

36th London to Brighton Walk 9th Sep 1961

The 36th race for the Victory Cup was again won by Don Thompson, his seventh win, and again in a very fast time. The weather was excellent favouring fast times and of the 86 starters 66 completed the journey within the twelve hours.

As usual Thompson went away from the start and at the " Swan and Sugarloaf " was six minutes ahead. His brother and Hyland were well up, but Hyland had obviously started too fast and dropped back as the miles went on. Nigel Thompson and Colin Young had a terrific fight, the former walking himself right out and having to retire, leaving Young a very good second. With our Skipper, Ken Mason and the Italian, de Gaetano, Hall and Bailey all near each other a rare fight for team honours was fought.

At Horley, Green and Mason scored 1 and 2 in the team race with Vale 11 and Hill 13 - 27 points, one ahead of Belgrave (Bailey 3, Hall 4, Beecham 7, Keown 14). Highgate were third with 55, Leicester 63, Woodford Green 69. At Crawley Belgrave scored 2, 5, 6 and 14, to our 1, 3, 11 and 13, but Bolney saw us again one point in front with Green 1, Mason 2, Vale 10, Hill 11, against Belgrave's Bailey 3, Hall 4, Beecham 6 and Keown 12. At Dale Hill Keown had got in front of Bill Hill, making Belgrave lead 24 to our 25. On the last stretch whilst the other members of both teams held their placings, Vale got in front of Hyland to knock back a point and the finish saw Belgrave and ourselves with 24 points each. A magnificent team struggle most creditable to all concerned. As Belgrave's fourth man was in front of our fourth they took the premier award and regained the " Edward Knott" Shield.

Ken Mason put up a great fight to beat Dicky Green and the Italian for third place, a most worthy winner of the Dithy Cup. Our Skipper's time was seven minutes slower than last year, but he gave all he had and fought all the way. Mention has already been made of Vale's fine effort and it is a pity he was so little away from first class standard, and we can only say of Bill Hill that his stout-heartedness and steadiness much helped in a great team race.

Fred Nickolls and Don Griggs were well inside second class standard, which our old friend Harry Shields beat by one second! With Les Dennis getting down in 10 hrs. 42 mins. 58 sees., Lew Piper in 10 hrs. 50 mins. 28 sees, and Alex Potton just outside 11 hrs. that left only the inimitable Len Mathews to finish for us. We should have more out next year. Hugh Neilson was a popular winner of the " Harry Preston Cup," Vale took the " Cousins Bowl" and Les Dennis the " Elaine " Trophy.

The race went off very smoothly, a lot of credit being due to the great help of the Police forces en route. We are indeed grateful to them.

Our thanks are also due to all the officials and helpers from our own and other clubs, without whose help it would be impossible to organise the race. What with walkers, attendants, officials, etc., it can be stated that over 60 members of our own Club were about this day.

Homeward bound the rendezvous was the " Queen's Head," Bolney, and we pretty well filled up both bars. A fine finale.

The late arrival and entry of Antonio de Gaetano from Padua, Italy, put a slight strain on our organisation, and the Club owes a vote of thanks to Sam Pryor for his fine efforts to make de Gaetano welcome and happy here. So successful was this that he swears he will come again next year and bring Pamich.

Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	D.	J		Thompson	Met. W.C.	7	39	57
2	C.	A		Young	Essex Beagles	8	20	15
3	K.	J	W	Mason	Surrey W.C.	8	27	53
4	A.			de Gaetano	Italy (Padua)	8	30	21
5	R.	E		Green	Surrey W.C.	8	31	49
6	R.	C		Hall	Belgrave H.	8	34	06

7	K.	J		Bailey	Belgrave H.	8	34	07
8	H.	D		Neilson	Woodford Gr.	8	43	03
9	G.	E		Beecham	Belgrave H.	8	52	42
10	A.			Staines	Leicester W.C.	9	08	25
11	G.	G		Goodair	Wakefield H.	9	11	03
12	C.			Megnin	Highgate H.	9	13	11
13	D.	A		Vale	Surrey W.C.	9	17	02
14	R.	W		Hyland	London Vid. W.C.	9	24	41
15	J.	F		Keown	Belgrave H.	9	26	08
16	W.	T		Hill	Surrey W.C.	9	29	35
17	K.	C	G	Easlea	Enfield A.C.	9	30	29
18	S.	E		McAtee	Highgate H.	9	31	04
19	S.			McSweeney	Highgate H.	9	34	41
20	T.			Tidy	Steyning A.C.	9	39	34
21	D.	B		Hopkins	London Vid. W.C.	9	42	32
22	H.			Tetlow	Lancashire W.C.	9	43	27
23	T.	W		Richardson	Woodford Gr.	9	45	13
24	A.			Gilmour	Lozells H.	9	46	44
25	B.	F		Ficken	Woodford Gr. A.C.	9	47	01
26	F.	G		Nickolls	Surrey W.C.	9	47	10
27	J.			Evans	Highgate H.	9	47	49
28	E.	J		Rogers	Trowbridge A.C.	9	48	37
29	D.	F		Griggs	Surrey W.C.	9	51	20
30	F.	W		Butler	Stock Ex. A.C.	9	51	53
31	P.	J		McEvoy	Highgate H.	9	52	10
32	K.			Munro	Cambridge H.	9	56	14
33	H.	W		Shields	Belgrave H.	9	59	55
34	B.			Osborn	Birmingham W.C.	10	00	18
35	H.	C		Hooper	Poly. H.	10	03	55
36	C.	J		Mitchell	London Vid. W.C.	10	07	25
37	J.	H	T	Eddershaw	Sheffield U.H.	10	08	28
38	J.			Rawlings	Leicester W.C.	10	11	54
39	J.	B		Marriott	Leicester W.C.	10	16	53
40	F.	J		Plumb	Brighton A.C.	10	18	04
41	J.	P		Coopey	Coventry Godiva	10	18	55
42	B.			Ennew	Southend A.C.	10	23	58
43	M.			Bradford	Enfield A.C.	10	29	29
44	J.			Holt	Leicester W.C.	10	33	07
45	S.	C		Wyles	Woodford Gr. A.C.	10	33	24
46	J.			Hampshire	Wakefield H.	10	34	12
47	J.	W		McEvoy	Highgate H.	10	35	09
48	J.			Harris	Southend A.C.	10	38	07
49	V.	J		Holmes	London Vid. W.C.	10	38	11
50	J.	L		Dennis	Surrey W.C.	10	42	58
51	D.	H		Hill	Walton A.C.	10	44	15

52	C.		Bean	Steyning A.C.	10	44	53
53	L.	E	Piper	Surrey W.C.	10	50	28
54	W.	C	Merrett	Poly. H.	10	50	58
55	C.	T	Mason	Veterans A.C.	10	59	09
56	A.	D	Stemp	London Vid. W.C.	11	01	43
57	A.	P	Potton	Surrey W.C.	11	04	30
58	L.	F	Morse	Met. Police A.C.	11	12	52
59	S.		Shirley	Poly. H.	11	13	01
60	N.	A	Knott	Woodford Gr. A.C.	11	14	53
61	A.	W	King	Enfield A.C.	11	22	06
62	W.	J	Stanley	L.T. C.R.S.S.A.	11	24	27
63	V.	R	Wilson	Worcester H.	11	32	34
64	J.		Prior	Cambridge H.	11	33	29
65	L.		Mathews	Surrey W.C.	11	39	49
66	A.	W	Jones	Bexhill Police S.C.	11	45	09
67	G.		Barracough	Yorks W.C.	12	12	10

Team Position Club Points

1	Belgrave H	24
2	Surrey W.C.	24
3	Highgate H	54
4	Woodford Gr. A.C	65
5	London Vid. W.C	77
6	Leicester W.C	82

Trophies

Harry Preston Cup	H. Neilson
Dithy Cup	K. Mason
Elaine Trophy	L. Dennis
Cousins Memorial Bowl	D. Vale