

21st London to Brighton Walk 14th Sep 1946

A well worth-while effort in the face of numerous difficulties and a sterling advert for the Sport; appreciated by the competitors themselves (as evidenced by a record entry) and by all associated with the event, is a fair summing-up of the Surrey's 21st Annual London to Brighton, once more the pre-eminent event of the season for distance Road Walkers.

Organisational snags were met with, as was to be expected, but were largely overcome by the Race Committee, Harry Kemp, Freddie Blackmore and Harry Collden, to whose credit the success of the race is mainly due. Everyone took little difficulties in good part and quite a lot voted the prize-giving arrangements an improvement, although the cheery atmosphere (not to mention the liquid refreshment) of "The Royal Albion" was missed.

For the race, Press reports said, unkindly, "the slowest. London-to-Brighton since 1928". What could have been said was that Forbes' time was only beaten twice prior to 1928. There is no doubt that the head-wind, accompanied by squally rain, was the strongest known in this race for quite a long time, and while this kept the slower competitors fresh it was a handicap to the faster men. In all circumstances Forbes can be considered to have put up a performance which ranks with the best and one which stamps him, undisputed distance champion of the year.

Only twice, since April, has he been beaten by an Englishman Lewis's 25 miles and the Bradford National 50 Kilometres, and in each case he was second.

Harry Forbes let Christie-Murray and others make the pace for many miles, and at Redhill — just over 20 miles, was still over a minute behind the leader at this stage, Rex Whitlock. Lloyd Johnson was hanging on only another 80 yards behind. At Crawley, nine-and-a-half miles further on, Forbes had taken the lead and was 150 yards in front of Whitlock while Lloyd Johnson had dropped back to sixth position and was ten minutes behind the leading pair. A. H. G. Pope had meanwhile gone up into third place, but was six minutes away. This order prevailed until Johnny Henderson, scenting the briny, went up to pass Whitlock at Patcham, only three-and-a-half miles from Brighton.

Pope was fourth and Megnin and Reading fifth and sixth respectively. These two held their positions practically throughout. Stan Horton won the 'Surrey W.C. members' "Dithy" Cup for the eighth consecutive occasion, a really great record.

Of the 120 entrants, 105 started and 90 finished, all inside 11 hours, 20 minutes.

The Midland rival Clubs, Birmingham and Leicester dominated the Team race. Brum lead for half way, but Leicester nailed them back to win by 13 points and to justify their labelled coaches emblazoned "Champions of England".

Intermediate Times:

H
M
S

REDHILL (20m. 448y.)

1 G. B. R. Whitlock
3
8
38
2 H. J. Forbes
3
10
07
3 T. Lloyd Johnson

3
10
26

CRAWLEY (29m. 1121y.)

1 H. J. Forbes
4
37
34
2 G. B. R. Whitlock
4
38
28
3 A. H. G. Pope
4
44
49

Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	H.	J.	Forbes	Birmingham W.C.	8	20	12
2	J	F.	Henderson	Sussex W&AC	8	25	39
3	G.	B.	Whitlock	Met. W.C.	8	28	22
4	A.	H.	Pope	Woodfrd Grn.	8	38	36
5	C.		Megnin	Highgate H.	8	43	53
6	P.	J.	Reading	Poly. H.	8	48	45
7	T.		Lloyd Johnson	Leics. W.C.	8	51	17
8	S.	E.	Horton	Storey W.C.	8	51	24
9	J.	C.	Baker	Gosport B.A.C.	9	1	36
10	A.		Staines	Leicester W.C.	9	3	14
11	J.	A.	Braithwaite	Leics. W.C.	9	5	11
12	H	D.	Neilson	Woodford Grn.	9	6	43
13	H	F.	Chappie	B'ham W.C.	9	8	18
14	K.	J.	Redman	Met. W.C.	9	9	10
15	A.	H.	Field	Birmingham W.C.	9	11	59
16	F.	D.	Sutton	Belgrave H.	9	12	2
17	C.		Clegg	Leics. W.C.	9	14	24
18	D.	H.	Christie-Murray	Surrey W.C.	9	14	39
19	L.		Barrett	Enfield A.C.	9	14	53
20	M.	Y.	Horton	Surrey W.C.	9	15	17
21	J.	F.	Johnson	Enfield A.C.	9	16	28
22	L.	H.	Toussaint	Poly. H.	9	17	10
23	W.	E.	Moule	Leicester W.C.	9	20	49
24	A.	H.	Leveridge	Essex B.	9	21	46
25	H		Martinean	Surrey W.C.	9	22	36
26	L.	S.	Fairman	Poly. H.	9	22	46
27	T.	J.	Dewing	Metropolitan W.C	9	24	5

28	G.	A.	Mitchell	B'ham W.C.	9	24	46
29	A.		Readman	Belgrave H	9	24	56
30	S.		Wakeley	Belgrave H.	9	25	9
31	G.		Hall	Sutton Coldfield W.C.	9	25	12
32	H.		Lintel	Highgate H.	9	25	36
33	G.	C.	Parry	Metropolitan W.C.	9	27	38
34	J.		Wilson	Belgrave H.	9	28	45
35	A.	B.	Grigg	Sussex W&AC.	9	31	0
36	A.	D.	McSweeney	Highgate H.	9	33	1
37	S.	G.	Last	Polytechnic H.	9	33	25
38	A.	W.	Sbophunl	Polytechnic H.	9	34	6
39	C.	G.	Evans	Leicester W.C.	9	36	49
40	R.	C.	Pantling	L. Vid. W.C.	9	36	58
41	C.	E.	Wingate	Brighton & C.H.	9	37	25
42	W.	L.	Hewett	B'ham C.T.	9	37	42
43	H	E.	Stroud.	Polytechnic H.	9	38	57
44	A.	J.	Potter	Met. W.C.	9	39	52
45	W.		Longshaw	Highgate H.	9	41	27
46	J.	F.	Holding	Woodford Grn.	9	44	59
47	S.	S.	Oliver	Enfield A.C.	9	51	11
48	J.	H.	Steggell	Essex B.	9	52	46
49	F.	D.	Holt	Surrey W.C.	9	53	51
50	H.	A.	Cashmore	Leics. W.C.	9	56	15
51	J.	M.	Burr	Birm'ham W.C.	9	56	41
52	F.	S.	Herring	Belgrave H.	9	59	40
53	A.		Free	Highgate H.	9	59	57
54	L.	E.	Lambert	Gosport BAC	10	4	57
55	W.	A.	Wesson.	L.T.& T.B.	10	4	58
56	G.		Wakeman	Birmingham WC	10	6	53
57	S.	G.	Spencer	Belgrave H.	10	8	5
58	A.	W.	King	Enfield A.C.	19	8	34
59	D.		Burns	Sheffield U.H.	10	9	26
60	J.	C.	Carter	Surrey W.C.	10	10	14
61	F.	R.	Scott	Surrey W.C.	10	11	5
62	J.	H.	Robins	Belgrave H.	10	11	25
63	B.	E.	Marsham	Essex B.	10	12	50
64	T.		Perrins	Birmingham W.C.	10	16	30
65	H.		Snook	Eastleigh A.C.	10	17	37
66	J.	B.	Cross	Woodford G. A.C.	10	17	59
67	W.	T.	Tuck	Polytechnic H.	10	22	59
68	P.	H.	Lambert	Met. W.C.	10	24	12
69	F.		Wilmot	Surrey W.C.	10	24	56
70	J.	C.	Coomber	Highgate H	10	28	59
71	J.	E.	Dadey	Highgate H.	10	29	24
72	J.	F.	Banfield	L. Vids. W.C.	10	29	38

73	C.	T.	Shaw	Highgate H.	10	35	49
74	J.		Crawford	Highgate H.	10	36	34
75	G.	S.	Doubleday	Belgrave H.	10	38	26
76	H.		Tomkins	Surrey A.C.	10	39	4
77	E.	L.	Reeve	Belgrave H.	10	43	20
78	D.		Willis	Cambridge H.	10	43	57
79	W.	G.	Smith	Portsmouth A.C.	10	44	44
80	B.		Johnson	Highgate H.	10	48	13
81	G.		Sykes	L.T. & Central Buses	10	51	31
82	W.	H.	Fitzpatrick	L.T.&T.B.	10	53	13
83	A.	W.	Harding	Enfield A.C.	10	54	5
84	J.	H.	Jansen	Essex B.	10	59	18
85	C.		Strange	Essex B.	11	1	55
86	W.	E.	Ives	L.T.& T.B.	11	9	10
87	J.		Kay	Godiva H	11	9	15
88	F.	S.	Laming	L.T.& T.B.	11	14	19
89	A.	T.	Haines	L.T. & Central Buses	11	15	0
90	J.		Hartill	Birmingham W.C.	11	19	4

	Team Position Club	Points
1	Leicester W.C.	38
2	Birmingham W.C.	51
3	Surrey W.C.	64
4	Metropolitan W.C.	69
5	Polytechnic H.	82
6	Belgrave H.	100
7	Woodford Grn. A.C.	104
8	Highgate H.	109
9	Enfield A.C.	12
10	Essex B.	178
11	L. Trams & Trolleybuses	243

Information courtesy of Race Walking Record