

FEBRUARY 1974

Our first "special" publication aptly features the first long distance footpath to be opened in Britain and we hope that it will be of interest to all members. From time to time it is planned to produce similar booklets and if any member has a suggestion for future "specials" the editor would be pleased to hear from him(or her). Sketch maps and other illustrations to make the publication more interesting are also welcome. This of course applies to newsletter contributions.

The next newsletter will not now be dispatched until mid April. This will allow time to include any decisions made at the AGM. Anything for inclusion in this newsletter must be received by March 25.

As a result of notices in various magazines several new members have been enrolled this year and number 700 was past in January. If your membership is due please send it to Mike Brown as soon as possible.

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING This will be held at the Town Hall, Ivinhoe, near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, on Sat. April 6. The meeting will commence at 2.30 p.m. There was a disappointingly small attendance at the first AGM when it was held at Edale but it is hoped that many more members will attend this time. Further details of the meeting are contained on the accompanying sheet.

EVENTS Preparations are now in hand for the proposed "northern hundred". This has now become the "Peakland Hundred" and will be held on the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. See separate details. An event of such long duration as a hundred miler requires very many officials and helpers and so anyone able to offer their time and services in connection with this walk should contact the organiser. Members from the south east who are contemplating participation in the Peakland Hundred should contact Alan Blatchford who will arrange transport if the numbers warrant it. The eightyfive miles event along the Ridgeway Path has been named the Icknield Eighty and is planned for July 27/28. Further data later.

## WALKS APRIL/MAY

April 13 (Easter Sunday) MANX MOUNTAIN MARATHON 30 miles in the Isle of Man. Special category "B" for walkers. Twelve mountain summits to be scaled giving about 9000 feet of ascent! Full details from G. Broderick

April 20 MID WALES MARATHON 22 miles over nine summits the highest being about 2000 feet. Starts at Dinas Mawddwy and ends at Dolgelleau. Details from N. Tandy

May 4 RIDGEWAY WALK 40 miles along the Wilts/Berks ridgeway. Start at Marlborough and finish at Streatley y.h. Details from N. Griffin

May 5 ROUND BRENTWOOD WALK The most popular walking event in Essex. 20 miles starting at 9.45 from Brentwood. Details from Mrs. Knight

May 12 BERKSHIRE TWENTYFIVE A new event. Start and finish at Wantage, Berks. Details from R. Chapman

Full details of all events from April will appear in the April newsletter.

SOUTH EAST EVENTS New dates: THREE COUNTIES WALK now on Sat Mar 10. Details from A. Blatchford  
Start from Basingstoke. ACROSS SURREY WALK now on Good Friday April 12(to 13). Details from C. Steer  
Surrey. There will also be a number of Tanners Marathon and Punch-bowl Marathon survey walks. Contact A. Blatchford.

LOCAL GROUPS After the announcement that the first local group (High Peak) has been formed there are notices of meetings to form two others. South East/Surrey area: all interested members in the area are invited attend a meeting at for the purpose of forming a local group on Tues. 12 March at 7.30 p.m.

Scotland: John MacDonald (LDWA 497) has been appointed regional rep, for Scotland and he is inviting all members and friends to meet at Callander, Perthshire on Sun, 31 March at 10.00 a.m. Depending upon weather conditions it is hoped to walk for for up to seven hours. Any Scottish member with suggestions for future walks and meetings please contact Jonn

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES As mentioned above J. MacDonald has been appointed Scottish rep. and he thus joins the three others listed in the previous newsletter. This now leaves only one region with a representative - the Midlands. Six or seven members have been sounded out but as yet nobody has felt able to accept the job. Nothing arduous is expected of anyone who becomes a rep. Their main function is to maintain contact with members in their region, encourage the formation of local groups, and to keep the committee informed of relevant events in the region. Publicity officer K. Pennyfather is anxious to hear from anyone who might take on the job of rep. for the Midlands. Ideally they should live in the Stafford=Nottingham=Coventry=Birmingham area. The publicity officers address

OBITUARY All members who knew him will be shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Dennis McGillin of Worcester Park, Surrey. He died on Christmas Day. Last year he completed such events as the Downsman Hundred, the Across Surrey Walk, and the London to Brighton RUN. An appreciation will appear in the newsletter.

MARATHON RAMBLE Veteran walker, and Centurion, Harry Peel invites all members to join him on a marathon ramble on the Isle of Wight on Easter Monday. The walk will be about 30 miles long and start at Shanklin railway station at 8.15 a.m. The walk is organised by the I.O.W. Ramblers. Further details from Harry

BADGES The current stock of badges is nearly exhausted and anyone requiring one should send 20p to Mike Brown

. If any successful walkers in last years Downsman Hundred wish to purchase a second badge they should send 25p to Alan Blatchford. There are just five left.

MAP READING WALK A successful map reading walk was recently held in Surrey. Well over 100 people participated in the Kettlebury Kanter despite the very wet weather. There were courses of 11 and 20 miles. It is hoped that this may be the forerunner of many similar events. Fuller report in newsletter.

NEWSLETTERS PAST Editor Chris Steer has a limited number of newsletters numbers five, six, and seven available. Send 10p to cover postage etc. A. Blatchford has a number of Downsman Hundred reports, route maps, etc for this event. Anyone interested in obtaining this information should send 10p to cover cost.

LONDON COUNTRYWAY This project, for a complete walking route around London, is progressing well under the leadership of Keith Chesterton. Several members and friends have volunteered to survey the proposed route in their local area and to date most of the near-200 miles has been covered. The first survey took place last year and began at Boxhill, near Dorking, Surrey and to date the section from here to the Thames at Windsor has been finalised. Other survey walks are being arranged for the next part of the way and any interested member is welcome to join the group. Full details of times etc. can be had from K. Chesterton

DOWNSMAN HUNDRED Many enquiries, including one from France, have been recieved about "this years Downsman". New members should note that this event is not due to be held until the Spring Bank Holiday of 1975. It appears that the Downsman may become one of the popular longer distance challenges and that last years entry of 137 may be exceeded next year if all the enquirers since the inaugural walk take part next time. There are still a number of route details, sketch maps, and reports left: these are available to members who should send 10p to cover cost.

CALENDAR A full list of events will be included as usual in the next newsletter but the following should be noted: PUNCHBOWL MARATHON (Surrey) is now moved to June 16 to avoid clashing with other local events, CENTURIONS qualifying walk is the LEICESTER to SKEGNESS road race on July 27. Any member who is arranging a challenge walk or one of an informal nature should send full details to the editor if he wishes it to be included in the calendar.

PRESS CUTTINGS We like to include in the newsletter as much information on general long distance walking as we can glean, and here members can help. Whilst walking may not be as newsworthy as crime or political strife, papers and magazines do occasionally include some items of interest to us. If anyone therefore comes across anything interesting reports or articles the editor or secretary will be pleased to recieve them.

INTERESTED IN MAP READING? If so then you ought to be subscribing to the "Orienteer" magazine. This the official organ of the sport of orienteering in Great Britain. It is published six times a year and comes out on the first day of every "even" month. It contains articles about competition at home and abroad, forestry, wildlife, events reports, and maps, etc. etc. The annual subscription is a modest £1 and this should be sent to the editor Roger Smith

. Roger, by the way, is an enthusiastic LDWA member.

GROUP FORMING ? In an attempt to get a local group under way the second of a series of walks in the Yorkshire area was attended by 20 members on 12 Jan. Meeting at Helmsley, a leisurely 20 miles was led by Mike Smith along the southern edge of the North York Moors. The route was by way of Sproxton, Hollin Bower, Spraxton, Moor Plantation, Studford Ring, High Woods, Wass, Snever Wood Tower, Sutton Bank Gliding Club, Hambleton Hotel, Rievaulx Bridge to Helmsley. The final few miles were along the line of the Cleveland Way. Although a meeting had been proposed for after the walk no formal discussion took place as it appeared that most people were content to take part in walks and meet other members on these lines. It is expected to have a group that will arrange to meet for walks about four to six times a year.

4/ NON STOP RECORD There is a possibility that another attempt to increase the distance walked non stop will be made at the end of May this year. One of the leading contenders will almost certainly be our president Dick Crawshaw who until recently held the record, with just over 255 miles. The present record is held by a Mexican walker who has recorded a fantastic 302 miles. The next newsletter will contain an article about our president and his preparation for long walks.

MORE VOLUNTEERS WANTED IN S.E. In connection with the forthcoming Eighty event to be held in July a number of people are required to write route descriptions, and to officiate at checkpoints on the day. As mentioned previously the walk will start at Ivinghoe near Tring, and follow the Ridgeway Path route to near Marlborough. Anyone who therefore is able to walk a section and accurately describe the route should contact Alan Blatchford who is co-ordinating the organisation. He would also like to hear from anyone who is able to man a checkpoint (for a few hours) on the day. Without such people who give their time to helping at events it would be impossible to hold walks of this magnitude.

#### COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

For the benefit of new members here are the names and addresses of the members of the Association's first committee.

CHAIRMAN Haydn Morris

General SECRETARY Alan Blatchford

TREASURER Jeff. Ellingham

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Mike Brown

PUBLICITY OFFICER Keith Pennyfather

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Chris Steer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS Steve Coveney

Geoff. Bailey

Barbara Blatchford

Thomas Harding

John Stephenson

Most of these members are believed to be willing to stand again for election at the AGM but lady members might feel that a better balance would be achieved if another lady were to be elected.

Alan Blatchford