

35th London to Brighton Walk 17th Sep 1960

The entry was lower in number than for very many years, but the quality was there. Don Thompson, fresh from his Rome triumph, was on the top of his form and again recorded a terrific time. Tom Misson found some leg trouble and wisely retired about Merstham. Dicky Green, our Captain, was in tremendous form, and finished second in a personal best time, which must be compared with times of the fastest men of years ago, because the distance is longer, although road conditions are vastly different to those prevailing in the early years of the century.

With Misson retiring fairly early on, the great interest in the race was the fight for the second individual position and the team race. Dicky clinched the first part fairly conclusively at Redhill, being over a minute ahead of the third man, at Horley three minutes, and the rest of the way just over four minutes, not a large margin, but well enough.

At South Croydon, Metropolitan were leading with 35 points to Highgate's 37, then Belgrave 54, S.W.C. 55 and Woodford Green 56. At Redhill, Misson's retirement put Metropolitan back, and the order was Highgate 31, Belgrave 48, Metropolitan 51, S.W.C. 51, Woodford Green 58. Horley and Highgate still leading with 36 to Belgrave's 48, with our team third in 51, Metropolitan 54 and Woodford Green 56. At Crawley, Belgrave had drawn level with Highgate to score 41, Metropolitan were third in 49, and our score still 51. For us Green was scoring 2, Mason 13, Hill 17 and Traer had moved up to 19, Don Griggs having retired.

At Bolney, Highgate were back in front with 41, Belgrave had dropped a few points to 47, Woodford gained a few and were level with our 50, Metropolitan still being handy with 54, so the result was still very open.

Dale Hill, and Highgate still leading with 43 against 47 by Woodford Green and ourselves, Belgrave 50, and Metropolitan 56 still handy. Highgate were thus placed: Megnin 8, Kingham 9, Watson 12, McSweeney 14. Woodford Green had Neilson 5, Marshall 6, Ficken 10, and their fourth man Wyles was 26th. Green was leading our team in 2nd place, with Ken Mason 11, Bill Hill 15, and Bill Traer 19.

In the closing stages Kingham and McSweeney of Highgate dropped a few places, Neilson and Ficken gained one place each, and for us Mason got one man, Bill Hill two and Bill Traer held on. Meanwhile Alex Potton, some way back, had moved through the field to become our fifth man, six minutes behind the fourth Woodford man at Crawley, 2 mins. 20 sees, behind at Bolney and a minute-and-a-half behind at Dale Hill, then our Past President caught his man and, for good measure, also passed a Coventry scoring member, at the critical moment adding the final touch to get our team home first.

We must admit that but for Tom Misson's retirement the Metropolitan would certainly have won, and as it was they were not far behind in the end, although going back a long way for their fourth. However, on the day, after a very workmanlike effort by our whole team, the Edward Knott Memorial Shield was regained for the first time since 1948.

Great credit to our Skipper, Ken Mason for his fighting effort in his first year of walking, Bill Hill for another grand performance, Billy Traer for his soundness and steadiness and Alex Potton for that little extra something that turned the scale and made victory reality. Charlie Megnin was a popular winner of the " Harry Preston " Cup, Bill Traer took the " Elaine Trophy " and our President afterwards presided at the Presentation, after getting down in reasonable time. Don Thompson had a wonderful reception from the Brighton crowd.

All in all, a very good Club day.

Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	D	J		Thompson	Met. W.C.	7	37	34
2	R	E		Green	S.W.C.	8	23	43
3	N			Thompson	Met. W.C.	8	28	37

4	C	A		Young	Essex Beagles	8	32	51
5	H	D		Neilson	Woodford Gr. A.C.	8	38	58
6	R	C		Hall	Bel. H.	8	43	19
7	M	F		Marshall	W'dford Gr. A.C.	8	47	28
8	J	W		Edginton	Coventry G.H.	8	48	24
9	C			Megnin	Highgate H.	8	55	28
10	B	F		Ficken	Woodford Gr. A.C.	8	57	08
11	K	J	W	Mason	S.W.C.	8	58	28
12	R	W		Hyland	London Vids.	8	58	37
13	J			Kingham	Highgate H.	9	00	54
14	W	F	D	Watson	Highgate H.	9	05	18
15	W	T		Hill	S.W.C.	9	17	52
16	J			Morris	Bel. H.	9	20	38
17	G	E		Beecham	Bel. H.	9	22	48
18	J	F		Keown	Bel. H.	9	24	26
19	S			McSweeney	Highgate H.	9	24	48
20	J	R	T	Walsh	Queens Park H.	9	35	52
21	H	W		Shields	Bel. H.	9	37	33
22	E	J		Rogers	Trowbridge A.C.	9	39	00
23	S	R		Mantor	Enfield A.C.	9	39	11
24	J			Hayward	Enfield A.C.	9	42	40
25	W	J		Traer	S.W.C.	9	48	19
26	T			Tidy	Steyning A.C.	9	50	12
27	C	G		Evans	Leicester W.C.	9	51	38
28	R	W		Stone	Coventry God. A.C.	9	51	52
29	P			Wilson	Bel. H.	9	52	14
30	H	C		Hooper	Poly. H.	9	55	33
31	L	A		Warwicker	Met. W.C.	9	56	11
32	L	R		Withers	Leicester W.C.	9	56	56
33	J	B		Marriott	Leicester W.C.	10	04	48
34	K			Munro	Cambridge H.	10	06	03
35	T	H		Melhuish	S.A.C.	10	10	40
36	W	T		Morris	Queens Park H.	10	11	50
37	C			Yescombe	Bel. H.	10	16	54
38	W			Garratt	S.A.C.	10	19	47
39	A	P		Potton	S.W.C.	10	19	59
40	I			Williams	Coventry God. H.	10	21	15
41	S	C		Wyles	Woodford Gr. A.C.	10	23	30
42	G	V		Rhodes	S.W.C.	10	25	14
43	J	H	T	Eddershaw	Sheffi'd U.K.	10	33	30
44	K	C	G	Easlea	Enfield A.C.	10	34	19
45	W			Miller	Met. W.C.	10	34	22
46	B			Ennew	Southend A.C.	10	36	58
47	P			Obbens	Amsterdam	10	39	22
48	J	P		Coopey	Coventry God. H.	10	39	59

49	J	L	Dennis	S.W.C.	10	43	24
50	N	A	Knott	Woodford Gr. A.C.	10	57	39
51	C	T	Mason	Veterans A.C.	11	03	44
52	L		Mathews	S.W.C.	11	05	38
53	J		Prior	Cambridge H.	11	08	24
54	D	H	Hill	Walton A.C.	11	19	25
55	C	V	Gittins	Queens Park H.	11	22	56
56	S		Shirley	Poly. H.	11	30	37

Team	Position	Club	Points
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1		Surrey W.C.	44
2		Woodford Green A.C.	45
3		Highgate H	48
4		Belgrave H	50
5		Metropolitan W.C.	54
6		Coventry Godiva H.	81