



# LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

*aim : to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking*

## SURREY GROUP

TENTH WINTER TANNERS

20th January 1985

Organizer: John Westcott.

Route devised by: Barbara Blatchford.

Printing: Chris Steer.

Front design for entry form: Tony Youngs.

Roving Marshal: Dave Green.

At St Marthas car park: Pauline Bluck, Christine and Valerie Challenger.

At Abinger Roughts car park: Margaret Steer, Ray Jolly, Frances Davies, Ken and Ricci Mayhew.

At Tanners Hatch youth hostel: Graham Peddie and the Peddiemen.

### REPORT AND RESULTS

The weather conditions during the week preceding the Winter Tanners gave rise to a certain amount of doubt as to whether the event would take place. Even as early as the Wednesday before the event I was getting telephone calls from entrants living in Plymouth and other parts of the West Country to say they would not be taking part. However, the expected blizzard supposedly coming from the West Country which was to bring snow with 10 foot drifts stopped well short of the Surrey area. The weather forecasters told us we were lucky but the truth is that they will just not admit that the LDWA Surrey group has more influence over weather conditions than they have.

Unfortunately the influence did not extend to arranging a sunny day. The gloom during the early part of registration gave way to daylight which revealed an overcast sky which was to be the order of the day throughout the event. Apart from a flurry of snow in the afternoon it stayed dry enough, the forecast sleety rain fortunately staying away until the early hours of the Monday morning following. The snow which had fell a fortnight earlier and the low temperatures had kept intact caused a few problems but I think most people would have preferred this to the muddy conditions which would have prevailed had the Monday thaw come 24 hours earlier... On my walk out of the route a few days before Christmas I sank past my knees in a couple of places the most notorious of these being in the dip about half way on that long track between Poleden Lacey and Pigden Cottage.

There were 166 who set off from the Leatherhead car park on the 30 mile route proving exercise for the Tanners Marathon in July. To look at it on a map it is a long thin route converging so the outward and homeward leg coincide to use the Shere underpass in both directions with a bubble at the end. Very much like a partly blown up sausage ballooning stretched. The reason for using the Shere underpass twice is to avoid having up to 1000 walkers crossing the A25 on a busy Sunday in July.

One or two comments were made about the way the route zigzagged up and down just after Shere on the homeward leg. Bill Grace suggested it was to increase the mileage on what would have otherwise been a short route while another theory was that the additional climbing was introduced to make the route tougher. The real reason is that having decided to use the Shere underpass and wanting then to take the route along the foot of the downs there is unfortunately no direct path through to Colekitchen Lane and the path used was the best available.

Another feature of the route was the use of a small part of the Downs Link Path. This is the proud joint project of The Waverley Borough Council, the Surrey and West Sussex County Councils to link up the North and South Downs Ways. Much of the 30 mile link is along the disused railway track of what used to be the Guildford to Horsham line

and this makes the walking very boring. It seems though the Surrey County Council consider the railway an advantage because even this part of the link as the path goes along the slopes of St Marthas Hill is being made to look like a miniature disused railway track. This was probably not so evident to Winter Tannet walkers with the snow covering the prepared surface.

The snow also caused problems with the route description. Identifying grassy and sandy tracks proved difficult. I also think the snow was the cause of the biggest criticism of the route description when selecting which track to take to leave Blackheath and go through to the Farley Heath Car Park. It seemed obvious to me that the main track was the left hand one when I walked the route out in the December mud rather than the January snow. Another point where walkers seemed to go wrong was at the end of the enclosed fenced path just after Mayon House Farm. I think probably the confusion here was that the more obvious stile took you into the field ahead whereas the stile to take was on the right. The route description did tell you to turn right. Bill Stirling decided to retire just after this part of the course and while waiting for his lift home he decided to get back to Leatherhead by going via Victoria. I think Bill is trying to get some sort of record for travelling the furthest distance while taking part in a 30 mile event.

Wif Taylor completed the course in the fastest time of 4 hours 39 minutes with Rex Stickland and Mark Pickard within 10 minutes of him. There were 147 registered as having completed the event with the last 3 phoning in to report their arrival at Leatherhead at 12 minutes to 8.

Most Walkers who commented on the route and route description thought they were both good in spite of the minor criticisms. I also had many appreciative comments from the walkers on the excellent way they were looked after by the marshals. I too would like to endorse those comments by adding my thanks to all those who assisted with the event. There are many difficulties in providing hot drinks in freezing temperatures but these difficulties were ably overcome. This is the 3rd year I have had the services of Dave Green and he now knows more about the start and finish registration than I do. I may be losing his services next year because he has graduated to the 30 miles now having completed the Gatcliffe Marathon as his introduction to this distance. He does wince a little every time you mention it though.

I hope you enjoyed your day out.

John Westcott (Organizer)

#### LIST OF FINISHERS AND TIMES IN HOURS AND MINUTES.

	TIME		TIME
Wif TAYLOR (Southern Navigators)	4.39	Ken SAUNDERS (Feltham Puffers)	6.22
Rex STICKLAND (LDWA Kent)	4.46	Malcolm MOWLE (British Airways)	6.22
Mark PICKARD (LDWA Surrey)	4.49	Frances WATKINS (Southern Navigators)	6.23
Roger OSGOOD (LDWA)	5.42	Sandra BROWN (LDWA Surrey)	6.27
Nigel ROBINSON (LDWA High Peak)	5.42	Martyn Greaves (LDWA Sussex)	6.31
Richard BROWN (LDWA Surrey)	5.45	Bryon ALDEN (LDWA Surrey)	6.35
David WHITEHEAD (LDWA Surrey)	5.47	Chris Hall (Croydon RA)	6.36
John ROBINSON (LDWA Surrey)	5.55	Tony BRIGGS (LDWA Surrey)	6.48
David ROSEN (London OK)	6.05	Terence FOREY (LDWA Surrey)	6.53
Miriam ROSEN (London OK)	6.05	Nigel COATES (LDWA Sussex)	6.57
Mike GRANT (LDWA)	6.05	Mike PARKES (BAE Dynamics Bristol)	7.03
Mark SMITH	6.05	Michael CAHILL (BAE Dynamics Bristol)	7.03
Paul RUTTER (LDWA)	6.05	Peter HICKS (BAE Dynamics Bristol)	7.03
AJan KEITH (Fleet & Crookham AC)	6.09	John WESTCOTT (LDWA Surrey)	7.07
Ron VOYCE (LDWA Sussex)	6.09	Mark RUTTER (LDWA)	7.15
Peter PHAIR (Feltham Puffers)	6.13	Jeff ELLINGHAM (LDWA Surrey)	7.22
Clifford ASHLEY (Feltham Puffers)	6.13	Dan HADFIELD (LDWA Surrey)	7.33
Terry SIMPSON (LDWA Surrey)	6.17	David THOMAS (Southern Navigators)	7.35
Sandy SCHOFIELD	6.19	Brian WILLIAMS (LDWA Essex/Herts)	7.35
Philip GILBERT	6.19	Raymond BOLTON (LDWA Staffs)	7.40

Dave CHALLENGER (LDMA Surrey)	7.41	David DRAPER (Croydon RA)	8.53
David CASHMORE (LDMA Staffs)	7.43	John HARRISON (LDMA)	8.54
Hugh ROMER (LDMA Essex/Herts)	7.45	Don SCOTT (LDMA Kent)	8.56
Donald MILLICAP (LDMA)	7.46	Tan WALLIS	8.58
Kieron DARVELL (Centurion VSU)	7.53	Trevor CROMHURST	8.58
Toni JORDAN (Centurion VSU)	7.53	??? GREENAWAY (LDMA Sussex)	9.07
Rachel SINSON (Centurion VSU)	7.53	Angus MacArthur (LDMA)	9.12
Steven FRENCH (Centurion VSU)	7.53	James SNEATH (Waendal Walkers)	9.15
Ian PROUT (Centurion VSU)	7.53	Martin CRAWLEY (LDMA Essex/Herts)	9.15
Barry CLARK	7.54	Chris GOODMAN (LDMA Essex/Herts)	9.15
Anthony STYLES	7.55	Trevor EDDINGTON (LDMA Thames Valley)	9.17
Tin STYLES (Croydon YHA)	7.55	Don COOPER (LDMA Thames Valley)	9.17
Keith ROLFE (Slough Casuals)	8.01	John PROBERT (LDMA Surrey)	9.17
Dave TILLEY (Slough Casuals)	8.01	Harry BISHOP (LDMA Kent)	9.17
Anthony TURNER (Slough Casuals)	8.01	William HUSSEY	9.20
David HOWSE (Red Barn Runners)	8.01	Michael HARMAN	9.21
Jonny HOWSE (Red Barn Runners)	8.01	Ray HANKIN (BAE Weybridge)	9.22
Christine GRAY (LDMA Surrey)	8.01	Alan Scott (Surrey Walking Club)	9.23
John GRAY (LDMA Surrey)	8.01	Bob BRAZIER (BAE Weybridge)	9.23
Bill GRACE (LDMA Surrey)	8.06	John McElhill (LDMA Surrey)	9.25
Richard HOTCHKISS (LDMA Wessex)	8.09	John WARD (LDMA Beds & Bucks)	9.30
Mike BARRY	8.09	Georgina IVES (LDMA Surrey)	9.32
Tony THYMAN (LDMA Essex/Herts)	8.10	Sai Coscia (Mole Valley Ramblers)	9.32
Jack BURGUYNE (LDMA KENT)	8.10	John QUINN (LDMA)	9.34
David WOODYER (LDMA Surrey)	8.12	Ernest BIGSBY (LDMA)	9.40
Louise CARTWRIGHT (LDMA Surrey)	8.12	George COPEMAN	9.40
Mike GREGSON (LDMA)	8.20	Barry GUFFOGE (Surrey Walking Club)	9.40
Richard HIGHAM (LDMA)	8.26	Lynne SYDES (LDMA)	9.40
Sandra HOUGHTON (Feltham Puffers)	8.28	Arthur KEMPTON (Surrey Walking Club)	9.40
Paul HOUGHTON (Feltham Puffers)	8.28	Ray Scott (LDMA Essex/Herts)	9.45
Terry BUFFERY	8.28	Gillian BULL (LDMA Surrey)	9.48
Robert EVANS (LDMA West Midlands)	8.28	John NICKERSON (LDMA Beds & Bucks)	9.48
Brian HAIGH (LDMA Surrey)	8.30	Tony YOUNGS (LDMA Surrey)	9.48
Peter WATERHOUSE (LDMA)	8.30	Richard IRESON (LDMA Surrey)	9.48
Bob HUMPHREY (Croydon RA)	8.32	Chris STEER (LDMA Surrey)	9.48
Nigel MILIUS (LDMA High Peak)	8.34	Joyce TOMBS (LDMA)	9.51
Don NEWMAN (LDMA Surrey)	8.35	Holly WHITE (LDMA Thames Valley)	9.51
Keith HEWITT (LDMA Surrey)	8.38	Diana WHARTON (LDMA Thames Valley)	9.57
Richard TOMBS (LDMA Kent)	8.40	John WHARTON (LDMA Thames Valley)	9.57
Laurie LOWE (LDMA Kent)	8.41	Patrick HALEY (LDMA)	10.12
Barry WHITE	8.43	Richard JONES	10.12
Cathy LITTLE (Centurion VSU)	8.44	Peter CLARK	10.12
Simon MOAKES (Centurion VSU)	8.44	Brian GAGE (BAE Weybridge)	10.19
Darren FRAKE (Centurion VSU)	8.44	Neil HOGGETT (LDMA Anglia)	10.19
Douglas AHEY (Centurion VSU)	8.44	Brett HEARNE (LDMA Anglia)	10.19
Karen AHEY (Centurion VSU)	8.44	Graeme CROME (LDMA Essex/Herts)	10.30
Ron ROWETH (LDMA Kent)	8.49	Margot WARD (LDMA Beds & Bucks)	10.30
Jim PALMER (Surrey Walking Club)	8.50	Marshall MILLEN (LDMA Surrey)	10.57
John RYDEN (Surrey Walking Club)	8.50	Colin HARRIS (LDMA Kent)	11.04
John FRIEND (LDMA Wessex)	8.51	David SHEEDRAKE (LDMA Kent)	11.04
John CREESE (LDMA)	8.52	Lionel MANN (LDMA)	11.10
Bill GREEN (LDMA IOW)	8.52	Mark BROOME (2nd Molesey VSU)	11.10
Richard STOKES (CROYDON RA)	8.52	Erik BATES (2nd Molesey VSU)	11.10
Richard HALL (Croydon RA)	8.53		

#### RETIRED OR DID NOT REGISTER AT THE FINISH

Susan RAMSEY, Julia GILBERT, Adrian STEPHENS, Julie SMITHERS, Anthony SQUIBES, Tim MATKINS, Robert COOK, David COOK, Brendon HUGHES, Simon JONES, Dennis NEWMAN, John Whitaker, Anthony HAYWARD, Paul COFYCIK, Don Pitts, N BENEDICT, Melvyn BLUCK, Bill STIRLING and Eric ROLFE.

One of the later walkers when registering at the finish already had a time entered which would indicate that an earlier walker was registered in against the wrong number. If your name is among the non registrations and you did finish the walk would you please notify John Westcott of your finishing time.



## THE WINTER TANNERS. - TEN YEARS ON

It is now difficult to imagine the attitude to cross country walking when the first Winter Tanners was held on 11th January 1976. There were relatively few organized walks of this distance even though the Tanners Marathon held in July had been held 15 times and the idea of walking 30 miles in the middle of winter was very revolutionary. Surely only the toughest of walkers would be able to complete the walk.

However there were a few foolish, hardy souls who had expressed a desire to have a go and so the late Alan Blatchford set about satisfying this demand. It also gave him the opportunity to have a walk out of the route well in advance of the summer event.

It was expected that about 30 would turn up at that first Winter Tanners but there were twice as many who did so. The notes, giving a rough indication of where the route was to go were distributed on a 'shares' basis and we set off. Most of us were not confident enough to venture off alone on the basis of the notes so we stayed with the organizer but still managed to get lost about 5 times. It is interesting to note that the report of that walk includes such phrases as "we rushed on", "continued at a good pace", "quickly pressed on" but Alan's time was 9 hours 15 minutes. For the record my own time was 10hours 25minutes.

The Winter Tanners was set up to be an informal walk and the early ones were very much a do-it-yourself registration and route finding affair. It soon gained in popularity to become an event in it's own right. When I took over as organizer in 1981, following Alan's death in September 1980, the numbers taking part had already risen to an extent whereby a proper registration was set up and a more researched route description was provided.

I have been under pressure from some quarters to make more of the event by at least having an undercover venue but I prefer to retain as much of the spirit and tradition as possible by reducing formality to a minimum. It is for this reason I also like to take part myself.

### STATISTICS OF NINE EVENTS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Starters</u>	<u>Finishers</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Starters</u>	<u>Finishers</u>
1976	62	46	1981	141	124
1977	75*	65	1982**	97	92
1978	65*	52	1983	239	204
1979	No Record		1984	233	207
1980	100*	78	1985	166	147

\*Estimated

\*\*The 1982 event was postponed because of bad weather and held 3 weeks later

If anybody has a copy of the 1979 results I would very much appreciate your letting me have a copy.

Martyn Greaves has suggested that a special certificate be awarded to those who have completed 10 Winter Tanners but I have not taken the suggestion up. I wonder why he suggested it and whether there are any others who have completed all 10 Winter Tanners apart from him and I.

John Westcott (Organizer)

The 26th Tanners Marathon following the same route will be held on Sunday 7th July 1985. Details from Andrew Young, 17 Paddock Grove, Bear Green, Dorking Surrey RH5 4QL.

Other walks organized by the Surrey Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association are:

Feb 10	Punchbowl Marathon	20 or 30 miles
March 30/31	Surrey Summits	100 kilometres
Sept 15	Guildford Bounday Way	22 Miles

Details of these can be obtained from John Westcott, 31, Bracken Way, Chobham Woking, Surrey GU24 8PR. DO NOT FORGET THE SAE.