



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - SURREY GROUP

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REPORT AND PROGRAMME - JUNE 1984

PROGRAMME MEETING 21st May 1984

There are not many places which are shown on three separate 1:50000 maps but Chobham can claim this distinction. In spite of the ease of navigation this afforded there were only 20 who attended the meeting on 21st May in the spacious entertainments room of Chobham Club.

The treasurer reported that the group had funds to the extent of approx 1500. Part of this is allocated to equipment which we are still having difficulty in obtaining (large thermal and water containers). It was agreed we also purchase some tables and chairs.

With regard to the venue for meetings, it was thought that the Chobham Club was ideal apart from the geographical location (not being central to our area). In any case it would probably not be available for our meetings on a regular basis. Ian Nicod had contacted the landlord of the Lord Howard at Effingham who had agreed to make his family room available for one of our meetings and if found mutually acceptable to put it on a regular basis. It was agreed we take advantage of this offer by holding our next meeting there on September 25th.

We now have one or two offers for slide shows but in view of the difficulties in getting a permanent venue it was decided not to include a slide show in this programme. However, Richard Ineson used the 20 minutes or so left after the meeting finished to show some slides he just happened to have with him (the projector also just happened to be in the back of the car). A sort of commensurate yourself show of various events and occasions bringing back some "happy" memories for most present.

PAST WALKS - DITCHLING DIVERSION

Thirty-one people set out from Ditchling on the first morning of British Summer Time, including one who hadn't quite realised that the diversion was a social walk and disappeared over the horizon never to be seen again. Two more joined at Street. Three Kent and four Sussex Group members were in the party.

The sky was overcast but there were good views of the downs as we walked along the low sandy ridge to Plumpton Racecourse and through wealden farmland and coppice to the Ouse Valley and Barcombe Hills where the observant noted a corncock while the others made haste to the Anglers Rest, a free house whose licensee is a psychiatrist, a qualified and practising one that is.

A small trotting group walked on, guided by the route sheet and Tom Anderson. The others emerged an hour later and made for the horse gin (short for engine) house near Barcombe Church. They passed the remains of Hamey Cut and Lock and clambered up the steep incline of the oldest railway in Sussex and through brick tunnels under the road to emerge in the garden of Chalk Pit Inn where they were made less welcome by the landlord.

The promised levigorating ridge walk to Ditchling Beacon became less salubrious when hail and rain blew up on a cold southeasterly. The wet and cold party took the first social beyond the Beacon (instead of the second) and made straight through the rain to the cars.

Tom Anderson and two companions alone walked the full planned route. Thus the evils of alcohol were demonstrated.

Tony Young.

PAST WALKS - SPRING CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE

This Spring Choice walk was provided with a spring like and sunny day. After initial confusion over which car park was intended at Farnham Park, 16 of us set out towards Hale Common. We crossed the A251 and ran right into a military unit on manoeuvres. As we were only 400 yards from my home this explained the disturbed views of the previous night. With a swift detour we turned and outflanked the opposition and went on our way.

The views from Coopers Camp excellent with Guildford Cathedral plainly visible some 11 miles distant. On towards Aldershot military town we again came upon the army. This time in the form a band of the Airborne Regiment. The presence of a band was not part of the arrangements for the Chairman's Choice but it did provide for some joking and banter amongst us. The real reason for the band being out was a Some Star Association' church parade and reunion. After passing the Airborne Regiment museum we got onto the Beasinglake Canal towpath. This gave us easy and uneventful walking to our lunch stop at the Rose and Thistle Frisley Green. Prior arrangements for the ploughman's lunches and our arrival just after 12 noon gave us a pleasant and relaxed lunch stop.

From Frisley we made our way over Times' Hill to skirt round Ashh Ranges to Pirbright Lodge and Healey Park Lake. Along some footpaths towards Norwood, not very much used, one being completely blocked. This meant climbing a barbed wire fence and following the field edge. On through Tongham and up to the Hogs Back Hotel. Did you know this hotel has LNR connections? Some of the windows in the new extension were installed by Neryn Harvey, who was with us on the day.

On the south side of the Hogs Back we walked a short part of the Pilgrims Way, now under lamac and then on to the North Downs Way to Moor Park. The remaining two miles brought us back to Farnham Park and our finish at 6.15 p.m.

Thank you for your support. Look forward to seeing you again.

Sam Hatfield

OUR EVENTS IN BRIEF

The Functrawl enjoyed fine weather and yet another record entry. There were 322 starters out of 384 entrants but once again there was an unexpectedly high "on the day" entry thus straining the resources of the planned arrangements but I think all those involved stood up to it well even if some were a little harassed. The Functrawl, not only has two routes of varying distances, but there is also the facility to shorten the longer route if you so decide. Thus to quote the official report on the finishers - "263 attempted the 30 mile route and 259 started the 17 1/2 mile. Of this, 187 completed the 30 mile route; 20 the 28 mile and 25 the 24 mile alternatives. Only registered as having joined the 17 1/2 miles at checkpoint 1 and thus walked 21 miles; so although 287 registered as 17 1/2 miles at the finish, 26 of these must have walked 21 miles and been too modest to admit it." Jeff is arranging a pre walk briefing session next year to explain the rules to newcomers.

The Surrey Summits also enjoyed good weather but not quite the statistical record. We had one less entry (380) and one more starter (362) than last year when both figures were the most at that time. The event was marred slightly by a controversy over the "walking only" rule but only a few entrants were involved and most of the 117 finishers (and some of those who did not) enjoyed their outing.

PATH CLEARANCE

The 14 members who formed the February party made the breakthrough on the path at the top of Blatchford Down which now runs parallel to the North Downs Way. This is intended to allow access (mainly for horses) to use as an alternative do and so relieve the pressure from the North Downs Way.

The National Trust warden is very pleased with our efforts and I must say the outlook has changed somewhat from the dense jungle which was there before the Surrey Group Hatcheders got going.

At the meeting it was decided not to include path clearance in the programme and leave it to the September meeting to arrange a party but we have now included a session in preparation for the Guildford Boundary. It will be under the Surrey County Council's voluntary aid scheme.

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 1984 OAF with all postal enquiries please

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

Sunday 27 July: GADSDON ABOUT GODALMING (186). Meet at Godalming car park GR 971480 at 8.45 a.m. Roundabout a 20 mile circular walk west of Godalming. Leader Mervyn Harvey.

Sunday 2 September: PATH CLEARANCE (186). 7 p.m. at Compton. Not the down this time but part of the Guildford Boundary Route between the A3 bridge at Compton and the Hogs Back. Under the Surrey County Council voluntary aid scheme. Please phone Valerie Challenger for details - preferably during the last 2 weeks in August if you can come. If there are sufficient volunteers some may be re-directed to another problem spot.

Sunday 9 September: CHILTERN MARATHON (175). A 25 mile walk to the Chilterns starting 0827/1616 at Marlow Rugby Club. GR 862863. Entries limited to 450 - none on the day. Details from Vince Salts.

Sunday 16 September: GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WALK (186). The now well established 2 1/2 mile walk which follows the pre 1974 boundary of Guildford Borough. Families and young walkers are particularly encouraged to take part. Start and finish at Henley Fort. Details from Barbara Blatchford. Marshalling arrangements are being made by Gus Hatfield so please let Gus have your offer to help.

Saturday and Sunday 22 and 23 September: TWO DAY HIKK (187). Organized on Kester Tike - route devised by the walker to pass specific points identified by grid references. Camping overnight. Details from Graham Puddle.

Tuesday 25 September: PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187). At the Lord Howard EFFINGHAM. GR 102051. Two hundred yards from Effingham Junction railway station. 7.30 p.m. for 8.

Friday to Sunday 26 to 28 September: DALES TRAVERSE (186). A minibus trip to Malham Trestle to do 28 mile Y-shaped on pages 22 and 23 of Strider 36. The party to consist of members wanting bed and breakfast for 2 nights or using the Youth Hostel or camping at Malham Trestle. The fare will be approx £12 and fire bookings with deposits are required. Bookings to Mervyn Harvey who will also book the bed and breakfast but campers and youth hostellers should make their own arrangements.

Saturday 6 October: CHADWICK CLIMB (176). A repeat of last year's 12 mile walk from Chadwick's car park GR 978619 in the hope of getting some better weather. The walk starts at 2 p.m. but early arrivals can assemble in the White Hart. The route will include the highest point in North Surrey (approx 300 feet tall) and will pass the famous Victorian Trestle Mines on Chadwick Common. The finish is at Fenchellow, the centre of the LBN publishing industry. Leader Chris Steer, please let Chris know if you are coming.

Sunday 11 November: A WALKER IN CANTON, SURREY (187). This is to replace the Cantons WALKER held over the last 2 years for which routes on this theme have been exhausted. The theme for this year and the venue are still to be arranged but this information should be included in the next newsletter. There will probably be 2 routes of about 12 and 18 miles. Details available from Dave Challenger in September.

Sunday 2 December: A SOCIAL WALK FROM SELBORNE (186). Start from car park at GR 761224 at 8.30 a.m. Leader Tom Anderson. Tom says there may not be a pub on route and you should take this into consideration when stocking up your provisions.

Saturday 15 December: CORNETS GAMBOL (187). A walk from Pond Lane Postle car park. GR 886449. This will be followed by Dinner in the evening at the Harwood Inn. Walk starts at 10 a.m. The menu will be chosen at the meeting on 25th September and Tony Youngs will be taking bookings for the dinner.

HELP REQUIRED

Please also remember our events cannot be held without the voluntary help of our checkpoints. So if you are not walking, or if walking has a friend who is not why not give the appropriate organization a ring. Offers of help should be made to Peter Dink for the Children and Don Halford for the Dorkford Boundary. In particular care is making the marshalling arrangements on an event for the first time so it would be nice if his task could be made easy by being surrounded by offers of help.

MARAC FUN RUN LEAGUE

I am afraid the LDMA are still in 9th position (out of 10) after 4 events in the 1984 league. LDMA have 874 points, WNLCC and WOD the teams immediately above and below have 1226 points and 772 points respectively. GFS are league leaders with 2192 points and Feltham Puffers second with 2068 points. At the time of writing the 5th event had taken place but the results are not to hand.

Dates for the remainder of the year are:

July 11	Wimbledon Common
August 12	Chobham Common
SEPTEMBER 2	Wolwood
November 18	Kingswood
December 9	Brooklands

The Wimbledon Common Run will start at 7.30 a.m., the Brooklands run probably at 10.30 a.m. and the rest at 11 a.m.

The LDMA's representative is Bob Nuttall, Sidings, The Ridgeway, Crawleigh.

The Masters and Maidens road runs organized by the Marac Fun Run League still to take place are:

Crawleigh 15 on Sunday July 15th - Details from Ken Saunders, 3 Dorman Drive, Ashford Road, Telephone Ashford (078 42) 57025. The closing date has now passed but I understand there are still one or two places left.

Alan Blatchford Masters and Maidens Marathon on Sunday 14th October - Details from Sandra Houghton, 1 Lebanon Avenue, Hamworth, Widsa. Telephone 01 898 0825.

The league has also organized a social evening on Saturday July 7th at British Aerospace Sports Club, Byfleet. Time will probably be a bit short by the time you receive this newsletter but I understand there are still some tickets left at £2.50 each if you ring Peter Short on Weybridge (4348). Price includes hot and cold buffet and entertainment. Bar extension 7.30 p.m. to midnight.

THE BARTMOOR ONE HUNDRED

Congratulations to all Surrey Group members who completed the LDMA's big one and many thanks to the members and Cris Coates' supporters who helped man the Surrey Group checkpoint.

We were situated at Rish Tor about 46 miles from the start. While putting up the tent we were told by a gentleman declaring himself to be representing the Spitchwick Commons Association that we were not permitted to erect tents for use overnight and it would have to be taken down before dark. As our checkpoint was open from 7.30 Saturday night to 7.30 Sunday morning this arrangement was no good to us.

After a few telephone calls an alternative site was negotiated in a field about 200 yards away. In spite of the difficulties of dealing with a split checkpoint those involved thought the alternative better than the original.

Good Walking,

John R Wittcott

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