

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION (SURREY GROUP)

SURREY INNS KANTER - 1 JANUARY, 1975

This event, held to start off the New Year in style, was supported by quite a lot more people than the organiser had expected. I apologise to the latest starters for running out of walk instructions and checkcards, but 108 people were recorded as taking part - 51 on the 18 mile course and 57 on the 11 mile one. It was very pleasing to see so many people take part who all seemed to enjoy the walks. It made the work in running it really worthwhile. We'll consider making an event of this kind an annual event to start the year with - though we would not always be able to get such good weather.

Brian Jamieson was first home in a very fast time of 2hrs 22 mins with all the checkpoints perfect too! Alan Blatchford, taking a holiday from organising, came in second. Others took it more socially and the median time was about 5½ hours. The most beer consumed on the walk is thought to be 4½ pints, the most pubs drank at 6 (Jeff Ellingham). The shorter course was run first by Doug Sudbury, practising for later marathon runs - he made one mistake running from the Abinger Arms to the Volunteer, forgetting he was on the short course!

The paths were surprisingly free from mud (bar 1 or 2 stretches!) and the only route difficulties appear to have been with the bridge on the short course - not shown in the OS maps - and the path across the golf course on the long one. This is well used locally and the footpath signs on the course, point the exact compass direction, so keep to them and ignore helpful (?) diversion suggestions from golfers.

Because of the high entry, a profit was made - this will be carried over to finance future events. The organiser wishes to thank his helpers on this - Nicholas Chesterton (1116) for acting as timekeeper and kitchen helper, Sally Chesterton for organising the refreshments, Alexander Chesterton for passing messages, Jeff Ellingham for helping with entries and sweeping up, Chris Steer in the kitchen and Kevin and Andrew Mabbutt who did the washing up at the end with Nicholas.

Next Surrey Group Walks:

9 February - 20 miles from Virginia Water:      2 March (not 16th) - Basingstoke Canal.

It is hoped that another Kanter will take place on 27 April.

Details from Keith Chesterton, "Catbells", Nightingale Road, EAST HORSLEY, Surrey (EH 3989)

*Alan Blatchford*