

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

SURREY GROUP

REPORT AND RESULTS OF THE SIXTEENTH WINTER TANNERS

10th January 1993

Organiser: John Westcott

Certificate Artwork: Tony Youngs

Printing: Ralph Henley

Soup Maker: Olive Barnsley

At Leatherhead (start): Sue Boyman, Cyril Watmore, Roy Dilliway and Ken Styan.

At Milton Heath: Roy Barnsley, Tony Cartwright, Reg Chapman, Roy Dilliway and Ken Styan.

At Peaslake: Reg Chapman, Roy Dilliway, Don Newman, Margaret Steer and Ken Styan.

At Tanners Hatch Youth Hostel: Graham Peddie and YHA members.

At Leatherhead (finish): Chris Goodman (DNF) and Dave Green (nearly).

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Entries: 225

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Starters: 188

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Finishers: 142

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It was all my fault. Dave Green usually helps me with the start and finish registration but he was not available this year so I asked Sue Boyman and Cyril Watmore to help at the start. When discussing with Sue the arrangements to have the registration in an open car park I boastfully told her "it hasn't rained yet at the registration of the Winter Tanners". Well it certainly made a good job of chalking up the first time. As I entered the car park my headlights picked out hooded waterproofed figures already looking bedraggled as they tried to project themselves against the pouring rain. It was obviously impossible to note up the paperwork without some form of protection from the rain so we set up the registration under the nearby railway bridge. Even the bridge leaked which meant the papers did not keep completely dry but at least it did afford sufficient protection to make the situation workable.

In spite of the pouring rain, 128 of the 168 pre day entrants presented themselves at the start and with a further 57 entrants on the day there were 185 who set out on 10th January to walk run or jog the route of the 1993 Winter Tanners.

Having gone the furthest east for any Tanners in 1991 and the furthest west in 1992 I did not manage to go furthest south this year because the 1979 route did go just South of Forest Green whereas this years route just touched the northern edge of the village but then I think the 1979 route was probably one of those that gave rise to the phrase "Alan Blatchford miles". As far as it goes I must admit that when I first walked out the planned 1993 route (before I measured it) it took me 10 1/2 hours so I had to have a rethink. I know Tanners entrants like value for money but a 35 mile route advertised as 30 is a bit much. In fact I decided to cut out a loop in the southern section of the route to bring it down to a more realistic 30 miles which I thought was a pity because as far as I am aware none of the omitted part of the route has been used on a previous Tanners but I have it in mind to use it in the future, probably the 1995 route.

As it was the final route was the usual mixture of mainly familiar footpaths interspersed with a few not so familiar. The latter included the approach to Leith Hill, The National Trust Orange Trail including the

Rhododendron Walk (pity they were not in bloom) and the ridge walk to the north of Pitch Hill before descending into Peaslake. Particularly pleasant parts of the route were the views of the Holbury and Pitch Hills afforded from the footpaths through the fields just after Forest Green and the views of the North Downs from the Pitch Hill ridge, the fields after Peaslake and the long track before Abinger Hammer but unfortunately the conditions on the day did not show these views off to their best effect. In fact the continuous rain not only blotted out the views to a great extent but also caused the underfoot conditions to be absolutely atrocious particularly in those lovely fields I mentioned in the previous sentence. The bit of the route I finally omitted was predominantly through fields so it was probably just as well it had to be left out. I heard tales of bridges disappearing under the streams they should have spanned, paths turned into running streams and glutinous knee deep mud on bridleways. I was only able to observe the effect of the weather on participants at the checkpoints and the finish and I must admit my immediate reaction was not envy of those taking part. Incidentally the original location for the second checkpoint at Peaslake was another open car park 100 yards down the road from the final location but Don Newman managed to negotiate the use of The Old School House to get some undercover. I would think those of you who got to checkpoint 2 will be grateful for Don's intervention and I am sure the checkpoint officials were.

The rain started to ease off as it began to get dark but by this time most participants had got past caring. The early finishers told me the footpath by the river near the end of the route was under 2 inches of water and later reports were received of the river rising further until the footpath was 12 inches under water. Most of those who got to that part of the route in the dark decided not to test the depth but found an alternative way round to avoid it.

The first to arrive back at Leatherhead were Sandra and Richard Brown at twenty to two and I just managed to get there in time to register them in. In all there were 139 who registered at the finish or notified me later that they had finished. A 75% success rate probably represents the lowest ever on a Winter Tanners but times were generally slow which meant more than usual finished after 6.30 p.m. when I left the car park and undoubtedly there were a few among them who did not notify me they had finished. In view of the conditions it was a very good turnout and a very good success rate. Well done to all who took part whether you finished or not. Added to the list of finishers and included in the statistics are 2 others who have notified me that they completed the route on a subsequent day and I have also noted my own traverse when I was checking the route description as a completion. I would mention that I have completed all previous Winter Tanners events on the day but on this occasion I could not get anyone to do the finish registration so had to forego the pleasure of walking the event on the day. However I do not want to lose my 100% record because of administration problems. Incidentally you will be pleased to know it was a lovely day when I walked the route.

Dave Green has been responsible for the finish registration for a number of years now but as I mentioned before he was not available this year. He was in fact discharged from hospital on 10th January and came straight to the car park at Leatherhead looking disgustingly well and not at all in a condition whereby he had to be excused helping on the Winter Tanners. If only he had arranged to be discharged in the morning I could have done the walk. Anyway it was nice to see Dave had recovered from his mysterious illness and in such high spirits.



Once again many have expressed thanks to my helpers and I would like to add my thanks to all those helping me particularly those who had to withstand the elements at their worst in the open. This includes Chris Goodman who set out on the walk but decided that sampling the delights of the fayre at the Bull Hotel was preferable to slopping about in the Surrey mud and then having had his fill came to the finish and helped me with the registration.

I hope you enjoyed your day in spite of the weather.

Finally my apologies for the delay in getting these results and certificates out. I'm afraid I have been having domestic difficulties lately which has made it difficult for me to find the time to devote to these extra activities.

John R Westcott (organiser)

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LIST OF FINISHERS AND TIMES

\*Completed route on another day.

Mark PICKARD (Surrey)	4.53	Camilla WILLIAMS (LDWA)	8.05
Chris BOAKES (LDWA)	5.32	Nick WILLIAMS-WATSON (LDWA)	8.05
Richard BROWN (Surrey WC)	5.51	Chris TURNER (Stragglers)	8.07
Sandra BROWN (Surrey WC)	5.51	Robert YOUNG (Stragglers)	8.07
Hilary WALKER (Serpentine RC)	5.51	John HARRISON (LDWA)	8.09
Sue ASHLEY (LDWA)	6.08	Nigel PERRY	8.11
Martyn GREAVES (Sussex)	6.09	Barry HARRISON (Surrey)	8.14
Michael GRANT (LDWA)	6.10	Mike GREGSON (LDWA)	8.15
Tim CHEETHAM	6.12	Sylvia HACKNEY (LDWA)	8.15
Tim NEWNES	6.12	Michael WAYLAND	8.17
John HOGG (Air Log Joggers)	6.14	Philip NUTLEY (LDWA)	8.21
Nigel COATES (Sussex)	6.15	Peter AMOS (Kent)	8.21
Mick HYDE (LDWA)	6.29	Jill GREEN (Wessex)	8.22
Merv NUTBURN (Dartford Harr)	6.29	Herbert PAPWORTH (BBN)	8.22
Michael ARTS	6.36	Pauline PAPWORTH (BBN)	8.22
Donald ROPER (Tadley RUNNERS)	6.37	Eddie EDMONDS (100 Marathon)	8.24
David KEEFE (Tadley Runners)	6.38	Roger MOSS (Surrey WC)	8.26
Sandra HOUGHTON (Feltham Puffs)	6.39	Don SCOTT	8.27
Ros YOUNG (Serpentine RC)	6.46	Neil HIGHAM	8.31
Richard SPEAR	6.53	Michael COTTERILL (LDWA)	8.33
Tim STYLES	6.53	Ivan COTTERILL (LDWA)	8.33
David FINDEL-HAWKINS (M K AC)	6.54	Ken IRVING (LDWA)	8.33
Jim MORRISON (Milton Keynes AC)	6.54	Keith WARMAN (Kent)	8.47
Nigel ARBURY (Surrey)	6.56	Kevin PUTTOCK (Kent)	8.48
Bryon ALDEN (Surrey Police)	7.03	David TIBBALS (LDWA)	8.49
Derek SHORT (Surrey Police)	7.03	Andrew BOULDEN (Kent)	8.57
John ROBINSON	7.07	Martin FOX (Surrey)	8.57
Tony WILLIAMS (LDWA)	7.10	Bill GRACE (Surrey)	8.58
Paul LEVENE (Epsom & Ewell Har)	7.48	Gordon FACER (LDWA)	9.05
David CLARKE (Epsom & Ewell H)	7.48	Derek WISDOM (Ess/Herts)	9.05
Alan FORSTER (Epsom & Ewell H)	7.48	John WESTCOTT (Surrey)	19.10
Jon MOORE (Surrey)	7.48	Christopher JONES (Air Log Jog)	9.11
Malcolm WADDELL (Kent)	7.53	Geoffrey NORKETT (Air Log Jog)	9.11
Kathy CRILLY (LDWA)	8.00	Sandy JOHNSTON (Sherfield Vent)	9.12
Thomas BROWNLEE	8.00	Shirley WILLIAMS (LDWA)	9.14
Mark RUTTER (LDWA)	8.02	Graham BALDWIN (LDWA)	9.15
Alan VARNHAM (White Horse Har)	8.02	Shirley CULLEN (Sussex)	9.15
Ragnui ROBSON	8.03	Brian HAIGH (Surrey)	9.22

LIST OF FINISHERS AND TIMES (Contd)

\*Completed route on another day.

Laurie LOWE (Kent)	9.22	Alan HAWKINS (LDWA)	10.10
Shirley HIGGINS (Kent)	9.22	Colin WOOD (Surrey)	10.11
Martin CRAWLEY (Ess/Herts)	9.23	Bob ANDREWS (Surrey)	10.11
John CLARKE	9.23	Patricia BONNER (Finch C'sters)	10.13
Austin BARRIAM	9.23	John BORLAND (Finch Coasters)	10.13
Ian McLEOD (Surrey)	9.24	Glenys KIRKPATRICK	10.13
Molly GROUNDSELL (Surrey)	9.25	Dave HOWSE (Wessex)	10.17
Peter GROUNDSELL (Surrey)	9.25	Jen HOWSE (Wessex)	10.17
Robert HUMPHRIES	9.25	Chris GRAY (Wessex)	10.17
Frances HUMPHRIES	9.25	Raymond ELVY (Surrey Police)	10.17
Peter DENTTEN (Dev/Corn)	9.27	Michael LLOYD	10.17
Andrew BERTIE	9.32	John GRAY (Surrey)	10.19
John CORFIELD (Ess/Herts)	9.33	Keith HEWITT (Surrey)	10.22
Peter CRAWLEY (EWAS)	9.34	Brian BICKLE (Surrey)	10.22
Peter MARY (EWAS)	9.34	George YOUNG (Norf/Suff)	10.25
Barrie MORGAN (Kent)	9.34	John HODGES (Elmbridge RR)	10.26
Trevor BLAKE (Kent)	9.38	Richard COATESWORTH (Sussex)	10.36
John LAY (Surrey)	9.40	Gillian BULL (Surrey)	10.37
Michael WILLIAMS	9.42	William HIRD	10.52
Paul HATCHER (Kent)	9.46	John JACKSON (LDWA)	10.58
Neal O'ROURKE (Kent)	9.46	Lorraine HUNT (Ess/Herts)	11.05
John WACHILL	9.53	Ian HUNT (Ess/Herts)	11.05
Bob TWELLS	9.53	Tony LANGTON (LDWA)	11.07
Robert STAREY (LDWA)	9.56	Steve RACKETT	11.11
Lesley STAREY (LDWA)	9.56	Gerald BATEMAN (Ess/Herts)	11.14
Brigitte LANSKOY	9.56	Jackie GLANCY (Surrey)	11.27
Philip HASTINGS (Kent)	*9.57	Carl RICH (EWAS)	11.27
Diane SCATFE (Surrey)	10.02	Harry BISHOP (Surrey)	*11.30
Janet CHAPMAN (Surrey)	10.02	Ron MacGREGOR (Surrey)	11.40
Ron ROWETH (Kent)	10.06	John WISE (Reading)	12.16
Jane ALAN	10.06	Graham PARKER (Reading)	12.17
John IRVINE	10.06	Gillian AITKEN	12.33
Richard TOMBS (LDWA)	10.07	Wendy GREEN	12.33

RETIREMENTS: Timothy ALCOCK (Ess/Herts), Clive BEAUVAIS (LDWA), Tony BARKER (Sussex), Peter BARNETT (Kent), Ann BEECHING (Kent), John KIRBY (Surrey), Roy PICKARD (EWAS), John TEEUWEN (EWAS), Chris GOODMAN (Ess/Herts), Peter HAMSON (Hemel Hempstead), Roger LE MOINE (Surrey WC), Jim LINDSAY (LDWA), Jimmy ODDY (Kent), Richard STOKES (Surrey), Harry TRIRICH (Ashford Kent), Shaun O'FARRELL (Ewell), Clare O'SULLIVAN (Ewell), Mike FOSTER (Stragglers), Stephen MILNE, Roy ADAMES, John SPENCER, Len STEVENS, David KIRKBY, Jan COSSEY, Sue MOXOM, Peter CLARK, David PRILE, Paul ACHEROYDE, Gary NOONE, John FAIREY, Peter BAARS, Dan THROOGOOD, Keith GREENWOOD, James GODDEN, Jack FARNES, Chris FARMER, John BEAMISH, Bill PERRY, Mick STEWARDSON, Bob BLACKMAN, David HATTON, Colin McKINTY, Dave KING, Trevor HUGHES, Martin GRIFFIN and Phil MOORE.

WINTER TANNERS HISTORY

I would like to write up a history of the Winter Tanners and I am trying to gather as much information about the event as I can. Naturally I have a copy of all the results but I would like to have a little more detail. To this end I would be grateful for regular Winter Tanners participants to write to me with their recollections particularly of the events which took place from 1976 to 1980. JRW.