



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - SURREY GROUP

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REPORT AND PROGRAMME OCTOBER 1983

## PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING

20 members attended the meeting on 22nd September. The treasurer reported that the group's funds were approx £280 to the good. The £100 to be allocated to the purchase of equipment mandated at the last meeting had not yet been spent but the officers still had this in mind. It was also agreed that some substantial 5 gallon water containers be purchased.

## It's A Boy

Ive and Jeff Boyson are the proud parents of Matthew John born on 17th September 1982 and weighing in at 7 lbs 8j ozs. When this news was announced at the meeting the treasurer queried why 40 pence had not been sent to cover the new arrival's 1982 subscription.

## Pain Cougars

Tony Youngs is concerned that British Railways have applied for 3 footpaths across the main London to Brighton line to be closed. These footpaths are all in the area just south of Earlsfield. The reason given is the likely danger to pedestrians using the foot level crossings when the faster trains to Gatwick are introduced. Tony has written to the local council opposing the closures but feels he would be able to bring more pressure to bear if he could quote that he had the backing of such an influential body as the Surrey Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association. The meeting agreed that the proposed closures should be opposed and mandated Tony to act on the group's behalf when he made further representations.

## Past Events and News

BOOKMAN BRISK (10th July) by Nervyn Harvey

I was only expecting 2 members to turn up, so I was agreeably surprised when 11 of us set off, without the expected 2.

To the furthest point at Bookham, everything went conventionally, we even found some mud after 1 week of heatwave. Then as we turned for home, out came the handkerchiefs as we waded through chest high fields of dried grass. Our peace was shattered as our path took us through a major shooting competition. The gunfire was echoing off all the woods and hills around us. Every hundred yards we stopped for a count to make sure we were all there. To rub salt into the wound, they all jumped into their vans and beat us to the pub.

Some of us were taken back to our childhood when we were passed in a quiet lane by the Surrey Vintage Cycling Club on a treasury of old machines.

All of this and the stop at the pub was too much for me and I led the party homeward in the wrong direction. This is where the bush hit came in, as we fought to get back on course. On one of the hottest days of the year it became quite a slog back to the start. Thanks to everyone who turned up.

JACKSON'S JAMBY (6th August) by Phil Jackson

The leader was gratified that around a dozen people including visitors and some well known Surrey walkers supported her walk, in spite of the holiday season and the clash with other local events. The weather proved just right for the morning trek over to Baynards Park and its station of "The Railway Children" fame, though getting the group past a pub and morning proved to be a bit of an effort. However (Surrey Group please note) a stop of two hours for carousing in Cranleigh was ensured before the afternoon start. The "grassy pace" may have proved too arduous for one or two though because a couple withdrew their support there on such pretexts as "Spanish Tummy" and "I've got to net my grapes" - does he have to fish for them I wonder? Another left us at mid-afternoon after our climb up Holbury Hill, but the rest survived more

or less unscathed to the finish, via Eghurst, back at Cranleigh soon after 5 p.m. There didn't seem to be too many difficulties encountered and I think the group were pleased to be introduced to a few paths previously unknown to them - the occasional ones that is! Thanks again for coming, if you did.

#### CHILTERN MARATHON (11th September) by Vince Smith

All good things must come to an end, is the saying, which is what happened to the "dewey spells" that had been with us all the way; the 14th Chilterns was to be greeted with wind and rain. Some clever individual also decided that September 11th was the ideal occasion to close the Marlow suspension bridge.

This was the only gloomy aspect, the 307 entrants set off on a hilly route which took them round the Wycombe area. The route description was acclaimed as being first class, thanks to all the spade work of Molly White. 353 gained a certificate, many bought badges but we are having to do a re-order having taken orders for a couple of dozen.

Everyone did a sterling job, both Middle Thames Ramblers Club members and those who offered their help. It was pretty breezy at a couple of checkpoints. To show what a difference a colder day makes, the normal quota of chocolate all went.

Sorry about the timing for pub opening time. We will have to see if an improvement can be managed for the 15th event, which all going well should take place on Sunday 9th September. Thanks to all who made the Chilterns Marathon possible, may we look forward to that encouraging support next time.

#### OTHER WALKS IN BRIEF by John Westcott

A nice midsummer evening attracted 24 members to 11 Thornbank for a stroll in the region South West of Guildford. Although Barbara was the official leader, the local footpaths secretary of the Ramblers Association tried to take over at one stage insisting that a particular footpath existed and that we should use it. It was not long before we were confronted by an 8 foot thick mass of undergrowth serving as a hedge with our erstwhile leader declaring "there must be a stile in here somewhere". Later a splinter group was set up when some walkers strayed from route and found themselves in the saloon bar of the Harrow at Compton. After this brief detour, they failed to locate the leader (now restored in the hands of Barbara) thereby quite literally missing the sting in the "tale" by taking the easy North Downs Way path back to Guildford while the official party took a parallel path to the south which was overgrown with stinging nettles. All were re-united however to sample the sumptuous gastronomic delights Barbara had prepared for us back at 11 Thornbank.

The Weybec walk was down on entries this year but those who did take part enjoyed an ideal day for the 17 mile route along the way navigation from Soderling to Weybridge. I have not yet seen the results but I understand the official report declares there were no retirements. However I was operating checkpoint 2 where 2 entrants retired and Barbara, IC at checkpoint 1, relates a tale of a great search party being formed to locate the whereabouts of 2 entrants who it turned out had gone home. I cannot think that any of the retirements were serious walkers though.

The Tanners Marathons still proves very popular with 872 entries for the 36 miles of which 735 started including 74 on the runners start. The weather conditions were pleasant enough although it did get a little too warm for some in the afternoon. There were 632 finishers although 38 of these failed to beat the 10 hour time limit. I acted as sweeper for the last 10 miles and was rather amused by a remark of the last lady home. When asked by the registration marshal at the finish (2 1/2 hours beyond the time limit) whether she and a fellow walker finishing with her were together she replied "No, we met in adversity". There were also 153 finishers on the 10 miles and my informant believes there were also 153 starters.

Another event where entries were disappointingly low was the Guildford Bondary. The heavy rain in the morning could not have encouraged entries on the day but even so at 260 in total the entries were well down in comparison with this area in recent years. The fact that our venue had been double booked rather hindered administration but with the aid of Leigh Chesterton's faithful feet most of the difficulties were overcome and the scout group (our co tenants) vacated the hut to allow us entry at 8.30 p.m. There were 271 starters and 203 finishers.

PROGRAMME TO APRIL 1984 SAS with all postal enquiries please.

The numbers following the event are on the OS 1:50000 map covering the route or location.

Saturday 15 October: COMMONS CLUMP (176). An afternoon 10 mile stroll from Chobham Walk car park, GR 974619. Early arrivals can assemble in the White Hart. Walk starts at 2 p.m. The route will include the highest point in North Surrey (approx 300 feet asl) and will pass the famous Victorian treacle wines on Chobham Common. The walk finishes at Fushallow the centre of the LDMs publishing industry. Leader Chris Steer - please let Chris know if you are coming.

Saturday 17 November: PATH CLEARANCE (187). Further path clearance on Blatchford Down. Meet at Ringer Roughs car park - GR 110477 at 10 a.m. but anybody who cannot get there at that time will be welcome later in which case you should park wherever convenient and walk to Blatchford Down. Bring your own food. Finish about 2.30 p.m. Further details from Barbara Blatchford.

Thursday 17 November: DOUBLE HILL SLIDE SHOW FROM NORWAY TO THE NORTH DOWNS (187) & Norwegian NUTDAY/berges, Oslo and a hot-tub-walk across HAMMERSLEYDOWN by Tony Youngs and what happening on the Surrey Downs? by Barbara Blatchford. Venue is The Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower, Ashstead, GR 167500 commencing at 8 p.m.

Sunday 20 November: COME 3AS BAKKER (187) Choice of 2 routes approx 12 and 18 miles from Newdigat Hall, Walton-on-the-hill GR 228551. Start any time between 9 and 10.30 a.m. but all to finish by 4 p.m. Entry fee is 30p for LDM members and 40p for others. There are no manned checkpoints and route to be devised by entrants from grid refs given. Entries on the day only but further details can be obtained from Barbara Blatchford.

Saturday 17 December: GORRICE'S GAMBLER (187). A walk from Pond Lane Peaslake car park, GR 080245 followed by dinner in the evening.

The walk will commence at 10 a.m. and be led by Chris Steer. It is hoped to include a warming stop, a lunch stop, a tea stop and about 15 to 20 miles of walking in between. Get back to Peaslake at about 6 p.m.

The dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and held at the Hurwood Inn who have done so well for us in recent years. The main course will be jugged steak. When booking (by sending Tony Youngs a cheque for £7.95 per head, made payable to "LDM Surrey Group") please state your choice of starter; devilled Whitebait or Apple, Celery and Cheese Appetiser. It is hoped to have as our guest speaker Mr Trafford Clark the Hon Secretary of the Hurwood Control. Please book early as the room only holds 24.

A room will be available for walkers to change before attending the dinner.

Tuesday 27 December: WINTER WINDSOR WANDER (176). Walk or run from punters social club JUNT south of the Staines bridge roundabout, GR 030714. Most of the route is in the lovely setting of Windsor Great Park with access to and from the start and finish point along the towpath of the river Thames. Walkers start at 9 a.m. on a 15 mile course and runners start at 10 a.m. on a 19 mile course. Map and route notes available on the day. Entry fee 10p to cover paper work and squash. Possibly the bar will be open at the finish. Further details from Ralph Nealey.

Monday 2 January: SURREY 10MS KANTER (186 & 187). A light hearted start to the new year. Walk starts from St Catherine's village hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford GU992485. Checkpoints are unmanned but most of them are pubs. 2 routes of 12 or 14 miles with starts between 9.15 and 11 a.m. All to finish by 4.30 p.m. Entries on the day only but further details from Keith Chesterton.

Sunday 15 January: WINTER TANNERS (186 & 187). A 30 mile walk in central Surrey as a route proving exercise for the famous summer event. New start and finish point in Leatherhead Walk car park near the station GR 162566. No undercover but there will be 2 checkpoints on route where hot and cold drinks will be available. Entries on the day only but an entry form and route description can be obtained in advance by sending an SAE and the 50 pence entry fee to John Westcott.

Thursday 26 January: ANNUAL GENERAL AND PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187). At the Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower, Ashstead, GR 180580. 7.30 p.m. for 8.

Sunday 29 January: PUNCHBOWL MARATHON (186). A 10 or 30 mile walk in Western Surrey starting at Tansing at Chichester Mall, Witley, GR947394. Walk start at 9 a.m. with a second start at 9.30 a.m. for runners and 18 miles. The route is so designed that 30 miles who are running time can short cut to the shorter route but have the satisfaction of completing a lesser mileage walk. Details from Jeff Ellingham or John Westcott.

Sunday 26 February: PATH CLEARANCE (187) on Blackford Down - details as entry for 11th November 1983.

Sunday 25 March: DITCHLING DIVERSION (188). 22 miles on Roman Roads, field paths, low path, the oldest railway in Sussex (1800) and downland tracks. Rest site at Junction. Start 9.30 a.m. from free car park behind Ditchling Village Hall (off Green Road, BN115); TQ 327150. Illustrated route sheet available from Tony Youngs from February.

Saturday and Sunday 7/8 April: SURREY SUMMITS (186 & 187). A 100 kilometre challenge walk over the popular hills of central and western Surrey. Start and finish at Chichester Mall, Witley, GR 947394. Start at 10 a.m. Saturday and all to finish by 12 noon Sunday (26 hour time 1983). Closing date for entries is 7th March. Details from John Westcott.

## HELP WANTED

Once again I am appealing for volunteers to help with the checkpoints etc on our events. The events in this programme include The Winter Tanners, The Punchbowl Marathon and The Surrey Summits.

The organizers of the Rambles can usually cope with the assistance of some of the walkers taking part but I am sure they would also welcome the services of anybody free on the day who does not wish to participate.

An organizer was recently discussing with me the difficulty of getting on the day help and I must say that in my experience although I get quite a number of offers of help, it never seems enough because I always find myself ringing round the faithful few just before the event to see which ones I can cajole into doing yet another stint.

Organizers must have help and in the main this help must come from the members. It would be nice to see a few more members taking their share of this very important work towards the associations also even if it means giving up the pleasure of taking part in an event now and again.

Offers of assistance should be made to the organizer of the event who will arrange for you to walk if you wish to and your services are not required.

## SOCIAL WALKS

Reports of past events etc in this newsletter, include 3 very popular social walks where the leaders in all cases were surprised at the numbers who attended. I think this proves that there is room in our calendar for more of these - all we need is a few more leaders. These walks are not difficult to organize, in fact Tony Youngs declares that all you need is a car park about 10 miles away from a real ale pub and you have a walk.

If you have a favourite walk you wish to share with other Surrey Group members or you would be prepared to devise one, would you please let me (John Westcott) know for the next meeting on January 29th.

#### EMERGENCY 100

Five Surrey group members took part in the (short) 100 and 4 finished within the 24 hour time limit. Richard Brown (22hrs 03mins 48secs) and Tony Cartwright (22hrs 54 mins 08secs) became new Centurions while Ian McLeod (22hrs 51mins 48secs) Roy Barstley (22hrs 02 mins 42secs) merely notched up another road 100. The odd one out I am afraid was me. I withdrew at 90 miles having got behind schedule leaving insufficient time to complete the remaining 10 before the time keeper called it a day. I would like to thank all group members and the boys from British Airways who helped me at support point. Just seeing friendly faces or hearing friendly voices during the night gives great encouragement to the walkers and the catering, first aid etc was first class. I'm afraid the number to be supported swelled a little from the original 5. I asked the supporters to "adopt" any other LMA member or Surrey Walking Club member (four from the Surrey Group were walking under the banner of the Surrey Walking Club) who looked as though they would like assistance. They finally finished up with 16 and I think Chris Steer would have preferred a lorry rather than his hatchback to take all the equipment left with him from the start to the support point but all ended very well.

#### THE TWENTY-FIFTH TANNERS

The Tanners Marathon to be held on 1st July 1988 will be the 25th and the Tanners Marathon Association committee are not going to allow this anniversary to go by without celebrating the occasion. Among other things it is planned to have special certificates and Barbara Blatchford is compiling a booklet on the story of a quarter of a century of Tanners Marathons.

The 30 mile route will follow, as closely as possible, the route of the first Tanners but as that event started and finished at the youth hostel after which it is agreed there is need for a major modification to start with to compensate for the additional mileage from the present venue at Leatherhead to Tannar Hatch. The route will be going over the traditional Tanners hills - Fitch, Mollbury and Luth, and will ascend the scarp slope north of the A25 from Wroton Hatch. Of course you do not have to wait for July to find out the full route as you can take part in the Winter Tanners to be held in January.

Anybody who took part in the first Tanners can have a free entry for the 25th.

Held in conjunction with the 25th Tanners 30 will be the 9th Tanners 50 which will be very much in the shadows this time. I understand you will not even get one of the special certificates for completing the 50.

GOOD WALKING EVERYONE

John Westcott



On the Surrey Summit;  
sketch by Tony Youngs