

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - SURREY GROUP

Report and Programme - July 1986

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#### PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING

Still not recovered from the Downham weekend, 13 members attended the programme planning meeting at the Lord Howard on 28th May. The treasurer reported that the Group's funds were approx £210. One major item of expenditure coming up is that a further supply of Surrey Submits badges will be required before next year's event.

#### THE DATA PROTECTION ACT

In compliance with the Data Protection Act 1984, we have to state that we maintain a computer file containing members names and addresses. This information is essential for mailing the newsletter we send 3 times a year. Any member who objects to the Surrey Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association holding these details on the computer should submit his objection, in writing, to the secretary. Their newsletter will be sent by manual addressing.

#### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

After much thought I have decided not to seek re-election at the 1987 AGM. I feel that after six years a change is in order. The position is open to male or female (no discrimination in the Surrey Group) so if there is someone out there who would like to take over, please don't be shy, come forward. May I thank you for your support over the years.

While I have pen and paper to hand, may I comment on John Webbott's place in the February 1986 newsletter re the Nazac Fun Run League. I have been looking at the dates for 1986 and it appears we have a number of clashes of events as follows:-

9th Feb	Bookham Common Fun Run/Westmore App
9th Mar	Richmond Park Fun Run/LDN AGM/Chairman's Choice
8th June	Farley Green Run/Monarch Easter
21st Sept	Wesledown Run/ Guildford Boundary

I almost booked a hall for a Kenter in the Farnham area for Sunday 16th November which is also the day for a fun run at Holmswood organized by the LDW! The Kenter date is now on Sunday 9th November (see future events). Now I am not suggesting that we would rise above our lowly position in the league if we did not have these clash of dates, however, it does reduce the number of LDWA numbers taking part in these fun runs.

Perhaps in 1987 we can arrange dates so that the event do not clash. We need more than 52 Sundays in our year.

Don Hatfield.

#### REPORT ON THE CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE WALK 9th March

This walk should have been called the Chairman's Choice/Surrey Group Initiative Test. A phone call on the Saturday evening from Jill Green alerted me to the fact the Grid Reference was wrong in the Group newsletter - 306 out to the north. I then checked in Strider and found to my horror the Grid Reference was 1066 out to the west. Puttenham Golf Course!

However 15 members found their way to the proper start between the cricket pitch and the golf course at Farnham Castle.

We set off a few minutes after 9 on a route that was used for the first Chairman's choice in October 1981. On that occasion the weather was perfect as it started to rain about 11 a.m. This time the rain started about 2.30 p.m. However, spirits were not dampened.

From Farnham Castle we went north to Caesar's Camp, Wesledown Race Course and Fleet Pond then along the towpath of the Basingstoke Canal to our lunch stop at a pub beside the canal at Crookham. The landlord made us very welcome with a room to ourselves, hot and cold food and no need to remove footwear. An added attraction during our meal was a demonstration of knitting by Mariele Elms.

As the afternoon progressed the absence of good mud was mentioned! Well we are in Hampshire one member remarked. However as we neared Farham and crossed back into Surrey a good bit of Surrey mud on the incline was found. This pleased Gillian Bull no end. All arrived safely back at Farham having enjoyed themselves.

Den Hadfield.

#### REPORT ON THE DORLING DAUNDER 17th April

Twenty-five members of the Male Valley Ramblers and the LDRB including Len Webb, aged nine, visited 25 miles on the Dorling Daunder. They paid their respects to Peter (labellers on Box Hill), took the old coach road and farm paths to Beare Green, climbed under the walls of Ainstbury to the Plough at Coldharbour (where the 2 who had ignored Tony's request to order food in advance ate a very hurried meal), took the tourists route to Letch and Woburn Hills before coasting down to Abinger Hammer and dashing back to Dorling through the Roughs and along the carriage drive.

The party was kept together only by allowing the waggard to plunge straight on now and again when the route turned sharply. An illustrated route sheet will serve as a memento for those who would not rather forget the day.

Tony Young

#### OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

For the first time the Surrey Group were beaten on a path clearance session. It was however a particularly difficult one which had not been used for many decades except as a dumping ground for the farmers discarded fences and the barbed wire had been partially buried and interbedded with the vegetation. The 8 who attended did some stirring work to achieve a good section of clearance before giving it best. These present were relieved to hear Barbara Statchford announce that she would try to get another group of volunteers to finish the job.

There were 13 who sallied forth on the Haslemere loop on a frosty February morning with snow still lingering in some parts. The route coincided with that of the Punchbowl the week before for a little way to the summit of Blackdown and then went deep into Sussex and Hampshire. A nice route well worth repeating - possibly as an event.

The Tanners 18.2 was a combined social walk and walkout for the eastern loop of the Tanners 50. We had Elevenses at Box Hill and lunch at Nogodon. On between the highlight was sight of an Imperial Gentian at the foot of the Suckland Hills. I note steps have been cut into the scarp to get up to Colley Hill. Not quite so exciting now as when we had to scramble up the slippery slope clinging desperately to any vegetation which would stand our weight.

The Eleventh Surrey Summits was again a great success. A couple of makeshift alternative legs for the venue and main checkpoint did not deter from the enjoyment of most participants and the comfort of Ray Sandley's house at Westcott for another checkpoint there more than compensated for the little inconveniences at the other 2 points. With 218 Extracts, 182 starters and 130 finishers we had a record on all counts.

The Guildford Institute proved to be a popular venue for the slide show Neryn Harvey gave on his Himalayan Experience. Thank you Neryn for an interesting show.

#### THE OVERSEAS WALKERS

Congratulations to the 27 Surrey Group members who completed the Overseas:

Mark Pickard (16.32), David Whitehead (20.33), Richard Brown (25.26), Peter Young (27.05), Louise and Tony Cartwright (27.18), Don Newman (27.28), Chris Coates (28.45), Keith Hewitt (28.57), Len Whitlocks (29.36), John Probert (29.30), Marshall Miller (29.47), John Gray (30.32), Ken Napier (32.49), Peter West-Kelley (32.51), Angela MacBricker (32.09), Ian McLeod (34.00), Ian Ditchfield (34.23), Bill Grace (36.17), Tony Taylor (36.14), Sal Coates (42.33), John McNeill (42.40), Brian Husky (42.64), Roger Smith (43.53) and on the marshals walk: Den Hadfield (29.31), Christine Butterfield (40.17) and Gillian Bull (40.17).

There were also a lot of our members involved in organizing and helping with the arrangements. The Surrey group were responsible for the 2 checkpoints at Sugar Hill and Steyning as well as having other members involved in mobile assignments. The following is an account of Vince Smith's experiences at Steyning:

It could not have been anything but a success at Steyning, the 60 wife out checkpoint with Don Redfield calmly directing operations. It was teamwork at its best, each of his merry band betting about the various tasks without any qualms, that would not runners and walkers on their way again - Hopefully rejuvenated, reconstituted and refreshed. Many of those who passed through during the Saturday night thought it was 'Grand Hotel' service. Of the first floor of the race walkers building they were served at the tables, backed up by cooks, Char Wallis and Masher-uppers. They tucked into sausages, beans, Egg and tomato with an ample supply of bread and margarine, many had cereal and also marshmallowed down by either hot or cold drinks.

What a pile of kit on the ground floor! It had all been laid out earlier in the day by Don and his wife Jean, having sorted rucksacks, helmets into batches of 100 and consecutively numbered - a grand job.

There were hectic scenes as entrants came in trying to book them in on the checkpoints and making them have their cards punched as they went out, some were almost too tired or dazed to realise this. Despite plenty of headaches, Don Symon and Cyril Maitre had things under control all the time. The St John Ambulance must have a mention, just one uniformed member and an assistant - home on leave from the RMF - doing a magnificent patching up job of poor old feet and generally doing a tender loving care treatment for other complaints.

I was most pleased to have been able to help for the second time at Steyning on one of the major events and it really does your heart good to have that gesture of appreciation but for me it was our pleasure in providing the back up for all the gallant folk.

I reflect as to whether Don was aware that he could have been courting disaster in leaving Sue and Vince to be on the same checkpoint as putting the clock back to a checkpoint at Redleton on the Surrey Summits a few years ago; there was nothing to show in erecting a tent in the dark and the rain, to say nothing of the soakings that ensued when a certain someone, you can guess who, tinkered with the awning.

#### PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 1986 - SAS with all postal enquiries please

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

Sunday 27 July: ABERYR ESCAPADE (173 & 174). A 26 mile (approx) walk starting from Barbury Car Park GR 158750 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 here left many enduring monuments to their skill and artistry. Pub stop. Leader Ian Anderson.

Sunday 20 August: WEY SOUTH (PART 3) (186 & 187). A 23 mile walk from Guildford to Wisborough Green following as closely as possible Guildford's lost route to the sea. The Wey and Arun canal, abandoned in 1871, but much of interest remains. Start at 9 a.m. from Guildford Town Bridge GR95494. Leader Karin Braxley who will require advance notice of participants so that he can arrange for sufficient cars to be available at Wisborough Green.

- Sunday 7 Sept: LITCHFIELD WAY (186 & 187). A 25 mile walk from Litchook to Chichester. This will involve public transport from Chichester to Litchook and the time of starting will depend on times of trains or buses. Please contact Barbara Stubbford for details.
- Sunday 14 Sept: OULTON MARATHON (175). A 25 mile challenge walk in the Oultons starting and finishing at Marlow Rugby Club GR 882963. Entries limited to 450. Details from Vince Smith.
- Tue 21 Sept: GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WAY (186). A challenge walk of 20 miles following approximately the pre 1814 boundary of the Guildford Borough. Details from Barbara Stubbford.
- Wednesday 1 Oct: PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187) At the Lord Howard, Eppingham GR 703567 - 200 yards from Eppingham Junction Railway Station. 7.30 p.m. for 8.
- Sunday 5 Oct: JOINT WALK WITH MESSEX GROUP (185). A 24 mile walk starting from the Recreation Centre Car Park, Winchester GR 485303 at 8.45 a.m. The route will go to the North East of Winchester. There will be a pub stop. Leader Dale Green wood.
- Saturday 11 Oct: COBHAM CLUMP (136 & 136a). A 12 mile afternoon stroll starting at 2.30 p.m. from Football, Station Road, Cobham GR 984571. The route goes via Horsell and Cobham Commons but which way round this year? Also will the ice cream van be in the Cobham Clump car park and will the good beer airship be at Farnrook aerodrome. Find out the answers to these and other fascinating questions but please let Chris Stear know in advance for catering purposes. Refreshments will be served after the walk. Let Chris know if you are coming that is, not the answers to the questions.
- Tuesday 4 Nov: SLIDE SHOW - TREKKING IN THE HIGH ATLAS (175). A slide show to be given by Gillian Bull. The venue is at Gillian's house GR 993682.
- Sunday 9 Nov: FRENCHMAN WATER (184). Start from Northon Falls, Millbridge GR 892222. Routes between 9 and 15.30 a.m. to finish by 4.30 p.m. Choice of 2 routes 12 or 18 miles. You devise your own route between unnamed 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 like 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 round Reigate rights of way, on the hills and the weald, including some that have been obstructed for years but which, it is hoped, will be opened this summer. Twenty miles or so. Collect an illustrated route sheet on the day. Real ale at lunchtime but bring your own food. Starts at 9 a.m. from the south side of Reigate railway station. GR 7024527.
- Saturday 13 Dec: ANNUAL DINNER RUMBLE. A walk of about 15 to 20 miles followed by dinner in the evening. The venue for the dinner has not yet been finally decided so at present we do not know where the walk will start and finish. Enquiries are still being made to find a new venue but if this failed we will revert to the Murbard Inn at Peaslake. Full details available and bookings taken for dinner at the meeting on 1st October (see details above).

HELP Volunteers are wanted to help with the Oultons Marathon and the Guildford Boundary. Those willing to do this should contact Vince Smith for the Oultons and Dan Hadfield for the Guildford Boundary.

Finally Richard Iveson, a Surrey Group member for many years, is to be married to Caroline Cates on 19th July. May I extend the congratulations of members of the Surrey group to Richard and Caroline with the wish they enjoy a happy life together.