

Essex Walker

Editor: Dave Ainsworth

Courtesy of *The Herald*, 14 February 2013

INTERVIEW Scot 'dismayed' over his discipline's exclusion from Glasgow 2014, writes **Doug Gillon**

Another 'kick in the teeth' but Sutherland refuses to walk away

THE very first Scottish medallist of the Friendly Games is an angry man. Bill Sutherland won bronze in the 20-mile road walk, the very first athletics event of the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, and is incensed that race walking has been dropped from the programme for Glasgow 2014.

A retired Metropolitan police officer, Sutherland says he is "concerned and dismayed" at the decision which has prompted a campaign by race walkers to have it restored to the programme. "We have appealed to the Glasgow organising committee and the International Association of Athletics Federations [the world track and field body], the Scottish government, anyone who might be able to help reverse the decision," he said. "We've been told it can't be changed but organisers of the next Games, on Australia's Gold Coast, say it will definitely be on the programme in 2018."

"Peter Marlow, secretary of the Race Walking Association, has contacted everyone possible, including the Scottish minister for the Games. But I understand we've been told by the organisers that there is no right of appeal, and that's the end of it. The last I heard was that the IAAF is to ask Scottish athletics to review the decision. I have sent four or five letters to people without response, and the race walking fraternity have sent some 300 emails. We have had barely any acknowledgment."

I can still picture the flame-haired Sutherland, both arms aloft as he crossed the line on the Meadowbank track in 1970. He was third behind an Australian 1-2, in which former Olympic silver medallist Noel Freeman took gold. Sutherland, the only Scot to take a walks medal, seemed relaxed, but two English rivals were close

behind. "I never looked back but, if I had, what a horror sight that would have been," he reflected.

Sutherland competed for Britain, finishing 13th in the European championships, but was the victim of questionable selection procedures before the 1972 Olympics. Despite finishing third in the main Olympic trial, he was overlooked for Munich. "That was the beginning of the end for me at international level," he said. "I felt I'd been kicked in the teeth."

Yet he continued to compete at lower level, in races up to 100 miles. "I last raced just three weeks ago, and hope to do another in a fortnight. Nowadays it's mostly up to five miles." This almost certainly makes him the most durable of all Scots who competed in Edinburgh in 1970. He will be 68 in April.

The son of a doctor, Sutherland was born in Kendal of Scottish parents, then brought up in Edinburgh where his first taste of athletics was on the university grounds at Craiglockhart. "My brother and I used to collect the hammer of Ewan Douglas [Empire games bronze medallist] in our wee barrow, when he trained there."

His sporting involvement continues as an anti-doping officer with UK Anti-Doping. He was doping control venue manager at the Woolwich shooting venue during the Olympics and Paralympics. He has been involved in high-profile convictions, but declines to give details.

This is not his first lobbying experience. When the walks were under threat at the 1976 Olympics, he went to Bulgaria, appealing in several languages to IOC officials.

His discipline has, though, been in decline in Scotland for decades. The last national road walking championship was in 1981, and the last track championship was over 3000m at the East Districts the following year. There have



Claire Tallent of Australia, England's Jo Jackson and Grace Njue of Kenya took silver, gold and bronze in the women's 20km walk in Delhi after road walking was included in the 2010 Commonwealth Games after an appeal. Picture: Mark Daddswell/Getty Images

walking events. By such drastic action they are denying a future generation of participating in a major Games as a stepping stone to World and Olympic competition.

"This decision can still be reversed if there is a will, as it was in India in 2010. It was not in their original contract but was restored on appeal and included a race for women. We think Scotland looked at the initial contract with Delhi, before the walks were restored."

His contribution to sports and policing has been recognised with the award of the British Empire Medal. If he has any success with this campaign, he deserves another gong.

A Glasgow 2014 spokesperson said last night that the ruling Commonwealth Games Federation had recommended removing walks from the programme in 2006 largely because of low participation. "As a result, and supported by further analysis from Commonwealth Games Scotland around entry levels and cost benefit, race walking was not included in the sports programme for Glasgow 2014's bid."

"This programme was subsequently voted on in 2007 by all Commonwealth Games associations to award Glasgow the Games for 2014, and, as such, no technical, operational, or venue planning has been considered for these events."

A review published by the CGF after Delhi 2010 found that, while entry levels had slightly improved, they were insufficient to justify its compulsory inclusion, but left it as an optional addition for future hosts.

"Glasgow 2014 investigated the inclusion of race walks in our programme, including scheduling, participant scope, route and venues. Unfortunately, we are simply not in a position to accommodate the impact of this change at such a late stage in our Games planning and delivery."

been no qualified Scottish walks officials since the mid-1980s, and development is further hampered by a rule which states that Scottish records can be set only in championships. The last Scots to contest walks at the Commonwealth Games were Martin Bell (seventh, 20k) and Graham White (sixth, 50k) at the 1998 Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"My medal in 1970 laid the

foundation for one of the most successful Scottish athletics teams," he notes. "Our then coach, the great Frank Dick, considered the walk as important to our overall success as every other athletic discipline. He had the whole team out, supporting us on the road. Now, despite the event having been in the last 14 Commonwealth Games, Scotland has, for no good reason, decided to exclude race

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE

Race Walking Record *magazine*

Prominent International and Olympic Official CATHARINE TELLING has been appointed as the new Editor of Race Walking Record (our sport's official organ) replacing John C. IAAF Supremo and Olympian PETER MARLOW is the new Assistant Editor. John continues editing that truly great website www.racewalkuk.com



Just prior to the last Commonwealth Games I recall Race Walking was dropped from the Games programme in Delhi after Delhi having won the bid which included Race Walking as part of its program. One of the reasons given by Mr Hooper of the Commonwealth games committee was India's lack of experience in handling such events and if I recall there were also concerns about traffic? In the very vigorous exchanges with Mr Hooper I pointed out that shortly India were due to host the World Military Games which were being held in India, Hyderabad I believe, which undermined the assertion that India did not have the necessary experience to hold major games? I also pointed out to Mr Hooper that the late Mahatma Ghandi's famous 241 mile salt march in which was such a seminal moment in the history of India. After much protest from a variety of individuals and national associations, Delhi put the Race Walking back in the programme which was both successful as an event and also, as set out below, helped in the further development of Race Walking in India.

If my memory serves me correctly Glasgow had both race walks in their original bid submission to host the games but these were dropped when the race walks had been initially withdrawn, but later reinstated, from the programme for the Delhi games? I did raise this point with Mr Hooper but I do not recall ever receiving a response to this point. What seems to have happened is that Race Walking has been now been demoted to an optional event on seemingly vague pretexts such as costs etc. notwithstanding it has been part of the programme for the last 14 Commonwealth Games. This unfortunately, I believe, appears to be yet another attempt to remove Race Walking from its rightful place in the Commonwealth Games programme.

Having added such events as Rugby Sevens as an event, which includes its very substantial incumbent costs such as number of competitors required for each team, hotels, officials etc., as an issue why Glasgow are removing Race Walking from the Games does not bear rigorous scrutiny.

Another ruse seemingly being tabled is because our sport has a subjective element to it. Using the concept of sports that have a subjective element to them, if natural justice was followed fairly and equally across all sports, then it would mean the following sports should also be dropped from the Games programme thereby at a stroke eliminating 50% of the events from the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and of course the costs : Diving, Boxing, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Netball, Rugby Sevens, Weightlifting & Wrestling.

If I recall in the Munich Games the winner John Akii-Bua's trailing leg went round the 1st hurdle rather than over it which is illegal, so within athletics here is just one example of the subjective nature of athletics. As to the London Olympics there were something like 25 nations competing in the men's 50km and 20 km race Walks and a similar number of nations in the women's 20 km Race Walk. Race Walking has never before been so represented at the Olympics and no doubt one of the events with the highest number Nations competing in any athletics event. Indeed the Commonwealth Games has been a tremendous vehicle in providing Olympic medallist's such as the current Olympic 50km silver medallist in Jared Talent who also won the silver 50km and a bronze at the 20km in Beijing.

India, who prior to the Delhi games, had no great tradition in Race Walking, by the time of the London Olympics India produced Race Walkers worthy of any international event and no doubt would be serious challengers for medals at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. This is yet another demonstration of the importance of the Commonwealth Games to the Race Walking fraternity and the developments ensuing from having hosted a Commonwealth Games.

To summarise it more succinctly, Race Walking has had a substantially increased profile and demonstrably far wider increase internationally than any other sport since Delhi, and Beijing, and underlines the continued need for the ongoing benefits to Race Walking to be a continuing part of the Commonwealth Games family and maintaining its participation in the Commonwealth Games programme which is one of the few truly great sporting events in the pantheon of the elite sporting events.

Hopefully now the Committee will revisit, what I believe, to be their flawed decision and reinstate Race Walking to its proper place as an integral part, and not an optional extra, at the forthcoming Glasgow Commonwealth Games Programme.

Oliver T Flynn - Commonwealth 30km Champion Edmonton 1978

F I X T U R E S

31 March	Great Pier Walk (Charity Event)	Southend-on-Sea	10.00 am
1 April	Tonbridge Open 3,000 metres	Tonbridge	2.50 pm
7 April	Inter-Area Representative Match	Lee Valley (indoors)	TBA
13 April	Pat Furey 5 Miles/Enfield League	Lee Valley	10.00 am
16 April	Veterans AC 5 Miles	Battersea Park	7.00 p m
21 April	Virgin London Marathon	Greenwich/Blackheath	9.00 am
21 April	Jeff Ford Open Track Meeting	Don Valley Stadium	1.30 pm
27 April	Crawley 6/12 Hours	Crawley	7.00 am
27 April	24 Hours (Ind + Relay)	Dijon	TBA
28 April	RWA National 20K/Junior 10K	Coventry	1.30 pm
29 April	SCVAC T&F League 2,000 metres	Lee Valley	7.10 pm
6 May	Hertfordshire 3,000m Champs	Stevenage	TBA
6 May	Pednor 5 Miles (+ Enfield League)	Chesham	5.00 pm
7 May	Veterans AC 5 Miles	Battersea Park	7.00 pm
11 May	RWA Southern Area One Hour	Sutcliffe Park, SEN9 5LW	1.00 pm
12 May	Essex/Open 10,000 Metres	Ashtons Track	TBA
18 May	Dutch 50/100K& 50/100 MIs/24 hours	Weert	TBA
18 May	Inter-Area Representative Match	Tamworth Track	12.00 noon
26 May	Essex County 3,000m Champs	Melbourne Park Stadium	TBA
27 May	Bradford 35K/15K	Baildon	11.00 am

BE PART OF HISTORY - A FINAL CURTAIN

Sunday 21st April's "big game in town" is the Virgin London Marathon, which sees some of our readers giving their best and raising money for good causes; and others officiating, helping and lining the route encouraging. Ilford AC will again man a water station at Canary Wharf. For those not involved in this London event, then "up North" there's the annual Jeff Ford Open Walks, offering a full card for all ages and both genders. Promoters point out that this will be the last race walking event ever held in the Don Valley Stadium, so you can be there for a final curtain! According to the "Daily Mirror" closing Don Valley Stadium saves the local Council £7000,000 a year ... but it also draws attention to an estimated £5 million a year its most famous user (Jessica Ennis) pulls in from advertising appearances. The "Mirror" suggests Jessica could easily chip-in something to keep this track going for a bit longer! Q.E.D.

GOOD CAUSES



Last month we advised that STUART and LOUISE are appearing in the Virgin London Marathon on behalf of Leukaemia Research. Well noted Canvey Islanders MAGS and ALAN are racing for Essex Air Ambulance and EDDIE TROTTER goes for Muscular Dystrophy. Ilford's STEVE ALLEN will race/walk in a Postman's uniform, including peaked cap, in support of "Breakthrough For Breast Cancer". Please see these big-hearted competitors at meetings and make your pledges. If other readers are appearing for good causes, let us know.

OUT-AND-ABOUT

Well done to Ilford AC's KEVIN MARSHALL who braved really cold weather for longer than most of us at the Enfield 5 Miles, as he completed a 53 Miles LDWA Norfolk Walk based around Cromer. Perhaps Kevin's getting in some extra mileage for this year's 100 Miles? Others from the walking world at Cromer included Dave Hoben, Jill Green, Sandra Brown and Sue Clements.

ILLNESS OF ESSEX CENTURION

Romford resident, 82 year old Keith Wilson (C865) has been in hospital for some weeks following a stroke. Keith qualified as a Centurion, in the colours of Essex LDWA, at the 1989 Arthur Eddlestone BEM Memorial 100 Miles Walk at Hendon Police School, which was promoted by Metropolitan Police Walking Club, and emphatically won by Ed Shillabeer. Keith clocked 23.47.00. His wife reports that he wears his tracksuit in hospital during the day, with a Centurion badge proudly on it. His last competitive walk was in January 2001 when he raced in the memorable "John Hedgethorpe Memorial Walk" (also our Essex League's 400th Walk) at Chelmsford Police HQ. In that race 2 young police types overtook him on an isolated rural stretch and they were, shall we say, "lifting". Keith told them he was a "Walking Judge in Disguise" - Keith must have sounded convincing as they slowed down and complied ... whereupon Keith overtook both! Since his last race/walk Keith has, despite age and a hip replacement, still managed to join in activities of his local **Ramblers Group** and has been their "Walks Leader" on many occasions. Address for Get Well cards: 22 Belgrave Avenue, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 6QD.

HARVEY JAQUEST (9 July 1927 – 31 January 2013)

Harvey Jaquest devoted much of his spare time to athletics, for many decades. He was a Level 4 Coach, who coached several National Champions and International Athletes, including John Merriman, Jean Sorrell nee Dunbar, Margaret Pickerell and, more recently, Danielle Sanderson. Harvey was a member of Watford Harriers for over 60 years, and founder member of Watford Joggers. He was a competitive Race Walker, winning medals at European and World championships even as an M80 athlete. Harvey organised the 24-mile feed station for the London Marathon for many years, and helped with the marathon events at London 2012. Through Danielle, Harvey became involved with the UK ultra-marathon Squad, coaching and giving advice. In spite of suffering ill-health over the last few years, Harvey continued to coach Saturday speed sessions. Harvey was dedicated to athletics; his keen eye and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by Watford's athletics community. Harvey is succeeded by his wife Audrey, their two daughters and three grandchildren.

TRIBUTE FROM DAVE KATES

I will miss Harvey. He was a good man and a true friend. He and Audrey travelled all over the World with Pauline and me, and we shared some wonderful experiences. When I look back over my best moments in our sport, I realise that Harvey was there, sometimes quietly in the background, but always having an influence. In the 'heat of battle' he had the ability to remove the emotion and calm things down so that your mind was brought back to focus only on the things you could control. What you could not control had to be calmly accepted as fact. To the uninitiated that calm exterior might disguise the hard steel that was underneath, for he was one tough competitor himself and was also forthright though fair in what he expected from his charges and those he sought to influence. Harvey was the complete gentleman, he rarely lost his 'cool', never raised his voice, kept and expected high standards and believed always in 'doing things the right way'. Thank you, Harvey. *Dave Kates*

AMONG MOURNERS

Many attended Harvey Jaquest's funeral including former Lincoln City, Watford, Wolves, Aston Villa and England National Football Manager Graham Taylor.

What was the link between the late Harvey Jaquist and Watford Football Club?

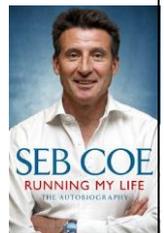
Graham Taylor had been a very good friend of Harvey for many years and was always very supportive of him. They met when Graham first came to Watford to take up his position as Manager of Watford FC. Harvey was in fact a Vice President of Watford FC and remained so throughout the 'Graham Taylor years'. Match day would often find him in the Directors' Box. At that time Harvey was also working as an Estate Agent and he spent time driving the new Manager around the area and helping him to find a new family home. They became good friends and shared a belief that the Football Club should strive to both identify and involve itself with its local community. From the outset Graham Taylor introduced a rule that all Watford players had to live locally ie within a certain radius of the Town Centre. All players were also required to take part in community based projects on a weekly basis eg hospital or school visits, fund raising for charity or community projects, local business PR visits to local sports, youth or community clubs etc. Watford FC became known as the 'family club' and the legacy from those years continues today. Whether through friendship with Harvey or not I cannot say, but Graham Taylor took to doing a little bit of running as well and competed in a number of local 10k races and fun runs. For several years he also held office as President of Watford Harriers. Today it would still not be unusual to see him turn out for a local race and act as Official Starter.

Dave Kates

HAPPY OCCASION On behalf of all Essex Walker readers we wish recently-married Steyning AC duo TREVOR JONES and ANNE BELCHAMBERS all happiness for a long life together. Both are popular and talented members of our race walking scene, and we're all pleased to hear their good news.

RECOMMENDED READING

A number of readers have obtained copies of "RUNNING MY LIFE - AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY" by Seb Coe. From Hodder and Stoughton it costs £20 (list price) though can be purchased for less if you shop around. It charts Seb's life from birth to his role as our highly successful 2012 Olympic Supremo. For EW readers interested in the politics of sport, and we've a few of them, it recounts that fiasco of those proposed IAF World Athletics Championships once planned for Pickets Lock ... and of a doomed bid for football's World Cup to come England's way. Needless to say our GB 2012 Olympic bid "behind the scenes" story is well told. Once picked-up you can't put it down!



IN THE PINK A pink 'designer' water bottle was left at Victoria Park after our National 10 Miles Championship, which can be reclaimed from PAM FICKEN. Despite arctic conditions helpers shifted between 3-and-4 litres of water and 10 competitors had personal drinks on the feeding table!

THANKS TO ALL

February 23rd saw a start of the 2013 Enfield Walking League, after snowfall had forced a cancellation of January's event. It was held in on a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon around Enfield's King George V Playing Fields. Again it proved that the Enfield League is where the action is, for 45 were on the road ... a figure seldom seen at mainland fixtures nowadays. We won't "steal-the-thunder" of Enfield Walker by giving you a report, as nearly all read that publication. But a word for STUART BENNETT who raced despite returning from The Maldives a day earlier ... it was a shock to his system! We thank all officials and helpers for turning out to give us an afternoon's sport on such a cold occasion. And thanks for all who raced in such conditions ... walkers are, as the late Desmond Hackett (Daily Express) put it - "The Iron Men of the Highway". Thanks also for Errol who provided professional service on his treatment table for all in need. Pity about gridlock on nearby roads, which we hope didn't inconvenience too many.

TAKE WINE

The Annual Metropolitan Police Walking Club held their annual Dinner and Reunion at New Scotland Yard on 6 March. It was a well-attended tribute evening to MPWC Chairman ANDY BIGNOLD who completed every Nijmegen March during his recently-ended 31 years of service to Greater London's public.



It was billed as possibly the last such function "At The Yard" as an Estate Agent's board will soon be outside this famous building. For ex-Met Officers who've served there, it could have been an opportunity to re-enter the building for a final time. But no - for it appears the "exit strategy" is such that a 2014 Dinner might just be squeezed-in before the Police march out. The function would have been better had more ex-Met Police walkers attended for the Reunion part of the evening. So perhaps, as 2014 will no doubt be the last there, they might assemble in greater number then.

Of course it's open to all walkers, former walkers and guests, and attracted a good number. Sadly what showed where our sport's going was a "Take Wine" (or should we write "Take Whine") for "All who have competed in a race walk during the past month". Four stood up, and they were all well over-the-hill!

CAN WE GET AROUND THIS CLASH?

There is a weekend clash (Sat/Sun) as follows:

Sat 11 May: Sutcliffe Park/Eltham, RWA Southern Area 1 Hour Championship 1.00 pm

Sun 12 May: Ashtons Track/Woodford Bridge, Essex + Open 10,000 metres

So how about if each walker could pledge him/herself for one race or other (both races would be a bonus)? Please keep this weekend free, to see if you can all make at least one appearance. Both are worthy of your support.

NO MORE HAVERING MAYESBROOK AC?

Havering AC were once key players on our Essex Walking scene with a talented squad containing promising juniors. Exactly a decade ago they changed their name to Havering Mayesbrook AC - this because, although still based at Hornchurch Stadium (HQ and training location), their track wasn't up to British League requirements. So they used Mayesbrook Park Track (in neighbouring London Borough of Barking and Dagenham) to stage meetings.



What about our "Olympic Legacy"? In 2012 the Club were tipped-off Mayesbrook Park Track as it was much improved and then made available only for training and preparation by visiting overseas teams. Now the circus has left town, the Council have upped hire fees for this venue ... such that Havering Mayesbrook AC are forced off it. If no longer using Mayesbrook Park for home meetings, one wonders how much longer this location will feature in their title?

EVERY QUARTER OF A CENTURY

Southend-on-Sea based reader MARTIN FISHER is a giant on our ultra-distance scene and when completing SWC's Christmas 5K, it was the first time for over 25 years he'd raced such a short distance as 5K!

BOB MORTIMER RIP

Whilst not a race walker, Bob played his part in Essex athletics, which we're interested in. Essex Beagle Bob, aged 75, is best remembered for discovering a 15 year-old Daley Thompson in 1974 then coaching him to double Olympic gold medal status. Bob himself took up athletics coaching after being inspired by the late Ron Pickering; that silvery-tongued maestro of the small screen.

INTER-AREA REPRESENTATIVE MATCH

The annual Midlands v North v South meeting is to be held at Tamworth Track on Saturday 18 May. We congratulate in advance all readers who get selected to represent their Area teams.

MILESTONES

March saw two milestone birthdays achieved by well-known members of our race walking community. RWA Vice President ERIC HORWILL (Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers/Loughton AC 2nd claim) has hit 80 not out, while Romford-born MICK BARNBROOK (Ilford AC/Met Police, formerly Cambridge Harriers) has reached his 70th. Both are still active and are often seen giving good accounts of themselves. Both are Centurions with long intervals between their UK qualifying performances and 2nd completions. Eric was one of 27 new qualifiers in the 1966 Leicester-to-Skegness 100 Miles clocking 21.51.09 with his next 100 miles finish in the 1997 24 Hours on Ware's Wodson Park track. Mick qualified at Ewhurst in 1979 clocking 21.59.55 becoming one of 37 new qualifiers. Mick's 2nd finish was in the 2001 John Hedgethorpe Memorial 100 Miles at Colchester's Lower Castle Park. As you'll see by huge numbers of newcomers joining the Brotherhood as then was (no sisters till 1977) in 1966/1979 compared to their 2nd attempts (1997/0 and 2001/3 with no UK athletes), then you'll see how much stronger our ultra-distance scene was in the 60s/70s. We wish both gentlemen well.

WALKER ON THE MOVE

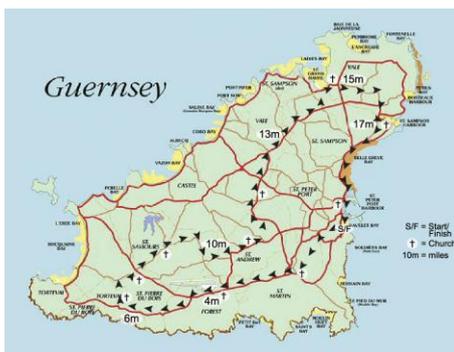
STEVE WYNN (SWC/London Postal Region) has moved to: 8 St Mary Newington Close, Surrey Square, Walworth, London SE17 2LP Tel: 07773 465939. Steve says it's nearer to his beloved Millwall FC! By the way Steve's Post Office-in-Uniform walks are back on the card, for Saturday 21 September at Mount Pleasant (2.00 pm).

THE HOLIDAY ISLE

With evangelical fervour, 'Minister for Mainland Development' MICK BARNBROOK continues his campaign to get a minimum of 50 mainlanders over to Guernsey for this year's delightful 19.4 Miles Church-to-Church Walk on 1 September, which is followed by an evening social function at St Peter Port. As if to assist Essex/Home Counties readers, a new airline (Blue Islands) has commenced Guernsey services from London City Airport. For a free brochure about Guernsey giving travel details (ferry/air) plus accommodation details, phone Freephone 0800-0285353 quoting Ref.2602/10 or go onto www.visitguernsey.com.

HIS ROAD IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS

MICK BARNBROOK is determined to put up a good show in the Church-to-Church Walk on 1 September, and as part of his big build-up he took all his training gear with him on a week's visit to his apartment in Southern Spain.



A week later, the sum total entered in his training diary was – “damn all”.

But he means well and continues to promote this event in his capacity as 'Minister for Mainland Development'.

<http://churchtochurch.wordpress.com/information-2013/>

END OF THE PIER SHOW

The World's longest pier (1 mile long) at Southend-on-Sea, plays host to the annual "Great Pier Walk" on Easter Sunday 31 March commencing 10.00 am. Organised by The Rotary Club of Leigh-on-Sea and on behalf of Southend Hospital Charitable Trust's Bosom Pals Appeal, it commences 10am/ends 4.00 pm. Entry is £5 for adults (less for concessions). OLLY BROWNE holds the record with 18 return journeys and will be there again ... so come to give him a cheer. More details on Southend Hospital Charitable Trust's website.

AROUND AND AROUND

The annual Crawley 6/12 Hours track race is scheduled for Saturday 27 April commencing 7.00 am at the town's K" Leisure Centre. For years it's attracted race walkers, particularly those seeking to race over long distances later in the year. Details from Organiser Pam Storey on 01342-717222 or visit www.pamstorey.co.uk.

IN THE PARK

Among a thin gathering for our RWA National 10 Miles was former Essex resident TERRY McDERMOT (Bels) who for many years helped out at Basildon races. Now living in the north he was most appreciative of Essex Walker for keeping him in touch, but for current and former Editors continually misspelling his surname - only **one** 't'. He remembered Victoria Park in May 1979 when our National 20K had a programme entry of 286 (31 teams). CARL LAWTON won by some distance, though **22** retired in a heatwave and **15** were disqualified (mostly stars, some hearing their number when leading). Almost as many men dropped-out as finished this year's National 10 Miles (**25**) in the same park. It was a controversial race and no doubt started the end of single judge rulings at major events. Trevor recalled it was Cup Final Day as Arsenal beat Manchester Utd 3-2 with 3 goals coming in a hectic last few minutes. Trevor sends his regards to all.



Dear Dave ...

BILL's SUTHERLAND's CONTRIBUTION

Thank you for another superb Essex Walker and also for your kind remarks. There is much work to be done on Race Walks rejection from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014. The answer to the question (about which year the late George Meadows won the Met Police Open 7 Miles in snow) is I believe 1956 or 1957, but I think the definitive answer is held by Belgravian Olympian Eric Hall. It would appear that remarkably Highgate's Sunday Times worker George Meadows coped better than anyone with the snow and ice. I can remember similar weather of snow but no ice in the 60's and have quite a few LETT photographs as proof! Only singlets to the fore too!

Bill Sutherland

2013 LONDON INTER CLUB CHALLENGE

I have received confirmation of the 2013 LICC fixtures. There are only 3 this year and all take place at Allianz Park, which is the old Cophthall Stadium. Dates are: 29th June, 27th July and 24th August. All will be over 5km with a u15/Novices 1km and 3km. All will score in the ERWL and therefore be under domestic rules.

Ron Wallwork

MEETING WITH MICKY SUTTON ON No 17 BUS AT CHANCERY LANE

In years gone by, one used to be able to purchase Athletics Weekly at every newsagents besides the larger ones like WH Smith's. No more - as I had to do a training session via Kings Cross and Eurostar, London Bridge, Holborn (2 previous stores closed) before eventually obtaining the last copy at Chancery Lane and that was at midday on Friday! Great double page coverage of our Commonwealth Games Campaign for re-introduction of the Race Walks. Well done to Bob DOBSON for starting it all off. Whilst on my way back from London Bridge I was joined on the No 17 Bus by Ilford's Micky SUTTON. Great to see him and have a good old chat on current walking news. Last time I remember seeing him was when I gave him a lift back to London after his great Centurion achievement when he became Centurion 1078 in 23h 45m 18s at Newmarket in 2009. Where does the time go?

Bill Sutherland

Adds Hon Ed: Many remember the old AW (a small booklet of 'RW Record' size) nicknamed "The Bible". Many subscribed and, as Bill writes, was sold everywhere. The current AW version sells a fraction of today's copies.

WALKIES!

Greetings! Details of our August Bank Holiday meeting will be circulating shortly so I'd appreciate it if you would let the walking fraternity know that the One Mile will be on the programme once more. (It was so well supported, how could we possibly leave it off?)

One Mile Walk

**Bank Holiday Monday, 26 August - 10.30 am
Garon Park, Southend-on-Sea**

You may not know this, but on Boxing Day I made myself a surprise entry in our Boxing Day Pier Handicap Race race (2 miles) and race walked the whole distance. I was quietly delighted at the end: (a) I finished it; (b) having been given a 10 minute start on the field I was never overtaken - although I confess myself completely stunned that no runner could overtake a walker! However, it has to be said that our class acts had about a 20 minute handicap - so that's probably too much to ask. Needless to say I was promptly threatened by Mike Seaman that were I to do that again I would not be seeing a 10 minute start. I have to admit it was a fun reminder of the elation on those odd occasions in my youth when I finished 1st. (And the thunderous applause from 4 people as I 'crossed the line' helped - actually I think it was less applause and more an attempt to keep their hands warm). My time is quite irrelevant; however, Elena Lashmanova had better watch out!

June Cork

A WELCOME MAT

When seeing Veterans AC 5 Miles races in fixtures columns there's a welcome for all ... not just members of Veterans AC. Such races accept entries from veterans who aren't VAC members and from non-veterans, who may compete in guest capacity. All races are 'enter-on-the-night' and offer punters 3 circuits of Battersea Park's Queen's Carriageway with changing facilities at the Park's Millennium Track.

DIARY DATE

Isle of Man walkers are putting on a 100 Miles in Douglas on 3rd/4th August this year.



100 MILES ENTRY IS NOW OPEN

STEVE TAYLOR advises that details of this race (3rd/4th August at Douglas) are on:

<http://www.isleofman100milewalk.co.uk/index.html>

CHARLIE FOGG PUTS THE RECORD STRAIGHT (ref Chris Maddocks's book)



AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY FIVE-TIME OLYMPIAN
CHRIS MADDOCKS

MONEY WALKS



Talking about the 1979 Eschborn World Cup, Chris quotes "All 3 senior races were staged on the same 2.5 km town circuit. The first race was the woman's road 5kms where Britain scored a one-two finish with Carol Tyson winning". He goes on to talk about a race in Lassing, Austria, a few weeks later and quotes "Carol Tyson predictably won the woman's race. She was slim, red headed with attractive elfin-like features and a world champion to boot". Now I know that Marion won that race in Eschborn - I was coaching her at the time. To date she is Britain's only female race walking world record holder.

The Lassing race team was handpicked athletes and Marion was not invited, not being a part of the in-crowd. In fact, although Marion won most of the important competitions during her career, she rarely got selected to compete abroad and it was Carol who got the sponsorship, high altitude conditioning visits and international trips. Nothing against Carol who was an accomplished walker but credit where due!!!! Carol never beat Marion when it really counted.

Marion was often shunned, I remember when a table was named after her following the European Cup the next year, she was not invited, which left 2 empty spaces at her table! I remember that incident very well as my wife and I sat at that table!

MARION FAWKES

Through the pages of Essex Newsletter please may I offer an apology - My apologies to Marion Fawkes. In my autobiography, Money Walks, I refer to a British one-two success in the 1979 Women's 5kms in Eschborn, but credit Carol Tyson with the win. In fact, it was Marion who was victorious and to have stated otherwise was an aberration on my part for which I am sorry. There are hundreds of sporting facts throughout my book which I believe to be completely accurate.

Chris Maddocks

ON TRACK

FRANCISCO REIS brought another National title to Ilford AC on a bitterly cold afternoon, not that conditions troubled competitors disputing the British Masters Athletics Federation National 3,000 Metres Walk, for it was at Lee Valley's centrally-heated indoor arena in North London. Francisco was an emphatic winner, with a most impressive blast from gun-to-tape which none could match, seeing him finish in 13 minutes and 54 seconds which was clear of 2nd placed former Olympic representative IAN RICHARDS (Steyning AC). The Ilford athlete's performance drew praise from both colleagues and rivals alike.

THE FINAL CURTAIN

The latest Cambridge Harriers Winter ended its 4-race programme in March with the best 3-from-4 counting for series awards. Ilford's FRANCISCO REIS was top senior man followed by Barnet's STEVE ALLEN and Ashford's CHRIS HOBBS. Top 3 ladies were LAUREN WHELEN, SABINA BROWN and MAUREEN NOEL. Needless to say star Under-17 man was CAMERON CORBISHLY followed by LUC LEGON and TIM SNOOK, While HEATHER BUTCHER was leading Under-17 woman. Apart from Race No 1, Essex-connected athletes were few in numbers as can be seen by the series awards. Can Essex athletes do better in the next Series?

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

The Young Athletes League doesn't yet feature race walking on its cards, but at this year's Birmingham Grand Final over the weekend 7th/8th September is a "demonstration event" which will showcase race walking before large crowd. All youngsters will be invited to appear, and not just from Clubs which make this Grand Final. It's an occasion we need to get right if we're to make progress!

RWA SOUTHERN AREA 20 KILOMETRES CHAMPIONSHIP

After the 2012 event was cancelled owing to a lack of entries, your hard-working RWA Southern Area Committee are giving it another try, so such optimism deserves your support. It's scheduled for Saturday 8th June at Enfield's Donkey Lane. Make a note in your diary now!

BIG BANG

The late JOHN HEDGETHORNE stated that Ilford AC's "Mr Starter" DAVE SEARLE had the loudest starting pistol in Essex, likening it to a howitzer. Sadly Dave passed-on a short while ago. At the Essex/Eastern Counties Indoor meeting many commented on loud blasts from the starter's pistol. The starter, DAVID HOBBS, revealed he was using the late Dave Searle's gun, which his widow had kindly given away so it'd be used again.