

TEN TORS CHALLENGE, 2017
GUIDANCE BOOKLET FOR TEAM MANAGERS

Introduction by the Director

By luck or by planning my appointment as the new Commander South West was confirmed sufficiently early for me to be able to visit Ten Tors 2016. Having not been involved in the event since I slogged over the moors myself in 1989, I was keen to return to Okehampton and see the event first hand. Memories of that weekend – and the training – have stayed with me ever since and my certificate, photograph and medal are now proudly displayed on my office wall. But, understandably perhaps, I had forgotten the scale of the undertaking. The responsibility of becoming the Director certainly focussed my attention!

My visit also reminded me of the huge value of the event, and the opportunity it represents to the youngsters that take part. Whilst there are perhaps an increasing number of similar events, I believe that Ten Tors remains unique in a number of aspects. These include (but are not limited to) the privileged use of Dartmoor, the interaction between military and civilians - both as challengers and organizers - and the parameters we apply to the physical challenge itself. Many I spoke to in May described the experience as a life changing event and, having seen the looks on the faces of the young men and women completing the Jubilee Challenge, I suspect few would disagree. I am very aware that a considerable amount of hard work and commitment is required in advance to make the event a success, and not least by you as Team Managers.

The key aspects of the event have remained unchanged for many years and I certainly don't intend to alter them arbitrarily now. Of course, we are eager to ensure that we optimize the experience for all involved, and have made a number of minor amendments since May this year as a result of our after-action review. These will be briefed to you by my team and are described in this document and on the website in greater detail. Our regular attenders may have appreciated the small changes made by my predecessor, such as the return of the theme from Chariots of Fire. We are also looking to ensure that portaloo distribution is carefully regulated!

As normal we will require written assurances that the team preparation has been completed as per the direction herein, and your confirmation that each of the individuals in your teams is fit to participate. I am confident that your experience will enable you to ensure that they are as well trained and prepared as possible, but please do not hesitate to ask my staff if you require any advice or assistance.

I recommend that you study this booklet carefully, whether you are a new Team Manager or an old hand. It provides guidance based on best practice and has been written by experienced Team Managers and volunteers. It is designed to assist you in preparing your walkers for the challenge in 2017.

Finally, let me wish you and your teams every success as you prepare for the weekend of 6/7 May 2017. I very much look forward to seeing you and your teams then.

Colonel James Coote DSO OBE