

ANNIE VAN DER MEER – WALKING LEGEND

The Continental Centurions qualifier is normally run by Dutch walking club Rotterdamse Wandelsport Vereniging. RWV has a proud history and it is an appropriate time to focus in on the the RWV member who is one of the greatest woman ultra distance walkers of all time.

Annie van der Meer was born on 24th February 1947 and is still walking at 58 years of age. Her RWV club records, taken from a 1996 club listing, are truly amazing.

50 km	5:40:59	05/06/1988	Goirle
100 km	10:57:0	10-11/05/1986	Rouen, France
100 Miles	18:06:10	10-11/05/1986	Rouen, France
200 km	22:36:46	10-11/05/1986	Rouen, France
250 km	33:20:00	08-11/-6/1983	Paris-Colmar
300 km	43:56:00	08-11/-6/1983	Paris-Colmar
400 km	59:16:00	08-11/-6/1983	Paris-Colmar
500 km	78:20:00	08-11/-6/1983	Paris-Colmar
24 Hours	212.500 km	10-11/05/1986	Rouen, France
28 Hours	228.100 km	20-21/09/1986	Roubaix, France
48 Hours	327.500 km	08-11/-6/1983	Paris-Colmar



Annie van der Meer pictured at a walking event early this year

She first came to prominence in the early 1980's with a strong of 100 mile and 24 hour performances that matched the top men of that era – in 1981 she achieved **197.895 km** in the Rouen 24 hour walk and **225.400 km** in the Roubaix 28 hour walk. But it was a couple of unexpected performances that made the ultra community really sit up and take notice. She entered the 1982 Paris to Colmar event and completed a distance of 180 km before retiring. The next year she was back for a second try and on this occasion, she completed the entire **518.5 km** to finish 10th in 77 hours 40 minutes. There were 10 finishers and 18 retirees. She had beaten most of the elite male walkers at their own game. It was another 5 years before the depth of women's walking had grown sufficiently for their own race – the Chalons-Colmar classic.

Apart from her Paris-Colmar ground-breaking finish, her most remembered performance was achieved in the 1986 Rouen 28 Hour classic in France. At 39 years of age, she passed the 100 mile mark in **18:06:10**, passed the 200 km mark in **22:36:46**, was measured at **212.500 km** at the 24 hour mark and made **228.100 km** when the final whistle sounded the end of the 28 hour event. These still stand as road world records some 20 years later.

Her amazing times still put her at the top of the women's ultra walking ranking list 20 years later. The following table takes all the top performances of the last 25 years (1980-2005) for 100 miles to 28 hours and puts them

through the calculator to work out the average speed of the walker. Annie has 7 of the top 20 all time performances and sits at the top of the list with her wonderful 1986 Rouen performance. The next best woman based on quality and consistency would have to be Sandra Brown (C 36).

Av Speed	Name	Venue/Year	Distance	Time
8.818 km/hr	Annie van der Meer	Rouen, 1986	212.500 km	24:05:49
8.524	Kora Boufflert	Bar le Duc, 2005	170.000 km	19:56:41
8.490	Annie van der Meer	Mona, 1982	200.000 km	23:33:24
8.403	Edith Couhe	Rouen, 1986	202.500 km	24:05:58
8.378	Ludmila Amirova	Torcy, 2000	200.700 km	23:57:23
8.372	Aaf de Rijck	Mons, 1982	200.000 km	23:53:14
8.348	Annie van der Meer	Rouen, 1984	202.230 km	24:13:33
8.308	Sandra Brown	Vallorbe, 1991	200.000 km	24:04:20
8.282	Annie van der Meer	Rouen, 1983	200.000 km	24:08:59
8.269	Sandra Brown	Bazancourt, 1992	196.000 km	23:42:15
8.233	Annie van der Meer	Lagny, 1983	192.140 km	23:20:20
8.169	Sandra Brown	Rouen, 2004	198.000 km	24:14:13
8.191	Annie van der Meer	Rouen, 1981	197.895 km	24:09:33
8.186	Evgenia Gutierrez	Chateua Thierry, 2000	171.230 km	20:55:02
8.169	Edith Couhe	Chateau Thierry, 1996	195.496 km	23:55:55
8.139	Annie van der Meer	Roubaix, 1986	228.100 km	28:01:30
8.133	Sandra Brown	Dijon, 1990	196.476 km	24:13:02
8.093	Sandra Brown	Dijon, 1991	193.290 km	23:53:05
8.058	Francine Lachia	Chateau Thierry, 2004	170.000 km	21:05:50
8.054	Sandra Brown	Etrechy, 1990	193.306 km	24:00:00

We may have to wait a long time before someone can match Annie's performances.