

November 2016 No.465



Walking

*The Gazette and
Record of the Surrey
Walking Club*



**David Crane led our team into 3rd place in the
Enfield Open 7 (see report) (photo Mark Easton)**

Welcome to Gazette no. 465

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 .

New Members

Helen Franklin,
Alex Hunter,

Hon. Secretary's Report for 2015/16

2015/16 has had a few good features – we have elected or are coaching some new race walkers and won some Area medals. The strolling side continues to flourish with the usual sell-out weekend around Bath. Some of our older walkers have been absent for periods but in most cases will return in good form. While we can say that we are now easily the biggest team in the south with problems for Ilford and Enfield in addition to the many other clubs already struggling, this supremacy is not a case for rejoicing as the background is still of generally declining participation mostly due to ageing athletes not being replaced by under 50's let alone the younger generation. Not that all is gloom on the National scene, as there are several younger walkers, especially Tom Bosworth and Callum Wilkinson, reaching high standards, and this is at least some fruit from the elite training scheme and demonstrates that given the right approach Britain can shine in the arena in which they used to be among the best.

At the beginning of the year we had 140 members and have since elected 5 new members of whom 2 are on the racing side. There have been 2 deaths and we have deleted 2 names for non-payment of subscriptions. The net result has been an increase of 1 to 141 at the end of August 2016. Ken Best died at 91 having been a member for almost 63 years and faithfully turned out to judge for many years in addition to his many other athletic roles. The other loss was Dave Railton who was 79 and had been ill for some years but had been to Gazette Night not long ago. He had been a member for 40 years.

We held the usual 5 races this year with a slight change. The joint promotion with Blackheath & Bromley HAC, the Johnson Bowl, included what would have been the four miles as the general fixture list in early October was very crowded and small numbers at the previous race made it sensible to include it with the earlier 4 miles at Norman Park. The number of competitors at these races was more or less identical to last year apart from our 5kms at Tonbridge, where a combination of other events reduced the turnout. The Albury Cup handicap competition resulted in another win for David Crane but with Dan Maskell not far behind. The handicap for the final race of the season was won by David's brother, Steve after a long absence from racing. The problem of finding an alternative venue from Sandilands for some of the winter races, so that we can race on a Saturday, remains unsolved as several promising ideas came to nothing.

SWC's performance in the Nationals was a far cry from previous years. We had 2 out in the 10kms, 2 out in the 20kms, 1 starter but no finisher in the 50kms and 1 finisher in the 100 miles. The last of these was a little different however as only 6

completed in 24 hours but the 4th of these was Sandra Brown as first woman. The Southern 10kms was a lot nearer and better for SWC with 10 out and a total field of 40 over all distances, including YAG's. SWC won the team race with D.Crane, M.Martin and D.Maskell scoring.

The Strolls side continues to flourish with generally good numbers and a continuing variety of routes. Some of the newer members are eagerly joining the band of leaders thus adding to areas covered. The weekend event organized in July by our hard-working Strolls Secretary, Janette Henderson, was a great success. As ever it was subscribed to capacity almost as soon as details were made available. Areas around Bath were visited and there was an opportunity to see some of the many interesting features of this city. Gail & John Elrick continue to support Janette on the membership and administrative side and this long-standing team provides the Club with a popular and efficient sector in spite of the frequent disruptions due to rail strikes and temporary closures. A special stroll took place on 8 November in remembrance of the 29 SWC members who died in World War 1. The route included a visit to the Woodland Trust plantings in Langley Vale where a purchase of 29 new trees via the Woodland Trust and costing £435 was made by SWC to honour the fallen. This money was raised almost entirely by Member's donations.

Once again the Gazette Night auction and raffle raised over £300. As usual Trevor Sliwerski put on a great event aided by two auctioneers as Roger Michell joined Malcolm Wishart and the usual long evening was enlivened by their contrasting styles. We are grateful to all three for a very spirited event.

Gazette Editor Peter Crane produced the normal quota of issues and this year we have seen an even brighter product with more colour photographs. Meanwhile Mark Easton, our Webmaster, continues to regularly update the events and results on the website and Facebook page.

Your Committee has met bi-monthly, under the Chairmanship of our President, Peter Crane. There have been no major crises and the routine decisions and actions have proceeded in a straightforward manner. We trust that the membership has found their stewardship of the Club satisfactory.

We hope that 2016/17 will again bring success to the Club and the several new racing members will add relative youth to our teams and this necessary process will continue. Longer term problems continue to haunt race walking as nationally the number and events and participants reduce. As noted above the squad initiative is beginning to bear fruit and hope that the greater publicity of race walking success at the top level will increase general public interest.

Peter Hannell – Hon. Secretary.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-2016 (notes)

The accounts cover the 12 months' accounting year from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016. The Club finished the 2015-2016 accounting year with a total net deficit of £410.32 and total net assets of £10,354.22. This compares with a net deficit of £149.95 and total net assets of £10,800.54 in the previous year (2014-15). The Club's deficit therefore increased in 2015-16 by £260.37. This was caused by an increase in receipts (up by £427.33) which was

cancelled out by a higher increase in payments (up by £687.70). Points to note are that:

* We received a £500-00 bequest from the estate of the late Colin Harding deceased as a one-off receipt.

* Members' subscriptions and donations generally held up well. The Club received £615-00 (2014-15: £650.00) in annual subscriptions and £540.00 (2014-15: £565.00) in donations . Thanks are due to the hard work of the Membership Secretary.

* Gazette Night receipts also held up well with the 2015 Gazette Night making a net surplus of £317.50 (2014-15: £326.33). Thanks are due to the Social Secretary.

* Net race costs increased to £222.50 (2014-15: £38.00) mainly because of higher than usual trophy engraving costs, as agreed by the Committee.

* Administrative costs increased to £1,105.54 (2014-15: £898.02) mainly due to an increase in accommodation charges at UJC, one-off donations to RWA and for Ken Best deceased and an increase in web site costs.

* Four editions of the 'Gazette' were produced in the year compared to the usual three. Costs therefore increased by £247.10 to £943.72 (2014-15:£670.04)

John Elrick SWC Hon. Treasurer 20 November 2016

(a copy of the accounts is available from the Treasurer on request.)

STROLL REPORTS

A Circumnavigation of Bath - 8-10 July 2016

Conductor Janette Platt (Henderson)

Participants Dorothy Shepherd, Joelle Paul, John & Gail Elrick, Kevin McGivern, Keith Lane, Leo Kruis, Lynne McKenzie, Lilian Chell, , Paul Tilley, Sharron Henderson (All day Saturday and Sunday morning) Jill Pudney (Saturday & Sunday morning), Stewart Henderson (Saturday & Sunday morning), Jill Goddard (Saturday), Victoria & Guy Barnes (Saturday), Gillian Morris (Saturday morning)

John Royds also joined us for evening meals



The happy participants in the weekend stroll which was fully booked almost as soon as it was advertised

Friday 8th July

As an optional extra, Janette had offered to lead a guided tour of Bath for those who could make it to Bath railway station by 2pm. Ten of the party (Dorothy, Gail, Gillian, Joelle, Jill P, John E, Leo, Stewart, Sharron and Paul) took her up on the offer. Janette duly took them on a whistle stop tour of Bath, including a quick look at the Roman baths and Georgian pump room (including a stop to sample the spa water), the remains of the medieval city wall and one remaining gate, the abbey, the Royal Crescent, The Circus, Pulteney Bridge and a walk along the banks of the River Avon. There was time for tea and cake before taking a look at the old medieval road to Wells (a sunken 'hollow way') and then making our way to our places of accommodation to prepare for the evening meal at the Bath Bew House.

Saturday 9th July

The serious walking began on Saturday morning. Saturday's route took in the countryside to the north of Bath. For ten of the party it began at Janette's house, on the western edge of Bath, while the remaining eight were picked up en route as their accommodation, Bath Mill Lodges, was on the way. A lovely surprise greeted us as we picked the others up. Lilian has baked a cake and distributed pieces of it out to all who wanted them (which was pretty much everyone).

Leaving Bath Mill Lodges, we made our way to the River Avon and then started the long climb up to Bath Race Course, which sits on a large plateau to the north of Bath. The morning route mainly followed the Cotswold Way and, as well as some lovely views, included Bath Race Course itself, the Iron Age hill fort

above North Stoke and the site of the Civil War Battle of Lansdown.

Lunch was taken in the Blathwayte Arms, by the racecourse and they did us proud – good, fresh, hearty grub, perfect for hungry walkers. As planned Stewart left us at lunchtime, but so too did Gillian (she had to get back to London for a family event in the evening) and Jill P (who had an injury and decided to save herself for the next day).

The remaining 15 continued with the afternoon section of the walk. Janette had altered this a little from the billed itinerary, to make up for shortening the morning a little. Instead of walking via Langridge, Wooley and Upper Swainswick, the group made its way via Tadwick to the disused WW2 airfield of RAF Charmy Down. On the way we were met by a couple of obstacles. The first was a very tall, locked gate (at the top of a steep climb) which had been open when Janette recced the walk. Most of the group managed to clamber over it, but four (Kevin, Lynne, Dorothy & Joelle) decided to risk a longer route (and as it proved, very overgrown route) rather than chancing the climb. In the process they found out that the path had been diverted, even though the Ordnance Survey maps still showed it going through the locked gate.

Just before the two parts of the group met up again, we heard shouting from the hill above us. Both parts of the group thought it was the others (and wondered how they had got that far away!) but soon realized it was a clay pigeon shoot and they were telling us to get out of the way (though we were definitely on the footpath by this point). Then followed an extremely overgrown short stretch of path (the second obstacle) before we entered a rather attractive little valley with a small reservoir at the end.

Climbing up again (this time through a lovely wild flower meadow) we eventually made it up to the WW2 airfield on another high plateau (almost losing Sharron, the back marker, on the way).

After traversing the airfield, there followed another descent and then the final climb of the day, to another Iron Age hill fort on top of Little Solsbury Hill, where there are some great views over Bath. Before leaving the hillfort, Janette treated the group to a quick rendition of Peter Gabriel's song 'Climbing up on Solsbury Hill' which is based on this very song.

We then dropped down to Batheaston, where a number of the party opted to get the bus back into town (the day had been very hot and hilly) while the remaining nine (Janette, John, Gail, Lilian, Lynne, Sharron, Jill G, Vicky, Guy) crossed the Batheaston toll bridge over the River Avon (free to pedestrians!) before making a brief stop for a cold drink at the George Inn beside the Kennet & Avon Canal and then taking the tow path into town and the end of the walk (total length, around 19 miles).

The evening meal was at Bath Mill Lodges, where 8 members of the group were staying. Janette had high hopes of this meal, having eaten there in January and it had been really good. Again it had been prebooked but unknown to Janette (until the day before) the head chef had left, and the new chef was on holiday, so the meal was a complete shambles. The day before they had told those staying there that they had not received the pre-order. However, the person saying this was the very person who had confirmed receipt of the pre-order a couple of weeks before by email (which Janette still had). Then it transpired that they had lost the details of the detailed menu that we had chosen from. Janette duly sent it to them and they promised to do the food as described. However,

on the night, the kitchen staff clearly had no idea what they were doing and the food was not good (and the service was incredibly slow, despite the fact that there was only a couple of other people in the restaurant –). Best laid plans and all that.....

Sunday 10 July

The next day started at Janette's house again, and took in the countryside to the south of Bath. It was a shorter and less hilly walk than the day before (at least for those who finished at Bath railway station, for whom it was about 14 miles), though still had its share of hills, as any walk around Bath does.

Almost immediately after leaving Janette's house , Janette pointed out Culverhay Castle, the earthwork remains of a Norman motte & bailey castle and fairly soon after that we visited the earthworks of a deserted medieval village and the Wansdyke. The rest of the morning's route included a short stretch of the Roman Fosse Way (and sadly, a stretch of rather busy road before we got there and another extremely overgrown path after we left the Fosse Way), a lovely view point at Southstoke (where a well-earned break – with more of Lilian's lovely cake - and photo stop were indulged in) before heading downhill into the pretty valleys of Cam Brook and Midford Brook. On the way, we passed an impressive disused flight of locks belonging to the former North Somerset Coal canal and then walked along the former tow path of said canal as far as Milford.

The rest of the morning was fairly easy walking until we reached the lunch stop at the Angelfish café on the Kennet & Avon Canal (again pre-ordered), where we sat having our lunch on the side of the canal. Again, a good food stop for hungry walkers. After

lunch Stewart, Jill P and Sharron left us to get the bus back into town.

In the afternoon we made our way along the Kennet & Avon Canal, taking in the impressive Dundas Aqueduct on the way, before climbing up to Bathampton Down and joining the Bath Skyline Walk for a magnificent view over Bath. On Bathampton Down we passed through some of the early Bath stone quarries and the remains of a tramway taking the stone down to the Kennet & Avon canal, before reaching the Sham Castle. Just before then, the rain had started (mainly while we were in the woods thankfully). We had a brief respite at the Sham Castle, but when it began again it was agreed that we make our way straight into Bath rather than the more circuitous route that Janette had planned. Reaching the canal again, the rain stopped and most of the party took a quick break for an ice cream at a stall by the canal side (Keith left us at this point as he wanted to get an early train back to London).

Once again, the walk finished at Bath railway station, where most of the remaining party decided to call it a day. Janette, John and Gail opted for the extra walk back to Bath Mill Lodges, via Beechen Cliff for yet another lovely view over Bath and then down a disused railway line (now part of the 'Two Tunnels' route) followed by a walk along the River Avon (total distance around 19 miles again).

Finally, those staying the Sunday night (John, Gail, Kevin, Leo, Dorothy & Joelle) popped round for dinner at Janette's place later that same evening.

Bishop's Stortford to Hertford (linear) - Sunday, 21 August 2016

Conductor: Greg Noble

Participants: Corinne, Kate, Gail and John

Four esteemed walkers joined the conductor on an overcast day, but which had potential for both a good walk and weather. We set off at a brisk pace, picking up the River Stort (Navigation) Canal before it joined the clockwise Hertfordshire Way at its most easterly point (just by the Essex board) before it heads back towards Hertford.

We left the Stort to follow cross country through some lovely countryside. The conductor had neglected to mention in the published route description, that we would be passing through The Henry Moore Foundation grounds at Perry Green. Squeals of excitement were heard from the group as we were able to take pictures of some of the distant sculptures and caress one off the path.

We progressed further into the depths of Hertfordshire and were greeted by some darker clouds and spots of rain, but these were soon blown away by the wind, which gradually cleared the sky.

We arrived at Wadesmill before 2pm and were able to enjoy a tasty lunch and pint in the rear garden of The Feathers. The bright sun was with us for the rest of the day as we passed through fields which has both been harvested or were due imminently.

The conductor had to resort to checking the map for the first time as we come up to Stapleford, due to

being distracted by good conversation. This was only briefly commented upon by the esteemed walkers, as a U turn was necessary to pick up the correct path. We followed the River Beane for much of the way into Hertford in glorious sunshine with shading from the many trees on the bank.

The Conductor again missed a turning (engrossed in more good conversation!), where upon he was suitably lambasted by the group for this second lapse. That said, he then safely steered everyone safely through the centre of Hertford, being careful not to stop at the many inviting coffee emporiums, to catch the train with minutes to spare.

Two walkers took the opportunity to doze on the train until the change at Broxbourne. A sure sign of a walk with notable points of interest and of respectable length.

24 July In The Footsteps of Harold, Part 1: From Westminster to Lesnes Abbey

Conductor: Neil Cook

Participants: Dave Williams, Gail Elrick, John Elrick, Kate Copeland and Lynne McKenzie

We set off along the Thames heading towards London Bridge where, strangely enough, Harold crossed here. Also, Kate's birthday was shown on a plaque. We had a pit stop at Hays Galleria. We continued to Greenwich where we said goodbye to Kate and Lynne but Dave Williams joined us here.

After a leisurely Wetherspoons lunch we headed along the Thames Pathway again and after a break at the Thames Barrier we got on to the Green Chain Walk and headed to Lesnes Abbey. After some diversions to Abbey Wood Station and because of Cross Rail work we had to get on buses for our connections. Our final distance travelled according to Gail's GPS was 22 miles.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

11 September Witley Circular,

Conductor: Janette Henderson

Participants: Cassilda, Gillian, Jenny, Machiko, Vala

A small select group arrived at Witley station for this walk on a bright sunny Sunday morning in early September. The previous day had been wet and miserable which had perhaps put others off, but the five who made it enjoyed a whole day of glorious weather. As well as the regulars, the conductor was very pleased to see Jenny (previously a very regular stroller with the club, before her injury), who though still carrying an injury decided to brave the walk, and Vala who has not been out for some time.

The morning route took us over Hambledon Common (lovely views) to Hambledon and then through the sun-dappled woods of Hambledon Hurst to eventually tip out at Skinners Lane. Some pleasant field paths were then taken to Chiddingfold. There is a lovely tea shop in Chiddingfold, but it was too early to stop so we continued on our way west through more field paths to Little Prestwick Farm, where unknown to the conductor, the footpath had, most unusually, been re-routed through the garden belonging to the farm. Jenny, in the rear group, knew this and went the right way. The conductor, sadly, went the way she was used to going and the front group ended up having to climb over a gate to get back to the path. The field paths between High Prestwick Farm and Grayswood afford some great views of the surrounding hills clothed in woodland, including the after lunch climb to the top of Gibbet Hill.

All bar Vala and the conductor had their picnic lunches on the green in Grayswood, joining Vala and the conductor in the Wheatsheaf pub later for a quick drink.

After a steady climb up to the top of Gibbet Hill the group were rewarded by more fantastic views firstly

from the Temple of the Four Winds (the remains of a former hunting lodge) and the top of Gibbet Hill itself. We then turned our steps to the Devil's Punchbowl, via the old turnpike road from London to Portsmouth. Since the A3 tunnel has been built, and many trees cleared, the view from this road over the Punchbowl is much improved. On the way, we passed the memorial to the unknown sailor who was murdered here in the late 18th century. Said murderers were later hanged on Gibbet Hill.

After a quick stop at the National Trust café at the top of the Punchbowl for ice creams, cold drinks and a photo shoot courtesy of Jenny, we were off on our way again, down into the heart of the Punchbowl, to eventually emerge by Punchbowl Farm. More pleasant field paths then took us to Thursley, where the Greensand Way was followed all the way back to Witley. Since the A3 tunnel has been built the Greensand Way route across the A3 is much improved. Previously, it was necessary to take your life in your hands by crossing the busy A3 dual carriageway. Now, there is a slight detour to take an underpass under the road – phew!

A rapid pace from this point on meant we made it to the station at Witley in good time for the 5.48pm train back to London, with time to wind down on the station platform.

The conductor would like to thank to Cassilda, Gillian, Jenny, Machiko and Vala for their great company (and Cassilda for her grapes, and Machiko for her chocolate!).

FUTURE STROLLS

Sunday 4 December. Box Hill & West Humble to Dorking (Linear). Conductor Kevin McGivern. Start Box Hill & Westhumble train station 09:36 (London Victoria 08:40). Return trains from Dorking (Main) at 15 & 45 minutes past the hour.

Early lunch time stop at The Compasses Inn, Gomshall. tea stop at Pilgrim Cycles by Box Hill & Westhumble station. (option to finish the walk with trains @ 18 and 48 past the hour). It will be dusk on the last part and with a New Moon a good torch would be advisable.

Explorers 145 & 146. Approx. 18.5 miles.

Sunday 18 December. Osterley to Hampton Court (linear). Conductor Dave Williams Start **Osterley** tube station (Piccadilly Line) 09:30. Return trains from Hampton Court (to London Waterloo) 05 and 35 minutes past the hour.

*Route description: A linear walk to Hampton Court starting with a stroll through Osterley Park. Afternoon tea stop Kingston. Optional circuit of the Hampton Court Maze (last one out buys the drinks!). Lunch TBA. Approx. 17miles, but if lost in the maze a lot more! **P.S. Wearing of Santa outfit optional according to Dave!***

RACE REPORTS

6-7 August Redcar National 100 miles

This National was held up in Redcar and four SWC members attended. Sandra had a good race only a few minutes behind her 2015 time. David Hoben went for the 20 miles at a reasonable pace.

1. F. Van Der Gulik (Holland) 20.30.56; 2. C. Vesty (Leic WC M50) 20.39.44; 3. J. Millard (Holland) 21.02.25; 4. **S. Brown** 21.10.06.

20 miles race: D. Hoben 4.34.02.

Other SWC partial completions in the 100 miles were:

Richard Brown 66 miles in 14.21.34.

Chris Flint 32 miles in 8.27.42.

11 July Southern Counties Vets Wimbledon:

Ian Statter had raced very little so found the speed difficult but was well under 13 minutes. Not far behind was newcomer to race walking, Jules Williams, improving her previous times.

4th M50. **I. Statter** (M55) 12.52.8; 1st W35. **J. Williams** (W45) 13.04.8; 4th M35. **D. Hoben** (M60) 13.42.2.

31 July British Masters 10km Track Championships, Birmingham

Although the race was poorly attended, all of the top walkers turned out in their age groups. Among these were Roger Michell competing in the M65 group against world age group champion Ian Richards. Although, inevitably, some way behind Ian, Roger's time was a season's best for 10km.

1. F. Reis (SCVAC M55) 50.48; 2. I. Richards (Steyn M65) 52.16; 3. M. Williams (Tam M50) 53.53; 5. **R. Michell** (Sy WC M65) 62.12.

17 August– Vets AC 5 mile Battersea Park

The last of the season of the, historically, popular 5 milers in the pleasant surroundings of Battersea Park just went into double figures - a friendly race in fine sunny late summer conditions. Mark Culshaw had yet another win while second placed David Bowker from marathon orientated Fairlands Valley Spartans appeared for the first time in a creditable second place. Fiona Bishop saw a return to pre-injury form, with the best performance of the night only half a minute behind Maureen Noel.

Centurion's Captain and Surrey Walking Club member, Kathy Crilley, made a brief departure from her long distance regime to take part just before an imminent 24 hour road race and not long after another distance event. Despite her natural weariness she was in fact a minute or so ahead of recent times for these races. There were three men from Surrey also out and in fact they together with Kathy and a novice comprised the whole of the second half of the finishers. Mick Harran was the first of these and though his time was modest he worked hard to keep close to the illustrious Arthur Thomson who came past mid-race after a slow start.

Men:

1. M.Culshaw (BelM50) 48.57; 2. D.Bowker (FVS M55) 52.18; 3. A.Thomson (E&H M80) 53.23; 4. **M.Harran** (M75) 54.19; 5. **P.Hannell** (M70) 55.01; 6. **D.Hoben** (M60) 58.18.

Women:

1. M.Noel (Belg W50) 52.37; 2. F.Bishop (AFD W55) 53.09; 3. **K.Crilley** (W65) 60.55;

27 August– London Inter-Club 5km, Allianz Park,

The LICC 5km is normally an opportunity to get a good time with large numbers over all standards. 17 is a fair number for a normal track race but low for these races and the spread of standard and the high temperatures led to generally slow times and only one personal best. The leaders certainly were competitive finishing only a second apart and among the best performances. SWC had three out with Dan Maskell in 5th man but with four women ahead as the fair sex seemed to deal better with the conditions. David Hoben's recent long distance races in similar difficult conditions brought him among the best performances and near his normal time and thus much closer to several usually faster men. Among these was Shaun Lightman, recovering from injury and only 73 seconds ahead.

1 G.Chapman (Head) 28.54; 2 M.Culshaw (Belg) 28. 55;
3. J.Ralph (E&H) 30.48; 5. **D.Maskell** 32.31; 7.
S.Lightman 34.08; 11. **D.Hoben** 35.21.

27 August Wadelincourt 24 hours, Belgium :

SWC's indomitable pair of ladies, Sandra Brown and Kathy Crilley were in Belgium for the biennial 24hours where the initial temperature was 35 degrees and a steady start was essential. Sandra once again won the women's event with 109 miles and up in 5th place overall.Kathy was just outside of the medals as she completed over 100km.

Men

1. M.Olivares 180.426 km; 2.P.Langlois 177.535 km;
3. P.Bunel 175.808 km.

Women

1. S.Brown (SyWC W65 5th overall) 175.101 km; 2.
M.Sonnois 155.566; 3. C.Bizard 144.282 km; 4.
K.Crilley (SyWC W65 14th overall) 105.482 km.

3 September Jim Sharlott/BMAF 10km, Abbey Park, Leicester

The traditional Jim Sharlott 10km which included the British Master's championship. The course is a multi-lap oval in the park with a good surface and it's natural beauty was only marred by the very light rain during the race. The shape means the competitors always have a good view of those up to half a lap ahead. Teams of four meant Surrey's three did not score in the team race but were 2nd Masters team. Roger Michell was in good form and started strongly as he chased Peter Bosko (Birchfield) for the M65 group race. Although unable to hold his rival, the gap was only exactly one minute behind at the end despite Bosko having a great race himself for 3rd overall while Roger was up in 7th. Some way behind them was a group of four consisting of the whole M70 group and Sara Lightman who ended 4th lady. The others in the group included Surrey Walking Club's Shaun Lightman and Peter Hannell. The two Lightman's started behind the other two but passed by after a lap or two thus encouraging the others to hold on. On this occasion Shaun faded slightly as he returns from injury and Hannell was able to stay nearer to Sara and claim the M70 victory while Shaun just managed to hold off 3rd M70, John Borgas, by 2 seconds.

Men

1. M.Williams (Tam 1st M50) 52.26; 2. D.Butterly (Leic WC 2nd M50) 54.16; 3. P.Boszko (Bir 1st M65) 59.34; 7. **R.Michell** (2nd M65) 61.34; 11. **P.Hannell** (1st M70) 66.22; 12. **S.Lightman** (2nd M70) 66.39.

Women

1.A.Wheeler (Leic WC 1st W60) 63.20; 2. C.Dyall (Nun 1stW35) 64.20; 3. F.Bishop (AFD1st W55) 65.51; 4. S.Lightman (Leic WC 1st W45) 66.17.

3 September – Youth Development League 1/2km, Bedford

The National Youth Development League represents a serious initiative to bring more youngsters into race walking along with the general sports participation policy. The final at Bedford saw 20 out spread over the 2 and 1 km walks including Two Blackheath & Bromley girls one Lewes coached by SWC's Shaun Lightman and Peter Selby. The occasion brought out the best across the field with many personal bests including Ollie Hopkins (Lewes) in the longer event as he finished 2nd in the Under 17 boys race. The 1km included Under 13s and U15s and Isabelle Bridge won the Under 15 girls section in an excellent time. In the Under 13s Abi Smith was 5th in the biggest group of the day.

4 September Church to Church 19.4 miles and 3km, Guernsey :

The very popular race around the island Guernsey on the Sunday is preceded on Friday evening by a short 3km. The two SWC contestants Kathy Crilley and David Hoben arrived in time to join 12 others on the line. While the younger section of the field were ahead they performed satisfactorily considering what was to come. As a long distance competitor Kathy had not competed such a short distance for many years. 18 started the main event of a long trek up and down the hills. The local le Noury family were strong contributors to both fields. In the 19.4 miles Stuart and Jason led early on but were beaten by two visitors, Sam Fletcher all the way from the Isle of Man and Jimmy Ball. Fletcher shot into the lead shortly after 15 miles and held on to it, to get himself into the record books of an event celebrating its 80th birthday. Olga Le Noury, the Sarnia WC champion and Marie

Macdonald, last year's women's winner, were together at this point. Eventually Olga had the victory. SWC's regular participant David Hoben and Kathy Crilley in her first Church to Church strode home ahead of locals Peter Beckerleg and John Dedman. Kathy only a week after competing in a 24 hours walk in Belgium, completed Guernsey's shorter 19.4 miles to smash the women's age best time previously set at 4.31.44 by Hilda Nyman.

Men

1. S.Fletcher (Manx) 3.07.45; 2. J.Ball (Steyn) 3.12.47
3. S.LeNoury (Sarnia) 3.18.09; 10. **D.Hoben** 4.07.41.

Women

1. O. LeNoury (Sarnia) 3.54.13; 2. M.Macdonald (Sarnia) 4.04.13; 3. **K.Crilley** 4.05.21;

3km

1. S.LeNoury (Sarnia) 14.58; 2. J.LeNoury (Sarnia) 15.01; 3. J.Ball (Steyn) 15.13; 10. **D.Hoben** 20.56; 13. **K.Crilley** 22.27;

11 September Surrey & Sussex County T&F Champs 3km Walk, Carshalton :

The results of two previous events have now appeared. The first was a joint County Championship for Sussex and Surrey for a number of events delayed from the main May meeting. This included a 3km walk where a reasonable field of 16 was spread thinly across the age groups but on the positive side included several up and coming youngsters. The first of these, Under 17 Ollie Hopkins, is coached by Surrey Walking Club's Peter Selby and while not quite a best was certainly well ahead of rest of the combined U17s and only just outside of 16 minutes. Some way behind but in Sussex silver medal position was SWC's Paul Gaston. He was still mid-field though approaching 70 and beat AFD's Fiona Bishop by 10 seconds. SWC also had one contestant in the Surrey County section as new member and newcomer to

walking, Jules Williams, who is coached by Shaun Lightman beat AFD's Anna Hinchcliffe by 2 seconds and sub 21 minutes despite this being her first 3km.

Surrey (11 out)

1. C.Snook (AFD) 13.22.2; 2. T.Snook (AFD) 13.35;
3. T.Guttulsrod (HW 1st Senior Man) 15.26; 5.
P.Cummings (AFD 1st Senior woman) 17.16; 10.
J.Williams (3rd Senior woman W45) 20.37.

Sussex (5 out)

1. O.Hopkins (Lewes) 16.26; 2. I.Richards (Steyn 1st
Senior man) 14.58; 3. J.Lennon (Steyn) 17.44; 4.
P.Gaston (Sy WC 2nd Senior man) 18.41;

27 September – Ryan Cup 10km including Police & Civil Service Championships, Birmingham

Two SWC members took part. Despite retirement, both were entitled to take part. This is a highly competitive event as most of the entrants have raced against each other for very many years and times were fast for a good proportion of the field and especially so for Dan Maskell and Chris Flint. Dan had little company once his usual spirited early effort faded a little and the younger men got away and the back of this group finished over two minutes clear. However he was quite capable of holding off the bunch behind even if by only 10 seconds at the finish. Chris was less competitive but his sixty seven and a half minute time was quite an improvement on his expected 70 minutes or so. Their positions in the Police event were 6th and 8th respectively.

1 G.Witton (Worth) 52.05; 2 D.Butterly (Leic) 53.56;
3. J.Llewellyn (BRAT) 60.02; 7. **D.Maskell** 63.51; 12.
C.Flnt 67.27.

24 September – Enfield League One Hour

In sunny, breezy conditions 29 walkers set about seeing how far they could walk in one hour at the annual Enfield League event. At the front Stuart Bennett (Ilford) was soon away gaining a lead over Graham Chapman (Headington) by 80 metres at one time. However the latter's determined steady pace paid off to end up only just outside of 10km and 500 metres clear. They were separated by Seb Parris, a much younger novice also from Ilford and in form first lady Cath Duhig. Surrey Walking Club's presence amounted to only two on this occasion despite the unique and enjoyable, to most, format. Dan Maskell in 7th place was just short of 9 kilometres, a distance he might have expected to beat. Angela Martin was also below par as she returns from a short break in racing.

Men (18 out):

1. G.Chapman (Head M60) 9.987 km;
2. S.Parris (Ilf SM) 9.730 km;
3. S.Bennett (Ilf M55) 9.509 km;
7. **D.Maskell** (Sy WC M65) 8.848 km.

Women (11):

1. C.Duhig (Ryst W60) 9.510 km;
2. H.Middleton (E&H W50) 9.392 km;
3. M.Noel (Belg W50) 9.285 km;
8. **A.Martin** (Sy WC W50) 8.317 km.

8 October – Enfield 5 miles Yacht Handicap

On a cool windless day, seven SWC members lined up . The race is a yacht handicap where the slowest start first and the fastest last. Mick Barnbrook led through the first of five laps while Shaun Lightman was forced to retire through injury. However Malcolm and Angela Martin walked together and came through the field strongly for Malcolm, who is returning from injury, to finish third and Angela fourth in the handicap. Dan Maskell had a race long battle with

Joyce Crawford (Red Lodge) and Melanie Peddles. At three miles Maskell pulled away from Crawford with Peddles holding on. However the last mile saw Dan under pressure and Crawford revive and win an interesting battle with the challenges ensuring a good time. Dave Crane with the fastest handicap time in the field started last and came through strongly to finish in front of half of the field in fastest actual time. The other two Daves (Delaney and Hoben) had good times. Mick Harran chased Geraldine Legon and eventually passed her some 400yards from the finish.

The handicap results were: 1st John Borgars (Loughton), 2nd Melanie Peddles (Loughton) and 3rd Angela Martin (SWC). Others - M.Martin 4th; D.Maskell 7th; D.Crane 16th; D.Delaney 24th and D.Hoben 27th.

Men

1. **D.Crane** 41.49; 2. J.Ball (Steyn) 43.23; 3. M.Culshaw (Belg) 46.53; 10. **D.Maskell** 52.46; 11. **M.Martin** 55.40; 12. **M.Harran** 55.59; 14. **D.Hoben** 59.28; 15. **D.Delaney** 59.36.

Women

P.Cummings (AFD) 48.34 2. H.Middleton (E&H) 49.50; 3. M.Noel (Belg) 49.59; 7. **A.Martin** 55.38.

22/23 October South African 100 miles, Robben Island and French 6 Day Races, Privas (23-29/10):

Sandra Brown took part in the inaugural South African 100 miles race which was held on the historic location of Robben Island. Needless to say she succeeded in adding African Centurion status to her other six affiliations. Her time of 22:22 placed her in 2nd place in the women's list behind much younger Janette Morgan (IoM) and 9th overall. The race was held in hot, windy conditions with a long dark night and head-torches. 19 walkers completed within the 24 hours. The total of 7 affiliations (UK, Continental, NZ,

Australia, USA, Malaysia and Africa) is, unsurprisingly, another unique achievement – as we have come to expect from Sandra.

Kathy Crilley took part in the French 6 day race and achieved 376.599 km (234 miles) for 5th woman and 19th place out of 30 overall.

Men 1. R.Gerrard (IOM Vet) 19.42.01.

Women 1.J.Morgan(IOM Vet) 20.56.47; 2. **S.Brown** 22.22.14; 3. J.Goosen (S,Africa) 23.35.19.

6 November – SWC Championship & Open 7 Miles

This event enjoyed a considerable uplift in numbers this year despite a few members being out injured. The field of 15 also included a novice who seemed pleased with her shorter 3 miles and may give it another try. The other 6 visitors were mostly of a good standard and the majority beat all of the members but were lapped by David Crane even though the competition allowed him to take it a little easily. The winner of the handicap, David Hoben, was down the field but by no means last as he left his usual rival Dave Delaney by over a minute. Both Malcolm Martin and Dan Maskell were forced to slow after recent injury. Among the visitors Geraldine Legon had the best race while first lady Anne Jones continues to slowly improve after various setbacks.

Men

1. **D.Crane** 59.36; 2. G.Chapman (Head) 71.22; 3. A.Thomson (E&H) 76.55; 4. **P.King** 77.36; 5. **M.Harran** 78.01; 6. **M.Martin** 78.32; 7. S.Pender (E&H) 79.12; 8. **D.Hoben** 81.19; 9. **D.Delaney** 82.48
10. **D.Maskell** 86.10; 11. R.Vroobel (Hill) 86.19.

Women

1. A.Jones(Steyn) 77.33;2.**A.Martin**78.32; 3. G.Legon (Bexley) 80.39;

12 November - Enfield 7 miles, Lee Valley

This was the 90th edition of the Enfield 7 miles and there was a good turn-out of competitors and spectators many of whom had not been active race walkers for many years. Surrey provided a good proportion of 10 of the total of 51 plus some doing shorter distances and it was no surprise to see David Crane up in 4th man with a time not far from last week's club race. The best performance came from David Hoben a minute faster than a good race last week and benefiting from competition around him. Also turning in good times were Paul Gaston, Dave Delaney, Angela Martin and Chris Flint. It was good to see Chris Cheeseman out after a long absence. He was invited as a past winner of this event. All competitors and officials were given mementos of a very successful event.

Men

1. Dom.King (Col H) 49.48; 2. Dan.King (Col H) 53.51
3. L.Legon (Camb H) 56.14; **4. D.Crane 59.52; 9. C.Cheeseman 71.51; 16. P.Gaston 74.07; 17. D.Maskell 74.48; 20. P.King (Belg) 76.10; 22. C.Flint 77.07 24. M.Harran 78.15 26. D.Hoben 80.44 29. D.Delaney 81.21.**

Women

1. E.Achurch (Leic WC) 56.14 2. N.Aidietyte (Ilf) 57.39
3. L.Kehler (W&B) 61.05; **9. A.Martin 77.48.**



Chris Cheeseman in the Enfield Open 7 after a long absence (photo Mark Easton)

Other results

19 July Woodford Tuesday Walks 3 S.Crane
18.14.5.

30 July London Clubs 3km, Allianz Track, Hendon
2. **M.Martin** 28.21; 8.**S.Lightman** 31.37; 9. **D.Maskell**
31.46; 13. **D.Hoben** 35.29.

28 August Joint Vets & SCAC T&F
Championships 3km :4. P.Hannell 19.23.

29 August Southend Open 1 mile:
10. **M.Harran** 10.06; 16. **D.Hoben** 11.00.

29 August Tonbridge Open Meeting 3/1 Km
Tonbridge School (29/8): 3km 2. S.Lightman 19.20

2 October – RWA Festival Hillingdon
Open 10km S.Lightman 68.17

5 November South Wales Winter League, Neath
4. P.Gaston 12.31.

RACE FIXTURE

Saturday 3 December Christmas Cup 5kms -
Tonbridge track 11.30am

