

49th London to Brighton Walk 7th Sep 1974

Your Editor cannot recall rain or bad weather on the Open Brighton since he first started following the race in 1956 but this year the gods made up for those 19 dry races. It was deluge from the start, true the heavy rain ceased after about three hours but then the wind took over anything up to Forces 10 or 11, it was a weather-mans feast, although they did apologise!

At six o'clock 54 were sent on their way for once the race started in almost darkness as big black clouds massed over Westminster with the rain ready to fall at the first stroke of Big Ben that also was the 'off' for the race. The field in numbers was down on previous years but the standard was there with Middleton, Lawton, Lees, Michell, Boxall and your Editor hoping for a good one. From the start Lees forced the pace along with Middleton and Selby holding third, the first five was passed in 43.30, very fast, obviously at this point the rain was helping slightly. Then the wind came up and the pace slackened, by Redhill Lees had gone to the front in just under 3 hours (20 miles), Middleton followed from Lawton and Selby.

At Bolney only about nine minutes covered the first four with Middleton out in front and he held that place to walk in strongly against an ever increasing head wind which wasn't so kind to the rest who were finding it hard. Ray's time considering the conditions was very good and Lawton put up a good performance to take second, Selby was catching Lees but at the finish was just a minute adrift. Both Dave Boxall and Roger Michell finished strongly the latter on a 'training stroll!' A very good performance by John Crook to beat nine hours in his first Brighton.

Regardless of the conditions there were quite a number of personal bests. Keith Read walked a steady race to finish well and John Laing improved on last year's race to become fourth scoring man in our team. Lyn Atterbury in his first Brighton only just missed second class standard—by 10 seconds but still put up a great show in this his first year of distance race walking. He won the Cousins Memorial Trophy for a member doing his first Brighton. Dick Corne also knocked 20 minutes of his time of last year and George Hallifax and Fred Nickolls recorded very respectable times, George winning the Elaine Trophy for the first club man over 45 and both picking up places in the Vets. A.C. Championship.

As always the team race was as close as ever Brighton won this for the first time in their history and our congratulations to them for a very well organised and disciplined team, Belgrave Harriers were second and our-selves third.

Everyone who completed the race did exceptionally well and none more so than 74 year old Eddie McNeir who yet again walked a very sound race and really finished strongly. Thanks go to all on the roadside for their efforts and support. It was just as uncomfortable watching as competing. It couldn't be any worse than this year's weather—we hope!

Results:

Position	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	R	Middleton	Belgrave Harriers	8	17	50
2	C	Lawton	Belgrave Harriers	8	33	35
3	J.	Lees	Brighton & Hove	8	41	43
4	P.	Selby	S.W.C.	8	42	43
5	D	Boxall	Brighton & Hove	8	45	05
6	R	Michell	S.W.C	8	47	28
7	J.	Crook	Brighton & Hove	8	58	30
8	P.	Worth	Verlea	9	13	08
9	K	Read	S.W.C	9	27	04
10	A	Eddleston	Cambridge Harriers	9	34	31
11	L.	Holton	Leicester W.C.	9	34	50

12	J.	May	Metropolitan W.C.	9	42	13
13	D.	King	Belgrave H.	9	47	05
14	B.	Saunders	Brighton & Hove	9	47	41
15	J.	Laing	S.W.C.	9	49	12
16	W.	Newhill	Coventry Godiya	9	51	45
17	J.	Morris	Belgrave Harriers	9	54	25
18	F.	Husband	Ilford A.C.	9	56	12
19	P.	Emery	Enfield .	9	58	00
20	L.	Atterbury	S.W.C.	10	00	10
21	W.	Wright	Southampton	10	03	27
22	C.	Hunter	Colorado U.S.A.	10	03	42
23	R.	Denny	Cambridge Harriers	10	04	07
24	K.	Roost	Verlea .	10	07	22
25	J.	Keown	Belgrave Harriers	10	09	14
26	C.	Bean	Steyning	10	19	55
27	T.	Tidy	Steyning	10	30	58
28	R.	Corne	S.W.C.	10	31	08
29	M.	Davitt	Cambridge Harriers	10	33	36
30	G.	Hallifax	S.W.C.	10	37	19
31	D.	Rose	Cambridge Harriers	10	39	27
32	H.	Nunns	Blackheath Harriers	10	42	41
33	E.	Stroud	Belgrave Harriers	10	48	55
34	R.	Vlotman	Brighton & Hove	10	52	12
35	F.	Nickolls	S.W.C.	11	05	10
36	F.	Drake	Southend A.C.	11	11	50
37	J.	Morgan	Bristol R.W.C.	11	36	45
38	D.	Carey	Bristol R.W.C.	11	39	05
39	E.	McNeir	Cambridge Harriers	11	40	53
40	D.	Raward	Unattached	11	49	58

Team Position Club Points

1	Brighton & Hove	26
2	Belgrave Harriers	26
3	Surrey Walking dub	30
4	Cambridge Harriers	62

Trophy

Harry Preston Cup	P. Worth
Dithy Cup	P. Selby
Cousins Memorial Trophy	L. Atterbury
Elaine Trophy	G. Halifax