

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

SURREY GROUP

REPORT AND PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 1980

Chairman:

Tony Youngs
17 Linkfield Lane
Redhill

Redhill 63611

Secretary:

John Westcott
31 Bracken Way
Chobham
Woking

Chobham 6672

Treasurer:

Dave Challenger
3 Ewell Park Way
Ewell
Epsom

01 393 5478

Other organizers of walks and events:

Jeff Ellingham, Farthings, Wheeler Lane, Witley. Tel Wormley 3374
Keith Chesterton, Firle, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford. Tel 63392
Mervyn Harvey, 9 Guildown Road, Guildford. Tel 34184
Malcolm Tadd, 65 Trindles Road, South Nutfield, Redhill.
Tel Nutfield Ridge 3456

--- 000 ---

29 attended the meeting at the Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower on 21st October. Unfortunately, when we went to our normal room, we found that it was occupied by another organization so we had to make do with the room normally used as a restaurant. This made conditions slightly cramped but all made the best of it.

The chairman started the meeting by commenting on the tragic death of Alan Blatchford on 15th September:

"One thing has happened since the last meeting that makes all else seem of no importance. It is still very difficult to realize that Alan Blatchford is no longer with us. We all feel a personal sense of loss - and sympathy for Barbara. The L.D.W.A. has lost one of it's founder members and it's only secretary. The national committee is looking not for a replacement for Alan - that is not possible - but for a new secretary. The Surrey Group will sorely miss Alan and his energy and enterprise".

Keith Chesterton then said a few words about the "Alan Blatchford memorial fund". Many people had expressed a desire to contribute towards a memorial to Alan. A committee of 6 had been set up to administer the fund. Many suggestions on the form of memorial had been received but a decision is being delayed pending a clearer picture of the amount of money there will be available.

The fund will not be a long term project and it is envisaged that the money will be spent within a period of 12 months. If anybody wishes to contribute would you please give or send your donation to Keith Chesterton.

The secretary's proposal that the number of group meetings be cut to three per year was discussed. While most people were sympathetic to the secretary's problem it was felt that social functions of this nature should be increased rather than decreased. It was

finally decided that there would be three programme planning meetings per year arranged just prior to the Strider closing date and at least two other meetings per year devoted to slide shows etc. This compromise will mean that adequate time will be devoted to either the programme or the lecture rather than trying to cram both activities into one evening.

Graham Peddie had asked Chris Steer to produce a leaflet, aimed mainly at the young, giving information on most suitable clothing to wear when out walking. Chris, although knowing what suits him, feel that he could not draw from his own experience alone to produce such a leaflet. An observation was made that this was a very controversial subject but if you have any ideas would you please send them to Chris.

After the meeting, Tony Younge gave an account of his adventures with Percy in the Vosges supported by slides. In spite of the difficult lighting conditions and having to compete with the hubbub of the lounge bar, Tony soldiered on in true British fashion to give a very interesting lecture.

ANN SAYER'S END TO END

At 6.a.m. on Saturday 20th September 1980, The association's most successful lady long distance walker, set off from Lands End on the 837 mile journey to John o'Groats in an attempt to break the women's "on foot" record for the journey which at the time stood at 16 days 21 hours 55 mins. Ann walked every step of the way at first completing 60 to 62 miles per day but reducing the average to about 58 towards the end of the first and most of the second weeks. On Friday 3rd October she started walking from Golspie at 4.a.m. and walked 76 miles that day to arrive at John o'Groats at 18 minutes to midnight thus completing the journey in 13 days 17 hours 42 mins - breaking the record by 3 days 4 hours 13 mins. This was indeed a great performance and, as one of the back up team, I was pleased to have witnessed it and proud to have been part of it. Although Ann's first allegiance is to the Herta and Essex group, she has been a member of the Surrey Group for many years. The editor of the "Great Outdoors", Roger Smith, was walking withus for three days and he will be including an article about the walk in the December issue of the magazine. There will, of course, be an article in Strider 28 also due out during December.

Ann will be giving a slide show at one of the group's social meetings of photographs taken on the walk. It was while giving the slide show about the 3 British peaks at the meeting on 22nd July, Ann remembered the agony she had gone through on that walk which nearly prompted her to abandon the end to end attempt. Fortunately she was persuaded otherwise.

MARAC FUN RUN LEAGUE

The 10th run in the series for 1980 held on Putterham Common on 26th October, seemed to be a "do it yourself" affair with some runners devising their own routes. There were runners coming from every direction in an attempt to follow misleading arrows. However somebody did manage to sort the thing out to leave LDWA in second place overall with 4052 points. However, with only 2 events to go, it is unlikely that we will be able to overtake the leaders, B&C who currently have 4488 points. The task is made a little more difficult because the penultimate event clashes with a Surrey Group walk. The final event will be held in December at Legal and General. Further details from Dave Challenger.

The 2 runs in the Masters & Maidens series were both successful. The 15 run on 17th September attracted 219 entries which was very good for a first time event which had been given very little publicity. Of the 176 starters, 161 finished in times ranging from 1 hour 26 mins to 2 hours 46 mins.

The Marathon held on 12th October attracted 901 entries and although only 595 started this was still the largest marathon ever staged in the United Kingdom. First home was 41 year old Lynn Hughes with a time of 2 hours 28 mins 31 secs. A total of 540 finished of all ages ranging from 11 to 65.

PAST WALKS AND EVENTS

On the "Hovering around Dunsfold, apart from a shaky start due to route planning in the dark, one lady and five men members had an enjoyable walk around the gentler parts of Surrey. One deviation took us into a very private estate to see Surrey's largest lake. Total mileage was 23. What the group lacked in numbers it made up for in class and all the party finished back in Cranleigh in a tight bunch.

The Chiltern Marathon, organized by The Middle Thames Ramblers, for the 11th year produced some excellent weather. There were 440 starters and 382 completed the 25 mile course within the 9 hour time limit. The route had been altered from that originally intended because of repairs to the walkway over the Thames at Mill End. Ironically the offending walkway was repaired just prior to the event taking place but this was not known at the time and in any case the plans for the alternative course were too far advanced to change. The reverse of the 1979 route will now be the 1981 route.

One minutes silence in memory of Alan Blatchford was observed before each of the 10 and 12 o'clock starts on the Guildford Boundary, this being the first event organized by the LDWA to take place after his death. Heavy overnight rain flooded many of the fields en route thus causing problems for the walkers. There were reports of some submerged in water up to their necks. Of the 251 starters, 228 completed the 22 mile course before the checking in organization closed down. An incredibly high percentage of finishers considering the conditions.

John Westcott (secretary)

WINTER/SPRING 1980/1981 PROGRAMME - SAE with all postal enquiries

Please note the organizers of the events would appreciate offers of help. These are Surrey Inns Kanter, The Winter Tanners, Punchbowl Marathon, The Moonlight Kanter and The Surrey Summits.

Sunday 30 Dec ^{Alford} ALFOLD APPETIZER WALK II A walk in the Surrey/Sussex border area followed by a meal in the evening at the Crown, Alford GR 038340. The walk will start from the Crown at 10.a.m. but cars should be parked on the verge in Rosemary Lane at the rear of the church. They can be transferred to the pub car park after the walk. The meal will be a set meal costing £5 and will be served shortly after 7.p.m. Further details and bookings for the meal (£1 deposit) to Jeff Ellingham.

Thurs 1 Jan SURREY INNS KANTER This very popular light hearted start to the new year will again start from St Catherines Village hall, Chestnut Ave, Guildford GR 992485. Starts for this 12 or 18 mile walk will be between 9.15 and 11.a.m. and must finish by 4.30.p.m. You plot your own route from grid

references. At the checkpoints (mostly pubs) you will be required to answer a simple clue so please bring a pen as well as your compass and map case. Cost 30p adults (25p LDWA members) 15p children. Entries on the day only. Organizer Keith Chesterton.

- Sunday 11 Jan WINTER TANNERS Basically a route proving exercise for the popular summer event but now an event in its own right. 30 miles in mid Surrey which at this time of the year can be very tough going and as there is only minimal support, only strong walkers should attempt this walk. There will be two checkpoints with tea/soup but no under cover at the start or finish. Please bring a mug. Meet outside the main gates of Leatherhead Football Club GR 163960 to start walking at 8 a.m. Cost 25p. Entries on the day only. No further written details before the day but telephone enquiries to John Westcott.
- Tues 27 Jan ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING At the leg of mutton and cauliflower. Meet 7.30 p.m. in the bar for the start of the meeting at 8. Presentation of accounts for year ended 31st December 1980 and election of officers.
- Sunday 1 Feb FUNCBOWL MARATHONS 20 and 30 mile courses this year starting and finishing at Chichester Hall Witley GR 948394. Starts at 8, 9, and 10 a.m. Conditions again could be tough so only strong walkers should attempt the 30 mile walk. Entry form and further details from Jeff Ellingham.
- Sunday Mar 1 KENT KOCHER KAPER A coach trip to the North Kent marshes for a 20 mile walk by sea wall, marshes and woodland. Wonderful open vistas, marvellous bird life including Brittain's biggest Heronry. The coach starts at Guildford Park Avenue at the back of Guildford station GR 990496 at 7.30 a.m. but there will be other pickups along the A25 up to Reigate. Cost £2.25 coach fare. Please book with Mervyn Harvey.
- Sunday 22 Mar Malcolm Tadd pointed out that East Surrey had been neglected as a walking area and volunteered to lead a walk to rectify the omission. Meet at the White Hart opposite the pond on Godstone Green (A22) GR 350516 at 10 a.m. There is normally ample parking space next to the pond or further on the green. Some ancient mine workings will be passed and anyone who would like a quick view of a small part of these interesting workings and does not mind getting muddy hands and knees, should bring a torch. A limited number of helmets will be available for loan.
- Friday 27 Mar MOONLIGHT KANTER A joint event with the Thames Valley group to give an opportunity to practise navigating in the dark. Starts from 10 p.m. to midnight. Distance 15 to 20 miles. Venue has not yet been decided but will probably be in the Berks/Surrey border area. Further details in the next programme or from John Westcott after February 1st.
- Sat/Sun 25/26 Surrey Summits The group's metric classic. 100 kilometers over the most popular hills in mid and western Surrey. Start April 12 midday from Guildford High Street. Time limit 26 hours. Closing date for entries is 1st April. Further details and entry form from John Westcott.

Valley End
Cricket Ground
95 63

17th May - Mervyn. / 24th June - Midsummer Walk 7.00 p
5th July - Tanners