

48th London to Brighton Walk 1st Sep 1973

With a strong overseas entry this year's Brighton certainly had an international flavour and the standard of those competitors was proved when there were six who finished inside the first twelve. In fact, looking through the field, there was a distinct lack of support from the home country walkers apart from our own clubmen. Nevertheless the race still holds a special place in the athletics calendar.

The reappearance of Shaul Ladany this year certainly meant that last year's winner Selby had to be on top form if he was going to give the Israeli a fight, undaunted he was within two minutes with about nine miles to go but the former double winner (1970 and 1971) showed his true strength by opening up a substantial margin by the finish.

We saw the usual sprint start by the uninitiated across Westminster Bridge and as the field settled down Ladany went to the front followed by the German, Schuth, Selby, Boxall, Toehill and Michell. At twenty miles Ladany and Selby were together in 2 hours 55 minutes 41 seconds with the German third, here Ladany opened up the small gap which he held for many more miles with Selby trying hard to close! The third man gradually dropped back and poor Roger Michell, who ought to have had a good race, instead had a rare setback. Joe Toehill, doing his first Brighton, was closing on Schuth near the finish and Nolan Simmons came through very strongly. Consistent Dave Boxall put up his usual steady performance and John May and Mel Blyth both did well to break nine hours against, at times, a strong headwind.

Peter Worth led home the Veterans A,C. and our new Captain had a cracking race to complete his first Brighton finishing very strongly. Dennis Vale won the Harry Preston Cup with past winner Ken Mason comfortably getting inside ten hours, quite amazing as Ken hasn't done a great deal of active walking for the past few years. George Brooker easily beat ten hours again in his usual relaxed style and great credit is due to John Laing and Dick Corne for completing the race at their first attempt, neither had raced more than twenty miles before. George Hallifax and Fred Nickoils gave their normal solid performance.

The club easily won the team race from a well organised Yorkshire team with Leicester third. One interesting competitor, long distance running ace Bernard Gommersell who was well inside ten hours. He was raked out by Yorkshire W.C. to make up the team! Nick Groom, ably assisted by his girl-friend Angela and his family, did a tremendous amount of work to organise the event which went off smoothly as usual

Results:

| Position | Initial | Initial | Surname | Club | Hour | Min | Sec |
|----------|---------|---------|------------|----------------------|------|-----|-----|
| 1 | S | | Ladany | Israel | 7 | 57 | 27 |
| 2 | P | | Selby | S.W.C. | 8 | 10 | 40 |
| 3 | G | | Schuth | W. Germany | 8 | 41 | 49 |
| 4 | J | | Toehill | Yorkshire W.C. | 8 | 45 | 33 |
| 5 | N | A | Simmons | S.W.C. | 8 | 48 | 39 |
| 6 | D | E | Roxall | Brighton & Hove A.C. | 8 | 53 | 28 |
| 7 | J | | May | Metropolitan W.C. | 8 | 57 | 52 |
| 8 | M | T | Blyth | Sheffield W.C. | 8 | 59 | 07 |
| 9 | J | H | Eddershaw | Sheffield U.H. | 8 | 59 | 42 |
| 10 | S | | Shomromi | Israel | 9 | 01 | 53 |
| 11 | S | A | Van Sensie | S. Africa | 9 | 04 | 34 |
| 12 | F | | Thomas | Trinidad & Tobago | 9 | 06 | 55 |
| 13 | R | | Michell | S.W.C. | 9 | 08 | 34 |
| 14 | P | | Worth | Verlea A.C. | 9 | 14 | 41 |
| 15 | T | | Riley | Ilford A.C. | 9 | 15 | 45 |
| 16 | D | J | Picton | Yorkshire W.C. | 9 | 24 | 44 |

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|----|---|---|------------|-------------------|----|----|----|
| 17 | K | R | Read | S.W.C. | 9 | 25 | 14 |
| 18 | J | | November | S. Africa | 9 | 29 | 05 |
| 19 | D | A | Vale | S.W.C. | 9 | 33 | 47 |
| 20 | E | | Alomaine | Belgium | 9 | 36 | 27 |
| 21 | R | H | Saunders | Brtn. & Hove A.C. | 9 | 41 | 53 |
| 22 | K | J | Mason | S.W.C. | 9 | 46 | 18 |
| 23 | D | | King | Belgrave | 9 | 47 | 19 |
| 24 | B | | Gommersail | Yorkshire A.C. | 9 | 48 | 20 |
| 25 | F | J | Wrey | Basingstoke A.C. | 9 | 52 | 12 |
| 26 | G | | Brooker | S.W.C. | 9 | 55 | 04 |
| 27 | B | J | Daymond | Essex Police | 9 | 56 | 00 |
| 28 | J | | Morris | Belgrave H. | 9 | 58 | 34 |
| 29 | P | | Briggs | Yorkshire W.C. | 9 | 59 | 39 |
| 30 | C | J | Shelly | Bristol W.C. | 10 | 01 | 46 |
| 31 | W | S | Roe | Leicester W.C. | 10 | 01 | 56 |
| 32 | P | | Herbert | Kensington W.C. | 10 | 02 | 59 |
| 33 | J | | Laing | S.W.C. | 10 | 07 | 06 |
| 34 | H | | Hazelhurst | Cambridge H. | 10 | 12 | 26 |
| 35 | K | G | Roost | Stevenage | 10 | 14 | 51 |
| 36 | D | C | Rose | Cambridge H. | 10 | 14 | 51 |
| 37 | T | | Tidy | Steyning | 10 | 15 | 57 |
| 38 | F | T | Miller | Steyning | 10 | 15 | 57 |
| 39 | E | | Warner | Leicester | 10 | 18 | 51 |
| 40 | J | F | Keown | Belgrave H. | 10 | 19 | 08 |
| 41 | C | A | Jenkins | London Vids | 10 | 23 | 03 |
| 42 | E | | Cocker | Spartan H. | 10 | 24 | 51 |
| 43 | R | | Morris | Leicester | 10 | 28 | 07 |
| 44 | D | | Ainsworth | London Vids | 10 | 28 | 13 |
| 45 | G | | Hallifax | S.W.C. | 10 | 33 | 39 |
| 46 | R | | Vlotmann | Brighton & Hove | 10 | 40 | 47 |
| 47 | F | W | Butler | London Vids | 10 | 45 | 50 |
| 48 | B | S | Keegan | London Vids | 10 | 46 | 21 |
| 49 | A | C | Benjamin | Bristol | 10 | 46 | 33 |
| 50 | R | J | Corne | S.W.C. | 10 | 51 | 29 |
| 51 | B | | Fish | Spartan H. | 10 | 55 | 38 |
| 52 | D | C | Carey | Bristol | 11 | 02 | 55 |
| 53 | D | J | Beament | Bristol | 11 | 05 | 02 |
| 54 | J | | Morgan | Bristol | 11 | 05 | 36 |
| 55 | B | | Sass | Spartan H. | 11 | 08 | 48 |
| 56 | F | | Proctor | Spartan H. | 11 | 22 | 08 |
| 57 | F | G | Nickolls | S.W.C. | 11 | 29 | 25 |
| 58 | E | | McNeir | Cambridge H. | 11 | 42 | 38 |
| 59 | D | | Hoensen | Spartan H. | 11 | 50 | 41 |
| 60 | G | H | Woods | Southend A.C. | 11 | 56 | 58 |

| Team | Position | Club | Points |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | | S.W.C | 16 |
| 2 | | Yorkshire W.C. | 33 |
| 3 | | Leicester W.C. | 58 |
| 4 | | London Vidarians | 88 |
| 5 | | Bristol R.W.C. | 95 |
| 6 | | Spartan (S.A.) | 107 |

Trophy

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|----------------------|-------------|
| Harry Preston Cup | D. A. Vale |
| Dithy Cup | P. W. Selby |
| Cousins Memorial Cup | J. Laing |
| Elaine Trophy | D. A. Vale |