

# Essex Walker

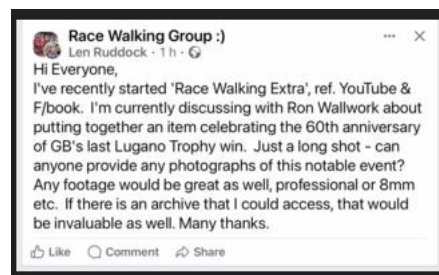
Editor: Dave Ainsworth

## ESSEX SUCCESS ON THE ADRIATIC COAST

Congratulations to Loughton's in-form Melanie Peddle on coming 4th in the European Masters Championship W55 5,000m walk in the European Masters Athletics Championship in the city of Prescara, when just a fraction of a second out of the medals. Melanie's time is reported to be a new UK age group record - however exact times haven't yet reached Blighty, so we'll await to be told of a time. *Congratulations from one-and-all!*

## RACE WALKING EXTRA

The last issue of Essex Walker featured Len Ruddock's well-received video of the Moulton walks. Len has uploaded this video onto YouTube on his recently-created Race Walking Extra channel: [Race Walking Extra - YouTube](#), with the intention of promoting Race Walking as a valid sport for the modern age. Subscription to this YouTube channel is free and will enable you to enjoy further viewing of relevant material as it comes online. Len is currently appealing for material (photos, film/video), via the Race Walking Group Facebook page, specifically for the Lugano Trophy.



## ONE FOR THE ROAD

Benfleet-based Kim Howard who has completed over 100 marathons - and is still adding to her impressive total - has been successful in a ballot for 2024 TCS London Marathon places. This race is scheduled for 21 April 2024. Kim claimed Centurion No 1020 at the July 2005 Norfolk 100 Miles Challenge at Kings Lynn when clocking 22:23.39. That event saw 38 finishers, including 16 new Centurions. A trend was emerging among those 16 - as Kim was the only member of a British mainland athletic Club (Southend-on-Sea AC). It's not all good news, as we've heard of other readers whose applications were rejected. Could any race walkers who've been successful in securing a start line place please let us know, so we can give them a name check.

## HISTORY

In Ilford's Centenary year, Enfield League historian Ron Wallwork scrutinised records to remind us of Ilford victories in the League:

### Enfield League Ilford AC Winners

1999 Dave Sharpe ©  
2000 Dave Kates ©  
2001 Pam Phillips  
2011 Steve Uttley  
2012 Francisco Reis  
2013 Peter Ryan ©  
2017 Mark Culshaw

### Enfield Open Seven Winners

1978 Bob Dobson ©  
1979 Roger Mills  
1987 Francisco Reis  
2000 Pam Phillips  
2001 Steve Allen ©  
2002 Peter Ryan ©  
2005/6/7 Scott Davis  
2011/2022 Neringa Aidietyte/Masilioniene

Ron points out Ilford have won a League team title on 9 occasions and only once finished outside the top 3. (NB: 'C' denotes Centurion.)

## CENTURIONS SOCIAL WALK

Yet again talented photographer **Brian Boggenpoel** has captured the best of an occasion. We remember him recording our wonderful 90th Enfield Open 7 and its 'never to be forgotten' 2016

Reunion attended by so many - plus a number of our better supported races and previous Social Walks, including a most enjoyable one through beautiful Constable country. Now he's captured our latest Centurions Social Walk around the historic City of St Albans. For those who missed out on that walk, it's worth appreciating the many sights. It might tempt you to visit St Albans on a day trip? Writes Brian: "Here's a link to the pictures I took on the St Albans social walk. If required I could upload most of them at higher resolution. [Centurions social 9-9-23.](#)"

### SOUTHEND CITY MILE

Excellent pictures taken by Brian Boggenpoel (as mention in our previous issue) have been circulated. Viewers' comments are below:

- Thanks for the great photos. It's just a shame that the speed is not there anymore plus the styles of the top walkers of yesteryear. The average pace for podium 3 in the 1970 Commonwealth Games 20 miles was faster than the winner at Southend per mile! My splits over 5 Miles were 37.21, 37.29 (over 8 mph at halfway) then 39.21 and 43.03 (into a gale force North Sea wind). 15 mls 1.54.21 with last 15 mls 2.00.03. What a race eh! **Bill Sutherland**
- Really great photos by Brian. **Colin Harle**
- Looked like a great event. Sorry I wasn't able to participate but thank you for keeping me in the loop, which I appreciate. **Tessa Killingbeck**
- Great event. Didn't know Phil was that young. **Peter Marlow**

These are the action photographs referred to, for those not sent them after the race. Well worth a look! They were also placed on the "Race Walking Group" Facebook site. Writes our photographer:

"I've put the pictures here: [www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/0w9hzo29sgmx83cyuimfs/h?rlkey=3l8aa9p973islhc7p1ug4onif&dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/0w9hzo29sgmx83cyuimfs/h?rlkey=3l8aa9p973islhc7p1ug4onif&dl=0)  
The video is there too, as it turned out to be less of an issue than I expected to compress it greatly. Although some previews chop heads and feet off, downloaded pictures will be ok." **Brian Boggenpoel**

### QUESTION TIME?

If any readers didn't receive our previous edition (September/October Issue No 431) this was due to proverbial gremlins getting into our email distribution system. So, if you want it sent (and it's a cracking good "bumper edition) please email Hon Ed (dave\_ainsworth@yahoo.co.uk) and you'll receive one by return.

### BACK IN THE '60s

Dox Cox has kindly supplied us with a photograph of a determined Alec Banyard leading Don, with Brian Armstrong just behind (3 positions confirmed by several readers). Then we've a number of suggestions:

- Left to right behind the leading 2 is it George Nibre, Denis Sheppard and Brian Armstrong maybe. **Bill Sutherland**
- I think it's Brian Armstrong behind Don and could that be a slim Amos to his left? **Dave Rosser**
- Armstrong 3rd, 4th not Amos because he would be leading. If a club vest can be ID'd then you might have a chance. Early doors because Brian is smiling! **Roger Mills**
- I looked at the photo on my iPad and have come up with the following. Behind me is Roy Thorpe, then Carl Lawton. On the left is Bill Sutherland. Alan Smallwood is doubtful. I now know the face but at present I cannot put a name to him. I have been trying to work out the club vest. The name will come sometime. **Brian Armstrong**



Other names, including Lew Mockett, were received by phone. We thank Don for igniting such interest in a picture selected from his impressive photographic collection.

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Alec** William James **BANYARD** (born 27 Feb 1942 Rochford, Essex) died on 21 August at Scarborough. A stalwart member of Southend-on-Sea AC, he was ranked in the UK top 10 for 50k walk each year 1971-6. He had one UK international – 19th in the World Cup/Lugano Trophy 1975. His best in RWA Champs was 4th at 20M in 1975 and at 50k in 1975. Walks pbs: 3000m 13:32.2 (1973), 2M 14:42.0 (1966), 10000m 47:07.0 (1975), 7M 55:00.0 (1966), 20k 1:36:31 (1973), 1:33:33 short (1968), 50k 4:27:21 (1974). Hon Treasurer Race Walking Association 1974-9.

**Peter Matthews Editor - Athletics International & International Athletics Annual**

**1975 Lugano Trophy Semi-Final, Grand-Quevilly, France**

L-to-R: Alec Banyard, Charlie Fogg, John Lees, Julian Hopkins, Jake Warhurst, Roy Thorpe and Peter Marlow (Manager)

*Picture (left) supplied/captioned by Peter Marlow*

**APPEAL**

Alec Banyard's son, Paul, has asked (via the Race Walking Group Facebook page) for readers to share any photos or stories about his father. Bob Dobson has submitted this photograph (right) of Alec attending him.

**IN THE MONEY**

Latest Race Walking Association 200 Club winners include Sharon Herbert, once a regular on our race walking scene, and European Championship former International Arthur Thomson. How about joining, in order to contribute something into your race walking coffers - and, who knows, enrich yourselves. It's only £12 for a year's membership (12 monthly draws). Among

our readers are many former race walkers now no longer - or seldom - seen. Think how much you've saved on travelling, so how about *chipping-in* a yearly £12 to promote and strengthen race walking? Details from RWA Honorary Treasurer Mark Easton: [rwatreasurer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rwatreasurer@yahoo.co.uk)

**NO MORE SHARPIE**

A thoughtful and relevant remark has been received about contributions relating to Dave Sharpe. Dave was last seen in 2012 and, by his own admission, has "*gone to ground*" (using his words) with no intention of ever returning to our race walking scene. We've published a few opinions in Dave's support and the only reason we've published less contrary words was as Hon Ed ruled they were too harsh to be seen in print. It's time to draw a line on this matter. His last letter was one he **specifically asked to be printed**, in which he admitted he'd quit race walking in disgrace - and also reminded us of all he'd done

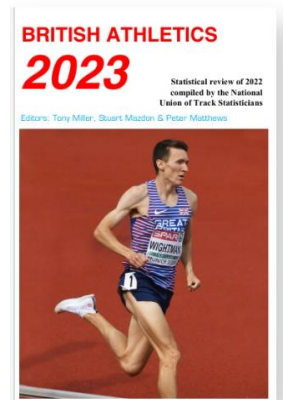
for race walking over decades. Our last mention, in the current edition, wished him a Happy 70th birthday - wherever he was. But - all agreed - as stated in the headline above, "No More Sharpie".

### PETER MATTHEWS RIP

So sad to report the death of Peter Matthews – who was our guest speaker at the Race Walking Association’s Centenary Dinner at the Royal Air Force Club in October 2007, when his after-dinner speech was wonderful, witty and relevant. He also appeared as a guest speaker at New Scotland Yard for the annual Metropolitan Police Walking Club’s Dinner and Reunion.

A known heart sufferer, Peter died peacefully in his sleep, aged 78. On the week before his sad death, he sent Essex Walker his statistical record on the late International Alec Banyard RIP. Peter was a long-serving President at his much-loved Enfield & Haringey AC, and had attended Enfield League races from time to time. He resided in Ware, Hertfordshire.

Peter was a respected athletics historian and National Union of Track Statisticians (NUTS) member and well known as an athletics commentator on ITV television and also as a track/stadium announcer – which included being a guest commentator at Ilford AC for an official opening of Cricklefields Stadium’s first all-weather track, with a meeting which saw many stars competing. Peter was a long-serving NUTS Chairman and had only recently jointly edited (with Tony Miller and Stuart Mazdon) their always appreciated 65th Annual. Peter attended “Essex Athletics Reunited” luncheons with regularity.



For decades he published ranking lists for race walking’s recognised distances – with accompanying comments drawing our attention to the direction in which our event was going. A sad loss and, without doubt, he was one of race walking’s greatest-ever supporters.

[www.Englandathletics.org/news/peter-matthews-1945-2023/](http://www.Englandathletics.org/news/peter-matthews-1945-2023/)

### TRIBUTES TO PETER MATTHEWS RIP

- I had the greatest admiration for Peter, who had such an incredibly unique and commanding voice. I met him many, many times in my capacity as Essex Senior Men's Team Manager at the Counties Athletic Union UK Intercounties, an event which my team invariably won. He would always whisper in my ear at the start, ‘how’s your team?’ ‘are you going to win it again this year?’ I was always thrilled that someone of this status was giving me and my team such recognition. RIP Peter a great statistician and so incredibly knowledgeable about his sport. **Keith Palmer**
- Very sad to hear of the passing of Peter Matthews who was so well known in race walking circles. John Powell worked as his 'right hand man' on stats over countless years. May he rest in peace. With sincere condolences. **Bill Sutherland**
- Awfully sad news. Such a lovely man and oracle of athletics. **Andy Catton** (Essex County AA Chairman)
- I don't know what I would do without your updates as the press are totally unaware of what is going on in athletics. As you know I had the great pleasure of working, at many of the major meetings, with both Peter and Bob Sparks, both of whom were leaders of the Announcers Club. I will certainly contact the Middlesex Committee to advise them of our loss. **Laurie Kelly**
- Gutted. I had great respect for the man. I was chuffed when I got a personal letter from him! **Ed Shillabeer C590**
- Another very good and unselfish person gone too early. **Richard Cole**
- Very sad to hear of the passing of Peter Matthews. On behalf of Metropolitan Police Walking Club I am sending our condolences to his family. May he rest in peace. **Dr Kitty Hung**
- A sad loss indeed. A man with so many strings to his bow. For decades, Peter's respected ranking lists were a “must read”. There were occasions when I felt privileged to receive letters from him, not least in my final racing year in 2000. May he rest in peace. **Chris Maddocks**

- I am so saddened by the passing of Peter. We have mourned many athletes in recent years recalling their past triumphs, performances and contributions to our discipline. Peter's contribution can't be quantified. He remained a staunch supporter of race walking over the last 3 or so decades, when our event was, and still is, under threat from the powers that be. I always saw Peter as an athlete's man as demonstrated when he spoke out about events being dropped or curtailed to facilitate TV slots. He was a giant across the whole track and field spectrum. I am reminded of him frequently as I often refer to the pages of "WALKS", the brilliant statistical survey of race walking that he and John Powell, through NUTS, produced in 2014. **Ron Wallwork**
- I only met him once at the Race Walking Association Centenary Dinner. He was charming and a fantastic speaker. He will surely be missed. **Peter Marlow**

Expressions of sorrow have also been received from Gladys Bird (Woodford Green with Essex Ladies AC) and Tony Taylor.

## FIXTURES

It is recommended that dates/start times are confirmed directly with organisers for accuracy.

OCT	14	Enfield League 5K/10K	Hylands Park (Hornchurch)	1.00pm
	22	Ray Hall Memorial Track League 1	Sutcliffe Park/Eltham	TBA
	28	Steyning Open 5K/10K	Steyning	2.00pm
NOV	4	Jack Fitzgerald Centenary Races 3 & 6 Miles	Tilgate Forest	1.00pm
	11	96 <sup>th</sup> Enfield Open 7 Miles (incl opt-out distances) + LBH	Donkey Lane	10.30am
	13	RWA Southern Area AGM	'Zoom'	7.15pm
	18	Ray Hall Memorial Track League 2/SWC Open	Tonbridge Track	TBA
DEC	2	Enfield League 3/5/10K	Donkey Lane	11.00am
	9	Ray Hall Memorial Track League 3/Lewes AC Open	Lewes	12.00 noon
	16	Christmas Track Races 5K + YAG	Broadbridge Heath	11.00am
	26	Southend City AC Boxing Day Pier Race 2 Miles Yacht Handicap	Southend Seafront	10.00am
	26	Brighton Boxing Day Races 5.5 & 1.8 Miles (provisional)	Preston Park	10.30am
Regular distance training walks are held from Leigh-on-Sea's Belfairs Park. Owing to popularity these continue – details from Centurion Steve Kemp on <b>07860 617899</b> .				

## GERRY PELL'S RIP

Ilford AC regrets to announce widower Gerry's death, aged 89. Not a race walker but a keen supporter of "The Peds" as he called them. He served 2 separate terms as Ilford President and for decades was an outstanding photographer with work published in, and acknowledged by, Athletics Weekly and other respected publications. He was one of race walking's greatest friends - indeed he attended Ilford's 2014 Walkers' Luncheon at "The Harrow" which recognised 40 years since Roger Mills earned a European 20K bronze medal at Rome and since the first time Ilford AC closed home a full team of 3 (Dave Neagle/Alan Barber/Dave Ainsworth) in a 100 miles' race (1974 Leicester-to-Skegness). On that occasion Gerry (as President) presented a souvenir programme of the last ever London-to-Brighton Walk to Centurion Steve King. His health wasn't good in recent times - which was sad for one so long involved in athletics. Gerry was one of the most active members Ilford AC ever had and came from a family who also strongly contributed to Ilford AC's success. **DA**

- Another stalwart lost. Don't know if you ever met his dad Alf. The double for Lionel Jeffries. Ex military PTI, perfect gentleman, terrific Sprint Coach and wonderful sense of humour. Like his son, dedicated to Ilford Athletic Club. The club have been fortunate to have had the benefit of genuinely good people. **Roger Mills**
- So sorry to hear of Ilford's sad news. Although I'd heard of him, I didn't know him, but an athletics stalwart as he clearly was, is a truly great loss to a Club. **June Cork**

- Very sad news and such a stalwart and much respected athlete and admired reporter of Ilford AC activities Gerry was. A great loss indeed. May he Rest in Peace. Sincere condolences to his family and so many friends. **Bill Sutherland BEM (Past Ilford President)**

## OUT AND ABOUT

One wonders how the Veterans AC meeting on Finsbury Park went (even after our walking race was removed from their programme due to lack of officials) - so here's what "our man at the meet" **Dave Hoben** reports:

*"It was a scorcher, as the Sun would say, and I was glad when it was over! Many appreciative comments from athletes as they departed. It would have been nice to do the St Albans walk though. PS On the way from station, I passed Bill Sutherland waiting to take up his marshalling post in Finsbury Park! I knew he did one, but not exactly where. That was a nice surprise."*

## SAD NEWS FROM MAINLAND EUROPE

Our friends on the Continent inform us that 4 members of the British Centurions have passed-on, one with a strong Essex connection. He's **C368 Jan Kon** from Holland who clocked 19:26.12 at the 1965 Chigwell 100, held over a testing 10 x 10 miles course and won by Hew Neilson. That race was a Friday/Saturday promotion organised by Metropolitan Police Race Walking Club. Having won, Hew wanted more action so was driven to the West County in time to start and finish an annual classic Chippenham-to-Calne 6 Miles. Others were **C442 Tom Soeters** of Holland who recorded 22:43.16 in the 1969 Bristol 100 Miles (won by John Hedgethorpe). **C663 Luc Wellekens** from Belgium clocked 22:07.49 at Ewhurst in 1979 when a record 107 started/78 finished - led home by recently departed Dave Boxall for his 5th UK 100 Miles' victory. Luc was just 8 minutes behind C661 Mick Barnbrook. In 1983 at Ewhurst, **C776 William Brouwer** from Holland was timed at 23:26.37 in a race won by C750 Carl Lawton, who still officiates today, in a time of 17:51.51 - which saw Carl listed as the 10th all-time fastest UK Centurion qualifier. May the deceased quartet of worthies rest in peace.

## RESPECTFUL APPRECIATION

Before our Enfield League One Hour walking race at the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium, Ron Wallwork MBE spoke a tribute - on the start line - to the late Peter Matthews RIP which was followed by a well-supported period of appreciative applause in respect of a true "good-un".

## ESSEX 10,000 METRES WALK CHAMPIONSHIP

Our Essex County 10,000 Metres Track Championship Walk was held in conjunction with an Enfield League One Hour race at the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium - on a Saturday morning in ideal conditions. A full result is in "**Enfield Walker**" which most receive - [Microsoft Word - Hour result 2023 \(weebly.com\)](https://www.weebly.com/microsoft-word-hour-result-2023) - so we'll not steal their thunder. Among Essex Championship contenders, in the Women's event pride of place went to in-form Emma Dyos who won the Championship when covering 10,126 metres in the hour. It was a remarkable display of concentration from one who spent the last third of the event walking with an undone shoe lace flapping, having decided to make progress rather than stop to re-tie it! Silver medallist was Loughton's Livia Comeciu who covered 8,068 metres with bronze awarded to Ilford Shaheda Arthur with



Picture of medallists L-to-R:

Livia Comeciu, Shaheda Arthur, Emma Dyos, Stuart Bennett, Colin Harle and Phil Barnard

5,444 metres on the board. Men's winner was Phil Barnard whose impressive comeback continued as he accounted for 10,812 metres, with Upminster-based Belgrave Harrier Colin Harle next with 9,955 metres as respected coach Stuart Bennett's 9,434 metres saw him earn a bronze medal. Awards were presented by Essex County Past President and Life Member Peter Cassidy (Loughton AC) in Enfield Town FC's Club Room. Our Essex Championship was discontinued after just 2 showed up - so thanks to Ron Wallwork and the Enfield League who offered to keep in going - albeit in slightly different form - by allowing Essex to hold it with their Hour race. Over 10 years of this format, some occasions saw none attain 10,000m in an hour - but this year **both** Championship trophies were presented to athletes who achieved this mark.

### OUR BEST WISHES FOR RECOVERY

We're sorry to hear Noel Blatchford was taken ill at the European Masters Championships in Pescara, after earning a 5,000m silver, and was admitted to a local hospital where it's reported she's being well cared for. We wish the good lady well and all hope to hear good news soon.

### STOP PRESS NEWS FROM BRUM

- The only news of Ilford interest is that Stuart Bennett was 3rd in the Police championship and 5th overall in the Ryan Cup race in the time of 65-31. He had a pretty isolated race being over 2 mins behind the person ahead of him, Mark Culshaw, and nearly a minute clear of the person behind. Mark is the only other person with prior Ilford connections and he finished 2nd in the Civil Service champs and 4th overall in 63.24. Matthew Henney won overall and also the Police champs in 59.44 and Martin Slevin won the Civil Service in 60-12, so if I'd been able to compete it could have been too close to call between the 2 of us. There were 16 finishers in the men, 8 Police and 8 CS. Five finished the women's race, 4 CS and 1 police. Aleksandra Majewski-Ani won that in 32.56. She's a non-vet I think. **Steve Uttley**
- The Met held off a Lancashire team to win the UK Police Championships with Colin Harle and Stuart Bennett up the field. I made up the 3-man team. Pretty good turnout but next year's race uncertain as West Midlands Police are restructuring the venue. **Chris Flint**
- I came 3rd overall in a time of 61.51, two police staff walkers ahead of me. Stuart Bennett was 4th and with Chris Flint we picked up the Police team prize and the British Police won the Ryan Cup over the Civil Service for the first time in a few years. A good day and we dodged the predicted storms in Brum. **Colin Harle**



## Dear Dave ...

### RIGHT OF REPLY

Thank you for forwarding the bumper edition of Essex Walker. It included a brief note about the low number of UK walkers supporting the event. It contained a cheap quote from an unnamed reader who commented: "Might as well have just given the Dutch £1,000 to help put the race on in Holland". If that person had been active in drawing attention to the event and encourage participation that would have been helpful, but instead decided to make a facetious remark that is not helpful and reflects poorly on the reader. Considerable time and effort is involved in setting up a 24-hour event and, fortunately, there are committed people who help organize and manage these events for the benefit of others from wherever they come. The Centurions have hosted 100's since 1911, other than the two Wars, and this is a pretty good record.

**Chris Flint, Hon Secretary/Centurions**

### FURTHER BACK IN TIME

Re my note on Alec Banyard, the year should be 1957, not 1967. No problem, I feel 10 years younger. Keep up the good work, I enjoy the reading.

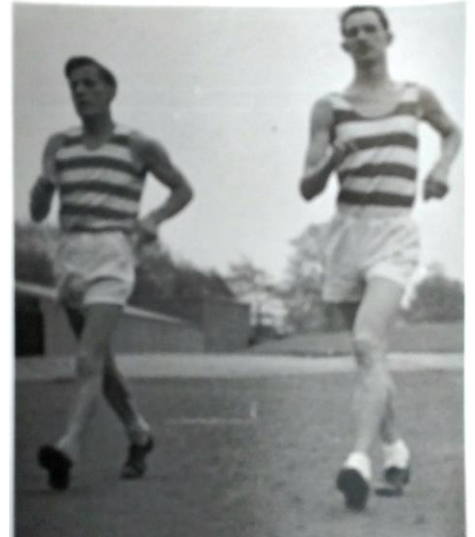
**Mike Hinton**

**SAD NOTIFICATION - JACK ENGLERT RIP**

Just wanted to let race walkers know that Dad passed away on Monday after a short illness. A few may remember him. He walked for the Sheffield United WC and also walked for South Yorkshire in the police championships. Until recently he was fairly active and independent.

*Helen Elleker*

- On behalf of the Metropolitan Police Walking Club I would like to extend our condolences. May he rest in peace. **Dr Kitty Hung** (Hon Secretary)
- I was so sorry to receive the sad news of Jack's passing. I have pleasant memories of Jack at Police walks especially the police only 'Barking to Southend' Race Walk. Sending my sincere condolences to Helen and the family. Memories will never fade. **Glyn Jones** (Race Walking Association Chairman)
- I remember him well. How very sad. I can remember seeing him very often in Sheffield United Harriers colours and representing South Yorkshire Police in Police Championships. A stalwart member and a great loss. May he rest in peace. Sincere condolences to Helen and family and friends. **Bill Sutherland**
- Sorry to hear this – I remember Jack well - he was a stalwart of Sheffield United in their heyday. **Guy Goodair**



*Olympian Lol Allen (L) and Jack Englert in action.  
Photograph supplied by Helen Elleker*

**ED RECALLS DISTANCE ACHIEVEMENT STARS**

John Eddershaw did a Plymouth to Dawlish 42 miler in the early '70s, one of the first my Dad organised, and used his Royal Artillery connections for breakfast (and I think accommodation also) to start the race inside the Royal Citadel. John, if I recall correctly, won it on a Sunday of rain to claim his Devon cream tea at the finish. The points I am sure of concern are his full English half an hour before the start and his garb consisting of a knee length mackintosh! I didn't see much of him after the first few miles ... Very impressive and inspirational. Ah, the greatest women's endurance walker is our amazing Sandra Brown. Be it 50k or ultra, such an impeccable style!

*Edbanger C590 (Ed Shillabeer)*

**IN THE PAST**

I've done some googling myself and there's quite a bit about Teddy Mills. I actually came across the mention of Warren Roe's book in the paper about the Manchester Milers. I was hoping one of the clubs that Warren was associated with might still have a copy. This has been quite an experience for me – a bit like "Who do you think you are?". No one in my family has ever had any inkling of Teddy Mills's amazing early life as a sporting legend. We gather he died in 1894 "a very rich man". It would be good to know where all that money went!

*Charles Mills*

*Adds Hon Ed:* Teddy Mills is featured in this article about the Manchester Milers

[www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/athletics/the-manchester-milers-1850-1870/](http://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/athletics/the-manchester-milers-1850-1870/)

*Reference: Oldfield, S. J. The Manchester Milers 1850-1870, In Day, D.*

*(ed), Pedestrianism (Manchester: MMU Sport and Leisure History, 2014), 78-110.*

**ALEC BANYARD RIP**

- It's more bad news, but none of us will last forever. **Gerry Grosse**
- He was an excellent walker. **Richard Cole**

**BBC IN THE DOCK**

It would appear that since Tom Bosworth has retired so has the BBC's interest in Race Walking as an athletic event. Mind you bearing in mind the times in the 20 Kms Walk Men in Budapest this morning - 77.30 for the winner with 20th place in just outside 80 minutes is it any wonder GB have no race walkers taking part, as the standard gets higher and higher and UK Athletics are only really interested in



medallists or top 6 finish. It is a shame that Bethan Davies was rejected after being offered a place by World Athletics. No wonder the Park Runs are so popular!  
*Bill Sutherland*

### A RACE WALKER'S LIFE

My luck was in tonight. I was race walking training along Clacton seafront and this chap offered to give me a kiss. I still seem to get a few car hoots and comments from those passing.  
*Steve Cartwright*

### SOCIAL WALK REPORT

For many good reasons only 3 of us did the St Albans walk. Steve Kemp was an excellent guide and we explored many of the hidden gems of the city. Brian Boggenpoel came with his camera so you'll see them in due course. Fortunately much of the route was shaded. It was hot but not excessively so.  
*Chris Flint*

### CENTURIONS SOCIAL WALK

This sounds super! Well done the three Centurion musketeers. The route sounds great and so interesting. I haven't been to St Albans for many years and can feel a visit coming on.  
*Sandra Brown C735*

### NEWS FROM JOHN

I'll tell you something interesting I have in my schedule:

1. I'm working for Steve Cram in mid-September at Worcester for the fifth or sixth consecutive year. Helping out with a weekend of city centre road running events.
2. Next Summer we have tickets to the Paris Olympics; Football (Lyons Stadium), Rugby Sevens (Stade de France), Racewalks (Trocadero), Equestrian Jumping (Château de Versailles), Athletics (Stade de France), Rhythmic Gymnastics (Porte de La Chapelle).

*John Constandinou*

### WORDS WRITTEN 2 DAYS BEFORE WRITER'S SAD DEATH

I hugely enjoyed the World Champs and wrote it up for Athletics International – but I did not go to Budapest, just watched on TV. I would have loved to have been there, but, not only have I retired from announcing and broadcasting, I also do not want or need the hassle of travel. I have been so fortunate in being involved and I commentated on all 17 outdoors World Championships 1983 to 2017.

*Peter Matthews*

*Editor Athletics International & International Athletics Annual*

### HIGHGATE HARRIERS LOOKING BACK

I see that during the Second World War Years the Walking Section was the only section to remain active as the running and ladies section ceased. Charlie Megnin, European Bronze Medallist at 50 Kms, nearly got hit by a bomb whilst out walking training. Highgate Harriers have had much success at walking over 100 miles and many have achieved the remarkable Centurion status. There is considerable history.

*Bill Sutherland*

### ALEC BANYARD RIP - CHARITY DONATIONS

Not sure if you have seen this - the Just Giving and funeral link that others might be interested in.

[Layla Banyard-Barbouti is fundraising for York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Layla-Banyard-Barbouti-is-fundraising-for-York-&-Scarborough-Hospitals-Charity)

[Webcast | Obitus](#) (Username: zaye5892 Password: 626563)

## Remembering In Loving Memory of Alec William James Banyard

Friday 15th September 14:30

The funeral recording will be available until the end of the Saturday 14 October.

*Paul Banyard*

### SITUATION REPORT

The British Police and Civil Service Championships and Ryan Cup Match went ahead yesterday on the established lap course of the perimeter path in Cannonhill Park, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Entries were not large by any standards but the regular stalwarts and officials were present to make it happen once

again. This year the Police won the Ryan Cup and maybe a fitting finale, as the Police Sports Club from where it is held is being transformed into a Public Order training facility as from November this year and hence will no longer be a Sports Club building, and facilities to hold a similar fixture will probably not be possible. In view of this development I did advise everyone at the presentation that we (PSUK and Civil Service) should be looking for a new venue if this historic fixture is to continue next year.

*Glyn Jones*

**ESSEX WALKER**

Dave Ainsworth  
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