

# The Gazette and Record of Surrey Walking Club

Racing and strolling on roads and trails



## Surrey Walking Club founded 1899

### Committee news

a summary of the  
Committee meetings

### Race walking news

The race walking section  
of the Surrey Walking  
Club competes in races  
on track and road in the  
UK and overseas

### Strolling news

An active group of  
walkers who take to the  
paths and hills, not only in  
Surrey but beyond...

2023 has seen Surrey Walking Club racing members out and about more frequently in races -racing and strolling. Hopefully this trend continues.

The Strolling section having stuttered to a halt this year, however, our Strolls Secretary has been busy putting together some interesting walks for us all to enjoy.

The inside pages, as ever, cover a round up of races which have taken place since the last Gazette published in the summer of 2023 and news from the Committee.

## President's Christmas Message



Dear Surrey WC members,

As we say Goodbye to 2023 the club can reflect on its efforts to support and encourage race walking at a difficult time in its long history as an athletic discipline.

The introduction of a new Winter League (4 races spread over an equal number of months and at different venues) named the Ray Hall Memorial League has taken off and the club hosted the second race at Tonbridge track. A good turnout especially by younger walkers from Lewes AC, Ashford AC and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers AC ensued a successful event, as was the third on 9<sup>th</sup> December at Lewes. The work of our coaches Peter Selby and Shaun Lightman is greatly valued. Club participation in national and regional championships is virtually non-existent although a few of our more active walkers support local races, including the VAC's Summer league of 5m and 5k races. Nevertheless, the club completed a full programme which we use as taster and development events to introduce people to walking. This is in support of the initiative begun by Mark Easton, who is currently chair of the RWA (Southern Area), and set up a small working group to establish a long-term strategy to promote race walking. Its work continues.

On the Strollers front we are very pleased that Samantha (Clark) has kindly taken on the Coordinator's role and she has successfully attracted a number of participants to the strolls held this Autumn, and it is hoped that more will be willing to act as leaders once the weather improves. Strolls have been such an integral part of the club that we need to ensure they continue and are enjoyed. It is hoped to hold a President's stroll in the Spring.

2024 is a year to be celebrated by the club: its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A small group is being formed led by Trevor Sliwerski, our social secretary, to identify a convenient and appropriate venue for a dinner, and to assess numbers and cost. It should be a great occasion and will be held as near as possible to the date of the club's formation in 1899. Additionally, we have a number who have completed 50 years membership and we will mark their extraordinary time with the club at an appropriate function. We hope to re-introduce a Gazette Night.

The club has always supported The Centurions. Many SWC walkers have successfully qualified for membership of the Centurions and the club's history of ultra distance walking is a proud and distinguished one. It is hoped the club will be involved in the organisation of the 100<sup>th</sup> 100 miles in 24 Hours to be held in 2025.

Our thanks for the successful running of the club go to many who volunteer their time, and especially to Peter Hannell, our indefatigable Secretary, and Pam (Ficken) for keeping tabs on our membership, and our Captain Nolan Simmons.

I wish all club members a Very Merry Christmas and Happy and successful New Year.

Chris Flint  
President

## **Surrey Walking Club Committee**

**President: Christopher Flint**

Vice-President: Kathy Crilley

General Secretary, Press & Trophies: Peter Hannell

Captain: Nolan Simmons

Vice Captain: Ian Statter

Race Secretary: Chris Flint

Membership Secretary: Pam Ficken

Strolls Secretary: Samantha London

Webmaster: Mark Easton

Gazette Editor: Kathy Crilley

Treasurer: Maggie Easton



### **Committee News**

Committee meetings are now (more or less) back to the usual “in person” affair. Meetings in 2023 took place in April, June, September and November at the Civil Service Club London.

November Committee meeting.

Social Secretary report: Next year we shall celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special dinner probably in Central London. A working party will be set up to organise this under Trevor’s leadership.

In the Autumn of 2024 we shall aim to resume our Gazette Night event, not to raise money for the Gazette which is on-line but because it has always been a fun activity which we have missed since Covid.

The AGM was also held on 20 November 2023 - notes below.

#### **22/23 ANNUAL TROPHIES:**

Post Covid-19 there are still relatively few races and only limited National Championships. These reduced circumstances left Club members with little opportunity to produce noteworthy performances and it was the Captain’s view that none deserved the relevant awards.

The meeting unanimously agreed with his views.

Election of officers: Current officers re-elected.

New Treasurer: Maggie Easton; new male welfare officer: Peter Hannell

**Future meetings:** regular Committee meetings will be held on Zoom. The only exception will be the AGM and the subsequent short Committee meeting which will continue to be held in London so the members may actually meet.

## race walking news

### race round up June - December 2023

#### **Blackheath & Bromley HAC Johnson Bowl 4 miles incorporating Surrey Walking Club 4 miles 28 June 2023**

A good total of 13 turned out for this annual event, which over a number of courses and distances has been held for well over 100 years – perhaps among the longest running athletic events in the country. As has often happened the weather was kind giving us a pleasant evening in the park.

Jonathan Ellerton from BBHAC just managed to catch and pass Loughton's Melanie Peddle in the last few yards after Melanie had recovered a significant deficit by the 3 mile point. Both were close to the top in terms of comparative performance although the best came from Jonathan's father down in 5th place. Jonathan thus retained the Johnson Bowl.

Another good performance came from David Hoben who won the Surrey Walking Club Handicap. The SWC Championship went to Ian Statter who, in spite of little training, walked faster than predicted. David's repeated rival in recent races, Chris Flint (SWC President), was a little off peak to produce a gap of nearly two minutes or twice the usual close competition.

It was good to see SWC's Mick Harran (M80) also out for the first time after a long gap.

Although understandably below his usual high standard, he was well inside 4 mph.

Full results were published in the last Gazette. They can also be found on the SWC website

#### **Veterans AC 5k Road Walk - Battersea Park, 1 August 2023**

The last of the regular Battersea Park races had an average field this time in indifferent humid weather, luckily the rain held off for the duration.

Coming in as men's winner was Dave Annetts from N Herts RR in a fast time just outside his personal best, with Ian Richards from Steyning AC not far behind. The ladies' winner for the third time running was Melanie Peddle from Loughton AC, in her usual highly respectable time.

Veterans AC were pleased to welcome two guests from Hong Kong, Min Yee Michelle Lee and For Yau Fung who had chosen the race while holidaying in the UK.

In addition the other guests were Paul Hawkins from Stratford upon Avon AC, and promising junior athlete Trejan Checheku-Boamah from Blackheath & Bromley AC who completed in a good time; going under 30 minutes for this distance is now a realistic target for him.

Place	Name	Age Group	Club	Time
1	David Annetts	M55	N Herts Road Runners/Veterans AC	23:32
2	Ian Richards	M75	Steyning AC/Veterans AC	27:43
3	Melanie Peddle	W50	Loughton AC/EMAC	28:11
4	Trejan Checheku-Boamah	U15B	Blackheath & Bromley AC	30:18
5	Penelope Cummings	W45	Herne Hill Harriers/Veterans AC	30:20
6	Maureen Noel	W55	Belgrave Harriers/Veterans AC	32:24
7	Fiona Bishop	W60	Woking AC/Veterans AC	34:26
8	Min Yee Michelle Lee	W60	SSH RWA (Hong Kong)	36:15
9	<u>Paul Hawkins</u>	M65	Stratford-upon-Avon AC/MMAC	36:20
10	David Hoben	M70	SyWC/Veterans AC	38:07
11	Christopher Flint	M75	SyWC/Veterans AC	39:27
12	For Yau Fung	M65	SSH RWA	47:23
	Stuart Bennett	M60	Ilford AC/Veterans AC	DNS
	Peter Hannell	M80	SyWC/Veterans AC	DNS
	Lesley Morris	W60	Ilford AC/Veterans AC	DNS
	<u>Tessa Killingbeck</u>	W40	City of Norwich AC	DNS
	Artur Olszewski	M40	Veterans AC	DNS

### Jack Fitzgerald Memorial Walks, Crawley (Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> Nov.)

Veterans AC were pleased to host the eighth staging of this event on a lakeside course once used as the test bed for Britain's water speed record round popular beauty spot Campbell's lake, now in Jack Fitzgerald's centenary year, *writes Dave Hoben*. The rain which endured until the event had just finished could only be described as heavy and persistent or just persistent.

#### Mixed 9:52km

Pos	Athlete	AG	Club	Perf.
1	Melanie Peddle	W55	Loughton Athletic Club	59:22
2	Trevor Jones	M65	Steyning Athletic Club	61:01
3	Brian Kirkdale	M65	Hastings Runners	63:57
4	John Borgars	M75	Loughton Athletic Club	66:23
5	Fiona Bishop	W60	Woking Athletic Club	67:54
6	Paul Gaston	M75	Surrey Walking Club	70:31
7	Judith Carder	W65	Brighton & Hove AC	75:59
=8	Christopher Flint	M75	Surrey Walking Club	76:24
=8	Stephen Cartwright	M65	Great Bentley RC	76:24

### Enfield Open 7 Miles, Enfield Playing Fields (Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.)

Blue skies and sunshine, although on the chilly side made excellent conditions for racing, but not for standing about, so a special thanks to the officials for their contribution to the event's success, **writes Ron Wallwork**. Being Armistice Day there was a start line quiet time of reflection for the fallen in the service of their country and of course the passing of the much respected Leaguer Noel Blatchford.

It turned out to be a historic edition of the race. Grazia Manzotti became the first woman in the long history of the event to win the overall race, which she did in convincing fashion. Perhaps not too surprising bearing in mind her recent medal haul in the European Masters Championships. However, four more ladies crossed the finishing line before Mark Culshaw did to take the men's title.

Thanks to John Hall (Belgrave Hs.) a local resident, the Council had swept the course a couple of days previously and John was out sweeping the course of any conkers that had fallen since.

Past winner Adrian James was on hand and joined the friendly atmosphere at the presentation buffet where the prizes were handed out by Centurion Pam Ficken.

### Ray Hall Memorial Winter League #2/Surrey Walking Club Open Track Walks (Christmas Cup), Tonbridge (Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.) (Incorporating the Race Walking Assoc. – South Championships)

Photograph(s) courtesy of Mark Easton (<http://markeaston.zenfolio.com>)

The second of the Ray Hall Memorial Winter League races were held in damp blustery conditions on the exposed Tonbridge School track. The event incorporated the Southern Area Championships. Whilst the overall entry was identical to that of the first race in October, there was increased participation by younger athletes with a good showing from Lewes AC who are coached by Peter Selby.

Guy Thomas and Hannah Hopper took the Area senior title, well ahead silver. Both Under 20 champions, Jonny Ellerton and Jess Wilton set new personal bests. In the U15 2000m Ellin Wilson and Charlie Perry were convincing winners of their respective races.

Mixed 5000m				
Pos	Athlete	AG	Club	Perf.
1	Guy Thomas	SENM	Tonbridge Athletic Club	21:17.8 [SB]
2	Luc Legon	SENM	Bexley Athletic Club	23:40.3
3	Jonathan Hobbs	SENM	Ashford Athletic Club	24:27.6
4	Matthew Crane	U23M	Bexley Athletic Club	25:30.6
5	Hannah Hopper	U23W	Cambridge Harriers	25:49.9
6	David Crane	M45	Surrey Walking Club	25:52.5 [SB]
7	Jessica Wilton	U20W	Ashford Athletic Club	26:08.0 [PB]
8	Jonathan Ellerton	U20M	Blackheath & Bromley	26:22.0 [PB]
9	Grazia Manzotti	W50	Tonbridge Athletic Club	27:44.8
10	Melanie Peddle	W55	Loughton Athletic Club	28:16.4
11	Emily Ghose	SENW	Tonbridge Athletic Club	28:45.2
12	Jacqueline Benson	SENW	Ashford Athletic Club	29:03.1 [SB]
13	Penelope Cummings	W45	Herne Hill Harriers	30:04.4 [SB]
14	Matthew Ellerton	M50	Blackheath & Bromley	32:04.2 [PB]
15	Mark Ashby	M60	Cambridge Harriers	32:33.5 [SB]
16	Ian Statter (M65)	M65	Surrey Walking Club	36:07.9 [SB]
	Graeme Heaton	M60	Heathfield Road Runners	DQ TR54.7.1
	Christopher Flint	M75	Surrey Walking Club	DQ TR54.7.1



2023 ERWL Fixture 11

**Finale Five km Track**

2<sup>nd</sup> December, Donkey Lane, Enfield,

The final race of the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the ERWL took place with the temperature hovering around zero, but thankfully without any arctic wind. It was noted when young Blackheath & Bromley athlete Tregan Checheeku-Boamah walked in the opening fixture back in January, that he showed potential and he continues to do so as he bettered the EAPB level 3 standard.

Melanie Peddle and John Arthur duly confirmed their individual League placings with Ilford romping away with the team title. The last *EnfWalker* speculated about late changes to the individual podium places and so it turned out, with Simon Morgan and Shaeda Arthur being edged off it.

1 Philip Barnard	<i>Ilford AC</i>	26.29.0 W50
2 Melanie Peddle	<i>Loughton AC</i>	28.12.0 W55
3 Jaqui Benson	<i>Ashford AC</i>	28.15.7 SW
4 Ian Richards ©	<i>Steyning AC</i>	30.31.2 M75
5 Colin Harle	<i>Belgrave H</i>	30.34.7 M65
6 Maureen Noel	<i>Belgrave H</i>	31.48.5 W60
7 Stuart Bennett ©	<i>Ilford AC</i>	33.44.6 M65
8 John Arthur	<i>Ilford AC</i>	34.24.8 M60
9 Fiona Bishop	<i>Enfield HAC</i>	34.49.2 W60
10 Lesley Morris	<i>Ilford AC</i>	34.54.1 W60
11 Sue Barnett	<i>Enfield HAC</i>	35.08.5 W70
12 John Ralph	<i>Enfield HAC</i>	37.05.1 M65

<b>Junior Performances</b>			
3km	Tregan Checheeku-Boamah	<i>B &amp; Bromley</i>	18.10.9 Bu15
2km	Florence Watson	<i>B &amp; Bromley</i>	14.36.0 Gu15
	Lily Ann Cooper	<i>Nkt Joggers</i>	14.40.1 Gu13



Photo's by Dave Annetts

**B Race Results**

1 John Borgars ©	<i>Loughton AC</i>	33.55.4 M75
2 Tony Wilkinson	<i>unattached</i>	34.20.7 M60
3 Dave Hoben	<i>Surrey WC</i>	39.11.6 M70
4 Paul Firmage	<i>Ryston R</i>	40.43.7 M65
5 Jon May	<i>Enfield HAC</i>	41.31.7 M70
3km Shaheda Arthur	<i>Ilford AC</i>	30.57.1 W60

*Timekeeper/Recorders:* Phil Welch, Pam Ficken, John Hall, George & Tracey Wilkinson

*Judges:* Elizabeth (*Chief*) & Simon Benson, Steve Cartwright (*Chief*), Peter Cassidy, Mick Graham & Shaun Lightman

*Judge's Runner:* Dave Annetts. *Race Organiser:* Tracey Wilkinson. Five First Aiders in attendance



**Virtual Result**

Mark Williams	<i>Birchfield H</i>	5km	25.48 M55	Karen Williams	<i>Birchfield H</i>	5km	40.04 W70
Cath Duhig ©	<i>CA Millennium</i>	5km	33.22 W65	Ron Penfold	<i>Steyning AC</i>	5km	45.27 M80
Richard Emsley	<i>Corby AC</i>	5km	34.22 M70	Tony Perkins ©	<i>Ilford AC</i>	5km	50.18 M70
Mick Graham	<i>Belgrave H</i>	5km	39.43 M70				

## Forthcoming races & Events

26 December 2023 Boxing Day race

Races this year have been changed so that the race is totally in Preston Park. Starting at 10.30, the course is now approximately 1 mile long and will be four laps, or laps up to four for a shorter distances. Enter on the day.

13 January 2024 Enfield races

5k, 8k or 10k. QE11 Stadium Donkey Lane Enfield. Start 1030am. Online entries only.

20th January 2024 Steyning 15k/10K/5K

This will be on the usual Spithandle course starting at 2.00pm, leave clubhouse by 1.30.

29 January Ray Hall Memorial Track League Aldershot Military Stadium

17/18th February British Masters Indoor Championships Lee Valle

20th April RWA National 10km & YAG Championships Leicester

11/12th May County Championship Weekend Various



## news from the Strollers

Strolls Secretary - Samantha Clark

### STROLLS SECTION REPORT

Two strolls were organised for the autumn months:

Saturday 21st October: Eastbourne to Lewes via Alfriston led by Nick White

Saturday 25th November: South Bucks Linear led by Gavin Fuller

No reports to publish.

**Forthcoming strolls** - keep an eye on the website [Surrey Walking Club](#) for further details of all strolls



## Obituaries

### Mike Aris

News has only just reached the Club about the death of Mike Aris aged 75 who passed away in June 2023.

Mike was a SWC member for 35 years and was also a talented ultra-runner and ran for the GB 24h team at the European 24h championships in Basle.

Encouraged to try race-walking, Mike joined Surrey WC and became Centurion 914 in the 1993 London 100m/24h, in a time of 22h 22.35.

Mike also walked for the SWC team in the Manchester to Blackpool 50 miles as well as taking part in many other club races.

### This is your club magazine

The Editor welcomes any contributions, letters, news, comments, photos or reports which could be of interest to other club members.

Just send them to the [Editor](#). Reports of strolls are especially welcome as these are always popular with readers.

Many thanks to those who have sent contributions to past editions of the Gazette.

