

## **6th London to Brighton Walk 13th Sep 1924**

In spite of the fact that everything pointed to a wet day, we were again fortunate in selecting the 13th September for our annual walk, and although the conditions were not conducive to fast times, they were not at all unpleasant. Of the record entry of 116 we had 108 starters, our Club providing 16 first claim and two second claim members. In the unavoidable absence of the Rt. Hon. the Earl Cadogan, C.B.E., Chairman of the British Olympic Association, the race was started by "Big Ben".

The competitors numbered exactly the same as last year, but there was an absence of "class" which one usually finds and expects to find in this important walk. Last year's winner, F. Poynton, was the notable absentee among the entrants. He has not been very fit lately and decided not to start.

As usual, quite a number of men spoiled their chances in the first few miles. J. K. Chalk soon took the lead and at Croydon led the field by 300 yards in 1.35.3. He was followed by E. C. Horton and G. W. Gosling, and they had a considerable lead of W. F. Baker and J. Durkin, who were timed at the Swan 1.37.53. The position of the leaders changed considerably in the next few miles and at Hooley, 15 miles, laid as follows:—1 Baker 2.29.12; 2 Durkin 2.32.21; 3 Horton 2.33.5; 4 Hubbard 2.35.22; 5 Gosling 2.35.26. At Redhill, Hubbard occupied the third position and was walking remarkably well. At Crawley the order was as follows 1 Baker 4.42.3; 2 Hubbard 4.56.34; 3 G. Stone and Wall 4.58.53. Horton and Durkin had retired on the 'Switchbacks' at Earlswood Common, and all prospects of an exciting race had now ceased to exist. Hubbard continued his good progress, but could not hold Baker, who was putting up a very fine performance. He led the field at Bolney by 22 minutes and was 11 minutes inside his figures of 1923, when he put up an 8.41.25 performance. He lost ground, however, in the last few miles, but had an easy and well-deserved win, in 8.40.51 1/5.

Hubbard was comfortably second and E. A. Wall of the Belgrave Harriers, third—about a mile behind. Grayson Stone was most unlucky in not finishing third with Wall. They had been together for the whole journey, but a bad attack of cramp compelled Stone to retire when within half a mile of the finish.

Of our own men, Hubbard is to be congratulated on a magnificent performance. We have always respected him as a distance man, and he seldom fails to show us that he is a man of very exceptional ability over a distance. He held the "Dithy" 17 years ago and also in 1921, and his performance this year, which again places his name on the Cup, is even better than that of 1921. Our heartiest congratulations!

H. St. George Taylor, our second man, finished fifth, and walked a steady race throughout, keeping an even pace. He picked up 30 places in the latter half of the journey and incidentally annexed the Services Prize.

G. W. Gosling, our third man, finished seventh and although he did well, would probably have done better had he allowed himself a few minutes more in the earlier stages.

R. J. Hargreaves, a recent acquisition to our racing department, did extremely well to finish twelfth. He walked a steady race, and did not mind being in the "wake" for the first 20 miles.

Kidney beat his last year's time by 12 minutes. Sifleet, Mawbey, Youlden and Sorrell all finished in creditable time. Our non-finishers included E. C. Horton, E. Parslow, F. A. Bennett, H. G. Nightingale, A. E. Cousins, and K. A. Kitchen. We wish them all better luck next time.

For the first time we had to yield to the Belgrave Harriers in the team race. We were just beaten by one point. The Belgrave team are a stiff proposition over a distance and we tender them our heartiest congratulations. They have had a very fine year.

## **THE BRIGHTON — BY THE OWL.**

Apparently under the delusion on the 13th September that I was Queen of the May I arose betimes and hastened to Westminster Bridge in order to be crowned, but suddenly remembered that a far, far greater thing than that was taking place, namely, 108 gentlemen (at least I think so) were walking to Brighton for sundry awards, but really, I think, to get a cheap bath.

There was a fine start. The tape was not broken and no one was reported to the

Stewards (whatever that means). The costumes were scanty and of many hues, and it is understood that many ladies present to witness the start were under the impression that this was a parade of autumn fashions, and certain startling dress revolutions are likely. It was a great race as far as Purley Corner, where someone shouted "Come on, Steve," and Baker shot to the front, eventually winning in a canter.

The second man to finish was Hubbard. He has been doing this sort of thing for a great number of years ; in fact, the local corporations are shortly going to take action if he persists for much longer in ruining the Brighton road, and I can only conclude that he must really prefer walking to Brighton, rather than getting there by other means, or else there's some ulterior motive. Seriously however, it was a very wonderful performance, Hubbard, and the Club congratulates you heartily on again winning the Dithy Cup.

St. George Taylor was our second man to finish. Deserting the Air Force, so I thought, he appeared to belong to the Tank Corps for the day, so steadily did he plough his way through the field, to finish fifth. Gosling was our third man. He did a splendid performance, and perhaps next year will pull it off. Hargreaves was our fourth man, and he put up a most excellent show. I have not previously met Mr. Hargreaves, so cannot say anything libelous about him. Kidney came next, finishing in great pain. Good old Kidney ! (Anyway, Kidney, whatever you suffered, it's nothing to what you mean to make some of your pigs suffer shortly before Christmas. And I'm very fond of a bit of crackling).

Sifleet, Mawbey, Youlden and Sorrell all did excellent performances. Of certain other S.W.C. members who started out, some fell by the wayside and some upon stony ground. Horton has decided to change his diet, Bennett and Nightingale have decided to attend the remeasuring of the road, as they compute it is now 65 miles, and Parslow thinks unprintable things about this year's wind, though his excuse is that he's giving some of the old 'uns a chance.

Tragically, Pilot Officer Harold St. George Taylor, was killed on 9th October, whilst on duty. The accident occurred at Netheravon in the early morning

### **Results:**

- 1 W. F. Baker, Q.P.H 8 9 9 .40. 2. .11. 51
- 2 A. Hubbard, S.W.C.5
- 3 E. A. Wall, Bel. H 9.11.33 1/5
- 4 J. B. Belchamber, Bel. H 9 .14. 22
- 5 H. St. George Taylor, S.W.C 9 .18. 33
- 6 S. A. Manning Bel. H. 9 .18. 51
- 7 G. W. Gosling S.W.C. 9 .19. 12
- 12 R. J. Hargreaves, S.W.C. 9 .36. 37
- 14 A. E. Kidney, S.W.C. 9 .38. 5
- 17 R. J. Martin, N.L.H. & S.W.C. 9 .45. 55
- 25 G. W. Sifleet, S.W.C. 10. 2. 7
- 35 R. C. Mawbey, S.W.C. 10 .19. 40
- 49 E. H. Youlden, S.W.C. 10 .46. 15
- 53 H. O. Sorrell, S.W.C. 10 .57. 5

### **TEAM.**

- 1 Belgrave Harriers 3 4 6 = 13
- 2 Surrey Walking Club 2 5 7 = 14
- 3 L.C.C. Trams 9 11 13 = 33