



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF AND IOC

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another insightful analysis. That is the 26th in a row and it's a beauty. You can see links to all Paul's articles at the bottom of webpage <http://www.vrwc.org.au/save-the-50km.shtml>.

THE SWISS FEDERAL TRIBUNAL IS LESS APPEALING THAN SWISS CHOCOLATE

By Paul F. DeMeester

On 30 April of 2019, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled against South African Olympic Champion Mokgadi Caster Semenya in her fight against World Athletics regulations requiring female athletes to stay below, with medication if necessary, a certain level of testosterone, if they wish to compete. The regulations are aimed at those female athletes who are hyperandrogenic, a condition marked by high levels of testosterone. Semenya had litigated the issue in the same forum, the CAS Court, in which seven 50K race walkers had brought their claim to force the Olympics to include women in the 2020 Tokyo 50K Race Walk Event. Semenya lost her case, as did the race walkers who wanted to force the Olympic Movement to live up to its Olympic Charter obligations that prohibit sex discrimination and require gender equality. Semenya took the next step past CAS, by appealing her CAS loss to the Swiss Federal Tribunal. The 50K race walkers did not. Having been the lawyer for the 50K race walkers before CAS, I explain here why they did not seek redress in the Swiss Federal Tribunal.

Both the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and CAS are headquartered in Switzerland, as are many other international organizations. Switzerland actively pursues such entities to locate within its borders. To avoid that such organizations would have to subject themselves to the local courts, Switzerland has long sought to promote international arbitration as a way of resolving disputes involving international organizations. This means that litigants from anywhere get to have their cases heard by panels of lawyers from throughout the world (instead of local Swiss judges) under rules of international law (as opposed to provincial laws of some Swiss canton). This design avoids international litigants being "home-towned" in their legal disputes. In 1989, the Swiss Private International Law Act went into effect, providing a streamlined procedural framework for the conduct of international arbitrations. The Act integrates decisions by arbitral tribunals into the Swiss legal system, thereby giving them full legal effect, even though the Swiss legal system keeps a hands-off approach throughout the arbitration process. With one exception, that is. Once the arbitration tribunal rules (for instance, a CAS decision), Article 190 of the Swiss Private International Law Act provides for limited procedural grounds on which an arbitration decision may be set aside. Those grounds are limited to how the arbitration panel membership was constituted, whether the panel's jurisdiction decision was wrong, whether the decision was based on issues not before the panel, whether the parties were not treated equally by the panel or were not afforded their right to be heard, or whether the decision violates public policy.

Semenya appealed her negative CAS decision to the Swiss Federal Tribunal within the required 30 days. Her main argument was that the CAS decision violated public policy. She also requested a stay of the regulations. At first the Swiss Federal Tribunal obliged her and stayed the implementation of the regulations. The practical effect of the stay was that Semenya could continue to compete as before. But within weeks, the Swiss Federal Tribunal reversed its stay decision, meaning that Semenya would have to abide by the new regulations pending the outcome of the case before the Swiss court. Appeals to the Swiss Federal Tribunal take about a year on average. In Semenya's case, it took a bit longer. She filed her appeal on 28 May 2019. The Swiss Federal Tribunal denied her appeal on 25 August 2020. (See [Swiss Federal Tribunal Decision](#) - note that the decision is in French.) Had the Olympics been held on time, even a favorable decision would have come too late for the South African runner.

The CAS decision in Semenya's case was handed down nine months before a different CAS panel (one panel member served in both cases) decided the 50K gender discrimination challenge. When the CAS 50K decision was announced on 3 February 2020, the race walkers had 30 days to file an appeal in the Swiss Federal Tribunal. The last day to appeal was 4 March 2020, well before the COVID-19 lock-down of the world as we knew it and still three weeks before the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics. A decision by the Swiss Federal Tribunal could have been expected somewhere in the first half of 2021, way too late for athletes aiming for an August 2020 Olympic competition.

Semenya had asked for a stay of the regulations that hurt her ability to compete. But the race walkers could not ask for any stay. The CAS decision against them was that CAS did not have jurisdiction to hear their dispute. No benefit would have inured to the injured women athletes by staying the “no-jurisdiction” decision. They would still not have been able to walk the 50K in Tokyo.

CAS had ruled on the merits in Semenya’s case. The CAS ruling in the 50K case was not based on the substantive merits (gender discrimination) but was based on procedural grounds only (lack of jurisdiction). Hence, the race walkers could not appeal the CAS decision as violative of public policy (because gender discrimination issues did not enter the jurisdictional question) but could appeal only on the jurisdiction issue. Had the race walkers appealed the CAS decision, then a win in the Swiss Federal Tribunal would send the case back to CAS for a decision on the merits. Back to square one, in other words. Had an appeal been filed and still been pending by the time the Tokyo Olympics were held (summer 2020 or summer 2021), the IOC would undoubtedly have requested the Swiss Federal Tribunal to dismiss the case as moot. Given how long it took that court to decide Semenya’s appeal, such a scenario would have been a realistic one.

The Swiss Federal Tribunal proceedings in the Semenya case serve as a perfect illustration why appealing the CAS race walking decision was not a realistic option. This does not mean that CAS was not wrong. Far from it, CAS was wrong. CAS decided that the victims of the IOC’s sex discrimination could not seek legal vindication in CAS because they were not Olympic athletes. Why, you might ask, are they not Olympic athletes? Precisely, because IOC sexism precludes them from being Olympic 50K Race Walk Event athletes. Sounds very much like a “dispute that arises in connection with the Olympic Games,” in the words of the Olympic Charter’s jurisdictional clause. The CAS ruling was not a decision; it was a cop-out.

SAMA ROADWALKS, WEST TERRACE, ADELAIDE, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER

Thanks to Colin Hainsworth for the latest results from the South Australian Masters in Adelaide. It was their final race for the winter, and was followed by their season Presentations.

5km Walk

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------|-----|--------|
| 1. | MARIE MAXTED | 0:33:57 | W60 | 72.79% |
| 2. | GIL MCINTOSH | 0:35:24 | M70 | 70.76% |
| 3. | VALMAI PADGET | 0:40:11 | W76 | 77.29% |
| 4. | ROSS HILL-BROWN | 0:41:56 | M65 | 56.35% |

5km Club Walk

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------|-----|--------|
| 1. | BRIAN WITTY | 0:35:39 | M70 | 70.26% |
| 2. | TREVOR BROWN | 0:36:48 | | |
| 3. | TREVOR MAYHEW | 0:38:22 | M75 | 69.68% |
| 4. | MIKE VOWLES | 0:38:26 | M76 | 70.54% |
| 5. | DAVE FALLON | 0:39:46 | M68 | 61.49% |
| 6. | MARGARET MCINTOSH | 0:39:57 | W67 | 67.57% |
| 7. | LIZ NEUBAUER | 0:40:00 | W69 | 69.42% |
| 8. | ROGER LOWE | 0:40:16 | M77 | 68.29% |
| 9. | RODGER BARBER | 0:40:47 | M82 | 72.82% |
| 10. | DAVID ROBERTSON | 0:44:09 | M87 | 73.41% |
| 11. | HELEN BOWEN | 0:44:36 | W68 | 61.38% |
| 12. | EDNA BATES | 0:45:03 | W67 | 59.92% |

SAMA ROADWALKS, BONYTHON PARK, ADELAIDE, SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

And going back a week for the previous SAMA results. This results set got to me just after I had published last week’s newsletter so catching up this week.

12km Walk

| | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------|-----|---------------|
| 1. | GEORGE WHITE | 1:16:53 | M75 | 86.64% |
| 2. | GIL MCINTOSH | 1:26:06 | M70 | 72.33% |

12km Club Walk

| | | | | |
|----|------------|---------|-----|--------|
| 1. | KEVIN FINN | 1:23:19 | M68 | 72.93% |
|----|------------|---------|-----|--------|

9km Club Walk

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------|-----|--------|
| 1. | DAVID ROBERTSON | 1:21:31 | M87 | 73.94% |
|----|-----------------|---------|-----|--------|

6km Walk

| | | | | |
|----|---------------|---------|-----|--------|
| 1. | HELEN SURIDGE | 0:47:28 | W69 | 70.94% |
|----|---------------|---------|-----|--------|

6km Club Walk

| | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------|-----|--------|
| 1. | DAVE FALLON | 46:26 | M68 | 63.77% |
| 2. | ROGER LOWE | 47:46 | M77 | 69.77% |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|-----|--------|
| 3. | MARGARET MCINTOSH | 47:56 | W67 | 68.58% |
| 4. | LIZ NEUBAUER | 48:12 | W69 | 70.18% |
| 5. | EDNA BATES | 54:21 | W67 | 60.48% |
| 6. | CATHIE HORE | 54:22 | W69 | 62.22% |

3km Walk

| | | | | |
|----|---------------|-------|-----|--------|
| 1. | TREVOR BROWN | 21:43 | M71 | 68.62% |
| 2. | VALMAI PADGET | 25:28 | W76 | 70.03% |

3km Club Walk

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------|-------|-----|---------------|
| 1. | RICHARD MCMAHON | 15:09 | M58 | 85.38% |
| 2. | MIKE VOWLES | 22:27 | M76 | 70.90% |
| 3. | RODGER BARBER | 23:48 | M82 | 73.15% |
| 4. | JAN LAYNG | 23:49 | W71 | 69.30% |
| 5. | GRAHAM HARRISON | 25:19 | M77 | 63.75% |
| 6. | HELEN BOWEN | 26:30 | W68 | 59.75% |
| 7. | JEFFREY KENNETT | 30:17 | M70 | 48.60% |

TWRC ROADWALKS, PERTH, NORTHERN TASMANIA, SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Thanks to Dave Moore for this week's results from Tasmania. He reports: Only small fields for our walks on a very chilly day at Perth today. The cool conditions suited **Will Bottle** with a very crisp effort to go under 14 minutes for the first time in the 3km, while in the longest walk of the day Wayne Fletcher displayed solid even paced walking from start to finish.

4km Walk

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------|
| 1. | Oliver Morgan | 22.54 |
|----|---------------|-------|

7.5km Walk

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| 1. | Wayne Fletcher | 59.36 |
| (2.5km splits: 19.03, 39.16, 59.36) | | |

3km Walk

| | | |
|----|-------------|-------|
| 1. | Will Bottle | 13.57 |
| 2. | Sam Lindsay | 18.27 |
| 3. | Dave Moore | 35.31 |

2020 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS CANCELLED

I'm not sure much else is going to be happening this year here in Australia, apart from our various low key walking club events.

Athletics Australia confirmed last Friday that eight National Championship events that were due to be held in 2020 have now finally been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and to ensure the health and wellbeing of athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials and staff. The list reads as follows

| Event | Current Event Date | Location |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2020 Australian Marathon Championships | Sep 20 | New South Wales |
| 2020 Australian Half Marathon Championships | Nov 8 | South Australia |
| 2020 Australian Road Championships | Nov 8 | South Australia |
| 2020 Australian Cross-Country Championships | Oct 3 | South Australia |
| 2020 Australian Winter Race Walking Championships | Oct 18 | Victoria |
| 2020 Australian All Schools Championships | Dec 4-6 | Victoria |
| 2020 National Nitro Final | Dec 7 | Victoria |
| 2020 Australia vs New Zealand Match | Dec 19-20 | ACT |

The status of the 2020 Australian 10,000m Championship (and Olympic Selection Trial) and the 2020 Australian 50km Roadwalk Championship, both scheduled for December, are pending. Further information on the status of these events will be advised as soon as practical. Read more at <https://www.athletics.com.au/news/athletics-australia-announcement-event-status-update/>.

CHAMPIONNATS DE FRANCE, ALBI, SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBRE 2020

Emmanuel Tardi was in Albi, 600km south of Paris, on Sunday for the French National Championships. Fields were large, with 32 in the men's 10km at 9AM and 34 in the women's 30km at 10AM. The races took place near the stadium on a very good road, but the lap was an out and back 500m stretch which meant 20 turns. The weather was good for the men's race but was warming up by the time the women got underway.

In the men's walk, **Gabriel Bordier** and **David Kuster** battled it out in front for the first 4km, but then Bordier broke away (5km in 19:52), negative splitting to record a time of 39:17. Kuster received a third card after 9km and spent a minute in penalty area, meaning a slower than expected finish time of 42:01. In the women's race, **Clemence Beretta** led the first 2km, before being caught, first by **Emilie Menuet** and then by **Eloise Terrec**. After walking together for some time, it was Eloise Terrec who broke away, going on to win with 45:35.

10km Walk Men, 9AM

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | BORDIER Gabriel | SEM/97 | Us St Berthevin | 39:17 |
| 2. | KUSTER David | ESM/99 | Efs Reims | 42:01 |
| 3. | DURAND Dimitri | JUM/02 | Paris Uc | 42:26 |
| 4. | MADÉLINE-DEGY Martin | JUM/01 | Ecla Albi | 42:38 |
| 5. | ANDRIEU Hugo | SEM/92 | Uavh Aubagne | 43:06 |
| 6. | VALLEE Kyrian | SEM/94 | Ca Balma | 43:31 |
| 7. | DUC Matteo | JUM/01 | As Aix-les-bains | 43:35 |
| 8. | HUE Aymeric | JUM/01 | Ec Orleans Cercle Jules Ferry | 43:58 |
| 9. | LECAPLAIN Maxime | SEM/94 | Stade Saint-lo | 44:04 |
| 10. | MAYER Florian | SEM/96 | Athle Vosges Ec | 44:44 |
| 11. | MARTIN Come | SEM/95 | Annecy Haute Savoie | 44:55 |
| 12. | DREVILLE Lucas | JUM/02 | Beauvais Oise Uc | 44:57 |
| 13. | LEBON Hugo | ESM/99 | Saran Loiret Athletic Club | 45:23 |
| 14. | BOURNIER Justin | ESM/99 | Dole Ac | 46:36 |
| 15. | HADULA Ludovic | SEM/87 | Givet Renin Athlé | 46:39 |
| 16. | ROBICHON Alexis | ESM/00 | Ac Roche-sur-yon | 47:16 |
| 17. | DELAUNAY Sebastien | VEM/74 | Cap Saumur | 47:59 |
| 18. | VAN HILLE Dominique | VEM/77 | Nice Cote D:azur Athletisme | 48:10 |
| 19. | CHABLAT Valentin | ESM/00 | Ac La Chapelle/erdre | 48:28 |
| 20. | MASSE Florian | SEM/95 | Us Tourcoing | 48:28 |
| 21. | BERCHEBRU Benoit | VEM/84 | Ca Montreuil 93 | 48:34 |
| 22. | ESCOFFIER Adrien | SEM/97 | Sa Toulouse Uc | 48:41 |
| 23. | DE BONTIN Vincent | SEM/88 | Sa Autun | 49:09 |
| 24. | PICARD Nicolas | VEM/80 | As Tourlaville | 49:33 |
| 25. | DE NEVE Nicolas | SEM/93 | Coquelicot 42 | 49:55 |
| 26. | SAINT-MARC Adrien | ESM/00 | Us Bazas | 50:30 |
| 27. | AVICE Manuel | VEM/80 | Ac Barentin | 50:38 |
| 28. | BONTEMPS Sebastien | SEM/90 | Gien Athle Marathon | 51:12 |
| 29. | DURAND-PICHARD David | VEM/72 | Athletisme Metz Metropole | 51:54 |
| 30. | COIS Steeve | SEM/89 | Asc Le Havre | 52:16 |
| 31. | ROUSSIASSE Lucas | SEM/97 | Entente Angevine Athletisme | 53:54 |
| 32. | BOLLINGER Vincent | VEM/84 | Dynamic Aulnay Club | 54:38 |

10km Walk Women, 10AM

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| 1. | TERREC Eloise | ESF/98 | Ac Roche-sur-yon | 45:35 |
| 2. | MENUET Emilie | SEF/91 | Aj Blois-onzain | 46:55 |
| 3. | MOUTARD Camille | JUF/01 | Athle 21 | 47:28 |
| 4. | STEY Pauline | JUF/01 | Rohan Athletisme | 47:29 |
| 5. | CERANTOLA Laury | SEF/92 | Entente Poitiers Athle 86 | 48:29 |
| 6. | BIRE-HESLOUIS Maelle | JUF/02 | Stade Saint-lo | 48:43 |
| 7. | AVEROUS Violaine | VEF/85 | Ca Balma | 48:57 |
| 8. | PERRICHON Julia | JUF/01 | Grenoble Uc | 50:08 |
| 9. | GODEFROY Delphine | SEF/87 | Granville Ac | 50:24 |
| 10. | MARCOU Amandine | SEF/92 | Sa Merignac | 51:27 |
| 11. | ORTIZ Mylene | VEF/79 | Us Tourcoing | 51:57 |
| 12. | MANARESI Marion | ESF/00 | Ac Romorantin | 52:09 |
| 13. | LANOUE Severine | VEF/85 | Avia Club Athletisme | 52:47 |
| 14. | BRUNET Elisabeth | SEF/86 | Tarbes Pyrenees Athletisme | 52:52 |
| 15. | PESLERBE Bertille | ESF/98 | Ea Pays De Broceliande | 53:12 |
| 16. | MOLIST Lucille | JUF/01 | Ea Gillonnay-la Cote | 53:37 |
| 17. | UDIN Servane | SEF/88 | Ea Pays De Broceliande | 53:45 |
| 18. | RAMIREZ GOMEZ Alejandra | VEF/76 | Sg La Wantzenau | 53:50 |
| 19. | VIDALINC Celia | SEF/96 | Stade Clermontois | 53:57 |
| 20. | CORMIER Chloe | ESF/98 | Saran Loiret Athletic Club | 54:07 |
| 21. | AURRIERE Camille | ESF/98 | Ac Roche-sur-yon | 54:15 |
| 22. | CHAPILLON Roseline | VEF/68 | Ca Balma | 55:29 |
| 23. | BRASTEL Adeline | VEF/78 | Efs Reims | 55:31 |
| 24. | DUCLOS Adele | ESF/00 | Athle 91 | 55:54 |
| 25. | GUILLARD Caroline | VEF/71 | Saran Loiret Athletic Club | 56:04 |
| 26. | FRANCHIN Celia | SEF/87 | Paris Uc | 57:30 |
| 27. | THOURET Lucie | SEF/93 | Fc Sochaux Montbeliard | 57:39 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------------|-------|
| 28. GARNATZ Aude | ESF/99 | Caen Athletic Club | 58:04 |
| 29. AUSELLO Morgane | SEF/92 | Nice Cote D:azur Athletisme | 58:46 |
| 30. GIRAULT Marie | SEF/88 | Ea Cergy Pontoise Athletisme | 58:54 |
| 31. PICARD Axelle | ESF/99 | St Max Essey Ca | 59:14 |
| 32. BODIN Alexia | JUF/01 | Givet Renin Athlé | 62:09 |
| 33. KRICH Rahil | VEF/79 | Csm La Seyne | 62:37 |
| BERETTA Clemence | SEF/97 | Athle Vosges EC | DQ |

You can see lots of photos in the photo album at <https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPpAvmo3SBcR-b7zjEJRwO8YwcrfNikVT-FOkm1L-nfftnr5bW6ouaxJ9lqFU8Sg?pli=1&key=cWhXSGJJNkdoUkxLLV94cINGTHNLXzhfVnp4TUtB>.



David Kuster, Gabriel Bordier, Emilie Menuet and Eloise Terrec (photos Emmanuel Tardi)

OUT AND ABOUT

- Congratulations to South Australian walkers **Peter Crump** and **Kim Mottrom** who were awarded life membership of the club at the SARWC AGM last Saturday.



New SARWC Life Members Peter Crump and Kim Mottrom with club president Zoe Eastwood-Bryson

- Very nice Victorian Institute of Sports article/interview with **Rhydian Cowley** - <https://vis.org.au/news/2020/09/walk-n-talk-with-rhydian-cowley->
- Alvin Umadhay of Little Athletics NSW has published a little racewalking video, with help from 2004 Australian Olympian **Cheryl Webb**. It gives a very nice overview of our discipline, as Cheryl identifies the basic technique aspects you need to master. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY7Z07WJaNc>.
- Another Kenyan runner has been banned after Philip Kangogo received a two-year suspension from the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) following a failed drugs test last year, which he claimed could have been the fault of dietary advice he had been receiving from his mother. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098171/philip-kangogo-latest-kenyan-banned>. Shades of our mighty Australian cricketer Shane Warne who was suspended for 12 months back in 2003 after testing positive for banned diuretic drugs. The Australian cricket icon was innocently given a slimming pill by his mother Brigitte Warne, to help with his high blood pressure and assist in weight loss - or so he claimed!
- Tokyo 2020 advisor Makoto Yokohari has claimed heat may be a "nightmare" at next year's Olympic and Paralympic Games. Yokohari, a professor of environment and urban planning at the University of Tokyo, suggested that even if the Games were held, they would be marred by heat and humidity. He analysed data going back to the Los Angeles 1984 Olympics, and found Tokyo had the highest average temperature and precipitation of a host city during the period when the Games were held. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098218/heat-may-be-nightmare-at-tokyo-2020>. For that reason, amongst others, the 1964 Games were held in Tokyo in mid to late October. The mighty dollar holds sway nowadays so we are locked in for the peak northern hemisphere TV viewing summer period.
- The organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics have reportedly not extended sponsors' contracts which are set to expire at the end of the year. Sources suggest that many of these sponsors are not considering renewing their partnerships, but there are also worries about a potential backlash from abandoning the Games. "*The delay threw financial plans for the Games into disarray and many companies really don't want to pay any more,*" an Olympic insider said to Reuters. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098217/tokyo-2020-olympics-coronavirus>.
- Caster Semenya has lost her final avenue of appeal to the Swiss Supreme Court over a World Athletics ruling which means she must take testosterone-reducing medication in order to be eligible to compete. This is also the subject of this week's article for Paul F. DeMeester. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098209/semenya>.
- Norway's Rune Andersen has become the latest official to express concern over the control the Russian Olympic and Paralympic Committees have over the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA). The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) and Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) voted to approve a recommendation to remove RUSADA director general Yuri Ganus last month. Yep, we can't have anyone in such a position if that person is not ready to toe the party line! See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098189/andersen-question-roc-rpc-control-rusada>. Just one more reason to keep the Russian Ban in place!
- The economy of Japan, the next Olympic host, shrank even faster than initially estimated over the three months from April to June, putting a further spotlight on next year's Olympics. The expected resumption in growth has not eventuated. Further, Japan currently denies entry to people from 146 countries and regions as part of its fight against the pandemic; those who are allowed in are asked to spend two weeks in quarantine. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098191/japanese-economy-shrinks-tokyo-2020>.
- Not really a surprise. European Athletics confirmed last week the cancellation of the 2020 edition of the SPAR European Cross Country Championships that was due to take place in Dublin, Ireland on Sunday 13 December. See <https://www.european-athletics.org/competitions/european-cross-country-championships/news/article=fingal-dublin-2020-spar-european-cross-country-championships-cancelled/index.html>.
- Meanwhile in the UK, the planned return of football fans to stadiums next month could be delayed thanks to rising Covid-19 infection rates. The Government had previously earmarked 1 October as the target date for the widespread reopening of major sporting fixtures, such as Premier League football. See <https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/crowds-sports-matches-england-latest-delayed-rise-covid-19-cases-641500>.
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- World Athletics' total equity and reserves dipped below \$30 million last year, after the organisation posted a 2019 loss of \$17.3 million. This was an improvement from the \$27.6 million loss recorded for 2018. However, it indicates that the organisation was still living beyond its means within weeks of the sports world being plunged into chaos by the emergence of COVID-19. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098289/world-athletics-accounts-show-loss>.
- IOC President Thomas Bach has warned that testing and a COVID-19 vaccine is not a "silver bullet" for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo next year. Bach issued the stark warning during a virtual media conference which followed a virtual IOC Executive Board meeting. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098243/testing-and-vaccine-not-silver-bullet>.
- A new study concludes that Olympic Games are amongst the most costly and financially most risky type of mega-project that exist. They always blow their budgets in a big way. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098230/david-owen-blog-cost-overruns-olympics>. The IOC should be obliged to cover 10% of any cost overrun for the Olympic Games,

according to the team of Oxford-based academics. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1098235/academic-paper-ioc-bidding-costs>.

MARCIADALMONDO AND OMARCHADOR ROUNDUP

It is great to see races on the European front, a number of which are reported below by marciadalmondo. I will leave it to readers to check them out for themselves.

- Mon 14 Sep - Druskininkai (LTU): Marius Žiukas and Brigita Virbalyte win Lithuania Championships http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3874
- Sun 13 Sep - Budapest (HUN): Bence Barnabas Venyeresan wins the 7th Super League final http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3873
- Sun 13 Sep - Trieste (ITA) Leonardo Dei Tos wins the 12th Meeting in memory of Rodolfo Crasso http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3872
- Sun 13 Sep - Madrid (ESP): Antia Chamosa and Alvaro Martin are the new Spanish Champions http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3871
- Sat 12 Sep - Niigata (JPN): Great results for Koki Ikeda (JPN) and Yuta Kota (JPN) in Inter-University Championship http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3870
- Sat 12 Sep - Samorin (SVK): prestigious results at the P-T-S meeting http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3869
- Thu 10 Sep - Bergamo (ITA): Victories of Valentina Trapletti and Federico Tontodonati http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3868
- Tue 8 Sep - Bristonas (LTU): Brigita Virbalyte and Artur Mastianica win the 34th Mikenas memorial http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3867
- Wed 9 Sep - Preview of the 12th Memorial Rodolfo Crasso this coming Sunday http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3866
- Mon 7 Sep - Don Thompson won the 50km of the Olympic Games in Rome 60 years ago http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3865
- Mon 7 Sep - Majano (ITA): Excellent result of Emiliano Brigante in 5000m track walk http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3864

and lots of news as usual this week from omarchador

- Mon 14 Sep - Álvaro Martín, Spanish Champion <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/alvaro-martin-campeao-absoluto-de.html>
- Sun 13 Sep - Antía Chamosa, Spanish Champion <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/antia-chamosa-campea-absoluta-de.html>
- Sun 13 Sep - Úradník and Czaková win at the 55th edition of the Meeting PTS in Samorín <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/uradnik-e-czakova-vencem-na-55-edicao.html>
- Sat 12 Sep - Good results in the 10,000m walk in Bergamo (Italy) <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/bons-resultados-nos-10000-metros-marcha.html>
- St 12 Sep - Results of Meeting de Villejuif, France <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/meeting-de-villejuif-franca-resultados.html>
- Fri 11 Sep - Álvaro Martín and María Pérez the best in the Spanish Club Championship <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/alvaro-martin-e-maria-perez-os-melhores.html>
- Fri 11 Sep - Tontodonati and Orsoni in evidence in the 5,000m walk in Alba (Italy) <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/tontodonati-e-orsoni-em-evidencia-nos.html>
- Thu 10 Sep - Viktor Shumik and Olena Sobchuk win 10km walks in Lutsk, Ukraine <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/viktor-shumik-e-olena-sobchuk.html>

- Wed 9 Sep - Brigita Virbalyte and Artur Mastianica win in Birstonas, Lithuania
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/brigita-virbalyte-e-artur-mastianica.html>
- Tue 9 Sep - Finland wins walks meet at Finnkampen 2020
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/finlandia-vence-marcha-no-finnkampen.html>
- Tue 9 Sep - Viktória Madarász breaks Hungarian record at 5,000m
<https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/09/viktoria-madarasz-bate-recorde-da.html>

AUSTRALIAN RACEWALKING CHAMPIONSHPS MEN: 1997 - 2000

This follows on from my previous articles which detail the early Australasian and Australian Racewalking Championships (along with other particularly significant races), up to and including 1996.

- [Australasian Championships Men 1892-1920.pdf](#)
- [Australasian Championships Men 1921-1939.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1946-1956.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1957-1960.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1961-1966.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1967-1970.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1971-1976.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1977-1980.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1981-1984.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1985-1988.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1989-1992.pdf](#)
- [Australian Championships Men 1993-1996.pdf](#)

Our story continues from 1997.

The first item of note was the announcement by Kerry Saxby-Junna that she and husband Ray were expecting their first child in July 1997. That meant we would not see her in action during 1997, but she did have plenty of time to recover and prepare to defend her Commonwealth Games title in Malaysia in September 1998.

1997 Australian Roadwalk Championships and IAAF Race Walking World Cup Trials Middle Park, Melbourne, Thursday 27th February 1997

The World Cup 50km trial had been held in December 1996, with the first 5 places going to Dominic McGrath, Michael Harvey, Shane Pearson, Mark Thomas and Ian Waters. Now it was the turn of the male 20km and female 10km walkers. Their trials would be held as part of the Australian T&F Championships in Melbourne in late February

Olympic fourth place finisher **Nick A'Hern** was untroubled in taking gold with 1:21:22, ahead of **Dion Russell**, **Duane Cousins** and **Brent Vallance**. Victorian **Ian Waters** was next in with 1:27:20 but it was then announced he had been disqualified. He had finished 5th in the 50km trial so was probably now going to miss out in both events.

| Australian 20km Championship, Melbourne, Thur 27 th Feb | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 1:21:22 |
| 2. | Dion Russell | VIC | 1:23:16 |
| 3. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 1:25:17 |
| 4. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 1:26:14 |
| 5. | Paul Copeland | VIC | 1:27:26 |
| 6. | Mark Donahoo | VIC | 1:27:32 |
| 7. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 1:27:39 |
| 8. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 1:28:29 |
| 9. | Luke Adams | NSW | 1:28:50 |
| 10. | Travis Harbour | VIC | 1:29:40 |
| 11. | Mark Thomas | VIC | 1:30:36 |
| 12. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:38:xx |
| - | Ian Waters | VIC | DQ |

With Kerry Saxby-Junna out of action and with Anne Manning still injured (she had not competed for 6 months), there were places on offer for the women. **Jane Saville** won her second Australian 10km walk title with a huge PB of 42:59 to defeat her younger sister **Natalie Saville** (45:10) and **Jill Maybir-Barrett** (45:18). The first 5 girls all looked likely to be selected for the World Cup and that is what happened.

| Australian 10km Championship, Melbourne, Thur 27th Feb | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----|--|-------|
| 1. | Jane Saville | NSW | | 42:59 |
| 2. | Natalie Saville | NSW | | 45:10 |
| 3. | Jill Maybir-Barrett | QLD | | 45:18 |
| 4. | Simone Wolowiec | VIC | | 45:50 |
| 5. | Wendy Muldoon | VIC | | 46:18 |
| 6. | Linda Coffee | NSW | | 47:10 |
| 7. | Terese Letherby | QLD | | 47:25 |
| 8. | Tracy Rosengrave | VIC | | 48:14 |
| 9. | Jenny Crooks | SA | | 48:26 |
| 10. | Sharon Schnyder | VIC | | 49:18 |
| 11. | Carolyn Vanstan | VIC | | 49:40 |
| 12. | Alanna Rogers | NZL | | 50:22 |
| 13. | Justi Tonti-Filippini | VIC | | 51:33 |
| 14. | Sara Cattermole | WA | | 52:19 |

Australian Track & Field Championships - 1996-97
Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria 27 February - 2 March 1997

Three days later the walkers were back in action in the Australian T&F Championships 5000m walk. **Nick A'Hern** defended his title (his 6th win from the last 7 years), ahead of **Scott Nelson** and **Brent Vallance**.

| 5,000m Track Walk Men, Melbourne, Sunday 2nd March 1997 | | | | |
|---|----------------|------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Nick A'Hern | 1969 | NSW | 19:24.31 |
| 2 | Scott Nelson | 1969 | NZL | 20:13.84 |
| 3 | Brent Vallance | 1972 | NSW | 20:25.87 |
| 4 | Damien O'Mara | 1975 | NSW | 20:37.17 |
| 5 | Duane Cousins | 1973 | VIC | 20:48.77 |
| 6 | Noel Wooler | 1975 | QLD | 21:05.75 |
| 7 | Travis Harbour | 1975 | VIC | 21:33.79 |
| 8 | Paul Kennedy | 1957 | VIC | 21:38.67 |
| 9 | Shane Pearson | 1972 | QLD | 21:48.01 |
| 10 | Duncan Knox | 1959 | VIC | 22:33.34 |
| 11 | Christian Bone | 1977 | WA | 23:31.72 |
| 12 | Peter Blood | 1967 | VIC | 23:35.02 |
| - | Luke Adams | 1976 | NSW | DNF |
| - | Troy Sundstrom | 1981 | NSW | DQ |
| - | Mark Blackwood | 1977 | VIC | DQ |

It was at this time that former East German walker **Ronald Weigel** was announced as the new AIS walks coach, taking over from Craig Hilliard who was now moving into a more senior role within the AIS coaching structure in Canberra. Weigel had wonderful credentials, with dual Olympic silver medals and both gold and silver at World Championship level.

Initially his stable included Nick A'Hern, Kerry Saxby-Junna, Dion Russell, Duane Cousins and Jane Saville. He would soon add Brent Vallance and Nathan Deakes to the fold. The next few years would see a huge improvement in the young AIS walkers under his mantle.

18th IAAF Race Walking World Cup
Podebrady, Czech Republic, 19-20 April 1997

The 1997 IAAF Race Walking World Cup, held in Podebrady, Czech Republic, was the usual huge racewalking festival, with 140 in the mens 20km, 108 in the men's 50km and 117 in the women's 10km.

Last year's surprise winner of the Olympic 20km walk, **Jefferson Peréz**, confirmed he was no one-shot-wonder as he beat the world's best walkers again with 1:18:24 in the men's 20km in Podebrady. His time was a PB and the fastest ever recorded in this competition. In a superb race, where the first five finishers produced PBs, tactics prevailed before a blazing finale. Peréz's decisive effort came on the last 2km lap when he accelerated away from China's **Tan Mingjun**, who in an effort to recover the lead, let his emotions get the better of his technique, getting disqualified in the last 80m (although he continued to walk until the finish). Mexico's **Bernardo Segura** also suffered the same indignity as he battled side by side with countryman **Daniel Garcia**, who was eventually awarded the silver with 1:18:27.

Nick A'Hern was the best of the Australians with a 12th placed time of 1:20:04 (the first 10 were all under 1:20), while youngsters **Dion Russell** (50th) and **Nathan Deakies** (53rd) rounded out the team points. Again, the walking was excellent, with 134 of the 140 starters finishing.

| IAAF World Cup 20km Men, Saturday 19 th April 1997 | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Jefferson Pérez | ECU | 1:18:24 |
| 2. | Daniel García | MEX | 1:18:27 |
| 3. | Ilya Markov | RUS | 1:18:30 |
| ... | | | |
| 12. | Nicholas Ahern | AUS | 1:20:04 |
| 50. | Dion Russell | AUS | 1:23:40 |
| 53. | Nathan Deakes | AUS | 1:23:58 |
| 68. | Brent Vallance | AUS | 1:25:23 |
| 96. | Paul Copeland | AUS | 1:29:53 |

20 year old Russian **Irina Stankina** overcame a strong challenge from her compatriot **Olimpiada Ivanova** to win the 10km race in 41:52, with China **Gu Yan** third. **Jane Saville** finished 40th and **Jill Maybir-Barrett** finished 41st, the top Australians. The women finished 10th overall out of 26 teams, a good performance. Overall, 112 of the 117 starters finished, an excellent statistic.

| IAAF World Cup 10km Women, Saturday 19 th April 1997 | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----|-------|
| 1. | Irina Stankina | RUS | 41:52 |
| 2. | Olimpiada Ivanova | RUS | 41:59 |
| 3. | Gu Yan | CHN | 42:15 |
| ... | | | |
| 40. | Jane Saville | AUS | 45:19 |
| 41. | Jill Maybir-Barrett | AUS | 45:20 |
| 48. | Natalie Saville | AUS | 46:19 |
| 53. | Simone Wolowiec | AUS | 46:45 |
| 60. | Wendy Muldoon | AUS | 47:22 |

Spain's **Jesus Garcia**, his arms punching high like a boxer, battled his way out of the pack to win the men's 50km race in Podebrady. The 1993 World Champion clocked 3:39:54 but it was the bravery of his effort, which saw him move from seventh to first place in the last 15km, that delighted the crowds lining the course. After 44km of this gruelling event, Russia's **Oleg Ishutkin** led the race with a 45 second advantage on his countryman **Nikolay Matyukhin**, with Poland's **Tomasz Lipiec** a clear third. It was then that Garcia, who had been moving through the field with the 1995 World Champion **Valentin Kononen**, made his decisive effort. With head bowed and arms flailing, Garcia attacked with every ounce of energy. First he moved past Lipiec and then he powered past Matyukhin. In a race so long that it started in sunshine and ended in a flurry of snow, the final 2km lap would prove decisive. Ishutkin went through the bell in 3:31:03 with Garcia now some 19 seconds behind, hurling his red gloves to the ground for the last round. Steadily the gap was closed, 16 seconds became 12 seconds and suddenly a commanding lead seemed to have collapsed. As the leader rounded a bend with perhaps 600 metres left he looked back ... in despair as Garcia closed on his shoulder. Broken at last, Ishutkin accepted defeat as Garcia crossed the line in triumph. Kononen rallied well to take the bronze medal in 3:41:09 with Matyukhin fourth in 3:41:36.

Duane Cousins finished the best of the Australians with 4:07:17 and 45th place. **Michael Harvey**, in his 9th consecutive World Cup appearance, finished 64th with 4:14:09, another good walk. He finished one place ahead of **Dominic McGrath** who rounded out the team points with 65th. There were 88 finishers from the 108 starters, and the Australian men's team finished 12th overall out of the 36 teams in the overall men's teams competition.

| IAAF World Cup 50km Men, Sunday 20 th April 1997 | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Jesús Ángel García | ESP | 3:39:54 |
| 2. | Oleg Ishutkin | RUS | 3:40:12 |
| 3. | Valentin Kononen | FIN | 3:41:09 |
| ... | | | |
| 45. | Duane Cousins | AUS | 4:07:17 |
| 64. | Michael Harvey | AUS | 4:14:09 |
| 65. | Dominic McGrath | AUS | 4:14:49 |
| 79. | Shane Pearson | AUS | 4:28:53 |

31st Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 8th June 1997

Nick A'Hern, who was having an excellent year thus far, recorded his second LBG 20 Mile win with a 2 minute PB time of 2:22:19 after an exciting race against current holder **Craig Barrett**. Only 7 seconds separated the two walkers at the end. The strong Regal team of A'Hern, **Luke Adams** and **Damian O'Mara** beat VRWC by 1 point in a very close teams race. 22 year old **Dion Russell** produced a great third place in his first Canberra 20 mile. Up till this point, Dion had been a 20km specialist but new coach Ron Weigel had other ideas and had started his refocus towards the longer events. 20 year old Luke Adams walked a great race for fourth place and also gave notice of things to come.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 8th June 1997 | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | REGAL | 2:22:19 |
| 2. | Craig Barrett | NZ | 2:22:26 |
| 3. | Dion Russell | VRWC | 2:27:36 |
| 4. | Luke Adams | REGAL | 2:33:05 |
| 5. | Shane Pearson | QRWC | 2:34:24 |
| 6. | Duane Cousins | VRWC | 2:34:43 |
| 7. | Michael Harvey | VRWC | 2:34:58 |
| 8. | Tony Sargisson | NZ | 2:37:01 |
| 9. | Scott Nelson | NZ | 2:37:24 |
| 10. | Mark Coleman | PROV | 2:44:19 |
| 11. | Damian O'Mara | REGAL | 2:45:45 |
| 12. | Marcus Dwyer | VRWC | 2:47:29 |
| 13. | Brian Trower | VRWC | 2:49:28 |
| 14. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 2:52:16 |
| 15. | John Stenhouse | ACT | 2:58:26 |
| 16. | Rod Sadler | PROV | 2:59:46 |
| 17. | Alex Crawford | REGAL | 3:00:38 |
| 18. | Noel Wooler | QRWC | 3:07:58 |
| 19. | Duncan Knox | VRWC | 3:09:35 |
| 20. | Daniel Andrikis | ACT | 3:10:15 |
| 21. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:11:57 |
| 22. | Harry Summers | VRWC | 3:20:02 |
| 23. | Peter Blood | PROV | 3:21:02 |
| 24. | Ann Staunton (F) | ACT | 3:29:40 |
| 25. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:54:24 |
| 26. | Lachlan Wilkinson | ACT | 4:05:22 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | REGAL | 42 | A'Hern, Adams, O'Mara, Crawford |
| 2. | VRWC | 41 | Russell, Cousins, Harvey |
| 3. | NZL | 38 | Barrett, Nelson, Sargisson |
| 4. | QLD | 25 | Pearson, Bennett, Wooler |
| 5. | PROV | 15 | Coleman, Sadler, Blood |
| 6. | A.C.T. | 11 | Stenhouse, Andronikis, Whyte |

**Second Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 20km
Albert Park Lake, Melbourne, Sunday 27th July 1997**

Victorians were to the fore in the Glover Shield 20km, held in Melbourne in late July, with **Nathan Deakes** 1:26:25, **Duane Cousins** 1:29:14 and **Dominic McGrath** 1:30:16 ensuring a teams win for Victoria. None of the other top walkers were in attendance.

| Glover Shield 20km Walk, Melbourne, Sunday 27th July 1997 | | | |
|---|------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Nathan Deakes | VRWC | 1:26:25 |
| 2 | Duane Cousins | VRWC | 1:29:14 |
| 3 | Dominic McGrath | VRWC | 1:30:16 |
| 4 | Troy Stanton | NSW | 1:35:33 |
| 5 | Mark Coleman | PROV | 1:37:02 |
| 6 | Willi Sawall | PROV | 1:41:45 |
| 7 | Trenton Hawkins | VRWC | 1:41:56 |
| 8 | Rod Sadler | PROV | 1:47:20 |
| 9 | Peter Vysma | VRWC | 1:47:24 |
| 10 | Robin Whyte | ACT | 1:53:12 |
| 11 | Andrew Mitchell | NSW | 1:55:00 |
| 12 | Frank Overton | NSW | 2:06:43 |
| 13 | Michael Mulligan | NSW | 2:10:53 |
| 14 | Phil Donelan | NSW | 2:29:51 |
| - | Paul Kennedy | VRWC | DNF |
| - | Daniel Thorne | PROV | DNF |
| - | Marcus Dwyer | VRWC | DQ |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VRWC | 34 | 2. Prov 20 3. NSW 14 4. VRWC2 10 |

**6th IAAF World Athletics Championships
Athens, 1-10 August 1997**

The 6th World Championships in Athletics were held at the Olympic Stadium, Athens, from 1-10 August 1997. With 1882 athletes from 198 nations, it was a huge event that was used as proof positive of Athens' and Greece's ability to organize large-scale, international sporting events. The following year, the 2004 Olympic Games were awarded to that city.

The men's 20km was first up, with Mexican **Daniel Garcia** exacting his revenge after being disqualified in the two previous editions of the World Championships, winning with 1:21:53. **Nick A'Hern** was tripped and pushed in a rough race, fading to finish 18th with 1:25:46, while **Dion Russell** finished 31st with 1:30:49.

| IAAF World Champs 20km Walk Men, Athens, Sat 2nd August | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Daniel Garcia | MEX | 1:21:43 |
| 2. | Mikhail Shchennikov | RUS | 1:21:53 |
| 3. | Mikhail Khmelniyskiy | BLR | 1:22:01 |
| | ... | | |
| 18. | Nick A'Hern | AUS | 1:25:46 |
| 31. | Dion Russell | AUS | 1:30:49 |

Although only 41 women fronted for the 10km event, two heats were scheduled for Monday 4th August, with the final to be held on Thursday 7th August. Don't ask me why! Perhaps the tight 1km lap made this advisable. In any case, this added extra interest to the event - who would make the 20 places in the final (first 8 in each heat plus the next fastest 4 finishers). As it turned out, there were no real surprises in the heats with all the favourites coming through unscathed. Sadly, **Jane Saville**, who was our only competitor, finished 13th in the second heat, with a time of 46:01, and missed out on the final.

Of the 20 starters in the final, there were 15 finishers, 2 DQs and 3 non-finishers. **Annarita Sidoti** from Italy led all the way for a great win. She had been placed 6th in the recent World Cup and improved on that performance with a gutsy walk. Russian walker Olympiada Ivanova, who finished second to Sidoti, soon tested positive and lost her silver medal. This was the first hint of what turned out to be a 20+ year saga of institutional drug cheating by Russia.

| IAAF World Champs 10km Walk Women, Athens, Thur 7th Aug | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Annarita Sidoti | ITA | 42:55 |
| 2. | Olga Kardopoltseva | BLR | 43:30 |
| 3. | Valentina Tsybul'skaya | BLR | 43:49 |
| | ... | | |
| - | Jane Saville | AUS | 13th Heat 1 (46:01) |

Robert Korzeniowski built on his 1996 Olympic 50km victory with a World Championship 50km victory, his winning time of 3:44:46 ensuring he finished ahead of **Jesus Angel Garcia** of Spain, second with 3:44:59. The two had a heated battle, exchanging the lead several times over the last 20km. **Miguel Rodriguez** of Mexico was third in 3:48:30. Alas, no Australians in this race.

| IAAF World Champs 50km Walk Men, Athens, Thur 7th Aug | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Robert Korzeniowski | POL | 3:44:46 |
| 2. | Jesus Angel Garcia | ESP | 3:44:59 |
| 3. | Miguel Rodriguez | MEX | 3:48:30 |

**1997 World University Games
Catalia, Sicily, 19-31 August 1997**

The athletics at the 1997 Summer Universiade took place in the Stadio Cibali in Catania, Sicily, with 3 Australian walkers in action – **Nathan Deakes**, **Brent Vallance** and **Jane Saville**.

For Deakes, it was his third international vest after his 3rd place in the 1996 World Junior championships and a 1997 Race Walking World Cup appearance earlier in the year. He celebrated his 20th birthday two days before the Universiade started so was definitely amongst the youngsters in the field. Vallance, at 25 years of age, was also in his third international appearance, having already competed in the 1995 and 1997 World Cup events. For the record, Deakes finished 5th and Vallance 9th of the 14 competitors.

| 1997 World University Games 20km Men, Sicily, August 1997 | | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Iliia Markov | RUS | 1:25:36 |
| 2. | Alejandro Lopez | MEX | 1:26:00 |
| 3. | Arturo De Mezza | ITA | 1:26:12 |
| | --- | | |
| 5. | Nathan Deakes | AUS | 1:28:04 |
| 9. | Brent Vallance | AUS | 1:32:27 |

Saville finished 10th out of the 14 starters in the women's 10km walk. At 23 years of age, she was now a seasoned international, have competed in the 1990 and 1992 World Juniors, the 1993 Racewalking World Cup, the 1994 Commonwealth Games, the 1996 Olympic Games and the 1997 IAAF World Championships.

| 1997 World University Games 10km Women, Sicily, Aug 1997 | | | |
|--|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Larissa Ramazanova | BLR | 44:01 |
| 2. | Rossella Giordana | ITA | 44:31 |
| 3. | Annarita Sidoti | ITA | 44:38 |
| | ... | | |
| 10. | Jane Saville | AUS | 49:06 |

Australian Roadwalk Championships Chipping Norton, Sydney, Sunday 7th September 1997

The Australian Roadwalk Championships had, in the past, normally included an Australian 20km Championship. But with this event now being held in conjunction with the Australian T&F Championships during the summer, Athletics Australia had agreed to include an Australian 30km Championship with the winter roadwalks. Now male Australian walkers would have 20km, 30km and 50km championships each year.

Duane Cousins proved an easy winner in this inaugural championship, with a time of 2:18:31. The ageless **Michael Harvey** was second with 2:23:30, ahead of South Australian youngster **Darren Bown**, with 2:25:32. The field was a very small one.

| Australian 30km Championship, Sydney, Sunday 7 th September | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 2:18:31 |
| 2. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 2:23:30 |
| 3. | Darren Bown | SA | 2:25:32 |
| 4. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 2:26:16 |
| 5. | Chris Bone | NSW | 2:33:52 |
| 6. | Damian O'Mara | NSW | 2:40:34 |

1997 Australian 50km Championship, incorporating the 1998 Commonwealth Games 50km Trial Middle Park, Melbourne, Sunday 14th December 1997

1998 saw a change to the Commonwealth Games walking schedule as the 30km event for men was replaced by the two international distances of 20km and 50km. So now the Commonwealth Games matched the Olympics with three walks on offer.

The 50km selection trial was held in conjunction with the Australian Championship in Melbourne in December 1997, with the A standard of 4:00:00 the obvious required mark.

New AIS coach Ron Weigel had reviewed his walkers and decided to gear **Dion Russell's** training towards the 50km event. His training load increased and his weight dropped. While he had previously raced at 78-80 kg, he soon dropped to a new racing weight of 70-72 kg. The result was his first Open title and a great time of 3:48:12. Second and third places were also under the required standard. While **Duane Cousins** made no mistakes with 3:57:40, it was a different story for **Dominic McGrath**. He started slowly as usual, with his first 10km covered in 49:18, well back in the field. But as the race progressed, he sped up and his last 5km saw him storm home to break the 4 hour standard. This was the first time that 3 walkers had broken 4 hours in the same race in Australia, and their performances guaranteed them Commonwealth Games spots. But they would have to wait until August before they finally saw their names in print.

| Aust 50km Championship, Melbourne, Sunday 14 th Dec 1997 | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Dion Russell | VIC | 3:48:12 |
| 2. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 3:57:40 |
| 3. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 3:59:15 |
| 4. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 4:12:29 |
| 5. | Darren Bown | SA | 4:35:13 |
| - | Marcus Dwyer | VIC | DQ |
| - | Michael Harvey | VIC | DNF |
| - | Mark Thomas | VIC | DNF |
| - | Brian Trower | VIC | DNF |
| - | Brent Vallance | NSW | DNF |
| - | Matthew Griggs | ACT | DNF |

1998

The year started with the news that the IAAF was going to increase the women's major championship distance from 10km to 20km, starting from 1st January 1999. This meant that the 1998 Australian women's 10km championship would probably be the final one.

1998 Australian 20km Championship and Commonwealth Games 20km Trial Men Princes Park, Melbourne, Thursday 12th March 1998

The men's 20km Commonwealth Games trial was held in conjunction with the Australian 20km Championship in Melbourne. The race was scheduled for Thursday 12th March 1998, was on a 2km circuit around Princes Park, with the start/finish alongside the Carlton Football Club stadium. **Nick A'Hern** was an easy winner in **1:22:07** – no issues there! The real turmoil was a couple of minutes further back in the field - **Nathan Deakes** crossed the finishing line in second place in around 1:24 minutes, only to discover that he had picked up a third report late in the race and been disqualified. The minor places were subsequently taken by **Dion Russell** and **Duane Cousins** but the times were not good enough to guarantee selection (the A standard was set at 1:23:30 and the B standard at 1:26:00).

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Nick A'Hern | NSW | 1:22:27 |
| 2. | Dion Russell | VIC | 1:27:02 |
| 3. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 1:28:23 |
| 4. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 1:32:56 |
| 5. | Brad Malcolm | VIC | 1:33:41 |
| 6. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 1:35:52 |
| 7. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 1:37:17 |
| 8. | Mark Thomas | VIC | 1:39:25 |
| 9. | Marcus Dwyer | VIC | 1:41:08 |
| 10. | Christian Bone | WA | 1:45:47 |
| 11. | Graham Watt | VIC | 2:04:57 |
| - | Mark Donahoo | VIC | DNF |
| - | Matthew Griggs | ACT | DNF |
| - | Darren Bown | SA | DNF |
| - | Noel Wooler | QLD | DNF |
| - | Andrew Jamieson | VIC | DNF |
| - | Damien O'Mara | NSW | DNF |
| - | Luke Adams | NSW | DNF |
| - | Anthony Miles | QLD | DNF |
| - | Mark Blackwood | VIC | DQ |
| - | Nathan Deakes | VIC | DQ |
| - | Craig Barrett | NZ | DQ |

With only one team spot clearly filled, the race was on to clinch the second and third positions. Brent Vallance joined the AIS team going to Europe to race the European summer. This was his last chance to get the points on the scoreboard and he had to self-fund his trip. On May 23rd in Naumburg, Deakes recorded an A qualifying time of 1:23:24 and Vallance recorded 1:24:34 for a B qualifier. Deakes' spot now looked confirmed but had Vallance done enough to secure the final berth?

Apart from his one failure at the National 20km Championship in March, Vallance had raced well. He had recorded 1:25:01 at the Adelaide GP on 26/01/98, 1:24:34 in Naumburg on 23/05/98, and won the Second Federation event in Geelong in 1:24:37 (2/08/98). The selectors obviously had him in mind for the final spot and, when A'Herb and Deakes were asked to participate in a pre-departure 10km trial in August, he was called by Ron Weigel two days before the event and told he was also expected to walk. Selector Brian Rowe had rung Ron to inform him it would be a three man pre-departure trial. The times of the 3 walkers were as follows

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Nick A'Hern | 39:20 |
| Nathan Deakes | 40:14 |
| Brent Vallance | 41:43 |

The selectors decided that Vallance had done enough and a 3 man team was finally confirmed to contest the 20km in Kuala Lumpur.

Australian Track & Field Championships 1997-98 Olympic Park, Melbourne, Victoria 13 - 15 March 1998

The men were back in action 3 days later, contesting the 5000m track walk at the Australian T&F Championships in Melbourne. **Nick A'Hern** won his seventh 5000m track title, marking him as one of our greatest ever short distance exponents. **Dion Russell** was second and New Zealander **Scott Nelson** was third.

Sadly, this was the last time this championship walk was contested. As Athletics Australia was now scheduling the Australian 20km title at the annual T&F Championships and as the men's 30km championship had also been recently added, they decided to remove the men's and women's 5000m walks from the T&F titles. It would take until 2014 for 10,000m track walks for men and women would be added back into the T&F Championships.

| 5,000m Track Walk Men, Melbourne, Sunday 15th March 1998 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------|-----|----------|
| 1 | Nick A'Hern | 1969 | NSW | 19:12.92 |
| 2 | Dion Russell | 1975 | VIC | 19:39.62 |
| 3 | Scott Nelson | 1969 | NZL | 20:11.05 |
| 4 | Troy Sundstrom | 1981 | NSW | 20:28.65 |
| 5 | Duane Cousins | 1973 | VIC | 20:33.13 |
| 6 | Noel Wooler | 1975 | QLD | 21:02.45 |
| 7 | Darren Bown | 1974 | SA | 21:06.15 |
| 8 | Liam Murphy | 1979 | SA | 21:13.06 |
| 9 | Mark Thomas | 1962 | VIC | 21:33.56 |
| 10 | Marcus Dwyer | 1977 | VIC | 21:40.57 |
| 11 | Michael Harvey | 1962 | VIC | 21:56.10 |
| 12 | Jon Gawley | 1980 | NSW | 22:08.28 |
| 13 | Paul Kennedy | 1957 | VIC | 22:09.15 |
| 14 | Shane Pearson | 1972 | QLD | 22:16.58 |
| 15 | Duncan Knox | 1959 | VIC | 22:48.57 |
| 16 | Christian Bone | 1977 | WA | 23:04.31 |
| 17 | David Smyth | 1969 | NZL | 27:08.22 |
| - | Mark Blackwood | 1977 | VIC | DQ |
| - | Brent Vallance | 1972 | NSW | DQ |
| - | Mathew Golebiowski | 1980 | NSW | DQ |

32nd Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 14th June 1998

The lead group of **Duane Cousins, Craig Barrett, Dion Russell, Nathan Deakes** and **Brent Vallance** powered through the first 5 miles of the LBG 20 Miler in 36:00 and a great race looked assured. Barrett and Deakes then upped the ante, walking the next 5 miles in under 34 minutes to break the leading group apart. The two man battle continued until the 30km mark which was reached in around 2:11. At this stage, Barrett literally sprinted home to win by nearly 2 minutes. His PB time of 2:19:37 was second only to Willi Sawall. 20 year old Victorian Deakes gave notice of his ability with his time of 2:21:50 – the fastest inaugural performance ever. The strong VRWC team of Deakes, Russell and **Duane Cousins** was too strong for the opposition and easily took the teams race. All three were all AIS scholarship holders at the time.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 14th June 1998 | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Craig Barrett | NZL 2:19:37 |
| 2. | Nathan Deakes | VRWC 2:21:50 |
| 3. | Dion Russell | VRWC 2:26:14 |
| 4. | Duane Cousins | VRWC 2:28:47 |
| 5. | Brent Vallance | REGAL 2:30:12 |
| 6. | Luke Adams | REGAL 2:31:16 |
| 7. | Marcus Dwyer | VRWC 2:39:20 |
| 8. | Michael Harvey | VRWC 2:42:35 |
| 9. | Simon Baker | VRWC 2:44:10 |
| 10. | Tony Sargisson | NZL 2:45:43 |
| 11. | Brad Malcolm | VRWC 2:47:47 |
| 12. | Mark Dossetor | ACT 2:49:39 |
| 13. | Trenton Hawkins | VRWC 2:50:42 |
| 14. | Noel Woolmer | QLD 2:54:44 |
| 15. | Peter Bennett | QLD 2:55:10 |
| 16. | Duncan Knox | VRWC 2:56:47 |
| 17. | Mark Donahoo | VRWC 3:00:19 |
| 18. | John Stenhouse | ACT 3:03:26 |
| 19. | Alex Crawford | REGAL 3:17:17 |
| 20. | Robin Whyte | ACT 3:22:18 |
| 21. | Brian Glover | VRWC 3:30:08 |
| 22. | Peter Luke | PROV 3:31:00 |
| 23. | Daryl Biggin | PROV 3:35:48 |
| 24. | Caleb Maybir | QLD 3:39:47 |
| 25. | Russell McFarlane | PROV 3:40:10 |
| 26. | Ann Staunton (F) | ACT 3:43:40 |
| 27. | Lachlan Wilkinson | ACT 3:47:42 |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|----|---------------------------------|---------|
| 28. | Bill Starr | | SA | 3:52:08 |
| 29. | Peter Waddell | | ACT | 3:52:10 |
| - | Harry Summers | | VRWC | DNF |
| - | Michael Pearson | | REGAL | DNF |
| Teams | | | | |
| 1. | VIC1 | 61 | Deakes,Russell, Cousins, Harvey | |
| 2. | VIC2 | 45 | Dwyer, Baker, Malcolm | |
| 3. | REGAL | 43 | Vallance, Adams, Crawford | |
| 4. | ACT | 29 | Dossetor, Stenhouse, Whyte | |
| 5. | QLD | 24 | Wooler, Bennett, Maybir | |
| 6. | VIC3 | 18 | Hawkins, Glover | |
| 7. | PROV | 11 | Luke, Biggins, McFarlane | |

**1998 Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 20km
Barwon River, Geelong, Victoria, Sunday 2nd August 1998**

The annual Federation Carnival was held in early August on a course alongside the Barwon River in Geelong. **Brent Vallance**, pressing his case for Commonwealth Games selection, was an easy winner with 1:24:37, ahead of Victorians **Brad Malcolm** and **Marcus Dwyer**. Vallance was the only one of the top line walkers who participated.

| Glover Shield 20km, Geelong, Sunday 2nd August 1998 | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|------------|---------|
| 1 | Brent Vallance | | Regal | 1:24.37 |
| 2 | Brad Malcolm | | VRWC | 1:29.16 |
| 3 | Marcus Dwyer | | VRWC | 1:29.35 |
| 4 | Jon Gawley | | NSW | 1:30.08 |
| 5 | Warren Russell | | NSW | 1:32.20 |
| 6 | Trenton Hawkins | | VRWC | 1:36.17 |
| 7 | Duncan Knox | | VRWC | 1:41.39 |
| 8 | Matthew Golebiowski | | Regal | 1:43.06 |
| 9 | Mark Donahoo | | VRWC | 1:45.02 |
| 10 | Graham Watt | | VRWC | 1:53.13 |
| 11 | Andrew Mitchell | | NSW | 1:56.00 |
| 12 | Robin Whyte | | ACT | 1:58.52 |
| 13 | Bob Chapman | | ACT | 2:03.08 |
| 14 | Bob Perry | | NSW | 2:08.07 |
| 15 | Frank Overton | | NSW | 2:08.35 |
| 16 | Mike Mulligan | | NSW | 2:09.25 |
| - | Mark Blackwood | | VRWC | DQ |
| - | Daniel Thorne | | Provincial | DNF |
| - | Michael Pearson | | Regal | DNF |
| Teams | | | | |
| 1 VRWC 37 2 NSW 28 3 Regal 24 4 VRWC2 22 5 ACT 9 | | | | |

**1998 Australian 10km Championship and Commonwealth Games 10km Trial Women
Homebush, Sydney, Saturday 8th August 1998**

The women's Commonwealth Games 10km walk trial was held at the official T&F selection trials at Homebush in Sydney on Saturday 8th August 1998 and **Kerry Saxby-Junna** had yet another easy win. Her position of dominance on the Australian scene looked set to continue for some time yet and few people thought that only months later she would suffer defeat in Kualu Lumpur at the hands of the young **Jane Saville**. Saville had on this occasion finished over 3 minutes behind Kerry and just under the qualifying standard of 47:00. Her younger sister **Natalie Saville** was only 25 seconds further back in third place but unfortunately that small gap was what separated her from her first Commonwealth Games berth. She would have to wait another 4 years for her opportunity.

| Comm Games 10km Trial, Sydney, Saturday 8th August 1998 | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|------|-------|
| 1. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | | NSW | 43:38 |
| 2. | Jane Saville | | NSW | 46:42 |
| 3. | Natalie Saville | | NSW | 47:07 |
| 4. | Simone Wollowiec | | VIC | 47:40 |
| 5. | Michelle French | | NSW | 49:09 |
| 6. | Megan Chapman | | NSW? | 49:28 |
| 7. | Wendy Muldoon | | VIC | 49:47 |
| 8. | Terease Letherby | | QLD | 49:54 |
| 9. | Linda Coffee | | NSW | 50:03 |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|-------|
| 10. | Justine Toniti-Fillipini | VIC | 50:26 |
| - | Cheryl Webb | NSW | DQ |

Australian Roadwalk Championships Davies Park, Brisbane, Sunday 6th September 1998

The Australian Roadwalk Championships in Brisbane, at the start of September, included the men's 30km Australian Championship, as well as the inaugural women's 20km Australian Championship. Being held in the immediate leadup to the Commonwealth Games, the top Australians bypassed this meet, but not New Zealander **Craig Barrett**, who powered through for a win with 2:13:20. Two weeks later, he would be racing in the Commonwealth Games 50km in Kuala Lumpur.

| Australian 30km Championship, Brisbane, Sun 6 th Sept 1998 | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Craig Barrett | NZL | 2:13:20 |
| 2. | Luke Adams | NSW | 2:21:48 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 2:25:39 |
| 4. | Simon Baker | VIC | 2:19:17 |
| 5. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 2:33:04 |
| 6. | Mark Thomas | VIC | 2:29:17 |
| 7. | Peter Bennett | QLD | 2:41:51 |
| 8. | Andrew Ludwig | QLD | 2:53:31 |
| 9. | Chris Bone | NSW | 3:05:37 |
| 10. | Caleb Maybir | QLD | 3:21:31 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | Harvey, Baker, Thomas | |
| 2. | QLD | Pearson, Bennett, Ludwig | |

XVI Commonwealth Games Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 11-21 September 1998

For the first time in its 68 year history, the Commonwealth Games were held in Asia. The XVI Games in Kuala Lumpur were also the first Games to feature team sports - an overwhelming success that added large numbers to both participants and TV audience numbers. A new record of 70 countries sent a total of 5,250 athletes and officials to the KL Games. The top five countries in the medal standing were Australia, England, Canada, Malaysia and South Africa. Fifteen sports were featured – aquatics, athletics, badminton, boxing, cricket, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, netball, lawn bowls, rugby 7s, shooting, tenpin bowling, weightlifting and wrestling.

The walks and marathons promised to be demanding events, given the severe tropical climate of Kuala Lumpur, which is situated on the Malaysian coast and almost on the equator.

20km Walk, Titiwangsa Lake Gardens, KL, Thursday 17th September 1998

The men's 20km walk was first up, being held in the Titiwangsa Lake Gardens on Thursday 17th September. **Nick A'Hern**, 28, the Australian team men's captain, destroyed the rest of the field with surges at 5km and 10km, to win a second Commonwealth Games title with 1:24:59. "*Conditions were very tough, reminiscent of Atlanta, that heat especially coming off the road surface*", A'Hern said, recalling his stoic fourth in this event at the last Olympics. To add to the delight of the Australian contingent, his young team mate **Nathan Deakes** collected the bronze on his Games debut, just behind **Arturo Huerta** of Canada. Who would have thought at that time that Nathan would go on to win double golds at the next 2 Commonwealth Games. After all his efforts to make the team, **Brent Vallance** had a shocker and walked what he described as the worst race of his life. It just goes to show that even with the best preparations, things can still go wrong on the day.

| 1998 Commonwealth Games 20km Walk, Thur 17 th September | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Nicholas A'Hern | Australia | 1:24:59 |
| 2. | Arturo Huerta | Canada | 1:25:49 |
| 3. | Nathan Deakes | Australia | 1:26:06 |
| 4. | Darrell Stone | England | 1:26:37 |
| 5. | David Rotich | Kenya | 1:26:57 |
| 6. | Teoh Boon Lim | Malaysia | 1:27:47 |
| 7. | Martin Bell | Scotland | 1:29:20 |
| 8. | Julius Sawe | Kenya | 1:29:23 |
| 9. | Harbans Narinder Singh | Malaysia | 1:30:13 |
| 10. | Christopher Maddocks | England | 1:30:21 |
| 11. | Timothy Berrett | Canada | 1:31:19 |
| 12. | Andrew Drake | England | 1:32:04 |
| 13. | Stephen Partington | Isle of Man | 1:32:15 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 14. | Brent Vallance | Australia | 1:36:29 |
| 15. | Mohamed Haizy | Malaysia | 1:36:32 |
| 16. | Dip Chand | Fiji | 1:52:47 |
| 17. | Pradeep Chand | Fiji | 2:03:38 |

10km Walk, Titiwangsa Lake Gardens, KL, Saturday 19th September 1998

Jane Saville came to the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games after finishing second behind **Kerry Saxby-Junna** at the trial. The two Australian girls were expected to do well and they were in the lead pack throughout the race. The relentless pace took its toll as the leading group dropped and eventually only the Australians and the Malaysians were left. It came down to a battle of three with Saville, Saxby-Junna and **Yu Fang Yuan** shoulder to shoulder. When the chief judge stepped onto the track, the question was – which of the three would go? It was the Malaysian and all of a sudden it was the two Australians fighting out gold in the last lap. To Saville's credit, she was able to produce that something extra and she gradually forged the winning break, going on to claim her first international gold.

| 1998 Commonwealth Games 10km Walk, Sat 19 th September | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Jane Saville | Australia | 43:57 (GR) |
| 2. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | Australia | 44:27 |
| 3. | Lisa Kehler | England | 45:03 |
| 4. | Janice McCaffrey | Canada | 46:36 |
| 5. | Annastasia Raj | Malaysia | 46:41 |
| 6. | Carolyn Partington | Isle of Man | 48:09 |
| 7. | Victoria Lupton | England | 48:27 |
| 8. | Kimberley Braznell | England | 51:15 |
| 9. | Monica Okumu | Kenya | 51:56 |
| 10. | Karen Kneale | Isle of Man | 52:25 |
| 11. | Angela Keogh | Norfolk Island | 55:00 |
| - | Cheng Tong Lean | Malaysia | DQ |
| - | Yu Fang Yuan | Malaysia | DQ |

50km Walk, Titiwangsa Lake Gardens, KL, Monday 21st September 1998

New Zealand 50km entrant Craig Barrett was on the last of 19 laps around the course at Lake Titiwangsa, just 1km from the finish and leading the field by six minutes. Another five minutes and the gold would be his, in what is the most brutal event in the Games. And then he collapsed. Despite the suffocating heat and humidity, with temperatures nudging 40°C, there had been no warning that Barrett would hit the wall and short-circuit both body and brain. He was maintaining good pace and showing only the usual signs of distress that walkers do after more than four hours on the road. But rounding a bend, he buckled. What followed was a danse macabre.

In pathetic scenes reminiscent of the 1984 Olympic Games when women's marathon runner Gabrielle Andersson Scheiss of Switzerland, her limbs askew, lurched and staggered in the final straight, Barrett's auto-pilot went haywire. His left leg refused to follow his right. As if paralysed, it flapped and sagged and dragged behind him. He attempted to keep going, then stopped. He sat in the gutter, then tried again. After 4 aborted attempts to resume, his struggle captured vividly by television cameras, he shuffled backwards in the final throes of consciousness.

New Zealand's chef de mission, Les Mills, having just arrived at the walk venue and well away from the finish line, was the only Kiwi official to witness the collapse. Marshalls had not wanted to intervene, as Barrett was leading. But Mills, a former Commonwealth Games discus gold medallist, ordered the ambulance in, fearing the walker's life could be at risk if he stayed out on the course much longer.

As the New Zealander was helped into the ambulance, Malaysian **Govindaswamy Saravanan**, a 28 year old bank clerk, cruised past. *"I saw him collapse so I knew I had gold. I knew I just had to keep my pace and finish the race to win,"* Saravanan said. Pandemonium broke out as he crossed the finish line in 4:10:05, becoming the first Malaysian ever to win an Commonwealth athletics gold.

Even before his adoring countrymen put the gold medal around his neck and handed him his winning bonus incentive of \$50,000, Saravanan admitted he was a shattered man. *"One more thing"*, he called out as a huddle of journalists broke up around him. *"I want to announce my retirement. Although this is my first international race, I couldn't keep this up."* He had won Malaysia's only athletics medal of the Games. Of course he did not retire and is recorded as winning gold in the 2001 South East Asian Games 50km on the same Lake Titiwangsa course in Kuala Lumpur with a time of 4:34:04.

Duane Cousins walked a very well judged race in the atrocious conditions, storming home for 2nd place in 4:10:30, just 25 seconds behind the winner. **Dominic McGrath** raced with his usual tactics, starting slowly and speeding up to finish in 3rd place in 4:12:52, blood streaming down his right leg from chafing caused by ill-fitting shorts. **Dion Russell**, who had gone into the race as one of the favourites, led early, but the heat was too much and he retired before halfway.

By the evening, Barrett had recovered sufficiently to be released from hospital but he was shattered, knowing that he had been so close to the win.

Saravanan was not the only Malaysian 50km walker in the news. Ninth placed **Thirukumaran Balaysendaran** had walked the entire race in bare feet, something he usually did and something he continued to do throughout his long career until he eventually retired in 2011.

| 1998 Commonwealth Games 50km Walk, Mon 21 st September | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Govindaswamy Saravanan | Malaysia | 4:10:05 |
| 2. | Duane Cousins | Australia | 4:10:30 |
| 3. | Dominic McGrath | Australia | 4:12:52 |
| 4. | Steven Hollier | England | 4:18:41 |
| 5. | Mark Easton | England | 4:22:23 |
| 6. | Graham White | Scotland | 4:30:17 |
| 7. | Kannian Pushparajan | Malaysia | 4:31:22 |
| 8. | Christopher Cheeseman | England | 4:38:36 |
| 9. | Thirukumaran Balaysendaran | Malaysia | 4:44:33 |
| 10. | Tony Sargisson | New Zealand | 4:45:04 |
| - | Timothy Berrett | Canada | DNF |
| - | Dion Russell | Australia | DNF |
| - | Craig Barrett | New Zealand | DNF |

1998 Australian 50km Championship and 1999 World Cup 50km Trial Melbourne, Sunday 13th December 1998

The 1999 World Cup 50km (men) and 20km (women) trials were held in Melbourne on Sunday 13th December, while the men's 20km trial was scheduled for March 1999.

Commonwealth Games medallists Duane Cousins and Dominic McGrath were given exemption from the World Cup 50km trial, as their Kuala Lumpur times were both under the AA standard which had been set at 4:20:00. The first 3 finishers in the trial also bettered this standard, thus ensuring a full team for the World Cup. **Dion Russell** excelled with the third fastest ever by an Australian (behind Simon Baker and Willi Sawall) – 3:47:04. **Shane Pearson** was well under with 4:14:01 but third placed **Michael Harvey** had to work hard to also make the cut. Marcus Dwyer had been 7 mins up on him at the 30km mark but he was sick at the 31km point and then faded. Astonishingly, Harvey was not selected. The reason as put forward by AA – he was too old and they had a policy of youth. An intense period of lobbying started. Michael had many supporters and the AA position was shaky from a discrimination point of view. With the threat of legal action looming, AA eventually folded one week before the team were due to leave and added Michael. To his credit, Michael had kept focused throughout this long period of uncertainty and he walked well overseas, thus well and truly justifying his position in the team. It would be his 10th and final World Cup appearance.

| Australian 50km Championship, Melbourne, Sun 13 th Dec 1998 | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Dion Russell | VIC | 3:47:04 |
| 2. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 4:14:01 |
| 3. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:18:04 |
| 4. | Marcus Dwyer | VIC | 4:25:52 |
| 5. | Simon Baker | VIC | 4:53:20 |
| 6. | Jon Phillips | WA | 5:38:20 |

1999 World Cup 20km Trial Women Melbourne, Sunday 13th December 1998

The 1999 World Cup would now include a 20km for women, in place of the 10km distance. The women's trial was held alongside the 1998 Australian 50km championship in Melbourne. **Kerry Saxby-Junna** was a clear winner with 1:33:14, ahead of **Simone Wolowiec** with 1:37:18 and **Wendy Muldoon** 1:37:48. **Jane Saville** had a very bad day, finishing 5th behind her sister **Natalie Saville**. However, all 5 women were under 1:38:00 so their selection prospects looked good.

| World Cup Trial 20km Women, Melbourne, Sun 13 th Dec 1998 | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | NSW | 1:33:14 |
| 2. | Simone Wolowiec | VIC | 1:36:10 |
| 3. | Wendy Muldoon | VIC | 1:37:18 |
| 4. | Natalie Saville | NSW | 1:37:48 |
| 5. | Jane Saville | NSW | 1:37:52 |
| 6. | Lisa Paolini | NSW | 1:41:12 |
| 7. | Jill Maybir | QLD | 1:42:45 |
| 8. | Linda Coffee | NSW | 1:42:51 |
| 9. | Tracy Rosengrave | VIC | 1:44:20 |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 10. | Sharon Schnyder | VIC | 1:49:40 |
| 11. | Megan Peters | VIC | 1:50:37 |
| 12. | Kim Coltman | VIC | 1:51:13 |

1999

1999 Australian Roadwalk Championships, incorporating the 1999 IAAF World Cup 20km Trial Princes Park, Melbourne, Sunday 18th March 1999

The Australian Men's 20km Championship was held on a 2km course at Princes Park in Melbourne on Thursday 18th March 1999. It was also the official World Cup Trial so was keenly contested by all those hoping for a berth. This was the first day of the Australian T&F Championships and an early start meant that many of us could catch the walks before we headed off to work for the day.

The men's 20km event started first at 7:30AM and it was a huge race in every way, with **Dion Russell** winning out with a PB time of 1:20:49. **Nathan Deakes** had won the Adelaide Grand Prix 20km in January in a huge PB of 1:20:20 and was right up there with Russell until his DQ. Deakes discussed this with me as follows in later years: *Dion's 1:20.49 at the Nationals in 1999 held along the path outside Princes Park, included a sub 40 last 10km. In fact, I think it may have even been 39.49 off the top of my head, making the first 10km 41.00. Again, I remember this day distinctively as I was dq'd whilst leading between 16 and 17km, when on track for my first sub 80.*

With his huge negative split, Russell surged away from **Nick A'Hern** who had to be content with his second place 1:21:18, while **Luke Adams** took the bronze with 1:23:52. At the time, this was the most impressive 20km race ever held in Australia, with the first 5 Australians breaking 85 mins and the first 8 all breaking 90 mins. There were also a number of overseas walkers in the mix.

| Australian 20km Men, Melbourne, Sunday 18th March 1999 | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Dion Russell | VIC | 1:20:49 |
| 2. | Nicholas A'Hern | NSW | 1:21:18 |
| 3. | Luke Adams | NSW | 1:23:52 |
| 4. | Denis Langlois | FRA | 1:23:57 |
| 5. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 1:24:20 |
| 6. | Darren Bown | SA | 1:24:57 |
| 7. | Troy Sundstrom | NSW | 1:25:02 |
| 8. | Scott Nelson | NZL | 1:26:49 |
| 9. | Liam Murphy | SA | 1:26:58 |
| 10. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 1:27:19 |
| 11. | Boon Lim Teoh | MAS | 1:29:20 |
| 12. | Sylvain Caudron | FRA | 1:29:43 |
| 13. | Brent Vallance | NSW | 1:31:38 |
| 14. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 1:31:39 |
| 15. | Matthew Groves | TAS | 1:31:56 |
| 16. | Christian Bone | NSW | 1:32:55 |
| 17. | Andrew Duncan | WA | 1:33:12 |
| 18. | Paul Kennedy | VIC | 1:34:41 |
| 19. | Andrew Jamieson | VIC | 1:35:46 |
| 20. | Graham Watt | VIC | 1:41:20 |
| 21. | Noel Wooler | QLD | 1:42:44 |
| - | Duncan Knox | VIC | DNF |
| - | Jon Gawley | NSW | DNF |
| - | Brad Malcolm | VIC | DNF |
| - | Daniel Thorne | VIC | DNF |
| - | Nathan Deakes | VIC | DQ |
| - | Trenton Hawkins | VIC | DQ |
| - | Marcus Dwyer | VIC | DQ |

As additional info, the women's Australian 10km Championship started 15 minutes later at 7:45AM, with 15 women joining the 28 men to add to the spectacle. Kerry Saxby-Junna and Jane Saville led out at a scorching pace but it was the veteran Saxby-Junna, then nearly 39 years of age, who won out, gradually clearing away to win with 43:09 ahead of Saville with 44:24.

1999 IAAF Race Walking World Cup Deauville/Mezidon, France, 1-2 May

The 1999 IAAF World Cup continued the trend of previous years, with huge fields of 140 (men's 20km), 110 (men's 50km) and 123 (women's 20km). This was the first time that the women's 20km had been scheduled and it proved popular. A full team of 15 Australian walkers was selected, ensuring 5 competitors in each of the three events.

The men's 20km saw Bernardo Segura finish 1 sec in front of Yu Guohui and 8 secs in front of the first of the Russians. It was indeed an exciting spectacle. Alas, Australia's two big guns came unstuck, **Nick A'Hern** a DNF and **Nathan Deakes** disqualified towards the end of the race, while in the top 10. The other 3 Australian walkers all finished in the top half of the field, with **Darren Bown** 50th, **Luke Adams** 55th and **Troy Sundstrom** 59th. Overall, the Australian men came 14th out of the 27 competing nations.

| IAAF World Cup 20 km Walk Men, Saturday 1 st May 1999 | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. | Bernardo Segura | MEX | 1:20:20 |
| 2. | Yu Guohui | CHN | 1:20:21 |
| 3. | Vladimir Andreyevr | RUS | 1:20:29 |
| ... | | | |
| 50. | Darren Bown | AUS | 1:29:31 |
| 55. | Luke Adams | AUS | 1:30:11 |
| 59. | Troy Sundstrom | AUS | 1:30:28 |
| - | Nick A'Hern | AUS | DNF |
| - | Nathan Deakes | AUS | DQ |

Sergey Korepanov of Kazakstan won the 50km in 3:39:22, the fifth fastest 50km performance ever. The best of the Oceania walkers was New Zealander **Craig Barrett** who finished 13th with 3:48:14. **Dion Russell** was a DNF but **Dominic McGrath** dug deep when needed, finishing 36th with 4:00:50. **Duane Cousins** was 51st with 4:02:27 while **Michael Harvey** improved on his trial time by 10 minutes to finish 61st with 4:08:58. He had certainly justified his selection. Overall, the Australian 50km men finished 14th out of the competing countries.

| IAAF World Cup 50 km Walk Men, Sunday 2 nd May 1999 | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. | Sergey Korepanov | KZK | 3:39:22 |
| 2. | Tomasz Lipiec | POL | 3:40:08 |
| 3. | Nikolay Matyukhin | RUS | 3:40:13 |
| ... | | | |
| 46. | Dominic McGrath | AUS | 4:00:50 |
| 51. | Duane Cousins | AUS | 4:02:27 |
| 61. | Michael Harvey | AUS | 4:08:58 |
| 73. | Shane Pearson | AUS | 4:16:43 |
| - | Dion Russell | AUS | DNF |

There was one final late change to the Australian women's team, with **Lisa Paolini** replacing Natalie Saville, who was not satisfied with her form and withdrew. Overall, it was a high standard race, with the first 6 women all under 90 minutes. **Jane Saville** was the best of the Australians with 1:31:58, finishing 18th, 3 places ahead of **Kerry Saxby-Junna** who was 21st with 1:32:24. Paolini justified her late inclusion with 40th place in 1:36:20. The Australian women finished 6th out of 24 nations in the teams position, a very satisfying performance.

| IAAF World Cup 20 km Walk Women, Sunday 2 nd May 1999 | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. | Hongyu Liu | CHN | 1:27:32 |
| 2. | Natalya Fedoskina | RUS | 1:27:35 |
| 3. | Norica Cimpean | ROM | 1:27:48 |
| ... | | | |
| 18. | Jane Saville | AUS | 1:31:58 |
| 21. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | 1:32:24 |
| 40. | Lisa Paolini | AUS | 1:36:20 |
| 59. | Simone Wolowiec | AUS | 1:39:31 |
| 87. | Wendy Muldoon | AUS | 1:46:25 |

33rd Lake Burley Griffin Carnival Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 13th June 1999

The carnival seemed to be attracting fewer men in the long 20 Mile event and more men and women in the 10 Mile events. In this edition, there were only 15 finishers for the 20 Mile event but there were 19 finishers for the Womens 10 Mile and 16 finishers in the Mens 10 Mile. Overall, there were some 200 competitors spread over the various events so the carnival was still looking healthy.

Craig Barrett scored his third win in 4 years and fellow New Zealander **Tony Sargisson** took second place, so a decision was made to award gold and silver to Craig and Tony but to also award medals to the first 3 Australians. So **Darren Bown** was also awarded gold, **Lachlan McDonald** was also awarded silver and **Duncan Knox** was awarded bronze. This precedent is still in effect today.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 13 th June 1999 | | | |
|--|----------------|----|---------|
| 1. | Craig Barrett | NZ | 2:25:27 |
| 2. | Tony Sargisson | NZ | 2:32:47 |
| 3. | Darren Bown | SA | 2:41:14 |

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------|--|---------|
| 4. | Lachlan McDonald | VRWC | 2:51:19 |
| 5. | Duncan Knox | VRWC | 2:55:07 |
| 6. | Michael Pearson | REGAL | 3:03:24 |
| 7. | Peter Vysma | VRWC | 3:03:43 |
| 8. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 3:05:35 |
| 9. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:11:59 |
| 10. | Harry Summers | VRWC | 3:26:18 |
| 11. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:26:33 |
| 12. | Lachlan Wilkinson | ACT | 3:29:31 |
| 13. | Graham Watt | VRWC | 3:42:30 |
| 14. | Caleb Maybir | QRWC | 3:59:34 |
| 15. | Peter Waddell | ACT | 4:04:56 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1 | VRWC | Lachlan McDonald, Duncan Knox, Peter Vysma | |
| 2 | ACT | Robin Whyte Lachlan Wilkinson, Peter Waddell | |

20th World University Games Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 4-9 July 1999

The Athletics Tournament at the XX Summer Universiade took place in the new Estadio Son Moix in Palma de Mallorca, Spain from 4-9 July 1999. Jane Saville had been selected as part of the Australian team, but ended up not making the trip. I am not sure why – perhaps she felt it better to concentrate on the upcoming IAAF World Championships.

1999 Second Federation Carnival, Including Glover Shield 20km Chipping Norton, Sydney, Sunday 1st August 1999

Victory in the 1999 Glover Shield went to Adelaide walker **Darren Bown**. His time of 1:27:45 was the third occasion he had broken 90 minutes that year and he would soon be picked up by the AIS and relocate to Canberra. **Luke Adams** took second with 1:29:44, while third place went to U20 national champion **Troy Sundstrom**, still recovering from a bout of chicken pox.

| Glover Shield 20km Men, Sydney, Sunday 1 st August 1999 | | | |
|--|------------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Darren Bown | SA | 1:27.45 |
| 2. | Luke Adams | NSW | 1:29.44 |
| 3. | Troy Sundstrom | NSW | 1:32.59 |
| 4. | Douglas Connolly | NSW | 1:39.11 |
| 5. | Duncan Knox | VIC | 1:42.02 |
| 6. | Dan Vellis | NSW | 1:45.45 |
| 7. | Chris Bone | SA | 1:48.27 |
| 8. | Keith Knox | NSW | 1:48.45 |
| 9. | Glen Taylor | NSW | 1:57.34 |
| 10. | Rob Osborne | NSW | 1:02.53 |

7th World Championships in Athletics Seville, Spain, 20-29 August 1999

The 7th World Championships in Athletics were held at the Estadio Olímpico, Seville, Spain, from 20-29 August 1999. A small team of 5 Australian walkers had been selected and they did well, all finishing, and with 3 of them in the top seven in their respective events.

First to the men's 20km where **Nathan Deakes** finished a fine 7th with 1:25:26, the times all slow due to the oppressive conditions. **Nick A'Hern** had a rare off day, finishing well back in 26th place with 1:38:08.

| IAAF World Champs 20km Men, Seville, Sat 21 st August 1999 | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. | Ilya Markov | RUS | 1:23:34 |
| 2. | Jefferson Pérez | ECU | 1:24:19 |
| 3. | Daniel García | MEX | 1:24:31 |
| ... | | | |
| 7. | Nathan Deakes | AUS | 1:25:26 |
| 26. | Nick A'Hern | AUS | 1:38:08 |

Dion Russell was the sole Australian rep in the men's 50km and he came 12th with 3:59:23, a good performance in the heat.

| IAAF World Champs 50km Men, Seville, Wed 25th August 1999 | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Ivano Brugnetti | ITA | 3:47:54 |
| 2. | Nikolay Matyukhin | RUS | 3:48:18 |
| 3. | Curt Clausen | USA | 3:50:55 |
| | ... | | |
| 12 | Dion Russell | AUS | 3:59:23 |

Kerry Saxby-Junna turned back the clock with a huge walk to take the bronze medal in the women's 20km with a time of 1:31:18, while **Jane Saville** also walked excellently to finish 7th with 1:32:13. As an indication of the quality of Saxby-Junna's walk, she was the only walker in the entire field to walk faster in Seville than she had done in the 1999 Race Walking World Cup in France earlier in the year.

| IAAF World Champs 20km Women, Seville, Friday 27th August | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Liu Hongyu | CHN | 1:30:50 |
| 2. | Wang Yan | CHN | 1:30:52 |
| 3. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | 1:31:18 |
| | ... | | |
| 7 | Jane Saville | AUS | 1:32:13 |

Australian Long Course Championships Middle Park, Melbourne, Sunday 5th September 1999

It had been a big year for the top walkers and a number of them chose to bypass the Australian Long Course Championships, scheduled only a week after the World Championships. This opened the door for **Duane Cousins**, **Dominic McGrath** and **Shane Pearson** to grab some more silverware for the trophy cabinet. It was a great battle between Cousins and McGrath, with only 37 secs separating them at the end, 2:18:22 to 2:18:59.

| Australian 30km Championship, Melbourne, Sun 5th Sept 1999 | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 2:18:22 |
| 2. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 2:18:59 |
| 3. | Shane Pearson | QLD | 2:23:57 |
| 4. | Andrew Jamieson | VIC | 2:31:20 |
| 5. | Richard Everson | SA | 2:33:35 |
| 6. | Ross Reid | VIC | 2:47:23 |
| 7. | John Leydon | SA | 2:49:57 |
| 8. | Robert Osborne | NSW | 3:26:01 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | VIC | 6 Cousins, McGrath, Jamieson | |

1999 Australian 50km Championship and 2000 Olympic 50km Trial Middle Park, Melbourne, Sunday 12th December 1999

Three Australians recorded Olympic qualifying performances in the Men's 50km Olympic Trial, held at Albert Park on the morning of Sunday 12th December 1999. AIS athletes **Dion Russell** and **Nathan Deakes** overcame poor weather conditions to dead-heat for victory in the race, both recording 3:52:53. They pounded the pavement together for the entire race and could not be separated at the finish. This was Deakes' first attempt over 50km and it was an impressive debut. Both walkers had announced their intentions of chasing the 20km/50km double at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games so they would appear again in the 20km trial early the following year.

Duane Cousins also clocked an Olympic qualifier, finishing in 3:59:34. While Russell and Deakes were now automatic team selections, the third Olympic 50km spot was at the selectors' discretion. **Dominic McGrath** was forced to start even though he was carrying a hamstring injury. As expected, he could not match Cousins and struggled in fifth place with 4:06:58. Even though McGrath subsequently beat Cousins' time in England in an international 50km race the following month, the selectors ended up awarding the third Olympic spot to Cousins.

| Australian 50km Championship, Melbourne, Sunday 12th Dec 1999 | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------|
| E1 | Dion Russell | VIC | 3:52:53 |
| E1. | Nathan Deakes | VIC | 3:52:53 |
| 3. | Duane Cousins | VIC | 3:57:40 |
| 4. | Tony Sargisson | NZL | 4:06:58 |
| 5. | Dominic McGrath | VIC | 4:07:33 |
| 9. | Michael Harvey | VIC | 4:27:05 |

2000

Australian 20km Championship Men, including Olympic 20km Championship Homebush, Sydney, Saturday 26th February 2000

The Olympic 20km racewalking trials were to be contested on Saturday 26th February in Sydney, using the Olympic course. This attracted attention internationally and a number of overseas walkers converged on Sydney on the day to test out the course and get a time on the board.

The men's field size was large, with 29 walkers in total, 8 of them from outside Australia. It was definitely the strongest field ever assembled in Australia and it saw an Australian win when **Nathan Deakes** fought off **Joel Sanchez** of Mexico and **Nick A'Hern** to win in 1:21:47. **Dion Russell** finished 4th overall and, as the third Australian finisher, looked likely to also get an Olympic 20km berth alongside Deakes and A'Hern. A'Hern was actually the first to finish, after Deakes and then Sanchez set off mistakenly on an extra lap of the stadium. *"I thought, 'Is there another one to go',"* A'Hern said, *"but I know when enough is enough."*

The men's and women's races started at 8AM, but were still subject to a hot sun and almost 100 per cent humidity. The course, restricted at either end by traffic access requirements, contained an extra 500m-to-600m loop with a U-turn to make it the minimum 2000m required. Ron Weigel, the national walks coach, suggested he would rather see the added loop removed, while Saxby-Junna said the turns were *"shocking on her knee"*.

Deakes and Russell had now qualified for both the 20km and 50km Olympic walks, having tied for first place in the Olympic 50km trial in Melbourne last year. Both intended to compete in both Games walks.

| Aust 20km Championship Men, Sydney, Sat 26 th Feb 2000 | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----|---------|
| 1 | Deakes, Nathan | VIC | 1:21:47 |
| 2 | Sanchez, Joel | MEX | 1:21:55 |
| 3 | A'Hern, Nicholas | NSW | 1:22:15 |
| 4 | Russell, Dion | VIC | 1:24:09 |
| 5 | Adams, Luke | NSW | 1:25:29 |
| 6 | Barrett, Craig | NZL | 1:26:09 |
| 7 | Sundstrom, Troy | NSW | 1:26:37 |
| 8 | Perricelli, Giovanni | ITA | 1:28:56 |
| 9 | Vallance, Brent | NSW | 1:29:48 |
| 10 | Brugnetti, Ivano | ITA | 1:30:05 |
| 11 | Murphy, Liam | SA | 1:30:34 |
| 12 | Malcolm, Brad | VIC | 1:31:23 |
| 13 | Bown, Darren | SA | 1:31:58 |
| 14 | Cousins, Duane | VIC | 1:32:07 |
| 15 | Russell, Jarrod | VIC | 1:32:21 |
| 16 | Costin, Jamie | IRL | 1:32:48 |
| 17 | McGrath, Dominic | VIC | 1:32:54 |
| 18 | Harbans Singh, Narinder | MAS | 1:34:46 |
| 19 | Abdul Rahman, Mohd Sharrulh | MAS | 1:37:19 |
| 20 | Donahoo, Mark | VIC | 1:39:41 |
| 21 | Bertei, Frank | VIC | 1:40:03 |
| 22 | Balaysendaram, Thirukumar | MAS | 1:40:10 |
| 23 | Jamieson, Andrew | VIC | 1:43:25 |
| 24 | Russell, Warren | NSW | 1:43:57 |
| 25 | Knox, Duncan | VIC | 1:49:05 |
| 26 | Reid, Ross | VIC | 1:50:06 |
| 27 | Phillips, Jonathon | WA | 1:54:43 |
| 28 | Maybir, Caleb | QLD | 2:02:21 |
| 29 | Osborne, Robert | NSW | 2:02:41 |

Australian 20km Championship Women, including Olympic 20km Championship Homebush, Sydney, Saturday 26th February 2000

Jane Saville walked a personal best time of 1:30:58 to finish third behind Italians Erica Alfridi and Elisabetta Perrone. As leading Australian and having achieved the Olympic A-standard, Saville was now be an automatic selection for Sydney. So, too, was **Kerry Saxby-Junna** who took fourth outright and second Australian place in 1:33:51. Saxby-Junna had just recovered from a knee injury that caused her to take 12 weeks off.

Trials are as much about who comes third as who comes first. Almost certainly taking the final Olympic spot was **Lisa Paolini**, of NSW. A former Irish representative, married to an Italian soccer player and a former resident of the Homebush area, Paolini walked 1:34:35 to follow Saxby-Junna home. Paolini lived in Australia when she finished 18th in the 1993 world championships 10km, then

decided to adopt Australian citizenship because she could not afford the travel involved in competing for her native country. She missed qualifying to represent Australia at the Atlanta Olympics by 10 days.

| Aust 20km Championship Women, Sydney, Sat 26th Feb 2000 | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----|---------|
| 1 | Alfridi, Erica | ITA | 1:30:06 |
| 2 | Perrone, Elisabetta | ITA | 1:30:36 |
| 3 | Saville, Jane | NSW | 1:30:58 |
| 4 | Saxby-Junna, Kerry | NSW | 1:33:51 |
| 5 | Paolini, Lisa | NSW | 1:34:35 |
| 6 | Webb, Cheryl | NSW | 1:36:14 |
| 7 | Fang, Yuan Yu | MAS | 1:36:14 |
| 8 | Wolowiec, Simone | VIC | 1:40:06 |
| 9 | Kara-Ali, Lara | SA | 1:45:27 |
| 10 | Muldoon, Wendy | VIC | 1:46:10 |
| 11 | Rosengrave, Tracy | VIC | 1:51:22 |
| 12 | Barrett, Diane | NZL | 1:52:44 |
| 13 | Excell, Kelly | NSW | 1:54:57 |
| 14 | Ferguson, Carolyn | VIC | 1:58:16 |
| 15 | Hay, Shirley | VIC | 1:58:28 |
| 16 | Shorten, Melisa | NSW | 2:01:00 |

**34th Lake Burley Griffin Carnival
Lake Burley Griffin, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 2000**

After third placings in 1997 and 1998, **Dion Russell** stormed home to a great win with a time that placed him third overall on the rankings behind Willi Sawall and Craig Barrett. The first 4 placings all went to walkers who subsequently walked in the 2000 Olympics. **Craig Barrett** took second, making a total of 3 firsts and 2 seconds from 5 outings. **Kerry Saxby-Junna** and **Simone Wolowiec** both completed the 20 mile course and both shattered the previous best by any woman walker. In fact, Kerry's 8th place and time of 2:41:03 won her the award as the first Veteran to finish the event.

| LBG 20 Miles Walk, Canberra, Sunday 11th June 2000 | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Dion Russell | VRWC | 2:21:35 |
| 2. | Craig Barrett | NZ | 2:25:02 |
| 3. | Nick A'Hern | REGAL | 2:29:53 |
| 4. | Duane Cousins | VRWC | 2:35:11 |
| 5. | Darren Bown | SA | 2:36:00 |
| 6. | Brad Malcolm | VRWC | 2:39:38 |
| 7. | Richard Everson | SA | 2:41:08 |
| 8. | Kerry Saxby Junna (F) | REGAL | 2:41:43 |
| 9. | Michael Harvey | VRWC | 2:48:08 |
| 10. | Luke Adams | REGAL | 2:54:30 |
| 11. | Simon Baker | VRWC | 2:54:44 |
| 12. | Simone Wolowiec (F) | VRWC | 2:55:14 |
| 13. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 2:58:37 |
| 14. | Mark Dossetor | ACT | 2:59:25 |
| 15. | John Leydon | SA | 3:00:03 |
| 16. | Duncan Knox | VRWC | 3:01:53 |
| 17. | Keith Knox | NSW | 3:08:34 |
| 18. | Robert Osborne | NSW | 3:20:48 |
| 19. | Robin Whyte | ACT | 3:21:48 |
| 20. | Andrew Blood | VRWC | 3:28:55 |
| 21. | Daryl Biggin | VRWC | 3:30:35 |
| 22. | Bill Starr | SA | 3:55:20 |
| - | Natalie Saville | REGAL | DNF |
| - | Lachlan Wilkinson | ACT | DNF |
| - | Christian Bone | REGAL | DNF |
| - | Frank Overton | NSW | DNF |
| Teams | | | |
| 1 | VRWC1 | Russell, Cousins, Malcolm | |
| 2 | SAAWC | Bown, Everson, Leydon | |
| 3 | VRWC2 | Harvey, Baker, Wolowiec | |

**Australian Long Course Roadwalk Championships
Middle Park, Melbourne, Sunday 6th August 2000**

It's always a matter of timing, and the timing of the Australian 30km Championship was not good, being in the leadup period before the 2000 Olympics. But **Dion Russell** did manage to schedule a start and he was untroubled to win with a good 2:10:02. **Liam Murphy** also walked well for second with 2:16:07. He would soon be picked up by the AIS.

| Australian 30km Championship, Melbourne, Sun 6th Aug 2000 | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|---------|
| 1. | Dion Russell | VIC | 2:10:02 |
| 2. | Liam Murphy | SA | 2:16:07 |
| 3. | Richard Everson | SA | 2:28:07 |
| 4. | Marcus Dwyer | VIC | 2:32:43 |
| 5. | Andrew Jamieson | VIC | 2:35:05 |
| 6. | Pradeep Cvhand | FIJ | 2:54:22 |
| - | Darren Bown | SA | DQ |
| - | Paul Kennedy | VIC | DQ |
| - | John Leydon | SA | DNF |

**Second Federation Carnival, including Glover Shield 20km
St. Lucia, Brisbane, Sunday 27th August 2000**

The timing was also bad for the Second Federation Carnival, which all the top walkers bypassed. South Australian **Liam Murphy** improved one place on his previous outing in Melbourne, winning with 1:28:44. Then it was a case of Masters walkers taking the minor medals, with **Andrew Jamieson** and **Peter Bennett** next to finish.

| Glover Shield 20km, Brisbane, Sunday 27th August 2000 | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Liam Murphy | SARWC | 1:28:44 |
| 2. | Andrew Jamieson | VRWC | 1:36:39 |
| 3. | Peter Bennett | QRWC | 1:41:01 |
| 4. | Ignatio Jimenez | QRWC | 1:42:16 |
| 5. | Warren Russell | NSW | 1:45:03 |
| 6. | Robert Osborne | NSW | 1:49:44 |
| 7. | Ian Richardson | QRWC | 1:51:17 |
| 8. | Andrew Ludwig | QRWC | 1:53:13 |
| 9. | K Lacey | QRWC | 1:54:26 |
| 10. | B Coleman | QRWC | 1:57:28 |
| 11. | Andrew Mitchell | NSW | 2:03:04 |
| 12. | Caleb Maybir | QRWC | 2:05:40 |
| 13. | J Schmidt | QWRC | 2:10:59 |
| 14. | Patrick Sela | QRWC | 2:13:14 |
| 15. | S Hayward | QRWC | 2:14:27 |
| 16. | Dick Keatinge | QRWC | 2:22:06 |
| 17. | K Smith | NSW | 2:26:13 |
| Teams | | | |
| 1. | QRWC | 32 pts | P Bennett, I Jimenez, I Richardson |
| 2. | NSW | 23 pts | W Russell, R Osborne, A Mitchell |
| 3. | QRWC | 18 pts | A Ludwig, K Lacey, B Coleman |
| 4. | QRWC | 6 pts | C Maybir, J Schmidt, P Sela |

**Games of the XXVII Olympiad
Homebush, Sydney, 15th September - 1st October**

The 2000 Olympics was the year's highlight for us Australians, and our family, like many others, made the trip to Sydney to partake of the rarified atmosphere. It was the second time the Summer Olympics were held in Australia, the first being in Melbourne in 1956, but what a different Games this was, with over 10,000 athletes representing their countries in 28 different sports. Further, being held in the pre 9-11 world, it was free of security concerns and was held in a relaxed atmosphere against the beautiful backdrop of Sydney, one of the most liveable cities in the world. It remains my favourite Olympic experience.

As in 1996, the Australian walking team had 7 members and once again it was split between NSW with 4 competitors and Victoria with 3 competitors. The team was very experienced. **Kerry Saxby-Junna** and **Nick A'Hern** were in their third Games while **Jane Saville**, **Dion Russell** and **Duane Cousins** were in their second Games. Only **Lisa Sheradin-Paolini** and **Nathan Deakes** were first time Olympians.

20km Walk Men, Friday 22nd September 2000, 12:50 PM

Poland's Robert Korzeniowski was running hot after his 1996 Olympic success. He quickly followed it up with a fine win in the 1996 European Cup 20km in 1:21:46. This was followed by a win in the 50km in the 1997 World Championship in 3:44:46. The next year he won the 1998 European 50km Championship with 3:43:51 but then suffered a rare defeat in the 1998 European Cup 20km (1:20:40) behind Fernandez of Spain who won in 1:20:31. He was then disqualified in the 1999 World Championship 50km while in the leading group and was placed 4th in the 1999 World Cup (1:20:52). The question was now – which event would he choose for Sydney? He was amongst the best over both 20km and 50km but there were so many speedy walkers over the shorter distance. World record holder Segura of Mexico looked the best on paper and Perez, although quiet in the intervening 4 years, could not be discounted after his 1996 Olympic Victory.

The program was duly published and it showed Korzeniowski in both walks. The 20km event was first and most interest duly centred on Korzeniowski and Segura. It turned out to be one of the most memorable Olympic events ever but for the wrong reasons. Korzeniowski walked his race from the front and continually pressured the other walkers until, one by one, they fell away in the hot and sunny conditions. Eventually a group of 3 were left – Korzeniowski and the Mexicans Segura and Noe Hernandez. In the final kilometre, Segura made the decisive break and won by 2 seconds from Korzeniowski with Fernandez a further 4 seconds back.

It was not till 15 minutes after the event when Segura was interrupted during a television interview to be informed that he had been disqualified. He had received one warning early in the race. His second warning, of which he apparently was not aware, came as he left the 2km loop and began accelerating to catch the two leaders as they headed into the Olympic Stadium. His third and fatal call came just 400m before the end of the race.

Korzeniowski was then awarded the gold medal in a time of 1:18:59 (beating the previous best Olympic mark of 1:19:57 set by Czech Jozef Pribilinec in 1988 in Seoul) and Hernandez moved up from third to second. Korzenioswki's 2 km lap splits tell the story of his remarkably even pace (8:00, 7:57, 8:00, 7:58, 8:00, 7:58, 7:51, 7:44, 7:45, 7:52). His race tactic was obvious – start fast and then just get faster and faster!

The Australian men's performances are discussed below.

| Olympic 20km Walk Men, Friday 22 nd September 2000 | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----|------------|
| 1. | Robert Korzeniowski | POL | 1:18:59 OR |
| 2. | Noe Hernandez | MEX | 1:19:03 |
| 3. | Vladimir Andreyev | RUS | 1:19:27 |
| | ... | | |
| 8. | Nathan Deakes | AUS | 1:21:03 |
| 10. | Nick A'Hern | AUS | 1:21:34 |
| 25. | Dion Russell | AUS | 1:25:26 |

Women 20km Walk, Thursday 28th September 2000, 10:45AM

In 1999, the international distance for women had been increased to 20km and all of a sudden there were no clear favourites for the Sydney Olympics. A good 10km walker did not necessarily make a great 20km walker. With only a couple of international events to prepare, the Chinese showed early domination. Liu Hongyu and Wang Yan finished first and second in the 1999 World Championships (1:30:50 and 1:30:52) and then Liu improved her time to 1:27:32 to narrowly win the 1999 World Cup ahead of Fedoskina of Russian (1:27:35) with Wang in fifth place.

The inaugural Olympic 20km event, raced in hot and humid conditions, was unfortunately marred by a series of controversial disqualifications at the front of the field. The pace got quicker and quicker as, one by one, the main protagonists tried to break the others. By the 13km mark, the pack was reduced to 5 walkers – the favourites Liu and Wang of China, Perrone of Italy, Saville of Australia and Platzer of Norway. Soon after, Wang and Platzer dropped behind and Liu, Perrone and Saville were left on their own in front.

Eventually it was Liu who, at 16km, got the critical break and opened up a lead of some 20-30m. But no sooner had she made her break than she was disqualified and the lead returned to Saville and Perrone. Perrone looked the stronger of the two and eventually made her own decisive break at 17km. But then she was disqualified and she walked off to the side of the track. She was then advised by Italian officials to rejoin the race, RAN to catch up to Saville and then walked for a further 2km alongside her. Saville was visibly upset by this and repeatedly asked bystanders what was going on as she had seen Perrone leave the course. It was almost certainly during this 2km lap that Saville got her third red card. If so, it is a very unfair way to be put out. Perrone should not have been on the course and the officials were at fault for not enforcing her withdrawal. She eventually stopped at about the 19km mark and Saville walked from then on, clearly in the lead, back to the stadium, thinking she had won. I cannot even begin to imagine her utter despair when told in the tunnel into the stadium that she had been disqualified. Yet after the race, she explained to the press, "*that pushing the boundaries of the sport (race walking) to its limit is part of the sport itself and I pushed it too far today.*" Her acceptance of the situation was very gallant and she is to be congratulated on her fine sportsmanship. The official results show Wang taking the gold and Platzer taking the silver.

Disappointingly, this drama somewhat overshadowed the performance of **Kerry Saxby-Junna**, who finished 7th with 1:32:02 at 39 years of age! She would go on for one further year before finally retiring in 2001. **Lisa Paolini**, who finished 39th with 1:40:57, was also at the end of her career, being 37 years of age. She would retire after these Games.

| Olympic Women 20km Walk, Thursday 28th September 2000 | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Liping Wang | CHN | 1:29:05 OR |
| 2. | Kjersti Platzer | NOR | 1:29:33 |
| 3. | Maria Vasco | ESP | 1:30:23 |
| | ... | | |
| 7. | Kerry Saxby-Junna | AUS | 1:32:02 |
| 39. | Lisa Paolini | AUS | 1:40:57 |
| - | Jane Saville | AUS | DQ |

Men 50km Walk, Friday 29th September, 8AM

Korzeniowski had already been the favourite to retain his Olympic 50km title but after his 20km victory, he became a dead certainty in most people's eyes. Garcia of Spain and Sanchez of Mexico seemed most likely to challenge. An 8AM start did little to protect competitors from a hot day and, by 9AM, the temperature was nudging 30°C, as the sun beat down on an open course that offered the walkers little protection. Yet the pace was on from the start and a group of 10 walkers gradually asserted their superiority. And what a group it was – Robert Korzeniowski (POL), Valentin Kononen (FIN), Nicolay Matyukhin (RUS), Craig Barratt (NZ), Nathan Deakes (AUS), Jesus Garcia (ESP), Aigars Fadejevs (LAT) and all 3 Mexicans.

As the laps were gradually ticked off, the pace quickened and, one by one, the group shrank as walkers dropped off. Eventually the leading group had dropped to 3 - Korzeniowski, Deakes and Sanchez. At 35km, Deakes finally cracked and that left Korzeniowski and Sanchez who got quicker and quicker until eventually Sanchez cracked at just over 40km. This left Korzeniowski to walk to the finish on his own. He slowed, showing the effects of his amazing race, but maintained a perfect style to the finish. His lap times (23:25, 22:28, 22:12, 21:55, 21:48, 21:42, 21:33, 21:25, 22:11, 23:43) showed a race in which the pace quickened for every 5km split up 40 km.

He became the first walker to win the roadwalk double (20km and 50km at the same Olympics). That, added to his gold medal in the 50km at the 1996 Olympics, made him one of the greatest Olympic walkers of all time. Latvia's Aigars Fadejevs was a surprise in winning the silver, 72 secs behind in 3:43.40. He had dropped off the lead group at about 30km but had powered home as those in front wavered. This came on top of his 14th place in the 20km. Mexico's Joel Sanchez, the last walker to fight Korzeniowski for the race lead, took bronze in 3:44.36. He paid the penalty for trying to match Korzeniowski's suicidal pace.

| Olympic Men 50km Walk, Friday 29th September 2000 | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. | Robert Korzeniowski | POL | 3:42:22 |
| 2. | Aigars Fadejevs | LAT | 3:43:40 |
| 3. | Joel Sanchez Guerrero | MEX | 3:44:36 |
| | ... | | |
| 6. | Nathan Deakes | AUS | 3:47:29 |
| 27. | Dion Russell | AUS | 4:02:50 |
| 34. | Duane Cousins | AUS | 4:10:43 |

Nathan Deakes, at 22 years of age, and a former World Junior bronze medallist, had been expected to do well. But who could have imagined just how well - his inaugural Olympic walks were wonderful. In the 20km, he finished 8th in 1:21:03 and then in the 50km (held in very hot conditions) he finished 6th in a PB 3:47:29. What made his 50km walk even more impressive was the aggressive way in which he walked. As Korzeniowski applied the pressure and got faster and faster, only 2 walkers were able to stay with him – Nathan and Sanchez of Mexico. It was not till 35km that Deakes finally cracked with Sanchez dropping off 5km later. Deakes struggled home and dropped a few places, but gave notice that he was something special.

Dion Russell had improved steadily since his initial 1996 Olympic appearance. He had also extended his range to include the 50km distance and had won the 1997, 1998 and 1999 50km National titles and reduced his 50km PB to 3:47:34. But, unknown to most, Dion had decided by the end of 1999 that it was time to move on from a full time walking career – there were other priorities that he had to honour. The Sydney Olympics would be his last international event. He continued with his walking preparation but, in terms of training mileage, the 6 months leading up to the Olympics were perhaps the leanest within the preceding 18 months. In Sydney he came 25th in the 20km in 1:25:26 and 27th in the 50km in 4:02:50. This was followed by the surprise public announcement that he was retiring from the sport. His Sydney performances must be seen in this light and his comment below puts walking as a sport into its proper perspective. It is after all only a sport and it is to be savoured while it can. Eventually other more important priorities emerge and people must make tough decisions.

At the end of the day, I was in fact very happy with my results in Sydney, even if others had different expectations and were subsequently disappointed.

It is to Russell's credit that he could make such a decision while he was still at the top of the sport. In retrospect, his times put him amongst our best ever 20km and 50km exponents and his 10 year racewalking career leaves no doubt as to his talent and competitiveness.

Duane Cousins, like Dion, also continued on after his 1996 Olympic appearance and won silver in the 1998 Commonwealth Games. But in a surprise move, he resigned his AIS scholarship in April 1999 and returned to his native Bendigo. Without the resources of the AIS to nurture his walking and with a full time job, he still managed 3rd in the 50km Olympic Games Trial in December 1999 and his time of 3:59:34 was good enough to guarantee selection. His Olympic walk in Sydney was tough and, in the hot conditions, he could only manage 34th in a slow (by his high standards) time of 4:10:43. But he did finish the race, making amends for his DNF 4 years earlier, when he had been directed back into the Olympic stadium one lap too soon.

Nick A'Hern, like Russell, would also retire after this Olympics, when he finished 10th in the 20km walk with 1:21:34, only 2 places behind Deakes and in yet another top 10 finish. He had won the Australian 5000m track title on 7 occasions, won golds in the 1994 and 1998 Commonwealth Games, finished 4th in the 1996 Olympics and represented Australia with pride for 13 years.

Australian 50km Championship

Middle Park, Melbourne, Sunday 17th December 2000

The Australian 50km Championship in Melbourne in December 2000 was meant to be the trial for the 2001 Race Walking World Cup, until the IAAF announced that the World Cup was being rescheduled to 2002. Athletics Australia subsequently decided that the trial for this 2002 World Cup would now be held in April/May 2001. So all of a sudden the 2000 Australian 50km Championship was no longer a trial. Understandably, walkers then opted to bypass this event and concentrate on the April/May trial.

Consequently, by the entry closing date, there had been only 1 entry received –and that was by a Hungarian walker training in Sydney. AA had to make the difficult decision to cancel the event – the first time ever for an Australian walking championship. In any case, the day proved to be a scorcher with temperatures in the mid thirties and hot gusty northerly winds. If the 50km race had been held on this day, I can confidently predict that there would have been no qualifiers and few, if any finishers.

This did raise the question – when should the Australian 50km championship be held? Many argued that it should be a winter event and be held each year in the August timeframe. As it was, both the men's 20km and 50km championships were held in the summer when the possibility of hot weather made this sort of event a lottery.

The Victorian Walkers Club went ahead with its Christmas walks and a few hardy walkers decided to brave the weather. The results show that times were generally slow, with walkers and officials finding the going tough (I was officiating that day and it was a scorcher). Dominic McGrath won the men's 20km in 1:35:19 and Simone Wolowiec won the women's 20km in an equally slow 1:45:23.

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 – 2020

None!

International Dates

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Sep 18 (Fri), 2020 | 46 th International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (see http://www.alytusfestival.lt/) |
| Sep 26 (Sat), 2020 | International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs) |
| Oct 10 (Sat), 2020 | Podebrady Walks Meet, Podebrady, Czech Republic (see https://www.podebrady-walking.cz/en/) |
| Oct 24 (Sat), 2020 | Dudince EA Permit Meet (20km men/women and 50km men) |
| Oct 20-22, 2020 | Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China (CANCELLED) |
| Nov 7 (Sat), 2020 | NZ Road Walk Championships, Bruce Pulman Park, Auckland, New Zealand |
| July 23 – Aug 8, 2021 | 32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo |
| July, 2021 | 23rd World Masters T&F Championships , Tampere, Finland |
| Aug 8-19, 2021 | World University Summer Games , Chengdu, China |
| Aug 20-21, 2021 | 18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships , Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED FROM 2020) |
| Jan 2022 | Oceania Masters Championships , Norfolk Island (POSTPONED FROM JANUARY 2020) |
| TBA, 2022 | 9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships , Edmonton, Canada |
| Apr 23-24, 2022 | 29th World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships , Minsk, Belarus |
| July 15-24, 2022 | 18th World Athletics Championships , Eugene, USA |
| July 27 - Aug 7, 2022 | XXII Commonwealth Games , Birmingham, GBR |
| Aug 11-21, 2022 | European Athletics Championships , Munich, GER |
| TBA, 2022 | 19th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships , Cali, Colombia |

TBA, 2023 **24th World Masters T&F Championships**, Gothenburg Sweden
Aug 2023 (TBC) **19th World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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