

### 43rd London to Brighton Walk 7th Sep 1968

This year's Brighton received a lot more publicity than usual after Don Thompson announced that it would be his last. It was of course a fitting race for Don to bow out in; apart from the Olympic 50 Kilos in Rome, it was in the Brighton that he had his greatest successes and proved himself Britain's and probably the World's greatest ever at this sort of distance. But to the walking fraternity the retirement was probably of less consequence than whether Don could chalk up his tenth win or whether a rising star would displace him. On his 50 kilos performance and having beaten 8 hours last year Brian Eley looked the favourite to do this. And so it proved.

On a warm close day 75 set off over Westminster Bridge as Big Ben struck the first stroke of seven. A fast pace was set by Eley, Thompson and Lightman. By Redhill Thompson had been dropped and at Peas Pottage Lightman dropped out. Thompson was never able to make contact again and Eley strode on to win easily—a little slower than when finishing second last year, but then he had no one to chase this year and no one chasing him. Don Thompson finished 2nd just over 5 minutes in front of Pat Duncan of the Bels. Duncan knocked 16 minutes off last year's time and no doubt we shall see this tall determined young man up front one day.

In the team race Belgrave seemed to have it in the bag from the early stages, but Bristol got their scoring four in the first 10 and finished only 3 points behind them. But Bristol's day will surely come and we look forward to their breaking the near monopoly Belgrave and ourselves have had in the Edward Knott Memorial Shield since 1954. We had to be content with third place on this occasion.

We had a good entry in the race, as always. The Captain was first home for us with a determined effort in eighth position. He was followed by Denis Vale with a very brave 9.30. John Leech was nearly 10 minutes better than last year, and Peter Goodchild completed our scoring team, just depriving the President of that privilege. Fred Nickolls just got inside 10 hours, but George Brooker failed by 18 minutes. Peter Lam and Terry Ryan both did better than last year. Ted Henton won the Cousins Bowl, a good effort and no doubt partly attributable to Nijmegen. Donald O'Sullivan just failed to make 12 hours—unofficial time 12.00.15.

A great deal of work has to be put into the promotion of this race and you start directly after one getting ready for the next year. It was for this reason that it was decided to have a separate Race Secretary. We were fortunate indeed that George Halifax took this on; he has put his heart and soul into the job. And we have to thank and congratulate him on the result. But George is a perfectionist; he does not think that all was as it should be this year and is already working to try to make sure that it will be next year.

#### Results:

Position	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1.	B.	Eley	Bristol	8	00	50
2.	D.	Thompson	Met.	8	18	00
3.	P.	Duncan	Bel.	8	23	24
4.	C.	Young	Essex B.	8	27	15
5.	C.	Fogg	Enf.	8	43	16
6.	P.	Maidment	L. Vids.	8	52	32
7.	D.	King	Bel.	9	06	04
8.	R.	Green	SWC	9	12	46
9.	G.	Farley	Bel.	9	13	55
10.	D.	Hurst	Trow.	9	14	54
11.	D.	Smyth	Brist.	9	19	47
12.	B.	Smith	Trow.	9	21	39
13.	T.	Chorley	Bris.	9	23	49
14.	L.	Gwinnell	Bris.	9	27	03

15.	D.	Vale	SWC	9	30	13
16.	M.	Blyth	Leic.	9	32	56
17.	L.	Miles	Trow.	9	33	58
18.	G.	Beecham	Bel.	9	37	15
19.	D.	Rose	Durban, S.A.	9	41	37
20.	J.	Leech	SWC	9	46	02
21.	J.	Keown	Bel.	9	46	28
22.	H.	Nunns	Blackheath	9	48	08
23.	P.	Goodchild	SWC	9	48	51
24.	W.	Hill	SWC	9	49	21
25.	J.	Eddershaw	Sheff.	9	50	20
26.	J.	Nutt	Leic.	9	51	41
27.	B.	Saunders	B'ton	9	51	51
28.	H.	Hooper	Poly.	9	57	04
29.	T.	Tidy	Steyn.	9	57	06
30.	C.	Megnin	HH	9	57	11
31.	F.	Nickolls	SWC	9	59	20
32.	C.	Evans	Leic.	10	01	26
33.	D.	Trigg	Leic.	10	02	14
34.	L.	Taylor	Camb.	10	04	43
35.	D.	Hill	Linwood Lane OB	10	11	49
36.	C.	Berwick	Leic.	10	18	00
37.	G.	Lee	Essex Pol.	10	18	01
38.	G.	Brooker	SWC	10	18	05
39.	B.	Eglington	Bel.	10	18	25
40.	D.	Jones	Linw.	10	22	14
41.	P.	Lam	SWC	10	27	09
42.	W.	Symes	QPH	10	33	30
43.	M.	Loach	Linw.	10	40	41
44.	J.	Reed	S'ton.	10	41	02
45.	E.	Henton	SWC	10	47	15
46.	K.	Munro	Camb.	10	48	28
47.	H.	Neilson	WG	10	50	44
48.	B.	Cass	S'ton	10	58	04
49.	T.	Ryan	SWC	10	59	08
50.	C.	Patrick	Trinidad	11	10	21
51.	R.	Fox	Sheff.	11	11	44
52.	F.	Gerrish	HH	11	21	31
53.	F.	Baker	HH	11	45	56
54.	P.	Hill	Steyn.	12	00	15
	D.	O'Sullivan	SWC	12	00	15

	<b>Team Position</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Points</b>
1		Belgrave H	24
2		Bristol W.C	27

3	Surrey W.C. 'A' 47
4	Leicester W.C 74
5	Surrey W.C. 'B' 114

### **Trophies**

Harry Preston Cup	H. Nunns.
Dithy Cup	R. Green.
Elaine Cup	W. Hill
Cousins Memorial Bowl	E. Henton