

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION : SURREY GROUP

REPORT AND RESULTS OF THE SEVENTEENTH WINTER TANNERS

9th January 1994

First of all many thanks to all who helped to make this another memorable Tanners. Ken Styan and Dave Green looked after the Start and collected entries on the day. Fortunately there was no rain so we did not have to shelter under the railway arch. At CP 1, Crocknorth farm, Tony Cartwright, Sue Boyman, Dave Challenger and Cyril Watmore demonstrated their checkpoint skills by easily handling the early rush as the entrants had a breather before continuing down to Honeysuckle Bottom, on to East Horsley and then down the side of the pig farm to CP 2 at the cricket pavilion in Ockham. Here a sterling job was done by Ken Mayhew, Harry Lowe, Reg Chapman, Dave Green and my daughter Fiona who showed she knew how to make soup as well as inscribe the certificates after the event. Reg had also delivered supplies to both CP 1 and CP2 in his role as the QM of the Surrey Group.

CP 2 was about half way and so far there had been some mud but not a lot in comparison with the amount Keith Chesterton has been known to find on some of his social walks. Keith, incidentally, did not call in at CP2; instead he caught a train at Horsley station to attend a meeting in Guildford. When it was over Keith rejoined the walk and completed a creditable 21 miles. He did however miss Banks farm which will be remembered for the deepest mud ever encountered on a Winter Tanners event. Some said it was even better (worse?) than the infamous first Gatlift. Would anybody like to disagree? And there was not only mud. Some, to avoid sinking above their knees, grabbed the nearest wooden post but soon let go after receiving a belt from the electric fence wrapped around the post. Those who enjoyed this stimulus were well and truly earthed at the time.

After the mud there was water to wade through and then more mud as the route crossed the A246 yet again before heading to Ranmore Common and the traditional stop at the YH where Graham Peddie had provided some welcome refreshments. Four miles to go. Only one possible hazard now remained. Would the River Mole be above its banks on the last stretch? Fortunately, and somewhat surprisingly in view of the hundred or so flood warnings for various rivers not too far away, the Mole was a little lower than last year when some walkers had to divert over the top of the road bridge.

Entries at 156, 60 on the day, were well down on last year (225) and starters were also down at 129. Undoubtedly this was caused by the heavy rains of the last few weeks and a good covering of snow coupled with icy roads as recently as the previous Thursday. Clive Beauvais put up a splendid performance to achieve the shortest time just ahead of Mark Pickard. Those who were doing a Tanners for the first time also deserve special congratulations. Last year 46 did not finish, this year it was only 16 which in view of the conditions was very good. Those who took part will not forget it for a long, long time!

Finally two more 'thank you's'. One to Tony Youngs for the first class art work for the certificate and a big one for John Wescott who, notwithstanding the other demands on his time, devised the route and produced the route description.

11th January 1994

Brian Haigh ORGANISER

*Hope you are now fully
recovered from your nocturnal walk!*