

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION : SURREY GROUP

Report and Results of the Eighteenth Winter Tanners

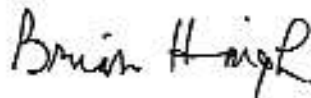
15th January 1995

First of all many thanks to those who helped at the Start, Finish and Check Points. Dave Challenger, Dave Green and Ken Styant at the Start; Dave Challenger, Tony Cartwright, Sue Boyman, and Tony Youngs at CP1; Ken Mayhew, Jean and Harry Lowe, Fiona Haigh, and Tony Youngs at CP2, and Dave Green again at the Finish. Also to Reg Chapman who delivered provisions, etc to the CPs. Without their help there would not have been a Winter Tanners.

By the look of the car park at Leatherhead at 7am some must have spent the night there. A fine drizzle shortly after 7am threatened to disrupt the signing on process - I now know when it would be useful to have one of those pens which will write under water - but the drizzle did not last for long. By 7.15 the exodus had started and by 8.30 nearly all of the starters were away down to the Leisure Centre and off into the Surrey Hills. CP1 was in a car park at Abinger Roughs near to the monument for one of the Wilberforces who died there when he fell off his horse - he should have stuck to walking. Fortunately the weather stayed dry for the benefit of the marshals as well as the runners and walkers.

After CP1 it was over Pitch Hill to see the new toposcope erected in memory of the founders of the LDWA, Alan Blatchford and Chris Steer, before dropping down to the Memorial Hall in Shere where hot soup and cold drinks were available. From there it was another climb up the escarpment to cross the North Downs Way and follow a sometimes muddy route to Tanners Hatch YH where Graham Peddie provided some further light refreshments. Those who had done the event previously could now switch on to automatic pilot for the last section into Leatherhead, the same route as last year and many years before that.

Entries were up on last year in spite of Essex and Herts deciding to hold their AGM on the same day, in previous years it has been on the Saturday. 92 entered before the day and 72 entered on the day comfortably up on the 60 of last year. We had 12 more starters and even more significant we had only two retirements. Last year 16 did not finish. Undoubtedly the good weather helped but you have been warned; the same cannot be expected next year. Included in the results is John Westcott who devised the route - it received many favourable comments - and completed the route on the previous day having started at 6.23am.



17th January 1995

Brian Haigh Organiser