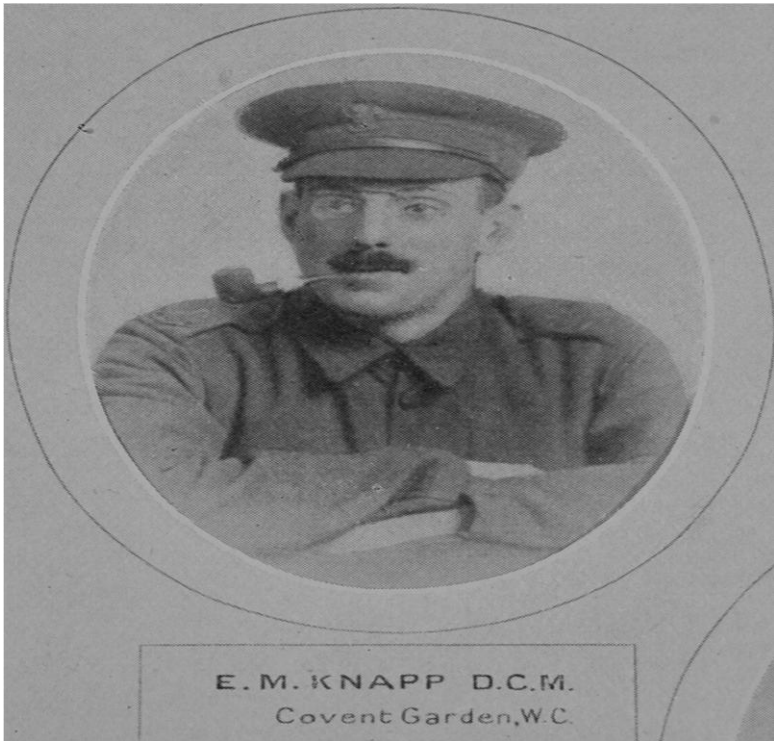


February 2015 No.459

*The Gazette and Record of the
Surrey Walking Club*



Walking



Edward Knapp - Surrey Walking Club Captain (1912-1915)

Welcome to Gazette no. 459

This edition contains the first in a series of articles by Gail Elrick on the Club in the First World War. As Editor I welcome any contributions. Letters, news, comments, photos and reports are all welcome. Any material Emailed to p.crane7w@hotmail.co.uk would be welcome.

Thanks for all contributions. This magazine and much other interesting information is also accessible on our website www.surreywalkingclub.org.uk .

Facebook

We have a Facebook page which is being well used for sharing lots of interesting information. We invite you to join by contacting Mark Easton, our webmaster.

Gazette Night

On Saturday 29 November, 35 members and friends met for our annual social event, to enjoy one another's company and to raise funds towards the costs of this magazine. We met as usual at Blackheath and Bromley Harriers AC headquarters at Hayes, Kent. We enjoyed a splendid buffet meal before Malcolm Wishart and Roger Michell shared duties as auctioneer, seeking to sell us a wide range of items which had been donated. This proved to be a very amusing time, as the two auctioneers in their different styles, managed to get most of us to part with our money for some interesting bargains. We also held a raffle which yielded £131. The total profit from the evening towards the Gazette was £326.

Thank you to all who came. If you have not experienced the delights of this annual event, you should try it in 2015.

Trevor Sliwerski – President and Hon. Social Secretary

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Vince Elphick,

Machiko Crane,

Casilda Prophet,

Colin Harding sends his greetings. We are sorry to hear that he has been very unwell lately and wish him well.

Ken Best, our oldest member celebrated his 90th birthday last year. Peter Selby was able to take Ken to watch the track race at Horsham in December and the Club presented flowers to him and his wife, Beryl.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO AUGUST 2014

2013/14 has again seen some success for Surrey Walking Club with the racing side winning a National Championship with and the Strollers holding a fully subscribed and enjoyed weekend event on Hadrian's Wall. On the negative side, once again the new elections have all been over 40. On the other hand the relatively high number of racers elected at the end of 2012/13 and early this year have turned out frequently so participation in Club and Open events has increased and there have been many 'good for age' performances. The National picture has also been slightly brighter with some success from the National squad although still below top international standards.

At the beginning of the year we had 143 members and have since elected 9 new applicants but only two are on the racing side. There have been 1 death, 2 resignations and we have deleted 10 names for non-payment of subscriptions. The net result has been a decrease in membership of 4 to 139 at the end of August. With more timely deletion of members failing to pay on time or formally resigning, the lower number now more properly represents the Club's real size in terms of interested walkers. Arthur Goodwin died at around 85 and had not been heard from for several years. He had been a member for over 35 years and participated regularly early on while still also running for South London Harriers as he had for many years.

Mark Easton took on the job of Race Secretary following Peter Selby's long and excellent service in the job and also the necessary move from Monks Hill. The first two Club races were held at our new venue, Addiscombe Cricket Club. This is a pleasant facility with plenty of space and near some quiet roads for racing. The main disadvantage is that we are restricted to Sunday afternoons which is the least preferable time and probably results in lower participation particularly from visitors. The course, whilst having little traffic and

pleasant surroundings, is too hilly for major events and alternatives are being sought. Increased racing membership led to better Club numbers for our three usual events the last of which, the Christmas Cup, was moved to the park course at Tonbridge School. With the Southern 10km not being held on our course it was decided that our Open 10km would not fit into the busy programme and we held our Club race within the Southern at the end of March although the A race status reduced our field.

The Albury Cup was won by Malcolm Martin from wife Angela whose combination of improving performances and attendance at all 5 events made them unbeatable. There is continuing debate over our normal four-yearly 100 miles event as it has become financially un-sustainable with low participation, shortage of officials and high costs. We have, in recent years, absorbed some loss from our still adequate funds but with the recognition that this is not a fair situation for SWC, the feeling that it should not continue has grown.

Although more experienced members are appearing less regularly the Club continues to score well in Opens and Nationals although it must be admitted that poor participation by other Clubs has very much contributed to this. One very pleasing feature has been the appearance of SWC in the women's section as Angela Martin and Sandra Campbell appear regularly and Sandra Brown combines her continuing dominance over 100 miles with appearances over shorter distances. These three won the National 20km team race at Sheffield to join the men's team in the same position. The men also won the National 10 miles and bronze in the National 10km at Hillingdon Cycle track although the very regrettable near-total absence of any non-Southern competitors reduced the value of our result. The National 50kms saw few competitors and only one SWC while the National 100 miles was slightly better but hampered by a lack of the actual results. One result that was very clear though was our Sandra Brown was first Woman and 2nd overall. Our

small team of ultra-distance walkers continue to shine both here and on the continent.

The Strolls side of our Club continues to flourish with fairly good and enthusiastic participation in spite of the extremely wet weather last winter. The highlight this year was an expansion of the usual weekend event to five days and 90 or so miles on Hadrian's Wall. Fully subscribed and very smoothly organised by Janette Henderson the event was a tremendous success. Clashes with LDWA events have been largely avoided and our numbers have still been adequate when they have occurred. Club members have been prominent in the organisation of the LDWA's major 100 mile challenge.

Almost £300 was raised by the Gazette Night Auction at Blackheath & Bromley's HQ in Hayes. Around the usual 35 attended the well organised event run by our Social Secretary, Trevor Sliwerski, and auctioneer Malcolm. The buffet provided by Blackheath's Pat was as excellent as ever and the items auctioned covered the usual range from amusingly useless to the more valuable memorabilia. All went home having had a very pleasant evening for which the Club is much indebted to Trevor and Malcolm.

The long history of the Gazette continues as Editor Peter Crane successfully seeks more interesting content, photographs and now colour on the front page. We are all very grateful to Peter and Penny Darton for proving our excellent magazine. Meanwhile Mark Easton, our Webmaster, continues to regularly update the events and results on the Club website. Members are encouraged to visit the site regularly and also sign up and participate in our Facebook page. The latter provides the possibility of intra-club debate of SWC issues on an ongoing basis as well as updating members on current events.

Your Committee has met bi-monthly, under the Chairmanship of our President, Trevor Sliwerski. There have been no major crises and we trust the membership has found our stewardship of the Club satisfactory. England Athletic's calls on our time have been limited and easily managed. The greatest recent success in running has been the informal Park Runs which were originated entirely outside of the UK sport framework and some of our walkers are beginning to take part. The main, previously unexpected issue was to replace Monk's Hill for the coming winter season and find substitute courses. This has been achieved but probably not on a permanent basis yet. The second half of the year has been much involved in soul searching concerning the 100 miles as noted above.

We are sure the 2014/15 year will continue to bring success to the Club with our larger numbers but the longer term problems continue to haunt us as we appear to be approaching a brick wall where, nationally, the number of events and participants will reduce to unsustainable levels. Let us hope that that the widespread desire for improvement begins to bear fruit.

Peter Hannell Hon. Secretary 13th November 2014

From The Hon. Treasurer's Annual Report

The Club finished the accounting year 2013/14 with a total net deficit of £471.68 and total net assets of £10,986.49. This compares with a net surplus of £29.19 and total net assets of £11,487.36 in the previous year (2012-13). The Club's funds therefore reduced in 2013-14 by £500.87. This was caused by a reduction in receipts (down by £143.78) and an increase in payments (up by £357.09).

Points to note are that:

* Members' subscriptions and donations held up well. The Club received £640.00 (2012-13: £660.00) in annual subscriptions and £621.50 (2012-13: £624.04) in donations. Thanks are due to the hard work of the Membership Secretary in following up outstanding subscriptions.

* The 2013 Gazette Night made a net surplus of £283.50 (2012-13: £379.60) and thanks are due to the Social Secretary.

* Net race costs increased to £372.30 (2012-13: £20.95) mainly due to Sandilands and Tonbridge costs, a final payment to Norman Park and higher than usual trophy engraving costs (see Note 6).

* Administrative costs were £934.33 (2012-13: £741.35) in the previous year. Accommodation charges were less because prices remained fixed for 2014 with one less meeting but other regular payments increased, namely affiliation fees, RWA President's Appeal, postage and stationery costs and web site costs. Apart from regular payments, there were two cases of refunds to strollers. Net Team Expenses were £98.74 (2012-13: £250.00).

John Elrick Hon. Treasurer 17 November 2014

WW1 Memorial by Gail Elrick

By the outbreak of the First World War the Surrey Walking Club was a well-established club with around 200 members. It had a thriving programme of race walks and Sunday strolls with training taking place during the week. Hardly surprising then that so many of these fit young men were soon in uniform 'with the colours'. By the end of the war it was reported that:

- 65% of members had served in the armed forces,
- 8 had gained decorations,
- 29 had died, 24% of serving members.

MEMORIAL

In memory of this incredible contribution the Club Committee has decided to make a donation from Club funds to the establishment of a new 640 acre wood in Langley Vale (Surrey, near Epsom) in memory of those who fought and died in the Great War. The new woodland is currently being developed by the Woodland Trust in memory of the fallen in WW1. If any member is interested in contributing to this fund details are at the end of this article.

This is the first in a series of articles which attempt to give a flavour of life, and death, for the Surrey men as gleaned from the pages of the Surrey Walking Club Gazette (The Gazette), the club history, Unbroken Contact, (Edited by Sandra Brown) and other documentation available.

WHO WERE THEY?

At the end of the War the membership paid by subscription for two trophies to be purchased in memory of those who died. The War Memorial Cup, a very elegant cup, engraved with the names of 28 who died (that of A. Taylor being unaccountably missing) and the second, the Knapp Memorial Trophy (more about Knapp later). Those who died are listed over page:

Surname and rank	Regiment/service	Date of death, age	Cemetery or memorial
Edward T. Alford Private	7 th Middlesex Regiment	16/09/16	Thiepval Memorial France (Somme)
H.B Banks Corporal	London – Civil Service Rifles*	22/05/18	Pernois British Cemetery, Halloy-les Pernois (Somme)
William R. Berrow Private (Gunner)	Tank Corps	23/11/17	Cambrai Memorial, Louverval France (Nord)
Oswald. L. Buckoke 2 nd Lieutenant	Suffolk Regiment	08/07/17	Jean Court Communal Cemetery France (Aisne)
Bernard M. Chapman Private	London – Civil Service Rifles *	26/08/16 (24)	Maroueil British Cemetery France, (Pas de Calais)
George W. Coombes 2 nd Lieutenant	King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment	03/05/17	Brown's Copse Cemetery, France (Roeux)
Albany P. Featherstonhaugh Serjeant	London - London Rifle Brigade	03/05/15 (32)	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West Vlaanderen, (Belgium)
Edmund Gavin Company Serjeant Major	London - London Scottish	01/11/14 (45)	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Belgium (West Vlaanderen)
E. Hailstone n/k	Army Service Corps Motorised Transport	06/17	n/k
John L. Hampton Lance Corporal	London - London Rifle Brigade	03/05/15 (38)	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Belgium (West Vlaanderen)
Franklyn T. Hemsley Corporal	London 7 th Royal Fusiliers	27/03/18	Arras Memorial, France , (Pas de Calais)
A. Higgs Private	London – Civil Service Rifles*	? 1918	n/k

Charles J. Holdsworth 2 nd Lieutenant	11 th Devonshire Regiment	08/05/17 (32)	H.A.C Cemetery. Ecout-St-Mein France (Pas de Calais)
Frederick G. Hunt Private	London 10 th Royal Fusiliers	18/07/16 (24)	St. Sever Cemetery Rouen, France (Siene Maritime)
Edward M. Knapp Serjeant (DCM)	London – Civil Service Rifles*	7/10/16 (33)	Thiepval Memorial, France, (Somme)
Arthur D. Morton 2 nd Lieutenant	London (1 st Surrey Rifles)	24/08/18 (38)	Bray Hill British Cemetery, Bray-Sur - Somme, France
George A. Pearce Lance Corporal	London Queen's Westminster Rifles	16/01/15 (23)	Houplines Communal Cemetery, France (Nord)
Charles W. Robertson 2 nd Lieutenant	3 rd Manchester	22/08/16 (25)	Le Cateau Military Cemetery, France, (Nord)
Harold O. Saunders Serjeant	London - London Rifle Brigade	16/08/17 (27)	Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Belgium (West Vlaanderen)
Harry E. Shattock Captain	Queen's Own (Royal West) Kent Regiment	07/08/17 (27)	Lijssenthosk Military Cemetery Belgium (West Vlaanderen)
Lionel A. Shute (Shutte) Serjeant	London Queen's Westminster Rifles	10/09/16	Thiepval Memorial France (Somme)
Edwin S. Spalding Rifleman	London (1 st Surrey Rifles)	23/05/16 (34)	Arras Memorial France (Pas de Calais)
George N. Strang Sub Lieutenant	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (Howe Battalion)	13/11/16 (29)	Thiepval Memorial France (Somme)

Robert W. Sutcliffe Private	London- Royal Fusiliers	28/07/16 (37)	Thiepval Memorial France (Somme)
Arthur A. Taylor Serjeant	London -London Scottish	08/07/16 (24)	Maroueil British Cemetery France (Pas de Calais)
W. A. Tudball Corporal	London – Civil Service Rifles*	7/10/16 (29)	Warlencourt British Cemetery France (Pas de Calais)
Eric A. Vickers Corporal	Royal Army Medical Corps London **	6/11/15	Cairo War Memorial Cemetery (Egypt)
Sidney Warner Private	7 th Middlesex Regiment	07/10/16 (29)	Thiepval Memorial France (Somme)
Francis H. Willis Rifleman	London Rifle Brigade	9/10/16 (39)	Thiepval Memorial France (Somme)

*Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles

** Royal Army Medical Corps London Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance

The spelling of Serjeant, with a j, was used throughout the war

HOW DID THE CLUB RESPOND TO THE WAR? 1914-15

The Gazette of the Surrey Walking Club for July 1914 (**no. 13**) gave no real indication of the horrors that were to come. There were lively light hearted reports of strolls and races, the only real foretaste being the report of the successful attempt by the London Rifle Brigade (trained by member **Albany Featherstonhaugh**) on the world record for marching! (Reproduced in full in Strolling News no. 53 - copy can be provided).

So to read the next **Gazette** for January 1915 (**no. 14**) was to be launched into a different world. Subscriptions were to be remitted for serving members.

The editorial began:

'Fresh history of the world is in the making, and the face of Europe is being changed, so it is only fitting that our club should lie low and take things quietly the while its members are taking part in various undertakings far more important than sport. For this reason the Committee has seen fit to entirely suspend races until further notice, to amend its strolling fixture-list, and to substitute, as an experiment, route marches for training spins.'

It was confirmed that 51 members were with the Colours (20% + of membership). So far all were well except for **Edmund Gavin** who was missing. A new section was added to the Gazette, Extracts from 'letters of members at the front – and back'. Many members were involved in training and seemed in good spirits. **Pte. Warner** commented, *'they have a funny way of killing time in the Army; when they can't think of anything else to do, they inoculate you against something.'*

The Gazette (no. 15) dated Oct. 1915 gave a much less happy picture. Now 76 Members were listed as With the Colours, (from a total membership of 190).

Edmund Gavin was still missing and **Albany Featherstonhaugh** (known as '**Feathers,**') the trainer for the marching record reported in Gazette no.13 had been killed. He had been a lively member of the club, in civilian life he had worked as a mercantile clerk. **George Pearce** and **John Hampton** were similarly reported as killed in action. **Edmund Gavin**, Company Sjt. Major, was subsequently confirmed as killed as one would suspect, the first of the Surrey members to go and one of the oldest at 45. He had also served in the South African war, in between he worked in a bank. **George Pearce** by contrast was only 23. His father was the landlord of the Pied Bull in Streatham, a favourite watering place for the Club (the pub is still there). **John Hampton** had not been an active member of the club but had said *'I feel I must join such a fine Club, seeing the great good they do for this splendid branch of athletics'*.

The Gazette was now beginning to be a real method of communication for members. Examples included:

Edmund Knapp, the club captain and keen stroller was mentioned by a friend of a member. *'Met a friend of yours about 3½ yards behind the firing line. Knapp by name. Told me he was captain of the Surrey Walking Club. Gave me a stroll card and asked me to join after the war.'*

Gordon Everitt had been wounded in the ear by a shrapnel splinter but seemed to take it all in his stride given that the most frequent comment from being on the front line was *'nothing happened'*. (He survived so his luck must have held).

H.C. Price was married, *'We were married at 10 a.m. on Sunday last. I arrived at England on Friday, at 3.30 p.m., and left on Monday, at 2 p.m., arriving here (somewhere in France) this morning (Tues).'*

Sidney Warner (nicknamed Kidney) reported from Gibraltar *'Found the rations (bully beef and biscuits) of a very ripe old age and questionable quality. Strangely enough, he (Sidney) remembers that some eight years ago, when he was a clerk with a firm of Army Contractors, he consigned a large supply of bully beef to Gib'*.

GIVING

A Group Fund has been set up at the Woodland Trust and you can donate on line. Log into: www.dedicatetrees.com and click donate to a fund. A group fund has been set up in the name of the Surrey Walking Club. Alternatively donations can be sent to the SWC Hon. Treasurer, John Elrick (his details are on the back of this Gazette). Cheques should be made payable to the Surrey Walking Club. Please make it clear that the donation is for this fund. All contributions will be listed on the web site or marked anon. if you prefer.

RACE RESULTS

5 October - National 50 kms plus supporting races, Hillingdon Cycle Track

There were two additional races held at the same time as the National 50km - 10km and 20km. In the 50 km an international flavour was introduced by competitors from Spain, Canada, Brazil, Italy and South Africa. The weather conditions were ideal being dry throughout with the temperature slightly cool at the beginning of the race warm during the middle and cooling off to-wards the end. The club had one competitor in each event. In the 10km Sandra Campbell walked a consistent race to finish in exactly 75 min which was a personal best for the distance by 5 mins. In the 20km Malcolm Martin maintained a steady pace and was encouraged by being near other competitors. He finished in a personal best by 6 mins! In the 50 km Chris Flint walked some 20 km with Leicester's Sarah Lightman before she drew away to finish in a personal best by 50 mins. Chris finished in a very reasonable time to stay comfortably within the time limit by over 4 minutes.

Men's National 50km:

1. J.Hobbs (Ash) 5.12.24; 2. M.Culshaw (Bel) 5.50.43; 3. D.Crompton (LancsWC) 5.51.18; 6. **C.Flnt** 6.10.24.(SRWA 50km Bronze) Note: 6:15:0 time limit. Dom King (Col H) 4.12.41 in the International race.

Women's 50km:

1. M.Noel (Belg) 6.01.35; 2. S.Lightman (Leic WC) 6.03.23; 50k. Note: 6:15:0 time limit.

Men's 20km:

1. **M.Martin** 116.40.

Women's 10km:

1. T.Gabellone (Leic) 49.39; 2. G.Narviliene (Belg) 51.31; 3. H.Butcher (Camb H) 53.09; 6. **S.Campbell** 75.00.

27 September - Enfield 1 Hour Hemel Hempstead

This race was held in quite warm weather for the end of September which encouraged some and slowed others giving a wide spread of performances. The Club contributed 6 to the field which was down on 2013. Malcolm Martin produced the best distance as he came back after a short break to reach near his earlier performances. Mick Harran's time was a good distance for his age group. David Hoben and Angela Martin finished only 12 metres apart with David unusually ahead of Angela and the former having a good spell while Angela had a good 19 mile result but is finding shorter races more difficult.

Men:

1. C.Wilkinson (E&H) 12.860 km; 2. F.Reis (Ilf) 11.579 km; 3. F.Deuter (Hill) 11.579 km; 6. **M.Martin** 10.503 km; 12. **M.Harran** 9.200 km; 17. **D.Hoben** 8.377 km.

Women:

1. H.Middleton (E&H) 9.349 km; 2. F.Bishop (AFD) 8.767 km; 3. K.Koeslag (Bels) 8.517 km; 4. **A.Martin** 8.365 km; 5. **S.Campbell** 7.965 km.

12 October – Enfield League 5 mls, Lee Valley:

Dave Hoben's good performance deservedly won the yacht handicap. He was overtaken by Dave Kates but the latter came under the judges ban for illegal style. Hoben had an actual time around 3 minutes faster than expected. The majority of the SWC team came in one immediately after the other in a group about a minute later than the handicapper's estimate. Malcolm Martin, with the Club's fastest actual time, continued his improvement on last week - a good solid race. Dan Maskell started 20 secs ahead of Shaun Lightman and Shaun caught up with him after 1/2 a mile and they walked together for two of four laps when Shaun drew away and was closing on Mick Harran but just failed to catch him. Dan then closed on Shaun but ran out of road before he could catch him. Mick, Shaun, Malcolm and Dan all finished within a remarkable 30 seconds in the handicap.

Further down the field Malcolm's wife Angela had a good, solid race but unluckily did not get the handicap allowance she deserved and though she managed a reasonable actual time she was among the last to finish. Meanwhile Sandra Campbell produced another personal best and, with an accurate handicap, was 4th finisher. Thanks should also go to our band of officials especially Pam Ficken who was a recorder.

Men:

1. C.Wilkinson (E&H) 37.08; 2. F.Deuter (Hill) 39.32; 3. F.Reis (Ilf) 39.34; **7. M.Martin** 44.32; 12. **S.Lightman** 49.37; 14. **D.Maskell** 50.09 18. **M.Harran** 52.25; 19. **D.Hoben** 54.29.

Women:

1. H.Middleton (E&H) 50.08; 2. M.Noel (Belg) 50.55; 3. A.Jones (Ste) 52.28 7. **A.Martin** 54.30; 8. **S.Campbell** 57.15

26 October – Steyning 10km

A very pleasant afternoon saw 17 set off from Steyning northwards into the countryside for the first race of Steyning AC's 14/15 programme. A few regulars were missing but the total held up with a similar number of new faces including 6 from SWC. The rather hilly course saw a wide variation in outcomes with the winner, super-vet Ian Richards from the home club, immediately pulling away from the chasers although his victory was eventually limited to only a couple of minutes. Similarly SWC's first man, Dan Maskell, set off ambitiously not too far from the chasing pack but finished only half a minute ahead of Shaun Lightman who started more steadily. This however was an excellent race for Dan with a victory over Shaun and a place in the top half of a strong field. Not far behind was Paul Gaston who is new to walking and still an active runner but used his strength to more or less hold several experienced competitors. Further back was David Hoben who appears to enjoy the hills and finished much nearer his clubmates than usual in a 10km time near his best. There was an associated competition for the nearest to their

pre-race estimate - but not inside it - which was won by the 2nd overall racer, Trevor Jones, with a time remarkably only 5 seconds outside of his estimate with Dan 3rd with a 13 second gap.

1. I.Richards (Stey) 51.13; 2. T.Jones (Stey) 53.05; 3. P.Ryan (Ilf) 53.30; 6. **D.Maskell** 62.33; 7. **S.Lightman** 63.07; 9. **P.Gaston** 64.52; 10. **M.Harran** 65.27; 13. **P.Hannell** 67.01; 14. **D.Hoben** 70.33.

1 November – Alec Potton Memorial 7 miles, Sandilands, Croydon

Despite the very grey weather with intermittent rain before and after, the race itself was blessed with dry and warm conditions. Numbers were a little down partly due to the availability of the current venue being restricted to Sunday afternoon and some alternative will be considered for the future. Unusually, only two visitors joined what was a fair turnout of Club members. As for the last 32 years of this event former international, Mark Easton, won the race and the Championship as he gradually drew away from the improving David Crane in a time slightly down on last year. David, on the other hand, had the compensation of a personal best and victory in the handicap. If many approached this longish race on the hills of the quite new venue with some apprehension they seemed to find that more experience of the course revealed that the hills are not really very hard and achieved reasonable times. Although not as numerous as hoped the competitors, apart from Mark and David who were well clear, were quite evenly spread and were able to benefit from seeing the competition ahead. David's father, Peter, also did well for runner-up in the handicap as he improved on recent races and held off Chris Flint and David Hoben.

(Club handicap positions in brackets):

1(7). **M.Easton** 61.24; 2(1). **D.Crane** 62.11; 3(5). **D.Maskell** 72.52; 4. S.Pender (E&H) 73.28; 5(4). **P.King** 74.57; 6(6). **M.Harran** 75.47; 7(-). **P.Hannell** 76.29; 8(2). **P.Crane** 79.45; 9(8). **C.Flint** 80.17; 10(3). **D.Hoben** 80.18; 11 G.Legon (Bexley W55) 83.05.

7 November– 88th Enfield 7 Miles, Lee Valley

The 88th edition of this race was held near Lee Valley Stadium as the traditional course in Enfield suffers from slippery leaves in the Autumn damp while a dry surface at Lee gave a number of fast times. It was cold and windy but several of the 8 SWC visitors were among such times. A reasonable field of 44 for this famous race added to the prevalent good spirits and made the journey worthwhile. The first SWC was Malcolm Martin in the top 10 as he returns to racing showing no effect of his break. Also in the top half of the field, Dan Maskell was not far off 70 minutes as he battled with the group of 5 walkers close to him. Three minutes behind came the usual SWC pack of Paul King, Chris Flint and Mick Harran with the first two around three minutes ahead of recent times. Second claim Paul easily beat a good performance the previous week at the SWC 7 miles. David Hoben and Angela Martin finished only 7 seconds apart. Altogether it was a good day for SWC both in terms of numbers and times.

Men:

1. Dom King (Col H) 50.53; 2. Dan King (Col H) 52.01; 3. C.Wilkinson (E&H) 56.09; 8. **M.Martin** 63.17; 17. **D.Maskell** 70.24; 23. **P.King** 73.07; 24. **C.Flint** 73.57; 26. **M.Harran** 74.45; 28. **D.Hoben** 78.58; 29. **D.Delaney** 81.19.

Women:

1. G.Narviliene (Belg) 59.23; 2. H.Middleton (E&H) 70.29; 3. F.Bishop (AFD) 74.52; 6. **A.Martin** 79.05.

30 November – BMAF 20km and Enfield League 10km, Hillingdon Cycle Track

This event was primarily the British Masters 20km championships and as such attracted a rather poor field with 18 finishers, four of whom were Surrey Walking Club members. The event was run by BMAF assisted by Enfield Harriers who also held their last league race of the year over 10km. The two were held concurrently with 29 more just doing the 10km. The latter dropped out at 10km and also the necessary different judging standards for the two races, which sounded complicated, were very smoothly managed by the officials. The only inevitable disadvantage was that those doing the whole 20km naturally set off more slowly than they would have for a straight 10km and though included in the 10km results their times were likely to be slower than normal for the shorter distance. In fact all but one of the 6 strong SWC 10km contingent did the full distance and only David and Peter Hannell's reasonable times were a true 10km effort. Three of the other four finished with age-group medals over 20km – Angela Martin & Roger Michell with Silver and Dan Maskell with Bronze while Chris Flint was just outside in 4th. Roger set off strongly but comfortably in the windless perfect conditions and was first SWC home but in a time hampered by slowing in the last few laps. Chris and Dan took the first half more cautiously and though 90 seconds down at 10km it was Dan who came through 80 seconds ahead. Keeping this final gap down below two minutes represented an excellent effort from Chris. Meanwhile Angela was justifiably pleased with her race, first in her age group and a time not far off her best 20km and considerably better than her other recent races.

Enfield 10km - Men:

1. C.Wilkinson (E&H) 50.33; 2. I Richards (Stey) 51.04
3.F.Deuter (Hill) 51.30; 12. **R.Michell** 61.07; 23. **P.Hannell**
65.28; 24. **C.Flnt** 65.41; 26. **D.Maskell** 67.10; 30.
D.Hoben 72.02

Enfield 10km - Women:

1. G.Narviliene (Belg) 54.05 2.H.Middleton (E&H) 63.51; 3.. M.Noel (Belg) 66.07; ; 8. **A.Martin** 71.39.

BMAF 20km - Men:

1. T.Jones (Steyn 1st M55) 112.53; 2. S.AllenB (Barn 2nd M55) 122.26; 3. J.Ralph (E&H 3rd M55) 123.36; 8. **R.Michell** (2nd M65) 127.58; 12. **D.Maskell** (3rd M65) 135.18; 13. **C.Flint** (4th M65) 136.39.

BMAF 20km - Women:

1. M.Noel (BelgW50) 137.06 2.J.Howard (Abin W55) 139.34; 3. **A.Martin** (1st W50) 145.49; .

6 December – Cambridge Harriers League 5km,

This was the second 5km race of the Cambridge Harriers League for 2014/15 and a total of almost 30 walkers across the various age-groups represented a healthy turnout with over half representing the younger age-groups. SWC were a little under strength with only three out on this bright but cold afternoon with little wind. Overall performances were down in spite of the good racing conditions but this is not an easy course and competitors were well spread. The Martins were the first home with Malcolm in sixth, behind several youngsters, and Angela was in third place, both with times somewhat below par but in line with the reductions across the field. The exceptions were among the youngsters with personal bests as they enthusiastically pushed on up the long hill. David Hoben was just behind Angela this time with a poorer time but with the strict judging employed in this league his caution was justified and at least he got through safely.

Men:

1. 1. C.Corbishley (M&M) 22.35; 2. J.Hobbs (Ashf) 25.07; 3. C.Hobbs (Ashf) 25.34; 4. C.Snook (AFD) 25.41; 5. T.Snook (AFD) 26.52; 6. **M.Martin** 27.14; 10. **D.Hoben** 35.13.

Women:

1. H.Butcher (Camb H) 25.02; 2. E.Ghose (Ton) 29.24; 3.**A.Martin** 34.25.

13 December – Alf Palmer 5km, Broadbridge Heath

An early frost had been burned off the track by the remarkably strong winter sunshine as almost 30 set off with the 8 strong young presence doing just 3km. We were well represented in the senior race with 7 out, of whom Malcolm Martin was first home. The first two in the race, both excelling in their very different age-groups, were soon clear as Under 20 Luc Legon successfully held a small gap on M65 Ian Richards. This was a fast event however and 3rd and 4th were not far behind at a pace Malcolm, in 5th, could not hold on this occasion. He had no competition from the rest as he lapped the 6th finisher. The usual midfield SWC pack of Flint, Gaston and Hannell were spread over just half a lap a little further back and were interspersed with several very welcome newcomers from the running side. Paul Gaston had the best race in this group but it was David Hoben, only a little behind them, who put up the best SWC performance overall as he left Angela Martin behind. On this occasion he was not far from Shaun Lightman who was taking it easy. Shaun's appearance was the best news of the event as he returns after serious illness and walked at a fair pace in the circumstances without overdoing his effort.

Men:

1. L.Legon (Camb H) 24.45; 2. I.Richards (Steyn) 24.52.7;
3. C.Hobbs (Ashf) 25. 24.3; 5. **M.Martin** 27.45.4; 7.
P.Gaston 31.19; 8. **C.Flint** 31.58.1; 11. **P.Hannell** 32.14.2
13. **S.Lightman** 33.57; 14. **D.Hoben** 34.00 ..

Women:

1. A.Jones (Stey) 32.04; 2. **A.Martin** 34.34; 3. G.Legon (Bex)
35.08.

20 December Christmas Cup 5kmTonbridge

The last of our own races for 2014, the Christmas Cup Handicap, was held on the Tonbridge School track this year. In addition to the 10 Club members out there were a number of Kent youngsters and a few other visitors present. Conditions were excellent as the cold wind was negated by warm sunshine for the season. The venue is excellent having been recently renovated. As it happens the well-appointed trackside room which the Club used for the presentation and refreshments was the latest stage of this process and we were lucky enough to have first use. A field of 18 was headed by Under 20 Guy Thomas who treated this as a serious race and achieved an excellent personal best of just over 22 minutes. The first home for SWC was David Crane also in a pb for 5km to take the handicap and lead the next clubman, Malcolm Martin, by over a minute and a half. Perhaps the most remarkable performance came from Shaun Lightman who, though a couple of minutes over his normal times, beat Chis Flint, Mick Harran and Peter Hannell despite having been seriously ill less than a month ago. Generally times were around expectation giving a very close handicap result apart from David Crane well ahead. In 2nd place Malcolm was just 14 seconds in net time ahead of a good race from David Hoben.

SWC Handicap for Christmas Cup in brackets

Men:

1. G.Thomas (Ton) 22.10; 2. F.Reis (If) 24.10; 3(1). **D.Crane** 25.23; 4(2). **M.Martin** 27.04; 5(8). **D.Maskell** 31.02; 6. O.Hopkins (M&M) 31.33; 7. S.Pender (E&H) 31.34; 8(9). **S.Lightman** 31.37; 9(5). **M.Harran** 31.50; 10(4). **C.Flnt** 31.54; 11. R.Penfold (Steyn) 31.58; 12. **P.Hannell** 32.01; 13(3). **D.Hoben** 34.08; 14(7). **P.Crane** 34.27; 15. D.Stevens (Steyn) 36.49.

Women:

1. E.Ghose (Ton) 30.32; 2. G.Legon (Bexley) 33.58 3(6). **A.Martin** 34.20.

26 December – Preston Park 5.5 miles, Brighton

The weather conditions were cold but with no wind and so were good for racing. Ian Richards of Steyning went into a commanding lead and was never headed, He was followed by Trevor Jones. Two Surrey men Dan Maskell and Paul Gaston had a contest for third place with Dan drawing away after two of the four laps. They were chased by Sarah Lightman of Leicester Walking Club who just failed to close the gap. Behind her father Shaun Lightman, Anne Jones and John Killick were together for three of the four laps with Shaun speeding ahead on the last lap just failing to catch daughter Sarah. David Hoben walked with the Brighton duo of Tim and Judith Carder and managed to surge ahead in the last 400 m. Preston Park includes a long hill each lap and this is a pleasant social event so it was not a times for records but of the SWC contingent Paul Gaston had the best race as he battled to hold Dan.

1. I.Richards (Stey) 46.37; 2. T.Jones (Stey) 48.48;
3. **D.Maskell** 56.26; 4. **P.Gaston** 56.56; 5. Sarah
Lightman (Leic WC) 57.15; 6. **Shaun.Lightman**
57.33; 9. **D.Hoben** 63.24;

10 January – SWRA 10km, Sutcliffe Park, Eltham

Despite warnings of terrible weather this Area Championship was held in quite good sunny conditions with some wind but not enough to hinder some good times. This is the second time this venue has been used but this time almost flat 4/5 mile laps were used and the course generally popular. 6 members turned out. Judging was operated on an optional two level system where those who felt they might fall foul of the very strict version could take the weaker version which would rule them out of the Championship itself. This only slightly more complex system works well and allows those whose technique is impaired by age or injury to continue to take an only slightly reduced part in races. SWC had several in the Championship section and were able to win the women's team event while the men took bronze. As was the case last week competition was strong at the head of the Club contingent with Paul Gaston once again almost holding Dan Maskell with the former winning the incorporated Club handicap in an excellent time. In terms of achievement this was only exceeded by Sandra Brown's British W65 record just inside the hour. In the handicap result Chris Flint also did well in second ahead of Dan.

(SWC Hcp in brackets)

Men:

1. F.Reis (If) 50.17; 2. T.Jones (Steyn) 53.04; 3. J.Hobbs (Ash) 53.14; 6(3). **D.Maskell** 64.07; 7(1). **P.Gaston** 64.22; 8(5). **S.Lightman** 66.07(2); 9(2). **C.Flnt** 66.17; 12. **P.Hannell** 67.59 . SWC 3rd Team.

Women:

1. R.Collins (M&M) 55.58; 2. P.Cummings (AFD) 58.10; 3(4). **S.Brown** 59.41; 8(6). **S.Campbell** 78.28. SWC 1st Team.



Two Sandras – first team in SRWA 10kms

17 January – Enfield League 5 miles, Donkey Lane, Enfield

The weather was cold with a fresh breeze facing the 42 competitors at the beginning of the first of five laps of one mile and slowing most by a minute or so. At the front Francisco Reis (Ilford AC) built up a commanding lead to win by nearly three minutes in an excellent time for the conditions. He was followed home by Deuter Fabian with Lithuanian Olympian, Grazina Narviliene in third.

Further down the field SWC's first man home, Dan Maskell, began slowly and overtook a bunch of walkers including Shaun Lightman within the first mile. He then had a race long battle with Gary Smith finally drawing in front with 1 1/2 laps remaining. He finished in a time which seemed to ignore the poor conditions. Two minutes behind him Shaun Lightman pulled away from Sean Pender (Enfield) and chased Ron Penfold (Steyning) and Helen Middleton (Enfield) but failed to make up ground on them. Angela Martin had a race long battle with Anne Jones (Steyning) and Jo Miles (Hillingdon AC) which was just the inspiration for an excellent effort. Anne made the break after half with and Jo just got ahead with half a lap remaining. In her first race since the Roubaix 24hrs race, Kathy Crilley had a lonely journey but finished well.

Awards were given for the year. Angela Martin was third placed lady for her performance in the league races. Pam Ficken gained the award for the official of the year. Whilst Dan Maskell, Shaun Lightman and Malcolm Martin gained prizes for attending more than 5 races.

Men:

1. F.Reis (Ilf) 40.19; 2. F.Deuter (Hill M35) 42.59; 3. T.Jones (Stey) 43.25; 12. **D.Maskell** 51.17; 16. **S.Lightman** 53.14.

Women:

1. G.Narviliene (Belg) 43.11; 2. M.Noel (Belg) 51.46;
3. H.Middleton (E&H) 52.33; **A.Martin** 56. 28; 12.
K.Crilley 62.59.

24 January– Steyning 15km

Despite overnight temperatures around zero, the strong sunshine made racing conditions during the afternoon ideal for the competitors if not for the stationary officials to whom so much credit is due. Steyning's usual out and back venture into the Sussex country lanes was particularly attractive despite the undulations. By coincidence the field split into small groups so none were isolated and times were very good for the course. The winner, world masters' champion Ian Richards was chased all the way by a very welcome visitor from Leicester. U20 Emma Achurch finished a mere 9 seconds behind Ian. The SWC contingent was smaller than usual but all managed satisfactory times with Dan Maskell and Paul Gaston in adjacent positions as Paul was not far behind on the outward journey but a minute and a half adrift by the finish. Peter Hannell finished at the rear of the field but fortunately by only 50 metres and in a reasonable time.

1. I.Richards (Stey) 73.43; 2. T.Jones (Stey) 80.08; 3. C.Hobbs (Ash) 80.18; 7. **D.Maskell** 96.17; 8. **P.Gaston** 97.46; 11. **P.Hannell** 100.45.

Other Results

23 November – Midland League 5km & 10km, Warwick Univ,, Coventry :

5 kms - R.Michell 29.44

10km: D.Maskell 61.31; **D.Hoben** 69.30

Future Club Races

3 June Club 3kms Norman Park Bromley 7.30pm

24 June BBHAC Johnson Bowl 4 mls Bromley ? 7.30pm

STROLL REPORT

Osterley to Hammersmith (linear) - Sunday, 21 December 2014 (Distance: 16 miles)

Conductors: John and Gail Elrick

Participants: Carol, Casilda, Corinne, Dave, Dorothy, Gillian, Jerry, Joelle, Kate, Kathy, Keith, Kevin, Laurence, Lynne, Machiko, Maggie, Mark, Neil, Scottney and Vala

The idea for this walk came from an evening walk of nine miles which we led in July for the London LDWA Group. We were covering for the scheduled leader, Rob Myers, who had unfortunately fractured a shoulder on the LDWA 100 miles event a few weeks earlier. We decided to extend the route to Hammersmith Broadway by following the river and eventually settled on lunch and tea stops at Isleworth and Chiswick. So, much as Rob may regret not doing his walk, one could say that every cloud has a silver lining!

We started with a wide loop around the edge of Osterley Park before turning towards the centre to view Osterley House. As Gail explained to the strollers, the house was designed by Robert Adam in neo-classical style and owned by the Jersey family before passing to the National Trust in 1949. The extensive grounds were used in World War Two for training the Home Guard. Then we followed the Grand Union Canal to Brentford Bridge and passed Syon House to reach our lunch stop, 'The London Apprentice'. The name of the pub, overlooking the river, relates to the apprentices of the livery companies in London who traditionally travelled by barge to the pub to celebrate the end of their tenure as apprentices.

After lunch it was best foot forward with the aim of reaching Chiswick House before the café closed. We crossed the river over Richmond Lock and continued back along the other side

to Kew. Here we diverted to St. Anne's Church on Kew Green to view Thomas Gainsborough's tomb. Thereafter a brisk pace was set along Strand-on-the-Green to reach Chiswick House. Unfortunately, there was no time to do a turn around the gardens, as we had planned, and instead we headed directly to the café which was due to close soon.

It was tempting to linger in the warm café but, as the darkness began to fall, we headed away from the noisy traffic to St. Nicholas's Church to take in Hogarth's tomb before following the river along Chiswick Mall. These handsome Georgian houses have housed many famous names, including the Walpole family, William Thackeray and the Redgrave family. Further along in Upper Mall Kelmscott House was the home of poet, designer and craftsman William Morris until his death in 1896. We eventually emerged from the historic atmosphere of the towpath to the clamour of the Broadway. Here we went our separate ways, taking with us pleasant memories of the parks, canals and riverside.



The strollers outside Osterley House

Future Strolls

Saturday 21 February. Alton to Farnham (linear). Conductor **Jill Goddard**. Start at **Alton** station at **09:37** (London Waterloo 08:30). Return trains from Farnham at 28 and 58 minutes past the hour.

*Route description: This is a pleasant linear walk from Alton to Farnham. The route leaves Alton to the north, via the village of Shaldon and along an undulating bridleway to the ridge above Holybourne. Keeping high the paths take us through woods, farmland and lanes to reach **Well for lunch**. We then drop down to Dogmersfield and on to the Basingstoke Canal. After tea near Ewshot, we climb up to the heathland at Caesar's Camp before dropping into Farnham via the castle.*

Explorer 145, approx. 20 miles.

Saturday 7 March. Guildford Circular. Conductor **Jenny Caddy**. Start Guildford station 09:03 (London Waterloo 08:30). Regular return trains.

*Route description: In the morning we head east to Newlands Corner then continue towards Shere and branch off to **Peaslake** where we stop for **lunch** (pub or picnic). After lunch we return to Guildford via Farley Heath, Blackheath and St Martha's Hill. On a sunny day there are great views.*

Explorer 145, approx. 20 miles.

Saturday 21 March. Haslemere Circular. Conductor **Roger Moss**. Start **Haslemere** station **09:20** (London Waterloo 08:30). Regular return trains from Haslemere (four per hour).

*Route description: In the morning we go through the Devil's Punchbowl to the Crossways pub at **Churt for lunch**. The afternoon section will visit Whitmore Vale and Golden Valley before skirting the rim of the Punchbowl en route to Gibbet Hill and back to Haslemere.*

Explorer 133, approx. 18 miles.

