



# LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

*aim : to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking*

## **SURREY GROUP**

### REPORT AND PROGRAMME

JUNE 1982

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#### Secretary:

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#### Other Organizers:

Keith Chesterton, Fittle, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford. Tel: Guildford 63392  
Vince Smith, Glencairn, Green Road, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey. Tel: Chertsey 63291  
Barbara Blatchford, 11 Thornbank, Guildford. Tel: Guildford 60005  
Hervyn Harvey, 9 Guildown Road, Guildford. Tel: Guildford 34181  
Tory Youngs, 17 Linkfield Lane, Redhill. Tel: Redhill 63511.  
Bruce Chandler, 6 Hayhurst Avenue, Woking. Tel: Woking 68010.

19 members attended the meeting at The Log of Mutton and Cauliflower on 3rd June 1982. The treasurer reported that the group were approx £270 to the good without the profits from the Punchbowl and Surrey Summits. Stocks of Surrey Summits badges are low so it was agreed that some more be purchased in time for the 1983 event.

### PAST EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

It drizzled constantly on the day the Punchbowl was held and it was no consolation when Jeff Ellingham told us he had enjoyed walking the route the previous day when underfoot conditions had been the driest he had known. The experiment to give entrants the option to cut the course short to obtain a lesser mileage certificate was continued this year which probably helped the success rate of 311 finishers out of 393 entries, in spite of the weather. It was conceded that the 30 mile course was a little short and the meeting thought it should either be lengthened or advertised at the actual distance for the 1983 event. On the basis of the declared mileage 170 completed 30 miles, 4 completed 27 miles, 18 completed 24 miles and 119 completed 20 miles.

Invasion into Sussex Group territory certainly attracted a good attendance from the home group when 30 of their members turned up as opposed to 9 from Surrey - and with Phyl Jackson on the sick list as well. The car park chosen as the venue was unfortunately closed to avoid erosion, so much to the consternation of the locals, we were forced to park in the road. We spent a very nice morning walking over the Sussex Downs and descended just after midday to test Hilaire Belloc's ability to judge good ale at the Washington Inn (as he knew it). I think it was generally acclaimed that he was a good judge but to describe it as the best he knew is probably indicative of his limited experience. In the afternoon we visited the ancient forts of Chertisbury and Cissbury before returning to our cars.

Officially the Tanners-Hindhead and reverse is not an LDWA event but I think most of the entrants were LDWA numbers. One or two did both ways but most plumped for just one of the various one-way options of walking between these two Surrey Youth Hostels. For my own part, I spent a very leisurely day on the Sunday going from Hindhead to Tanners in company with 5 others and even got out of having to do the technical jobs of navigating and recording the answers at checkpoints. I was rather intrigued when I was told at the start to pay at the finish and can only assume my failure would have a free entry. It was thought probably more would enter if arrangements were made for entrants to leave their cars at Ramble Common and be transported to Hindhead before starting the walk.

In 1981, The Surrey Summits entrants had to endure a snow storm but this year in contrast, the weather conditions were the best of the 7 held so far. This was probably the main reason for the high success rate with 105 completing the 100 kilometre route out of the 125 starters, at 84% the highest to date on a Surrey Summits event. Other factors which made the event easier this year were concerned with the changes. Reversing the route and change of venue to Hitley, made the section of the route to be walked during the hours of darkness easier to navigate. Also starting the event 2 hours earlier got walkers further along the route before it got dark. Enough favourable comment was received on the changes to prompt the committee to decide to stick to the same arrangements for 1983 with a probable date of the weekend of 16/17 April. My thanks once again to all the marshals and helpers.

David Shore hired a minibus to go to the National AGM at Buxton and I took advantage of this means of transport. Unfortunately the restriction on the time at which the vehicle could be collected made us a few minutes late but we did not miss much of the business. Again only one Surrey Group (first group) member was elected to the committee - Chris Steer, who managed to retain his position as editor of Strider. Ann Sayer and Sandra Brown, who were also elected, are members of the Surrey Group but with their initial allegiance to the Essex/Werts and Sussex Groups respectively.

We had the traditional dinner on Saturday evening and on Sunday, John Feist led a walk to th Cat and Fiddle, the second highest Inn in England, which has been featured on many walks including the Bullock Saithy and the LDWA's Peakland 100 held in 1974. A pleasant walk back got us to Buxton in plenty of time to get home without being too late.

The day of - the picnic on Blatchford Down, produced weather which was not very conducive to having a picnic. It rained hard for most of the morning as walkers and runners came from the north, south, east and west to meet on Blatchford Down. 103 people, representing the various organizations which Alan Blatchford was associated with, braved the elements and heard the new National Trust warden describe the plans for improving Blatchford Down. Chris and Margaret Steer lugged the Urn and necessary ingredients up the hill to supply some very welcome tea. Ironically, the sun came out just after most people had left.

The Pilgrims 100/100+ went very well and a big contribution towards achieving this was made by the Surrey Group. The response I received from my appeals for assistance was great and I would like to thank those members for all the hard work they put in. Congratulations also go to those Surrey Group members who completed their chosen length of walk. I surrendered my records to the organizer at the end of the event but from memory I think they differ from the report I have received in the national committee meeting minutes. Assuming I am right but taking advantage of the additional information I consider the statistics to be as follows:

Guildford Starters:	285 of whom 174 completed the 100 miles.
Winchester Starters:	74 of whom 26 completed the 140 miles and a further 21 completed 100 miles.

I look forward with interest to receiving a copy of the results.

### PATH CLEARANCE

After the successful project of clearing the sunken bridleway on Blatchford Down last winter, it was felt that the skills developed, should not be wasted but put to use on other footpaths in the county. Bruce Chandler volunteered to channel this enthusiasm into an organized ongoing activity and would like to hear from anybody (experts or apprentices) who are willing to devote some of their spare time to clearing footpaths. It is intended that priority be given to paths included on the routes of events but not necessarily confined to this. Where possible, the days on which operations are planned will be included in the Surrey Group programme but on occasions, it may be necessary to form a party quickly and this is why Bruce would like to know the interested numbers to see if they are available on the day chosen. It was agreed that the appropriate Ramblers Association footpath secretary be advised about any footpath we intend clearing.

Unfortunately we will not always have the backing of the National Trust, as we did when operating on Blatchford Down, so we will have to supply our own tools. Would volunteers please bring tools they think will be useful for this work when attending these work parties - no bulldozers or flamethrowers please except by appointment.

Clearance of footpaths is one way of ensuring the preservation of the basic equipment necessary to further the aims of the Long Distance Walkers Association and an opportunity for all members to put back a little of the enjoyment they get out from pursuit of their favourite pastime. I hope therefore, Bruce will get a good response to this appeal for volunteers.

The next project is to clear a particularly overgrown path on the route of the Guildford Boundary Walk which comes just prior to ascending St Martha's hill. This will take place on Sunday afternoon 5th September so you need not miss the fun run on the same day and details are shown in the programme. Please do your best to attend.

### OPOSING THE BUREAUCRATS

Keith Chasterton was at one time the secretary and then the chairman of the Surrey Group and at the time he held office, he was given a mandate to make representations on 2 controversial points on the group's behalf. He now raised these points again to test the current attitude and to ensure he still had our backing to regard himself as representing the LDWA Surrey Group.

Firstly 'a gentleman' had written to the local paper opposing the proposal to build a bridge at St Catharines over the river May just South of Guildford. He had stated "Long Distance Walkers and ramblers would prefer to walk into Guildford and out again rather than use the bridge". This bridge is on the route of the North Downs Way and is to replace the old ferry which was discontinued 20 years ago. The ferry was on a path which had been used for hundreds of years. The meeting backed Keith's view that we wanted a bridge - and quickly. Keith will send a suitable reply for publication in the newspaper.

Secondly, The Nature Conservancy wish to divert paths going across Thursley common to make them 'safer', drier and at the same time leave a large area of the common without a public path. Keith objected, unless it were agreed that the public had a right of access over the whole common. As Barbara Blatchford said, these paths are interesting and go across the sort of wet boggy area that is very scarce in Southern England. We want to keep them even if they are never likely to be used much except by real enthusiasts! The meeting agreed with this.

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 1982 - SAE with all postal enquiries please.

Vince Smith would like to hear from anybody who is willing to give help with the checkpoints for The Chiltern Marathon and Barbara Blatchford or John Westcott would like to hear from anybody who is willing to do so on the Guildford Boundary Way.

The numbers following the event etc refer to the 1:50000 OS map covering the route or location.

SUNDAY 29th AUGUST 1982: BLACKDOWN TO BUTSER (106 & 197). A social walk between these 2 hills. Approx 25 miles starting at Haslemere Station at 8.45 a.m. and finishing at Petersfield Station. There are regular train services back to Haslemere. GR of start 898330. Leader Keith Chesterton.

SUNDAY 5th September 1982: PATH CLEARANCE (186). On path running parallel to road centring on GR 033488. Operations start at 2 p.m. and please bring along suitable tools. Cars to be left in St Martha's east car park GR 035485

SUNDAY 12th September 1982: CHILTERN MARATHON (175). Entry forms are available so get your entry in quick to take part in this popular 25 mile walk. Start and finish at Harlow Rugby Club. GR 862853. Route goes North and South of the river Thames. Details from Vince Smith

THURSDAY 16th September 1982: PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187) at The Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower, The Street, Ashted. 7.30 p.m. for 8.

SUNDAY 19th September 1982: GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WAY (186). A 2 1/2 mile walk which follows approx. the pre 1974 Guildford Borough boundary. Start and finish at Houlay Fort. GR 382488. Details from Barbara Blatchford.

SATURDAY 23rd October 1982: CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE MARK II (186). A social walk of approx 25 miles starting from castle car park Farnham. GR 838475. at 9 a.m. Leader Don Hodfield.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY 29th to 31st October 1982: WEEKEND IN THE BLACK MOUNTAINS (181). Farmhouse weekend in the Black Mountains, Wiles. The 128 includes all food, accommodation and transport from and back to Guildford. Other pickups convenient to route. Friday afternoon to Sunday night with walks led by Tony Rowley (Bristol and West) on Saturday and Sunday. Further details and booking: Harvey Harvey.

SUNDAY 21st November 1982: COAL TAX KANTER (187) A new kantar in the Epsom region. APPROX 5000 but the actual value is still to be arranged. There will be 2 routes of approx 12 and 18 miles to be devised by entrants from grid refs. Details from Barbara Blatchford or Dave Challenger in due course.

SATURDAY 18th December 1982: ANNUAL DINNER RUMBLE (186 & 187) A walk from Pond Lane Poastlake car park. GR 086449 and dinner in the evening at the Hurwood Inn. Walk starts at 10 a.m. Names will be chosen at the meeting on 16th September and Tony Youngs will also be taking bookings for the dinner at that meeting - deposit £1.

The next programme will include some winter and spring favourites: Winter Windsor Mander, Surrey Inns Kantar, Winter Tanners, Punchbowl Marathons and The Surrey Summits.

#### A SURREY GROUP BADGE

Once again discussion took place on the desirability of The Surrey Group having our own badge and the meeting decided to ask members to submit designs. These would be put on display at the next meeting and those attending would choose the most suitable design.

Points to remember when designing a badge are that logos and symbols must be clear enough to be recognized when woven onto the badge and the more colours used, the greater the cost.

For your information, the Surrey County Council have authorized the use of their "Oak Leaves" logo for this purpose. They have pointed out however, that there is an heraldic badge, derived from the Council's coat of arms, which was specifically designed for use by sporting, cultural or other organizations representing or having an association with the whole or a significant part of the County of Surrey.

I would think the "Oak Leaves" more familiar but this is of course the point of view of somebody who lives in the county and sees it displayed on the council's vehicles quite regularly.



THE SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S "Oak Leaves" logo. Normal colours are yellow and brown.



THE SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S heraldic badge. The sprig of oak is silver, the crossed keys are gold on a background of Azure (blue) and sable (black)

Also, I would think the heraldic badge would look a little cluttered if we tried to introduce further features to give it an LDNA identity but if it is thought one of the symbols can be used, it would probably be more appropriate to use the sprig of oak as this symbolizes Surrey's extensive rural areas and is drawn from the badge of the FitzAlans, Former Eals of Surrey. The keys are not crossed on the coat of arms but are interlaced parallel to one another and represent the power of the ancient Abbey of St Peter at Chertsey which once held extensive lands in Surrey. The keys form part of the Arms of the diocese of Winchester - which used to include much of Surrey - and have been retained in the Arms of the Diocese of Guildford.

I should make it clear that it is not a condition that the design include either the oak leaves or part of the heraldic badge but it may give you some ideas. Any design which does include these however will be submitted to the council for approval before a badge is produced.

From a personal point of view I would certainly like to see the LDNAs "walking man" logo on any Surrey Group badge.

There are no prizes but I'm sure the treasurer would authorize the issue of a free badge to the member who submits the design which is used.

Send your designs to me.

Good walking all.

John Westcott  
(hon secretary)