

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

SURREY CIRCUIT

Report and Programme - October 1987

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#### PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING - 18th Sept 1987

Ten members attended. There were tales of difficulty to overcome the Beigate one-way street system in conjunction with finding the entrance to the car park next to Huxley Hall and it was suggested that more would-be attendees were not so successful at solving the problem. For a change it was decided to pose outside the Guildford town centre for our meeting in January when we use the Guildford Institute - see programme for details.

We did not have a great deal of business to get through but the presence of Keith Chorlerton assured we used most of the time available with, at times, some lively discussion. It was generally felt that the Surrey Group should be more adventurous with the items included in the programme. To this end Keith has undertaken to lead a 11km walk in the current programme (see entry for Sts Sarah) but this to a certain extent is a compromise as Keith would have preferred a longer walk with more remote terminal points to make it more of a challenging social walk. Another activity the group want to participate in was coach trips to walk some of the famous inland walks such as The Lyke Wake and The Six Shropshire Summits and some of the longer touring members said they would like to see these introduced into the programme again. Any comments on this can be made in writing to the secretary but it would be preferable if you attend the next meeting to express your view in person.

The next meeting is also the AGM when, once again, the officers are elected. Prior to the 1987 AGM, Ian Radfield, said he would be standing down as chairman but subsequently had his arm twisted to agree to continue. In order to get out of doing the job in 1988 he has decided to move to South Wales. With good road communication in the form of the M4 I would have thought it quite easy to discharge the duties of chairman from "somewhere near Aberystwyth" but Ian is adamant that he does not wish to try. This means we shall, at least, need a new chairman.

#### PAST EVENTS

##### YARROW POINTS RACE - 7th June 1987

There were 19 who completed the 20 mile course and 6 who completed the 15 mile course with 1 starter on the latter not finishing. As the organisers had arranged good weather, both turning up at the same hall and devised interesting routes it was disappointing that all the preparation was made for just 25 people.

The poor turnout was discussed at the programme planning meeting and the conclusion was drawn that perhaps the Surrey Group is unable to cope with the more sophisticated exercise of actually thinking where they have to go and what they have to do when they get there.

Keith Chorlerton, one of the organisers, states he is prepared to persevere with the event next year but it was thought it may be more successful if it were run in conjunction with a traditional kester

**HALVERNS KIDNEYERS MARCHING WEEKEND - 19/20/21st June 1987**

A very select group of Surrey Group members spent an enjoyable weekend in The Halverns and The Cotswolds. As it turned out it was a weekend slightly different from that advertised in the group newsletter. Instead of camping we had the use of a caravan, generously supplied by Colin Wood, a fairly new member of the LDWA and the Surrey group. The male members of the party namely, Bill Cross, Colin Wood and myself slept in the caravan and the only lady, Ann Beaching, had already booked in at the Youth Hostel.

Saturday morning dawned bright and clear and after an early 'hurry up' we made our way to the Wyke Institute and the start of the walk. The walk organisers supplied breakfast consisting of cereals, marmalade bottles and tea or coffee. At 8 a.m., about 200 walkers/joggers/runners surged upwards on to the Halverns. The views in the morning sunshine were splendid and the rest of the day was equally as good. It's a walk with a sting in the tail as the final few miles are up on the Halverns again. I can thoroughly recommend it. At the finish we feasted on sausage, mash and sad baked beans and a collection of sweets to exit all tastes plus copious quantities of tea and/or coffee.

Sunday morning again saw us in bright sunshine and after breakfast at a little chef at Telesbury we proceeded to Birdlip for a gentle walk along the Cotswold Way to a suitable inn house for liquid lunch. The afternoon was spent mostly cornfield basking over hidden footpaths and stiles.

As I said at the beginning, an enjoyable weekend but disappointing for Ann who retired from the Saturday Walk. But there is always next year! Thank you to those who supported it, the lack of walkers certainly did not detract anything from the weekend.

Don Hatfield

**KIDNEYERS EVENING WALK - 26th June 1987**

There were 19 walkers who assembled in Thorsham on a sunny evening for an 8 mile circuit to the south of Guildford. It included walking on a diagonal path through crops on the Looely Estate and wading through Globe woodlands at Coopers which were unknown to many.

Afterwards supper was consumed with relish.

Barbara Stachford

**LEAKERS MARCHER - 5th July 1987**

On the 1986 event, almost perfect walking conditions produced a 97% success rate but the hot sultry conditions this year reduced the finishing percentage to 88% with many of the regulars sensibly taking longer than usual to complete the circuit. Needless to say Frank and Eileen Wall, our regular marshalls, and their team were kept even busier than usual dispensing gallons of liquid.

hours. Never in the history of long distance walking have so many obstacles been overcome by so few!

Tom Anderson

CHAIRMAN'S AFTERNOON WALK - 1968 August 1967

On the previous Monday I had only 1 defiant walker but on the day there were 16 of us. One very keen member came down from South West London by train to Eidershot and then by taxi to arrive by 2.30. sharp!

The weather was fine and sunny and the route easy going with only a small amount of mud. Gillian Bull managed to avoid this but my daughter, Wendy, didn't.

The group arrived back at 5.30. pm. to a fine selection of food and refreshment. Thanks to my wife Jean and friends for the preparation and service.

Thank you all for your support.

Don Sadfield

GILLIAN'S BIRTHDAY - 1968 September 1967

Another success story for the Middle Thames Bobblers annual event. As per last year there was a delay on the Saturday only to clear and present an ideal day for both walkers and helpers.

The route went via the checkpoints at Fingest, Hindon Edge, West Wycombe Church and Beedham Common. It was well favoured apart from excesses about the mud, which was thought was very much like conditions ordered by the fighting men at Passendale. I thought only Murray had weak peltis and bridlesaps.

There was a entry of 200 but this was reduced by the inevitable member who 'didn't show' so just over 200 got away on route to be greeted by our 4 teams of 4 who did a splendid job. The stages were 9 miles to checkpoint 1, which seems to be popular as it leaves legs of 4 miles from there on. Those that stood the course gained certificates and we had just the unlucky 12 who had to succumb, through various reasons.

One walker suffered a leg injury en route and had to have hospital treatment. It all ended in a telephone call to the home at 9.30 that evening to ask of his whereabouts so it shows that keeping account of walkers at checkpoints pays off. One husband and wife came in after 10 hours when I greeted just as I was packing things up. Thanks to the walker who picked up a knife and by a strange coincidence met the lover when he caught up with his three miles from the finish.

It only remains to thank everyone for coming along to enter and for the merry band of marshals, including one Surrey Group member. Also not forgetting having the use of Harlow Rugby Union Football Club Pavilion which make life very pleasant for the finish.

There were 508 starters and only 426 finishers.

This years walk was started by David Young who then went on to become the second walker to complete 25 Tassers for which feat he was awarded the Alan Hatchford Memorial Trophy for 1987.

Each year it becomes harder to find paths that have not been used before, however thanks to the Hurvey Group scrub leaders clearing and waymarking a totally overgrown bridleway last November a new path was incorporated into the route this year which had definitely not been used on a previous Tassers.

This was the twenty-eighth Tassers and we are now looking to the twenty-ninth (which will include the 50 mile!) and beyond. It is run by a small committee and we are looking for "new blood" so if you would like to help please do contact an address on front page.

Barbara Hatchford

THE LANBOURNE EXTRAVAGANZA - 12th July 1987

Sunday the 12th of July dawned hot and sultry, as 5 walkers who braved the heat and distance set out to walk the Lambourne Extravaganza. The famous five, which included two-thirds of the committee a guest and our official beer taster, started the first section to the pig sties at Caustrey Grange in fine style, moving west faster having inspected the pigs and savoured the aroma! onwards we walked past Tamall and the large Iron Age hill fort of Leicoste Castle to descend from the downs to Leicoste Bayn. Thence on through meadow and wheat fields to our pub stop at Vinstoot. The official beer taster having pronounced his approval of the beer we dallied 50 minutes whilst we savoured the ale.

On we all marched, much refreshed, to soon deal with ponds of clinging nettles, acres of shading wheat and one angry landowner who was totally ignored. After these minor tribulations, we soon had to contend with collapsing grass and more nettles on footbridges.

Having overcome all obstacles we arrived at the stunning White Horse of Offington, seen splendidly as we approached it by way of the Hanger and Dragon hill. What an enigmatic monument it is! Having enjoyed a slow approach and a view on the summit, the valiant five continued on over Offington Castle (another hill fort) and along the Ridgeway to the Wayland Sully - a chambered long barrow of great size.

Onward the intrepid five continued, soon leaving the Ridgeway, to pass yet another fort, Alfreds Castle, and Ashdown Park with its interesting house and spacious grounds. After a final brush with head high wheat we climbed over Bear Down and descended into Lambourne itself, past its church and almshouses. There only remained a short climb to the cars to enjoy lots of excellent refreshments provided by my wife Ann.

It was a very enjoyable walk made easy to lead by by an uncompaining party who withstood the "annuit" course stoically. July the 12th should go down in the annals of the Hurvey Group as the famous five greatest hours and hours and

Next years event, all going well, will be held on Sunday 11th September and we will probably re-introduce entries on-the-day. See some of you there.

Vince Smith.

and another point of view:

I enjoyed the Chiltern Marathon. It was the first event I had actually taken part in since The Sevenoaks Circular in March. I had been involved with other events since, on some occasions actually walking, but on these I had been part of the organisation. Not so on the Chiltern! All I had to do was to enjoy the excellent organization that Vince Smith and The Middle Thames Runners were to provide.

The Chiltern Marathon is associated with good weather and one could be excused for thinking that Vince had let us down this year as we were driving to the venue, at Marlow, in pouring rain. Oh ye of little faith! As I parked the car and started to get "toggled up" the rain eased and by the time I was ready to walk to registration some of the later arrivals were asking me why I had my waterproofs on.

I managed to get up the front for Vincos "official" photograph of the line up at the start but as soon as we were set off about a dozen surged past me. Brian Neigh came alongside, looking at his route description and I assured him this was the right way. He was rather sceptical, remembering an incident on the 1983 Mardons Marathon when I led 50 walkers down the wrong road just 100 yards from the start, so he studied the wording over more carefully. However, it was those in front who went astray on this occasion, ignoring the instruction to turn down the walled footpath, so I found myself in the lead again for about half a mile.

I survived the instruction to "RR to field junction" which turned out to be a path going ahead to a gap in the hedge between fields but I did go wrong when I failed to observe one of the obscure waymarks to identify which path to go down in the wood but was recovered. About 5 miles from the start, John Poyser of the Middle Thames Runners (and on the Chiltern organizing committee) caught me up and we were to walk together through to the finish. John had walked the route before so it eased the problem of navigating but there were still one or two doubts and once we did go wrong but again we recovered without much inconvenience. Shortly after we met, I told John I am the LOVA Surrey Group secretary and he was duly impressed to such an extent that he made a point of running on in front to the checkpoints to ensure the marshals were informed of the VIF whom they were about to entertain.

Although overcast in the morning we did not get any more rain during the walk and in the afternoon we actually saw the sun but the rain during the previous week had left its mark with plenty of mud underfoot. The path through the wood just before the Norder checkpoint was well up to Surrey Group standards.

As we walked through the streets of Marlow, just prior to finishing, I expressed the opinion that it was a pity the bar

would be closed but my wacky friend gave me hope when he told me there may be a chance it would be open. On entering the Pavilion, however, I must confess to being disappointed at seeing the bar shutters firmly down and having to settle for a cup of tea. There was a happy ending however, while I was having a shower, not only did the bar open but they were selling real ale - Wethereds Bitter.

Another nice route but I do look for a little riverside walking on this event which was denied us on this occasion - not because it is flat I might add. Also the usual attention to detail ensured another well organized event and I would like to thank Vince Smith, The organizing committee and all those involved to make it, for me, a very enjoyable day.

John Westcott

#### THE 1988 SURREY SUMMITS

It has been decided to make extensive alterations to the route of the Surrey Summits for the 1988 event being held over the weekend of 26th and 27th March. It will be a figure of 8 route centred on Blackheath. The loop over Box Hill and Rickshaw Down has been omitted but 3 new summits are to be used for the first time.

The route still starts from Chichester Hall Witley, and goes via (with new sections in italics) Haslemere, Syon's Hall, Holloways Heath, Roscombe Hill, Scotstead Farm, Bramley, Clapham Hill, Blackheath, Parley Heath, Waterfold, Pitch Hill, Holesbury Hill, Holesbury, Latch Hill, Coldharbour, Redlands Wood, The Tower, Milton Park Cottages, Jais North Downs Way and follow to above Shere, Shere, Albury Heath, Blackheath, St Martin, Shelford Park, White Gully, Pottersham, Pottersham Common, then follow the North Downs Way to just north of The Sands, The Sands, Crossedbury Hill, Pilford, Baskley Common, Kettlebury Hill, Round the top of the Frooklow, Gibbet Hill, Cross Cottage, A3 (at 200079), Conford House, Lower House Drive and back to Witley.

The new route was not announced during the programme planning meeting on 15th September but was briefly discussed during the informal chat afterwards and generally the news of the change was not well received. Remarks made by some of the traditionalist Juddy Duddies were "you can no longer call it the Surrey Summits" and "you can no longer call it the toughest 100 kilometres in the county". In reply I will say that since I have been involved with the organization of the event (I first took over for the 1980 event and have been the organizer on all events since) I have received many suggestions on how to "make the event different". The route has basically remained the same throughout the 13 year history, the only major change made has been to walk the in an anticlockwise instead of a clockwise direction and change the route from Oxtedford to Witley. I feel the changes made have just enough of the old route to keep it familiar and enough new route to make it interesting - especially for those who come from some distance away and do not walk in Surrey very often. We shall, in time, get the reaction of the regular participants.

The committee decided to do a walk out of the route over the weekend of 5th and 6th September to check the route description and examine checkpoint locations etc. On the Saturday we walked the western loop (about 37 miles) and it proved quite successful.

Just before Tilford, we had to pass a very ferocious dog behind a gate that appeared to be a very inadequate barrier. This is one of the places we will be delivering leaflets to inform the householders of the walk and Louise Cartwright was relieved when she realised this would be on Dan Badfield's section. Then the army was on manoeuvres on Haskley common and we could hear missiles whistling through the air and big bangs long before we got there. Fortunately there was a trace for lunch when we got there but as we walked along the Ebblesbury ridge we had to avoid military vehicles blocking the way and observed many of the soldiers running about in the valley. Soon after we got through, hostilities started again.

At Upper Valley Farm we encountered two more barking dogs - loose this time. They were big and proved to be doxies but it must have been a daunting experience for Dan, who was leading at the time, as the noisy creatures came bounding towards him. The final difficulty came with the heavy rain. It had been raining in the morning and even when it stopped it leaked on through it would start again. As we came over Hyde's Hill the sky really became black and just before we got to Little Dergain Farm, the rain just fell down. We decided on whether under some trees which quite crably did nothing to keep the rain off and the track soon became muddy to our ankles. The ironical thing was that when we left our doubtful whether we found a convenient hole just 100 metres further on. We did not finish all the route we intended to and in fact had to short cut by catching a bus from Dunsay to Hatfield.

On Sunday we did the 25 mile western loop. Jeff Ellingham, who had not walked with us on the Saturday, expressed disappointment because it was not raining. He was trying out some new clothing and wanted to test the manufacturer's claim regarding its qualities for resisting water penetration. Needless to say, after our experience the previous day, the rest of us did not share Jeff's enthusiasm for wet weather. We made good progress to such an extent we had a stop at the Kings Road in Holsbury. I must say Jeff really upset us here when, having a choice of 4 real ales, he orders a pint of Big Bitter. We managed to negotiate a new checkpoint in some stables at Holsbury and although our stops had put us a little behind we still managed to complete our 25 miles easily enough. Jeff did get the rain he wanted before we finished and he declared satisfaction with his new clothing.

With the amount of discussion about the route description that weekend I do hope somebody has the cheek to say they know their way on the west west March.

John Westcott



PROGRAMME TO APRIL 1968 HAS with all postal enquiries.

**FRI. OCT. 18-19 WEEKEND AT BRISKAM. OS 3004.** Travel to Briskam by station or car (depending on support) on Friday, walk on Dartmoor and/or Coastal Path on Saturday and Sunday morning then travel back during Sunday afternoon to arrive in Bury early evening. Pickup and dropdown points to be arranged to suit those who take part. Stay at the Torbay Heights Private Hotel Friday and Saturday, the hosts being Bob and Carol Walters who used to be active members of the Bury Group before they moved to Devon. Cost around £40 to include transport, food, accommodation and route information. Bookings to and further information from Marys Bury.

**NOTE:** The walks will be decided when we get to Briskam and OS 300 may not fully cover all walks.

**SAT. OCT. 21 COUCHES CLIP. OS 176 & 186.** In afternoon stroll of about 12 miles over Chobham and Horvill Common visiting Staple Hill (at 300 ft and the highest point in north east Surrey) and Chobham International airport. Start from Foxhollow, Cobhill, Chobham OS 60611 at 2 p.m. Leader Chris Steer. There will be refreshments afterwards on plane let Chris know if you are coming so that Margaret will have some idea of where to enter for.

**SUN. OCT. 22 KINGWOOD EASTERS. OS 187.** A Challenge event where extracts are required to plot the route between numbered checkpoints (identified by grid ref) and answer a simple question based on a feature at the location. Choice of 20, 14 or 8 mile routes. Start from Kingwood Village Hall OS 245566 between 9.15 and 11 a.m. All to finish back at the hall by 4.30 p.m. Bring compass, pencil, map case and OS map. Entry on the day only 50p for LWSA members and 40p for non-members. Further details from Richard Eastey.

**MON. NOV. 19 BRIGATE ROUTE. OS 187.** A second ramble round Brigade rights of way to see how many are still unobstructed. Twenty-two miles, mostly in the west. Start this time from car park south of High Street (across from Park Lane) TQ 252501 at 9 a.m. Leader Tony Tounge.

**TUE. NOV. 20 OLLIANS FERRY. OS 176.** A 20 mile walk from Bovey Car Park (near Virginia Water Station) OS 602878 starting at 9 a.m. Leader Ollian Bull.

**SEE DOC 28** PATH CLEARANCE. OS 167. Meet at White Downs Road car park OS 114495 at 9.30 a.m. for an onslaught on the vegetation in the Blind Oak Gate area OS 101451. Those arriving after 9.30 go straight to sight and listen for clanking noises. Bring your own food and drink and any tools you may think useful. There are a lot of tasks and it is hoped to incorporate a newly cleared path in the 1988 Tassers route. Further details from Barbara Hatchford. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COME ALONG SO WE CAN HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT

**SEE DOC 12** PEASLAKE FRO-PRAEDIAL FUYERS. OS 166 & 167. The annual dinner party of about 20 miles from the Pond Lane car park at Peaslake TO 006448 starting at 10 a.m. Stop for morning coffee, lunch and tea. Return by torchlight to Peaslake by 6 p.m. is good time for the annual dinner. Talk or dine or, preferably, both. Leader Chris Steer. Will he find yet another new route?

At the Hartwood Inn rooms will be available for walkers to change in. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. The menu will be:

2 Soup of the day or  
Florida Cocktail (grapefruit and orange) or  
Baked Mackerel Fillet

Baked Local Trout Peaslake or  
Beefsteak and Kidney Pie or  
2 Roast Stuffed Shoulder of Lamb  
all with a Selection of Vegetables

A choice of sweets

Coffee

Book by sending Tony Young a cheque for 40.00 (being the cost of the dinner) made payable to "LWS Survey Group" and specifying which starter and main dish you would like. Please make a note of what you have ordered to save confusion on the night. If you would like to order wine in advance (which would help) please have a word with Tony on the telephone. Please book early as the room holds only 24.

**SEE DOC 27** WINTER WINDSOR WALKER. OS 175 & 176. About 10 miles starting from Eaglefield Green Sports Club (OS 090715) - the clubhouse is alongside the Royal Air Force Memorial Car Park. Walkers 9 a.m. and returners 10 a.m. Lunchtime drinks in clubhouse afterwards. Most of the route is in the lovely setting of Windsor Great Park. Further details from Ralph Keeley.