

31st London to Brighton Walk 8th Sep 1956

Walking at a 7 miles per hour pace for almost the first third of the distance, Thompson was soon ahead of the previous best time and gained on the record throughout. His margin was 4 minutes at Crawley (29 miles 7f.), 5 minutes 18 seconds at Bolney (38.5 miles) and 8 minutes 13 seconds at the old finishing point. At the finish now used he was 8m. 18s. in front.

Thompson will receive a special Gold Medal from the Surrey Walking Club in commemoration of his feat. He received a great ovation at the prize distribution as did the Italian competitor A. Resta, who proved a very popular personality.

106 of the 124 entrants started and after Thompson, the lead alternated between Vic Stone (Poly. H.), winner in 1952, George Checkley (Belgrave H.) winner of this year's Hastings to Brighton race, and Antonio Resta of Italy. Checkley was in front for Stone to pass him after 16 miles, then Resta passed Checkley and Stone to take second place and be 3 minutes in front at Bolney (38 miles). Checkley drew up to Stone soon after and although 4 minutes behind the Italian he made rapid progress to cut down this gap and went ahead in the last few miles to finish second by over 3 minutes. Norman Guilmant made up a lot of ground from halfway to finish fifth.

Polytechnic Harriers, the team holders, led for quite a long way with Metropolitan, for whom Bryan Hawkins was appearing in the race for the first time, in second position. Over the last 20 miles Belgrave closed up quickly and they ultimately won by 11 points to take the team shield for the 7th time since 1929, when the team race was instituted. Vic Stone won the "Harry Preston" Veterans' Cup with a new best time of 8h. 34m. 40s. September

SOME INTERMEDIATE TIMES

Purley (12m. 1146y.) Thompson 1.48.50; 2 Check-ley 1.52.31; 3 Stone 1.55.10; 4 Resta 1.56.50.

Redhill (20m. 786y.) Thompson 2.57.26; Stone 3.8.2; Checkley 3.9.58; Resta 3.12.3.

Crawley (29m. 1552y.) Thompson 4.20.51 ; Stone 4.42.56; Resta 4.45.17; Checkley 4.47.28; Dorras 4.49.28; Sharpe 4.50.25; Comber 4.51.34; Bailey 4.51.50; Fairman 4.52.32; McAvoy P. J. and J. W. 4.52.32.

Bolney (38m. 966y.) Thompson 5.38.44; Resta 6.12.10; Stone 6.15.13; Checkley 6.16.37; Dorras 6.18.11; Bailey 6.18.15; Guilmant 6.19.35; Comber 6.24.56; Sharpe 6.25.31.

Dale Hill (Pycombe, 45m. 1352y.) Thompson 6.45.03.

Results:

	Position	Initial	Initial Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	D.	J.	Thompson	Metropolitan W. C.	7	44	52
2	G.	S.	Checkley	Belgrave H	8	29	52
3	A.		Resta	Sports Club Italia Milan	8	33	27
4	V.	W.	Stone	Polytechnic H	8	34	40
5	M.	N.	Guilmant	Belgrave H	8	35	36
6	F.	G.	Bailey	Polytechnic H	8	42	59
7	G.		Beecham	Belgrave H	8	47	29
8	H.	Z.	Dorras	Metropolitan W. C.	8	48	44
9	H.	W.	Shields	Belgrave H	8	52	58
10	J.	H.	Comber	Essex Beagles	8	53	48
11	A.	E.	Sharp	Polytechnic H	8	54	59
12	J		Ridley	Queens Park H	8	59	58
13	R.	C.	Pantling	L. Vidarians W. C.	9	00	25

14	B.		Eglinton	Belgrave H	9	01	44
15	F.	R.	Lewis	Metropolitan W. C.	9	02	22
16	L.	S.	Fairman	Polytechnic H	9	03	42
17	J.	O.	Culver	Essex Beagles	9	07	56
18	D.	F.	Griggs	Surrey W. C	9	10	06
19	F.		O.'Reilly	Lozells H	9	10	19
20	J.		Hayward	Enfield A. C	9	12	56
21	H.	D.	Neilson	Woodford Green AC	9	15	11
22	H.	C.	Hooper	Polytechnic H	9	17	43
23	C.		Megnin	Highgate H	9	20	49
24	F.	G.	Rolfe	Belgrave H.	9	23	38
25	J	R	Schneider	Coventry Godiva H.	9	24	11
26	A.		Freeguard	Trowbridge A. C.	9	25	56
27	S.	T.	Jeacock	Surrey W. C	9	30	59
28	V.	H.	Burr	Birmingham W. C.	9	32	48
29	E.	S.	Teece	Surrey W. C	9	33	56
30	S.		McSweeney	Higrigate H	9	34	09
31	R	A.	Ditchfield	Preston H	9	39	16
32	V.	T.	Webb	Coventry Godiva H.	9	39	52
33	H.	W.	Shephard	Polytechnic H.	9	40	20
34	R	J-	Ryan	Polytechnic H	9	40	21
35	C	G.	Evans	Leicester W. C	9	40	44
36	D.	J.	Flaxman	Cambridge H	9	41	58
37	J.		Breen	Polytechnic H.	9	42	05
38	J.		Coppin	Trowbridge A. C	9	43	10
39	C.		Yescombc	Belgrave H	9	43	35
40	B.		Hawkins	Metropolitan W. C.	9	44	14
41	R.	A.	Clark	Polytechnic H	9	45	43
42	G.	A.	White	Essex Beagles	9	45	51
43	J	B.	Marriott	Leicester W. C.	9	46	54
44	F.	P.	Baker	Highgate H	9	47	05
45	W.		Morris	Queens Park H	9	48	52
46	V.		Murray	Lanchashire W. C	9	50	40
47	J.	C.	Coomber	Highgate H.	9	51	25
48	J		van Dijk	S. V. de Lat Amsterdam	9	53	42
49	H.	W.	Stallard	Belgrave H	9	57	23
50	J.	P.	Thomas	Dover A. C	9	59	56
51	D.	H.	Sutcliffe	St. Albans City AC	10	00	42
52	P.	G.	Blake	Highgate H	10	05	37
53	J.	C.	Gum	Essex Beagles	10	06	47
54	V.	R.	Wilson	Worcester H	10	09	03
55	S.	J.	Wharnsby	Polytechnic H.	10	10	55
56	F.		Duff	Highgate H	10	12	24
57	K.	W.	Smith	Cambridge H	10	12	52
58	J.	A.	Butler	Metropolitan W. C.	10	24	15

59	P.	A.	Jobson	Surrey W. C	10	27	17
60	J.	F.	Sheppard	Surrey W. C	10	28	01
61	H.		Martin	Trowbridge A. C	10	29	05
62	J.		Obbens	S. V. de Lat Amsterdam	10	29	12
63	G.	B.	Ramsay	L. Vidarians W. C.	10	30	39
64	J.	A.	Magog	Highgate H	10	30	46
65	F.	G.	Nickolls	Surrey W. C	10	40	02
66	L.		Dennis	Surrey W. C	10	40	35
67	A.	P.	Potton	Surrey W. C	10	40	35
68	D.		Ashenden	Polytechnic H	10	42	45
69	S.		Shirley	Polytechnic H	10	44	07
70	A.	W.	King	Enfield A. C	10	46	12
71	K.		Peel	Lozells H	10	49	36
72	D.	H.	Hill	Walton A. C.	10	49	37
73	H.		Peel	Lozells H	10	49	50
74	F.		Pearce	Lancashire W. C	10	58	16
75	A.	D.	McSweeney	Highgate H.	11	03	16
76	W.	F.	Watson	Lozells H	11	22	09
77	R.	J.	Board	Highgate H	11	25	00
78	B.		Butterwonh	Lancashire W. C.	11	31	32
79	N.	A.	Knott	Unattached	11	32	59
80	F.	R.	Dorrett	Coventry H	11	32	59
81	C.		Draper	Woodford Green A. C.	11	35	07
82	J.		Covington	Mount Pleasant S. C.	11	35	07

	Team	Position	Club	Points
1			Belgrave H.	20
2			Polytechnic H.	31
3			Metropolitan W. C.	46
4			Essex Beagles	81
5			Surrey W. C.	91
6			Highgate H.	98
7			Lozeils H.	138

Information courtesy of Race Walking Record