

THIRD ANNUAL "WINTERS TANNERS" held on January 8th 1978

REPORT OF EVENT AND LIST OF RECORDED FINISHERS

As mentioned elsewhere the "Winter Tanners" was from the inaugural event intended to be a hard winter walk, made harder by the thick Surrey mud and it was thought that there might even be a possibility of a goodly carpet of snow. The first year was incredibly dry, and the weather was unseasonably warm. Next year conditions were not quite so good and this year was only a little worse.

The walk was advertised as being informal, and so informal was it that no count of how many people actually set off from Leatherhead was made but my estimate is 65. The majority of walkers were LDWA members and it was pleasing to have members of the renamed "Bristol & West" group with us plus a contingent from Essex/Herts, Thames Valley, and Kent Groups.

Although we said "no runners" the times recorded by the earliest finishers were remarkably short for even the best of walkers and were not far off the best times achieved for the "Tanners Marathon" (Summer version). Unfortunately so speedy were the pacemakers that the first support point had to be transferred to a site further down the route and even then the leaders were missed. The tea stop was brought back from Coldharbour to to avoid congestion at The Plough and again the leaders were missed.

Those who entered by post received a route outline but on the entries only had the abridged route description and this may have caused a few people to go astray. Near Winterfold there are two road junctions both with the same features and some walkers reached the wrong one and searched unrewardingly for the windmill.

At the end of the day nearly everyone reached Leatherhead again but probably several walkers were not recorded in and so the list of finishers is not complete. Those <sup>who</sup> had walked the previous "Winter Tanners" generally recorded faster times and so the route length was checked on the map. This indicated that the minimum length was 28.1 miles which probably means that the true length was about  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{4}$  mile under the nominal 30 miles. Naturally a suitable adjustment will be made for the Tanners Marathon in July. See revised sketch map.

The nineteenth "Tanners Marathon" will be held on Sun. July 2nd. This is the annual 30 m -in-10 hours event. Held concurrently will be the bi-annual "Tanners Fifty" and the "Tanners Ten", and the "Mini-Marathon". The "Fifty" comprises one loop of 20 miles and then the "Winter Tanners" route (adjusted). The two short events are both over the same 10 miles route: one being a straight walk and the other a quiz walk with a prize for the walker/team with the most points at the end. Full details will be available during March.

Lost during the walk was a night millermitt (fingerless glove). Region of loss was golf course-Honeysuckle Bottom area. Cold handed owner is Martin Stone of Flat 19, Bullen House, Collingwood St., LONDON E1 5DY

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