

The second "WINTER TANNERS" walk 16th January 1977 30 miles

When first proposed, the Winter Tanners was intended to be a) a tough walk for strong legs only, with the possibility of having to trek many miles through snow or at least thick mud, and b) a first survey of the July "Tanners Marathon" event. Last year as those that were on it will remember, the weather was very mild and the ground very dry but a week before this year's walk it seemed certain that we would have both snow on the ground and arctic temperatures. However conditions became better and the walk was not unlike some summer events.

With over seventy people taking part in the walk it now seems to have become an event in its own right. It had been hoped to issue everyone with a copy of the route details but with only about thirty walkers "definitely coming" we only catered for just over this number and so more than half were without instructions.

I was interested to see that there were two other "welly walkers" this time and the mud and water over some sections really justified our wearing them.

Regarding the route: this will be almost the same as that for the Tanners Marathon in July except that checkpoint one will be moved and some of the roadwork cut out. I think that the party that I was "leading?" must have wondered who devised the course. On at least two occasions we were quite lost for several minutes and only a bit of trial and error navigation got us back on route. Even so I thought that we found our way more successfully than the Hash House Harriers that we tangled with just before the first soup stop.

We must thank Jeff Ellingham for pre surveying the course and compiling the route instructions, Margaret Steer and Barbara Blatchford for arranging the refreshments. Mention must also be made of Molly Temple who whilst supporting the Croydon R.A. Group also gave sustenance to other walkers.

The following list of finishers is based upon the names taken at Leatherhead by Jeff and additions sent in by others. The majority are LDWA members but other groups came from Croydon YHA, Croydon RA, and Nicholas Hawksmoor School, Borehamwood. Times are taken from 08.10.

6 hours 50 minutes: Brian Graves, Martin Greaves, Brian Thomas, Frank Thomas

7.40 William Wills, David Yates 8.14 John Harrison

8.20 Mike Powell Davies, Ann Sayer, Mark Pickard, John Gray

8.35 Ernie Bishop 8.45 Bob Ford, Colin Abbott

8.47 Joe May, Ian Cooper 8.48 Keith Chesterton

8.50 Chris Steer, Jack Rossiter, Bill Hazle 9.05 Roger Cole, John Walker, Francis Thomason.

9.28 Brian Bickle, Keith Hewitt, Jim Gillard 9.31 John Lillywhite, Derek and Neil Trowman

9.40 Sandy Johnson, Basil Woodroffe

9.50 Thomas and Tom Harding, John Robinson, Chris Barton, Keith Wilkinson, John Laing, Rosalind Paul, Judy Gravell, John Westcott, Ian McCleod (and "Sam"), Don Cooper, Roy Dilliway, Alan Blatchford, Ralph Henley.

9.54 Dick Compton, Geoff Dumper, Bill Radcliffe. 10.08 John Annett, Peter Rayment.

10.12 Jonathan Farquarson 10.25 Steve Taylor, Bob Wadham.

10.30 Phil Hastings, Cathy Graham, Colin Mitchell, ? Savage. ? Mitchell

11.30 Nancy Powell Davies, Chris Meredith, 12.08 Geri Burgess

Molly White, Dave Challenger, Valerie Peel, Keith Peel covered most of the route.

Alan Blatchford, 11 Thorn Bank, Onslow Village, Guildford, Surrey  
There was a surplus from the money collected of about £5  
This will go to the Surrey Group funds.