

The Joe Beswick Sandstone Trail Challenge 2025 Race Report

This year's challenge ran smoothly from start to finish thanks to all our fantastic marshals, volunteers. The event is dependent upon these people together with the Scouts and Guides who did a fantastic job as usual.

We used the Fabian4 tracking and timing system for the first time this year. From the feedback we've received to date, this worked very well. We had fabulous support on the day from Adrian Moir and Ellie Salisbury from Fabian4 who ensured that the system ran smoothly.

As per last year, the warm and sunny conditions made the course very challenging for the participants. Even those who have completed the course several times before found it very tough. Of the 166 participants who started the event, 16 retired which, given the conditions, was relatively low (we had 34 retirees last year out of 206 participants). Of the 211 participants who originally entered the event, 45 did not register which is higher than previous year's. In the main, the high no show number is probably due to the warm and sunny conditions which were forecast.

Based on our experience last year with the availability of water for the participants, we increased the amount of water available at the checkpoints. We also had mobile emergency supplies out on the course. The feedback we've had so far is that this worked well and that we had sufficient water out on the course. Refreshments out on the course were generally well received particularly the ice pops at CP5!

Everyone who arrived back at the Community Centre was very proud of their own personal achievement and very appreciative of the support they had received during the event.

The results are available on the HRC website. Steven Fernyhough and Katrina Corinaldi-Knott took the male and female open prizes respectively, with Alex Mee claiming the U18 award in a time of 9.28.47. Several participants finished outside the 10 hour cut off but all received a warm welcome at the community centre alongside their certificate.

Thanks again to you all. We won't be organising the event next year but we will be there to support the team taking over from us and so we look forward to seeing you again next year on Sunday 10th May 2026.

