

- they have to be! -

Blackpool: Road walkers are a hardy race, -and even the most depressed holiday-makers raised a cheer as the Mayor of the famous seaside town started competitors in the 100 Mile Open Walking-Race - from Blackpool to Manchester and back..

In heavy rain, forty-two set out hot-foot for Manchester as though they were hoping for better weather there. Right from the start, ~~the~~ Vic Stone of Surrey, ^{NO. 47 -} set a furious pace - as they left the summer gloom of Blackpool for the open road.. Wet and bedraggled - many drooping spirits were revived at the first feeding-point

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was falling - and even that made a pleasant change from the rain!

(LAST YEAR'S WINNER)

A New fashion for an old stager, Tom Richardson, who set up the 100 miles walking record on a track, eighteen years ago

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And a "stop-press winner" - forty-three year-old Vic Stone- a Surrey newsagent - comes in eighty-six minutes ahead of the field - to take ~~the~~ "SUNDAY DESPATCH" trophy. His time of 17 hours, 22 minutes, 26 seconds, was the fastest-ever for the distance