

Chiltern 20 keeps Scouting Pointing in the Right Direction



The 35th anniversary of the annual Chiltern 20 Challenge Hike was indeed a good'un.

This year's event saw a record number 66 teams of Scouts, aged 10-14, from every District in GLN, plus teams from Devon, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Greater London North East and Greater London South West. Over 300 participants enjoyed an amazing day of adventure.



After a misty start, the sun broke through and remained shining over the magnificent Chiltern Hills throughout the day until the heaven's opened late in the day. By then, most of the teams on the senior event had navigated their way through nine checkpoints, from Princes Risborough School, on to the Icknield Way and then back again in a spectacular 20km loop.

The teams in the junior event had the luxury of being driven in one of a fleet of minibuses on to their exclusive checkpoint for their 12km route. The day went so well for every team that three of them enjoyed themselves so much that they were still walking over ten hours after they started. But the bottom line is that they finished and the looks of achievement on the faces of the young people was a sight to behold.



And that's the beauty of the Chiltern 20. It really doesn't matter about the order in which each team finished. This event is all about learning by doing, navigating, being active, keeping fit, teamwork and leadership. However, teams like to know their times and positions so that's why the results are published.



Our friends from 20th Torbay enjoyed a weekend mini break in the Chilterns by blazing a trail in the senior event having two teams completing their distance in under four hours with last year's winners, the Phoenix Flyers from 201st Islington not far behind in third place. The few senior teams which contained an adult to ensure the safety of their young people saw 10th Edmonton in 9th spot picking up their respective first place trophy. They were closely followed by 6th Southgate who were two places behind, and the same stable took the top two positions in the junior event, both with exemplary times of under four hours. Every young person went home with their own event certificate which showed their time, distance and speed.



Special mention goes to the two 8th Holborn teams whose walk was extended to and from Princes Risborough Station as they let the Chiltern Railway take the strain. One of these two teams went slightly off course after they had left Checkpoint 1. When the next checkpoint came into sight, they realised to their horror that they had reached Checkpoint 8. If they had carried on to the end, they would have broken the world record. It's a bit like when I once hit a golf ball so badly on the first tee, it rolled on to the 18th green. If the ball had gone in the hole I would have made a fortune by completing my round in one stroke.

Huge thanks are in order to over 100 adults who spent their entire day staffing the many component parts of the event. And what's more, we are planning to do it all again next October.

During the event, Ian Lamb of 22nd Southgate took some superb shots which you can be viewed [here](#).

Fozzy
(Chris Foster, Hon Sec, Chiltern 20 Challenge)