



# Surrey Group NEWSLETTER

June 1995



## Group Officers

<b>Chairman.</b>	<b>Keith Chesterton,</b> Firle, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 5HD Tel: 01483 65392
<b>Secretary.</b>	<b>Brian Haigh,</b> 17 Lower Edgeborough Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2DX. Tel 01483 309020
<b>Treasurer.</b>	<b>Sue Boyman,</b> 64 Surrey Grove, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3PN. Tel 0181 715 3179
<b>Membership.</b>	<b>Reg Chapman,</b> 63 Yockley Close, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1QQ. Tel 01276 65169

## Items for the Newsletter

Reports of past events, letters and other items should be sent to the Secretary before the end of August for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Preferably they should be typed but legible manuscript will be gladly accepted.

### Punchbowl Marathon 1995

Although I've organised Kanter for the Group for many years and often been part of a team organising events, the 1995 Punchbowl was the 1st time I have organised a major non-Kanter event 'solo' (tho' with a lot of helpers). The work load was increased by my decision to change the route completely, have a number of different checkpoints and to do it very soon after my last Inns Kanter. I also had a lot of trouble from the YHA who mislaid my original letter and let the Punchbowl YHA to another group, causing a rather draughty tent on Gibbet Hill to have to be used instead. After the experience my admiration for John Westcott and Jeff Ellingham increased noticeably! However I hope the entrants didn't notice any ill-effects from the strain.

As it was a new route, a lot of effort went into getting the route description right. The initial description was sent to 6 people to check and 4 walked it out. Their suggested changes were then rechecked and finally the Marshals' walk on January 21st gave it a final test. (2 or 3 changes were made as a result). However, despite all this, some entrants, especially runners, had problems particularly on Blackdown. Most people managed OK though. As I'm going to use the same route next year, it will be rechecked.

After weeks of rain, Sunday Feb 5th was a dry, warm day though misty enough to make navigation difficult, especially on Blackdown. The pre-entries were down on last year, but 77 on-the-day entrants brought the total up to 267. To try to avoid this last-minuteism, next year we will reduce the standard entry fee, but leave the late entry charge unaltered to encourage more people to commit themselves before the day.

The course was a totally new one and for the first time reached a new Southernmost point at Fernhurst, but did include Gibbet Hill and Blackdown, which were on the earlier Punchbowls, but not on recent routes. They seemed to be appreciated by the walkers.

21 out of the 267 did not arrive at the start & 162 started on the walkers' start at 8am, 58 on the joggers' start at 9 & 26 on the runners' at 10. The 1st finisher was Chris Fanning in 4.30 with 4 in a

joint 2nd finisher position including 1st woman, Hilary Walker. 218 finished, with the median finishing time (109th) being 7.40. 6 did not reach the 1st checkpoint, 11 retired at Fernhurst, 10 at Gibbet Hill & 1 did not reach the finish before close-down.

I would like to thank all the people who helped especially Reg Chapman (who bought and organised the food and the entries) and Jeff Ellingham who gave me some of his lare.

It will be on again next year, with a lower entry fee!!! - Feb 4th 1996

*Keith Chesterton*

### **Amberley Amble**

**Sunday 26 March**

The morning started dull and rather chilly as our group of eighteen set off from Whiteways car park; the going being pleasantly dry for the first time in months. We were soon warmed up by a brisk trot along the banks of the Arun, crossing the river at South Stoke before proceeding around the Burpham Loop and on through the old and pretty village of Burpham itself. After climbing Warningcamp Hill and passing through the woods of Angmering Park Estate we arrived at the Fox near Patching for lunch.

The afternoon session included a slow but steady ascent to the South Downs Way at Rackham Banks where we had magnificent views of the Arun valley. Beyond Amberley the SDW has been diverted away from the dangerous B2139 to cross the Arun at a new footbridge. The somewhat tough end to the walk; uphill and upwind, finished us off nicely! Well done everybody and thank you for coming.

My thanks go to Tony Youngs for his interesting historical and geographical commentary en route.

*Diane Scatfe*

The Editor apologises for the delay in this issue of this Newsletter, due partly to the fact that there are only 168 hours in each week (and I want at least 30 of those for sleep) and partly due to the load taken from Big Brother

*Reg Chapman*

**Sunday 21 May**

**Watership Down Wander**

Certainly twenty miles and possibly twenty-two in pleasant countryside not too far from Basingstoke. Start at 8.30 am from Kingsclere car park (near the church). SO174 GR 525586.

Pub stop for lunch which has to be ordered in advance. Please contact the leader, Colin Wood, on 01252 25770 for details of the menu.

**Sunday 18 June**

**Surrey Saunter**

20 miles circular from the car park at Newlands Corner on the A25, GR 041 495. SO maps 186 and 187. Start 08.30. Lunch stop will be at a pub in Ripley. The walk will be led by Peter Bull. His telephone number is 01344 842508.

**Wednesday 21 June**

**Midsummer Walk**

Once again Barbara Blatchford will be leading this traditional evening social walk from her home at 49 Minstrel Gardens, Surbiton (GR 189 681). Start at 7 p.m. Please give her a call if you intend to take part. Her telephone number is 0181 390 5957

**Saturday 15 July**

**Six Shropshire Summits**

Start 10 pm on Friday in Guildford for overnight journey in coach to the start near Corndon in Powys. of this classic. Support for this classic 36 miles anytime event will be provided during the walk after which the walkers will return to Guildford late on Saturday. This is an opportunity not to be missed. More details from Mervyn Harvey 01428 685516.

**Sunday 6 August**

**Chinthurst Chips**

20 miles from the car park at GR 015 463. Access is from B2128 by Waverley Council sign. Start at 9 am. Pub lunch for those who do not wish to carry a picnic. For more details contact John Lay 01932 346596

## RAMME

**Thursday 14 September**

**Planning Meeting**

Once again the meeting will be in the Prince of Wales, Shore. Start 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

It will be followed by a slide show.

**Sunday 17 September**

**Liphook Loiter**

20 miles starting at Liphook railway station at 9am. Pub lunch in the Prince of Wales at Hammer. This promises to be a scenic walk which will include a visit to Waggoners Wells. For more details contact Glynis Kirkpatrick on 01428 723062

**Sunday 1 October**

**Dunsfold Kanter**

12 or 20 miles from the Village Hall in Dunsfold. Start 9.15am. More details from Brian Haigh 01483 303020.

**Friday/Saturday/Sunday 6/7/8 October**

**Wales Weekend**

This is a weekend not to miss. More details available from Molly Groundsell, tel : 01483 762843.

**Sunday 19 November**

20 miles from the Bourne car park at Virginia Water railway station. Start 09.00. More details from Gillian Bull, tel : 01344 842508.

**Monday 1 January**

**Surrey Inns Kanter**

Now under new management but the format and venue are the same. 20 or 12 miles from St. Catherine's Hall, Chestnut Avenue, Guildford (GR 902 485), starting 09.15 to 11.00. Entry on day only. For more information contact Peter Bull, tel : 01344 842508.

**Saturday 20 January**

**Punchbowl Marshals Walk**

### Surrey Summits

An ex-Prime Minister once said "a week in politics is a long time". I am sure Neil Kinnock would agree. Equally, few would disagree that in challenge walking a month can also be a long time. The 33 days which separated the Marshal's from the Summits proper provided two events which bore the same relationship to each other as that shared by the Winter and Summer Tanners. On the one hand deep mud, waterlogged tracks and a penetrating night frost, on the other, heatstroke, rock hard paths and blisters.

For most entrants the Summits starts on Friday night with a careful checking of weather forecasts and calculations of how many layers will be needed for the night as well as a last check on batteries and bulbs, socks compass and maps. Incidentally, does anyone know why when you own some 50 Landrangers, it is always the one you want to use the next morning that you cannot find? For some walkers Friday also meant a long drive and a nights sleep on the floor of Chichister Hall, where any attempt to organise an impromptu rave party was nipped in the bud by "night Watchman" Martyn Greaves.

198 walkers entered this year's event with 188 making it to the start line. All negotiated the 20k to CP1. A few of the early arrivals earned finger waggings from the mobile trees on the slope after St. Martha's church, whilst some of the backmarkers showed early and ominous signs of wear and tear. All displayed tell-tale damp patches beneath their backpacks - the hot weather catching many people out, with few sun hats in evidence. The orange, blackcurrent, tea, plain water and TLC on offer CP2 and 3 ensured that despite the increasing heat of the day, 170 people sat down to the delicious chicken/vegetarian rice dishes served with speed and a smile by the team at Wotton. All but 15 plunged onwards into the pitch dark of the Surrey hills at night.

The night, though cold, was milder than any Summits night since 1987, an event etched forever into the memory of anyone involved in it, when torrential rain on the Saturday tested the resolve of all but the most resilient walker. The only reports of bad underfoot conditions came from the approach to CP5 at Holmbury from High Ashes Farm. The Forestry Commission had been cutting and transporting timber. The only complaint that permeated as far as the sleep fuddled ears of the committee was a walker, who shall remain

nameless, whose night time companion regaled him with non-stop unwavering banter. Even CP6 at Smithbrook Kilns, widely regarded by Marshals and walkers alike as possibly the coldest spot in Surrey, was tolerable. Not surprisingly, there were no retirements so close to the finish - and with only "that" gully path on the approach to Hascombe Hill to overcome.

William Brown was the first to finish in a time of 15:56. The air-flow round the thighs must have played a part!! Hannah Brown, whose father Ron did sterling work helping at the finish, was the youngest and possibly the bravest, as her badly blistered feet would have stopped a less determined walker. 155 intrepid souls claimed the sausage and beans on toast breakfast washed down with as much tea as you could drink, tirelessly prepared in the kitchen by Glynis Kirkpatrick, Vala West and Mike Searle.

All in all another happy and successful Summita, and let us hope, (was) the perfect preparation for the Shropshire "100".

*Roger Moss*

### **Planning Meeting** Thursday 27 April

Once again the meeting was held in the White Horse. After the discussion about the programme for the rest of this year - see elsewhere in this Newsletter for details - we enjoyed a first class slide show from John Lay, Les Maple and Tony Skipp about their 13 day walk across Scotland as part of the 1994 TGO 1994 Challenge. Unfortunately Peter Duffie, the fourth member of the team, could not be with us. The slides were superb and the commentary gave us a good idea of the enjoyment and suffering of the team. Believe it or not they only had 20 minutes rain from start to finish! Many congratulations for a good walk well done.

*Brian Haigh*

### **Slide Show for Programme Meeting** 14 September

If you have some slides you would like to show to your fellow members - sufficient for about 40 minutes - please contact either Brian Haigh or Keith Chesterton.

## Founders' Footpaths

Sunday 30 April

Sixteen people turned up at Hurtwood Central's Mill Plain car park only to find it locked for fear of invasion by some New Age Travellers. By skillful manoeuvring drivers found room on the verges nearby.

The 25 mile route, mainly on paths familiar to Surrey Summits and Tanners veterans but with a few stretches on less well known ways, visited four memorials to the LDWA founders and also the old Post Office in Peaslake. It was, I think, approved by all those present and judged to be a reasonable challenge with a fair amount of climbing. It was good to have Dan Hadfield in the party and Barbara Blatchford joined us from Shere to Steer's Field.

We now need to discuss at a Planning Meeting how to launch this route as an Anytime Challenge event. One suggestion made en route was to run it as a one-off normal challenge walk in 1996.

I will willingly send a copy of the route sheet to anyone who sends me an a/c to 17 Linkfield Lane, REDHILL, RH1 1JF.

Tony Youngs

## Mobile Phones Still Needed

For the first time mobile, hand held telephones were used on the Surrey Summits in 1994 to provide links between the Emergency Control operated by Louise Cartwright and two of the roving Marshals in the field. The arrangement worked very well but was expensive, particularly the call charges. If there are any members who would consider loaning a mobile telephone to the Surrey Summits Organising Committee then I know they would be grateful. Please contact me or Tony Cartwright to discuss details including availability and costs.

Brian Maugh

PS This note drew a blank when it first appeared in the Newsletter. Is there no one out there who could help? The Surrey Summits will be held on 1st and 2nd April 95.