

Letters to the Editor



New Forest Marathon

SIR, — I am sure the New Forest marathon was a success overall and a credit to the organisers and the competitors but unfortunately there were some isolated aspects that were unacceptable and even a disgrace.

I refer to the totally unnecessary complete closure of Rhinefield Road and the side roads off it for several hours on Sunday morning.

This effectively imprisoned hundreds of people, many of whom may have had necessary journeys to make and prevented anyone whatever their reason from entering or leaving that area.

The 'A&T' gave very good coverage of the marathon preview but the issue came out too late for many people to have read it before the event.

I can only comment on incidents about which I know where it seems marshals were briefed to take number plates of any drivers they felt were uncooperative, and report them to the police. One female marshal said she was not paid enough to take abuse from the public and would not do this job again. Judging by her attitude, that

Acorns

SIR, — I was very shocked when reading the New Forest Notes for September on the subject of spraying Jeyes Fluid around oak trees to prevent the horses eating the acorns, or even putting sewage sludge around the base of the tree.

Acorns are one of the most important food for deer, it gives them the protein content they need to be healthy. On a bumper year like this one, deer can gain a lot of weight in just a short period of time. It also helps the fawns and yearlings gain muscle mass and bone.

Deer have four stomachs so can digest the acorns without harming them, unlike horses which can die if they eat too many.

We must be thankful that we still have deer within the New Forest to help the pigs quickly eat the acorns up. We must also remember the New Forest was created in around AD 1079 by William I for his royal hunting of deer when peasants who lived within the Forest were forbidden to enclose their land so allowing the free run of the deer

would be a good thing.

One man was told to park his car by Lloyds bank and walk home, a distance of about a mile.

Another incident was at the A35 checkpoint where traffic was kept back while 1,700 runners went by and in spite of gaps in the stream of runners which would allow one or two cars through, the marshals refused.

But the one incident I consider disgraceful and unacceptable under any circumstances was that of a young woman who was contacted by Bournemouth hospital that a relation who had suffered a serious traffic accident was dying and she should get there as soon as possible.

She was refused access through the check points and was physically sick outside her car and in great distress. There seemed to be no intercommunication between check points and no common sense or decency by any of the marshals.

There were many more instances of bad attitude and poor planning and even if the event was a success overall, the organisers should take heed for future events.

Apologies to this lady are due and hopefully in print for all to see.

M Seymour

Aldridge Hill,
Brockenhurst.

SIR, — I have no doubt that the New Forest Marathon was a great success with a great deal of money raised for various charities and great endurance by the runners. However, who on earth decided on the road closures and communications strategy?

The closure of Rhinefield Road effectively made residents in New Forest Drive and Oberfield Road stuck in their homes for three hours, and to close Brockley Road off at both ends left Brockenhurst village like a ghost town.

My wife and I had to catch a train at 10.15 and totally unaware of the extent of the road closure — we were not the only ones — approached Rhinefield Road to be told: "It's closed and you can't get to the station". The blank expression on the steward said it all.

Eventually we arrived at the

EU debate

SIR, — To answer Richard Grant's recent letter, I would first like to state that my business experience is not a matter of conjecture or indeed something to boast about. In my position as a parliamentary candidate at the last election, and possibly again at the next one, I simply seek to re-assure voters that I comment from a position of real experience.

So often in politics, one finds politicians have not spent enough time at the coalface of life and on the matter of the EU referendum, I believe 'Joe public' really does want to hear the truth from those significantly involved in exporting Great Britain.

It is all too easy for Mr Grant to scaremonger and cast hollow aspersions that if the UK leaves the EU, Land Rover Jaguar and Tata will more or less immediately take flight. It gives no consideration to the fact that we will negotiate a free trade agreement with the EU and allow skilled workers from all over the world to enter the UK.

Those businesses are in the UK because they want to benefit from our skills and economic infrastructure and the free trade agreement that exists across Europe today, will be maintained when we leave the EU.

"We are with Europe, but not of it, we are linked, but not combined, we are interested and associated, but not absorbed." These words were uttered by the great Sir Winston Churchill and are a poignant reminder of what our relationship with the EU should be today.

This country does not first and foremost rely on bigger organisations like Tata and Virgin but as most folk know, it is the numerous small to medium sized businesses that generate the majority of our jobs. It is therefore their experience and opinions that will count most in this debate.

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