

CENTURION FOOTNOTES

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DATES...DATES...DATES

There are always ultra opportunities on offer for those walkers after a longer challenge. Some are shown below. In addition, the AURA calendar shows quite a few additional Australian ultra events that may suit serious ultra walkers – check it out at <http://aura.asn.au/>.

Mar 5 (Sun), 2017	Coburg 6 Hour Track Championships	Coburg, VIC
Apr 22-23, 2017	Coburg 24 Hour Track Championships	Coburg, VIC
	2017 Australian Centurions 24H Qualifier	
	See http://www.coburg24hr.org/24hr/	
Mar 4-5, 2017	24 Heures de Bourges (French Championship)	Bourges, FRA
Mar 2017	Chateau Thierry 24H	Chateau Thierry, FRA
May 31-Jun 3, 2017	Paris-Alsace Classic	Paris, FRA
June 3-4, 2017	FANS 24 Hour Track Championships	Minneapolis, Minnesota USA
	2017 USA Centurions 24H Qualifier	
	See http://www.fans24hour.org/index.html	
Aug 5-6, 2017	2017 English Centurions 24H Qualifier	Bury St Edmonds, England
	See https://www.facebook.com/events/990973581012094/	

OUT AND ABOUT

Michelle Thompson (C 58) and **Tim Erickson (C 13)** were in action in late October in the annual Ned Kelly Chase in Wangaratta, country Victoria. Rather than contest the 100km event, they chose to have a stroll in the 50km on this occasion, finishing together in 6:15:11.

Terry O'Neill (C 18), **Karyn O'Neill (C 45)** and **Robin Whyte (C 29)** were all in action in the World Masters T&F Championships in Perth over the last couple of weeks. They all walked well

Robin:	M70	5000m track walk	8 th 31:02	10km roadwalk	7 th 1:03:41	20km roadwalk	9 th 2:18:55
Terry	M60	5000m track walk	12 th 31:54	10km roadwalk	12 th 1:04:53		
Karyn	W60	5000m track walk	12 th 34:47	10km roadwalk	9 th 1:10:58		

12 / 24 / 48 HEURES DE ROYAN, ROYAN, FRANCE, 30 SEPT - 2 OCTOBER

Let's start our race reports with a trip to the French seaside resort city of Royan where their annual ultra distance run/walk event was held at the start of October (see <http://100km.iroyan.com/>). There were good numbers in the walk divisions, with the highlight being the performance of **Daniel Duboscq** in the 48 Hours Walk. He actually beat all the 48 Hour runners as well, clocking up a super impressive **304.164km**. Let me say that once more with emphasis - Daniel, who was born August 16th 1954, walked more than 300km on a 1.1km lap, starting at 1PM on the Friday and finishing at 1PM on the Sunday. That is awesome! His intermediate splits saw him complete 164.933km in 24 Hours, pass the 200m mark in 29h42 and pass the 250km mark in 38h45.

Lots of great photos at <http://100km.iroyan.com/project-definition/48-et-24-heures>. Special mention also to **Christian Mauduit** who walked 165.142km in 24 Hours. Sadly, the French do not acknowledge the significance of the 100 mile mark (160.934km) and do not have their own centurion chapter. Thus the performances of people like Christian do not get their full recognition.

Les 48 heures Marche de Royan

1.	DUBOSCQ Daniel	304.164 km	48:00:00	V3H 1
2.	DELANGE Dominique	254.329 km	48:00:00	V2H 1

3.	OULBANI Jean-Claude	222.315 km	48:00:00	V3H 2
4.	BETAILLE Roger	212.311 km	48:00:00	V3H 3
5.	PIERRE Patrick	194.262 km	48:00:00	V3H 4
6.	MERCIER Jean-Pierre	116.640 km	48:00:00	V1H 1
7.	BURGER Alain	95.260 km	48:00:00	V3H 5
8.	HAUSMANN Martina	72.533 km	25:58:40	V2F

Les 24 heures Marche de Royan

1.	MAUDUIT Christian	165.142 km	24:00:00	V1H 1
2.	DURAND Gerard	141.711 km	24:00:00	V1H 2
3.	EMONIERE Philippe	103.461 km	24:00:00	V2H 1
4.	BOULITEAU Bernard	100.215 km	24:00:00	V2H 2
5.	COUSIN Sandra	57.845 km	24:00:00	V1F 1

Les 12 heures Marche de Royan

1.	RIVOAL Claude	83.507 km	12:00:00	V2H 1
2.	GABORIT Patrice	78.838 km	12:00:00	V1H 1
3.	COURRAUD Brigitte	78.267 km	12:00:00	V3F 1
4.	COURRAUD Joel	78.267 km	12:00:00	V3H 1
5.	BLAIS Johan	74.015 km	12:00:00	V1H 2
6.	CAILLAUD Franck	73.533 km	12:00:00	V2H 2
7.	MAZURIER Dominique	66.315 km	12:00:00	V2H 3
8.	VEILLET Claude	65.166 km	12:00:00	V5H 1
9.	ARNAUD Romuald	64.833 km	12:00:00	V1H 3
10.	FRANCOISE Daniel	60.085 km	12:00:00	V4H 1
11.	COSSON Maryse	59.323 km	12:00:00	V3F 2
12.	MARCHESIN Karine	56.765 km	12:00:00	V1F 1
13.	MESTREAUD Valerie	56.765 km	12:00:00	V1F 2
14.	BLAIS Claude	46.515 km	12:00:00	V3H 2
15.	FRANCOISE Florence	38.062 km	12:00:00	V2F 1
16.	DONCIEUX Remy	50.533 km	07:16:54	V2H



Daniel Dubosq in action during his last lap and with his coach after the 48 Hour race had finished

AFRICAN CENTURIONS 24 HOUR WALK, ROBBEN ISLAND, SOUTH AFRICA, 22-23 OCT 2016

The inaugural African Centurions 24 Hour Walk, held in late October on Robben Island, Cape Town, South Africa, was a huge success with Centurion badges being awarded to all walkers who reached the 100 mile mark. A large number of finishers was expected, given the presence of 18 existing centurions - Sandra Brown (who had already gathered all 6 available badges), triple centurions Rob Robertson, John Kilmartin, Frans Leijtens and Antoine Hunting, double

centurions Robbie Callister, Pete Miller and Janette Morgan and single badge centurions Nour Addine Ayyoub, Suzannah Corkill, Richard Gerrard, James Quirk, Philip Vermeulen, Marco Bloemerts, Remy van den Brand, Vinny Lynch, Werner Alberts and Chris Cale – as part of a large field of talented walkers. And I should mention that the field included 11 walkers from the Isle of Man - Suzannah Corkill, Janette Morgan, Chris Cale, Robbie Callister, Richard Gerrard, Vinny Lynch, Pete Miller, James Quirk, Dave Walker and adopted Manxies Werner Alberts and Philip Vermeulen. Now that is impressive.

The race was held around Robben Island, the infamous penal colony where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years of incarceration under the old SA regime. After an initial 11km lap, walkers completed 21 laps of 7km and then a final 3km lap to make up the required 161km (100 miles).

Manx walkers **Richard Gerard** (19:42:21) and **Dave Walker** (20:31:29) took the top two places ahead of South African walker **Kersten Mosig** (20:37:46). Further Manx walkers filled the next 3 positions in the men's race with **James Quirk** (21:36:33), **Pete Miller** (21:44:29) and **Chris Gale** (22:11:01). USA centurion **Rob Robertson**, who walked in our Coburg 24 Hour earlier this year, was amongst the finishers and wrote it all up with a fantastic blog – see link below. Alas, Australian centurion **John Kilmartin** suffered bad blisters and was forced to retire.

In the women's race, Manx walker **Janette Morgan** (20:56:47) finished ahead of English legend **Sandra Brown** (22:22:14) and South African **Jackie Goosen** (23:35:19).

Sandra gave me a brief rundown of the event via email

This was a unique and amazing event, and a great feat of vision and organisation to hold the event involving around 100 participants plus about 100 volunteers on this island, with its iconic history, 10kms off the South African coast. I enjoyed the whole experience hugely, and found the Robben Island environment and history both inspiring and moving. I was very pleased to finish the 100 in 22.22.14 to become African Centurion 9, and thus to achieve my 7th Centurion affiliation world-wide. The event was quite challenging in some respects, for example the weather was quite hot on Saturday, and very windy for most of the event. The night was also long and dark, and one needed the head-torch.

Some links before I go to the results:

- Event website: <http://www.africacenturion.com/>.
- Rob Robertson's race report: <http://www.walk100miles24hours.com/2016/10/23/the-inaugural-african-centurion-qualifier/>
- Event blog: <http://blog.zailab.com/2016/11/07/first-african-centurion-100-miles/>
- Event facebook page with plenty of photos: <https://www.facebook.com/AfricanCenturionWalk/?fref=ts>
- Frans Leijtens event photos: https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipP9fd-fgCrJqLK-oHW02rkAH_FAtsLpgByhBRztFteTiMb9QYJuFouE4G9Wr4J3MA?key=UTNvVVVQVf14V3NJUKJrVzB1Q1ZXVIJyUUZIRnZn
- Overall race results: <https://results.entryninja.com/results/class/23061>
- Detailed results for the new centurions: <http://www.africacenturion.com/assets/Centurion-Finishers.pdf>

And now the results

100 Miles Men			Laps	Time	
1.	Richard Gerrard	IOM	22	19:42:01	C1
2.	David Walker	IOM	22	20:31:29	C2
3.	Kersten Mosig	RSA	22	20:37:46	C3
4.	James Quirk	IOM	22	21:36:33	C5
5.	Peter Miller	IOM	22	21:44:29	C6
6.	Chris Cale	IOM	22	22:11:01	C7
7.	Vicus Van Der Merwe	RSA	22	22:14:14	C8
8.	Johan Lotz	RSA	22	22:29:58	C10
9.	Rob Robertson	USA	22	22:36:03	C11
10.	Remy van den Brand	NED	22	22:39:59	C12
11.	Bloemerts Marco	NED	22	22:46:27	C13
12.	Antoine Hunting	NED	22	23:21:20	C14
13.	Frans Leijtens	NED	22	23:21:22	C15
14.	Dave Ingram	RSA	22	23:44:27	C18
15.	Arie Kandelaars	NED	22	23:52:00	C19

16. Thomas Joseph Reyneke	RSA	17	17:23:55
17. Vinny Lynch	IOM	15	14:54:54
18. Nour Addine Ayyoub	BEL	14	15:00:34
19. John Kilmartin	AUS	12	17:32:55
20. Nathan Sassman	RSA	12	23:06:37
21. Brian Marshall	RSA	11	12:28:43
22. Werner Alberts	IOM	11	24:01:10
23. Robbie Callister	IOM	9	09:14:27
24. Bertie Cloete	RSA	9	12:36:56
25. Johnny Evans	GBR	8	08:22:23
26. Julian Ohlson	RSA	8	08:29:56
27. Achmat Jackson	RSA	8	10:29:18
28. Fuad Jacobs	RSA	8	10:43:40
29. Hans H.L Joythe	RSA	7	06:59:38
30. Godfrey Ndimande	RSA	7	15:01:28
31. Lourens Roodt	RSA	6	05:14:45
32. Elton September	RSA	6	18:37:38
33. Philip Vermeulen	IOM	5	04:32:26
34. Jacques Niemand	RSA	5	05:37:49

100 Miles Women

		Laps	Time	
1. Janette Morgan	IOM	22	20:56:47	C4
2. Sandra Brown	GBR	22	22:22:14	C9
3. Jackie Goosen	RSA	22	23:35:19	C16
4. Achterberg Gertrude	NED	22	23:42:50	C17
5. Fundiswa Sandi	RSA	22	24:07:41	
6. Suzannah Corkill	IOM	19	21:54:34	
7. Erika Gibson	RSA	16	22:15:49	
8. Frieda Blignaut	NED	14	18:45:54	
9. Martha Pretorius	RSA	13	13:49:36	
10. Saray Khumalo	RSA	12	21:16:09	
11. Véronique Bayle-orban	RSA	11	23:26:26	
12. Anna-Marié Cameron	RSA	9	21:12:26	
13. Faieza Desai	RSA	7	20:22:09	
14. Suad Abrahams	RSA	6	09:26:19	
15. Soraya Manie	RSA	6	22:41:07	



Richard Gerrard, Dave Walker, Kersten Mosig and Rob Robertson



Janette Morgan, Sandra Brown and winning relay team “The Wildebees”

Add to the mix the presence of 20 teams of 4 walkers, with 18 of the teams completing the full 100 mile distance, and you have a hugely successful event.

100 Miles Teams

	Laps	Total Time
1. Wildebees	22	19:35:52
2. Thew Awesome Foursome	22	19:51:27
3. Lions	22	21:05:47
4. Standard Bank Parish Legends	22	21:05:59
5. SoSeSiMi	22	21:09:44
6. Steel Magnolias	22	21:14:02
7. Susie and the Banshees	22	21:26:30
8. Pretoria Strollers	22	21:44:53
9. standard bankib	22	21:53:30
10. Harg	22	21:59:50
11. Death at the End	22	22:12:41
12. Cheetas	22	22:25:38
13. Rhinos	22	22:30:01
14. Standard Bank CIB Cape Town	22	22:33:08
15. Gauteng Smilers	22	22:34:58
16. Standard Bank Financial Institutions Grp	22	22:56:58
17. Team Shosholoza	22	23:02:04
18. Team Abbeyfield	22	23:19:56
19. Team 1	21	21:43:00
20. MFM 92.6	15	20:00:55

11TH EDITION - 6 JOURS DE FRANCE, PRIVAS, FRANCE, 23-29 OCTOBER

Now for those who think that the marathon or the 50km walk is too short, I have just the thing for you – the 11th edition of the 6 Jours De France, held in Privas last week (see <http://www.6jours-de-france.fr/>). A 6 Day Race might be termed the ultimate torture but it doesn't stop people from signing up every year and testing themselves out and usually completing the test. I can only imagine how competitors felt when the final gun sounded at 4PM last Saturday.

Overall, an amazing 125 runners and 30 walkers started the 6 Day event and more started in the shorter 3 Day event as well. Alas, conditions could not have been worse – days of pouring rain, thunderstorms, leaking tents, freezing nights and howling winds. The course was flooded even before the race started and an alternative path had to be sourced for the first few days until walkers could resume on the correct course (a 1.025km loop around the Privas athletics track). Talk about a logistics nightmare for everyone. As Kathy Crilley commented:

The race had everything thrown at it except snow, plague and pestilence. The venue was the aptly named stade du lac which was under water at the start of the race so a short 600 metres circuit was put in place for the first 78 hours. A head torch would have been useful as well!

Last year French walker Dominique Bunel won the 6 Day Walk with an astounding 751.725km (a new World Best), beating all but one of the runners, and Josianne Pannier was the first of the women with 523.150km. With the tough conditions this year, that sort of performance was never going to be matched. This time around, **Christophe Biet** won with 647.454km, not far ahead of **Patrick Cailleaux** with 640.890km and NZL walker **Richard McChesney** with 612.003km. Richard had competed in the 3 Day walk event last year but upped the ante this year and put in a brave effort. He broke the NZ 500km record on the way (4 days 18 hrs 3 mins 5 secs) but was just short of the required 6 Day record distance of 622km. **Claudie Bizard** was the first of the women with 607.128km and was an impressive 4th walker overall. GBR walker **Kathy Crilley** (C933) completed 376.599 km for 19th and a new GBR W60 record (she walked 343.775km last year).

6 Days Walk		Nat	Distance	Last Pass	
1.	BIET - Christophe	M	FRA	647.454 km	143:55:59
2.	CAILLEAUX - Patrick	M	FRA	640.980 km	143:51:27
3.	MCCHESENEY - Richard	M	NZL	612.003 km	143:54:17
4.	BIZARD - Claudie	F	FRA	607.128 km	143:59:59
5.	BERT - Dominique	M	FRA	585.704 km	143:56:10
6.	CLEMENT - Philippe	M	FRA	536.083 km	143:51:28
7.	LINARD - Benoit	M	FRA	524.370 km	143:51:29
8.	LESCURE - Frederic	M	FRA	510.772 km	143:55:44
9.	ODOUARD - Dominique	M	FRA	508.172 km	143:51:22
10.	MACCARI - Patrick	M	FRA	505.013 km	143:42:57
11.	HAUSMANN - Martina	F	GER	497.707 km	143:56:16
12.	PRUCKNER - Jaroslav	M	CZE	456.250 km	143:57:43
13.	EMONIERE - Philippe	M	FRA	415.612 km	143:47:17
14.	LESCURE-THANRON - Elisabeth	F	FRA	414.533 km	143:55:45
15.	BOULITEAU - Bernard	M	FRA	403.223 km	143:55:20
16.	PIERRE - Patrick	M	FRA	395.878 km	143:50:50
17.	VARETTE - Graziella	F	FRA	391.237 km	143:51:27
18.	THANRON - Bernard	M	FRA	378.484 km	143:55:43
19.	CRILLEY - Kathy	F	GBR	376.599 km	143:54:55
20.	LE MANER - Serge	M	FRA	374.844 km	143:55:40
21.	ECHÉ - Dominique	M	FRA	365.965 km	143:55:30
22.	CORMIER - Jean michel	M	FRA	359.634 km	143:35:12
23.	ESTATOF - Bernard	M	FRA	339.835 km	143:53:28
24.	SAUTAI - Stephanie	F	FRA	317.449 km	143:58:25
25.	CHAMPMARTIN - Maurice	M	FRA	294.088 km	143:25:12
26.	DUBOIS D'ENGHIEN - Catherine	F	FRA	256.232 km	143:56:32
27.	MORVAN - Nicole	F	FRA	236.069 km	143:54:47
28.	BURGER - Alain	M	FRA	170.991 km	143:47:10
29.	BEARDSMORE - Suzanne	F	GBR	139.258 km	26:47:13
30.	VINCENT - Verone	F	FRA	113.115 km	142:06:56

The 72 Hours walk was won by Pascal Masson with 343.046km.

72 Hour Walk		Nat	Distance	Last Pass	
1.	MASSON - Pascal	M	FRA	343.046 km	71:56:32
2.	BLONDE - Daniel	M	FRA	326.419 km	71:56:40
3.	ARNAULT - Jacques	M	FRA	322.259 km	71:52:01
4.	ARNAULT - Françoise	F	FRA	311.820 km	71:52:01
5.	SCHEFFER - Christian	M	FRA	253.970 km	71:51:15
6.	SALOMEZ - Benedicte	F	FRA	240.125 km	71:53:55

Full results (run and walk) at <http://www.6jours-de-france.fr/index.php/42-banners/114-accueil-classement>.



6 Days Podium – NZ walker Richard McChesney third from left

FRENCH NATIONAL 100KM WALK CHAMPIONSHIPS, CORCIEUX, SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER

Our European correspondent Emmanuel Tardi might have been at the WMA Championships in Perth but he never stops reporting – thanks to him for the results from the French National 100km walk championships, held on Sunday 30th October in Corcieux, 400km east of Paris. The race started at midnight on the Sunday morning and had a cut off time of 14 hours, meaning you had to finish by 2PM on the Sunday afternoon. The meet also included an ancilliary 50km walk for women (with an 8AM start and a 6 hour limit) and a 20km walk (with a 10AM start time). All races were contested on a 1km loop in the centre of the town.

The race saw a number of lead changes. **Fabrice Henry** led until the 30km mark (reached in 2:52), at which stage, twice winner **Eddy Roze** took over, leading to the 58km mark before flagging. That left **Florian Letourneau** to take over, coming home strongly to take the title with 11:08:54, ahead of **Mathieu Olivares** 11:13:55 and **Xavier Bunel** 11:20:11. Overall 10 men beat the 12 hour limit. The women's 50km was won by **Alejandra Ramirez Gomez** with 5:13:57

100 Km Walk

1.	LETOURNEAU Florian	Ac Chateau Thierry	SEM/88	11:08:54
2.	OLIVARES Mathieu	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	VEM/76	11:13:55
3.	BUNEL Xavier	Granville Ac	VEM/62	11:20:11
4.	VANDERCOILDEN David	Cm Roubaix	VEM/69	11:33:16
5.	LASSALLE Emmanuel	Avec - S/I Athle Vosges Pays	SEM/81	12:06:34
6.	BANO Jean-michel	Ajs La Garde	VEM/55	12:17:48
7.	VAN HILLE Dominique	Nice Cote D:azur Athletisme *	SEM/77	12:54:18
8.	COULOMBEL Pierre	Cm Roubaix	VEM/59	13:14:15
9.	DIEN Daniel	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	VEM/50	13:27:37
10.	GRADOS Stephane	Cm Roubaix	VEM/76	13:46:25
	FAUQUEUR Raymond	Elan 59 - S/I Us Dunkerque	VEM/57	DNF
	MICHELOT Remi	Es Thaon*	VEM/75	DNF
	BUNEL Pascal	Neuilly Sur Marne Athletisme	VEM/64	DNF
	BRUNEAUX Jean-claude	Coulommiers Brie Athletisme	VEM/54	DNF
	FAITEAU Maxime	Entente Poitiers Athle 86	SEM/90	DNF
	ROZE Eddy	Amiens Uc	VEM/70	DNF
	HENRY Fabrice	As Saint-junien	VEM/66	DNF
	SEYNAEVE Serge (BEL)	Cm Roubaix	VEM/60	DQ

50 Km Walk Women

1.	RAMIREZ GOMEZ Alejandra	Ana - S/I Sg La Wantzenau	VEF/76	5:13:57
2.	CARDEILLAC Elisabeth	Stadoceste Tarbes	VEF/69	5:46:48

3.	JOFFROY Raphaelle	Avec - S/l Cs Bassin Mortagne	VEF/72	5:54:22
4.	LAGABE Corinne	Athle 55 - S/l Asptt Bar-le-du	VEF/67	6:30:44

20 Km Walk

1.	SIEGENFUHR Daniel	Es Thaon*	VEM/50	2:03:03
2.	PIERRE Florence	Athle 55 - S/l Asptt Bar-le-du	VEF/66	2:24:00
3.	HARTMANN JOLLY Frederique	Athle 55 - S/l Asptt Bar-le-du	VEF/76	2:29:02
	AUGERON Johan	Entente Poitiers Athle 86	SEM/83	DNF
	MAYER Florian	Ana - S/l Sg La Wantzenau	ESM/96	DQ

JOHN DOWLING – IRISH ULTRADISTANCE WALKER

I was browsing facebook a day or so ago when I saw post <http://corkrunning.blogspot.com.au/2015/11/jack-dowling-the-forgotten-irish.html>, briefly describing the career of Irish ultra walker Jack "Paddy" Dowling. It was all news to me so I got busy with my own research and am pleased to now be able to put a more extensive biography out for everyone to read.

I was also able to listen to the riveting 40 minute radio documentary "My Uncle Jack", put together by Jack's niece Madge O'Callaghan in 2015.¹ In the podcast, Jack, long since retired from race walking, is a spritely octogenarian who talks without rancour about his treatment in the industrial school system in Ireland, his subsequent life and his dual loves of long distance walking and music.



Jack with his niece Madge in 2015

Born in 1929 in Tramore, Co. Waterford, Jack had a tough childhood, being forcibly removed from his newly widowed father and forced into an orphanage in 1935 at the age of 5, because it was deemed in Ireland at the time that fathers were not capable of looking after their children. At age 10, he was placed in St Joseph's Industrial School, Greenmount, Co Cork. He was one of many boys who suffered horrendous treatment at this infamous establishment which was eventually closed in 1959.

This and many similar cases of institutionalised abuse led to an Irish Government Commission which ran from 2000 till 2009. The final report noted Greenmount as one of many offending institutions, reporting that the mistreatment of boys who attended the facility was ignored by both the Presentation Brothers and the overseeing government department, and that residents were physically, emotionally and sexually abused by members of staff.²

When he was just 12, Jack tried to escape, only to be returned and beaten to within an inch of his life for his efforts. This tough start in life makes his later achievements truly outstanding.

1 See <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/2015/1106/740010-my-uncle-jack/>

2 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church_sexual_abuse_scandal_in_Ireland and <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/floggings-and-sadistic-cruelty-1.766971>

He was finally able to legally leave at age 16, Returning home, he worked on a farm as a labourer for a couple of years but opportunities were few in Ireland at that time so, still a teenager, he made his way to the coal mines of the English midlands, settling in Sheffield.

It was dreadful work in the mines, especially for a young lad from a lush green Irish coastal town and he took the opportunity of joining the airforce when it was presented.

While in the RAF, he took up athletics, quickly developing into an accomplished runner.

When he left the RAF in the early 1950s, he took on a job as an insurance agent in Sheffield. It was there that fate intervened and a chance conversation changed the course of his life, when he was invited by one of his clients to try out as a racewalker at the local club Sheffield United athletics club.

He soon determined that he was a much better walker than he was a runner and that his future lay in this new sport. He also married Dorothy around this time and they settled down in Sheffield, eventually raising a family of 4 children.

The gruelling world of racewalking became a passion for Jack.

In 1962, the annual English Centurion qualifier was held on the Leicester to Skegness course and Jack was one of 45 finishers and one of the 13 new centurions (C 331), with a one hundred miles time of 22:09:27. Interestingly, the event was won by fellow Irishman Frank O'Reilly, making it 4 wins in successive years.³

This was the first of 9 English centurion finishes for Jack, the last being in 1990 aged 60, and the fastest being an impressive 18:34:38 in 1974.

22:09:27	06-jul-1962	Leicester-Skegness
19:27:31	26-sep-1969	Bristol
19:29:03	28-jul-1972	Leicester-Skegness
18:34:38	02-aug-1974	Leicester-Skegness
18:35:10	14-oct-1977	Bristol
18:50:10	25-jul-1980	Leicester
20:23:00	26-jun-1987	Ewhurst
19:49:14	29-jul-1988	Leicester-Congerstone
21:22:46	28-jul-1990	Hungarton Leic

After his 1969 Centurion performance of 19:27:31, he was selected as part of the British team which contested the 1969 Roubaix 28 Hour walking classic. As this was one of the official qualifying opportunities for the 1970 Paris-Strasbourg classic and his Roubaix performance was over the requisite qualifying standard, he was duly invited to walk in the 1970 classic.

He was unprepared for such a multi-day event and had no support crew of any sort. He just turned up in Paris in early June of the next year with his kit bag, hoping for the best. The organizers allocated an attendant to look after him. It was a minimalist approach when compared to the campervans and teams of helpers attending the other walkers. It is not surprising that he was forced to retire after 205 km, whilst in 13th spot.

He was a prolific racer, walking 8 or 9 hundreds each year and amassing over 70 hundreds (all bettering the 24 hour standing) during his career.

One of his favourite events was the Roubaix 28 Hour Classic. He competed in it 21 times, finishing on all but one occasion. He was the first walker to achieve 10 finishes, then the first to achieve 15 finishes and eventually the first to achieve 20 finishes. He also completed the Rouen 24 Hour Walk Classic on 5 occasions, with a best distance of 205 kilometres.

Interestingly, the one event that he never conquered was the Paris-Strasbourg. While he tried on 7 occasions between 1970 and 1984, he never managed a finish.

1970	13 th	205 km
1972	19 th	174 km

³ And if that wasn't remarkable enough, O'Reilly completed the course in 16:58:16, the second sub 17 hour time in his outstanding career. He is still the only man to have beaten this time barrier.

1974	15 th	181 km
1979	16 th	305 km
1980	10 th	439 km
1983	15 th	413 km
1984	25 th	251 km

In 1982, Jack walked the length of Ireland, starting from Malin Head (Ireland's most northerly point in County Donegal) and finishing at Mizen Head in County Cork. As the crow flies, the two points are 466 km (290 mi) apart.⁴ His time of 5 days, 22 hours and 30 minutes was officially recognized as a record by the Guinness Book of Records. Con Hearty described the feat in a 2001 letter to the Irish Times⁵

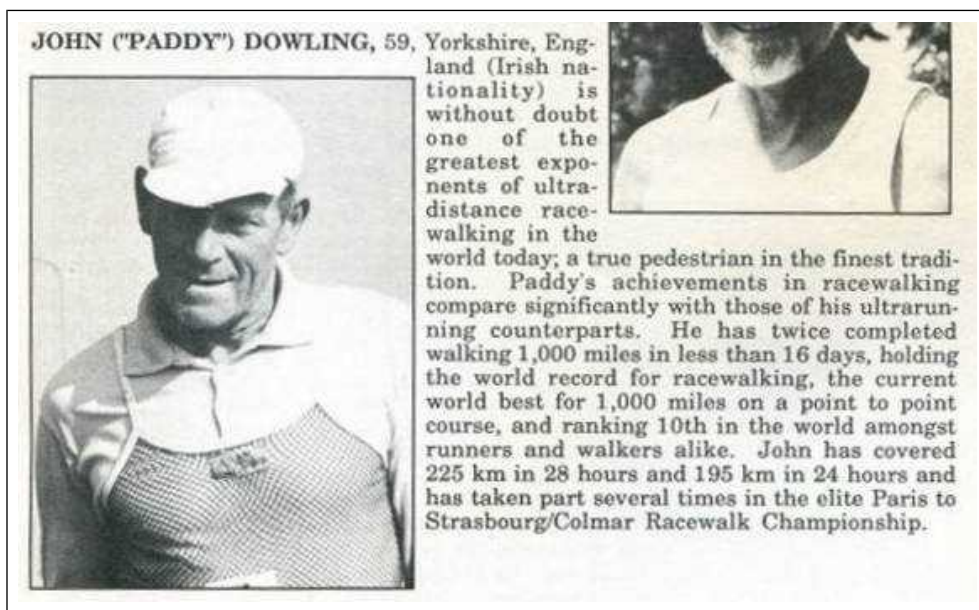
I am open to correction but I believe the Irish end-to-end record still stands to my Irish international race-walking colleague John Dowling (born 1929), who race walked under supervision the 644km (400.2 miles) in five days, 22 hours and 30 minutes between the 18th and 24th March 1982.

It is noteworthy that Dowling, one of the finest endurance athletes Ireland ever produced, was 53 when he achieved the record. It was recognised as such by the Guinness Book of Records, which in most cases seek written corroboration in the form of press coverage and signed authentication by independent adult witnesses of standing in the community. Signed log books should show that there has been unremitting surveillance where appropriate.

It was Jack's usual signature performance, done in freezing and rainy conditions and with a minimum of support.

He also completed the feat in the reverse direction (Mizen to Malin) and also completed the British equivalent, walking from John 'o' Groats to Lands End.⁶ To my knowledge, he is the only person to have walked end to end on both islands.

In 1988, he was invited to compete in what was billed "the Race of the Century", a 1,000 mile event organized by the Sri Shinmoy organization and held in New York.⁷ His profile in the race booklet read as follows



The booklet also noted that he ranked 10th overall in the 1000 Miles all-time world rankings, all those ahead of him being runners. His 10th ranking time of 14 days 23 hrs, 41 mins and 20 secs had been done in Hull in the UK two years previously when aged 57. It was noted as the World Over 55 record and the overall world racewalking record. The following ranking performances were also noted

1500km	John Dowling	IRLD (racewalking)	13d + 23:33:53
1000km	John Dowling	IRLD (racewalking)	9d + 06:51:21

4 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malin_to_Mizen

5 See <http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/malin-to-mizen-head-record-1.324050>

6 See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land%27s_End_to_John_o%27_Groats

7 See <http://us.srichinmoyraces.org/sri-chinmoy-700-1000-and-1300-mile-races/previous-results/1988>

700 miles	John Dowling	IRLD (racewalking)	10d + 12:44:31
6 Days	John Dowling	IRLD (racewalking)	462.41 miles
5 Days	John Dowling	IRLD (racewalking)	378.41 miles

Seven of the starters managed over 100 miles on that first day (6 runners and Jack as a walker), with Yiannos Kouros leading with 144 miles and Jack amongst a group clustered around 103 miles. From then on, it was everyone for themselves as the days rolled on. Overall, only 4 runners finished the entire 1000 miles, with Jack the next furthest with 776 miles, securing 5th place overall. Not to shabby for someone who was 59 years of age.



The 1000 Miles entrants (left to right): Gerard Jacquaniello, Yiannis Kouros, Michel Careau, Sandy Barwick, Malcolm Campbell, Tom McGrath, Marvin Skagerberg, John Dowling, Emile Laharaque, Richard Brown and Dan Coffey

In 2015, Jack was awarded a special Lifetime Achievement Award at the Irish National Sports Awards⁸, a fitting acknowledgement for an athletics life lived to the full.

In her radio documentary, Madge wondered whether, if circumstances were different for her uncle, he may well have represented Ireland at the highest level in athletics, an action that would have presaged the success of Ireland's Olympic medal winning race walkers of recent decades. I can only agree.

MOST CENTURION BADGES

With **Sandra Brown (C 36)** finishing the inaugural African Centurion event in South Africa last month, she now becomes the only person in the world to have achieved all 7 Centurion badges – English, Continental, Australian, American, Malaysian, New Zealand and now South African. And at age 67, she shows no signs of slowing, having now completed 8 events of 100 miles or further this year, taking her grand total to an astonishing 176. And **Rob Robertson (C 68)**, **Frans Leijtens** and **Antoine Hunting** each added an additional centurion badge to their collection to make 4 each.

The following documents have all been updated to reflect the current state of play. Click the links and have a read.

- An indepth analysis of the walkers with the most Centurion badges (7, 6, 5 and 4 only)
[Most Centurion Badges.pdf](#)

⁸ See http://sportsnewsireland.com/other_sports/hockey-green-machine-nominated-for-national-award/

- A list of the 176 ultra distance events completed by Sandra Brown - sorted by category
[Sandra Brown Ultra record.pdf](#)
- A list of the 176 ultra distance events completed by Sandra Brown - sorted by year
[Sandra Brown Ultra record - year by year.pdf](#)
- Rob Robertson's listing of those Centurions world wide with the most Centurion badges
[Multi Centurions.pdf](#)

FINANCIAL NEWS

A quiet month once again – we tick along nicely with no further costs envisaged for the rest of the year.

Incoming	Nil	0.00
Outgoing	Photocopying	10.00
Balance		\$964.62

UNTIL OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Another bumper issue of the newsletter, our 8th for the year. I normally stop at 8 but you never know, we might get a 9th next month if I can find enough information to fill it.

Thought for the month: Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time.

Yours in Centurion walking

Tim Erickson (C 13)
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