

46th London to Brighton Walk 4th Sep 1971

Westminster is not normally the liveliest of places to be at six o'clock on a Saturday morning but on the day of the open Brighton things are quite different. From five onwards most people converging on the Civil Service Centre are connected in some way with the walk and some rather odd looking track suited attired characters will be seen coming out of Victoria Station or travelling by car, having travelled in many cases from Bristol, Brighton, Leicester and the North. Whoever they are one thing is common, they are all looking forward to seeing the sea from 52 1/2 miles away.

The dressing room becomes more and more crowded as the clock ticks away towards seven. Peggy Horton and Bob Ollenshaw greet competitors with a smile and check everyone in, Maurice Horton is busy with final arrangements, Bob Farley of Belgrave Harriers is checking the walkers weight, the idea being to see how much they lose by the time they have reached their goal. Our friend from Israel really looks fit and hares off round to the start, a little disappointed that his great rival Ray Middleton is unable to walk through injury.

Slowly the 70 starters wind their way to the start, last minute checks and the important hour approaches, traffic stops as Big Ben strikes seven and suddenly all realise that the 1971 Brighton is underway with of course Ladany first across the bridge and straight into a good lead.

Very little exciting happens over the first dozen miles. Ladany has already built up a ten minute lead, Alomaine of Belgium and Thomas of Trinidad are next with Colin Young and Eric Crompton leading the British walkers, Nolan Simmons is up there with Peter Selby moving up as Croydon is approached. Roger Michell in his first Brighton is also going well and Richard Fullager is moving nicely. At twenty miles Ladany has only made a couple of minutes and he doesn't gain much more until after Crawley, Selby has timed his move well and takes second place soon after Redhill, Nolan and Richard are still walking extremely well and Roger Michell is also well up.

On through Crawley with the field well settled and spread out, baring accidents Ladany already looks a clear winner as he starts to increase his lead. Selby has now five minutes over the next man, Crompton, with Colin Young starting to make an impression. Dave Boxall is also moving through.

Whilst Ladany and Selby walked home in first and second place the last ten miles saw some changes behind, Crompton and Young had fallen back and Dave Boxall came through fast for third and even more exciting was Nolan's great finish, he only just missed third by 29 seconds a wonderful performance. Richard Fullager finished strongly for a well earned sixth place in personal best time and Roger Michell not only won the Cousins Memorial Bowl but gained fourth scoring place in our winning team. Although Belgrave Harriers were below strength without Middleton and De Bondi, they would have been hard pushed to beat us with a full team, our packing was first rate.

Unfortunately Dickie suffered some nasty bouts of cramp but stuck it gamely and George Brooker had a blinder leading home the 'B' team in fourth place.

Paul Schell over from the U.S.A. to walk for us did well to beat ten hours. There were a number of foreign entrants which helped make up a good sized field as some of the home walkers seem less eager to do the Brighton these days, nevertheless competition is as keen as ever.

The weather was ideal all the way although some said it was quite hot in the afternoon, roadside help was excellent and the traffic did not seem to cause too much of a problem. Once again many of the old Brighton names were there on and off the road, and as one or two walkers have mentioned when they stop doing the Brighton, the Queens Head at Bolney is the place where they are going to watch the race, without a doubt this is the spot that cheers you up if your feeling a bit rough on the road.

Many thanks are due to Maurice and Peggy Horton for their marvellous organisation and of course the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton for doing the honours at the prize giving.

Results:

Position Initial Initial Surname Club

Hour Min Sec

1	S.		Ladany	Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	57	17
2	P.	W.	Selby	S.W.C	8	34	47
3	D.	E.	Boxall	Brighton	8	48	36
4	N.	A.	Simmons	S.W.C	8	49	05
5	C.	A.	Young	Essex B	8	53	06
6	R.	P.	Fullager	S.W.C	8	59	44
7	D.		King	Belgrave H	9	00	08
8	P.	A.	Maidment	London Vids	9	05	59
9	F.		Thomas	Trinidad & Tob	9	08	30
10	C.	R.	Berwick	Leicester	9	08	32
11	E.		Crompton	Ley. Motors	9	13	53
12	E.		Alomaine	C. A. Gembloux	9	15	39
13	R.	L.	Henderson	G. & G. A.C. (U.S.A.)	9	20	51
14	R.	A.	Michell	S.W.C	9	21	30
15	R.	E.	Green	S.W.C	9	28	00
16	P.	L.	Duncan	Belgrave H	9	28	57
17	J.	D.	Harrison	Boundary H	9	28	57
18	G.	H.	Brooker	S.W.C	9	30	22
19	M.		Perkins	Trowbridge	9	33	14
20	B.		Saunders	Brighton	9	34	10
21	C.	J.	Shelly	Bristol	9	39	16
22	W.	O.	Fenlon	Enfield A.C.	9	41	43
23	W.	B.	Howarth	Ley. Motors	9	41	50
24	K.	R.	Read	S.W.C	9	45	42
25	J.		Hoare	Brighton	9	46	42
26	J.		Morris	Belgrave H	9	50	59
27	D.	A.	Vale	S.W.C	9	52	05
28	P.		Schell	S.W.C	9	55	04
29	H.	N.	Nunns	Blackheath H.	9	55	34
30	J.	F.	Keown	Belgrave H	9	57	01
31	A.	F.	Eddlestone	Cam. H.	10	03	07
32	E.	H.	Denman	Shore A.C (USA)	10	04	17
33	G.		Cools	Athletique De Braine	10	09	34
34	J.		Skislak	Shore A.C	10	12	09
35	H.		Nielson	Woodford Green A.C.	10	12	43
36	P.		Worth	Enfield A.C.	10	13	37
37	J.	J.	Nutt	Leicester	10	18	52
38	W.	T.	Hill	S.W.C	10	20	55
39	D.	C.	Rose	Cam. H.	10	23	41
40	G.	A.	Hallifax	S.W.C	10	25	13
41	K.		Turner	City of London Police A.C.	10	26	30
42	G.		Allan	City of London Police A.C.	10	30	04
43	R.		Fielding	Brighton	10	32	16
44	T.		Tidy	Steyning	10	41	44
45	F.	P.	Baker	Highgate H	10	46	49

46	G.		Carter	S.W.C	10	46	52
47	J.	H.	Williams	London Vids	10	49	05
48	F.	G.	Nickolls	S.W.C	11	17	02
49	E.	A.	McNeir	Cam. H.	11	28	22
50	N.	T.	Hermanson	Spartan H	11	34	55
51	D.	H.	Hill	London Vids	11	38	00
52	W.	M.	Evans	Bristol R.W.C	11	38	06
53	G.	H.	Woods	Southend	11	51	38

Team Position Club Points

1	Surrey Walking Club (A)	15
2	Belgrave Harriers	47
3	Brighton & Hove A.C.	50
4	Surrey Walking Club (B)	77

Trophies

Harry Preston Cup	E. Alomaine
Dithy Cup	P. W. Selby
Cousins Memorial Trophy	R. A. Michell
Elaine Trophy	G. Brooker