

47th London to Brighton Walk 2nd Sep 1972

An hour earlier than normal regular 'Brighton' stalwarts gathered at the Civil Service Centre, Westminster to prepare themselves for the long day ahead whether they be competing, officiating, assisting or just watching. There's plenty of activity as walkers arrive from all over the country and in some cases the world. The race this year was sandwiched between the two Olympic Walks so there was quite a bit of interest in our sport.

With Dawn breaking and six o'clock looming up the 64 starters lined up awaiting the fust stroke of Big Ben. Soon away was Lightman with Boxall, Duquemin and Nolan Simmons setting the pace for the first few miles, the first two named passing five miles in 46 mins, 55 sees. Before Croydon, however, things had really happened. Selby went to the front leaving the field spread out behind. At South Croydon he held an eleven seconds lead over Lightman which he increased to 57 seconds by twenty miles, passing in 3 hours 00 minutes 24 seconds. Third at this point was Carl Lawton in 3-9-10. Nolan Simmons was going well with Roger Michell hovering dangerously. We were having a battle royal with the Bels. for the team race.

At about half-way Shaun Lightman stepped up the pace and continued at sub-eight hour pace overtaking Selby and passing the fifty kilos, check-in at 4 hours 40 minutes 38 seconds, some four minutes up on Peter, who was still well clear in second spot. Along the Handcross switch back the Mexico Olympic walker kept his lead and looked set to take the race. Soon after Bolney, Selby caught Lightman who was having a bad spell, and quickly built up a seven minutes lead. Walking strongly, Peter came home in a new club record time well clear at the finish. Lightman recovered well for second, but Lawton lost a lot of ground over the last ten miles. Having made a steady start, Roger Michell made his move soon after the 50 kilos, point and really moved through the field to take third spot, walking his finest race. This was the club's day not only providing two of the individual places but winning the team race from the Bels. who packed well thanks to strong finishes by Duquemin and Moulin. Dave Boxall walked very solidly for fourth place, whilst one other performance that caught the eye was Geoff Hunwicks' who easily beat nine hours in his first Brighton.

Our other two team members Dickie Green and Nolan Simmons ensured a comfortable victory, Dickie having a very satisfying race while Nolan suffered a bit from an old injury, although stuck it gamely. Dennis Vale and George Brooker both had very good races. All in all a very good day's racing extremely well, organised by Maurice Horton and family, together with a crowd of helpers. The race this year started an hour earlier which certainly helped get out of London before the traffic really built up, the weather was again kind, although some say it was quite warm later in the day.

Results:

Position	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	P	Selby	S.W.C	8	13	47
2	S	Lightman	Met. W.C	8	22	02
3	R	Michell	S.W.C	8	29	52
4	D	Boxall	Brighton & Hove ...	8	40	31
5	L	Duquemin	Belgrave H	8	44	11
6	C	Lawton	Belgrave H	8	44	14
7	J	Moulin	Belgrave H	8	45	33
8	T	Chorley	Bristol R.W.C	8	48	06
9	G	Hunwicks	Ilford A.C	8	51	37
10	J	Lees	Brighton & Hove	8	52	13
11	D	Smyth	Bristol R.W.C	8	54	28
12	R	Green	S.W.C	8	58	08

13	N	Simmons	S.W.C	9	07	35
14	W	Brown	Savages A.C	9	11	13
15	P	Worth	Enfield H	9	12	17
16	J	May	Met. W.C	9	14	46
17	D	Vale	S.W.C	9	18	38
18	J	Hoare	Brighton & Hove	9	30	20
19	D	King	Belgrave H	9	38	08
20	W	Maxwell	Ley. Motors	9	47	14
21	T	Cox	Trowbridge	9	54	57
22	H	Hazlehurst	Cambridge H.	9	55	43
23	B	Saunders	Brighton & Hove	9	56	34
24	J	Markon	Long Island A.C.	9	57	54
25	M	Flynn	RAF Chivenor	9	59	17
26	G	Brooker	S.W.C	10	00	00
27	F	Baker	Highgate H	10	01	00
28	J	Keown	Bel. H	10	05	17
29	G	Beecham	Bel. H	10	13	06
30	T	Tidy	Steyning A.C	10	18	35
31	F	Wrey	B'Stome A.C	10	23	30
32	L	Taylor	Cambs. H	10	23	56
33	L	Miles	Trowbridge	10	30	27
34	J	Nutt	Leicester W.C	10	31	20
35	H	Neilson	W'ford Grn	10	32	39
36	M	Atkins	B'Stoke A.C	10	33	21
37	D	Seddon	R.S. C'field	10	37	20
38	F	Drake	Southend A.C	10	38	59
39	J	Morgan	Bristol R.W.C	10	50	02
40	J	Rose	Trowbridge	10	57	52
41	T	Reavey	RAF Chivenor	10	58	47
42	D	Saunders	Brighton & Hove	11	07	55
43	C	Evans	Leics. W.C	11	15	25
44	A	Farley	Bristol R.W.C	11	18	02
45	J	Reed	C. S'oton A.C	11	33	17
46	W	Evans	Bristol R.W.C	11	35	30
47	J	Maynard	Met. Police	11	41	27
48	G	Woods	Southend A.C	11	43	44
49	P	Sargent	Worcs. A.C	11	52	37

Team	Position	Club	Points
------	----------	------	--------

1		Surrey Walking Club	24
2		Belgrave Harriers	29
3		Brighton & Hove A.C.	40
4		Bristol Road Walking Club	59

Trophies

Harry Preston Cup D. Vale

Dithy Cup
Elaine Trophy

P. Selby
D. Vale