

### **38th London to Brighton Walk 7th Sep 1963**

For the first time since 1953 Don Thompson was not among the starters, though we were pleased to see him at the side of the road. While we all greatly regret that illness prevented him from taking part, his absence made it the most open and exciting race for many years. And it was another 21-year-old first-timer who stole the show. Conditions were almost ideal; clouds kept off the sun, but there was only very slight rain. As the 72 starters waited for Big Ben to strike the hour of seven, few of the onlookers were prepared to make a definite forecast of the winner.

Colin Young set a fast pace and by Streatham (5 miles) was one minute ahead of a bunch of six (Mason, Read, Vale, Hall, Bailey and Green). At the Swan (10 1/2 miles) the bunch had caught Young, and Green had dropped back. Ken Bailey then had a go and was in front at the Feathers, with the others now spread out a little. But by Salfords the sextet were together again; the position was much the same at the Chequers, though Mason had fallen back. It was between there and Crawley, on the section which includes the much-hated road round Gatwick Airport, that the pattern of the rest of the race was set, with Read and Hall pulling away from the others. At the George they were still together, but had a minute lead on Vale, with Young and Bailey another 2 minutes back. Dennis Read then seized a chance to take the lead and by Bolney was over a minute ahead and Dennis Vale had gained slightly on Ray Hall. But Hall with experience behind him was not easily beaten, and he made a brave attempt to overhaul Read. However it was the younger man's day and he held on to win by the narrow margin of 14 seconds. His time must be the fastest that any man has done at the first attempt. Dennis Vale lost contact with the leaders, but did a very fine time which made him the second fastest Surrey W.C. man over the A.23.

The team race was almost as exciting although only ourselves and our old rivals Belgrave were in the running for the Edward Knott Memorial Shield. We took an early lead, but there was never many points in it. Ken Mason had a bad time around half way, but the Captain took him through and he was able to finish quite strongly just behind Dickie. Belgrave's third, fourth and fifth men came through strongly, and everything then depended on Fred Nickolls. Although he lost places towards the end, he held on to the 17th team scoring position that gave us victory by one point. It also gave him the Elaine Trophy for the first Club veteran and the Veterans A.C. trophy. John Leech was a worthy winner of the Cousins Bowl, and was comfortably inside second class standard. Leslie Simmonds was only just outside standard, but with experience and training will be faster over these shorter (?) distances. Dave Melia did not have a happy time and was nearly caught by Les Denis, accompanied yet again by Gerry Rhodes.

So ended the 38th Open London to Brighton, and as were the other 37, it was generally voted a good one. Once again the Club is indebted to a great many people, members of the Club, members of other clubs, and people who just like to help on the Brighton.

#### **Results:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Hour</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Sec</b>
1	D.	C. Read	Steyning A.C.	8	06	58
2	R.	C. Hall	Belgrave H.	8	07	12
3	D.	A. Vale	Surrey W.C.	8	16	46
4	C.	A. Young	Essex Beagles	8	31	32
5	K.	J. Bailey	Belgrave H.	8	37	07
6	R.	E. Green	Surrey W.C.	8	37	50
7	K.	J. Mason	Surrey W.C.	8	39	05
8	H.	D. Neilson	Woodford Green A.C.	8	40	03
9	M.	J. Holliman	Highgate H.	8	58	14
10	B.	F. Ficken	Woodford Green A.C.	8	58	35
11	G.	G. Goodair	Wakefield H.	8	59	26

12	J.	H. Eddershaw	Sheffield United H.	9	01	56
13	K.	G. Easlea	Enfield A.C.	9	02	32
14	N.	B. Decks	Metropolitan W.C.	9	07	00
15	C.	Megnin	Highgate H.	9	07	53
16	R.	W. Hyland	London Vidarians W.C.	9	17	31
17	K.	Livermore	Woodford Green A.C.	9	20	53
18	J.	A. Morris	Belgrave H.	9	21	32
19	D.	Le Marinel	Unattached	9	21	38
20	B.	Eglinton	Belgrave H.	9	23	56
21	T.	Tidy	Steyning A.C.	9	24	47
22	G.	R. Farley	Belgrave H.	9	25	09
23	T.	Morgan	Roath Labour W.C.	9	26	10
24	S.	Maas	Rotterdam W.C.	9	28	53
25	H.	R. Hooper	Polytechnic H.	9	30	51
26	M.	T. Blyth	Leicester W.C.	9	33	05
27	D.	B. Hopkins	London Vidarians W.C.	9	37	19
28	F.	G. Nickolls	Surrey W.C.	9	38	24
29	B.	A. Kibble	Leicester W.C.	9	42	41
30	L.	C. Taylor	Cambridge H.	9	43	12
31	J.	F. Keown	Belgrave H.	9	44	15
32	B.	Ennew	Southend A.C.	9	46	49
33	J.	L. Henderson	Steyning A.C.	9	47	25
34	A.	J. Clark	London Vidarians W.C.	9	52	26
35	W.	W. Nicholls	Cambridge H.	9	54	25
36	J.	E. Leech	Surrey W.C.	9	56	04
37	H.	H. Nunns	Blackheath H.	9	58	55
38	L.	C. Simmonds	Surrey W.C.	10	06	30
39	G.	E. Beecham	Belgrave H.	10	08	06
40	J.	P. Thomas	Dover A.C.	10	13	02
41	A.	D. Stemp	London Vidarians W.C.	10	16	40
42	J.	M. Richards	Metropolitan W.C.	10	19	12
43	R.	E. Youlden	Highgate H.	10	19	12
44	J.	Hayward	Enfield A.C.	10	20	03
45	N.	A. Knott	Woodford Green A.C.	10	21	19
46	W.	Morris	Queens Park H.	10	25	27
47	S.	McSweeney	Highgate H.	10	29	33
48	D.	H. Hill	London Vidarians W.C.	10	30	25
49	D.	V. Wilcox	Brighton A.C.	10	34	21
50	L.	R. Withers	Leicester W.C.	10	34	48
51	W.	Garratt	Surrey A.C.	10	36	08
52	D.	J. Melia	Surrey W.C.	10	40	22
53	J.	L. Dennis	Surrey W.C.	10	41	08
54	G.	V. Rhodes	Surrey W.C,	10	41	08
55	J.	C. May	London Vidarians W.C.	10	42	03
56	K.	Munro	Cambridge H.	10	57	46

57	J.	B. Marriott	Leicester W.C.	11	13	12
58	F.	P. Baker	Highgate H.	11	13	12
59	S.	Shirley	Polytechnic H.	11	25	02
60	D.	D. O'Sullivan	Surrey W.C.	11	29	34
61	M.	S. Winterton	London Vidarians W.C.	11	51	11
62	L.	Mathews	Surrey W.C.	11	54	52
63	J.	Barraclough	Yorkshire W.C.	11	58	28

	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Points</b>
1			Surrey Walking Club	28
2			Belgrave Harriers	29
3			Woodford Green A	53
4			Highgate Harriers	72
5			London Vidarians W.C.	73
6			Leicester W.C.	100
7			Surrey W.C. "B"	138