

AUSTRALIAN CENTURION DETAILS

46. **Charles Arosanyin (26/06/67)**
23:35:51
12-13 April 2003
Coburg Harriers Track, Coburg, Vic

Charles Arosanyin is a native of Nigeria but was living in England and was a member of the famous Surrey Walking Club during the early 2000's. Charles started competing in longer distance walks in 2001 and was quickly successful.

In June 2001, he finished 2nd in the 85 Mile Parish Walk in the Isle of Man with a time of 18:10:35. He then backed up in August 2001 to become British Centurion C979 at Colchester with a time of 21:40:44.

He wanted to come out to our Australian Centurion event in 2002 but injuries intervened. Things fell into place 12 months later and he was a starter in our next Australian Centurions qualifying event in April 2003.

The races started at 10AM on the Saturday in sunny conditions that intensified throughout the day. By the time relief was in sight on Saturday evening, competitors had endured some 8 hours of direct sun and heat. As day turned into night, it was a case of sunburnt bodies, blistered feet and heat induced exhaustion.

With the 6 and 12 hour events completed by 10PM, the 24 hour competitors laboured on through the hours of darkness and waited for the final surge of adrenaline which comes with the dawn. But come the morning, there was little left in tank for most and the run/walk home was more of a shuffle than a surge. The toll from the first day's conditions was now obvious and most finish times were slower than would be expected for such a prestigious event.

In the 24 Hour Walk, Australian record holder Carol Baird and Charles staged a seesaw battle during the first half of the race. Only 3 laps separated them at the 80 km mark which was passed in just over 10 hours. But Carol showed her experience and pace judgement and maintained her pace during the night as Charles slowed. With the walkers' main aim being the 100 mile target, Charles looked likely to miss out with 5 hours to go. But to his credit, he staged a spirited comeback and reached his goal in **23:35:31** to become Australian Centurion Number 46.



Charles in action at Coburg in April 2003

Charles has continued his walking career since then with some highlights discussed below

20-21 Sept 2003	Roubaix Internationalk 28 Hour Walk	Roubaix, France	32 nd	175.025 km
15 January 2005	Penang International 12 Hour Walk	Penang, Malaysia	4 th	81.928 km
18-19 Sep 2005	Malaysia International 24 Hour Walk	Genting, Malaysia	11 th	151.48 km

In his Malaysian 24 Hour walk, he was one of a number of walkers caught out by tough conditions. The course was different from previous occasions and very taxing on the body, especially the knees. The 870m lap was held

in a different carpark section of the Genting Highland resort (outside Kuala Lumpur) and included a steep downhill section over cobblestones. Charles finished 11th in the men's section with 151.48 km.

The next year, he was selected in the Nigerian team to contest the 2006 Commonwealth Games 50km walk. This highlight was marred somewhat when he was disqualified in the event. Perhaps his diet of ultra distance walking had effected his racewalking action and it does indicate the differing requirements of these two specialist walking disciplines.

Soon after this , he moved to Australia and was based in Alice Springs for some years. Then it was back to Africa for a while. But regardless of where Charles has been based, he continues to pop up in the occasional ultra distance walking result and continues to walk well.

Tim Erickson
10 August 2011