

## The Undertakers decided! Southern 50 2006

Decided what ?Well ,two weeks prior to the Southern 50 event this year one of our team members , Mark Lyne was hobbling around with a very dodgy knee. At this stage we decided to compete in the 50 km event rather than the 50 mile , after all we could carry him the last few stages!!!!. As it is valour took over from discretion and on the Friday evening in the very convenient pub next door to Watlington Collegeit was decided to go for it , the 50 mile was in our sights!!!

Saturday dawned with clear skies and a hard frost and off we set at 6.16 am. The route was to take us west towards the Thames , back over the Chilterns and almost to the Thames at Henley and then north towards and onto Bledlow Ridge. Walking conditions were ideal , dry underfoot and just a comfortable temperature.The route though was very undulating with some tough climbs and this took its toll at times.

However as dusk fell and we entered Stokenchurch the end was drawing near and with the final slow climb up to Christmas Common we were within a couple of miles of the finish.

14 hours 27 minutes was our final time , 3<sup>rd</sup> position and only an hour behind a very youthful winning team.

The organisation of the event was , as always a credit to scouting , the checkpoints superb ( all those jam sandwiches !!!) and seeing many more red kites than ever before all added up to a great weekend

Gordon Dunn, Mark Lyne , Tim Atkins and Mark Barnes