



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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OUT AND ABOUT WITH OUR CLUB MEMBERS

Now here's a great photo of two of our youngest VRWC members, Ela Uzun and Havana Ali, who participated in the virtual 5km walk as part of the Angela Taylor Memorial Run/Walk. They were showing their support for Victoria Police, very important at the moment in the light of the 4 police members who were killed on duty only a couple of weeks ago. Great work girls! We look forward to welcoming you both back to our club races at the end of the lockdown!



PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another thought provoking article. I am becoming more and more convinced that the IAAF are a group of absolute @\$%^*+s.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ATHLETES EXCEPT WHEN IT COMES TO VINDICATING THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS
By Paul F. DeMeester

In 2017, an athlete could bring a claim in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) when the dispute arose under the IAAF Constitution as long as the statement of appeal was filed within 60 days of the decision that was being appealed. CAS rules governed how the 60 days were computed. (2017 IAAF Const., art. 20.)

The 2019 Constitution, enacted by the same Special IAAF Congress in 2016 that enacted the 2017 Constitution, limited athletes' rights to bring cases in CAS. The type of dispute that could be brought has been redefined. The 2017 language provided that "[a]ll disputes arising under this Constitution" were appealable after a decision was communicated. The 2019 Constitution provides that "[f]inal decisions made by the IAAF under this Constitution may be appealed exclusively to the CAS." The difference is two-fold. In 2017, any dispute arising under the Constitution was appealable. In 2019, only IAAF decisions made under the Constitution are appealable. Second, the 2017 Constitution spoke of decisions. Two years hence,

the requirement to appeal depends on a “final decision,” a new qualification. The change in phraseology could make a world of difference in whether a case is appealable or not.

Furthermore, the time limit to appeal was reduced from 60 days to 21 days. That’s a big deal. It often requires an injured party (injured in a legal sense, not physical) to think about what has just happened before deciding on a legal challenge. The athlete may need to consult with others, including counsel, before deciding to bring a claim. Counsel may need to conduct legal research to estimate the viability of the claim.

Last but not least, there is this beauty in the 2019 Constitution that had never appeared before:

The time limits stated in this Constitution shall begin on the day on which the notification by the Notifying Party is sent. Official holidays and non-working days are included in the calculation of time limits. A time limit will be complied with if the notification is received before midnight Central European Standard Time on the last day of the specified time limit.

(2019 IAAF Const., art. 86.2, subdivision (b).)

An athlete in Hawaii will have 12 hours less than an athlete in Australia, turning the 21-day rule into a 20.5-day rule, a violation of due process and equal protection. It is puzzling why the IAAF came up with article 86.2(b), unless it was to hurt athletes from the Western Hemisphere, which includes the United States, where athletes may be more inclined to seek vindication of their legal rights than their colleagues elsewhere in the world. To understand what fairness means in regard to time limits, one only has to look as far as the CAS Procedural Rules:

The time limits fixed under this Code shall begin from the day after that on which notification by the CAS is received. Official holidays and non-working days are included in the calculation of time limits. The time limits fixed under this Code are respected if the communications by the parties are sent before midnight, time of the location of their domicile or, if represented, of the domicile of their main legal representative, on the last day on which such time limits expire. If the last day of the time limit is an official holiday or a non-business day in the location from where the document is to be sent, the time limit shall expire at the end of the first subsequent business day.

(CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration, Art. R32.)

Notice the differences between the CAS rule and that of the IAAF (now called World Athletics). The IAAF counts time from the time zone where it is headquartered; CAS computes time from the time zone where the athlete or her or his main legal representative is located. The IAAF says “too bad” if the last day falls on a non-business day or holiday; CAS skips those days and fixes a new last day to fall on the next non-holiday business day. This can make for a substantial difference. Many nations celebrate a national independence day as an official holiday. Let’s say that day happens to fall on a Monday. If the last day was the Saturday prior to the holiday, then CAS allows for a new last day to fall on the Tuesday. The IAAF rule puts the deadline at midnight on Saturday in Central Europe but at 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon in California, a 9-hour difference. Having to complete a legal brief to start a case on Saturday afternoon (IAAF) versus midnight on the following Tuesday (CAS) is a 16 % difference when considering a 21-day time period. Just ask any student who has ever had to meet a deadline for a writing project whether they could have used 16 % more time from when the assignment arose. I think you know the answer.

IAAF officials often pride themselves that it’s all about the athletes. But then why did they narrow the opportunities for athletes to challenge their decisions on constitutional grounds? The constitutional changes were enacted in 2016, before Erin Taylor-Talcott brought her lawsuit in CAS to seek inclusion of women 50K race walkers at the 2017 London World Championships (she was successful) and long before the 2019 CAS lawsuit against the sexist IOC about the 50K Race Walk Event (not successful; in the interest of full disclosure, I was the attorney in both cases). At first blush, these changes may have nothing to do with our beloved 50K.

But we need to dig deeper into history. The Special Congress voted to approve the two new Constitutions in December 2016. The IAAF had circulated the two proposals to all member federations in September 2016. But earlier that year, the IAAF had been challenged on its 50K treatment of women walkers on gender discrimination grounds when U.S. 50K pioneer Erin Taylor-Talcott and her lawyer, Jeffrey Kessler, had petitioned the IAAF to include women in the 50K Race Walk Event in the 2016 IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships in Rome (7-8 May 2016). Their outreach was successful and Erin became the first woman to walk in a 50K at world level when she crossed the finish line in Rome (something that 27 out of 66 male starters did not accomplish). But the IAAF decision to make the 50K a gender neutral event (see [Letter of IAAF Secretary General Jean Gracia of 8 April 2016](#)) contained the seeds for the next gender discrimination challenge. The decision to have a mixed event meant women compete with men for the medals and the classification. Imagine that in the 100 meters or the marathon. We would not be seeing any more women medalists if that were the rule for all events. Moreover, mixed events are contrary to the IAAF’s position that there is about a 12 % performance difference between top male and female athletes, a position they had taken in the CAS litigation regarding the IAAF’s hyperandrogenism testosterone regulations.

In other words, a legal challenge was predictable in light of the April 2016 decision to make the 50K Race Walk a mixed event. One cannot but wonder whether the prospect of gender discrimination litigation in early 2016 inspired the IAAF to tighten the screws on legal challenges by athletes against the IAAF’s own decisions when they proposed the constitutional

changes later that year. Even if the 50K had nothing to do with it, World Athletics would be hard pressed to tell us why these changes are in the athletes' best interest. It's all about the athletes, remember? Or is it?

USA MASTERS RACE WALKING VIRTUAL RACE SERIES

Some very interesting news from Dave and Erin Talcott in America re a new Virtual Race Competition they are organising. It sounds great, and will even come with certificates etc. Here is what they had to say:

Hello masters race walkers! Our races for the summer have been mostly cancelled, motivation can be hard to come by. Dave and I, in collaboration with the masters race walk committee, are hosting a virtual race series for race walkers! Let's do something fun to bring us together, give us motivation, and have a little fun.

Here's what's entailed: There are three distances being contested. **Throughout the month of June test yourself at one or all of the following distances; 1,500, 3,000 and 5,000. You can enter one, two or all three of the distances. You can try multiple times and submit your best performance.**

This race is honor system. We hope and expect everyone to adhere to the rules of race walking, absolutely no running. Please try your best to correctly follow the rules of race walking. Times can be submitted based on your time on a track, treadmill or GPS watch, wherever you can get an accurate time for the distance.

Awards will be special certificates. We're really going to have fun with categories for this! Awards/recognition will be for the following male and female.

- Top three overall
- Top three age group
- Top three age graded
- Top three co-ed teams
- Top three overall for all three races
- Top three age graded for all three races
- Top three age group for all three races
- Top three co-ed teams for all three races

In addition Dave and I will present awards for the following:

- Most enthusiastic
- Most improved
- Most inspirational
- Our personal MVP pick

To register, email Erin Talcott at oboebassoon@yahoo.com. Please include the following information

- Name
- DOB
- Mailing address
- Club (if applicable)
- USATF Number (if applicable)

Have fun with it! Try each distance as many times as you want in the month of June. Tell us all your times, this will help us determine most improved performances.

This competition is funded by the US Race walking master's committee for our masters race walkers, however **we gladly welcome junior, open and foreign athletes!** The main difference is certificates for open, juniors and foreigners will be emailed as opposed to mailed.

Stay healthy! Yours in sport,
Erin and Dave Talcott

It sounds so good I might even dust of the racing flats and post a few times myself!

ENGLISH VIRTUAL RACEWALKING LEAGUE, ROUND 5, ACROSS THE WORLD

The Virtual League Racing Series (<https://nationalendurancecentre.co.uk/challenges>), being coordinated by the National Centre for Race Walking in Leeds, continues to be the dominant weekly virtual walking competition. Round 5 has just been completed, with walkers submitting 4km and 2km walk performances. Here are the overall results:

4km Age Graded Virtual Race <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6129>
2km Age Graded Virtual Race <http://racewalkingassociation.com/EventDetails.asp?id=6130>

And here is an extract of the Australians who forwarded their performances.

4km Virtual Walk Women

4	Anna Blackwell	U20W	19:42.0
15	Emily Smith	U15W	22:26.0
17	Gabriella Hill	U17W	22:43.0
23	Lyla Williams	U13W	24:20.0
24	Heather Carr	W70	24:52.0
28	Mia Bergh	U17W	26:23.2
30	Elizabeth Leitch	W65	27:15.0
45	Heather Lee	W90	33:08.0

4km Virtual Walk Men

9	Will Bottle	U15M	19:52.0
13	Owen Toyne	U15M	20:20.0
24	Rupert van Dongen	M45	23:14.6
48	Eugene Gerlach	M45	29:00.0
52	Wayne Fletcher	M70	29:56.0
56	Ron Foster	M70	31:27.0

2km Virtual Walk Women

5	Anna Blackwell	U20W	9:51.0
18	Emily Smith	U15W	11:13.0
19	Gabriella Hill	U17W	11:16.2
27	Lyla Williams	U13W	12:10.0
30	Heather Carr	W70	12:26.0
36	Mia Bergh	U17W	13:11.6
41	Elizabeth Leitch	SW	13:37.5

2km Virtual Walk Men

13	Owen Toyne	U15M	9:54.0
14	Will Bottle	U17M	9:56.0
15	Kodi Clarkson	U13M	9:57.0
30	Rupert van Dongen	M45	11:37.3
57	Haydn Gawne	M70	13:56.0
60	Eugene Gerlach	M45	14:30.0
67	Wayne Fletcher	M60	14:58.0
72	Ron Foster	M70	15:43.5

MARCIADALMONDO ROUNDUP

Marciadalmondo has 2 press releases for us this week.

- Fri 8 May - Chinese walkers return to racing mode
http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3793
- Tue 5 May - The Swiss Federal Court dismisses Schwazer's appeal
http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3792

while Omarchador has its usual great of selection of articles

- Sun 10 May - Young Portuguese walker Vítor Cabral dies in a car crash
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/faleceu-vitor-cabral.html>
- Sat 9 May - 2020 U18 European Champs in Rieti officially postponed until 2021
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/europeus-de-sub-18-em-rieti-disputam-se.html>
- Fri 8 May - Recalling the 1999 20km world record for Guatemalan Julio Martínez
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/recordando-o-recorde-mundial-do.html>
- Thu 7 May - Omarchador congratulates Brazilian great Sérgio Galdino on his 51st birthday
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/no-aniversario-de-sergio-galdino.html>
- Wed 6 May - Remembering Mário Paiva, former president of AA Lisboa
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/evocando-mario-paiva-antigo-presidente.html>
- Tue 5 May - Soviet Union Olympic walker Gennady Solodov dies (1934-2020)
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/gennady-solodov-1934-2020.html>

OUT AND ABOUT

- The April 2020 edition of the *Race Walking Record* has been released, thanks to its editor Noel Carmody. All the latest news and information in the race walking world. Read it at <http://racewalkingassociation.com/Newsletters/RWR895.pdf>.
- Omarchador broke the news last Monday that the **2020 World Racewalking Team Championships**, which were supposed to be held earlier this month in Minsk, are now likely to be held in **April 2021**. Still unofficial but obviously stay tuned. See link <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/05/minsk-cm-2022.html>.
- Boy, the IAAF is digging deep into its coffers (NOT!). A hugely generous offer of \$500,000 for the world's athletes effected by the corona virus. That is a proverbial drop in the ocean from an organisation with millions squirreled away. See <https://swimswam.com/world-athletics-creates-support-fund-for-athletes-affected-by-covid-19-pandemic/>.
- Italian walker **Alex Schwazer** has failed in his final bid to get his 8 year ban overturned, with the Federal Court of Lausanne finding against him. He was outed for 2 years in 2012 and then outed fo 8 years after failing a further drugs test as he came back to racing in 2016. His conspiracy theory was dismissed by the court. Schwazer's troubles will continue, with him facing criminal proceedings in Italy. See <https://www.laregione.ch/sport/altri-sport/1435616/schwazer-e-doping-dal-tf-di-losanna-la-sberla-definitiva>.
- Athletics Canada has announced that race walker **Evan Dunfee** and marathon runners Trevor Hofbauer and Dayna Pidhoresky have been selected for the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. World Championship bronze medallist Dunfee secured a nomination after achieving a time of 3:49:00 in Japan last spring, one minute faster than the Olympic standard required for the men's 50km race walk event. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1093957/athletics-canada-first-tokyo-2020-team>.
- A superb article scoping the current doping crisis in Kenya. To quote from the last paragraph: "*Maybe this isn't enough for Coe and World Athletics to impose a blanket ban on Kenya, temporarily at least, and maybe their priority for now is deciding whether or not to ban some bouncy running shoes. It may not be state-sponsored doping like in Russia either, but no one is being fooled anymore about how so many of those running around Iten are so bloody good.*" Read more at <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/welcome-to-iten-in-kenya-home-of-champions-and-cheats-1.4143257>.
- A wide-ranging review of UK Athletics has heard that the under-fire organisation '*couldn't get any worse*' – and has raised specific concerns about its ethics. In a series of punchy findings, the independent study commissioned by funding body UK Sport pointed to '*deep-rooted problems*' at an organisation that has been mired in chaos across the past couple of years. No surprises here for those of us who have been following the unfolding story of their dealings with Mo Farah. See <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/othersports/article-8297539/UK-Athletics-review-orders-transformation-ethical-decision-making.html>.
- Flu and heat stroke ended **Ken Matthews'** Olympic dreams in 1960. Four years later at Tokyo 1964, he was back to finish what he started for Team GB as he claimed gold in the 20km Walk. Thanks to Dave Ainsworth for pointing me to this fantastic video about Ken's 1964 campaign in Tokyo. It is inspirational stuff. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufCgNZF4xdY>. You can read my profile of Ken at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-ken-matthews.pdf>.
- The short film *The Glow of Gold*, made in 1968 by legendary New Zealand producer John O'Shea in the leadup to the Mexico Olympics, comprehensively surveys New Zealand Olympic success up to and including the 1964 Olympics. Footage includes triumphs from running men Lovelock, Halberg and Snell, long jumper Yvette Williams and 50km walker **Norm Read**. It's only 24 minutes and is a wonderful watch. Read's 1956 Olympic 50km win features from the 5 min 10 sec mark. Watch it at <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/the-glow-of-gold-1968>.

TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON

Fistly, amendments to two previous answers

16. Which walkers have represented both Australia and another country in major racewalking competitions?

I had two names:

Peter Fullager represented GBR (1965-1969) and then Australia (1974-1981).

Jenni Jones-Billington raced for Australia in the 1993 Race Walking World Cup and raced for NZL in the 1995 RW WC.

I finally remembered a third person to add to this category.

Jill Barrett represented GBR in the 1981 IAAF Racewalking World Cup and then represented Australia in the 1997 IAAF Racewalking World Cup under her married name of **Jill Maybir-Barrett**.

22. Which Australian walkers have represented Australia at 3 separate Olympics?

Thanks to Brent Vallance for this amendment. A special mention should also go to **Nathan Deakes** who was in fact selected for four Olympic Teams, but was forced to withdraw on the eve of the 2008 games due to a partial avulsion of his hamstring tendon while training for Beijing in St Moritz.

Now, here are my answers to last week's questions. I got some good responses from Paul Moritz (the best) and Emmanuel Tardi, while quite a few people knew the answer to Q30.

26. Which walkers have represented 3 Australian States at national level (in either RWA or AA championships)?

Tom Daintry	NSW, QLD, VIC
John Leydon	SA, NSW, VIC
Paul Moritz	SA, NSW, VIC
Colin Heywood	VIC, ACT, NT
David Smyth	WA, QLD, VIC

It's possible that there might be a few walkers from many years past who lived in the Canberra region but who competed initially for NSW and then went on to compete for ACT when it became a separate member of the Australian Amateur Athletics Union. If they had competed for one other State at any time, they would also join the list.

27. Which well known Australian racewalking identity was such a keen gambler that he produced a small booklet on how to win at blackjack?

Peter Waddell, former RWA President, was a jack of many trades, a very good walker for NSW/ACT in his younger days and then a hugely admired and hard working administrator and writer. Apart from his monthly walking newsletter, produced from 1969 to 2001, he produced other more substantial publications, including "*A History of Australian Racewalking Part I*" (1989), "*A Guide for Judges, Coaches and Athletes*" (1990), and "*Racewalking in Australia*" (1991). But his writings were not restricted to sport alone. At one stage he produced a small booklet on how to win at blackjack and he was a keen gambler who felt he could beat the system. Peter is still sadly missed by us all. Read more at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/VALE%20Peter%20Waddell%202002.pdf>.

28. Which Oceania walkers, currently living in Australia, have represented their native (non-Australian) country in international racewalking competitions?

Quentin Rew - represented NZ in Olympics, World Champ, etc (the list goes on and on) - now living in Melbourne
Pramesh Prasad - represented Fiji in the 1995 Racewalking World Cup, now living in Melbourne
Dip Chand - represented Fiji in the 1995 Racewalking World Cup, now living in Queensland where he works as a doctor.
Caleb Maybir - represented Fiji in Oceania Championships, now living in Brisbane
Jenni Jones-Billington - represented NZ in the 1995 Racewalking World Cup in (now living in Queensland)

Pradeep Chand (Dip's brother who also represented Fiji in 1995 Racewalking World Cup) also lives overseas now but in America rather than Australia.

A number of people also suggested NZ walker Alana Barber – yes, Alana was living in Melbourne for a number of years but has now moved back to NZ.

29. Which brother/sister combination(s) have each won Australian Racewalking Championships?

I am aware of 3 brother sister combinations who have BOTH won Australian Open Championships

Jared and Rachel Tallent (VIC)
Alison Thompson (nee Nichols) and Graeme Nichols (VIC)
Michael and Jillian Hosking (ACT/VIC) - add in Elizabeth as an Australian underage gold medallist

If you start to delve into the Australian Underage Track and Road Championships, you find more Australian champion combinations

Kris and Katie Hayward (QLD)
Douglas and Kate Connelly (NSW)
Joe, Anna and Bethany Cross (SA)
Peter and Carolyn Vanstan (VIC)
Zoe and Thomas Hunt (ACT)

And if I had said siblings rather than brother/sister combinations, we could add in

Natalie and Jane Saville (NSW)
Anne and Sarah Miller (VIC)

Yvonne and Rebecca Waters (VIC)

30. Which Olympic silver medal winning walker was affectionately known as the “Alma Ata Hippy”?

Veniamin Soldatenko was born in 1939 in the village of Shkurovka in the steppes of Northern Kazakhstan. He went on to become one of the 50km legends of racewalking. He was the first to break 4 hours and fought out one of the truly memorable Olympic 50km walks in 1972, eventually losing out to German walker Bernd Kannenberg but with both well under Soldatenko’s world record.

In 1970, he enrolled in the University of Alma Ata (which was at that time the capital of Kazakhstan) as an undergraduate in sports studies, hence the Alma Ata connection. In his cut down top that showcased his superb physique and with his fluent easy style, he was an awe inspiring walker who captured our attention as youngsters coming into the sport. With his black unruly curls and inevitable headband, he was known as the *Alma Ata hippy* and could not have been more different than his soviet compatriots in style of clothing, behaviour and outlook.

Read more at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-veniamin-soldatenko.pdf>.

And now to this week’s questions – some details needed, not just a name. Back up your claim!

- 31. Alas, they are all gone now, victims of the increasing traffic flow on our roads. Name four of the now defunct VAWC Roadwalk Classics which used to be contested annually in Melbourne and surrounding areas.**
- 32. Which VAWC member was justifiably known as the “iron man” of Australian walking for his many amazing endurance feats in the 1960’s and 1970’s?**
- 33. A double barrelled question – who was the first Australian walker to feature on a postage stamp, and how many Australian walkers overall have have had this honour bestowed on them?**
- 34. What walker competed in and successfully finished an Australian 20km Championship while walking barefoot (the whole way)? Hint – it was not in the olden days but was some time this century.**
- 35. Which VAWC member had the unique claim of surviving being struck by lightning on 3 separate occasions.**

Forward your answers to me at terick@melbpc.org.au. I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions. Remember you can check out past questions and answers at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/RW-Questions.shtml>.

ZOOMING IN ON THE 1908 OLYMPICS

It is amazing to think that the first Olympic walks were held way back in 1908. Here are the wikipedia entries for those two events.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athletics_at_the_1908_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_3500_metres_walk
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athletics_at_the_1908_Summer_Olympics_%E2%80%93_Men%27s_10_miles_walk

It is even more amazing to think that we know so much about so many of these pioneering athletes. I have published articles on 6 of these walkers:

- George Larnar GBR <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-tommy-hammond.pdf>
- Harry Kerr NZL <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-harry-kerr.pdf>
- Sydney Sarel GBR <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-tommy-hammond.pdf>
- George Goulding CAN <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-george-goulding.pdf>
- Albert Rowland NZL <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-albert-rowland.pdf>
- Tommy Hammond GBR <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-tommy-hammond.pdf>

Today I add a seventh which is found below. I have wanted to do an article on Bill Brown for some time now and finally found the time during this lockdown.

- Bill Brown GBR <http://www.vrwc.org.au/tim-archive/articles/wo-bill-brown.pdf>

The good news is that I have enough information (along with some photos) to add an article on 1908 dual silver medallist Ernie Webb so stay tuned!

- Ernest Webb GBR Coming next

BILL BROWN – OLYMPIAN, CENTURION AND CENTENARIAN

William C. Brown (or Bill, as he was known), one of the best British long distance walkers of the early 1900's, has a triple claim to fame – a Centurion, an Olympian and a Centenarian, in that order.

Bill Brown, born 17th December 1878, competed for Surrey Walking Club and the Polytechnic Harriers in London, and was a family relative of Australian walking champion Bert Gardiner. Some years ago, Bert's son Bob, a former Australian Olympic racewalker, passed onto me Brown's meticulously kept scrapbook, covering his major races and accomplishments.

I drew on the scrapbook liberally to complete my biographies of [Tommy Hammond](#) and [Tom Payne](#) but I did not think at the time to use them to do the same for Bill Brown. Alas, the scrapbook was returned to Bob and is now in the safekeeping of the State Library of Victoria. If I can get it back at some stage, I can complete this biography and add scans of some of the photos, but this will have to do as a first draft.

The early 1900's were a heady time for walking, with George Lerner dominant over the shorter sprint distances and with the likes of Tom Payne, Jack Butler, Edgar Horton, Bill Brown and the great Tommy Hammond soon to make their mark over the longer distances, made so famous by the nineteenth century pedestians.

The first London to Brighton and Back walk of 104 miles took place in 1902 and was then held most years up till when the First World War put paid to such trivial pursuits. When it restarted in 1921, it was scheduled approximately every 4 years till its last staging in 1959. A majority of the early British Centurions became members by virtue of completing this event - its distance of 104 miles was more than sufficient to satisfy the criteria for membership.

Bill Brown first comes to our attention in the third London-to-Brighton-and-Back race, held in 1907, when he finished third in the time of **20:38:01**. For this performance, he was retrospectively granted Centurion badge C12 when the Centurions formed in 1911.

London to Brighton and Back, 104 Miles, 21 June 1907

1.	Tommy Hammond	Blackheath Harriers	18:13:37	C10
2.	J.R. Barnes-Moss	Middlesex WC	20:23:32	C11
3.	Bill Brown	Polytechnic Harriers	20:38:01	C12
4.	Henry Swabey	Surrey WC	21:50:37	C13
5.	W.G. Pryor	Surrey WC	22:56:38	C14
6.	F. Bland	Polytechnic Harriers	23:08:00	C15

Unfortunately for Brown, his performance was overshadowed by that of the winner Tommy Hammond who left the field in his wake. Hammond's time for the 104 mile distance was an amazing 18:13:37 and broke H. W. Horton's course record by over 2 hours. He covered the 62 ½ miles (over 100 km) to Brighton in 10:30:36 and passed the 100 mile mark in 17:25:22. Pundits of the day thought that this record would be unbeatable.

Brown was aged 27 at this time and had presumably been walking for some years, without significant success. But 1908 would prove to be a watershed year when that changed.

He competed in the very first Race Walking Association (RWA) 20 Miles Walk Championship at Ruislip in 1908, finishing second to H. V. L. Ross of Tooting A.C. who won with a time of 2:56:32. Brown was also part of the winning Surrey Walking Club team, along with C. A. Schofield, Tommy Hammond and A. Hubbard. I note that on this occasion, he finished 2nd while Hammond finished 5th.

Brown followed this up with an appearance in the 1908 Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) 2 Miles Walk Championship at the Shepherds Bush Stadium on July 4th, finishing 8th. This would not be of significance except for one significant fact – London was to host the 1908 Olympic Games and countries were allowed to enter up to 12 athletes in each event. For most countries, this was not going to happen, but for Great Britain, it was a chance to flood the Games with its own athletes and showcase their sporting strength. After all, this was the British Empire!

Brown was one of 11 British walkers selected to compete in the Olympic 3,500m walk on Tuesday 14th July 1908. The event saw 25 entries overall, split into three heats, with the top three in each heat advancing to the final. For the record, he was disqualified in his heat. His Games were over very quickly.

The Olympic 10 Miles Walk was held 2 days later, on Thursday 16th July 1908. Again, Great Britain flooded the field, with 12 of the 25 walkers. The numbers paid off, with their walkers taking 7 of the 8 spots in the final and filling the first 6 positions.

In retrospect, Brown would have been better suited to the Olympic 10 Miles Walk and I am not sure why he ended up in the shorter 3,500m Walk.

Fast forward 2 months to the weekend of 11th - 12th September 1908, when the first 24 Hour Track Walk of the 20th century was held at the White City Stadium in London. The event which included all the top distance walkers, attracted great media interest and it certainly lived up to the hype. This memorable event saw Tommy Hammond create a new track record for 100 miles of 18:04:10. He set up many other records along the way and eventually reached 131 miles 580 yards within the 24 hours.

Overall, the first 17 finishers all walked in excess of 100 miles – an impressive stat! The Surrey Walking Club Gazette No.3 1908 reports that “*Our member, Bill Brown, led at the start; then Jack Butler took the lead till the 11th mile ... Bill finished 23rd with a distance of 81 miles 586 yards.*” It was not a good result for Brown.

Middlesex Walking Club 24 Hour Track Walk, White City Stadium, London, 11-12 September 1908

1.	Tommy Hammond	White City	131 m 0580 yds	C10
2.	H.W. Horton	Surrey WC	121 m 1645 yds	C5
3.	F.J. Wakefield	Surrey WC	118 m 0301 yds	C6
4.	C.M. Sampson	Polytechnic Harriers	117 m 1223 yds	C16
5.	F.R. Leatherby	Middlesex WC	115 m 1613 yds	C17
6.	Tommy Payne	Lancashire WC	108 m 0783 yds	C18
7.	B.H. Warden	Polytechnic Harriers	108 m 0431 yds	C19
8.	A. Ormrod	Lancashire WC	107 m 0644 yds	C20
9.	F. Bland	Polytechnic Harriers	107 m 0344 yds	C15
10.	J. Iles	Unattached-Wales	106 m 0785 yds	C21
11.	Henry Swabey	Surrey WC	106 m 0743 yds	C13
12.	Bob Gillespie	Middlesex WC	106 m 0154 yds	C22
13.	H.J. Clark	Finchley Harriers	105 m 1504 yds	C23
14.	George Lind	Polytechnic Harriers	104 m 0851 yds	C24
15.	T.C. Habishaw	Queens Park	103 m 0465 yds	C25
16.	J. Harper	Small Heath Harriers	100 m 0586 yds	C26
17.	H.C. Taylor	Polytechnic Harriers	100 m 0586 yds	C27

Undeterred by this poor result, he was back the following year as part of the winning Surrey WC team in the 1909 RWA 20 Miles Walk Championship at Woodside, finishing 4th on this occasion.

While Brown had failed in the 1908 24 Hour Track Walk, he was back the following year, when a further track race was to be held at the same venue on the weekend of 10th - 11th September 1909. As in 1908, he led from the start, but determined not to be caught so easily this time. He did not disappoint, leading for a little over 15 hours and setting new British Records at various distances from 51 miles to 85 miles and various time records from 9 hours to 15 hours. His **12 Hour Record was a superb 68 miles 1441 yards** and his **15 Hour Record was 84 miles 564 yards**.

Eventually, he was caught by Tom Payne who went on to win with a distance of 127 miles 542 yards (204.9 km). As an aside, Payne’s performance had an extra element to it in that he walked the entire 127 miles without stopping. His father kept him going throughout with a special mixture of raw eggs mixed with tea, and milk, honey, non-alcoholic wines, beef tea, rice and soaked biscuits. It was recognised as a world record for non-stop walking. It is still recognised today as a club record for South Shields Harriers. On his return to South Shields, he was given a hero's welcome, with a victory parade around the town.

Brown held on well to finish second, with a distance of **124 miles 1710 yards** but, once again, someone had taken the spotlight away from his 24 Hour performance and his numerous British records.

As an indication of the depth of long distance walking, 25 walkers walked 100 miles or more, 21 of them for the first time. The popularity of long distance walking, it seems, had taken a hold on the walkers of the day, certainly on the track anyway.

Middlesex Walking Club 24 Hour Track Walk, White City Stadium, London, 10-11 September 1909

1.	Tommy Payne	Lancashire WC	127 m 0542 yds	C18
2.	Bill Brown	Polytechnic Harriers	124 m 1710 yds	C12
3.	Edgar Broad	Surrey WC	120 m 1420 yds	C28
4.	R. Bramham	Sheffield United	117 m 0570 yds	C29
5.	Henry Swabey	Surrey WC	114 m 1502 yds	C13
6.	A.E. Gerard	Unattached-Grimsby	112 m 0155 yds	C30
7.	A.C.W. Buck	Bank of England SC	107 m 0369 yds	C31
8.	R.Lyon Parker	Highgate Harriers	106 m 1436 yds	C33
9.	E. Forge	Essex Beagles	106 m 0484 yds	C32
10.	H. Stessiger	Surrey WC	106 m 0172 yds	C34
11.	R. Bidmead	Stock Exch Boxing Club	104 m 0685 yds	C36
12.	A.P. Reid	Unattached-Newark	103 m 0713 yds	C35
13.	F. Webb	Middlesex WC	103 m 0577 yds	C37
14.	J. Harper	Middlesex WC	102 m 1040 yds	C26
15.	A.W. Jackson	Unattached-Grimsby	102 m 0062 yds	C38
16.	F.G. Downs	Vegetarians WC	101 m 1605 yds	C39
17.	E. Hailstone	Unatt. (Eastbourne)	101 m 0567 yds	C40

Additional 100 Miles Performances

1.	E. Parslow	Surrey WC	21:03:47	C41
2.	F.H. Wallis	Blackheath Harriers	22:55:46	C42
3.	W.T. Mitchell	Garratt WC	23:01:30	C43
4.	E.C. Haynes	Middlesex WC	23:05:56	C46

5.	A. Grubb sr	Highgate Harriers	23:06:27	C44
6.	F.T. Lock	Ashcombe AC	23:06:44	C45
7.	E.G. Mitchell	Lancashire WC	23:32:50	C47
8.	L. Norwood	Sheffield United	23:44:21	C48

Brown's 12 Hour Track Walk record lasted less than a year before being beaten by Tom Payne. Middlesex Walking Club's 12 Hour Track Race at the Stamford Bridge Ground on 4th June 1910 was the occasion and saw Payne walk to a superb 72 miles and 33 yards (117.5 km). Well, they do say that records are made to be broken.

That marks the end of Bill Brown's walking career, except for one final mention some years later when he finished second in the 1914 RWA 20 Miles Championship at St Albans, behind Ross again, and still part of the winning Surrey WC team. He was by then 35 years of age.

There is one final chapter to relate from his story. Brown had worked for the Ford Motor Company at their Dagenham factory until he retired in 1949, aged 70. In 1978, when he became the first Ford worker to reach 100 years, fellow worker and English Centurion Dave Ainsworth organised the birthday party for Brown, and it was only then that he discovered Brown's athletics past as a respected Centurion. The Centurions had lost touch with Bill - until Dave re-engaged the link.

Bill lived a 3 further years before dying, aged 103, in 1982.

Nearly 40 years on from his death, we acknowledge the excellence of his walking performances and honour his long life and his many achievements. In an era of champion long distance walkers, his name is not forgotten.



Bill Brown's 100th Birthday (cutting from <http://centurionsworldwide.org.uk/c12-bill-brown.html>)

A FINAL LAUGH

In case you need a laugh at the moment.

Qantas Airlines: Repair Division

After every flight, Qantas pilots fill out a form, called a 'Gripe Sheet' which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems; document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the Gripe Sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humour.

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by Qantas' pilots (marked with a P) and the solutions recorded (marked with an S) by maintenance engineers.

By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never, ever, had an accident

P: Left inside main tyre almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced left inside main tyre.

P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough.

S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back-order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what friction locks are for.

P: IFF inoperative in OFF mode.

S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

P: Mouse in cockpit.

S: Cat installed.

And the best one for last.....

P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer.

S: Took hammer away from midget

DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It continues to change quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2019/2020

Jun 7 (Sun), 2020 54th LBG Racewalking Carnival, Canberra (CANCELLED)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (TBA)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne (TBA)

International Dates

May 16 (Sat), 2020 International Racewalking Meet, Naumburg, Germany (20km men and women) (CANCELLED)
May 20 (Sat), 2020 Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruña, La Coruna, Spain (POSTPONED - TBA)
May 24 (Sun), 2020 Finnish Race Walk Championships, Lapua, Finland, (30km Men, 20km Women)
Jun 5 (Fri), 2020 46th International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (TENTATIVELY POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER)
Jun 14 (Sun), 2020 Polish National Championships, Mielec, Poland (20km) (CANCELLED)
Jun 28 (Sun), 2020 Canadian Olympic T&F Trials, Montreal, Canada (20km)
July 17-20, 2020 **18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships**, Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED - TBA)
July 20 – Aug 1, 2020 **23rd World Masters T&F Championships**, Toronto, Canada (CANCELLED)
Sep 26-28, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China
Sep 26 (Sat), 2020 International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)

Jan 17-23, 2021 **Oceania Masters Championships**, Norfolk Island
Apr 6-13, 2021 **9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships**, Edmonton, Canada
July 23 – Aug 8, 2021 **32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo** (POSTPONED FROM 2020)
Aug 8-19, 2021 **World University Summer Games**, Chengdu, China

July 15-24, 2021 **18th World Athletics Championships**, Eugene, USA (POSTPONED FROM 2021)
July 27 - Aug 7, 2022 **XXII Commonwealth Games**, Birmingham, GBR
Aug 7-17, 2022 **24th World Masters T&F Championships**, Gothenburg Sweden
Aug 11-21, 2022 **European Athletics Championships**, Munich, GER

Aug 2023 (TBC) **19th World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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