

30th London to Brighton Walk 10th Sep 1955

The entry for the Brighton was a few less than last year, but 121 is an excellent figure. Ninety-four started and 83 finished, a really splendid percentage, due, possibly, to the conditions which were ideal.

In the past few years the Brighton has been an "Open" race in more senses than one, and though many of us hazard a guess as to the identity of the winner we do so with less confidence than we did in the days when Green and the Whitlocks were walking, and it would take a really expert pool forecaster to have named the leading four in this year's race.

After a ragged start (why, oh why, do competitors allow such little time to get to Big Ben?) Neilson, a very much fancied entrant, took the lead and opened up a fair gap over Thompson, and there were many who thought that the Woodford Green man would wind up a truly successful season after winning the "B. and B." and the Hastings-Brighton, by gaining the crown of long-distance walking the "Victory -Cup." Thompson had other ideas and walking in the determined style which we saw in last year's Brighton, in which he led for 46 miles, and the 50 Kilos this year, caught Neilson before Horley and drew away to win in the fastest time since 1937. Neilson pegged away with great determination and never gave up the fight, but he was almost caught by Bailey, who with Vic Stone walked extremely well in times which would have won most Brightens. Four men inside 8 hrs. 17 mins. is going some.

The team race was an exciting one, for at Dale Hill there was a difference of 1 point between Belgrave and Poly., but McGreechans being pulled a few miles from home meant that the Teddy Knott Shield would repose in Regent Street for a year. Belgrave were, after all, a comfortable second, and Leicester got home for third place by 3 points in front of Highgate.

Sharp, of the Poly., walking a sound race, won the "Harry Preston" Cup. Next year Vic Stone will be a veteran, as is Tommy Richardson, so we may see some sparks flying. Maurice Horton won the "Dithy" again, as did Griffiths the "Elaine" Trophy, and Don Griggs, just outside first-class standard in his first Brighton, took the "Cousins" Bowl. One of the Dutchmen started and finished in 10 hrs. 37 mins. 49 sees., we hear he enjoyed himself and that we may have a Dutch team next year.

From a Club point of view the race went off well, with little trouble, apart from the Leicester man who rolled in hours after we had all departed, and the Race Hon. Secretary is grateful for the help of all those Club men and others who gave a hand on the day. We had hoped to have had a stronger team out, but it was not to be. With M. Y. Horton, Green and Hipkins all capable of first-class time, supported by Griggs and the Skipper, and, we hope, Stan Horton, it is on the cards that we can give most Clubs a fight. To move up from fifth team placing must be our object in the 1956 Brighton.

Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	D	J	Thompson	Met. W.C.	8	6	24
2	H	D	Neilson	Woodford Gr. A.C.	8	13	35
3	F	G	Bailey	Poly. H	8	13	52
4	V	W	Stone	Poly. H	8	16	59
5	M	N	Guilmant	Belgrave H.	8	27	43
6	W		Smith	Leicester W.C	8	36	50
7	J	O	Culver	Essex B	8	38	24
8	G	E	Beecham	Belgrave H	8	40	18
9	I	S	Fairman	Poly. H	8	42	18
10	A		Staines	Leicester W.C	8	45	55
11	J		Ridley	Q.P.H	8	46	40
12	H	W	Shields	Belgrave H	8	47	25

13	R	C	Pantling	London Vidarians	8	47	51
14	P	J	McEvoy	St. Albans City A.C.	8	55	38
15	A	E	Sharp	Poly. H	8	57	27
16	J	F	Turner	Brighton A.C.	8	58	3
17	B		Eglinton	Belgrave H	9	3	22
18	H	Z	Dorras	Met. W.C	9	5	1
19	M	Y	Horton	S.W.C	9	9	57
20	C		Megnin	Highgate H	9	10	13
21	T	W	Richardson	Woodford Gr. A.C.	9	12	32
22	J		Hayward	Enfield A.C	9	14	12
23	D	F	Griggs	S.W.C	9	16	48
24	J	C	Coomber	Highgate H.	9	16	55
25	J		Coppin	Trowbridge A.C	9	18	30
26	S		McSweeney	Highgate H	9	19	46
27	G		Oliver	Belgrave H	9	24	8
28	J	R	Taylor	Highgate H	9	24	41
29	C	W	Shaw	Met. W.C	9	26	9
30	J	H	Comber	Essex Beagles	9	26	14
31	W	C	Merrett	Poly. H	9	32	4
32	T		Milner	Highgate H	9	34	37
33	T	H	Melhuish	S.A.C	9	34	57
34	C	G	Evans	Leicester W.C.	9	39	32
35	W	T	Morris	Q.P.H	9	40	38
36	F	B	Baker	Highgate H	9	41	41
37	M	C	Cazaley	S.A.C	9	43	44
38	H	W	Stallard	Belgrave H.	9	44	44
39	K	W	Best	S.W.C	9	46	4
40	C	F	Hewitt	Leicester W.C.	9	48	34
41	W	D	Symes	Q.P.H	9	50	10
42	L	H	Griffiths	S.W.C	9	52	13
43	F		Duff	Highgate H	9	53	59
44	G	S	Doubleday	Belgrave H.	9	55	14
45	B		Marriott	Leicester W.C.	9	55	46
46	A	D	McSweeney	Highgate H.	9	55	53
47	H		Johnson	Trowbridge A.C.	9	57	2
48	T	W	Lown	Essex Beagles	10	1	10
49	W	S	Young	S.A.C	10	3	21
50	J	H	Jansen	Essex Beagles	10	4	34
51	J		Wilson	Belgrave H	10	9	51
52	P	A	Jobson	S.W.C	10	10	22
53	W	J	Stanley	L.T.(C.R.S.)S.A.	10	11	48
54	J	C	Gum	Essex Beagles	10	12	17
55	S	J	Price	Lozells H	10	15	29
56	P		Cullen	Highgate H	10	16	4
57	E	F	Watson	Lozells H	10	20	25

58	T	G	Sharlott	Leicester W.C.	10	31	7
59	S		Shirley	Poly. H	10	32	20
60	H	G	Hooper	Poly. H	10	35	40
61	J		Prior	Cambridge H	10	35	47
62	J	J	Travell	Q.P.H	10	36	28
63	P		Obbens	Amsterdam	10	37	49
64	C	V	Gittins	Q.P.H	10	38	8
65	R	A	Ditchfield	Lanes W.C.	10	38	22
66	J	C	Draper	Woodford Gr. A.C.	10	38	57
67	W		Garratt	S.A.C	10	40	35
68	S		Bissell	S.A.C	10	42	35
69	L		Williams	Coventry Godiva	10	46	18
70	D	H	Hill	Walton A.C	10	46	44
71	G	B	Ramsey	London Vid. W.C.	10	50	36
72	J	L	Dennis	S.W.C	10	51	19
73	C	E	Wingate	Brighton A.C.	10	51	19
74	G	A	Thvvaites	S.W.C	10	54	35
75	W		Hood	Southampton W.W.A.C	10	59	10
76	A	W	King	Enfield A.C	11	1	49
77	R	W	Fairman	Belgrave H.	11	2	0
78	L		Harrison	London Vid	11	9	18
79	C		Hayes	Trowbridge A.C	11	14	17
80	L	A	Mitchell	London Vid	11	29	57
81	P	M	Morris	L.T.(C.R.S.) S.A.	11	32	43
82	F		Dorrett	Coventry Godiva	11	40	55

Team	Position	Club	Points
1		Polytechnic H	26
2		Belgrave H	36
3		Leicester W.C	75
4		Highgate H	78
5		Surrey WC	101
6		Essex Beagles	112
7		Queens Park Harriers	125
8		Surrey AC	153
9		London Vidarians	187