

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - SURREY GROUP

Report and programme - February 1986

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ANNUAL GENERAL AND PROGRAMMED PLANNING MEETING

22 members attended the meeting on 19th January 1985.

The treasurer reported the group's funds to be £270.77 as at the end of 1985. The statement of account for year ended 31st December 1985 which was approved at the meeting is reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter.

It was decided to make donations of £80 and £40 to the National Trust and Marlwood Control respectively.

Don Hadfield, John Westcott and Dave Challenger were re-elected to the positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Don for the 15th successive year and John and Dave each for the eighth successive year. There was some discussion on the desirability of having officers holding office so long and whether it would be better to have a change to hopefully inject a few new ideas into the group. Also it would be nice to have some new occupants at the top table at meetings. Even the novelty of facing three such good looking blokes (as we're off after a time). While the 3 officers declared their willingness to continue they all agreed they would not be upset if somebody else took the positions as should willing volunteers be found. It was agreed some thought would be given to finding replacements before the 1987 AGM.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 1985

It was at the beginning of 1980 that I joined the LDWA and on January 6th of that year I walked my first winter ramblers. This year I completed my 7th and thoroughly enjoyed it (rain and mud included!). It would appear that many others got the same satisfaction as I do. On looking round at the starters just before Don this year I saw many faces from previous years and also from my first one in 1980. It is most encouraging to see many new faces as well, and I trust that next year I will see these faces again.

Within a year of joining the LDWA I was elected chairman of the Surrey Group. Again I have enjoyed being chairman of the group which added to the enjoyment of actual walking walks for a great while.

In last year's report I asked people to consider walking an event one year and perhaps helping the next year. Well I am pleased to say that many of you have offered services on checkpoints etc and the response for help with the Surrey ramble has been very good. Thank you all most sincerely.

Looking ahead to the coming year we have a full programme of challenge and social walks. This year the '100' is on the South Downs Way, some of the first LDWA 100 in the UK and distant just. I will be helping with the catering at Slayning and look forward to the many Surrey Group members enjoying the event. I note that entries for the 100 have now closed. If you are one of those disappointed ones with a returned entry, why not come on the marshalls walk and help on the event itself.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Westcott our secretary, and Dave Challenger our treasurer for their work and efforts in 1985.

Trust you all have a good 1986 and look forward to seeing you at events.

Don Hadfield.

FIRST EVENTS AND WALKS

The nine who strolled with Stanley Thorley on 6th October 1985 enjoyed a good dry day and an excellent route from Dorking Town Station, through glory wood and via an unfamiliar vineyard on Holmwood Common to Ockley for lunch and a pint of the best at the Cricketers. A cup of tea at the new snack bar in Lett's Hill Tower fortified the nine for the downhill stretch to Broadmoor and Westcott and the finish dash along the scary of the downs.

The now annual October afternoon pilgrimage of Chobham and Rursall commons - The Commons Clump - was blessed with good weather and enjoyed by those who attended. The route for the 2 previous years had included a drive which has recently been

the subject of our reverse as to whether it was a right of way. The landowner, having won his case, Chris Iosser made sure he led the walk over the undisputed rights of way while going over that landowner's fields. He was not quite so accurate later on when we found ourselves in dense undergrowth (which was getting thicker) and then having to fight our way through head high bracken to get back to the proper path. They must put some strong stuff in that ice-cream they sell at Staple Hill. Back at Farnham we enjoyed the scrumptious food Margaret had prepared.

There were 112 who took part in the Wisley Easter which was very good considering it did not get a lot of publicity. The main feature of this year's Challenger/Dispatchford promotion was the improvements made by the Surrey County Council in the Wisley Airfield area. It was interesting to note how the bridleway which had been a quagmire when visited on the November Easter in 1984 had been drained and surfaced to attain almost road status. Even more interesting was the footpath markings on the disused airfield runway and the crash barriers - I assume in case the runners got out of control. There were 72 who completed the 38 mile course and 53 the 12 mile course.

Our annual Dinner Raffle from the new White Horse, Dorking venue proved popular. (Evenses was taken at the Woodon Hatch, lunch at the Plough Caldorbear and the now obligatory tea stop for these walks was taken at the Merry Sater on the A24 Mid Holmwood. In between we had a very lovely stroll which included those two particularly pleasant valleys between Latch Hill and the AIS - unusual to have both valleys on one walk. Back at the White Horse the less energetic diners joined the walkers for dinner. Comment on the meal was varied but the general opinion was that although nice, it was not up to the standard we have come to expect from the Woodwood Inn over the past few years.

Another Annual favourite is the Winter Windsor Wonder on the day after Boxing Day. There were 58 who enjoyed the run or stroll along the Thames towpath then on a modified route, through Windsor Great Park. We even saw the rhododendrons out in bloom. There was a preponderance of Fulham Fufflers, in fact one comment I heard was 'we were out puffed 2 to 1'. Give also to relax in the bar of the Fufflers Sports Club afterwards even if some did have a foretaste at the Fox and Hounds en route.

The following is a 'waddy' reflection of the Surrey Inns Easter by Nurial Kirk.

An icy day,
Dawns, a new year
Let's go on a 'Naster'
To quill the bear,
Familiarities over
Clues in our hand,
We slip on the pavement
and slide in the sand.
Lager like hustler
Who strain at the rope,
Keen to go onward
Our hearts full of hope
With a couple of cloes
safe 'under our belt'
It's up to the tower
My first strain now felt.
'He' asks here, for windows
Or does 'he' mean pane?
So time to ponder,
We're off once again.
The runners are with us
And shoot us right by
I don't care for runners
'Heres mud in your eye!

Give us the pladders
With strength and with stealth
I don't want a coronary
Just plain honest health
More clues to our credit
From this pub and that
My body is glowing
So off comes my hat.
Towards little London
And on towards Shere
Decisions more serious
Which pub for our beer?
A look at my watch
So I feel cold?
Chicken-out, with the short one
Or 'Go for the Gold'
No time to dither, for
It's still now or never
I'll go for the long one
To hell with the weather
Abinger, Ganshall, Ransmore-
All done,
Daylight looks gloomy
Who's stolen the sun!

Down slippery gully
Under the bridge
search for the digits
And pace up the ridge
It seems like a lifetime
To reach the next clue
Around a blind corner
Right out of the blue.

A red better see,
Just what I need
My eyes fix it's number
Glad, I can still read,
Those Neon-bike scribbles
They've got such a cheek
Churn all the footpaths
To mud - inches deep.

It's now the depression
Sets in, far good
It's starting to rain
As I enter the wood
Mudcups are precious
I am such a fool
Should have taken the short one
Whereas my blousin' Eggo!!

Through my rucksack
I rummage, and grab it to haste
Look like Muriel! Damage!
But what very good taste!
It's here that I realize
I've not got the time
For now it's downpouring
Six more miles of slime.

Still, No good 'Old Girl'
You've got to get done
Who cares if your late
It's only for fun
Past Newlands Corner
Up to the churchyard
Check on the memorial
(It's bucketing hard).

Down still now - for the rest
of the 'way'
How different the landscape
From a fine summer day
The bright lights of Waltham
away on the right
It's not easy to write clues
On such a wet night.

My map case is leaking
I'm quite thirsty too
I'd like a dry hankie
And to visit the loo
No use - useless wishes
For Skifford Park is quite near
So on with the waffle
Be of good cheer.

The outline of trees
Ahead in the dark
As I splash deep in water
25 THIS SALTPORE MARCH
From previous walkers
The ground is squelch!
I could do with a wet suit
Or a good Hydroflect.

As I put my left boot
From the steps of the sluice
A familiar sight
Quietens my tread
Now St. Catherine's bridge
Across it I slide
A last bit waiting!
Faith's tent as a ride?(some hopes)

No thanks, we like waiting
We'd do it again
Besides this is England
We can 'go' with the rain
So back to the hill
And off with our shoes
A leechy NOT DRINK
Which one shall I choose.

The only comment to add is that including Muriel, 157 took part in the Surrey Inns
Kanter, 50 completing the 10 mile course and 88 the 13 mile course.

The 218 entrants who took part in the Winter Tanners 'enjoyed' a windy day with
rain in the morning turning calm for the afternoon. It was generally windy underfoot
but we did have another opportunity of testing the Surrey County Council's questing
to sub road status policy in the dip on the bridleway between Polissen Lacey and
Fildon Cottage. As this path is regularly used on Tanners routes and there is no
convenient "field escape route" to avoid that junction I am sure the improvement
will be welcomed by most Tanners regulars. The route also included the bridleway
recently cleared by Surrey Group members, a new path from Holesbury Youth Hostel and
the Rurwood switchback. Advertized as a tough 30 mile walk it was thought to
fall down from that description on 2 counts. Firstly it was only 29 miles long and
secondly, as walkers were looked after so well at the 3 feeding points it could
hardly be described as tough. We did have a discussion on the point at the
January meeting where concern was expressed that it was getting too soft and
it was agreed that the food and drink as available on the 1988 event was the
maximum to be made available on future Winter Tanners - pro rata to the estimated
entry. There were 257 who completed the walk in times ranging from 4 hours 4
minutes to 18 hours 40 minutes.

Tom Anderson was chasing his hutch when he got us up for a 7.30am start on a cold January morning for his re-run of the Selbourne Expedition. It turned out to be a lovely bright frosty morning - well worth the effort of driving down the Hill in the dark to literally start at the crack o' dawn. It is the first time I have started a day walk with a full moon. I leave it to the bard of Englefield Green to finish of this waltz report with his version of what happened with his Selbourne Limerick:

Upon the dawn of the 25th The Surrey Group was in a fix The walk from Selbourne was due at six But hesitated please from dear old June Set the start postponed to 0 seven three am.	The air was good, they stayed on long And tried the leaders' composure long For forty minutes they did wait Holding their leader at enforced rest. Eventually he prised them loose By trying that a mad dog's loose This devil's thrust did the trick And all exited mighty quick!
So at the stated time they met Under the hanger, not in the wet The frozen ground pleased them all Even the secretary parked by the wall.	So on and on this happy band To complete the walk they had to hand The sun is above all day long To warm the backs of the tired throng.
So off they went over fields and down Through orchards green and hop fields brown The walk it was a great success Our boots were not over in a mess.	To return to Selbourne they did try Before the gates of darkness nigh As they were finishing on the hanger Someone complained of lack of glamour No lights glow in Selbourne town For darkness did not yet abound
All morning they stride along A chatting merry little throng Nearby village was the lunch time stop Which the Surrey Group reached at 12 o'clock.	The moral of this little ditty Is that early rising is somewhat gritty Short rests are best to enjoy the sun Before you continue on and on.
The Hawley Inn was open wide A welcome the leader dutifully declined A dozen stalwarts ignored his plea To only enjoy a short beer!	

To all who walked with me this day
Many thanks for coming anyway.

SLIDE SHOW

We had a very interesting slide show at the Chelms Club last November with Tom Anderson telling about his adventures in Austria, Switzerland and France followed by Chris Butterfield giving his account of a Norwegian trek. Although Tom had pre-recorded his commentary, it proved a little difficult to hear Chris' voice inaudible by any electrical amplifying equipment.

It was thought, the room being too large for the purpose, was the cause of the hearing difficulty so we are trying the Guildford Institute for the slide show in the forthcoming programme. We go a little further afield for the subject of the show on 28th March when Nervyn Harvey shares with us the delights of his Whistlers experience. Hope to see you at Guildford.

PATH CLEARANCE

The subject of the group's path clearing activities last November was the bridleway descending Hockley Hill. I must say it looked as though it would be a formidable task to shift all the dense undergrowth which had been allowed to grow rampant for many decades. John Cranham, the local National Trust warden, says the average group would take two or three days to clear such a path, assuming they undertook to do it in the first place.

The Surrey Group attacked the task undaunted. Spreading out along the path each member cleared a way into the undergrowth then sat about meeting up with one another, efficiently apart from the occasional catch as blood was drawn. In the end they made the task look all too easy having virtually finished by lunch time just leaving us to look at the bonfires burning for the afternoon session.

On 23rd March we go to a path near Clendon and Barbara tells me it is well up to the standard of difficulty to give the Surrey Group a challenge so let's see a good attendance.

PROGRAMME TO JULY 1986 BAW with all postal enquiries please.

The numbers following the event etc are the 1:50000 Landranger maps covering the route or location.

Sunday 9 Mar: SPRING CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE (186). A 20 mile plus walk starting at 9 a.m. from the Castle Car Park, Farnham, GR 838487. (between Golf Club and cricket ground). Leader Don Hadfield.

Sunday 23 Mar: PATH CLEARANCE (187). The path going north west from GR 060500. NOTES show the path going outside the wood but the line should be along the inside edge. Meet West Wanger Car Park GR 070452 at 10 a.m. or, if you cannot make it by then go straight to the path when you can. Some tools will be provided but it would be as well to bring your own if you have any suitable. Also please bring your own food and drink. Further details from Barbara Stutchford.

Wednesday 26 Mar: HIMALAYAN EXPERIENCE (188). A slide show by Neryn Harvey at THE BUTTERFIELD Institute, Ward Street (off North Street) behind William and Glynis Bank, GR 926456. Meet in the Bull's Head, High Street (opposite Tumpite) between 7.30 and 7.55 p.m. to walk across to the Institute for the show to start at 8. Please read the article on pages 32 to 33 of Strider 42 (August 1985) because Neryn will be asking questions about it.

Sat/Sun 12/13 April: SURREY SUMMITS (189 & 187). A 100 kilometre (62 mile) challenge with over the popular hills of central and western Surrey. Start and finish at Kitley. Start 10 a.m. Saturday and all to finish by 12 noon on Sunday - 20 hours. Closing date for entries is 12th March if the total of 200 entrants has not been reached by then and entries received so far would indicate the limit will be reached this year. Details from John Westcott.

Sunday 27 April: WORKING DUNGER (187). A 25 mile three peaks of Surrey walk, STRICTLY with the Nole Valley Ramblers, led by Tony Youngs. Start from Dorking Town Station GR 140000 at 8.45 a.m. Use A11 by unfrequented ways to Colindale (please let Tony know if you want food as well as real ale and if a cheddar ploughman's will do) then to Leigh Hill Tower, Holbury Hill, Broady Downs and Deer Leap Wood. Collect an illustrated route sheet on the day.

Sunday 30 May: TIMBERS 18.2 (187). A walk out of the eastern loop of the Tamers to FROSE. Starting from the municipal car park west of Leatherhead town centre GR 162556 at 9 a.m. going over Box Hill, Colley Hill, stop at Wopdor or Walton for lunch then over Fines Down and along Stone Street back to Leatherhead. Leader Barbara Stutchford.

Sat/Sun/Mon 25/26/27 May: DOWNHILL 100 (185, 187, 186 & 190). Entries are now closed, the 400 places available having been filled by the middle of January. Offers of help to John Westcott.

Wednesday 28 May: PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187). At the Lord Howard, Liffordham, GR 103651. 7.30 p.m. for 8.

Sunday 2 June: POINTS RACER (186 & 187). Slightly more challenging than the usual Racers. Participants are given locations of numbered checkpoints identified by grid references which have differing points values. Distance is up to 20 miles depending on the number of checkpoints visited. Starts are any time between 9 and 11 a.m. from Womersley memorial hall GR 007494. Details from Dave Challenger.

Sunday 22 June: WEYSAC WALK (186 & 187). An easy 17 mile walk along the towpath of the Wey Navigation from Godalming to the British Aerospace Sports Ground at Weybridge. Start from Godalming at 10 a.m. with a coach available leaving Weybridge at 8.45 a.m. to transport walkers to the start. If a place on the coach is required it must be booked in advance. Details from Pauline Slack.

Sunday 28 June: WOODHURST (VENING WALK (186 & 187). A stroll of about 8 miles from 11 Woodhurst GR 50340 starting at 7 p.m. Leader Barbara Blatchford.

Sunday 5 July: THORNTON MARSHES (187). Walks to central Surrey with routes of 20, 30 and 40 miles. All start and finish at the Leatherhead Football club GR 50250 although there are arrangements for those staying overnight at Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel to start from there. This may be the last January 80 as the TMA committee do not think it worth getting marshals and officials up early to supervise the s.a.w. for only a few entrants. The committee will review the position in the light of the support the event gets this year to decide whether it will be held in 1981. Details from Barbara Challenger.

Sunday 27 July: WICKERY ESCAPE (177 & 178). A 26 mile (approx) walk starting from Wickery Castle Car Park GR 155750 at 9 a.m. Nearest exit off M4 is Junction 15. This area abounds with prehistoric earthworks of great antiquity and we will be visiting many of them on this walk. The area was very heavily populated in prehistoric times and the people have left many enduring monuments to their skill and artistry. To those who are interested the Department of the Environment has several publications on the area. Route map will be available on the day. The leader is Tom Anderson who says he will find a pub having submitted to popular request!

The next programme will include the 2 autumn favourites The Chiltern Marathon on September 19th and the Guildford Boundary on September 20th as well as a joint social walk with the Wessex Group on 3rd October.

Please also remember we are always looking for volunteers to lead social walks so if you have a favourite walk why not share it with others. Please contact John Westcott giving a few alternative dates, time and place of start and a brief description of the route.

MAHAC FUN RUN LEAGUE

The LMA finished bottom of the League in 1980 and after the first run in 1981 we seem to be continuing the tradition this year.

We would certainly do with more of our members taking part if we are likely to get away from that bottom position so if anybody would like to take part in these runs would they contact one of the three officers Bob Redfield, John Westcott or Dave Challenger for details of the next venue.

The runs take place about once a month, usually on a Sunday morning but a couple are held on a weekday evening during the summer. They are over cross country and about 5 miles long with shorter distances for juniors and joggers.

The three open races organized by the Mahac Fun Run League in the Masters and Maidens series are to be held this year as follows:

Date	Time	Race
11th May	Effingham	Masters and Maidens 10
13th July	Cranleigh	Masters and Maidens 15
12th October	Tilford	Alan Blatchford Marathon and Half Marathon

Entry forms for these races can be obtained from John Westcott.

Enjoy your walking

John Westcott.

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
SURREY GROUP

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1983

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>
Balance brought forward	314.79	233.44
Members subscriptions (Total, 134.21 donations) *	80.11	77.88
Donations for use of equipment	5.00	5.00
<u>Profits:</u>		
Survey 1000 Kames	17.30	
Winter Tansers	25.99	
Pondland Marathon	81.12	
Survey Summits	100.31	
Dayton	27.15	
Gullford Boundary Walk	-	
Windy Kames	31.88	
Total	<u>261.16</u>	<u>340.32</u>

* Membership 1983 - 137; 1982 - 134

† Profit of £117.40 donated to Gullford Adventure Playgroup.

EXPENDITURE

Hire of Halls	15.00	3.00
Secretary's Expenses	132.75	150.56
Treasurer's Expenses	7.42	8.58
Tony Cartwright - Computer Services	27.50	-
<u>Donations:</u>		
National Trust	80.00	
Murrehead Central	30.00	80.00
Christmas Dinner	(1.50)	13.50
Equipment purchases	153.47	213.74
Badges etc. (see expenditure)		
Survey Group	(32.00)	
Survey Summits	(3.00)	
Tee-shirts	6.00	
Total	<u>(32.00)</u>	<u>(38.50)</u>
Balance of income over expenditure	229.16	301.82
	<u>640.48</u>	<u>781.82</u>

Cash in Hand and uncollected cheques
 32.37 |

Money at Bank in current account
 218.40 |

£ 250.77

Badges and Tee-shirts held in stock

Survey Group Badges 100 @ £1.00 100.00

Survey Summits Badges 100 @ £0.75 75.00

Tee-shirts 4 @ £3.50 14.00

£ 189.00



E.S. Challenger,
Hon. Treasurer.

26th January 1984

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