

Essex Walker

Editor: Dave Ainsworth

ROBBIE BRIGHTWELL MBE RIP

Not a walker but a sportsman admired by all in our ranks, Robbie was our GB athletics team captain at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics when Ken Matthews won gold in the 20K Walk and Paul Nihill silver at 50K. Robbie was a silver medallist at those Games (4 x 400m relay). Robbie won medals at European Championship and Commonwealth Games events (both in 1962). He was 82. Robbie and his now widow Ann Packer are in the English Athletics Hall-of Fame. As well as Ann, he leaves behind 3 sons: Gary, David and Ian - the latter pair both played for Manchester City and a number of other professional Clubs. RIP Robbie.

MEMORY LANE

Keen Forres-based reader Alex Ross sent a copy of our **1969** RWA National 10 Miles' results (as compiled/typed/distributed by Jack Goswell). Jack typed stencils on an ancient Imperial typewriter before running them off on an equally aging hand-operated duplicating machine. They were always produced in rapid time - so enabling all to head home with result sheets. Held on 15 March at Morden School Sports Centre, 236 started. Leading them home was Paul Nihill with a huge lead, clocking 71.14. In those days top men (no ladies in a National 10 Miles then) supported domestic races and the first 4 had competed at the Mexico Olympics a year earlier: 2nd John Webb 73.05, 3rd Bob Hughes 73.27, 4th Brian Eley 74.02. 182 finished, the last being Keith "Mountain" Mann of Essex Police in 108.36. The "Mountain" always relished the challenge of a longer walk than those 10 miles on offer that day. An impressive 31 teams started (4-to-score in such times) with only 2 not closing-in (Hinckley College and Harborne Harriers). Most of those 31 teams are Clubs no longer have Walking Sections, and in some cases have folded completely - so leaving vast areas to the Country without active race walking of any standard. Top 3 teams were 1st Leicester WC (Messrs Tolley 4, Adams 16, Markham 21 and Stapleford 26) 67 points, 2nd Belgrave 'A' (Messrs Middleton 11, Duquemin 13, Moullin 14, Duncan 52) 90 pts and 3rd Highgate 'A' (Messrs Sutherland 8, Ross 12, G Dick 38 and Coleman 45) 103 pts. Three Essex-based teams closed in: 4th Southend-on-Sea AC 119 pts, 5th Ilford AC also 119 pts and 29th Essex Police 628 pts. In conjunction was an Inter-Counties Championship: 1st Essex (Messrs Webb 2, Embleton 9, Mills 13 and Rosser 22) 46 points, 2nd Middlesex (Lightman 8, Sutherland 11, Ross 15 and Fogg 20) 54 pts and 3rd Surrey (Messrs Nihill 1, Middleton 14, Vale 25 and Delaney 36) 76 pts. Fourteen counties closed in a scoring 4: Staffordshire (308 points) came 14th. Truly a great day and well worth remembering - thanks Alex!

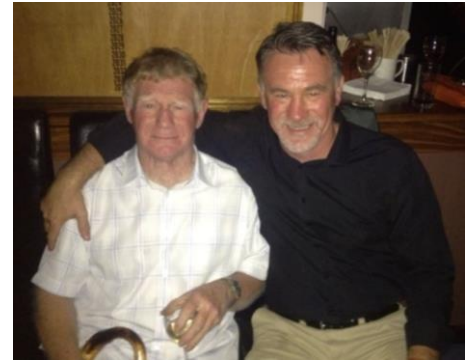
Report and result of this race appeared in the April 1969 issue 322 of [Race Walking Record - Race Walking Association](#)

MERCHANDISE

Our previous edition showed a range of Centurions merchandise now on sale - included as many Centurions read Essex Walker. Chris Flint is who to contact if wishing to purchase these items. Another respected organisation is soon to launch a range of promotional merchandise - The GB Olympians, who've stated, "We're delighted to be on the verge of introducing our very own GB Olympians merchandise". It's announced that this quality range will be of good value and sustainable. Needless to say it'll be only available for members and details are soon to be posted on their "members-only Team GB Facebook page". We mention this as Essex Walker's readership has esteemed Olympians on our distribution list. Most Olympians read their "GB Olympians Newsletter" - however, like Essex Walker a few years ago, they've announced that their last edition (December 2021) was a final one in traditional printed/posted format. Future issues will be by email distribution only. So sadly some readers will part company with this always informative publication. It's the way our world is going - though not always for the best.

IN THE PICTURE

Our previous edition mentioned the demise of "Mick the Red" RIP who was Andy O'Rawe's boxing trainer when in the professional ranks. Mick earned an Essex Walker mention as he used to show up in support of Andy when he was making good at race walking. Nobody knew his full name - as he was only ever referred to as "Mick The Red". This was down to the colour of his hair, not his politics. 😊



HAPPY RETIREMENT

Former International of note - **George Nibre** - is to commence his retirement. In previous times he completed a term of service with the Metropolitan Police, and since then has been employed as a Senior Security Investigator for an Essex-based car company. George has spent endless hours devoting his own time to mentoring and advising race walkers at the highest level, while also appearing in our races to show us signs of his past form. He's become a Moulton regular and a few years' ago was unlucky not to win a Police 10 Kilometres' Championship at the Stratford Olympic Park (he was a close 2nd). At Moulton he's also been "*guest of honour*" for the day - a Moulton tradition reserved for the good and the great. We wish George well as he heads into retirement, which we all hope will be both long and enjoyable.

WOODFORD TUESDAY WALK START

Here's a picture, from Ashtons Track, of a 3,000 metres' start (15 August 2007). It obviously comes from an era when the 3,000m were the meeting's "*curtain raiser*", as in recent years it's been last on the card - often starting in gloom under floodlights. Ron Wallwork has captioned it for us. L-to-R: John Borgars, Peter Hannell, Dave Ainsworth, Peter Cassidy, Stephen Crane, Phil Barnard, Mick Barnbrook. A review of the walk result (located online by Tony Perkins) shows the Enfield walker next to Mick Barnbrook to be Ken Livermore, and the legs of the walker seen behind Peter Cassidy belonging to Michelle Hurley.



Photographer Mike Sweeney (now China-based)

F	1	Michelle Hurley		Loughton	19:21.9
M	1	Philip Barnard	SM	Castle P	13:46.9
M	2	Stephen Crane	SM	Sy WC	15:09.0
M	3	Peter Hannell	M60	Sy WC	17:22.6
M	4	Michael Barnbrook	M60	Sarnia	19:28.9

M	5	Peter Cassidy	M65	Loughton	19:35.1
M	6	John Borgars	M60	Loughton	19:38.2
M	7	Dave Ainsworth	M55	Ilford	20:53.2
M	8	Ken Livermore	M70	E&H	21:28.2

Position	Club
1 Team	Loughton AC
2 Team	Surrey Walking Club
3 Team	Castle Point AC
4 Team	Sarnia Walking Club
5 Team	Ilford AC
6 Team	Enfield & Haringey AC

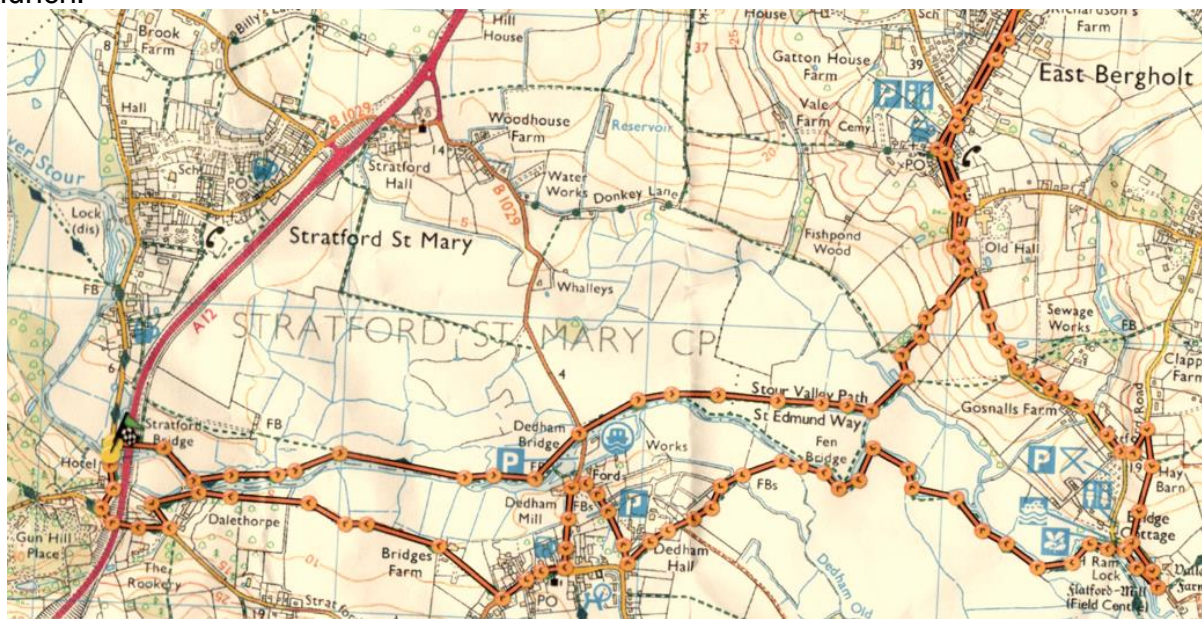
THE CENTURIONS' SPRING SOCIAL WALK

Constable Country - Saturday 28 May 2022 – 10:30am

Kim Howard will lead the next social walk in Constable Country, taking in the villages of Dedham, East Bergholt and Flatford Mill.

The walk will start from Milsoms Hotel, Stratford Road, Denham, Colchester CO7 6HW at 10:30am. Permission has been given to use the hotel car park and facilities. It is hoped that walkers can enjoy refreshments together here after the walk.

The 7 ¼ miles (11.5km) route is mostly good paths including sections of the St Edmund Way. Walkers will take a break at Flatford Mill. There is a café, or you are welcome to bring along your own packed lunch.



All Centurions, aspiring Centurions, family and friends are welcome.

Directions to Milsoms Hotel

From the M25. Take the turnoff for the A12 signposted Brentwood. Continue towards Ipswich bypassing Colchester. Take the exit for Stratford-St-Mary, Dedham and Higham. Turn right at the bottom of the hill for Dedham, over the bridge, down the hill. Take the first left.

The hotel can be reached by public transport. For further details or any other questions, please contact Steve Kemp on 07860617899.

Accommodation at **Milsoms Hotel : 01206 322795** is available for those wishing to stay overnight.

SUFFOLK WALKING FESTIVAL

There are over 70 walks organised for your enjoyment. Suffolk-based Centurion **Joyce Crawford** is on the Organising Committee and has sent us details - [Suffolk Walking Festival - Over 70 walks. 14th – 29th May 2022](#)

FIXTURES

APR	2	SCVAC Indoor Inter-Area Rep Match (+ VAC guesting)	Lee Valley Arena	TBA
	5	VAC 5K Open Walk	Battersea Park	7.00 pm
	16	LICC/Enfield League 5,000m + 1K and 3K	Lee Valley Track	12.00 noon
	23	12 Hrs Walk for Centurion training (<i>as far as you want</i>)	Richmond Park	7.30 am
MAY	10	VAC 5 Miles Champions + Open	Battersea Park	7.00 pm
	21	Cecil Gittins Memorial Walks 5K and 10K (<i>inc Enf Lge</i>)	Gravesend Cyclopark	3.30 pm
	28	Centurions Social Walk (<i>Constable Country</i>) 7.25 miles	Dedham (Milsoms Hotel)	10.30 am
JUN	11	Moulton Open 5 Miles (<i>Enf Lge</i>)	Moulton Village	12.50 pm
		+ YAG & Novices 1 Mile		12.30 pm
	19	BMAF 5K Championship	Horwich	11.00 am
	25	LICC/Enfield League 5,000m + 1K and 3K	StoneX Stadium (Cophall)	12.00 noon
	24			
	25	Junior UK Athletics Championships	Manchester	TBA
	26			

A series of training walks organised by Steve Kemp, to assist race walkers in their build-up to the Middlesbrough 100 Miles, are to be held from Belfairs Park, Leigh-on-Sea. Dates when confirmed will be widely circulated.

ORGAN DONATION RECOGNISED

The order of St John (United Kingdom), in partnership with NHS Blood and Transplant, is arranging a ceremony at Ely Cathedral on Wednesday 11 May to honour the selflessness of those citizens who donated their organs for the purpose of transplantation following death. One of those being honoured is the much-missed **Chelsea O'Rawe-Hobbs**, who was so sadly involved in a fatal 2020 road accident at Kempston Hardwick in Bedfordshire. Family members have received a personal invitation to attend. A representative of St John is to present an "Award for Organ Donation". Chelsea was employed in the medical profession as an intensive care nurse, and always carried her donor card - something which she firmly believed in doing, having witnessed first-hand the importance of organ donation on others.

SAD PASSING ON OF AN ESSEX-BASED DOUBLE OLYMPIAN

Eric Hall has sadly left us. He resided at Layer Breton near Colchester. Eric enjoyed a long successful athletics career and Peter Matthews, a member of the National Union of Track Statisticians, has kindly sent us key facts from his wonderful period of active participation. Many readers will have had the pleasure of meeting him locally as he was a committed "Enfield Leaguer". We express our profound condolence to Mavis and all other family members. **DA**

Eric William HALL (GBR) (b.15 Sep 1932 Oxshott, Surrey) died on March 20 aged 89. A distinguished member of the walking community and a past President and life member of Belgrave Harriers, he had three internationals for Britain, including 9th at 50k in 1956 and 10th at 20k in 1960 at the Olympic Games, RWA champion at 20 miles 1957, with 2nd places at RWA 10M 1957-8 and 1961, 50k 1956, and in the AAA 7 miles track walk 1957-8. Walks pbs: 2M 13:51.4 '60, 5M 36:09.0 '60, 10000m 45:34.2 '60, 7M 51:52.0 '60, 1Hr 12,740m '57, 10M 1:16:09 '57, 20k 1:33:37 '59, 50k 4:31:41 '56.

Peter Matthews, Editor Athletics International & International Athletics Annual

A full obituary by Alan Mead is published on the Belgrave Harriers website:

[The history of Belgrave Harriers | Eric W. Hall \(1932-2022\)](#)

ERIC HALL's FUNERAL SERVICE

This is to be held on Tuesday 19 April (2pm) at Colchester Crematorium, Mersea Road, COLCHESTER. Essex. CO2 8RU. There is free parking on site.



Photo [source](#)

Winning the National 20 at Colindale in 1957: Eric said the National win gave him the most satisfaction of any in his career, partly because "this event had seemed to carry a hoodoo for Belgravians" for he was the first Club man to win the title of this, the oldest championship event.

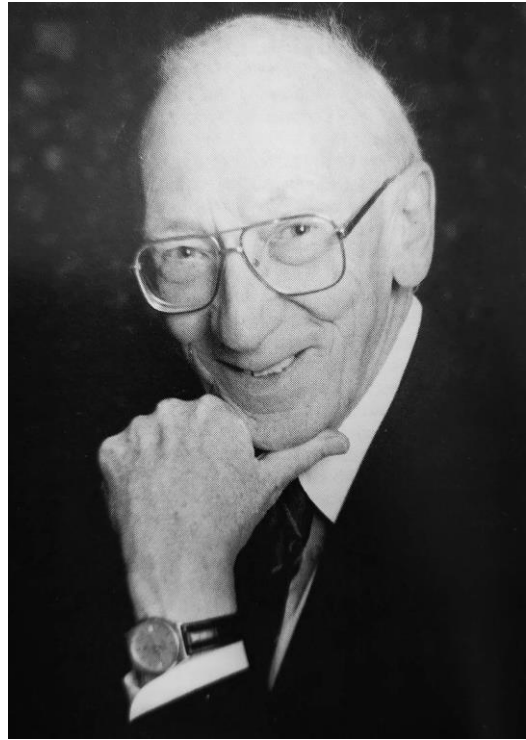


Photo [source](#)

Eric Hall pictured during his Belgrave club presidency of 1999-2000.

Athletics Weekly [tribute](#) to Eric Hall

Readers' tributes to Eric Hall

Essex Walker has received tributes to **Eric Hall**, described as a "great man and servant of Belgrave" (**Ed Shillabeer**).

- More sad news. Eric Hall has passed away after illness. Eric was our oldest and longest serving member of Belgrave. A Life Member and Past President. An Olympian in 1956 and 1960. **Carl Lawton**
- Eric was such a gentle man, always encouraging. **Cath Duhig**
- I remember Eric from my early days. He was a fine walker, true athlete and great help to me and other junior race walkers of the time. One particular race I recall was in 1958, a 20k at Crystal Palace on a hot summer's day (possibly a qualifier for European Championships in Stockholm) which I think Eric won or was at least in top three. I along with other under 17s had done a 2.5K (I think) and was very impressed as to how he managed the very hot conditions. A true sportsman who inspired many of the up-and-coming walkers to develop in the 60s (it was not just the Beatles who might have impacted our lives! Senior Race Walkers other than Eric including the likes of Matthews, Vickers, Misson, and Thompson had a huge influence). **Peter Selby**
- Sad news indeed, for Belgrave and for race walking. **Sandra Brown**
- Eric has a special place in Lancashire's history as he moved north in the early 60s and raced regularly in our club races. He played a significant part in Ron Wallwork's development. **Tony Taylor**
- Yet again we have lost a great achiever. He was really good company and enjoyed his conversation at events such as Enfield 7, Guernsey Church to Church, Nicola 5 and others like it. **Dave Hoben**
- Sad to hear of the passing of Olympian Eric Hall. A great competitor always. Met him and his dear wife Mavis on holiday in Australia's Blue Mountains when on one of my rugby tours in the past, and again whilst out at work near to his home near Colchester. He will be greatly missed. May he Rest in Peace. **Bill Sutherland**
- Yet another walking legend departed. **Andy Catton** (Essex County AA Chairman)

Others who have expressed their sadness include **Andy O'Rawe**.

FUNERAL of GEOFF HUNWICKS: 24 MARCH 2022

For readers wishing to catch up on this service held recently in the Gambia, the recording of the "live" screening may well remain available to view on Facebook for a while - [Trinity Methodist Church – funeral of Geoffrey Anthony Hunwicks](#). If watching, please be prepared for poor sound in places and wobbly camera angles.

AN 80TH MILESTONE

Past Ilford AC President **Les Hislop** has celebrated his milestone **80th** birthday. Les appeared in a number of walking races in our now defunct Essex League, both from Chigwell Row (a long established and popular pre-Christmas testing 10K) and around Redbridge Cycle Circuit. Among birthday celebration guests was Elm Park based blind walker Mike Brace CBE, who appeared in the Essex League (with Alex Ross as guide) and who was an entertaining after-dinner guest speaker at both the Metropolitan Police Walking Club and Ilford AC Dinners. Mike ran the London Marathon a couple of times with Les guiding. Another guest was your Essex County AA Chairman Andy Catton. We congratulate Les on reaching this milestone and wish him the best for all that's yet to come.

MAN OF THE MIDLANDS

Steve Uttley journeyed to the University of Warwick University track in Coventry for a 5,000 metres' walk in the annual "Molly Barnett open meeting", held on a sunny Saturday afternoon but with strong head winds particularly in the home straight. Steve set off in 4th place behind a trio of promising youngsters. One of those ahead, Cardiff AC's Daniel McKerlich, was disqualified for technical violations after a few laps. After a steady start Steve then began to make ground on second placed Jonathan Ellerton (Blackheath & Bromley AC) catching and passing him with about a mile left to eventually finish 2nd in a time of 29 minutes 15 seconds. The winner was Ellis Simmonds from Sheffield's 2 Dash Club, who went well clear never to be headed finishing in a time of 27.12 seconds.

FULL OF EASTON PROMISE

Leading athletics photographer **MARK EASTON** now has over 40,000 pictures on his much-visited [website](#). These were taken over 14 years, by one who puts much into race walking after a successful active career at the top which saw National Championship status more than once! He competed for England in 4 consecutive Commonwealth Games Championships (1990/94/98/2002). Mark's Honorary Treasurer of both our Race Walking Association and the RWA Southern Area. He's also Chairman of your Southern Area Committee. Mark organises our long-established fund-raising RWA 200 Club, which many readers belong to - and which currently seeks new members. For his Club (Surrey Walking Club) he's their website supremo. Every reader of this publication has been captured in Mark's lens on many occasions!

CONGRATULATIONS

These are sent to Race Walking Association Press & Publicity Officer John Constandinou and noted distance walker and Birchfield Harriers team colleague Karen Davies on the occasion of their marriage. Following this ceremony came a honeymoon in Scotland. We all wish the happy couple great happiness in their road ahead.



Photo [source](#)



Dear Dave ...

A NOTE FROM BOB PICTON FOLLOWING ANOTHER GOOD READ

Just a short email as I wanted to say how much I enjoyed EW 413. Names like Ray Platt I just don't know. Of course names like Peter Marlow - who has done so much for Race Walking for many years - we are all very appreciative of. Good to see mention of Chris Flint, Ed Shillabeer, Jim Ball and Harry Callow. Of course, we know Bill and Kath Sutherland. I really enjoyed the photo under the heading: "Gathering of Worthy Walkers", I believe submitted by (Rev) Roy Lodge. I recognise all in photo (including Lisa - nee Langford) but most I have never been in conversation with.

I really liked the style of Italian Maurizio Damilano who I recall competing at Milton Keynes - late 60's maybe? At the same meeting (Lugano Trophy?) I recall after the race seeing Russian Golubnichy looking dejected having not made his scoring team. He was sitting atop a 3-foot diameter "sewage pipe" roadside and I shook his hand as did Len Duquemin (former Belgravian and Guernsey walker). Perhaps the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's were the best times for British race walkers. I do recall a time when about 20 world-wide race walkers were capable of 8 miles in under an hour and Great Britain had 8 of the 20. We also have sad memories. I recall Lilian Board (sporting Olympic hopeful) and our future top walker Phil Embleton who was not too far behind Paul Nihill losing their lives to cancer. Great Britain has had some superb athletes in my life time!

Bob Picton

WRITES A FORMER STOCK EXCHANGE AC LEADING LIGHT

You may not remember me as my heyday was in the late 70's – phew, that was a long time ago but I'm glad to receive a copy of Essex Walker from my old SE club mate Tony Perkins and keep up to date with the sport. Thank you to you all. Having tried my hand (or should I say 'legs') at a virtual ERWL during lockdown I've persevered, albeit rather slowly, and have enjoyed a couple of real live walks. Can't imagine why I retired so early. Oh yes I can, I got pulled once too often. I think I've got that sorted now by being too slow.

Anyway, that's not why I'm emailing. I'm a member of a local film making club and we produce a quarterly newsletter for our small band of members (35ish) and like you put them online. To embellish some of the articles the editor occasionally downloaded the odd image from the internet. There was no indication any were subject to copyright and in any case, the images were very poor quality and only intended for our members. To view the newsletters which were buried deep in our website, you had to follow a link and download the file. Our website gets about 8 hits a week, most of which are accidental, and only 50% venture past the home page. Imagine our surprise when we received an email from a company claiming £123 for each of the five images they identified as breaching copyright. It appears they use software to find these images and seem to be targeting small clubs and organisations that do not have the resources to fight them in court. They work for many of the top agencies and sporting images seem to be particularly prone. So, this email is simply to warn you to only include images where you have the right to do so or obtain a licence beforehand (renewable annually) which is considerably cheaper than the 'fine' they impose.

Andrew Tweed

Adds Hon Ed: It's nice to hear from Hertfordshire-based Andy, who is an esteemed Vice President of Stock Exchange AC. In the '70s he excelled in the London-to-Brighton Walk with a series of 6 class finishes all in the 9 hours' time band, with 9:06.03 being his best mark in May 1978 when coming 4th (behind Adrian James, John Nye and N Finney who clocked 8:05.24, 8:28.56 and 9:04.23 respectively).

BRIGHTON MARATHON IN MEMORY OF JOHN BROCK RIP

My name is Hayley, daughter of John Brock who was a member of Southend Athletics Club and who sadly passed away from a brain tumour last June. Dad was in contact with members of the Centurions and had helped to organise past events (I know he knew Sue Clemente well) and I wondered if you could please share the Just Giving page below to those that knew Dad. My husband Andrew is running the Brighton Marathon this April in memory of Dad to help raise money for Brain Tumour research. This is a charity really close to our hearts and any donations received - big or small - would be most appreciated.

Link to Just Giving page: [Andrew's page](#)

Dad loved being a member of the Athletics club and competing and helping out in any event which he could. I know he would be very proud of Andrew for running such a long way for Brain Tumour research and any donations from any of Dad's friends and those who knew him would be greatly appreciated.

Hayley Cox (nee Brock)

THE WAY FORWARD

We need to have current appealing literature and much more information to attract any interest from YAG and Seniors. One only has to look at the Fixture List for Southern Area Race Walking and beyond to see that there are little to no fixtures to take part in and very few Clubs presently involved in race walking. It seems to me that we would be far better contacting the Park Run movement to see if they could encourage new race walkers of all ages to consider becoming serious race walkers. The RWA and Area RWAs have to break away from tradition and mix much more with mainstream athletics bringing in modern day presentation and technology. In short, we have to sell our Sport! I trust that my views will help you with your endeavours for the future of race walking.

Bill Sutherland

GOOD NEWS FROM NORTH OF THE BORDER

Life progressing here thanks to a bit of determination, the Hydro Pool and now the static bike in the gym. Won't be long before I am on the road again.

Alex Ross

NO WALK IN THE CHILTERNES

With reference to [Pednor 5](#). Sorry no walk to simplify event organisation post Covid-19.

Tony Molesworth

Race Director, Pednor 5, Chiltern Harriers Athletic Club

SAD NEWS - BILL WRIGHT RIP

It is with deep sadness that I received news yesterday evening that Bill Wright, Past President, Past Honorary Treasurer and Life Member of the Race Walking Association passed away early yesterday morning (Sunday 27 March) with his wife Janice and son Alistair beside him. In January this year, Bill was making a good recovery from a fractured femur becoming stronger and more mobile than 5 weeks ago his strength waned and he lost weight and he wasn't the same Bill we all knew. Our sincere condolences are sent to Bill's wife Janice and all the family at this very sad time.

Glyn Jones (Race Walking Association Chairman)

Adds Hon Ed: He'll be well remembered by Essex Walker readers as he was part of a truly talented Southend-on-Sea AC squad in the '70s. Tributes are to be published in our next edition.

ESSEX WALKER

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