

33rd London to Brighton Walk 13th Sep 1958

Don Thompson (Metropolitan W.C.) won for the fourth successive time so equalling the performance of Harold Whitlock in 1934-37. Others who have won this race four times—tout not in succession are:

W. F. Baker 1924-26 and '28, T W. Green 1929-31 and '33, G. B. R. Whitlock 1947-48 and 50-51.

For once Thompson failed to improve his own time and the record, but the day was warmer than for some years. Tom Misson, second again, lowered his time by over seven minutes and he raced Thompson level for the first 29 miles. George Chaplin of Coventry Godiva H. took third place and improved one position and three minutes upon his 1957 showing.

At five miles Thompson and Misson, who took the lead from the start, were two seconds ahead of record and nearly three minutes in front of the field. At 12 miles they were 32 seconds up on 1957 and almost seven minutes ahead of the third man, Chaplin.

By Redhill, 20 miles, however, the sun was warming up and the pace dropping a little so that at this point the leaders were half minute down on record. After rounding Gatwick Airport—the halfway stage, and just before Crawley, Misson had a sickness bout and Thompson forged ahead to pass The "George" Inn over a minute in front. On the up-and-down stretch through Peas Pottage and Handcross Thompson steadily increased his margin and at Bolney, with 14 miles to go, he was 3 mins. 18 secs, in front. At Dale Hill summit, only 6 miles from the seafront, Thompson had his maximum lead 3m. 50s. From here to the finish Misson made an effort to get within sight of the leader and he regained 48 secs, of lost ground. Thompson 'however did not flag and he finished the winner by 3 minutes 4 seconds. Chaplin held third place from soon after the start and he went further away from the rest every mile. Checkley was fourth for about 15 miles but then lost three or four places, Green, Beecham and Megnin going in front. Neilson and Ridley later came into this group and passed Megnin, but Beecham kept going very well to take fourth place with about 18 miles to go and to hold it to the finish. John Ridley, fifth, much improved upon his previous best.

Belgrave retained the "Edward Knott" Team Shield, leading throughout. Up to halfway Highgate were a good second but later Woodford gained ground and at Bolney the points were: Belgrave 26, Highgate 44, Woodford 49. From here to the finish Woodford's third and fourth men gained seven places each and they ended up only 10 points behind Belgrave.

Arthur Leveridge (Essex Beagles) became holder for the first time of the "Harry Preston" Cup for first unplaced competitor over 45.

90 started and 70 finished, this being rather down on average and the lowest number checked in for some years.

INTERMEDIATE TIMES

PURLEY (12m-5f.) 1 Thompson and Misson 1.44.52; 3 Chaplin 1.51.40; 4 Checkley and Me Greechan 1.53.25; 6 Green 1.55.10.

REDHILL (20m. 3f.) 1 Thompson and Misson 2.51.49; 3 Chaplin 3.01.44; 4 Green 3.8.45; 5 Checkley 3.9.57; 6 Megnin 3.10.16.

CRAWLEY (30m. 5f.) 1 Thompson 4.23.2; 2 Misson 4.24.09; 3 Chaplin 4-40.21; 4 Green; 5 Neilson; 6 Beecham.

BOLNEY (39Jm.) 1 Thompson 5.32.44; 2 Misson 5.45.52; 3 Chaplin 6.7.6; 4 Beecham 6.20-33; 5 Neilson 5.22.54; 6 Megnin 5.23.34.

DALE HILL (46£m.) 1 Thompson 6.49.48; 2 Misson 6.53.38; 3 Chaplin 7;.19.12; 4 Beecham 7.3.2.22; 5 Neilson 7.36.40; 6 Ridley 7.37.35.

Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	D.	J.	Thompson	Metpoltn	7	49	22

2	T.	W.	Misson	Metpoltn	7	52	26
3	G.		Chaplin	Cov. Godiva	8	25	52
4	G.		Beecham	Belgrave H.	8	37	46
5	J.		Ridley	Queens Park H.	8	43	43
6	R.	E.	Green	Surrey W.C.	8	45	4
7	H.	D.	Neilson	Woodford G.	8	45	37
8	M.		Marshall	Woodford G.	8	48	35
9	G.		Checkley	Belgrave H.	8	52	20
10	C.		Meignin	Highgate H.	8	53	48
11	H.		McGreechan	Belgrave	9	7	11
12	A.		Leveridge	Essex B.	9	08	03
13	J.	O.	Culver	Essex B.	9	9	0
14	H.	W.	Shields	Belgrave H.	9	9	49
15	R.	G.	Dick	Highgate H.	9	17	5
16	A.	A.	Hill	Woodford Grn.	9	19	15
17	B.	F.	Ficken	Woodford.	9	20	4
18	B.		Eglinton	Belgrave H.	9	22	18
19	C.		Yescoimbe	Belgrave H.	9	23	27
20	P.	J.	McEvoy	Highgate H.	9	24	53
21	J.	R.	Taylor	Queens Park	9	27	35
22	D.	F.	Griggs	Surrey W.C.	9	28	23
23	W.	D.	Symes	Queens Park	9	33	42
24	R.	F.	English	Surrey W.C.	9	37	23
25	J.		Hayward	Enfield A.C.	9	40	13
26	F.	G.	Rolfe	Belgrave H.	9	43	7
27	S.		McSweeney	Highgate	9	48	56
28	R.	W.	Gum	Essex B.	9	49	55
29	R.	C.	Pantling	L.Vidarians	9	54	20
30	J.	M.	Price	Birmingham	9	55	59
31	R.		Smith	Lancashire W.C.	9	57	11
32	F.		Sayers	Brighton A.C.	9	57	19
33	J.	C.	Gum	Essex B.	9	58	20
34	D.		Flaxman	Cambridge H.	9	58	34
35	F.	G.	Nickolls	Surrey W.C.	10	3	14
36	A.	W	Marler	Enfield A.C.	10	3	27
37	W.	J.	Traer	Surrey W.C.	10	4	21
38	A.		Freegard	Trowbridge	10	6	35
39	A.		Sharp	Polytechnic H.	10	10	56
40	J.	L.	Dennis	Surrey W.C.	10	11	44
41	J.		Kingham	Highgate H.	10	13	18
42	R.	J.	Fearn	Hiehgate H.	10	13	40
43	G.	V.	Rhodes	Surrey W.C	10	17	41
44	J.		Eddershaw	Sheffield U.	10	19	44
45	P.	A.	Price	Polytechnic	10	20	57
46	F.	J.	Plumb	Brighton A.C	10	21	45

47	J.	B.	Marriott	Leicester	10	22	25
48	W.		Garratt	Surrey A.C.	10	22	57
49	W.		Morris	Queens Park H.	10	29	36
50	T.		Tidy	Steyning A.C.	10	29	46
51	F.	P.	Baker	Highgate H.	10	32	0
52	T.		Dunn	Lancashire W.C.	10	32	50
53	W.		Coleman	Cambridge H.	10	39	26
54	D.	H.	Hill	Walton A.C.	10	41	30
55	S.		Shirley	Polytechnic H.	10	43	28
56	V.	R.	Wilson	Worcester H.	10	49	30
57	A.	W.	King	Enfield A.C.	10	49	53
58	S.		Smith	Lancashire W.C.	10	51	22
59	F.		Gatford	Steyning A.C.	10	58	40
60	A.		Yardley	Steyning A.C.	10	58	48
61	J.	P.	Purcell	Cambridge H.	11	1	8
62	G.	B.	Ramsey	L.Vidarians	11	11	35
63	J.		Wigglesworth	Higihgate	11	14	58
64	C.	V.	Gittins	Queens Park	11	18	46
65	W.	N.	Cowley	Lancashire	11	24	38
66	L.		Mathews	Surrey W.C.	11	34	22
67	J.		Prior	Cambridge H.	11	35	34
68	A.	P.	Potton	Surrey W.C.	11	38	50
69	G.		Thwaites	Surrey W.C.	11	52	22
70	A.	D.	McSweeney	Highgate	12	2	18

	Team Position	Club	Points
1		Belgrave H.	26
2		Woodford G.	36
3		Highgate H.	59
4		Essex B.	70
5		Surrey W.C.	72
6		Queens Park H.	74
7		Lancashire W.C.	148
8		Cambridge H.	155

Information courtesy of Race Walking Record