

34th London to Brighton Walk 12th Sep 1959

This fifth successive win four of them inside 7h. 50mins puts Don Thompson way ahead of the past great champions.

As last year Don Thompson's only real challenger was Tom Misson and they punched away relentlessly right out in front of the field. With the first five miles in 40im. 18s. they were travelling at nearly 7.5 miles per hour and even then were half mile in front of the third man. The temperature rose quickly but the hot pace remained.

The leaders' time at 20 miles was an enlightening one 2h. 45m. 39s better than in many a National "20". Ray Hall third, followed in 3h 3m. Os. The leaders were abreast at Horley (25 5/8 miles) where Hall had pulled away to become a clear third. The sun was very hot by now and of the 80 starters ten had retired by the " George," Crawley—30 5/8 miles. Here with the 'first three unchanged Nigel Thompson had moved away from Colin Young into fourth place, Hugh Neilson 6th and George Beecham 7th.

Then in the Peas Pottage —Handcross sector a split appeared at the front and Thompson took the lead for good and all. At Bolney he was exactly four minutes up and only a minute outside his record of 1957—a marvelous show under almost heatwave conditions. Hall was still third but Young had passed the younger Thompson to take fourth place and to gain over two minutes on Hall in nine miles. Thompson pounded on and with Misson unable to effect a recovery he reached Dale Hill summit—only 6.5 miles from Brighton, with the magnificent lead of eleven minutes. Thompson finished in 7h. 35m. 28s., 16 seconds outside his best time, and from Bolney to the finish he actually walked faster than on his record breaking occasion.

Tom Mission easily held second place to clock 7h. 53m. 26s just one minute slower than his 1958 effort but still faster than any previous winning times except Thompson's. Hall opened up again from Young to 'make third position safe and both put up personal best times for the course. Of the first-timers further back Dick Hyland (Vidarians) and Bill Hill (Surrey WC), 13th and 14th respectively, did very well and 21-year-old Hyland, who was 28th at halfway, walked faster over the last 20 miles than anyone outside the first eight. With a team entry this time and three in the first six throughout the Metropolitan looked unbeatable for the team race. Their fourth man alternated between Arthur Thomson and Bryan Hawkins, and when these two tooth tired Tom Lawrence speeded up and went by to give the Met. four in eight and a 14 pts. winning lead over Belgrave at Bolney. But soon after Lawrence came to a dead stop and Belgrave began cutting down the margin at a great rate. When they seemed likely to pull off the outside chance Bryan Hawkins found a bit to keep the Met. in the hunt and they got home by three points. Highgate, for whom George Coleman made his first appearance in a race of this distance, were third.

Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	D.	J.		Thompson	Met WC	7	35	28
2	T.	W		Misson	Met WC	7	53	26
3	R.	C.		Hall	Belgrave H	8	24	17
4	C.	A.		Young	Essex Beagles	8	27	52
5	G.			Beecham	Belgrave H	8	36	56
6	H.	D.		Neilson	Woodford Gr	8	40	38
7	N.			Thompson	Met WC	8	46	29
8	R.	E.		Green	Surrey WC	8	51	33
9	F.			O'Reilly	Lozells H	8	54	22
10	H.			McGreechan	Belgrave H	9	19	47
11	H.	W.		Shields	Belgrave H	9	25	30
12	J			Ridley	Queens Park H	9	26	57
13	R	W		Hyland	L. Vidarians	9	34	20

14	W.	T.	Hill	Surrey WC	9	36	16	
15	B.		Hawkins	Met WC	9	39	19	
16	P.	J.	McEvcy	Highgate H	9	44	15	
17	J.		Kingham	Highgate H	9	47	4	
18	J.		Hayward	Enfield AC	9	48	1	
19	G.	W.	Coleman	Highgate H	9	53	28	
20	T		Richardson	Woodford Gr	10	1	14	
21	W.		Gairnatt	Surrey AC	10	1	16	
22	W.	D.	Symes	Queens Park H	10	1	49	
23	B.		Eglinton	Belgrave H	10	3	30	
24	J.	F.	Keown	Belgrave H	10	3	32	
25	T-	W.	Lawrence	Met WC	10	4	19	
26	E.	J.	Rogers	Trowbridge	10	4	19	
27	F.	G.	Nickolls	Surrey WC	10	4	55	
28	S.		McSweeney	Highgate H	10	8	37	
29	J.	A	D.	Magog	Highgate H	10	10	48
30	G.		Grosse	L. Vidarians	10	13	7	
31	J.		Jackson	Trinidad AWA	10	14	45	
32	C.		Yescombe	Belgrave H	10	17	7	
33	H.	C.	Hooper	Polytechnic	10	20	49	
34	J.	R.	Taylor	Queens Park H	10	24	45	
35	T.		Tidy	Steyning AC	10	27	58	
36	C.		Megnin	Highgate H	10	28	10	
37	S.		Lawrence	Trinidad AWA	10	33	10	
38	B.	F.	Ficken	Woodford Gr	10	34	37	
39	J.	L.	Dennis	Surrey WC	10	35	43	
40	G	V.	Rhodes	Surrey WC	10	35	43	
41	P.		Wilson	Belgrave H	10	36	52	
42	J.	B.	Marriott	Leicester WC	10	41	8	
43	A.		Cooper	Leicester WC	10	57	3	
44	L.		Valentine	Trinidad AWA	11	0	55	
45	A.	P	Potton	Surrey WC	11	3	32	
46	H.		Martin	Trowbridge	11	3	43	
47	P.	R.	Angell	LT. CRS	11	5	54	
48	K.	C.	G	Easlea	Enfield AC	11	8	27
49	V.	R.	Wilson	Worcester	11	10	18	
50	S		Smith	Lancashire WC	11	14	53	
51	L.		Maibhiews	Surrey WC	11	20	54	
52	M.	C.	Cazaly	Surrey AC	11	21	49	
53	S.	R.	Mantor	Enfield AC	11	22	55	
54	S.		Shirley	Polytechnic	11	29	21	
55	W.		Millington	Trinidad AWA	11	31	3	
56	J.	H.	Prior	Cambridge H	11	40	48	
57	L.	E.	Piper	Surrey WC	11	40	57	
58	C.	V.	Gittins	Queens Park H	11	45	7	

59	D.	H.	Hill	Walton AC	11	50	3
60	J.	H.	Eddershaw	Sheffield	11	59	0

	Team Position	Club	Points
1		Metropolitan	WC
2		Belgrave H	24
3		Highgate H	65
4		Surrey WC	70
5		Queens Park H	93
6		Trinidad AWA	125

Information courtesy of Race Walking Record