

GRAZIANO MOROTTI

I have recently mentioned the wonderful performances of late by 56 year old Italian walker Graziano Morotti (see Heel and Toe magazine 2007, numbers 14 and 18). While Andrew Jamieson has been busy setting new M60 World records, his own M55 records are being rewritten by Morotti (born 15/1/51). Graziano's new marks include

- M55 20 km record on 1 April 2006 in 1.33.38 in Lugano
- M55 30 km record on 8 October 2006 in 2.29.34 in Maranello
- M55 50 km record on 13 February 2007 in 4:23:34 in Livorno



Graziano Morotti in action in the Dudince 50 km event in March

I was able to meet Graziano in Dudince when he was competing in the 50 km event there on 24 March 2007 and found out a fair bit more about this wonderful Masters walker. For starters, he has been walking since 1974 and his PBs show that, at his peak, he was an international standard walker. His times would have guaranteed him Olympic representation in most countries at that time but he was unfortunate to be racing in Italy against semi-professional walkers who were mostly in the Italian Armed Forces. So his chances were few and far between.

1987	3000m Track	12:01	Milano
1979	3000m Walk Indoor	12:09.4	Genova
1987	5000m Track	20:34	Alzano Lombardo
1980	5000m Indoor	20:32	Milano
1982	10000m Track	41:46.3	Bovisio Masciago
1982	20000m Track	1:27:39.3	Bovisio Masciago
1981	30000m Track	2:14:49	Bellinzona
1979	30 km Road	2:12:30	Giornico-Bellinzona
1981	50000m Track	3:58:59	Osio Sopra
1982	50 km Road	3:58:52	Piacenza
1982	1 Hour	13.906 km	Bovisio Masciago
1981	2 Hours	26.806 km	Bellinzona

He has maintained his times very well over the years. Take for example his best 10 km time for each year. This is an almost continuous racing record except for a small period around 1990 when he briefly retired from the sport.

1974	52:05.2	1985	43:10.2	1996	46:40.98
1975	48:00.2	1986	45:18.9	1997	45:06.35
1976	46:57	1987	43:37.7	1998	45:02.31
1977	45:20.7	1988	44:11.8	1999	45:03.30
1978	43:39.2	1989	-	2000	49:44
1979	44:54.1	1990	-	2001	48:34.54
1980	43:37.9	1991	44:24.79	2002	46:02.9
1981	42:14.3	1992	44:23.22	2003	45:26.24
1982	41:46.3 (PB)	1993	45:55.74	2004	45:32.5
1983	42:28	1994	43:46.03	2005	45:45.92
1984	42:18	1995	48:50.36	2006	45:38.95

Now retired from work, he obviously has a new lease of life and we can expect to see the records continue for some time yet. He is intending to race at this year's World Masters Championships in his home country of Italy in September and he is hoping to meet many Australian walkers, especially Andrew Jamieson. Make sure you say hello to him!

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