

## 25th London to Brighton Walk 9th Sep 1950

The 25th Open Brighton promoted by the Club brought one of the largest fields for this Classic of the Walking World, as out of an actual entry of 127, Big Ben struck one hundred and sixteen off, and this field included the majority of the distance walkers of note, though one did miss the familiar faces of Lloyd Johnson, the Leicester wonder veteran, Forbes of Birmingham, and, of course, Bert Martineau and David of "Ours," not to mention Frank Scott, who has almost made the Brighton Road his own.

There was considerable speculation as to the possibilities of a joint Whitlock "come-back," Rex after the best part of two years' absence from the road, while Harold who is still the Record Holder for this race, has only quite recently returned after something like ten years away. Additional interest was provided by Hubert, the French Champion, who was third last year to Charlie Megnin and Leveridge, and might be supposed to do even better with that experience.

It was obvious at the start that Rex Whitlock considered he'd better get away at the beginning, and indeed the first contingent consisted mainly of those who had the biggest say at the finish, and at South Croydon Rex passing 1-32-47 was 2-54 ahead of Cowley, who on his first Brighton was showing fine form, though hotly pursued by Charlie Megnin, while Harold Whitlock was fifth only separated by Tunbridge. Maurice was the second Club man here in 20th position with Stan and Griffiths in close attendance at 21 and 23. Alec Galloway at 27th was coming along very nicely and smoothly, whilst among the veterans were Spicer and Baverstock whose last Brighton was in 1933, which is quite a few years ago.

Redhill saw Rex pulling away a bit more, passing at 3-1-35, just over 4 m. ahead of Charlie who had passed Cowley. Harold had also gained a place being 4th to Tunbridge's 5th. Maurice had moved up to 19th, with Stan still 21st, and Alec Galloway 22nd he having passed Griff., who now lay 25th. Horley saw a slight drop in Rex's lead as at 3-41-0, Megnin was 3-44-55. Harold was still going well 3rd, but Cowley had dropped to 24th, Maurice, Galloway and Griff, passing at 20, 21 and 22, while Stan was taking a breather down at 28th.

Crawley saw Rex forging ahead again his time 4-31-32, being only 32s. behind his 1948 time at that check, and he led Charlie by 4-57, Harold still going in beautiful style 3rd, with H. Johnson of Leicester now 4th, and Johnny Henderson who had been quietly "smilin' thru' " 5th. Alas for Surrey, Maurice could not make this point and was compelled to retire, and compelled is the operative word in the case of any of the Hortons, as is well known. Stan had moved up to 17th, Galloway 19th, Cowley 22nd, with Griff. 23rd. Of the backmarkers Fred Woolhouse had given it best at Redhill, but Challen Spicer, Swan, Thwaites and Baverstock were still footing it sturdily if not too frightfully gaily.

Charlie Megnin made desperate efforts to pull Rex back having cut the latter's lead at Bolney (6-1-21) down to 3-10, with Harold still third, and Reading up to 4th, and Henderson retaining 5th place. Stan had come up to 12, with Galloway hard on his heels 15, Cowley with his second wind 20, and Griff. 24. At Dale Hill, however, Rex at 7-14-41, was 5.28, in the lead of Megnin, with Harold, Reading, Henderson and Leveridge all having a final burst for the finish. After these came the Frenchman Hubert, Jack Bidgood and Stirling Wakeley, while Surrey had Stan 16, Galloway 18, Griff. 23, but Cowley had dropped to 31.

From first to last it is doubtful if Rex was ever seriously challenged and he is to be congratulated on a fine success on this, his third win, while all congratulations too, to Belgrave who just secured the Team prize by 1 point from Highgate with Met. 3rd. Stan again has his name on the Dithy for the ninth time! Incidentally out of 35 winners to date the names of Horton appear 17 times. Well done Stan, and all the best to Cowley who holds the Cousins Memorial Bowl, our new splendid trophy for the first club man home in his first Brighton.

### Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
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1	G.	B.	Whitlock	Met	8	19	13
2	C.		Megnin	H.H	8	29	17
3	P.	J.	Reading	Poly	8	36	55
4	J.	F.	Henderson	Sx	8	41	31
5	H.	H.	Whitlock	Met	8	43	47
6	A.		Stirling-Wakeley	Bels	8	49	20
7	C.		Hubert	France	8	50	8
8	A.		Leveridge	E.B	8	50	38
9	D.	A.	Tunbridge	H.H	8	51	16
10	J.	C.	Coomber	H.H	8	52	39
11	J.	C.	Bidgood	Bels	8	54	4
12	H.		Johnson	Lei	8	57	45
13	T.	B.	Kent	W.G	8	57	49
14	P.	A.	Price	Poly	8	58	27
15	S.	E.	Horton	S.W.C.	8	47	0
19	A.	D.	Galloway	S.W.C	9	3	22
23	L.	H.	Griffiths	S.W.C	9	15	26
29	W.	T.	Cowley	S.W.C	9	20	38
46	T.	L.	Challen	S.W.C	9	41	47
70	A.	F.	Spicer	S.W.C	10	28	11
82	G.	H.	Baverstock	S.W.C	10	55	23
83	G.	G.	Swan	S.W.C	10	56	33
88	G.	A.	Thwaites	S.W.C	11	14	11

**Team Position Club Points**

1	Bels.	50
2	H.H.	51
3	Met	61
4	Poly.	76
5	S.W.C.	78