

57th London to Brighton Walk 4th Sep 1982

This year's race regrettably produced the smallest field yet - only twenty-one starters. Mike Parker of Brighton went immediately to the front and was IV minutes, clear, at South Croydon (10.5 miles) in 1 hr. 22 mins. 30 sees. But Parker had no intention of going to the sea front, he was merely using the occasion to simulate the early morning start he would encounter in the Commonwealth Games 30 Kms in Brisbane. At Redhill he retired, as intended.

Half an hour later the first of the real Brighton walkers came through, Matt Davitt of Cambridge Harriers. Steve Till at this stage was in third place; he had walked with the Skipper to just beyond Croydon before deciding to make his own way. He upped his pace a little too sharply and suffered for a while. Warhurst went by during this period and Newnham also, around the 50 Km. mark. Steve remained unperturbed; he was seven minutes up on his 1981 schedule (8 hrs. 56 mins.) and gradually his strength and rhythm returned. He overhauled Newnham, the 1982 Plymouth to Dawlish winner, on the approach to Bolney and walked with great confidence from there to the finish. He never came in sight of the winner, Warhurst, who had a fine last twenty miles, but was delighted to have lopped 13 minutes off his time of the previous year. There can be no doubt that Steve will continue to improve; he is gaining valuable experience that will stand him in good stead in the future.

Newnham recovered from a sticky spell to hold on to third place and there was spirited effort from Matt Davitt, who was very unlucky to be just seven seconds the wrong side of nine hours.

Nolan Simmons, without ever settling down, finished very well in fifth place, whilst Ken Mason, the 1966 winner, underlined the horses for courses adage by completing the 53 miles in a very respectable time on next to no training; Ken's only other race in 1982 being the Club 2 mile Championship; Graham Peddie put Ken under pressure from Dale Hill but just as he was about to pass, the old master rallied and really turned on the style. Graham was dropped and our Ken added the scalp of Winyard as he hurtled towards the Brighton coastline.

As for Graham Peddie, he was quite happy to complete our team, lie walked his usual race with pretension not to time nor position but pro bono Surrey Walking Club. Surrey was the only Club to start a team and thanks to Messrs. Till, Simmons, Mason and Peddie, we were spared the ignominy of no team finishing. Well done, lads.

Congratulations to John Warhurst, and also to Bob Porter, Phil Hastings and Jim Winyard. This trio had completed the Leicester 100 miles just 14 days prior to the Brighton!

Another chapter, albeit somewhat brief and dark, was thus completed in the history of this famous race. Let us all hope that in 1983 its fortune will turn again for the better.

Results:

Position	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	J.	Warhurst	Sheffield	8	24	04
2	S.	Till	Surrey	8	43	34
3	J.	Newnham	Belgrave	8	55	21
4	H.	Davitt	Cambridge	9	00	07
5	N.	Simmons	Surrey	9	04	24
6	P.	Worth	Enfield	9	23	17
7	R.	Porter	Metropolitan	9	31	19
8	C.	Weston	Highgate	9	35	05
9	K.	Mason	Surrey	10	11	16
10	J.	Winyard	Watford	10	11	40
11	G.	Peddie	Surrey	10	15	48
12	J.	Keown	Belgrave	10	29	58

13	P.	Hastings	Cambridge	10	40	15
14	J.	Morris	Belgrave	10	41	55
15	D.	Beament	S.W. Postal	11	01	39
16	R.	Alleyne	Barbados	11	07	10
17	E.	Buy	S.W. Postal	11	41	55

Team	Position	Club	Points
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1		Surrey W.C.	
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Victory Cup	J. Warhurst
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Dithy Cup	S. Till
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Elaine Trophy	K . Mason
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Harry Preston Cup	P. Worth
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Edward Knott Memorial Shield	Surrey W.C.
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