

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

SHIRRY GROUP

Report and Programme - October 1966

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PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

There were 14 who attended the meeting on 1st October. The treasurer reported the groups funds were approx £650 less an as yet unspecified loss on the Punchbowl Marathon. The treasurer explained that he must have made an error when he reported the funds to be £210 at the last meeting but even so a big contributory factor towards the healthy financial position was a large surplus on the Surrey Summits. The entry fees for the 1987 Surrey Summits have been fixed the same as those for 1986 but the organizers will do their best to ensure a large surplus does not arise again.

The treasurer also stated he will not be seeking re-election at the next AGM. Dan Hadfield, in his report in the last newsletter said this was to be his last year as chairman so this means we shall definitely need 2 new officers when the next elections take place in January. I (John Westcott) am willing to continue as secretary but having suffered as for the past 8 years, members may think its about time for a change here as well. Nominations will be called for at the AGM on 1st January but if anybody wishes (or is willing) to stand as a candidate for one of the officer posts please let me know and I will convey this to the members at the meeting.

We again discussed having another venue for our meetings as the Lord Howard is not very suitable getting interuptions from the video loudspeakers and customers coming through on their way to the bar. We will be using the Lord Howard again for our AGM in January but 2 promising alternative venues have been suggested, Mulley Hall at Reigate and the Talbot at Ripley, and hopefully we can arrange to have our May/June meeting at one of these.

REPORT ON WINDERMERE POINTS RACE 6th June 1986

Surrey groups venture into adding interest to the kaster by introducing a points system to the event proved disappointing in the number who turned up but popular with those who did take part. The event did not get off to a good start because Keith Chesterton (one of the organizers) went along to the wrong hall, gained access and set things up there while Dave Challenger (the other organizer) waited with frustration at the hall as advertised. With so few customers available it seemed peculiar that the organizers should set up rival events rather than pooling their resources.

As well as points for the correct answers there were penalties for wrong ones and it would seem there were a number of appeals against some of the penalties imposed - all to no avail as the organizers decision was absolutely final. Les Rose must have created some sort of a record which will be hard to beat in finishing with minus 300 on the short course - the best positive score was 440. The results were printed in points scored order rather than the usual chronological order which meant that some of those who normally find themselves near the end of the list of finishers were this time near the top and, more significantly some of the fluster of foot found themselves near the bottom.

There were 19 who completed the 20 mile course, 9 who finished the 12 mile course and 3 took part but did not finish.

REPORT ON THE AVEBURY ESCAPEE 27th July 1986

The response to the Avebury Escapade in July was surprising for despite the holiday season 12 members, not all Surrey Group, joined us on the day. The conditions being fine with a cool breeze - good walking weather.

Party members being tolerant of my gurrality concerning the monuments, barrows and hill forts, I thank them for their forbearance. Even more surprising was their forbearance on arriving at the pub stop early!!! and having to wait for opening time.

Having now led three social walks I think I will manage to get the pub stop at the right time on the next walk. Maybe I am getting my priorities right now? As I walk alone mostly I did enjoy the company on this day (not because it gave me a captive audience either). I hope to see all of you again when we do the Lambourne Extravaganza in 1987.

Tom Anderson.

REPORT ON WEY SOUTH WALK 10th August 1986

The Wey South walk was consumed by an enthusiastic lack of interest with just four people negotiating the various hazards encountered en route. We also believe it to be the first Surrey Group walk, which out of sheer necessity, became combined with a path clearance session. But amid such distractions as a clay-pidgeon shoot and a docile bull various bits of the old canal were successfully identified: dried up

sections, restored bridges, 2 non-existent aqueducts and (seemingly to relate) one lock restored to full working order.

Kevin Brooley

REPORT ON THE CHILTERN MARATHON 14th September 1996

No doubt about it, the Middle Thames Ramblers are nearly always dead lucky weatherwise for their event. The heavens opened on the Saturday, leaving everyone in doubt about turning up for the start. The 320 who did reckoned it was the best route so far, for scenery, so quite a few told us. We favour now the checkpoint 1 being over 10 miles out which of course reduces the other 4 legs to around 4 miles each. It also has the added advantage of the later opening of that first one coupled with the 10 a.m. runners start.

There were few runners this year through "The Harvester" Orienteering event - they will have to time things differently. But what it really seems is that we will have to publish it more widely, as I believe other marathons are finding, with so many events taking place numbers are down. The Chiltern has an entry list of 450 and has in the past managed to get this number quite easily with many disappointed would-be entrants turned away but this year there were only 300 entrants and around 250 starters.

Thanks again to John Westcott in loaning the bike, this can be a great advantage in entrants checking in, they can see who is approaching. Thanks also to Dan Hadfield who kindly gave up his day to help and I trust he enjoyed the day as much as I did. We had to see a black Labrador safely back to the Marlow Cop Shop but I am sure Dan enjoyed taking him for walks.

Its now off to the 18th event, we hope to hold it on Sunday 13th September 1997 with an entirely new route and as few roads as possible.

Vince Smith

My comment: I could not resist making the observation that there must have been something very tall taking part in this year's Chiltern but I cannot make out whether it is a dog or 2 humans that have these 4 - 4 mile long legs.

OTHER WALKS AND EVENTS IN BRIEF

Our summer regulars - The Weybar, Midsummer Evening walk, The Tanners and The Guildford Boundary Walk duly took place. Entries were down for the Weybar and Guildford Boundary but the Tanners enjoyed its usual popularity even if 20% of the field did find difficulty in finding their way off the north downs. About 17 enjoyed the evening sun while walking round the Loosly Estate and along the Wey navigation to finish at Barbara Blatchford's house and enjoy the spread she had prepared for us.

The Lipchis Way, like the Wey South walk, was poorly attended with only 5 turning up. These being our social walks for August and September, the holiday season was biased for the low attendances but both were also liminal walks and it may have been the difficulties of getting back to cars at the end of the walk which deterred people from wishing to take part. I understand the Lipchis Way walk finished in a sprint through the streets of Chichester to be in time for the train to Havant only to finish waiting at the station because the train was late.

Enjoy your walking,

John R Westcott
(hon secretary)

HELP WANTED

Once again I am appealing for help with the events in the coming programme. I would especially ask those who take part in events regularly to volunteer to help with the marshalling now and again. The "Focus on" group in the coming December Slither will be Surrey. In the article, the point is made that Surrey Group's members are willing to turn out and help on events but although this is quite true, each year I still find myself ringing round the regulars at the last minute to fill in the gaps so it would be nice to give them a rest this winter.

Don Radfield and Keith Chesterton would like to have offers of help on the Farnham and Surrey Inns Easters respectively. The faster ones can do the event then help at the finish on these events.

Offers of help for the Winter Tanners and The Surrey Summits should be made to John Westcott and for the Punchbowl to Jeff Ellingham.

PROGRAMME TO APRIL 1987 54E with all postal enquiries

Numbers in brackets are 1:50000 OS map covering the event or location.

Tuesday 4 Nov: SLIDE SHOW - TREKKING IN THE HIGH ATLAS (176). A slide show to be given by Gillian Bull. The venue is at Gillian's house BR933602. Starts at 8 p.m. Please ring Gillian if you are coming for catering purposes.

Sunday 9 Nov: FRENCHMAN KENTON (186). Start from Marindin Hall, Millbridge BR 848422 anytime between 9 and 10.30 a.m. to finish by 4.30 p.m. Choice of 2 routes 12 or 19 miles. You devise your own route between unmanned checkpoints from grid references given and answer a simple question about a feature at the location. You will need to bring a map, pen or pencil, compass and map case/plastic bag. There are pubs on both routes if you time yourself carefully. Entry on the day only - 50p LDWA members and 60p non members. Drinks and biscuits available at the finish. Further details (if you can think of anything) from Dan Hadfield.

Sunday 23 Nov: REIGATE ROUND (187). A ramble with Tony Youngs round Reigate rights of way (and some in Mole Valley), on the downs and in the wood, including some that have been obstructed for years. Some of the obstructions will have been removed. 22 miles. Collect an illustrated route sheet on the day. Real ale at lunchtime but bring your own food. Starts from the south side of Reigate railway station TQ 264507 at 9 a.m.

Sunday 30 Nov: PATH CLEARANCE AND SIGNPOSTING (187). It is hoped to clear a number of locations on this session mainly in the Hurwood area. The more who turn up the more we can achieve so please make a special effort to come along. Meet at Hurwood control car park number 5 BR 063427 at 9.30 a.m. or if you wish to come along later than this please ring Barbara Blatchford for directions to the location. Some tools will be provided but it would be helpful if you could bring some suitable tools with you - spades and saws will be useful. Please also bring your own food and drink.

Saturday 13 Dec: PEASLAKE PRESALE (186 & 187). The annual dinner ramble. Walk or dine or, preferably, both. The walk, led by Chris Stear starts from the Pond Lane Car Park at Peaslake (TQ 086448) at 10 a.m. We stop at the Windmill for coffee or beer, the Bricklayers Arms at Shalvey Green for lunch and the old Post

Office at Shore for tea, whence we return by torchlight to Peaslake, arriving at 6 p.m. or so, in good time for the ANNUAL DINNER.

This year we return to the Hartwood Inn, where we have been made very welcome many times. Seating will be available for walkers to change in. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The menu will be:-

- Cream of Celery Soup with Stilton Croutons
- Supreme of Chicken Victoria
- Three vegetables and two kinds of potato
- Fruit Salad, Sateau or cheesecake.
- Coffee and mint wafers

Who will propose the toast this year and will last year's speed record be broken? Book by sending Tony Youngs a cheque for £9.00 a head (being the full cost of the dinner) made payable to "LOWA Surrey Group". Please book early as the room only holds 34.

Sunday 26 Dec: WINTER WINDSOR WANDER (176) A 15 mile walk (start 9 a.m.) or 17 mile run (start 11 a.m.) with Ralph Henley from Royal Air Force Memorial Car Park, Englefield Green GR 994719. Just turn up on the day - entry fee 10 pence. Route sheet supplied.

Thursday 1 Jan: SURREY TOWN WANDER (186 & 187) A light hearted start to the new year. Venue at St Catherine's Village Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford GR 992485. Checkpoints are unmanned but most of them are pubs. Two routes of 13 and 20 miles on the same lines as the Farnham Wander above. Start between 9.15 and 11 a.m. - all to finish by 4.30 p.m. Entry fee 40p LDWA members and 50p non members with special rates for DPs, under 16s and the unemployed. Further details from Keith Chesterion or John Westcott.

Sunday 18 Jan: WINTER TANNERS (186 & 187) A 30 mile walk in central Surrey as a route proving exercise for the famous summer event. Start and finish in the municipal car park to the west of Leatherhead GR 143565. No undercover and only minimal support so only tough walkers or runners should take part. Starts between 8 and 9.30 a.m. Entry fees - LDWA members 70p, non members 80p and all on the day entries £2.00. Details from John Westcott.

Wednesday 21 Jan: AGM & PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187) at Lord Howard Effingham GR 100661. Election of officers, 7.30 p.m. for 8.

Sunday 1 Feb: PUNCHING SABBATHS (186) for LWA members only, 23 or 30 mile routes starting at 9 a.m. from Chichester Hall Willey GR 947294. Another tough winter event with only 3 checkpoints so only the fit and experienced should take part. Entry fees £1.50 before Jan 21st, £2.00 after and £2.50 on the day. Entry limit 500. Details from John Westcott or Don Newman. Offers of help to Jeff Ellingham.

Thursday 12 Feb: SLIDE SHOW - LAND OF ICE AND FIRE (176, 176 or 186) at Chobham Club, Windsor Road, Chobham GR 973524. Barbara Pitchford's ice and fire experience mainly featuring places that Reagan and Berberthaw did not see on their recent visit there. 8.00 pm.

Sunday 22 Feb: WIMBLES PUZZLE (176) - Start from Englefield Green Park by the pavilion (near the Parley Mow) GR 991714 at 11 a.m. for a 15 mile wander into Windsor Great Park. Refreshments afterwards while answering questions to test your observation on the walk. Please ring Anne Anderson if you are coming for coloring purposes.

Sunday 22 Mar: D'ARNOU'S CHOICE (186) - A 11 mile walk from Farnham Castle to Park (between Golf Club and Cricket Ground) GR E36478. Start at 9 a.m. Leader: Don Woodfield.

Sat/Sun 4/5 April: WIMBLES CHALLENGE (186 & 187) The group's main event of the year. A 100 kilometre (62 miles) challenge walk over the popular hills of central and western Surrey. Starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday from Chichester Hall Willey GR 947294 and will finish by 12 noon on Sunday giving a 26 hour time limit. Closing date for entries is 4th March. Details from John Westcott.

Sunday 26 April: COCKING CONSTITUTIONAL - PART II (187) Last walked in 1979. Open downland with splendid views, the ancient yew grove in Kingley Vale, Sales Ales and the unrestored 13 century church of Up Hadden. 20 miles plus. A new illustrated route sheet. Details nearer the time from Tony Youngs and in the next newsletter.