

LONG DISTANCE WALKING ASSOCIATION - SURREY GROUP

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PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING 2nd June 1983

The programme planning meeting was held just a few days after the Snowdonia 200 and perhaps the listing of awards contributed to only 14 members attending. One of those who did attend however was the Treasurer who reported we are about £250 to the good without the profits from the Surrey Summits. The officers were given authority to spend up to £300 on further equipment. - Good thermos containers and Gas Lights.

FAST EVENTS

Even on the day of the Funckbowl Marathon heralded heavy rain which helped cause 150 of the 401 entries not making the starting line. The day did improve and walkers got away with minimal use of waterproofs even if underfoot conditions were a little muddy as can be expected at the beginning of February. There were a record number of starters (382) of whom 170 completed 30 miles: 1 - 25 miles: 39 - 24 miles and many others plumped for the 20 mile route. Apart from the usual beans on toast at the end, Jeff introduced baked potatoes at the 2nd checkpoint on the 30 mile route which proved very popular.

The Surrey Summits also enjoyed a record entry with 161 walkers being set in motion by Chris Steer's starting whistle. The day proved fine but the mud underfoot and the rain coming as it did in the early hours of Sunday morning took its toll to produce a record 82 retirements. Other records to be broken were 1 husband/wife partnerships and 3 dogs finished the course. Also Phil Hastings became the first person to get his name on the Leith Trophy for a second time.

The Surrey Group were well represented on the Snowdonia 100 although our success rate was not too spectacular. I have not yet seen the results but from memory I think there were 3 Surrey group finishers out of the 22 who took part. Unlucky Jeff Clingham failed just 2 miles from the finish when his legs just would not let him go any further. However I understand Jeff was chattering away in his usual fashion on the journey back from North Wales to an extent whereby his chauffeur could not get a word in edgewise (not even to ask the way) so I can only assume the incapacity was very temporary.

Group members manned a checkpoint on a picnic site at Bont Newydd about 22 miles along the route and there were many complimentary remarks made about the standard of the checkpoint. It was a pity that we could not welcome more group members who were walking to the checkpoint so they could judge whether the picnic was justified.

It was very unfortunate that Geoff Saunders (The 12th countess) was suddenly taken to hospital on the evening before the event. Geoff had worked hard on the development and planning of the Snowdonia and it must have been a great disappointment to him that he was not able to witness the fruits of his labours. It says a great deal for the preparation and organization that the event ran so smoothly with the chief organizer having to withdraw his services at the 11th hour. You will be pleased to hear that Geoff is making good progress following his eye operations.

HELP WANTED

The programme which appears later in this newsletter includes the Breiddford Boundary walk and once again I would like to appeal to members and their friends to help man the checkpoints. You should contact either John Westcott or Barbara Shatford with your offers of help. Also I'm sure Steve Smith will be pleased to hear from anybody who is willing to help on the Chiltern Marathon.

OTHER PAST ACTIVITIES

The 11th national AGM - Annex Gorge, Bristol - 12th March

By 10.30 a.m. on the Saturday the usual greetings of familiar faces had taken place and about fifty enthusiastic people of all ages, from babies to pensioners had arrived early enough to go on the guided tour of the city. This proved an interesting two and a half hours even if the frequent stops (so unfamiliar to walkers) meant we got a little chilly in the process of soaking up the information. We realized the time was all too short to do more than scratch the surface of all that was available, and I'm sure many of us made a note to come back at a later date to do an "in depth" study.

By now the arrivals had increased and after a delicious lunch a capacity crowd gathered to get down to the serious business of the weekend. Everything appeared to go remarkably smoothly, though we were denied the presence of Dick Crawshaw our President (owing to illness) for the first time for many years.

The various reports were read during which the growth in membership was noted and a healthy bank balance. Special mention was made of John Westcott's hard work and contribution to our local group; Sussex Group for their tremendous organizational feat of the Seven Sisters Marathon and to Essex and Herts Group for a particularly good newsletter. All very gratifying for us Southerners.

The officers and new committee were duly elected and following general discussion on the constitution and definition of local group areas and on the LBNs difficulties of achieving the status of a charity, the meeting closed promptly. There was time for us to inspect and purchase equipment, badges, sweat shirts, Strider binders etc before adjourning for tea and general chat prior to the dinner at 8 p.m.

Those not attending missed a sumptuous and more than ample feast of pate and salad, roast beef, jacket potatoes, a delicious variety of other interesting vegetables followed by fresh fruit salad and cream, coffee etc. Our guest speaker being Mike Harding it goes without saying he kept us continually laughing, especially with accounts of some of his experiences while making TV programmes. More chat, drinking and dancing followed and a good time couldn't fail to have been had by all.

After an ample breakfast and bright start on Sunday three groups set off across the suspension bridge and over the fields to Pill village for another booze up at a pub we liberally took over, filling it to capacity and more. The poor locals looked most bewildered at this unexpected invasion.

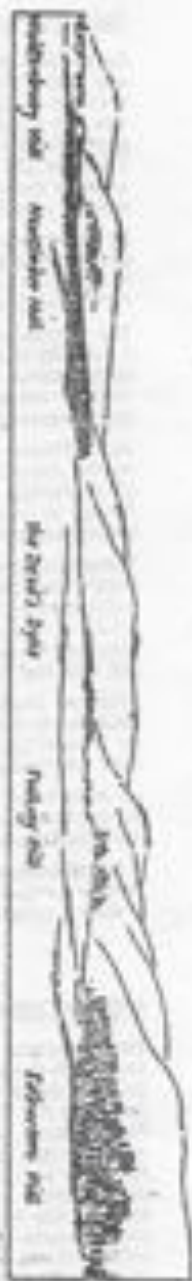
We didn't get away quite unscathed from the rain but it held off long enough to let us get back via a delightful walk along the Annex Gorge to the hotel, where we said our final farewells over a jocularly cup of tea and made our various departures.

A truly enjoyable weekend which will be hard to beat next year, and our grateful thanks go to Tony Rowley and the Bristol and West Group for their splendid organization - what a pity we couldn't ALL be there.

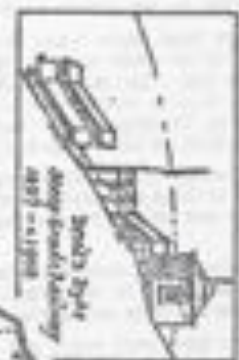
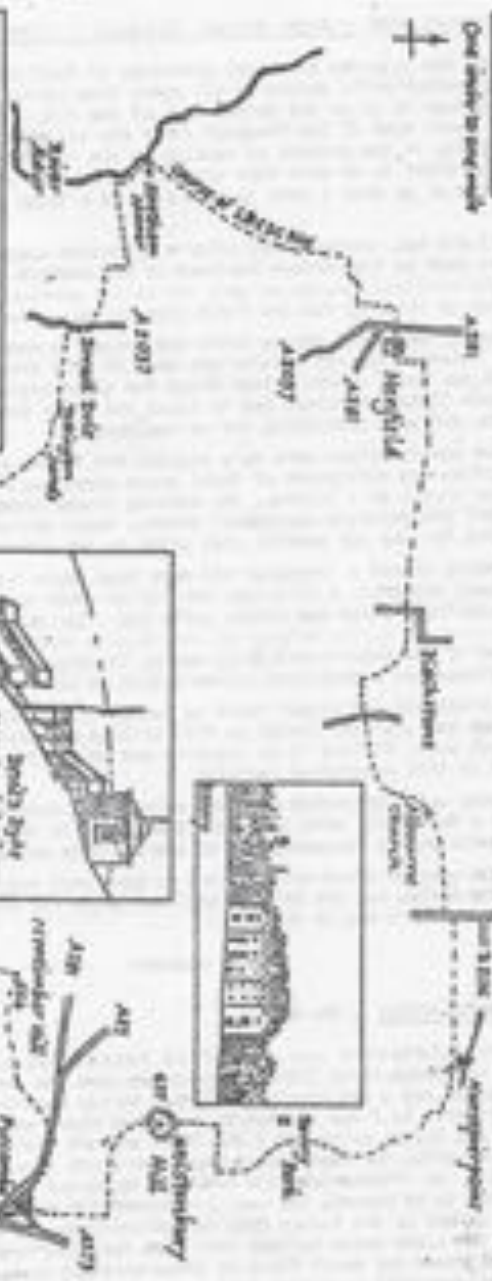
Phyl Jackson.

PYCOBBE PERAMBULATION 27th March

The Pycombe Perambulation was one of at least five organized walks on the South Downs on Sunday March 27th; among others were the annual Kambaze from the Arundel Youth Hostel and a new event, the Noster Valley Marathon (which was announced too late for Strider). So I was pleased to find that there were 18 starters, including four members of the Sussex Group, at 9.25. There were 24 finishers - but of that more later. I had to describe the magnificent view from South View Terrace Hasfield, for the mist was thick. We climbed (Doburn's Hill) and inspected the mortar and Bailey (about which little seems to be known), the undistinguished bit of concrete which was the base of the two pylons of the Devil's Dyke aerial cableway and the foundations of the engine house of the steep grade railway that once took tourists to Pyming's. We walked there and showed our moral fibre by going straight past the Royal Oak (Waltney) and climbing Newclater Hill (not much (not much visited and lavaged by the plough) before lunch at the Plough at Pycombe. (Pillars, Youngs, Badgers.) where six members, for whom 9.30 on the first day of BSJ had been too early, joined us.



One mile to the east



Looking west from the Gorge

Looking west from the Gorge



Looking west from the Gorge

The bridgeway up Wolstanton registered 0.3 on the Chesterton scale* but the mist had cleared and the view from the top was worth a bit of mud. After that it was a gentle walk through a brighter afternoon with the downs visible as promised.

Tony Foughts.

* The maximum on the Chesterton Scale is 2; this is reached when the mud is so deep that a walker 2 metres tall is completely submerged.

The sketch map Tony handed out to walkers before the start is reproduced opposite.

PLYMOUTH TO DAVLISH

1st May

Foy Barnsley, Ian McLeod and myself entered the Plymouth to Davlish road race under the name of LDM Surrey. This was intended as being part of the preparation for the Exhurst 100. The organizer contacted me to see if I could get one more member to enter and make up a team so I invited Richard and Sandra Brown to join us and they accepted. Teams are of from 4 to 8 members of a club and the first 4 to cross. Unfortunately a domestic problem prevented me from taking part but Richard Brown takes up the story:

W/D/DAVLISH 1st: LDM 2nd.

LDM Surrey Group team of Roy Barnsley, Ian McLeod, Richard and Sandra Brown came 2nd in the 8th annual Plymouth to Davlish race walk on Sunday 1st May. Ann Sayer won the ladies prize with Sandra 2nd. To complete the tally of awards, Richard, Sandra and Ann also won amateur racewalking Bronze Medals for completing the 42 mile race in under 8 hours.

Our hillwalking experience proved its worth over the last 10 miles which involved some steep climbs. The LDM contingent stored the blights scattering flapping racewalkers united to the sterner stuff. The party returned home laden with chocolates, a hair dryer, calculators, drinks, sodas and certificates and revived by excellent free real Devonshire cream teas. With cream teas for all starters (not even finishers!) entry fees of only £1 each and rights of Dartmoor, who can resist forming an LDM team for 1987? You might even get some additional practice for the Dartmoor 100.

TEE SHIRTS AND BADGES

Following the successful introduction of the Surrey Group badge, arrangements have been made for tee shirts to be available with the larger Surrey Group design printed on the front. The official colours are blue on a white background but for those non parent members who do not like white tee shirts there are sky blue ones available but if the alternative is used it may be as well to have a black design.

The cost is £3.50 each (plus 25p post and packing if appropriate) and orders should be addressed to Roy Jolly, 4 Sport, Lynchford Road, Farnborough, Hants together with your remittance - cheques made payable to "4 Sport".

Alternatively you can go along to the shop to collect your tee shirt and see the wide range of sports equipment available with a 10% discount to LDM members. If you do this give Roy a few days notice by ringing him at Farnborough 24376. Roy also attends many of the LDM and Nubac events so it may be possible to arrange to collect your tee shirt at one of these.

Badges are available from Dave Challenger price £1 plus a stamped addressed envelope. The badge and tee shirt designs are reproduced on the back of this newsletter.

CAMPING AND BACKPACKING

If you are about to purchase camping or backpacking equipment I can well recommend a visit to the specialists - Leaps of Richmond. Courteous service with knowledgeable advice and a wide selection of equipment make it a pleasure to shop there. The address is 15 Hill Rise, Richmond and the telephone number 01 940 5283. A 10% discount is also available to LDM members and a price list is available on request.

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 1983 RAR with all postal enquiries please

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

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST: JACKSONS JAUNT (187). A figure of 8 walk with a total distance of 20 miles consisting of 2 x 10 mile circuits. Walkers can choose whether they walk the full 20 miles or just join the party for a 10 mile in the morning or the afternoon. The morning session starts at 9.30 a.m. and the afternoon session starts at 2.30 p.m. both from Cranleigh main car park. GR 082391. Leader Phyl Jackson.

SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER: CHILTERN MARATHON (179). A 25 mile walk to the Chilterns starting at FINTONING at Marlow Rugby Club. OS 852853. The route will be going up to High Wycombe this year. Entries limited to 450 and no entries on the day. There will also be a 10 a'clock start as well as the usual 9 a.m. start. Details from Vince Smith.

SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER: GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WY (186 & 187). The now well established 21 1/2 mile walk which follows approx the pre 1774 boundary of the Guildford Borough. Families and young walkers are particularly encouraged to take part. Start and Finish at Reilly Fort. Details from Barbara Blatchford.

THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER: PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187) at the Leg of Mutton and GUILDFORD, Aldstead. GR 187580. 7.30 p.m. for 8.

FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER to SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER: WINDING TO PEMBRIDGE COAST from Friday evening to Sunday evening. 2 nights camping and take own food and equipment. Walk from Dale to Nelson Haven. Equipment goes in van. About 111. Limit 12 persons. Details from and booking to Mervyn Harvey.

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER: ALAN SLATCHFORD MASTERS AND MAIDERS MARATHON (186). Basically for joggers and runners but faster walkers can beat the five and a half hour time limit for the 26 miles 285 yards. Start and Finish are at and near the University of Surrey Sports Ground, Manor Farm, Guildford. Entry fee £2 and entries are limited to 1000. Details from Roger Saxon.

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER: COMMONS CLUMP (176). An afternoon 10 mile stroll from Chobham main car park. GR 974619, starting at 2 p.m. Early arrivals can assemble in the white Hart. 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 Farnhollow the centre of the LOMA's publishing industry. Leader Chris Steer - please let Chris know if you are coming.

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER: PATH CLEARANCE (187). Further path clearance on Blatchford Down. Meet at Aldinger Roughs Car Park. GR 100477 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 3.30 p.m. Further details from Barbara Blatchford.

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER: COAL HILL KILTER (176 & 186). A kilter in the Esher area but the exact venue is still to be arranged. There will be at least 2 routes of varying distance (longest 18 miles) to be devised by extracts from grid refs given. Details from Dave Challenger.

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER: GIMNET'S CAROL (187). A walk from Pond Lane, Peaslake car park. GR 082449. And dinner in the evening at the Hurwood Inn. Walk starts at 10 a.m. Menu will be chosen at the meeting on September 22nd and Tony Tough will also be taking bookings for dinner at that meeting.

The next programme will include some annual favourites: Winter Winder Winder (27 December), The Surrey Linn Kilter (2 January), Winter Tanners (15 January), Functown (6 February) and The Surrey Sunsets (175 April).

Phyl Jackson

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STRIDER 36

(This is the one you haven't got yet!)

ENVELOPING AND STUFFING IS PLANNED FOR TUESDAY AND
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 2ND & 3RD AUGUST. COME ALONG
TO "FOXHOLLOW" ABOUT 7.0 P.M., ENJOY A WORKING
SOCIAL EVENING AND GET YOUR COPY BEFORE ANYONE ELSE!
BUT PLEASE LET JOHN KNOW FIRST (Chobham 6672).

EDITOR