

ANDREW TITLEY C84: 22:48:59

Andrew Titley had planned to compete in our 2021 24H Walk at Coburg, but had to postpone his race due to our covid lockdown. Finally, with our borders open, he was able to make the trip in April 2022 to try for his fifth centurion badge. And of course, as we all know, his quest was successful. He now has the following Centurion badges to his credit.

2005	Coptinental Centurions	C334	22:56:48
2006	English Centurions	C1038	22:19:59
2017	African Centurions	C21	21:51:24
2018	Ameican Centurions	C89	22:37:22
2022	Australian Centurions	C84	22:48:59

His walk at Coburg this year was measured and his finish never in doubt. While others headed off at faster paces, he was content to sit back and watch the race unfold, opting for a sensible 8km/hr. He passed the 6H mark with just on 48km and was at the 91km mark by the half way mark (12 hours). By this stage, he had teamed up with Sharon Scholz and they chatted and walked together for the remainder of the race. The 18 hour mark saw Andrew at 130km, with only 31km required to complete in the final 6 hours. He needed less than 5 of those hours, reaching the 100 mile mark in a time of 22:48:59 to become Australian Centurion number 84.

He was one of 5 centurion finishers on the day.

Remy Van Den Brand	NED	C83	21:04:52
Justin Scholz	AUS	C61	21:17:26
David Billett	AUS	C50	22:33:38
Andrew Titley	IOM	C84	22:48:59
Sharon Scholz	AUS	C63	22:53:06



*Left: Andrew walks with fellow Australian Centurions Justin and Sharon Scholz at Coburg
Right: Andrew finishing his 100 mile walk at Coburg*

And now some further information on our newest Centurion. Andrew was born 18th February 1965 in Wolverhampton, England, and moved to the Isle of Man when he was 4 years old. He has lived there ever since, is a member of the IOM Veterans and has been married to Rachel, for 32 years. They have two daughters, Emma 30 and Lucy 26.

His sporting background was mainly football, from a very young age until his retirement at the age of 35. It was then that he decided to enter the iconic Parish Walk in 2001, for something to do, and to see how far he could get. He did no training and had no understanding of what he was about to encounter. He completed the tough 85 mile route in approximately 23 hours and 30 minutes. With Rachel's total support and back up, and with his daughters' encouragement, they eventually got him over the finish line!

He has now completed the 85 mile course 19 times, with a best time of 16 hours and 48 mins.



*Left: Andrew finishes one of his early Parish Walk
Right: Andrew and his younger daughter finishing the Parish Walk together on another occasion*

He heard about the ‘centurion’ walks soon after he started his new career, so entered his first in Weert (the Netherlands) in 2005, completing the required 100 miles in 22:56:48 and becoming Continental Centurion 334. He has since completed 14 centurion 100 mile + walks, around the world, with a best time of 20:04:05.

The following year (2006), he earned his English Centurions badge (C1038) with a time of 22:19:59. This particular race was on his home turf, at Douglas, and he was one of 22 Manx walkers to qualify - there were 42 qualifiers in all! By way of aside, Geoff Hain (C49) also competed in this race, becoming the first Australian to qualify as an English Centurion.

Andrew completed further English Centurion finishes in 2007, 2011, 2013 and 2015, the latter two also on Isle of Man courses.

21:34:46	28/Jul/2007	London, GBR
22:57:05	02/Jul/2011	Lingfield, GBR
22:04:05	03/Aug/2013	Douglas, IOM
20:23:11	15/Aug/2015	Castletown, IOM

He also revisited his Continental Centurion exploits in 2016, qualifying for a second time.

23:33:43	14/May/2016	Schiedam, NED
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He also travelled further afield, testing himself out with some of the French classics. Results that I found included

2009	24H de Chateau Thierry	2 nd	175.500km
2012	28H de Roubaix	13 th	192.138km
2016	24H de Bourges	10 th	168.553km

The 2012 Roubaix race saw Andrew as part of a very strong Isle of Man team which easily won the teams race with performances that included Vinny Lynch (2nd), Richard Gerrard (3rd), Jack Waddington (5th) and Andrew (13th).

Note the big break between Andrew's first two centurion badges (2005 and 2006) and his next badge in 2017. I suspect that is when he caught onto the idea of earning the full set. In quick succession, he earned his African Centurion badge

in 2017 (C21, Capetown, 21:51:24) and his USA Centurion badge in 2018 (C89, Fort Shelling, 22:37:22). In South Africa, he was second overall behind fellow Manxman Robbie Callister and in America he won outright.



*Left: Andrew celebrates his African Centurion finish in 2017
Right: Andrew celebrates his American Centurion win in 2018*

With the 2019 English Centurion qualifier to be held in Castletown, on the Isle of Man, Andrew was tempted to try for his sixth English finish, and he did so in fine style, coming third overall and earning the British championship win as the first British Isles entrant to cross the finish line, with a time of 20:59:54. Once again the Isle of Man confirmed its walking credentials with 10 of the 27 centurion finishers being locals.



Andrew in action and finishing the English Centurions walk in 2019



Andrew with the superb perpetual trophy after winning the British Title in the 2019 English Centurions walk

We fast forward through 2020 and 2021, both years effectively lost to Covid. Finally in 2022, Andrew was able to pack his bags and travel to Australia to earn his fifth Centurions badge, with his 14th centurion walk.

When I asked Andrew about his next goals, he replied: *"I would like to attempt New Zealand this year. And I fully intend to keep up the Parish walk and centurion walks until my body decides it's had enough."*

I've no doubt that retirement is still a long way off!

Tim Erickson
Wed 20th April 2022