before)

The Wok and 4 Pans: Ricky Bickley Memorial Trophy (fastest team with all walkers under 18 years not winning any other trophy)

Southern 50 Challenge 2022 - 30 kms Event

Position	Time	Team	Team Name	Team Location	District	County
1	06:26	130	Phoenix Flyers Young Leaders	201 st Islington	North London	GLN
2	07:41	131	22 nd Southgate Young Leaders	22 nd Southgate	Southgate	GLN
3	07:59	121	The 5 Amigos	7 th Purley	Croydon	GLSW
3	08:12	129	Devon Dreamers	20 th Torbay ESU	Torbay	Devon
5	08:40	108	Luton Hydra ESU	Luton Hydra ESU	Falkes	Bedfordshire
6	08:43	106	Nomad2	Nomads ESU	Brent	GLMW
7	08:47	119	Zaphod Beeblebrox	Hitchhikers ESU	Cambridge	Cambridgeshire
8	09:24	123	Team Hellfire Reborn	1 st Salter Street	West Warwickshire	Warwickshire
9	10:02	102	Where's WHESU?	Winchmore Hill ESU	Southgate	GLN
10	10:13	118	We've Got This	Winchmore Hill ESU	Southgate	GLN
10	10:21	109	Dead Legs	The Hatters ESU	Southgate	GLN
12	10:26	103	Hydrate	Merlin ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
13	10:35	116	Nomad1	Nomads ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
14	10:42	105	22 nd Southgate	22 nd Southgate	Southgate	GLN
15	10:53	120	Excalibur	79th Reading	Pang Valley	Berkshire
16	10:57	113	Group One	Merlin ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
17	11:19	110	The Young Ones	20 th Torbay ESU	Torbay	Devon
18	11:32	107	Camelot	79th Reading	Pang Valley	Berkshire
19	12:18	124	Griffin ESU	Griffin ESU	Falkes	Bedfordshire
20	12:43	112	MIA (Not Missing In Action Yet)	1 st /3 rd New Barnet	Barnet Borough	GLN
21	13:09	111	Ugh	Harlequin ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
Not classified		104	Argo Mansfield	Hampstead (Argo) ESU	North London	GLN
Not classified		114	Argo Fleet	Hampstead (Argo) ESU	North London	GLN
Not classified		115	Genesis 2	Genesis ESU	Basildon	Essex
Not classified		117	1 st Runwell Overtakers C	Dionysus ESU	Billericay & Wickford	Essex
Not classified		122	JEM	Evolution ESU	Barnet Borough	GLN
Not classified		125	VVV Explorers	VVVESU	West Herts	Hertfordshire
Not classified		126	Party Goers	Fiennes ESU	Castle Point	Essex
Not classified		128	1 st Runwell Overtakers B	Dionysus ESU	Billericay & Wickford	Essex

Phoenix Flyers Young Leaders: Explorer Scout Challenge Cup (winners in the 30km Challenge)

22nd Southgate Young Leaders: Explorer Scout Runners-Up Trophy (runners up in the 30km Challenge)

Devon Dreamers: Explorer Scout Cup (fastest team, none of whom have entered the 30km event before)