

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Report and Progress - June 1967

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PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING - 10th May 1967

There were 11 members who attended the meeting. The new venue at Rutley Hall proved a little difficult to find. The main parking is in a public car park next to the pub but the road leading to the entrance was closed to traffic. Most used the exit to gain access to the car park but I wondered if the low attendance was due to would be attendees wandering around Beigate looking for the venue.

The room we used is normally used as the restaurant with high backed bench seats arranged into intimate little cubicles. After a re-arrangement of the seating for the meeting and the 11 had sat down there was little room left for many more so perhaps it was just as well we did not have too many to accommodate.

We had hoped to see the Talbot at Ripley for our next meeting but they have recently had a fire which has caused it to close for a while and there is no guarantee it will be open in September so we return to the Rutley Hall again for our programme planning meeting on 15th September.

Liz Higgins reported that the group's bank balance stood at £205.92 which includes approx £200 current surplus for the Surrey Ramblers but this will be reduced as the organiser had not yet submitted his expenses claim. No financial report had been received from the organiser of the Puckwood.

Tony Young reported on the public enquiry at which he was speaking on behalf of the LNR - Surrey Group as mandated at the January meeting. An abridged version of that report follows.

John F Westcott.

WALTON HEATH

The public enquiry into the application by the Walton Heath Golf Club for consent to extend their golf course by 108 acres was held on 17, 18 and 19 February. The Golf Club were represented by a QC as were the Borough of Beigate and Banstead who opposed the application. Other protesters were the Open Spaces Society, the British Horse Society, the local riding club, various locals and the EA. I spoke on behalf of the EA and LNR (Surrey).

The legal position is odd and far from clear to me. As I understood it, if the Secretary of State for the Environment after this enquiry were to give his consent to the extension of the Order of Limitation on the use by the public of Walton Heath to cover this 108 acres, the Golf Club would still have to apply for planning permission to change the use of the land from informal recreation to formal recreation. That would give us a second string to our bow.

The Golf Club, having realised the strength of feeling of walkers and riders, have changed their collective mind about the diversion of the 2 bridges and are now proposing that they run between the 2 new holes instead of between the new holes and the motorway. That would seem to them an improvement I suppose. But who wants to walk across a golf course?

Tony Young.

-- REPORTS ON PAST WALKS AND EVENTS --

WINTER TASSERS - 21st February 1997.

For the second time in Winter Tassers history the event had to be postponed. As far as I am aware there were 7 people who completed the course on the 18th January (the day scheduled for the event) but the deep snow drifts made the course very testing so completion times were rather slow, most having to wait for some time in the dark.

The event got under way 2 weeks late with a much depleted field from the numbers expected had it been held on the scheduled date. The day was generally overcast and slaty on the hills. The sun did make an appearance for short spells in the afternoon and we were lucky not to get the rain which had been forecast.

The route included Friday Street, Letch Hill (not the summit), Salisbury and Pitch Hills, a bridleway over Waterfold, newly cleared by the Surrey Group, Farley Heath, Blackheath, Albury Heath and Albury Park. The route is the same for the Tassers Marathon on July 5th so you still have an opportunity to walk it if you missed it in February.

There were 102 starters. Of these 140 registered themselves as finishing in times ranging from 4 hours 20 minutes to 11 hours 20 minutes.

John E Woodcock

TURKISHOVIL MARATHON - 1st February 1997.

The weather was glorious. The dry conditions did however provide a few complaints from some who regularly come to Surrey at this time of the year to enjoy our mud.

The checkpoint system broke down somewhat owing to this mainly being restricted to members of the South CP radio group and unfortunately their navigational skills proved to be inadequate to find the checkpoint locations. One car turned up at a checkpoint on the short course but thought they were on the long course. Fortunately the officials on the feeding points did not have the same trouble and I suppose the walkers are not too concerned providing they are fed O.E.

There were 260 starters of which 172 completed the 20 mile course and 100 completed the 25 mile course.

From a report by Jeff Ellingham

MONUMENTS PUZZLE - 22nd February 1997

On a dull but dry Sunday, 16 walkers met on Englefield Green to walk the Monuments Puzzle. Just before we departed, we were surprised by John Woodcock arriving on foot to deliver Surrey Group newsletters in person!!! This is true dedication. Fortunately John was unable to do the walk and left us shortly after entering Windsor Great Park.

The gallant 16 however pressed on round the various monuments with a short lunch stop at Virginia Water. The number of monuments visited was

10, 7 in the Great Park, and 3 outside, a surprising number all with interesting histories. I won't go on about them now but an OAS will give you the questions and answers if you can't remember them all.

Meanwhile back to the walk. It completed the full course, the other 3 making their own way back by a shorter route. In Car's Deary to a splendid spread provided by my wife, Anne, ably assisted by Isabel Richardson. The highlight of the day.

Having consulted the granddaughters of No.2 she has agreed to support this walk every other year (bi-annually). I can come up with a longer route without questions this time in 1988. That is if the group wants it. As for 1988, I have planned another interesting walk at another venue which would fill the slot very well. The bad news is that it would require an early start! So if you like early rising this is the one for you!! Again, of course, if it fits in to the group's programme.

Tom Anderson

GRAVESEND CROSSING - 20th March 1987.

Overcast morning walkers assembled in the car park between the cricket ground and the golf course at Furze Castle. Broken clouds and bright sunshine met us as we headed north west towards Goodall. After crossing the A107 at Boding Alley we came upon a stony plank bridge. I assured the party the bridge was here back last November! The adventurous members either jumped, waded or laid odd bits of wood to effect a crossing. The more sedate ones, yours truly included, back tracked to another bridge to cross the stream in a dignified manner.

We regrouped and pressed on to our next adventure. A stony stile and across on the path. The stile must have been shared on more on our way! But perhaps I had strayed off the public right of way. Within a short distance the Buntingford canal was reached and we enjoyed a pleasant stroll on the towpath through Othorpe and South Waterhouse to the lunch stop at the Fox and Goose at Greywell. Just prior to this we had passed a castle ruin into which Tom Anderson disappeared with a shout of delight. The entrance to Greywell Trench was also viewed.

A pleasant stop in the pub saw an emerge to grey skies and a threat of rain. Within a short space of time the rain came down on us. At about this time Gillian Bull had a trailer plucked from her foot by some obliging man. One up to the chairman I thought.

The afternoon developed into a clock back to Furze via South Waterhouse, Long Sutton, Bentley, Wyppeshall with a final view of the new Freo supermarket and lion and lamb yard in Furze. It was a damp muddy and bedraggled group that returned to the car park. All seemed so of an enjoyable day and I thank you for your support. At least the mud was good training for the Shrove Tuesday 2 weeks later!

Des Radford

THE SURREY SUMMITS - 4th and 5th April 1967.

The 2 principle rivers of Surrey are the Mole and the Wey. Both are encountered on the Surrey Summits but on this years event walkers came into contact with them more than they would have wished. The river Mole is crossed normally by a set of stepping stones at the bottom of Box Hill which had been submerged beneath the raging torrent - fortunately there is a bridge about 200 yards up stream which most walkers used. The route includes a nice walk along the banks of the river Wey but the waters had risen to an extent where it was difficult to see where the banks were and many walkers finished wading through the water up to their waist.

The reason for all this water was the heavy rain which was falling as we went up on the Saturday and did not cease up until the evening. The route of the Surrey Summits is usually muddy but many of the old campaigners who had seen service on the Three Fountains Way and Maiden Waters as well as previous Surrey Summits said they had never seen mud like this before.

On this, the twelfth Surrey Summit, we achieved more than 200 starters for the first time - 217 to be exact, and although reluctant to face the elements at the start, most of them seemed cheerful enough once Chris Biner had started them off. In some cases however the cheerfulness did not last long with 16 retiring in the first 10 kilometres. The conditions were to take its toll with many more deciding to call it a day with only part of the route completed. The high number of retirements put the transportation arrangements under pressure but thanks to some of these retirements volunteering to help by making themselves and their cars available to help get the ladies back to the buses, we managed to overcome the difficulty.

The rain did stop in the evening. As darkness fell, the weather was fine enough at first although a mist began to form which thickened as the night went on. The early morning sun soon penetrated the mist to burn it out and give way to a fine day. As so often happens on the Surrey Summits, those who hurry back to finish during the hours of darkness see the best of the weather while those who take their time and stay out until the Sunday morning can enjoy a gentle stroll in ideal weather - even though their clothes may still be soaked from wading through rivers.

There were 118 who completed the route including one who was disqualified for contravening the "walking only" rule. With 40 retirements it means we had a 54% finish rate and although this is not the lowest there was a 51% finishing rate on the 1965 event. I feel 1967 must go down as the toughest Surrey Summit so far.

Well done all those who finished.

John E Westcott

COCKING CONSTITUTIONAL - 29th April 1967.

Eight veterans of the class of 1979, thirteen other members of the Surrey Group, four members of the Sussex Group and a visitor from Surrey. 25 in all, walked this, the first repeat of the South Down

series. It was a marvellous day: sunshine, spring flowers, dry ground and, in the afternoon, long clear views over Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight and across the western Heald.

We found time to visit the field houses at Elingley Vale, the Barn and House at Houghton and three churches, including, at St. Nicolas, "One of the loveliest interiors in England" (The Architect).

Those unfortunately who were unable to join us are very welcome to an illustrated route sheet.

Tony Towns

ENTER TO FREESHIRE - 17th May 1967.

Eight Surrey members were joined by four Sussex friends which made a nice happy group. We made our way down to Hasley then along the hills to Scaleyhill, down to Haslebourne, then across country, parallel to the South Downs, to our lunch stop at Ditcham - a King and Queen house.

The weather was always threatening, but it was good walking weather. We got to the top of Alder Hill before the first drops of rain were felt. Even so we spent a few minutes taking in the 300° panorama.

The rain generally held off until we reached Parshurst. Through one thing and another the mileage went up from 20 to 24 miles.

Surrey Surrey

THE JUNGUNIA HURDLE - 23rd, 24th and 25th May 1967

The weekend did not start very promising with heavy rain for most of the Friday and a heavy downpour early Saturday morning. As the 420 (approx) walkers set off from Lissarvet it was actually dry but looked as though it could turn nasty but after some drizzle was released from the system the weather improved on Saturday afternoon and this improvement continued to give us a very fine Sunday and Monday.

Surrey Group passed the St. Giles checkpoint at Litch Greenway. My thanks to Olive and Roy Burrows, Brian and Maureen Biddle, Sybil Cartwright, Eric Swade and Catherine Wade for giving up their weekend to do this. Incidentally the only retirement we had at this checkpoint was a Surrey Group member and he did not take too kindly to my suggestion that he should give us assistance.

Congratulations to those who completed the walk: Richard Brown (23.20), Brian Clark (24.22), Keith Hewitt (24.42), Chris Costes (25.10), Ian Strickfield (25.57), Ben Radfield (27.28), Louise Cartwright (27.24), Tony Cartwright (27.24), Peter West-Saunders (28.22), Marshal Elliot (29.56) and Bill Green (44.12).

Comiserations to those who retired: Peter Young (27.20), John Robinson (27.21) Angus Macfarlane (27.21), Peter Hughes (27.21), and Tony Toy (27.21).

The total number of finishers was 281.

John E Westcott

PROGRAMME TO DECEMBER 1982 - EAR with all postal enquiries.
Numbers in brackets are 1:30000 OS map covering event etc

Fri/Sat/Sun 19/20/21 June: RIDGEMERE MARESS MARATHON WALKERS (143 & 150). Travel Friday afternoon/evening to campsite close to west H Q. Saturday - take part in the 30 mile west-end stay at campsite overnight. Sunday - circular walk in the Cotswolds returning back to the Guildford area in the evening. Details from Des Hadfield.

Wednesday 24 June: RIDGEMERE EVENING WALK (180 & 187). A stroll of about 7 miles from 11 Thornbank, Guildford: OS 903493. Start 7 p.m. Refreshments afterwards. Leader Barbara Skelton and please let Barbara know if you are coming for catering purposes.

Sunday 5 July: TANKERS MARATHON (180 & 187). A 30 mile event in central Surrey. Start and finish Leatherhead Football Club. OS 843860. Walkers 9 a.m. Runners 10 a.m. Entry fee £1.00 if received before 22nd June, £2.00 thereafter including on the day. Also the 10 mile mini-marathon - no quiz this year - start anytime between 9.15 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. - entry 10p per person on the day only.

Sunday 12 July: THE LAWBOURNE KIRKBYGANGA (174). A walk of approx 24 miles on the Lawbourne Downs to visit hill forts, barrows and tumuli. The route has been shortened slightly from that originally planned so as to approach The White Horse Ditch from its most exciting direction. Start on grass verge about half way between North Farm and Sheepcove Farm (off B4001): OS 525798 at 9 a.m. There will be a route map at the start and limited refreshments at the finish. Leader Tom Anderson.

Saturday 18 August: SPERRING WALK (160). Starting from the Chairman's home - 9 Lawley Link, Upper Hale (OS 831493) at 9 p.m. A walk of about 12 miles followed by refreshments. Leader: Des Hadfield. Please let Des know in advance if you are coming for catering purposes.

Sunday 13 September: CHILTERN MARATHON (105 & 175). This is the 18th promotion of this popular 20 mile walk which explores some of the hills and valleys of the Chilterns. Starts from Marlow Rugby Union Football Club pavilion OS 843863 at 9 a.m. (walkers) and 10 a.m. (runners). Entries will close on 1st September or when 450 entries have been received whichever is the earlier. **DEFINITELY NO EXTENSION OF THE DAY.** Entry fee £1.50. Further details from Vince Smith.

Tuesday 15 September: PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING (187). At Valley Hall PK, Reigate OS 249004. 7.30 p.m. for 8.

Sunday 20 September: GUILDFORD BOUNDARY WALK (100). An interesting and scenic 20 mile challenge walk around Guildford approximately following the pre 1974 Guildford Through Boundary. Starts from Mesley Fort on the Hogs Back GR 902480 at 10 a.m. (walkers) and 12 noon (runners). 50p pre-day entry fee but £1.00 on the day. The profits from this event will be donated to The Fifth Guildford Scouts Group towards their leaky roof fund. Further details from Barbara Slatchford.

Friday-Sunday 10-12 October: WEEKEND AT BRISBAM (200). Travel by minibus to Brisbane Friday afternoon, walk Dartmoor and/or Coastal on Saturday and Sunday morning then return to Surrey by minibus to arrive Sunday evening. We will be staying at the Turbay Heights Private Hotel. The resident proprietors are Bob and Carol Walters who used to be very active members of the LDWA Surrey Group until they decided to go west to make their fortune in the hotel business. Cost around £40 to include minibus fare, food, accommodation and route information. Bookings to and further details from Nervyn Harvey.

Saturday 31 October: COMMONS CLIMB (170 & 100). An afternoon stroll of about 12 miles over Chobham and Kewell Commons visiting Staple Hill (at 500ft a.s.l. the highest point in north west Surrey) and the Chobham International Airport (some of the planes do go over to France). Starts from Foxhollow, Cobhill, Chobham GR 984511 at 2 p.m. Leader Chris Steer. There will be refreshments afterwards so please ring Chris in advance if you intend cooking.

Sunday 5 November: KINGSWOOD KARTER (100). A challenge event where entrants are required to plot the route between unnamed checkpoints (identified by Grid References) and answer a simple question based on a feature at the location. Choice of 20, 14 or 9 mile routes. Start anytime between 9.15 a.m. and 11 a.m. from Kingswood Village Hall GR 245505. 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 LDWA members and 60p non-members. Further details from Richard Hawley.

Sunday 22 November: GILLIANE JAKKI (170). A 20 mile walk from Bourne Car Park (near Vigleia Water Station) GR 001070 starting at 9 a.m. Leader Gillian Bull.

Sunday 29 November: DATE CLEARANCE (100). Meet at White Downs Road Car Park GR 114495 at 9.30 a.m. for an onslaught on the vegetation in the Blind Oak Gate area. Bring your own food, drink and any tools you think may be useful. Those who cannot get there by 9.30 please ring Barbara Slatchford a few days before for the exact location of operation.

Saturday 12 December: **PEASLASH ROUTE (196 & 197)**. The annual Dinner Raffle of about 20 mile minus from Peaslake CE 06448 starting at 10 a.m. Followed by dinner in the evening at the Hurlwood Inn. Walk or dine or preferably both. Leader Chris Steer. The dinner menu will be chosen at the Programme Planning Meeting on 15th September by those present at the meeting. Tony Youngs will also be taking bookings for dinner at the meeting.

Sunday 27 December: **WINTER WINDSOR WALKER (176)**. A walk or run of about 15 miles starting from Englefield Green Sports Club (opposite the RAF Memorial) OR 990718 at 9 a.m. (walkers) and 10 a.m. (runners). The route is mainly within the boundary of Windsor Great Park. Turn up on the day. Minimal entry fee and route map supplied. Shop for drinks afterwards in the club lounge. Details from Ralph Sealey.

The 1988 dates for the Surrey Group annual events held in the early months of the year are as follows:-

- Surrey Ice Roster 1st January
- Winter Tannere 10th January
- Punchbowl 31st January
- Surrey Summit 26th and 27th March

Further details will be in the next programme.

HELP WANTED

The eternal cry for help with events. Offers for the Chiltern Marathon should be made to Vince Smith. Offers for the Guildford Boundary should be made to Des Sedfield.