

5th London to Brighton Walk ? Sep 1923

The fifth race for the "Victory" Cup, and the thirteenth for the Dithy were held in conjunction on 15th September. The weather was very favourable up to midday—after which several hours of heavy rain made conditions far from pleasant. A record entry of 115 was obtained for the Open event, and 16 members entered for the Club trophy. The Rt. Hon. the Earl Cadogan, C.B.E., Chairman of the Council of the British Olympic Association, acted as starter and refereed the race from start to finish. The starters numbered 103, and punctually on the first stroke of Big Ben at seven o'clock they were sent on their way.

As usual, a few competitors were late at the dressing stations, and as a consequence the start was somewhat ragged ; within 15 seconds, however, the competitors had got off the mark.

E. C. Horton, the holder of the Cup, was the notable absentee, wisely refraining from attempting the journey after his recent illness. His work on the course, however, was much appreciated by the competitors.

The leaders very soon showed us that a moderate time only would be put up. At Streatham Hill Station a bunch of 10 men led the field in 46.13, and at Croydon four were together in 1.37.2, this being several minutes behind previous times at this point. At Hooley, Poynton, Lloyd and Baker were together—2.29.14—Gosling laying fourth 250 yards behind.

At Redhill Poynton got away from the field and easily, proved his superiority, increasing his lead until he was 8 minutes ahead of the second man. He completed the journey in 8.35.37 and never seemed to have had a bad time. It was his second attempt over this course, his first being in May last, when he did 8.53.0, and he showed us that he is likely to do a much faster performance on a future occasion. I heard the opinion expressed more than once by men whose opinion is to be respected that he will probably get very near Ross's figures, even if he does not actually beat them.

W. F. Baker, of the Q.P.H., who finished second in 8.41.25, put up a fine performance and in the latter stages of the race was undoubtedly traveling faster than the leader.

J. Miles, of the Belgrave Harriers, was placed third. As this was his first Brighton, he is to be specially congratulated on his splendid performance; he occupied a prominent position throughout the race, but was left by Schofield and Belchamber whilst going through a bad time in the last stages of the journey. On recovery, however, he overhauled them and finished strongly in 8.53.39.

S. C. A. Schofield showed us that he is still to be reckoned with on a distance journey. He finished first for the Club and again holds the "Dithy" after an interval of 13 years. Hats off to our President. Our second man, A. Hubbard, again showed us that Anno Domini makes little difference to him. In fact, he did a faster performance than last year, and 10 minutes quicker than in the 1921 race. Incidentally, he won the Open Veteran's Prize. G. W. Gosling was our third man, and he did a very excellent performance, beating his last effort by no less than 16 minutes. He was always with the leaders and showed up as a distance walker of unusual merit, whose future is full of promise.

E. Parslow was our fourth man and after going through a bad time from Earlswood to Bolney, was plucky enough to carry on and recover to do a very good performance—finishing actually 9th in the race.

The walking of our next two men, F. A. Bennett and A. E. Kidney, is deserving of special mention. Neither had competed in more than one race previously, and that was in our Open Novices' Time Trial held in July last. L. M. Wulcko and R. C. Mawbey both did well in their first attempts. They will each do better still in future races. A. E. Cousins and H. Sorrell did well—the former just beating the 10.30 standard by 5 sees.

Neither A. H. Davies nor G. W. Sifleet competed the course. Both made the common mistake of showing too much pace in the early stages.

After the race the prizes were presented at our Brighton quarters, the Royal York, by the Earl Cadogan. Our President had already done a full day's work, so requested Past-President Owens to take the chair, and no-better choice could possibly have been made, quite apart from the fact that he is the-donor of the Victory Cup.

The presentation was a great success; there were several speeches by Owens, Schofield

and Collden and all were evidently inspired by the occasion. Lord Cadogan, in congratulating the Club on the success of the race, also congratulated the competitors on the fine sporting spirit shown. He said he would not have believed that such a large number of competitors would show such a splendid spirit.

We walking men can congratulate ourselves on remarks such as these, coming from so fine a

sportsman, who concluded a heartening speech by saying that as long as he lived he intended to devote himself to the encouragement of real amateur sport. — NIL

DESPERANDUM

Results:

- 1 F. Poynton, Leicester Harriers 8.35.37
- 2 W. F. Baker, Q.P.H 8.41.25
- 3 J. Miles, Belgrave Harriers 8.53.39
- 4 S. C. A. Schofield, S.W.C 8.55. 6
- 5 J. B. Belchamber, Belgrave H. 9. 7.59
- 6 A. Hubbard, S.W.C 9.10.54
- 7 G. W. Gosling S.W.C 9.12.15
- 9 E. Parslow S.W.C 9.22.26
- 20 F. A. Bennett S.W.C 9.44. 3
- 24 A. E. Kidney S.W.C 9.50.41
- 29 L. M. Wulcko S.W.C 9.57.11
- 34 R. C. Mawbey S.W.C 10. 4.13
- 46 A. E. Cousins S.W.C 10.29.55
- 56 H. Sorrell S.W.C 10.43.28