

Compton Harriers 20th Anniversary Reunion

The Reunion day was a great success. The weather was fantastic, the Compton Canter attracted its largest ever number of competitors, and 'The Pickled Pig' was packed for the evening gathering. It was great to see people catching up with old friends and to see past and current Harriers chatting, enjoying the fantastic buffet and anniversary cake, and having a laugh at old photographs. By my reckoning, a total of 34 current & former Harriers, and 17 'friends of Compton Harriers' attended for all or part of the day. In addition, 13 former Harriers who were unable to join us, sent updates for the 'Where are they Now?' display.

Highlights of the day were captured on camera, and some great photographs of the Compton Canter and evening gathering can be found on our club website www.comptonharriers.org.uk (see links in blue & green boxes on home page) along with results of the Compton Canter.

If you wish to read or re-read the 'Harriers History' and 'Where are they Now?' displays, they are reproduced below on pages 3-18.

The following past and current Harriers & friends participated in the Reunion Day (I hope I've remembered everyone!)

Completed the Compton Canter: Vicky Adams, Jess Franklin (3rd lady overall & 1st Compton lady), Mike Hegley, Ian Hope, Lee Jones, Dick Kearn (1st Compton man), Pete Oliphant, Jon Tyler, Thomas Vaughan, Guy Watts (2nd man), Fiona Wycherley

Compton Canter spectators: Iain Adams with Connell & baby Ewan, Andy Bayley & Lola, June Campbell, Joanna Bolton & Hannah

Attended the evening gathering: Daphne Allen; Gillian Anton; Kirsty & Andy Bayley and Lola; Lin Briscoe; Maria Briscoe, Matt & boys; June Campbell; Sara Dickinson; Tom Doy; Angela, Simon & Henry Edwards; Susanne Enhard; Hannah Fox; Sue & Mo Francis; Martin Fray & Lucy Gettins; Sarah, Phil & Emily Gadd; Steve Gosling & family; Alison Grimshaw & Adam; Pete & Jan Humphreys; Dick & Jan Kearn; Hannah Kearn; Diccon Kearn; Caroline Lane (formerly Collins) with Alan & Ed; Ross Langton; Helen Martin (nee Tayton) with Ian & baby Annabel; Philomena Mburu; Kim Pike & Joshua; Dave & Janine Revitt with Ella & Beth; Eileen Roddis (nee Fraser) with Evie; Celia & Michael Seckington; Thomas Vaughan, Fiona Wycherley

Contributors to 'Where are they now?' (includes 3 from New Zealand!): Annette Benmore; Rich Bickerton; Catriona Bruce; Maxine Burgess; Paul Dunn; Gill Harrison; Marie McIntyre; Garry Mitchell; Sue Paulin; Fiona Powell; Norman Ross; Rachel Teverson; Martin Warren

Some 'thank yous' & acknowledgements

Compton Canter:

Race Organisers: Martin Fray & Lucy Gettins

Marshalls: Sara Dickinson, Tom Doy, Susanne Enhard, Alison Grimshaw & Adam, Hannah Fox, Jan Kearn, Sally & Peter Linton, Philomena Mburu

Finish Announcer: Gillian Anton

Timekeepers: Sue & Mo Francis

Finish Recorder: Simon Bolton

First aider: Kirsty Bayley

Photographs: Peter Linton & Mo Francis

Reunion gathering:

Organisers: Sue & Mo Francis (a.k.a. 'Team SuMo')

Buffet: Maria Briscoe

'Pickled Pig' set-up: Philomena Mburu & Hannah Fox

T-shirt & hat 'stall': Susanne Enhard

Photos from the past supplied by: Dick Kearn & Mo Francis

Anniversary Tankards: Designed by Team SuMo, produced by www.coffeecups.co.uk

Anniversary Cake: 'Pierreponts' riverside cafe (Goring), with design by Team SuMo

Bar Staff: Louise Stevenson, Chris Wrey, Jim Turner

Photographs: Mo Francis & June Campbell

And finally.....thank you to all of you who came along to join the celebrations

Here's to the next 20 years!

Harriers History

1990

- First AGM of the proposed Running Club takes place on 14th May
- The majority vote to call the club 'Compton Harriers' (other nominations are 'Ridgeway Runners' and 'Ridgeway Harriers')
- Team colours chosen as green vest with white chest bar
- Club night chosen as Thursday, followed by a drink in the IAH bar
- The Committee is Fiona Wycherley (President), Dave Revitt (Secretary), Lynne Hooper (Treasurer), Dick Kearn Men's Captain), Helen Tayton (Ladies Captain)
- Dick Kearn & Tom Doy have been members for the whole 20 years!

1991

- The Club affiliates to the Amateur Athletics Association
- Fiona Wycherley receives the London Marathon Club Entry
- First Christmas dinner is held at 'The Red Lion', Compton
- Sue Baigent (Francis) joins - the 3rd longest-serving Club member

1992

- Dave Revitt launches the Handicap Race - 1st winner was Janine Teucher (now Janine Revitt)
- Dick, Dave and Ian Hope mark 400 metre running track on Compton Rec.
- Martin Smyth breaks his ankle in a pothole on Horn Street
- Mo Francis joins the Club - the 4th longest-serving Club member

1993

- Fiona, Ian & Dick win World Trail Running Champs - 80 miles, South Downs Way: 1st lady (Fiona), 1st man (Dick), 1st team
- CH finish 2nd in Ridgeway Relay: Ian H on Leg 1, Stu Kennedy on Leg 10
- Tom organises the first 'away-day' run at Inkpen
- Dave volunteers Sue to start a Club newsletter - the HH is born

1994

- Compton Harriers win the Ridgeway relay, setting a course record
- Dave R meets his hero, Hugh Jones, in South Downs Way trail race
- 'Laserquest' and bowling social events held
- Martin Fray joins the Club - the 5th longest-serving Club member

1995

- CH organise first Compton Downland Challenge - 40M & 20M trail races in horrendous blizzard conditions (in April!); Harriers finish as 2nd team in the 40M (Martin, Dick, Ian, Tom, Mo)
- Harriers adopt the 'Hare' logo
- Dick does a charity 'How many laps can he run in 2-hours?' at Compton fete; Mo's guess is closest & he wins a free entry to the 1996 CDC
- Harriers make monthly Weston-Super-Mare trip for prom race series
- Thomas Vaughan materialises to join the Harriers

1996

- Harriers first team trip to 'The Grizzly' - 20M MT event in Devon
- Boundary Run route is altered to avoid section along A34 verge
- 'The Old Boys' (Mo, Dick, Tom, and Sarah Hall) win Boundary Relay
- Club night leaders' schedule is launched

1997

- Phil Green becomes Fixtures Secretary, and Thomas Vaughan Treasurer
- Harriers base moves to Downland Sports Centre
- Sue drops the famous killer fart on the start line of 'The Grizzly'
- Christmas Meal held at 'Compton Swan' - Dick sets fire to tablecloth

1998

- CDC route altered to a figure-of-eight, returning to Compton at halfway
- Paul Dunn wins the Boundary Race, ahead of Dick, and Nigel Henton
- Harriers are 5th in Ridgeway Relay - Dick on Leg 1, Sue Paulin on Leg 10

1999

- Dick, Martin Warren, Simon, Sue P & Annette run the London Marathon
- Compton Challenge raises £1000 for 'Meningitis research Foundation'
- Tom twists an ankle on Ridgeway Relay Leg 5, but limps the last 5 miles
- June organises fancy dress Millennium Handicap: Dick runs as a fairy

2000

- Club website is launched by Mo
- Mo helps June finish 'The Grizzly' when she hits the wall at 16 miles
- New Rec. Soc. building & Pickled Pig open - Harriers HQ moves back
- Simon (pseudonym 'Testacles') writes his first horoscope for the Herald

2001

- Foot & Mouth disease results in cancellation of Compton Challenge....
- ...and a change of route for Boundary Relay and Boundary Run
- Compton badly flooded for several weeks following heavy rain
- Harriers Herald reaches its 100th issue
- Simon's 'vegetable baton' club night run round Shepherds' Mount

2002

- Harriers join forces with Team Kennet in Oxford Mail X-country league
- 'The Old Boys' (Mo, Tom, Dennis, Dick) win the IAH Relay
- Dennis' multi-event evening: slalom run, standing long jump, foam javelin
- Jan becomes regular time-keeper for the Handicap Race

2003

- Dick sets course record for Boundary Run (52:42) - record still stands
- Current route adopted for the annual IAH relay
- Andy Bayley completes a Half Ironman at Sherborne
- Harriers first team trip to Isle of Wight Fell Races

2004

- A record 14 teams compete in IAH Relay - Bryan Charleston's team win
- Annual Handicap Championship launched by Sue - Lucy is 2004 winner
- Wedding of Harriers Secretary (Sue) to Harriers webmaster (Mo)
- Sus organises first annual Harriers cycle challenge - won by Andy Bayley

2005

- CDC raises £1500 for Compton Village Hall charity
- Harriers man Goring & Bury Down check-points for 'Ridgeway Challenge'
- Pete H completes Ridgeway Relay leg 3, with terrible hay fever
- 'Team SuMo' complete their first Boneshaker duathlon as a team

2006

- Compton Canter launched by Martin and Lucy at Compton Village fete
- Tom turns 60 and continues to run well
- Harriers first Kenyan runner - Philomena
- Harriers elves help Santa with Compton Christmas charity collection

2007

- Lucy, Susanne and Philomena launch the Tuesday speed-training sessions
- Lucy completes the 145-mile Grand union Canal Race
- Susanne wins Berks County silver medal in London Marathon with 3:29
- Harriers regular pub 'The Compton Swan' is gutted by fire

2008

- Ryan's stone is installed: "The Pickled Pig - home of Compton Harriers"
- Compton Canter attracts a record 75 entrants - Tim Hughes wins again
- Susanne & Lucy both run sub 3:20 marathons
- Pete H's 'Four Musketeers' win the IAH Relay again

2009

- Lucy wins ladies title in the 86-mile Ridgeway Challenge
- Compton Harriers team fleeces organised by Susanne
- Harriers help Downs School with West Berks schools X-country event
- Club membership peaks at an all-time high (26 members)

2010

- Compton Harriers 20th Anniversary Reunion

Where are they now?
~ News from former members ~

Rachel Teverson: Early 1990s

I live with my partner of 20 years and two teenage children on a County Council farm near Gloucester where we milk a herd of 90 Guernsey cows and youngstock.

Following a career change, I am training to be a lawyer and working for the County Council.

I'm still fitting in running and triathlons but, at nearly 50, am getting a bit slow but love it all the same.

I would have loved to come to the reunion, but will be doing an Olympic distance triathlon. Hope the day does well, and thank you for inviting me.

Catriona (Cat) Bruce: 1992 - 1994

Cat now lives in New South Wales and works for 'Blackwidow Fireworks'. She says: "I am in Australia so won't come to the reunion, but I hope it goes really well!"

Norman Ross: 1993 - 1994

It was a nice surprise to hear from you. I did not realize that I had qualified as a member of Compton Harriers. I only ran a few times and found it hard. I changed to tennis. However I dropped that also because my knees were hurting. Nowadays I do very little running because of my back. I have however acquired an exercise bike which I use regularly.

It is a great idea to have the reunion. Unfortunately I am unable to attend. I wish you every success on the day.

Paul Dunn: 1992 - 1996
("The older I get the better I was")



I relocated to the Compton Lab in 1992 from the IAH lab at Houghton and immediately took to the running around the Berkshire and Oxfordshire Downs after years of running around the "flat-land" of Cambridgeshire and the Fens.

After years of doing road racing, especially 10 miles, $\frac{1}{2}$ and full marathons I really enjoyed the "freedom" of trail running. I recall being amazed at this lively and enthusiastic running club called Compton Harriers, and their strange fascination with trail racing and with ultra-distance running....I was soon hooked on trail running too and had a few brief forays into the ultra-distance world although I think this was after I left Compton (once in Compton 40 and twice in High Peak Trail Race). My wife thought this was just a mid-life crisis!

I left Compton in 1996 moving westward to life in the Mendip Hills and a Hospital-based job in Bristol testing patients who need organ transplants, and potential donors. I ventured back a few times to the Compton area once to take part in the Boundary Run (1999?). At the beginning of 2005 we took the plunge and emigrated across the world to a new life in New Zealand where I had been offered a job in Auckland (NZ Blood Service).

Running has a great tradition in NZ (Arthur Lydiard started one of the oldest running clubs in Auckland) but it's not the same as in the UK - there are no footpath rights of way across fields. You can run across fields but you may get shot at by a landowner! However, where I work in Auckland there are plenty of parks and extinct volcanoes which make for some interesting and hilly running. Where we live South of Auckland are the Hunua Ranges which are forested hills and there are many tramping (walking) tracks. I still run, maybe 3x per week but not competitively, although I always have an eye on a race later in the year "just-in-case-I'm-ready", hence the title above.

Annette Benmore: 1997 - 2000

Chris and I and the girls, Megan (10) and Sophie (8), and are well in Naperville, IL, USA... home of the Blackhawks and Group C World Cup winners. I am still running and doing Triathlons, my first 1/2 Ironman is in July. I'm not really super prepared but will try it anyhow, just will be slow for this first attempt.

I'm not working outside of the home yet but looking to change that soon. I miss running in the English countryside, much more motivating and pretty!!



Annette's & Chris' daughters, Megan & Sophie

Garry Mitchell: 1997-2000

Garry & Yani moved to Australia in 2004. He says 'hello' to everyone and sends best wishes for the reunion.



Martin Warren: 1997 - 2001
(a.k.a. 'The Running Vicar')

I was delighted to receive the news of the 20th anniversary celebrations. Yes, I thought that would be really good to do. Then I discovered an inconsiderate couple had booked a wedding for that day. How dare they!

I am still running with Torrington - even though now over 50. This year I completed the Madrid Marathon (see photo) on April 25th in Torrington colours. Time: 3hours, 49minutes. Very enjoyable. All a result of Dick's nagging all those years ago. Particular memory of Madrid was a Spanish runner stripping off an outer layer after about 8km, to reveal he still had two layers under that. It certainly wasn't that cold.

I ran in a local fun run a few weeks ago. Some of the children from the local primary school spotted me, and were amazed that I had a life outside school and church!

I'll come back and do the Challenge again one day maybe - but not the 40!

All the best to you all, and will be remembering you all on July 3rd.



Maxine Burgess: 2000 - 2002

It's really great to be in touch with you guys again. If it wasn't for the Harriers I wouldn't have started running!! Unfortunately I'm unable to attend. Doing a triathlon in Norwich on 4th July (my club is Newmarket cycling and triathlon club). Hope you all have a great time and say hello to everyone for me!



Gill Harrison: 2005

Dear Sue,

I am sorry to say that I will miss out on your run as well as the reunion.

I have entered Newbury Triathlon which, at my current fitness, will be embarrassing. I did Bristol Rat Race with my daughter and her fiancé - very hard - rode over 60 miles on the Sunday including twice round a BMX track. Scary for someone my age!!

Have a great time and I look forward to seeing some of you from time to time.

Gill

Marie McIntyre: 2003 - 2006

Thank you for the invite to the reunion, but I won't be able to make it. Please say hello to the others.

I'm still at Liverpool University. Engaged but not married yet.

I'm still running and have done a few triathlon/adventure races up here, though currently not able to as I've managed to hurt my hip trying too hard whilst circuit training!

Photos are from the Deva Divas triathlon.



Marie (left) & friend



Sue Paulin: 1996 - 2006

Dave and Sue moved to New Zealand in June 2006. We are currently renovating an old cottage on 1 acre of land and really feel as though we are living the "Good Life". We have 6 beautiful hens (Nerys, Black Betty, Eirwen, Lowrie, Doris, Deidre) for eggs and a rooster who has made himself at home with the girls; broiler chickens (for meat); turkeys (for meat and pets); 2 ducks (Dilly and Pancake for eggs and hopefully babies in the spring). In addition, Jessie (our golden retriever) and Moses (our cat) came with us from the UK and we have also acquired a beautiful blind cat (Maizey) who is now 2. We have recently fenced off a half acre paddock and plan to keep sheep for both meat and milking in the very near future. On top of this we have 2 huge veggie plots that keep us well and truly stocked with lovely, fresh produce year round. This is all hard work and we are both employed full time. We do however find time for some sport and have taken up skiing with a passion since being here. We are lucky to have several good club and commercial ski fields within an hour's drive of home. During the summer we do a lot of mountain biking, camping and walking. I (Sue) am still running and have taken part in several 10 km races in recent months. Of late I have started to learn about the fun of triathlons/duathlons and have now competed in four separate "novice" events. Dave has hung up his rugby boots but keeps threatening to have a game again.....

We think of our friends at Compton often and of course have very fond memories of all the events, Thursday night runs and Pickled Pig experiences over the years. We wish you a great, successful reunion day

and would love to be there. Here are a few pictures of beautiful NZ. If any of you venture south (to Oxford NZ), please drop by - we would love to see you. (susan.paulin@esr.cri.nz).



Woodside Cottage



Mountain biking the Kaikoura track



Hooker Glacier, Mt Cook



Woodside Cottage in the snow

Fiona Powell: 2007

I'm in Brighton (working at the Med school), running for Brighton and Hove AC.

I achieved my aim of cracking 3 hours at the London marathon this year (2:53.42) and have had some success at half marathons (see extract from newspaper report below), 10k and 5k. I also run as part of the Sussex XC squad.

Far more enjoyably, 2 weeks ago I was part of a 6-girl Brighton and Hove AC relay team who won the 100 mile South Downs way relay (Winchester to Eastbourne along the South Downs Way). A tough but fantastic event!

Hope all is well with you guys, and thanks again for thinking of me!

Powell triumphs in Beacon half-marathon (21-02-10)

"Fiona Powell revelled in the atrocious conditions to pull off an unexpected victory at the Sussex Beacon Half Marathon today.

Powell came from behind in the wind and rain to see off the challenge of Kate Mapham and Samantha Alvarez and claim the biggest title of her life.

The Brighton and Hove City runner showed few signs of fatigue after finishing second in the Brooks Sussex Cross Country League the previous day to win by ten seconds from Mapham in 83:47".



Rich Bickerton: 2007 - 2009

(a.k.a. 'Riky Biky')

Dear Harriers,

As I and Charlotte are not able to be around for the Compton Harriers 20-year reunion, I thought I would update you all on where we have been and what we have been doing since leaving England in August '09.

It had been planned that I would fly out in August '09 and Charlotte would meet up with me in Malaysia in November '09. This would allow for me to get the boys stuff out of the way. On the cards, I was planning a cleansing of the mind, body, and soul in Katmandu, a trek up a mountain in the Himalayas, an extended Thai cooking course, a full dental servicing in Chang Mai, Thailand, and an advanced open water diving course in the Pherentian Islands, Malaysia.

Before leaving England, I decided to have a leaving party. After looking at the where most of my friends and family were living, I decided to set up a meeting in the 'UP Steps' pub in Oldham. It was a strange feeling being back in Oldham town centre at night. Especially since being softened up by life in Newbury! I was expecting to see the usual fighting and flying bottles. However, the town was quiet which was the result of a new boozier policing scheme which limits the amount of drinks a person can buy, to one per sale. That night I did see a number of rough ass knob-heads and was a little embarrassed in front of Charlotte that my home town could spawn such people!! That night was also advertised as a school reunion but only one guy made it and he was one of the guys that I laughed my way through school with (whilst nearly getting expelled!)

Leaving England

The one way flight ticket to Kuala Lumpur had cost £120 with AirAsia, a bumper bargain bonanza price! Even though the seating was a little cramped, the in-flight films and a curry made up for it! Stepping on the plane was strange not knowing if I will return but I was buzzing with independence excitement...look at me wooo....I'm bugging off!!!

Malaysia

In Kuala Lumpur the weather was 30 degrees which felt like 80 in the Chinese market. The market is where I bought 3 Rolex watches for 3 pounds!! I wore all three on one wrist for 2 weeks before they started to lose their appeal. There were games arcades with all the old classics like pacman and space invaders. There were even arrays of karaoke booths where the locals were singing for their lives. I dare not laugh at them as some of the guys singing

looked quite serious and tough! The first night in KL had a full moon and I was lucky to take a photo of the petronas towers with the moon in the centre. Surely this was a great omen of the fun times to come....

I have embedded some pics of the trip so far.

We have worked our way around the North Island of New Zealand doing work like logging, chef work, farm work, horses and now Charlotte has a job she enjoys in Cambridge working with a potentially good event rider called Nic Brokes. Through summer Charlotte had the opportunity to groom for Nic at all the top events in New Zealand. Nic has just visited Oxford, UK and has been working with Mark Todd who has said that Charlotte will have a job when she returns, which is her dream!!! Currently I am working as a biomed engineer in a hospital in the thermally active town of Rotorua. It's very interesting as there are many Maori people and the town has lots of character (it smells of eggy ale guts twenty four hours a day!).

Immediate plans are to head to Melbourne in late November for the Queenscliff music festival and then on to the Ironman in Busselton, Perth. Following, we're off to South America to do a tour which will hopefully include Galapagos, Easter Island, Machu Pichu, and a volcano trek in Equador.

We should be back in England by Christmas 2011! Hope to see all of the Harriers for a homecoming run!!

All the best for the next 20 years ☺

Rich & Charlotte xx

(Rich sent 30 pages of great photos - I'll print off the rest to bring along on a club-night!)



Compton Harrier members working out the best route for the Thursday run



Charlotte traded me in for a more well behaved model



Mt Manganui Triathlon,
Tauranga, NZ



A scorching finish



Taupo Ironman swim start



Feeling good after the swim



Ironman bike was beautiful



Mentioning to the spectators
that I am a Compton Harrier



Shagged out but beat my time
by 1/2 hour